

ABEC prepares for By-Election in STPN constituency

Story on page 2



Creative industries Minister Daryll Matthew (centre) along with reigning Queen of Carnival Kia Kirwan display the Carnival 2026 dates surrounded by members of the Festival Commission at Thursday's Carnival 2026 media launch

ABEC prepares for By-Election in STPN constituency

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) is busily making preparations to organize and manage the By-Election that is set to take place in the St. Philip's North constituency on March 16.

The By-Election is necessitated following the announcement on Wednesday by the former representative, Sir Robin Yearwood, to resign from the seat after he achievement the unprecedented milestone of completing 50 unbroken years of service to the constituency and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian S Hughes said the preparations entail getting ready for the Nomination Day on March 25 following the issuance of the Writ of Elections on Thursday.

Hughes said he anticipates

that there will be a surge in the number of people who will come forward to renew their voter ID cards in order to be eligible to participate in the vote.

As was done last January when a By-election was held in the St. Peter constituency, Hughes said ABEC will beef up the staff at the Registration Office in the constituency located in Glanville. He added that the unit will likely work for extended hours and perhaps on Saturday and Sunday in order to accommodate the number of persons who would want to update their voter ID cards.

According to Hughes the number of people likely to be eligible to vote in the elections would be just under two thousand. Currently, there are 1972 eligible voters in the constituency up to the end of October,



Supervisor of Elections, Ian S Hughes

2025. However, he added that an additional eight people are to be added for the months of November and December.

January's new registered

voters will also be eligible to participate in exercise.

There were 1876 persons who were eligible to vote in the 2023 general elections.



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Randy Baltimore Resigns from Customs Post, Sets Sights on Parliamentary Seat

Randy Baltimore, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) candidate for the upcoming St. Phillip's North by-election, has resigned from his position as Principal Inspector with the Antigua and Barbuda Customs & Excise Division to devote himself fully to the campaign and prospective public service.

Baltimore confirmed that his resignation takes effect on 20th February, 2026, and said the move is a necessary sacrifice as he prepares to contest the 16th March, 2026 by-election in the constituency.

"It has long been my utmost goal to offer myself to the people of St. Phillip's North not in words alone, but through steady work, genuine presence, and a commitment to serve with integrity and heart," Baltimore said in a public statement. "Over time, that call has only grown stronger, and I have come to the point where I must honour it fully."

He characterised his departure from Customs as a difficult but deliberate decision.

"I have had no choice but to make what I consider to be the ultimate sacrifice to serve," he said.

He noted that his career in Customs and Excise represented more than employment, calling it "a meaningful chapter of my life and public service" that helped shape his discipline and commitment to national development.

"Customs has been more than a job," he said. "It shaped me, challenged me, strengthened me, and allowed me to contribute to the development and protection of our nation."

Randy Baltimore's resignation clears the way for him to focus entirely on constituency work and campaigning in St. Phillip's North, where he has already been serving as caretaker.



The by-election was triggered following the resignation of long-serving parliamentarian Sir Robin Yearwood after 50 years of continuous service in the House of Representatives.

Baltimore thanked residents for their support during his time working in the community and pledged to deepen that engagement if elected.

"I wish to express heartfelt thanks to the people of St. Phillip's North for the trust you have placed in me as your caretaker," he said. "Together, we have done meaningful work and with that same trust and unity, we are now stepping forward into a bigger role and a deeper level of representation and service."

He also extended appreciation to his former colleagues within the Customs & Excise Division, citing years of

teamwork and shared purpose.

"I extend sincere thanks to the management and staff for their support over the years and for the relationships built during my tenure — relationships grounded in teamwork, respect, and shared purpose," Baltimore said.

As the campaign season commences, Baltimore said he is approaching the race with humility and optimism, asking constituents for their continued partnership.

"As I step forward into this next chapter, I do so humbly, with deep respect for the journey behind me and hope for what lies ahead," he said. "Together, we can build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous future," he declared.

Tourism figures for 2025 remained flat when compared with the previous year

It was a less than stellar year for Antigua and Barbuda tourism as 2025 occupancy rates remained flat while arrivals declined slightly when compared with the previous year.

Data released from the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, shows that the overall occupancy rate for 2025 was 69.5 percent...a slight uptick from the 69.1 percent for 2024.

The data shows that February recorded the best figures for the year with occupancy hovering at 86.3 percent compared with 85.5 year earlier. March was next with a rate of 83.8 percent to 82.8 for 2024. Next was January with a rate of 82.6 compared with 82.0

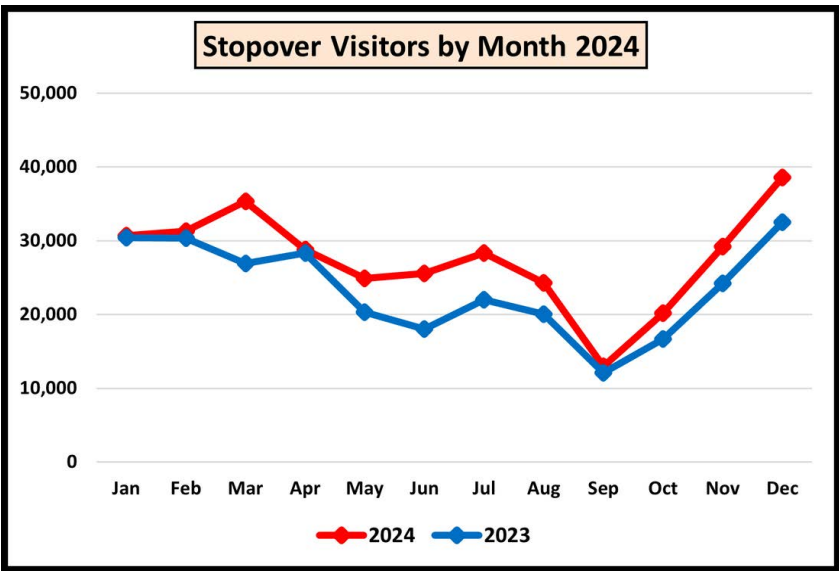
The month with the lowest rate of occupancy was September with a rate of 42.0 percent which was four points lower at 46.2 percent than for the same month in 2024.

Meanwhile, stay over visitors for 2025 totaled 325,482 compared with 330,281 in 2024, a decline of 1.47 percent. The United States continues to be the country’s main source market with figures of 175,442 it accounts for more than half of the overall total of stay over visitors.

The UK was next with figures of 71,304 this represent a .64 percent increase from 70,848 recorded in 2024. Only Germany and Italy, with smaller arrivals totals were able to record increases, although these were quite small. All the other markets; Canada (-11%), the Caribbean (-6.4%) and other (-15.58%) recorded declines.

