

Antigua and Barbuda Showcases Debt Sustainability Support Service

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Antigua Barbuda Tourism Delegation with Saudi EXIM Bank Delegation in Riyadh

Antigua and Barbuda Showcases Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS) as Model for Linking Finance and Resilience at COP30)



Antigua and Barbuda spotlighted its pioneering Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS) as a transformative model for aligning debt reform, climate resilience, and sustainable finance during the High-Level Panel on Debt Sustainability and Resilient Infrastructure, held at the Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI) Pavilion at COP30.

Delivering Antigua and Barbuda's feature intervention, Her Excellency Ruleta Camacho Thomas, Ambassador for Climate Change, underscored that for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the crises of debt and climate vulnerability are inseparable.

"Every hurricane, drought, and flood destroys infrastructure and public revenue, forcing countries to borrow more just to rebuild," Ambassador Camacho Thomas stated. "The result is a debt trap that prevents us from investing in the resilience we so urgently need."

She explained that under the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the DSSS—anchored in the country's new Centre of Excellence for SIDS—was established to help vulnerable economies integrate debt reform, climate finance, and resilience

planning. The Service brings together mechanisms such as debt-for-climate swaps, climate-contingent clauses,

resilience-linked bonds, and insurance-backed instruments into one coordinated framework.



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“The DSSS is designed to make finance work for resilience, not against it,” she said. “It provides governments with the tools to align fiscal policy, infrastructure investment, and climate adaptation — ensuring that every dollar spent on recovery also builds long-term security.”

The Ambassador noted that Antigua and Barbuda is working closely with partners, including the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), to ensure that debt sustainability and infrastructure resilience advance together. “There is no point in restructuring debt if the infrastructure remains fragile — and no point in building resilience if our fiscal space collapses under the weight of debt,” she said.

In a key intervention, Ambassador Camacho Thomas also addressed the role of data analytics in unlocking new investment flows. She observed that while spatial and financial data have the potential to prove the return on investment (ROI) of resilience, they are too often used to label SIDS as “high-risk.”

“It is unfortunate that the same data that could prove the profitability of investing in resilience is being used to exclude us,” she said. “We need to shift that narrative — use data on adaptation outcomes to demonstrate that investing in SIDS is sound economics and good business.”

She called for data on adaptation interventions to be integrated into financial modeling to make the economic case for resilience and attract new public and private investment. “Resilience



must be recognized as a financial model, not a moral appeal,” she concluded.

Antigua and Barbuda continues to lead efforts globally to strengthen access to sustainable finance for vulnerable

economies and to promote integrated approaches that link debt management, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable growth.



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Antigua and Barbuda and China sign MOU for solar powered street lights



Director of the Department of Environment, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda with the People's Republic of China on the sidelines of COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

The agreement will see the provision of 1,500 solar-powered street lights and 200 residential photovoltaic (PV) and energy storage system (ESS) units to Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China.

This initiative represents a major step in advancing



the country's renewable energy transition and aligns with Antigua and Barbuda's ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and build climate resilience.

The installation of solar street lights will improve public safety and visibility in communities, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and lower electricity costs for local authorities. Ad-

ditionally, the inclusion of residential PV and ESS systems will allow households to generate and store clean energy, promoting energy independence and ensuring greater stability during power disruptions caused by extreme weather events.

Ambassador Black-Layne noted that the partnership underscores the growing spirit of international cooperation in addressing the global climate crisis and demonstrates China's continued support for small island developing states (SIDS) in achieving their sustainable development and energy transition goals.

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CARILEC's Deploys Teams from Nineteen Regional Utilities and Private Contracting Firms To Jamaica To Support Restoration Efforts



APUA Team Being Deployed

The Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) has activated its Disaster Assistance Programme (CDAP), to support electric utility member Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS), following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The CARILEC Secretariat, in close collaboration with member utilities as well as private contractors, coordinated the deployment of resources, in-



Grand Bahama Team Being Deployed

cluding line-workers, equipment, and material to Jamaica, to support JPS with rebuilding their Transmission and Distribution networks and restoring electricity to their customers.

