

St. Paul makes History!

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St Paul Member of Parliament, E.P Chet Greene and Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph (inset) addressed the audience at Monday's opening of the new Cobbs Cross clinic

St. Paul makes history!

The constituency of St. Paul, long associated with the history of Antigua and Barbuda, is again making history; this time in another area of human development; the provision of healthcare services.

With the opening of the new Cobbs Cross Health centre on Monday afternoon, Health and Wellness Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, revealed that St. Paul has created history as the first area to have two new clinics opened in a single year. (The Liberta Clinic opened earlier in the year following extensive refurbishing and repairs).

Sir Molwyn noted that politics is based on candidates making promises to communities when they are seeking votes, but as a politician for almost forty years, the current ABLP Administration is the first that he is aware of that consistently delivers on its promises.

“While we all agree that education is an important facet of development, health has to be a top priority as without it the nation suffers. So health was made a priority by the prime minister, thus, when in the first year of my appointment as minister of health, I discovered that all the



Health and Wellness Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph

keys diagnostic equipment – MRI, CT-Scan and Mammogram etc. – were all out of operation, it was the prime minister who asked the question; how much would it take to get these machines working again. He told me that he would make US\$10 million to purchase new equipment or to have those that were there repaired,” Sir Molwyn revealed.

Additionally, the health minister further revealed that when he took up office, all twenty-three of the clinics were in some form of disrepair; meaning that they required extensive repairs or to be rebuilt totally.

Today, Sir Molwyn disclosed a total

of seventeen of the clinics have been repaired or rebuilt with only six of these facilities that require attention.

“The most important healthcare agency comprises the nation’s clinics. If you have strong primary health care service that is well-developed, well-supported with both nurses and diagnostic equipment, you could reduce the burden of the tertiary health facility such as SLBMC by at least twenty-percent. This would allow you to redirect the traffic away from SLBMC. So the idea why we are here today, is to ensure that we have a robust primary health care system,” he explained.

Sir Molwyn announced plans to expand the services that are offered at both the Liberta and Cobbs Cross clinics to add equipment for testing of blood and even a CT Scan. “The idea is that everyone should not have to go at SLBMC for these types of diagnostic services,” he stated.

According to Sir Molwyn the government intends to provide clinics that will provide sustainable services to the people of Antigua and Barbuda over the long term.



A silver BYD Dolphin electric car is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a paved road. The car is positioned on the left side of the advertisement, with a blurred background of greenery and a clear sky. The car's design is modern and compact, typical of a hatchback. The BYD logo is visible on the front grille.

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Opening of new clinic at Cobbs Cross: More than mere ribbon-cutting



Parliament for the Area, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and several members of the Cabinet and the Senate,

The people of Cobbs Cross and surrounding communities can at last breathe a sigh of relief as the long delayed health clinic has finally been officially opened and ready to serve the health-care needs of residents.

Before a packed audience that included Prime Minister Gaston Browne and several members of the Cabinet and the Senate, Member of Parliament for the Area, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene described the occasion as more than the symbolism of the ‘ribbon-cutting’. Instead, he said, it represented a new chapter in the provision of health care in the community.

“We stand here as a testament to a simple yet powerful promise; a simple but powerful truth; Promise made, promise kept,” he declared.

The representative recalled that the doors of the previous clinic were shut back in 2003 ‘in disgrace’, add-

ing that it was not a closure by choice, but one that was

However, according to the representative out of that



The New Cobbs Cross Health Centre

forced upon the authorities when the conditions had deteriorated to the point where rodents literally chased the people who worked there away.

MP Greene described the time of the closure as ‘a low point’ as it was a symbol of the neglect that the health facility and the people of the community had experienced for ‘far too long’.

negative situation came an opportunity; an opportunity to right past wrongs with the construction of a brand new facility to serve the communities.

“This however demanded leadership; it demanded a vision and I am happy that our prime minister is a visionary who joined me in working towards the realization of this project. So

from that disappointment, a seed of determination was planted. We made a vow that day to you the people; we will not rest until you had the health facility that you deserved. A facility that would not let you hang your head in shame, but to hold your head up in pride,” he stated.

The opening of the clinic, Greene emphasized is the fulfilment of the vow and replacing the memory of decay with a modern new building state-of-the-art community health centre,” he declared.

Greene called on the members of the community to see the facility as an investment for them, and he encouraged them to make the best of its services. “Take ownership of this facility, cherish and protect it as it stands as a monument to resilience and shared progress,” he remarked.

He also announced plans to acquire neighbouring lands to erect a dental and eye-care clinic.

Local News

NSWMA announces the resumption of derelict vehicles removal and rodent baiting

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is advising all citizens and residents that the Derelict Vehicle Removal Program will resume operations on October 13th 2025, under the National Clean-up and Beautification Initiative.

The Collaboration will have several agencies to include Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF), Traffic Police, Central Board of Health (CBH), Ministry of Works, and Community Division.

Prior to the start date CBH will start baiting for rodents from Grid 1 which spans Dickenson Bay Street across to Fort Road down to Fort James. This program is part of its ongoing effort to maintain the safety, cleanliness, and aesthetic of all communities. Derelict or abandoned vehicles not only pose safety hazards but also detract from the visual appearance of the neighborhoods.

According to the Litter Control and Prevention Act, No. 3 of 2019, Section 13 (1), it states that "Where any derelict vehicle is left in any public place in such circumstances as to cause, con-



tribute to or tend to the defacement of the environment by reason of the presence of such derelict vehicle, the local authority may give notice to the owner or last known owner of the derelict vehicle requiring him to remove the derelict vehicle from the public place within twenty-four hours of such notice."

What You Need to Know:

- Vehicles considered derelict may include those that are inoperable, unreg-

istered, abandoned on public property, or pose a public safety risk.

- Property owners are responsible for ensuring that any derelict vehicles on their property are removed or properly secured.

We encourage residents to report derelict vehicles by contacting the NSWMA at 562-2019 or Traffic Reserve at 764-2001.

Let's work together to keep our community safe and clean.





