

Climate Costs Outrun Small States' capacity—Antigua Envoy declares

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Local News

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Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders has warned that climate change and an inequitable financial system are trapping small Caribbean states in "permanent recovery," urging the world to "price risk honestly and finance resilience fairly."

Speaking at a consultation of more than 200 persons, convened by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on poverty, public debt and climate change, Sanders said disasters are driving debt while insurance costs surge. "When a Category-5 storm wipes out homes, roads, and power, governments must borrow to rebuild—again and again."

The Ambassador remarked that Ocean heating and mass coral bleaching are eroding the blue economy—"over 84% of the world's reefs have faced bleaching-level heat stress since January 2023." Sea

level is rising roughly 3.4 mm a year in the Caribbean; without major adaptation, studies project 38–47% tourism-revenue losses by 2100. A record sargassum influx this year has further strained coastal communities, while tighter reinsurance markets are making coverage unaffordable.

"The impacts of climate change are accelerating faster than the fiscal capacity of small states to adapt," he said, pointing to average annual disaster losses near 2% of GDP, adaptation needs around 3.4% of GDP, and small island states receiving only about 2% of tracked adaptation finance. Talent flight compounds the

problem, with roughly 70% of the Caribbean's tertiary-educated living in OECD countries.

Sanders said per-capita income "distorts reality," graduating vulnerable states out of affordable finance taking little accounts of their exposure to shocks. He urged rapid implementation of the UN-endorsed Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index to unlock affordable, long-term financing. Framing climate and debt as human-rights issues, he cited recent Inter-American and International Court findings that financing terms must protect essential services and social spending as human rights.



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Antigua and Barbuda Champions Ocean Protection and Moratorium on Seabed Mining

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has told the UN General Assembly that small island states must be recognized as “custodians of the ocean,” and called for urgent global action to protect marine resources, combat pollution, and expand blue-economy opportunities.

“For islands like mine, the ocean is not scenery—it is sustenance, it is survival, it is our future,” the Prime Minister said. “Yet reefs bleach, mangroves vanish, plastics choke our coasts, and illegal fishing robs our people of their livelihoods.”

The Prime Minister urged decisive action in four areas to include scaling up reinforcement and support for SIDS to secure maritime boundaries to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated IUU fishing. To address the plastics and pollution issue, the Prime Minister called for the backing of a robust global plastics treaty to end the scourge that destroys reefs and coastlines.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

The country’s leader also called for the expansion of financing for mangroves, seagrass, and coastal ecosystems that sequester carbon and protect shorelines. In addition, he called for the provision of satellite monitoring and data-sharing as standard support for SIDS to safeguard their vast Ex-

clusive Economic Zones.

Prime Minister Browne also issued a clear warning on seabed mining stating that: “Until independent science proves no serious harm, we support a moratorium on seabed mining. No nation should mortgage the ocean floor for short-term profit. The

ocean is our lifeline—its destruction would be irreversible.”

He invited international partners to strengthen cooperation on ocean stewardship, blending conservation with sustainable economic growth for island communities.

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AT&LU retains current executive



AT&LU President Bernard de Nully

The current executive of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) will continue to serve another term as there were no nominations of candidates to necessitate an election made prior to the deadline to do so.

That's according to a media release issued by the union overnight.

The statement described the overall 86th annual delegates conference of the country's oldest trade union as 'a resounding success that met the expectations of the AT&LU's leadership'.

In his President's Address to the conference, current President Bernard de Nully, stressed the importance of unity. He built his address to the 200 delegates present around the theme which has guided the trade union in its 86 years of existence: *The Unity of Labour Is the Salvation of Our Country.* The President also proposed the creation of an AT&LU Credit Union, encouraged members to save a portion of their earnings from each pay packet, and to safeguard the rights of migrant workers whose contributions to na-

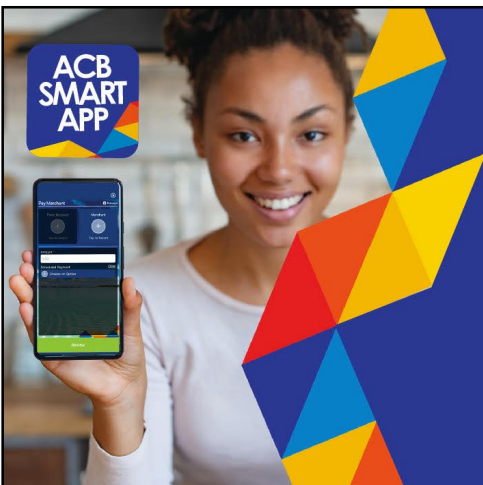
tion-building makes them worthy. His remarks were very well received, the release noted.

There were two developments of note that happened on Day-Two of the conference, widely regarded as the business aspect of the conference. Firstly, was the surprised announcement from the General Secretary, Alrick Daniel that he would not seek re-election as General Secretary.

Then, according to a media release from the AT&LU, following lunch, the election of the Executive Committee was next on the Agenda. After the item was announced, one Executive member asked for the floor and she read aloud a Resolution which, in essence, reported that all nominations and resolutions failed to meet the deadline set for their receipt by 12 September, 2025.

"Those received, nevertheless, failed to meet the requirement to be seconded by a member. The Resolution therefore concluded that there were no lawful challenges for the elected posts, and that those who were last elected lawfully would continue until the next elections. The Resolution was seconded, the question put to the floor and the "ayes" were loud and clear," according to the release.

It added that the Resolution carried and the Conference was brought to an end at the conclusion of the agenda.



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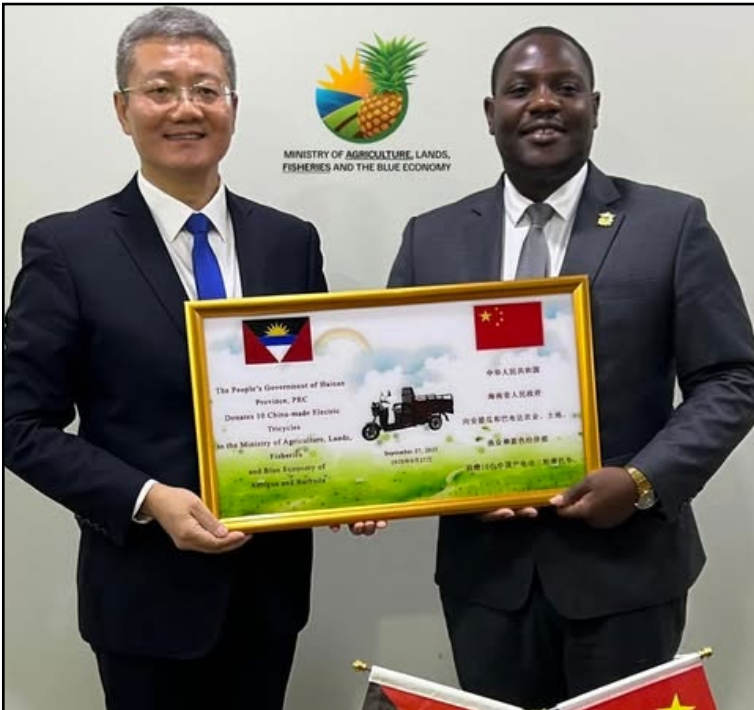
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A high-level delegation from Hainan Province in China makes donation to Antigua and Barbuda



Member of the Hainan Province delegation with Agriculture Minister, Anthony Smith Jr.



