

PM Browne reiterates his call for the Caribbean region to remain 'a Zone of Peace'

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The official party poses with the CHOGM 2026 official logo

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PM Browne reiterates his call for the Caribbean region to remain 'a Zone of Peace'

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is reiterating his call for the Caribbean region to remain a Zone of Peace in the face of built-up military assets in parts of the region.

Speaking at the official launch of the countdown to Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) next year, PM Browne made the call against the backdrop of heightened American military build-up in the Southern Caribbean.

The prime minister voiced grave concerns that any military activity in the region will have a negative impact on the overall security of the region as well as having an impact on cost of living for Antiguan and Barbudans and others in the region.

"Any conflict would hit small economies hardest—disrupting airlift and shipping, and straining food security given the region's heavy import dependence. We recalled that the Russia-Ukraine war's knock-on effect—price spikes approaching 10% despite the conflict being outside the hemisphere. That is to illustrate how devastating a 'regional' conflict here in the Caribbean would be," he remarked.

He stressed this stance is 'non-aligned and principled', and that it is grounded in the 'national interest' of Antigua and Barbuda and human solidarity. "If there are consequences for 'standing on truth, so be it—history will absolve us'.

PM Browne also made a call for peace, justice, and equity. Humanity, he reminded, is fundamentally one family; 'discrimination or aggression against any nation undermines all'.

There are indications that the US is contemplating military aggression against Venezuela with the ultimate goal being regime change. US President Donald Trump has authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to undertake covert operations within Venezuela.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking at the official launch of the countdown to Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)



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Commonwealth Secretary-General receives insights into the plans to host CHOGM next year

With the announcement of the dates for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) next year, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shirley Botchwey met on Tuesday with the team that is responsible for delivering a successful event.

The meeting with the heads of the several subcommittees of the CHOGM Task Force, provided an opportunity for these individuals to give updates on their plans for the specific subject areas for which they are responsible.

The meeting was chaired by, Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the CHOGM 2026 Task Force. The meeting with the Task Force was one of the key reasons for the Secretary-General's visit to Antigua and Barbuda; to undertake a review of the preparations for CHOGM '26.

The Secretary-General was briefed on the work being undertaken by the Task



Force across key operational areas, including logistics, accommodation, transport, security, communications, and hospitality. Discussions also focused on ensuring strong collaboration between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Commonwealth Secretariat, with an emphasis on the use of local expertise and partnerships to deliver an efficient, inclusive, and sustainable CHOGM.



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In her address, the Secretary-General commended the team for its commitment and attention to detail, noting that the successful delivery of CHOGM 2026 will not only strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's global profile but also showcase the capabilities of small island developing states within the Commonwealth.

Ambassador Dr. Pilgrim expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General's visit and her continued guidance, reaffirming that the Task Force is dedicated to ensuring that the 2026 Meeting reflects the values of the Commonwealth and creates lasting economic and social benefits for Antigua and Barbuda.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continued coordination between the Government and the Secretariat to ensure a world-class event under the theme "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth."

Also in attendance was Karen-Mae Hill, High Com-

missioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, who serves as Antigua and Barbuda's National Focal Point to the Commonwealth, Mrs Ann-Marie Layne, Director General of Foreign Affairs, and Vernon Solomon the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of the American University of Antigua.

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CHOGM 2026: A turning point for the Commonwealth, the world

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Shirley Botchwey, says Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) are a reflection of the times that they take place, but noted that she is of the view that next year's gathering in St. John's, will be a turning point.

Speaking at the Official Launch of CHOGM '26 at the Sandals Antigua Resort and Spa on Tuesday morning, Secretary-General Botchwey said the meeting will take place against a backdrop of extraordinary global strain. "The multilateral system is under pressure. Trust is fraying. Climate impacts are intensifying and Debt and inequality weigh heavily. And growth has stalled, frustrating the hopes and aspira-



Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Shirley Botchwey

tions of millions around the world," she observed.

Despite the current challenges, the Secretary-General sees this as an opportunity for the Commonwealth to shine. "This is the Commonwealth's moment," she declared.

The secretary-general also

underscored the importance of intra-Commonwealth trade and investments that will benefit millions of people. "To unite around its values and make common cause to restore growth and prosperity through intra-Commonwealth trade and investment; to provide skills for tens of millions

of Commonwealth youth to power production, innovation and entrepreneurship; to scale up climate action, including a renewable energy revolution that moves us faster towards Net Zero and expand Commonwealth businesses; and to reform international debt and financing with vulnerability at its core," she stated.

Secretary General Botchwey sees this as the Commonwealth's moment to affirm that it is possible to realise the promise of democracy by building resilience in all its countries and investing in the shared prosperity for the benefit of all the people of the Commonwealth.

"That is why this CHOGM matters so deeply," she declared.



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Chaneil Imhoff Designs Official Logo for CHOGM 2026



Antiguan creative and communications specialist Chaneil Imhoff has been announced as the designer for the official logo for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Antigua and Barbuda 2026, that was unveiled on Tuesday.

The logo was unveiled during the Official Launch of the activities leading to Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of CHOGM next year November 1- 4. Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, and CHOGM Task Force Chair Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, all participated in the unveiling exercise.

In brief remarks at the launch, Imhoff described the selection of her design



Antiguan creative and communications specialist Chaneil Imhoff

as “an honor, pleasure, and privilege”, reflecting on what the opportunity represents for local creators and the wider Orange Economy.

