

Prime Minister Browne Sets the Record Straight on Alfa Nero

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Participants of the Ministry of Trade' specialised services workshop pose for family photo outside the Customs Building at the St John's Harbour

Prime Minister Browne Sets the Record Straight on Alfa Nero — U.S. Appeals Court Already Ruled in Antigua’s Favour

The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, The Right Honourable Gaston Browne has issued the following statement:

My attention has been drawn to an online article posted by an entity called National News Brief, bearing the headline ‘Antiguan Prime Minister Defamation Lawsuit Against U.S. Law Firm Backfires’. The article is currently being circulated on social media in Antigua and Barbuda and makes a series of false and misleading claims about my conduct and the Government’s handling of the sale of the superyacht Alfa Nero.

Let me state the facts clearly.

The Alfa Nero was seized by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda pursuant to legislation duly enacted by Parliament, following the vessel’s abandonment in our waters in the wake of international sanctions imposed on its Russian-linked ownership. The yacht was subsequently auctioned in July 2024 for approximately US\$40 million, and those proceeds were applied to legitimate Government obligations, including debts owed to regional financial institutions. There is no missing money.

The article attempts to portray ongoing litigation as evidence that my personal finances are being ‘exposed’ by courts in the United States. This is deliberately misleading. The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled in March 2026 in favour of myself and other Antiguan officials, upholding the quashing of subpoenas that sought to compel American banks to produce financial records. The very discovery effort that the article presents as an expanding threat to my administration was rejected by the highest federal appellate court to consider it. That is not a ‘backfire’ — that is vindication.

The article further mischaracterises my defamation proceedings against the law firm Boies Schiller Flexner and attorney Martin De Luca. I initiated those proceedings because reckless and false public statements were made by foreign lawyers — acting on behalf of sanctioned Russian interests — that impugned my integrity and that of my



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Government. Seeking legal redress for defamation is the proper and lawful course of action. It is not, as the article

implies, a strategic error.

I am also concerned about how this article is being spread. The link that people are receiving and forwarding does not go directly to the article — it first passes through a third-party commercial tracking system that records who clicks on it and monitors how widely it is shared. This is not how a legitimate news story circulates naturally. It is the hallmark of an organised, paid distribution campaign. Someone is deliberately pushing this article to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and they do not want you to know who that someone is.

My Government acted in the national interest when we seized and sold the Alfa Nero. The courts in the United States have confirmed our right to do so. I will not be distracted from the work of governing this country by orchestrated disinformation campaigns, and I will continue to pursue all appropriate legal remedies against those who make false and damaging statements about me and my administration.



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PM Vows Antigua and Barbuda Will Not Abandon CIP Despite EU Visa-Free Threats



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is standing resolute in his position that Antigua and Barbuda will maintain its Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP), even if the country loses visa-free access to the European Union.

Speaking on his weekly *Browne and Browne Show* on Saturday, the Prime Minister acknowledged that the European Union has threatened to suspend visa-free travel for citizens of some OECS states by the end of the year, but stressed that his administration would not sacrifice a programme it considers vital to the nation's economic stability.

OECS governments are "seeking high-level engagement with European officials" before a final decision is taken.

According to the Antiguan and Barbudan leader, a proposal has been advanced that the European Union implement an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system instead of requiring full visas, arguing that such a measure would help preserve the longstanding relationship between both sides while addressing security concerns.

"We think that it's a sensible thing to do to maintain the good relations that we've had over the years, not to throw the baby out with the bathwa-

ter," Browne said.

The Prime Minister noted that Ireland has already discontinued visa-free arrangements for some countries with Citizenship by Investment programmes, suggesting that Antigua and Barbuda must prepare for the possibility that similar restrictions could eventually be imposed by the wider European bloc. Despite that prospect, Mr. Browne made it clear that his government has no intention of dismantling the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

"Under my leadership and certainly under the Labour Party's governance of this country, with or without those visa-free arrangements, our CIP programme continues," he declared.

Describing the programme as an essential source of non-tax revenue, the Prime Minister said it has become a critical pillar of national development and government financing. He maintained that Antigua and Barbuda has significantly strengthened its due diligence processes and that the programme does not pose a major security risk to other countries.

While acknowledging that no vetting system is completely foolproof, he argued that isolated cases involving criminals do not justify criticism of

Caribbean investment migration programmes.

Browne pointed to similar programmes in larger countries, including the United States' EB-5 immigrant investor programme and Canada's investment immigration system, saying they too have admitted individuals later found to be involved in criminal activity.

"But they keep pointing fingers at us as though they are not fallible," Browne said. "In fact, I believe that our programmes are better run than theirs."

At the same time, Mr. Browne acknowledged that Antigua and Barbuda could face challenges if Europe proceeds with its proposed policy changes.

"We can anticipate some headwinds ahead in terms of the withdrawal of visa-free access," he said, noting that European authorities continue to argue that Citizenship by Investment programmes create potential loopholes for criminal actors.

Despite those concerns, Browne reiterated that his government remains committed to defending the programme while continuing diplomatic efforts to preserve visa-free travel arrangements with the European Union.

Saint Peter MP Lashes Out at Jumby Bay Over Indiscriminate Dumping

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation and Member of Parliament for St. Peter, Rawdon Turner, has publicly called on the owners and management of Jumby Bay to immediately cease what he described as the illegal dumping of waste in and around the Parham community.

In a strongly worded social media post, Turner expressed frustration over what he said were repeated incidents of waste, namely Sargassum Seaweed being discarded near the community despite numerous complaints.

“Enough is enough,” the minister declared, accusing the luxury resort of treating Parham as a dumping ground.

“The continued dumping of waste in and around our community, despite repeated complaints, is disgraceful, disrespectful, and completely unacceptable,” Turner wrote.

He argued that the alleged practice contradicts the resort’s reputation for luxury tourism and environmental responsibility.

