

Antigua and Barbuda Records Lowest Rate of Delinquency in ECCU

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PAHO & WHO officials along with officials of the Ministry of Health on the signing of the MCCS agreement

Antigua and Barbuda Records Lowest Rate of Delinquency in ECCU

The Antigua and Barbuda economy continues to show strong performances in several indicators by recording the lowest rate of delinquency or Non-Performing Loans (NPL) of the countries comprising the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

This is one of the positive outcomes of a meeting of the currency union held last Friday. Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who also holds the Finance Ministry portfolio, reported that NPL for Antigua and Barbuda was tagged at 3 percent.

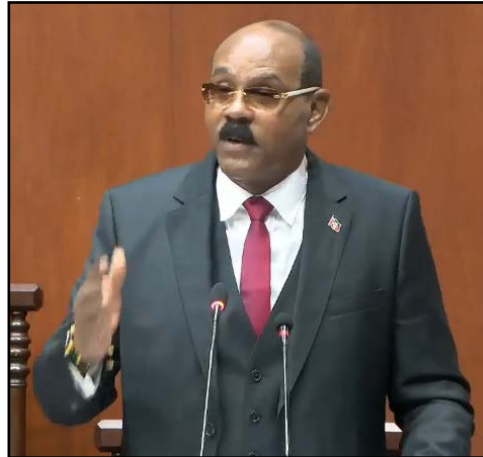
“We have moved from being the worst performing members of the ECCU to one of the best performing countries. Additionally, our banks have strong liquidity and our banks are generally sound,” PM Browne observed.

He noted that there are some headwinds brought on by the geopolitical environment, nonetheless, the feeling is that the economies of the ECCU should record strong growth of about three percent this year, although he added that Antigua and Barbuda will likely exceed that rate of growth.

The prime minister also revealed that the ECCU has decided on several strategic measures to ensure continued economic growth, one of which includes pooling their resources to achieve this goal.

Notably, he explained that there are over \$140 million dollars lodged in the ECCB from dormant accounts across the currency union. He announced a plan to utilize these funds to help propel economic growth.

“We have issues of food insecurity and energy insecurity and what we are thinking is that we can utilize profits from the bank (ECCB) and even unclaimed assets as sometimes



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

there are those deposits lodged on dormant accounts that are sent to the central bank. Some have been there for 10, 15, 20 and even 30 years. I’m told that there are approximately \$140 million of these non-perform-

ing assets. We gave said to the governor and staff, take the necessary legislative measures so that these funds can be made available to the government for development,” he disclosed.

Of the amount at the central bank, PM Browne said about \$31 million would be Antigua and Barbuda’s portion and he is thinking of taking the necessary steps to indemnify the government should anyone come forward to claim the funds after they have been utilized. Despite not legally required to do so, the prime minister said his government would reimburse anyone who comes forward to claim their funds even after the accounts have been dormant for upwards of twenty years in some cases.



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Johann Hesse Relieved of Ambassadorial Appointment

Johann Hesse has relieved of his appointment as Antigua and Barbuda's Non-Resident Ambassador to the African Union with immediate effect.

The announcement was made on Saturday by Prime Minister Gaston Browne citing Hesse's failure to disclose his involvement with a company that benefitted from the sale of the Alfa Nero superyacht.

Hesse is a partner in a company that was paid a commission for its role in arranging the sale of the Alfa Nero. His involvement in the company was made public when it was included in recent court filings.

The Cabinet took note of information indicating that Hesse had received a commission payment of USD \$450,000 in connection with the sale of the Alfa Nero yacht.

The allegations, the Cabinet noted, which surfaced through court-related filings, sought to create a link between Ambassador Hesse and Prime Minister Gaston Browne.



Hesse was summoned to last Wednesday's Cabinet meeting when he was asked to give an explanation. Hesse informed the Cabinet that a company owned by one of his business partners, Mr. Rufus Gobat, received the commission payment of USD \$450,000. The company, which is registered in the United Kingdom and is tax compliant, earned the commission after successfully securing a buyer for the

vessel during the initial phase of the bidding process.

However, during the discussion on the issue on the Browne and Browne show last Saturday, PM Browne noted that the transaction between the buyers of the vessel and the company in which Hesse is a shareholder, is normal business procedures for companies operating in this in this space.

However, given the controversies that have surrounded the sale of the vessel, he felt that Hesse had a responsibility to notify the government of his involvement in the sale.

"On the face of it, we didn't think that we could go further with it; except, we felt that he had an obligation to disclose sooner as the matter was in the public domain for months. Even as there were attempts to link my family in this matter, when we first heard it we dismissed it as a fabrication. Even now, there is no suggestion of illegality, but given the circumstances, the Cabinet decided to relieve him of his duties," PM Browne stated.

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CBH Issues Important Public Advisory Regarding Consuming fish from the Sea Near the Cooks Landfill

The Central Board of Health joins the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, to caution all residents, fisherfolk, and seafood vendors not to harvest, consume, or sell fish and shellfish taken from the cove west of Cook's Landfill, in the vicinity of Hermitage Bay.

In a statement, CBH noted that last Thursday at approximately 8:38 a.m., Antigua Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard (ABDF CG) received reports of an oil sheen in the waters at Hermitage Bay, extending in the direction of Pelican Point. The ABDF Coast Guard and a team from the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) immediately responded and conducted on-site assessments, while landside assessments were conducted by Central Board of Health.

Preliminary findings indicate that the material observed on the water is a surface sheen consistent with petroleum-based contamination. While the sheen is not recoverable and is expected to dissipate over time, investigations suggest that the possible source may be seepage from the Cook's Landfill area. The exact origin remains under investigation.

Although current meteorological and marine assessments indicate that wind and wave action are moving the material away from the shoreline, there remains a potential risk to marine life within the affected cove area. As a pre-




cautionary public health measure, residents are strongly advised:

- ▶ Do not fish in the cove west of Cook's Dump (in the vicinity of Hermitage Bay).
- ▶ Do not collect or consume fish, shellfish, or other marine life from this area.
- ▶ Do not sell or distribute seafood harvested from the affected waters.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) has been partially activated, and members of the Marine Pollution Plan Executive Committee, including the Environment Division, Fisheries Division, Port Authority, APUA, and other key agencies are engaged and monitoring the situation closely.



The Coast Guard remains on site, and aerial assessments have been conducted to assist with determining the extent of the seepage. Further updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

The public is urged to comply fully with this advisory, which has been issued in accordance with established public health and marine response protocols, in the interest of health and safety. Anyone observing unusual marine conditions or petroleum-based residue in the area is encouraged to report it immediately to the Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard via telephone at **1(268)462-0671/1(268)462-2843/1(268)462-3206/1(268)462-2841**.