“This logo tells our story,” Imhoff said. “The frigate bird in motion symbolizes our freedom and resilience, while the colors drawn from the national flag and the Commonwealth palette reflect both our pride and our connection to the global family. To have this design cho-

sen to represent Antigua and Barbuda on such a stage is one of the greatest honours of my creative journey.”

Imhoff also issued a call to action for greater investment in the Orange Economy — the creative industries that fuel innovation, identity, and cultural expression.

“Our creativity is nation-building,” she added. “Design, music, film, fashion — these aren’t just artistic pursuits; they are

economic drivers and pillars of our national identity. Let’s keep supporting and funding the sector so more Antiguan and Barbudans can see their work represented globally.”

A multidisciplinary creative with over a decade of experience, Chaneil Imhoff is known for her work in branding, digital media, and public communication, as well as her leadership in mental health advocacy through her organization WISH – the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing.

Chaneil is also the host of Government in Motion on State Media, ABS Television.

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to host CHOGM 2026, Imhoff’s design stands as a symbol of the country’s creativity, resilience, and readiness to engage the world.



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**
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- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

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

END.

PM Browne: We will continue ‘punching above our weight’



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Antigua and Barbuda continues to be a strong advocate for countries to take steps to mitigate against the effects of climate change that is having a negative impact of small island developing states.

Speaking at the VC Bird International Airport on Tuesday moments before he departed for the Thirtieth Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, being held in Belém, Brazil, November 6–7, 2025.

“Antigua and Barbuda will continue to punch above its weight in global climate diplomacy. Our participation at COP30 is about defending our right to exist and securing financing for resilience and adaptation for all small island nations.”

Prime Minister Browne is leading the Antigua and Barbuda delegation to COP 30 that includes:

- Minister for Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene— Deputy Head of Delegation

- Minister for Health & the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph— Deputy Head of Delegation

The delegation also comprises senior officials from the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Sus-

tainable Development, along with technical experts on climate finance, energy transition, and ocean governance.

Prime Minister Browne is scheduled to participate in the Opening Plenary of Leaders and to deliver Antigua and Barbuda’s national statement on the morning of Friday, November 7. He will also take part in two thematic sessions chaired by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil:

- “Climate and Nature: Forests and Oceans” on November 6, and;
- “10 Years of the Paris Agreement: NDCs and Financing” on November 7.

During COP30, world leaders will launch the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), a new blended-finance mechanism aimed at making tropical forests “worth more standing than destroyed”. Antigua and

Barbuda has signaled its intent to endorse the TFFF Launch Declaration and to advocate for fair access by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to the Facility’s resources.

While in Belém, the Prime Minister will attend the Leaders’ Luncheon launching the TFFF, engage in bilateral meetings with Caribbean and international partners, and participate in discussions on climate financing, blue economy opportunities, and the energy transition.

The delegation’s work aligns with Antigua and Barbuda’s role as a leading voice for SIDS, following its hosting of the 2024 UN SIDS4 Conference and ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in St. John’s.





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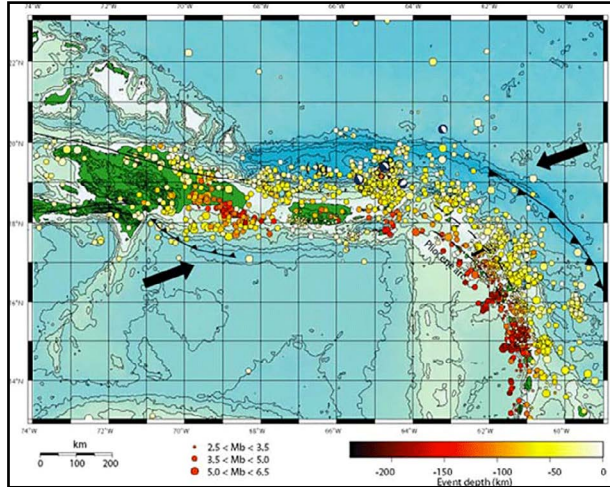
UWI plans webinar on earthquakes in the wake of recent seismic activities

Don't Wait for the Ground to Shake—Be Prepared! That's one of the messages coming from the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre ahead of a webinar that will examine seismic activity and earthquake preparedness.

"With Antigua experiencing over 20 earthquakes in less than a week, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is hosting an urgent public webinar on seismic preparedness," a notice from the university stated.

EVENT DETAILS:

WHAT: FREE Webinar on Seismic Activity and Earthquake Preparedness
WHEN: Thursday, November 6th, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. AST
WHERE: Virtual Event via Zoom – <https://bit.ly/FICEarthquakeWebinar>
COST: FREE and open to the public



WHY THIS MATTERS NOW:

The recent surge in seismic activity has heightened concerns across Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean region. This timely webinar brings together leading experts to provide the public with life-saving information on how to respond before, during, and af-

ter earthquakes.

EXPERT PANEL INCLUDES:

- The UWI Seismic Research Centre – Understanding Recent Seismic Activity and the Regional Context
- National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) – National Preparedness and Safety Protocols
- The UWI STA & FIC Teams – Campus and Community Readiness Activities

"Knowledge is your first line of defense. When the earth moves, will you be ready?"

This event is presented in collaboration with the UWI Seismic Research Centre, NODS, The Guild of Students, and Students of MGMT3089.



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Habitual alcohol thief jailed for three years

A man who carried out a crime spree of several supermarkets in and around St. John's, has been sentenced to consecutive prison terms that amount to three years behind bars.

