

Burning Flames, Lionel Hurst top National Awards, 2025

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Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and the newly minted knights...the members of the popular Burning Flames band

Burning Flames, Lionel Hurst top National Awards, 2025

The four members of the Burning Flames band and one of the country's long-serving ambassadors and historian, Lionel Max Hurst, top the list of awardees in the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda National Awards announced last evening during the Independence Ceremonial Parade.

The Burning Flames is a family band that took Antigua and Barbuda music across the globe with their unique beat and pulsating rhythm. The band is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and the government saw it as a fitting tribute to honour the members – brothers Toriano, Clarence and David Edwards and nephew Rone Watkins with one of the nation's highest honours, *To be Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation – KCN* - For distinguished and outstanding contribution to music, culture and national development.

“Burning Flames have, for over four decades, exemplified artistic excellence, innovation, and national leadership. Their pioneering fusion of soca, calypso, reggae, and contemporary Caribbean rhythms has not only redefined the musical landscape of Antigua and Barbuda but has also earned them international acclaim, establishing them as global ambassadors of our nation. Through their music, they have inspired generations of musicians, energized Carnival celebrations, and carried the vibrancy, creativity, and resilience of Antigua and Barbuda to audiences across the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and beyond,” the Citation reads.

Ambassador Lionel ‘Max’ Hurst has been equally honoured with the award of being named a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation, KCN, *For distinguished contribution in the diplomatic service.*

“Ambassador Lionel A. Hurst, Esq. has dedicated a lifetime to the advancement and representation of An-



The members of the Burning Flames Band pose for a photo with Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams

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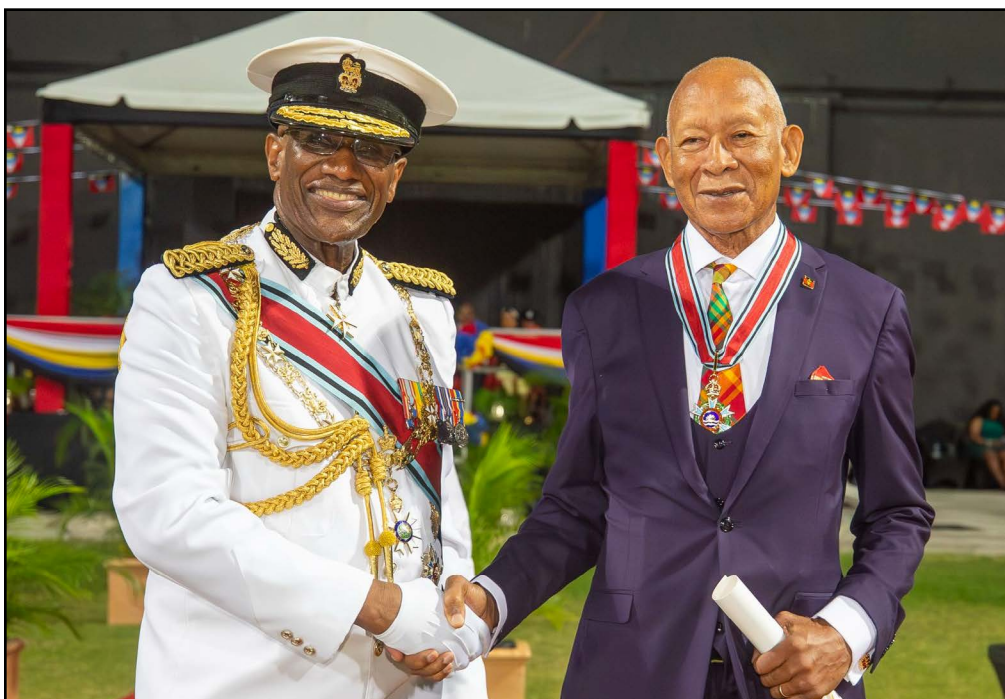
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tigua and Barbuda, distinguishing himself as a diplomat, legal expert, scholar, media personality, and national advisor. His career spans decades of exceptional service, including his tenure as Ambassador to the United Nations, where he chaired key international committees and represented the nation in numerous General Assembly sessions, and as Ambassador to the United States and Head of Mission in Washington, D.C. where he skillfully advocated for Antigua and Barbuda's political and economic interests before the U.S. government, the World Bank, and other international institutions," the Citation stated.

Other persons honoured this year include;

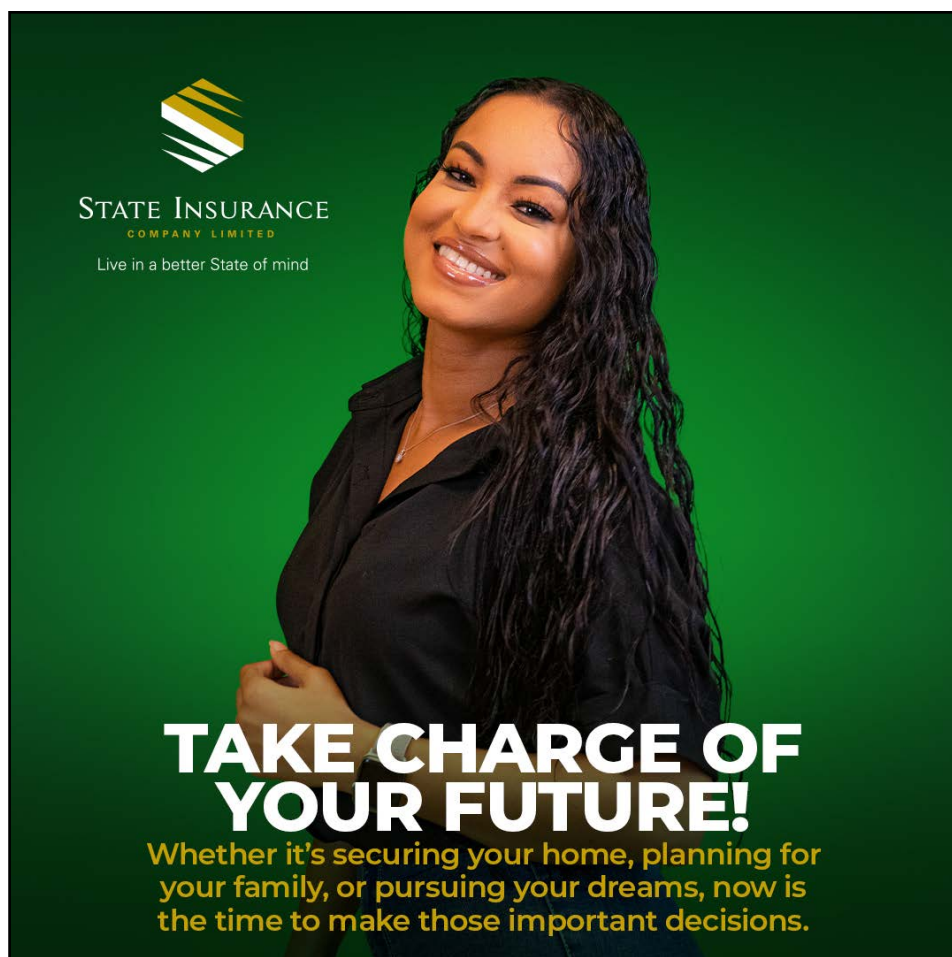
- **FAUSTO FATTARELLI, ESQUIRE** – To be Commander, the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation – CN - For exemplary service in the fields of economic and urban development.
- **MRS CLAIRE ALTHEA WEST** – To be Grand Cross, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit – GCM - For outstanding service in the fields of nursing and community service
- **LIEUTENANT COLONEL DALTON ERIC GRAHAM** – To be Grand Cross, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit – GCM - For outstanding service in the fields of national and community service
- **MRS. ALEXANDRINA ATHENA BROWN** – To be Grand Cross, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit – GCM - For outstanding contribution in the fields of education and community service
- **MRS. ZONA IOTHA ICILMA BARTHLEY** – To be Grand Cross, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit – GCM - For outstanding contribution in the fields of community service and youth development
- **RONALD 'Mayfield' HOSIER, ESQUIRE** – To be Grand Cross,