More exchanges between the Hainan Province team and the Antigua and Barbuda government official

The Ministry of Agriculture hosted a high-level delegation from the People's Government of Hainan Province, People's Republic of China, which donated twelve (12) motorized farm vehicles to support local farming mobilization efforts here in Antigua and Barbuda.

An official handing-over ceremony took place on Saturday involving members of the delegation as well as top officials of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The delegation, led by Vice Governor Mr. Zou Guang, included senior officials such as Mr. Sun Shanfang, Deputy Secretary-General of the People's Government of Hainan Province; Mr. Ma Yuhong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Hainan

Province; Mr. Mo Zhengqun, Vice Mayor of Danzhou City; Ms. Zhu Wenting, Division Rank Official of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Hainan Province; and Ms. Yan Jiena, Senior Staff Member of the Foreign Affairs Office of Hainan Province. They were accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, H.E. Zhang Yanling.

On behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the ceremony was attended by Hon. Anthony Smith Jr., Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy; Permanent Secretary Mr. Walter Christopher; Principal Assistant Secretary Mrs. Denise Matthias-Thomas; Director of Agriculture Mr. Gregory Bailey; and Senior

Research Officer Ms. Maudvere Bradford.

Minister Smith Jr. warmly thanked the Government of Hainan and the Chinese Ambassador for their generosity, stressing that the vehicles will play an important role in boosting farming efficiency and access, particularly in rural areas. He noted that such contributions reflect the deepening of bilateral ties between the two nations.

The ceremony also featured meaningful discussions on agricultural development. Permanent Secretary Christopher underscored the urgent need for water conservation initiatives, while Director Bailey highlighted the importance of strengthening local staples such as sweet potato and the world-famous Antigua

Black Pineapple. Senior Research Officer Bradford presented details of the upcoming Water-Saving Irrigation Program, set to run from October 16 to November 3, 2025, which aims to introduce more efficient irrigation practices to safeguard resources and improve yields.

The event concluded with the symbolic handover of certificates and a framed portrait of the farm vehicles, marking both the donation and a new chapter of agricultural cooperation.

This partnership stands as a testament to the enduring friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China, while charting a sustainable future for local farmers.



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**
ANTIGUA PORT AUTHORITY PARKING LOT
5:00PM

SUNDAY 26 OCT

- **INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE**
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CREEKSIDE
4:00PM

MONDAY 27-29 OCT

- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

MONDAY 27 OCT

- **NATIONAL HEROES DAY
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**
HEROES PARK- SIR SYDNEY WALLINGS HIGHWAY
10:00 AM

TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**
ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
8:00PM
- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**



WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

- **SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS**
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE
- **GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS**
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION
"WADADLI ROOTS"**
7:30PM (TBC)

THURSDAY 30 OCT

- **NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY** 8:30AM
- **CHEERLEADING COMPETITION** 11:30AM
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
- **INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION**
JACK IDLE
8:00PM

FRIDAY 31 OCT

- **NATIONAL DRESS DAY**
- **NATIONAL FLAG DAY**
- **UNCHARTERED WATERS**
JOHN E ST. LUCE BUILDING
8:00PM

SATURDAY 01 NOV

- **INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY**
BARBUDA
9:00AM
- **NATIONAL FOOD FAIR**
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10:00AM UNTIL
- **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL
PARADE & NATIONAL AWARDS**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:30PM

MONDAY 03 NOV

- **BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC JAM**
BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY
(TIME TBC)

Antigua and Barbuda Signs Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy 2026–2031 with PAHO/WHO



Signing ceremony in Washington D.C, in which Antigua and Barbuda was among Caribbean countries that participated

Antigua and Barbuda has reaffirmed its commitment to regional solidarity and universal health with the signing of the Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy (MCCS) 2026–2031 for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries. The signing ceremony took place in Washington, D.C., on the sidelines of the 62nd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation was led by Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Michael Joseph, who signed the Strategy on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamaria DeCastro was also part of the delegation.

Delivering remarks at the ceremony, Senator Joseph stated:

“Our countries stand at a pivotal moment. We face the dual burden of high rates of non-communicable diseases alongside persistent infectious threats, now compounded by the growing reality of climate-related disasters. While life expectancy in our region remains high, we know that equity gaps persist, widened by income inequality, vulnerabilities among marginalised groups, and long-standing health system challenges such as workforce shortages,



Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Michael Joseph



Senator Michael Joseph at the PAHO Washington, D.C meeting



Caribbean flags adorn the wall at PAHO meeting

financing constraints, and high out-of-pocket spending.

“In response, our governments have taken bold steps. We have strengthened primary health care, advanced national health insurance initiatives, and invested in climate-resilient infrastructure through programmes such as PAHO’s Smart Health Facilities. We have also seen stronger political commitment to NCD prevention, antimicrobial resistance initiatives, and

the adoption of digital information systems for health. The integration of mental health into primary care, together with life-course approaches to adolescent and elderly health, signals a decisive shift toward people-centred care.”

Senator Joseph noted that despite these gains, Caribbean countries are mindful of their vulnerabilities — from economic dependencies to climate risks — that continue to test their

resilience. This, he added, makes the strategy even more vital. According to the Minister of State...the ceremony goes beyond symbolism as it serves as a renewal of the promise to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and to the wider region, that the government will build sustainable, inclusive health systems that leave no one behind.

“By prioritising health equity, investing in people-centred and climate-adaptive systems, and working hand-in-hand with PAHO and WHO, we are charting a course toward a healthier, stronger, and more unified future,” he observed.

The signing also carried special symbolic weight as September marks the anniversaries of several Caribbean nations joining PAHO in the 1980s — including Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These milestones followed earlier membership by Barbados in 1967 and Grenada in 1977.

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The UWI Five Islands Campus Receives Continuing Registration Status from ABNAB

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus has been granted continuing registration status by the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB), the country's highest accreditation authority, following successful completion of the re-registration process.

The campus, which was established in 2019, received its certificate of re-registration from ABNAB in September 2025 and is now registered to operate until 2027. This mandatory registration confirms that the institution has met or exceeded the minimum standards required for all post-secondary institutions operating in Antigua and Barbuda.

