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# “AI does not replace skill it reshapes it,” says Education Minister



A young man explains his exhibit to Educator Minister Daryll Matthew and TVET Coordinator Marion Byron (top left) as they toured the TVET Expo underway at the Sir John E St Luce Conference Centre

## “AI does not replace skill it reshapes it,” says Education Minister



Education Minister Daryll Matthew has underscored the importance of technical and vocational education and training to prepare the nation's youth with the necessary skills for the overall development of Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking at Wednesday's opening of the annual Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Expo at the Sir John E. St Luce Centre, Minister Matthew said no country can build sustainably without skilled hands, trained minds, and practical expertise.

“Engineers, technicians, artisans, coders, electricians, hospitality professionals, agro-processors, and creatives are not on the margins of development—they are at its very centre.

“That truth is even more important in an age of artificial intelligence,” the minister noted.

According to the minister machines may process data, but they still rely on people to install systems, maintain infrastructure, interpret outputs, ensure safety, manage quality, apply judgment, and solve re-

al-world problems. In fact, he added, as technology advances, the demand for *skilled technicians, adaptable workers, and problem-solvers* increases—not decreases.

“That understanding is reflected clearly in our Education Sector strategy. We are committed to producing learners who are **skilled, adaptable, certified, and employable**. We are expanding pathways beyond the traditional academic route, strengthening technical and vocational education and training, and ensuring that education

supports economic growth, social mobility, and national resilience in a rapidly changing world.

“TVET sits at the heart of that strategy,” he emphasised.

In his remarks, Director of Education, Clare Browne focused on the theme for the two-day event; **“Design, Develop, Learn and Grow,”** describing it as aspirational and instructional, adding that it speaks to the deliberate journey that education must now take in the 21st century.

“A modern education system can no longer be sat-





isfied with preparing students simply to navigate a digital world. It must equip them to *shape* that world. Education today must provide not only the opportunity to know, but the means to do. Knowledge without application is incomplete; theory without practice is unfinished work," he remarked.

The Director of Education noted that the Ministry of Education recognizes that the education paradigm has shifted. "Today's re-

abilities demand an intentional integration of academic learning and technical vocational qualification. This is not a choice between paths, but a convergence of purpose," he stated.

The opening ceremony also included a fashion show featuring clothing designed and modeled by the students.

The expo features a wide variety of items from condiments, to electronics, to



clothing, floral designs, craft items, hair products and arts and



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# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda brings its Caribbean flavour to the Destinations Holiday and Travel Show



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) attended the Destinations: Holiday and Travel Show last week, engaging with UK travellers and industry professionals to promote the twin-island nation as a leading Caribbean destination. The team shared insights on the upcoming 2026 on-island calendar, from Carnival to Art Week, and elevated the culinary experiences available to prospective visitors.

Held at Olympia London, the show is one of the largest and most popular consumer travel exhibitions, bringing in around 50,000 attendees from international markets across a four-day period, all of whom were seeking inspiration and expert advice for future holidays. ABTA was joined by hotel partners Elite Island Resorts and Azingo Hospitality, highlighting the islands' wide range of boutique and larger-scale accommodation options.

Antiguan heritage chef Kareem Roberts represented Antigua and Barbuda on the Taste The World stage, where he promoted the destination's upcoming Culinary Month and championed the flavours, ingredients and traditions that define

Antiguan cuisine. Kareem conducted a live demonstration of tamarind

balls where he was joined by British presenter and chef, Andrew Dickens



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who delved further into the cultural significance behind the iconic treat. Audience members gathered for the interactive session and followed up with a delectable on-stand tasting of the sweet and sour snack themselves.

As well as promotion of the destination, Kareem had the opportunity to display his recently released cookbook Cassava and Cardamom at the show.

Kareem Roberts said "It is an incredible opportunity to share what Antigua and Barbuda has to offer

through food. From our landscapes to our people, there is so much untapped potential, and we have only just begun to showcase the creativity, flavours, and experiences that make

our islands truly unique."

Cherrie Osborne, Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority UK & Europe, added: "Our presence at leading consumer events is essential for showcasing Antigua and Barbuda's culture and heritage. By highlighting signature offerings and key events like Culinary Month 2026, we can show what sets our twin islands apart for travellers. Talented ambassadors like Kareem Roberts engage audiences and bring our heritage and stories to life."

The Times Destinations Travel Show left visitors inspired by the flavours, traditions, and experiences of Antigua and Barbuda, ensuring the islands remain top of mind for UK travellers planning their 2026 holidays and beyond.

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# Local News

## US denies pressuring St Lucia to refuse Cuban medical scholarships

The US government is denying that it has pressured St. Lucia not to accept medical scholarships from Cuba.

This week, media reports quoted Prime Minister Philip Pierre as saying that the US wanted his government to reject the medical scholarships that Cuba has offered to many Caribbean states for decades.

However, the US Embassy in Barbados has denied that this is so. See statement issued by the US Embassy.



### Media Advisory



Media Advisory

**U.S. Embassy to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean, and the OECS**

February 4, 2026

The United States has not recently talked to Saint Lucia about international education

and respects countries' sovereign decisions regarding the education of their citizens.

The United States continues to call for an end to exploitation and forced labor in the illegitimate Cuban regime's overseas medical missions program.