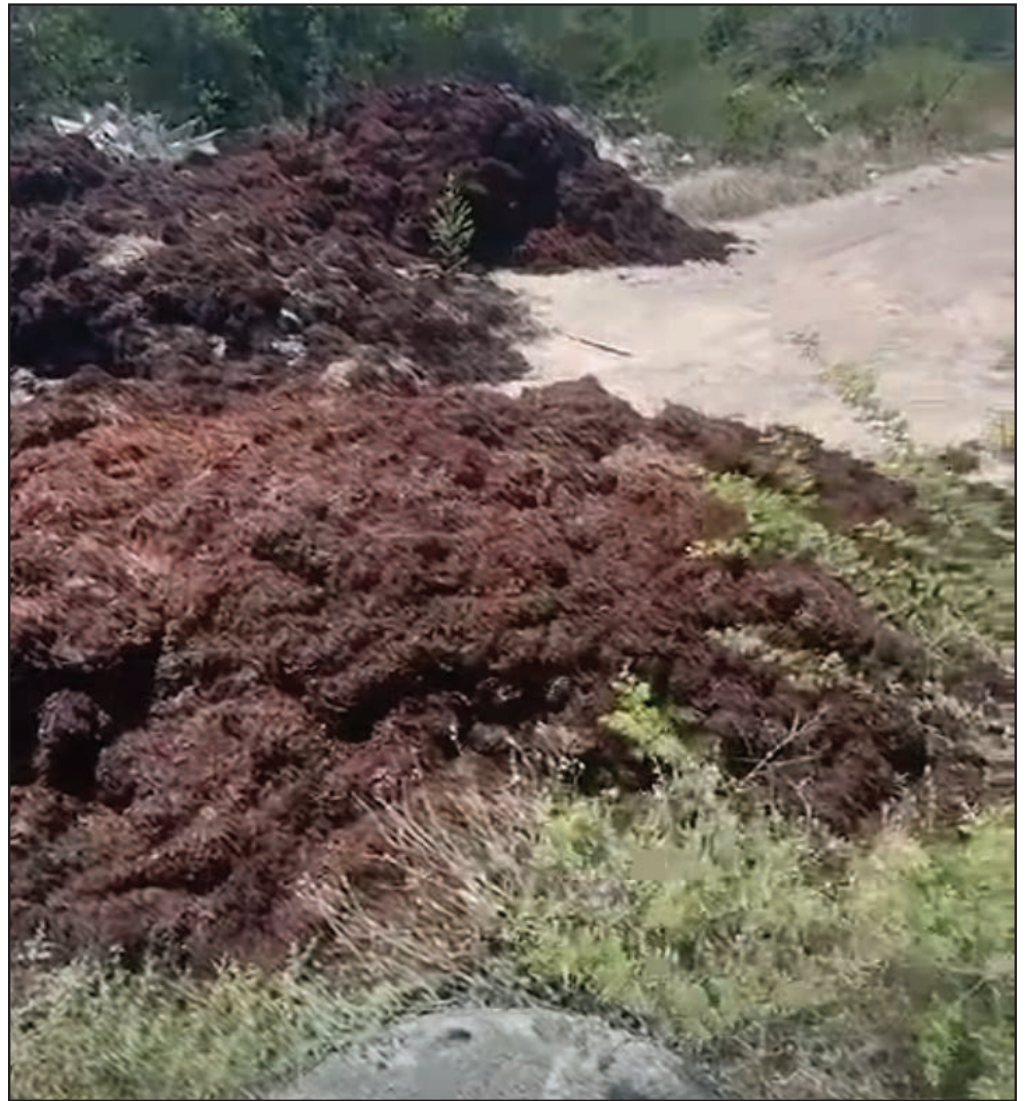
“You cannot promote luxury and environmental stewardship while treating the people of Parham and our surroundings with such contempt,” Turner stated. “This abuse of our community must end.”

The minister reminded the resort’s owners and management that they are required to comply with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda governing waste disposal.

According to Turner, Cooks Landfill is the country’s only approved disposal site for waste, and all individuals and businesses are expected to dispose of refuse there.

He called on Jumby Bay to immediately stop the alleged dumping, remove any waste that has already been discarded in and around Parham, and demonstrate greater respect for the residents of the area.

“Stop dumping your waste in and around Parham and immediately remove what has already been dumped,



and show the people of this community the respect they deserve,” he wrote.

Turner ended his statement with a clear warning that the community would no longer accept the practice.

“We are not your garbage bin, and we will not tolerate this shameful practice any longer,” he said.

No sooner the resort was called out, Jumby Bay’s management responded via a statement, outlining that it held discussions with Saint Peter MP Rawdon Turner, and that immediate steps were being taken to remove the dumped items.

“The contractor responsible has been directed to remove the seaweed without delay, and we are enhancing fur-

ther oversight measures to ensure full compliance with environmental requirements going forward,” the statement read.

The resort also pledged to tighten oversight that will ensure strict compliance in the manner in which waste is disposed, all part of maintaining positive relationships with neighbouring communities.

“We recognize the importance of preserving the beauty and wellbeing of Antigua’s communities and environment, and we remain committed to earning and maintaining the trust of those we serve through responsible action and continuous improvement,” the statement added.

Ministry of Trade Mounts Specialised Services Sector Training



Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King

Some twenty participants drawn from both the public and private sectors are attending a four-day specialized services sector training organized by the Ministry of Trade.

Under the theme, *Specialised Training to Strengthen and Enhance Knowledge Capacity, Policymaking and Negotiating Skills of Public and Private Sector Stakeholders in the Services Sector*, the workshop brings together participants from the traditional services sector such as architects and accountants, to the non-traditional sector such as clothing design and events management.

In an address marking the opening of the workshop, Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King, highlighted the importance of the services sector to the Antigua and Barbuda economy.

“Our nation has long demonstrated that, despite the constraints associated with small size, geographic vulnerability, and exposure to external economic shocks, we possess the ingenuity and determination to compete successfully in the global marketplace. Much of that success has been built upon a dynamic and vibrant services sector,” she



observed.

“Indeed, the services sector remains the cornerstone of our economy. Recent data indicate that services account for approximately 70 percent of Antigua and Barbuda’s Gross Domestic Product, significantly above the global average, underscoring the central role that services play in national income, employment, and economic activity.”

King reported that beyond its contri-



tribution to GDP, trade in services represents one of the principal channels through which Antigua and Barbuda engages the global economy. “Service exports and imports together,” she noted, “amount to more than 80 percent of GDP, illustrating the extraordinary degree to which our prosperity is linked to international services market.”

In her welcome remarks, the ministry’s Trade Policy Analyst and Antigua



Local News



and Barbuda's OECS Services Sector Focal Point, Varecia Williams noted that the private sector plays a vital role in the Antigua and Barbuda economy by creating employment, supporting investment, encouraging innovation and contributing to national growth.