Wilbur Edwards of Cedar Valley stole alcohol from several supermarkets over a three-month period that had a value of over \$6,800.00. In one complaint, the court heard that Edwards entered the supermarket in what appears to be regular shopping. However, he carried an extra bag in the shipping cart into which he placed the stolen alcohol. He then made his way to the cashier and paid only for the groceries. At least one supermarket was robbed twice during the crime spree.

Edwards appeared in the



magistrate's court on Tuesday to answer six charges of larceny. He was sentenced to 6 months for each larceny count. The magistrate ordered that the sentences should run consecutively which means that Edwards

will serve a total of three years in prison.

The court explained that consecutive sentences apply where offences are of the same or similar kind. Larceny of top shelf alcohol,

different dates, different supermarkets is one such example.

Edwards was discharged for the battery and resisting arrest charges.



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WHEN THE STORM COMES:

Hurricane Melissa exposes the brutal reality -

Small Island Developing States are bearing the brunt of Climate Change while the world watches



By Professor C. Justin Robinson
*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
 The UWI Five Islands Campus*

The mathematics of catastrophe are written in wind speed, barometric pressure, and the shattered lives left behind. When Hurricane Melissa tore through Jamaica as a savage Category 5 storm and neighbouring Caribbean islands, it didn't just demolish homes and infrastructure - it laid bare the brutal calculus that Small Island Developing States face in an era of climate chaos. In the storm's wake, Jamaica's Finance Minister Fayval Williams faced a different kind of emergency: Would Jamaica's innovative \$150 million catastrophe bond trigger? Would the parametric model—designed to release funds automatically based on storm metrics—recognize what Jamaicans already knew with terrifying certainty: this was disaster on a biblical scale? The answer exposes a troubling paradox at the heart of climate finance innovation. Even as Small Island Developing States embrace cutting-edge financial instruments to protect themselves from climate catastrophe, they remain trapped in a system that was never designed for their survival.

The High-Stakes Gamble of Innovation

Catastrophe bonds—or cat bonds—

represent financial engineering at its most sophisticated. Investors purchase bonds that pay attractive returns unless a specific disaster strikes. When it does, investors lose their principal, and those funds flow immediately to the afflicted government. It is insurance meets Wall Street, a mechanism to transfer climate risk from vulnerable island nations to global capital markets. Jamaica pioneered this approach in the Caribbean, becoming the first nation in the region to independently issue a sovereign catastrophe bond in 2021. The 2024 bond uses a “cat-in-a-grid” parametric trigger—a model that calculates payouts based on measurable storm characteristics rather than assessed damage. In theory, this means money flows within weeks, not months or years. In theory! When Hurricane Beryl struck last year, causing extensive damage across Jamaica, the bond didn't trigger. The storm's technical parameters—its wind speed at specific grid points, its central pressure—fell just short of the model's thresholds. Communities were devastated. Fishermen lost their boats. Farmers lost entire harvests. Yet the financial instrument designed to protect them remained dormant, its \$150 million locked away because the mathematics of disaster didn't align with its reality. This is what experts call “basis risk” - the gap between the trigger and actual loss. It is a technical term for a human tragedy: the bond may not pay when you need it.

The Climate Arithmetic That Doesn't Add Up

To understand the stakes, consider the numbers. Small Island Developing States contribute less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Yet they face disproportionate climate impacts that can erase 100% of their GDP in a single storm. Hurricane Maria cost Dominica 226% of its GDP in 2017.

Hurricane Dorian inflicted \$3.4 billion in damages on The Bahamas - a quarter of its entire economy - in 2019. These are not just statistics. They represent schools that will not be rebuilt, hospitals that remain shuttered, a generation of students whose education was interrupted by storms they did nothing to cause. They represent debt upon debt, as nations borrow to recover from one disaster before the next one strikes. Caribbean nations are caught in what economists call a “debt-disaster trap.” Climate change drives more frequent and severe storms. Storms require emergency borrowing. Higher debt reduces credit ratings. Lower ratings mean more expensive borrowing. More expensive borrowing leaves less for climate adaptation. Inadequate adaptation leads to worse storm damage. And the cycle continues, a fiscal death spiral spinning faster with each passing hurricane season. This is why innovative financing matters. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), established in 2007, has made rapid payouts to member countries following qualifying events. Parametric insurance, contingency funds, debt-for-climate swaps, blue bonds—these instruments represent the region's desperate attempt to build financial resilience in a fundamentally unjust global system.

The Innovation Trap

But here is the uncomfortable truth: no amount of financial innovation can substitute for climate justice. Catastrophe bonds and parametric insurance are adaptive responses to a crisis that demands mitigation. They help countries respond to disasters, but they do nothing to prevent the disasters from intensifying year after year. Jamaica's \$150 million bond sounds impressive until you realize Hurricane Melissa's damage estimates are already approaching \$2 billion. Even if the

bond triggers, it covers perhaps 7-8% of recovery costs. The Bahamas would need catastrophe bonds worth \$13 billion to fully insure against another Hurricane Dorian. For islands with populations under 400,000 and GDPs measured in single-digit billions, such coverage is mathematically impossible. Moreover, these instruments come with costs. Catastrophe bonds carry high coupon rates—investors demand premium returns for taking on disaster risk. Parametric insurance has basis risk built into its DNA. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, while valuable, has faced criticism for complex payout structures that sometimes leave nations undercompensated. There's also a darker concern: Does the existence of these financial instruments allow wealthy nations to avoid their moral obligations? If Caribbean countries can “innovate” their way to resilience through catastrophe bonds and insurance schemes, does that let major emitters off the hook for the climate destruction they've caused?