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The Social Security Debate: What are the facts



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is also the country's Finance Minister, has again returned to the highly political and divisive issue; the Social Security Debt controversy.

The matter came up for discussion last Saturday on the popular, **Browne and Browne** show on Point FM.

According to the prime minister several opposition figures, particularly Harold Lovell, had claimed that the UPP administration "never borrowed from Social Security." PM Browne immediately addressed the statement. "I never said they borrowed," he clarified. "But if you didn't pay your contributions, that's a form of borrowing. You're using funds that belonged to the people."

He then pulled up official records from the Director of Social Security to clarify the historical debt data. Displaying an Excel spreadsheet on the broadcast screen, Browne broke it down year by year.

In 2003, at the end of the Labour Party's previous term, the government owed EC\$366 million to the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board. During the UPP administration (2004–2013), that figure rose steadily:

- ▶ 2004–2009: Debt increased from EC\$366M to EC\$471M.
- ▶ 2010–2013: It climbed further to EC\$538M, an increase of EC\$172



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

million.

"They made one payment of about EC\$36 million in 2013," PM Browne said, "but apart from that, the debt kept growing."

He explained that arrears, by definition, are equivalent to borrowing: "If you owe Social Security and use that money elsewhere, you've borrowed it — plain and simple. They left office owing EC\$538 million."

Under his administration, PM Browne continued, the government began reducing and restructuring the debt while making regular payments:

"We've paid over EC\$208 million in cash to Social Security — twice what they (the UPP's) paid during their 10 years. Yes, we added some arrears ourselves — about EC\$87 million — but we're now clearing that entirely."

To further ensure stability, the prime minister shared details of a comprehensive refinancing proposal sent by the Ministry of Finance to the Social Security Board. The proposal — officially signed by Financial Secretary Rosanna Davis-Crump — outlines a 25-year debt consolidation plan designed to guarantee the long-term solvency of the system.

Key Components of the Proposal:

1. Consolidation of Liabilities

All existing obligations — including the 2010 bond, the 2022 Development Bank bond, and all outstanding contributions through 2025 — will be merged into a single 25-year bond worth EC\$437.8 million.

- a. Years 1–5: Interest-only payments at 3% (about EC\$1.1M monthly)
- b. Years 6–10: Interest-only payments at 5% (about EC\$1.8M monthly)
- c. Years 11–25: Principal plus interest payments

The government has requested that Social Security waive accrued past-due interest, simplifying the debt and providing predictable cash flows.

2. Lump Sum Payment and Asset Assignment

The government will provide a cash injection of up to EC\$75 million within the first 12 months to strengthen Social Security's liquidity and support investment diversification.

Additionally, it will transfer valuable assets, including the Jolly Beach property, to bolster the institution's financial base.

3. Commitment to Timely Contributions

Browne reiterated that the government would make consistent and on-time contributions going forward, ensuring the sustainability of the fund without increasing contribution rates or the retirement age.

"This is about giving our pensioners and workers peace of mind," PM Browne said. "We want Social Security to be sustainable without burdening citizens."

He confirmed that technical teams from both entities are preparing a Memorandum of Agreement, with plans to implement the new structure by January 2026.

Strengthening Ties: A Farewell Tribute to the Chinese Ambassador in Antigua and Barbuda



Her Excellency Zhang Yanling and The Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P. Chet Greene

In an emotional and dignified exchange at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday, Antigua and Barbuda bid farewell to the Chinese Ambassador, Her Excellency Zhang Yanling, whose tenure marked a period of unprecedented cooperation between the two nations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P. Chet Greene in his remarks acknowledged the deep bond that had developed over the years, both personally and diplomatically.

The Minister described the ambassador's departure as a "difficult one," emphasizing that the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China had reached its zenith during her tenure. He lauded the ambassador's exceptional contribution, noting that her leadership had strengthened the partnership between both countries across every sector of the national economy.

One of the highlights of her term,



he recalled, was the organisation of the official visit of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda to China — a milestone that showcased her commitment and meticulous coordination. "I really saw you at work," the Minister remarked, recognizing the ambassador's ability to make complex diplomatic initiatives come to life.

The ministry announced plans to hold a formal farewell ceremony in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, underscoring the depth of appreciation shared across government institutions. "It's two ministries at once saying goodbye to you," the Minister said, reinforcing the ambassador's far-reaching impact.

Reflecting on her tenure, the Minister highlighted several significant achievements that embodied the strengthening of bilateral ties. The period saw an expansion of training opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudans, as well as the growth of

Chinese investments across multiple sectors. "I can't think of a sector in our national economy where your work has not been felt," he affirmed.

Responding with grace and humility, Ambassador Zhang expressed deep emotion and appreciation for the kindness and warmth shown by the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda during her four-year posting. "I felt very deeply about the friendship and the warmth of Your Excellencies and all of your colleagues," she said, recalling her experiences since her arrival.

She reaffirmed that her mission had always been to strengthen cooperation and ensure tangible benefits for both nations. Through numerous joint projects and shared initiatives, she noted, the relationship had grown stronger and more meaningful. "It's always my mission," she said, "to foster more reliable partnerships between our two sides and to see more projects completed for



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, Her Excellency Zhang Yanling and The Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P Chet Greene the well-being of our peoples.”

The ambassador emphasized that the progress achieved was a result of continuous support from the Antigua and Barbuda government. “Whenever there’s anything difficult, I come to you,” she said to the Minister, “and every time I got your strong support and positive feedback.”

Pledging to remain an “active advocate” for the friendship between China and Antigua and Barbuda even after her return home, she promised continued attention to the country’s development. “You will always have a steadfast friend like me,” she assured.

The ambassador concluded by reflecting on China’s foreign policy philosophy — one rooted in equality among nations, regardless of size or economic standing. “We always put respect first,” she said. “Every country deserves the right to development, no matter its size, stage, or population. That principle is deeply in our genes.”