Principal of the Five Islands Campus, Professor C. Justin Robinson, emphasized the institution's commitment to maintaining The UWI's reputation for academic excellence.

"As the campus continues to grow, we intend to maintain and build on the quality standards as a campus in the wider UWI system," he stated.

Professor Robinson highlighted the campus's unique positioning as a modern institution serving today's students. "The Five Islands Campus has the competitive advantage of be-



ing a campus established in the digital age for the digital natives while maintaining the UWI quality standards."

The principal expressed gratitude to the campus team for their dedication throughout the rigorous re-registration process, particularly acknowledging Campus Registrar Dr. Camille Samuel for her leadership and the team's diligence and hard work.

Speaking at the handing over of the certificate, Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Sam-

uel, noted the re-registration came in the period following the COVID-19 pandemic and that there were more rigorous standards to be met as the institution was now back to its full face-to face modality. "The campus worked hard in a post-pandemic environment to ensure that the highest standards were met for students and staff as we work to uphold and exceed the national standards," said Dr. Samuel.

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board congratulated The UWI

Five Islands Campus on this achievement, noting that "this milestone marks a significant step forward in our commitment to promoting quality in Higher Education in Antigua and Barbuda."

As the fifth campus of The UWI system, the Five Islands Campus continues to uphold the institution's hallmark of access to high-quality education while serving the educational needs of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS region.


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Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) names new Executive Director



Dr. Mareba Scott

The Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), Antigua and Barbuda's leading environmental non-governmental organization, has appointment of Dr. Mareba M. Scott as its new Executive Director.

Established in 1989, the EAG is one of the Caribbean's longest-running environmental NGOs and is internationally recognized for its award-winning conservation work, including the restoration of the island of Redonda.

This globally celebrated project transformed Redonda from a barren, eroded landscape into a thriving wildlife sanctuary, hailed as one of the world's most successful island restoration ini-

tiatives.

Mareba Scott, a sustainability leader with extensive experience in Caribbean environmental stewardship, climate resilience and programme management, will guide the EAG as it advances its mission: to work collaboratively towards shaping a mindful and responsible society that sustainably uses biodiversity, fosters sustainable livelihoods, and promotes nature-based solutions supported by science.

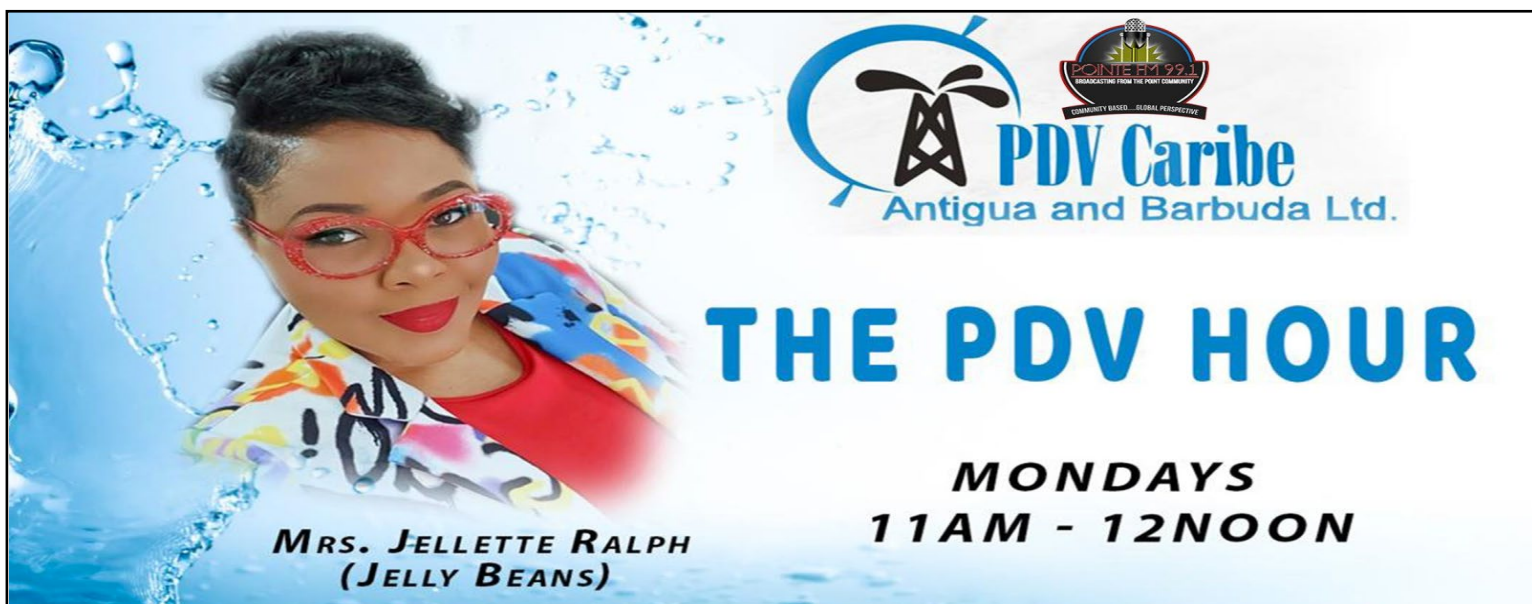
"The EAG has an unparalleled reputation for conservation excellence," said Mareba Scott. "I am deeply honoured to lead this incredible organisation as we build on its legacy of impact. My vision is to expand EAG's global partnerships, strengthen our fundraising capacity, and secure the resources needed to scale up transformative projects—delivering lasting benefits for people and wildlife."

The EAG Board of Directors expressed its enthusiasm for the appointment: "We are delighted to welcome Mareba Scott as our new Executive Director," said Jermaine Jarvis President of the EAG Board. "Dr. Scott brings not only deep sustainability expertise and leadership but also a proven ability to engage partners and mobilize resources.

We are confident that under her leadership, the EAG will continue to grow its impact nationally and regionally."

Dr. Scott previously served as a Director on the Board of the CARICOM Climate Change Centre, Governing Council Member of the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, and Co-Chair of the Caribbean Blue Flag Programme with the Caribbean Conservation Association. Over the last two decades, Mareba Scott has successfully managed multi-million-dollar project portfolios and cultivated high-level donor relationships to support tourism, disaster risk management and climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods across the Caribbean.

As Executive Director, Mareba Scott will oversee the EAG's six core programme areas: strategic management, human resources, fundraising, partnership and donor management, operations and financial management, and technical programme oversight. Central to this role will be continuing the EAG's tradition of collaboration with donors, government agencies, other NGOs, communities, educators, and the public while expanding its international influence.



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PM makes good on promise to Bethesda Sports Club

The members of the Bethesda Sports Club are in a thankful mood following the delivery of a driver-operated lawn mower to the Club by Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lynnette Thwaites, herself a Bethesda native, delivered the lawn mower to the club this month on behalf of the prime minister.