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Minister of Health Commends Partners as Landmark Dental Clinic Delivers Over USD \$1.5 Million in Free Care

Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph has expressed sincere appreciation to the Sandals Foundation and Great Shape Inc. for collaborating with the Ministry of Health to deliver a landmark dental outreach initiative, **1000 Smiles Dental**, which has significantly expanded access to oral healthcare for citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Minister noted that the partnership resulted in the delivery of free dental care and oral health services being provided to citizens and residents with a value of more than USD \$1,577,834 in just two weeks. The dental clinic was held at the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre from January 19 to 30 and demonstrated the powerful impact of public-private collaboration in advancing national health outcomes.

During the two-week period, 3,575 Antiguan benefited from 100 percent free dental care and oral health education, while 8,481 individual dental services were delivered to 1,596 patients—services that would have cost millions of dollars if accessed privately.

Services provided during the clinic included:

Cleanings: 728

Extractions: 1,020

Root canals: 46

Fillings: 586

Fluoride treatments: 493

Sealants: 463

X-rays: 1,026

The Minister applauded members of the public for stepping forward in large numbers to take advantage of the opportunity, noting that the strong turnout reflected public confidence in the programme.

In addition to clinical care, the ini-



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph shares a light moment with a member of the 1000 Smiles Dental project team



Scores of people attend the dental clinic over the two weeks it operated in Antigua

tiative placed strong emphasis on prevention and education. A total of 7,561 oral hygiene kits—including toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss—were distributed, and 2,707 children received oral health education, equipping the next generation with the tools and knowledge needed to maintain healthy smiles.

The success of the clinic was made possible through the dedication of 121 volunteer dental professionals, whose expertise and commitment helped to restore smiles, relieve pain, and improve quality of life across communities.

At the same time, Sir Molwyn expressed concern that the volume of patients served highlights a deeper issue—that many people in Antigua and Barbuda require dental care but are unable to afford it under normal cir-

cumstances. He urged individuals to continue taking advantage of services offered through the clinics, emphasizing the importance of early treatment and preventive care.

Given the scale of need demonstrated, the Minister indicated that the Government will initiate the expansion of dental and oral health services, including strengthening sustainable delivery within the public healthcare system.

Sir Molwyn Joseph further noted that the outcomes of the programme align

closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 which aims to ensure that healthcare is affordable, accessible and that residents receive the care that they need.

He also highlighted that this initiative comes on the heels of another successful clinic held in May 2025, delivered in collaboration with United Hands Inc. and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, reinforcing the value of non-profit and faith-based partnerships in extending healthcare access.

The Minister reaffirmed that the Ministry of Health intends to attract and support similar collaborations in the future, recognizing that strong partnerships remain essential to ensuring equitable, accessible, and quality healthcare for all Antiguan and Barbudans.

Local News

PAHO/WHO and Antigua and Barbuda advance health priorities with signing of Multi Country Cooperation Strategy 2026–2031



Antigua and Barbuda has officially signed the PAHO/WHO MultiCountry Cooperation Strategy (MCCS) 2026–2031 for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, strengthening its commitment to improving health outcomes and advancing shared regional development priorities.

The signing was presided over by Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, who endorsed the Strategy on behalf of the Government. PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, Dr. Amalia Del Riego, witnessed the ceremony.

This national endorsement follows the regional launch and multicountry signing event held in Washington, D.C., in September 2025, where

PAHO/WHO and Ministers of Health from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean collectively endorsed the Strategy.

The MCCS 2026–2031 outlines a collaborative agenda to address priority health challenges across the Eastern Caribbean. Developed through extensive consultations with government stakeholders and PAHO technical teams, the Strategy focuses on:

- Strengthening health governance and leadership
- Combating Communicable Diseases
- Reducing NCDs and mental health burdens
- Transforming health systems
- Building climateresilient health systems

tems

Attendees at the ceremony included, Junior Minister of Health, Sen. Michael Joseph, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamaria De Castro, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Teri-Ann Joseph and staff from PAHO's decentralized location in Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Del Riego commended Antigua and Barbuda's leadership and reaffirmed PAHO's commitment to supporting implementation, "Antigua and Barbuda's formal endorsement reinforces our shared commitment to building stronger, more resilient, and more equitable health systems. PAHO looks forward to continued collaboration to ensure measurable, long-term impact for the population."



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HAPI Undertakes Major Home Improvement in Five Islands



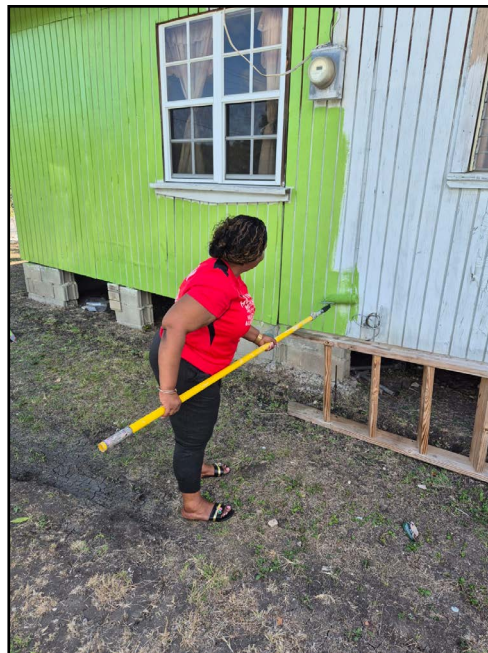
The government-sponsored Home Assisted Programme for the Indigent (HAPI), working with its partners, including the Social Protection Board, has undertaken a major home improvement project in Five Islands where it is repairing a house that is a home for 25 persons.

Coordinator of the HAPI initiative, Inspector Veldon Raggette, said the Five Island project is the biggest home improvement initiative that the entity has ever tackled.

“Here at HAPI, we are currently juggling several projects simultaneously, but we won’t sugarcoat it—the Five Islands project is our most challenging yet. Providing safe and adequate housing for a family of more than 25 souls is no small feat. It requires precision, care, and a whole lot of resources,” Insp Raggette explained.

He disclosed that during a recent discussion with the management of Kings Casino, one of the programme’s longest-standing sponsors and supporters, an important point was made, the number of bathrooms is absolutely vital for a great transformation.

“A house isn’t just a roof; it’s about dignity, privacy, and functionality for



every member of the family. True to their legacy of giving back, Kings Casino has stepped up in a massive way. They have agreed to donate everything we need for the bathrooms, no matter the cost!” he reported.