Stopover Visitors by Month: YTD 2025 November			
	2025	2024	% change
Jan	34,313	30,690	11.8%
Feb	34,077	31,306	8.9%
Mar	35,401	35,345	0.2%
Apr	28,908	28,802	0.4%
May	24,810	24,913	-0.4%
Jun	23,367	25,604	-8.7%
Jul	26,172	28,349	-7.7%
Aug	22,558	24,267	-7.0%
Sep	11,608	12,993	-10.7%
Oct	20,128	20,198	-0.3%
Nov	27,209	29,231	-6.9%
YTD	290,657	291,697	-0.4%

Antigua & Barbuda: Stopover Visitors: YTD 2025 November					
	2025	% share	2024	% share	% change
USA	157,075	54.0%	152,699	52.3%	2.9%
UK	63,985	22.0%	61,997	21.3%	3.2%
Canada	24,043	8.3%	27,600	9.5%	-12.9%
Caribbean	27,941	9.6%	29,381	10.1%	-4.9%
Other Europe	11,083	3.8%	11,247	3.9%	-1.5%
South America	826	0.3%	847	0.3%	-2.5%
Rest of the World	5,704	2.0%	7,926	2.7%	-28.0%
Total	290,657	100.0%	291,697	100.0%	-0.4%



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Local News

GARD Center Receives USD \$20,000 Grant to Strengthen Food Security Training



The Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center (GARD Center) has announced another significant donation to fund its activities.

The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church has approved a grant of USD \$20,000 in support of the project titled “Enhancing and Improving Food Security Training at GARD Center’s Nursery.” The project will be implemented in Mercers Creek over a twelve-month period, from February 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, and is designed to strengthen community-based food security initiatives through improved agricultural training, nursery development, and sustainable farming practices.

“This funding will enable GARD Center to enhance its capacity to train farmers, community members, youth leaders, and local stakeholders in climate-smart agriculture and food production techniques, contributing to improved livelihoods and long-term food security in Antigua and Barbuda,” Executive Director June Jackson has reported.

Message of Appreciation

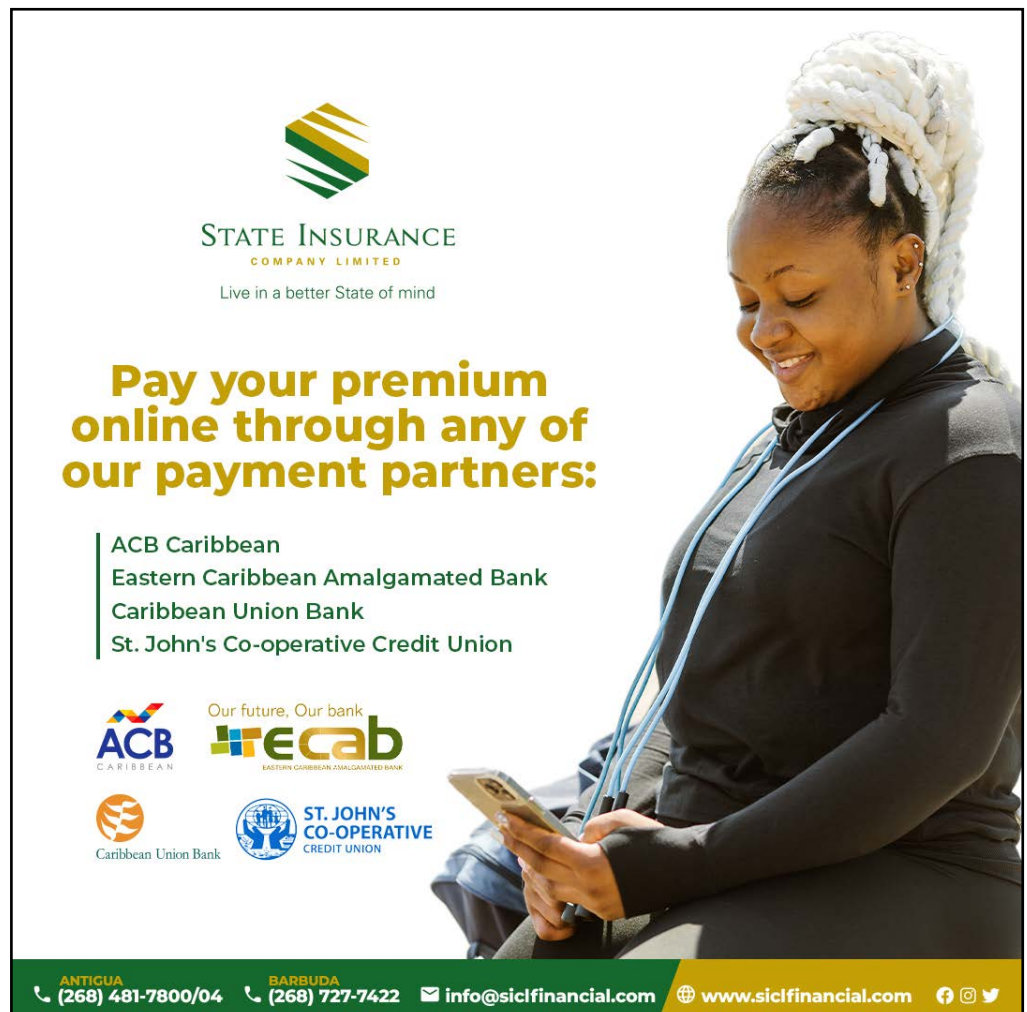
GARD Center extends its sincere gratitude to the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church for their generous support and continued commitment to rural development and food security. This partnership reflects a shared vision


of empowering communities through sustainable agriculture, education, and stewardship of resources.

“We are deeply thankful for this grant and the trust placed in our work,” said Executive Director Jackson, “This support will significantly strengthen our training programs and help us bet-

ter serve the communities in our parishes.”



GARD Center looks forward to the successful implementation of this project and the continuing collaboration with the General Board of Global Ministries in advancing sustainable development and food security.







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Two Arrested in Connection with Fraud Investigation

Two male suspects are currently in police custody assisting with investigations, following attempts to allegedly convert two cheques to their own use.

Sometime after 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, 19 February, police detectives attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) responded to a report at a local bank on High Street, where the two individuals were reportedly found in possession of two cheques of large amounts.

Both suspects were subsequently apprehended and taken into custody. The cheques were also recovered by the police as part of the ongoing investigation.

The police are appealing to anyone



with additional information that may assist with this investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department

at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).



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ABAA completes Phase One of VCBIA runway expansion and upgrade project



Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, Charles Fernandez, who was taken on tour of the airport project



The first phase of the Airfield Rehabilitation Project at the VC Bird International Airport has now been completed.

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) says this represents a significant milestone in the US\$50 million upgrade, one of Antigua and Barbuda's largest and most transformative infrastructural projects in recent history.

With work on the first

phase completed, the full operational length of the runway is now once again being utilised to take international flights. The various upgrades also ensure an increased level of safety performance and compliance with international civil aviation regulations.

Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, Charles Fernandez, who was taken on tour of the project this

week, expressed his full satisfaction with the level and quality of work. He

noted that it clearly signals that Antigua and Barbuda is on the right track as a





leader in the aviation industry in the Caribbean.


Fernandez stated, “The successful

completion of the first phase of the Runway Rehabilitation Project on time and within budget is a testament

to the strategic collaboration between our designers, contractors, operational teams, and all key stakeholders.”