Thwaites explained that this came from a request made to the prime minister by members of the Club earlier in the year when he attended a town-hall meeting in Bethesda hosted ABLP hopeful, Malcolm Charles.

“At this meeting, Anthony “IRoots” Martin, President of the Club, drew attention to the challenges encountered with the cleaning of the field and PM Browne made the commitment to donate this much-needed equipment as a show of goodwill,” Thwaites further explained.

The Club members took possession of the mower and expressed their profound gratitude to the prime minister noting that he was a ‘man of his word’.

Taking possession of the lawn mower were Anthony Martin – President, Dale Lawrence - Vice President, Howard Warner – Coach and Kenneth Charles -Grounds man.

“Promises made...promise kept”, declared Thwaites repeating one of the mantras of the ABLP.



ABRSC's Second Annual Africa-Caribbean Dress Gala Dinner set for Saturday



2024 best dressed winners

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) has announced the return of its second annual Africa-Caribbean Dress Fundraising Gala Dinner on Saturday, October 4th, 2025.

The hosting of the social event comes on the heels of the momentous 2nd Africa-CARICOM Summit held earlier this month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This historic Africa-CARICOM

Summit was more than symbolic, it was a bold step towards strategic cooperation, bridging shared history and memory with concrete institutional, economic, diplomatic, and cultural connections.

Under the theme “*Trans-continental Partnership in Pursuit of Reparatory Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations*,” the Summit set the stage for deepened

ties between Africa and the Caribbean.

Building on this momentum, the ABRSC will host its Gala Dinner at Cortland Hotel. This one-of-a-kind evening promises a captivating fusion of African and Caribbean culture, blending fine dining, live entertainment, and cultural edification into an unforgettable experience. Guests will indulge in a curated three-course African/Caribbean-inspired menu, paired with wines and exquisite desserts.

Adding to the night's excitement, Liat 2020 Limited has once again partnered with the Commission, generously sponsoring two round-trip tickets to any Caribbean destination served by the airline. These coveted prizes will be awarded to the best-dressed male and female, bringing glamour and friendly competition to the celebration. Guests will also enjoy African wines, courtesy of official drink sponsor Brydens, further elevating

the evening's uniqueness and charm.

The Commission also proudly acknowledges the continued support of Community First Co-operative Credit Union, and the West Indies Oil Company, key partners in this year's Gala Dinner.

The Africa-Caribbean Dress Gala Dinner will serve as the crown jewel in celebrating the growing movement to reconnect people-to-people ties, honouring shared heritage, culture, memory, and identity. This is not just a fundraiser; it is a celebration of unity and a powerful reminder of the social and economic potential that lies in strengthening relationships with the African continent.

Tickets are \$200.00 and are available through any member of the Commission. The ABRSC warmly invites the public to embrace this special evening of culture, heritage, and solidarity, a night you simply won't want to miss!

NOTICE

The China Aid Programme in collaboration with The Embassy of China Antigua and Barbuda, Yuan Long Ping High Tech Agriculture Co. Ltd. Ministry of Agriculture Lands Fisheries and the Blue Economy presents, a 3-week training course on Agricultural Water Saving Irrigation for Antigua and Barbuda from 16th October to 5th November 2025 at the Villa Poly Clinic, Villa Area.

Please call 462 0418 or 764 1256 for further information on registration

Liberty Caribbean concludes successful North Caribbean Leadership Summit

Leading telecoms provider Liberty Caribbean, the operators of Flow and Liberty Business, recently concluded a focused leadership summit for its North Caribbean markets, convening its senior executives and business leaders from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, Montserrat and St. Maarten.

The multi-day gathering at the Sonesta Resort and Conference Centre in St. Maarten was dedicated to two clear priorities: delivering service excellence for customers and strengthening adaptive leadership to drive sustainable growth across the region.

Delegates aligned on practical strategies to translate connectivity into measurable community benefits – from improved healthcare and education services to enhanced opportunities for businesses.

A central theme of the summit was people and leadership. Discussions emphasised talent development, retention, and a stakeholder-centric approach to execution so leaders can respond rapidly to evolving customer needs and advance a culture of continuous improvement across markets.







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Regional News

Gov't enlists Regional Security System to tackle illegal firearms in DA

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has confirmed the presence of the Regional Security System (RSS) in Dominica to assist law enforcement in ridding the streets of illegal firearms.

He made the announcement during a press conference on Monday.

The Regional Security System was created in 1982 to counter threats to the stability of the region in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"And so, the Regional Security System was established to support each other in maintaining and enhancing the security of the region, but also the security of each member-state," Skerrit stated. "On the advice of the Chief of Police, the Minister of National Security, which is required in agreement, has invited the RSS to join the police in our efforts towards eradicating the presence of illegal firearms in the country."

He continued, "Yes, the RSS is in Dominica, and the RSS is here to support the police in eradicating the presence of illegal firearms. Anyone who has it, we take it from you...and one may say it is just a few murders, but every country started with one



and it got to 15, and it got to 25, and it got to 67, and it got to 100, and it got to 600..."

According to him, the security of the state and the citizens and residents of Dominica is the government's priority.

"If the country is unsafe, then everything else will fail. And we do not want to have a situation in Dominica where we cannot drive freely or go to the beach, or go to the river, or [are] afraid to walk the streets."

He continued, "We have to

ensure that this doesn't happen in Dominica and that the respect for life is paramount, and that...violence and the presence of illegal firearms in our country does not become commonplace."

Skerrit also mentioned that his government announced a number of measures to either eliminate or curb the presence of illegal firearms in Dominica.

"I have made it clear, openly, I meet a lot of people on the streets and I say to them that marijuana is illegal under the law, but this is not a priority fight for the state,"

he stated. "The priority fight for the country now is illegal firearms."

He added, "And so we will not sit idly by and not seek to try all of the opportunities that are available to the state and the police to bring a sense of calm and normalcy to our country."

While the government recognizes that the recent incidents are targeted, Skerrit believes that every life is important, "and no one has the authority to take anybody's life under any circumstance." (Dominica News Online)



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Grenada agrees to adjust its Cuban health programme amid US concerns



The Grenada government has announced what it termed “important changes” to the Cuban Workers Programme following a request made by the United States to review the initiative.

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that “important changes to strengthen the administration and oversight of the Cuban Workers Programme have been implemented, following high-level consultations between Grenadian and Cuban officials in Havana” this month.

The statement said that the discussions were led by Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development Minister, Joseph Andall, and included Health Minister, Philip Telford and that “it was agreed that all Cuban professionals serving in Grenada would work under conditions equal to those of their Grenadian counterparts.