“Your participation is therefore important, as it ensures that the voices and experiences of service providers are reflected in discussions on services sector development. As policymakers, we recognize that effective policies cannot be developed in silos. Strong public and private sector partnerships are essential if we are to properly understand the challenges facing businesses and advocate more effectively on your behalf at the national, regional and international levels,” she noted.

The workshop is being led by Audel Cunningham, a legal trade specialist and Training Facilitator. It is being held at the Customs Division Building at the Deep Water Harbour.

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ABFC Engages Newly Appointed Finance Committee In Carnival 2026 Financial Reset

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) held its first meeting with the newly appointed Finance Committee, comprising seasoned professionals from the Treasury Department, the Ministry of Finance, and the private sector, as part of preparations for Antigua Carnival 2026.

The Commission welcomed and commended the Finance Team for accepting this critical responsibility and their willingness to serve, noting that their mandate is to strengthen oversight, improve transparency, and ensure strong financial accountability across all Carnival operations.

ABFC acknowledged previous limitations in financial control and record continuity, but emphasized a forward-looking approach focused on strengthening systems, improving value for money, and rebuilding trust in the management of Carnival resources. The Commission underscored the need for a broader financial reset across the Carnival ecosystem, citing concerns around rising costs, inconsistent pricing, and unsustainable spending practices. It stressed that public funds, vendor payments, and sponsorship investments must reflect fairness, transparency, and market value.

The Finance Committee commended the Commission for its commitment to making sound financial management a central pillar of its operations, noting that the strategic establishment of the Committee reflects a progressive approach to strengthening governance, enhancing accountability, and ensuring the Commission's long-term sustainability. Members also sought clarification on the Committee's scope of work and independence, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that its mandate is fully respected and supported. Additionally, they underscored the need for clear processes, robust internal controls, and appropriate safeguards to strengthen financial



oversight, improve decision-making, and address lessons learned from past operational challenges.

ABFC reaffirmed its commitment to full cooperation, stating that the Finance Team will play a key role in reviewing major expenditures, guiding financial decisions, and supporting

negotiations on high-value contracts as the Commission moves away from "business as usual". As Carnival 2026 intensifies, the Commission expressed confidence that the Committee's recommendations will be practical, timely, and fully implemented to strengthen delivery and accountability.



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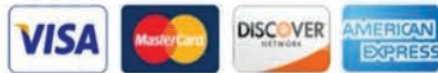
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APUA INET OLD PARHAM ROAD

EXOTIC ANTIGUA REDCLIFFE STREET

SIPS & TIPS CEDAR GROVE MAIN ROAD



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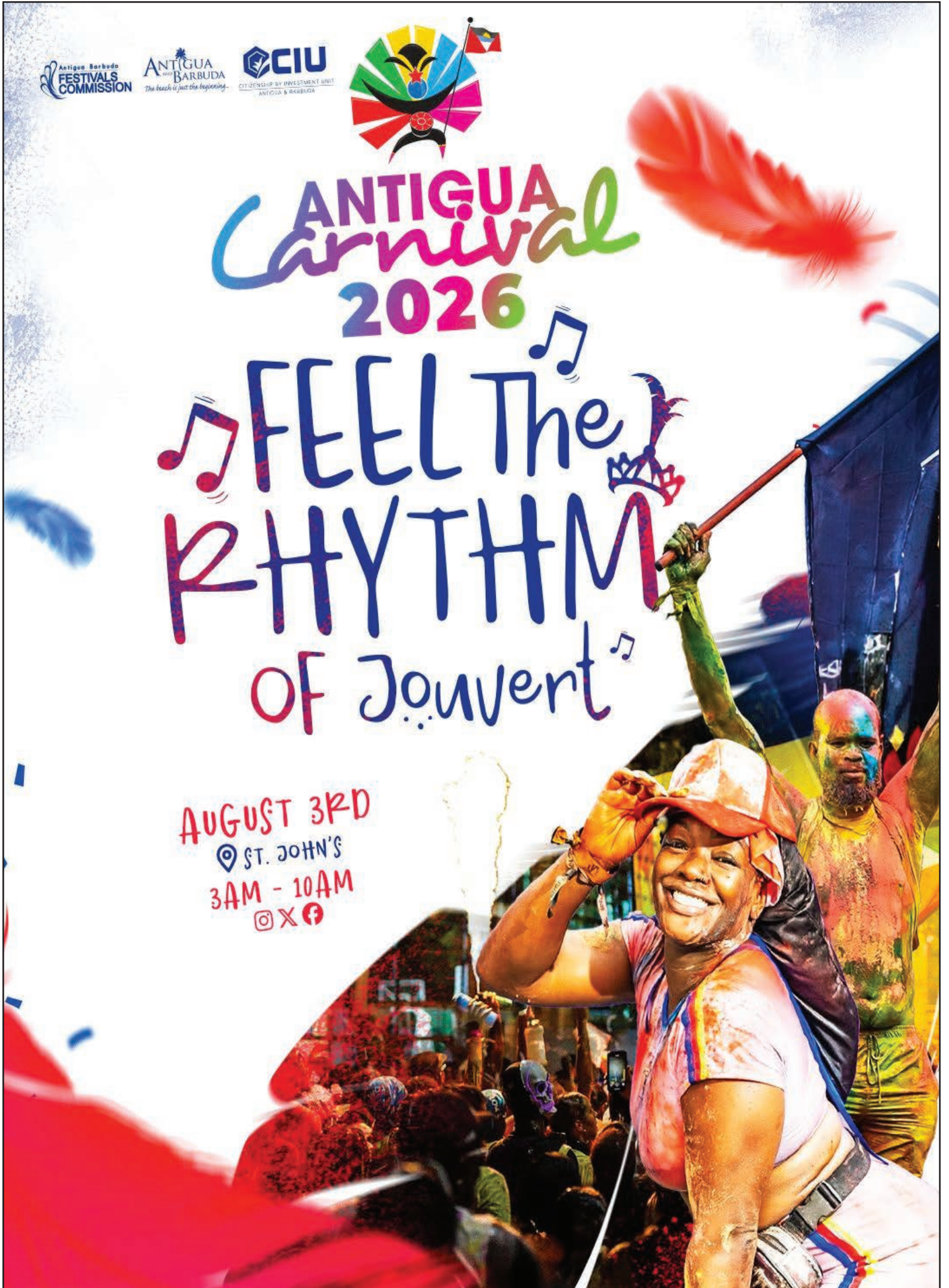




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RCA donates \$10,000 to UWI Five Islands Campus as part of yearly scholarship programme

The Rotary Club of Antigua has reaffirmed its commitment to education and youth development through the presentation of a cheque valued at EC\$10,000 to the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) as part of the Club's Scholarship Programme and its ongoing partnership with the institution.

