

Sandals Announces US\$100 Million Expansion

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Chinese ambassador Jiang Wei (centre in green) poses with members of the Antigua and Barbuda China Students Association

Sandals Announces US\$100 Million Expansion

The Sandals Group is currently in discussions with the government detailing plans to invest a further US\$100 million in expansion to include several ‘over-the-water’ bungalows.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made the announcement as he reported on the wide-ranging discussions between the government and the team from Sandals Resort.

“Sandals has applied to do an expansion by adding over 100 rooms where they will spend over US\$100 million that will include 16 over the water bungalows. What we have said to them is that they cannot build the bungalows in the middle of the beach; so they will be going southwards towards ‘The Groin’ so that they do not impede the use of the beach by other users,” he reported.

PM Browne also indicated that the discussions included issues surrounding taxes, a source of contention between the government and the hotel in recent years.

“We have settled on an amount of \$6.5 million which the hotel will pay into the government shortly. I believe that they have already placed the amount in escrow. I can now report that this is now a settled matter as it is now up to the attorneys to complete the agreement,” he indicated.


The discussions also touched on staff issues at the hotel especially on the issue of staff remuneration, a matter close to the prime minister’s heart. However, he reported that the hotel has assured him that based on the system that they use, entry level staff can make over \$4,000.00 per month when gratuities are added to the \$2,600.00 basic pay.

“That was shocking to me! If indeed entry level staff at Sandals are making that type of money, that is decent and other hotels ought to be emulating Sandals,” he suggested.




The prime minister also recommended to Sandals that they establish a crèche to accommodate those members of staff with children so that these individuals are not placed in a disadvantageous position.


According to the prime minister the resort management has agreed to the suggestion and made a commitment to explore establishing such a facility as soon as possible.



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Ready, Set, Go For New Carnival Stage



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has announced the successful completion of the installation of Antigua Carnival's new state-of-the-art stage and roof system,

marking a major milestone in preparations for Antigua Carnival 2026.

The new stage, measuring up to **115 feet long by 50 feet wide**, is currently configured at **105 feet by 50 feet**,

making it one of the largest and most versatile staging systems in the Eastern Caribbean.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne recently conducted a walkthrough of Carnival City and expressed his satisfaction with the progress. *"This goes beyond Carnival. We are building out the creative industries that can make our people competitive in a global society,"* said Prime Minister Browne, noting that the stage will also be utilized for major national events, including the upcoming CHOGM Super Concert.

Minister of Creative Industries and Carnival, Dwayne George, *"I am so proud and happy to be working alongside my ABFC team. It is a solid, competent team. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to deliver Antigua Carnival, the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival, as a world-class production, truly touches my heart. It is a lot of work, and I am pleased to be working alongside them, doing my part."*

ABFC Chairperson Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul noted, *"I am very pleased to report that we are well ahead of schedule with the building out of Carnival City. The stage and roof are complete, and our next focus is enhancing the overall venue in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision for the space."*

The stage and roof were erected by **Sound 2000**, with local technicians receiving hands-on training throughout the installation process. Managing Director **Earl "Churchie" York** described the structure as a game-changer for Antigua and Barbuda. *"Antigua can boast of having the largest and most modern stage and roof system in the Eastern Caribbean. Its unique design allows it to be configured into three different sizes while keeping speaker towers,*

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screens, motor walls and technical infrastructure integrated under the roof. With proper maintenance, this investment can serve Antigua for the next 10 to 15 years. Antigua is leading the region.”

Over the weekend, the ABFC hosted a comprehensive site walkthrough with key stakeholders, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Carnival, ABFC Board Members and Team Members, the Director and Deputy

Director from the Ministry of Works, and the Venue Manager of Antigua Recreation Grounds. During the visit, the Prime Minister issued a clear mandate to further enhance Carnival City through venue upgrades, including improved seating, lighting, murals, landscaping, and other aesthetic enhancements designed to create a softer, more welcoming experience for patrons.

As construction continues, the ABFC

remains committed to delivering a modern world-class Carnival City that reflects the growth of Antigua and Barbuda’s creative industries.

With the stage set and Carnival City rapidly taking shape, Antigua Carnival 2026 is not merely preparing for another festival; it is building a legacy for generations of creatives, performers, and patrons. The Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival is ready to reach a whole new level.

Festivals Commission Successfully Concludes Music Development Masterclass



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has successfully concluded its highly anticipated Music Development Masterclass, marking another significant investment in Antigua and Barbuda's creative industries.

Held from June 8–12 at the Eustace

Hill Campus in Coolidge, the intensive four-day programme brought together emerging and established artistes, producers, DJs, songwriters, managers, dancers, visual creatives, and entertainment professionals for immersive training to strengthen their knowledge of the modern music business.

Participants received focused instruction in songwriting, mixing and mastering, music distribution, copyright and intellectual property, marketing, and visual branding, and gained invaluable insights into career sustainability and international market development.

The programme was facilitated by internationally respected industry professionals:

- ▶ **Stephen “Int’l Stephen” Phillip** – DSM Music Group
- ▶ **Daryll Gervais** – Gervais Music
- ▶ **Titan VCD** – NXUS Collective Agency

Throughout the Masterclass, facilitators encouraged participants to stay connected, collaborate with one another, and continue developing their craft beyond the classroom. They also shared their professional contact details with attendees, inviting them to submit music, creative projects, and other materials for review and guidance.

Minister responsible for Carnival, Dwayne George, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to empowering creatives through education and professional development. *“The creative industries are among the most promising sectors for economic growth and cultural advancement in Antigua and Barbuda. As a government, we remain committed to investing in opportunities that equip our creatives with the skills, knowledge, and industry connections needed to compete regionally and internationally. Programmes such as this Masterclass demonstrate our belief that our creative talent deserves every opportunity to succeed and build sustainable careers from their passion.”*

Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, urged creatives to make full use of the available

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Lead facilitator Stephen “Int’l Stephen” Phillip praised participants’ enthusiasm and potential throughout the week. *“It’s clear that the next generation is hungry, and they’re asking the right questions. The level of engagement we’ve seen over the past few days has been impressive. I genuinely believe there are quite a few global stars being born right here in Antigua and Barbuda.”*

At the conclusion of the programme, participants were presented with certificates recognizing their commitment to professional development and continued growth within the creative industries.

The Music Development Masterclass is part of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission’s ongoing strategy to strengthen the nation’s creative economy by equipping creatives with the tools, knowledge, and networks needed to transform talent into sustainable business opportunities and globally competitive careers.

free developmental opportunities. *“The Festivals Commission remains committed to creating pathways for growth within the creative sector. We are providing these programmes free*

of charge because we believe in the immense potential of our people. My appeal to creatives is simple: take advantage of every opportunity.

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Chinese Embassy Hosts 'International Day of Dialogue Among Civilizations' Festivities



Scores of Antigua and Barbuda nationals who have studied in the People's Republic of China, several of whom are fluent in Mandarin, participated in festivities marking the International Day of Dialogue Among Civilisations hosted by the Chinese Embassy on Saturday.

Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Wei explained that the Festival follows on an initiative by the Chinese President Xi highlighting the need for

civilizations to live together in harmony. Through dialogues, she noted, humankind can strengthen mutual understanding and fulfill each other.

"This resonates strongly with the social responsibility, civic morality, and people-centered humanistic spirit of modern civilization. In the history of Antigua and Barbuda, national hero Prince Klaas devoted his life to protecting the land and its people while fighting for their free-

dom. Times and regions vary, yet the love for homeland and care for fellow people remains a driving force behind national and civilizational progress," she observed.

Participants attending the festivities joined with staff of the embassy to perform a number of songs and dances with the songs being sung in both English and Mandarin.

Among those in attendance were a several employees in the public sec-

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tor who just returned last Thursday from a three-and-a-half-week seminar in China on capacity building.

