

PM Browne Makes Compelling Case For ABLP's Re-Election

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PM Gaston Browne at the launch event for the ABLP 2026 Election Manifesto at AUA on Monday

PM Browne Makes Compelling Case For ABLP's Re-Election



Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made a compelling case for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party to be re-elected at next Thursday's general election portraying the party guided by principles buttressed by a proven track-record of achievements over the past eleven plus years.

Speaking at the ABLP's 2026 Election Manifesto launch on Monday at the American University of Antigua Conference Centre, PM Browne also went to lengths to distinguish the ABLP as a party populated with competent, experienced and committed men and women, compared with the UPP, a party mired in internal strife, saddled with incompetent leadership and a party without a vision. "The UPP is a bunch of people who are after personal aggrandisements," he noted.

The ABLP Political Leader painted a picture of an 'unsettled' international order with several wars and strife between nations that have reverberated negatively across the globe resulting in higher prices for oil and food prizes.

Against this backdrop, he said the nation cannot take changes with its



future and that of its people, particularly the youth.

"The world has changed. The wars in Europe and the Middle East have disrupted global supply chains, increased the cost of fuel and energy, raised shipping and insurance costs, and even driven up the prices across the world. Small states like ours do not create these conditions, but we

suffer disproportionately from them. Therefore, we must respond to them," the ABLP Leader observed.

He strongly urged the people of Antigua and Barbuda not to gamble with their future; instead they should continue their support for the ABLP with its 'proven leadership'.

"In these uncertain global times, the future of Antigua and Barbuda cannot be left to chance, or to cannibalistic failures, under-achievers and laggards. Our people deserve a government that is tried, tested and proven. A government that understands the world. A government that can defend national interests, a government that can act with discipline and judgment," he remarked.

PM Browne said this was the context within which the elections were called; not for convenience but for clarity; not for politics but for the future.

"For the government to fight strongly for the nation; our nation must have a strong government supported strongly by our people. This, is the mandate we seek – to represent the people, backed fully by the people, for the exclusive benefit of the people," he declared.

ABLP Launches 2026 Election Manifesto In 'Grand Style'



The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) launched its 2026 Election Manifesto in a highly choreography production befitting the occasion as the party has continued its focus on competence and experience heading into the April 30 general elections.

The launch ceremony took place at the American University of Antigua (AUA) Conference Centre and it featured a mixture of insightful and forward-looking speeches from selected members of the party's slate of candidates, entertainment and video presentations highlighting the party's achievements over the past eleven-plus years.

In attendance were members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, representatives from civil society

groups, members of the ABLP and representatives of the media.

As if on cue, the seventeen ABLP candidates made a grand entrance into the conference hall and after they were individually introduced, took their places on the stage.

Master of Ceremonies, Maurice Merchant, deftly guided the proceedings that included a moving opening prayer by Pastor Colin C. James and a powerful duet by Jashan Hughes and Dana Barnes performing the song, 'the impossible dream'.

The speakers were Tourism Minister, Charles Max Fernandez, who recalled the progress being made in the tourism industry, Michael George who chronicled the advances being made in providing the nation with an improved healthcare system, Maria Browne who provided a detailed reporting of the progress that is being made in improving the nation's roadways and the plans that are afoot to undertake further improvements.

ABLP Chairman, E.P Chet Greene emphasized the notion that the manifesto launch was 'an important and serious moment' in the life of the nation. In his remarks to introduce the ABLP Political Leader, Gaston Browne, Greene stated the manifesto, as a document, is 'a covenant' between the ABLP and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

In the feature address, Prime Minister Browne noted that the event represented not merely a launch of a document, but that it marked 'a defining moment' in the life of Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the speeches, the candidates interacted with members of the audience signing the manifesto, taking photographs or being interviewed by members of the media.

The launch was livestreamed on several platforms.



Antigua and Barbuda Is On Track To Record New Highs In Cruise Tourism



Antigua and Barbuda is on track to set new arrivals figures for cruise tourism as the growth from the sector continues its march into record territory.

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez relayed the good news at Monday's launch of the ABLP 2026 Election Manifesto at an event held at the American University of Antigua Conference Centre.

According to the minister, since taking office back in 2014, the ABLP has steadily transformed the tourism product, including the cruise tourism sector.

"We have also transformed our cruise tourism product. Today, our port can accommodate up to five of the world's largest cruise ships at the same time—bringing thousands of visitors to our shores and creating income and opportunity for our people.

"Cruise traffic has grown dramatically—from just over half a million passengers in 2013 to well over one million passengers today.

"But let us be clear: our vision is not tourism for tourism's sake.

- ☐ It is tourism for jobs
- ☐ Tourism for earnings
- ☐ Tourism for enterprise

"Tourism for ownership and opportunity for the people of Antigua and Barbuda," he emphasised.

But the minister's focus was not only on the developments in the cruise sector as he announced major investments are taking place in new hotel properties. Some of these projects have already started while others will commence construction in the weeks and months ahead.

"As we launch this manifesto, we are proud to say that this progress is backed by real, tangible investment—unprecedented in scale and impact," he announced.

According to Fernandez major projects are already underway, these include:

- ☐ The US\$465 million One and Only development at Half Moon Bay, creating hundreds of construction jobs and long-term employment opportunities;
- ☐ The US\$40 million Buccaneer Beach project;
- ☐ The launch of residential sales for the US\$400 million-plus Nikki Beach Residences;
- ☐ Significant investment by Nobu, with US\$70 million already com-

mitted and more to come;

- ☐ A new Marriott hotel at Yepton Beach;
- ☐ The renovation of the Jolly Beach Resort;
- ☐ The US\$55 million upgrade of the VC Bird International Airport;
- ☐ A US\$40 million waterfront development

Minister Fernandez made the point that the advances in tourism are not measured only in new hotel construction or higher arrival numbers. Instead, they are measured in the improvements in the lives of the men and women of Antigua and Barbuda.

"When tourism grows, Antigua and Barbuda grows. Because tourism is not an abstract concept. It is jobs for our people. It is income for families. It is opportunity for entrepreneurs.

"It is the taxi driver, the hotel worker, the tour guide, the restaurant owner, and the vendor—whose livelihoods depend on this sector every single day. That is why this Government has treated tourism not as an afterthought, but as a central pillar of national transformation," he declared.

Maria Browne Outlines Housing, Infrastructure Push at ABLP Manifesto Launch

Minister of Works and Housing and ABLP candidate for St. John's Rural East, Maria Browne, has outlined an ambitious agenda for continued infrastructure and housing development.

Speaking at the launch of her Party's 2026 Manifesto, Monday, Browne said she was "humbled by the responsibility" entrusted to her, while expressing pride in what she described as tangible achievements under the current administration.