“The Government of Grenada expresses its appreciation to the Government of Cuba for its cooperation in the matter and for agreeing to the changes. The Government of Grenada acknowledges the role of the United States in raising the matter with Grenada.”

The Dickon Mitchell government said that the Cuban Workers Programme has provided significant support to Grenadians, especially in the delivery of healthcare.

“The Government and people of Grenada are grateful for this support. At the same time, the Government continues to strengthen national health capacity through expanded training, scholarships, and incentives to increase the cadre of Grenadian professionals serving in the health system,” the statement said.

In August, the United States Department of State announced that it

had taken steps to impose visa restrictions on African, Cuban, and Grenadian government officials, and their family members, for their complicity in the Cuban regime’s medical mission scheme in which medical professionals are ‘rented’ by other countries at high prices and most of the revenue is kept by the Cuban authorities.

Washington claimed that this scheme enriches the Cuban regime while depriving the Cuban people of essential medical care, a position which has been strongly denied by the Caribbean.

The United States said that it would continue to engage governments, “and will take action as needed, to bring an end to such forced labour,” urging governments “to pay the doctors directly for their services, not the regime’s slave masters.

“The United States aims to support the Cuban people in their pursuit of freedom and dignity and promote accountability for those who perpetuate their exploitation. We call on all nations that support democracy and human rights to join us in this effort to confront the Cuban regime’s abuses and stand with the Cuban people.”

Washington has since imposed a visa restriction on Finance Minister Dennis Cornwall, with St George’s saying that both governments reaffirmed their commitment to the long-standing relationship and agreed to continue using diplomatic channels to address matters of concern. (CMC)

Regional News



Hurricane Humberto and Tropical Storm Imelda threaten the Bahamas and Bermuda

Authorities in the Bahamas closed a majority of schools on Monday following mandatory evacuations for some islands in the archipelago as Tropical Storm Imelda was expected to drop heavy rain and unleash flooding in the northern Caribbean.

The storm was located about 10 miles (15 kilometres) southeast of Great Abaco Island, which is still recovering from Hurricane Dorian after it slammed into parts of the Bahamas as a devastating Category 5 hurricane in 2019.

Imelda had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph) and was moving north at 9 mph (15 kph). It was forecast to become a hurricane on Tuesday and spin out to open ocean, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for parts of the northwestern Bahamas, including Eleuthera, the Abacos, Grand Bahama Island and the surrounding keys. Power outages were reported in some areas, with authorities closing government offices on affected islands.

Imelda was expected to drop 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimetres) of rain across the northwest Bahamas through Tuesday, and 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimetres) across eastern Cuba.



Meanwhile, Hurricane Humberto churned in open waters nearby, which forecasters said would cause Imelda to abruptly turn to the east-northeast, away from the southeastern United States coast.

“This is really what’s going to be saving the United States from really seeing catastrophic rainfall,” said Alex DaSilva, lead hurricane expert for AccuWeather, a private US weather forecasting company.

When two storms circle near each other, they create what’s known as the Fujiwhara effect, which means that they start to rotate counter-clockwise around each other, DaSilva said.

“It’s a very rare phenomena overall in the Atlantic basin,” he said.

Humberto was a Category 4 storm with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph (230 kph). It was located about 365 miles (585 kilo-

metres) south-southwest of Bermuda moving northwest at 14 mph (22 kph). A tropical storm watch was in effect for Bermuda.

“This is going to be no threat to the United States,” DaSilva said.

However, moisture from Imelda was expected to move up the Carolinas, with heavy rain forecast through Tuesday morning. The heaviest rains will be limited to the coastline, from Charleston in South Carolina to Wilmington in North Carolina, while Charlotte and Raleigh might receive only 1 to 2 inches (3 to 5 centimeters) of rain, he said.

The Carolinas might see winds gusts of 40 mph, but only along the coastline, DaSilva said, as he warned of dangerous surf and heavy rip currents all week.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster said authorities were prepositioning search and rescue crews

over the weekend.

Meanwhile, In North Carolina, Governor Josh Stein declared a state of emergency even before Imelda formed.

As Tropical Storm Imelda and Hurricane Humberto swirled in open waters, authorities in Bermuda prepared for two near misses.

“It’s going to be a double whammy for Bermuda, Humberto first and Imelda following close behind,” Da Silva said.

He said Imelda could pass within 15 miles (24 kilometres) from Bermuda as the Atlantic season’s soon-to-be fourth named hurricane, while Humberto will charge past at a longer distance.

Michael Weeks, Bermuda’s national security minister, urged residents to prepare, warning that there have been “some near misses this season regarding severe storms.”

“Hurricane Humberto is a dangerous storm, and with another system developing to our south, every household in Bermuda should take the necessary steps to be prepared,” he said.

Flights to and from the islands in the Bahamas were cancelled, with airports expected to reopen after weather conditions improve. (AP)

Regional News

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Linguistics scholar welcomes addition of 'bulla', 'broughtupsy' and other Caribbean words to Oxford Dictionary



Anglican priest and linguistics scholar, the Reverend Bertram Gayle has welcomed the inclusion of Jamaican and other Caribbean words in the Oxford English Dictionary, describing it as a historic recognition that affirms the legitimacy of the region's native languages.

"Our speech forms are bonafide, structured languages, not merely 'broken' dialects," Gayle told The Gleaner.

Last Wednesday officials announced the addition of 12 new words commonly used in the region to the dictionary.

These included; bulla, broughtupsy, carry-go-bring-come, tantie, salt-fish and the Trinidadian words, buss up shut, which is a fried unleavened bread with a flaky texture, similar to paratha or roti, and pholourie, an Indo-Caribbean dish made of fried flour balls, ground split peas and spices.

The Oxford Dictionary also added "bobolee," "a stuffed and dressed up effigy ... set up as a target for

beating on Good Friday"; and "cry long water" which means either to cry a lot or insincerely.

"This continued recognition by a global authority elevates the status of our languages, fostering greater international and academic respect. Most importantly, it serves as a powerful catalyst to challenge the internal stigma and colonial-era prejudice long attached to these languages within the Caribbean space, hopefully encouraging educational reform and national pride, though the true, lasting acceptance must ultimately come from within the region itself," he said.

Gayle, however, noted that this wasn't new as words such as hammock, reggae, and riddim are already entered into the dictionary. While this is noteworthy, he said the way these words are spelt in the dictionary, underscores the need to address the issue of how it is represented in writing.