These participants visited several Chinese cities as part of the programme where they visited a number of factories and businesses where advances in technology were on display. The participants were allowed to interact with technicians in these establishments where they gained insights into the processes and real-world applications of the technologies.

The Antigua and Barbuda participants all provided testimonies of joyful times and beneficial learning experiences during their time in China.



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Census Office To 'Ramp up' Its Activities

The Census Office is intensifying field operations for the ongoing 2025 Population and Housing Census beginning on today (Monday) with the deployment of a second cohort of Census Enumerators.

In a statement, the Census Office revealed that effective today, residents in and around the Greenbay Primary School community can expect to see a number of Census Enumerators conducting interviews and collecting information from households and businesses.

The release recalled that field operations were temporarily suspended due to the recent General Elections in Antigua and Barbuda. However, it noted, enumeration activities have since resumed, and the deployment of additional personnel marks another significant step toward completing this important national exercise.

The Population and Housing Census is a critical undertaking that provides essential data used to inform government policy, national development planning, and the allocation of resources in key sectors such as health, education, housing, employment, and infrastructure. Accurate census information helps ensure that decisions affecting communities are based on reliable and up-to-date data.

The Census Office is encouraging all residents to cooperate with enumerators and provide accurate information. All information collected is treated with the strictest confidence and is protected under the Statistics Act. Individual responses will not be disclosed to any unauthorized person or organization.

To assist with identification, Census Enumerators will be wearing official Census vests and carrying Census-issued photo identification cards. They will also be equipped with a tablet, a Census bag, and an authorization letter from the Census Office.

Additionally, Census officials will be making appearances across various media houses throughout Antigua and Barbuda during the upcoming week as part of ongoing public education and sensitization efforts.

These media engagements will provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about the census process,

ask questions, and receive updates on the progress of field operations.

The Census Office sincerely appreciates the cooperation and understanding of the public. The success of the 2025 Population and Housing Census depends on the continued support and participation of all residents as we work together to ensure an accurate count of the nation's population and housing characteristics.

The 2025 Population and Housing Census is being conducted under the theme:

"Mapping the Present, Shaping the Future."



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PM Browne appoints Dr. Deborah Brosnan as a Special Envoy

Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne has appointed internationally renowned marine scientist and resilience expert Dr. Deborah Brosnan, Ph.D. as Special Envoy for Coastal Resilience and Ocean Economy for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the Instrument of Appointment issued by the Office of the Prime Minister on May 12, 2026, Dr. Brosnan has been entrusted with representing Antigua and Barbuda on matters related to coastal resilience, marine conservation, climate adaptation and the sustainable development of the ocean economy. The appointment is valid for one year, ending on May 11, 2027.

The appointment comes at a critical time as Antigua and Barbuda continues to strengthen its international leadership on climate resilience, ocean governance and sustainable development. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the country faces increasing threats from sea-level rise, coastal erosion, stronger hurricanes and the degradation of marine ecosystems that support tourism, fisheries and livelihoods.

Under the terms of her appointment, Dr. Brosnan is authorized to speak and represent Antigua and Barbuda at appropriate international forums, initiate discussions with non-governmental organizations and development partners to secure resources for coastal enhancement and ocean-related projects, advise the Prime Minister on opportunities for international assistance, and provide technical guidance to government ministries and agencies on matters relating to resilience and the blue economy.

Prime Minister Browne said the appointment reflects Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to leveraging world-class expertise in advancing solutions to the climate and environmental chal-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Dr. Deborah Brosnan, Ph.D.

lenges facing island nations. The Government has consistently advocated for stronger global action on climate change, enhanced access to climate financing, and greater international support for vulnerable coastal states.

Dr. Brosnan brings more than two decades of experience in marine science, environmental policy, climate resilience and ecosystem restoration. She is internationally recognized for her work advising governments, international organizations and private sector entities on climate adaptation and sustainable coastal development. Through her OceanShot initiative, she has championed innovative approaches to coral reef restoration and the use of natural infrastructure to protect coastlines and strengthen local economies. The initiative is already being

developed in partnership with Antigua and Barbuda and focuses on restoring reefs that enhance biodiversity, support fisheries and protect vulnerable coastlines.

Her appointment also aligns with Antigua and Barbuda's broader efforts to expand its Blue Economy agenda. The Government has been actively engaged in international ocean governance discussions, sustainable ocean planning, marine conservation initiatives and climate resilience programmes aimed at safeguarding the country's extensive marine resources. Recent engagements have included participation in global ocean summits, United Nations ocean treaty negotiations and the advancement of national policies to support sustainable ocean management.

Emerging Female Leaders Programme hosts branding masterclass



The Directorate of Gender Affairs' Emerging Female Leaders Programme hosted a Public Speaking and Personal Branding Masterclass on Saturday,

June 13, at the Harrison Centre in St. John's, with Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, using the oc-

casion to reaffirm the government's commitment to creating opportunities for women and young women to lead across every sphere of national life.

The session drew participants from varying professional backgrounds and was facilitated by Patrice Martin, Brand Engagement Associate at Caribbean Union Bank, and Ann-Marie Layne, Director General for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Both facilitators brought direct professional experience to bear on the morning's themes of personal branding, authenticity, and professional presence — areas the programme has identified as central to women's ability to advance in competitive professional environments.

Martin opened by challenging participants to define what makes them distinct, framing personal branding not as a corporate exercise but as a deliberate

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“Our commitment is to create a society where opportunities are determined by merit, talent, hard work, and vision, not by stereotypes, outdated perceptions, or systems that favour some while excluding others,” Minister Johnson said. “Every woman should have an equal opportunity to lead, to innovate, to influence, and to succeed. And that’s why programmes such as this are important.”

The Emerging Female Leaders Programme is designed to equip women and young women with the skills, networks, confidence, and platforms necessary to advance in public and private life. Saturday’s masterclass included a structured networking segment and a professional headshot session, providing participants with practical tools to begin implementing what they had learned.

and ongoing practice of self-definition.

She urged women to take control of their professional narratives, invest in their skills, and confront the fear of judgement that she said too often limits women’s professional growth.

Layne drew on her experience in international diplomacy to address the relationship between authenticity and professional credibility, sharing personal accounts of navigating spaces where women, particularly women of

Caribbean descent, have historically been underrepresented.

She encouraged participants to develop a strong sense of self as a professional tool, arguing that confidence and authenticity are not incidental to leadership but foundational to it.

Minister Johnson addressed participants during the opening session, connecting the programme directly to the government’s policy commitments on gender equity.

The Directorate of Gender Affairs and the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation express gratitude to the event’s sponsors — Harrison Centre, Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd., Exotic Antigua, Sandals Grande Antigua, Hodges Bay Resort & Spa, Cuties, Harper’s Office Depot, Office Express, and Caribbean Union Bank — whose generous support helped make the masterclass possible.

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Masons Celebrate Father's Day with Families at St. John's Anglican Cathedral

Members of the Lodges meeting at the Clement E. M. Bird Masonic Centre on Sunday (June 13) joined worshippers at the St. John's Anglican Cathedral in celebration of Father's Day, attending a special church service alongside their wives, children, relatives, and friends.

In a media release, the Lodges say the observance served as a meaningful reminder of the vital role fathers play in the lives of their families and communities. Throughout the service, emphasis was placed on the importance of strong family values, spiritual guidance, and the positive influence that fathers provide through leadership, love, and support.

According to the release Freemasons from the various Lodges were proud to participate in the celebration, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of faith, family, and service. The presence of multiple generations worshipping together highlighted the importance of maintaining strong family bonds and fostering a culture of respect, responsibility, and care.

The members noted that the occasion also underscored the important role of the Church as a cornerstone of family life. By bringing families together in worship and fellowship, the Church continues to strengthen communities and encourage values that contribute to a more caring and united society.

Following the service, members and their families shared fellowship and refreshments, reflecting on the significance of Father's Day and expressing gratitude for the fathers,



grandfathers, mentors, and father figures who continue to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

The Lodges meeting at the Clem-

ent E. M. Bird Masonic Centre extend heartfelt Father's Day greetings to all fathers and wish them continued blessings as they guide and nurture their families.