"Our accomplishments in housing and infrastructure works are not theoretical. They're not mere promises. They're tangible progress you can see—progress you can drive on and progress you can call home," she declared.

The minister pointed to a series of major roadworks undertaken across the country, including upgrades to Sir George Walter Highway, Friars Hill Road, Old Parham Road, Anchorage Road, Valley Road North and Sir Sidney Walling Highway. She added that an extensive road rehabilitation programme has already reached numerous communities, improving safety and restoring a sense of pride.

While acknowledging progress, the Minister of Works and Housing stressed that there is more work to be done. She revealed that a \$100 million loan has been secured to continue nationwide road and drainage improvements, with the first drawdown expected within weeks.

"Roads are not cosmetic—they are economic lifelines. They reduce costs, improve safety, support business and connect opportunity to every doorstep," she said.

Regarding housing, Minister Browne emphasised that access to a home should be a fundamental right, describing it as "a foundation of dignity, a platform for opportunity and a pathway to generational wealth."

She highlighted the government-led "housing revolution," noting that more



homes have been constructed under the current administration than any previous government. Minister Browne outlined plans for 2026 that include at least 120 new homes through the Central Housing and Planning Authority, along with an additional 150 units in Bolans, Glanvilles and North Sound through the National Housing and Urban Renewal Company Limited.

Browne also highlighted the soon to be completed Booby Alley redevelopment project, alongside plans for new housing initiatives in St. Johnston's Village, and Cedar Valley among other communities. Expansion into Barbuda and additional developments in Bolans are also on the agenda, including condominium-style social housing.

The minister announced the introduction of a rent-to-own programme aimed at helping families who may not yet qualify for traditional mortgages.

"They will rent affordably, build equity and ultimately own their future," she explained.

Additionally, Minister Browne said the government will expand access to land ownership, with 50 acres at Mc. Pond in All Saints to be made avail-

able. Of that, 35 acres will be allocated for affordable residential plots with flexible payment options, while the remainder will be used to regularise land tenure for families.

She further pledged continued expansion of the Home Advancement Programme for the Indigent (HAPI), along with increased support for vulnerable households through repair grants and housing upgrades.

The ABLP's Saint John's Rural East candidate said the government's broader vision goes beyond physical development.

"We're not just building houses, we're building communities—communities with proper roads, drainage, sidewalks, lighting and green spaces... where families can live with pride," she said.

Framing the initiatives as part of a wider national "renaissance," Browne insisted the administration is building on proven systems rather than experimenting with new approaches.

"The proof is in the pudding. We are expanding a system that is already working," she said, urging continued public support.

A Multi-Million Euros Investment Project Is Coming To Antigua and Barbuda

A significant European-backed investment is being advanced following Cabinet approval of a comprehensive concessions package supporting the development of a premium beverage production facility in Antigua and Barbuda.

Reliable sources say the approval represents a key milestone, reflecting the Government's continued focus on attracting high-quality foreign investment and supporting sustainable industrial development.

"The project is targeting investment in the range of €3.5 million to €5 million and will establish a state-of-the-art production facility focused on premium still and sparkling water, alongside a range of beverage mixers designed for both the regional hospitality sector and export markets," the sources tell Point Express newspaper.

According to the sources the development is expected to generate approximately 150 direct jobs across production, administration and operations, while supporting more than 1,000 indirect roles in sectors including shipping, transport, logistics and port services.

"The approved concessions provide a strong foundation for the development, reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's position as a competitive and attractive destination for strategic investment.

"The next phase will include infrastructure development, equipment procurement and operational planning. Initial distribution will target Antigua's high-end tourism sector, with expansion planned across the Caribbean and into international markets," the sources reveal.

They indicated that this development represents a meaningful step in strengthening the country's manufacturing base and advancing local production within the regional beverage sector.





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Antigua and Barbuda secures increased cruise calls



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) delegation led by CEO Colin C. James and including USA Senior Business Development Manager-Partnerships, Donyelle Bird-Browne, Canada Business Development Manager-Cruise Marketing Shamo Richards and Antigua Port Authority CEO Darwin Telemaque, represented Antigua and Barbuda at Seatrade Cruise Global 2026, held April 13–16 at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Over a focused three-day schedule, the delegation engaged in 16 high-level meetings with major cruise partners including Carnival Cruise Lines, Carnival UK, Royal Caribbean Group, MSC Group, Disney Cruise Line, The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, AIDA Cruises, Emerald Cruises, Sea Cloud Cruises, Star Clippers, Marella Cruises, and Oceanus.

CEO of the ABTA Colin C. James commented “The results that we are seeing signals strong forward momentum for Antigua and Barbuda which is supported by favourable satisfaction

scores from our visiting cruise guests. Every industry partner that we engaged were excited at the recent port upgrades and the opportunities that our destination now presents for additional homeporting, LNG fuel capability, new tours and excursions, and the prospect of working closely with us to grow their business with Antigua and Barbuda.”

Antigua and Barbuda will see increased cruise calls across multiple lines, reinforcing its role as a key Eastern Caribbean port. Notably, MSC Group confirmed 12 calls in 2026, growing to 41 calls in 2027, including 13 calls from Explora Journeys, its luxury brand. The destination will also welcome a major milestone on December 7, 2026, with the maiden voyage and first revenue call of the MSC World Europa, bringing approximately 5,250 passengers to Antigua and Barbuda.

From Royal Caribbean Group, Antigua and Barbuda is projected to receive 112 calls in the next season, while Oceanus is set to deliver 52

calls annually, maintaining a weekly, year-round presence. Continued engagement with The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection further strengthens the destination’s positioning within the high-value luxury cruise segment.

In addition to increased calls, several cruise partners are actively exploring homeporting opportunities, citing Antigua and Barbuda’s strong airlift connectivity, efficient port infrastructure, and ideal geographic positioning as key considerations. Cruise executives also confirmed strategic ship redeployments to capitalize on longer Southern Caribbean itineraries that include Antigua, reflecting growing demand for the destination within regional routing.

The Antigua and Barbuda appeal continues to be reinforced by consistently strong performance metrics. Guest satisfaction scores average 88/100, with friendliness and safety identified as leading drivers of positive visitor experiences - key factors influencing cruise line deployment decisions and repeat visitation.

With a bumper season of over one million projected cruise passengers for next season and more than four hundred annual calls, Antigua and Barbuda remains focused on a value-driven growth strategy, enhancing on-island experiences through its 365 beaches, and heritage, while placing a strong emphasis on sustainability and immersive experiential cultural activities.