The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage – GCH - For outstanding contribution in cultural, community and artistic service

- **MRS. NOVELLA PAYNE** – To be

Grand Cross, The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage – GCH - For outstanding contribution to heritage entrepreneurship and community service.



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The countdown starts today towards Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the next CHOGM

Antigua and Barbuda's rich cultural heritage will be on display at today Official Launch Ceremony marking the countdown to the country's hosting of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2026

The launch event takes place at the Sandals Antigua Grande Resort Tuesday morning with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt. Hon. Shirley Botchwey, participating. Secretary-General Botchwey arrived in St. John's on Monday specifically to participate in the launch exercises. The Secretary-General is accompanied by senior officials from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Departure of Culture has planned a cultural display featuring pan music and dance that will feature as part of the launch activities. During the event, the official dates for CHOGM 2026 will be revealed as well as an unveiling of the official logo and theme.

Both Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Secretary-General Botchwey will address the ceremony. The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams will also be in attendance although he will not be required to speak.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General and her team were warmly received at the V.C. Bird International Airport by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim and, Director General of Foreign Affairs, Ann-Marie Layne, on behalf of the Prime Minister, Browne and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene. The visit marks the beginning of a week of official engagements, including the Secretary-General's participation in the launch of CHOGM 2026 and meetings with members of the CHOGM 2026 Task Force to review ongoing preparations for the upcoming summit.

On arrival in Antigua and Barbuda,



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt. Hon. Shirley Botchwey

Commonwealth Secretary-General Hon. Shirley

Botchwey said: *"It is a pleasure to be in Antigua and Barbuda as we take the first steps on our shared journey towards CHOGM 2026. This beautiful country embodies the warmth, resilience, and partnership that define the Commonwealth. I look forward to meeting leaders, young people, and communities here to celebrate the spirit of collaboration that drives us all, and to build momentum for a CHOGM that delivers real impact and shared prosperity across our 56 member states."*

On Monday evening, the Secretary-General joined Antigua and Barbuda in celebrating its 44th Anniversary of Independence, underscoring the enduring partnership between the Commonwealth and its member states, and will meet with, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams.

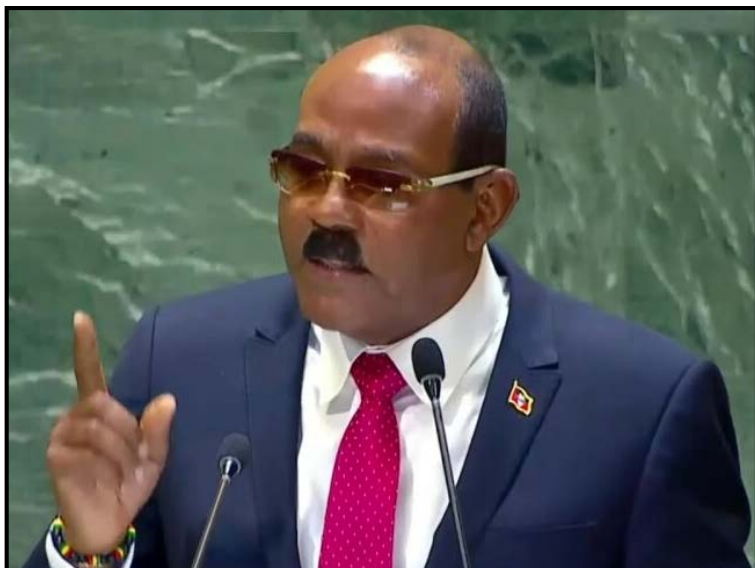
Permanent Secretary Ambassador Pilgrim, said: *"We are honoured to welcome the Commonwealth Secretary-General and her delegation to our shores. Their arrival marks the*

beginning of an exciting journey for Antigua and Barbuda as we prepare to host one of the most significant gatherings of world leaders. We look forward to showcasing our nation's warmth, hospitality, and leadership within the global family of the Commonwealth."

Ann-Marie Layne, Director General of Foreign Affairs, added: *"This visit reinforces our strong partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and underscores our government's commitment to ensuring that CHOGM 2026 is both historic and impactful. We are ready to demonstrate Antigua and Barbuda's capacity to convene, collaborate, and lead on issues that matter to our people and the wider Commonwealth."*

High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill said: *"Hosting CHOGM 2026 presents tremendous opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda, from strengthening trade and investment to building new partnerships across the Commonwealth. The Secretary-General's visit helps set the stage for a successful summit that will deliver real benefits to our people."*

Antigua and Barbuda is sending a high-level delegation to COP30 in Belém, Brazil



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, will lead the country's delegation to the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), scheduled to take place in Belém, Brazil, from November 5 to 21, 2025.

COP30 is expected to convene world leaders, heads of international organizations, and senior government officials for high-level discussions on accelerating global climate action, enhancing adaptation and mitigation fi-

nancing, and advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Key thematic areas will include climate resilience for small island developing states (SIDS), carbon market mechanisms, loss and damage financing, and the transition toward renewable energy systems.