The Rotary Club Attracts Significant Contribution to Colours

The Rotary Club of Antigua has received a significant contribution from in support of its annual fundraising event, Colours 2026, which will be held under the theme “Welcome to Smurf Village.”

The event’s concept, centered on community empowerment and youth development, has resonated strongly with the management of Automotive Arts and Outdoor World Antigua, prompting a donation of more than EC\$10,000 towards the execution of the highly anticipated fundraiser.

During a brief handover ceremony, owner Robert Shoul highlighted the reasons behind his support of the initiative.

“Supporting youth entrepreneurship is very close to my heart, and when I learned that this would be a major focus of the Rotary Club of Antigua’s efforts this year, I was delighted to come on board as a sponsor,” he said.

Shoul continues a proud family tradition of service, following in the footsteps of his late father, Mr. Stephen Shoul, who was a long-serving member of the Rotary Club of Antigua.

Colours Fete is the organization’s flagship fundraising event, with proceeds supporting the Rotary Club’s many community-based projects and initiatives across Antigua and Barbuda.

Group Manager Marsha Kalloo said the Automotive Arts and Outdoor World team is committed to helping create a memorable experience for patrons attending the event.

“ Colours 2026: Welcome to Smurf Village will take place on



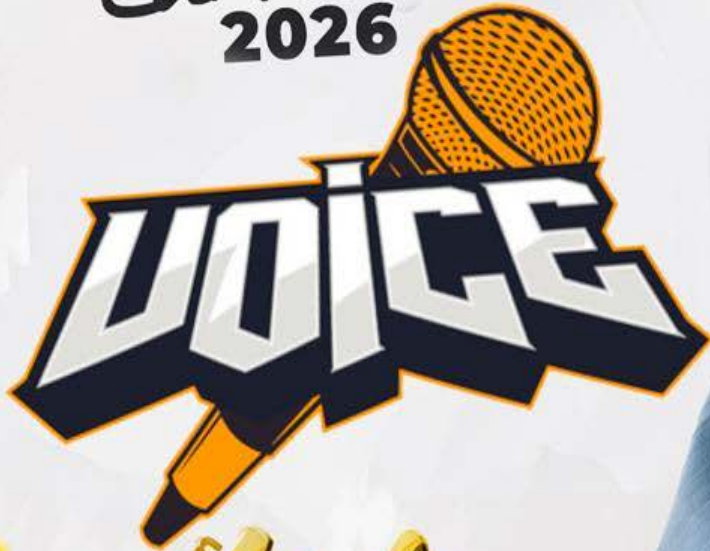
Saturday, July 4, 2026, at the **Coolidge Cricket Ground**, beginning at **5:00 p.m.** Tickets are available from Automotive Arts on Old Parham Road and Tropic Wear in Heritage Quay at an all-inclusive cost of **EC\$300**.

The event will feature performanc-

es by **Kaution Band**, **Claudette CP Peters** and the **Disturbance Band**, with special guest appearance by **Menace XL**, and will be headlined by **The Original Burning Flames**.



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Artemis, ILRS, and Humanity's Next Giant Leap for Mankind



PART II

By Ambassador

Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

As humanity prepares to return to the Moon, two great lunar visions are emerging.

The title of this article deliberately echoes one of the most memorable moments in human history. On July 20, 1969, during the Apollo 11 mission, Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on the Moon. As he descended onto the lunar surface, he delivered words that would resonate across generations: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Those words belonged to one astronaut, but they were received by the world as a shared human achievement.

More than half a century later, humanity once again stands at the threshold of a new era of lunar exploration. The question before us is no longer whether we can reach the Moon, but how we will organize ourselves to live, work, cooperate, and prosper beyond Earth. In many respects, the initiatives now taking shape may determine what hu-

manity’s next giant leap for mankind will ultimately become.

The first is the Artemis Program, led by the United States and supported by more than sixty nations through the Artemis Accords. The second is the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), led by China and Russia and supported by approximately seventeen participating countries and international organizations.

Together, these initiatives represent the most significant expansion of human activity beyond Earth since the Apollo era.

While they share the common goal of establishing a sustained human presence on the Moon, they differ in philosophy and approach. Artemis is built around an open international coalition with extensive private-sector participation, while the ILRS emphasizes the deliberate construction of long-term lunar infrastructure and permanent scientific capability.

Yet beneath these differences lies a larger truth. The future of humanity cannot and should not be determined solely by a handful of powerful nations. If humanity is to become a truly spacefaring civilization, all countries—from the largest alliances to the smallest island developing states—must have a meaningful stake in shaping that future.

The participation of dozens of nations in both initiatives demonstrates that the desire to contribute to humanity’s next great chapter extends far beyond the traditional space powers.

One notable feature of the Artemis framework is that it appears to provide a broader platform through which countries, corporations, entrepreneurs, academic institutions, and other stakeholders can become foundationally integrated into the initiative through participation in the Artemis Accords and related cooperative mechanisms. This wider participatory architecture

creates multiple entry points for engagement and allows nations of varying sizes and capacities to contribute meaningfully to humanity’s return to the Moon.

For small island developing states, emerging economies, universities, research institutions, investors, and independent innovators, such accessibility is particularly significant. It broadens the concept of participation beyond space agencies alone and recognizes that humanity’s future in space will require contributions from many sectors of society.

Such inclusiveness is a positive characteristic. It demonstrates how major international initiatives can create opportunities for broad-based ownership and shared responsibility. As humanity advances beyond Earth, this approach may offer a useful cooperative example from which other large-scale international programs can draw inspiration while adapting it to their own objectives and circumstances.

At the same time, there is considerable value in encouraging pathways through which the International Lunar Research Station may similarly expand opportunities for participation as its framework evolves. The broader the circle of engagement, the greater the likelihood that humanity’s expansion into space becomes a truly global undertaking rather than the project of a limited number of nations or institutions.

This principle is not merely political; it is philosophical. Aristotle taught that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Civilization achieves its highest potential when diverse peoples, nations, institutions, and enterprises combine their strengths in pursuit of common objectives.

China’s achievements in lunar exploration deserve recognition. Through a series of successful robotic missions, lunar landings, sample-return mis-

sions, and long-term planning, China has demonstrated impressive technical capability and strategic consistency. Its ambition to land astronauts on the Moon by 2030 and establish a permanent lunar research station by 2035 underscores its commitment to becoming a major spacefaring nation.

Russia's contribution should also be acknowledged. As the successor to the Soviet space program, Russia inherits a legacy that includes many of humanity's earliest achievements in space exploration. These include the launch of the first artificial satellite, the first human spaceflight, the first spacewalk, and numerous pioneering missions that helped lay the foundations of the modern space age. Through its partnership with China in the International Lunar Research Station initiative, Russia continues to contribute technical expertise, institutional experience, and a long tradition of space exploration.

It is noteworthy that the two principal lunar initiatives of the twenty-first century are led by nations whose predecessors were once rivals during the original Space Race. The lessons of that era suggest that while competition can inspire extraordinary achievements, cooperation ultimately delivers the greatest and most enduring benefits for humanity.

My fascination with the Moon began long before discussions of lunar bases, space stations, or international accords entered public discourse.

Growing up in Antigua, I spent many beautiful nights fishing along the shoreline of Dutchman's Bay and its many secluded fishing enclaves beneath the glow of a full Caribbean Moon. To a young boy, the Moon was more than a distant object in the sky. It illuminated the sparkling sea like thousands of diamonds glittering upon the water, lit our way along the shore, and transformed ordinary evenings into memorable adventures.

I would often pause to gaze upward and let my imagination wander. The craters and shadows seemed to form a giant face looking down upon us.

Some nights I was convinced it was smiling; other nights it appeared to be keeping a watchful eye on a group of young fishermen who were probably staying out later than they should have. My friends and I would laugh as we debated what features we could see on its surface.