“Importantly, this critical infrastructure upgrade has progressed without disrupting airport operations, even during one of our busiest airlift seasons. This project strengthens safety, enhances resilience, and ensures that V.C. Bird International Airport continues to operate as one of the most dynamic and forward-moving aviation gateways in the region,” the Minister added.

- ▶ Construction of a new, expanded Runway 25 turnpad (approximately 7,250 m²), designed using the Airbus A350-1000 as the reference aircraft
- ▶ Installation of new runway end lights, runway edge lighting, and turnpad edge lighting
- ▶ Establishment of a dedicated blast pad
- ▶ Implementation of a compliant Runway End Safety Area (RESA)
- ▶ Construction of a perimeter service road along the aerodrome boundary
- ▶ Addition of ICAO-recommended surface markings, including blast pad chevrons and transverse striping on turnpad shoulders, enhancing conspicuity and improving pilot situational awareness



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Antigua Carnival Calendar, 2026



Mark your calendars!

The Official Carnival Launch takes place **April 11th at Rising Sun Grounds**. That night, we're celebrating everything that is the **Rhythm of Carnival**.

Then we heat things up.

May 29th, Rhythm Fridays begin! Calypso Tents open at **Jack Idle** on **May 29th and 30th**.

Calypso Monarch Quarter-Finals hit **Jack Idle** on **June 26th and 27th**.

July 3rd – Party Monarch Quarter-Finals and Finals.

July 12th – Auntie Claudette's Kiddies Fete at Carnival City.

July 16th & 17th – Calypso Monarch Semi-Finals and Party Monarch

Semi-Finals.

July 18th – Mr. & Miss Teenage Pageant.

July 19th – Junior Calypso & Junior Party Monarch, young talent, big energy!

July 21st – Queen of Carnival takes the stage, elegance, power, pageantry! Then we enter the greatest two weeks of summer.

July 24th – **Face Off**

July 25th – **Carnival City** opens and **T-Shirt Mas** hits the road!

July 26th – **Junior Carnival & Good Morning D'Inclusive**.

July 27th – **Rhythm Court...**

July 28th – **"I Am Woman"** – Patrice Roberts & Friends.

July 29th – **Day of Knights**.

July 30th – **Melting Pot**,

July 31st – **Calypso Monarch**. And after **Watch Night...** if you brave enough... **RISE!**

August 1st – **Panorama**. Steel. Power. Pride.

August 2nd – **Party Monarch**, groove or jump up, choose your fighter!

August 3rd – **J'ouvert to Mas Monday**.

August 4th – **Parade of Bands and Last Lap**.

Two weeks.

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Culture and Pageantry Mark Antigua Carnival 2026 Media Launch



The media launch for Antigua Carnival 2026 took place on Thursday night with attendees treated to cultural performances and pageantry as Creative Industries Minister Daryll Matthew and the Festival Commission roll out the Calendar of Events for Antigua Carnival, 2026.

Minister Matthew underscored the significance of the theme 'Feel the Rhythm' to the overall celebrations this year. "This year, we proudly present the theme "Feel the Rhythm." This theme captures the essence of our Carnival, energetic, deeply rooted, expressive, and unmistakably Antiguan. The rhythm is not just something we hear; it is something we feel," the minister explained.

Beyond the merry-making, Minister Matthew highlighted the impact of the annual summer festival to the Antigua and Barbuda economy, noting that a

strategic partnership has been forged with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority to promote Antigua Carnival both regionally and internationally.

"For the upcoming season, we are targeting 10-thousand international visitors, reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's position as a premier global festival destination. Carnival drives tangible economic benefits, increased visitor arrivals, expanded airlift capacity, higher hotel and short-term rental occupancy, and meaningful opportunities for small businesses, creatives, and vendors," he explained.

According to the minister the Festival Commission has undertaken marketing efforts at other regional carnival events in an effort to increase the visibility of Antigua Carnival. He reported that teams have just returned from Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago where these marketing efforts were

executed.

Deputy Chairman of the Festivals Commission, Sen. Michael Freeland, who unveiled the 2026 Carnival Calendar of Events, noted that for 2025, The Commission promoted the festival around the theme; 'It's a Vibe', but this year this have changed!

"In 2025, we brought the VIBES! From the weekday Soca sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays... To Friday Vibes...To our Calypso Tents on Friday and Saturday. "And who could forget Pan Vibes in the City and those epic pan crawls that brought the streets alive? We started Carnival early, and we carried that energy straight through the big two weeks. In 2026...We're not just bringing vibes.

"We're inviting you to Feel the Rhythm!" he declared.

If US Secretary Rubio attends CARICOM Summit - Let It Mark a Reset — Not a Reckoning



By Sir Ronald Sanders

If U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accepts the invitation to attend the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in St Kitts and Nevis from 25 to 27 February, his presence should be treated as consequential. It would offer an opportunity to recalibrate the relationship between the United States and the fifteen Member States of CARICOM that has never been broken — but now requires deliberate renewal.

The U.S. and the Caribbean Community are not strangers testing first principles. Geography binds us. Trade sustains us. Security concerns connect us. Migration links our families. For decades, cooperation between Washington and Caribbean capitals has been steady, pragmatic, and grounded in mutual interest.

Secretary Rubio has spoken forcefully about sovereignty, economic resilience, border control, and the dangers of surrendering national agency to external forces. Caribbean leaders understand that language instinctively.

Our region's modern history is rooted in claiming our legal entitlement

to sovereignty, building viable economies out of colonial inheritances, and defending democratic institutions in societies small in size but firm in conviction.

There are no communist political movements steering CARICOM governments. There are no ideological crusades underway in the Caribbean. Our politics are practical. Across administrations and across party lines, Caribbean governments have pursued market-driven economies tempered by social responsibility. We rely on private enterprise, welcome investment, and maintain deep commercial ties with the United States, which remains our largest trading partner.

With the exception of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, whose energy exports alter the arithmetic, the United States enjoys consistent trade surpluses in goods — and substantial commercial advantages overall — with most CARICOM member states.

American goods fill Caribbean ports. American companies operate profitably in our economies. American visitors enjoy our tourism industries. Cooperation in drug interdiction and in combating organized crime has been structured and ongoing under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. These are not the markers of strained relations. They are the foundations of a long partnership.

Yet strain has emerged, and it must be acknowledged honestly if recalibration is to occur.

One present source of tension is U.S. migration policy regarding refugees and deportees. Every CARICOM country has consistently accepted the return of its own nationals deported from the United States. We have cooperated in verifying nationality, issuing travel documents, and facilitating lawful repatriation. That cooperation is not in dispute.

The unease arises when small states are asked to accept — and bear the cost of maintaining — persons who are not their nationals. For large countries, absorbing additional populations may be an administrative challenge. For small island and coastal states with limited fiscal space, small land mass, and tightly interwoven social systems, the impact can be magnified. Integration involves housing, health services, education, employment, community stability, and — above all — security vetting in environments that do not possess the investigative reach of larger nations.

The issue, therefore, is not unwillingness to cooperate. It is proportionality. It is capacity. And it is risk.