Prime Minister Browne will participate in a series of Ministerial and Leaders' Summits, where he is expected to continue advocating for climate justice, sustainable financing, and strengthened global commitments to support vulnerable nations disproportionately affected by climate change.

The delegation also includes Ruleta Camacho-Thomas, Ambassador for Climate Change; Diann Black-Layne, Director of the Department of Environ-

ment; and other technical officers within the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs.

Sir Molwyn Joseph is expected to join the delegation later in the session to participate in the Ministerial segment of the conference and engage in high-level discussions on environmental health, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

Antigua and Barbuda's participation at COP30 underscores the nation's continued leadership among small island developing states and its unwavering commitment to ensuring that the global community delivers on promises of climate action, equity, and sustainability.



The United States says it wants to strengthen commercial ties with Antigua and Barbuda



U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio

United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, says his country wants to strengthen commercial ties with Antigua and Barbuda especially in the field of energy. Secretary Rubio comments were contained in congratulatory message to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of political Independence.

In his comments, the Secretary of States said the US also values the partnership with Antigua and Barbuda in advancing regional security issues.

The full text of his message reads;

On behalf of the United States of America, I extend my congratulations to the people of Antigua



and Barbuda as you celebrate your 44th Independence Day.

The United States values our partnership with Antigua and Barbuda in advancing regional security through continued cooperation to stem the flow of illegal guns and drugs, counter illegal immigration, and disrupt transnational criminal networks. Through initiatives such as the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, we are working together to strengthen border security and safeguard our citizens.

We remain committed to working with Antigua and Barbuda to strengthen commercial ties between our two countries, including through partnerships in energy. Our private sector partnership on LNG energy is

a model for the region that will lead to not only Antigua and Barbuda's energy security, but also new commercial opportunities between the United States and Antigua and Barbuda.

We look forward to deepening our collaboration to create safer communities and greater opportunities for all our citizens.

An American company, Eagle LNG, has partnered with a local company, the Hadeed Group to establish an LNG Power Generation plant at Crabbes. The Americans signaled their support for the project when in June a Senior Official in the Department of State, Michael Kozak, visited the plant and expressed his support for the venture.



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.

Caribbean Travel Marketplace returns to Antigua and Barbuda 2026

The Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) has announced that Antigua and Barbuda will host the 44th edition of Caribbean Travel Marketplace (CTM), taking place May 12–15, 2026.

This means that Antigua and Barbuda will host the prestigious event for two consecutive years after successfully hosting it earlier this year. CHTA says it marks a continuation of the successful partnership established during the 2025 event and reaffirms CHTA's confidence in Antigua and Barbuda's vision, leadership and commitment to the advancement of Caribbean tourism.

CTM is the region's largest tourism forum, connecting regional suppliers with global buyers to drive business, strengthen partnerships, and showcase the innovation and resilience of the region's visitor economy.

"As we look ahead to Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2026, we are proud to continue our collaboration with Antigua and Barbuda and build on the momentum of this year's event," said CHTA President Sanovnik Destang. "Marketplace continues to play a pivotal role in amplifying the Caribbean's collective voice globally, showcasing our shared strengths, opening doors to new opportunities,



CHTA President Sanovnik Destang and Minister of Tourism Charles Max Fernandez

and reflecting the resilience and innovation that define our region. Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to excellence and regional partnership makes it a fitting host destination once again."

Returning to Antigua and Barbuda reflects the destination's proven capability to deliver world-class conferences. Recently named the "Caribbean's Best Meetings and Conference Destination" by

the World Travel Awards, the dual-island nation has demonstrated this strength by hosting major events including Marketplace 2025, the OAS Conference, and preparations for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. These accomplishments underscore Antigua and Barbuda's growing stature in the global meetings and incentives arena and its continued investment in hospitality infrastructure

and service excellence.

"We are very proud to once again host the CHTA's Caribbean Travel Marketplace here in Antigua and Barbuda," said Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "Bringing together the Caribbean's tourism leaders, suppliers and international buyers to conduct business underscores our ongoing commitment to the growth of Caribbean tourism. With our strong infrastructure and modern facilities, we are ready to host Marketplace and also showcase the vibrant culture and warm hospitality that Antigua and Barbuda is known for."

Marketplace 2026 will introduce enhancements, including but not limited to expanded accommodation options and venue optimization. These refinements underscore CHTA's and Antigua and Barbuda's shared commitment to delivering an exceptional and seamless experience for delegates and buyers.

Regional and international air connectivity will remain a strategic focus for Marketplace, with continued collaboration among government partners, aviation stakeholders, and tourism officials to maintain and expand affordability and access across the Caribbean and key international gateways.



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Under the Auspices of Senator Michael Joseph

PM Browne Unveils Major Investments in Health, Education and Housing

Prime Minister Gaston Browne affirmed that the government's core strategy is "investing in people" — a foundation for sustainable national development.

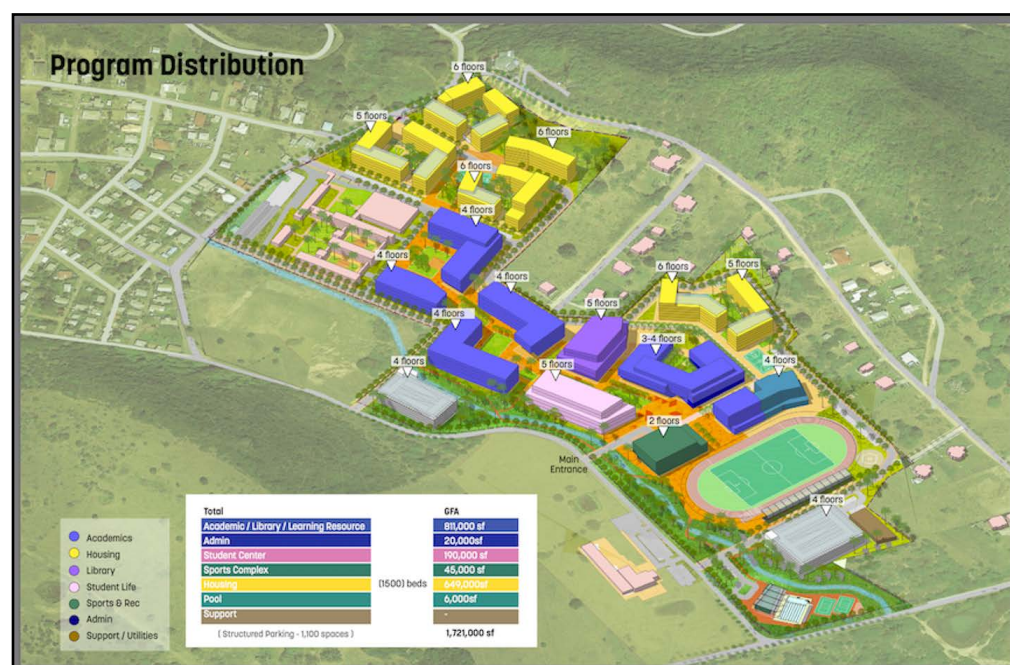
Among the key initiatives announced in the 2025 Independence Address are:

- ♦ A state-of-the-art renal centre offering dialysis and transplant services;
- ♦ Conversion of the former Jehovah's Witness headquarters into a multi-million-dollar mental-health facility;
- ♦ A US \$200 million expansion of the University of the West Indies (Five Islands) campus, with new dorms, labs and research facilities.