Regional collaboration remained a key highlight, with Antigua and Barbuda working alongside destination Montserrat, and other key public and private sector stakeholder partners to position the Eastern Caribbean as a cohesive, multi-destination experience appealing to both mass and luxury cruise segments.

Training Of Delegate Liaison Officers Intensifies

The training of volunteers who will serve as Delegation Liaison Officers during the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), is continuing as the Ministry of Foreign seeks to further explain their roles and responsibilities.

The volunteers received valuable insights from guest speakers, Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the UK Karen-Mae Hill; Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool and Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Bar-



buda, John Hamilton.

The diplomats recounted their personal experiences while attending CHOGM, spoke to cultural differences, expectations of a DLO, and general information regarding diplomacy and Commonwealth protocol.

More training is in store for the volunteers in preparation for the upcoming CHOGM to be held 1st - 4th November, 2026.

The most recent training sessions took place on the 16th and 18th April, 2026 at the Parliament and the Eustace Hill Campus respectively.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering as DLOs can apply through the link provided or contact Kurt M. Williams, Lead for DLOs at +1 268 779-5944.





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CIBC Caribbean kicks off second year search for regional unsung heroes

CIBC Caribbean has kicked off the search for unsung heroes across its 10-member regional footprint for a second year as it also announced the doubling of the prize money for this year's regional winner and runners up.

Officially relaunched last year after a 10-year hiatus, the regional bank's community outreach programme – CIBC Caribbean Unsung Heroes, attracted 39 nominees from diverse areas of community outreach and service.

“Last year's relaunch of our Unsung Heroes Programme was a resounding success, and we anticipate an even more engaging and fulfilling campaign this year as we seek to find and reward those quietly making a difference in their communities,” said Mark St. Hill, the bank's Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the bank's charitable arm, the CIBC Caribbean ComTrust Foundation, sponsor of the programme.

“In addition to our Regional Unsung Hero for 2025, Lucinda “Mini” Smith, of the British Virgin Islands, a true gem in her own right, as well as first runner up Venetta Zakers of St. Kitts and Nevis and second runner up, Joshuanette Francis of Antigua and Barbuda, the programme also highlighted national unsung heroes working across many areas ranging from care for the environment, working with at-risk youth and vulnerable women, to feeding the homeless and caring for the elderly and vulnerable,” St.Hill



CIBC Caribbean Regional Unsung Hero 2025 Lucinda “Mini” Smith (centre) flanked by Venetta Zakers (right) first runner up and Joshuanette Francis (left) second runner up along with officials from CIBC Caribbean (left to right) Kemar Polius, Janine Billy, Carl Lewis, Donna Wellington and Debra King.

said.

The bank head said the “work and worth of those striving quietly across their communities to make the lives and living spaces of others better was immeasurable” however, the bank “was keen to offer a tangible reward to our unsung heroes therefore we decided to offer increased prize money this year for our regional award winners”.

The 2026 Regional Unsung Hero will receive USD\$10 000, double last year's award, the first runner up, USD\$7 000 up from USD\$3 000 last year, and the second runner up, USD\$5 000, up from USD\$1, 500 last year.

CIBC Caribbean Unsung Heroes campaign is open to all persons aged ten and over who have been making a difference in their communities and who have not been highlighted or rewarded in any significant way.

The campaign offers two categories under which persons can be nominated - outstanding work in the community and an act of heroism/bravery/extraordinary act of kindness within the 12 months preceding the start of the year's campaign.

The nomination period runs from April to the end of July, 2026.

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Antiguan Chef Launches TOAST Seasoned Flour, Positioning Local Flavour for Export



TOAST's Founder and CEO, Shadae Williams

A new value-added food product is entering the local market as Antiguan chef and entrepreneur Shadae Williams, founder of **TOAST**, officially launches—a chef-crafted blend designed to bring bold, balanced Caribbean flavor to everyday cooking.

Produced and packaged in Antigua and Barbuda, TOAST Seasoned Flour was developed to simplify home cooking while maintaining the authenticity and depth of Caribbean cuisine. The product is designed for versatility and can be used for seafood, crispy chicken, fritters, and other traditional dishes.

“This product was created to give people confidence in the kitchen,” said Williams. “It’s about honouring how we season and cook in the Caribbean, while presenting it in a way that is consistent, convenient, and ex-

port-ready.”

TOAST Seasoned Flour is ABST-compliant, fully labeled, batch coded, and manufactured with food safety and traceability standards that support both local retail and regional export opportunities. The launch represents a step forward in positioning Antigua and Barbuda not only as a consumer of food products, but as a producer of export-ready, value-added goods.



The product is now available

in XPZ SUPERMARKET in three different flavours: Herbs & Spices for Fried Chicken, Hot & Spicy for Fried Chicken and Herbs & Spices for Fried Seafood, with plans for expansion into regional and diaspora markets later this year.

TOAST is an Antiguan-rooted food brand focused on modern convenience, cultural authenticity, and scalable food manufacturing.



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Meeting Confirmed Between Cuba and US Officials



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, center, attends a celebration marking the 65th anniversary of the proclamation declaring the Cuban Revolution socialist, in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, April 16, 2026. Credit: AP/Ramon Espinosa

Cuban officials have confirmed that a meeting is scheduled to take place between the Cuban Government and US representatives in the near future.

Reports from Havana say General Deputy Director of United States, Alejandro García del Toro spoke to Granma confirming recent press reports of the proposed meeting in the Cuban capital.

“It’s a thorny topic that, as we have said, we have managed discreetly,”

Alejandro García del Toro, general deputy director of United States affairs at Cuba’s Foreign Ministry (MINREX) confirmed from Havana.

The Cuban official confirmed that undersecretaries from the U.S. State Department met with a Cuban delegation led by a deputy minister of foreign relations.

“In the framework of the meeting, none of the sides established terms or issued warning statements as U.S.

media outlets have echoed,” García del Toro said. “The meeting was conducted in a respectful and professional manner.”

He said that for the Cuban delegation, the elimination of the energy siege is a priority. “That act of economic coercion is an unjustified punishment for the entire Cuban population. It is also blackmail at the global level against sovereign states, which have the right to export fuel to Cuba, under free trade norms.”

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Antigua Classics Regatta bucks Caribbean trend with 30% growth



By Zoë Carlton

While much of the island hums with election fever, English Harbour has been tuned to something else entirely. No speeches, no slogans — just the crack of halyards, the creak of rigging, and crews getting on with the business of sailing.

And in 2026, while much of the Caribbean sailing circuit is shrinking, Antigua's Classics Regatta is doing the unthinkable: it is growing.

The Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta has recorded a 30% increase in entries, rising from 36 boats in 2025 to 48 racing in 2026, with 58 originally entered before early mishaps and breakages reduced the fleet. In a changing sailing landscape, that growth stands out — not just for the regatta, but for Antigua itself.

Sailing remains one of the island's most important tourism pillars, and events like the Classics Regatta play a vital role. Crews, owners and supporters fill hotels, restaurants and marinas, contributing directly to the local economy.

"The boats come for the racing, but they stay for everything else — and that's where Antigua really benefits," one local business owner observed.

Often overshadowed by the scale of



Antigua Sailing Week, the Classics Regatta is proving that a different model of sailing still resonates — particularly here at home.

Local boats, local strength

Among a strong international fleet, Antigua is far from a supporting act. After four days of racing, local boats have been firmly in the mix, combining experience, instinct and deep familiarity with these waters. Antiguan entries including Freya, Bunglebird, Blue Peter and Petrana led their class-

es throughout the week, finishing at the top of the overall leaderboard.

New Moon, the striking Carriacou sloop crewed by young Antiguan sailors, embodies that local energy. Agile and assured, her crew move with an ease that speaks to time on the water rather than time in the rulebook.

"It felt like we were fighting the sea — and it was so wet!" laughed first-time sailor Demario, still grinning after his debut race.

Another local sailor put it more simply: "This is our water. You feel it differently when you've grown up here."

A regatta that fits the island

Across the Caribbean, regattas are adjusting to rising costs, increasingly technical racing, and shifting expectations. Antigua's Classics Regatta has not resisted that change — it has quietly redefined itself.

Here, the focus rests on the boats, and the kind of sailing they demand. These are vessels that reward patience, balance and feel. They cannot be rushed.

"These boats teach you to slow down and get it right," one crew member said. "You feel everything."

Behind the scenes — and part of the story

Event coordinator Robyn Stout be-

lieves the atmosphere is as much a draw as the racing.

“The wind gods blessed us. It brings together a special community of people who love old boats — and boy, can they party!”

She and her husband, Mike Stout, attribute the rise in entries to sustained international promotion and a growing social media presence.

“It’s increasingly being seen as a bucket-list event,” Mike said, noting that many crews now rebook before leaving Antigua — some even planning to keep their boats here year-round.

Volunteer Nick, said “[the regatta] was on my bucket list and I saw an ad on the website for volunteers. I am so glad I came. It’s my first visit to Antigua; I will definitely be back.”

More than numbers

The increase in entries reflects more than growth. It signals a shift in what sailors — and sponsors — are looking for.

From century-old wooden hulls to newer “Spirit of Tradition” designs, the fleet spans more than a century of craftsmanship. These boats are not preserved behind glass, but sailed — hard, often, and with intent.

That appeal is drawing commercial interest. Organisers report growing attention from international sponsors, attracted by the regatta’s strong visual identity, distinctive character and loyal, high-value audience.

“Other regattas are getting smaller,” one returning skipper noted. “This one’s getting bigger and better — and people are starting to notice.”

Not overlooked — just sailing a different course

As the sun sets over Nelson’s Dockyard, the rhythm shifts. Lines are eased, conversations stretch, and the day’s racing is replayed over rum and music. The boats lie at anchor, never entirely still.

Antigua has already begun adapting



to a changing sailing landscape. The 2026 calendar has been restructured, with Antigua Sailing Week split into two parts — the Antigua Racing Cup followed by a reimagined Sailing Week — in an effort to rebuild participation and broaden appeal. Within that evolving scene, the Classics Regatta has quietly strengthened its position.

If Sailing Week remains the headline act, the Classics offer something more enduring — an event rooted in heritage, yet increasingly relevant to the future of Caribbean sailing.

The final parade of sail — 48 vessels moving slowly and majestically into the Dockyard — is a striking remind-

er of the event’s appeal. In 2026, as others count fewer boats on their start lines, Antigua’s Classics Regatta is doing something quietly remarkable: growing, not by chasing change, but by holding its course. This challenge is to do so while keeping the tradition.

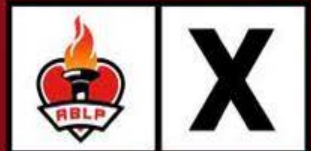
One wonders—half seriously—whether there might come a moment, late one evening over rum in English Harbour, when a small group of sailors decides that things have become just a little too modern again. That perhaps it is time, once more, for a new classics regatta.



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Jessica Serena Tracey proudly represents St. John's Rural North, carrying with her the vibrant spirit of McKinnons Village and the resilience that defines her journey.

A dynamic entrepreneur, dancer, and youth advocate, Jessica has used every chapter of her life to grow in purpose, leadership, and service. From excelling as a student leader to building businesses and mentoring through dance, she embodies determination, creativity, and faith.

Her passion for youth development, entrepreneurship, and community upliftment continues to inspire those around her. Grounded in service and guided by purpose, Jessica stands as a confident, compassionate, and empowered ambassador for the proud people of St. John's Rural North.



Jessica Tracey
ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH

Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Julissa Stoute proudly represents St. Paul as a vibrant 20-year-old university student whose poise, passion, and purpose set her apart.

She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management at The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, specializing in Tourism and Hospitality Management. A past student of Old Road Primary School and Antigua Girls' High School, Julissa built a strong foundation in leadership, discipline, and creativity.

Her love for the performing arts earned her a Grade One in dramatic presentation. Ambitious and driven, she aspires to make a meaningful impact in tourism and hospitality while proudly showcasing Caribbean culture on the global stage.

Julissa Stoute
ST. PAUL



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT



Aliyah Andrew, a proud resident of St. John's Rural East and first-year Law student at the University of London, is driven by a passion for justice and national development.

As a Junior Paralegal and active member of JCI Antigua, she is committed to advocacy, youth empowerment, and nation-building. Representing her constituency and the Honourable Maria Browne in the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen Pageant 2026, Aliyah returns to the stage with confidence and purpose.

Her platform addresses absentee fatherhood and its impact on child development, as she champions stronger families and brighter futures for every child.

✦ A voice for change. A vision for impact.

Aliyah Andrew
ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT



Queenela Williams proudly represents St. Mary's South with creativity, confidence, and cultural pride.

A dynamic performer and dedicated member of the National Youth Theatre, she uses the stage to connect, inspire, and tell meaningful stories. Her artistic journey began at Antigua Girls' High School and has since earned her regional recognition, including awards for acting excellence and appearances at CARIFESTA. Beyond performance, Queenela works in customer service and is a local entrepreneur whose handcrafted earrings celebrate individuality and Caribbean identity.

Deeply committed to service, self-love, and personal growth, she continues to uplift her community while aspiring to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and expand her creative impact.