He highlighted the Cassidy-JLU system, a phonemic writing system for Jamaican Patois, developed by the Language Unit at the University of the West Indies to represent the sound of the language and to standardise written patois. (Jamaica Gleaner)

NOTICE

TO:
HER HONOUR
 The Licensing Magistrate
 District "A" Magistrate's Court
 High Street
 St. John's
 Antigua

TO:
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John's

I, **Dwayne Pascal**, of English Harbour, St. Paul, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on **Thursday 2nd, October, 2025** for a Tavern License for the premises known as "**Pascalito Bar & Pizzeria**" situated at English Harbour, in the Parish of St. Paul in the Island of Antigua pursuant to **Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicated Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.**

Dated the 22nd September, 2025
Cumberbatch & Associates
 Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Afghanistan telecom blackout as Taliban shuts off internet

The Taliban in Afghanistan have imposed a nationwide shut down of telecommunications, weeks after they began severing fibre-optic internet connections to prevent what they call immorality.

The country is currently experiencing a total connectivity blackout, internet watchdog, Netblocks reports.

International news agency AFP says it lost contact with its office in the capital Kabul, including mobile phone service. Mobile internet and satellite TV has also been severely disrupted across Afghanistan.

Since seizing power in 2021, the Taliban have imposed numerous restrictions in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic Sharia law.

Flights from Kabul airport have also been disrupted, according to reports.

Several people in Kabul have told the BBC that their fibre-optic internet stopped working towards the end of the working day, around 17:00 local time (12:30 GMT)

Because of this, it is understood many people will not notice the impact until Tuesday morning, when banking services



and other businesses are due to resume.

Fibre-optic cables transfer data super fast, and are used for much of the world's internet.

In a post on social network Mastodon.social, Netblocks said:

"Afghanistan is now in the midst of a total internet blackout as Taliban authorities move to implement morality measures, with multiple networks disconnected through the morning in a stepwise manner; telephone services are currently also impacted".

For weeks internet users in several Afghan provinces have been complaining about either slow internet access or no connectivity.

The Taliban earlier said an alternative route for internet access would be created, without giving any details.

Business leaders at the time warned that if the internet ban continued their activities would be seriously hit.

Hamid Haidari, former editor-in-chief of Afghan news channel 1TV, said after the shutdown that "loneliness enveloped the entire country."

"Afghanistan has now officially taken first place in the competition with North Korea for [internet] disconnection" he said on X.

The blackout is the latest in a series of restrictions which the Taliban have enforced since returning

to power.

Earlier this month they removed books written by women from the country's university teaching system as part of a new ban which has also outlawed the teaching of human rights and sexual harassment.

Women and girls have also been particularly hard-hit: they are barred from accessing education beyond the age of 12, with one of their last routes to further training cut off in late 2024, when midwifery courses were quietly shut down.

The Taliban, a hardline Islamist group, retook control of Afghanistan in 2021 in a lightning advance that lasted just 10 days. (BBC)

Suspected stowaway found dead in plane's landing gear at North Carolina airport

Airplane maintenance workers at a North Carolina airport found the body of a suspected stowaway in the landing gear compartment of an American Airlines flight that had recently arrived from Europe, police said.

The body was found Sunday morning while the plane was undergoing maintenance at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said in a statement that it is investigating the death.

Neither the airline nor police have offered information about the person who died, including a possible cause of death, or said where the flight originated.

The airport said it was deeply saddened by the discovery and said it will support the police investigation. American Airlines said it was working with law enforcement on its investigation and directed questions to police.

Experts believe roughly three-quarters of stowaways do not survive if they hide on a plane's undercarriage because of the extreme cold and lack



of oxygen they experience as the plane reaches cruising altitude.

In January, two bodies were found in the landing gear compartment of a Jet-Blue aircraft at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The bodies were discovered in the wheel well area during a routine post-flight inspection.

The aircraft had arrived in Fort Lau-

derdale shortly after flight from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. The jet had been in both Kingston, Jamaica, and Salt Lake City, Utah, earlier that day.

In December, a body was found in the wheel well of a United Airlines plane after it landed in Maui from Chicago. (AP)

Four mass shootings in 24 hours across U.S.

A total of 4 mass shootings were confirmed to have taken place in the United States over this past weekend all within a space of 24 hours.

The incidents occurred in separate states including Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

In the deadliest of these recent spate of shootings a Mormon church was attacked in Grand Blanc Michigan where a former marine killed 4 people and injured 8 others before being gunned down by authorities.

The gunman who rammed a pickup



truck into the crowded church building then proceeded to light a massive blaze which effectively destroyed the Church structure.

The North Carolina and Mormon Church shooters have both been described as Iraq war veterans.

Similar mass shooting sprees have occurred within the US including one set of incidents in 2023 that saw 5 dead and 56 injured.

Another spree of shootings in Chicago over a particularly deadly Labour day weekend in 2025 saw 8 dead and 58 people shot.

Sources include ABC News and various outlets including demstate.com (Dominica News Online)

Gaming giant Electronic Arts bought in unprecedented \$55bn deal

Electronic Arts (EA), one of the biggest gaming companies in the world, has agreed a deal to sell the company for \$55bn (£41bn).

The consortium of buyers include Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), Silver Lake and Jared Kushner's Affinity Partners.

EA is known for making and publishing best-selling games such as EA FC, formerly known as FIFA, The Sims and Mass Effect.

It is understood to be the largest leveraged buyout in history - where a significant amount of the purchase is financed by borrowing money.

The deal will take EA private - meaning all of its public shares will be purchased and it will no longer be traded on a stock exchange.

The purchase price puts a significant 25% premium on the market value of EA, valuing it at \$210 per share.

It is the second most valuable gaming purchase in history, following Microsoft's \$69bn deal to buy Call of Duty publisher Activision Blizzard - which went through after significant battles with global regulators, with the UK concerned it may damage competition.

In the end, the deal was only approved after Microsoft handed the rights to distribute the firm's games on consoles and PCs over the cloud to Assassin's Creed-maker Ubisoft.



EA boss Andrew Wilson, who will remain in post, said it was a "powerful recognition" of the firm's work. "Together with our partners, we will create transformative experiences to inspire generations to come," he said.

The firms buying EA will contribute approximately \$36bn, with the remaining amount being financed by loans.

"EA has been open to a potential buyer to help level up for a while," industry expert Christopher Dring told the BBC.

"But an acquisition from private equity is a surprise and there's a lot of industry anxiety around this deal."

He said there were concerns that the deal would result in \$20bn of debt - which would need to be paid back.

"The revenue generated by big games like EA Sports FC, Madden and Battlefield 6 will be needed to service this debt, which may impact EA's ability to invest in new games," he said.

"Other industry concerns are whether this might lead to further cuts at EA, especially if there's pressure from the private companies to deliver stronger cash flow, again to serve that debt."

It is a massive purchase of a company which has been synonymous with the gaming industry for more than 40 years.

In that time, EA has been responsible for some of the biggest game series in history. Its football titles, now known as EA FC, have sold 325 million copies since the first release in 1993.

The Sims has sold more than 200 million copies, and Need For Speed more than 150 million.