Also joining Minister Greene in expressing heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to the departing diplomat, was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, who gave recognition to Ambassador Zhang for all that she had done

for and on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. In particular, he highlighted her efforts in making the Booby Alley Project become a reality, noting that this would be her lasting legacy to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF ANTIGUA OVERSEAS BANK LTD.
AOB (IN LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE OF FINAL CALL FOR DEPOSITOR CLAIMS

TO ALL DEPOSITORS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the International Banking Act, 2016, and the International Business Corporation Act, of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Antigua Overseas Bank Ltd. (AOB) (In Liquidation) is in its liquidation process.

This notice serves as a final and urgent call for all remaining depositors of Antigua Overseas Bank Ltd to contact the Joint Liquidators and file a claim for possible settlement of amounts being distributed by the Estate.

All claims, duly substantiated with the required documentation, must be submitted to the Joint Liquidators on or before October 31, 2025.

Claim forms and further information can be obtained by contacting the Joint Liquidators at the address and email provided below.

Cleveland Seaforth and Raquel Glynn
Joint Liquidators

Antigua Overseas Bank Limited (In Liquidation)
Cnr. Factory Road and Carnival Gardens
P O Box 3109
St. John's
ANTIGUA
Tel : +1 268 462 8868/69
Fax: +1 268 462 8808

Email: aobliquidation@bdoecc.com

Dated this 01 October, 2025.

Mental health advocacy group voices concern over reports of suicide attempts in two communities

The mental health and wellness advocacy group, Wadadli Initiative for Self-Care and Healing (WISH) is expressing concern about the recent developments related to two apparent suicide attempts in Freetown and Ottos.

In a media release, WISH noted that it continues to highlight the gaps in health-care coverage including mental wellness initiatives and outpatient services which can foster an environment of healing in Antigua and Barbuda.

“While we acknowledge Prime Minister Gaston Browne’s recommitment to advancing the national mental health framework,



it is critical that those living with mental illnesses have access to lifesaving care and treatment.

“Reiterating our statements during World Suicide Prevention Month in September, it is important that communities across the country familiarize themselves with

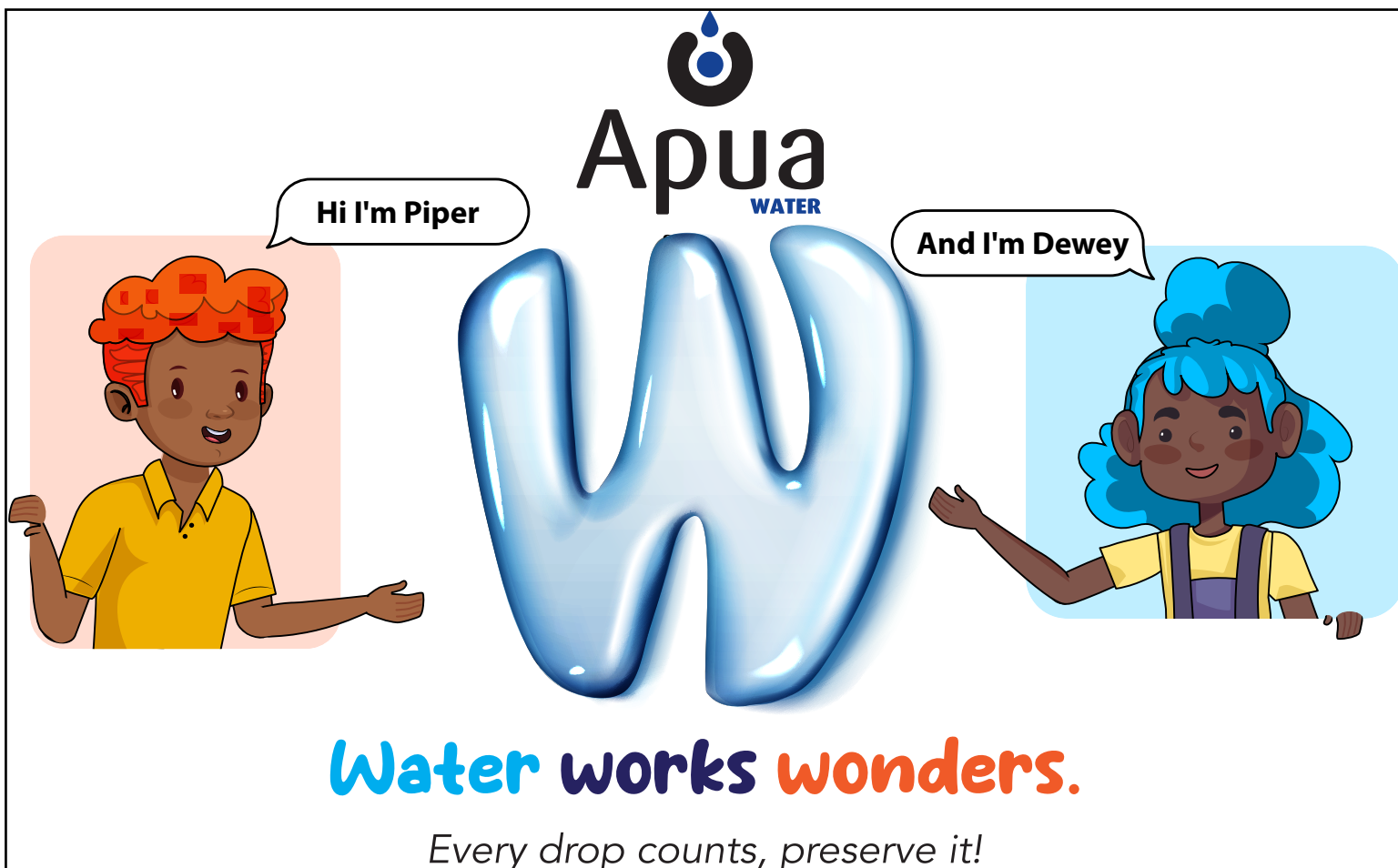
warning signs to assist our loved ones in time of need to alleviate feelings of distress, loneliness and helplessness,” the release noted.

WISH is also calling on the local media to utilize best-practice when reporting on suicide, crafting stories that prioritise empathy

and compassion while rejecting all forms of sensationalism.

WISH remains steadfast in its advocacy for mental wellbeing and gives gratitude to its partners and supporters - locally, regionally and internationally.

The Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) describes itself as a mental health platform in Antigua and Barbuda, dedicated to revolutionizing how the nation thinks about, talks about, and cares for mental health. Through education and advocacy, WISH works to break the silence, shatter stigmas, and create positive change in mental health awareness.



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ABYMA Discover Yachting & Marine Expo Kicks off this week

The Antigua Barbuda Yachting and Marina Association (ABYMA) has announced the upcoming Discover Yachting and Marine Industry Expo, taking place on October 8th and 9th at the Antigua Yacht Club and Marina. This year's Expo aims to inspire school leavers, tertiary education students, and adults alike to discover how they can enter the industry or how they can transition into the marine industry using their existing skills.

The ABYMA said it will host more than 20 participating businesses that will showcase the diverse range of opportunities available within the industry.

President Franklin Braithwaite conveyed the importance of this event, stating, "We would like to dispel the myth that careers in the marine industry mean leaving Antigua and Barbuda. While jobs on board can be in and around Antigua and Barbuda or overseas, many roles require valuable skills such as woodworking, electrical work, plumbing, administration, event planning, and marketing. All of these are essential for the industry to thrive, and they can be pursued right here at home."

Visitors to the Expo will have the chance to receive personalized advice from professionals, both current and past, who have successfully navigated careers in the marine sector. This is an excellent opportunity for attendees to gain insights, referrals, and networking to increase their knowledge and interest in the field.

Additionally, a list of cur-



Join the skilled workforce at companies such as Ultrarefit (above) and Woodstock Boat-builders, using their talents to return yachts to their former glory.



Meet the management, marina & administration team at the Falmouth Harbour Marina booth. (photo with everyone in green)

rently available seasonal positions at member organizations will be made accessible to help match participants with potential job opportunities.

"We invite everyone to come and enjoy the Expo over the two days, with free entry for all. The

bars and restaurants within the yacht club and marina will be open, providing a welcoming atmosphere for visitors to browse, network with exhibitors, and learn more about the multitude of opportunities that exist in the marine industry," ABYMA said in a media release.



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
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"**
MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL CENTRE
7:30PM

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**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
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
12:00 PM UNTIL

SLBMC Hosts First-Ever Multi-disciplinary Cancer Symposium in Honor of Dr. Albert Duncan



The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) recently hosted its first Multidisciplinary Cancer Symposium, marking a major milestone in the hospital's commitment to advancing cancer care, education, and collaboration across Antigua and Barbuda.

The one-day event, held under the theme "Innovative Cancer Care: Precision, Prevention and Personalized Treatment," brought together local, regional and international experts across multiple fields of medicine to share the latest advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

The symposium represents the evolution of SLBMC's former Breast Cancer Symposium — an initiative originally spearheaded by the late Dr. Albert Duncan, SLBMC's first Medical Director. This year's expanded format honoured Dr. Duncan's vision of a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to cancer care.

"Hosting this symposium is both a celebration of Dr. Duncan's vision and a continuation of the leadership he embodied," said Dr. Shivan Belle-Jarvis, SLBMC's current Medical Director. "Strong, consistent leadership is essential in health-

care — especially in the areas that matter most to our patients and our country. We are proud to carry forward the work he began, ensuring that learning, collaboration, and excellence continue to shape the future of care at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre."

Event Coordinator Christine Joseph, Administrative Assistant to the Medical Director, noted that the success of the symposium was a true reflection of teamwork and dedication across the hospital.

"It takes a village to pull off something like this," said Joseph. "Months of

planning, long hours, and incredible collaboration across departments — but it's all worth it. Every presentation, every discussion, and every partnership formed during this event reflects our shared belief that continuing education is essential to delivering better care.

Salma Crump, Head of Marketing and Communications at SLBMC, who led sponsorship and partnership efforts for the event, extended heartfelt thanks to the organizations and individuals who helped make the symposium possible.

"Events like this don't happen in isolation — they happen because we have corporate partners and supporters who believe in what we're doing," said Crump. "Their contributions allowed us to create spaces for learning, collaboration, and innovation that ultimately strengthen patient care and benefit our nation. We're truly grateful for everyone who stood with us to make this symposium a success."

SLBMC remains committed to hosting educational events that promote collaboration among healthcare professionals, advance clinical knowledge, and ultimately improve the quality and accessibility of care for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES THE CHRISTMAS HOME
AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025:**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday 01st, October 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*
The Department of Creative Industries is pleased to announce the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025.

We aim to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative and dazzling lighting display of our 2025 competitors, the Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition on or before Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs INET or the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st December, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5th 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service for December 15th 2025 to January 15th 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

END.

Local News

Two Men Charged in Connection with Sanderson Estate Shooting

Police have arrested and charged - 59-year-old Brian Benjamin of All Saints and 32-year-old Bryan Benjamin of Swetes - in connection with a shooting incident that occurred at Sanderson Estate on October 1, 2025.

Both men are jointly charged with Assault, Wounding, and Battery on Jace Farrell.

Brian Benjamin was further charged with Shooting with Intent to Murder Simon Farrell, while Bryan Benjamin faces an addi-



tional charge of Threatening Language.

The incident reportedly stemmed from an altercation on a farm during which two men sustained gunshot injuries. They re-

main hospitalized in stable condition.

The police are continuing their investigations and are reminding the public to resolve disputes peacefully and through lawful means.

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Walk for the Cure

Saturday, October 11th, 2025

Venue: West Indies Oil Sports Field – Friars Hill Road
(next to the Friars Hill service station)

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Price: Adults \$50, Kids \$25 (Groups of 10 or more \$40)

Package includes: T-shirt and light refreshments



Register at Old Parham Road branch, online by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

Contact Jesseca Ormond 484-5119, Natasha Charles 484-5137 or Khadijah James 484-5064

All proceeds to be donated to Breast Friends & Oncology department at Sir Lester Bird Medical.

Route: Leave WIOC play field, Left turn onto Friars Hill Rd, Left turn onto West Indies Oil Rd (by the pond), Right Turn onto Marble Hill Rd and continue on with transition to Cedar Grove Main Rd, Right turn by roundabout onto Friars Hill Rd, Back to WIOC play field.