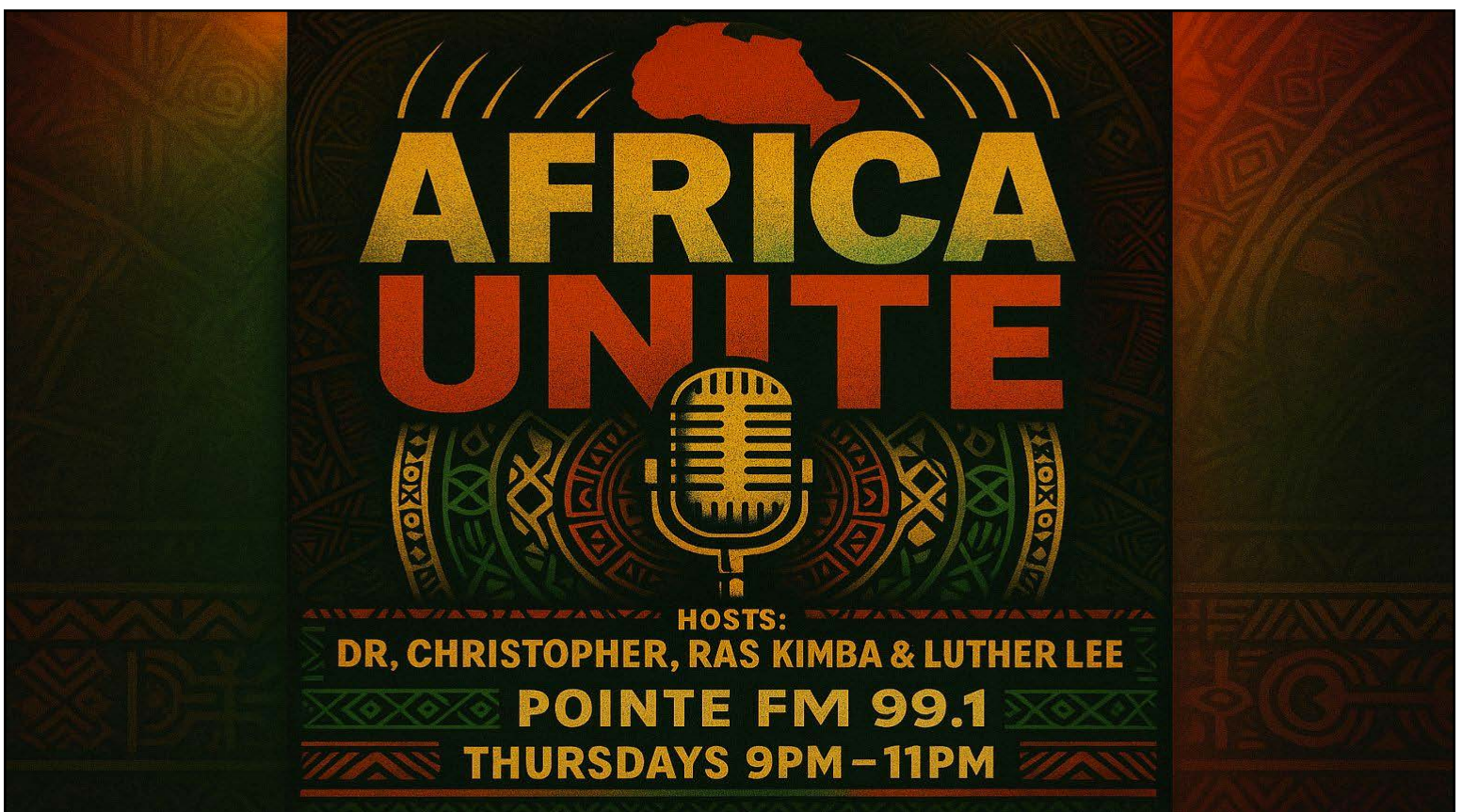
Hurricane Melissa was one of the most powerful hurricanes ever measured in the region, making landfall in Jamaica on October 28, 2025, as a Category 5 hurricane leaving more than 70% of the island's electrical customers without power. In its Restoration Update



GPL Team Being Deployed

on Monday, November 10, JPS informed that 64% of its customers had regained their electricity supply. 81% of major health facilities, 56% of telecommunication critical sites, and 58% of National Water Commission critical sites had been restored.

To date, seventeen (17) regional utilities and two (2) private contractors have committed their support to JPS under CDAP. 131 Line workers have already been deployed, with addi-


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tional resources scheduled to arrive during the coming week. The teams being deployed hail from the Antigua Electricity Company Limited, Antigua Public Utilities Authority, Barbados Light & Power Company Ltd, Bahamas Power & Light, Belize Electricity Limited, British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation, Caribbean Utilities Company/Cayman Islands, Dominica Electricity Services, Grand Bahama Power Company, Guyana Power & Light, Grenada Electricity Services Ltd., Nevis Electricity Company, Pelican Energy TCI/Turks & Caicos Islands, Saint Kitts Electricity Company, St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited, St. Vincent Electricity Services Limited, the Trinidad & Tobago Electricity Commission, and private contractors: Islandwide Electrical and Kings Electrical based in Saint Lucia.

With support from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), CARILEC has partnered with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO), to coordinate deployment of resources including line workers and equipment to support



CARILEC ED Cletus Bertin Bids T&TEC team Farewell

electrical restoration for Jamaica.

CARILEC's Executive Director, Dr. Cletus Bertin, said: "We're extremely grateful to our members who have answered the call to support Jamaica in their restoration efforts. CDAP is built on the premise of regional collaboration and mutual assistance. Our member utilities contribute to a fund which is activated when a Utility is impacted by a disaster, and requests assistance to restore their electricity supply and rebuild damaged T&D infrastructure. Assistance is most commonly requested in the form of manpower assistance. We work with member utilities and private contractors who select Line-workers to deploy to affected utilities to aid in the restoration of electricity



LUCELEC Team Leaves for Jamaica

supply."

CDAP was established by CARILEC in 1998 to bring utilities together to enable speedy and efficient restoration of electricity to member islands impacted by a disaster. Many of the deployed Line-workers would have benefited from training under the CDAP Expansion Programme, designed to prepare them to support the quick, safe and efficient restoration of electricity supply. CARILEC also regularly hosts a series of technical training exercises and the annual Line-workers Symposium and Rodeo to support the ongoing capacity building of personnel who are on the 'front line' of electricity service supply across the region.

AT&LU President Bernard de Nully calls for more consultations to address the concerns of workers

President of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU), Bernard de Nully, is making a call for more consultations to address the concerns of workers throughout the Caribbean.

de Nully was speaking at the end of a Caribbean Conference of Labour specially convened meeting that brought together, trade unionists, representatives from employers to discuss workers' rights and other critical issues.

The meeting was facilitated by the International Labour Organisation and the CARICOM Secretariat.



AT&LU President Bernard de Nully calls for more consultations to address the concerns of workers

"We came to the understanding that social dialogue is quintessentially important if we are to meet the objectives that we set for ourselves," de Nully stated.

The meeting was called to discuss the issue of migration, and de Nully took the view that all workers, whether they are nationals or migrations must enjoy the rights of free association and to have a trade union advocate on their behalf.

"These are rights that are enshrined in our Constitution," he declared.

Antigua and Barbuda Explores Investment Opportunities with Saudi EXIM Bank

The 26th Session of the UN Tourism General Assembly continues in Riyadh, with Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, H. Charles Fernandez busily engaged in a series of high-level bilateral and business meetings aimed at strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's investment and tourism partnerships.