As I sat beside those moonlit waters, I often wondered whether this remarkable celestial neighbour served a greater purpose for humanity than simply influencing the tides. That childhood curiosity has never left me, and it is remarkable to think that humanity is now contemplating a permanent presence on the very world that once inspired the dreams of a young boy beneath Antigua's beautiful night skies.

The Moon is no longer merely an object of wonder. It is increasingly becoming humanity's first piece of extraterrestrial real estate—a platform for scientific discovery, technological innovation, communications infrastructure, energy generation, resource utilization, advanced manufacturing, and eventually a gateway to deeper exploration of the solar system.

Its value extends beyond geography. Vast deposits of water ice near the lunar poles may one day provide drinking water, oxygen, and rocket fuel for sustained human operations. Scientists have also long speculated about the potential of helium-3 and other resources that could support future technological development.

Whether or not all such possibilities are realized, the Moon possesses strategic and scientific significance that will shape humanity's future.

The emerging lunar economy may become one of the greatest investment opportunities in human history. Communications networks, transportation systems, energy production, scientific facilities, tourism, manufacturing, and resource development could create entirely new economic sectors.

I dare say that entrepreneurs should welcome this opportunity.

Throughout history, private enter-

prise has transformed ambitious ideas into practical realities. The development of the Moon may become the twenty-first-century equivalent of opening new continents, establishing new trade routes, and creating entirely new industries. Entrepreneurs should view the lunar economy not merely as a commercial opportunity but as a chance to invest in humanity's next great chapter of development.

The great fortunes of previous centuries were often built around agriculture, manufacturing, shipping, energy, telecommunications, and digital technology. The coming century may witness the emergence of a space economy measured not in billions, but in trillions of dollars. Visionary entrepreneurs who invest responsibly today may become architects of humanity's future beyond Earth.

Small states can help shape the space age through education, innovation, regulation, finance, diplomacy, and international cooperation. Influence is not always measured by geography or population. Sometimes it is measured by ideas, leadership, and vision.

Many countries once stood at the crossroads of global exploration and commerce; there is no reason why they cannot contribute meaningfully to the exploration and development of the space frontier as well.

Seneca once wrote, "No wind is favorable to the sailor who has no destination." Humanity now has a destination. The Moon is becoming the next stepping stone in a journey that may eventually extend throughout the solar system.

History suggests that competition and cooperation are not opposites; often, humanity advances most rapidly when competition drives innovation and cooperation directs that innovation toward the common good.

The existence of Artemis and the ILRS should not automatically be viewed as evidence of division. Competition often stimulates innovation. However, humanity's greatest achievements

Commentary

occur when competition matures into cooperation.

The International Space Station demonstrated what former rivals can achieve when they choose collaboration over confrontation. The Moon presents an opportunity to build upon that lesson.

The lunar frontier is not merely a technological undertaking. It is a civilizational undertaking. Future historians may judge our generation not by what we consumed, but by what we built. The decisions made during the coming decades will determine whether the Moon becomes another arena of rivalry or a platform for unprecedented human cooperation.

The ultimate objective should not be an Artemis Moon or an ILRS Moon. It should be ensuring that humanity's next giant leap builds upon the spirit of that first giant leap—one characterized not merely by technological achievement, but by a shared commitment to advancing the human condition. The ultimate objective should be a Human Moon.

A Moon where scientific knowledge

is shared. A Moon where peaceful cooperation prevails over confrontation. A Moon that serves as a bridge to Mars, deeper exploration, and a future in which humanity becomes a truly multi-world civilization.

Recommendations for Humanity's Lunar Future:

- 1- Promote structured cooperation between Artemis and ILRS.
- 2- Guarantee meaningful participation for small island developing states, developing countries, and emerging economies.
- 3- Create a Global Lunar Partnership Framework linking governments, universities, entrepreneurs, investors, and research institutions.
- 4- Encourage responsible private-sector investment in lunar infrastructure and technology.
- 5- Establish a Lunar Development and Opportunity Fund to broaden participation and ownership.
- 6- Preserve the Moon exclusively for peaceful purposes and scientific advancement.

vancement.

7- Invest heavily in youth education and STEM development to prepare future generations for leadership in the space age.

The future of the Moon is ultimately not about the Moon at all. It is about what kind of civilization humanity chooses to become.

Humanity's next giant leap should not belong to one nation, one alliance, one company, or one ideology. It should belong to all mankind—not merely as a destination, but as a shared inheritance and a common responsibility. If we succeed, future generations may look back upon this era as the moment when humanity first learned to unite around a purpose larger than itself—and worthy of its highest hopes.

The views expressed are the author's own.

About the writer :

Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim is an advocate for international peace who writes on global governance, economic development, and the future of international cooperation.



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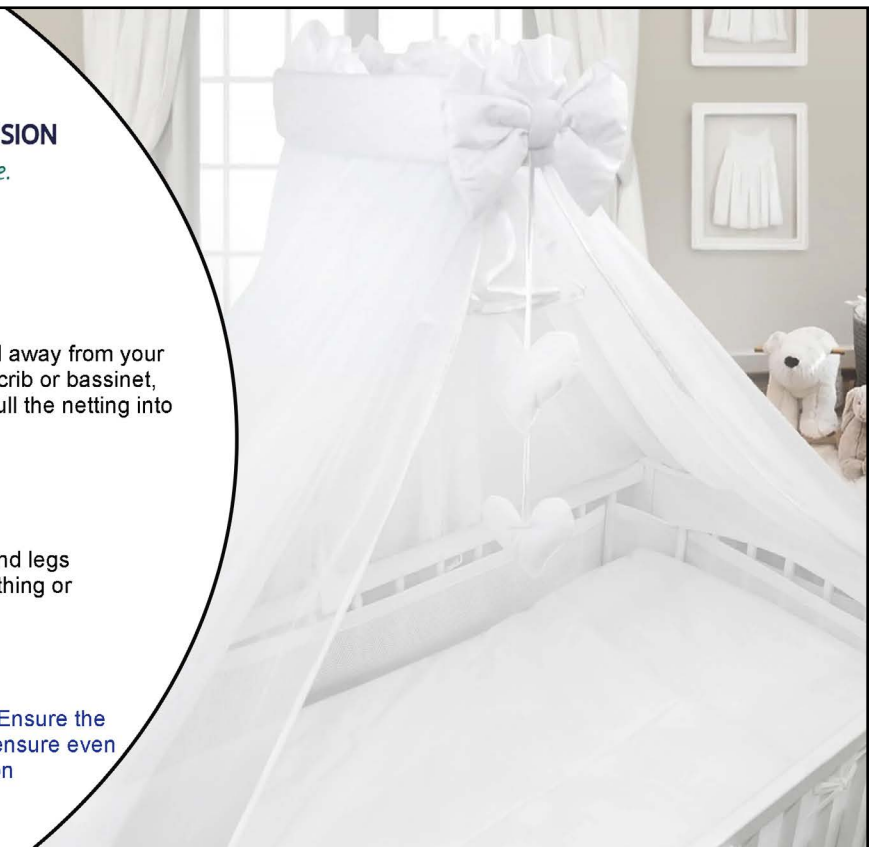
If using a mosquito net, ensure it is securely fitted and kept well away from your baby's face at all times. Avoid loose or hanging nets inside the crib or bassinet, especially once your baby begins to roll or grab, as they may pull the netting into their sleep space.

Safe alternatives

- Installing window or door screens
- Using air conditioning or fans to help keep mosquitoes away
- Dressing babies in lightweight clothing that covers the arms and legs
- Using mosquito repellents approved for the baby's age on clothing or surrounding areas — never directly in the sleep space

CONSUMERS BE AWARE

Choose breathable, non-toxic material like polyester or cotton. Ensure the net is flame-resistant with holes of 1.2 mm - 1.5 mm or less to ensure even tiny insects cannot pass through. The World Health Organization recommends at least 156 holes per square inch.