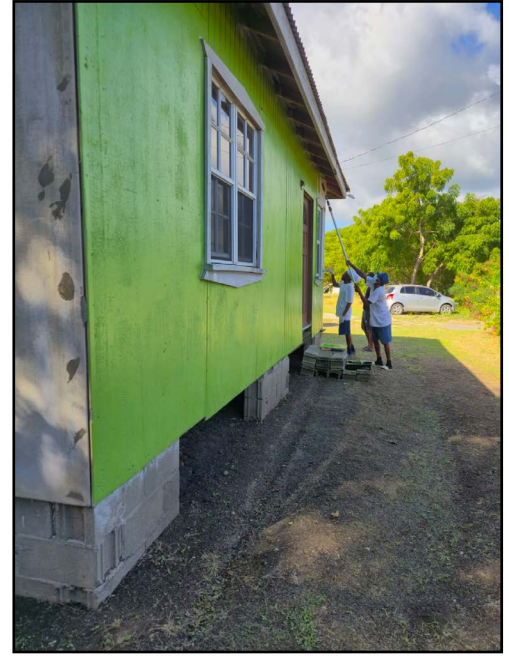
He described this donation as tangible evidence of the partnership which HAPI has forged with the corporate community across Antigua and Barbuda. Insp Raggette said HAPI would not have been able to achieve all that it



has achieved without partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda government, the corporate sponsors, a dedicated group of volunteers and the inmates of His Majesty’s Prison, who he noted are learning building skills while giving back.

He expressed special appreciation to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Social and Urban Transformation, Minister Rawdon Turner, and Social Protection Board Coordinator, Mary Baltimore,

Local News



for their unwavering vision and support.

“Together, we are making this programme the most impactful social programme in Antigua and Barbuda’s history,” Raggette declared.

Meanwhile, HAPI and the Social Protection Board used the occasion of Valentine’s Day last Saturday to celebrate it in the most meaningful way by giving a special Valentine’s gift to a deserving family in Willikies. “This

act of kindness reflects our mission: to share love, restore hope, and remind families that they are not alone,” Social Protection Board’s Mary Baltimore stated.

She said the Social Protection Board continues to spread love and care across communities under the strong and visionary leadership of PM Browne, and Minister Turner.

“A special thank you to Mr. Raggette, whose dedication goes beyond

duty you are truly more than just a supporter. Deanna Williams, thank you for providing the food and helping make this Valentine’s initiative possible. Mr. Randy Baltimore, we appreciate you and assure you that we will continue to work closely with you for the betterment of the consistency. To the dedicated and hardworking Ms. Lewis and her team, we say thank you for your unwavering service and teamwork,” she remarked.

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Festivals Commission acquires its own stage

The Festival Commission has acquired its own stage which represent one of the largest expenditures for the commission whenever it hosts the annual Carnival and One Nation festivals.

The disclosure comes from Cabinet spokesman, Maurice Merchant, who said the stage and equipment have already arrived in the country and this forms a critical acquisition for the commission.

Merchant sought to allay fears that this move will result in direct competition for those involved in the rental of such equipment to the commission and to those involved in hosting carnival fetes.

Merchant explained that the proliferation of fetes almost on a weekly basis ensures that there is enough business available for those involved in that space to prosper.

This comes as Merchant reported that the Cabinet spent some time on discussion on the proposed New Governance Structure for Festivals Commission and Ministry of Creative Industries.

“Cabinet invited senior officials from the Ministry of Creative Industries, representatives of the Festivals Commission, and Treasury officials to a special session to deliberate on a new operational and governance construct for the Festivals Commission and the Ministry.

“The meeting formed part of Government’s broader strategy to strengthen the management, transparency, and professional execution of national cultural events while advancing the development of the creative industries as a viable economic sector,” Maurice reported.

Under the proposed framework, the Festivals Commission will assume primary responsibility for the planning and execution of the country’s major national productions and flag-



ship cultural events. The Ministry of Creative Industries will retain responsibility for the administrative management and coordination of smaller and routine cultural activities, including national observances and community-based events. This separation of roles is intended to improve efficiency, reduce bureaucratic delays, and ensure that large-scale productions receive the level of technical and professional oversight required.

Cabinet was advised that the restructuring is also aimed at addressing long-standing concerns related to reporting, financial accountability, and procurement practices. Officials emphasized the importance of strengthened financial controls, improved documenta-

tion, and more transparent engagement with service providers to prevent budget overruns. Enhanced reporting mechanisms are expected to provide clearer oversight for both the Ministry and the Commission moving forward.

The discussion also highlighted Government’s continued investment in the creative and cultural sectors, including significant capital works to modernize performance and training facilities. These investments are intended to elevate the standard of local productions, improve talent development, and create exportable cultural products capable of generating foreign exchange and employment opportunities.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 32 of the Constitution, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association will be held at the Office of the Governor General and Chief Scout located at the Government House in St. John’s, Antigua on Thursday 26th February 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The election of officers for the period March 2026 – February 2029 will also be conducted.

All Members are invited to attend punctually and to note that subscriptions for 2026 are now due and payable.

Seatons Family Mourns Death of Teen by Suspected Drowning

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the suspected drowning of 19-year-old Zakeem Nicholas of Seatons.

Reports indicate that Nicholas and a companion went out to sea on the morning of Friday, 13 February, aboard a vessel for a recreational diving activity off Seaton's Dock.

Both individuals reportedly entered the water; however, Nicholas subsequently developed problems with his fishing gear and was last seen swimming back to the vessel.

When his companion returned to the boat, Nicholas was nowhere to be found. Efforts to locate him were unsuccessful.

The Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard was notified and immediately initiated a coordinated search and res-



Zakeem Nicholas of Seatons

cue operation involving multiple vessels and rescue personnel.

After several hours of extensive searching, Nicholas was not located,

and the search was suspended at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Friday.

At approximately 8:05 a.m. on Saturday, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard resumed search efforts, and at 10:09 a.m., the lifeless body of Nicholas was discovered on the seabed in the vicinity of Long Bay Beach.

He was subsequently pronounced dead at approximately 10:39 a.m.

The Police Administration extends sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Zakeem Nicholas and expresses gratitude to the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard and all those who assisted in the search and recovery operation.

Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

DAILY PROGRAMMING

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

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

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

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

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

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

Inclusive Agricultural Project Bridges Abilities and Learning



Installation of irrigation system at the Cedar Grove primary school for a project involving the differently abled at the Victory Centre

An innovative agricultural initiative has been launched, bringing together differently abled persons from the Victory Center and students from the Cedar Grove Primary School in a shared learning environment. The project which is funded under the GEF SGP emphasizes inclusivity, skill development, and community empowerment through hands-on farming activities.

The project will install 2 fully automated Hydroponics systems, nurseries rehabilitation and an introduction to conventional garden at Cedar Grove School with a drip irrigation system where students and differently abled participants can work side by side, exchanging knowledge and supporting one another in ag-

ricultural practices such as planting, composting, and irrigation.

The programme provides tailored training that accommodates diverse abilities, ensuring everyone can contribute meaningfully to sustainable farming.

By fostering inclusivity, the project not only enhances agricultural productivity but also strengthens social bonds and mutual respect among participants. Participants gain confidence, practical skills, and a sense of ownership, while students learn empathy, teamwork, and the value of diversity.

The project is currently being implemented and coordinated by the Inter American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture



Hydroponic system being installed at the Victory Centre



Hydroponic system being installed at Cedar Grove primary school (IICA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture with support from the Private Sector.

This initiative is a living example of how agriculture can cultivate both crops and compassion. Students have expressed that working

alongside differently abled peers has broadened their perspective on inclusion and resilience.