On the sidelines of the Assembly, Minister Fernandez and the Antigua and Barbuda delegation met with a senior delegation from the Saudi EXIM Bank to explore potential areas of collaboration and investment. The meeting, which focused on economic cooperation and development financing, was led on the Saudi side by Dr. Naif Alshammari, Deputy CEO, Jahera Almri, Partnerships Manager, and Naif O. Alajroush, Director General of International Relations.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation included Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Vernon Jeffers and Director of Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Tourism St. Clair Soleyn. Together, they presented an economic overview of Antigua and Barbuda and highlighted the country's strong growth trajectory.

It was noted that Antigua and Barbuda currently maintains one of the highest GDPs in the region, second only to Guyana, and is



Antigua Barbuda Tourism Delegation with Saudi EXIM Bank Delegation

strategically positioned to foster Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and attract significant foreign investment. Discussions also explored collaboration in tourism, aviation, and financial services, as well as opportunities for capacity building and development.

The Saudi EXIM Bank delegation expressed a keen interest in expanding its footprint within the Caribbean, noting the potential for engagement with local banking institutions and strategic partnerships across key sectors. The delegation also extended an official invitation for Antigua and Barbuda to participate in an upcoming investment conference hosted by the Saudi EXIM Bank in Panama in early 2026.

Earlier in the week, Minister Fernandez and members of his delegation were hosted at a luncheon with Her Royal Highness Princess Haifa bint Mohammed Al Saud, Deputy Minister of Tourism for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Discussions focused on deepening cooperation in the yachting, sailing, and marina industries; sectors in which Antigua and Barbuda continues to demonstrate strong growth and international appeal, as well as exploring potential collaboration on coral reef restoration initiatives, an area of mutual environmental and tourism interest.

During the luncheon, Minister Fernandez presented Her Royal Highness with a handcrafted model sailing vessel bearing the nation-

al flag of Antigua and Barbuda, symbolizing the nation's maritime heritage and growing global reputation as a premier yachting destination. Her Royal Highness expressed her appreciation for the gesture and conveyed her strong interest in visiting Antigua and Barbuda to further explore opportunities within the marine tourism sector.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation is expected to continue engaging in bilateral and investment discussions throughout the remainder of the UN Tourism General Assembly, which has convened over 160 countries under the theme *"AI-Powered Tourism: Redefining the Future."*

A star-studded group of Antigua and Barbuda's top entertainers brought a splash of the twin-islands' culture to Toronto

A star-studded group of Antigua and Barbuda's top entertainers brought a splash of the twin-islands' culture to Toronto, Canada for the 44th anniversary of Independence celebrations, last weekend.

Claudette 'CP' Peters backed by the Disturbance Band, Dynamic duo Soca Villain (2025 Road March champion) and Island Prince, Menace XL (as the master of ceremonies) and Deek all provided entertainment. Director of Culture and Hells Gate Steel Orchestra Arranger, Khan Cordice, was also present as the featured speaker.

The group was sponsored by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) to attend the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto's 44th Independence Dinner and Dance held on Saturday, November 8 at the Toronto Grand Convention Centre.

Tameka Wharton, Director of Tourism, Canada explained: "We continue to support the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto, and all of our diaspora in Canada, to ensure that they are our strongest ambassadors, sharing the culture of our twin-islands within their communities in Canada, and inviting their friends to visit our shores."

The signature cultural celebration brought together hundreds of Antiguan and Barbudans and friends, living in the Greater Toronto Area and further afield in Canada. The Association presented its Community Award to Annette Huggins, for exemplary leadership and volunteerism in the Greater Toronto Area. Huggins, a proud daughter of Barbuda, migrated to Canada in 1972



and built a career in nursing and social services. The Association also awarded Claudette 'CP' Peters for 25 years of excellence in soca music and for contributions to culture.

Several lucky attendees also won door prizes one of which was a stay at Hawksbill Hotel, sponsored by the Tourism Authority. The initiative reflects ABTA's wider strategy of leveraging authentic Antigua and Barbuda culture and music to engage Canadian audiences and drive visitation to the destination.

"Wherever you find yourself: in a Canadian winter or a Caribbean sunrise you are an ambassador," said Antigua and Barbuda Director of Culture Khan Cordice, to the audience of compatriots. "Every act of kindness, every pursuit of excellence, every time you hold your

head high and speak of where you are from, you strengthen that legacy of those that came before you."

During their tour of Toronto, the group of entertainers was featured in an episode of Caribbean Vibrations, the longest-running Caribbean television series in Canada, which airs nationwide on OMNI television, and interviewed by DJ Doc on Fyah Radio in Mississauga, Ontario.

Cordice, the guest of honour at the Canadian Federation of Steelpan's "A Night with Khan Cordice" event which took place at the Tropicana Community Centre in Scarborough, received an award for his achievements as a "master of the steelpan instrument, visionary arranger, and inspiring educator."

Two Men Arrested for Unlawful Possession of Cannabis

Police have arrested two men for unlawful possession of cannabis, following the execution of two search warrants at a residence in Cedar Valley Gardens and a business place on Upper Fort Road.

Around 3:25 p.m. on Monday, 10th November 2025, officers attached to the Narcotics Department and the K-9 Unit executed a search warrant at a residence in Cedar Valley Gardens. During the search, the police seized a substantial amount of EC and US currency.

