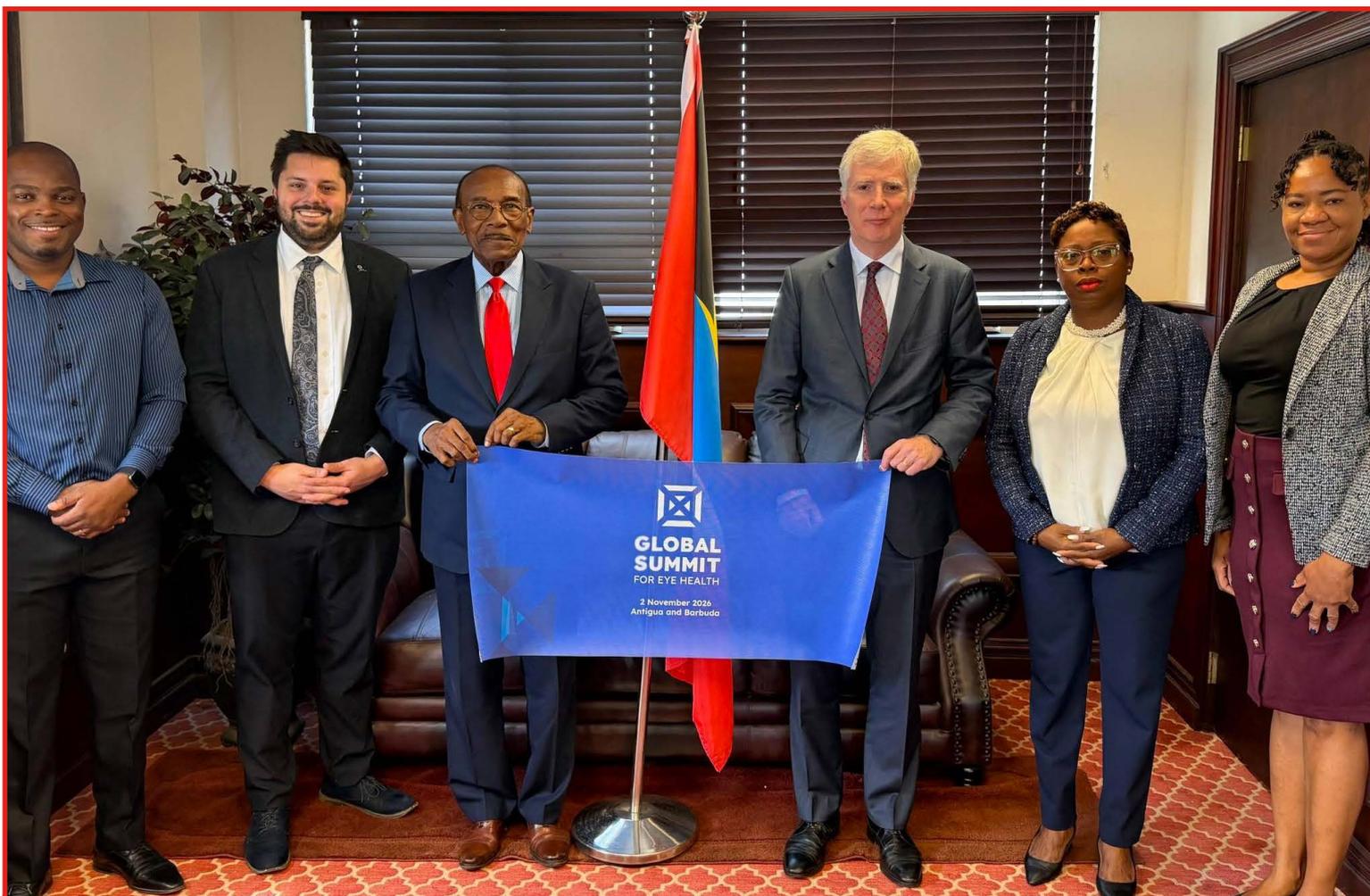


# New US Visa Policies that Affect Antigua and Barbuda are ‘Temporary’

Story on page 2



L-R: Senator Michael Joseph, IAPB's Comms Director Martin Darville, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, IAPB's CEO Peter Holland, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health Stacey Gregg-Paige and CMO Dr Kamaria DeCastro

## New US Visa Policies that Affect Antigua and Barbuda are ‘Temporary’

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is assuring Antiguan and Barbudans that new US visa restrictions that have been implemented are ‘temporary’, although he explained that the entire US Visa policy is being overhauled and new announcements are expected in June this year.

The assurance was given directly to Prime Minister Gaston Browne by the Secretary of State last week when he met with CARICOM leaders in St. Kitts on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister reported that he posed the question regarding the recent US announcement regarding Antigua and Barbuda nationals in the presence of other CARICOM heads of government and accordingly, Secretary Rubio indicated that partial travel restrictions by the United States on Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica are temporary.

Prime Minister Browne said the US’ top diplomat made it clear that the restrictions are “not an attack on Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica” but come ahead of the roll-out of a new global visa policy.

Partial travel restrictions are in effect for Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and several other states, relating to the issuance of new non-immigrant visas. In more recent weeks, there has been a pause on the processing of new immigrant visas, or green cards, for 75 countries, including most CARICOM member states.

Those with valid visas can continue to travel to the United States without interruption.

Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica have seen reciprocity tables with tightened terms which show the same three-month, single-entry validity across key categories for travelers from both countries. In contrast, other Caribbean countries continue to show longer validity and multiple-entry terms for certain visitor visas, underscoring that the updates vary by nationality under the



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

reciprocity framework.

The reciprocity schedule governs the visa stamp’s validity period and number of entries for travel, but it is separate from the length of time a traveler is allowed to remain in the United

States after admission. Authorized stay is determined at the port of entry and reflected on the I-94 record, which is not the same as the visa stamp’s validity window.

The tightening of visa validity for Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda comes against the backdrop of intensifying international scrutiny of citizenship-by-investment programmes, often called “golden passport” schemes.

In response to growing external pressure—particularly around due diligence, agent oversight, and harmonized standards—Eastern Caribbean governments have also moved toward deeper regional coordination. Public documents and announcements describe steps toward a regional regulatory framework intended to strengthen governance, unify baseline standards, and reduce “weak link” risk across the participating programmes.



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## A Global Summit on Eye Health To Be A CHOGM 26 Side Event

Antigua and Barbuda’s hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November will add another significant associated event with the announcement this week of a Global Summit on Eye Health slated to take place here alongside the meeting.

Two members of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), its Chief Executive Officer, Peter Holland, and Director of Communications, Campaigns and Events at IAPB Simon Darvill, spent Monday in St. John’s meeting with senior government officials to discuss the Summit planned for November 2 and the formal announcement slated for Wednesday March 4.

Among those that the team met were Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph and his team in the Ministry of Health.

A statement from the Ministry said the meeting formed a key component of the delegation’s official visit to Antigua and Barbuda ahead of the national preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2026 (CHOGM 2026) and the associated Global Summit for Eye Health. The Summit will be globally launched on 4th March 2026, with Antigua and Barbuda playing a prominently featured role.

“Minister Joseph reaffirmed his Government’s strong commitment to advancing eye health as a national and regional priority. He emphasized the importance of prevention, early intervention, and the integration of eye health services within the broader primary health care framework. The Minister further noted that Antigua and Barbuda’s engagement in the Global Summit for Eye Health reflects the country’s proactive approach to addressing avoidable blindness and visual impairment,” the statement noted.



Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph and CEO Peter Holland

Holland commended Minister Jo-

seph for his leadership and vision in positioning Antigua and Barbuda as an advocate for eye health within the Commonwealth and beyond, while Darvill highlighted the significance of strategic collaboration and high-level political engagement in ensuring the success of the Summit and related initiatives.

Also present at the meeting were Minister of State within the Ministry, Senator Michael Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Stacey Gregg-Paige and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamaria DeCastro, who contributed to discussions on policy alignment and implementation priorities.

The statement added that the Ministry of Health looks forward to continued partnership with IAPB as preparations intensify for CHOGM 2026 and the Global Summit for Eye Health.