The cheque was officially presented to Ms. Adeola Matthew, Manager of the Student Retention and Success Unit within the Office of the Campus Registrar at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Antigua and Barbuda during a brief presentation ceremony at Rotary House.

This contribution will assist deserving students in accessing higher education opportunities and supports the shared vision of both organizations to empower young people through academic achievement and personal development.

Speaking on behalf of the Rotary Club of Antigua, President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Mrs. Elisa Graham noted that education remains one of Rotary's key areas of focus and an essential investment in the future of Antigua and Barbuda.

"The Rotary Club of Antigua is proud to continue its partnership with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus through this scholarship contribution. We believe that education is one of the most powerful tools for transforming lives and strengthening communities. This donation reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting students as they pursue their academic and professional aspirations," she said.

The RCA President also expressed gratitude to the Scholarship Committee led by Past President Dr. Vanetta



Rodgers and Past President Dr. Errol Samuel for their continuous dedication and commitment in bringing the initiative to fruition. She also extended her thanks to Rotarians Nabia Burton and Yasmine Ephraim who also form a part of RCA's Scholarship Committee.

Ms. Matthew expressed appreciation for the Club's continued support, highlighting the positive impact that scholarship assistance has on student success and retention.

"Partnerships like this demonstrate the power of community. The Club's continued scholarship support has had a measurable impact on student success and retention, helping to ensure that more students can complete their studies and build brighter fu-

tures", she expressed.

The Rotary Club of Antigua has a longstanding tradition of supporting educational initiatives, youth leadership programmes, and community development projects throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

Through strategic partnerships such as its collaboration with UWI FIC, the Club continues to create meaningful opportunities that help students overcome financial barriers and achieve their educational goals.

The Club looks forward to strengthening its relationship with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and continuing to invest in the nation's future leaders.

Liberty Caribbean Zero-Rates Calls to Venezuela

In response to the recent earthquakes affecting Venezuela, Liberty Caribbean has announced that all mobile voice calls to the country will be zero-rated for both prepaid and postpaid customers.

The initiative takes effect immediately and will remain in place through July 6, providing customers with the opportunity to stay connected with loved ones in Venezuela during this difficult period.

“When communities are affected by natural disasters, the first instinct for many people is to reach the ones they love. In moments like these, a simple phone call can bring reassurance, hope and comfort. We want our customers to know that, during this difficult time, staying connected to family and friends in Venezuela should be one less thing to

When a neighbor is in crisis, we show up.

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worry about,” said Britta Reinhardt, Chief Commer-

cial Officer, Liberty Caribbean.

Liberty Caribbean are the operators of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC.

“As a Caribbean company, we know the uncertainty and anxiety that follows events like these. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the earthquakes, and particularly with our colleagues, customers and the Venezuelan community across our region who are anxiously checking on loved ones. This is a moment when connection matters most,” added Reinhardt.

The zero-rated calling initiative is available to eligible prepaid and postpaid mobile customers across Liberty Caribbean’s operating markets, including Flow and BTC, for calls placed to Venezuela during the designated support period.

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LIAT Air

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LIAT Air Apologises After Technical Issues Disrupt Flight

Antigua-based regional airline LIAT Air has issued a public apology to passengers, partners and stakeholders following significant disruptions to its flight schedule over the past two days.

The carrier attributes the delays and cancellations to unforeseen aircraft technical issues.

In a statement, LIAT Air said the operational disruptions affected services across its network after technical problems required aircraft to undergo inspections and maintenance before returning to service.

The airline stressed that the decision to temporarily remove affected aircraft

from operation was guided by its commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards.

“While these actions were essential to ensuring the highest safety standards, they resulted in delays and cancellations that impacted a number of flights,” the statement said.

LIAT Air said it has begun implementing recovery measures aimed at restoring its normal schedule and minimising further disruptions.

According to the airline, operational teams are working around the clock to accommodate affected passengers by placing them on the next available

LIAT Air flights, partner airlines, or other available air services.

The carrier assured customers that every effort is being made to return operations to normal as quickly and safely as possible.

LIAT Air acknowledged the inconvenience caused to travellers and thanked customers and industry partners for their patience, understanding and continued support during the disruption.

The airline reaffirmed its commitment to restoring reliable service across its regional network while ensuring that safety remains its highest priority.

Sir Clarence ‘Oungku’ Edwards Recuperating at SLBMC

The leader of the popular Burning Flames, Sir Clarence ‘Oungku’ Edwards, is reportedly ‘doing well’ at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, following a health situation on Tuesday.

Reports indicate that Sir Clarence was rushed to the hospital early on Tuesday with what was reported as ‘a medical issue’. No further information was readily available.

However, by later in the day, there were reports that his con-



dition had stabilized at the hos-

pital.

In a social media post, Sir Clarence reported that he was doing fine and that the doctors advised him that he needed rest. He also urged members of the public to temper their expressions of concern as these were disrupting both his rest and the normal operations of the hospital.

A photo accompanying the post showed Sir Clarence smiling and looking well.



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The Power of Service: Why Volunteerism Matters More Than Ever

By Ileana Cabral, Melvin Jones
Fellow
President, Lions Club of Antigua

In today's fast-paced world, where personal and professional demands often dominate our daily lives, it is easy to overlook one of the most powerful forces for positive change—**volunteerism**. Yet, the strength of any nation is measured not only by its economic prosperity but also by the willingness of its citizens to serve one another. It is through volunteerism that communities become stronger, more resilient, and more compassionate.

For over a century, Lions Clubs around the world have demonstrated that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things when they unite in service. Founded in 1917 by Melvin Jones in Chicago, Illinois, Lions Clubs International began with a simple but profound belief: that business and community leaders should use their talents not only for personal success but also to improve the lives of others. Today, Lions Clubs International has grown into the world's largest service organization, with more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries and geographic areas, dedicated to serving humanity through projects that address health, hunger, education, youth development, environmental sustainability, and disaster relief.