But it has also been the publisher of many other popular titles - often being the partner of choice for games in the Harry Potter and James Bond series in the past.

The purchase will be a big gaming feather in the cap of Saudi Arabia, which has been increasing its presence in the industry in recent years.

In March 2025, the nation's investment fund paid \$3.5bn to purchase the gaming division of Niantic - giving it control of the hit mobile game Pokémon Go.

The purchase became part of Scopely Inc - makers of Monopoly Go - which itself was bought by PIF subsidiary Savvy Games Group for \$4.9bn in 2023.

Saudi Arabia has made waves in the eSports industry, hosting major tournaments including the eSports World Cup, and it will also host 2027's planned Olympic esports Games.

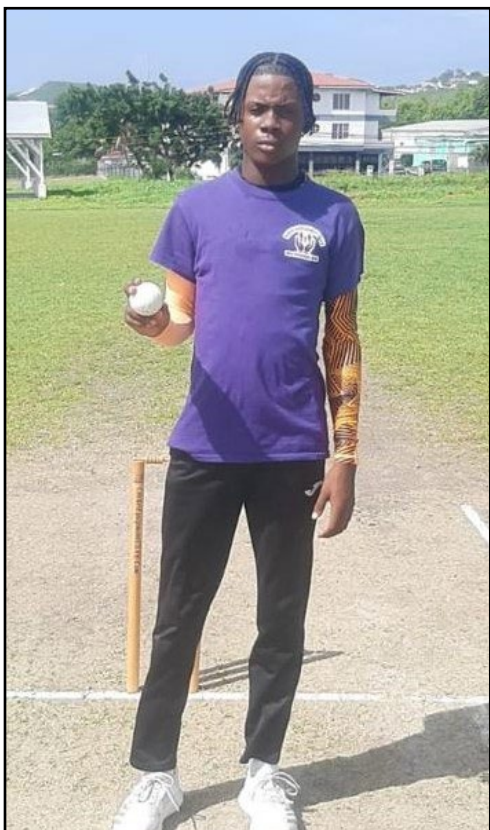
The country already has stakes in other big gaming firms such as Nintendo and Take-Two Interactive, but the EA purchase marks a significant extension of its reach.

Its PIF has hundreds of billions in assets due to its oil wealth, and it is controlled by the country's prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose government has been accused of human rights violations.

A 2019 UN report stated "the state of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is responsible" for the death of Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist who was critical of the country's government.

Saudi Arabia has always denied this. (BBC)

Bullets and Dredgers remain unbeaten in IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic



Kerrique Mentore



Glenton Williams



Deran Benta

Bryson's Bullets and defending champions PEL Dredgers extended their unbeaten run in the 10th Annual LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Softball Club (IBSC) Tape Ball T20 Classic on Sunday.

Both teams recorded their fourth win in five matches during the fifth round of fixtures in the 20 overs per side competition.

Bryson's Bullets snatched a two-wicket win against TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs at the Powell playing field. Underdogs were restricted to 173 for eight after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Michael Harilall struck 49, and Vishal Gobin hit 35. Roniel Jeffrey claimed two for 18, Shaquan Reifer took two for 27, and Andra Samuel picked up two for 31.

Player of the match Deran Benta slammed a century as Bullets achieved victory by scoring 174 for eight in 14.1

overs. Benta smashed 103, including 13 sixes and four fours.

Orandel Boston bagged five for 29, and Hughon Tonge captured two for 55 for Underdogs, who remain winless after crashing to their fourth defeat in five matches.

PEL Dredgers pulled off a five-wicket victory against Koconut Car Rental Buckley's 3Js at the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) playing field.

Buckley's 3Js crashed to 95 all out in 18.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Steve Martin made 26. Player of the match Glenton Williams grabbed four for 16, Jedidiah Martin bagged three for 25, and Javaughn James picked up two for 15.

Dredgers secured victory by scoring 101 for five in 10.3 overs. J'Quan Athanaze hit 37, and Mervin Higgins struck 26. Richie Thomas picked up two for 24 for Buckley's 3Js, which lost for the first time in five matches.

Hanse-on Security Tech recorded their first win in four matches by crushing Easy Pickings Mix Up by 136 runs at Antigua Grammar School.

Hanse-on Security Tech was dismissed for 216 in 19.4 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat. There was a contribution of 42 extras.

Clinton Benjamin hit 36, Xaveek Toppin slammed 35, and Kerrique Mentor made 30. Ahmad Ashaq captured three for 41, and Alfred Jarvis claimed two for 42 runs.

In reply, Mix Up tumbled to 80 all out in 15.1 overs. Kirk Douglas struck 44. Player of the match Kerrique Mentor snapped up four for 23.

Pelican Safari VIP Squad claimed their third win in five matches after being awarded victory by default against PMS, who were unable to field a team for their encounter at Powells. The PMS have now suffered three losses in five matches.

Sports News

Attacking Saints win playoffs to remain in Premier Division

The Attacking Saints have retained their spot to compete in Antigua and Barbuda's top domestic football league, the Premier Division.

The Attacking Saints secured their spot to remain in the Premier Division by winning the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First and Premier Division Playoffs series.

The Attacking Saints achieved the feat by romping to a 5-1 victory against the Freeman's Village Scorpions in the final match of the three-team playoff series at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday evening.

Joshua Samuel struck twice with conversions in the seventh and 53rd minutes after teammate Shafeeq Joseph gave Attacking Saints the early lead by converting a penalty kick in the third minute.

Darius Hector scored a consolation goal for the Freeman's Village Scorpions in the 43rd minute.

Conversions by Ellsworth Mack in the 58th minute



Players of the Attacking Saints football team

and Naique Merrick in the third minute of added-on time wrapped up the victory for the Attacking Saints.

The three-team round-robin playoffs involve Attacking Saints, who finished in 10th place in the Premier League last season. SAP FC finished third and the Scorpions fourth in last season's First Division League.

The Attacking Saints and

the Freeman's Village Scorpions had secured 4-1 wins against SAP FC, the other team in the three-team round-robin competition.

Sunday's match was finally played after a dispute between the two teams and the ABFA.

The game was initially slated to be played at the same venue on Thursday, May 1, but was postponed

due to rainy weather conditions. It was rescheduled by the ABFA to be played on Saturday, May 3.

The dispute was eventually settled and both teams were finally able to play the match on Sunday. The Attacking Saints will compete in this season's Premier Division, while the Freeman's Village Scorpions will contest the First Division.

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Nepal crush West Indies to claim historic series win



Nepal beat West Indies in the second T20I international in Sharjah to complete a series win. (AFP)

Nepal claimed a historic series win, their first over a full member, after they humbled former world champions West Indies in the second T20 International in Sharjah on Monday.

Having already beaten West Indies in the opening game of the series on Saturday, Nepal were clinical with both bat and ball as they crushed their opponents by 90 runs in stunning fashion.