## Supervisor of Elections to Lead CARICOM Election Observation Mission to Barbados

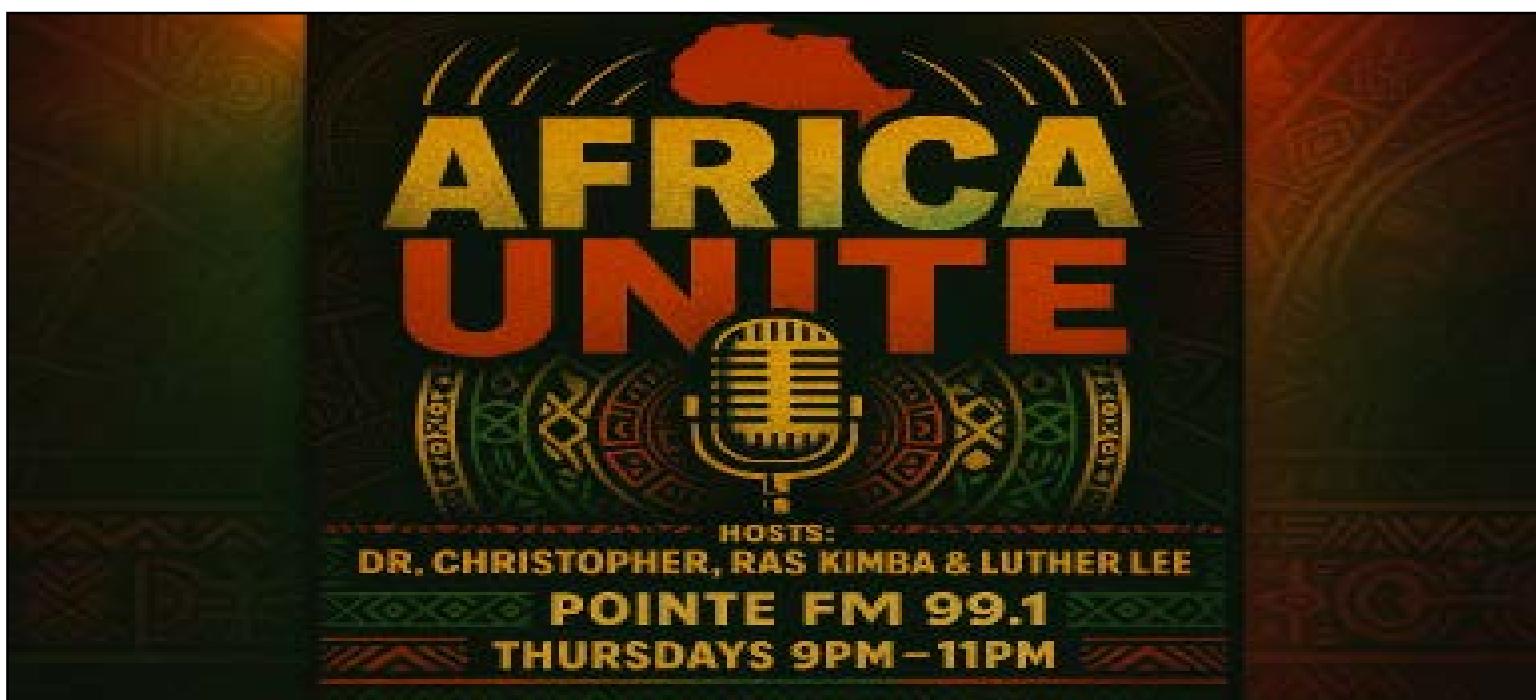
Supervisor of Elections, Ian S. Hughes, will serve as head of a three-member CARICOM Election Observation Mission to Barbados to monitor and report on the country's General Elections scheduled for Thursday, 11 February 2026.

Hughes will be joined by Andrew Smith, Regional Manager at the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (EOJ), and Josephine Tamai, Chief Election Officer of Belize.

The delegation will be in Barbados from Thursday, 5 February to Friday, 13 February 2026.

In his capacity as Chief of Mission, Hughes will serve as an independent contractor, providing leadership and guidance to the CARICOM Election Observer Mission in accordance with the Mission's Terms of Reference and the responsibilities of the role.

Hughes has expressed his gratitude to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the trust and confidence placed in his expertise, and he looks forward to playing a critical role in capturing the nuances and context of the upcoming electoral process.



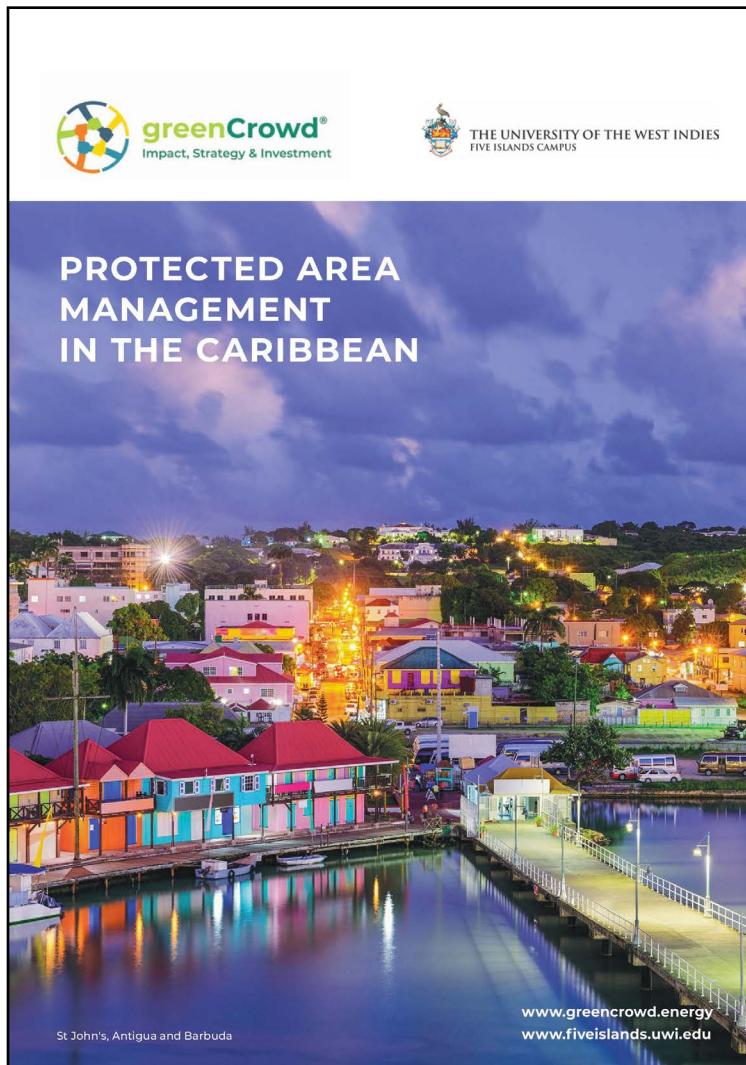
## COBE partners with International group on Caribbean Protected Area Management Publication

A new publication by The Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE) at The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, in collaboration with greenCrowd is highlighting innovative approaches to Protected Area Management across the Caribbean region.

The publication, released in January 2026, examines critical challenges facing Small Island Developing States, including limited human and financial capacity, restricted terrestrial spaces and expansive marine ecosystems requiring protection and management.

The document showcases how Caribbean nations are developing innovative strategies to achieve financial, social and environmental sustainability in protected areas despite resource constraints. The publication presents case studies from across the region, including Jamaica's community-led fish sanctuaries, The Bahamas' nature bond financing and the Dominican Republic's achievement of protecting 30% of its marine areas.

Marine tourism contributed an estimated \$48 billion to the Caribbean in 2019, representing approximately 14% of the region's GDP, according to the publication. Dr.



Branson Belle and Dr. Christopher Waters from The UWI Five Islands Campus were the primary contributors on behalf of the university.

Executive director of the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy, Dr. Branson Belle, emphasized the vital importance of protected areas for island nations confronting climate change. "Protected areas are absolutely essential for Small Island Developing States like Antigua and Barbuda, especially as we

face the accelerating impacts of climate change," Belle said.

"These areas serve as critical buffers against environmental degradation and provide essential ecosystem services that our island communities depend upon for survival and resilience." Belle said the publication's case studies demonstrate proven approaches that other island nations can implement to meet international conservation targets while addressing climate vulnerability. The centre plans to

work with regional governments to implement the financing strategies outlined in the publication, he said.

The collaboration between COBE and greenCrowd aims to bridge the gap between ocean science and practical conservation finance with the publication exploring sustainable financing approaches, including blue bonds and debt-for-nature swaps, that several Caribbean nations have successfully implemented to support long-term protected area management.

The Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy was launched in 2024 to strengthen regional capacity in ocean and coastal management through research, education and innovation. greenCrowd is a UK-based sustainability consultancy supporting impact-driven strategy and investment. They advise SMEs, public bodies, and finance institutions on clean energy, climate infrastructure, and nature solutions, while mobilizing institutional capital through their Impact Fund into scalable, climate-positive ventures.

The publication is available through the university's website and the organisations' LinkedIn pages.

## IHO Nature Rangers Host Successful Community Consultations



Parham Wetlands - Courtesy EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network - IHO Nature Rangers

IHO Nature Rangers successfully hosted two (2) community consultations aimed at strengthening conservation efforts within the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) as part of the “Strengthening Conservation Actions in the North East Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda” Project, supporting inclusive and community-driven environmental management.

The consultations were held over the past week at the Parham Primary School and at the Glanvilles Community Center. Both sessions were attended by community residents, heads of community-based organisations, and other key stakeholders, including women and youth.

During the consultations, Britney McDonald, Project Manager for the IHO Nature Rangers, provided updates on conservation activities already undertaken by the project. Participants also shared insights into ongoing community-led environmental efforts, general challenges being faced within their communities, and opportunities for collaboration.

The discussions further focused on identifying future actions, with emphasis on partnership, community involvement, and practical steps to enhance biodiversity protection, waste management, and environmental stewardship across the NEMMA communities.

In Parham, specific recommendations



SEAGLANS Wetlands - Courtesy EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network - IHO Nature Rangers

were made to strengthen the protection of Byam’s Wharf, a habitat for the West Indian Whistling Duck, but also a place where improper waste disposal is prominent. Further areas for training were identified, such as the skill of fish pot building. Finally, the community offered locations for proposed regulatory and environmental awareness signage, in addition to skips for the collection of bulk rubbish.

In the Seatons and Glanvilles communities, recommendations were shared with the project team to restore pond areas, introduce waste collection skips, improve community waste sorting and composting as well as removal of waste at illegal dumping pressure points. Community members welcomed the project’s support for

youth activities including educational training sessions on biodiversity. As coastal communities, the consultation highlighted the deep connection to the marine space and the need to preserve the culture and heritage of the community-based knowledge.

Both meetings were described as fruitful and productive, concluding with the development of a clear roadmap for future action, strengthened partnerships, and a shared commitment to protecting the NEMMA. Upcoming activities for the Conservation project include a birdwatching and ecotourism training on February 15th, 2026, community outreach including attendance at church services to spread the word of the project.

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# Local News

## Two people are to appear in court today facing gun-related charges



Two people who face gun-related charges are to make their first court appearances in St. John's today, Thursday.

In a statement, the police reported that they have jointly charged Terry Williams and Shanyea Crump, both of Nut Grove, with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

The charges stem from the execution of a search warrant by officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force at a premises in All Saints early Monday morning.

During the search, one (1)

Ruger 9mm pistol and seven (7) rounds of 9mm ammunition were discovered and seized.

The matter is expected to be heard at the St. John's magistrate's court.

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## CIBC Caribbean and partners make record donation to fight cancer



The CIBC Caribbean bank used the occasion of World Cancer Day (Wednesday February 4) to make a donation to two entities that are involved in the fight against the disease.

A total of \$177,000.00 was donated to the Breast Friends and the Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre at a function held at the Royalton Chic hotel.

CIBC Caribbean's Country Manager, Ladesa James-Williams made the presentation to President of Breast Friends, Michelle Lynch and to Marketing Manager at the SLB-MC, Salma Crump.

Williams said her team at the bank had engaged in a series of fundraising events that started many years with 'Walk for a Cure' and which have added events such as 'Jam for a Cure', 'Raffle for Cure', 'Gala for a Cure' and 'Jam for a Cure', all of which attracted strong support from both the corporate community and the general public.

The amount donated last year



**Jessica Ormond Byers, CIBC Human Resources Officer, President of Breast Friends (will get her name), Ladesa James Williams - Country Head and Natasha Charles, one of the CIBC Walk Managers.**

from events held in 2024 was \$105,000.00. However, for 2025, the country manager raised the ante and asked her team to aim at breaking the record, which they did.

The money is divided equally among the two groups as both

Lynch and Crump expressed their deep appreciation to CIBC Caribbean for not only the donation, but for the bank's continued work to raise funds to tackle one of the most devastating diseases that affect many in the society.

## Rotary Club of Antigua Promotes Healthy Living at Old Road Primary

The Rotary Club of Antigua hosted a successful Healthy Bounce, Happy Bodies childhood obesity awareness session at Old Road Primary School as part of its continued commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles among children.

The engaging session focused on nutrition and physical activity as key tools in preventing childhood obesity and related non-communicable diseases.

Nutritionist Charity Dublin led an interactive discussion with students on the importance of balanced meals and understanding the different food groups. She demonstrated how simple, healthy smoothies, banana chocolate and banana vanilla, can serve as nutritious alternatives to sugary snacks. Students sampled the smoothies and responded enthusiastically to the healthier options.

The programme also emphasized daily physical activity. Each student received a bouncing ball and participated in a brief demonstration of simple exercises. Students were encouraged to dedicate five to ten minutes each day to active movement at home or at school.

In addition, students received the District-produced booklet "Eat Well, Move Well," reinforcing key messages about healthy eating and active living.

The initiative forms part of Rotary District 7030's Childhood Obesity Prevention (COP) Programme – Rotary MOVES, which encourages clubs across the Caribbean



to increase awareness, strengthen advocacy, and implement community-based interventions that promote healthier lifestyles.

Special thanks were extended to Past President and Vice President Dr. Vanetta Rodgers who presented each student with a health package, as well as to the dedicated teachers of Old Road Primary School, Dr. Rodgers' alma mater. To Rotarian Celia Samuel of Go

To Enterprise for contributing to the healthy packages, and to Principal Rayonna Joseph for granting the opportunity to educate and raise awareness of obesity among our young and upcoming leaders.

The Rotary Club of Antigua remains committed to empowering the next generation of the nation's youth to make informed and healthier lifestyle choices.

# Feature

## The Oldest Story in the Book

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Five Islands Campus



My Priest asked me to give a talk to the congregations at St Pauls and St. Barnabas on the current global and regional developments. Here is my Christian bible take!

The Bible is, among many things, the story of a small people trying to survive among empires. This is not a minor theme, it is *the* theme, the spine that runs from Genesis through Revelation. Abraham is called out from the Mesopotamian empire; Moses confronts Pharaoh of the Egyptian Empire. The prophets thunder against the Assyrian and Babylonian empires and Jesus is born under Roman occupation, tried by a Roman governor, and executed by Roman soldiers. If you grew up in a Caribbean church, you know these stories, what you may not have noticed is how well they describe our own history and present conditions.

Let's begin where the Bible begins its liberation story in Egypt. "The Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor, and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage" (Exodus 1:13–14). Pharaoh's economy was elegant in its cruelty and the enslaved built the infrastructure of their own oppression.