The project is expected to be completed by June 2026 with an official launch inviting all the relevant stakeholders.



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Women, Girls & Science

Science lives in the wind and sea,
In coral reefs and biodiversity.
In data charts and rising tides,
In landfill fires and shifting sides.



On February eleven, the world takes stance,
To honour women in science's dance.
The United Nations made it clear,
Their voices matter — far and near.

UNESCO echoes, bold and strong,
That science and equality belong.
For progress thrives where barriers fall,
And knowledge must be shared with all.

But pause a moment — look again,
Who's missing from this global pen?
When we say "girls in STEM," do we see
Those navigating disability?

A girl with wheels beneath her chair,
Whose mind is sharp, whose dreams are rare.
A student reading climate code,
While others walk an easier road.

A young woman managing pain,
Yet calculating rainfall's gain.
A future engineer at heart,
Kept out because we failed to start.

If labs are upstairs, doors too tight,
If lessons lack braille or proper light,
If captions fade and lifts don't rise,
We shrink our nation's brightest skies.

Antigua's sun is fierce and bright,
Our coastlines shift with climate's might.
Our waste piles high, our oceans plead,
We need innovation — thought and deed.

Who better to rethink design,
Than those who cross each barrier line?
Who better to reimagine space,
Than those denied a rightful place?

Inclusion is not charity,
It's strategy for equity.
A climate plan that leaves girls out,
Is one that falters — there's no doubt.

Science asks: what can we change?
 What systems must we rearrange?
 So let us turn that lens within,
 And ask where true reform begins.



Build ramps beside each classroom door.
 Make lab tables adjust and lower.
 Print texts in braille, add sound and sign,
 Ensure each pathway is by design.

Let policies reflect the truth:
 That every girl, each brilliant youth,
 Deserves a seat, a tool, a voice,
 In shaping futures — not by choice,
 But by right.

For climate justice, side by side,
 With disability included in stride,
 Means stronger shores and wiser plans,
 And science shaped by many hands.

The oceans rise — so must we too,
 Lift expectations into view.

The landfill burns — so must we spark,
 New thinking born from every heart.

A wheelchair does not block a mind.
 A cane does not leave brilliance behind.
 A diagnosis does not define
 The limits of a grand design.

So on this day, let's widen scope,
 Turn celebration into hope.
 For women, girls — in every form —
 Must help us weather every storm.

In labs, in policy, field, and sea,
 In coding climate destiny.
 In waste reform and energy,
 In shaping island equity.

Science is here. Science is now.
 It lives in question, why, and how.
 And if our future we would grow,
 Inclusion is the seed we sow.

So let Antigua make its stand —
 Accessible across the land.
 Where every girl, both fierce and bright,
 Can claim her place — her equal right.

For when we widen who belongs,
 Our science deepens, clearer, strong.
 And climate action, bold and wise,
 Will rise through many different eyes.

Women. Girls. In every sphere.
 With every dream we hold dear.
 In science, let them lead the way —
 Not someday.

But today.

REGGAE IN THE PARK



ZAMBAI
AND FRIENDS

BLESS
EYE

LUCIANO

THE
STRAYS

THE
CLIMAX BAND

TUE **21** APR

EARLY BIRD

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GENERAL

\$120

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GATE

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Landing Strip, Weatherill's, Pink Mongoose Studio, Roti King,
Rivers by Quintessence (Redcliffe Quay),
Quintessence Variety Plus (QV+, Friars Hill Road)





Happy Kids

SCHOOL ART COMPETITION 2026

THEME

**CRUISING THE COAST,
ADVENTURE AROUND ANTIGUA**

MAR 30

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

APR 3 – 6

PEOPLE'S CHOICE FACEBOOK VOTING

APR 18

**ART EXHIBITION AND AWARDS
@ NATIONAL SAILING ACADEMY**



**ANTIGUA
SAILING
WEEK
2026**

Celebrating the life of
Darren Akeem Richards

Sunrise: 27th October, 1984 | Sunset: 12th, January, 2026



Homegoing Service

Thursday, 19th Feburary 2026
Vewing: 9:30am | Service: 10:00am
Spring Gardens Moravian Church
St. John's Antigua

Regional News

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Director of Tourism says DA is well prepared for Mas Domnik 2026



With just a few days to go before Carnival, Monday and Tuesday, February 16 and 17, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director of Tourism Marva Williams said that she is pleased to confirm that Dominica is prepared for Mas Domnik 2026.

She delivered remarks during the final Carnival Press Conference on Thursday.

“Dominica is prepared for Mas Domnik 2026,” she said. “Carnival is a major economic driver within our first quarter tourism performance. It stimulates demand across accommodation, transportation, food services, retail, and entertainment while strengthening Dominica’s visibility within the regional markets.”

She continued, “Mas Domnik is culture in motion, and it is commerce in action.”

Williams emphasized that current industry indicators are encouraging and accommodation providers are report-

ing strong occupancy levels, particularly from regional Caribbean markets and the diaspora.

Furthermore, Williams noted that air access continues to support steady inbound traffic, and stakeholders across the tourism value chain are positioned for a high-activity weekend.

“This momentum reinforces Carnival’s role in supporting livelihoods and generating economic circulation at community level,” she stated.

She added that tourism remains a significant contributor to national development, and events like Mas Domnik play an important role in sustaining that performance.

“Carnival creates opportunities for entrepreneurs, creatives, promoters, vendors, designers, and service providers,” she asserted. “It drives repeat visitation and strengthens destination loyalty.”

Williams pointed out that for many

small operators, this period represents a meaningful share of annual revenue.

“From a brand perspective, Mas Domnik positions Dominica as a culture-forward Caribbean destination,” she noted. “It highlights our music, fashion, creativity, and energy in a way that is distinct and recognizable. Visitors are not simply attending an event. They are participating in a uniquely Dominican experience.”

Meanwhile, Williams said over the past several months, the Discover Dominica Authority has worked in close coordination with the government of Dominica, security services, and the private sector partners, to ensure full operational readiness.

“Planning has addressed visitor flow, event logistics, communication systems, and safety coordination,” Williams explained. “We are aligned, and the necessary frameworks are in place to support a well-managed carnival period.”

She added, “Preparedness also requires collective responsibility.”

Williams encouraged all patrons to celebrate responsibly, respect public guidance, and contribute to a safe and welcoming environment.

“The experience we deliver during carnival influences how visitors speak about Dominica long after the festivities conclude,” she said.

She also encouraged patrons to drink and drive responsibly. (Dominica News Online)



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Regional News

Minister reveals shocking state of SVG's health infrastructure

St Vincent Minister of Health Daniel Cummings has provided a stark assessment of the dilapidated state of medical facilities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, describing many of them as poorly maintained, “rundown,” or even in “shatter.”

The Milton Cato Memorial Hospital is described as a facility that many people are “really afraid” to visit due to overwhelming negativity surrounding its condition. Cummings identify several critical issues affecting the facility including:

Poor Maintenance and Location: Cummings asserts that the hospital has lacked a consistent maintenance program and that its current location is not ideal for a medical facility.