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**SIR LESTER BIRD
MEDICAL CENTRE**

Regional News

ICE nabs convicted Caribbean child sex predators



The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) says officers from its San Diego, California office have arrested two Caribbean nationals among four undocumented immigrants who are convicted child sex predators.

ICE said the immigrants, citizens from The Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico and Vietnam, were taken into custody following convictions for crimes against children, including sexual assault, molestation and rape.

Devin Richardson, a Bahamian, was convicted of sexual assault of minors and failed to register as a sex offender in California.

The immigration enforcement agency also said Walter Ramirez, a citizen of Cuba, was convicted of rape, drug-induced sexual assault of a minor, and domestic violence.

ICE said all four immigrants were arrested in the San Di-

ego area and remain in ICE custody pending removal proceedings to their respective homelands.

“Make no mistake: these are predators who targeted the most vulnerable members of our community – children,” said Patrick Divver, field office director for ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) San Diego.

“Our officers will not allow dangerous criminals like these to hide in our neighbourhoods, especially a convicted sex offender who lived next to what appeared to be an in-home daycare and two blocks from an elementary school.

“By taking them into custody, ICE has removed an immediate threat to public safety and sent a clear message that child predators who are illegal aliens do not belong in our country,” Divver added. (CMC)



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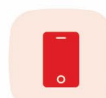


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Regional News

PAGE 17

Nine shot, five fatally, in Commodore in Linstead, gang conflict may be behind attack – Police



The police are reporting that a gang conflict may be behind Sunday night's brutal mass shooting in Commodore in Linstead, St Catherine, which left five people dead, including a four-year-old, and four others nursing gunshot wounds.

According to police reports, around 8:45 p.m., the victims were at a premises commonly referred to as 'Big Yard' playing games when armed men, dressed in police fatigues, entered the compound.

The men reportedly shouted "police!" before opening fire with

high-powered weapons, hitting all nine individuals.

Five of the victims were pronounced dead at hospital, while four others were admitted.

The deceased have been identified as 4-year-old Shannon Gordon, a student of the Rosemount Primary and Infant School and Orange Park, Charliemount, Linstead; Mario Sullivan, 42, of Rosemount district in Linstead; 19-year-old Jushane Edwards also of Rosemount district, Linstead; 39-year-old vendor Iysha Washington of Rosemont district,

Linstead; and 22-year-old security guard Famous Amos of Commodore district, Linstead.

Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Area 5, Christopher Phillips, who visited the crime scene, described the situation as deeply troubling.

"The men parading as law enforcement officers pose a worrying sign," said Phillips.

He confirmed that investigators are working around the clock to determine the motive behind the deadly attack.

"We have a team of top investigators working to put the pieces together to determine what triggered such an awful incident," he said, adding that so far, indications are that the incident is a continuation of gang conflict.

Sources at the scene described the killing of the four-year-old as particularly gruesome, noting that she received several gunshot wounds.

Police say the premises where the incident occurred is one they have had reason to visit on numerous occasions. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Regional News

Wider Caribbean nations to convene in Jamaica for critical summit on marine protection

Government officials and technical experts from across the Wider Caribbean Region will convene in Kingston, Jamaica from October 13 to 16, 2025, for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP18) to the Cartagena Convention. Hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the biennial summit will address mounting environmental pressures on the Caribbean Sea and set the strategic direction for regional marine conservation efforts.

COP18 will incorporate sessions for the Conference of Parties to the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol and the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol. These meetings aim to strengthen regional collaboration in combating marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and the degradation of coastal ecosystems.

Christopher Corbin, Coordinator of UNEP's Cartagena Convention Secretariat, stressed the urgency of the summit, citing a range of escalating threats to the region's marine environment.



"The marine environment is facing unprecedented pressures from land-based pollution, the ever-increasing challenge of plastic waste, massive influxes of sargassum, the intensifying impact of warming seas and coral reef bleaching, sea level and coastal erosion, ocean acidification, habitat and species loss," Corbin stated. "COP18 will serve as a crucial platform for the Convention Contracting Parties to reaffirm their commitment and forge a coordinated path forward to further safeguard these vital ecosystems."

Key objectives of COP18 include reviewing the implementation of the 2023–2024 work plan, approving a strategic programme and budget for 2026–2027, and adopting resolutions on emerging environmental issues. Delegates will consider proposals to advance the regional action plan for marine litter, enhance pollution control from land-based sources, expand the network of protected areas and wildlife, and improve ocean governance frameworks to support a resilient and sustainable blue economy.

"This COP is a critical call to action," Corbin added. "We have the science and frameworks, but now we must accelerate implementation. Our focus will be on translating regional commitments into more tangible national actions that protect our shared marine resources for future generations."

Expected outcomes from COP18 include a robust and adequately financed work plan for 2025–2026, potential adoption of new guidelines and action plans—particularly for sargassum management and plastic pollution—and renewed political commitment to the Convention and its three Protocols on Oil Spills, SPAW, and Land-Based Sources of Pollution.

"These outcomes will have far-reaching implications for the sustainable development of the region," Corbin concluded, "directly impacting key sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and shipping, and contributing to the global agenda for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water." (Dominica News Online)





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Tropical Storm Priscilla strengthens in Pacific Ocean off the coast of Mexico



Tropical Storm Priscilla was strengthening slowly in the eastern Pacific Ocean and could bring heavy rain and gusty winds to coastal southwestern Mexico, the National Hurricane Center said Sunday.

The Miami-based center said Priscilla, with winds near 70 mph (110 kph), could become a hurricane late Sunday or on Monday. Its tropical storm-force winds extended as far

as 125 miles (205 kilometres) from its center.

The threshold for a hurricane is a storm with winds of at least 74 mph (120 kph).

Priscilla was located about 285 miles (460 kilometres) south-southwest of Cabo Corrientes or about 480 miles (770 kilometres) south-southeast of the southern tip of Baja California and was moving north-northwest at 2 mph (4 kph). Priscilla was forecast to generally move parallel to the coast in the coming days.