Look at the Caribbean and tell me the structure is unfamiliar. For three hundred years we grew sugar we did not consume for people who did not

pay us, under arrangements designed in London and Madrid. We pivoted to tourism, welcoming visitors to enjoy islands whose own citizens could not afford a decent standard of living. We import eighty-five percent of our food in a region with some of the most fertile soil on earth. We send our brightest graduates abroad and call the remittances a "development strategy." Pharaoh's economy was designed for Pharaoh and so is ours.

The post-war international order, sovereign equality, access to courts, a voice in global affairs allowed small nations to exist with some dignity.

Those were the walls of our Jerusalem, and they are being dismantled by the very nations that built them. Like Nehemiah surveying the ruins by moonlight (Nehemiah 2:13), we must see clearly what has been destroyed before we can rebuild.

No scripture captures the dilemma of the small nation under great power more precisely than Jesus's response on Roman taxation, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). This was not evasion, for people living under occupation, it was a framework for survival given

# Feature

that imperial power demands compliance, but compliance need not mean surrender of everything that matters. The coin bears Caesar's image, so give it back, but you bear God's image and that is not Caesar's to claim. Caribbean leaders must now navigate this tension daily. Jesus's instruction was never "surrender everything," it was, know what belongs to empire, and never forget what belongs to your people.

So, what does scripture counsel in this new reality? When Babylonian exile was a reality, not a threat but a fact, God's instruction through Jeremiah was startling. "Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their produce... Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile" (Jeremiah 29:5–7). The false prophets promised imminent rescue, but Jeremiah said, stop waiting, build where you are and invest where you are, not because exile is just, but because waiting for rescue is a kind of death. This is the Caribbean's mandate now. "Build houses" means invest in our own institutions. "Plant gardens" means grow what we eat and create what we consume. "Seek the welfare" means our prosperity is tied to our communities not distant capitals.

King David reminds us that size is not destiny. He defeated Goliath not by acquiring the giant's weapons but by using what he had, a sling, five stones, and the conviction that scale alone does not determine outcomes (1 Samuel 17:45). The Caribbean's five stones are our climate expertise, our digital potential, our capacity for energy sovereignty, the proven model of OECS integration, and the power of a unified regional voice.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the wounded man's own countrymen passed him by and help came from the outsider (Luke 10:30–37). Stop expecting Washington, London, or Ottawa to stop and help, we must be the Samaritan to each other. The OECS proves regional integration works, common currency, common court and

labour mobility. The question is why what works for six hundred thousand people cannot work across CARICOM.

Mordecai said to Esther, "If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish and who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). The work of survival will be done with or without us, the question is whether we participate in our own rescue. If the scale of the challenge makes us hesitate, Isaiah reminds us how God's work begins, not with armies or institutions, but with a single voice willing to answer. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, who will go for us, and I said, here am I, send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8). Isaiah did not volunteer from comfort; he volunteered from conviction. The Caribbean does not need everyone to do everything. It needs enough people, in cabinet rooms, in boardrooms, in class-

rooms, in church halls to say, *here am I*.

Paul wrote to the Galatians, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). The recognition that no one is coming to save us is not a cause for despair. It is the most liberating truth available. The illusion is over, the false prophets who promised that the international system would protect us, that migration would relieve us, that deference would reward us have been answered by history.

Moses's final words to a people standing on the edge of a new reality, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). We built economies our people endure. Now we must build economies they choose. The only question is whether we will act like we finally understand.



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# Feature

## Gangrene in the Opposition: The UPP's Terminal Unravelingz



By E.P. Chet Greene

A political party's most fundamental duty, especially in a democracy as intimate as Antigua and Barbuda's, is to present the electorate with a credible alternative. It must be a vessel for hope, a repository of ideas and a testament to political maturity. The United Progressive Party (UPP) today is none of those things. Instead, it is a cavern of echoing egos, a case study in decay, where the leadership battle between Harold Lovell and Jamale Pringle is not a healthy contest of vision, but the death rattle of a terminal patient.

The context of this battle is not policy but raw unvarnished power. Harold Lovell, the former political leader, now seeks to topple the man who succeeded him, Jamale Pringle. This is not a resurgence of strategic thinking; it is the twitch of a political corpse, a desperate grab for control of a vessel taking on water. The lines are drawn with visceral clarity, not between ideologies, for none are discernibly presented but rather between personalities and their devoted factions.

Fueling this conflagration with gas-

oline has been the toxic and divisive role of the party's chairman, Giselle Isaac. Far from being an impartial arbiter or a unifying figure, the chairmanship has become a weapon, a platform from which discord is amplified and battle lines are hardened. Under this stewardship, internal governance has dissolved into public spectacle, where procedure is bent to will and the party's platform is reduced to a stage for settling personal scores. This is not leadership; it is arson.

What emerges is a picture of utter hopelessness. The UPP is bereft of the political maturity to reconcile, the vision to inspire, or the substantive policies needed to advance Antigua and Barbuda as a modern democracy. The nation faces profound challenges; economic diversification, climate resilience, geo political sneezes and yet the opposition's sole export is noise. The debate is one of form over substance, ego over ability. Who holds the title matters infinitely more than what they would do with it.

This is an uncaring attitude, a profound lack of patriotism that abdicates their responsibility to the socio-political and economic interests of the nation they seek to lead.

This infighting is no longer a simple wound; it is gangrene. It is a necrotizing disease that has spread from a limb to the core. When gangrene sets in, palliative care is a fantasy. Band-aids and well wishes are prescriptions for a slow, septic death. The only remedy is surgical: amputation. The recurring conflict, the ingrained culture of self-destruction and the addiction to public fratricide are now part of the UPP's DNA. They cannot be reformed; they must be removed from the body politic.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda deserve more than this circus of the perpetually aggrieved. They deserve an opposition that is focused on na-

tional development, not niche vendettas; on the future of the country, not the fortunes of a few. The UPP has proven itself institutionally incapable of being that vehicle.

I'm no Nostradamus, Ezekiel or Daniel but at any rate some endings are too glaring to prophesize; they simply are. The UPP, as we say in local parlance, 'done.' Like Humpty Dumpty in nursery rhyme stories, no King's horses nor King's men can put the UPP back together again. Its great fall from grace is complete and the shards are too many, too jagged and held by too many bitter hands to ever be reassembled.

We must therefore, prescriptively, condemn this iteration to oblivion. Not with malice but with the sober necessity one applies to removing a hazard. From the ashes of this useless bunch, there must arise a demand from civil society for the rebirth of a meaningful, development-centered opposition. A new formation, untainted by this poisonous history, built on substance and unity of national purpose.

Over time, such an entity could emerge as the credible political force our democracy and development so desperately needs.

The alternative of endlessly hoping that the UPP will change is to accept gangrene as a normal condition. And that is a betrayal of Antigua and Barbuda's future.