What Justice Looks Like

Real climate justice for Small Island Developing States requires action on multiple fronts—simultaneously, urgently, and at scale.

First, loss and damage financing. The historic agreement at COP27 to establish a loss and damage fund was a breakthrough. But as Hurricane Melissa demonstrates, the need is immediate. The fund must be capitalized quickly, generously, and with streamlined access mechanisms. Island nations shouldn't have to prove their suffering through complex application processes while their citizens lack clean water and shelter.

Second, debt relief. The international financial system must recognize that climate-vulnerable nations cannot simultaneously service debt and build resilience. Automatic debt payment suspensions following disasters—ideally coupled with debt cancellation for climate-related losses—would provide immediate fiscal space. The “Bridge-town Initiative,” championed by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, offers a comprehensive framework

for reforming international financial architecture to address climate vulnerability.

Third, grant-based adaptation funding. Loans for climate adaptation compound the debt-disaster trap. Adaptation finance must flow as grants, not loans. SIDS need funding for climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy transitions, mangrove restoration, coral reef protection, and early warning systems—all without accumulating more debt for disasters they didn't cause.

Fourth, emissions cuts that matter. Every ton of carbon dioxide emitted today increases the intensity of tomorrow's hurricanes. Major emitters - particularly wealthy nations and fossil fuel companies that have profited from climate destruction - must commit to immediate, drastic emissions reductions aligned with keeping warming below 1.5°C. Anything less is a sentence of extinction for island nations.

Fifth, recognition of climate migration. As some islands become uninhabitable, the international community must establish legal frameworks and pathways for climate migrants with dignity—not as refugees fleeing disaster, but as communities displaced by a global crisis they did not create.

The Melissa Moment

Across Jamaica, as emergency responders continue their work and engineers assess infrastructure damage, Finance Minister Williams monitors the parametric data that will determine whether Jamaica's catastrophe bond pays out. If it triggers, it will mark the first successful activation of the nation's innovative financial safety net—proof that at least one tool in the climate resilience toolkit works as designed. But even in success, the question remains: Is this enough? Hurricane Melissa is not an anomaly. It is a preview. Climate models project that by 2050, storms of Category 4 and 5 intensity will become more common in the Caribbean. Sea levels will continue rising. Ocean temperatures will keep climbing. The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season has already seen multiple record-breaking storms,

and meteorologists expect this trend to intensify.

Small Island Developing States are laboratories of resilience, pioneering financial instruments, renewable energy systems, and climate adaptation strategies that offer lessons for the entire world. Their creativity and determination in the face of existential threat deserve recognition and respect. But they should not have to innovate their way to survival. The burden of climate change should rest on those who caused it—not on those enduring its worst consequences. As Jamaica assesses the damage from Hurricane Melissa, as other Caribbean nations brace for the next storm in what promises to be a relentless season, as parametric models calculate payouts and insurance adjusters fly in from abroad, one truth stands unshakeable: The world can engineer financial products that span continents and transfer risk across global capital markets. But it cannot—or will not—engineer away the existential threat facing island nations. That requires a different kind of innovation: political courage, moral clarity, and a commitment to justice that matches the scale of the crisis.

The catastrophe bond is clever. Climate justice is essential. Small Island Developing States need both. The question is whether the global community will deliver before the next Category 5 storm writes its own brutal arithmetic across the Caribbean. *The clock is ticking. The barometric pressure is dropping. And somewhere in the Atlantic, the next storm is already forming.*

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, a Vincentian and UWI graduate, holds a BSc in Management Studies, MSc in Finance and Econometrics, and PhD in Finance. With over 20 years at UWI, he has served in various leadership roles, including Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor; Board for Undergraduate Studies. A Professor of Corporate Finance with extensive research publications, he is actively involved in regional financial institutions and is currently the Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.

Regional News

UWI Mona puts in place tuition discount, other measures amid disquiet over resumption of classes

The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, says it has put in place a number of mechanisms, including a 50 per cent discount on outstanding tuition balances for Semester I, amid disquiet among students regarding the resumption of classes following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

Students at the university have been disgruntled regarding the administration's decision to resume face-to-face classes on Monday, describing the move as insensitive.

In a media release Monday evening the Campus Management expressed solidarity with its students and their families struggling to cope with the loss and damage suffered from Hurricane Melissa.

"The campus has been very agile as we re-open our operations to facilitate our students when they are ready to return to the teaching and learning process. The campus has exercised due care and sensitivity to accommodate its students and staff who are impacted by the hurricane," UWI said.

It said it has invited students, who can and are in a state of



mind to re-engage the teaching and learning process to return to the Mona Campus, which provides a safe space in-terms of the physical infrastructure and psycho-social support.

"Critically, it must be noted that, the Mona Campus has all the critical utilities required for the resumption of face-to-face classes and the campus' infrastructure is largely intact," UWI said.

It also said lecturers will post all lectures, notes and course material on the uni-

versity's Learning Management System for affected students to access when they are able.

The Campus is offering a 50 per cent discount on outstanding tuition balances for Semester I for eligible students. The UWI said the payment deadline for the remaining 50 per cent will be extended up to May 2026.