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## “How to Make a Commonwealth Quilt” Launch Invites Commonwealth-Wide Participation Ahead of People’s Forum 2026

The Commonwealth Foundation, in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda People’s Forum Task Force, will officially present “How to Make a Commonwealth Quilt”, a creative launch taking place at the John E. St. Luce Conference Centre today (March 3).

The launch marks a key milestone in national preparations for the Commonwealth People’s Forum 2026, which will be held alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2026 (CHOGM 26) in Antigua and Barbuda.

“How to Make a Commonwealth Quilt” is a Commonwealth-wide invitation to participate in shaping the ideas, expressions, and people-centred narratives that will inform the People’s Forum in 2026. Participation is open to all persons across the Commonwealth and is not limited to artists or creatives. Individuals, communities, youth, civil society groups, innovators, storytellers, and everyday citizens are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and experiences.

Drawing on the symbolism of a quilt made stronger by many distinct pieces stitched together, the initiative encourages contributions that reflect shared values, lived realities, cultural identity, and collective aspirations across the Commonwealth. Submissions may be creative, conceptual, narrative, or experiential, highlighting themes such as inclusion, sustainability, unity, justice, and social progress.

Ideas and contributions generated through this launch will help shape aspects of the People’s Forum 2026, ensuring that the process is participatory, people-driven, and



grounded in Caribbean context while resonating across the global Commonwealth.

As part of the wider engagement programme on March 3, a Stakeholders’ Session will also be convened later in the afternoon bringing together representatives from civil society, community organisations, institutions, and partners. This session will outline the People’s Forum process, clarify opportunities for engagement, and strengthen collaboration as preparations advance.

“‘How to Make a Commonwealth Quilt’ perfectly expresses our uniqueness and resilience as a Commonwealth region, showcasing how our diverse voices and lived experiences come together to create something meaningful and inclusive,” said Samantha Marshall, Lead of the Antigua and Barbuda CHOGM 2026 People’s Forum.

Adding to this, Clarence Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the CHOGM 2026 Task Force,

stated:

“This initiative reflects the spirit of partnership and people-centred engagement that defines our preparations. The Commonwealth People’s Forum is an important platform for dialogue, collaboration, and shared solutions. By inviting contributions from across the Commonwealth, we are ensuring that voices from communities, especially here in Antigua and Barbuda, help to shape the conversations that will inform CHOGM 2026. We encourage full participation as we work together to build a truly inclusive Forum.”

The Commonwealth People’s Forum 2026 will serve as the official civil society platform of CHOGM, amplifying voices from across member states and contributing to dialogue and action on global challenges.

Further details on participation guidelines, timelines, and engagement opportunities for “How to Make a Commonwealth Quilt” will be released following the launch.

## Soup Kitchen Gets Major Injection Of Funds From Mill Reef Club



The National Soup Kitchen which serves daily hot meals to the homeless and vagrants from its Lower All Saints Road facility...has received a major injection of funds from three members of the Mill Reef Club.

Coordinator of the Soup Kitchen, Inspector Veldon Raggette said the donation from Helene van Beuren, Melanie Letby, and Fuller Cowles of the Mill Reef Club amounts to \$19,500.00 to the soup kitchen.

“We are overflowing with gratitude

as we say a massive thank you to these MFC members for their incredibly generous donation. That money will ensure that our operations run smoothly for the coming months as it will close funding gaps where our regular sponsors are not able to from time to time,” he explained.

According to Insp Raggette the Soup Kitchen serves approximately 72 hot meals every day at an average cost of \$450.00 per day. He said the timing of this gift could not be more perfect.

“This support arrives when we needed it most and will go directly toward our mission of providing hot, nutritious meals to those in our community who need a helping hand.

“It is because of kind-hearted partners like you that we can continue to keep our doors open and our stoves hot. Thank you for believing in our work and for making such a significant impact,” he told the MRC members at a brief presentation ceremony.



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# Police Blotter



## Major Cannabis haul at V.C. Bird International Airport

The police have seized approximately sixty (60) pounds of cannabis with an estimated street value of EC \$360,000.00 during a joint drug interdiction operation at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Last Sunday, officers attached to the Narcotics Department, along with members of the K-9 Unit and the Customs Enforcement Unit, conducted a coordinated operation at the airport and seized one black suitcase and one green suitcase with a total of nineteen (19) sealed packages of cannabis.

A 38-year-old Jamaican man was subsequently arrested and taken into custody connection with ongoing investigation.

He is expected to be charged and brought before the court.



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda remains resolute in its commitment to disrupting drug trafficking networks and safeguarding the nation's borders.



# DAILY PROGRAMMING




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

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

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

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

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

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

## Police Investigate Suspected Drowning Incident in English Harbour

The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a 73-year-old visitor to the island.

At approximately 11:17 a.m. on Saturday, 28 February, police officers at Dockyard Police Station responded to a report of a suspected drowning in the English Harbour area.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Christopher Graham Jones of England was on a snorkeling excursion in the vicinity of Galleon Beach when he reportedly began experiencing difficulties while swimming.

The captain of a nearby vessel went to his aid, after he observed persons in the water signaling for help. The victim was pulled aboard the vessel and (CPR) was immediately administered.

He was taken ashore, where members of the Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) team continued life-saving procedures.



He was subsequently transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he was pronounced dead at approximately 12:39 p.m. by a medical practitioner.

The victim and his wife arrived in Antigua earlier on Saturday, aboard a cruise vessel from Barbados.

A post-mortem examination is expected in the matter. Investigations re-

main ongoing.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda extends sincere condolences to the family of the deceased during this difficult time.

The Police are appealing to residents and visitors to be extremely cautious while at the beach, and to ensure that appropriate safety measures are observed at all times.

## One Man Charged Following Firearm Magazine Seizure During Joint Police Operation

A 33-year-old man of Nut Grove is due in the magistrate's court today (Tuesday) after he was arrested and charged in connection with the seizure of a firearm magazine during a joint police operation.

Following his arrest, Alex Joseph was charged for possession of a firearm, namely one Pro Mag thirty (30) round 9mm magazine. The offence occurred last Friday along Simon Boulevard in the St. Johnston's Village area.

A coordinated stop-and-search operation was carried out by officers attached to several specialized units, including the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force, Special Services Unit (SSU), Firearms and Evidence Recovery Unit (FERU), Serious Crime Unit, K-9 Unit, and the Police Armory, which resulted in the seizure of the illegal item.



## GG Attends 11th Anniversary Service at Mount Zion 7th Day Temple of Yah



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams attended the 11th Anniversary Service of the Mount Zion 7th Day Temple of Yah on Saturday morning at the church's sanctuary on Jonas Road, St. John's.

The Anniversary Service marked over a decade of dedicated spiritual ministry and community outreach by the Mount Zion congregation under the leadership of Pastor/Apostle Chris Alexander and First Lady/Evangelist Alexander. The service featured scripture readings from Psalm 24 and Philippians 1:6, praise and worship, special musical renditions by the Men's and Women's Ministries, presentations from the Youth and Junior Departments, and a Year's Report highlighting the church's continued growth and impact.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney congratulated the leadership and congregation on reaching this important milestone. He reflected on the significance of eleven years of sustained ministry, describing the anniversary

as "a testimony of vision, faith, perseverance, and unity of purpose."

Drawing from the Scriptures read during the service, the Governor General emphasised the importance of stewardship, moral character, and national responsibility. He commended the church for its strong focus on youth development, family values, and community engagement, noting that faith-based organisations play a vital role in shaping the moral and social fabric of Antigua and Barbuda.

"Institutions such as Mount Zion 7th Day Temple of Yah," the Governor General stated, "strengthen our nation by nurturing spiritual growth, cultivating discipline, and instilling values of integrity, leadership, and service."

Sir Rodney encouraged the congregation to remain steadfast in its mission and to continue extending its ministry beyond the walls of the sanctuary to the wider community. He expressed confidence that the work begun eleven years ago would



continue to flourish in the years ahead.

The Anniversary Service concluded with prayers for invited guests, a blessing, and a benediction, as members and well-wishers gathered in celebration and

thanksgiving.

Sir Rodney Williams extended his sincere congratulations to the Mount Zion 7th Day Temple of Yah and prayed for continued blessings upon its leadership and congregation.

