

# Antigua Carnival Roadshow to take the region by storm!

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ABTA Marketing Manager Maria Blackman and Deputy Director of the Festivals Commission Cleofoster Harris spearheaded marketing efforts in Trinidad and Tobago as part of Antigua Carnival Road Show 2026

## Antigua Carnival Roadshow to take the region by storm!



festival destination.”

The regional roadshows kicked-off with high-impact activations during Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Dominica, increasing Antigua and Barbuda’s visibility and positioning Antigua Carnival 2026 as a must-experience carnival on the regional calendar.

During Trinidad Carnival, the team including Deputy Director of the ABFC Cleofoster Harris, ABTA Marketing Communications Manager Maria Blackman, Harris and Tourism Marketing Officer Alfonsina Olmos captivated carnival travellers attending premium events to include Hyatt Lime, and

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) is taking [Antigua Carnival 2026](#) set for July 25 – August 4 under the theme *‘Feel the Rhythm’*, to regional audiences, through a strategically targeted Caribbean roadshow.

Charmaine Spencer, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America, said the activations form part of a deliberate strategy to strengthen regional awareness and drive early bookings for the summer shoulder season.

“Antigua Carnival is more than a celebration, it is a major economic driver for tourism,” Spencer said. “By engaging regional audiences, we are generating a strong demand, locking in early bookings for our airline and hotel partners, our mas makers and event producers and cementing Antigua’s position as the Caribbean’s premier summer

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Ceasar’s Army - A.M. Beach, connecting with thousands of revellers through immersive activations, and a ‘Win a Trip to Antigua’ promotion. Media appearances across television and radio further amplified Antigua Carnival’s presence in the market.

In Dominica, promotions by the ABTA team of Digital Media Manager Sharifa George and Marketing Communications Officer Kayla Christian combined media engagements and live broadcasts with activations in partnership with KFC Dominica and airline partner Sunrise Airways, as well as at the Bayfront Artisan Market. Branded giveaways and cultural experiences generated excitement around Antigua Carnival, the destination’s wider summer offerings and the ‘Win a Trip to Antigua’ promotion.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, emphasised the strategic value of taking the Carnival message directly to regional audiences.

“Through meaningful on-the-ground engagement, curated promotional packages, and dynamic brand interactions, we did more than promote a festival; we delivered an authentic preview of the Antigua Carnival product experience.

These engagements will ensure that Antigua Carnival 2026, under the theme ‘Feel the Rhythm,’ remains highly visible and competitively positioned within the regional carnival landscape,” said Makhoul.

The team also highlighted the seamless travel options for Antigua Carnival with airline partners Liat Air and Sunrise Airways.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism

Authority and Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission will continue the regional roadshow with additional stops to other Caribbean destinations ahead of Antigua Carnival.

Enhancing the summer festival campaign, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority will also be rolling out a range of compelling summer offers across participating

properties, excursions and experiences featuring special summer rates, value-added offers, and early booking incentives.

Regional travellers eager to experience Antigua Carnival 2026 and enter the ‘Win a Trip to Antigua’ promotion can go to: [www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com) for event details and the special promotion.



**FEEL THE RHYTHM**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
PRE-EVENTS	PRE-EVENTS	OFFICIAL CARNIVAL EVENTS	OFFICIAL CARNIVAL EVENTS
<b>FRI 29TH MAY</b> RHYTHM FRIDAY REDCLIFFE STREET CALYPSO TENT OPENS JACK IDLE	<b>FRI 26TH JUN</b> RHYTHM FRIDAY REDCLIFFE STREET CALYPSO MONARCH QUARTER-FINALS JACK IDLE	<b>FRI 24TH JUL</b> FACE OFF CARNIVAL CITY	<b>SAT 1ST AUG</b> CARNIVAL DREAMZ HODGES BAY PANORAMA CARNIVAL CITY
<b>SAT 30TH MAY</b> CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>SAT 27TH JUN</b> CALYPSO MONARCH QUARTER-FINALS JACK IDLE	<b>SAT 25TH JUL</b> OPENING OF CARNIVAL CITY & T-SHIRT MAS CARNIVAL CITY & ST. JOHN'S	<b>SUN 2ND AUG</b> D BREAKFAST FETE RYAN'S LAWN, ANCHORAGE ROAD WHY NOT ESCAPE PARADISE PARTY MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY
<b>JUNE</b> PRE-EVENTS	<b>JULY</b> PRE-EVENTS	<b>SUN 26TH JUL</b> GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND JUNIOR CARNIVAL (PARADE, PRINCE & PRINCESS) CARNIVAL CITY & ST. JOHN'S	<b>MON 3RD AUG</b> J'OUVERT ST. JOHN'S MONDAY MAS ST. JOHN'S
<b>FRI 5TH JUN</b> RHYTHM FRIDAY REDCLIFFE STREET CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>FRI 3RD JULY</b> PARTY MONARCH QUARTER-FINALS JACK IDLE	<b>MON 27TH JUL</b> RHYTHM COURT CARNIVAL VILLAGE BAND-MEET-BAND (JUNIOR) CARNIVAL CITY	<b>TUE 4TH AUG</b> PARADE OF BANDS CARNIVAL CITY & ST. JOHN'S LAST LAP ST. JOHN'S
<b>SAT 6TH JUN</b> CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>SUN 12TH JULY</b> AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S KIDDIES FETE CARNIVAL CITY	<b>TUE 28TH JUL</b> PATRICE ROBERTS I AM WOMAN ALWAYS US CARNIVAL CITY	
<b>THU 11TH JUN</b> JAM CORNER REDCLIFFE STREET	<b>THU 16TH JULY</b> CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI-FINALS CARNIVAL CITY	<b>THU 30TH JUL</b> DRINK TILL YA WEAK (BOAT CRUISE) MELTING POT CARNIVAL CITY	
<b>FRI 12TH JUN</b> CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>FRI 17TH JULY</b> PARTY MONARCH SEMI-FINALS CARNIVAL CITY	<b>FRI 31ST JUL</b> CALYPSO MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY WATCH NIGHT CARNIVAL CITY & BOTANICAL GARDENS	
<b>SAT 13TH JUN</b> CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>SAT 18TH JULY</b> MR & MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT CARNIVAL CITY		
<b>FRI 19TH JUN</b> CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>SUN 19TH JULY</b> JUNIOR CALYPSO CARNIVAL CITY JUNIOR SOCA CARNIVAL CITY		
<b>SAT 20TH JUN</b> PAN IN DE CITY REDCLIFFE STREET CALYPSO TENT JACK IDLE	<b>TUE 21ST JULY</b> QUEEN OF CARNIVAL CARNIVAL CITY		
<b>THU 25TH JUN</b> JAM CORNER REDCLIFFE STREET			

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# ABDF Concludes 12-Week Officer Training Course



The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) held the Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony for its first Officer Candidate Training Course (OCTC 01/25) at Camp Blizzard, marking a significant milestone in the Force's institutional development and succession planning strategy.

Twelve members of the Defence Force were commissioned as officers following the successful completion of the intensive twelve-week programme. The cohort comprised ten Officer Cadets, one Staff Sergeant, and one Warrant Officer, all of whom satisfied the academic, leadership, and physical require-

ments of the course.

The ceremony was attended by Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the ABDF, Sir Rodney Williams, as well as, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, along with senior government officials, members of the Defence Force, and proud family members and supporters.

Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin, described the initiative as a historic and deliberate step in strengthening the ABDF's leadership pipeline. The programme was specifically designed to prepare future officers and to address succession planning as a central mission priority rather than as an

afterthought. In so doing, the Force continues to modernize its leadership framework and reinforce institutional continuity.

The Officer Candidate Training Course covered a comprehensive curriculum, including leadership principles, tactical and operational planning, military law and ethics, as well as drill and ceremonial protocols. The training combined intellectual rigour with physical discipline and command responsibility, equipping participants for the demands of commissioned leadership.

In his congratulatory remarks, Sir Rodney underscored the solemn respon-

sibility associated with commissioned rank. "Today is not merely a ceremonial moment," he stated, "It represents discipline tested, endurance strengthened, and character refined."

He reminded the newly commissioned officers that leadership demands integrity, steadiness under pressure, and example. "Rank gives authority. Character earns respect," the Governor General affirmed, charging the officers to serve with honour, humility and courage.

Officer Cadet Lenniel Bethune distinguished himself as Honour Graduate and also received the Physical Fitness Achieve-



ment Award. Officer Dylan James earned the Academic Achievement Award, while Officer Cadet Gamoy Baker received the Drill and Ceremonial Achievement Award.