A tropical storm watch was issued for part of the coast of southwestern Mexico, from Punta San Telmo to Punta Mita, with tropical storm conditions possible in the area Sun-

day and Monday.

Rainfall of up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) was possible, and there was a danger of life-threatening surf and rip current conditions on the coast.

Another storm well off Mexico in the Pacific, Octave, became a hurricane Sunday with no landfall in the forecast and no coastal watches or warnings.

Its top winds were near 80 mph (130 kph), and the hurricane centre said it was expected to gradually weaken on Monday.

It was located about 1,025 miles (1,650 kilometres) west-southwest of Baja California's southern tip and was moving northeast at 3 mph (6 kph). (AP)

Texas mom who shot her 4 children, killing 2, faces murder charges, authorities say

A Texas mother who shot her four children over the weekend, killing two of them, faces murder charges, authorities said Sunday.

The 31-year-old mother is being charged with two counts of murder and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, Brazoria County Sheriff Bo Stallman told reporters. She is being held on a \$14 million bond.

Two of the children, ages 13 and 4, were fatally shot inside a vehicle Saturday. The other children, ages 8 and 9, are in "stable condition" after being flown by a medical



helicopter to a Houston-area hospital, Stallman said.

The children's mother called

911 to alert authorities after the shooting, Stallman said. Authorities recovered

a weapon at the scene, he added.

"It is impossible to make sense of a senseless tragedy like this, but we will do everything we can to seek justice for these children," Stallman said.

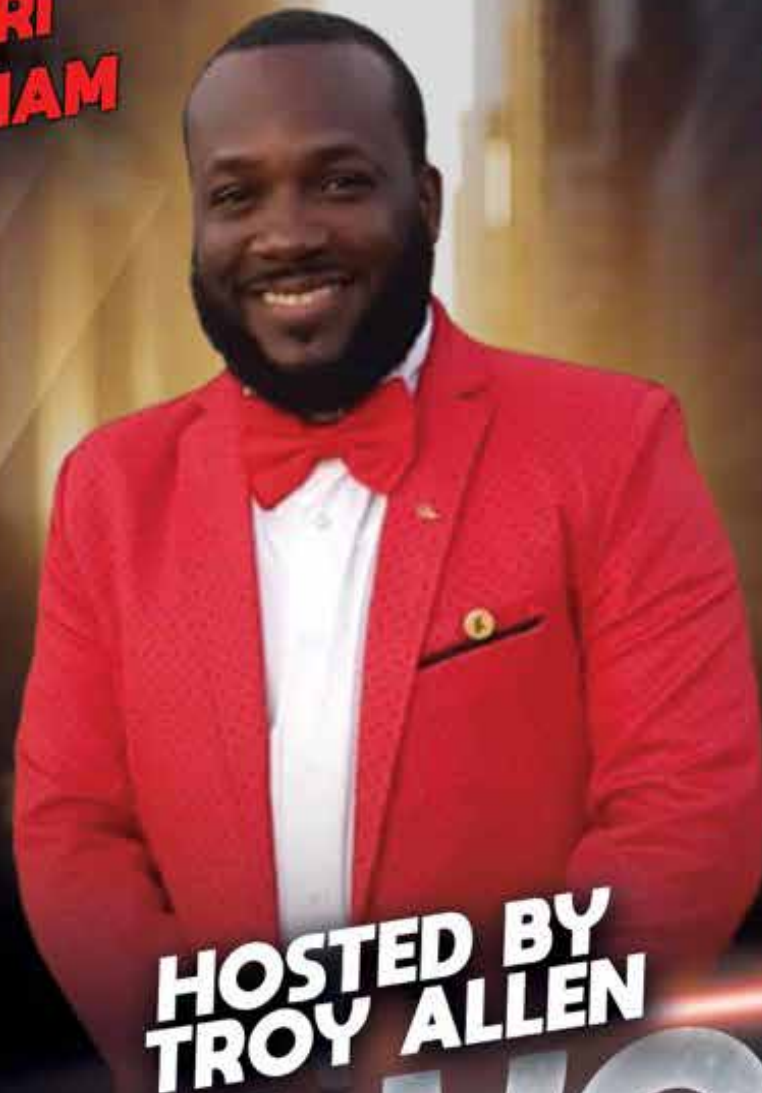
The mother is a resident of Montgomery County to the north of Houston, he said.

The shooting took place in Angleton, a city of about 19,500 and which serves as the county seat of Brazoria County.

It is located about 45 miles (70 kilometres) south of Houston. (AP)



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French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu resigns after less than a month



France's Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu has resigned, less than a day after his cabinet was unveiled.

"The conditions were not fulfilled for me to carry on as prime minister," Lecornu said on Monday morning, and criticised the unwillingness by political parties to reach compromises.

The Elysée palace made the announcement after Lecornu met President Emmanuel Macron for an hour on Monday morning.

The shock move comes only 26 days after Lecornu was appointed prime minister following the collapse of the previous government of François Bayrou.

Parties across the board in the National Assembly had fiercely criticised the composition of Lecornu's cabinet, which was largely unchanged from Bayrou's, and threatened to vote it down.

Several parties are clamouring for early elections and some are calling for Macron to go - although he has always said he will not stand down before his term ends in 2027.

"The only wise thing to do now is to hold elections," said Marine Le Pen of

the hard-right National Rally (RN).

"The joke's gone on long enough. French people are fed up. Macron has put the country in an extremely difficult position," she added.

The decision on how to proceed now rests with Macron, who must surely be asking himself how long this political charade can be allowed to go on.

He has three options. He can appoint another prime minister. He can once again dissolve the National Assembly. Or he can resign himself.

The last is the least likely, while the first would be his natural choice.

However, who now could he name to form a government? Lecornu - the ultimate Macron loyalist - was seen as his last resort, but now he too has failed.

He could appoint a Socialist, on the basis that the left deserves a go at government - but a Socialist administration would itself not take long to fall.

So the logic must surely be for option two: for new legislative elections.

The result would probably be a rout for the pro-Macron centre, and a big victory for the hard-right of Marine Le Pen. But when every other recourse fails, few avenues remain.