I now await the very predictable deflection into personal attacks, which will only serve to underscore my central argument: the party has devolved into a forum for personal grievance, envy and power at any cost over national service. Attacking the messenger, rather than confronting the substantive critique of their profound political irrelevance, is the very behavior that condemns them to the margins of Antigua and Barbuda's contemporary political reality.

## World Cancer Day: Asking the Questions That Matter February 4 | World Cancer Day

Cancer does not arrive with a warning. It enters homes quietly, changing routines, priorities, and futures in an instant. On World Cancer Day, February 4, Antigua and Barbuda joins the global community in reflection and action under the 2026 campaign theme, “United by Unique,” led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The theme is a reminder that while cancer is a shared global challenge, no two cancer journeys are the same. Each experience is shaped by access to care, income, education, family support, geography, and policy. Yet despite these differences, people affected by cancer are united by common needs: dignity, understanding, inclusion, and sustained care. So the questions must be asked. Are we talking openly enough about cancer? Are we prioritising prevention and early detection? And are we truly supporting people—not just through treatment, but through life after cancer? Cancer is often treated as a moment in time: a diagnosis, a treatment plan, a recovery period. But for many people, cancer is a lifelong experience. Survivors frequently live with long-term physical, psychological, and cognitive effects that alter how they move, work, learn, and engage with society. In many cases, cancer survivorship overlaps directly with disability. Reduced mobility, chronic fatigue, pain, neuropathy, memory challenges, anxiety, depression, and organ damage are not uncommon. These realities affect whether someone can return to work full-time, continue their education, access public spaces, or participate fully in community life. When systems fail to accommodate these needs, survivors are not just recovering—they are being excluded. Yet how often is this reality acknowledged? How often are cancer survivors recognised as persons living with disabilities? Are workplaces equipped to support flexible schedules, medical appointments, or fluctuating energy levels? Are public spaces and transportation systems accessible and survivor-friendly? Do our policies reflect

survivorship realities, or do they assume recovery means a return to “normal”? The “United by Unique” campaign challenges one-size-fits-all approaches to cancer care. It calls on societies to respond to lived experience rather than assumptions, and to see people beyond diagnosis or survival statistics. The United Nations has underscored the scale of the challenge, stating that “cancer is not just a health issue—it is a development issue.” Cancer affects workforce participation, household income, caregiving responsibilities, mental health, and the sustainability of national healthcare systems. For small island developing states like Antigua and Barbuda, these impacts are particularly significant, as limited resources must stretch across prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and long-term care.

Prevention remains one of the most powerful tools in the fight against cancer. Tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol consumption, and exposure to environmental pollutants all increase cancer risk. But prevention is not only about individual behaviour. It is about systems. Are healthy food options accessible? Are public spaces safe for physical activity? Are environmental protections enforced? Education plays a critical role in addressing these questions. UNESCO has affirmed that “education is one of the strongest predictors of health outcomes.” This means cancer education must be ongoing, inclusive, and culturally relevant. It must extend beyond medical facts to include conversations about stigma, survivorship, disability inclusion, and mental health. Early detection saves lives, yet many people delay screening. Breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancers are often more treatable when detected early. So why do so many wait until symptoms become severe? Is it fear of diagnosis? Financial barriers? Limited access to services? Or lack of trusted information? World Cancer Day forces us to confront

inequity. Who has access to screening services? Who can afford treatment? Who receives consistent follow-up care? And who is left to navigate life after cancer on their own? In Antigua and Barbuda, strengthening community outreach, improving access to screening, and expanding survivorship support are not luxuries—they are necessities. Healthcare systems must be inclusive, but so must workplaces, schools, and public spaces. Cancer survivorship should not mean reduced opportunity. It should not mean exclusion from employment, leadership, or community life. Inclusion is part of care. Accessibility is part of healing. Community support matters. Employers, faith-based organisations, civil society groups, and policymakers all have a role to play. Flexible work arrangements, accessible buildings, mental health services, and inclusive policies are not acts of charity—they are acts of equity. Inclusion is not optional; it is a human right. World Cancer Day is not just about statistics or slogans. It is about people. It is about recognising that survival is not the end of the journey. It is about ensuring dignity, opportunity, and support long after treatment concludes. As Antigua and Barbuda reflects on World Cancer Day 2026, under the banner “United by Unique,” the challenge is clear: are we prepared to listen to individual experiences and respond with collective action? Are we prepared to build systems that honour difference rather than ignore it? So we ask again: are we truly supporting people affected by cancer—or simply naming the gaps? And more importantly, what will we choose to do next?

**Joshuanette Francis**  
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# Regional News

## Jamaica's sharp decline in murders boosting investor confidence, says Seiveright

Delano Seiveright, the state minister in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, says Jamaica has made remarkable gains in national security in recent years, with a sharp decline in violent crime boosting confidence and helping reshape the island's reputation.

Speaking at the JMMB Group Thought Leadership Breakfast in Montego Bay, St James, recently, Seiveright highlighted data showing consistent declines in murders and other indicators of violent crime in highlighting the progress in public safety and investor confidence.

According to the latest Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) figures, Jamaica recorded 673 murders in 2025, the lowest total in over three decades.

"We have had consistent declines in murders over the last several years. In 2023 we were down eight per cent vis-à-vis 2022; in 2024 murders were down 19 per cent vis-à-vis 2023, which already saw reductions. Of course, last year, 2025, we registered 42 per cent reduction in murders vis-à-vis 2024," said Seiveright.

Seiveright further noted that the downward trajectory has continued into the current year.

"January, this month, so far, we are pacing just about 50 per cent less murders than we did for the same month last year," he said.

According to Seiveright, the strong reductions signal a shift in Jamaica's security landscape even though the country still has "a long way to go" to reach levels considered normal by global standards.

"What it is signalling is that certainly, Jamaica is becoming a safer place. To be able to cut murders in half is a phenomenal achievement, but we still have a long way to go to get it to levels that will be considered normal," he said.



Seiveright also acknowledged that public perception has historically been a challenge for Jamaica's image abroad, particularly among investors and potential visitors, hence the consistent drop in violent crime must now be communicated more broadly.

"What has happened over the years is that we've gotten so accustomed to 1,400, 1,500 murders per year, we don't realise that that is absolutely horrendous ... and the impression that it has given over the years, certainly over the decades, is that Jamaica is an unsafe place," he said.

Seiveright pointed to improvements in the US travel advisory, which has moved from Level 3 to Level 2, as a sign that external perceptions of security are slowly adjusting, thanks to sustained work by Government and its private-sector partners.

"It took human work and a lot of work from not just the Government, but also private-sector players, in really getting the factual narrative out there that we are on top of the crime situation," he said.

Seiveright went on to underscore the fact that Jamaica's crime-reduction gains are contributing to a more attrac-

tive environment for investment and tourism, which are key pillars in the country's economic strategy.

"As we continue to bring crime under control in Jamaica, we can attract quality investment and eventually shed that horrible and negative image of being a crime-infested country," he said.