The ceremony also included the promotion of Lieutenant Oen Thomas and Lieutenant Doctor Sujay Gore, further strengthening the Force’s command structure.

Officers who successfully completed the programme will now transition into middle management roles, reinforcing operational capacity and leadership depth within the Defence Force.

The ABDF continues to treat training and education at all levels with the utmost seriousness. Currently, no fewer than one hundred members of the Defence Force are pursuing university-level studies, reflecting the institution’s sustained

commitment to professional development, strategic competence, and national service.

The commissioning of this inaugural Officer Candidate Training Course cohort represents a defining step

in strengthening the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and safeguarding the nation’s future.

## Volunteers Needed

**There is still time to be a part of CHOGM 2026!**

**If you have been thinking about volunteering for the historic Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2026), to be hosted in St. John’s, 1-4 November 2026, now is your chance!**

**Antigua and Barbuda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs continues to invite enthusiastic, motivated, and professional individuals aged 18 or older to volunteer for this world-class event. Do not miss your chance! It is a unique opportunity to contribute your time and skills to the event’s success, gain experience, and expand your network.**

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**Please note that the QR code is attached.**



## UK-based High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill engages the Antigua and Barbuda National Association (ABNA)

Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill, has hosted a meeting at the High Commission in London with the new President and Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda National Association (ABNA).

The engagement marked the High Commissioner's first formal meeting with the newly elected President of ABNA, Lyndia Bowers, and her executive team. The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration with the diaspora community and to discuss shared priorities for the year ahead.

Opening remarks were delivered by the High Commissioner, followed by introductory remarks from the Diaspora Liaison Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dave Ray, who joined virtually. Ray underscored the importance of deeper coordination among diaspora communities, particularly between London and New York, and encouraged greater collaboration in advancing national development initiatives.

Discussions covered key areas on the agenda, including updates on the High Commission's programmes and projects for 2026, such as activities surrounding Commonwealth Day, celebrations for the 45th Anniversary of Independence, and preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026. Additional initiatives highlighted included plans for a Heritage Evening, the continuation of the annual cricket exchange



programme, and collaborative efforts aimed at strengthening engagement between elderly and young members of the Antigua and Barbuda community in the United Kingdom.

President Bowers also outlined ABNA's recent activities and proposed initiatives for the coming year, with emphasis on community engagement, youth involvement, cultural promotion, and strengthening support networks across the diaspora.

The High Commissioner stated: "Our diaspora remains an essential partner in Antigua and Barbuda's development. Through sustained dialogue and cooperation with organisations such as ABNA, we can better connect our communities, empower our youth, and advance initiatives that benefit our nation both locally and internationally."

President of ABNA, Bowers, noted: "This introductory meeting is very important, as it marks not only the beginning of a new working year, but the strengthening of a shared commitment to our people, our culture and Antigua and Barbuda."

Both the High Commission and ABNA reaffirmed their shared commitment to continued partnership in promoting Antigua and Barbuda's heritage, supporting community development, and encouraging meaningful diaspora participation in national progress.

The High Commission looks forward to sustained collaboration with ABNA and the wider diaspora as Antigua and Barbuda advances its national priorities at home and abroad.

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## Antigua and Barbuda Launches Clean Seed Sweet Potato Initiative



The inaugural meeting of the Clean Seed Sweet Potato Committee was held this week in Antigua and Barbuda, marking a significant step forward for the country's root crop sector under the regional Next Generation Sweet Potato Project.

The committee unites technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, the private sector, and the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) to establish a clean seed system, providing farmers with access to disease-free planting material. This initiative will boost productivity, enhance food security, and strengthen resilience to climate-related challenges.

During the meeting, members outlined project goals, clarified responsibilities, and discussed strategies to scale up clean seed production locally. Antigua and Barbuda has already collected six sweet potato varieties - Black Rock, Hurricane,

King Crown, Mandela, Catch Me, and Big Red - which will be sent to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for tissue culture to ensure disease-free planting material.

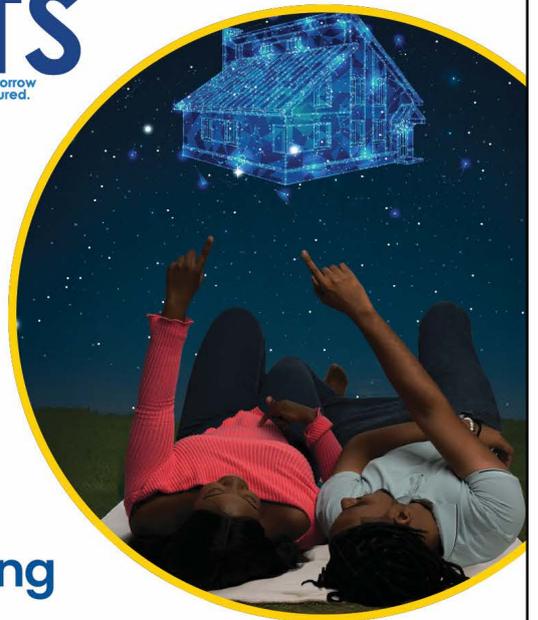
The committee will meet regularly to monitor progress, coordinate training, and share knowledge, ensuring the project's benefits reach farmers and communities nationwide.

Implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Next Generation Sweet Potato Project is a four-year initiative across Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, and St. Lucia, aimed at modernizing root crop agriculture and supporting sustainable food systems in the Caribbean.



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## Ministry of Education Remembers Veteran Educator Lenore Henry



*The education community across Antigua and Barbuda is in mourning following the death of veteran educator Lenore Henry, who reportedly passed away last weekend after a period of illness.*

*In a statement, the Ministry of Education Antigua and Barbuda described Henry as a towering figure whose decades of service left an indelible mark on the nation's education system and on generations of students and teachers.*

*Henry began her career in the classroom, where she taught English B, History and French, earning a reputation as a passionate and disciplined educator committed to academic excellence and student development. Colleagues recall her ability to inspire confidence in her students while maintaining high standards both inside and outside the classroom.*

*She later rose through the ranks of the education system, serving with distinction as a principal at All Saints Secondary School and Holy Trinity in Barbuda, where her leadership and vision earned the respect of parents, staff and students alike. Her career in public service expanded further when she took on senior administrative roles within the ministry, including Senior Education Officer, Deputy Chief Education Officer, and Acting Chief Education Officer, a position she held for one year.*

*The ministry said Henry's professionalism, integrity and unwavering dedication helped shape policy and strengthen the delivery of education nationwide.*

*Even after leaving senior public office, she continued to serve the sector. She returned to the classroom at St. Joseph's Academy and most recently chaired the board of Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE), where she remained actively involved in expanding educational opportunities for adult learners.*

*"In every role she held, she exemplified service, humility, and an unrelenting commitment to excellence in education," the ministry said, noting that her contribution to national development was "nothing short of outstanding."*

*The Ministry of Education has extended condolences to her family, loved ones, former colleagues and the wider education community, honouring what it described as a remarkable life of service.*

*Henry's legacy, officials say, will continue to resonate in classrooms and institutions throughout the country for years to come.*

## AGHS Principal Backpedals on Graduation Ban

With pressure from the Ministry of Education, specifically Director of Education Clare Browne, the Principal of Antigua Girls' High School, Rosalind Beazer, was forced to withdraw a threat she made last week to dozens of students that they will not graduate due to their defiance of an instruction regarding hairstyles.

Last Thursday, AGHS students preparing for CSEC examinations, were scheduled for a photo session for the school's yearbook. However, many were driven off the compound, after it was discovered that some of the girls did not adhere to the instruction that no hair extensions, braids, weaves and/or colour were allowed.

Reportedly displeased that they had found creative ways to add volume and length to their hair, Beazer allegedly ordered them out and delivered the blow that they were going to be excluded from graduation for breaking the school's rules.

Her decision soon gained the public's attention and sparked a robust debate, with some residents criticizing the rules as archaic and the principal's decision high-handed, while others argued there must be strict compliance.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, did not find favour with Rosalind Beazer's decision, telling state television on Monday evening, "if somebody has been of impeccable conduct for five years at a school, and there is some single infraction of coming to



school with a little bit of makeup, then I am not sure that warrants a no graduation situation'.

A meeting was convened yesterday by Principal Beazer and included aggrieved parents/guardians and students.

One parent related they were informed by the principal that the ministry's position is that students cannot be banned from graduation for violating an instruction on hairstyle, and as such, the threat was withdrawn.

However, those who defied the order were ordered to write letters of apology, which must be read to the principal and her deputies and also to the classes where the students belong.