Various French media reported that Macron was not expected to make a statement on Monday, leaving questions swirling over what his next move to break the impasse will be.

Lecornu, a former armed forces minister, was France's fifth prime minister in under two years.

In his brief speech outside the Hôtel de Matignon, the prime minister's residence, which he only occupied for less than a month, Lecornu sharply criticised the "partisan appetites" of

political factions, who he said "are all behaving as if they had an absolute majority".

"I was ready for compromise but all parties wanted the other party to adopt their programmes in their entirety," he said.

"It wouldn't need much for this to work," he added, saying, however, that parties needed to be more humble and "to cast some egos aside".

French politics has been highly unstable since July 2024, when Macron called for snap parliamentary elections in a bid to achieve a clear majority following a bruising loss for his party in the European Parliament vote.

Instead the elections resulted in a hung parliament divided into ideologically opposed factions deeply at odds with one another and unwilling to work together.

This has made it difficult for any prime minister to garner the necessary support to pass any bills.

Michel Barnier was appointed prime minister last September but was ousted within three months.

The government of his successor François Bayrou's too was voted down after nine months after parliament refused to back his austerity budget, which aimed to slash government spending by €44bn (\$51bn; £38bn).

France's deficit reached 5.8% of its GDP in 2024 and its national debt is 114% of its GDP. That is the third highest public debt in the eurozone after Greece and Italy, and equivalent to almost €50,000 per French citizen.

Stocks fell sharply on the Paris exchange after the news of Lecornu's resignation broke on Monday morning. (BBC)

Bullets extend unbeaten run in IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic



Essan Warner

Bryson's Bullets 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.

Bullets recorded their fifth win in six matches during the sixth round of fixtures in the 20 overs per side competition.

Bryson's Bullets romped to a seven-wicket win against Koconut Car Rental Buckley's 3Js at the Powell playing field.

Buckley's 3Js made 222 for seven after winning the toss and electing to bat. Melvin Charles struck 79 not out, Steve Martin hit 42, and Kadeem Henry scored 39 for Buckley's 3Js, which lost for the second time in six matches. Roniel Jeffrey claimed two for 20.

Player of the game Essan Warner slammed an unbeaten century to fire the Bullets to victory at 225 for three with 6.5 overs to spare. Warner hammered 108 not out, including 11 sixes and eight fours. George Elvin cracked



Elroy Francis Jr.

47, and Deran Benta made 34.

But the unbeaten run of defending champions PEL Dredgers was ended in a three-wicket loss to Pelican Safari VIP Squad in a match reduced to 15 overs per side at the Antigua Grammar School playing field.

The VIP Squad claimed their fourth win in six matches by restricting the Dredgers to 177 for seven off their 15 overs after being sent in to bat. Dhari Francis struck 70, and Tyrone Williams Jr. hit 59. Almond Peters claimed three for 14, and Kadeem Joseph captured two for 27.

The VIP Squad wrapped up victory by scoring 179 for seven with four balls to spare. Player of the match Elroy Francis Jr. cracked 69, including nine sixes and two fours, Elijah Peters struck 34, and Demetri Lucas

scored 27. Mike France took three for 27, and Dhari Francis claimed two for 27 for PEL Dredgers, who suffered their first loss in six matches.

PMS notched up their second win in six matches with a 68-run victory against Easy Picking Mix-Up at Antigua Grammar School. PMS won the toss and batted, scoring 189 all out in 19.3 overs.

Denzil Roach hit 45 not out, and Kenroy Frederick also struck 45. Kirk Douglas grabbed five for 26, and Alfred Jarvis took three for 17.

In reply, Mix Up crashed to their fifth defeat in six matches after being dismissed for 121 in 15.4 overs. Player of the match Morton Browne bagged four for 30, and Kenny Benjamin claimed three for 22. Kemar Christian hit 38, and Bijay Barik scored 26.

Hanse-on Security Tech recorded their second win in six matches with a 56-run victory against TG Welding and Fabrication Underdogs at Powells.

Hanse-on Security Tech made 133 all out in 17.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Player of the match Anthony Pierre cracked 43 not out, including four sixes and three fours.

Vishal Gobin picked up three for 21, Shawn Harris claimed three for 22, and Azim Panlall captured two for 13.

In reply, the Underdogs crashed to their fifth loss in six matches after being bundled out for 77 in 13.3 overs, in which Tyree Moore struck 35.

Kerry Mentore took two for 15, Mekali Tonge claimed two for 19, and Kershaski Jon Lewis captured two for 26.

BOE extends unbeaten run in Business Basketball League

The Board of Education (BOE) extended their unbeaten run in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League championships on Sunday night.

The Board of Education notched up their sixth win in as many encounters by snatching a 59-55 victory against last year's third-place finishers, Richie's Shooterz, in the last game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Daniel Perez sank 20 points and snatched six rebounds; Danny Perez contributed 14 points, six re-

bounds, and five steals; and Xavier Meade chipped in with 12 points, seven rebounds, and six assists for the Board of Education.

Cohen Desouza converted 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and Devorn Benjamin and Tajahron Davis each scored 10 points for Richie's Shooterz, who suffered their first loss after winning their three previous matches.

The Antigua Power Company recorded their fourth win in five matches by coasting to a 59-36 victory over Police in the second game of Sunday's triple-header.

Amare Browne shot a

game-high 21 points for the Antigua Power Company. Javon Simon scored 11 points, and Joshua Salmon converted 10 points for Police, who suffered their fourth loss in as many games.

After losing their previous five matches, the Antigua Computer Technology recorded their first win with a 47-32 victory against J&J Company Landscaping Services in the opening game on Sunday's triple-header.

Henry Dorsette sank 10 points for Antigua Computer Technology, while Molefi Joseph scored eight points and grabbed six re-

bounds for J&J Company Landscaping Services, who suffered their third loss in as many games.

The Business Basketball League will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Antigua Computer Technology will meet the Board of Education at 6:45 pm, the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre will challenge the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 7:45 pm, and Fearless Security Services will tackle Sledge O Ballers at 8:45 pm.