The UWI also said it has provided a flexible space for students who are overwhelmed and feel that they are not in a mental state

to engage in teaching and learning to be further accommodated for deferral of assessment or deferral of classes to a later date.

Further, the university said given the gravity of the situation at the Western end of the island, the Management of the Mona Campus took the decision to delay the resumption of face-to-face operations there and will provide further updates on the next steps to resume operations at that campus site at a later date. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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EU members collaborate to bring relief supplies to Jamaica



A shipment of relief supplies provided through a collaboration by the European Union (EU), France and the Netherlands has arrived in Jamaica with the parties promising “much more to come in the next days and weeks to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of the country and its people”.

The relief items were sent from the Regional Logistical hub in Barbados managed by World Food Programme (WFP) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), as well as from the French and Dutch bases in the Caribbean.

The French Armed Forces in the West Indies supported the operation with the help of an overseas assistance vessel based in Martinique.

The shipment, which arrived at the Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited

on Monday, includes items to assist communities most affected by the hurricane, mainly water treatment and production units, storage tanks, energy production equipment, camping and sleeping equipment, and hygiene supplies and kits.

“The EU reaffirms its commitment to stand with our long-standing partner, Jamaica, and we hope this assistance will ease the suffering of so many Jamaicans whose lives have suddenly changed,” said Dr Erja Askola, EU Ambassador to Jamaica, Belize and The Bahamas.

Dutch Navy support ship HNLMS Pelikaan, which is based in Curacao, is also carrying food, medical supplies and emergency shelter to Kingston to assist Jamaican communities affected by the disaster. HNLMS Pelikaan is

expected to arrive on Tuesday.

“This support was made possible by the close cooperation between the Jamaican authorities, the EU, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the French and Dutch navies in the Caribbean. It shows the strong and enduring commitment of the Netherlands to the people of Jamaica in times of crisis. The supplies will help Jamaican communities alleviate some of the most pressing humanitarian needs in the early stages of recovery,” says Matthijs Wolters Ambassador of The Netherlands to Cuba and Jamaica.

The Government of Barbados, through the Department of Emergency Management, is also sending relief items on the Dutch vessel. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

CARPHA providing Hurricane Melissa response to Jamaica



Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) says it has mobilised an immediate response to support Jamaica following the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa.

The hurricane brought catastrophic winds, flooding, and storm surges, resulting in power outages, severe infrastructure damage, and widespread displacement, particularly across St Elizabeth, St James, Trelawny, Manchester, Hanover, and Westmoreland.

CARPHA says two days after the hurricane its Executive Director Dr Lisa Indar joined a high-level CARICOM team comprising Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Daniel Best, President of the Caribbean Develop-

ment Bank (CDB); and Dr David Farrel, Head of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), which travelled to Jamaica for assessments and discussions with high level officials on relevant needs and response.

The team held meetings with sectoral leads, conducted field visits and on met with Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness and his team.

In alignment with CARICOM's established protocols for disaster response, CDEMA leads the regional response and CARPHA supports as the health lead.

CARPHA is integral to a coordinated and harmonised regional response for Jamaica.

CARPHA's multipronged response to date has includ-

ed dispatching public health supplies to Jamaica, including sterile gloves, laboratory test kits, masks, and mosquito nets; engaging in high-level meetings; and conducting health-sector in-country disaster assessments.

It says it is currently organising a second set of public health supplies for Jamaica.

"Our hearts are with the families who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods, and with communities facing the difficult task of rebuilding," said Indar.

She added, "The situation is dire and devastating, and CARPHA is committed to regional coordinated response action, because it is critical that we stand firm in solidarity with Jamaica for the long haul of recovery."

Indar says CARPHA stands in full solidarity with Jamaica, and is committed to providing public health support through medical items, food, water, personal hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPEs), tarpaulins and foggers, provision of vector borne and other public health emergency response supplies for vector borne disease (VBD) prevention and control and immediate deployment of personnel for public health surveillance, laboratory testing, shelters, hospitals, mental health and trauma care, and other key recovery initiatives.

The agency is also working closely with its regional and international partners to deploy a field hospital and mobile clinics to affected areas, and continues to coordinate with Jamaica's Ministry of Health and Wellness and CARICOM, and its regional and international partners for a coordinated regional response and the purchase of a wide range of essential public health supplies for the Ministry.

CARPHA's coordinated response underscores the strength of Caribbean regional solidarity and the agency's commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of the people of Jamaica. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Dick Cheney, one of the most powerful and polarising vice presidents in US history, dies at 84



Dick Cheney, the hard-charging conservative who became one of the most powerful and polarizing vice presidents in United States history and a leading advocate for the invasion of Iraq, has died at age 84.

Cheney died Monday due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, his family said in a statement.

“For decades, Dick Cheney served our nation, including as White House Chief of Staff, Wyoming’s Congressman, Secretary of Defense, and Vice President of the United States,” the statement said.

“Dick Cheney was a great and good man who taught his children and grandchildren to love our country, and to live lives of courage, honour, love, kindness, and fly fishing. We are grateful beyond measure for all Dick Cheney did for our country. And we are blessed beyond measure to have loved and been loved by this noble giant of a man.”

The quietly forceful Cheney served father and son presidents, leading the armed forces as defence chief during the Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush before returning to public life as vice president under Bush’s son

George W. Bush.