Seiveright added that the Government has invested heavily in national security infrastructure over recent years, which he said has strengthened the capacity of law-enforcement agencies to tackle violent crime effectively.

"Planned security Jamaica is working. We have pumped over \$90 billion into our national security architecture over the last several years," he said.

While the dramatic reduction in murders offers encouraging news, Seiveright stressed that continued vigilance and sustained partnerships across sectors are needed to build on current gains, preserve public safety, and support Jamaica's broader economic recovery and growth ambitions. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## St Lucia gov't says no permission granted to Uber to operate in the island



The St Lucia government says it gave no permission to the American multinational transportation company Uber to begin operations in the country.

"I want to ... make it very clear that contrary to what you've been hearing, reading from various sources, that the Government of St Lucia has not in any way approved, sanctioned, or encouraged Uber to operate any service in St Lucia," Tourism Minister Dr Ernest Hilaire told reporters.

He said the Phillip J Pierre administration has not in "any way approved, sanctioned or encouraged Uber to operate any service in St Lucia" amid mounting public debate over the ride-hailing company's recent launch.

He said Uber first made contact with the government last December, indicating that it was interested in setting up a service on the island.

"They described themselves as a technology platform that offers transportation for people who want to move from point A to point B. We indicated to them then that we would be reviewing their intention and that we shall

have discussions with them. "They sent in a second note indicating that there has been substantial interest in St Lucia from taxi associations and individual taxi drivers. So they were going to move ahead, and again we told them that we would want to discuss the matter with the stakeholders and with Uber itself".

Hilaire told reporters that last weekend, the government got a notice from Uber saying "they were launching their service the following day.

"We indicated to them that we were planning to meet with them to discuss the matter in detail and that they should not proceed," he said, adding that a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday with the national taxi association.

He said he is hoping by next week Monday to provide an update to the population on the matter.

"Again, I want to make it very clear that the government has not approved, encouraged, or sanctioned Uber operating any service in St Lucia," Hilaire told reporters. (CMC)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



# Regional News

## Electricity restoration in Westmoreland impacted after thieves vandalise transformers stored at church

The Jamaica Public Service (JPS) is reporting that thieves have vandalised several transformers that were being stored at a church in Westmoreland that were scheduled to be deployed to support Hurricane Melissa electricity restoration efforts in the parish.

The company, in a statement on Tuesday, strongly condemned the action.

According to JPS, as part of preparatory work, the transformers were left overnight on the church property so that restoration could begin the following morning.

However, it said that when JPS teams returned to begin installation, they discovered that the units had been disassembled and copper components removed from their interiors.

The light and power company noted that such actions not only damage critical infrastructure but also slow the restoration process and prolong the inconvenience experienced by customers awaiting the return of



electricity.

JPS is urging members of the public to help protect electricity infrastructure by reporting suspicious activity and is

appealing to anyone with information related to the incident to make an official report to the nearest police station. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## Public Consultations

### WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT (PREVENTION) BILL 2026



#### Multipurpose Centre

 28th January @ 5:30 p.m.

#### Villa Community Centre

 5th February @ 5:30 p.m.

#### JT Ambrose Primary School

 11th February @ 5:30 p.m.

#### Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium

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For further information, please contact

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# Son of Norway's crown princess holds back tears giving evidence at rape trial

The son of Norway's crown princess has begun giving evidence at his trial for rape and more than 30 other alleged offences.

Marius Borg Høiby, 29, looked overwhelmed by the occasion, his voice quivering as he paused several times to take off his glasses and wipe his eyes.

Holding back tears, he said it was very difficult to talk, and complained of being followed by the press since he was three years old.

He denies four allegations of rape as well as other serious charges against him.

He was giving evidence after the first woman he is alleged to have raped told the court she believed she had been drugged during an "after-party" in the basement of Høiby's parents' house in December 2018.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, spoke of her sense of "betrayal and shock" after she was shown videos by police allegedly of him sexually assaulting her shortly after they had had brief, consensual sex.

She had already spoken of a "black hole" in her memory and told the court behind closed doors that she had no recollection of what happened.

The 29-year-old defendant, who was born four years before his mother, Mette-Marit, married Norway's Crown Prince Haakon, is not a member of the royal family or a public figure.

During his first appearance in court on Tuesday, he was seen shaking. He is understood to have had hospital treatment overnight.

Høiby was arrested on Sunday on suspicion of assault and wielding a knife and remanded in custody for four weeks. However, he did not return to custody before his statement on Wednesday.

He took a seat in court and after sev-



eral minutes in which he looked overcome by the occasion, he regained his composure and told the court he had had a lot of sex, drugs and alcohol because he had an extreme need of validation.

"I am known for being my mother's son. Nothing else," he told the three judges.

His trial coincides with a tense moment for his mother, who was found to have exchanged hundreds of messages with the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein over a three-year period.

The royal palace said on Wednesday that Crown Princess Mette-Marit had postponed a private trip "until further notice", without giving further details.

She has expressed regret and poor judgement over the correspondence

However, the storm of criticism over the unguarded, warm tone of the exchanges has heaped pressure on the royal house, when Mette-Marit is also seeing her son on trial for rape.

Marius Borg Høiby was arrested in August 2024 after a violent incident at his girlfriend's flat in the Frogner area of western Oslo.

At the time he spoke of having suffered for years with mental issues and admitted to substance abuse.

After a lengthy police investigation, he was charged a large number of offences, ranging from rape, assault,

threatening a girlfriend and damaging her flat, as well as drugs charges and driving offences. If found guilty he could face at least 10 years in jail.

Wearing a dark turtle-neck woollen sweater with a zip, he looked straight at the three judges who were sitting about 10m (30ft) away from him.

Although he had notes, he did not look down at them. He spoke for about half an hour without interruption.

Høiby did not look to his left where two of the women he is alleged to have raped listened to his evidence a short distance away.

He spoke of how he met the first woman he is alleged to have raped at a party, and he had taken cocaine for the first time.

When he finished, prosecutor Sturla Henriksbø began to ask him questions, focusing on the first alleged rape in 2018.

The defendant disputed the account given earlier, and said he did not remember taking videos or that they had had brief consensual sex for a few seconds in a toilet in his parents' basement. Instead he said they had gone to bed and had consensual sex.

He also took aim at the Norwegian press, accusing them of twisting the facts, disputing a story that his mother had taken a sim-card out of his phone before it was handed to police. (BBC)

## 13-year-old Australian boy swims for hours to save his mother and siblings who were swept away



A 13-year-old boy swam for four hours in cold and choppy waters to save his mother and two younger siblings who had been swept out to sea off the coast of Western Australia.

The family, from the state capital Perth, were using kayaks and paddle boards on Friday morning when rough ocean and wind conditions started dragging them out.

Teenager Austin Appelbee swam about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) to shore to raise the alarm, police said.

"The waves are massive and I have no life jacket on. ... I just kept thinking 'just keep swimming, just keep swimming,'" Austin said Tuesday. "And then I finally I made it to shore and I hit the bottom of the beach and I

just collapsed."