Sewage Problems: There have been instances of sewage backing up in front of hospital wards, a problem the Minister noted was not new and had occurred previously.

Ineffective Repairs: The Minister argues that “no matter how much patching” is done at Milton Cato, the facility will never be suitable or long-lasting, necessitating the move to a new hospital at Arnos Vale.

The state of smaller health facilities throughout the country is described as inconsistent, ranging “from fancy to shatter”.

Cummings said many clinics have holes in their roofs, causing leaks so



severe that the facilities cannot be used at times.

Even newer facilities have significant gaps; for example, the Camden Park clinic lacks a reliable water supply and water storage tanks, and had no place for staff to dry laundry, he stated.

The physical condition of the Ministry of Health’s own offices and storage areas was cited as being in total disarray. Cummings described his first day in the office as having to “hold my breath” because the place was “a dump”. Staff were observed using buckets to catch water leaking from the ceiling directly outside his office. Additionally, a washroom in the office was unusable due to fumes from a waste pipe that was not properly connected to the outlet.

He said the central storage for medical

supplies is described as “totally run-down,” with offices and exits blocked by boxes. “Furthermore, the government pays rent for various storage spaces in town, one of which contains “pure garbage”.

Cummings attributed these conditions to a failure of the previous administration to prioritize maintenance.

The Minister stated that the maintenance agency, BRAGSA, is described as lacking the necessary resources and using a flawed methodology that involves sending workers from long distances to perform minor repairs.

To address this, the Minister proposed engaging local construction workers within communities to handle smaller maintenance tasks for clinics and other government buildings. (St Vincent Times)

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UNDP, Australia partner on \$9m project to build three solar centres for hurricane-hot fishers



Three additional solar energy community centres are to be established in fishing villages affected by Hurricane Melissa under a \$9.2 million partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Australia.

When completed, the UNDP-supported centres will total five, with plans to expand to other impacted fishing communities. Two centres were recently delivered to Parottee and Galleon Beach in St Elizabeth.

UNDP Resident Representative Dr Kishan Khoday said the initiative demonstrates the organisation's commitment to climate-smart recovery and sustainable development.

"Though modest in scale, these systems send a strong message: clean energy can support livelihoods, strengthen food security, and help communities recover stronger than before," he stated in a statement on

Friday.

The two recently delivered centres now provide cold storage for more than 300 fishers, Starlink internet, charging stations, and air-conditioned spaces powered by eight photovoltaic panels generating 5,600 watts each. Two boat engines were also donated to Galleon Beach for shared community use.

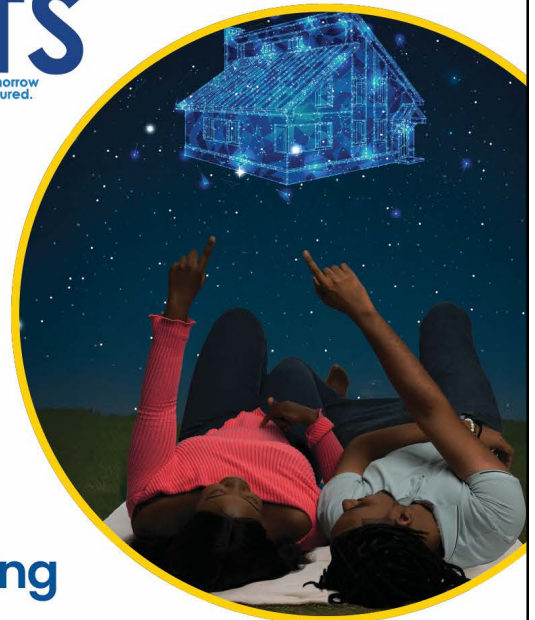
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Floyd Green, welcomed the initiative, highlighting its contribution to sustainability, climate resilience, and rebuilding livelihoods.

The solar centres, delivered under UNDP's Jamaica Resilient Recovery Initiative in partnership with the National Fisheries Authority and Jamaica 4H Foundation, provide clean energy at zero cost and form part of broader efforts to restore fishing communities' resilience after Hurricane Melissa. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

18 songs in Road March battle



The Trinidad Unified Calypsonians' Organisation (TUCO) has confirmed the list of submissions for the 2026 National Road March competition, with 18 songs vying for the coveted title.

The submissions include big names in the soca industry, such as Machel Montano, who has entered two songs—"Encore" and "Move Out D Way" (with Paris Coutain).

Bunji Garlin (Ian Alvarez) has also entered, with "Road Man".

Other entries include "Cyah Behave" by Aaron St Louis (Voice); Mical Teja & Patrice Roberts' "Capital"; Sandra Paisy Emmanuel (Queen Steam) with "2 Ah Dem"; Kory Hart & Kevon Hart (Full Blown) with "Respectfully Yours"; and Shottalinkz (Kwesi Paul) with "Beating Road" and "Drinker".

TUCO reminded in a release yesterday that the Road March winner will be determined by which song is played

the most at designated judging points during the Parade of the Bands on Carnival Monday and Carnival Tuesday.

"We extend best wishes to all registered competitors and look forward to an exciting and closely contested Road March race as the nation takes to the streets for Carnival 2026," said Rondell Donawa, TUCO public relations officer.

Road March entrants:

- Aaron St Louis (Voice) "Cyah Behave"
- Ian Alvarez (Bunji Garlin) "Road Man"
- Jenelle Alicia De Leon (J Angel) "Leggo"
- Kenson Neptune (Ninja) "Pensioner's Anthem"
- Kory Hart and Kevon Hart (Full Blown) "Respectfully Yours"
- Kwesi Paul (Shottalinkz) "Beating Road"
- Kwesi Paul (Shottalinkz) "Drinker"
- Leonce Taylor "Ready Up"
- Leslie Ann St Clermont (Sofi Saint) "Power Mode"
- Lincoln Douglas (D'Anger D) "Stage Is Mine"
- Machel Montano "Encore"
- Machel Montano and Paris Coutain "Move Out D Way"
- Marcus Braveboy (Braveboy) "Love On D Road"
- Mical Teja and Patrice Roberts "Capital"
- Nesta Boxill (Sekon Sta) "Euphoria"
- Paul Lalla (Rack3Six) "Lunatic"
- Sandra Paisy Emmanuel (Queen Steam) "2 Ah Dem"
- Steve Gobert (Chovel) "Bigger Badder" (Trinidad Express)

Obama derides social media ‘clown show’ in first comments since Trump’s racist video post



Former President Barack Obama called the kind of rhetoric coming from President Donald Trump and his administration “a clown show” in a podcast interview that aired Saturday.

Obama was asked by YouTube podcaster Brian Tyler Cohen about the “de-evolution of the discourse” coming from Trump, Vice President JD Vance and others in their administration, including a racist video Trump posted online that depicted the former president and his wife, Michelle Obama, as apes.