Cheney was, in effect, the chief operating officer of the younger Bush’s presidency. He had a hand, often a commanding one, in implementing decisions most important to the president and some of surpassing interest to himself — all while living with decades of heart disease and, post-administration, a heart transplant.

Cheney consistently defended the extraordinary tools of surveillance, detention and inquisition employed in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Years after leaving office, he became a target of

President Donald Trump, especially after his daughter Liz Cheney became the leading Republican critic and examiner of Trump’s desperate attempts to stay in power after his 2020 election defeat and his actions in the January 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol.

“In our nation’s 246-year history, there has never been an individual who was a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump,” Cheney said in a television ad for his daughter. “He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him. He is a coward.”

In a twist the Democrats of his era could never have imagined, Cheney said last year he was voting for their candidate, Kamala Harris, for president against Trump.

A survivor of five heart attacks, Cheney long thought he was living on borrowed time and declared in 2013 he awoke each morning “with a smile on my face, thankful for the gift of another day,” an odd image for a figure who always seemed to be manning the ramparts. (AP)

Shein bans all sex dolls after outrage over childlike products

Online retail giant Shein says it has banned the sale of all sex dolls on its platform around the world, after being accused of displaying products with “a childlike appearance” on its website.

The French consumer watchdog first raised concerns at the weekend over the description and categorisation of the dolls, saying it left “little doubt as to the child pornography nature of the content.”

The company said on Monday that it had permanently banned “all seller accounts linked to illegal or non-compliant sex-doll products” and will tighten controls across its global platform.

Shein also said it had temporarily removed its adult products category as a precaution.

Every listing and image related to the sex dolls has been removed from its platform, Shein confirmed, adding that it would conduct a thorough review and planned to set stricter controls on sellers.

“The company has also strengthened its keyword blacklist to further prevent attempted circumvention of product listing restrictions by sellers,” the company said.

Executive chairman Donald Tang said: “The fight against child exploitation is non-negotiable for Shein. These were marketplace listings from third-party sellers - but I take this personally.”



“We are tracing the source and will take swift, decisive action against those responsible.”

In a statement, the Paris prosecutor’s office said it had received reports by France’s Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) on Shein as well as online retail platforms Ali Express, Temu and Wish concerning the sale of sex dolls resembling children.

The prosecutor’s office said it had referred the investigation to the OFMIN, a French agency tasked with preventing violence against minors.

The DGCCRF initially raised concerns about the dolls on Saturday.

In response, Shein said it had removed the listings for childlike sex dolls as

soon as it became aware of the issue and began an investigation over how the products were able to be offered for sales on its platform.

France’s finance minister threatened to ban the Singapore-based retailer from the country if it continued to sell the products - days before the company was due to open its first permanent outlet in Paris.

People were seen protesting outside the BHV department store opposite Paris’s city hall, where the Shein outlet is set to open this week.

The brand has previously come under scrutiny over the environmental impact of fast-fashion and the working conditions of the people who make the products sold on the platform. (BBC)



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Arise, Sir David - Beckham receives knighthood



Former England captain Sir David Beckham has been formally knighted for his services to football and British society.

The 50-year-old, who was named on King Charles' Birthday Honours list earlier this year, was knighted by the King during a ceremony in Berkshire on Tuesday.

"I couldn't be prouder," said Beckham. "People know how patriotic I am - I love my country.

"I've always said how important the monarchy is to my family.

"I'm lucky enough to have travelled around the world and all people want to talk to me about is our monarchy. It makes me proud."

Beckham was joined by his wife Victoria and his parents Sandra and David at Windsor Castle.

Victoria, who received an

OBE in 2017 for services to the fashion industry, designed and made the suit that her husband wore at the castle.

"[King Charles] was quite impressed with my suit," said Beckham.

"He's the most elegantly dressed man that I know, so he inspired quite a few of my looks over the years and he definitely inspired this look.

"It was something that my wife made me.

"I looked at old pictures of him when he was quite young in morning suits and I was like 'OK, that's what I want to wear' - so I gave it to my wife and she did it."

Beckham played 115 times for his country and captained the Three Lions for six years between 2000 and 2006.

The former Manchester

United and Real Madrid midfielder featured in three World Cups for England, as well as two European Championships.

Beckham emerged from United's academy in 1992 and spent 11 years in the first team before joining Real in 2003 in a £25m deal.

He played for four years in the Spanish capital before joining Major League Soccer team LA Galaxy. He had two loan spells at AC Milan during his time in Los Angeles, before finishing his career at Paris St-Germain in 2013.

But Beckham's impact extends far beyond the pitch.

Born in east London, he played a role in securing the 2012 Olympics for London.

He has worked with humanitarian aid organisation Unicef since 2005 and had a fund named in his honour in

2015 to mark a decade-long partnership between the two.

Beckham, who was awarded an OBE by Elizabeth II in 2003, queued for more than 12 hours to see the Queen lying in state following her death in 2022.

"It's special to be here, to celebrate and to hear the different stories that people have," Beckham said afterwards.

Beckham became an ambassador for the King's Foundation in 2024, supporting King Charles' education programme and efforts to ensure young people have a greater understanding of nature.

He part-owns League Two side Salford City alongside former United and England team-mate Gary Neville, and is also co-owner of MLS side Inter Miami. (BBC)

Ministry of Agriculture stay strong in Business Football League

The Ministry of Agriculture strengthened their position at the top of Group 2 in the 2025 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship during the latest round of rescheduled matches.