Tribute on the Passing of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, a respected surgeon at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Radhakrishnan dedicated his life to the noble profession of medicine and earned the admiration of colleagues, patients and the wider community through his commitment, compassion and service. His contributions to the healthcare sector and the countless lives he touched will be remembered with gratitude and respect.

On behalf of the High Commission of India in Georgetown and the Indian Community in Antigua and Barbuda, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family members, friends, colleagues and all those mourning his loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace and may his family find strength and solace in the cherished memories of his life and legacy.

Vijay Tewani
Honorary Consul of India
Antigua & Barbuda



Central Bank moves to recover \$18.7m

The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago has filed a lawsuit in the High Court seeking to recover millions of dollars from a construction company and its two directors over what it alleges is a sophisticated fraud involving a forged Government cheque for \$20 million.

Auditor General Jaiwantie Ramdass in a letter to the Central Bank Governor dated January 23, 2026 red-flagged two fraudulent cheques for \$20 million and for \$25 million.

The Central Bank through its attorney, former attorney general Anand Ramlogan of Freedom Law Chambers, is pursuing legal action with respect to the \$20 million cheque.

The legal claim filed on June 10, 2026 named NiPat General Contractors Limited, managing director Nigel Patterson Vincent and director Jackqui Watson-Vincent as defendants.

The Central Bank alleges that the company received funds from a cheque that was never issued by the Government and that large portions of the money were quickly dispersed before the fraud was discovered.

According to the Statement of Case, the matter centres on a cheque purportedly issued by the then Ministry of Planning and Development.

The Central Bank claims that on September 29, 2023, Vincent went to Republic Bank's San Juan branch and deposited a cheque for \$20 million into NiPat's account.

The cheque was purported to be drawn on the ministry's account at the Central Bank and made payable to NiPat.

The cheque was subsequently processed through the Electronic Cheque Clearing System.

After an initial query regarding an endorsement irregularity, Republic Bank re-presented the instrument and the Central Bank cleared it, resulting in



\$20 million being credited to NiPat's account.

The Central Bank alleges that nearly a month later, on October 26, 2023, it discovered that the cheque was fraudulent.

According to the claim, officials from the Treasury Division of the Ministry of Finance confirmed that the ministry had never issued the cheque and was not indebted to NiPat at the time.

The Central Bank further stated that the signatures appearing on the cheque were not placed there by the individuals whose names appeared on the instrument, and were forgeries.

The bank contends that because the cheque was forged, the signatures were "wholly inoperative" under the Bills of Exchange Act and conveyed no legal entitlement to payment.

One of the most significant aspects of the claim concerns what happened after the funds were deposited.

The Central Bank stated that between October 5 and October 25, 2023, NiPat issued 66 cheques and transferred approximately \$18.77 million out of

its account.

According to the Statement of Case, among the payments were:

- \$10 million to Naissal Construction and Maintenance Services Limited
- \$2.5 million to R and D Holdings Limited
- \$410,348 in payments to Nigel Vincent
- \$170,000 in payments to Jackqui Watson-Vincent
- \$400,000 in payments back to NiPat itself.

Court documents include detailed banking records showing dozens of transactions to companies, individuals, suppliers and other entities following the deposit of the cheque.

The Central Bank says that when it alerted Republic Bank to the alleged fraud on October 26, 2023, the bank immediately froze the account.

However, by that time, only \$1.23 million remained.

That sum was subsequently recovered and credited to the Central Bank.

As a result, the Central Bank claims it

suffered a net loss of \$18,766,837.24.

Investigations by the Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, which purportedly issued the cheque, confirmed that the ministry did not issue the cheque in question, NiPat was not owed any money by the ministry and had not performed any works or services for the ministry.

The Central Bank's attorneys argue that the cheque was a forgery and was fraudulently cashed in circumstances where NiPat knew or ought to have known that it had no legal right to the \$20 million paid under the instrument.

The alleged fraud involving two cheques for \$20 million and \$25 million was red-flagged by Auditor General Jaiwantee Ramdass in a letter to the Central Bank Governor dated January 23, 2026.

The alleged fraudulent payment occurred during the term of former Central Bank Governor Alvin Hilaire, whose tenure ended in June 2025.

In 2025, a public dispute revealed

that the Central Bank had prevented the Auditor General from auditing its accounts.

Hilaire's successor, Larry Howai, immediately reversed that decision and granted the Auditor General full access to the bank's systems. As a result, Ramdass was able to uncover the alleged fraud in which two fake cheques valued at \$20 million and \$25 million were paid out by the bank.

The Central Bank retained Freedom Law Chambers to pursue legal action in relation to one of the cheques.

The Central Bank is seeking substantial damages for fraud, deceit, unjust enrichment, unlawful means conspiracy, breach of trust, knowing receipt and dishonest assistance, together with interest and legal costs.

In a pre-action protocol letter dated March 6, 2026, the bank gave notice to Nigel Vincent and Jackqui Watson-Vincent that it intended to sue to recover the sums paid out.

By e-mail dated March 18, 2026,

Central-based attorney Taradath Singh indicated that he was acting on behalf of NiPat and Mr and Mrs Vincent, and sought an extension of time to respond to the pre-action letter.

He also confirmed that he was authorised to accept service of the claim on behalf of his clients.

The matter has been assigned to Justice Sherlanne Pierre.

The Central Bank is asking the High Court for:

- restitution of the allegedly misappropriated funds
- damages for deceit and unlawful means conspiracy
- equitable compensation for breach of trust
- an account of profits against the individual defendants
- a declaration that any remaining proceeds of the \$20 million are held on trust for the Central Bank
- interest of up to 10% per annum
- costs. (Trinidad Express)

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SVG acquires advanced ballistics tech to combat gun crime



In a major effort to curb gun-related offenses, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has equipped the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF) with state-of-the-art ballistics and forensic technology.

The acquisition, formalized on June 11, 2026, aims to significantly enhance the nation's law enforcement and investigative capabilities.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Major the Honourable St. Claire Leacock, accepted the advanced systems on behalf of the government during a regional firearms trafficking workshop in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The equipment was provided through an ongoing partnership between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The newly acquired forensic tools in-

clude a Bullet Catcher system and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) BRASSTRAX platform. These systems will modernize criminal investigations by enabling local forensic specialists to safely test-fire recovered weapons while preserving vital evidence. Furthermore, the IBIS BRASSTRAX platform allows investigators to capture high-resolution digital images of bullets and cartridge casings, which can then be cross-referenced against regional databases. This new technology will dramatically reduce the time it takes for local investigators to process ballistic evidence and link firearms to criminal acts.

Minister Leacock hailed the acquisition as a "pivotal and transformative leap forward" for public safety, border protection, and justice. He highlighted the technology's critical role in regional intelligence and law enforcement coordination. "If a firearm is used in a crime in a neighbouring territory and subsequently trafficked into Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, our investigators will now have the

ability to make critical connections far more quickly," Leacock stated. This capability is expected to bolster intelligence-led investigations and disrupt illegal firearms trafficking networks operating throughout the Caribbean.

While expressing gratitude to the United States Government and CARICOM IMPACS for their continued support, Leacock also challenged the RSVGPF to maintain the highest professional standards. "These tools are only as effective as the professionals who use them. I urge our officers to employ these systems with diligence, integrity, and precision," he told the officers, emphasizing the technology's potential to dismantle criminal enterprises and reduce gun violence.

The introduction of these advanced systems underscores the government's continued commitment to leveraging modern technology, evidence-based law enforcement, and strategic partnerships to build safer communities and strengthen national security across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (St Vincent Times)

Baron aircraft vanishes en route from SVG to Tobago

Authorities across the southern Caribbean are searching for answers after a Beech 58P Pressurized Baron aircraft vanished without a trace during a flight from St. Vincent to Tobago.