Austin said he initially set off in an inflatable kayak and wearing a life jacket, but the ocean was rough and the vessel was taking in too much water so he abandoned it.

He then discarded the life jacket because it impeded his swimming. He said he tried to focus on positive thoughts.

The family had set off on their seaside adventure before noon, Austin raised the alarm at 6:00 p.m. and a helicopter spotted his mother Joanne Appelbee, 47, his 12-year-old brother Beau and his 8-year-old sister Grace around 8:30 p.m.

The family had drifted about 14 ki-

lometers (9 miles) from Quindalup in Western Australia state and spent about 10 hours in the water.

"The actions of the 13-year-old boy cannot be praised highly enough — his determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings," Police Inspector James Bradley said.

Joanne Appelbee told reporters that she sent her oldest child for help because she could not leave all her children stranded in the ocean.

"One of the hardest decisions I ever had to make was to say to Austin: 'Try and get to shore and get some help. This could get really serious really quickly,'" she told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

She said she started out feeling confident he would reach the shore but was filled with doubt when the sun started to set and help had still not arrived.

"We kept positive, we were singing and we were joking and ... we were treating it as a bit of a game until the sun started to go down and that's when it was getting very choppy. Very big waves," Joanne Appelbee said.

By the time they were rescued, all three of them were shivering and Beau had lost sensation in his legs because of the cold, the mom said.

"I have three babies. All three made it. That was all that mattered," she said. (AP)



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## New York attorney general to deploy legal observers to monitor federal immigration agents

New York's attorney general announced plans Tuesday to deploy legal observers to monitor federal immigration enforcement actions in the state.

The initiative will send observers, who will wear purple safety vests, to areas of reported immigration enforcement activity to collect information "that may inform future legal action," according to Attorney General Letitia James.

Tensions remain high nationwide over President Donald Trump's aggressive immigration crackdown, particularly following the shooting deaths of two U.S. citizens at the hands of federal agents in Minnesota.

Videos of agents conducting immigration arrests throughout the country have drawn criticism over heavy-handed tactics, often going viral online.

In a statement, James, a Democrat, said she is "proud to protect New Yorkers' constitutional rights to speak freely, protest peacefully, and go about their lives without fear of unlawful federal action."

"We have seen in Minnesota how quickly and tragically federal operations can escalate in the absence of



transparency and accountability," she said.

James said her office's observers will serve as "neutral witnesses" who will identify violations of law, but will not interfere with enforcement activity.

She has also asked New Yorkers to submit videos of federal immigration enforcement actions to her office for review.

Separately, New York Governor Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, has said she will pursue legislation this year that would allow people to sue federal officers "when they act outside the scope of their duties," along with a proposal to keep immigration agents out of schools, hospitals and houses of worship unless they have a warrant from a judge. (AP)

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# Sports News

## Winning starts for Phoenix and Da Project in ABBA's Second Division



Michael Joseph Phoenix and Da Project 2 made a successful start to their campaigns in this season's Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Second Division on Tuesday night.

Both teams notched up wins during

the Division 2 opening-night double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Phoenix launched their campaign with a 79-61 victory against Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the opening encounter.

Adrian Carnegie shot a game-high 23 points and claimed five steals to lead the Phoenix to their victory.

In support, Gary Harrison sank 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Shalom Bloodman converted 12 points and snatched 10 rebounds; and Ryan Noel chipped in with 10 points and five steals for the Phoenix.

Takeem Martin sank 18 points and snatched 11 rebounds, Tyler Jacobs produced 13 points and six steals, and Romel Diggs scored eight points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Fearless Crew.

Da Project 2 launched their campaign by cruising to a 96-67 victory against the EZ Fit Flyers 2 in Tuesday's second encounter.

Gabriel De Suza and Erije Joseph were the leading performers for Da Project 2. De Suza produced a game-high 23 points along with eight steals and five rebounds. Joseph converted 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

In support, Kevin Pimental scored 18 points and claimed eight steals, and Nathan Matthew sank 17 points and dished out seven assists for Da Project 2.

Noah Massiah sank 15 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, Royal Samuel converted 14 points and snatched 10 rebounds, and Tyrese White and David Mensah each scored 12 points for EZ Fit Flyers 2.

  
**DAILY PROGRAMMING**




**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.  
WITH GREMSTA

**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.  
6AM-9AM SATURDAYS  
WITH ROGER LAKE

**TOUCHLINE** 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.  
WITH EPILOUS

**BAD COMPANY** 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS  
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM SUNDAYS

**REGGAE INSPIRATION** 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY  
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

**JAH WADADLI** 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS  
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

## Post Millennial Academy among winners in School Basketball League



Players of the Post Millennial Academy (yellow uniform) and Greenbay Primary compete in the Mini Boys Primary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday. (Photo courtesy of the Inter-School Basketball League)

The Post Millennial Academy was among the winners during the latest round of matches in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Kymilah Choy sank seven points to lead the Post Millennial Academy to a 13-3 victory over Greenbay Primary in the Mini Girls Primary Division.

Briae Edwards scored four points as J.T. Ambrose Primary prevailed 5-1 over S.R. Olivia David Primary in another Mini Girls Primary Division encounter.

AJ Kirwan converted 10 points, and Dominique Browne scored four points to propel Mary E. Pigott Primary to a 14-6 victory over Cedar Grove Primary in the Mini Boys Primary Division.

Levi Richards sank nine points, and William Dorsett scored six points as Ottos Comprehensive School clinched a 22-16 victory over St. Joseph's

Academy in the Mini Boys Secondary Division.

Princess Margaret School also pulled off an 18-9 victory against St. Joseph's Academy in the same division. Emeka Daniel sank six points, and Thevorn Adams scored four points for Princess Margaret School. Jude Bailey converted four points for St. Joseph's Academy.

There were wins for St. Anthony's Secondary School and Clare Hall Secondary School in the Junior Boys Division.

St. Anthony's Secondary School prevailed 32-28 against Princess Margaret School. Romel Mason sank nine points, and Kaden Edwards scored eight points for St. Anthony's Secondary School. Elijah Charles shot a game-high 18 points for Princess Margaret School.

Tajaharon Davis produced 22 points, and Jovan Gordon sank 11 points as

Clare Hall Secondary snatched a 29-25 victory over Antigua Grammar School. Ayodele Edwards scored eight points for Antigua Grammar School.

Sir McChesney George High School clinched a narrow 43-41 victory over St. Mary's Secondary School in the Senior Boys Division. Eli Harris sank 11 points, and Kyjah John converted 10 points for Sir McChesney George High School.

Yohan Nicholas shot a game-high 24 points, and Sheldon George scored 10 points for St. Mary's Secondary School.

Tristan Thibou produced 13 points, and Khalique Harris sank 11 points to lead Island Academy to a 41-22 victory over the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) in another Senior Boys Division encounter. Victor Edwards scored six points for ABCAS.