According to the parent, the issue of a senior educator running her hands

through some of the girls' hair was also discussed, with one deputy principal denying the claims made. However, two students reportedly pointed her out, but that came at a cost. The parent related that immediately following the meeting, one student was stripped of her prefect badge, while the other was removed from the committee established to plan the graduation exercise.

Overall, parents have expressed relief that the decision was withdrawn and that the girls will graduate from secondary school.

The fifth-form students will proceed on study leave from 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, ahead of the commencement of the May/June CSEC examinations that are administered by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).



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# The Four-Lap Principle: Choosing Between Worse and Worst



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

This week, as CARICOM Heads of Government gather in Basseterre for their 50th Regular Meeting, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio is expected at the table. Let us be clear about what that table looks like.

On one side, fifteen Caribbean states whose combined GDP would not rank them among America's twenty largest cities. On the other, the representative of a nation with four percent of the world's population that commands twenty-six percent of global GDP, spends nearly a trillion dollars a year on its military, more than the next nine countries combined, controls the world's reserve currency, and dominates the technological infrastructure through which humanity increasingly communicates, trades, learns, and thinks. No empire in history has simultaneously dominated the economic, military, technological, financial, and institutional dimensions of global power to this degree. That is not rhetoric it is arithmetic.

The conventional narrative says American power has declined since 1945. It has not declined, it has normalized. The US share of global GDP has held at around a quarter for forty

years. America's R&D spending approaches a trillion dollars. The dollar underpins international trade, SWIFT, the IMF, and the World Bank. This is dominance so total it has become invisible to those who exercise it. The claim that it faces existential threat does not survive contact with the data.

China's economic transformation is the most extraordinary development story in modern history, with close to 800 million people lifted from extreme poverty as GDP per capita rose from \$195 to over \$13,000. Whatever one thinks of Beijing's own ambitions, this is a civilizational achievement that should command respect, not alarm. And here is the critical point, China's rise has not come at the expense of American dominance. American GDP per capita remains nearly seven times China's. The US spends more than three times what China spends on defence. In frontier technologies, AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, American supremacy remains formidable. China has moved from four laps behind to two laps behind. The gap remains vast.

And yet Washington's posture suggests that even this narrowing is intolerable. This is what I call the Four-Lap Principle: the demand by a dominant power not merely for superiority, but for a margin of superiority so wide that no competitor can close within strategic proximity across economic, military, technological, or institutional dimensions. Not parity, not convergence but structural unapproachability. The principle is not simply about China. China is merely the case that makes it visible. It has been operating in this hemisphere since the Monroe Doctrine, the insistence that American security requires not just advantage but uncatchable supremacy, and that the aspirations of every other nation must be trimmed to fit within that frame.

For CARICOM states, small, open,

vulnerable economies that together account for a fraction of one percent of global GDP, the Four-Lap Principle is the architecture of daily life. It is the farmer whose export market vanished overnight because of a "reciprocal" tariff designed to punish some other nation. It is the small island watching promised climate finance evaporate. When Washington imposes tariffs, our producers are collateral damage. When deportees arrive by the planeload, our societies absorb the cost.

This is not new as Caribbean nations have operated under the shadow of American power since the Monroe Doctrine, through structural adjustment, through the de-risking that nearly destroyed our banking systems. Our ancestors navigated the Middle Passage. Our forebears built nations from plantation economies. They knew something about surviving overwhelming power, not by confronting it directly, but by preserving a space of dignity and self-determination within its grip. That historical inheritance, the statesmanship of the small, is our greatest resource.

And so the choices for our tiny nation states appear to collapse into two. Worse: fall in line, accept the Four-Lap Principle and trim your aspirations to fit. Cap your ambitions at what Washington will tolerate. This path offers survival at a permanent discount, growth constrained, sovereignty conditional, potential perpetually deferred. It is the quiet tragedy of nations that internalize the frame and build economies their nationals endure rather than choose. Worst: refuse the frame entirely. Cuba tested the Four-Lap Principle and has been strangled for it ever since. Grenada in 1983, Venezuela under sanctions each represents the cost of stepping outside Washington's permitted orbit.

Neither option is freedom but neither is the binary as fixed as it appears.

Small states have always found ways to exercise agency within asymmetric relationships, making themselves indispensable, stretching the frame without breaking it. The question for CARICOM is not whether we accept this reality but how skilfully we navigate it, and whether fifteen sovereign governments with very different risk exposures can forge enough unity to negotiate as one.

But the Four-Lap Principle is not only our problem. It is America's.

To be fair, Washington's concerns are not invented. Great powers worry about technological diffusion, supply chain vulnerabilities, intellectual property theft, coercive diplomacy, and the weaponization of economic interdependence. The security dilemma is real, defensive measures by one actor are perceived as offensive by another. But when convergence itself is treated as provocation, strategic prudence hardens into structural insecurity.

But consider what the Four-Lap Principle asks of the world, that one nation, with four percent of humanity, maintain a margin of dominance so vast that the remaining ninety-six percent can never close within reach. That is not security, it is a demand that the rest of the world accept permanent subordination as the price of one nation's comfort.

The choice facing Washington is not

whether it will remain first, it most certainly will. The choice is what kind of first it intends to be. Leadership secured by confidence expands the track while leadership governed by anxiety narrows it. A superpower that knows its strength does not need a permanent four-lap distance to prove it. But when advancements in any other nation is treated as provocation, the pressure radiates outward, not to the rival in the next lane, but to the smallest runners at the edge, where the track is already thin.

The Caribbean does not seek parity. It does not seek to outrun the United States. It seeks room, room to build resilient economies, to diversify partnerships, to dignify its development without that aspiration being misread as defiance. Our relationship with the United States is deep and indispensable, bound by geography, culture, commerce, and shared security. This is not an argument for rupture. Nor is China a substitute hegemon waiting benevolently in another lane. Dependency does not disappear when its accent changes.

If hemispheric stability is the shared objective, three practical adjustments follow:

1. Climate finance must move from pledges to binding disbursement schedules, with streamlined access for vulnerable economies.

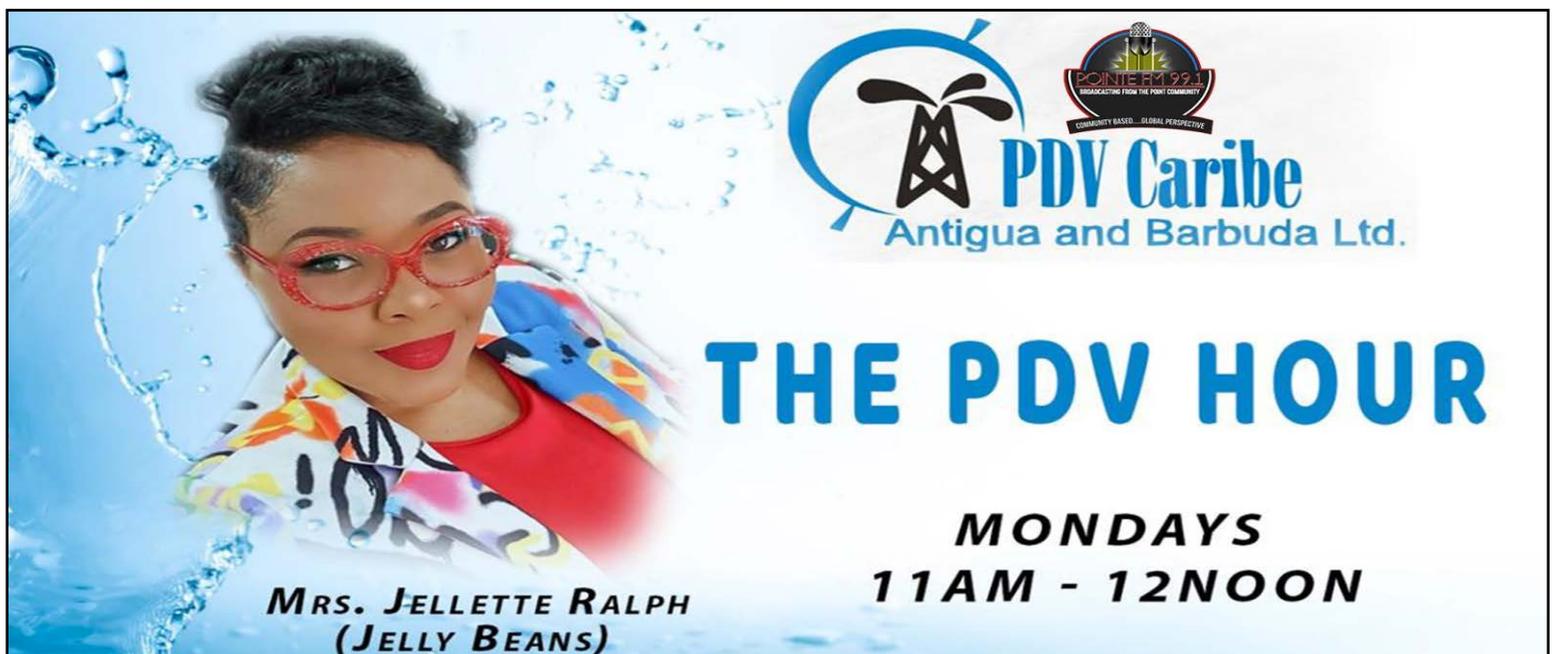
2. Trade and sanctions regimes designed for strategic rivalry should incorporate formal carve-outs for small, climate-vulnerable states, insulating them from collateral damage.