Secretary Rubio has argued that the United States must strengthen its own resilience by securing supply chains, reinforcing borders, and deepening cooperation with reliable partners. The Caribbean is not a distant theatre in that strategy; it is America's immediate neighbourhood.

A stable, economically viable, and security-aligned CARICOM reduces irregular migration pressures, strengthens maritime domain awareness in a region through which illicit trafficking flows. Further, it offers trusted nodes for supply-chain diversification close to U.S. shores. Therefore, investment in Caribbean resilience is not charity. It is strategic depth. In a world in which major powers contest for influence, proximity and partnership still matter.

If progress is to be made on migration cooperation, it must be built on clarity and reciprocity — clear legal frameworks, strict vetting standards, limited and manageable numbers, and arrangements that do not leave small states with open-ended financial or social obligations. Sustainable cooperation cannot rest on imbalance.

Feature

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Climate policy presents another area where careful conversation is required. Caribbean countries do not contribute significantly to global emissions. Yet we endure intensifying hurricanes, coastal erosion, and climate-related disruption at levels that threaten our economic survival.

For us, resilience is not ideology. Energy diversification is not dogma. It is existential necessity. Any recalibration between Washington and CARICOM must recognize that for CARICOM states, climate adaptation and economic growth are inseparable objectives.

On matters concerning Venezuela and Cuba, Caribbean governments share a common interest in stability in the hemisphere. Disorder and economic collapse do not respect boundaries. But Caribbean states are also guided by a longstanding commitment to sovereignty — a principle of international law that small states regard as essential to their security. In any event, durable outcomes in the Americas are achieved not through destabilization, but through predictable, lawful processes that reduce instability rather than amplify it.

If Secretary Rubio meets CARICOM in St. Kitts, the most constructive conversation will not revolve around pressure. It will revolve around alignment.

The United States seeks secure borders, resilient supply chains, and stable neighbours — and it has them in CARICOM. For its part, CARICOM seeks economic growth, climate resilience, and security against organized crime. Clearly, the U.S. and CARICOM objectives are not contradictory. They are complementary.

Expanded cooperation on maritime security and intelligence-sharing would strengthen both American and Caribbean safety. Structured labour mobility pathways could meet workforce needs in the United States while supporting development in Caribbean economies. Resilient regional supply chains could integrate Caribbean production rather than bypass it. Transparent, mutually agreed migration

frameworks could remove uncertainty and build trust. Meaningful support for climate adaptation and energy resilience would reinforce stability in America's immediate neighbourhood.

None of this requires either side to abandon its principles. It requires both sides to apply them with balance.

The Caribbean does not seek confrontation with the United States. Nor does it seek dependency. What it seeks — and has always sought — is partnership rooted in mutual respect and mutual benefit.

If Secretary Rubio attends the CARICOM Summit, our leaders should be pragmatic, forward-looking, and prepared for empathetic and candid

engagement. The moment calls for statesmanship.

The United States and the Caribbean have cooperated for generations — in trade, in security, in disaster response, and in shared democratic values. That record is solid.

The meeting in St. Kitts offers the chance to strengthen their cooperation for a new era.

That opportunity should be seized.

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Chancellor of the University of Guyana. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sir-ronaldsanders.com)



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From Bolans to Global Excellence: The Inspiring Tourism Journey of Ms. Cleo Henry, Accredited Trainer

In celebration of **International Tourist Guide Day**, observed annually on February 21, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) presents this special edition of Season 3, Episode 2 of its *Unveiling Hospitality Professionals* series.

This episode recognizes **Cleo Henry, EMBA, CHE, CGSP** — Accredited Trainer and Tour Director on behalf of the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) — for her outstanding contribution to the tourism industry and her unwavering commitment to excellence in tour guiding for more than twenty-four (24) years.

Born and raised in Bolans, Cleo Henry developed strong professional values from an early age, shaped by a disciplined and service-oriented family foundation. Her mother served as a kindergarten teacher for over 37 years, instilling in her the importance of education, articulation, and poise, while her father dedicated more than 50 years to the hospitality industry as a chauffeur, exemplifying commitment, professionalism, and pride in service.

As a teenager, Henry assisted her father with transportation services, dispatching guests from Jolly Beach and gaining firsthand exposure to the tourism industry. Even at that early stage, she understood the importance of presentation and professionalism, principles that would later become hallmarks of her career in tourism.

Straight out of secondary school Henry enrolled at the Hotel Training Centre, where she benefited from the mentorship of industry leader Muriel O'Marde, whose encouragement strengthened her confidence and propelled her pursuit of excellence.

Henry began her professional career as a tour guide with Tropical Adventures in 2002. Eager to expand her ex-



Cleo Henry, EMBA, CHE, CGSP — Accredited Trainer and Tour Director

pertise, she later attended the Regional Train-the-Trainer Course in Dominica. In 2016, she further enhanced her credentials as an accredited tourist guide & trainer in Cyprus, broadening her global perspective and strengthening her capacity to deliver world-class experiences.

Cleo Henry has trained hundreds of tourism professionals locally and regionally in Tour Planning, Guiding and Operations, strengthening industry standards. In 2018, she collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism to pilot a Certified On-Site Tourist Guide Training Programme for their staff and tour operators, enhancing destination knowledge of Antigua and Barbuda.

In 2024, she was conferred the Global Executive Master's in Hospitality Leadership in Paris, France, further expanding her global network and reinforcing her commitment to elevating industry standards at home and abroad.

Today, she holds the distinction of being the only member and accredited

trainer in Antigua and Barbuda certified by the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA). This prestigious certification underscores her commitment to international standards and to elevating Antigua and Barbuda's tourism product on the global stage.

Further demonstrating her impact on the industry, Henry facilitates the ongoing Service Ambassador Training programme, a partnership with Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board and the Muriel O'Marde Campus to equip taxi and tour operators, vendors, and other frontline stakeholders with the professionalism and customer care skills needed to represent the destination with excellence.

Henry's mission is to leave a positive legacy grounded in resilience, hard work, dedication, and commitment, qualities she believes are essential for longevity in the business of tour guiding.

Looking ahead, Henry is passionate about mentoring the next generation. She encourages young tourism professionals to refine their skills, pursue continuous training, and carry forward the mantle of excellence in representing Antigua and Barbuda.

Cleo Henry's story is one of perseverance, professionalism, and purpose, a true reflection of excellence in Antigua and Barbuda's tourism sector.

Watch the stories unfold—each episode premieres every two weeks on Tuesday and Thursday on ABHTA's **YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram platforms (@AntiguaHotels)**. Join us in celebrating the people who shape and strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's hospitality industry.