The Dominican Republic-registered aircraft, bearing the registration number HI-1145, departed from Argyle International Airport in St. Vincent at 11:52 a.m. on the afternoon of June 12th. It was bound for the ANR Robinson International Airport in Tobago when Air Traffic Control suddenly lost contact with the plane.

Before its disappearance, the aircraft's journey was being monitored on the flight tracking website Flightradar24. Tracking data indicated that the plane was operating under visual flight rules (VFR) at an altitude of 4,025 feet and traveling at a speed of approximately 142 knots. However, all data abruptly ceased mid-flight. Based on

its last known coordinates, the aircraft disappeared over the Southern Caribbean Sea, placing it somewhere in the vicinity of Grenadian or Venezuelan territorial waters.

The vanished Beech Baron has a capacity for one pilot and four to five passengers, though as of Sunday, authorities have released no details regarding the identities or exact number of occupants on board. There has also been no confirmation of a crash, and no wreckage has been located.

Sources indicate that Argyle Air Traffic Control contacted Piarco in Trinidad and Tobago regarding the sudden loss of communication, and a source at Piarco confirmed to the Trinidadian publication CNC3 that regional authorities are actively "looking for the aircraft".

Prior to this doomed flight, the air-

craft appeared to be operating normally. Flight records show that HI-1145 successfully completed several flights between the island of Canouan and mainland St. Vincent on June 10th and June 12th, landing and taking off without any reported issues. The plane is also known to frequently travel the route between Grenada and Trinidad.

This disappearance marks a disturbing trend in the region. The vanishing of HI-1145 is now the second aircraft to disappear after traversing the Canouan to St. Vincent flight path, with the previous unresolved disappearance occurring just months ago in December 2023.

Search and rescue efforts remain ongoing as aviation authorities in St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and neighboring nations await any communication or signs of the missing aircraft. (St Vincent Times)



Woman dies after being thrown from bridge without secured bungee cord in Brazil

A 21-year-old woman died after being thrown from a bridge without proper bungee cord equipment in São Paulo, Brazil, on Saturday, according to the São Paulo Governor's Office.

The woman, who has not been identified, is seen in video circulating on social media standing near the edge of a cliff at the Skeleton Bridge Trail in Limeira, wearing a helmet and with her arms outstretched. Three men lift her, and two of them throw her off the cliff.

The video appears to show the woman unattached to a bungee cord as she falls several feet to the ground below.

“According to the police report, at the time of the jump, the safety equipment was not properly fixed,” the governor's office said in a statement. “The victim did not resist the fall and death was confirmed by SAMU (Serviço de Atendimento Móvel de Urgência, or emergency medical service) teams.”

It remains unclear why the bungee cord was not properly secured before she participated in the activity.

Six people were initially brought to the Limeira Police District for questioning. Three of them — men aged 27, 32 and 42 — were subsequently arrested in connection with the incident, the governor's office said.

The men were arrested “in flagrante,” or caught in the act, on charges of homicide with eventual intent. Under Brazilian law, this charge applies to cases in which perpetrators did not intend to kill but engaged in a dangerous act that carried a fatal risk.



Officials did not identify the suspects. “Investigations continue to determine the circumstances and possible responsibilities,” the governor's office said. (NBC)



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Helicopters collide over Rio de Janeiro, killing 6

Two helicopters collided over Rio de Janeiro on Sunday morning and crashed in the city's western zone, killing all six people aboard, firefighters said.

Rio de Janeiro's Military Fire Department said that one of the helicopters crashed on a car dealership, where several electric vehicles were parked, igniting a fire that was extinguished.

Officials said an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the collision.

Police said that American singer and comedian Oliver Tree was on the list of passengers handed to aviation authorities, but have not been able to identify the bodies of those killed in the crash. (AP)



11 skydivers and pilot killed in plane crash

Eleven skydivers and one pilot have been killed in a plane crash in the US state of Missouri, officials said.

The airplane, which was leased by a skydiving company, took off around 11:20 local time on Sunday, according to a Bates County Emergency Management spokesperson.

After failing to gain altitude, it made a sharp left turn and crashed about 200 yards away from Butler Memorial Airport, the spokesperson told the BBC.

All 12 people on board died, he said.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said a Pacific Aerospace P750 crashed while departing the airport.



"Air traffic services were not being provided at the time," the FAA said.

Local media reported that first responders are checking the area to see if any of the skydivers had jumped

from the plane before the crash.

The city of Butler is about 50 miles south of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The National Transporta-

tion Safety Board (NTSB) is leading the investigation into the crash, the FAA said.

The BBC has contacted the NTSB. (BBC)

Trump insists Iran deal ‘hours’ away, despite Israeli strike on Beirut



United States (US) President Donald Trump insisted on Sunday that a deal to end the Middle East war was just “hours” away, angrily blaming Israel for delaying its signing with an airstrike on Beirut that drew threats of retaliation from Iran.

Trump has pledged that the agreement will be signed Sunday — his 80th birthday — while Tehran has declined to offer a clear timeline, though both sides have signalled that diplomatic channels remained open.

Tehran has long demanded that any agreement to halt the war must include the parallel conflict in Lebanon, where

Israel has been pursuing a campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah.

But after days of momentum building towards a deal, Israel’s strike on Sunday in Beirut’s southern suburbs — a Hezbollah stronghold — prompted Iran’s chief negotiator to question the point of continuing peace talks.

The attack “showed that the United States either lacks the will to implement its commitments or lacks the ability to do so”, Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on X.

“If you do not have the will or the

ability to fulfil your commitments, then there is no point in talking about continuing down this path,” he added.

Trump — who over weeks of negotiations has repeatedly declared an accord with Iran was all but concluded — told the US news outlet Axios that the strike “delayed the signing”.

“It was supposed to be now. Now it is scheduled for a few hours from now,” Trump said in a phone call, while fuming at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“Why did Bibi have to do a fucking attack?” he told Axios. “I was so pissed off. I let him know. He has no fucking judgement.”

In an earlier social media post, Trump decried the strike, saying the Iran deal would “bring peace to the region, including to Lebanon, and all sides should stand down”.

The Iranian Fars news agency quoted “a source close to Iran’s negotiating team” as saying just before the Israeli strike that even if Tehran’s position was incorporated into the deal, “no agreement will be signed within the timeframe announced by Trump”.

The last time Israel hit the Beirut suburbs, it sparked one of the strongest jolts yet to a ceasefire that has largely held since April, with Iran firing off a retaliatory missile barrage and Israel responding with strikes.



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Following Sunday's attack, Iran's highest security body, the Supreme National Security Council, announced that the "response of the fighters of Islam is imminent".

"Lebanon is our life and violation of the red lines of the Islamic Republic will not be tolerated," its secretary said on X.

Israel's military said it was "preparing for potential fire toward the territory of the state of Israel in the coming hours".

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticised the Israeli attack, pointing to its inopportune timing and urging "all parties to show maximum restraint at this crucial moment."

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had said earlier he did not expect the Israeli attack to "disrupt" the progress towards a deal.

"From all I know, we are on track," he said. "It is not a matter of if. It is a matter of when."

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian had said that the Supreme National Security Council supported negotiations despite criticism from hardliners, pointedly adding that the body was in charge of "decisions regarding war and negotiations".

A delegation from mediator Qatar was in Tehran on Sunday "to help facilitate the finalisation of the agreement", a diplomat with knowledge of the situation told AFP.

The warring parties have released conflicting information about the contents of the deal, as each seeks to show it emerged from the war with the upper hand.

Tehran has insisted it will maintain control over the vital Strait of Hormuz — which it has blockaded since early in the war — but the US has repeatedly said this would be unacceptable, and has responded with its own blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that the deal on the table called for lifting the US block-

ade, while stressing the strait would not return to its pre-war status quo.

Another key sticking point in the talks has been the fate of Iran's nuclear programme, particularly its stockpile of highly enriched uranium — believed to have been buried by US strikes last year.