# GRATITUDE



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# Commentary

## “When Women Lead, Communities Thrive”: Honouring Senator Kiz Johnson

By Aneka Lee

In celebration of International Women’s Day, which is observed on March 8th, I am honoured to highlight a phenomenal woman each day leading up to this monumental occasion. Women whose leadership, service, and impact continue to shape our communities and inspire the next generation. Today, I shine the spotlight on Senator the Honourable Kiz Johnson, a remarkable woman whose dedication to public service and community outreach has cemented her as a rising force in Antigua and Barbuda politics.

Many Antiguan and Barbudans were introduced to the brilliant Senator Kiz Johnson when she was first appointed to the senate of Antigua and Barbuda in 2023 by the Governor General, lending her independent perspective to the Upper House. Senator Johnson quickly gained a reputation for her principled stance and focus on socio-economic equity. In late 2025, Senator Johnson made a bold and faith-filled decision to resign from the Senate and contest the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party’s primary for the St. Phillip South constituency. As the sole woman in



Senator the Honourable Kiz Johnson

the race, she emerged triumphant. This win represented more than a personal victory; it echoed a resounding sentiment that voters are eager for the fresh energy and contemporary vision women contribute to national leadership. Her strategic transition from Independ-

ent Senator to Government Senator positions her as an influential force in shaping our nation’s path forward.

Senator Johnson’s advocacy extends well beyond the Upper House. She consistently uses her platform to champion critical issues affecting women, youth and marginalized communities and to exact meaningful change. Senator Johnson has long been a proponent and vocal advocate for closing the gender gap, particularly in leadership and economic participation. At the last Antigua and Barbuda Worker’s Union Women’s Conference Senator Johnson expressed the urgency of shifting from mere reflection to action stating “When girls and women lead, communities thrive. We see decisions that reflect empathy and equity. We see stronger families, stronger institutions, and more balanced priorities”<sup>1</sup>.

Senator Johnson’s complexities are what make her an indelible force. She possesses a wide range of talents that prove her to be capable and versatile in the pursuit of any undertaking. Beyond the Senate, Senator Kiz Johnson is a respected marketing professional and consultant whose work reflects



# Commentary

innovation, strategic thinking, and a deep understanding of brand development and communication. Through her expertise, she has masterfully curated marketing strategies for businesses and organizations to strengthen their visibility, clarify their messaging, and connect more effectively with their audiences.

Senator Johnson's commitment to education is equally profound. Her passion propelled her to serve as a lecturer at the University of the West Indies. In the classroom, she plays an integral role in shaping the next generation of marketing and business professionals across the region. As an educator, she brings real-world insight into academic spaces, ensuring that her students receive practical knowledge alongside theory. Her mentorship extends beyond coursework; inspiring confidence, and ambition in the young minds she is tasked with shaping.

Senator Johnson believes in the trans-

formative power of education. To mark her commitment to tangible empowerment, she recently spearheaded an initiative providing scholarships to a cohort of young women to attend the University of the West Indies' Five Island Campus' Lifelong Learning Unit. By removing the financial barriers to higher education, she is ensuring that the next generation has the tools necessary to succeed. This is more than a charitable initiative it is a strategic investment in the futures of the people of St. Philip's South. Senator Johnson has made it clear that this is not a one-time effort, but the beginning of a sustained series of initiatives aimed at broadening access to skills training and higher education for the people of St. Philip's South.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, Senator Kiz Johnson stands as a testament to what happens when preparation meets opportunity. She serves as a visible example for young

women and girls who aspire to careers in public service. Seeing women in positions of influence helps expand the realm of possibility and encourages civic engagement among future generations. Her journey from the independent benches to a primary victory and her dedication to education and educational philanthropy serve as a blueprint for aspiring female leaders within our twin-island state and across the wider Caribbean.

In St. Philip's South and beyond, the message is clear: The future is female, and it is led by women who dare to lead.

(Endnotes)

1 N/A, *From Reflection to Action: ABWU Women's Conference Ignites Momentum*. 12 July, 2025. <https://abwunion.com/press-release/from-reflection-to-action-abwu-women-s-conference-ignites-momentum>



The advertisement features a woman, Mrs. Jelletta Ralph, wearing red glasses and a colorful patterned shirt, smiling against a blue water splash background. To her right is the logo for PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd., which includes a stylized palm tree and the text 'PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.' Above the logo is a circular emblem for 'PONTIEM 99.1 BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY' with the tagline 'COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE'. Below the logo, the text 'THE PDV HOUR' is written in large blue letters, followed by 'MONDAYS 11AM - 12NOON' in black.

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## Protecting Our Children in a Digital World: A Call to Parents and Teachers



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Across Antigua and Barbuda, our young people are growing up in an era Daniel foresaw when he wrote, “Knowledge shall increase.” Knowledge has indeed exploded — but wisdom has not kept pace, and our children are paying the price.

During this year’s Focus on Family Life in one of our local congregations, I shared a message titled, “**Saving the Family in a Digital World.**” Today, I want to speak directly to two groups who bear the greatest responsibility in this moment: **our children**, and **the adults who guide them** — parents and teachers.

### The Digital World Is Reshaping Childhood

Children today swipe before they speak. They learn to tap screens before they learn to tie their shoes. They are surrounded by devices that entertain, educate, and connect — but also distract, distort, and endanger.

The digital world is like fire: useful when controlled, destructive when left unattended.

**What we are seeing among our children:**

- ▣ Shorter attention spans

- ▣ Declining academic performance
  - ▣ Difficulty focusing in class
  - ▣ Increased irritability and anxiety
  - ▣ Exposure to harmful content
  - ▣ Less interest in reading, chores, and real-life activities
  - ▣ Weakened social skills and empathy
- Many teachers across the island quietly admit: **“We are not just teaching children anymore — we are competing with screens.”**

And this is not just a Caribbean concern. Around the world, governments are waking up to the dangers children face online. In Australia, several states have already banned mobile phones in schools, and national leaders are

calling for agebased restrictions on social media because of its impact on children’s mental health. When entire countries begin taking such bold steps, it tells us something: **this is not a small issue — it is a global crisis.**

### A Story That Reflects a Nation

A father recently shared a moment that has stayed with me. He was driving with his young son, hoping to talk, hoping to connect. But the boy’s eyes never left the glowing screen in his hands.

“Son, can we talk?” the father asked. Without looking up, the child replied, “Just a minute.”

That minute never came.

Later the father told me, **“I realized**

## 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.

Interested? Complete the volunteer application form at the following link for a fulfilling and worthwhile experience:



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h7bf39zPzT>

Please note that the QR code is attached.



# Commentary

**I was losing my son — not to bad company, not to the streets, but to a screen.”**

This quiet heartbreak is happening in cars, living rooms, and bedrooms across our nation. It is a warning we cannot ignore. We cannot continue like this.

## Three Things Every Child Needs in This Digital Age

### 1. Discernment — Teaching Them to Choose What Is Good

Children must learn to ask:

- ▣ “Is this good for me?”
- ▣ “Does this honor my values?”
- ▣ “Is this true?”
- ▣ “Is this safe?”

Not everything online is evil — but not everything is good. Discernment is the shield that protects the mind.

### 2. Boundaries — Because Children Cannot Raise Themselves

Children need structure. They need limits. They need guidance.

Healthy boundaries include:

- ▣ No devices during meals
- ▣ No screens before bedtime
- ▣ No phones in bedrooms
- ▣ Time limits for social media and gaming
- ▣ Ageappropriate filters and monitoring

### ▣ Regular conversations about online behavior

A home without digital boundaries is like a house without doors — **anything can walk in.**

### 3. Positive Role Models — Children Become What They See

Parents cannot tell children to “get off the phone” while scrolling endlessly themselves.

Your digital habits become their digital future.

Show them:

- ▣ How to use technology responsibly
- ▣ How to speak respectfully online
- ▣ How to choose uplifting content
- ▣ How to balance screen time with real life

Children imitate what they observe, not what they hear.

### The Hidden Impact on School and Behavior

Digital intrusion affects more than entertainment — it affects learning.

Teachers report that many children:

- ▣ Struggle to sit still
- ▣ Have difficulty reading long passages
- ▣ Lose interest quickly
- ▣ Rush through assignments
- ▣ Prefer screens over books
- ▣ Become frustrated when tasks re-

quire patience

This is not misbehavior — it is overstimulation.

The brain becomes conditioned to constant excitement, making normal classroom learning feel “boring.”

### How Parents Can Protect Their Children Starting Today

Here are simple steps every household can begin immediately:

1. Create a family digital plan
2. Set daily screen limits
3. Keep devices in shared spaces
4. Talk openly about online dangers
5. Encourage reading, outdoor play, and chores
6. Use parental controls and filters
7. Model healthy digital habits
8. Pray with your children and guide them spiritually

Children do not need perfect parents — they need present parents.

**A Final Word:** The digital age is here to stay. Our children will grow up with technology — but they do not have to be consumed by it. If we teach them **discernment, set boundaries, and model wisdom**, they will not be swept away by the digital tide. Instead, they will rise above it — strong, grounded, and ready for the future.



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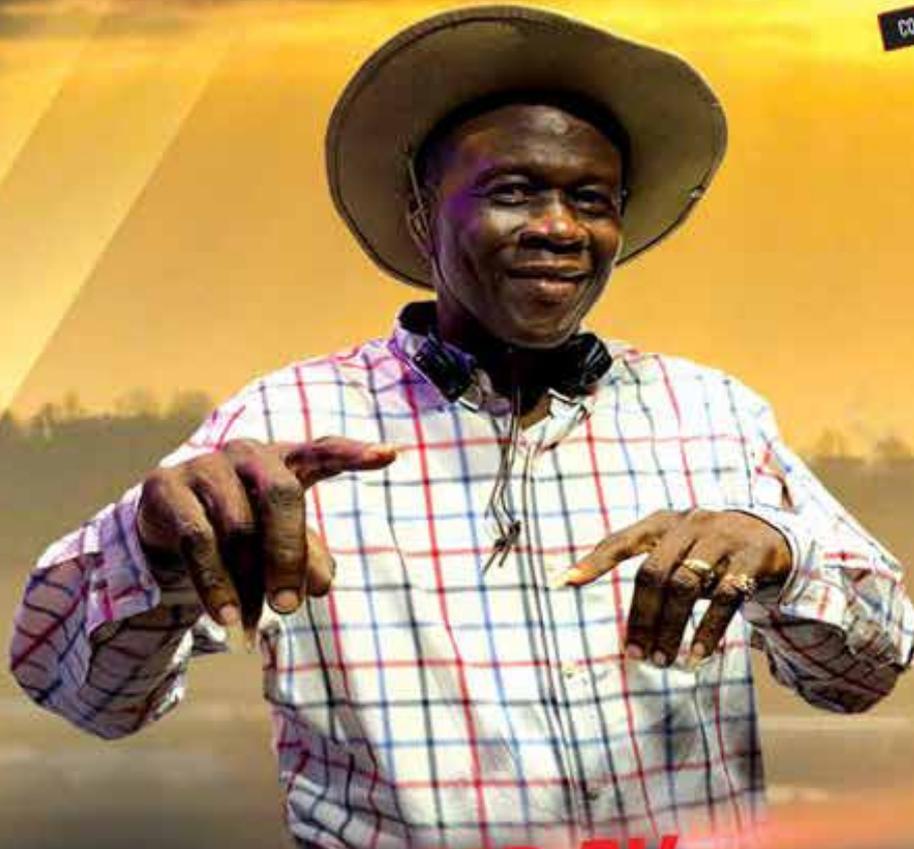
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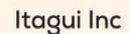
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TO  
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2026**

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| <b>Calypso Monarch</b>             | <b>Monday Wear</b>                    |
| <b>Cheerleaders</b>                | <b>Mr. &amp; Miss Teenage Pageant</b> |
| <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>                        |

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National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street  
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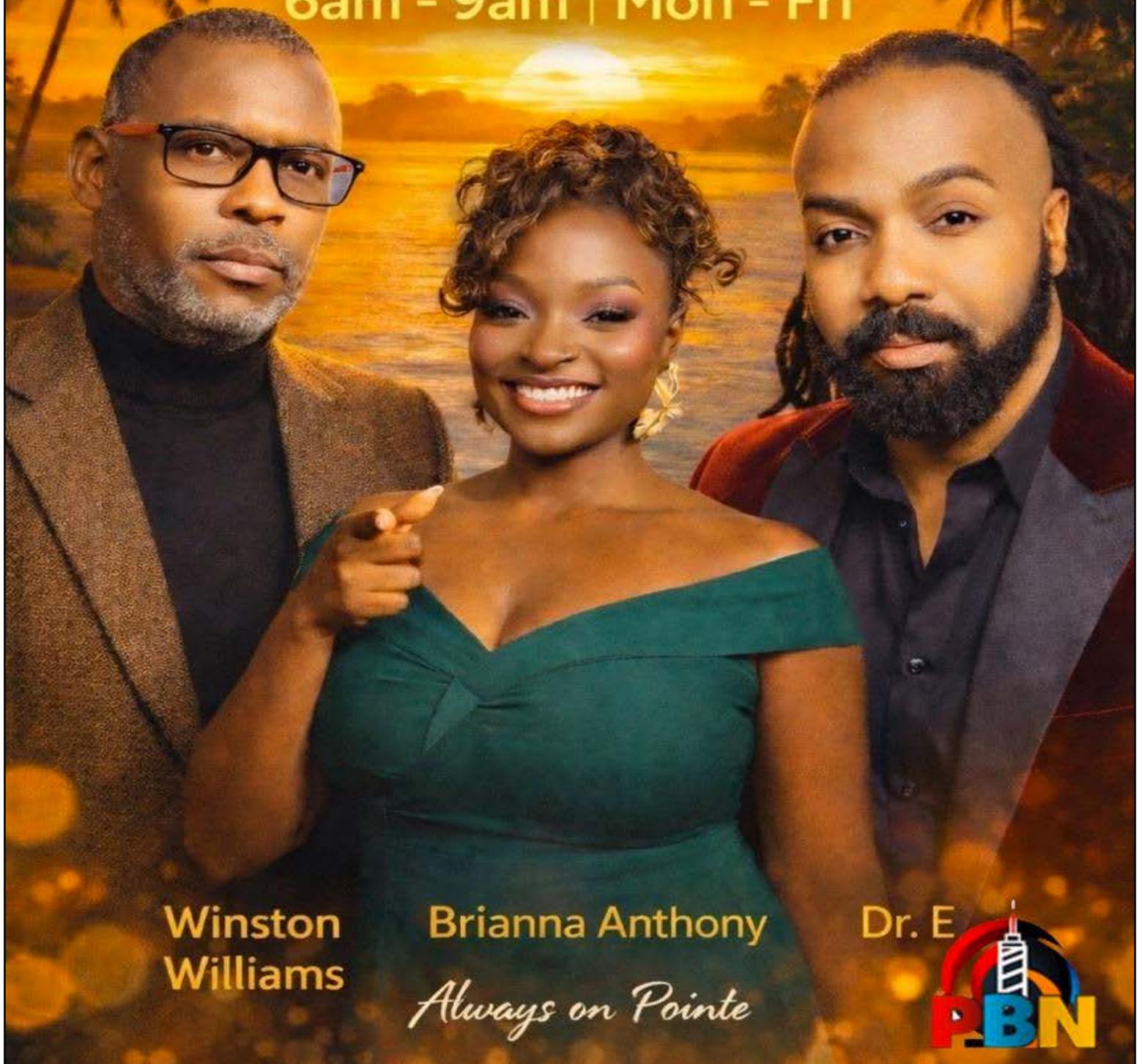
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## Proman moots Trinidad and Tobago produced methanol for regional energy security

As CARICOM leaders convened last week at the 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in St Kitts and Nevis to discuss issues including regional energy security, Proman Trinidad and Power32 highlighted the potential of Caribbean produced methanol fuel to power the region.

With the continued reliance on imports of polluting diesel and Heavy Fuel Oil in ageing power generation infrastructure in the region, Caribbean countries are faced with the dilemma of finding secure, affordable and lower emission solutions to replace it.

“We are asking CARICOM leaders to look close to home for a power solution,” said Anand Ragbir, executive director of Proman Trinidad. “Methanol produced in Trinidad can be easily and safely shipped to our neighbours to provide cleaner outcomes with fewer fuel miles and greater energy secu-

rity.”

Methanol, a liquid at room temperatures, and without the need to install expensive, specialist storage and re-gasification infrastructure, is the simplest and most cost-effective switch-in alternative.

On combustion, it delivers 80 per cent less nitrogen oxides (NOx) than diesel and oil and almost zero sulphur oxides (SOx) and particulate matter (soot). This makes conventional methanol from natural gas immediately cleaner, and as the methanol molecule is the same no matter which feedstock it is produced from, this can be progressively blended with lower carbon methanol produced using carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and green methanol, without the need for further on island infrastructure investments.

David Knipe, managing director of Power32 said “Proman established

Power32 to deliver methanol powered solutions at scale and we see a specific benefit for the island nations near to our production hub in Trinidad.”

Explaining the benefits to the region, Knipe explained that breaking the connection with volatile oil and diesel pricing would have an immediate, positive impact on local economies as the reduction in annual fuel expenses could be redirected to investments in initiatives to support growth.

“This is why we are asking CARICOM leaders to reimagine the Caribbean electricity market,” he said.

Given the current challenges with extreme weather conditions, Ragbir said that sourcing a fuel, from within the region will go a long way in building energy self sufficiency. “This really is a Caribbean power solution, made in the Caribbean, for the Caribbean,” he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)



# Regional News

## Fire in Roseau damages multiple businesses, including Jollys Pharmacy

A major fire broke out in the early hours of Monday morning on King George IV Street in Roseau, damaging several businesses and forcing the closure of one of the country’s leading pharmacies.

Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Prosper confirmed that the blaze affected Jolly’s Pharmacy, its adjoining gym -Fitness University, a Chinese store, and a bar. He praised the swift response of fire officers, noting that their efforts prevented the fire from spreading further.

“The fire officers did a very, very good job in confining the fire,” Prosper told DBS Radio. He added that while the exact financial toll is not yet known, “it’ll run in a lot of money, a lot of money.”

Fire crews remained on the scene throughout the morning, conducting mop-up operations and investigations. Authorities have urged the public to avoid the affected area until cleanup and investigations are complete. Pros-



per also stated the fire department’s intention to provide advice to business owners in Roseau on preventive measures to reduce the risk of similar incidents in the future.

Jollys Pharmacy announced that its Roseau branch will remain closed until further notice. However, the company assured customers that its other

locations – Jollys Mega at Fond Cole and Jollys Pharmacy at Portsmouth, will continue to operate as normal. Other businesses impacted by the fire are expected to reopen later in the day.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, and officials are continuing their investigation. (Dominica News Online)

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## Caribbean states react as US, Israel go to war with Iran

At least three Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries have expressed concern at the escalation of hostilities in the Middle East after the United States (US) and Israel launched military attacks on Iran that resulted in missile attacks by Iran directed at the territories of the United Arab Emirates and other sovereign States in the Gulf.

The US and Israel on Saturday carried out a series of strikes citing “threats” from Iran, which responded with volleys of missiles aimed at Gulf states that host US bases, and at Israel.

According to Iranian state media, citing the Red Crescent, hundreds of people have been killed and injured as the exchanges of fire continue.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the attack as “unprovoked, illegal and absolutely illegitimate,” while President Donald Trump is urging Iranians to rise up and take over the country.

In addition, international news media reported that Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had been killed in a major coordinated attack by US and Israeli forces.

Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana have issued statements urging renewed diplomatic engagement to prevent further deterioration and to uphold the rule of law.

Trinidad and Tobago, which had earlier issued a statement urging its nationals in the Middle East to take all precautions had subsequently issued a second statement in which it sought to withdraw after it was posted on the official website of the Ministry of CARICOM and Foreign Affairs.

In that statement, the Kamla Persad-Bissessar government said it “supports the actions of the United States and Israel and its allies aimed at preventing oppressive regimes from acquiring nuclear weapons capabilities that would jeopardize international peace and security.



“The proliferation of such weapons is a grave threat not only to regional stability in the Middle East, but also to the global community on a whole”.

Port of Spain said it also “stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the Gulf region, including those in the Middle East...who have come under attack and condemn in the strongest possible terms any act of aggression that threaten their sovereignty, security and stability”.

For its part, the Guyana government said it “reiterates the need for the sustained pursuit of lasting peace and stability for the Middle East”.

“The unprovoked attack by Iran on the Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait is unjustified and in breach of international law. The Government of Guyana condemns the attacks on these sovereign states and calls upon all parties to de-escalate in the interest of peace and stability in the region,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said in a brief statement.

“Guyana expresses full solidarity with the Government and People of the Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait, and condemn all actions by Iran in attacking these countries,” it added

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne, said his government was “deeply con-

cerned by the rapid and dangerous escalation of hostilities in the Middle East” and that it also “condemns attacks against the territorial integrity of States that are not direct parties to a conflict”.

Browne said that “at this critical juncture, we urge maximum restraint by all actors and call for an immediate de-escalation of hostilities.

“The expansion of military confrontation across borders serves no enduring interest and places civilian populations at grave risk.

“Antigua and Barbuda joins the call of the international community, including the United Nations Secretary-General, for renewed diplomatic engagement to prevent further deterioration and to uphold the rule of law,” he said, adding “Antigua and Barbuda stands in solidarity with the peoples affected and expresses its hope that dialogue and diplomacy, not force, will ultimately prevail”.

Jamaica’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade is urging nationals to avoid travelling to the Middle East.

In an advisory it said the Andrew Holness government was closely monitoring military hostilities in the Middle East and urged Jamaicans in the region to exercise vigilance and to shelter in place as conditions may require. (CMC)

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## India and Canada reset ties with 'landmark' nuclear energy deal

India and Canada have announced a host of agreements, including a 10-year nuclear energy deal, after their prime ministers met in Delhi to reset ties that plummeted due to diplomatic tensions.

Narendra Modi and Mark Carney also struck agreement in areas such as technology, critical minerals, space, defence and education.

Carney said they agreed to conclude a free trade deal, years in the making, by the end of 2026. Both countries want to reduce exposure to punitive US trade tariffs.

Under Carney, the two governments are trying to repair ties that were strained when his predecessor accused Delhi of a link to the 2023 assassination of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil.

India vociferously rejected the allegation by Justin Trudeau.

Trade and diplomatic relations almost came to a standstill as both sides expelled each other's diplomats and cancelled visa services. Canada hosts a huge expatriate Indian community.

But since Carney took office last year, the relationship has been cautiously rebuilt - helped by the fact that his government has said it believes India is not currently linked to violent crimes or threats on Canadian soil.

The case of four men charged over Nijjar's killing is still before the courts.

At talks in Delhi, both Carney and Modi underscored India and Canada's long-standing relationship, mutual goals and close people-to-people ties.

"In civil nuclear energy, we have reached a landmark deal for long-term uranium supply. We will also



work together on small modular reactors and advanced reactors," Modi told reporters after their meeting at Hyderabad House in Delhi.

He described the two countries as "natural partners in technology and innovation" and said they would enhance co-operation in AI, supercomputing and semiconductors, as well as jointly host a renewable energy summit.

Carney said Canada was well positioned to contribute to energy-hungry India's nuclear fuel needs and added that the two countries were launching a strategic energy partnership.

He hailed the progress made in rebuilding relations.

"There has been more engagement between the Canadian and Indian governments in the last year than there has been in more than two decades combined," he said.

On trade, Modi said: "Our target is to reach \$50bn in bilateral trade. This is why we have decided to finalise a comprehensive economic partnership soon."

Carney said he wanted to reach a deal on the "ambitious agreement"

by the end of the year. It's been discussed on-and-off for the past 15 years so concluding it would be a significant achievement.

Analysts say that Carney's decision to put diplomatic tensions behind him and extend an olive branch to India is a pragmatic one, based on present day geopolitical shifts.

The same holds true for India, which is looking to forge new trade partnerships to diversify its imports and also reduce its reliance on Russia for its energy needs.

Earlier on Monday, Carney met India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar where the two discussed charting a "forward-looking partnership".

Carney's four-day trip began with a visit to the financial capital, Mumbai, where he met business leaders and ministers on 28 February with a view to boost trade and investment in India.

After concluding his trip in Delhi, Carney is set to travel to Australia and then Japan as part of his strategy to diversify Canada's trade and invite new investments. (BBC)

## Dubai's image as a safe, tax-free haven is rocked by blasts from Iranian airstrikes

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sold itself to foreigners for years as a sunny, safe, tax-free oasis.

That peaceful image was shattered Saturday as Iranian weaponry rained down on Dubai, setting fire to a five-star resort, threatening the world's tallest building, and killing one person and injuring seven others at the airport in the capital city of Abu Dhabi.

Iran has hit the UAE and several of its neighbours as it strikes back from the major attack by United States (US) and Israeli forces, causing fear and chaos in a place that until Saturday was predictably calm.

"This is Dubai's ultimate nightmare, as its very essence depended on being a safe oasis in a troubled region," Cinzia Bianco, an expert on the Persian Gulf at the European Council on Foreign Relations wrote on X. "There might be a way to be resilient, but there is no going back."

Officials tried to reassure residents and visitors that the country's air defence system was among the best in the world, blasting down drones and missiles.

"I know it's a scary time for a lot of the residents," Reem Al Hashimy, minister of state for international cooperation, told CNN. "We don't hear these types of loud sounds. But at the same time, those are sounds of interception. And where there has been damage – that has been primarily debris."

Fallout from the attacks has undermined the Emirates' efforts to

de-escalate tensions with Iran despite longtime suspicions of its neighbour across the Gulf. The UAE closed its airspace Saturday, shuttered its embassy in Tehran on Sunday, and withdrew its diplomats because of the attacks.

"This decision reflects its firm and unwavering position against any aggression that threatens its security and sovereignty," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It called the attacks an "aggressive and provocative approach" that threatens the region.

The oil-rich federation of seven sheikhdoms has relied on its image as a place of serenity to lure wealthy tourists, businesspeople and future residents who want to live largely tax-free in luxury in the desert by the sea. Nearly 90 per cent of the estimated 11 million residents are foreigners.

Real estate firms sell glimmering high-rises and poolside villas to rich Europeans and Americans by promoting a welcoming climate and business-friendly policies, and touting it as one of the safest places on earth.

Hundreds of drone and missile attacks later, though, that reputation has been rocked.

"Last night was pretty surreal," said British racehorse trainer Jamie Osborne, who was in Dubai for the Emirates Super Saturday. "You're standing in the paddock watching missiles get shot through the sky."

The Ministry of Defense said Sunday that air defences had dealt with 165 ballistic missiles, two

cruise missiles and more than 540 Iranian drones over two days.

While officials said they intercepted all air attacks Saturday, debris from the knocked-down weapons sparked blazes at some of Dubai's most iconic locations.

Social media videos and photos showed a fire outside the Fairmont hotel on the prestigious man-made Palm Jumeirah island, flames licked at the facade of the famous Burj Al Arab hotel, and smoke rose into the sky near Burj Khalifa, the 2,723-foot (830-metre) skyscraper.

There also was a fire at Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, the city's main sea terminal and a major shipping hub, and the Dubai International Airport was damaged and four employees were injured, according to the Dubai Media Office.

Kristy Ellmer, who was on a business trip from New Hampshire, said she was staying away from the windows of her hotel but felt relatively safe despite the numerous blasts.

"You hear a lot of explosions at times, you know, there's hundreds of them," she said. "It's unsettling. We're not used to hearing bombs, right, or missiles."

Louise Herrle, an American tourist whose flight home with her husband from Dubai was scrapped, said it was her third time trying to visit the area. Previous trips were canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Hamas attack on Israel in October 2023. (AP)

## 169 people killed in South Sudan village raid



At least 169 people were killed after insurgents raided a village in a remote area of South Sudan, a local official said Monday. It's the latest bout of sporadic violence that has left the country teetering on the verge of full-blown civil war.

The victims, including 90 civilians, were attacked on Sunday in Abiemnom county, said James Monyluak, information minister for the administrative area of Ruweng.

He said women and children were among the dead, in addition to dozens of combatants.

The United Nations (UN) Mission in South Sudan, known as UNMISS, said in a statement that 1,000 people sought shelter at its base after the attack.

"Such violence places civilians at grave risk and must stop immediately," Anita Kiki Gbeho, a UNMISS official, said in a statement. "I urge all involved to cease hostilities without delay and engage in constructive dialogue to address their grievances."

"Our peacekeepers will continue to

do everything within their capabilities to protect civilians seeking refuge at our base," she added.

The UNMISS statement cited 23 wounded in the attack in Ruweng, as well as concern over "reports indicating that dozens of civilians and some local officials have lost their lives."

The killings are part of an escalating wave of violence gripping South Sudan as government forces loyal to President Salva Kiir battle armed men who are believed to be loyal to opposition leader Riek Machar.

The armed youths who carried out the latest attack are believed to have ties with Machar's group, known as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In-Opposition.

Machar was Kiir's deputy until September, when he was removed after he faced criminal charges. He is under house arrest in Juba, the South Sudan capital, as his trial progresses.

The US is urging talks between Kiir and Machar.

Ongoing violence threatens a fragile

peace reached in 2018 after a five-year civil war. After that agreement, Machar was named South Sudan's first vice president in a government of national unity. A UN inquiry has found that South Sudan's leaders are "systematically dismantling" that agreement.

Machar's supporters say the charges against him for alleged subversion are politically motivated. His removal from office coincided with a sharp increase in violence.

The conflict escalated in December when opposition forces seized government outposts in the county of Jonglei, an opposition stronghold and a flashpoint in renewed fighting that the UN estimates has displaced 280,000 people.

Aid groups have warned that access restrictions to opposition-held parts of the state are endangering civilian lives.

The government has conducted a counteroffensive since January with aerial bombardments and ground assaults, despite an official commitment to the peace agreement. (AP)

## Oil prices surge amid US-Israeli strikes on Iran

Oil prices rose sharply Monday as disruptions to tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint raised uncertainty about how United States and Israeli attacks on Iran would affect supply to the world economy.

Higher oil prices raise the prospect of costlier gasoline as well as increased prices for other goods at a time when people in many countries have been stung by inflation.

US oil traded 8.40% higher at US\$72.63 per barrel, while international standard Brent was up 8.5% at US\$79.13 per barrel.

A key focus was the strait at the southern end of the Persian Gulf, through which 20% of the world's oil supply passes. Tanker traffic dropped sharply amid disruption of satellite navigation systems, data and analytics firm Kpler said on X, while the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre reported attacks on several vessels in the area on either side of the strait and warned of elevated electronic interference to systems that show where ships are.

A bomb-carrying drone boat struck a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Monday, killing one mariner, Oman said.

Iran has been threatening vessels approaching the Strait of Hormuz and is believed to have launched multiple attacks.

Saudi authorities reported they intercepted Iranian drones that attacked the Ras Tanura oil refinery near Dammam and the refinery was shut down as a precaution, Saudi state television reported. Market attention has focused on whether the conflict would widen to other oil-producing countries in the region.

There are pipelines that skirt the Strait but they don't have enough capacity to move all the oil. Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates all depend on tankers passing the Strait to get the bulk of their oil to global markets.

Analysts say completely blocking the Strait would hurt Iran too since all of its 1.6 million barrels per day passes through the Strait, most of which goes to China where refineries are less concerned about US sanctions that prevent



Iran from selling its oil elsewhere.

The Strait is also a key route for liquefied natural gas. QatarEnergy said Monday it would stop its production of liquefied natural gas as the Mideast war rages, taking one of the world's top suppliers off the market.

The price of crude is the single largest factor in how much U.S. motorists pay for fuel at the pump — a highly political issue ahead of midterm Congressional elections.

And gas prices are already rising ahead of the summer driving season when people travel more. The national average for a gallon (conversion) of regular went up by more than US 5 cents last week to US\$2.98, according to motoring club AAA.