Nepal made 173 for six off their 20 overs and dismissed the West Indies for 83 in 17.1 overs.

Opting to bat first in search of a rare series win, Nepal got off to a poor start when Akeal Hosein struck twice to reduce them to 16 for two after four overs.

But Aasif Sheikh led the recovery with a flurry of boundaries to help Nepal finish on a strong note at the end of the powerplay.

An unnecessary run out of Kushal Malla for seven then appeared to peg them back further before a 115-run fifth-wicket stand between Aasif Sheikh and Sundeep Jora completely flipped the script.

Sundeep Jora joined forces with Sheikh and both players hit half centuries to revive the innings. Sheikh slammed an unbeaten 68 off 47 balls, including eight fours and two sixes. Jora cracked 63 off 39 balls, including five sixes and three fours. Hosein finished with two for 21, and Kyle Myers claimed two for 26.

Chasing 174, West Indies found themselves on the backfoot very soon as the first two overs yielded just three runs in total. That resulted in a wicket ultimately, as Jewel Andrew was bowled for two.

The top order succumbed in meek fashion with all

three departing for single-digit scores. After five overs, the West Indies found themselves reeling at seven for two before Mohammad Adil Alam ripped through the middle order to cause further damage.

While Jason Holder did his bit to break the shackles with 21 off 15 balls, the writing was on the wall for West Indies. Nepal reduced the opposition to 74 for seven, and from thereon, it was only a matter of time before the West Indies eventually threw in the towel with almost three overs to spare.

Mohammad Ali Alam grabbed four for 24, and Khushal Bhurtel snapped up three for 16.

West Indies' total of 83 became the lowest in T20Is for a full-member side against an associate, while Nepal's 90-run win was the biggest margin of victory (by runs) for an associate

team against a full-member.

Meanwhile, West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has been ruled out of next month's two-Test series against India due to the recurrence of a back injury, the team said on Monday.

"After (Joseph's) complaints of discomfort, scans revealed a degeneration of the previously resolved lower back injury," West Indies Cricket said.

All-rounder Jason Holder was unavailable to replace Joseph due to a planned medical procedure, and Jediah Blades, capped in limited-overs internationals, was drafted in as cover following the ongoing series against Nepal.

India are hosting West Indies' first Test tour of the country in seven years and the series begins in Ahmedabad on October 2.

Sandals win again in defence of Business Basketball League title

Defending champions Sandals maintained their unbeaten run in defence of their title in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Championships on Sunday night.

Sandals, which won the round-robin league and the playoff titles last year, claimed their third win in as many outings with a 68-52 victory against J&J Company Landscaping Services in the first game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday.

Selassie Brathwaite sank 23 points, and Kim Casey scored 13 points for Sandals. Dwayne Samuel converted 19 points, and Daysher Samuel scored 17 points for J&J Company Landscaping Services, who suffered their second loss in as many games.

Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance notched up their second win in five matches with a 67-20 victory against Police in the second game of Sunday's triple-header.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 19 points and claimed six rebounds, and Najee Simons produced 10 points and six assists for Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance.

Javon Simon converted nine points for Police, who were playing their first game in this year's competition.

After losing their opening two games, H. Wright Promotions clinched their first win in three matches with a 69-48 victory against Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in the last encounter of Sunday's triple-header.

Humroy Wright produced 14

points and four assists, Donte Tringham sank 13 points, and Najee George chipped in with 10 points and three assists for H. Wright Promotions.

Point guard Nigel Joseph scored 14 points, and Demeitre Leitch converted 12 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, who lost for the third time in as many games.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Anjo Wholesale will face Fearless Security Services at 6:45 pm, H. Wright Promotions will meet Sledge O Ballers at 7:45 pm, and Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will clash with the Board of Education at 8:45 pm.

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thrilling showdown that showcased the best of Caribbean volleyball, with a 3-1 triumph over Bermuda in the final on Sunday night.

The match was a rollercoaster of emotions, with Bermuda demonstrating fierce determination.

However, St. Lucia's powerful performance ultimately led them to their 23-25, 25-20, 25-18, and 25-21 victory. This remarkable win marks the fourth consecutive championship for St. Lucia, solidifying their dominance in the tournament.

Head coach Kendell Charlery expressed his elation after the match, stating, "We are elated, happy; we did it again. That's four times in a row. This team are representing themselves and their country. It's a great feeling to



Antigua and Barbuda's Alliyah Smith pose with her second-best blocker award.

St. Lucia came out swinging, earning an impressive 55 points off attacks compared to Bermuda's 39. The St. Lucians led in service aces, 10-5, and committed fewer errors (28 to Bermuda's 32). Bermuda excelled in blocking, registering eight points to St. Lucia's five.

The standout player of the final was opposite hitter Lisa Casimie, who delivered an exceptional performance, scoring a remarkable 25 points. Megan Hands led Bermuda with 12 points, showcasing her skills in a commendable effort.

Casimie was named the most valuable player of the tournament and also captured the best scorer and best opposite hitter awards. Antigua and Barbuda's Alliyah Smith claimed the second-best blocker award.

Antiguans clinch third place in ECVA Women's Final Four



Antigua and Barbuda captured third place at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Women's Final Four tournament at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's, Antigua, on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

Host Antigua and Barbuda have captured the bronze medals at the 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Women's Final Four tournament.

In a thrilling display of skill and determination, Antigua and Barbuda made history by winning their first-ever medal at the ECVA Women's Final Four, clinching the bronze with a stunning 3-0 (25-11, 25-21, 25-14) victory over Grenada in the playoff for third place at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Sunday evening.

From the outset, Antigua showcased remarkable prowess, taking early control of the match and quickly establishing their dominance in the first set.

Despite Grenada's spirited comeback in the second set, the Antiguan team maintained their composure and executed their game plan flawlessly, closing out the match in straight sets.

The Antiguan team's offensive strategy was particularly effective, boasting a remarkable 31-16 advantage in attacks. Antigua also excelled in serving, racking up 13 service aces compared to Grenada's five.

Both teams recorded three blocks, but it was Antigua's disciplined play and tactical execution that made the difference.

Leading the charge for Antigua was opposite hitter Jahzara Donovan, who scored an impressive 12 points. Out-

side hitter Faith Gibson and middle blocker Alliyah Smith each contributed a critical eight points, demonstrating the depth of talent on the team. Grenada's top scorer, Xenia Collins, put forth a valiant effort with nine points.

Team captain Rosemarie Simon expressed her pride in the team's achievement, stating, "We played our best and executed our game plan as we discussed. We are thrilled to have come out with a medal at this tournament. This victory is not just for us, but for all of Antigua and Barbuda."

Meanwhile, St. Lucia secured the ECVA Women's Final Four title in a

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