Araghchi on Friday said the only way to deal with Iran's enriched uranium "is to dilute it inside Iran".

Trump has justified the war as necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons — an ambition it has long denied — and had previously said the US would remove and destroy the uranium.

On Saturday, he said: "When all is calm, we will go in and get the Nuclear Dust... and down blend and destroy it, whether in Iran or the United States." (AFP)

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- **Crowd Control** – Keep spectators behind designated boundaries, identify high-risk areas, and prevent overcrowding.
- **Parade Flow Management** – Ensure bands move at a consistent pace, maintain spacing, and prevent congestion.
- **Participant Support** – Provide directions, assist lost or distressed participants, and refer to medical or support services when needed.
- **Communication** – Maintain radio contact, report incidents clearly (what, where, who), avoid unnecessary chatter, and follow instructions promptly.
- **Emergency Support** – Report emergencies immediately, assist within your level of training, create space for responders, and help keep everyone calm.



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- ✓ **Meals and refreshments**
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OPERATIONAL CONDUCT

- Be visible, alert, and positioned strategically.
- Use clear, calm, and assertive communication.
- Act to prevent issues rather than react.
- Stay within your assigned zone unless directed otherwise.



CODE OF CONDUCT

- Treat everyone with respect and professionalism.
- Remain impartial, fair, and courteous at all times.
- No alcohol, drugs, or anything that may impair you while on duty.
- Do not engage in arguments or physical confrontation.
- Escalate issues to security, police, or your supervisor.
- Always wear your official ID and apparel.



HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stay hydrated and wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
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- Report any health concerns immediately.
- Follow all safety instructions and signage.



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NOTICE FOR CALYPSO MONARCH COMPETITION MEETING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, 15 June 2026, ST. JOHN'S,
..... The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) wishes to inform all registered participants in the 2026 Calypso Monarch Competition that a meeting will be held to discuss the way forward for the competition.

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Carnival City

The following persons are requested to attend:

- All Calypsonians registered for the 2026 Calypso Monarch Competition
- Band Members
- Backup Singers
- Members of the Calypso Sub-Committee

All affected persons are asked to be present and on time, as the Commission will address important matters regarding the competition and outline the way forward.

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission looks forward to your attendance and cooperation as we work towards delivering a successful Calypso Monarch Competition.

-END-



More success for Seatons Eastsiders in Village Netball League

The Seatons Eastsiders enjoyed more success in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Antigua Generators and Cool and Smooth Village League on Saturday evening.

The Eastsiders notched up their fourth win in five matches with a 68-5 drubbing of the Under-16 National Team in the female division at the Swetes Netball Court.

Amey Lake sank 48 of her 52 attempts, and Christina Lloyd converted 20 of her 26 tries for the Seatons Eastsiders. Deancia Lewis scored three of her 11 attempts, and Tina Graham made two of her six tries for the Under-16 National Team, who lost for the second time in three matches.

The Seatons Eastsiders ended Newfield's unbeaten run in their previous encounter. The Eastsiders coasted to a 75-21 victory over Newfield in their female division encounter.

Amy Lake sank 62 of her 73 shots, and Christina Lloyd converted 13 of her 28 attempts for the Seatons Eastsiders. Esther Emmanuel scored 20 of her 25 shots for Newfield, who lost for the first time after winning all three of their previous matches.

The Pares Net Masters ended their three-game losing streak by recording their first win in four matches when they snatched a 24-21 victory against St. John's United Talented Youths in a keenly contested female division affair.

Annika Watson sank 16 of her 30 attempts, and most valuable player Lucian Smith scored eight of her 22 shots for the Pares Net Masters. Trinecier Greenaway converted 11 of her 21 tries, and Reneka Anthony made 10 of her 24 attempts for the St. John's United Talented Youths, who suffered their second defeat in as many games.



The Seatons Eastsiders female netball team

Swetes/Roman Hill secured their second win in as many games by surging to a commanding 45-13 victory against Willikies in another female division affair.

Everdine Parker-Barnard converted 28 of her 39 tries, Trecia Jarvis sank 11 of her 17 attempts, and Jamila Fitz scored six of her 13 shots for Swetes/Roman Hill.

Summer Buckleys converted eight of her nine attempts, and N'Zae Williams scored four of her 10 shots for Willikies, who suffered their third defeat in as many games.

Swetes/Roman Hill also made it two wins in as many games by securing a 37-30 victory against Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers in the mixed division.

Most Valuable Player Akiel Hazelwood sank 34 of his 39 shots, and Jamila Fitz made three of her seven tries for Swetes/Roman Hill.

Kizzy Hughes sank 18 of her 25 shots, Coy Quinland scored eight of his 13 tries, and Krizia Duncan converted four of her nine attempts for the Gray's Green Flyballers, who lost for the second time in as many games.

The Potters Stingers notched up their second win in three matches by snatching a narrow 25-24 victory over Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers in a keenly contested encounter in the Mixed Division.

Molefi Joseph sank 17 of her 24 shots, Adina Andre scored five of her eight tries, and Michael Burton converted three of his five attempts for the Potters Stingers.

Deandre Harris sank 12 of his 21 shots, and Krizia Duncan scored 12 of her 30 attempts for the Gray's Green Flyballers, who were playing their first match in the mixed division.



Winning start for Police and Mahico in Dave Joseph contest

Police and Mahico have made successful starts to their campaigns in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship.

Both teams recorded success during the opening round of matches in the limited overs Parish League competition on Saturday.

Police claimed a three-wicket victory over PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Blackhawks were restricted to 182 for nine. Teran Payne hit 59, Rahkeem Cornwall struck 42, and

Wendell Bachelor cracked 33. Vincent Shadrach Sr. bagged four for 24, Kenrick Scott claimed two for 30, and off-spinner James Cornelius picked up two for 44.


Police secured victory by scoring 187 for seven. Deran Benta smashed 38, Malique Gerald slammed 35, Malik Marcellin scored 28, and Damon Valentine chipped in with 21. Ian Gore claimed three for 48, and his son Karima Gore claimed two wickets for nine runs.

Mahico launched their campaign by snatching a 10-run victory over Stingray City Seatons at Seatons.

Tanez Francis slammed a century to lift Mahico to 202 for nine. Francis hammered 106, and Michael Cornelius scored 29. Demari Benta grabbed four for 13, and Ivor Joseph captured three for 52.

In reply, Seatons fell short of their victory target as they were all out for 192. Demari Benta also fell short of a century as he was dismissed for 92. Clarence Frederick Jr. chipped in with 21.

J'Quan Athanaze snapped up three for 12, and Michael Cornelius picked up two for 30.



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Sri Lanka beat West Indies men to level 3-match T20 series



The Sri Lankans players, center, celebrate after dismissing Shamar Joseph, left, to wrap up their victory over the West Indies in the second T20 International at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on Saturday, June 13, 2026. (Getty Images)

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Sri Lanka leveled the three-match Twenty20 International (T20I) series with a 37-run win over the West Indies men's team at Sabina Park on Saturday night.

After being sent in to bat, Sri Lanka made a competitive 194 for six on the back of half-centuries from Kamil Mishara and Dasun Shanaka before Wanindu Hasaranga and Dushmantha Chameera took three wickets each to dismiss the West Indies for 157 in 18.1 overs.

Mishara made an unbeaten 61 from 40 balls and shared a 101-run stand with Shanaka (58 off 24 balls) to form the backbone of Sri Lanka's innings.

Shamar Joseph took three for 32 off his four overs, including a searing yorker which bowled Dunith Wellalage with the final ball of the innings.

The West Indies reply stuttered from the start, slumping to nine for two in the early overs, before Shimron Hetmyer and Rovman Powell combined for an 82-run stand to help recover the

chase.

But the match turned decisively toward Sri Lanka in the 10th over. First, Hetmyer (36 off 26) was run out chasing a tight single and four balls later Powell was caught at point off Theekshana for 43 off 26 balls.