Obama did not directly address the video, but discussed Trump’s actions, rhetoric and his administration’s mass deportation agenda.

“I think it’s important to recognize that the majority of the American people find this behavior deeply troubling,” Obama said, speaking broadly about the administration’s behavior for the first time since Trump reposted the video. “It is true that it gets attention. It’s true that it’s a distraction.”

People around the country “still be-

lieve in decency, courtesy, kindness, and there’s this sort of clown show that’s happening in social media and on television,” Obama added. “And what is true is that there doesn’t seem to be any shame about this among people who used to feel like you had to have some sort of decorum and a sense of propriety and respect for the office [of the president], right?”

Trump drew widespread condemnation from lawmakers in both parties after he posted the racist video to his Truth Social feed earlier this month. While he removed the post, he declined to apologize for posting it.

Obama also criticized Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for their brutal tactics in Minnesota, telling Cohen, “The rogue behavior of agents of the federal government ... is deeply concerning and dangerous.”

“This is not the America we believe in, and we’re going to fight back, and we’re going to push back with the truth and with cameras and with peaceful protests and shining a light on the sort of behavior that in the past

we’ve seen in authoritarian countries and we’ve seen in dictatorships, but we have not seen in America,” the former president added.

In the wide-ranging interview, Obama also discussed the problems plaguing his own party, calling for a “robust” primary in 2028 to determine the Democratic Party’s future.

“We shouldn’t be afraid of having a robust debate. I want all comers to sort this out. I benefited from having about as grueling a primary as I could have. It made me a better candidate. It ultimately made me a better president because I had been tested. My ideas had been tested,” the former president said.

He also called for Democrats to nominate a younger candidate who is “plugged into the moment” in 2028, though he did not mention former President Joe Biden, who was plagued by concerns about his age and mental acuity when he ran for re-election in 2024 and ultimately suspended his campaign.

“Part of it has to do with the fact that I was young,” Obama told Cohen about why he believed he was able to mobilize so many young voters when he ran for president in 2008.

“I’m 64 now. I’m pretty healthy — 64, feel great. But the truth is, half of the references that my daughters make about social media, TikTok, etc., I don’t know who they’re talking about. There is a element of at some point you age out, you’re not connected directly to the immediate struggles that folks are going through,” the former president added. “And so, I’m not making a hard and fast rule here, but I do think that Democrats do well when we have candidates who are plugged into the moment, to the zeitgeist, to the times.” (NBC)

Hundreds of thousands join Iran protests around the world



Hundreds of thousands of people took part in demonstrations around the world against the Iranian government on Saturday, following calls from the exiled son of the late shah for a “global day of action”.

Addressing an estimated 250,000 people in Munich, Reza Pahlavi - who has called for the overthrow of Iran’s Islamic regime - denounced a crack-down on recent protests there.

Munich, Los Angeles and Toronto saw the largest crowds, with smaller protests in cities including Tel Aviv, Lisbon, Sydney and London.

Activists say more than 6,000 people were killed after joining nationwide protests in Iran against the rising cost of living and the government. Thousands more deaths are being investigated.

Pahlavi told the crowd: “My first message is to our brave and fighting compatriots inside the country: know that you are not alone, and today the world stands with you in this struggle.”

Criticising Iran’s leadership, he said: “In contrast to this corrupt, repressive, child-killing regime, you represent a great culture and civilisation, and in a free Iran of tomorrow you will prove to the world what a great nation we are.”

Pahlavi’s daughter, Noor Pahlavi, addressed a crowd in Los Angeles. The BBC’s US partner CBS News reported her as saying Iranians had “never been this close to freeing up themselves from this Islamic regime”.

She called on US President Donald Trump to end ongoing nuclear talks with Iran’s leadership, describing it as “negotiation with murderers”.

On Friday, Trump told reporters a change in Iran’s government would be the “best thing that could happen”, though it was unclear whether his comments were in reference to Pahlavi, who is seeking a role in Iran.

Trump told news agency Reuters last month that Pahlavi seemed “very nice” but expressed uncertainty over whether he could muster enough support within Iran to eventually lead it.

In Toronto, where an estimated 350,000 joined a demonstration, participants told BBC Persian they were there to speak out on behalf of friends and family inside Iran.

Street protests broke out in Iran on 28 December, initially sparked by economic turmoil and fuelled by long-running discontent with the country’s leaders.

Demonstrations spread to more than 100 cities and towns across all of Iran’s provinces.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has confirmed the deaths of 6,872 protesters, including more than 150 children.

Iranian authorities have acknowledged that at least 3,000 people were killed, but have claimed some were members of the country’s security forces.

Many demonstrators in Iran have chanted Pahlavi’s name and called for his return to political leadership.

Groomed from birth to inherit the throne, Pahlavi was 18 years old when the 1979 Islamic revolution swept away his father’s monarchy.

Almost 50 years later, Pahlavi is once again seeking to shape his country’s future.

But critics question whether his vision for Iran would ultimately lead to a democracy. (BBC)

Ancient Egyptian artifacts stolen from Australian museum



A 52-year-old man has been charged after an Egyptian cat sculpture and “priceless” artifacts were stolen from an Australian history museum, Queensland police said Sunday.

The suspect is accused of smashing a window at the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology in Caboolture, north of Brisbane, in the early hours of Friday morning, before making off with the ancient haul.

Authorities quickly recovered the stolen treasures, including the 2,600-year-old wooden feline, a 3,300-year-old necklace, a mummy mask and a collar from a mummy.

All the stolen items have now been recovered with only minor damage

after searching a camper van, police said, with most of the artifacts still intact.

Police located the vehicle in a parking lot at a ferry terminal at around 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, roughly 50 miles from the museum, following a two-day search.

The suspect, who has no fixed address, was allegedly found in possession of the final missing item — the wooden cat sculpture. He was arrested on Russell Island, a small island off the coast of Queensland, hours later and has been charged with breaking and entering, along with three counts of willful damage.

He is due to appear in Cleveland Magistrates Court on Monday.

The heist wasn’t quite as movie-made as the Louvre heist in October 2025, when four masked thieves pulled off a daylight robbery in just seven minutes, smashing display cases to steal eight pieces of France’s historic crown jewels.

France’s Ministry of Culture confirmed the jewels stolen included a necklace and a pair of earrings from the Marie-Louise collection; a necklace, earrings and a tiara from the Queen Marie-Amélie and Queen Hortense collection; and a brooch, bodice bow and a tiara from the collection of Empress Eugénie.

The stolen jewels are worth an estimated \$102 million, and the majority were not recovered. (NBC)



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Windies women to kick off series against Sri Lanka with ODI contest

Antiguan all-rounder Shawnisha Hector has been named the West Indies Women's ODI squad, which was announced by Cricket West Indies (CWI), to face Sri Lanka in a three-match One Day International (ODI) home series from February 20 to 25 at the National Cricket Stadium in St George's, Grenada.