In previous addresses, Browne emphasized that "the overall objective is to attain and sustain GDP growth over the next five years of at least 6 %, which is inclusive, generates jobs, and reduces vulnerability and poverty."

He added: "Every classroom we open, every home we build, every patient we heal — that is independence in action."

This latest investment wave follows his assurance that the private sector would be mobilized to deliver thousands of new jobs through resort construction and infrastructure expansion.





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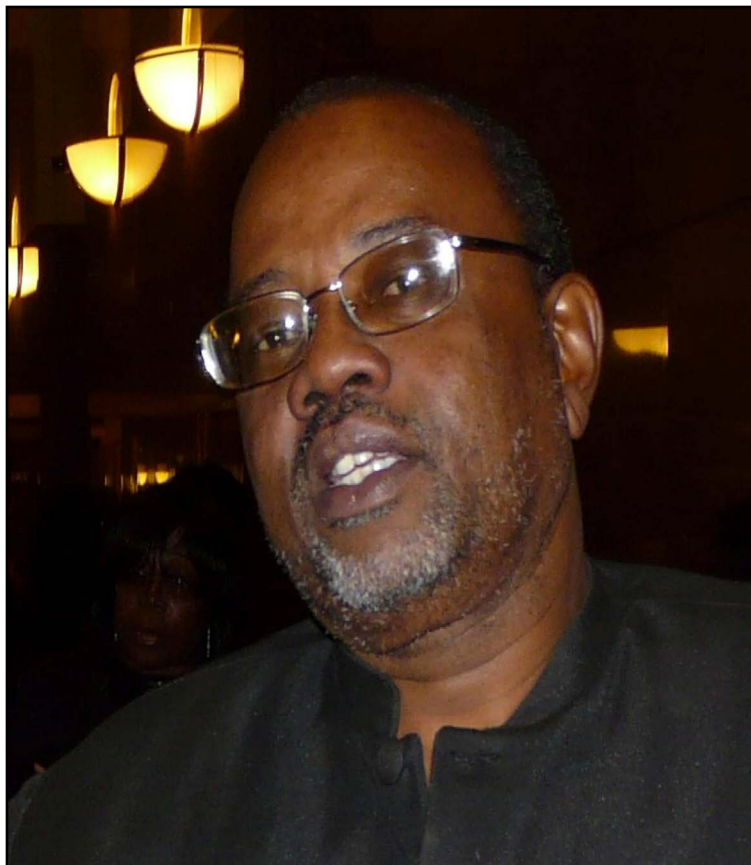
ABRSC Chairman is representing the country and CARICOM at Africa Celebrates, 2025

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission (ABRSC), Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde, will represent the country and CARICOM at the Africa Celebrates 25 gathering taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from November 4 to 9.

Ambassador O'Marde will be one of the featured speakers at the event as well as a panelist at the Africa Reparation Forum and Diaspora Africa Konnect of Africa Celebrates 2025, scheduled to take place at the African Union and United Nations headquarters in Addis Ababa.

In line with the theme of the AU, this year's theme of Africa Celebrates is "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through and Beyond Reparations". The Africa Reparation Forum which is scheduled to take place in UNECA and AU 5th and 7th November respectively is necessitated by the African Union theme for 2025.

The **Africa Reparation Forum** will be rethinking the socio-economic reparation construct, by leveraging on the economic repatriation of human and investment capital of



people of African descent back to the continent. Its goal is to deploy a diaspora resource mobilization strategy that will drive impact investment marketplace opportunities to accelerate art, culture, heritage, the creative economy, digital economy, tourism, green, and blue economy.

"Following on the outstanding leadership and advocacy you have demonstrated as Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission and ViceChair of the CARICOM Reparations Com-

mission, we would be delighted to have you join us as a speaker and panelist at the Africa Reparation Forum and Diaspora Africa Konnect of Africa Celebrates 2025 to share your insights and experiences," the letter of invitation to Ambassador O'Marde reads.

The aims and objectives of Africa Celebrates are as follows;

- To celebrate Africa's unity in diversity by encouraging economic, social and regional integration of Africa through promoting in-

tra-Africa's rich art, culture, heritage, trade, investment, science and technology transfers which can be explored as a catalyst for realizing a prosperous Africa.

- To encourage **Africans** and the rest of the world to patronize made in Africa by eating **African** food, wearing **African** clothes, watching **African** films, appreciating **African** arts, crafts, music, dance and other African products and services.
- And to promote intra and inter African trade, investment and tourism with the goal of supporting and empowering women and youths in creating wealth.

Africa Celebrates has grown and expanded incredibly every year since its inception in 2021 when the inaugural event was held. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, 18, 32 and 38 African countries participated. Last year, 41 African countries and Diasporas from 13 countries participated. This year's event promises to be bigger and more exciting.

Two Arrested for Breaking into Vehicles



Police arrested two young men on suspicion of Malicious Damage after they were caught breaking into vehicles along Powells Main Road near Kennedy's Wholesale.

Around 8:20 p.m. on Sunday November 2, officers from the Coolidge Police Station responded to a report of suspicious activity and discovered a silver Honda CR-V with its alarm sounding and the left passenger glass shattered. Two suspects were found hiding near the vehicle and were arrested and taken into custody. Further investigations are ongoing into the incident.

The police are encouraging anyone with additional information surround-

ing the incident to contact CID at 462-3913 or Coolidge Police Station at 462-3185.

Meanwhile, police are investigating a shooting incident that left a 26-year-old All Saints man nursing a non-life-threatening injury.

Reports indicate that around midnight on Monday, November 3, the victim and a friend were walking along Joseph Lane in the vicinity of Velvet Touch when he heard a loud explosion, and realize he was injured.

The victim was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he was treated for a single gunshot wound

to his left shoulder. Medical officials confirmed that his condition is stable and non-life-threatening.