Queenela Williams
ST. MARY'S SOUTH



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT

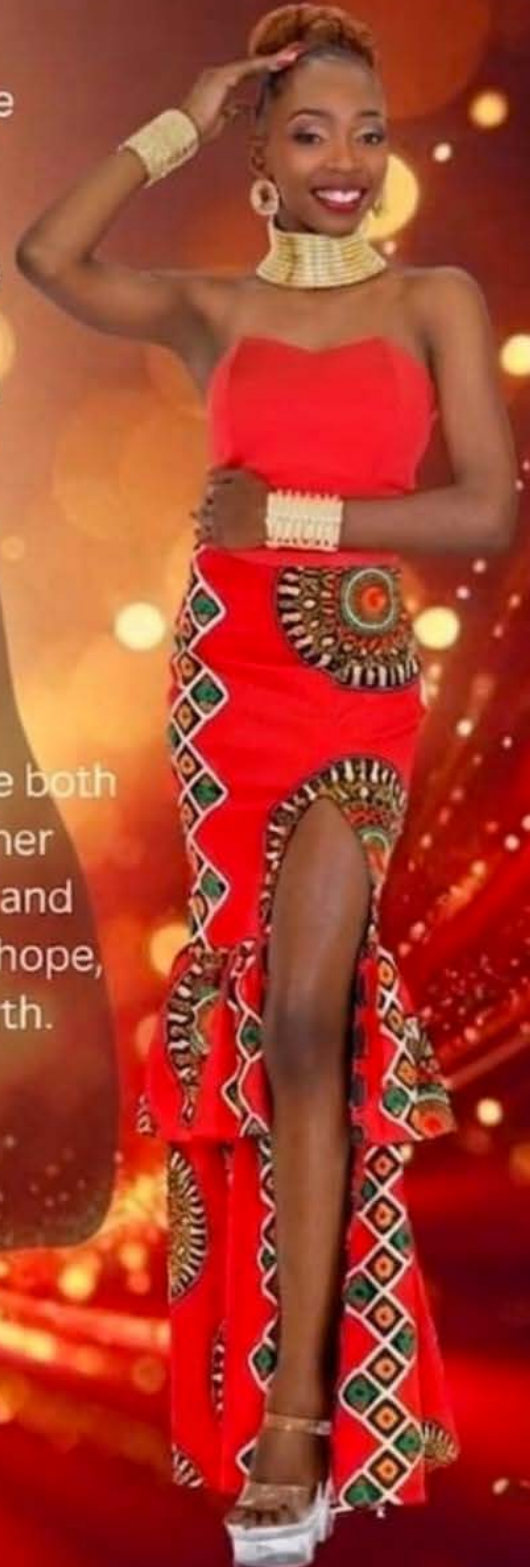


Iszarea Lloyd proudly represents St. Phillip's North as a young woman of purpose, resilience, and quiet strength.

Born on August 30, 2005, she is a proud graduate of Glanvilles Secondary School, where she emerged as Valedictorian, and is currently pursuing Social Sciences at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. Though naturally quiet and observant, Iszarea possesses a vibrant spirit and a heart deeply committed to service.

Passionate about cooking, singing, sports, photography, and reading, she aspires to become both an interior designer and photographer. Through her platform, she advocates for youth development and mental health awareness, determined to inspire hope, healing, and a stronger future for St. Phillip's North.

Iszarea Lloyd
ST. PHILLIPS NORTH



Regional News



SVG secures U.S. \$20M loan from OPEC fund

In a significant move to protect its citizens and environment from the increasing threats of climate change, the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has secured a US\$20 million loan from the OPEC Fund for International Development.

The agreement, signed on the sidelines of the World Bank Meetings, marks a critical step in the nation's Disaster Risk Management Program. The loan was finalized by Dr. Godwin Friday, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and OPEC Fund President Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa.

As an island nation on the frontlines of climate change, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines faces unique vulnerabilities. This new funding is specifically earmarked to strengthen national capacity for disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation. By enhancing these areas, the government aims to create a more robust infrastructure capable of withstanding the volatile weather patterns associated with a



warming planet.

The program places a heavy emphasis on the conservation and responsible management of natural resources. Officials noted that safeguarding these environmental assets is vital, as they sustain both the local population and

the national economy.

This initiative is fully aligned with the government's National Economic and Social Development Plan, ensuring that disaster resilience is woven into the broader fabric of the country's growth. (St Vincent Times)

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99



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



PM blames poorly planned infrastructure for last Friday's gridlock



A commute from New Kingston to the foot of Red Hills — usually a 20-minute drive with no traffic, or 40-60 minutes in peak hours — took one motorist three hours last Friday evening while another motorist reported moving only five car lengths in an hour on Eastwood Park Road shortly after 5:00 pm.

This was the reality which faced many commuters in a gridlock across sections of the Corporate Area from shortly after 4:00 pm to sometime after 7:00 pm.

Several factors have been blamed for the traffic snarl, including the rains which lashed much of the capital city Friday afternoon, construction work in some areas, and the many potholes which dot the streets.

But Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has put the blame somewhere else.

“The recent traffic gridlock that

we experienced is...a symptom of not just poorly planned infrastructure, but aged infrastructure — an infrastructure that simply cannot meet the demands in place,” said Holness as he addressed the National Housing Trust (NHT) 50th anniversary thanksgiving service at Webster Memorial United Church in St Andrew on Sunday.

According to Holness, that is why under his Administration the NHT is shifting its focus towards large-scale, master plan developments.

“Not small, fragmented interventions but coordinated, large-scale solutions. Not just housing units, but communities. Not just small developments, individualised and incremental, but planning at scale, coordinated and integrated.

“We must build with resilience in mind. That means stronger building standards. It means better land use planning. It means relocating development away from high-risk

zones, and it means ensuring that every new home built today can withstand the realities of tomorrow,” added Holness.

He pointed out that the Government has made a commitment for 70,000 new houses with the NHT at the forefront of that push.

“The NHT has an obligation to deliver 41,000 of those. Once those are delivered, then we are going to pivot and we are going to start focusing on infilling the existing communities that have been built 50 years ago. They need repair. The sewage plants are not working. The roads are in potholes. Many of those houses, we may have to knock them down and put up new structures there,” said Holness.

He pointed out that the NHT will invest approximately \$50 billion in housing development, alongside an additional \$21 billion in subsidies to support affordability in the coming financial year.

Holness reiterated his position that Jamaica’s housing challenge is a matter of supply and not necessarily just access to finance for homebuyers.