3. Migration and security compacts must explicitly recognize reintegration costs and shared fiscal responsibility, rather than transferring burden downstream.

These are not radical demands. They are stability-enhancing mechanisms.

If American leadership is as durable as its record suggests, it can afford to lead without fear of being approached. It can afford to see convergence not as encroachment, but as evidence that the system it shaped is working.

That is the hard conversation our leaders must have, not just with Mr. Rubio, but among themselves, and clearly to Washington: we are prepared to be full partners in hemispheric stability, but we are not prepared to be collateral damage in a race we never entered. Let us hope they find, as Caribbean people always have, the narrow path and that this time, they pave it with a unified voice. True leadership by a dominant nation is not measured by how far ahead it runs, but by how securely others are allowed to run alongside it without being pushed toward the margins. True leadership will not ask free people to choose between worse and worst.





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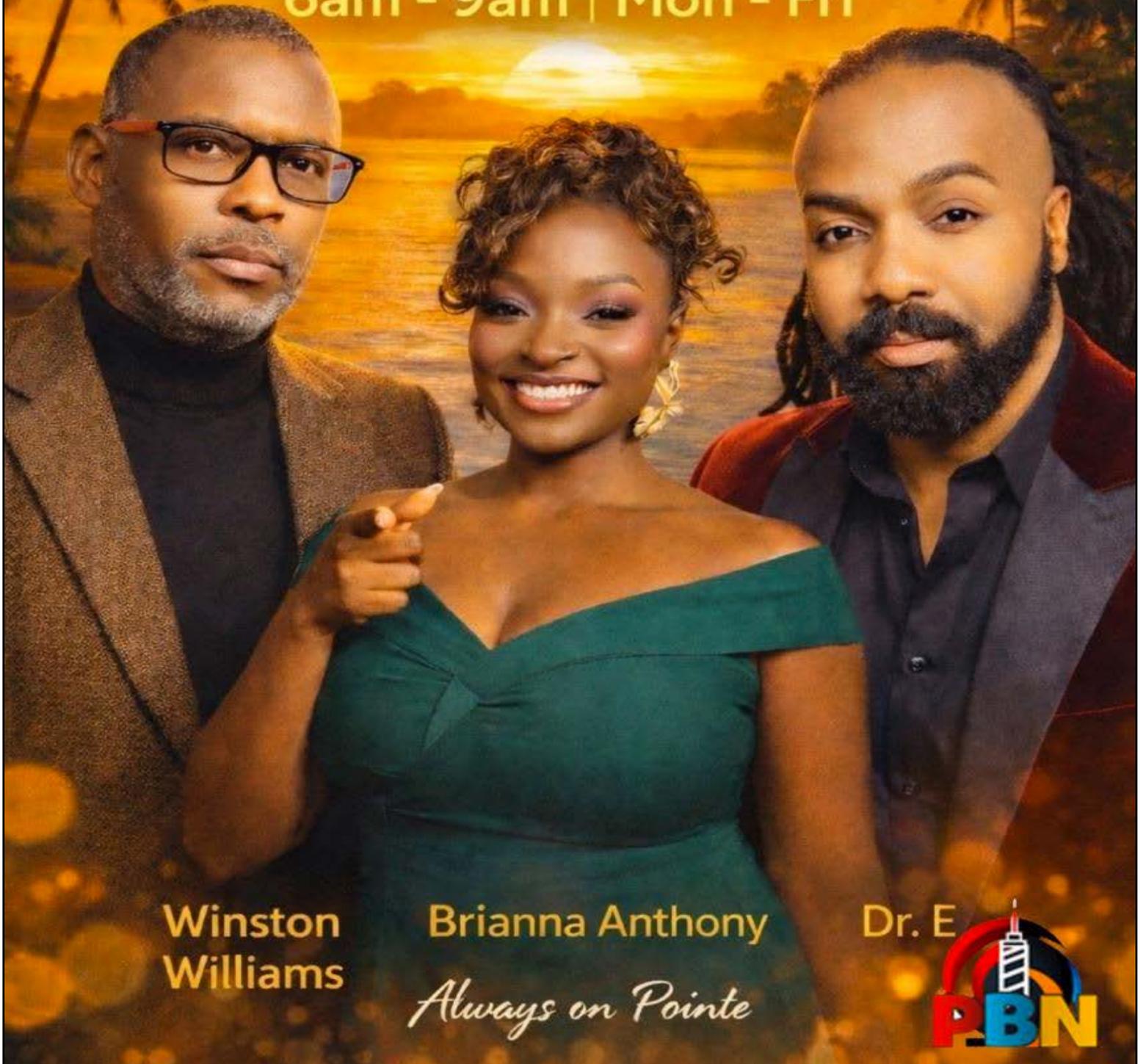
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| <b>Individual Mas</b>              | <b>Party Monarch</b>                  |
| <b>J'ouvert Tropes Band</b>        | <b>Prince &amp; Princess</b>          |
| <b>Junior Calypso Monarch</b>      | <b>Queen of Carnival</b>              |
| <b>Junior Carnival Private Mas</b> | <b>Road March</b>                     |
| <b>Junior Carnival School Mas</b>  | <b>T-Shirt Mas</b>                    |
| <b>Junior Party Monarch</b>        | <b>Vendors</b>                        |

### **Where to Collect Forms:**

National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street  
Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road  
(Upstairs KFC/INET Building)

### **Hours:**

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Request forms via email at [info.nof@ab.gov.ag](mailto:info.nof@ab.gov.ag) or  
WhatsApp at (268) 727-9201. For inquiries, call (268) 462-4707.



### **Submission Details:**

Completed registration forms must be returned to:  
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 Antigua Carnival  @antiguafestivalsofficial



## Virgin Atlantic Returns as Official Transatlantic Airline Sponsor of Antigua Sailing Week

# virgin atlantic



Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) has announced that Virgin Atlantic is returning as its Official Transatlantic Airline Sponsor for the 2026 edition of this well-loved regatta, taking place [April 22–26, 2026](#).

After a brief hiatus, the renewed partnership marks a meaningful reconnection between two brands long associated with excellence, international reach, and a shared commitment to showcasing Antigua as a [world-class destination](#).

As part of the sponsorship, Virgin Atlantic is offering exclusive preferred rates for travellers flying from the United Kingdom to Antigua in time for the race — making it even easier for crews, charter guests, and spectators to be part of the action on the water and the celebrations ashore.

The UK has always been one of Antigua Sailing Week's strongest international markets, and Virgin Atlantic's direct service between London and Antigua plays a vital role in connecting the sailing community to the island.

“We are thrilled to welcome Virgin Atlantic back to the Antigua Sailing Week family,” said Rana-Jamila Lewis of Antigua Sailing Week. “Their return is not only a boost for the event, but also a strong signal of confidence in Antigua as a premier



sailing and tourism destination. The special fares they are offering will make it even more accessible for our UK and European crews and supporters to join us for what promises to be an exceptional 2026 edition.”

Sean Edwards of Virgin Atlantic

commented, “We are proud to renew our partnership with Antigua Sailing Week — an event that perfectly reflects the energy, spirit, and global appeal of our brand. We look forward to welcoming sailors and supporters onboard as they travel to experience the excitement of the regatta.”

## Racing the Impossible: One Sailor, One Wheelchair, One Caribbean 600 Dream



By Zoë Carlton

### When the Gun Fires in Antigua

Every February, Antigua doesn't just host a yacht race — it unleashes one.

The eyes of the sailing World turn to Antigua as cannons echoed beneath Fort Charlotte. Spectators line Shirley Heights. The fleet surges from English Harbour into open Atlantic blue.