Police are now searching for a male suspect, approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall, last seen wearing dark clothing and a purple ski mask. He was spotted driving away from the area in a dark grey Suzuki Vitara.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or have information that could assist in identifying those responsible to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).



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Photo Story

Member of The Burning Flames Band receiving their kinghood



Photo Story



Reading is FUNdamental



by **Derrick Nicholas**

When I was growing up, there was a saying which went as follows: reading is FUNdamental. That saying is still true and more relevant in today's world.

Studies have shown that reading is important, and there are many benefits to be had as a result of your ability to read. They include: improved vocabulary, better comprehension, develops critical thinking, and improves memory.

If your ability to read and comprehend are so critical to a student's ability to do well in other subject areas, why is it that more deliberate efforts are not made to get students to a place where they can read?

According to Harvard University professor, Steven Pinker, the problem of reading and students' ability to comprehend have been acknowledged to the point where colleges and universities continue to 'dumb down' their exams. In fact, he says that students' performances have been declining over the years. In the case of Harvard University – a



bastion of education – they have seen a 10-percentage point decline in students' scores from 2004 to present.

Professor Pinker admits that “the standards have been going down.” Another admission by Professor Pinker is that “students do read less...they spend more time on extracurricular activities than on classwork.” He agrees with something I have been saying for a long time “taking notes leads to better memory than using a screen.” He cites a principle of cognitive psychology to support his argument: “when you have to think hard about something, when you've got to process its meaning, when it's not just a bunch of words, then you actually remember better.”

The problem has been acknowledged by Harvard University, and their Dean, David Deming has shockingly had to remind students that “academics are your first prior-

ity.” Also, going forward electronic devices will be banned in classes.

I remember when I was a child, you used to be told in order to get a degree you had to READ for it. Now, students hardly want to read a book, much less several books. The irony of it is that information is much more readily available, yet they do not want to read to acquire the knowledge.

I have long argued that Antigua and Barbuda do not have a mathematics problem. Instead, we have a READING problem. I am convinced that once students are able to read and comprehend, they will do better in other subjects. In addition to the benefits mentioned earlier, reading helps to reduce stress, gives your brain a workout, it might help protect against cognitive decline, it boosts your mental wellness, it helps you learn new things, and it helps you sleep better. Who knew!

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Regional News

CARICOM agencies assist in unified recovery operations in Jamaica after category 5 Hurricane Melissa

Following the destructive effects of Hurricane Melissa, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nations have sent aid and committed financial resources to support Jamaica's emergency response and rebuilding process.

According to a CARICOM release, regional agencies, including the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), are spearheading the unified regional effort.

On November 2, Sunday, Jamaica's Prime Minister and CARICOM Chairman, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, announced that he had held discussions with "regional partners...to enhance coordination around Jamaica's recovery." He added that the talks "centered on mobilizing regional assistance, reconstructing resilient infrastructure, and protecting public health."

The CDEMA Coordinating Unit is responsible for managing the overall regional response, as outlined in the release.. CDEMA's Executive Director, Elizabeth Riley, expressed satisfaction with the agency's current efforts. So far, meetings have been held with the Caribbean Development Partners group, which serves as a coordination platform involving United Nations entities, private sector rep-



resentatives, civil society, and member states.

A team from CDEMA's Rapid Needs Assessment (RNAT), composed of specialists from regional and international organizations—including UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), and PAHO—is in Jamaica conducting multi-sector evaluations. These assessments will guide the government's response and recovery strategies, covering sectors such as agriculture, coastal and marine environments, education, emergency shelter, fisheries, health, housing, infrastructure, social protection, tourism, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

The Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), which includes military, police, and firefighting personnel from

across the region, remains on standby for potential deployment to aid civil authorities. Likewise, CARICOM reported that the Caribbean Operational Support Team (COST) is ready to assist with ongoing response and recovery efforts.

CDB President Daniel Best assured Jamaica of the bank's full backing as the country begins recovery from extensive damage. Upon arriving in Kingston on Friday, he emphasized the importance of regional unity: "The CDB's mission is to stand shoulder to shoulder with Jamaicans in their hour of need," he stated, highlighting that his visit focused on partnership.

He also highlighted that CARICOM and development partners are coordinating their recovery efforts strategically. "It is important

for us to coordinate and determine what resources we have so that we can present the [Government of Jamaica] with what is essentially a unified front so they can make informed decisions," Mr Best stated. He also underscored the importance of psychosocial support for Jamaican citizens and first responders, describing the effort as "a fully integrated post-disaster response."

Other key regional institutions, including the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF), The University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS), are also participating in the recovery initiatives to ensure a thorough and effective response. (Dominica News Online)

Approximately 2,500 Jamaicans still in hurricane shelters

The number of Jamaicans in hurricane shelters has significantly reduced to about 2,500.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development Desmond McKenzie says these persons are in 186 shelters across 12 parishes.

He gave the update on Monday at a special press briefing at Jamaica House.

More than 25,000 Jamaicans had been in shelters in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. (Jamaica Gleaner)



Gov't to undertake national post-Melissa clean-up exercise

The Government is to undertake a national clean-up programme as part of post-hurricane efforts.

Minister of Local Government Desmond McKenzie told a special press briefing on Monday at Jamaica House that the exercise will be led by the National Solid Waste Management Authority and will include the National Works Agency, the Tourism Product Development Company Limited (TPDCo), and the Ministry of Education. Further, McKenzie says the Social Development



Commission will coordinate community activities as part of the clean-up.

He says the exercise will take place in every community across

Jamaica and the details are to be announced later this week.

“This will be a call for national duty for national response,” said McKenzie.

“The country will require the full support, the full participation of all Jamaicans in this exercise,” he added. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

Jamaica establishes Hurricane Melissa volunteer registry



The Government has established a mechanism to allow persons who want to help with Jamaica's Hurricane Melissa recovery to register with a database to volunteer.

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange on Monday informed that a Registry of Volunteers is now available on the Government's website being used for Melissa donations — supportjamaica.gov.jm.

Grange, speaking at a special press briefing at Jamaica House, said the Government is aware that many persons want to help and has moved to put a system in place to allow them to do so.

She said that through the registry, persons will be able to indicate their skills or the type of assistance they would like to give and when they would be available to come forward.

"Perhaps you wish to assist with food distribution, shelter operations, or medical support. You may want to help with clean-up, counselling, transport, or administration. Whatever your skills are, however you want to help, just tell us when you sign up to the registry. And I am appealing to Jamaicans here in Jamaica and in the diaspora to sign up on this registry," said Grange.

"Based on when you are available and the type of volunteer work you would like to provide, we will contact you," she added.