“Increasing loan limits without increasing supply only drives up prices. The real constraint has been land, infrastructure, approvals, and construction capacity. The next major development in this regard, the Greater Inwood Development, will be led by the NHT as a model of integrated planning and execution. This is the direction in which Jamaica must go,” declared Holness. (Jamaica Observer)

Singer Patrice Roberts ordered to pay up in dispute with former Canadian management

Trinidad's High Court has finally settled a years-long dispute between Soca star Patrice Roberts and her former management team, with a decision shedding light on the risks of informal business deals in the entertainment industry.

According to The Caribbean Camera, the April 7 ruling, ordering the artiste to compensate the company, brings closure to a matter that dates back more than a decade and centers on payments for services provided during a brief professional partnership.

Justice Robin Mohammed, who presided over the case, determined that Soca Bookings Incorporated—a company based in Canada—is entitled to US\$35,472. This amount covers work carried out between 2015 and 2017, as well as cash advances made to support Roberts' career. While the company's contractual claim had gaps, the court still found the figure to be reasonable compensation for the services delivered.

At the same time, the court ruled that the company must repay US\$10,367.88 to Roberts. This sum represents earnings from digital music sales that were collected on her behalf during the management period. Both amounts are subject to interest, and the court allowed them to be offset against each other.

However, an additional claim of US\$11,600 related to a music video production was dismissed due to a lack of evidence proving the expense was actually incurred.

The article explained that the dispute stemmed from a verbal agree-



ment made in February 2015.

Under that arrangement, the company handled bookings, branding, recording coordination, and international promotion for the artiste. Although both parties agreed that a deal existed, the court reportedly found that key details were never clearly outlined, including when management fees were supposed to be paid.

Justice Mohammed sided with Roberts on this point, stating, "The management fees were only payable once the venture became profitable and the Claimant has not established that that threshold was ever reached."

Still, the publication says that the judge made it clear that Roberts could not benefit from the company's work without paying for

it. He noted that she had been the sole financial beneficiary from the arrangement and should therefore compensate the company on equitable grounds.

After balancing what each side owed, the court concluded that Roberts must pay a reduced sum of US\$25,104.12, along with TT\$26,983.7 in legal costs.

In wrapping up the case, Justice Mohammed pointed out that the situation highlights the dangers of unwritten agreements, emphasizing that clearer contracts could have avoided such a lengthy legal battle.

Roberts has taken the stage at Dominica's World Creole Music Festival several times, the latest being in 2023. (Dominica News Online)

U.S. military strike on alleged drug boat kills 3 in Caribbean Sea

The U.S. military said it launched another strike on a boat accused of ferrying drugs in the Caribbean Sea, killing three people Sunday.

The Trump administration's campaign of blowing up alleged drug-trafficking vessels in Latin American waters has persisted since early September and killed at least 181 people in total. Other strikes have taken place in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Despite the Iran war, the series of strikes have ramped up again in the past week or so, showing that the administration's aggressive measures to stop what it calls "narcoterrorism" in the Western Hemisphere are not letting up. The military has not provided evidence that any of the vessels were carrying drugs.

The attacks began as the U.S. built up its largest military presence in the region in generations and came months ahead of the raid in January that captured then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. He was brought to New York to face drug trafficking charges and has pleaded not guilty.

In the latest attack Sunday, U.S.



Southern Command repeated previous statements by saying it had targeted the alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes. It posted a video on X showing a boat moving along the water before a massive explosion engulfs the vessel in flames.

President Donald Trump has said the U.S. is in "armed conflict" with cartels in Latin America and has jus-

tified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States and fatal overdoses claiming American lives. But his administration has offered little evidence to support its claims of killing "narcoterrorists."

Critics, meanwhile, have questioned the overall legality of the boat strikes. (AP)

ELECTION DAY
Thursday,
30 April

"In times like these, let us keep strong, steady leadership."

RENAISSANCE
A New Era of Progress and Development

Eight children dead in US domestic violence shooting



Eight children were killed in a shooting spree early Sunday in the southern US state of Louisiana in what police said appears to have been an incident of domestic violence.

The incident, which took place just after 6:00 am in the city of Shreveport, was the deadliest mass shooting in the United States in more than two years, according to data from the Gun Violence Archive.

The gunman, who was not immediately identified but was an adult male, was fatally shot after a car chase and interaction with police, officials said.

Mayor Tom Arceneaux told CNN that it was not clear if the assailant died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound or from police fire. No officers were injured in the incident, according to state police.

Police Corporal Chris Bordelon told

a press conference that the “rather extensive crime scene” spanned three residences, which were being combed for evidence by investigators.

The deceased ranged in age from one to 14, Bordelon said.

“Some of the children inside were his descendants,” he added.

“We do believe him to be the only individual that fired gunshots at these locations,” Bordelon said, calling the incident a “domestic disturbance”.

Arceneaux told CNN that the gunman had some kind of relationship with two women, who had also shot, but the extent of those links is not yet known.

“The two women are in very, very critical condition so we’re not able to get information from them,” he said.

ABC affiliate KTBS reported that the two women were shot in the head.

In total, nine children were at the second residence visited by the gunman. One survived and was in hospital with a non-life-threatening injury, Arceneaux said.

Police said more details about the victims and the gunman would be released pending notification of next of kin. (Jamaica Observer)



AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1
THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

North Korea again tests cluster munitions in a launch observed by Kim and his daughter

North Korea said Monday it test-launched ballistic missiles with cluster bomb warheads in the second such test this month, likely underscoring its push to expand its capabilities to penetrate U.S. and South Korean defenses.

The report by the North's official Korean Central News Agency appeared to refer to the multiple ballistic missile launches South Korea, Japan and the United States detected Sunday off North Korea's east coast.

KCNA photos showed North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his teenage daughter, both wearing black leather jackets, watching from a coastal observation point as a projectile soared over the water, trailing gray smoke. South Korea's spy service recently assessed that the daughter, reportedly named Kim Ju Ae, could be considered Kim's heir.

Kim oversaw the launches of five upgraded surface-to-surface Hwasong-11 Ra ballistic missiles with cluster bomb warheads and fragmentation mine warheads, KCNA said.

The missiles struck an island target and Kim expressed satisfaction over the launches, saying "It is of weighty significance in military actions to boost the high-density striking capability," according to KCNA.

In the earlier launch this month, North Korea tested Hwasong-11 Ka surface-to-surface ballistic missiles with cluster bomb warheads that it said "can reduce to ashes any target covering an area of 6.5-7 hectares (16 to 17.2 acres)."



North Korea has tested cluster bomb warheads before. But observers say the Iran war may have prompted North Korea to display that it has cluster munitions and accelerate efforts to develop better ones.