RORC Caribbean 600 is fast, relentless and unforgiving: 46 international boats, 600 nautical miles, 11 islands, trade winds that do not negotiate.

In 2026, one competitor on that start line is racing more than the fleet.

He is racing expectation.

### A Dream That Refused to Sink

Originally from the UK, Luke Spink learned to sail on England's south coast through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Like many young sailors, he grew up watching the Volvo Ocean Race and imagining life offshore.

Years later, living in Charleston, South Carolina, he bought a boat during COVID-19 — “the craziest pledge,” he calls it — and reignited the ambition.

The racing escalated. Offshore miles became serious campaigns. The Southern Ocean Racing Conference followed.

Then, three years ago, a devastating

accident left him paralysed and in a wheelchair.

For many, that would have marked the end of ocean racing.

For him, it became fuel.

“I became more determined,” he says. “There aren't many people in wheelchairs doing this. I wanted to show what's possible.”

### Back on Deck

The first time he returned to the boat, his crew hoisted him aboard in a sling.

Today, he boards under his own strength.

The boat has been modified — subtly. Extra handholds. Additional seating. Small refinements that improve safety without compromising performance.

The rest is adaptation: core strength, upper-body power, absolute trust in his crew.

Because in Caribbean conditions - 20 knots funneling between islands, Atlantic swell rolling off Guadeloupe - offshore racing is physical for everyone.

For him, it is intentional.

### Antigua: More Than a Finish Line





His Antigua campaign extends beyond race day.

At the National Sailing Academy, the inaugural Sailability Fundraiser — supported by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) - brought together sailors of all abilities in RS Venture Connect dinghies fitted with adaptive systems.

Five teams raced in near-perfect conditions. Team 42 won. The RORC team placed second.

But the real victory was visibility.

The event was the inspiration of Spink, who is competing in the 2026 Caribbean 600. He said:

“We loved it. Everyone appreciated the hospitality and learned about accessibility in sailing. I hope this starts something special.”

For Antigua, this matters.

Already a global offshore hub, the island is helping lead the region’s - indeed the global - conversation on inclusion — proving that high-performance racing and accessibility can exist side by side.

## What Success Really Looks Like

Ask him what success in the Caribbean 600 means and he doesn’t mention trophies.

“Complete it. Get round safely. Have

fun. Make amazing memories.”

A podium would be welcome.

But finishing — navigating Atlantic swell, night watches and relentless breeze — would be its own statement.

When the start gun fired on February 23, 2026, Blueprint, a Beneteau First skippered by Luke with a crew of nine, accelerated north with the fleet. She has cleared Saba and is pressing on toward St. Maarten.

Same wind. Same course. Same 600 miles.

Different story.

And in a race built on resilience, that may be the most powerful narrative Antigua sees all season.

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Place... \$3,500**

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- Maintenance & Cleanliness
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- Design & Layout
- Record Keeping

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for registration assistance

**JUDGING STARTS**  
**AT THE END OF**  
**APRIL 2026**

## 15% US tariff to spike inflation in SVG says ex PM

Former Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves states that the flat 15% U.S tariff will have a significant negative impact on St. Vincent and the Grenadines, primarily through increased inflation.

The 15% rate applies not only to items manufactured in the US but also to goods transshipped through the United States, which will now attract the additional cost.

Gonsalves emphasizes that while the previous 10% tariff had specific impacts, this “flat 15 to everybody” is more widespread. He describes the situation as “problematic” for the country’s economy.

He notes that the tariff is not expected to heavily affect St. Vincent’s exports to the US, which he describes as “niche exports” at the margin.

The current 15% tariff is intended to be a temporary measure lasting 150 days (five months). It was implemented by President Trump using alternative legal mechanisms after the US Supreme Court ruled that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act did not authorize him to impose unilateral tariffs.

Gonsalves also criticizes the current St. Vincent government for its silence on the matter, arguing they have failed to analyze or explain to the public how these international legal developments affect the local cost of living. (St Vincent Times)



## NOTICE

**TO: The Chief Magistrate  
District “A”  
High Street  
St. John’s  
Antigua**

**The Licensing Magistrate  
St. John’s Magistrate Court  
Gray’s Farm  
St. John’s Antigua**

**TO: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John’s  
Antigua**

**I, Sunnil Vivian Earl Braithwaite, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street in the city of Saint John Antigua and Barbuda on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026 for a Real license for my premises known as Sly’s Water Sports And Boat Charters situated on Deep Bay in the city of Saint John. Antigua & Barbuda, Pursuant to section 11 (a) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.**

**Dated the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February. 2025  
Tel :1268-772-5503**

.....  
**Sunnil V. E. Braithwaite**

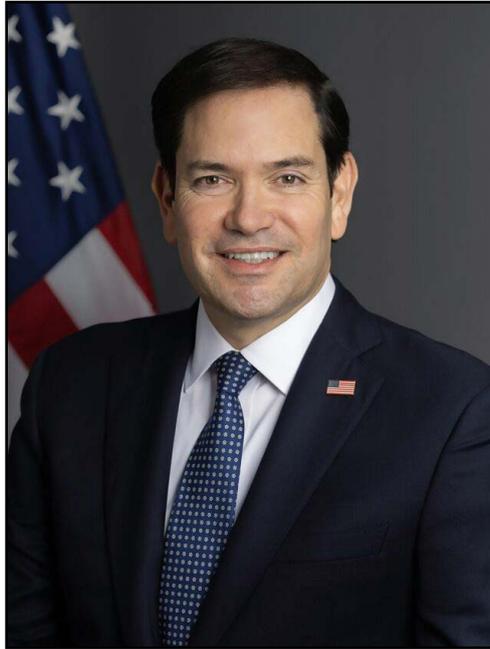
## Marc Rubio to join 50th CARICOM heads meeting, engage on 'shared priorities'

Secretary of State Marco Rubio is scheduled to visit Saint Kitts and Nevis on February 25 to participate in the 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

Official word from the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown is that the trip underscores the United States' ongoing efforts to engage with Caribbean nations and bolster regional cooperation.

During his visit, Secretary Rubio plans to meet with Caribbean leaders to discuss and promote "shared priorities", including enhancing regional security, strengthening collaborations to address illegal immigration and illicit trafficking, and fostering economic development, health initiatives, and energy security throughout the Caribbean.

In addition, the U.S. press release claims that Rubio will reaffirm the



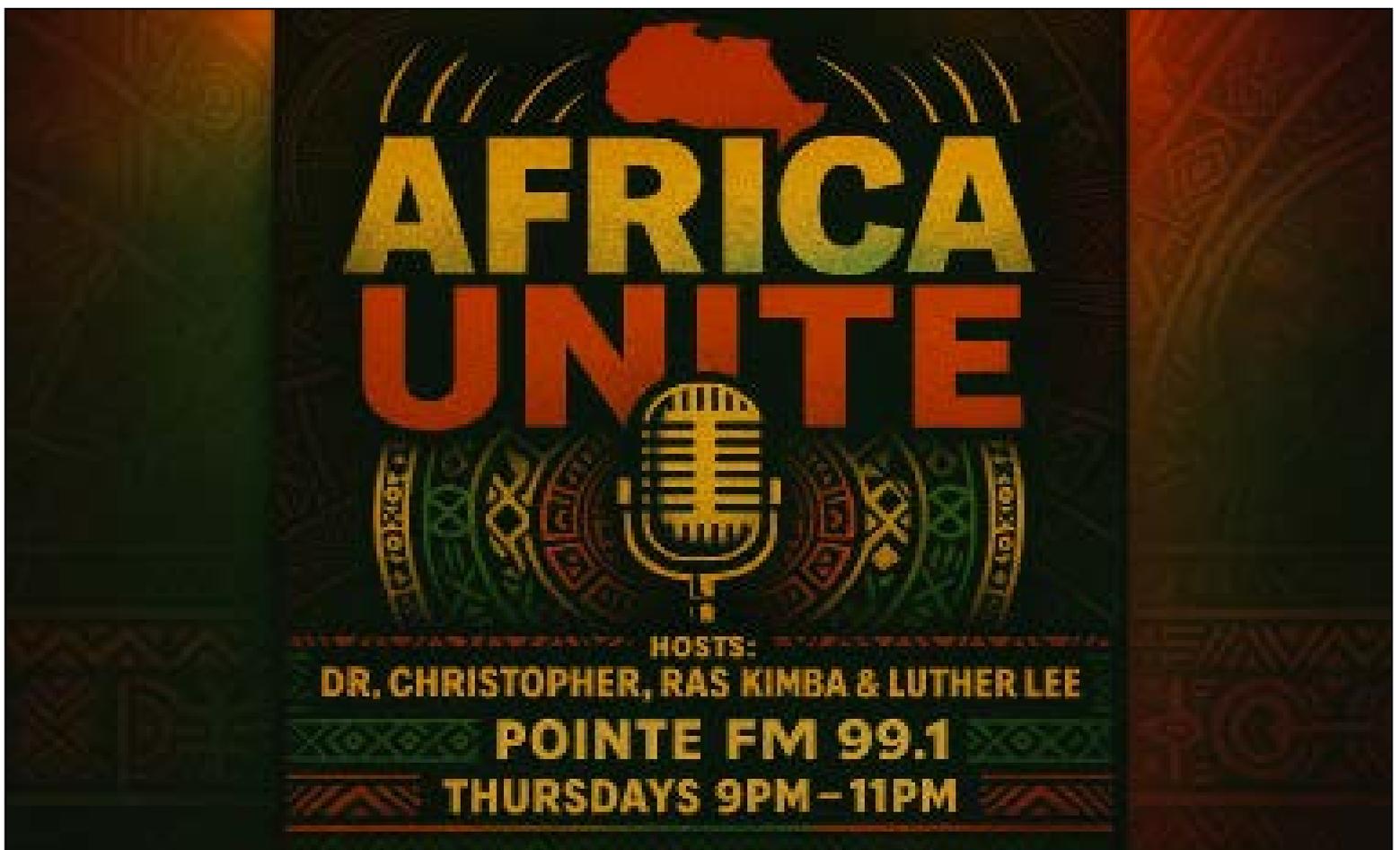
United States' commitment to working alongside CARICOM member states to promote stability and prosperity across the hemisphere.