Hector, who is the first Antiguan to play for the West Indies women's team, returned to the side after playing in her only ODI during her debut against India in November, 2019. Hector was also selected to represent the West Indies in a T20 International series against South Africa in June 2025.

Hayley Matthews will captain the side, having fully recovered from the shoulder injury that sidelined her last June and caused her to miss the Women's Caribbean Premier League.

She will be supported by newly appointed vice-captain Chinelle Henry, who takes over the role from veteran wicketkeeper Shemaine Campbelle.

Henry's promotion recognizes her growing leadership qualities and consistent performances, both for the West Indies and in franchise leagues across the world, marking a new chapter in the team's leadership structure.

The West Indies also welcome back all-rounder Deandra Dottin into the fold after injury kept her away from the team for much of their 2025 commitments, including the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Pakistan, as well as subsequent series in England



Shawnisha Hector

followed by the home series against South Africa.

Cricket West Indies Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe expressed his delight at hosting the start of the Maroon Warriors' international assignments for 2026 saying, "This home series is a cornerstone event, not just for team preparation but for the continued elevation of women's cricket across the Caribbean."

The series against Sri Lanka marks a crucial milestone in the team's bid to rise up the rankings during the current ICC Women's Championship, as they build toward future ODI series against Australia, Ireland, Zimbabwe and Pakistan later this year.

Head Coach Shane Deitz is relishing the challenge of facing Sri Lanka and says the squad is eager to make the most of home conditions.

"We're excited to have this series against Sri Lanka, who are a really

good team. They beat us in the ODI series in Sri Lanka back in 2024, so we owe them one and now we get them on our home turf," Deitz said.

Sri Lanka are ranked 6th in ODIs compared to the West Indies at 9. The regional side has been steadily building capacity ahead of upcoming international assignments both at home and away and their training was supplemented with two high-performance camps in Antigua last year, one in August and the other, an eight-week camp, held from October to December.

Additionally, fifteen of the region's female cricketers, who are a part of the wider women's player pool, embarked on a specialized training camp last August at the Super Kings Academy in Chennai, India.

West Indies Women's ODI Squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Chinelle Henry (vice captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shemaine Campbelle, Jahzara Claxton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmer, Shawnisha Hector, Qiana Joseph, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Shunelle Sawh, and Stafanie Taylor.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach Shane Deitz, Team Manager Sheena Gooding, Assistant Coach Ryan Austin, Assistant Coach Damien Wright, Assistant Coach Shane Dowrich, Physiotherapist Ashley Stephens, Strength & Conditioning Coach Hector Martinez Charles, Performance Coach Dr. Nadine Sammy, and Media & Content Officer: Nicholas Maitland.



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Grenades stay in touch with United at the top of Premier Division



A starting XI of the Jennings Grenades football team

The Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades moved level with leaders and back-to-back champions All Saints United at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

The Grenades consolidated their second-place position on goal difference by recording their eleventh win in 14 matches with a 4-0 drubbing of John Hughes in the second game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Barrington Blake broke the deadlock by converting a penalty kick in the 35th minute, and goals by Malcolm Stewart in the 38th minute and Keanu Barrett in the 39th minute propelled the Grenades to a three-nil lead at halftime. Joshua Ferdinand wrapped up the win

by scoring his team's final goal in the 74th minute.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to advance to 35 points, the same as All Saints United, who boast a superior goal difference. John Hughes FC remains third from the bottom of the standings with 10 points after losing for the 11th time in 15 matches.

Green City FC and the Attacking Saints secured wins in the other two matches. Green City claimed their fifth win in 15 matches with a 4-0 drubbing of Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United in Saturday's opening game.

Omarion Barrett scored twice with conversions in the 13th and 52nd minutes, while the other goals for Green City were scored by Jahquane Richards in the 16th minute and Johnathan Shoy in the 68th minute.

Green City FC advanced to 18 points, while Jennings United FC remains second from the bottom of the 12-team standings with six points after crashing to their 13th defeat in 15 matches.

The Attacking Saints notched up their fifth win in 15 matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against the Potters Tigers in the last game on Saturday.

Following a goalless first half, Obafemi Poyotte broke the deadlock by scoring in the 60th minute, and teammate Rick Gordon converted a penalty kick in the fifth minute of added time to seal the win for the Attacking Saints.

The Attacking Saints consolidated their position in ninth place by moving on to 16 points, while the Potters Tigers remain on 22 points after slipping to their fifth defeat in 15 matches.

Guydadli Jets return to the top of Second Division League



The Guydadli Jets football team

The Guydadli Jets maintained their unbeaten run during the latest round of matches to return to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

The Guydadli Jets notched up their 10th win in 11 matches with a 2-1 victory against CPTSA Wings at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Following a goalless first half, Michael Peters broke the deadlock by converting a penalty kick in the 71st minute, and teammate Ivan Grant scored in the 81st minute to give Guydadli Jets a two-nil lead.

The Wings were reduced to 10 men in the 82nd minute when Dayon Hackett received a red card and was expelled. Rasheem Williamson reduced the deficit by scoring for Wings with a goal in the 85th minute.

The result allows the Guydadli Jets to move ahead of the Young Lions of Old Road and Sea View Farm FC into first place. The Guydadli Jets ad-

vanced to 31 points, two more than the Young Lions and Sea View Farm FC, which has played 12 matches.

The CPTSA Wings remain on 12 points after crashing to their fourth defeat in 12 matches.

Police extended their unbeaten run by claiming their seventh win in 10 matches with a 13-1 drubbing of Herberth FC at Pigotts.

The result allows Police to move on to 24 points, while Herberts United FC remains on four points after crashing to their eighth defeat in 10 matches.

North Coast Academy Juniors notched up their fifth win in 12 matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Belmont FC at Mount Pleasant.

North Coast Academy Juniors advanced to 17 points, while Belmont FC remains on 11 points after succumbing to their fifth defeat in 10 matches.

Blackburn Palace notched up their seventh win in 11 matches by pulling

off a 5-1 victory against Earthquake FC at Fort Road.

The result allows Blackburn Palace to move on to 22 points, while Earthquakes FC remains on eight points after losing for the eighth time in 12 matches.

Bethesda recorded their fifth win in nine matches with a 9-0 drubbing of the Young Warriors at Buckleys.

Bethesda advanced to 16 points, while the Young Warriors remain without any points after crashing to their eighth defeat in as many matches.

Meanwhile, Willikies FC recorded their fifth win in 13 matches by pulling off a 4-2 victory against English Harbour at the English Harbour Playing Field in the ABFA's First Division League.

Novelle Francis scored twice for Willikies FC with conversions in the 15th minute and in the second minute of added time. The other goals for Willikies FC were converted by Zahdeir Forde in the 26th minute and Juran Graham in the 50th minute.

Delroy Simpson scored both goals for English Harbour by converting a penalty kick in the 33rd minute and slotting home a strike in the 70th minute.

The result allows the Willikies FC to move on to 17 points, while English Harbour FC remains on 13 points after losing for the ninth time in 14 matches.