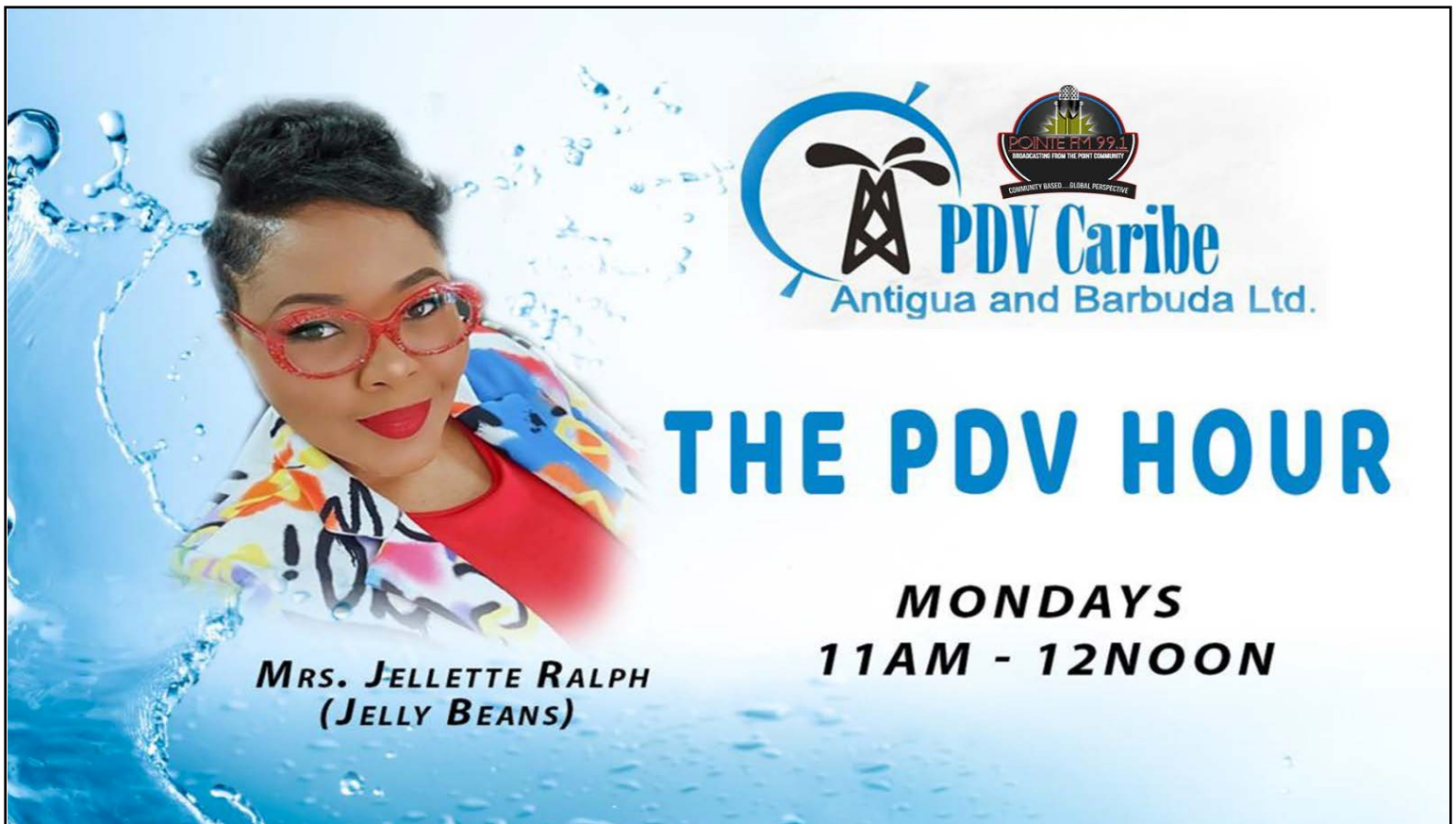
A second search was carried out at a business place on Upper Fort Road, where officers discovered a total of 2 pounds and 3 ounces of cannabis. The illegal substance



was seized and taken to Police Headquarters.

Two male suspects were arrested and taken into custody pending further inves-

tigations. Charges are expected to follow.



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Tribute from the MAAB In Memory of Nurse Orjille Williams – Joseph



The Medical Association of Antigua and Barbuda extends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Nurse Orjille Williams Joseph following her recent passing.

Though not formally involved in the activities of the Association, Nurse Orjille was a familiar and beloved figure to many of our members, especially those who had the privilege of working with her within the hospital setting. She was known for always carrying a smile (often paired with a joke), and for her calm, grounded presence even in the midst of clinical chaos. Her kindness, steady hands, and quiet strength left a lasting impression on generations of physicians.

Her loss is deeply felt within the wider healthcare community, and we join in remembering her with gratitude and respect.

May she rest in peace.

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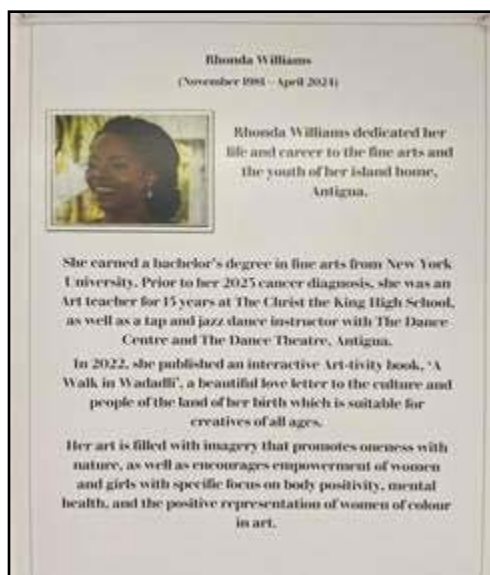
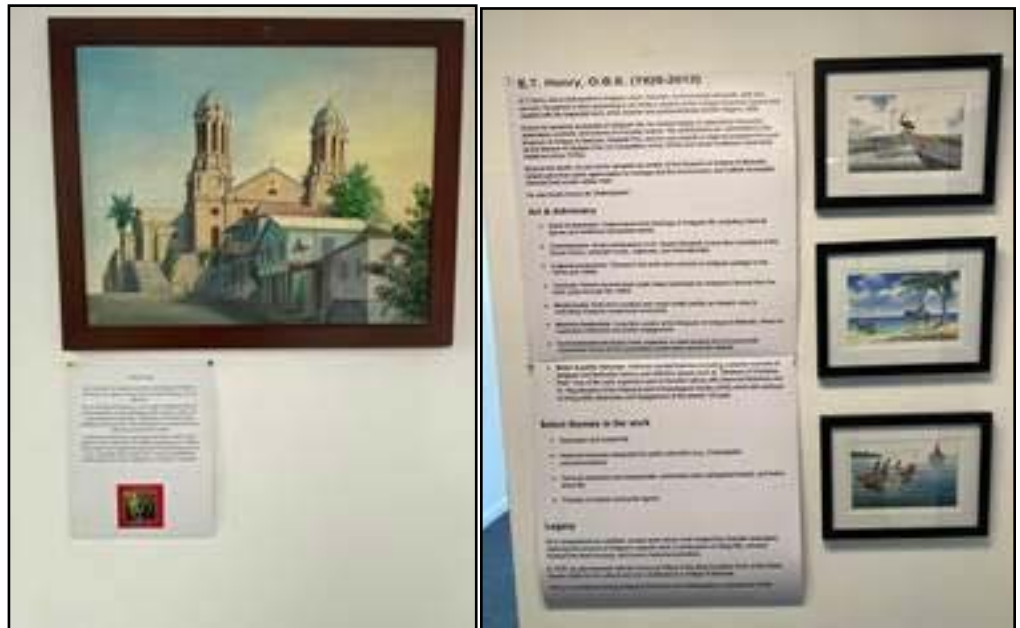
ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