Meanwhile, a recent article in the St Kitts Observer highlighted that this visit is part of what has been described as a diplomatic "reset" in U.S.-Caribbean relations.

"The initiative is reportedly focused on strengthening strategic ties and promoting closer alignment with Washington's foreign policy objectives," reports the Observer.

Furthermore, sources suggest that the United States is seeking increased regional support for its stance on political issues in Havana.

The article says that the visit is also perceived as a strategic move to manage the growing influence of China within CARICOM nations, with Washington aiming to deepen ties and bring Caribbean countries "more firmly into its sphere of partnership." (Dominica News Online)



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## Golding seeks probe into \$1.4b school bus deal

Opposition Leader Mark Golding has written to three of the country's anti-corruption bodies requesting an investigation into the transport ministry's procurement of 110 used school buses brought in from the United States.

Golding's July 2025 letters, copies of which The Gleaner received on Sunday, said "apparent irregularities and other suspicious aspects relating to the procurement" of the buses had been brought to his attention.

His letters were addressed to the Integrity Commission (IC), Auditor General's Department (AuGD) and the Major Organised Crime & Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA).

On Monday, The Gleaner emailed questions to the entities to ascertain whether investigations had been launched.

Basil Jarrett, MOCA's communications pointman, said he could not say much publicly.

"While MOCA can confirm having received the report in question, it is against established policy to comment publicly on any actions taken or decisions contemplated in response to such matters. What I can say however, is that a full and comprehensive evaluation is being undertaken, in order to assess the credibility, veracity and substance of the allegations," he told The Gleaner.

Up to press time, there was no response from the IC or the AuGD.

Under Section 53(3) of the



Integrity Commission Act, until an investigation report is tabled in Parliament, all matters under investigation by that body must be kept confidential.

The commission and its staff are also forbidden from making any public statement regarding the initiation or conduct of an investigation.

Golding pointed to the unsolicited proposal brought by ELHYDRO Limited. He said the company is not an accredited motor vehicle dealer.

"There has been growing public concern regarding the cost of acquiring these buses. I have seen a copy of an invoice for 26 of the buses, reflecting an average price of US\$16,350 (J\$2.6 million).

"However, the minister has stated that the Government paid J\$1.4 billion for 110 buses, which is an average unit cost of J\$12.7 million per bus. This means the Government has paid on average about J\$10 million more per bus than the overseas supplier's invoiced price," the letter said.

Further, he said that the invoice seen for 26 of the buses shows that ELHYDRO purchased them from Triarii Advisors LLC, an entity based in Chicago.

"Minister Vaz has said publicly that ELHYDRO is the 'sole distributor' for these buses. That would suggest that Triarii is in the business of selling fleets of used school buses," it said.

However, he said a look at Triarii's website suggests that the company offers business consultation.

He said there is no mention of transportation, much less school buses.

Golding said VIN decoding reports confirm that some of the units that were misrepresented as new in correspondence from the Jamaica Trade Board are, in fact, approximately 14 to 15 years old, and have reportedly been imported as new without undergoing the mandatory pre-shipment inspection for used vehicles.

His letter said he attached a bundle containing several documents in support of the foregoing

"In light of the above, I am

requesting that a full, independent investigation of the procurement of these buses, and any relevant surrounding circumstances, be conducted immediately.

"We are seeking full transparency and accountability in this matter, as these buses will be transporting Jamaican school children, often on poor roads in difficult, mountainous terrain. The integrity of our procurement system, and the safety and value delivered by this Rural School Bus Programme, are at stake," the letter said.

On Sunday, The Gleaner reported that the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) warned the transport ministry against handpicking contractors even as it endorsed the \$1.4-billion deal for controversial used school buses last year.

At the time, the ministry – then known as the Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport – had awarded the contract to ELHYDRO through a single-source method based on the unsolicited proposal. There was no competitive bidding process.

"The MSETT should not attempt any future direct award and must commence planning now for future acquisitions using competitive methods as far as practicable," the commission noted.

Last week, Transport Minister Daryl Vaz said while the buses are performing, the Government will be acquiring 100 new buses. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## ‘Bomb cyclone’ leaves NYC under nearly two feet of snow, continues across Northeastern U.S.

Approximately thirty million residents are still under blizzard warnings as a severe bomb cyclone is currently battering the Northeastern United States.

As the storm continues to unfold, it has brought with it intense winds and record-breaking snowfall, resulting in widespread power outages and travel disruptions.

The snow accumulation has been described as extraordinary by U.S. media, with more than 30 inches falling in many areas since Sunday. The New York Times reported that at least five states have reported snowfall exceeding two feet, with New York City and Philadelphia experiencing their most significant snowfalls in years.

One thirty-year NYC resident stated: “It is terrible out there, omg, never seen that before in all my years in New York.”

Meanwhile, snow reportedly continues to fall, adding to the already substantial totals, marking the largest snowstorm in Providence, Rhode Island’s history.

The region’s transportation network has come to a halt amid dangerous conditions. Public transit systems have



been suspended, travel bans are in effect, and authorities have urged residents to avoid driving. Over 10,000 flights have been canceled nationwide, according to FlightAware.

In parts of Massachusetts, a travel ban has been enacted as the storm maintains its grip on the area. The blizzard has complicated efforts by utility companies like National Grid to restore power, with over 51,000 customers statewide currently without electricity.

Heavy, moist snow combined with wind gusts exceeding 65 mph have made road access difficult, preventing repair crews from reaching outages and leaving many roads impassable.

Reportedly, as the storm moves away from New York and pushes into New England on Monday afternoon, snowfall totals in many locations have surpassed two feet. Dozens of areas in New York State and New Jersey have experienced similar accumulations, with some regions seeing well over 20 inches.

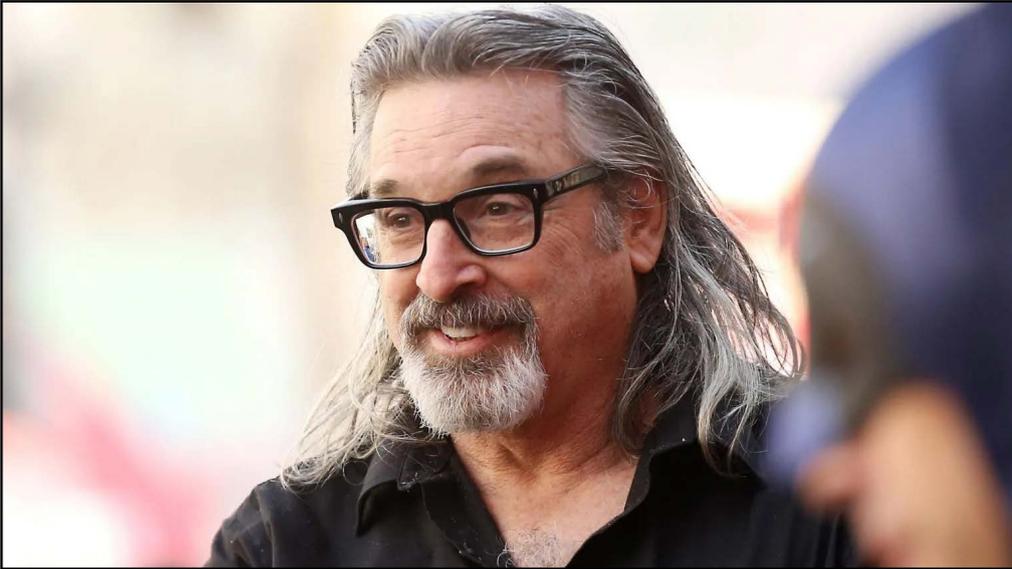
Sources indicate that in Central Park, as of 1:30 PM, Monday, the snow gauge recorded 19.7 inches, ranking this as one of the top ten snowstorms in New York City’s history, with records dating back to 1869.