The Lions Club of Antigua, chartered in 1968, has proudly embraced that mission for more than five decades. Throughout our history, we have remained committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Antigua and Barbuda through meaningful service projects that address some of our country's most pressing social and health needs. Our work is driven entirely by individuals who freely



give their time, skills, and resources because they believe that serving others is one of life's greatest responsibilities.

Over the years, the Club has become one of the country's most respected service organizations, touching thousands of lives through programmes that promote health, dignity, and hope. Among our flagship initiatives is the **Weekly Hot Meals Programme**, which provides nutritious meals to vulnerable individuals and families who struggle with food insecurity. While a warm meal may seem simple, for many recipients it represents compassion, dignity, and reassurance that their community has not forgotten them.

Healthcare remains another cornerstone of our service. Our **Annual Prostate Screening Programme**, now in its eighteenth year, has become one of the largest men's health initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda. Hundreds of men participate annually, benefiting from early detection and increased awareness of prostate

cancer. Early diagnosis saves lives, and this programme has undoubtedly contributed to improved health outcomes for many men across the nation.

The Lions Club of Antigua also responds to numerous medical assistance requests each year. Whether helping individuals obtain critical medical treatment, purchasing mobility aids, supporting surgeries, or assisting with specialized healthcare needs, we strive to provide relief wherever possible, often working quietly behind the scenes to restore hope to families facing extraordinary challenges.

Our Food Package Distribution Programme provides essential groceries to families experiencing financial hardship, Eye Screening Programmes in primary and secondary schools where thousands of students have been screened over the years.

While these projects are visible examples of our work, they are only possible because of the invaluable support we receive from our corporate partners. Corporate Antigua and Barbuda has long recognized that community development is a shared responsibility. Businesses that sponsor our projects, donate products and services, or encourage employees to volunteer are making an investment not only in the Lions Club but also in the social and economic well-being of our nation. Their contributions extend far beyond financial sponsorship. Many companies provide skilled professionals who volunteer their expertise during medical screenings, fundraising events, and community outreach programmes. Others donate equipment, venues, transportation, or logistical support that significantly reduces project costs and increases

our capacity to serve more people.

These partnerships demonstrate the true meaning of corporate social responsibility. When businesses invest in healthier communities, stronger families, and better educational opportunities, everyone benefits.

However, no service organization can thrive without volunteers. Volunteerism is not reserved for those with abundant free time or financial resources. Every person has something valuable to contribute. Whether it is an hour each month, professional expertise, organizational skills, mentoring young people, or simply a willingness to lend a helping hand, every act of service creates a ripple effect that strengthens our society.

Young people have an essential role to play. Through volunteerism, they develop leadership skills, confidence, empathy, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for civic responsibility. These experiences not only prepare them for successful careers but also help shape responsible citizens who understand the importance of giving back to their communities.

As we look toward the future, we must inspire a new generation to embrace service as a lifelong commitment rather than an occasional activity. The challenges facing our communities including mental health, chronic diseases, youth development, environmental sustainability, and social inequality require fresh ideas, new energy, and committed volunteers.

The Lions Club of Antigua welcomes individuals from all walks of life who share our passion for service. Membership offers an opportunity to develop personally and professionally while making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Lions enjoy fellowship with like-minded individuals, leadership development opportunities, and the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts directly improve their communities.

If you have ever wondered how you can make a difference, this is your opportunity. Whether you are a young professional, an entrepreneur, a retiree, a university student, or a corporate leader, there is a place for you within the Lions family. We encourage businesses to deepen their partnerships with service organizations and invite individuals to become active participants in building a stronger Antigua and Barbuda.

The future of our nation depends not only on what governments can do but on what each of us is willing to do for

one another.

Service is not merely an act, it is a commitment to building stronger communities, healthier families, and brighter futures.

If you would like to learn more about the Lions Club of Antigua or become a member, we invite you to contact any Lion, reach out through our social media pages or email antigua.lions@gmail.com. We would be delighted to welcome you to a global network of volunteers dedicated to making a lasting difference because where there is a need, there is a Lion.

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Connell calls out procedural backlog in SVG courts



Outspoken defence attorney Grant Connell has once again raised alarms over the state of the judicial system in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, formally writing to Attorney General Louise Mitchell to address the “infinite delays” in issuing and serving essential court documents.

Coming just one week after he called out mental health authorities for failing to provide the Court with necessary psychiatric reports, Connell is now targeting the severe backlog at the Magistrate Courts. According to the attorney, crucial legal documents, including warrants, summonses, and civil claim forms, are sometimes left unserved for more than six months.

To demonstrate that these delays are largely avoidable, Connell recently took matters into his own hands. His chambers hired Rodwell ‘Smoker’ Alexander, a retired High Court bailiff, to locate and serve Magistrate’s Court

documents on an individual named George Bailey. Even though Alexander is not a registered Magistrate’s Court bailiff, he successfully found Bailey within 48 hours of receiving the paperwork.

Despite this swift alternative action, Connell reports that the official Magistrate’s Court bailiffs have still not served the documents on Bailey, leaving the case stalled before the court.

“What is causing it, I don’t know. Is it lack of resources, or are bailiffs overworked?” Connell questioned, noting that this is just one of many cases suffering from significant delays.

He emphasized the severe financial and emotional toll these backlogs take on the public, particularly in civil disputes. “Whatever it is, justice delayed is justice denied,” Connell explained. “You can’t afford to wait in excess of six months to have a recovery of pos-

session case heard. That means that the persons you are trying to get out of a property may remain there indefinitely, until the Court makes an order”.

In his letter to Attorney General Mitchell, Connell proposed a legislative solution to circumvent the backlog: applying Section 20 of the Magistrate’s Act. This provision allows the Governor General to appoint other salaried individuals, such as police officers or rural constables, to execute civil and criminal processes.

Connell believes drastic measures are required to fix a system that is fundamentally failing Vincentians. “Clearly, there is an issue with the Bailiffs in the Magistrate’s Courts that needs to be addressed,” he stated. “It’s either they are understaffed, underemployed or there is an issue which nobody wants to address, and the public is suffering because of this” (St Vincent Times)

Delta Air Lines terminates flights to St Vincent (SVG)



Delta Air Lines has permanently discontinued its nonstop flights between Atlanta (ATL) and St. Vincent (SVD). In an email communication to the St Vincent Times on June 29, the airline confirmed this decision, stating that it has opted not to resume the seasonal service as part of its “ongoing network planning process”.