The Barracks Art Gallery Presents a Retrospective of Former Antiguan Artists: Preserving Our Creative Heritage

The Barracks Art Gallery is honoured to present a retrospective exhibition celebrating the works of former Antigua and Barbuda artists, an initiative dedicated to preserving and documenting the twin-island's artistic legacy. This exhibition serves as a crucial step toward building a comprehensive record of Antigua and Barbuda's visual arts history.

"If we do not know our past, we cannot move forward," says the gallery's curatorial team. "By collecting and archiving the stories and works of Antigua and Barbuda artists, we are preserving not only individual legacies but also the broader cultural narrative of our nation."

As part of this ongoing initiative, The Barracks Art Gallery, in Redcliffe Quay is inviting



the public to come forward with information, photographs, artworks, and stories related to

Antigua and Barbuda artists of earlier generations. This collective effort will ensure that the information is properly documented, stored, and made accessible for future study and

inspiration.

This retrospective marks the first step toward establishing a National Gallery of Antigua and Barbuda - a permanent institution dedicated to celebrating, protecting, and promoting Antigua and Barbuda art for generations to come.



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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.

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Regional News

General election called in St Lucia for December 1, months ahead of when polls were due

St Lucians will go to the polls on December 1 to elect a new government, 11 months before the general election is constitutionally due in November 2026.

Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre, in a radio and television broadcast, said that he had already advised the Governor General, Errol Charles, to dissolve the Parliament on Monday and that Nomination Day will be November 21.

Pierre said that the last election was on July 26, 2021, and the parliament met in August of that year.

He said under the St Lucia Constitution, the election is constitutionally due “for the latest three months after the first sitting of Parliament, which was held on 12th August 2021.

“Confident that we have delivered what we have promised and the need to carry on the normal business of government, today I advised the Governor General to dissolve the Parliament of St Lucia, tomorrow, Monday 10th November, and to issue writs of elections to pave the way for the general election,” Pierre said.

In an immediate response, the leader of the main op-



position United Workers Party (UWP), Allen Chastanet, wrote on his Facebook page “The bell has finally been rung. Freedom Day is December 1st 2025- We are ready”.

One prospective UWP candidate welcomed the announcement, telling party supporters, “This year, I certainly will wish you a Merry Christmas. It will come early from December 1 this year.

“Time to celebrate our freedom,” he added.

Chastanet, who is leading UWP into another general election, will attempt to reverse the 13-4 defeat the party suffered in the July 26, 2021 general election, when two former UWP

members, including former prime minister Stevenson King, successfully won seats as independent candidates and later supported the ruling St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) government during the four and half year period.

They are both expected to contest the December 1 poll.

In a near 12-minute address, Pierre, who will lead the SLP into a general election for the second consecutive occasion, said he was asking the electorate to “judge us on our record.”

He said since coming to office in 2021, the island’s economy has improved significantly with

the level of debt in 2024 is 73.5 per cent, a reduction of eight per cent in 2021 with outstanding payable due to local suppliers 79 per cent, a reduction of 39 per cent.

“As of September 2025, outstanding payables are 38.9 million, a 700 per cent reduction from 2021,” Pierre said, adding that his administration had concluded negotiations with public servants as well as providing a Christmas bonus.

“Ladies and gentlemen, these statistics clearly show the level of debt inherited by the St Lucia Labour Party government and the progress made so far. Together, we built an economy that was in decline, we have experienced economic growth and primary surpluses,” Pierre said, adding, “we are steadfast in making St. Lucia a better place.

“As a government, we have delivered on our promise to put you, the people, first,” he said.

Both the SLP and the UWP held political rallies on Sunday, with the ruling party at the traditional site of the market steps in the capital, Castries, while the UWP was in the western town of Anse La Raye. (CMC)

United States pledges additional US\$10 million for Jamaica's hurricane recovery



The United States has pledged an additional US\$10 million to support Jamaica's recovery from the devastating impact of Category Five Hurricane Melissa.

This latest commitment brings the total financial support from the US Government to US\$22 million.

The announcement was made by US Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs and Religious Freedom, Jeremy Lewin, during a meeting with Prime Minister, Dr Andrew Holness, at the Office of the Prime Minister on Monday, November 10.

Holness expressed gratitude to the United States, noting that it was among

the first international partners to offer support to Jamaica in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

"That support was particularly invaluable, particularly in the logistics operations, which your helicopters would have augmented. We do have some airlift capacity in the JDF (Jamaica Defence Force) but, certainly, none in comparison to the United States' fleet. You made several of your heavy lift helicopters available to us, and that was crucial in our ability to reach several marooned communities," he said.

The Prime Minister shared that preliminary estimates place the damage caused by the hurricane at approximately US\$68 billion, noting that assessments remain ongoing.