Watch Ms. Cleo Henry's Untold Story Here: <https://youtu.be/pDM-DgtaWMxI>



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

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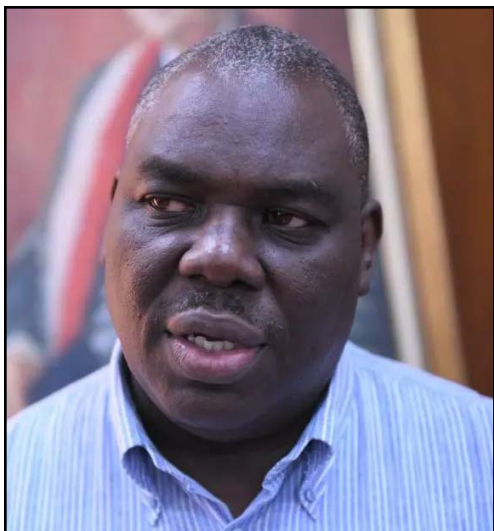
Landing Strip, Weatherill's, Pink Mongoose Studio, Roti King,
Rivers by Quintessence (Redcliffe Quay),
Quintessence Variety Plus (QV+, Friars Hill Road)



Regional News

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UWI doors open to med students in Cuba



The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, says there has been no official communication or request to accept anxious Jamaican medical stu-

dents in Cuba, but it has indicated that it can accommodate those wanting to return to Jamaica.

Campus Registrar Dr Donovan Stanberry said the university's MBBS un-

dergraduate programme can accommodate 280 students per annum, but noted that it has remained undersubscribed over the last few years. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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.



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

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Regional News

Wayne Letang officially appointed as Fire Chief of Dominica

Wayne Letang has been officially appointed to the position of Chief Fire Officer of Dominica.

His appointment took effect on January 1, 2026, after a period of acting in the position.

Commenting on his appointment during a recent press conference, Letang said, "At this moment, I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of National Security, the Honorable Minister, and the staff of the Ministry and the Public Service Commission for having faith in me to appoint me as Chief Fire Officer, which took effect January 1, 2026."

He continued, "Like I've been telling staff during staff meetings, I have never looked at remuneration. I never look at status. But we focus on production, productivity, and professionalism. Therefore, I must say here that I was not overly excited when the appointment came because I said, I've been doing the work, and I will continue to do that work with 100 percent of my heart, and it's about the nation and the fire and ambulance services."

According to Letang, the Dominican



Fire and Ambulance Services is intent on enacting positive changes with him at the helm.

"It is the intention of the Dominican Fire and Ambulance Services and the Ministry of National Security to improve the work of the Fire and Ambulance Services," he stated. "The conditions under which we operate, and also the professionalism within the organization."

He added, "We will continue to strive as the Dominican Fire and Ambulance

Services Division."

As per Dom767, his career with the Fire and Ambulance Service dates back to at least February 2003, beginning as a Deputy Fire Chief, with intermittent appointments to the role of acting fire chief.

Reportedly, over the years, he has progressively advanced through various uniformed positions, accumulating more than 21 years of experience in the service. (Dominica News Online)



T&T's KestheBand featured on ABC News for Black History Month



Trinidad and Tobago's KestheBand was recently featured on ABC News, where they showcased Caribbean-born Soca music in a special interview on ABC News Live.

The segment was filmed at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City and forms part of a Black History Month feature released on Carnival Tuesday, February 17, as per a media release from the band. Placing Soca within a larger cultural context, the genre's historical roots and expanding pres-

ence on the international stage were explored.

In the interview with ABC journalist Morgan Norwood, lead singer Kees Dieffenthaler discusses Soca's origins following Emancipation and its role as a form of cultural expression and identity within the African diaspora.

He shares insights into his early years in Trinidad and Tobago, the development of KestheBand's fusion of musical styles over the past twenty years, and the group's collaborations

and tours that have helped introduce Soca music to audiences worldwide. The conversation also touches on how Dieffenthaler's personal experiences and grief have influenced his songwriting and artistic outlook.

"The now-viral feature highlights Caribbean music's growing presence in major cultural institutions and mainstream media, highlighting KestheBand's role in bringing Soca to the world," concluded the team. (Dominica News Online)



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Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office over ties to Epstein



Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the former British prince who was stripped of his royal titles because of his links to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, was arrested Thursday on suspicion of misconduct in public office.

While Andrew has consistently denied any wrongdoing in connection with his friendship with Epstein, concerns about Mountbatten-Windsor's links to the late financier have dogged the royal family for more than a decade.

But the arrest of a brother of a monarch was an extraordinary development with no precedent in modern times that will no doubt put more pressure on the crown.

After the arrest, King Charles III said that the law must take its course in the investigation, and he sought to dis-

tance the royal family from Mountbatten-Windsor.

Thames Valley Police said that a man in his 60s from Norfolk in eastern England was arrested and remained in custody.

The force, which covers areas west of London, including Mountbatten-Windsor's former home, did not identify the suspect, in line with standard procedures in Britain, but pointed to its statement when asked to confirm if Andrew was arrested.

Mountbatten-Windsor, who turned 66 on Thursday, moved to his brother King Charles III's estate in Norfolk after he was evicted from his longtime home near Windsor Castle earlier this month.

Thames Valley Police previously said it was "assessing" reports that Mount-

batten-Windsor sent confidential trade reports to Epstein in 2010, when the former prince was Britain's special envoy for international trade.

Those reports stemmed from correspondence between the two men that was among the millions of pages of documents from the U.S. Justice Department's investigation into Epstein that were released last month.

"Following a thorough assessment, we have now opened an investigation into this allegation of misconduct in public office," Assistant Chief Constable Oliver Wright said in a statement. "We understand the significant public interest in this case, and we will provide updates at the appropriate time."

Police also said they were searching two properties. (AP)

South Korea's ex-president jailed for life over martial law attempt

South Korea's ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol has been jailed for life for masterminding an insurrection by trying to impose military rule.

Yoon attempted to subvert the constitution by deploying military troops to seal off the National Assembly and ordering the arrest of politicians on 3 December 2024, a Seoul court ruled. His actions fundamentally damaged South Korea's democracy and deserves a harsh punishment, presiding judge Ji Gwi-yeon told the court.

Prosecutors had sought the death penalty.

Though it was short-lived, Yoon's martial law order left the nation more polarised than ever, and those deep divisions were on full display as the sentencing took place.

Huge crowds of Yoon's supporters gathered outside the court hours before the hearing, holding banners reading "Yoon, again". Many of them broke down in tears following the verdict.

Also present were anti-Yoon protesters, rallying for him to be sentenced to death.

Yoon himself showed no emotion as he learned of his fate. His lawyers alleged that the verdict was not backed by evidence and accused the judge of following a "pre-written script".

If either side launches an appeal, the case will go up to the Supreme Court, which means it could be months before the verdict is finalised.

Yoon shocked his nation on 3 December 2024 by declaring martial law on live television.

He claimed it was to protect the country from "anti-state" forces that sympathised with North Korea, but it soon became clear he was driven



by domestic troubles: the opposition which held a parliamentary majority left him a lame duck president, while his wife Kim Keon Hee was at the centre of various corruption allegations.

He rolled back the order within hours, after lawmakers fought their way into the National Assembly to overturn it.

What followed were months of political chaos, Yoon's impeachment, and a string of indictments against him and other top officials.

Former prime minister Han Duck-soo was handed a 23-year jail term last month for his part in the insurrection, while ex-defence minister Kim Yong-hyun, who advised Yoon to impose martial law, was jailed for 30 years on Thursday.