Originally, the service was only intended to pause seasonally after the September 5 flight and was scheduled to resume later this year on December 19, 2026. However, Delta has now confirmed that the route will be permanently discontinued and will not return as previously planned.

The St Vincent Times was also told that the decision to cut the route was officially loaded into Delta’s system on May 23, 2026.

When making these network decisions, Delta routinely evaluates mul-

iple factors, including “customer demand, seasonality, aircraft availability, operating costs and broader operational considerations”.

Delta told St Vincent Times that the airline is currently working through the interline re-accommodation process to directly contact affected passengers with alternate travel options.

The cancellation comes shortly after the highly anticipated route commenced. Delta initially launched this new nonstop daily service on December 20, 2025. The flights were operated on a state-of-the-art Boeing 737 MAX aircraft featuring Main Cabin, Delta Comfort+, and First Class seating. This launch established Delta as the only U.S. carrier providing nonstop service to St. Vincent from Atlanta.

At its launch in late 2025, the new route was highly celebrated and framed as a “strategic investment designed to capture and accelerate

existing market growth”. The service was introduced following a “record-breaking year in stayover arrivals” for St. Vincent, which was viewed as a strong indicator that Delta’s nonstop flight was a “calculated bet on a destination with proven momentum”.

Because Atlanta serves as a global super-hub, the route was praised for significantly strengthening St. Vincent’s connectivity with the United States, a “major source market”.

St Vincent officials at the time noted that deploying a modern aircraft with a full suite of cabin classes positioned the route as a “premium leisure service”. The direct flight was heralded as a major turning point that transformed the island “from a multi-stop logistical challenge into a potential one-stop destination” for travelers from the U.S., as well as those connecting from Europe and Asia. (St Vincent Times)

Man runs for life after alleged attack by ex



A man had to run for his life on Monday when his ex-girlfriend reportedly armed herself with a knife and confronted him at his Laventille home.

Police said that around 12 noon the man, 42 was at his Upper Laventille Road, Trou Macaque when the ex-girlfriend walked in unannounced wielding a knife.

He told officers that she started an argument with him during which she attempted to grab his car keys which was on a kitchen counter. While trying to prevent her from grabbing the keys, she stabbed him multiple times to his left and right forearm. Fearing for his life, he ran out the house and was struck by a bottle she reportedly threw at him.

He then drove himself to the Port of Spain General Hospital where he was treated and due to the injuries he sustained the Besson Street Police were contacted.

Sometime after being treated and discharged the man met his current girlfriend who told him that his ex reportedly took his Samsung cellphone valued \$2,500 from his home.

Besson Street Police are continuing investigations. (Trinidad Express)

NOTICE

TO: LICENSING MAGISTRATE
Magistrate's Court
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Antigua W.I.

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's, Antigua W.I.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENSE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS SAYIBEA'S HOME TOUCH BOUTIQUE

I, JENNIFER BARNES, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday, 6th July, 2026 next ensuing for a (tavern/bottle) license in respect of premises known as "SAKYIBEA'S HOME TOUCH BOUTIQUE" situated on BALDWIN STREET OTTOS, IN THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN, ANTIGUA pursuant to Section (11) (3) of the Licenses (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, revised edition 1992.

**Dated the 11th day of June 2026
JENNIFER SAKYIBEA BARNES
(268) 785-1270**

Gas shortages force tough decision



Methanex Corporation will be indefinitely idling its Titan methanol plant in Pt Lisas as it said yesterday it was unable to agree to a new natural gas contract.

In a release, the Vancouver, BC, Canada-based company stated, “Methanex Corporation announced today that it has been unable to agree to a new natural gas contract for its Titan methanol plant in Trinidad and Tobago (860,000 tonnes per year capacity) and, as a result, will begin the process of indefinitely idling the facility.”

It stated that Titan’s existing natural gas contract expires in September.

The company employs more than 100 people.

“Methanex will undertake a preservation process at the Titan plant to provide optionality for a future restart should conditions materially improve,” the company added.

The Atlas methanol plant, a joint venture in which Methanex holds a 63.1% economic interest, remains indefinitely idled in a preserved state.

President and chief executive officer of Methanex Corporation Rich Sumner stated, “We have a long history in Trinidad and Tobago with an outstanding organisation that has played an important role in our company’s history. This difficult decision reflects our focus on preserving long-term shareholder value in a challenging en-

vironment where the structurally tight gas supply and demand balances in Trinidad and Tobago are making operations commercially unviable.”

He added, “Ahead of this decision, we engaged extensively with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC), and we recognise and appreciate their ongoing efforts to address the country’s gas supply challenges. We will monitor future developments closely, with a view to reassessing conditions and our position over the coming years. We are now focused on supporting our team members during this challenging period and safely idling and preserving the facility.”

Titan is not currently contributing to the company’s adjusted EBITDA and adjusted free cash flow.

“Methanex does not expect to incur material cash costs as a result of this decision and any updates to production or financial guidance will be released with Methanex’s regular second quarter financial communications scheduled for July 28, 2026,” it stated.

Methanex is a Vancouver-based, publicly traded company and is the world’s largest supplier of methanol globally. Methanex shares are listed for trading on the Toronto Stock Ex-

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change in Canada under the trading symbol and on the Nasdaq Stock Market in the United States.

The company had idled its Atlas methanol plant in September 2024 and restarted operations at its smaller Titan methanol plant due to a lack of gas.

On March 16, 2020 Methanex idled the Titan plant “in response to the reduction in global manufacturing activity and methanol demand resulting from the global pandemic”.

Contacted for comment yesterday, Energy Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal said via WhatsApp, “I have noted their press release.”

Attempts to get further comments from him were futile.

The Express also reached out to former prime minister and energy minister Stuart Young and NGC chairman, Gerald Ramdeen, several times but no answer was received up to last night.

This is the second international energy player to leave T&T in recent months.

On October 23 last year, Nutrien commenced a controlled shutdown of its Trinidad Nitrogen operations at the Point Lisas facility.