He emphasised that Jamaica's recovery will inevitably require sustained support from international partners.

"It is reassuring to know that the United States, our closest partner in this region, is supportive and willing to provide us with as much help as we need, and we do take that with some comfort," Holness stated.

The Prime Minister advised that the Government will pursue strategic partnerships with the US in the areas of infrastructure investment, technology transfer, and commerce as Jamaica enters the post-hurricane reconstruction phase.

In his remarks, Lewin underscored that financial commitments represent only one facet of the US Government's support for Jamaica's recovery.

"That doesn't include all the military personnel and all the search and rescue. The financial commitments are very significant, and help underscore just how important Jamaica is to the United States and to the Secretary. Jamaican people, like our people, are proud and resilient, and we have every faith they will rebound quickly and will build back even better," he said.

Lewin affirmed the US Government's commitment to providing continued support to Jamaica's recovery efforts.

"We will be here tomorrow. We will be here next month. We'll be here for every stage of this recovery," he assured. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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RELIEF TRAGEDY

2 dead after small plane on mission to Jamaica crashes in Florida

A small turboprop plane on a hurricane relief mission to Jamaica crashed Monday morning into a pond in a gated residential neighbourhood of the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Coral Springs, killing two people shortly after takeoff and narrowly missing homes, authorities and a local resident said.

The Coral Springs Police Department confirmed the deaths in a statement Monday afternoon. But police did not provide further details about the occupants of the plane and did not immediately return messages seeking more details.

Coral Springs-Parkland Fire Department Deputy Chief Mike Moser said emergency crews responded within minutes of a call reporting the crash. Initially, no victims were located during rescue efforts and they shifted to a recovery operation. Moser said no homes were damaged, but crews spotted some debris near the retention pond. Local aerial televised footage showed a broken fence in the backyard of one home bordering the pond where the plane went down.

"There was no actual plane to be seen," Moser said. "They followed the debris trail to the water. We had divers that entered the water and tried to search for any victims and didn't find any."

Kenneth DeTrollo told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that he and his wife were in



their home when the plane crashed through their backyard, destroying his fence and toppling palm trees before hitting the water. He said the impact left debris scattered across his yard and that his pool and back porch were "contaminated" with spilled fuel.

The fuel smell was so strong inside his home that it took a few hours to dissipate, he added.

"We heard the strangest sound. I never heard anything like it before, and apparently that was when this plane must have flown between my home and my neighbour's house," DeTrollo told the newspaper.

Officials cautioned residents that police would maintain a significant presence in the area throughout Monday and Tuesday as investigators continue collecting evidence.

Broward County, where the plane took off from and where the crash occurred, is home to a vibrant Caribbean American community that sprang into action to collect relief supplies following

Hurricane Melissa. A powerful Category 5 hurricane, Melissa slammed into Jamaica late last month, leaving a path of destruction.

Moser said police would take over recovery efforts, and federal aviation officials would investigate the cause of the crash.

The small Beechcraft King Air plane took off from the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport at approximately 10:14 a.m., according to a spokesperson for the City of Fort Lauderdale, which owns and operates the airport. The crash occurred soon after takeoff, with Coral Springs police officers and firemen responding at 10:19 a.m., just five minutes later.

According to Federal Aviation Administration records, the plane was manufactured in 1976. King Air models can seat between seven and 12 people, according to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Federal records showed the registered owner of the plane is listed as International Air Services, a com-

pany that markets itself as specialising in providing trust agreements to non-US citizens that enable them to register their aircraft with the FAA. A person who answered the company's phone Monday afternoon declined to answer questions from a reporter, stating "no comment" and ending the phone call.

The flight tracking website FlightAware shows the plane made four other trips to or from Jamaica in the past week, traveling between George Town in the Cayman Islands and Montego Bay and Negril in Jamaica, before landing in Fort Lauderdale on Friday. It was not immediately clear who was organizing the trips.

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on Oct. 28, tied for the strongest landfalling Atlantic hurricane in history. The storm also caused devastation in Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic and prompted relief organizations to mobilize.

Local government officials in Jamaica said in the days after the storm that Melissa had ripped the roofs off 120,000 structures, affecting some 90,000 families in the island's especially hard-hit western region. A week after Melissa's landfall in Jamaica, more than 2,000 people were still reported to be in shelters. (AP)

Air travellers face frustration as FAA's further drop in flights takes effect



Air travellers could face more frustration as busy US airports need to meet a higher Federal Aviation Administration target for reducing flights Tuesday after already cancelling thousands to scale back demands on the nation's aviation system during the government shutdown.

The FAA ordered domestic airlines last week to drop 4% of their flights at 40 major US airports, saying absences and signs of stress among traffic controllers made it imperative to act in the name of public safety. After already cancelling more than 7,900 since Friday, the goal for cutting flights is set to rise to 6% on Tuesday and again to 10% on Friday.

More than 1,100 flights were cancelled Tuesday, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks air travel disruptions. It was unclear exactly how many additional flights would need to be cancelled for the day.

The average cancellation rate over the last few days already exceeded the FAA's requirement, according to aviation analytics company Cirium. The FAA also expanded its flight restrictions Monday, barring business jets and many private flights from using a dozen airports already under commer-

cial flight limits.

However, controller shortages continued to lead to flight delays, including one of about five hours for arriving flights Monday evening at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where wintry weather added to staffing-related disruptions earlier in the day. The FAA warned that staffing at over a dozen towers and control centres could delay planes departing for Phoenix, San Diego, the New York area and Houston, among other cities.

Freezing weather in parts of the country on Tuesday could cause further delays and cancellations.

The Senate passed legislation Monday to reopen the government, but the bill still needs to clear the House and final passage could be days away. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy made clear last week that flight cuts will remain until the FAA sees staffing levels stabilize at its air traffic control facilities.

Many planes also aren't where they're supposed to be, which could slow the airlines' return to normal operations even after the FAA lifts the order, said Mike Taylor, who leads research on airports and airlines at JD Power.