DAILY PROGRAMMING




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BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
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JAH WADADLI	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

African qualifiers to provide seven more World Cup finalists

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Africa's group qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup conclude over the next week, providing seven more finalists for the tournament in North America.

With two rounds of group matches still to be played, Morocco and Tunisia are already guaranteed top place in their respective groups, while the identity of the seven other group winners – all of whom will earn an automatic place at the 2026 finals – will be finalised by next Tuesday.

Egypt are expected to secure their berth on Wednesday when they take on lowly Djibouti in Group A, while Ghana will win Group I on the same day if they beat the Central African Republic away from home and closest rivals Madagascar falter at the same time.

Algeria need a point from their penultimate Group G clash against Somalia on Thursday to add their name to the list.

In Group D, the tiny Cape Verde Islands have a four-point lead over second-placed Cameroon and therefore need to win one of their last two qualifiers to snatch a fairytale berth at the finals.

Cape Verde are away to Libya on Thursday and finish their campaign at home



DR Congo's Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Left, challenge for the ball with Senegal's Sadio Mane, Right, during a World Cup 2026 group B qualifying soccer match between DR Congo and Senegal at the Martyrs' Stadium in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

to Eswatini next Monday.

Senegal are handily placed in Group B with a two-point lead over the Democratic Republic of Congo and qualify if they win their last two matches, away against South Sudan on Friday and then home to Mauritania next Tuesday.

It is also clear what the Ivory Coast need to do in Group F to keep up their one-point advantage over Gabon. They will qualify if they win away to the lowly-ranked Seychelles on Friday and then at home to Kenya on October 14.

In Group C, South Africa had a three-point lead but

points were stripped last week for fielding a defaulter in March, leaving them now trailing Benin on goal difference.

Benin, however, play their last two qualifiers away to Rwanda on Friday and Nigeria next Tuesday while South Africa are at home to Zimbabwe on Friday and Rwanda next Tuesday.

The clash against neighbours Zimbabwe is formally an away game but because they do not have a stadium that has been deemed suitable for use in international competition, Zimbabwe have elected to take the fixture to Durban, handing South Africa a

major advantage.

At the weekend, their Belgian coach Hugo Broos took responsibility for the bungle that saw South Africa field midfielder Teboho Mokoena when he should have been suspended.

"I am responsible. I am the coach, I had to know that this guy had two yellow cards. So, stop with it," he said of the ongoing outrage from South African fans.

"Just focus on the two games remaining now and support us. We will do everything to win these games, and for me, it's an extra motivation."

South Africa begin WTC title defence with target on their back



South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma holds the winner's trophy and celebrates with teammates on the podium after their win in the World Test Championship final against Australia at Lord's cricket ground in London, Saturday, June 14, 2025. (AP)

PRETORIA (Reuters) - South Africa captain Aiden Markram says his side can expect to have a target on their back when they begin a new cycle of the World Test Championship as defending champions.

South Africa play a two-Test series in Pakistan, starting on Sunday, and two games in India in November as they bid to retain the trophy they won in June by beating Australia by five wickets at Lord's.

The World Test Championship is decided at the end of a two-year cycle, with the top two teams competing in a one-off five-day match.

"I suppose you create a bit of a tar-

get on your back if you've won (the WTC), and if that's the case, it's fair. We want to chase a place in the final again and lift that trophy once again but realise each team will be coming for us," said Markram, who stands in as skipper for Temba Bavuma who has been ruled out of the tour with a calf strain.

"We, as a team, have to keep getting better and improving and playing well in all different types of conditions. It starts for us in Pakistan, and it's a challenge the boys will be up for," he told a press conference on Monday.

South Africa have been practising on specially prepared spinning wickets at

Pretoria's High Performance Centre.

"There were a couple of nets prepared where the spin is really exaggerated, and you'd rather err on that side, and maybe then it's a bit easier when we get to Pakistan," Markram said.

"We're expecting to face a lot of spin over there, and it's also, naturally, a lot lower there from a seam point of view. There's a lot of skiddy, so it's hard to try and emulate that here in South Africa, but we've been looking to put a lot of emphasis on finding a way to train for that."

The first Test against Pakistan is in Lahore and the second begins on October 20 in Rawalpindi.

Goals galore as ABFA's Women's Premier League gets underway



The starting XI of Wadadli United FC



The starting XI of Trendsetters FC

There was a flood of goals as the 2025 Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's Premier League got underway on Sunday evening.

Fifteen (15) goals were scored as Wadadli United FC and Trendsetters FA made impressive starts to their campaigns in the five-team women's football league at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

National striker Gabriell De Souza struck a hat trick to propel Wadadli United FC to an emphatic 8-0 drubbing of Lady Masters FC in the

first game of an opening-round double-header.

De Souza and Aliah London each scored twice in the first half to give Wadadli United a 4-0 lead at halftime. De Souza opened the scoring by converting a penalty kick in the sixth minute.

London scored her two goals in the 11th and 37th minutes, and De Souza converted her second in the 23rd minute. De Souza achieved her hat trick in the second half with a 57th-minute conversion.

Kanika Buckley also struck twice with conversions in the 48th and 80th minutes, and Samoya

Weekes scored an own goal in the 59th minute.

Jarvis Denovia and Nafisa Quashie both achieved hat tricks as Trendsetters FA consolidated a 4-0 halftime advantage to surge to an emphatic 7-0 victory against Fort Road FC in Sunday's second encounter.

Denovia had conversions in the ninth, 15th, and 43rd minutes, while Quashie scored in the 22nd, 27th, and 53rd minutes. The other goal for Trendsetters FA was scored by Thedia Browne in the 57th minute.

At a joint press conference held by the ABFA

and the Calvin Ayre Foundation at the Everton Gonsalves Conference Room on Thursday, October 2, Manager of the CAF Jamilla Kirwan announced the signing of an agreement with the ABFA in which the foundation will make an EC\$500,000 investment in women's football over five years.

The investment, thought to be the biggest ever in women's football in the Caribbean by a single private entity (except for Jamaica and Trinidad), has allowed the CAF to become the title sponsors of the ABFA Women's Premier League.