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who captured three for 38, then dismissed Sherfane Rutherford (14) and Romario Shepherd (0) in consecutive balls in the 13th over to reduce the West Indies to 108 for six and still a long way from the target.

Dushmantha Chameeram, who took three wickets for nine runs, had Roston Chase (17) caught on the boundary at the start of the 19th over to complete a routine victory.

Previously, Rovman Powell hit a six in the final over to clinch a seven-wicket win for the West Indies over Sri Lanka in the first T20 International at the same venue on Thursday night.

After restricting Sri Lanka to 147 for nine off their 20 overs, the West Indies

made a match of it with a late, slow run rate chasing their victory target, despite scoring 66 runs in the first six overs of the powerplay.

Needing 20 runs from the last 20 balls, the target was reduced to needing a run a ball from nine balls before Powell clinched the win with a six that carried the West Indies to victory at 149 for three with four balls to spare.

Powell finished not out on 10, and captain and opener Shai Hope led the West Indies team with an unbeaten 65 off 54 balls, which included five fours and two sixes.

Opener Brandon King struck 37 off 22 balls in a 66-run opening stand with Hope. Shimron Hetmyer made 17, and Roston Chase scored 16. Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga captured two for 32.

After Sri Lanka won the toss and chose to bat, Kamindu Mendis top-scored with 51 runs, and captain and opener Kusal Mendis added 36. The two players are not related. Dasun Shanaka struck 22, and opener Pathum Nissanka scored 18.

Player of the match Jason Holder snapped up three for 18, and fast bowler Shamar Joseph claimed three for 29.

The final matches in the T20 series was scheduled to take place at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on Sunday night.

Sri Lanka won the preceding rain-affected three-match One-Day International (ODI) series 1-0 after the final two matches were rained out. Sri Lanka won the first match by 41 runs at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

Following the T20 matches, the teams will then travel to Antigua to contest a two-match series at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium from June 25 to 29 and July 3 to 7.

The Comeback Knicks are the new NBA Champions



New York Knicks guard Jalen Brunson holds the MVP trophy after the Knicks defeated the San Antonio Spurs in Game 5 of the NBA Finals basketball series in San Antonio, Saturday, June 13, 2026. (AP)

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jalen Brunson and the Comeback Knicks did it again. And now they're the Champion Knicks.

For the first time in 53 years, New York rules the NBA. Brunson scored 45 points, including 13 straight for New York in the fourth quarter, and the Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Saturday night.

The Knicks won the series 4-1, rallying from double-digit deficits in all four of those victories. The deficit was 16 on Saturday night. Brunson and the Knicks were never fazed.

"I have no words," Brunson, the NBA Finals MVP, said during the on-court celebration. "It's everything I ever dreamed of."

Brunson, fittingly, closed with a flourish. He set a Knicks record for points in a finals game; it had been 38 by Willis Reed against the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 3 of the 1970 series. It now belongs to the left-handed point guard who changed the franchise's fortunes when he arrived four years ago.

"It's surreal," Knicks coach Mike Brown, who was hired a year ago — making him the franchise's 24th coach since the franchise's last championship in 1973. "I still can't believe it's

happened."

Mikal Bridges and Josh Hart — the other two parts of the "Nova Knicks" trio that also includes Brunson, three players who were NCAA champions at Villanova and teamed up in New York to try to do the same — combined to score 27 points. Bridges had 14, Hart 13.

"I don't know what I'm feeling," Brunson said. "I'm in awe. Whenever someone counted us out, we found a way to come back and do something about it."

Dylan Harper scored 25 for the Spurs, who got 19 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots from Victor Wembanyama.

"This is the biggest lesson of my life, the biggest learning moment," Wembanyama said. "I can't tell exactly what the lesson is, but we're learning."

The Knicks improved to 4-0 in close-out opportunities this season, winning them all on the road. It didn't feel like the road, though — not with thousands of New York faithful having made the trip to Texas to see a moment 53 years in the making.

And back home, on the streets of the Big Apple, celebrations broke out everywhere. Fireworks lit up the night

sky, people honked horns on jam-packed streets and firefighters — from their trucks — slapped high-fives with delirious fans.

"HISTORY," New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani wrote on social media, then added that the Knicks' championship parade will be Thursday.

New York got to the brink of this title by rallying from 29 points down in Game 4 to win 107-106 on OG Anunoby's tip-in with 1.2 seconds left on Wednesday night. It was the largest comeback in NBA Finals history and the biggest comeback in any game this season, regular season or playoffs.

By comparison, then, a 16-point rally in this one seemed easy. And San Antonio had to shuffle off into the offseason, listening to Knicks fans celebrating in their building.

"We weren't ready to win an NBA championship," Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said. "The better team won. We did a lot of good things, and we didn't finish the job. That's what it is."

The game followed the same script in the opening minutes as all the others in the series, with the Spurs taking a double-digit lead in the first quarter and then frittering most of it away in the second quarter.

The Spurs became the first team in the play-by-play era, which started in the 1996-97 season, to lead five finals games by 10 points or more in first quarters.

The Knicks simply could not make a shot, missing on 16 of their first 18 tries and each of their first 11 two-point attempts.

There even was a point in the second quarter when Wembanyama had more blocked shots (five) than the Knicks had made shots (four). San Antonio's lead was as many as 10 in the first quarter, as many as 16 in the second.

Of course, none of it mattered much. As always, the Knicks came back.

Winning start for West Indies in women's T20 World Cup

Shemaine Campbelle played the knock of her life to power the West Indies to a seven-wicket win over defending champions New Zealand in their first match of the T20 World Cup at the Hampshire Bowl on Saturday.

Seventeen years since making her T20I debut, after over 150 matches, Campbelle finally found her place in the sun. With her team's hopes hanging in the balance, the 33-year-old scored her first T20I half-century, finishing at an unbeaten 90 as West Indies overhauled New Zealand's 162 for six with a ball to spare.

With that, West Indies avenged the semi-final defeat at the 2024 T20 World Cup. It is also the second-highest successful chase in Women's T20 World Cup, just one short of the highest ever recorded by England against Australia in 2009.

While the West Indies women rode their luck, New Zealand scuppered their chances by spilling about seven catches, letting go of three stumping opportunities, and sloppy ground fielding.

After the West Indies elected to field, Aaliyah Alleyne turned in a star performance, claiming four for 27 in her four overs. She not only gave West Indies the breakthrough by dismissing Georgia Plimmer for eight, but followed it up with key scalps of Amelia Kerr (5) and Isabella Gaze (39) in her next over. The four-wicket haul was her best in T20Is.

Gaze had given New Zealand the early impetus, with a brisk 39 off 29. However, every time the defending champions looked like settling in the contest, West Indies responded with wickets.



Shemaine Campbelle, center, is celebrated by her West Indies teammate after leading the Caribbean women to victory over New Zealand in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup match at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton, England, on Saturday, June 13, 2026. (CWI Media)

Later on, Brooke Halliday (40) and Maddy Green (35 not out) made sure New Zealand posted a healthy 162 on the board.

A lot rested on captain Hayley Matthews' shoulders as West Indies walked out for the chase. She stamped her authority with back-to-back fours. However, a misunderstanding while running between the wickets saw Qiana Joseph (2) run out early.

Matthews and Campbelle laid the foundation for the win with a 74-run partnership for the second wicket. The captain led the charge with 48 off 37 balls. Though Matthews and Campbelle found the boundaries, they also kept the scoreboard ticking with some

sensible cricket.

The West Indies, and Campbelle, shifted gears only in the last six overs. The Guyanese player put on a display of power-hitting and brought up her first T20I 50 with a big heave over long on.

With the match going down to the wire, Campbelle kept her wits about her, punishing the loose balls and running hard between the wickets to take West Indies past the finish line.

Jess Kerr was the only New Zealand bowler among the wickets, as she claimed two for 17 in her four overs. But a lot of their good work with the ball was undone by some abject fielding.