However, two other scheduled First Division matches were not played. The match between the Greenbay Hoppers and FC Master Ballerz at Radio Range and the encounter at the ABFA Technical Center between the Freemans Village Scorpions and Bolans FC were postponed.

Ovals Ojays stay unbeaten in ABBA's Division 1 League



The Cuties Ovals Ojays kept up their unbeaten start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division One League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

The Ovals Ojays notched up their third win in as many games with a commanding 98-73 victory against the JSC Red Hawks.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 27 points and snatched seven rebounds, and Jabari Smith sank 25 points and claimed five rebounds to lead the Ovals Ojays.

In support, Sam Taylor produced a triple-double with 12 points, 12 assists, and 10 rebounds, and Jalen Owens contributed 14 points, nine steals, eight rebounds, and five assists for the Ovals Ojays.

Humroy Wright sank 25 points; Cohen Desouza produced 20 points, 11 rebounds, and seven assists; Aubrey Feaster contributed 12 points, eight rebounds, and six assists; and Lopez Adams scored nine points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the JSC Red Hawks, who suffered their third defeat in as many outings.

Da Project clinched their second win in four encounters with a 111-55 drubbing of the Navigators. Cornell Greenwood shot a game-high 28 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Malik Moore narrowly missed out on achieving a triple-double with 23 points, nine steals, and eight assists for Da Project.

In support, T-Shawn Lewis sank 20 points and snatched eight rebounds, and Sadiq Phillip converted 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for Da Project.

Beniah Mark and Henry Dorsette each sank 12 points, Michael Barton converted nine points and grabbed 19 rebounds, and Raheem Sawyer and Ralph Spooner each scored eight points for the Navigators, who lost for the fourth time in as many games.

The Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz and All Saints Slam also recorded wins in their latest outings. The Stingerz notched up their second win in three matches with an 82-73 victory over the JSC Red Hawks.

Joshua Minner sank 26 points and claimed nine rebounds; Keroi Lee converted 16 points and snatched seven rebounds; Steven Matthew produced 14 points; and Brycen Thomas scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Stingerz.

Humroy Wright shot a game-high 33 points, Cohen Desouza sank 16 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Bryce Smith scored 16 points for the JSC Red Hawks.

After losing their previous two matches, All Saints Slam rebounded to claim their first win with an 85-46 drubbing of the Navigators.

Davon Fludd shot a game-high 19 points and claimed 10 rebounds, and Andrew Daigle scored 17 points and snatched five rebounds to lead the All Saints Slam to their victory.

In support, Andre Burnet produced 16 points, six assists, and five rebounds; Javon Simon sank 11 points and snatched seven rebounds; Omar Durr converted 11 points and claimed five rebounds; and Rolontae Knowles chipped in with nine points, 12 rebounds, and five assists for the All Saints Slam.

Beniah Mark scored 17 points, and De-Lorng Jules converted 11 points for the Navigators.



OCS among winners in School Basketball League



Players of the Ottos Comprehensive School and the Antigua Grammar School (green uniform) in the Mini Boys Secondary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday, February 12, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the Inter-School Basketball League)

The Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) was among the winners in the latest round of matches in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex.

Ottos Comprehensive School clinched a narrow 24-21 victory against Antigua Grammar School in their Mini Boys Secondary Division affair.

Levi Richards sank 14 points for Ottos Comprehensive School, while Derick Perez scored 12 points for Antigua Gram-

mar School.

Clare Hall Secondary notched up a 20-10 victory over Ottos Comprehensive School in the Senior Girls Division. Shakorah Prince converted eight points for Clare Hall Secondary School, while Laurelys Rayes scored six points for Ottos Comprehensive School.

In the Mini Boys Primary Division, SR Olivia David Primary pulled off an 18-10 victory over St. John's Catholic Primary. Deshawn Davis sank

eight points for SR Olivia David Primary, while Jasiel Henry also scored eight points for St. John's Catholic Primary.

T.N. Kirnon Primary clinched a 6-3 victory against SR Olivia David Primary. Alric Adams converted four points for T.N. Kirnon Primary, while Deshawn Davis scored three points for SR Olivia David Primary.

Greenbay Primary coasted to a 28-1 victory over Sea View Farm Primary. Justin Bridge sank

10 points, while Joshua Lopez and Daniel Perez each converted six points for Greenbay Primary.

Mary E. Pigott Primary prevailed 16-6 against Post Millennial Academy. Mary E. Pigott Primary also notched up a 15-5 victory over Villa Primary.

Ezekiel George sank four points, and AJ Kirwan converted three points for Mary E. Pigott Primary, while Brandon Valasquez scored two points for Villa Primary.

West Indies book Super Eight spot at T20 World Cup



West Indies pacer Jason Holder, third left, celebrates with his teammate after taking a wicket against Nepal in their Group C match at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Mumbai, India, on Sunday February 15, 2026. (Getty Images)

MUMBAI (Reuters) - West Indies charged into the Super Eight stage of the Twenty20 World Cup after the two-times champions defeated Nepal by nine wickets in Mumbai on Sunday, with Jason Holder's four-wicket haul and Shai Hope's half-century setting up the win.

Chasing a modest 134 for their third straight victory after battling knocks by Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee (58) and Sompal Kami (26 not out), West Indies eased to victory at Wankhede Stadium with 28 balls to spare.

After paceman Holder's wickets laid the platform, captain Hope (61 not out) and Shimron Hetmyer (46 not out) guided their team home to rule Nepal out of the reckoning for the next stage of the tournament.

"I'm very pleased. This is what we set out to do and we got here. That's one step and one hurdle that we've

crossed and now on to the next stage," Hope said.

"I'm glad I actually got the opportunity to decide what I wanted to do first. The guys put the ball in the right areas ... It was difficult work for Nepal in the powerplay. Then it was about trying to limit the flow of runs and picking up wickets. "It's crunch time now, back into the Super Eights."

A little over four months since their confidence-boosting 2-1 T20 series win over a weakened West Indies in Sharjah, Nepal arrived for the clash seeking their first victory in Group C of the World Cup after defeats by England and Italy.

They made a poor start after being asked to bat by table-toppers West Indies with Kushal Bhurtel bowled by Akeal Hosein on the fifth delivery of the innings and skipper Rohit Paudel struck lbw by Matthew Forde shortly

afterwards.

Holder, who grabbed four for 27, ramped up the pressure by having Aasif Sheikh caught in the deep off a loose ball before Nepal limped to 22 for three in six overs, the lowest powerplay score in this edition of the event, silencing a large group of their fans.

Several soft dismissals meant Nepal struggled to recover before Airee cut loose and reached his half-century with a big six, and Kami marked his recall to the side with late fireworks to take them to 133 for eight in 20 overs.

"It was a challenge in the powerplay, their bowlers were using the conditions well," Paudel said. "As a batting unit, we failed again. We need to step up."

The West Indies will place their final match in Group C against Italy at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday.