

Pm Browne addresses Students at ABCAS

Story on page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (wearing cap) with senior officials of ABCAS on Thursday following a nearly two-hour engagement with students and faculty at the Sir Alister Francis campus

PM Browne To ABCAS Students: Be The Best Versions of Yourselves



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is appealing to young people in Antigua and Barbuda to maximize the many opportunities that are available to them and to develop themselves, educationally and culturally to become ‘the best versions of themselves’.

The prime minister made the appeal during an engagement with students

at the Sir Alister Francis campus of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies on Thursday.

PM Browne recalled that when he was a student of the then Antigua State College, there were not many opportunities available for young people to pursue tertiary level studies unless they were ‘very bright’

or came from homes where parents could afford to finance their children’s education. That situation, closed the door for students such as him, who came from very humbling circumstances.

However, according to the prime minister all this has been changed by his administration with the provi-



sion of approximately two thousand scholarships each year, and he wants the young people to ‘grab’ these scholarships and to pursue advanced education.

“We are providing opportunities for our people to ‘level up’; to level up to a higher standard of living; to be better citizens; to make sure that we keep our environment clean and pristine. Those of you who live in communities where you see much garbage thrown about indiscriminately, we are calling on you to join the government in holding our citi-

zens and residents responsible; we want our country to be clean and beautiful,” he declared.

PM Browne emphasized that while the engagement was primarily to talk about economic development and higher education, he also wanted to highlight the value of what he called ‘soft skills’.

“Although we are here to talk about the ‘hard skills’ there are also the soft skills that must be worked on to make sure that you are better versions of yourselves; to be better versions that my generation; to make

sure that you are better cultured and better skilled. That is why too that we are investing over \$25 million in the National Performing Arts Centre, formerly the Deluxe Cinema,” he stated.

The prime minister noted that despite its size Antigua and Barbuda is known and respected around the world as it has attracted many large and medium size conferences, including SIDS4, the OAS General Assembly and this November it will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference.

Government Formally Commissions The New Kevorn Ettienne Centre



The new Nevorn Ettienne Centre, a facility that caters to the needs of the differently abled members of the society, has been commissioned by the government at a ceremony held on Thursday at its location within the compound of the former Holberton Hospital.

The facility is being housed within a new multi-million-dollar purpose-built structure, and has been renamed in honour of a former patient at the former Care Project, Kevorn Ettienne.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry

of Health, Stacey Gregg-Paige, explained that the Kevorn Ettienne Centre now assumes its place within the continuum of health and social support services, addressing the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of the society.

“It represents a structured and sustained approach to supporting individuals and families who require ongoing care. This is not an adjunct to the health system; it is an essential component of it,” she further explained.

For his part, Health Minister Sir Mol-

wyn Joseph, provided insights into the rationale for naming the facility to honour a former patient, now deceased, but who made quite an impact on those with whom he came into contact.

“Kevorn Ettienne was a resident of the then Care Project. Despite his challenges, he was known to be helpful, engaged and a constant presence within the institution. During the construction of this very facility, he volunteered, from his wheelchair, alongside others, passing blocks and assisting wherever he could, without being



asked. In his own way, he was helpful to build what would become his home, though he did not live to see its completion,” Sir Molwyn recalled.

The minister thanked the several partners who assisted the government in providing funding to see the building’s

completion. These include the Jumby Bay Fund, the Jumby Bay Home Owners, The Jumby Bay Island and Company, the Maria Holder Memorial Trust and Friends of the Care Project.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by Melissa Scott, administra-

tor of the Jumby Bay Fund.

Following a ribbon cutting exercise, there was a tour of the facilities.

There are ten patients/residents of the centre and one person who makes use of its daycare services.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



ABEC Sets Deadline for Voter Transfers Ahead of General Elections



The Antigua Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) has issued a final reminder to voters seeking to transfer constituencies and confirmed eligibility guidelines for first-time registrants, as the country prepares for the upcoming general elections later this month.

In a notice released this week, ABEC advised that electors who applied on or before February 28, 2026, to transfer from one constituency to another must complete the transfer process by 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026. The process must be finalised at the Commission's headquarters.

According to ABEC, failure to meet this deadline will result in affected individuals being required to vote in their original constituency, rather than the one to which they intended to transfer.

The Commission also provided clarity regarding first-time voters. Individuals who registered on or before February 28, 2026, and have successfully completed the claims and objections process, will be eligible to cast their ballots in the general elections scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026.

These individuals have been officially included on the List of Elec-

tors for the upcoming polls.

ABEC is urging all eligible voters to ensure that their registration status is in order and to comply with the outlined deadlines to avoid any compli-

cations on election day.

The Commission reiterated its commitment to facilitating a smooth and transparent electoral process as the nation moves closer to the polls.



The Representative and branch members
of the
**ALL SAINTS WEST
CONSTITUENCY**
INVITES YOU

**THE
BLOCK
PARTY**

THIS FRIDAY - 10TH APRIL 2026

HAPPENING AT THE BRANCH OFFICE
IN SEA VIEW FARM
(opposite the school)

🕒 **STARTING AT 7:00PM**

SMITH JR, ANTHONY 

🎵 Music by **YOUNG JUGGLAZ**
🍷 **Food • Drinks • Vibes**

DON'T MISS IT!



ABLP DELIVERS IN TOURISM



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2001

BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Notice of Appointment of Returning Officers

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Electoral Commission by Section 10(1) of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2001, the Commission hereby appoints the persons named in the first column of the Schedule hereto to be the Returning Officers for the Constituencies, as defined in the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Order, 1984 (S.I. No. 4 of 1984) and confirmed by S.I. No.2 of 1989 specified in the second column of the said Schedule opposite the name of such persons.

SCHEDULE

RETURNING OFFICERS

CONSTITUENCIES

Janelle Benjamin
Accountant
Olivers

St. John's City West

Laurisa Francis
Civil Servant
Paynters

St. John's City East

Cleopatra James
Civil Servant
Potters Village

St. John's City South

Rolston Nickeo
Civil Servant
Weirs Estate

St. John's Rural West

Janelle Wehner-Watts
Civil Servant
Piccadilly

St. John's Rural South

Kadine Gomes
Civil Servant
Sir Vivian Richards Street

St. John's Rural East

Gwendolyn Willock-James
Teacher/Educator
Cedar Grove Village

St. John's Rural North

Returning Officers

Birchfield Osborne
Risk Survey Manager
Mc Kinnons

Denese Parker
Civil Servant
Bolans Village

Denmore Roberts
Civil Servant
Liberta Village

Thomasine Greenaway-Whyte
Accountant
Law Pasture

Viveca Shadrach
Civil Servant
Scott's Hill

Stephen Samuels
Civil Servant
Buckley's Extention

Avonella Benjamin
Civil Servant
All Saints Village

Joy-Ann Harrigan
Civil Servant
Folley's Development

Linroy Adams
Civil Servant
Liberta

Lornamay Benjamin-Hughes
Civil Servant
All Saints Village

Constituencies

St. Mary's North

St. Mary's South

All Saints East & St. Luke

All Saints West

St. George

St. Peter

St. Philip North

St. Philip South

St. Paul

Barbuda

Dated the 7th April, 2026



H. E. Arthur G. B. Thomas

Chairman, Electoral Commission

Michael Joseph Shares Vision for Advancing Rural West



Antigua Barbuda Labour Party Senator Michael Joseph has listed a number of priority areas that he believes are necessary for developing the constituency of Saint John's Rural West and its residents.

Joseph, who is currently the ABLP's caretaker, is seeking to unseat Richard Lewis of the United Progressive Party in the 30th April general election and has been working overtime to ensure he secures the votes necessary to represent constituents of Saint John's Rural West in the House of Representatives.

He listed expanded healthcare facilities, improved infrastructure, housing and entrepreneurial development as crucial to the advancement of the constituency.

According to Senator Michael Joseph, decentralisation is key in providing healthcare to residents, noting that the Grays Farm Clinic is inadequate to serve the number of people within the Grays/Green and Five Islands communities. As such, discussions are being held on the possible construction of a healthcare facility on the grounds of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, an integrated service with support from the Ministry of Health.



“One of the things I countered to them is this could serve for the individuals living in the Five Islands area, which of course is going to expand over the years as you expand, and that will be in collaboration between the Ministry of Health,” Joseph said. “So that instead of having a designated health centre that will serve the students at UWI, it will also serve individuals living within the community.”

Michael Joseph also addressed flooding in the Grays/Green community that occurs whenever there is torrential and persistent rainfall. He acknowledged that the Grays Farm gutter, the single channel through which floodwater drains, is in dire need of re-engineering, a task that has commenced and will continue as part of the long-term solution to the problem.

On housing, the ABLP caretaker cited the need for improvements to what currently exists within the constituency, describing the housing stock as “probably the most diminished or deplorable in the entire country”.

The young politician shared his vision for overall improvement in this area, which will include a method that is different from that which is employed by the National Housing and Urban Renewal Company Limited, explain-

ing that his proposal will be to seek assistance from international agencies for developmental funding.

“So, agencies such as OPEC Fund and many of these large international donors, they have funding at that 1% interest rate. Now, if we can utilise that to develop climate resilient funding, we have the opportunity to borrow one percent and alternatively to build homes that are low cost,” Joseph said.

Part of his proposal he explained, will be to provide a mechanism of a rent-to-own option on the basis of a low interest rate payback arrangement from the lender.

Such an arrangement he noted will prove beneficial to residents whose wages and salaries do not allow for mortgage approval.

Michael Joseph revealed plans for the establishment of an entrepreneurial hub, where owners of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will be given access to professionals who will provide guidance on how to adequately prepare before approaching lending institutions for funding to boost their businesses.

Joseph's vision for advancing the constituency of Saint John's Rural West is contained in a manifesto, which he plans to release shortly.

Nine Secondary Schools Register To Participate In Annual Theatre Festival



Nine secondary schools have registered to participate in the annual National Secondary School Theatre Festival which runs from April 13 to 17 at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre at Perry Bay.

Coordinator of the event, Gilbert Laudat, said this is the 9th edition of the festival which highlights the talent and creativity of the nation's youth in two areas, theatre and dance.

"This is the Cultural Division's way of promoting theatre and dance in our secondary schools thereby proving a platform for our young people to showcase their talents and skills. Additionally, this helps to prepare these students some of whom are involved in the Theatre Arts Course and are preparing for CXC examinations," Laudat stated.

The Cultural Division has invited three dramatists from the Caribbean who will conduct a series of workshops for the participants starting today (Friday) and running until Sunday. These sessions will take place at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre.

Workshops in dance will be conducted by veteran dance instructor, Veronica Yearwood.

Five schools will participate in the drama festival. These are the Pares Secondary, All Saints Secondary, St. Mary's Secondary, Jennings Secondary and the Ottos Comprehensive.

In the dance category eight schools will compete. These are St. Mary's Secondary, All Saints Secondary, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Princess Margaret School, Antigua Grammar School, the Christ the King High School Jennings Secondary and Pares Secondary. Four schools will participate in both segments.

The three overseas dramatists will be part of the panel of judges adjudicating the festival. Two of the dramatists are from Jamaica and the other is from

Nevis.

Laudat said the festival is an undertaking by the Antigua and Barbuda government with a number of private sector entities contributing. These are Cool and Smooth, Bike Plus, Tucker on the Grill and the ministry of education.

He said the festival would not be possible without the support of the government and the private sector entities that have come forward thus far.



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

April
13|14|15
16|17|18

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS'
THEATRE FESTIVAL
IX

Multi-Purpose
Cultural Centre

7 PM

\$15 STUDENTS
12+ YEARS

\$25 ADULTS
18+ YEARS

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

#CULTUREINMOTION

Antigua Sailing Week, a New Horizon

Zoë Carlton

A Harbour Already Awake

English Harbour wakes before sunrise. Lines coil and uncoil, crews pace with that pre-race restlessness, and conversations—once about logistics—have shifted to windward marks, lee shores, and who’s likely to get rolled at the first rounding. Antigua Sailing Month isn’t arriving. It’s already here.

This year, it’s different.

With boats already on the water, the island isn’t just hosting another regatta—it’s trying something new. A quiet rethink of one of the Caribbean’s best-known fixtures. At the front is the Antigua Racing Cup: tighter, harder, all about racing.

Behind it, things relax into the Classics Regatta, a premiere international sailing event hosted in Nelson’s Dockyard by the Antigua Yacht Club, culminating in a reworked Antigua Sailing Week (ASW). ASW leans back into what it has always done best: good sailing, good places, and the reminder that not everything has to be decided at the top mark.

Serious racing, or serious enjoyment. Not forced together, but given space.

On the dock this week, one visiting skipper shrugged.

“It makes sense,” he said. “Some of us want to fight it out round the cans. Some of us want a good race and a better anchorage. Now you can choose.”

From 10.00 am on 9th April, until prize giving on Sunday 13th, the choice is serious competition.

Why Antigua Still Wins

Race Manager Jaime Torres puts it simply: Antigua is somewhere people choose. Across the Caribbean, many islands could host these events. Many do. But the serious fleets—the RC44s, the superyachts—aren’t tied to any one place.



© Paul Wyeth/ASW

“They could go anywhere,” he says. “And they keep choosing Antigua.”

Of course they do. The Racing Cup is aimed squarely at racers. Sailing Week, now reshaped, is aimed at cruisers. For years, both groups were folded into one event, each giving a little. Now they don’t have to.

Early signs are good. Twenty-one boats on the Racing Cup start line is solid for a first-year event. Not huge—but, as Jaime points out, they’re not just making up the numbers.

“They’re good boats,” he says. “That’s what matters.”

There’s the inevitable talk about numbers. Fifty-three boats last year. A long way from the days when fleets pushed past 150. But that’s not just an Antigua story.

“There isn’t a regatta anywhere pulling those numbers now,” says Robbie Ferron. “Things have changed.”

They have. Boats cost more, calendars are tighter, and decisions are more deliberate. So Antigua has adjusted. April is no longer two events—it’s three separate ones, close together, each with its own feel. And you can

already sense the difference. More movement, more people coming and going, more life along the dock. Not one fleet. A flow.

Even the slightly earlier timing this year comes from that—making space that works for everyone. Out on the water, none of that matters.

“This is the first regatta like this,” Jaime says. “We have to get it right.”

No free pass because it’s new. The goal is simple: clean racing, no unnecessary issues.

“If something goes wrong,” he adds, “the racers shouldn’t feel it.”

The biggest challenge, Jaime says, has been marketing. Turning a well-known international event into something new is never easy—but the results speak to the campaign’s success.

More Boats, Different Boats

If Antigua Racing Cup is proving a success, the other half of the plan is exceeding anticipation. When the idea of a more cruiser-focused Sailing Week first came up, expectations were modest. Ten boats, maybe fifteen. Now it’s pushing past thirty, and naturally, even the cruisers want to race.



“Put two boats on the water,” Jaime says, “and there’s always a race.”

It might be more relaxed—less shouting, more beer—but the instinct is still there. That instinct is part of why Antigua works.

As the Dock Master at the Superyacht Marina put it:

“Everyone is coming here to win—that’s the difference. These are proper boats, properly sailed, and the racing will show it. Splitting the format makes sense: race hard now, enjoy the island after.”

The Next Generation

There’s pride in that. And a bit of concern. The Antigua fleet is getting older. Some Antiguan boats aren’t sailing anymore. Some sailors have stepped back. While Antigua still produces serious talent, getting into the sport isn’t always easy.

The new format might help. By separating the hard racing from everything else, it opens things up a bit. Cruisers, charter crews, less hard-core teams—they’ve got somewhere they fit properly. That matters, especially as the charter market shifts. Fewer big bareboat fleets, more multihulls—great for cruising, less suited to tight racing. Sailing Week, as it stands now, leans into that.

And Then It Begins

When Sailing Week arrives, it brings something else. Not less—just different. Moving courses, changing anchorages, days that end somewhere

new, with a drink appearing at exactly the right moment.

One cruising skipper expressed his delight:

“I could never join in because I am just not a serious racer, but now I can be part of it.”

“You forget how good this place is,” echoed another, looking out across the

harbour. “Not just for sailing. For everything.”

Then you notice it: the sails lifting, the breeze threading through the masts, the start lines stretching out. The harbour hums with energy. Boats ready. Crews focused. The first signal gun has gone.

This is Antigua sailing—alive, chosen, and impossible to ignore.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind



**You only need a group of
5 people to sign up for
Group Medical Insurance.**

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 info@sicfinancial.com www.sicfinancial.com

The Cost of Netanyahu's Wars



By Sir Ronald Sanders

When the two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran was announced on 7 April 2026, the immediate reaction across much of the world was relief. By 8 April, that relief was reflected in a sharp fall in oil prices after weeks in which conflict had shaken energy markets, threatened Gulf States, and unsettled the wider global economy. Markets moved quickly, but they were only registering a deeper reality. People everywhere prefer peace to war, stability to fear, and development to destruction.

That instinct has been plainly at odds with the conduct of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, whose political course has been one of

widening conflict, not containing it.

It is important to recognise that the regime of the Ayatollahs in Iran has been deeply repressive toward its own people. Recent United Nations reporting and human rights organisations have documented severe restrictions on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, arbitrary detention, persecution of women, girls and minorities, and the excessive use of force against civilians and protesters. At the same time, it is well established that Tehran has long provided material backing to both Hezbollah and Hamas as part of its regional strategy against Israel.

No fair-minded account can ignore the horror of Hamas's attack on Israel on 7 October 2023. That attack was murderous and indefensible.

But what followed in Gaza has long ceased to be explicable as a proportionate exercise of self-defence. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, including great numbers of children, and vast areas of Gaza have been reduced to ruin. Whatever military claims Israel has made about Hamas using civilians as cover, the resulting devastation has been immense and morally indefensible in its scale.

Nor has the violence been confined to Gaza. Israel's government has also pursued a harder line in the occupied West Bank while massively escalating operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Even as Washington and Tehran moved towards a truce on 8 April, Israel launched its heaviest strikes yet on Lebanon. The United Nations condemned the casualty reports as "appalling", and Volker Türk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, described the destruction and deaths as "horrific".

The day the United States-Iran ceasefire was announced, many hoped the region might be stepping back from a wider war.

It is regrettable that there appears to be continuing disagreement over whether Lebanon was covered by that ceasefire. Israel and the United States have said that Lebanon was not part of the arrangement, while Iran and a number of other governments have taken the contrary view. What is clear is that Israel continued bombing Lebanon after the ceasefire was announced. According to Lebanon's Civil Defence, at least 254 people were killed, and 1,165 others were wounded in the attacks on 8 April alone. These attacks have placed further strain on an already fragile truce. Recent analysis has described Israel as digging in for a "forever war" through buffer zones in Gaza, Syria and Lebanon.

It is in that context that Netanyahu's conduct must be assessed. Chatham House has said plainly that he has taken a bet that war will improve his chances of political survival in Israel. Recent reporting has also noted that, with the halt in attacks on Iran, Net-



Curry House

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

ANTIGUA  [currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)  [curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)  (268) 736-7165

anyahu's corruption trial will resume, and that his coalition is predicted to lose the October elections. The reasonable conclusion is that the prolongation and widening of conflict have served Netanyahu politically, even as they have damaged Israel strategically and morally.

This also explains why the broader confrontation involving Iran appeared to offer political advantage to Netanyahu. A regional crisis provided diplomatic cover, widened military latitude, and shifted international attention. It created space for continued operations in Gaza and Lebanon and reduced immediate pressure for restraint.

It is difficult to argue that this course enjoys broad international support. Public language may be measured, and some governments may be silent, but growing unease and widespread alarm at the scale of civilian suffering are evident across the world. The gap between formal diplomatic caution and underlying global sentiment has become increasingly clear.

In many parts of the Caribbean, we have lived a unique experience. Jewish communities have been part of Caribbean life since the seventeenth century, and Lebanese communities have also been established in the region for well over a century. They have lived among us and contributed to our societies without religious or communal clashes between them becoming a feature of Caribbean life.

That equilibrium matters. We have no desire to see it disturbed by hostilities imported from the Middle East. Our own experience affirms that people of different histories, faiths and traditions can live together in peace, and that hard-won balance should be protected.

The peoples of the world understand something that ideologues too often ignore. War consumes lives, distorts priorities, and robs whole societies of a future. The market reaction to the United States-Iran ceasefire was only the most visible sign of a deeper human instinct. People want resources devoted to human development, not

destruction.

The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu. The Court states that the warrants concern alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, including starvation as a method of warfare, murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts. These are not findings of guilt. But they do represent a judicial determination that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such crimes had been committed.

In more normal circumstances, such a development would have triggered far-reaching diplomatic consequences. That it has not done so to the full extent reflects the realities of contem-

porary geopolitics rather than any absence of concern.

The destruction of Gaza, the spread of conflict beyond it, the global disruption it has caused, and the loss of tens of thousands of lives point to one unmistakable conclusion: these wars have not strengthened Israel. They have diminished it morally, weakened it diplomatically, and made its long-term security more uncertain.

(The author is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS and Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The views expressed are his own.)

ABLP DELIVERS

→




V. C. Bird International Airport

US \$50 million dollar upgrade

- Runway rehabilitation
- Airfield lighting upgrades
- Expansion of turn pads to better handle larger aircraft
- Digital modernization of flight display screens, Kiosks and check-in counter systems

ArriveAntigua.com

- Official electronic arrival/departure system
- Visitors complete the form online and receive a QR code for faster processing
- Reduces terminal processing time
- To be expanded to seaport arrivals




The Wrong Reform: Why Term Limits and Fixed Election Dates Cannot Work in Antigua and Barbuda

A Constitutional Series in Four Parts

By Gavin V. Emmanuel

Part Four: What Is Actually at Stake

Part Three demonstrated that term limits are constitutionally incompatible with the Westminster model, because they contradict Section 69 of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution and impose a presidential logic of individual tenure on a parliamentary system whose accountability mechanisms operate through confidence rather than calendar. Part Four completes the argument by examining what term limits would actually do to democratic governance in practice. It also identifies the reforms that would genuinely strengthen accountability within the constitutional framework Antigua and Barbuda already possesses.

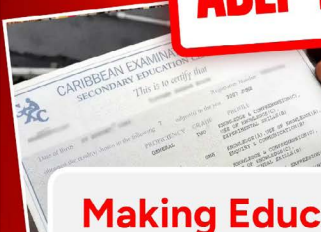

The Westminster system already has a term limit. It is called an election.



It is also called the party room. The cases of Margaret Thatcher in Britain, removed by her own caucus in 1990, or the successive leadership changes in Australia across the 2010s, demonstrate that parliamentary systems do


→

ABLP DELIVERS



Making Education Affordable

- Over \$1M in CXC fees covered and 100% tuition waived at ABCAS, easing the cost of education.
- 2-day 0% ABST window (April 10–11) on school supplies, food, and non-alcoholic items to support families ahead of the new term.



→

ABLP DELIVERS

Building Homes, Building Lives

Construct Antigua and Barbuda Initiative (CABI): First time home owners get duty free concessions up to the value of EC \$500,000. For existing homes that require renovations and expansions, home owners get duty free concessions up to the value of \$250,000.

Helping Those Who Need it Most

- Forgiveness of electricity and water debt owed to APUA by disconnected households
- National reconnection programme underway
- Entrepreneurial Development Fund: loans, training, mentorship and grants/loans.

A caring government ensures no family is left in the dark.

not require statutory caps to discipline their leaders. The discipline is built into the architecture. A leader who has lost the confidence of colleagues or constituents is removable at any time; not by the expiry of a constitutional clock, but by the exercise of democratic judgement. This is more responsive, more flexible, and more democratic than any statutory term limit, because it operates continuously rather than at predetermined intervals.

The research on term limits in other contexts reinforces this concern. When a leader knows they cannot seek re-election, the principal mechanism by which voters hold governments accountable (the prospect of losing office) weakens or disappears entirely. What political scientists call “electoral disconnection” sets in: the lame-duck leader becomes less responsive to constituent needs, less constrained by electoral consequences, and more susceptible to other forms of influence, including the influence of those whose relationships are not subject to electoral scrutiny. Term limits, in this analysis, do not discipline power. They redirect it.

In small island states, this problem is compounded by the reality of institutional capacity. Antigua and Barbuda, like many of our Caribbean neighbours, operates with a limited pool of experienced executive talent. A prime minister who has served multiple terms has accumulated diplomatic relationships, legislative expertise, and the institutional memory that is essential to navigating complex international negotiations and managing the cascading crises (hurricanes, pandemics, debt restructuring) that small island economies face with disproportionate frequency. To force that person from office at the precise moment when their experience is most valuable is not a democratic gain. It is an institutional loss imposed by constitutional calendar.

Defenders of term limits sometimes argue that they are necessary to dismantle the patron-client structures

that have distorted Caribbean governance since independence. The critique has merit. But the prescription is misdirected. The patron-client problem is a product of weak legislative oversight, winner-take-all electoral systems, and the underdevelopment of fourth-branch institutions such as audit offices, ombudsmen, independent commissions, that can hold executives to account between elections. Term limits address none of these structural deficiencies. Indeed, by creating a predictable rotation of leadership, they may worsen the patronage problem: a prime minister who knows their time is limited has every incentive to consolidate rewards for supporters before the clock runs out, rather than investing in the long-term institutional development that produces genuinely accountable government.

The appropriate reading of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution on this point is instructive. The framework established by Sections 60 through 69 (governing dissolution, electoral administration, and the appointment of the Prime Minister) is designed to produce accountability through confidence, not through calendar. The Governor-General’s reserve powers, the Boundaries Commission, the five-year maximum term: these are

instruments of political discipline that operate through democratic judgement rather than mechanical rules. They are, collectively, a constitutional ecosystem. To introduce term limits is not to add a component to that ecosystem. It is to import a foreign organ that the body was not designed to receive.

True constitutional reform in Antigua and Barbuda, and across the Caribbean, demands something harder than setting arbitrary personal limits on leadership. It demands strengthening the legislature’s capacity to scrutinise the executive, securing the independence of oversight institutions, deepening the non-partisan character of the civil service, and ensuring that the Governor-General retains the constitutional space to exercise judgement when political actors will not. These are the reforms that address the actual sources of democratic weakness. They are also, not coincidentally, the reforms that the existing constitutional framework already makes possible. The Westminster system does not need to be replaced with a presidential logic. It needs to be made to work as it was designed: with a legislature that governs, an executive that answers to it, and an electorate that holds both to account.



Stop! It's Time to Spend Less Time on Activities and More Time on Actions-



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Most people are busy. Very busy.

Our days are filled with meetings, messages, errands, phone calls, social media updates, and constant activity. By evening we are tired, by week's end exhausted, and by month's end we wonder why so little has actually changed.

The uncomfortable truth is this: **business is often mistaken for progress**, and activity has become a substitute for achievement.

Many people work hard every day, yet remain no closer to their goals—financially, professionally, or personally—than they were a year ago. This is not a question of effort. It is a question of direction.

Progress does not come from doing more things. It comes from doing the *right* things consistently.

There is an important distinction between actions that **keep us occupied** and actions that **move us forward**. Answering every message, attending every meeting, responding to every demand on our time may make us feel productive, but feeling productive is not the same as producing results.

I have had to learn this lesson personally.

Like many people in leadership and service roles, I face constant demands on my time—at work, at church, from family and friends, from people in the wider community seeking help, advice, or support. Students often reach out for career guidance, and there are always worthwhile causes that could use attention. My instinct has almost always been to say yes. I am willing to help, and I value service.

But over time, I learned something the hard way: **saying yes to everything meant saying no to progress on the goals I had deliberately set for my life and work**. Without boundaries, my days became filled with activity but increasingly disconnected from purpose.

Learning when—and how—to say no was not about being unkind or unavailable. It was about stewardship of time. I came to understand that if I did not protect time for the actions required to move me forward, I would spend most of my energy responding to other people's priorities and very little advancing my own responsibilities and longterm objectives.

That lesson applies far beyond any one individual.

Advancement—whether in our careers, our businesses, or our personal development—comes from a smaller set of activities that are intentionally chosen because they align with clearly defined goals. These actions usually require focus, discipline, and sometimes discomfort. That is why they are often postponed in favour of easier, more familiar tasks.



Curry House
ANTIGUA

Open Daily -
12:00pm - 10:30pm

 [currytandoorihouseanu](#)
 [curryhouseanu](#)
 (268) 736-7165

For example, an entrepreneur may spend countless hours refining a logo, attending workshops, or networking casually, yet avoid the hard work of validating a business model or securing actual customers. A professional may stay late every day, drowning in emails, but never invest time in developing the skills or relationships that lead to advancement. A student may remain busy studying, but without a plan aligned to clear academic or career objectives.

In each case, activity masks stagnation.

This matters not only at the individual level, but at the national level as well.

A country's productivity is ultimately the sum of how its people use their time and talent. When large numbers of citizens spend more energy reacting than progressing, the cost shows up in lower productivity, fewer competitive businesses, slower innovation, and missed opportunities—particularly for young people trying to build a future.

Time is the most democratic resource we have. Everyone gets the same twentyfour hours. The difference in outcomes comes from how intentionally those hours are used.

One useful question can serve as a daily filter for decisionmaking: **“Is this action moving me closer to my goal?”** If the answer is no, the activity may still be necessary—but it should not dominate our time or attention.

This is not an argument against rest, community, or healthy balance. Nor is it a call to constant grinding. Instead, it is a call for conscious prioritization. When everything is treated as urgent, the truly important things are crowded out.

Productivity research has long shown that a relatively small number of wellchosen actions account for most meaningful results. Yet many people structure their days around urgency rather than impact, responding to what is loudest instead of what matters most.

Reclaiming control of our time re-

quires clarity. Goals must be specific, realistic, and written down. Without clear goals, every activity feels equally important. With clear goals, distractions are easier to identify, and discipline becomes purposeful rather than burdensome.

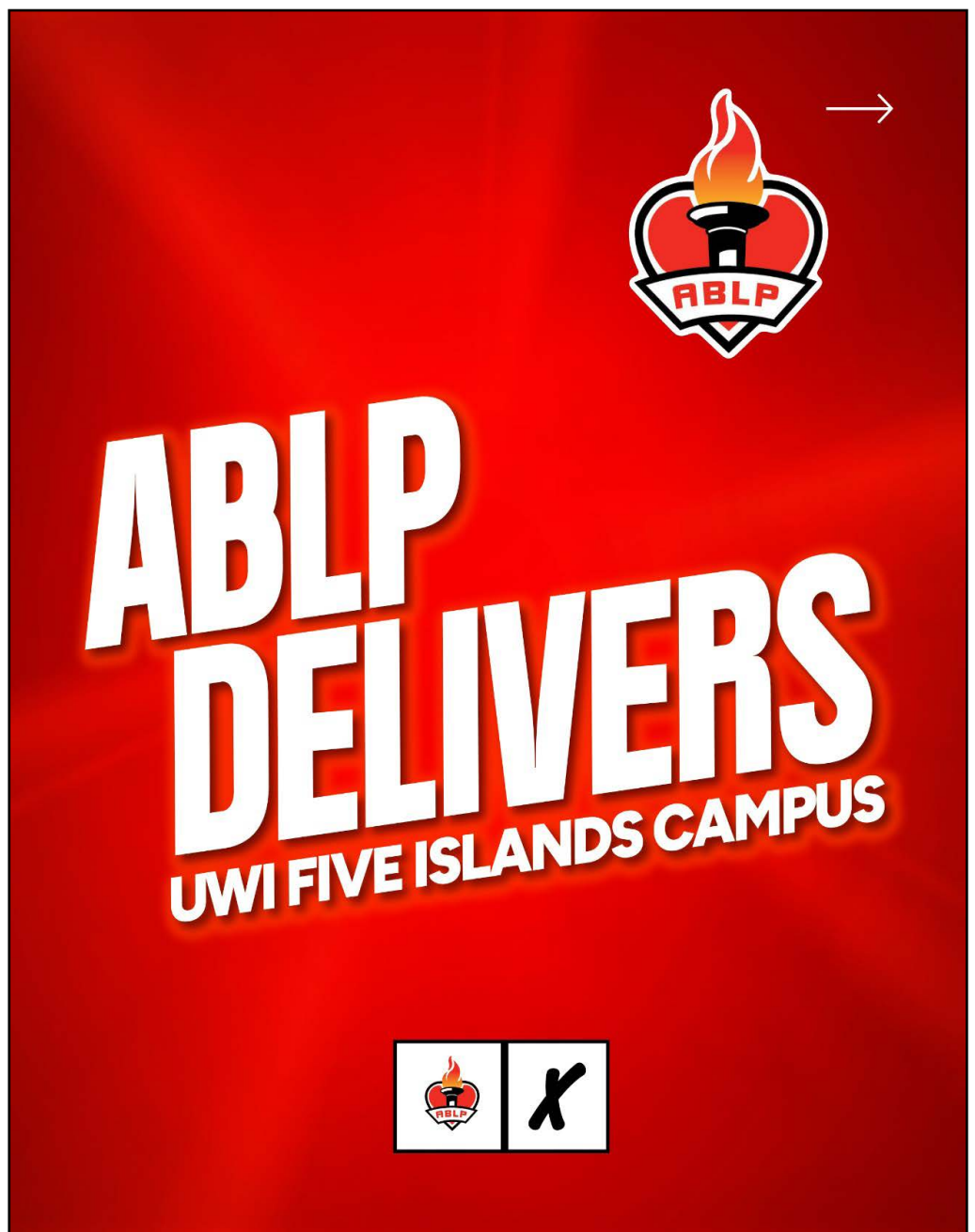
At a personal level, this may mean setting aside uninterrupted time each week for learning, planning, or execution. At an organizational level, it may require fewer meetings and clearer measures of success. At a national level, it demands a cultural shift away from celebrating busyness and towards rewarding results.

If Antigua and Barbuda is serious about economic resilience, entrepreneurship, and upward mobility—especially for young people—we must have an honest conversation about how time is being used. Hard work alone is not enough. Direction matters.

The challenge before us is simple, but not easy: **spend less time on activities that merely fill our days, and more time on actions that move us closer to where we are trying to go.**

Being busy is easy. Making progress requires intention.

The future belongs to those who can tell the difference.



REGGAE IN THE PARK 15

ZAMBAI AND FRIENDS

BLESS EYE

LUCIANO

THE STRAYS

THE CLIMAXX BAND

TUE 21 APR

EARLY BIRD

\$80

GENERAL

\$120

PAY MORE AT THE GATE

FALMOUTH RECTORY GROUNDS @ 7:00PM UNTIL

FOOD AND DRINKS ON SALE

TICKET OUTLETS

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





DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

April
13|14|15
16|17|18



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS'
THEATRE FESTIVAL

IX

7 PM

Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre

\$15	\$25
STUDENTS 12+ YEARS	ADULTS 18+ YEARS

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Jolisa Cato proudly represents the constituency of St. John's City West with resilience, ambition, and grace. A dedicated athlete, she has represented Antigua internationally in track and field and earned titles while competing for Princess Margaret School.

Entrepreneurial and driven, she is building her own beauty business specializing in cosmetics, hair, nails, and lashes. Jolisa is also passionate about creating spaces that inspire artistic expression, athletic growth, and leadership. Guided by faith and strengthened by humble beginnings, she remains committed to rising above every challenge.

She aspires to build a life of purpose, excellence, and impact while inspiring others to believe in themselves and never give up.

Jolisa Cato
ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT

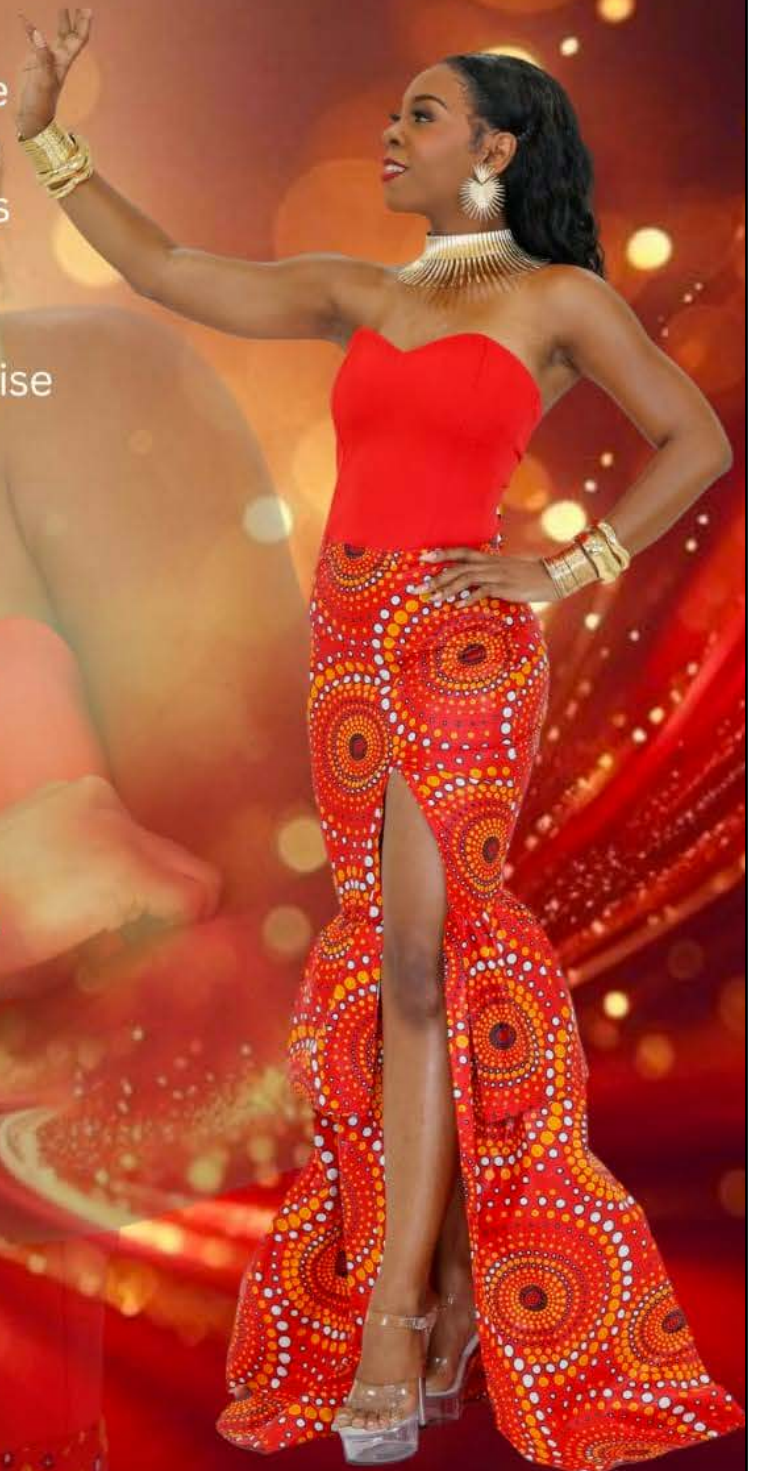


Maydoria Smith proudly represents St. John's Rural West, a community that has shaped her character, ambition, and strong sense of purpose.

A distinguished graduate of Antigua State College and holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance from The University of the West Indies, she embodies academic excellence and determination. Professionally, she serves as an Executive Assistant and continues to build her expertise in finance and strategic management.

Beyond her career, Maydoria is passionate about dance and youth mentorship as an Instructor's Assistant at Elite Dancers Antigua. She stands as a proud, graceful, and driven ambassador for St. John's Rural West.

Maydoria Smith
ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT



Jonelly Encarnacion proudly represents All Saints East and St. Luke as a vibrant, confident, and service-driven young woman with a passion for leadership and dance.

From the age of five, she has used dance as a tool for expression, mentorship, and empowerment, training her church dance team, her constituency's cheerleading team, and leading through her own Moves Dance Academy. A natural leader, Jonelly has served as Head Girl, Student Council President, and national netball captain.

Academically driven and community minded, she is pursuing studies in Business Management while aspiring to become a lawyer. Jonelly embodies resilience, purpose, faith, and the proud spirit of her constituency.

Jonelly Encarnacion
ALL SAINTS EAST & ST. LUKE



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Nakierra Sanaa-Amerie Martin proudly represents the constituency of St. George.

A graduate of the All Saints Secondary School, she earned honours in Family Resource Management and has gained valuable experience in the aviation industry as a Passenger Service Agent at the V.C. Bird International Airport, serving airlines such as British Airways, Condor, WestJet, and Sunwing.

A dedicated member of Dreamcatchers Modelling Agency since 2019, Nakierra also cherishes her love for piano. Through her pageant journey, she advocates for confidence, self-belief, and social anxiety awareness, while aspiring to become a regional aviation leader and entrepreneur.

Nakierra Martin
ST. GEORGE





TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING, NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT IT

WHILE OTHERS **TALK**, ABLP **DELIVERS**

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is taking decisive action to ease the pressure on your pocket:

- ✓ **HIGHER WAGES**
- ✓ **LOWER COSTS**
- ✓ **REAL RELIEF FOR FAMILIES**

This is leadership that **works...**



Grange: Bolt statue ready, dedication date to be announced

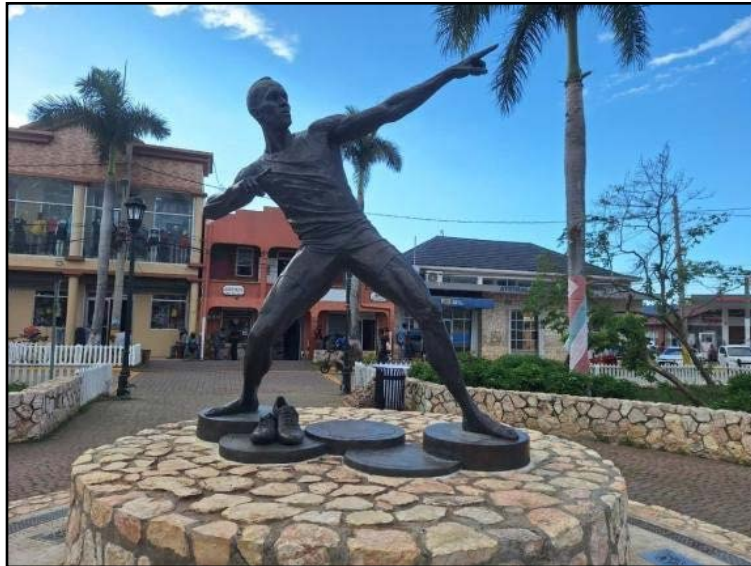
Sport Minister Olivia Grange says the official dedication of the statue honouring Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt in Falmouth will take place once a new date is finalised.

Speaking with reporters in Montego Bay over the weekend, Grange explained that the initially planned ceremony was delayed because of recovery efforts following Hurricane Melissa, although the statue has been mounted and surrounding installation works were completed.

“What we’re going to have is an official dedication of the statue, but because of the hurricane and just the recovery process, we didn’t want to rush things,” she said.

The minister noted that the Government had originally hoped to stage the unveiling during the 2025 Christmas season.

“We had set a date. We were going to do it for Christmas



with the tree lighting and then the official dedication. But again, so much was happening, and just the recovery process, we didn’t want to rush it, but we are going to be doing it shortly. ... Now,, we have to select an appropriate date,” Grange said.

She added that the installation at the site is complete and ready.

“Everything is in place.

The lights – they haven’t turned on the lights yet – but the fountain, it’s all lit and everything. So when we turn the water on, it’s going to be lit at night. It’s complete. It’s ready,” she stated.

Grange said discussions are expected with Collen Gager, the mayor of Falmouth, to settle on a new date for the ceremony.


“We have a new timeline that we want to talk about

this week with the mayor,” she added.

Bolt, who was raised in the nearby community of Sherwood Content, is widely regarded as the greatest sprinter in history. The eight-time Olympic gold medallist dominated global track and field for more than a decade, setting world records in the 100 metres, 200 metres and the 4x100 metre relay at the Olympic Games and the World Athletics Championships.

Often called the fastest man ever, Bolt won eight Olympic and 11 World Championship gold medals during his decorated career and remains one of Jamaica’s most celebrated sporting icons.

The statue in FalmouthV forms part of efforts to honour Bolt’s contribution to global athletics and recognise his roots in the parish of Trelawny. (Jamaica Gleaner)



AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1
THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

Gonsalves slams T&T PM over CARICOM rift U.S alignment

Former Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves has openly criticized Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar regarding her escalating dispute with CARICOM and her alignment with United States geopolitical interests.

In a detailed address, Gonsalves tackled the ongoing controversy surrounding the reappointment of the CARICOM Secretary-General, economic threats to the regional bloc, and Trinidad's upcoming bid for a UN Security Council seat.

The rift centers on the reappointment of CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett, a move that the Trinidadian Prime Minister has fiercely opposed. According to Gonsalves, Persad-Bissessar took to social media to call the appointment process “surreptitious and odious,” and threatened to “mercilessly, relentlessly, and if needed ruthlessly publicly prosecute” the matter until transparency is achieved.

Gonsalves pushed back against these claims, stating that the Trinidadian government omitted critical facts about the meetings held in St. Kitts and Nevis. He revealed that the CARICOM chairman had personally visited Trinidad to invite Persad-Bissessar, but upon attending, she delivered an opening speech that undermined regional unity.

Furthermore, Gonsalves noted that Persad-Bissessar and her foreign minister deliberately absented themselves from the key caucus where the decision was made, with Persad-Bissessar reportedly only attending one meeting involving US Senator Marco Rubio.

Defending the legality of the reappointment, Gonsalves cited Article 28 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. He explained that while decisions generally require an affirmative vote, an absence is treated as an abstention.

“Because a three-quarters majority of the heads of government was present and voted in favor, the decision is legally binding. The Trinidadian government has put Dr. Barnett, a distin-



guished public servant, in an “embarrassing position”.

Addressing Persad-Bissessar's assertions about Trinidad's financial contributions to CARICOM, Gonsalves offered a stark economic warning. He pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago is the principal beneficiary of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

If Trinidad were to withdraw from CARICOM, Gonsalves warned, Trinidadian businesses would lose their preferential access to regional markets. Consequently, their goods would face a 15% Common External Tariff, making American and Puerto Rican goods more competitive and resulting in a severe hit to the Trinidadian economy and domestic employment.

The geopolitical stakes are also high, as Trinidad and Tobago is vying for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. Normally, CARICOM states support one another's international candidacies, but Gonsalves cautioned that CARICOM must demand “ironclad assurances” before backing Trinidad.

Gonsalves accused Persad-Bissessar of becoming the “principal cheerleader for Donald Trump” and stated that she is “ruling over and playing dead” to US hegemonic overreach. He expressed outrage that Trinidad's government would support hardline

“America First” policies—including controversial US actions like blowing up boats in Caribbean territorial waters—while simultaneously asking for CARICOM's diplomatic support. “You can't abuse us and then go to Trump for succor with everything,” Gonsalves declared.

Gonsalves also brought up a lingering financial issue from Persad-Bissessar's previous term in office regarding the collapse of the CLICO insurance company. He noted that during a meeting in Suriname, she had agreed to a \$100 million US settlement for the Eastern Caribbean. While \$36 million was paid out, the remaining \$64 million has yet to be settled by subsequent Trinidadian administrations, an issue that regional leaders are still pursuing.

Despite the harsh political critiques, Gonsalves made it clear that his issues with the Trinidadian Prime Minister are strictly professional. He praised Kamla as a woman of “tremendous achievement,” “good sense,” and “intelligence” who successfully advanced in a male-dominated political arena.

However, he strongly urged her to abandon her “ruthless” approach and instead embrace compromise, advising that this dispute should not become a defining fracture between Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of CARICOM. (St Vincent Times)

Husband arrested over disappearance of Michigan woman in Bahamas

Authorities in the Bahamas have arrested a man in relation to the disappearance of Lynette Hooker, an American woman who vanished while out on a small boat, police in the island country said on Wednesday.

A 59-year-old from the US was arrested in Abaco and was being questioned, the Royal Bahamas Police Force said in a statement. It did not name the man.

US media, including the BBC's partner CBS News, reported that the man arrested was the woman's husband, Brian Hooker, who had been on the boat with her.

In a statement, Brian Hooker's lawyer said he "categorically and unequivocally denies any wrongdoing".

The lawyer added that her client "has been cooperating with the relevant authorities as part of an ongoing investigation", and would not comment further.

The Royal Bahamas Police did not immediately respond to the BBC's request for further details about the arrest. It earlier confirmed that it was investigating, and that multiple agencies were searching for the woman.

A US Coast Guard official confirmed to the BBC on Wednesday that a criminal investigation was opened into the woman's disappearance.

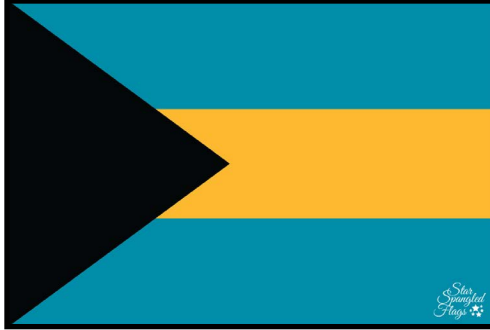
The Coast Guard was not able to comment on the specifics of the investigation, including potential suspects in the case.

Brian Hooker earlier said his wife went missing after falling out of an 8ft (2.4m) hard-bottom dinghy on Saturday, and being swept out to sea by strong currents.

In a statement on Wednesday, Brian Hooker thanked authorities and volunteers for the ongoing search.

"I am heartbroken over the recent boat accident in unpredictable seas and high winds that caused my beloved Lynette to fall from our small dinghy near Elbow Cay in the Bahamas," he said.

"Despite desperate attempts to reach her, the winds and currents drove us further apart. We continue to search for her and that is my sole focus."



Lynette Hooker's daughter, Karli Aylesworth, told CBS that her mother had been sailing for more than 10 years and was an experienced swimmer. She said she did not understand how her

mother could have fallen overboard and disappeared, and asked that authorities thoroughly investigate the incident.

Brian Hooker is also said to have told police that he and his wife left Hope Town for Elbow Cay, in the Abaco Islands, on Saturday evening - and it was at that point that she fell overboard, taking the boat's keys with her.

He reportedly said he then paddled the vessel to shore, and made it to the Marsh Harbour Boat Yard at about 04:00 local time (09:00 BST) on Sunday. He then told a person that his wife was missing, and that person then informed authorities. (BBC)

ABLP DELIVERS

Tourism in Barbuda

- PLH / Barbuda Ocean Club
- Nobu Resort

Tourism Office Opened in Toronto

- One-stop base for trade, media and marketing

Luxury & Branded Tourism

- MurBee Resorts
- Marriott Development
- Moon Gate
- Nikki Beach Resort & Spa

Restoration of Nelson's Dockyard Seawall



Oil prices rise above \$100 again as doubts set in about the U.S.-Iran ceasefire

The price of oil rebounded Thursday, as doubts began to set in about the state of the Iran ceasefire announced just two days earlier by President Donald Trump.

Chief among them was that fewer than a half-dozen ships had been observed transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday.

U.S. crude oil rose more than 7.5% to over \$101 per barrel early Thursday. International Brent crude rose 4% to about \$99 per barrel as of 10:30 a.m. ET.

Gas prices continued their monthlong climb, with the national average price per gallon hitting \$4.17 Thursday, according to data from the motor club AAA.

The move in oil prices higher effectively halted a plunge that began immediately after Trump announced the ceasefire Tuesday night. U.S. crude oil dropped more than 16% Wednesday.

“Prices rebounded as fighting in the Middle East continued, and the ceasefire outlook deteriorated, keeping uncertainty around the Strait of Hormuz firmly in focus,” ING commodities analysts wrote in a Thursday morning note. “Optimism over the ceasefire faded after Tehran said several terms of the agreement had been breached.”

On Wednesday, Iranian media reported that the Strait of Hormuz, a key component of the ceasefire, had been closed again after Israel struck Lebanon. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, also said that the U.S. violated the deal.

“Ceasefire violations carry explicit costs and STRONG responses,” he wrote on X.

Iran insists that a halt to Israeli strikes in Lebanon be included in any ceasefire deal. The U.S. and Israel, however, say it is a separate conflict.

Likewise, the U.S. demands that the Strait of Hormuz be fully opened to marine traffic, while Iran says it intends to police transit and exact tolls from passing ships under any ceasefire deal.

On Thursday morning, the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. also took aim at the ceasefire in a post on LinkedIn.

“This moment requires clarity,” Sultan Al Jaber wrote. “So let’s be clear: the Strait of Hormuz is not open. Access is being restricted, conditioned and controlled.”

“Markets remain at a critical crossroads,” Al Jaber added. “The final cargo goes that transited the Strait of Hormuz

before the conflict are now arriving at their destinations.”

Stocks also fell on the same concerns. “The market awaits certainty around the Middle East ceasefire with U.S. and Iranian delegations set to arrive in Pakistan today,” strategists on JPMorgan’s trading desk wrote in a note to clients.

The S&P 500 opened lower by 0.2%, the Nasdaq fell 0.3% and the Dow tumbled 200 points shortly after bell.

Since the ceasefire was announced Tuesday evening, ship traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has not increased. On Wednesday, just four ships passed, the lowest level since March 31, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.

As of Thursday morning, U.S. crude oil prices are up more than 70% since the start of the war.

Experts say that without a substantial drop further, gas prices will likely remain elevated for consumers.

“This roller coaster may not be over yet,” GasBuddy analyst Patrick De Haan said on X. Still, the initial drop in oil prices on the ceasefire news could translate into “some downside to gas prices for many this weekend,” he added. (NBC)



Argentina passes bill loosening protection of its glaciers



Argentina's Congress has passed a controversial amendment making it easier to mine in glacier regions, a move environmentalists say weakens protections for crucial water sources.

The pioneering Glacier Law, approved in 2010, prohibited all mining and exploration activities in glacier regions by protecting them as water reserves.

The reform shifts the responsibility of defining protected glacier areas from the Argentine Institute for Snow, Ice and Environmental Sciences (Ianigla) to the provincial governments.

President Javier Milei, who backed the reform, said the change "empower[s] the provinces to utilise their resources" and allows mining activities "where there was nothing to protect".

Argentina's Senate had already approved the bill in February 2026, so approval by the lower house was the last major hurdle left.

Opponents of the reform argued that it would put a fundamental resource - water - at risk. "Without water, we

can't even think about a growth and development project," Congresswoman Natalia de la Sota said.

But a backer of the bill, Congresswoman Nancy Picón Martínez, said that the mining industry was being portrayed "as if it were a monster".

"This law protects glaciers, no matter how much some people want us to believe otherwise," she said.

Following the reform, glaciers and periglacial environments - which may not be covered by ice but are frozen at least part of the year - will be protected by the national Ianigla inventory until provincial leaders prove they do not serve as "strategic" water reserves.

There are 16,968 glaciers in Argentina, providing water to 36 river basins across 12 provinces, home to seven million people.

Water from melted glaciers helps to reduce the impact of droughts - especially in semi-arid provinces like Mendoza - which are becoming more common due to climate change.

A map of Argentina showing the number of glaciers in each province using blue circles sized by count. The largest concentrations are along the Andes and Patagonia, led by San Juan (4,572 glaciers), Mendoza (4,172), Santa Cruz (2,420), Chubut (1,471), and Tierra del Fuego (1,331). Other labeled provinces include Catamarca (691), Salta (646), Neuquén (519), La Rioja (496), Río Negro (271), Jujuy (255), and Tucumán (122). The title states that Argentina has over 16,000 glaciers in total.

Governors from the mineral-rich provinces of Catamarca, Jujuy, Salta, Mendoza and San Juan had expressed their support for the bill, stating that the 2010 Glacier law hindered the goal of "promoting a sustainable economic development of the provinces and the Nation without compromising future generations".

But Greenpeace has criticised the bill for arguing that not all glaciers and periglacial environments act as strategic water reserves.

"The primary function of all glaciers and the entire periglacial environment is to act as a freshwater reservoir," Agustina Rossi Serra, a biologist working with Greenpeace said.

"The periglacial environment, apart from being water reserves because they consist of water inside, undergoes a gradual thaw that feeds the rivers and streams of our country," she explains.

"And a large part of our country, especially the regions that were keen to see this law amended, are arid and semi-arid areas, where water is a scarce resource," Rossi Serra added. (BBC)



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
 🎸 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!



US plans to automatically register men for military draft eligibility

Young American men could be automatically registered for eligibility for the military draft as soon as December, ending decades of self-registration.

The new rule, proposed by a government agency, would see men being registered automatically rather than being asked to do so themselves within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

Proponents of the plan say that automatic registrations will save the government millions of dollars that are spent every year reminding those eligible that registration is required by law for men between 18 and 25.

The rule is still being reviewed and must be approved before implementation, though has prompted fears of mandatory US conscription in the event of a crisis.

The last US military draft took place in 1973 after years of massive public opposition during the Vietnam War.

The government agency, the Selective Service System (SSS), submitted the proposal to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs on 30 March, according to the office's website.

The SSS website notes that the change "transfers responsibility for registration from individual men to SSS" through integration with other federal data sources, which it believes will result in a "streamlined" process.

In the US, most men between the ages of 18 and 25 are already required to register. Failing to do so is a crime, and can theoretically lead to five years in federal prison.

While prison sentences are virtually non-existent, failing to do so can also lead to an individual being made ineligible for federal student financial



aid and federal jobs. Non-citizens who do not register can also be denied US citizenship.

A vast majority of US states and territories also automatically register men for selective service when driver's licenses are issued.

Despite those rules, compliance fell to 81% in 2024, according to government data.

The new change in favour of automatic registration was approved by Congress in December as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, which authorises funding for the US military and its operations around the globe.

Pennsylvania Democratic Representative Chrissy Houlahan, who sponsored the language, was quoted as saying at the time that the move would allow the government to "re-dedicate resources".

"Basically that means money, towards readiness and towards mobilisation," Houlahan was quoted as saying by Military Times. "Rather than towards education and advertising campaigns driven to register people."

The change, however, prompted fears among some Americans that the US is moving towards a military draft if the war with Iran escalates or a crisis breaks out in the future.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt directly addressed a question on the draft and the possibility of US troops on the ground in Iran during an interview with Fox News in early March.

"It's not part of the current plan right now, but the president, again, wisely keeps his options on table," Leavitt responded. "There's no greater priority or responsibility to this president than, of course, protecting the American people and protecting our troops."

A wartime draft has been implemented by the US government six times in the country's history, most recently during the Vietnam War.

Approximately 1.8 million Americans were drafted during the war, which ultimately led to the creation of an all-volunteer military in 1973. Selective service registration was reinstated by then-President Jimmy Carter in 1980. (BBC)

'Game of Thrones' Actor Michael Patrick dies at 35



Michael Patrick, an actor who appeared in "Game of Thrones," has died after a battle with Motor Neuron Disease. He was 35.

Patrick's wife, Naomi Sheehan, shared news of his death on Instagram on Tuesday, saying he passed away after being admitted to hospice care in Northern Ireland 10 days prior. He was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease in February 2023.

"Words can't describe how broken-hearted we are," Sheehan captioned a photo of the couple on their wedding day. "He passed peacefully surrounded by family and friends."

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke,

motor neuron disease, also called MND, is a group of conditions that destroy motor neurons, which control skeletal muscle activity such as walking, breathing, speaking, and swallowing.

"There is no cure for most MNDs, although new treatments are under development," the website reads.

It remains unclear which specific type of motor neuron disease Patrick had. Patrick's final social media post came on February 6, when he revealed that a neurologist had told him he had a year to live.

"It's been said more than once that Mick was an inspiration to everyone who was privileged enough to come

into contact with him, not just in the past few years during his illness but in every day of his life," Sheehan said in the Instagram post. "Patrick lived a life as full as any human can live—joy, abundance of spirit, infectious laughter. A titan of a ginger-haired man."

Patrick studied science at the University of Cambridge and performed with the Cambridge Footlights comedy troupe. He also appeared as a Wildling rioter in "The Broken Man" and acted in season 6 of the HBO series "Game of Thrones," according to IMDb.

The actor and writer also co-wrote the BBC series "My Left Nut," based on his personal teenage experiences, which won three Royal Television Society awards and the Summerhall Lustrum award, according to his website.

His additional acting credits include appearances in three episodes of "This Town", a drama from "Peaky Blinders" creator Steven Knight, "The Spectacular", and "Blasts from the Past".

In his native country, Northern Ireland, he is known for taking the role of Richard III in a wheelchair in Shakespeare's "Richard III" according to BBC.


In the Instagram post, Sheehan shared a quote from Brendan Behan that Patrick lived: "The most important things to do in the world are to get something to eat, something to drink and somebody to love you." (NBC)



ACB SMART APP

PAYING SCHOOL FEES? IT'S AS EASY AS ACB, AND HASSLE FREE!

Use the ACB Smart App and pay fees on the go. With our instant ACB Merchant Payment or EFT Options, **we've got you covered!**

follow us on   for the list of schools

ABLP DELIVERS



One Nation. No One Left Out.

Support for Barbuda

- \$50,000 EC monthly airfare subsidy to support air travel between Antigua and Barbuda
- Lower ticket prices for passengers traveling for school, business or for families maintaining connections across both islands
- Keeping travel between Antigua and Barbuda accessible and affordable, including for small businesses relying on the movement of people and services
- Supports tourism access to Barbuda
- Ensuring that geography does not become inequality.

*Because development must reach **every citizen, everywhere.***



WE'RE BACK... STILL DANCING THE LINE

*The rhythm never stopped.
The passion never faded.
And now... we're back.*

Join us for an unforgettable evening of **movement, music, and magic** as we return to the stage – stronger, sharper, and still dancing the line between grace and power.

 **Date: Saturday 16th May 2026**

 **Time: 7:00 PM**

 **Venue: St Anthony's Secondary School, Langfords**

 **Admission: \$50**

**Come celebrate the comeback.
Feel the energy. Witness the return.**

Secure your tickets now from any LDC Antigua member—
and let's dance the line together! ✨



Matthew commends national swimmers for achievements at CARIFTA championships



Minister of Sports Honourable Daryll Matthew, right, and the national swimming team that participated in the 39th CARIFTA Swimming and Aquatics Championships in Martinique at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Sports)

Minister of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, the Honourable Daryll Matthew, has welcomed home the national swimming contingent that delivered a creditable performance at the 39th CARIFTA Swimming and Aquatics Championships in Martinique.

Matthew was among the ministry officials, who showed up at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Wednesday evening to welcome home the Antigua and Barbuda contingent that finished seventh in the medals count from a field of 24 countries that participated in the event at the Pierre Samot Community Aquatic Centre in Le Lamentin, Martinique, from April 3 to 8.

The young Antigua and Barbuda swimmers won a total of 15 medals. Madison MacMillan won two gold and two silver medals in the girls 15-17 category, Ellie Shaw claimed two gold and a silver in the girls 15-17 division, and Anya DeGannes won two gold and a silver in the girls 13-14 category as the most outstanding performers for the 14-member Antigua and Barbuda team.

In a statement, Matthew said he was “elated” to receive the team after their participation in the regional competi-

tion, noting that the swimmers demonstrated consistency and excellence throughout the meet.

He singled out Anya DeGannes for special praise, highlighting her multiple gold medal performances and record-breaking swims at the age-group level.

Matthew also recognized Madison MacMillan and Ellie Shaw, who secured gold and silver medals while delivering standout performances in their respective events.

Additional commendations were extended to Jamie Tranter and Alessandro Bazzoni for their podium finishes and record-setting swims.

Matthew also acknowledged the efforts of Kaylee Warner, Alyssa Watkins, Christopher Walter, and Selah Wiltshire, noting their determination and contribution to the team’s overall success.

The minister said the achievements were not limited to medals, pointing to a number of national and age-group records, as well as several personal best performances recorded during the championships.

He also credited the coaching staff for their role in the team’s success, citing their preparation and commitment as

key factors in the athletes’ development and results.

Matthew said the overall performance reflects the steady progress of swimming in Antigua and Barbuda and signals continued promise within the country’s young athletes.

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago won the most medals but finished third in this year’s CARIFTA Swimming and Aquatics Championships, which was won by the Bahamas.

Trinidad and Tobago achieved a medal tally of 59, including 20 gold, 19 silver, and 20 bronze. That total was more than the tally of both Barbados and the Bahamas, but the Barbadians topped the medal table by virtue of their 23 gold, while the Bahamians were second with 21.

When it came to the championship-deciding points, however, the Bahamas won the title for an eighth consecutive time with a total of 795 points. Jamaica accumulated 754.5 points to finish second, and Trinidad and Tobago came in third with 747 points.

Next year’s CARIFTA Swimming and Aquatics Championships are tentatively set for the Bahamas.

FIFA picks 52 referees for the World Cup, including 2 women



Referee Tori Penso, right, points to a penalty as Spain's Olga Carmona reacts during the final of Women's World Cup soccer between Spain and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Two women will be among the record 52 referees officiating matches at the World Cup starting in two months.