Former interior minister Lee Sang-min, former intelligence commander Roh Sang-won, and ex-police chief Cho Ji-ho were among the other officials jailed for what judges have described as "an insurrection from the top".

Security was tight outside the court on Thursday, with dozens of police buses forming a cordon to restrict public access. Some 1,000 officers were deployed for security operations, local media reported.

Inside the court, judge Ji called Yoon the "insurrectionist leader", although the judging panel found insufficient evidence to rule that he'd planned the martial law order a year before his announcement.

Yoon defended his actions throughout his trial, arguing that as president he had had the authority to declare martial law, sounding the alarm over opposition parties' obstruction of government.

He maintained that the order was necessary "to protect the freedom and sovereignty of the people and to preserve the nation and its constitution".

The ruling Democratic Party, which won the presidential election after Yoon's ouster, accused the court of "undermining judicial justice" by not sentencing Yoon to death.

"[Yoon] masterminded an insurrection that shook the very foundations of our nation," party leader Jung Chung-rae said.

"[Today's decision] is a clear regress from the people's revolution... The public will find it deeply unsatisfactory and unacceptable."

South Korea has not executed anyone on death row since December 1997, so even a death penalty for Yoon would, in effect, be life imprisonment.

Yoon is already serving jail time for abuse of power and obstructing his own arrest after the martial law order. He still faces three more related trials.

Several former presidents before Yoon had also been convicted and jailed, but were pardoned after serving just two to five years in prison – and many expect the same for Yoon. (BBC)

NASA rehearses moon launch again after repairing its rocket

NASA is fueling up its giant lunar rocket and attempting to complete a launch-day walkthrough on Thursday ahead of its highly anticipated mission to send four astronauts around the moon.

The hourslong test, known as a “wet dress rehearsal,” is an essential step before NASA can set a targeted launch date for the mission, known as Artemis II. The crew could lift off as soon as March 6 — the start of a 10-day journey during which they will orbit Earth then make a figure eight around the moon.

It will be the first time humans travel to the moon in more than 50 years, and the crew is expected to reach a greater distance from Earth than anyone has before. The mission will also mark the first time that NASA’s Space Launch System rocket and Orion capsule carry people.

Thursday’s rehearsal at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida will help mission managers assess recent repairs made to the rocket, after they found a hydrogen leak during the first wet dress rehearsal. The leak forced NASA to stop that Feb. 2 test early and forgo all launch opportunities this month.

During the fueling test, engineers will study the effectiveness of the repairs, with NASA officials weighing the overall readiness of the rocket and its various sys-



tems. If all goes smoothly, the agency has said it has launch opportunities from March 6 through 9, and again on March 11.

The wet dress rehearsal formally began on Tuesday evening and continued through Wednesday, as teams powered up parts of the rocket and spacecraft and charged flight batteries. The main part of the test, however, started Thursday morning, after mission managers gave the go-ahead to fuel the Space Launch System rocket.

At around 10:30 a.m. ET, liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen began flowing into the rocket’s core stage. In total, the booster will be filled with more than 700,000 gallons of cryogenic propellant, and mission managers will practice counting down to a simulated launch time of 8:30 p.m. ET.

As part of the test, NASA plans to conduct two walkthroughs of the final 10 minutes of the countdown, with a pause at T-minus 1 minute

and 30 seconds. At T-minus 33 seconds, NASA plans to reset the clock back to T-minus 10 minutes and run through again.

These stops and starts are designed to demonstrate that the rocket’s systems are performing as expected during the final part of the countdown, when automated systems take over control of the booster. The pauses and resets also give mission managers a chance to practice different scenarios, such as situations in which issues crop up that need investigation or in which a launch has to be called off due to technical issues or bad weather.

The four Artemis II crew members — NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch and Victor Glover, and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen — will not participate in the wet dress rehearsal, though NASA will still practice closing the Orion spacecraft’s hatches.

After NASA discovered leaking hydrogen fuel at the tail end of the rocket during

the prior rehearsal, the agency replaced two seals on fueling lines and conducted a partial fueling test to assess the repairs. That test, in turn, turned up other issues with ground support equipment, which appeared to reduce the flow of liquid hydrogen into the booster. NASA said earlier this week that it had replaced a filter in the affected equipment.

The Artemis II astronauts are expected to enter quarantine in Houston for around two weeks before their launch. That could be as early as Friday if the rehearsal goes well, though NASA has said it “will not set a formal launch date until after a successful rehearsal and data reviews.”

Artemis II is a key step for NASA as it works to return astronauts to the lunar surface. Just like it did during the Apollo program of the 1960s and ‘70s, NASA is testing its systems with a trip around the moon before it attempts to land astronauts on the lunar surface — that milestone is planned for the Artemis III mission in 2028.

The upcoming flight follows the uncrewed Artemis I mission in 2022, when NASA sent the SLS rocket and Orion capsule on a trip around the moon without any people onboard.

During the first wet dress rehearsal for that earlier flight, NASA identified hydrogen leaks that wound up delaying the mission six months. (NBC)



SUPER 8 ALL FIXTURES

Saturday, 21 February	NEW ZEALAND		V		PAKISTAN	Colombo
Sunday, 22 February	SRI LANKA		V		ENGLAND	Kandy
Sunday, 22 February	INDIA		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Ahmedabad
Monday, 23 February	ZIMBABWE		V		WEST INDIES	Mumbai
Tuesday, 24 February	ENGLAND		V		PAKISTAN	Kandy
Wednesday, 25 February	SRI LANKA		V		NEW ZEALAND	Colombo
Thursday, 26 February	WEST INDIES		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Ahmedabad
Thursday, 26 February	INDIA		V		ZIMBABWE	Chennai
Friday, 27 February	ENGLAND		V		NEW ZEALAND	Colombo
Saturday, 28 February	SRI LANKA		V		PAKISTAN	Kandy
Sunday, 1 March	ZIMBABWE		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Delhi
Sunday, 1 March	INDIA		V		WEST INDIES	Kolkata
Wednesday, 4 March	SEMI FINAL 1			Kolkata/Colombo		
Thursday, 5 March	SEMI FINAL 2			Mumbai		
Sunday, 8 March	FINAL			Ahmedabad/Colombo		

Sports News



Freemans Village Scorpions drop points in First Division League



The Freemans Village Scorpions dropped crucial points in the race for title honours in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division League on Wednesday.

The Swetes Vipers secured their sixth win in 14 matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against the Freemans Village

Scorpions at the Freemans Village playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Joel Jacob broke the deadlock by scoring the winner with the only goal of the match in the 55th minute.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers FC to move on to 23 points, while the Freemans Village Scorpions remain in second place on goal difference with 23 points after suffering their second defeat in 11 matches.

The Freemans Village Scorpions, Golden Grove FC, and SAP FC all have 23 points apiece. They are eight points adrift of Five Islands FC, which currently leads the First Division with 31 points from 15 matches.

Meanwhile, Police extended their unbeaten run by claiming their eighth win in 11 matches by pulling off a 3-2

victory over Fort Road FC at the Fort Road playing field.

Raheim Andrew scored an own goal to give Police a one-nil lead at halftime, and teammate Glenroy Prince doubled their advantage with a 54th-minute conversion.