Despite the severity of the storm, NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani said that the worst is over in the city and public schools are set to reopen for in-person classes on Tuesday, February 24.

This is after Monday being the first traditional snow day since the city discontinued the practice at the start of the 2022-23 academic year. (Dominica News Online)



## Robert Carradine, Lizzie McGuire and Revenge of the Nerds star, dies aged 71



Robert Carradine, the US actor best known for roles in *Revenge of the Nerds* and *Lizzie McGuire*, has died aged 71.

In a statement, his family said the actor took his own life after living with bipolar disorder for nearly two decades.

The Carradine family said they wanted to announce his cause of death to raise awareness of “the stigma that attaches to mental illness”.

“We want people to know it, and there is no shame in it,” his brother Keith told *Deadline*.

*Lizzie McGuire* star Hilary Duff led the tributes to her former on-screen father, writing on Instagram: “This one hurts. It’s really hard to face this reality about an old friend.”

Born on 24 March 1954, Carradine was the youngest son of John Carra-

dine and a brother of actors David and Keith Carradine.

Encouraged by his brother David, Robert Carradine auditioned for 1972’s *The Cowboys*, a John Wayne film that became his first screen role.

He went on to appear in and Martin Scorsese’s 1973 film *Mean Streets*, Oscar-winning *Coming Home* (1978), alongside Jane Fonda, *The Long Riders* (1980), with Mark Hamill, *The Big Red One* (1980) and Quentin Tarantino’s *Django Unchained* in 2012.

But he was best known for playing the head nerd, Lewis Skolnick, in *Revenge of the Nerds* - which became one of the most popular film franchises of the 1980s, and the father of *Lizzie McGuire* in the noughties Disney Channel series.

Paying tribute, *Lizzie McGuire* star Duff said: “There was so much warmth in the McGuire family and I always

felt so cared for by my on-screen parents.

“I’ll be forever grateful for that. I’m deeply sad to learn Bobby was suffering. My heart aches for him, his family, and everyone who loved him.”

In a statement, Carradine’s family announced his death “with profound sadness”, adding that the US actor was a “beloved father, grandfather, uncle, and brother”.

“In a world that can feel so dark, Bobby was always a beacon on light to everyone around him,” they said.

“We are bereft at the loss of this beautiful soul and want to acknowledge Bobby’s valiant struggle against his nearly two-decade battle with bipolar disorder.

“We hope his journey can shine a light and encourage addressing the stigma that attaches to mental illness.”

The statement added: “At this time we ask for the privacy to grieve this unfathomable loss. With gratitude for your understanding and compassion.”

In his own separate statement to *Deadline*, Carradine’s brother Keith added: “It is an illness that got the best of him, and I want to celebrate him for his struggle with it, and celebrate his beautiful soul.

“He was profoundly gifted, and we will miss him every day. We will take solace in how funny he could be, how wise and utterly accepting and tolerant he was. That’s who my baby brother was.” (BBC)

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## Mexico hunts 23 inmates sprung from jail during wave of violence

Police in Mexico are searching a number of inmates sprung from a prison in Puerto Vallarta during a wave of attacks launched by the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) on Sunday.

Puerto Vallarta, a beach resort on Mexico's Pacific coast, was among the towns where the CJNG blockaded roads and torched cars in retaliation for the killing by security forces of their leader, Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, known as "El Mencho".

During the unrest, armed men rammed one of the prison gates with a car, paving the way for 23 prisoners to escape, an official said.

More than 70 people – including 25 National Guard members – were killed in the operation to capture El Mencho and the violence which followed.

Juan Pablo Hernández, security secretary for the state of Jalisco, said that his office was working with other states to capture the fugitives.

Officials have not yet released details of the identities of the prisoners who escaped.

Cartel members torched several vehicles across Puerto Vallarta on Sunday.

Tourists and locals were urged to seek shelter and not venture out and footage they recorded showed black plumes of smoke rising above the popular beach resort.

A number of airlines temporarily halted their flights and at least two ma-



jour cruise liners said their ships would skip planned stops in Puerto Vallarta.

The Mexican government said on Monday that most of the road blocks erected by cartel members had been cleared.

But El Universal newspaper reports that in the state of Morelia, where drug lord El Mencho was born, armed men continued to spread fear on Monday, torching cars and vandalising shops and public buildings.

El Mencho was Mexico's most wanted man. Under his leadership, the CJNG became a powerful transnational criminal organisation which spread from its stronghold in the state of Jalisco into many other Mexican states, where it engages in drug production and trafficking.

It often resorts to extreme violence

and has been behind a number of high-profile attacks on the security forces and government officials.

The Trump administration had described El Mencho as a "top target for the Mexican and United States government as one of the top traffickers of fentanyl into our homeland" and had offered a \$15m (£11.1m) reward for information leading to his capture.

The drug lord was captured by Mexican security forces in the town of Tapalpa, in Jalisco state, on Sunday.

Mexico's defence minister said they were able to locate him by following one of his "romantic partners".

He died shortly after being captured due to injuries in the firefight which broke out between his security guards and Mexico's special forces sent to arrest him. (BBC)



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## 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			

## All top three get wins in Second Division League

The top three teams all recorded wins in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Monday.

Guydadli Jets maintained their unbeaten run, securing their 11th win in 13 matches with a 6-0 drubbing of the Liberta Blackhawks at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium to remain at the top of the Second Division League.

Keyondre Hewlett struck a hat trick, Michael Peters scored twice, and Chademe Miller converted the other goal for the Guydadli Jets.

The Liberta Blackhawks remain third from the bottom of the 20-team standings with four points after crashing to their 10th defeat in 12 matches.

The result allows the Guydadli Jets to consolidate their position at the top of the Second Division by advancing to 35 points, three ahead of the Young Lions of Old Road and Sea View Farm FC.

The Young Lions also extended their unbeaten run to remain in second place on goal difference by securing their 10th win in 12 matches with a 2-1 victory over Police at the Old Road playing field.

Stefan Smith gave the Young Lions a one-nil lead at halftime with a 44th-minute conversion.

Carl Kirby equalized for Police with a strike in the 46th minute, and Zavier Joseph snatched victory for the Young Lions by converting a penalty kick in the 52nd minute.



**The Guydadli Jets football team**

The Young Lions move on to 32 points, while Police remain in fifth place with 27 points after suffering their first loss in 12 matches.

Sea View Farm FC remain in third place on goal difference, recording their 10th win in 13 matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against Point West Ham FC at Radio Range in Ottos.

Following a goalless first half, Justin Hilaire broke the deadlock with a 48th-minute conversion to put Sea View Farm ahead. Teammate Caron Lewis doubled the lead with a strike in the 69th minute.

Anderson Herbert reduced the deficit by scoring for Point West Ham with a goal in the 79th minute. Point West Ham finished the match with nine men after the expulsion of two players, who received red cards.

Kishmael King was dismissed in the 60th minute, and teammate Kerick Philip was expelled in the 90th minute.

The result allows Sea View Farm to move on to 32 points, while Point West Ham FC remains on 15 points after suffering their fourth defeat in 11 matches.

Fort Road FC also consolidated their position in sixth place by securing their eighth win in 15 matches with a 2-0 victory against the Urlings Golden Stars at the Fort Road playing field.

Deon Lavonn scored both goals on either side of halftime with conversions in the 27th and 69th minutes.

It allows Fort Road FC to advance to 26 points, while the Urlings Golden Stars remain on 17 points after slumping to their fifth defeat in 12 matches.