“This shutdown is in response to port access restrictions imposed by Trinidad and Tobago’s National Energy Corporation (NEC) and a lack of reliable and economic natural gas supply that has reduced the free cash flow contribution of the Trinidad Nitrogen operations over an extended period of time. Nutrien will continue to engage with stakeholders and assess options with respect to its operations in Trinidad,” Nutrien stated then.

In May, while Nutrien began the process to sell its T&T assets, Methanex had signalled it was actively weighing its options amid uncertain gas supply negotiations with the National Gas Company (NGC).

Both global energy companies made the statements during their earnings calls with investors on May 7.

Sumner said Methanex was consider-

ing “all possible outcomes” in its discussions with NGC, including a short-term arrangement or potential idling of the plant at the time.

“Our gas contract is up in the middle of September. We’re in discussions with the NGC. We’re considering all possible range of outcomes through those discussions, including a short-term deal, as well as the potential to have to idle the plants. It will come down to those NGC discussions,” he said.

Sumner added that Trinidad remained “an extremely tight gas market”, with the LNG, ammonia and methanol sectors operating below nameplate capacity.

He also noted uncertainty around potential Venezuelan gas supplies.

“But we do think any new gas from Venezuela is quite a ways out and also carries risk on whether it can ever flow economically to methanol,” he said. “There’s a lot for us to consider.” (Trinidad Express)



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US Supreme Court upholds bans on transgender women in female school and college sports

The US Supreme Court has ruled that states can ban transgender women from competing in female school and college sports.

The court considered cases from students in two different states who had challenged bans on participation. The two states, Idaho and West Virginia, enacted laws that required public school and college sports teams to compete in accordance with their sex recorded at birth.

One of the two challenges said the ban violates equal rights protections in the US Constitution. The other said it contradicts civil rights laws.

More than two dozen states have enacted bans since Idaho did so in 2020.

Under those state bans, a transgender woman - a biological male who identifies as a woman - is not permitted to compete in female sports at schools and colleges.

All nine justices on the court decided the state bans do not violate a civil rights law called Title IX which prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools.

But the judges were split along ideological lines on whether the bans contravene the Constitution's 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law.

The six conservative justices said it did not violate the constitution but the three liberal justices disagreed.

"The Constitution and Title IX do not require an overhaul of women's and girls' sports throughout America," wrote Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who authored the ruling.

In her partial dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the majority opinion had applied "a diminished view of equal protection" to sports.

The challenge launched in Idaho came from a transgender woman, Lindsay Hecox, a long distance runner, who lodged it shortly after the law was enacted. She was later granted an injunction by both a district court and



an appeals court.

State lawmaker Barbara Ehardt, who introduced the law, said at the time of its passing that it would ensure "boys and men will not be able to take the place of girls and women in sports because it's not fair".

But in the appeals ruling, a panel of three judges found that the Idaho law violated constitutional rights. They said the state had failed to provide evidence that its ban protects "sex equality and opportunity for women athletes".

West Virginia Attorney General JB McCuskey said the ruling was a victory for common sense and would give all states "the clarity and confidence to ensure fairness and safety for female athletes today and for generations to come".

But the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), which advocates for the LGBT community, criticised the decision.

"This ruling is heartbreaking for transgender student athletes who are being forced to sit on the sidelines simply for who they are," said HRC President Kelley Robinson.

President Donald Trump, who celebrated the ruling and called it a "BIG WIN" in a social media post, made the issue of transgender athletes in

women's sports a regular focus of his 2024 election campaign. Last year, he signed an executive order that aimed to ban transgender women from competing on female sports teams in schools and colleges.

Following that decision, the NCAA, the governing body for US college sports, banned transgender women from competing in women's sports.

Supporters of the bans argued that transgender women had a biological advantage over athletes who were recorded female at birth.

When the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced in March it was going to limit the women's category of Olympic sports to biological females, it said its working group reviewed the latest scientific evidence over the previous 18 months and had concluded there was a "clear consensus" that "male sex provides a performance advantage in all sports and events that rely on strength, power and resistance".

Those who opposed the bans argue that they unfairly discriminated against transgender students and dispute whether there is a scientific consensus that transgender women and girls have an inherent advantage. (BBC)

Venezuela quake survivors seek food, shelter as toll rises to nearly 2,000

Tens of thousands of people desperately sought food and shelter in Venezuela on Tuesday after the two earthquakes killed nearly 2,000, but rescue teams managed to pull a 3-year-old boy alive from the rubble six days after the shocks.

Last week's 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude shocks — one of the worst earthquake disasters in Latin American history — collapsed whole residential complexes, left tens of thousands unaccounted for and prompted frantic search-and-rescue operations for survivors trapped in the ruins.

Hopes were fading fast for more rescues, but nearly a week after the quakes, a Jordanian civil defence team dug the three-year-old boy from the wreckage of a house in Caracas.

Video footage online showed rescue workers cheering with joy on discovering the child, whose vital signs were good, the Jordanian civil defence said in a statement.

The critical 72-hour window during which survivors were still likely to be found closed on Saturday evening.

Six days after the shocks, the United Nations (UN) refugee agency said “food shortages are widespread, basic services have broken down, and connectivity has been largely severed” in the port city of La Guaira — the worst hit area north of the capital Caracas.

“They give out supplies here, but sometimes people nearly kill each other for food...it's like a cockfight,” said Daniela Armas, 18, a vendor in La Guaira who was injured falling from a motorbike during the quakes.

In a daily update, Venezuela's National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said deaths had risen to



1,943, with more than 10,500 injured after one of Latin America's worst earthquake disasters.

He said nearly 6,500 people had been rescued from the rubble in La Guaira, but that number was likely closer to 20,000, including those who escaped or were helped out by family.

Many Venezuelans have not hidden their anger at the government's slow response to the disaster in a country already struggling with decades of economic crisis that has weakened infrastructure and health services.

The UN agency said it needed some \$14.85 million to scale up aid and temporary shelter for 30,000 people over six months.

The quakes likely damaged or destroyed 58,870 buildings, according to a preliminary assessment of satellite data published by NASA.

With thousands in need of help, World Health Organisation spokesman Christian Lindmeier said health services in Venezuela were over-

stretched and under “extreme pressure.”

“There's an increased risk now of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases” such as measles and diphtheria, due to low pre-earthquake vaccination coverage, he said.