The destructiveness of cluster munitions has been highlighted in the ongoing war, with Israel accusing Iran of using such weapons to challenge the country's stretched air defenses. The warheads burst open at high altitudes, scattering dozens of smaller bomblets across a wide area that are difficult to intercept.

More than 120 countries have signed an international treaty banning the use of cluster munitions, but North Korea, Iran, Israel and the United States are not among them.

North Korea has been pushing to expand its nuclear arsenal and acquire an array of high-tech weapons since Kim's nuclear diplomacy

with U.S. President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019. Among them are multi-warhead nuclear missiles, hypersonic weapons and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, whose possessions would sharply increase prospects for North Korea defeating U.S. and South Korean missile defenses.

Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire to restore diplomacy with Kim, and the North Korean leader has recently left open the door for dialogue with Trump but urged Washington to drop demands for the North's nuclear disarmament as a precondition for talks.

Trump is to travel to Beijing for a rescheduled summit with Xi Jinping in May. Some observers said North Korea's recent testing activities were most likely meant to increase its leverage in future dealings with the U.S., as the Trump-Xi meeting could provide a diplomatic opening with Pyongyang. (NBC)

Fire destroys 1,000 homes in a Malaysian coastal village on Borneo Island



A fire that tore through a Malaysian coastal settlement on Borneo Island destroyed about 1,000 homes and displaced over 9,000 people, authorities said.

The fire started early Sunday in the Sandakan district and spread rapidly through rows of wooden houses constructed on stilts above the sea, according to the fire and rescue department.

Officials said strong winds and the close proximity of the structures helped fuel the fire, while narrow access routes and low tide conditions made it harder for emergency crews to reach affected areas and contain the flames.

No deaths have been reported, though thousands of residents have been forced from their homes and moved to temporary shelter.

Water villages — informal settlements built over the sea — are found along much of the coastline of Sabah, one of the poorest states in Malaysia. The homes are tightly packed, made from wood and other combustible materials, and often lack basic infrastructure. Many residents are from low-income or marginalized communities, including Indigenous groups and people without formal citizenship status.

Village head Sharif Hashim Sharif Iting was cited by Sabah's Daily Ex-

press newspaper as saying the cause was a cooking fire that got out of control. The cause of the fire has not been confirmed and remains under investigation.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said federal and state agencies were coordinating relief efforts, with immediate assistance focused on displaced families.

Fires in Sabah's water villages have occurred repeatedly over the years. Sabah authorities have long acknowledged that water villages are highly fire-prone, but broader safety upgrades to such settlements remain an ongoing challenge. (AP)



Red & REDDY



SUNDAY
26
APRIL

MEGACADE

📍 RISING SUN GROUNDS

ISLAND WIDE

THIS SUNDAY

START TIME **11:00AM**

Guydadli Jets capture Second Division League title



Players of the Guydadli Jets football team

The Guydadli Jets have clinched the Second Division League title in the current Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) domestic season.

The Guydadli Jets secured the title and clinched one of the two automatic promotion spots to compete in next season's First Division in their penultimate match of the current season with a 1-1 draw with Police at the St. Johnstone Village Stadium.

Both goals came in the first half, with Jenson Samuel putting Police ahead with a conversion in the second minute. Michael Peters snatched the equalizer for Guydadli Jets by converting the rebound after his penalty kick was saved by the Police goalkeeper in the 23rd minute.

The result allowed the Guydadli Jets to attain an unassailable 48 points, with one game remaining against fourth-placed Sea View Farm FC at Sea View Farm on Friday, April 24.

It also allowed Police to remain in fifth place on goal difference by advancing to 39 points, the same as Sea View Farm FC.

Police will play their final match of the season against Point West Ham at Radio Range on Friday, April 24.

The Young Lions of Old Road clinched the other automatic promotion spot to compete in next season's First Division by finishing in the runners-up spot in the Second Division.

The Young Lions achieved the feat by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Sea View Farm FC at Old Road in their final match of the season to finish with 48 points from their quota of 19 matches.

The goals were scored by Zavier Joseph with a strike in the 13th minute and Tarrick Carty with a 24th-minute conversion.

Glanvilles FC was awarded a 3-0 victory via default against the Young Warriors, who failed to show up for

their encounter at Buckleys.

The result allows Glanvilles FC to advance to 22 points from 17 matches, while the Young Warriors remain third from the bottom of the standings with six points from 16 matches.

Glanvilles FC have two matches remaining. Glanvilles will play their penultimate match of the season when they face Point West Ham at Glanvilles on Wednesday and will wrap up their campaign against Fort Road FC at Fort Road on Saturday, April 25.

The Young Warriors have three matches remaining. The Young Warriors tackle Herberts United FC at St. Johnstone Village Stadium on Wednesday.

The Young Warriors will play their penultimate match against the Libertas Blackhawks at Buckleys on Monday, April 27, and will wrap up their campaign with an encounter against Fort Road FC on Friday, May 1.

Lions stay unbeaten in Super40 Championship

Caribbean Motor Works (CMW) New Winthorpes Lions have maintained their unbeaten run in defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Championship.

The Lions recorded their fifth win in as many matches with a four-wicket victory against the PIC Insurance Blackhawks at New Winthorpes on Sunday.

The Blackhawks were dismissed for 135 in 28.5 overs after being sent in to bat. Michael Greaves hit 35, while Demari Benta bagged five for 26.

The Lions achieved victory by scoring 138 for six off 29 overs. Captain Nino Henry hit an unbeaten 36 off 13 balls, including five sixes and a four. It was the second loss in five matches for the Blackhawks.

Empire Nation also maintained their unbeaten run, securing their fourth win in five matches with a crushing 210-run victory over the Jennings Tigers at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Zianni Da Silva smashed a century as Empire Nation made 302 all out in 36.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Da Silva slammed 125 off 94 balls, including 10 sixes and eight fours.

Damian Lowenfield hit a run-a-ball 51, and Mavendra Dindyal struck 34. Xavier Freeland captured three for 59.



Uri Smith

In reply, the Jennings Tigers tumbled to 92 all out in 17.5 overs. Leg-spinner Micah McKenzie snapped up four wickets for nine runs.

The Pigotts Crushers claimed their third win in five matches by coasting to a seven-wicket victory over the Bethesda Golden Eagles at Pigotts.

The Bethesda Golden Eagles were bundled out for 111 in 31.3 overs. Opener Shacoy Floyd hit 42, while captain Uri Smith bagged four for 19.

The Pigotts Crushers achieved victory by scoring 113 for three in 13.1 overs. Uri Smith hit an unbeaten 36, while pacer Jawakie Joseph claimed three for 41.