Deon Lavonn reduced the deficit with a strike in the 61st minute, and teammate Alren Lewis snatched the equalizer for Fort Road with a conversion in the 72nd minute.

Jamary Galloway secured victory for the Police by scoring the winner with a strike in the 77th minute.

The result allows the Police to remain in fifth place by advancing to 27 points. Fort Road FC remains in sixth place with 23 points after suffering their fifth defeat in 14 matches.

More success for Gunners in ABBA's Second Division

The Cedar Grove Gunners continued their successful start to their campaigns in this season's Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Second Division on Wednesday night.

The Gunners made it three wins in a row by shooting their way to an 83-63 victory over the Navigators 2 in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Scotty Nelson sank 16

points; Iornie Joseph converted 12 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; John Rolland Jr. scored 11 points and snatched 10 rebounds; Tyras Grayman had eight points and 13 rebounds; and Shawn Thomas chipped in with eight points and 12 rebounds for the Gunners.

Ricky Willock converted 14 points and snatched nine rebounds, Raheem Sawyer sank 13 points, and Henry Dorsette scored eight points

and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Navigators 2, who lost for the second time in as many games.

The Old Road Daggers notched up their fourth win in five encounters with a commanding 104-58 victory against Da Project 2 in Wednesday's opening game.

Kedar Clarke sank 21 points and claimed seven rebounds; Rafiki Harris scored 21 points and snatched seven steals; West-

er Perez scored 16 points; and Ryan Shepherd chipped in with nine points and nine rebounds for the Old Road Daggers.

Former national small forward Bryan Matthew shot a game-high 23 points and grabbed 20 rebounds, his son Nathan Matthew converted 14 points, and Gabriel De-Suza scored 10 points for Da Project 2, which lost for the third time in four games.



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Antiguans to contest CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifiers

The Antigua and Barbuda national team will be among 32 member countries that will be contesting the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifiers this month.

The qualifying competition for the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship will take place from February 23 to March 4 across three venues in Central America and the Caribbean.

The 32 participating men's under-20 teams were split into two groups of six and four groups of five. Antigua and Barbuda will compete in Group C, which will be hosted at the Complejo Deportivo FCRF-Plycem in San Rafael de Alajuela, Costa Rica.

Antigua and Barbuda's 22-member squad will depart for the competition in Costa Rica today (Friday).

The squad includes goalkeepers Tegan Gumbs, Gavin Gonsalves, and Eric Moreta. The defenders are Seth Layne, Zidaan Williams, Jordan Francis, Joshua Roache, Ivan Grant, and Jayden Bowen.

Also included are midfielders Dajari Barthley, Marco Michael, Vaughn Jackson, Sedique Adams, Obediah Browne, Jahvaughn Jarvis, and Joseph Jacobs.

Completing the squad are forwards Brandon Satchell, Keyonte George, Gregg Williams, Jaiden Wray, and Con-



roy Browne.

The players are accompanied by head coach Schyan Jeffers, assistant coach Donovan Peart, manager Roderick Williams, trainer Evans Jones, goalkeeper coach Janiel Simon, and equipment manager Rackley Thomas.

The Antiguan team is joined in five-team Group C by national teams from the Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda will launch their campaign against St. Lucia on Monday, February 23, and will play their second match against the British Virgin Islands on Wednesday, February 25.

The Antiguan team will take on Dominica on Sunday, March 1, and will wrap up their campaign against the Dominican Republic in their final Group C match on Tuesday, March 3.

The tournament will serve as a qualifier for the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship in July and August.

After round-robin play, the first-place team from each of the six groups will advance to the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Championship, joining the six top-ranked nations that are pre-qualified directly for the tournament.

The six national teams pre-seeded in the Championship are (in ranking order) the United States (1), Mexico (2), Honduras (3), Panama (4), Cuba (5), and Guatemala (6).

The 12-team championship is scheduled for the summer of 2026, running from July 25 to Aug. 9, and will feature the region's 12 best men's under-20 national teams divided into three groups of four.

The tournament will also serve as the qualifying competition for both the 2027 FIFA Men's Under-20 World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics.

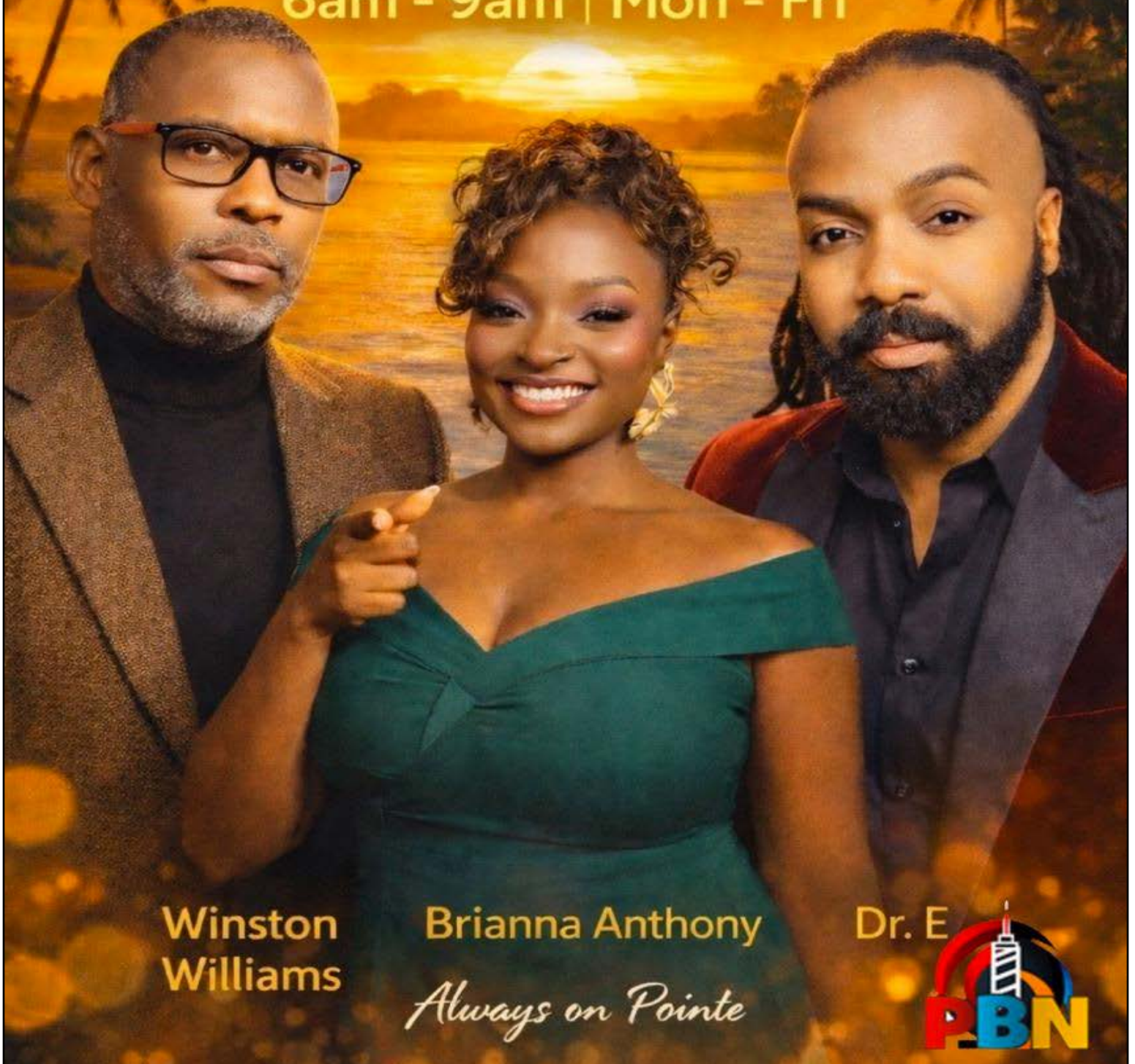
After round-robin play, the two top teams of each group and the two best third-place teams will advance to a knockout stage, comprised of the quarterfinals, semifinals, and final.