Todd Walker said he missed his mom's 80th birthday when his flight was cancelled over the weekend.

"All of this has real negative consequences for millions of Americans, and it's 100% unnecessary and avoidable," he said.

The FAA had come under criticism after its original order only applied to a very small subsection of private planes. But some want to see even more done.

Patriotic Millionaires, a group of wealthy Americans pushing for more progressive taxes, is calling for all private jets to be grounded during the shutdown.

"Rich people are taking their joyrides while average Americans don't make it to grandma's bedside in time," said Erica Payne, its founder and president.

She added that none of its members that still fly private have reported cancellations or delays since the FAA's order took effect.

Tuesday marks the second missed payday for controllers. Some have started calling out of work, citing stress and the need to take on second jobs.

It's unclear how quickly controllers might be paid once the shutdown ends — it took more than two months to receive full back pay after the 35-day shutdown that ended in 2019, said Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

President Donald Trump took to social media on Monday to pressure controllers to "get back to work, NOW!!!" He called for a \$10,000 bonus for those who've stayed on the job and suggested docking pay for those who haven't.

Daniels said the shutdown has made controllers' demanding jobs even more stressful, leading to fatigue and increased risks. He said the number who are retiring or quitting is "growing" by the day. (AP)

Suicide bombing in Islamabad kills 12, says Pakistan's interior minister

A suicide attack outside a court in Pakistan's capital Islamabad has killed 12 people and injured at least 27 more, the country's interior minister said.

Mohsin Naqvi said a bomber was planning to attack the district courthouse but was unable to get inside.

Naqvi said authorities would prioritise identifying the bomber, and that those involved would be brought to justice. It remains unclear who carried out the attack.

Suicide blasts in Islamabad have been rare in recent years. Footage from the scene on Tuesday showed the remains of a burnt-out car and a police cordon in place.

The 27 people injured are receiving medical treatment, Naqvi said.

He added that the attacker detonated the bomb close to a police car after waiting for up to 15 minutes.

Footage of the aftermath showed plumes of smoke rising from a charred vehicle behind a security barrier. The incident occurred at 12:39 local time (07:39 GMT).

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said he "strongly condemned the suicide blast".

A lawyer who said he was parking his car outside the court at the time described hearing a "loud bang".



Rustam Malik told AFP news agency "it was complete chaos".

"Lawyers and people were running inside the complex," he added. "I saw two dead bodies lying on the gate and several cars were on fire."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that extremist groups "actively backed by India" were involved.

In a statement, he said that "terrorist attacks on unarmed citizens of Pakistan by India's terrorist proxies

are condemnable".

Delhi has not responded to the accusations. It has previously denied such claims.

In a separate incident on Monday, a car exploded in India's capital Delhi, killing eight people and injuring a number of others.

The Indian government has not called the incident a terror attack, although the case has been referred to the country's anti-terror body.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said following the attack: "The conspirators behind this heinous act

will not be spared. All those responsible will be brought to justice, no matter how deep the conspiracy runs."

There is, however, no official word yet on what led to the blast.

The last time Pakistan's capital was targeted by a suicide bombing was three years ago when a police officer was killed and several others injured.

There have been suicide attacks in other parts of the country in the years since but not in Islamabad. (BBC)

US Supreme Court rejects call to overturn its decision legalising same-sex marriage nationwide

The US Supreme Court on Monday rejected a call to overturn its landmark decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

The justices, without comment, turned away an appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples after the high court's 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

Davis had been trying to get the court to overturn a lower-court order for her to pay \$360,000 in damages and attorney's fees to a couple denied a marriage license.

Her lawyers repeatedly invoked the words of Justice Clarence Thomas, who alone among the nine justices has called for erasing the same-sex marriage ruling.

Thomas was among four dissenting justices in 2015.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are the other dissenters who are on the court today.

Roberts has been silent on the subject since he wrote a dissenting opinion in the case. Alito has continued to criticize the decision, but he said recently he was not advocating that it be overturned.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was not on the court in 2015, has said that there are times when the court should correct mistakes and overturn deci-



sions, as it did in the 2022 case that ended a constitutional right to abortion.

But Barrett has suggested recently that same-sex marriage might be in a different category than abortion because people have relied on the decision when they married and had children.

Human Rights Campaign president Kelley Robinson praised the justices' decision not to intervene. "The Supreme Court made clear today that refusing to respect the constitutional rights of others does not come without consequences," Robinson said in a statement.

Davis drew national attention to eastern Kentucky's Rowan County when she turned away same-sex couples, saying her faith prevented her from complying with the high court ruling. She defied court orders to issue the licenses until a federal judge jailed her for contempt of court in September 2015.

She was released after her staff issued the licenses on her behalf but removed her name from the form. The Kentucky legislature later enacted a law removing the names of all county clerks from state marriage licenses.

Davis lost a re-election bid in 2018. (AP)



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Grenada dethrones Antigua to regain OECS Swim Championship title



The Antigua and Barbuda team that represented the twin-island state at the 33rd OECS Swimming Championships in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from November 7 to 9. (Photo courtesy of the ABSF)

Grenada dethroned Antigua and Barbuda as champions of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Swimming Championships during the 33rd edition of the three-day event in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Grenadians regained the OECS Swimming Championship from three-peat title holder Antigua and Barbuda during the competition at the Shrews-

bury Aquatic Centre in St. Vincent from November 7 to 9.

This win is significant, as it is Grenada's first title since 2019, after which there was a two-year break in competition during the COVID period.

Grenada took home 84 medals while amassing a total of 1263.50 points over second-place St. Lucia with 1,239 points. Host St. Vincent and the

Grenadines clinched third place.

Antigua and Barbuda, which won the competitions in 2022, 2023, and 2024, finished in fourth place with a total of 1,117 points.

They were followed by St. Kitts & Nevis with 160 points, Dominica with 72 points, and Anguilla, which finished in the cellar with eight points.