# Sports News

## Afghanistan beat Windies in warm-up match at Men's T20 World Cup



**Matthew Forde**

In a clinical display of power at the top and squeeze in the middle, Afghanistan handed West Indies a 23-run defeat in their final official warm-up match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India on Wednesday.

Choosing to field first at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, the West Indies ran into a whirlwind as

Ibrahim Zadran (51) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (43) looked in sublime touch, dismantling the new ball to rack up 90 runs in just 8.5 overs.

While the pace bowlers struggled for rhythm, the spinners offered the only respite as Roston Chase (1 for 18) and Gudakesh Motie (1 for 29) managed to pull the strings back, preventing a total

that threatened to cross the 200-mark.

A late cameo from Azmatullah Omarzai (35) ensured Afghanistan posted a formidable 182 for six off their 20 overs. In reply, the West Indies were restricted to 159 for seven off their 20 overs.

The West Indies chase was never truly in the hunt as spinners Mujeeb Ur

Saturday 7th February 2026, 05:30  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2026 - Match 2

Eden Gardens, Kolkata



**WEST INDIES**



**SCOTLAND**



**T20**  
ICC MEN'S T20  
**WORLD CUP**  
INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

# Sports News

Rahman and Mohammad Nabi exploited a surface that offered grip, reducing the men from the Caribbean to a dismal 82 for seven by the 14th over.

The only real spark for West Indies came from an unlikely source as No. 8. Matthew Forde played a blinder, smashing an unbeaten 52 off just 26 balls, decorated with four fours and four towering sixes.

Alongside the veteran Jason Holder, who hit 25 not out, Forde added respectability to the scorecard with an unbroken 77-run eight-wicket stand.

For the West Indies, the form book is starting to look a bit grim, with only two wins from seven matches in 2026 and recent series losses to Afghanistan and South Africa.

Wednesday's loss to Afghanistan has left the Caribbean side potentially with more questions than answers ahead of their tournament opener on Saturday, February 7.

The West Indies will next travel to Kolkata, where Scotland awaits in their T20 World Cup Group C opener.

*Dallas Mavericks forward Anthony Davis (3) drives to the basket while guarded by Utah Jazz forward Cody Williams (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. (AP)*

## Wizards acquiring Anthony Davis from Mavericks

DALLAS (AP) — The Washington Wizards are acquiring Anthony Davis in an eight-player trade with the

Mavericks that includes draft picks for Dallas, a person with knowledge of the deal said Wednesday.

The move is a signal the Mavericks are moving on from the widely criticized trade that sent superstar Luka Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers for a package headlined by Davis last year.

Former general manager Nico Harrison, who was fired by Dallas in November, engineered the middle-of-the-night deal that angered fans. Trade speculation had surrounded Davis ever since Harrison was let go following a slow start to the season.

The Wizards are sending Khris Middleton, AJ Johnson, Malaki Branham, and Marvin Bagley III to the Mavericks along with two first-round draft picks and three second-rounders, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal had yet to be approved by the NBA.

Washington is getting three guards from Dallas in Jaden Hardy, D'Angelo Russell, and Dante Exum.

Meanwhile, James Harden is headed to the Cleveland Cavaliers, with the Los Angeles Clippers agreeing to send the 11-time All-Star back to the Eastern Conference during his highest-scoring season in six years, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday night. ESPN was first to report the deal was finalized.

The Cavaliers are giving up point guard Darius Garland and a second-round pick, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on con-

dition of anonymity because the trade has not yet been approved by the NBA.

Harden is averaging 25.4 points this season, his most since averaging 34.3 points in 2019-20. He's been a huge part of the Clippers' resurgence back into playoff contention after a dismal 6-21 start.

"He means a lot to our team and we've seen it the last three years," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said Monday night when stories began breaking indicating such a move was close.

Cleveland will become Harden's sixth team. He played for Oklahoma City, then Houston, then Brooklyn, then Philadelphia and, since 2023, the Clippers.

For the Cavaliers, it seems to be a move for right now, pairing the 36-year-old Harden with another star guard in Donovan Mitchell. For the Clippers, it seems to be a move with an eye on the future. The 26-year-old Garland is a two-time All-Star, averaging 18 points and 6.9 assists this season for Cleveland.

Harden opted out of the final year of his contract last summer with the Clippers to sign a new deal that would have been worth US\$81.5 million for this season and the 2026-27 campaign. Next year is at his option, which basically meant he was on a one-year contract anyway.

He got that deal after averaging 22.8 points, 5.8 rebounds and 8.7 assists and returning to the All-NBA team for the first time since 2019-20.



# Sports

THURSDAY 05<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**POINT** ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**EXPRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## SAP, Willikies, and Hoppers get wins in First Division League



*The players of the SAP football team*

SAP FC, Willikies FC, and the Greenbay Hoppers FC recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Tuesday.

Tyrique Tonge struck a first-half hat trick as SAP FC notched up their fifth win in 11 matches by snatching a 4-0 victory against Bolans FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Tonge had conversions in the 11th, 12th, and 31st minutes to give SAP FC a three-nil lead at halftime. Dow Southwell wrapped up the victory with a 75th-minute conversion.

The result allows SAP FC to move on to 20 points, while Bolans FC remains on 12 points after losing for the fifth time in 13 matches.

Willikies FC recorded their fourth win in 12 matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against FC Master Ballerz.

The result allows the Willikies FC to move on 14 points, while FC Master

Ballerz remain on nine points after succumbing to their eighth defeat in 13 matches.

Da Paul O'George also achieved a hat trick as the Greenbay Hoppers notched up their seventh win in 12 matches with a 7-0 drubbing of the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the ABFA Technical Center.

George had conversions in the 31st, 57th, and 81st minutes. Kishorn Hamilton scored an own goal in the first minute of added time to give Hoppers a two-nil lead at halftime.

The other goals for the Greenbay Hoppers were converted by Jari Jackson in the 52nd minute, Tyree Archibald in the 78th minute, and Je'Taime Barrett in the 85th minute.

The Greenbay Hoppers advanced to 22 points, while the Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain at the bottom of the standings with eight points after crashing to their eighth defeat in 12 matches.

Meanwhile, the Young Lions of Old Road moved into joint first place with Sea View Farm FC at the top of the ABFA's Second Division on Tuesday.

The Young Lions extended their unbeaten run, claiming their eighth win in 10 matches, with a 3-0 victory against Fort Road FC at the Fort Road playing field.

Geraldo Browne opened the scoring with a 26th-minute conversion, and Jahiem Hazelwood scored in the 40th minute to give the Young Lions a two-nil lead at halftime. Zavier Joseph wrapped up the win by converting a penalty kick in the 78th minute.

The result allows the Young Lions to join Sea View Farm FC as joint leaders of the Second Division. Both teams have 26 points, but Sea View Farm FC has played 11 matches, one more than the Young Lions.

Fort Road FC remains in fifth place with 21 points after losing for the fourth time in 11 matches.