In the previous edition of the CONCACAF Under-20 Championship, played in Mexico in 2024, Mexico won the title by defeating the United States 2-1 in the final.

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MINISTRY OF SPORTS

Schools Netball Competition

Action continues in Inter-Schools' Netball League

The Ministry of Sports Inter-Schools' Netball League continued with matches in the under-13 and under-18 divisions on Wednesday.

In the Under 16 Division, Clare Hall Secondary School coasted to a 23-5 victory over Ottos Comprehensive School.

Goal shooter Sasheel Lewin sank 16 of her 26 shots, and goal attack Lashante Cochrane converted seven of her 20 tries for Clare Hall Secondary School. Goal attack Mina Charles scored all of her five attempts for Ottos Comprehensive School.

Princess Margaret School snatched a narrow 18-16 victory against All Saints Secondary School. Goal attack Jenair Pascal converted 11 of her 20 shots, and goal shooter Makayla Scott sank seven of her 16 attempts for Princess Margaret School.

Goal shooter Aleccandra James scored 11 of her 21 tries, and goal attack Jahmyra Thomas converted all of her five attempts for All Saints Sec-

ondary School.

The Irene B. Williams Secondary School prevailed 18-7 against the first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1). Goal attack Serenity Colbourne scored 14 of her 21 shots, and goal shooter Affriana George converted four of her 11 tries for Irene B. Williams Secondary School.

Goal shooter Deancia Lewis sank five of her seven shots, and goal attack Tina Graham converted two of her 12 attempts for AGHS-1.

The second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-2) romped to a commanding 26-7 victory over Pares Secondary School. Goal attack Kendra Aska sank 20 of her 35 attempts, and goal shooter Summer Buckley scored six of her 12 shots for AGHS-2.

Goal attack Tanisha Michael scored four of her 11 shots, and goal shooter Samara Williams converted three of her four tries for Pares Secondary School.

In the Under 18 Division, Antigua Girls High School prevailed 18-10 against Clare Hall Secondary School. Goal shooter Summer Buckley sank 10 of her 14 tries, goal attack Kendra Aska scored five of her 14 attempts, and goal attack Azalia Simon converted three of her 10 shots for Antigua Girls High School.

Goal attack Shakora Prince sank seven of her 12 attempts, and goal shooter Bethel Uzoma scored three of her seven shots for Clare Hall Secondary School.

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) pulled off a 21-8 victory over Ottos Comprehensive School.

Goal shooter Jessica Massicot sank 15 of her 25 tries, goal attack Nyirah Ralph scored four of her nine shots, and goal shooter Kellisha Gordon converted two of her three attempts for ABCAS. Goals attack Lavia Lee converted eight of her 12 shots for Ottos Comprehensive School.



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Windies finish T20 World Cup group stage unbeaten

KOLKATA (Reuters) - West Indies beat Italy by 42 runs in their final Twenty20 World Cup Group C match on Thursday in Kolkata, as the two-times champions maintained their perfect record heading into the Super Eight stage.

Skipper Shai Hope recorded his 11th T20 International fifty, getting 75 off 46 balls to guide the West Indies to 165 for six off their 20 overs, despite a spirited bowling performance from the opposition.

In reply, the Italians were bundled out for 123 in 18 overs. Italy were rocked early in the chase when Matthew Forde bowled Justin Mosca for 2, before Akeal Hosein dismissed Anthony Mosca for 19.

JJ Smuts (24 off 27) and Ben Manenti (26 off 21) put on a fightback, but both fell to spinner Gudakesh Motie, who claimed two for 24, ending Italy's hopes.

The West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph registered figures of four for 30, while medium pacer Forde got three wickets for 19 runs.

Hope's crucial knock steadied West Indies ship early on after Italy pacers Ali Hasan (1/24) and Thomas Draca (1/22) picked two quick wickets.

Disciplined bowling from spinners Ben Manenti (2/37) and Crishan Kalugamage (2/25) shackled West Indies' lower-middle order and re-



West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph, left, celebrates with his teammates after taking a wicket against Italy during their final match in Group C of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Kolkata, India, on Thursday, February 19, 2026. (Getty Images)

stricted the men from the Caribbean to a target that ultimately proved beyond the associate side, who bowed out of the tournament with a solitary win over Nepal.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe fired a warning shot towards the heavyweights who have reached the Twenty20 World Cup Super Eight stage as they beat co-hosts Sri Lanka by six wickets to top Group B on Thursday, chasing down a target of 179 with three balls to spare.

Opener Brian Bennett scored an unbeaten 63 and captain Sikandar Raza made a quick 45 as Zimbabwe,

who stunned Australia last week, handed Sri Lanka their first loss in the campaign, with both teams having already qualified for the Super Eights.

"I am pretty excited with how we have gone about our business," player of the match Raza said. "We are unbeaten so far ... nice position to be in as a captain but I will try and enjoy at least tonight."

Zimbabwe won three of their four group games while Tuesday's match against Ireland was washed out, which meant Zimbabwe qualified for the Super

Eights with Australia eliminated.

Sri Lanka, who ensured their qualification for the Super Eights with Monday's win over Australia, chose to bat first and posted 178 for seven, as opener Pathum Nissanka led with a knock of 62.

Two-wicket hauls by Blessing Muzarabani, Brad Evans and Graeme Cremer helped contain Sri Lanka to a competitive total in Colombo, before Bennett combined with Tadiwanashe Marumani (34) for a 69-run opening partnership to set the stage for the chase.

Raza hit four sixes and two boundaries to score 45 from 26 balls, leaving Zimbabwe 12 short with 10 balls left. Bennett scored the winning runs with a drive towards mid-off, getting his team to 182 for four.

Zimbabwe, who did not qualify for the 2024 edition, are the only team in this year's Super Eights who reached the T20 World Cup through a continental tournament.

Sri Lanka face England, New Zealand and Pakistan in Group Two of the Super Eights, while Zimbabwe will be in Group One alongside holders India, South Africa, and the West Indies.

Zimbabwe will play the West Indies on Monday, a day after Sri Lanka face England.