Buck and Sons makes winning start in Mandy Premier League



Charanlall Ramjohn, right, and Kimberly Anthony of Buck and Sons Landscaping Services



Essan Warner of TG Welding

Buck and Sons Landscaping Services were among the winners during the opening round of matches in the Mandy Premier League (MPL), Cool and Smooth, Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

Buck and Sons Landscaping Services launched their campaign in the 10-overs competition with a 14-run victory against the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF).

Buck and Sons made 64 for six off their 10 overs. Randino Turner made 14,

female player of the match Kimberly Anthony scored 12. Vaughn Charles took two for 10, and Quincy France claimed two for 11.

In reply, the ABDF were restricted to 51 for eight off their 10 overs. Edwin Jackson hit 20, and Sawandi Ambrose struck 16. Kimberly Anthony picked up two wickets for one run, and male player of the game Charanlall Ramjohn grabbed two wickets for seven runs.

Player of the game Essan Warner missed a century by one run as TG Welding crushed PEL Workers

by 100 runs in their opening-round encounter.

Warner slammed 99, including 14 sixes, and Daren Benta hit 34 to propel TG Welding to 147 for three off their 10 overs. Karl Simon claimed two for 11.

In reply, PEL Workers were restricted to 47 for seven off their 10 overs. Frederick Floyd scored 17. Essan Warner captured two for 10, and Tyree Moore took two for 17.

TG Welding also recorded a 92-run victory against Construction Solutions. TG Welding batted first and

scored 160 for four off their 10 overs.

Essan Warner hammered 86, including 13 sixes and two fours, and Daren Benta struck 36. Ashfield Weatherhead claimed two for 20.

In reply, Construction Solutions were restricted to 68 for five off their 10 overs. Kenny Benjamin made 18, and Ashfield Weatherhead scored 17.

Essan Warner and Ann Anthony of TG Welding were named the players of the game.

Winning starts for Palace and Young Lions in Second Division



Players of Blackburn Palace (red uniform) compete against Fort Road during their Second Division match at the Fort Road playing field on Monday, November 10, 2025.

Blackburn Palace and the Young Lions of Old Road got off to winning starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Second Division on Monday.

Palace launched their campaign by coming from behind to claim a 4-1 victory against Fort Road at the Fort Road playing field.

After Shaquille Perry converted a penalty kick in the 31st minute to give Fort Road a one-nil lead at halftime, Blackburn Palace scored four goals in the second half to secure victory.

Jameal Lawrence had a double conversion with strikes in the 71st and 80th minutes, while the other goals for Palace were scored by Diondre Harrigan in the 51st minute and Tafari Looby in the 63rd minute.

The Young Lions also recorded a 4-1 victory over West Ham in their opening-round encounter at the Old Road playing field.

Deante' Anthony struck twice with conversions in the seventh and 62nd minutes, while the other two goals for the Young Lions were scored by Stefan Smith in the second minute and La'Trell

Leonard Lewis in the 72nd minute.

Anderson Herbert got a consolation goal for West Ham by converting a penalty kick in the 84th minute.

However, Monday's other first-round Second Division encounter between Urlings and Herberts was not played due to a clash of uniform colours by both teams.

By the time the uniform issue was sorted, there was not sufficient light to play the match. The match will be rescheduled for a later date.

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Windies to face Afghanistan in T20I series in UAE



Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed their participation in a three-match T20I series against Afghanistan slated to take place in January 2026 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The series will begin on January 19 at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, with

the second and third T20I match being scheduled for January 21 and 22 at the same venue.

The contest is expected to provide both teams with invaluable game time and will significantly contribute

to their preparation for the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, beginning in February.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said, "This series provides an ideal platform for our preparation.

"Facing strong opposition in subcontinental conditions will help us sharpen our combinations and approach, and it also gives our players a chance to build confidence on surfaces similar to those we'll encounter in India and Sri Lanka."

Naseeb Khan, CEO of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, said, "Competing against the West Indies on the brink of a global event presents an excellent opportunity for our team to finalize their lineup and enhance their preparations for the upcoming mega event in India and Sri Lanka.

"We have been closely monitoring the team's preparation process, and facing a quality West Indies side offers an ideal platform for their buildup."

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ABAVA names squad to contest ECVA U-23 Men's Championship



Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Under-23 volleyball team

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) has announced a national 14-member squad to represent the twin-island state at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) third Under-23 Men's Championship in Antigua this week.

The event will be hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex from November 12 to 16.

The national Under-23 squad includes five players that recently represented the Antigua and Barbuda senior men's team.

They are opposite hitter

Immanuel Asafa Donovan, middle blockers Jervon Carbon and Kemarni Joseph, setter Miguel Pena-Lugo, and opposite attacker George Freeland.

Also included are Dominick Anthony, Amali Manix, Cruz Benitez, Klaliq Joseph, and Ozan Williams.

The rest of the players are Shamar Bannis, Jedidiah Christian, Vernon Henry, and Gladstone Joseph. Former senior national player Michael Hamilton is the head coach of the team.

The YMCA in St. John's will be transformed into an electrifying arena where six teams, comprising host country Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, defend-

ing champs St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Anguilla, will battle it out for regional supremacy.

The five-day tournament will showcase some of the brightest young talents in sub-regional volleyball.

The event will commence with a triple-header at the YMCA on Wednesday. Dominica will face Grenada at 6 pm, Antigua and Barbuda will meet Anguilla at 8 pm, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will tackle St. Lucia at 10 pm.

Four games will be played on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The tournament will culminate with the three final position matches on Sunday, November 16.

The playoff for fifth place will start proceedings at 4 pm, followed by the playoff for third place at 6 pm and the final for the championship at 8 pm.

The victorious team will not only walk away with gold medals and a prestigious team trophy but will also secure a coveted spot in the NORCECA 2026 Pan American Cup, which will be held in Canada in August.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines men's team were the winners of the last Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's Under-23 championship, which was hosted in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, in October 2023.