The All Saints Pythons recorded their second win in five matches by snatching a one-wicket victory over WES Rising Sun Spartans at Rising Sun. The Rising Sun Spartans made 167 all out in 33.4 overs.

Captain Kerry Mentore hit 60 off 50 balls, including four sixes and six fours. Antwone Willock captured three for 56.

The Pythons achieved victory by scoring 169 for nine in 27.5 overs. Kenrick Scott hit 41. Samuel Peters bagged four for 56, and Jakeem Pollard claimed three for 29.

Tertiary Institutions and Schools claimed their first win in five matches with a 47-run victory against the Bolans Blasters at the Factory Grounds.

Tertiary Institutions and Schools were dismissed for 208 in 38.2 overs. Captain Kaivalya Mishra hit an unbeaten 88, and opener Hosea Roberts cracked 69. Orlando Peters claimed three for 33.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed for 162 in 28 overs. Orlando Peters cracked an unbeaten 78 off 38 balls, including six sixes and five fours. Xanden Hobson grabbed four for 34.



Curry House

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

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Police reach Sir Riche ACB Caribbean Parish League final



Brian Moses hit 36, and Rolston Triss Phillip scored 20. Jamaul Fernandez captured five for 39, and Keif Baltimore claimed three for 40.

Sea View Farm defeated Mahico by nine wickets. Mahico made 108 for nine off 29 overs. Dwayne Fordyce bagged four for 12, and Winter took two for 14.

Sea View Farm achieved victory by scoring 110 for one in 20 overs. Rolston Triss Phillip slammed an unbeaten 57, and Dwayne Fordyce hit 24 not out.

Police have advanced to the final of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Sir Richie Richards Limited Overs Competition.

Police booked their spot in the final by finishing with the most points at the top of the preliminary round standings.

Mahico and Pigotts will clash in a one-off semi-final playoff on Saturday, April 25, with the winner advancing to the final to face Police.

In the final round of preliminary round matches, Police beat Stingray City Seatons by 68 runs. Jeron Jones slammed 101 to guide the Police to 189 for five. Clarence Frederick claimed two for 31.

In reply, Seatons crashed to 121 all out. Nigel Hector struck 29, while Lashorn Barnard bagged four for 18.

Pigotts defeated Freetown by 49 runs. Ozan Williams hammered 80, and Samuel struck 55 to guide Pigotts to 188 for seven.

In reply, Freetown crashed to 139 all out. Jamaul Fernandez struck 30, and Vance Nathaniel made 15. Stephan Matthew claimed three for 10.

Freetown overcame Sea View Farm by 28 runs at Sea View Farm. Keif Baltimore hit 44 as Freetown made 110. Marvin Singh claimed three for 17, and Dwayne Fordyce took two for 11.

Sea View Farm tumbled to 82 all out.

→

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



Tennis duo Sabalenka and Alcaraz sweep top Laureus honours



Carlos Alcaraz poses with his Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award during the 2026 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 20, 2026. (AP)

MADRID (Reuters) - Tennis ruled the red carpet in Madrid on Monday as Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz were crowned Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year at the Laureus Awards.

The pair were honoured after glittering 2025 campaigns that saw them finish atop the women's and men's tennis rankings respectively.

Spaniard Alcaraz, 22, reclaimed the year-end world number one spot after capturing two Grand Slam titles at the French Open and US Open, underlining his supremacy across surfaces.

Belarusian Sabalenka, 27, meanwhile, stood alongside him in the winners' circle in New York and also

reached the final in Australia and France, capping a season of relentless consistency.

With her triumph, Sabalenka joins a roll call of Laureus Sportswoman of the Year recipients from her sport, including Serena Williams, Jennifer Capriati, Justine Henin, and Naomi Osaka.

In a first for the awards, the ceremony was hosted by two athletes — both former Laureus winners — Novak Djokovic and Eileen Gu. Last year's top honours went to gymnast Simone Biles and pole-vaulter Mondo Duplantis.

Elsewhere, Rory McIlroy claimed the World Comeback of the Year Award

after ending an 11-year wait to complete the career Grand Slam with a playoff victory at the 2025 Masters, a title he defended in 2026.

Formula One's Lando Norris was named World Breakthrough of the Year, while Paris St. Germain took World Team of the Year after a trophy haul in 2025 that included the French league and Cup plus their first Champions League crown.

The Laureus World Sports Awards nominees are selected by the global media, while the winners are determined by the 69 members of the Laureus World Sports Academy.

The awards have been presented annually since 2000.

Flyers close in on retaining ABBA's Division 1 League title



Players of the EZ Fit Flyers

The EZ Fit Flyers moved a step closer to retaining the Division 1 League title for the third consecutive year in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

The Flyers, who are also the reigning three-peat Division 1 playoff champions, overtook Da Project at the top of the eight-team round-robin league competition by recording their 10th win in 13 games with a 77-67 victory over the JSC Red Hawks in the first game of a double-header.

TJ Williams produced 16 points, five rebounds, and five assists; Nicholas Moore sank 14 points and grabbed 17 rebounds; Adonis Humphreys converted 13 points and

claimed 13 rebounds; Daniel Perez scored 12 points; and Kwame Brathwaite chipped in with 10 points for the Flyers.

Cohen Desouza shot a game-high 18 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Andre Burnett produced 16 points, seven rebounds, five assists, and five steals; Kymani Powell sank 16 points and claimed seven rebounds; and Nickon McGregor scored 12 points and snatched five rebounds for the Red Hawks.

The result means that the Red Hawks have ended their league campaign in sixth place with a record of seven wins and seven losses, the same as fifth-placed Cuties Ovals Ojays.

The result also means that Da Project have slipped from first to second

place, having completed their quota of 14 round-robin league matches with a record of 10 wins and four losses.

The Flyers can clinch this year's title with a victory over the bottom team, Navigators, in the final league game of the season on Tuesday (today) at 8:30 pm.

The Navigators, who are winless, will go into the last game of their league campaign at the bottom of the standings, having lost all 13 previous encounters.

The Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz clinched third place by securing their 10th win from their quota of 14 matches with a 101-82 drubbing of Daryll Matthew Ottos in their final league outing in Sunday's second encounter.

Joshua Minner shot a game-high 36 points and claimed seven rebounds; Daquan Williams sank 20 points; Jaheem James converted 11 points; and Alexis Jackson scored 10 points and snatched nine rebounds for the Stingerz.

Nick Strawter sank 25 points; Danny Perez converted 15 points and snatched five steals; Pindo Drammeh produced 13 points, 18 rebounds, and seven blocks; Christian Walker scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds; and Ziven Clarke chipped in with 11 points and six rebounds for Ottos.

It means that Ottos ended their league campaign in fourth place with a record of nine wins and five losses.