Grange said persons will be briefed, equipped, and deployed in an efficient and coordinated way. (Jamaica Gleaner)



HOSTS:

DR, CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

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THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

Worker pulled from partially collapsed medieval tower in Rome



A worker who was trapped after part of a medieval tower collapsed in the heart of Rome has been rescued, according to local media reports.

The man was pulled free at 23:00 local time (22:00 GMT) - nearly twelve hours after a section of the Torre dei Conti, on the edge of the famous Roman Forum and close to the Colosseum, gave way and trapped him beneath. He has been taken to hospital.

The Romanian foreign ministry said the trapped man was from Romania, as was another worker who was among three others pulled from the rubble. One is said to be in a critical condition.

The tower has been closed to the public for many years, and was undergoing conservation work when a section collapsed.

Talking of the rescued worker, Rome mayor Roberto Gualtieri said: "We hope that he will pull through."

Rome prefect Lamberto Giannini told reporters the worker was pulled from the rubble after "a long rescue mission".

Earlier he had described it as a "very complex situation". Giannini said that after the initial collapse firefighters had "put up some protection" around the trapped man, so when the second collapse happened, "they obviously shielded him".

He added that the rescue would be a long operation due to having to "mitigate... the enormous risks faced by the people trying to carry out the rescue".

The Rome Prosecutor's Office has opened an investigation into the incident.

Efforts to rescue the worker - reported to be in his 60s - were interrupted when a second section of the 29m (90ft) high tower began crumbling again, with bricks raining down, creating a huge cloud of dust.

One firefighter was taken to hospital with an eye problem, according to local media, but the rest were unharmed, eventually resuming their search for the man.

A police chief said there was no imminent danger that the tower will disintegrate.

"My thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the person currently fighting for his life beneath the rubble, and to his family, for whom I sincerely hope that this tragedy finds a positive outcome," wrote Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on X before the rescue was complete.

Another worker, 67-year-old Ottaviano, who was inside at the time of the collapse but escaped from a balcony uninjured, told the AFP news agency: "It was not safe. I just want to go home."

Rome's mayor and the country's culture minister visited the scene. A crane and drone are also being used to assist with the rescue operation.

The 13th Century tower is part of the Roman Forum, a major tourist attraction right in the heart of the city, but it is separated from the main visitors' area by a road. The streets all around have been taped off by police as a precaution.

The medieval tower was built by Pope Innocent III as a residence for his brother. (BBC)

Three climbers dead and four missing after Nepal avalanche



At least three climbers, including a French national and two Nepalese people, have died after being hit by an avalanche on a Himalayan peak in north-eastern Nepal, police say.

The incident happened at 09:00 local time (03:15 GMT) on Monday near the base camp of the Yalung Ri mountain in Dolakha district.

A further four climbers - two Italians, a German and a Canadian - are feared dead but a search for them is continuing. The killed and missing were part of a group of 12 trekkers and local guides that set out over an hour before the avalanche hit, the district police chief told the BBC.

Five Nepali guides who returned to the base camp were injured but not critically.

“Three bodies have been seen and rescue teams have to find four more,” local deputy superintendent of Police

Gyan Kumar Mahato told the BBC.

It is not clear if the other two confirmed dead, who are both Nepali, were working with the group or were climbers themselves.

Mr Mahato said a rescue helicopter had landed on Monday in the Na Gaun area of Dolakha - a five-hour walk from the Yalung Ri base camp.

Efforts to locate those still missing have been hampered by poor weather and logistical issues, according to local media reports.

The Kathmandu Post reported that the group were preparing to climb the nearby Dolma Khang peak, which has an elevation of 6,332m (20,774ft).

Separately, attempts to rescue two Italian climbers who went missing while attempting to scale the Panbari mountain in western Nepal are continuing.

Stefano Farronato and Alessandro Ca-

puto were part of a three-man group that became stranded along with three local guides last week. The third member of the group, named in media reports as Velter Perlino, 65, has since been rescued.

Autumn is a popular season for trekkers and mountaineers in Nepal as weather conditions and visibility have tended to be better. However, the risk of severe weather and avalanches remains.

Last week, Cyclone Montha triggered heavy rain and snowfall across Nepal, stranding people in the Himalayas.

Two British and one Irish woman were among a group that had to be rescued after being trapped for several days in the western Mustang region.

Severe weather also left hundreds of hikers stranded near Mount Everest in October. (BBC)

Oklahoma sex offender who allegedly faked his own abduction is found 13 years later, enrolled in New York college

An Oklahoma sex offender was arrested after 13 years on the run, enrolled at an upstate New York college under an alias, having allegedly faked his own abduction in 2012 to avoid a second criminal case, according to state and federal officials.

Anthony Lennon, one of Oklahoma's "Ten Most Wanted," was arrested in New York last week after 13 years on the run from authorities, according to a release from Oklahoma Attorney General Genter Drummond. Drummond thanked law enforcement for "locating and apprehending this child predator."

"He evaded justice for far too long but will now face the consequences of his actions," Drummond said.

Lennon, 44, was first convicted in a 2008 case involving five counts related to possession of child pornography after a friend using his computer found 50 gigabytes of child sex abuse images on the device. Court records show he entered a guilty plea in 2010 and that he was out on a suspended sentence.

State records show that eight new charges of possession of child pornography were filed against Lennon in March 2012, after a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

The Moore Police Department said last week that evidence found in his home in the 2012 case included chat logs, a desktop computer and stacks of compact discs containing images of children being sexually assaulted.

A federal complaint unsealed Monday in the Western District for Oklahoma also charges Lennon with failure to register as a sex offender. According to the complaint, the Moore Police Department asked for the U.S. Marshals Service to help find Lennon in 2012 after the new case was filed against him.



Police had received a call from Lennon's employer at the time, a hotel owner, saying that the man had disappeared during the night between March 11, 2012, and March 12, 2012, according to the complaint.

"Detectives noticed a pool of blood, Lennon's shoe, shirt buttons, bloody shoe prints, and money missing from the hotel money drawer," the complaint said. "After examining the crime scene, interviewing family members, friends, and individuals in the community, it was determined that the circumstances were suspicious."

In separate press releases, the U.S. Marshals Office and the Moore Police Department described it as "an elaborate and bloody abduction and robbery scene."

The U.S. Marshals Service investigation determined that the scene had been staged and Lennon had emptied his bank accounts the day before he disappeared.

Some leads have appeared over the years, including activity from Lennon's Amazon account in 2020 in the state of North Carolina. He put a phone

charger in the cart, the complaint said. Two years later, someone said they believed they saw Lennon at a convention in the Dallas area.