The Ministry of Agriculture claimed their fifth win in seven matches with a 6-1 drubbing of Hodges Bay at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The result allows the Ministry of Agriculture to remain at the top of Group 2 by advancing to 16 points from seven matches. Hodges Bay remains at the bottom of the standings with one point after suffering their fourth loss in five matches.

But Fresh Acres Enterprise lost ground on the Ministry of Agriculture after slumping to a 4-1 defeat to Macky Enterprise at Radio Range. Fresh Acres Enterprise remains second in Group 2 with 13 points after suffering their second loss in seven matches. Their second win in five matches carries Macky Enterprise to seven points.

The other two matches in Group 2 ended in draws. The Ministry of Tourism and Jolly Harbour Stingers played to a 1-1 draw at Jennings, while the University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC battled to a goalless draw with the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.



The Ministry of Agriculture football team

APUA Head Officer leapfrogged Galley Ballers from second place to the top of Group 1 with a 2-0 victory against National Housing Development Demolition Squad at Radio Range.

Their fourth win in five matches carries APUA Head Office to the top of Group 1 with 12 points, one more than Galley Bay Ballers. The National Housing Development Demolition Squad remains on seven points after suffering their third loss in six matches.

Blue Waters Hotel claimed their third win in five matches with a 4-0 victory against Automotive Art at Radio Range. The result allows Blue Waters Hotel to jump into third place in Group 1 with 10 points, while Automotive Art remains in the cellar without any points after crashing to their fifth loss in as many games.

Defending champions Hermitage Bay Strikers solidified their position as Group 4 leaders by claiming their fourth win in five

matches, which was awarded as a 3-0 victory via default over AS Bryden Green Acres, who did not show up for their match at Fort Road.

The result carries Hermitage Bay Strikers to 13 points, while AS Bryden Green Acres remains on three points after losing for the third time in four matches.

The 2023 champions, APUA Telecoms, remain in second place in Group 4 after securing their fourth win in five matches with a 4-1 victory against Cocos Hotel in Jennings.

The result carries APUA Telecoms to 12 points, while Cocos Hotel remains winless and second from the bottom of the standings with two points after slumping to their fourth loss in six matches.

Villa Tech Enterprise stays third in Group 4 after snatching a 3-2 victory against the Department of Immigration at Fort Road. Their fourth win in six matches lifted Villa Tech Enterprise to 12

points, while Immigration remains on seven points after suffering their second loss in five matches.

The Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority remains in fourth place in Group 4, securing their third win in five matches with a 5-1 drubbing of APCMOL at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The result carries the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority to 10 points, while APCMOL remains winless and in the cellar of Group 4 with one point after tumbling to their fourth loss in five matches.

His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United consolidated their position as Group 3 leaders after salvaging a 1-1 draw with CHAPA Warriors at Radio Range.

The result carries HMP United to 13 points after securing their first draw in six matches. The CHAPA Warriors extended their unbeaten run and remain in third place with 11 points after securing their second draw in five matches.

In other Group 3 matches, SkyTiger Services claimed their second win in five matches with a 3-1 victory over Royalton Chic at Fort Road.

Keyonna Beach Hotel notched up their third win in five matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority at Jennings.

PMS stay unbeaten Schools' U-14 Boys Division League



Allan Henry of PMS

Princess Margaret School extended their unbeaten run in the Under-14 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition in the latest round of matches.

Princess Margaret School notched up their fourth win in as many games with a 6-2 drubbing of Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Allan Henry struck a hat trick with conversions in the eighth, 14th, and 24th minutes. Alister Kirnon of SNRA converted an own goal in the 11th minute.

The other goals for Princess Margaret School, which finished third last year, were scored by J'Quan Barthley in the seventh minute and Kiran Cordice in the 18th minute.

Karique Martin scored in the first minute, and Jamar Bright had a 10th-minute conversion for SNRA, who suffered their second loss in four matches.

Defending champions Antigua Grammar School claimed their third win in four matches with a 3-0 victory via default against Ottos Comprehensive School, who failed to show up for their encounter at Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

It was the third loss in as many games for Ottos Comprehensive School, who also suffered a 3-0 defeat to All Saints Secondary in their second encounter.

After losing their first two match-

es, All Saints Secondary notched up their second successive win with a 3-0 victory via default against Jennings Secondary, who failed to show up for their encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

It was the first loss suffered by Jennings Secondary after winning their previous two matches.

St. Joseph's Academy claimed their second win in three matches with a 3-0 victory via default against Pares Secondary, who did not show up for their match at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

It was the third loss in four matches for Pares Secondary. The other match between last year's second-place finishers, Clare Hall Secondary, and St. Mary's Secondary School was not played. Both teams failed to show up for the match at the Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

St. Mary's Secondary School suffered two losses and secured a draw in their previous matches. Clare Hall Secondary lost their previous two matches

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.

Pakistan's Rauf given two-match ban for Asia Cup behaviour



Haris Rauf

DUBAI (Reuters) - Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has received a two-match suspension for breaching the ICC's code of conduct during matches against India at the Asia Cup in September, the governing body said on Tuesday.

India's Suryakumar Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah as well as Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan also committed the same offence of breaching article 2.21 of the ICC's code of conduct, which relates to "conduct that brings the game into disrepute", the ICC said in a statement.

Emotions ran high around the matches between the nuclear-armed neighbours, who engaged in a brief military conflict in May.

The teams faced each other three times in the eight-team tournament with India prevailing on all three occasions. Defending champions India refused to shake hands with Pakistani players during the matches.