American Tori Penso and Mexican Katia Garcia were on the list of referees announced by global soccer body FIFA on Thursday for the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Three women were selected as assistant referees and one as a video match official.

It's the second time that female referees take part in a men's World Cup. In Qatar four years ago there were three female referees and three female assistant referees. Penso was the referee in the Women's World Cup final in 2023.

FIFA said appointments were made on its "long-standing 'quality first' principle."

"The fact that six women match officials have been selected continues a trend that was started four years ago in Qatar as we aim to further develop women's refereeing," referees chief Pierluigi Collina said.

FIFA said 170 match officials — 52 referees, 88 assistant referees and 30 video match officials — will take part in the tournament. That's up from 139 match officials in 2022.

The 2026 World Cup is the biggest ever, with 48 teams and 104 matches, and the first to be co-hosted by three countries.

Several referees who took part in the 2022 tournament will be back at this World Cup, including Poland's Szymon Marciniak, who refereed the final four years ago.

Missing from the list was Congolese referee Jean-Jacques Ndala, who was in charge of the chaotic Africa Cup of Nations final in January when Senegal beat Morocco in extra time. Last month, the result was stunningly overturned by African soccer's governing body and Morocco was awarded title.

Senegal has appealed to the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport and both countries claim to be African champion pending the outcome.

Sports News



ENTRY FEE
US\$110
EC\$300
(Per Person, Juniors half price)



Winner will receive 2 round-trip tickets on
Liat Air
Flights of the Caribbean
to any one of their 11 destinations!
* Conditions apply

SAT. APRIL 11 • 9AM
Cedar Valley Golf Club

Tournament format: 2 person "scramble"

NON-GOLFERS PUTTING COMPETITION!

Package Includes: One round (18 hole) green fees • One round (18 holes) cart fees. Morning snack including juice, coffee or tea from 8:30 am Antigua style Buffet Lunch. Two alcoholic drink tickets. One bottle of water per person at tee time. Free refreshment (surprise) during play. Drinks carts will be available around the course and drink tickets will be accepted.

Bookings & Enquiries: richierichsportsmanagement@gmail.com

1 268 464 7424 or 1 268 720 7424 or 1 407 385 3095

Sponsors



Proceeds in aid of Striving for Excellence Golf Academy, and the Bright Minds Project.

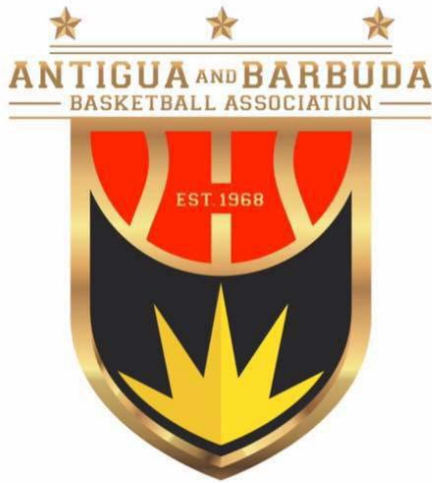


THE ABLP HAS POSITIONED ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AS A PREMIER DESTINATION FOR STAYOVER AND CRUISE TOURISM

Under the leadership of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, tourism has entered a new phase of growth, driven by major investments in airlift, cruise infrastructure, and high-value hospitality. Upgrades to V.C. Bird International Airport and the transformation of St. John's Harbour have strengthened arrivals and elevated the visitor experience, while expanded luxury resorts, targeted marketing, and global partnerships continue to position Antigua and Barbuda as a premier destination. This forward-looking approach is creating jobs, expanding opportunities, and reinforcing tourism as a key driver of national growth.



More success for Cedar Grove Gunners in Division 2 basketball



The Old Road Daggers and Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Tuesday evening.

The Daggers notched up their eighth win in 11 matches by snatching a hard-fought 83-72 victory against Square One Construction Cristos United in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Wester Batista Perez shot a game-high 24 points; Rafiki Harris sank 14 points; Craig Thomas converted 12 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; Davea Aaron provided 11 points and five rebounds; and Kwame Huntley scored 10 points and claimed six rebounds for the Daggers.

Dwayne Samuel sank 20 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Bruce Whyte converted 20 points and snatched nine rebounds; Tyndale Telemaque produced 12 points and seven rebounds; and Kirwan Peterson chipped in with 10 points, seven assists, and five rebounds for Cristos United, who remained at the bottom of the nine-team round-robin League 2 standings af-

ter suffering their 12th defeat in as many games.

The Ovals Ojays consolidated their second-place position behind unbeaten leaders Cedar Grove Gunners by claiming their 10th win in 11 matches with a commanding 91-53 victory over EZ Fit Flyers 2 in the second game on Wednesday.

Tajahron Jahri Davis provided 29 points, five assists, and five steals; Dominik Anthony produced 14

points, 11 rebounds, six assists, and five steals; Jaleyle Joseph sank 14 points and claimed six steals; and Yohhan Nicholas scored 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Ovals Ojays.

Elijah Charles produced 13 points and six assists, and David Mensah scored nine points and claimed six rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers 2, who crashed to their 10th defeat in 12 games.



ABLP DELIVERS

535 ft Superyacht Dock Constructed at Falmouth Harbor Marina

Upland Development Project

- US \$30M dollar upgrade in the waterfront
- New passenger terminal serving over 800,000 passengers annually
- Retail and dining space
- Day-club concept
- Home-porting operations allowing more efficient passenger handling
- Turning cruise growth into more local business participation



More success for Stoneville women in volleyball league



Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville have extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) Women's Division 1 League.

Stoneville claimed their third win in as many games by pulling off a 3-1 victory against Chargers Eagles 1 when the competition resumes at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

Stoneville showed their strength early, taking control of the match by winning the first two sets 25-16 and 25-15.

The Chargers Eagles responded to take the third set 25-16, but Stoneville regained momentum to close out the match by securing the fourth set 25-19. It was the second loss in

three games for Chargers Eagles 1.

Defending champions Zamine Shipping and ABI Insurance Pytonz recorded their third win in as many games after being awarded a 3-0 straight-set victory via default against Renegades in the Men's Division 1 League.

Unfortunately, Renegades were unable to field the required six players, resulting in a forfeit 25-0, 25-0, and 25-0 victory for Pytonz. It was the third loss in as many games for the Renegades.

In a previous encounter, Cool & Smooth/Joma Da Storming Lions notched up their second win in as many games with a 3-0 victory against Vernon G. Edwards Limited High Flyerz.

Da Storming Lions delivered a strong and composed performance, controlling the match from start to finish. Despite a competitive second set, they maintained their momentum to secure a 25-15, 27-25, and 25-22 victory.

The ABAVA domestic club league will continue with a triple-header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday.

Schools will face the Invaders in a men's Division 2 affair at 5:30 pm, Da Squad will take on the Jets in a women's Division 1 encounter at 7 pm, and the University of the West Indies (UWI) will clash with High Flyerz in the men's Division 1 competition at 9 pm.

Antiguans to resume battle in CONCACAF Women's Championship



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda senior women's national football team at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)

The senior national team of Antigua and Barbuda departed for Jamaica on Wednesday to resume their campaign in the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Championship, which will also serve as the confederation's qualifier for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil.

The Antiguan team face a daunting task to beat the Reggae Girls when they clash with Jamaica in their third qualifier in Group B in Kingston on Friday, April 10, at 8 pm.

The Antiguan team, who suffered 4-0 losses to Nicaragua and Guyana in their two previous matches at home at the ABFA Technical Center, will wrap up their campaign in the five-team Group B against Dominica in St. Lucia on Tuesday, April 14, at 3 pm.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has announced the national senior team (Benna Girls) squad for their final two matches in the CONCACAF women's competition.

The senior Benna Girls squad includes goalkeepers Anik Jarvis and

Serenity Colbourne, along with forwards Gabrielle De Suza, Kai Jacobs, and Keitonya Skepple.

Also included are midfielders Nafisa Quashie, Zolique Samuel, Jada Benjamin, Nicelle Drew, Zoya Simon, Virginia Simon, and Ajahna Martin, along with winger Kevoncia James.

Completing the squad are defenders Rrisha Simon, Denovia Jarvis, Jessica Powell, Abisha Henry, Karmellia Hughes, Carlene Thomas, and Deborah Weston.

The Antigua and Barbuda women's team is competing in five-team Group B alongside Jamaica, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda are among 29 CONCACAF member associations, excluding the region's two highest-ranked nations (USA and Canada), that are competing in six groups in the preliminary stage of the competition, which is being played during the FIFA Women's International Match Windows in November 2025 and February and April 2026.

The group winners will qualify for the CONCACAF Women's Championship, which will be played in November 2026, and serve as the Confederation's qualifier for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

Antigua and Barbuda senior women's national team squad: Anik Jarvis, Serenity Colbourne, Karmellia Hughes, Denovia Jarvis, Zolique Samuel, Rrisha Simon, Jada Benjamin, Abisha Henry, Carlene Thomas, Kevoncia James, Nicelle Drew, Virginia Simon, Zoya Simon, Kai Jacobs, Gabrielle DeSuza, Nafisa Quashie, Keitonya Skepple, Ajahna Martin, and Deborah Weston.

Support staff: Head Coach Astel Joseph, Assistant Coach Karen Warner, Goalkeeper Coach Nikisha Samuel, Equipment Manager Lakeisha Samuel, Trainer McLean Lawrence, Physiotherapist Jennifer Daniel, Team Manager Esther Anthony, and Safety Officer Tanya Ambrose.