According to the complaint, Lennon obtained a state ID, birth certificate and enrolled in a university all under a false name. He allegedly made multiple attempts to obtain a passport under an alias, the complaint said.

Lennon has allegedly been living under the alias "Justin Phillips" in the state of New York, the U.S. Marshals Service said. He was arrested and interviewed under the false name, but fingerprints revealed he was really Lennon, according to the agency.

A spokesperson for the State University of New York at Canton confirmed that a student enrolled under the name "Justin Phillips" was arrested Thursday "for crimes committed under a different name in Oklahoma." The spokesperson also said that he was barred from returning to the university on Friday.

"He first enrolled in SUNY Canton's engineering science program in fall of 2024 and lived off campus," the spokesperson said in a statement to NBC News. "The student was only known to the college as Justin Phillips and none of our records indicate that he had a prior identity."

It's unclear where Lennon is currently being held. The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office did not immediately return an email from seeking comment on Monday.

He does not appear to have retained an attorney in his state or federal cases. Neither of Lennon's open cases showed any record of requests for extradition as of Monday afternoon. (NBC)

Second-place finish for Antiguanans at LICB Mixed Format Tournament

Antigua and Barbuda finished second in the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) Senior Men's Mixed Format Tournament, which was won by host St. Kitts.

Antigua and Barbuda claimed the runners-up spot by winning their three one-day matches and drawing both encounters in the two-day contest, which comprised the mixed tournament that was held in St. Kitts from October 25 to November 1.

St. Kitts claimed the title in the six-team tournament by virtue of winning their three one-day matches and securing a win and a draw in their two encounters in the two-day contest.

Antigua and Barbuda drew with Montserrat in their first two-day match and also played to a tame draw in their final encounter with St. Kitts at Warner Park Stadium.

All-rounder Elroy Francis Jr. slammed a century to propel Antigua and Barbuda to 517 all out in 120.4 overs after being sent in to bat by the Kittitians. Francis slammed 146 off 168 balls, which included 11 fours and five sixes.

But Kofi James missed out on a century, falling for 90 off 91 balls, including four sixes and five fours. Openers Kadeem Henry and Tyrone Williams Jr., along with Ishmael Peters, also struck half centuries for the Antiguanans.



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda team in a huddle during one of their matches in the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's Senior Men's Mixed Format Tournament in St. Kitts on October 29. (Photo courtesy of ABCA)

Henry cracked 84, Williams Jr. hit 75, and Peters struck 53. St. Kitts captain Terence Ward captured four for 94, Kassim Challenger took two for 58, and Rashed Eddy claimed two for 82.

In reply, St. Kitts reached 145 for three in 19.3 overs when the match ended. Opener Mikyle Louis struck 90 off 58 balls, including seven fours and five sixes.

Nevis took third place after drawing their last two-day encounter with Montserrat at the St. Paul's Sporting Complex.

Opener Ross Powell and Captain Carlon Tuckett hit centuries as Nevis made 380 all out in 89.1 overs after being asked to bat first.

Powell struck 115 off 161 balls, including seven fours and two sixes. Tuckett hit an even 100 off 69 balls, in-

cluding eight sixes and three fours. Opener Jamie Cornelius cracked 29, and Theron Bussue scored 35.

Nehemiah Younge captured three for 57, and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. picked up three for 90.

In reply, Montserrat reached 95 for four in 15 overs when the match ended. Zawandi Whyte made 30, and Shawn Tuitt was not out on 29.

The other final-round two-day match between Anguilla and St. Maarten also finished in a draw at the Conaree Cricket Centre.

Anguilla was bundled out in their first innings for 87 in 42 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. In reply, St. Maarten made 253 all out in 68.1 overs. Anguilla reached 67 for three in 29 overs in their second innings when the match ended.

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Beriguete Tania Francisca of Alfred Peters Street Villa, Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Minister of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

BOE start quest for Business Basketball League double in playoffs



The Board of Education basketball team with their trophy after winning the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Business League Championship at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday, October 30. (Photo courtesy of the ABBA)

The Board of Education (BOE) will begin their quest for the double when the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Playoff Championship gets under way on Tuesday evening.

The Board of Education, who played unbeaten to clinch the round-robin league title by winning all 13 matches, will feature in the opening game of the playoffs at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Board of Education, who are the

top seed, will face eighth-seed Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance in the opening game of a double-header at 7:30 pm.

Corner Stone Builders and Maintenance clinched the eighth and last playoff spot with a league record of six wins and seven losses.

Sandals, who were crowned double champions last year, will begin their title defense in this year's playoff championship as the second seed after failing to retain their league title.

Sandals, who clinched the runners-up spot in this year's league with a record of 11 wins and two losses, will launch the defense of their playoff title against seventh-seed Sledge O Ballers in Tuesday's second game at 8:30 pm.

The Sledge O Ballers finished seventh in the league with a record of seven wins and six losses.

The other four teams to qualify for the playoffs will launch their quest for supremacy during another double-header at the same venue on Wednesday.

Among them are Richie's Shooterz, who clinched a third-place finish in the league for a third consecutive time with a record of 10 wins and three losses this year.

Richie's Shooterz will take on sixth seed Anjo Wholesale in Wednesday's opening playoff game at 7:30 pm. Anjo Wholesale recorded eight wins and five losses in the league.

The 2023 double champions and Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will face fifth seed H. Wright Promotions in the other first-round playoff encounter on Wednesday at 8:30 pm.

The Transport Board will enter the playoffs as the fourth seed after finishing the league with a record of nine wins and four losses, the same as the fifth-seeded H. Wright Promotions.



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CWI name Windies T20 squad for tour of New Zealand



Players of the West Indies T20 team. (CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the squad for the five (5) T20 Internationals against New Zealand scheduled for November 5 to 13.

The men from the Caribbean sojourn to New Zealand on November 1 following the T20 series triumph over Bangladesh and will continue to fine tune preparations for the ICC T20 World Cup in 2026, with the nucleus of the squad being retained from the previous series.

Matthew Forde, who suffered a shoulder injury in the summer has been recalled after successfully completing the rehabilitation and return-to-play protocols process.

He will be joined by Shamar Springer, who has been included to bolster a

seam bowling unit which has suffered several recent injuries, including Ramon Simmons and Jediah Blades, who have both been ruled out for this series.

Left-arm spinner, Gudakesh Motie, will also miss the series following a recent dip in form attributed primarily to a technical issue with his action.

With conditions in New Zealand not expected to be as conducive to spin bowling, the opportunity will be taken for him to work with specialists.