The ICC, cricket's governing body, did not state the specific nature of the offences in its statement on Tuesday.

ESPNCricinfo reported

in September that Rauf had made numerous gestures to indicate aircraft going down, while Farhan celebrated by holding his bat like a gun.

India captain Yadav made a remark dedicating their win over Pakistan on September 14 to the Indian armed forces, prompting the Pakistan Cricket Board to file a complaint against him to the ICC. Cricinfo reported on Tuesday that Bumrah was cited for a gesture he made during the final.

India, who won the final on September 28, refused to accept the trophy from

Asian Cricket Council president and Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Rauf, who received four demerit points for two offences, misses Pakistan's One-Day International (ODI) matches against South Africa on Tuesday and Thursday. He was also fined 30 per cent of his match fees in two games.

Yadav was also fined 30 per cent of his match fees in one match. Bumrah and Farhan were given official warnings.

Sabalenka overpowers Pegula in WTA Finals



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus plays a shot against Jessica Pegula of the United States during their women's singles match of the WTA finals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. (AP)

RIYADH (Reuters) - World number one Aryna Sabalenka earned a 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 win over Jessica Pegula, while defending champion Coco Gauff put on a clinical performance to beat Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-2 and eliminate the Italian in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Sabalenka, who has won two matches in a row in the round-robin Group Steffi Graf, is on the verge of qualifying for the semi-finals. Gauff and Pegula, who have one win each, also remain in contention for the last four.

“(Pegula) is an incredible player. She always pushed me to the limit... I was thinking, I’m gonna go after my shots, stay aggressive, put all of that speed back on her and hope that I get my chance,” said four-time Grand Slam champion Sabalenka.

Sabalenka got the first break

with a chip across the court to go 4-2 up, but Pegula soon broke back to make it 5-4. Pegula saved three set points in the next game, but a persistent Sabalenka clinched a decisive break with a powerful forehand from the baseline.

The US Open champion, who had beaten Paolini on Sunday, grew frustrated as she made 13 unforced errors, nearly twice as many as Pegula, as the American got two breaks to build a 5-2 lead before saving two break points to secure the second set.

Sabalenka struggled with double faults as Pegula broke early in the third set. However, the Belarusian responded with returns near the sidelines to get two straight breaks, building a 4-2 lead that proved unassailable for Pegula.

Two-time Grand Slam winner Gauff, who made 17 double faults

when she lost to fellow American Jessica Pegula in her first game in Group Steffi Graf on Sunday, committed only three double faults this time as she dominated the eighth seed earlier in the evening.

The 21-year-old American took just over 10 minutes to build a 3-0 lead in the first set before Paolini went through a nine-minute battle to fend off three break points and win her first game.

Paolini got a break but Gauff drew the Italian into backhand rallies and won points with precise cross-court shots to claim the next game and take a 5-3 lead before holding to win the set.

The French Open champion’s strategy of making Paolini run constantly from one side of the court to the other paid off again when Gauff got back-to-back breaks to go 5-2 up in the second.

She secured victory with a powerful serve that Paolini could only hit into the net. Paolini was eliminated from the tournament with two straight defeats.

“I knew today’s win was important to keep myself in the tournament. If I lost, I would have been out,” world number three Gauff said.

World number two Iga Swiatek will take on Amanda Anisimova on Wednesday, while Elena Rybakina will face Madison Keys in Group Serena Williams.

Antigua to host 2025 ECVA U-23 Men's Volleyball Championship

The countdown has begun. The Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) has announced its third Under-23 Men's Championship will take place in Antigua during this month.

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 YMCA in St. John's will be transformed into an electrifying arena where six teams, comprising host country Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, defending champs St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Anguilla, will battle it out for regional supremacy.

The event is expected to feature high-flying spikes, gravity-defying blocks, and epic rallies that will have fans on the edge of their seats.

The five-day tournament will showcase some of the brightest young talents in sub-regional volleyball. The six teams will clash in a nail-biting round-robin format, all vying for a thrilling spot in the gold medal match.



The St. Vincent and the Grenadines team that won the second ECVA Under-23 Men's Volleyball Championship in Road Town, Tortola, on October 15, 2023. (Photo courtesy of NORCECA)

The event will commence with a triple-header at the YMCA on Wednesday, November 12. Dominica will face Grenada at 5 pm, Antigua and Barbuda will meet Anguilla at 7 pm, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will tackle St. Lucia at 9 pm.

Four games will be played on the following 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.

Glenn Quilann, president

of the ECVA, declared, "This championship will not only strengthen the development pathway but also provide a dynamic bridge between junior and senior national teams.

"We are setting the stage to deepen national federation engagement, ignite regional competitiveness, elevate the technical and tactical standards of play, and inspire year-round activity within ECVA's member federations."

Teams will compete with the elite Mikasa V200W ball, ensuring every serve, spike, and block is delivered with finesse and flair. This championship promises not just skill but an explosion of passion and de-

termination that will create unforgettable memories.

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.

The Vincentians won the tournament by beating St. Kitts in the final. Dominica finished third. Antigua and Barbuda failed to advance from the group stage of that tournament. Ten teams participated in the second edition of the ECVA's Under-23 tournament in Tortola in 2023.

Seven teams participated in the first ECVA Under-23 men's tournament, which was hosted in Antigua in July 2016. St. Lucia won the inaugural tournament by beating host Antigua and Barbuda in the final.