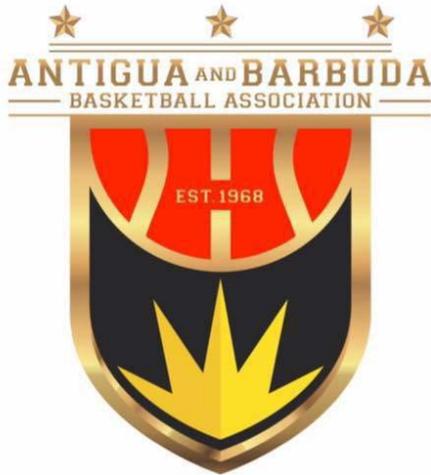
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## Fearless Crew beat Flyers in Division 2 basketball league



Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew won

their latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Monday.

The Fearless Crew notched up their third win in five games by pulling off a hard-fought 69-60 victory over the EZ Fit Flyers 2 at the JSC Sports Complex.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 28 points and grabbed 25 rebounds, Jesus Lopez sank 13 points, and Tyler Jacobs scored nine points and claimed eight rebounds for the Fearless Crew.

Tyrese White sank 18 points, Noah

Massiah converted 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Royal Samuel chipped in with eight points and 12 rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers 2, who lost for the fourth time in as many games.

The other scheduled Division 2 game between Navigators 2 and Square One Construction United was not played. The Navigators 2 were awarded victory via default against United, which failed to show up for the encounter.

It was the first win in three matches for Navigators 2, while United lost for the third time in as many games.

## SMCG and AGS claim wins in School Basketball League

The Sir McChesney George (SMCG) High School in Barbuda and Antigua Grammar School (AGS) recorded wins in the Senior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Monday.

The Sir McChesney George (SMCG) High School prevailed 54-49 against Island Academy at the JSC Sports Complex.

Eli Harris shot a game-high 21 points, Aiden Joseph sank 13 points, and Theodore Franke scored 10 points for Sir McChesney George High School.

Khalique Harris converted 15 points, Tristan Thibou sank 13 points, and Elijah Peters scored 10 points for Island Academy.

The Antigua Grammar School coasted to a commanding 59-29 victory over St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Derick Perez produced 19



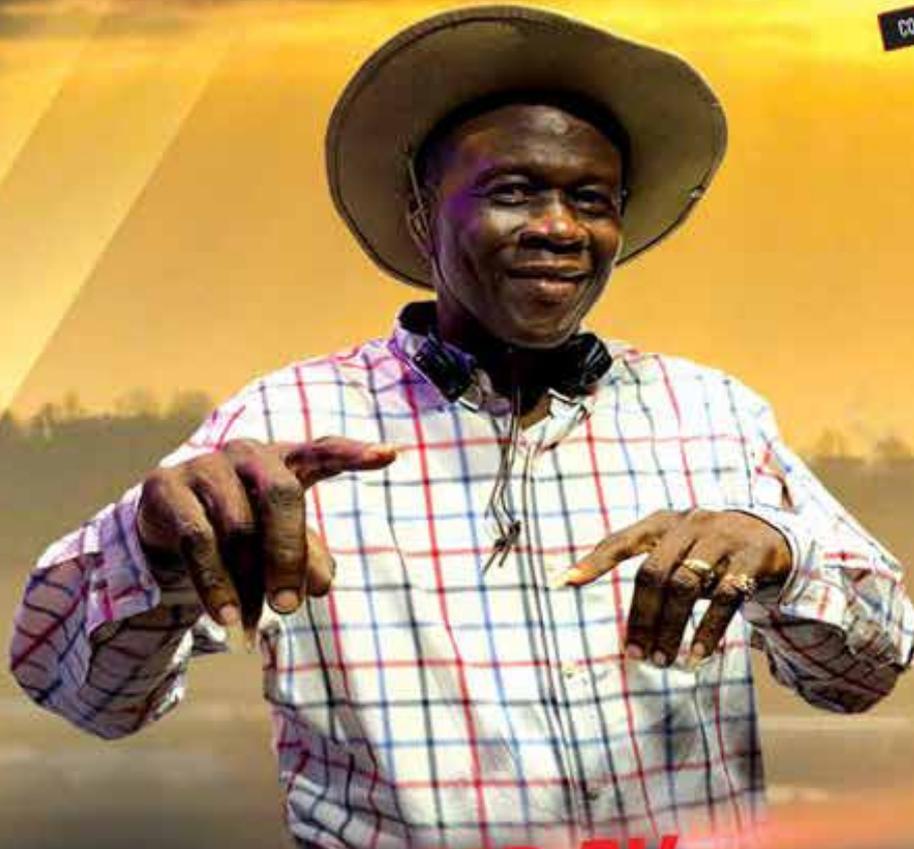
**Players of the Sir McChesney George High School engage with their coach during a timeout against Island Academy in the Senior Boys Secondary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, February 23, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the Inter-School Basketball League)**

points, and Raheem Sawyer sank 17 points for Antigua Grammar School.

Joshua Henriquez converted five points, and Ean Southwell and Israel Clarke

each scored four points for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

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## Wins for Roman Hill and Flyballers in ABNA President's Cup

The Roman Hill Legacy and Gray's Green Flyballers notched up wins in the Female Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Autocraze President's Cup on Monday.

Roman Hill Legacy launched their campaign by pulling off a commanding 61-36 victory against SW Electronics Black Lightning Snipers at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Rayana Regis converted 36 of her 44 shots, Everdine Parker-Barnarde sank 13 of her 17 tries, and Jamila Fitz scored 12 of her 15 attempts for the Roman Hill Legacy.

Zhanira Pereira sank 23 of her 33 attempts; Zaine Frederick converted seven of her eight shots; Joy Shaw scored two of her three tries; and Khaiva Knowles and Paula Jackson each converted two of their nine attempts for the Black Lightning Snipers, who slumped to their second loss in as many games.

The Gray's Green Flyballers opened their campaign by snatching a narrow 28-27 victory against the Stingray City Eastsiders.

Kizzy Hughes converted 16 of her 26



The Roman Hill Legacy netball team

shots, Krizia Duncan sank 10 of her 15 tries, and Annelle Baptiste scored two of her three attempts for Gray's Green Flyballers.

Shakora Prince converted 14 of her 20 attempts, Christina Lloyd sank 10 of her 18 shots, and Tashana Bloom-

field scored three of her seven tries for the Eastsiders.

The Eastsiders launched their campaign by recording a 33-20 victory over SW Electronics Black Lightning Snipers in their opening encounter on Sunday.



## Winning start for Antiguans in CONCACAF U-20 Men's Qualifiers



*The Starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda team for their opening match against St. Lucia in their CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifier in Costa Rica on Monday, February 23, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)*

Antigua and Barbuda got off to a winning start in the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifiers in Costa Rica on Monday.

The young Benna Boys snatched a one-nil victory against St. Lucia in their opening Group C encounter at the Costa Rica Football Federation Field in San Rafael de Alajuela, Costa Rica.

Forward **Brandon Satchel** scored the only goal of the match with a strike from within the six-yard box in the 35th minute.

St. Lucia squandered a good chance to equalize via a penalty, which was awarded after Antiguan defender Ivan Grant fouled an opponent in the box in added time.

However, the St. Lucian was unable to convert his penalty kick, blasting the ball high over the crossbar to allow Antigua and Barbuda to secure the win.

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) and

Dominica played to a 2-2 draw in the other opening Group C match at the Costa Rica Federation Field on Monday.

The opening goal came in the first minute from a **Dylan Cline** own goal, giving Dominica the lead. **Jaadon Quashie** pulled one back for the British Virgin Islands with a strike in the 10th minute.

**Nicholas Harve** gave Dominica a 2-1 lead with a conversion in the 31st minute. **Rush Broderick** salvaged the draw for the British Virgin Islands by scoring the equalizer in the first minute of added time.

There were wins for the Turks and Caicos Islands and Puerto Rico in the opening matches in Group B at Stadion Rignaal "Jean" Francisca in Willemstad, Curaçao.

The Turks and Caicos Islands snatched a 2-1 win against the Cayman Islands, while Puerto Rico prevailed 2-1 against St. Kitts and Nevis.

Suriname, El Salvador, and Grenada also won their respective opening matches in Group A at Estadio Miguel Chocorrón Buitrago in Managua, Nicaragua.

Suriname crushed Belize 7-1, El Salvador prevailed 3-0 over French Guiana, and Grenada launched their campaign by snatching a 2-1 win against St. Martin.

Thirty-two (32) member countries are contesting the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifiers this month.

The qualifying competition for the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship is taking 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.

The Antiguans are joined in five-team Group C by national teams from the Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, the British Virgin Islands, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda will play their second match against the British Virgin Islands on Wednesday, February 25.

The Antiguans 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.