This is being done through collaboration with the Royals Sports Group – owners of the Paarl Royals franchise South Africa, prior to Motie's participation in December's SA20 to address the issue and rebuild confidence ahead of the T20

World Cup, where he is expected to play a key role.

A significant addition has also been made to the management team, with Clinical Psychologist Krisnan Hurdle coming on board as Mental Skills and Performance Coach, starting with the New Zealand tour.

Plans for this appointment were first announced during CWI's quarterly media briefing held on October 1, after being identified as one of the immediate action items coming out of the emergency Cricket Strategy and Officiating Committee meeting held in August.

Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe explained that the appointment of Hurdle is a strategic move to align with global practices while enhancing output for the senior team in the internation-

al arena.

“The addition of a Mental Skills and Performance Coach reflects our commitment to developing the complete cricketer. At the elite level, success is as much about mindset and composure as it is about technical ability.

“Strengthening this area ensures that our players are provided with the necessary non-technical support geared towards equipping them to manage pressure and maintain focus.”

West Indies T20 Squad:

Shai Hope (captain), Alick Athanaze, Ackeem Auguste, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Amir Jangoo, Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, and Shamar Springer.

Team Management Unit

(TMU): Head Coach Darren Sammy; Manager Rawl Lewis; Assistant Coach (Batting) Floyd Reifer; Assistant Coach (Bowling) Ravi Rampaul; Assistant Coach (Fielding) Rayon Griffith; Physiotherapist Dr. Denis Byam; Mental Skills/Performance Coach Krisnan Hurdle; Strength & Conditioning Coach Darc Browne; Massage Therapist Fitzbert Alleyne; Performance Analyst Avenesh Seetaram; and Content & Media Officer Jerome Foster.

India win maiden Women's World Cup title



Indian players celebrate with the trophy after their win over South Africa in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup final match in Navi Mumbai, India, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025. (AP)

NAVI MUMBAI, India (Reuters) - India's agonising wait for a maiden Women's World Cup title finally came to an end as Harmanpreet Kaur and her teary-eyed teammates clinched the trophy by beating South Africa in a dramatic final at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday.

Their 52-run victory before a full house was the perfect culmination of a campaign, which was nearly derailed after three defeats in a row, including one against South Africa, in the league phase.

Kaur's team pulled off a record chase in their semi-final against defending champions Australia to reach the final against a South Africa side also gunning for their maiden 50-over World Cup title.

India found an unlikely hero in opener Shafali Verma, whose whirlwind 87 was key to their total of 298 for seven even though 350 looked within their reach at one stage.

Verma also had a golden arm, claim-

ing two quick wickets that turned the match on its head after South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt (101) led their robust reply with her second successive hundred of the tournament.

Verma walked away with the player-of-the-match award in the final of a tournament where she was drafted in only before the knockout stage as a late injury replacement.

Deepti Sharma was equally impressive, smashing a run-a-ball 58 and following it with figures of five for 39. The 28-year-old finished the World Cup with 22 wickets and 215 runs, which earned her the player-of-the-tournament award.

Wolvaardt kept South Africa, who were all out for 246 in the 46th over, in the chase but once she holed out in the deep, India took charge of the contest.

India opener Smriti Mandhana, their leading scorer in the tournament, summed up the feeling in their camp after they clinched victory following two previous final defeats.

"It's still sinking in. I haven't been emotional on a cricket field but just an unreal night," she said battling tears. To be the champions, I'm not able to process it.

"Every World Cup we go in, there have been so many heartbreaks but we always believe we have a responsibility with women's cricket and to see the last month and a half and the way we've been supported... I will take that 45 days of not sleeping every night."

Wolvaardt finished as the tournament's leading scorer but found little joy in personal milestones.

"I couldn't be prouder of this team for the campaign that we've had," the opener said.

"We've played some brilliant cricket throughout but we were outplayed today, India played fantastically well. We had a lot of different players stepping up, it was an amazing tournament for a lot of players. I'm just proud of the resilience we showed to get to the final."

United and Grenades maintain winning form in Premier League

Back-to-back defending champions All Saints United and Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades maintained their winning starts in their second-round matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division League on Sunday.

Following a goalless first half, All Saint United scored four goals in the second half to pull off a 4-0 victory against newly promoted Ottos Rangers in the second game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

The goals were scored by Raheem Deterville in the 48th minute, Jayden Bowen in the 65th, D'Andre Bishop in the 69th, and Leroy Graham in the 78th minute.

In the last game on Sunday, Jennings Grenades made it two wins in a row, cruising to a 3-0 victory over John Hughes. A 34th-minute strike by Tony Lorente Sanchez gave the Grenades a one-nil lead at halftime.

Late goals by Lashawn Roberts in the 77th minute and Stanley Province in the 85th minute wrapped up the win.



A starting XI of Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades

Attacking Saints rebounded from a 4-0 loss to All Saints United in their opening game to claim their first win with a 3-1 victory against the Potters Tigers in their second encounter on Sunday.

The goals for the Attacking Saints were scored by Rick Gordon in the 25th minute, Shafeeq Joseph in the 74th, and Joshua Samuel in the 90th minute.

Keon Greene scored a consolation goal in the 43rd minute for the Potters Tigers, who suffered their second defeat after slumping to a 4-2 loss against the Villa Lions in their opening encounter.

Green City also rebounded from a narrow 3-2 loss to Garden Stars in their opening game to

claim their first win with a 2-1 victory against newly promoted Sir Molwyn Joseph's Jennings United in the only game that was played during Saturday's scheduled triple-header.

Tev Lawrence snatched the winner with an 80th-minute conversion after teammate Elijah Whyte put Green City ahead by scoring the opening goal in the 36th minute.

Tyrique Tonge scored the only goal for Jennings United when he snatched an equalizer in the 43rd minute. But Tonge's effort was insufficient, as Jennings United slumped to their second loss after suffering a 3-0 defeat to Jennings Grenades in their opening encounter.

Saturday's other two

Premier Division matches were postponed due to a power failure at the ABFA Technical Center.

Meanwhile, after dropping points for the first time in their previous outing, unbeaten leaders Wadadli United returned to winning ways in the 2025 Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's Premier League on Sunday.

After being held to a goalless draw by Empire Trendsetter in their previous encounter, Forward Gabriell De Suza struck a hat trick as Wadadli United claimed their third win in four matches with a 3-0 victory against Cutting Edge FA at the ABFA Technical Center.

De Suza had conversions in the 28th, 40th, and 50th minutes for Wadadli United, who remains at the top of the five-team round-robin Women's Premier League by advancing to 10 points from four matches.

Cutting Edge FA also remain in second place with seven points after suffering their first loss in four matches.