The price of crude has less impact in Europe, where taxes make up most of the price of fuel. But higher energy costs can affect prices across the economy. A sustained rise of US\$15 per barrel could add 0.5 percentage point to consumer prices in Europe, according to Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg bank.

Monday's price increase was within the US\$5-US\$10 per barrel range expected by analysts based simply on the fear factor associated with the outbreak of war. And some war concerns were already reflected in the price before the conflict started.

However, long-term disruption to ship traffic in the strait could send prices even higher, and so could damage to oil infrastructure in other Gulf countries. Meanwhile, a shorter conflict in which disruptions are easily reversible could mean the current price spike won't last.

"The key question for the global econ-

omy is obvious: Will the Strait of Hormuz be effectively closed for oil and gas exports for more than a few weeks?" Schmieding said. "If so, it would hurt global growth and raise global inflation noticeably. But I would expect Trump to go to great lengths to prevent a lasting surge in energy prices that could hurt him at home ahead of the US midterm elections in November."

He forecast oil prices would return to US\$65-US\$70 per barrel after a near-term spike.

Iran's attack on the Ras Tanura refinery represents a major escalation, a Middle East analyst said, with Iran demonstrating that key Gulf energy infrastructure is within its reach, and investor sentiment likely to worsen.

Torbjorn Soltvedt, principal Middle East analyst at risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft, said Iran's goal is to raise the economic costs of the conflict for Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, hoping that these countries will pressure the US and Israel to de-escalate.

He said that the coming days and weeks will be marked by uncertainty and volatility in global markets, with oil prices likely to push past US\$80 per barrel.

"If we start to see additional direct attacks against energy infrastructure, not just in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, but in other countries in the region, then that's when the market will start to think about a push toward US\$90 and perhaps even beyond."

The government has conducted a counteroffensive since January with aerial bombardments and ground assaults, despite an official commitment to the peace agreement. (AP)

# Sports News

## Wins for Empire, Lions, and Pythons in ABCA Two-Day Championship

Empire Nation, CMW New Winthorpes Lions, and All Saints Pythons recorded innings victories during the seventh round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

Empire Nation moved into second place behind unbeaten leaders and defending champions, PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks, by recording their third win with an innings and 66-run victory over Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Asked to bat first, Empire Nation was all out for 202 in 29.4 overs. Zianni Da Silva hit 80, and Tanez Francis and his brother Dahri Francis each made 36. James Cornelius claimed four for 31, and Keno Goodwin picked up three for 49.

In reply, Bethesda Golden Eagles crashed to 53 all out in 27.1 overs. Left-arm seamer Yanique Watley grabbed three wickets for eight runs, leg-spinner Micah McKenzie snatched three for 11, and Ajharie Joseph took three for 16.

Asked to follow on 149 runs behind, the Golden Eagles were dismissed in their second innings for 83 in 22 overs. Captain Kevin Pitman struck 48, Justin Athanaze grabbed six for 30, and Micah McKenzie bagged three for 36.

The New Winthorpes Lions advanced into third place by claiming their fourth win with an innings and 92-run victory over Tertiary Institutions and Schools at the Factory Grounds.



*Justin Athanaze*

Tertiary Institutions and Schools crashed to 32 all out in 21.2 overs after being sent in to bat. Demari Benta claimed four wickets for nine runs, and Ishmael Peters took three wickets for seven runs.

In reply, the New Winthorpes Lions declared their first innings at 162 for five in 20.5 overs. Cameron Pennyfeather struck 52, while Dravid Richardson and Demari Benta each made 31.

Trailing by 130 runs, Tertiary Institutions and Schools were dismissed for 38 in 10.5 overs. West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph captured seven wickets for four runs.

The All Saints Pythons recorded their second win with an innings and 77-run victory against the Bolans Blasters at Mock Pond in All Saints.

Opener Michael Haynes Dover slammed a century as the Pythons made 294 all out in 51.3 overs. Dover cracked 119 off 126 balls, Demetri Lucas struck 35, and Andra Samuel scored 34. Captain Taiem Tonge captured four for 73.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters tum-



*Michael Dover*

bled to 111 all out in 30.2 overs. Kadeem Josiah grabbed five for 27, and Antwone Willock claimed three for 24.

Asked to follow on 183 runs behind, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed in their second innings for 106 in 19 overs. Hughan Tonge made 34. Michael Marcellin snapped up three wickets for six runs, Antwone Willock claimed three for 36, and Colin Archibald captured three for 37.

The Liberta Blackhawks also won by default over WES Spartan Rising Sun, who failed to prepare their field to host the encounter.

The Pigotts Crushers and the Jennings Tigers fought to a draw in their encounter at Pigotts.

Scores: Jennings Tigers 270 all out in 51.4 overs (Glenton Williams 117, Paul Miller 54; Jared Jno Baptiste 5/78, Uri Smith 4/32) and 70/7 in 16 overs (Paul Miller 31; Tyree Moore 6/17). Pigotts Crushers 325 all out in 75 overs (Malique Walsh 57, Uri Smith 48, Kadeem Henry 44, Jewel Andrew 42, Essan Warner 38; Xavier Freeland 5/110, Glenton Williams 3/68).

## AGS stay unbeaten in Secondary Schools Cricket T20 Competition

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) has maintained their successful start to their campaign in the T20 Competition in the Under-19 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Cricket Championship.

The Antigua Grammar School made it three wins in as many games with a crushing 116-run victory over Jennings Secondary School at the Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

The Antigua Grammar School made 198 for five off their 20 overs. Donte Odlum cracked 47 off 26 balls, there was a contribution of 40 extras, Leonardo Ducreay hit 37, Hosea Roberts struck 34, and Rolando Fields scored 21.

Esten Hill captured two for 23, and Oziah Robertson picked up two for 29.

In reply, Jennings Secondary School tumbled to 82 all out in 14 overs. There was a contribution of 20 extras, Esten Hill struck 20, Oziah Robertson got 16, and Jquan Hunte scored 12.

Donte Odlum grabbed three wickets for two runs, and Marc Crawford claimed two wickets for one run.

All Saints Secondary School secured a 28-run victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Factory Grounds.

All Saints Secondary made

114 for four in 15 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

There was a contribution of 39 extras, including 34 wides. Dmique Allen hit 29 not out, Nasri Brookes got 18, Captain Dequan Cochrane made 16, and Shyquan Christian scored 12. Captain Shaun Balgobin claimed two for 12.

In reply, Sir Novelle Richards Academy was restricted to 86 for five off their 15 overs. There was a contribution of 30 extras, including 16 wides. Shaun Balgobin cracked 19, Evrick Chambers struck 13, and Ayden Bazil scored 10. Nasri Brookes and Marvin Singh each picked up two for 13.

Princess Margaret School coasted to an eight-wicket win over Pares Secondary School at Rising Sun.

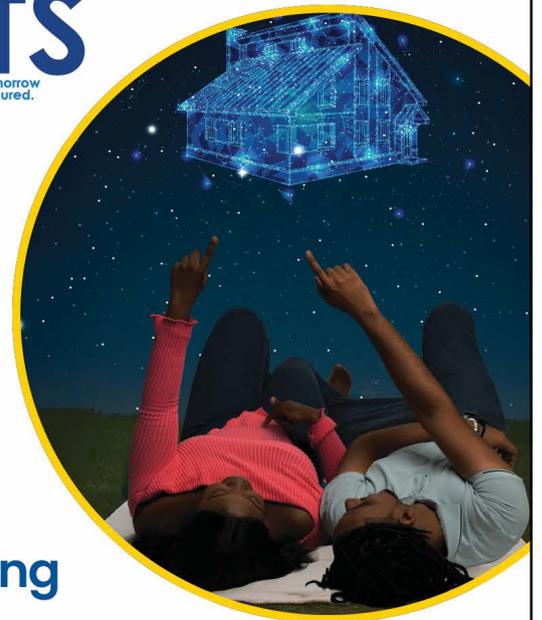
Pares Secondary School was restricted to 111 for six off 15 overs. Tyari Tonge hit 31, Kyan Goodwin struck 30, and Kadeem George made 29. Ondre Peters took two wickets for nine runs.

Princess Margaret School coasted to victory at 112 for two in 13.3 overs. Captain Jquan Athanaze hit 47 off 25 balls, including five sixes and three fours. Ondre Peters struck 23, Kerique Mentore got 12, and Akez France made 11. Jervaughn Freeland captured two for 33.



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## Antiguans stay unbeaten in CONCACAF U-20 Men's Qualifiers



*The Starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda team for their third match in Group C against Dominica in their CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifier in Costa Rica on Sunday, March 1, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)*

Antigua and Barbuda continued their successful campaign by recording their third win in the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifiers in Costa Rica on Sunday.

The young Benna Boys extended their unbeaten run by securing their third win in as many game with a 1-0 victory against Dominica in their Group C encounter at the Costa Rica Football Federation Field in San Rafael de Alajuela, Costa Rica.

Sedique Adams **scored the** only goal of the match with a strike in the 49th minute.

The Dominican Republic go level with Antigua and Barbuda at the top of Group C, recording their third wins in as many games with a 5-0 drubbing of St. Lucia at the same

venue on Sunday.

**Luis Lopez** started the scoring for the Dominican Republic in the 21st minute, followed by **Nicolas Bobea** in the 30th, **Cristian Ortiz** in the 36th, **Emmanuel Ramos** in the 58th, and **Deivi Marte** in the 83rd minute.

Antigua and Barbuda and the Dominican Republic will clash in their final match in Group C in Costa Rica on Tuesday. The top of the table clash will be preceded by the other remaining Group C encounter between the British Virgin Islands and Dominica.

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

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 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.

## Athapaththu leads from the front as Sri Lanka Women topple Windies

ST. GEORGE'S – Sri Lanka Women's captain Chamari Athapaththu starred with bat and ball to guide her side to a four-wicket victory over West Indies Women in the second match of their T20 series in Grenada on Sunday.

Athapaththu, who was named Player-of-the-Match, grabbed two wickets as the home side produced a below-par batting performance for the second time in two days to be bundled out for 101 in 20 overs after being sent in at the National Cricket Stadium.

She then returned to hit the top score of 39 off 26 balls to see the visitors romp to 102 for six in 18.1 overs and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series after Saturday's opener ended in a no-result.

The West Indies Women produced a slightly better showing than they did on Saturday when they were routed for just 49.

However, apart from skipper Hayley Matthews, who scored a pedestrian 28 off 36 balls, no other batter scored 15, as they were once again undone by Sri Lanka's spinners.

Athapaththu struck early by dismissing Qiana Joseph for five and Malki Madara followed up by having Jahzara Claxton caught for four, as the Windies stumbled to 22 for two in the sixth over.

Athapaththu then snared the prized scalp of Matthews to end a 27-run



**Chamari Athapaththu led Sri Lanka Women to victory with a solid all-around performance against West Indies Women in the second match of their T20 series in Grenada on Sunday, March 1, 2026.**

partnership with Stafanie Taylor.

From there, the West Indies lost wickets at regular intervals, with their last seven wickets falling for just 37 runs.

Madara was Sri Lanka's best bowler with three for 16, while Nilakshika Silva took three for 20, and Athapaththu claimed two for 13.

Sri Lanka then effectively put the contest to bed during a 62-run opening stand between Perera and Athapaththu.

The West Indies did stage a fightback once Matthews broke the stand by having Perera caught for 18, with Afy

Fletcher trapping Athapaththu lbw in the ensuing over without a run being added.

Harshitha Samarawickrama, Imesha Dulani and Nilakshiva Silva were then dismissed in quick succession to see Sri Lanka slip to 74 for five in the 15th over.

But Kavisha Dilhari steadied the ship with an unbeaten knock of 18 off 13 balls to carry her side to victory with 11 balls to spare. Joseph bagged two for 13, and Fletcher claimed two for 16 as the Windies' best bowlers.

The third and final match is scheduled to be played on Tuesday.



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# Sports

TUESDAY 03<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

## Joseph and Seaforth claim top National Sports Awards

Cricketer Alzarri Joseph and Ambassador Melissa Seaforth of bodybuilding were named the senior national sportsman and woman, respectively, at the 2025 National Sports Awards, which was hosted by the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries at the American University of Antigua (AUA) on Sunday night.

Joseph beat off top contenders, arm wrestler Daniel Antonio and Nicolas Geleyns of motorsports, to claim the award for the fourth time and retained the title, which he won the previous year and also in 2016 and 2022.

One of the Caribbean's premier fast bowlers, Joseph delivered a dominant year on the international stage for the West Indies team.

He claimed 31 international wickets, recorded a spectacular five-wicket haul against Australia, surpassed 200 career T20 wickets, and made valuable domestic contributions with both bat and ball. Ambassador Seaforth won her first sportswoman of the year award, getting the judges' nod over top contenders, sprinter Joella Lloyd and sailor Emily Gaillard.

Delivering a phenomenal year on the international stage, Ambassador Seaforth captured the IFBB Bikini Fitness Pro Masters World Championship title in Malta and secured multiple European podium finishes.

Ambassador Kimberly Percival of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation (ABABWF) won the title for the fifth time last year.

Sailor Shanoy Malone and sprinter Tyra Fenton captured the 2025 junior sportsman and woman of the year awards, respectively. Malone secured the award over strong challenges from swimmer Alessandro Bazzoni and cricketer Matthew Miller. Cricketer Jewel Andrew won the junior sportsman of the year title last year.

In a phenomenal year on the water,



**Ambassador Melissa Seaforth, left, and her twin sister Michelle at the 2025 National Sports Awards at the American University of Antigua on Sunday, March 1, 2026.**

Malone dominated the Caribbean Dinghy Championships with 13 victories in 15 races, captaining Antigua and Barbuda to overall team success.

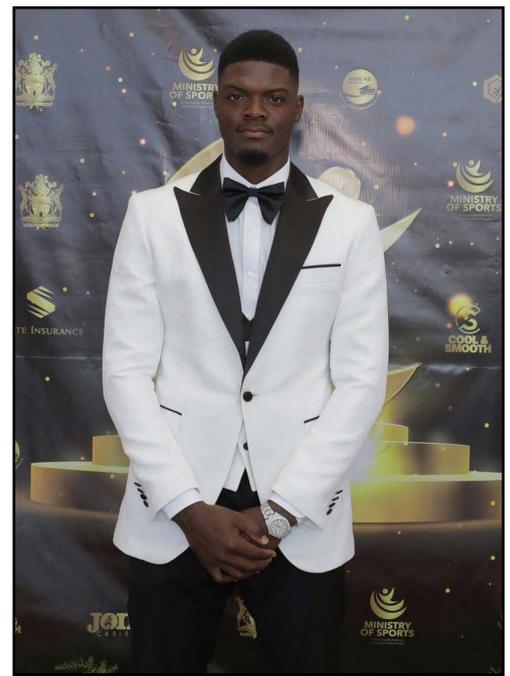
His season was further highlighted by international podium finishes and qualification for the Junior Pan American Games, a testament to his skill, discipline, and competitive excellence.

As part of this prestigious honour, Malone receives a two-year scholarship from the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC), supporting his continued academic and athletic development.

Fenton prevailed over strong contenders, table tennis player Stuti Kashyap and swimmer Madison MacMillan, to retain the junior sportswoman of the year award she won for the first time in 2024.

Fenton delivered a sensational season on the track, capturing gold in the Under-17 Girls 400 meters and bronze in the 200 meters at the CARIFTA Games.

Competing confidently in the open na-



**Alzarri Joseph**

tional category and ranking among the world's top under-18 athletes, Fenton showcased remarkable speed, strength, and composure beyond her years.

As part of her achievement, Fenton receives a two-year scholarship from the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, supporting both her academic and athletic journey.

The Mind Sports winner was Kaid Jarvis of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association.

Teddy Daley of athletics was named the Coach of the Year, while volleyball's referee Rawle Lee won the Official of the Year Award.

Daley will also receive a two-year scholarship at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus in Antigua.

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association won the award for Sporting Association of the Year.

Guest speaker Grenadian Olympic and World Championship medalist Lindon Victor, OBE, delivered the feature address at the 2025 National Sports Awards.