As international rescue teams from the US, Mexico and dozens of other countries scrambled with trained dogs and heavy equipment to dig out survivors, Venezuelans began burying the dead they could find.

Others were frantically searching by hand for missing loved ones in the rubble, but also in hospitals and morgues.

“It's harder not knowing because you ask yourself, ‘What do I do? Where do I look for her?’” said Rosanna Luna, looking for her sister Soraida in the wreckage of her home.

AFP journalists on Monday saw black body bags containing victims of the quake lined up near a makeshift morgue at the dock in La Guaira, where many people came for

news or to identify remains.

Darvin Silva, 37, described how he battled to reach his mother, who died under a pillar in a collapsed building.

“The effort it took me to get her out of there with my bare hands, with sledgehammers, with pickaxes... you can’t even begin to imagine,” he said.

“I hope that I can now offer her the rest she deserves,” he said.

Around 50,000 people are still listed as missing, according to the UN.

Some seven million people in Venezuela would be affected by the disas-

ter, the UN has said, with the quakes knocking a \$6.7-billion hole in the economy — or six per cent of Venezuela’s GDP.

A total of 27 countries have mobilised nearly 40 search-and-rescue teams. They include more than 2,000 troops and personnel, along with more than 160 dogs, according to Gianluca Rampolla, the UN coordinator in Venezuela.

The world body is providing 10,000 body bags, though it hopes the final toll will be lower.

At the only public cemetery in Ca-

racas, the two crematory ovens have been working at full capacity.

At the makeshift morgue at La Guaira’s port, many are still waiting for the remains of their loved ones who are presumed dead.

“My family is there — I’m told my sister and her children are there, as well as the children of my brother,” Wilker Molalla told AFP as he waited to identify the remains

“There were 11 people in my household,” he said. “Only two of us survived because we were at work.” (AFP)

Roof collapse kills 14 children at Pakistan tuition centre

Fourteen children died after the roof of a building near Lahore collapsed on top of them, officials say.

The incident happened at a private tuition centre in the Kahna suburb of the Pakistani city.

Young children under the age of 10 are among those to have been taken from the scene.

Authorities launched an investigation into the collapse, and two people were taken into custody as part of the initial inquiry.

Farooq Ahmed, a spokesman for the emergency service Rescue 1122, told the BBC they had received a call about the incident at 16:45 (12:45 BST).

He said that the rescue operation had been completed within one hour, and most people recovered were between seven and 11 years old.

Another five people are thought to be injured.

A man who said his niece was among the victims told AFP the roof of the building had been “in poor shape”.

Zaheer, 45, told the news agency that tiles on the roof had been undergoing repairs while the children studied.



“Suddenly the roof collapsed on top of quite a few children,” he said.

“They put a lot of weight on the roof and that’s why this has happened.”

Another resident told the Associated Press: “We don’t know whose home to visit first to offer condolences for the loss of their children.”

Pakistan’s prime minister expressed his condolences following the incident in a statement reported by AFP.

In the message, attributed to his office, Shehbaz Sharif said he “prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured

and directed the authorities to provide them with every possible medical assistance”.

The chief minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, called it a “heartbreaking tragedy”.

In a message shared on X in English, she said that “the loss of 14 innocent lives is an immeasurable sorrow, and my heart goes out to the grieving families”.

“Every individual found accountable will face the full force of the law,” she added. (BBC)

US Supreme Court upholds birthright citizenship in blow to Trump



The Supreme Court has ruled that babies born in the US have a constitutional right to citizenship, rejecting Donald Trump’s bid to end the 150-year-old policy.

In a 6-3 decision, Chief Justice John Roberts ruled that children born in the US “to parents unlawfully or temporarily present” are “citizens at birth” under the 14th amendment.

President Trump had sought to limit the right through an executive order, arguing that the children of undocu-

mented immigrants and some temporary visitors were not “subject to the jurisdiction thereof”, and thus not eligible for birthright citizenship.

The ruling is a major setback for Trump’s immigration agenda, and has been welcomed by civil rights groups.

On Truth Social, Trump said that the court’s decision was “too bad” and vowed to continue to fight to end birthright citizenship through legislation.

“No long and unwieldy constitutional amendment is necessary,” he said.

“Congress should today start work on ending expensive, and unfair to our country, birthright citizenship.”

The US has granted citizenship to everyone born in the country since 1868, with the right enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, and bolstered by later US Supreme Court rulings.

Passed in the aftermath of the US civil war, the 14th Amendment - which was originally intended for recently freed slaves - reads that “all persons



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born or naturalised, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States”

“Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights - to freely participate in our political community,” Justice Roberts wrote in the majority opinion. “The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to ‘every free-born person in this land’,” he wrote.

“We keep that promise today,” the chief justice said.

The Trump administration argued that the “jurisdiction thereof” mentioned in the 14th Amendment should exclude children of people who do not live in the country permanently.

Three of the court’s nine justices dissented from the decision: Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch and Samuel Alito.

Justice Thomas argued that the 14th amendment was being “repurposed for political projects” and that the freed

slaves it was originally intended for “were Americans” with no allegiance to other countries.

Another of the dissenting Justices, Samuel Alito, described the ruling as a “serious mistake” that “confers citizenship on virtually anyone who happens to be born in this country”, including those who come to the US with the explicit purpose of giving birth to a child and then returning to their country of origin.

The case was of enormous significance to President Donald Trump, who made a brief but historic appearance at the court to watch oral arguments in April.

On X, White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller - a vocal proponent of stricter immigration rules - called it “one of the most destructive and outrageous decisions” in the Supreme Court’s history.

“American citizenship is not the birthright of the world,” he said. “No provision of the Constitution can be

read to require our national self-obliteration.”

But immigration advocates and detractors of the administration celebrated the ruling.

Hakeem Jeffries, who leads Democrats in the US House of Representatives, said that by applying the law and being guided by the Constitution, the top court “finally affirmed that all persons born in the United States are American citizens”.

“There is, and shall be, no question,” Jeffries said.

Dariely Rodriguez, chief counsel at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said that the ruling “solidifies what we have known to be true for over a hundred years”.

“Anyone born on American soil, regardless of the legal status of their parents, is born an American citizen,” she added. We have endured an incredible test of our collective will as a nation and have prevailed.” (BBC)

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Sports News



National representatives selected for regional Beach Volleyball Referee Course

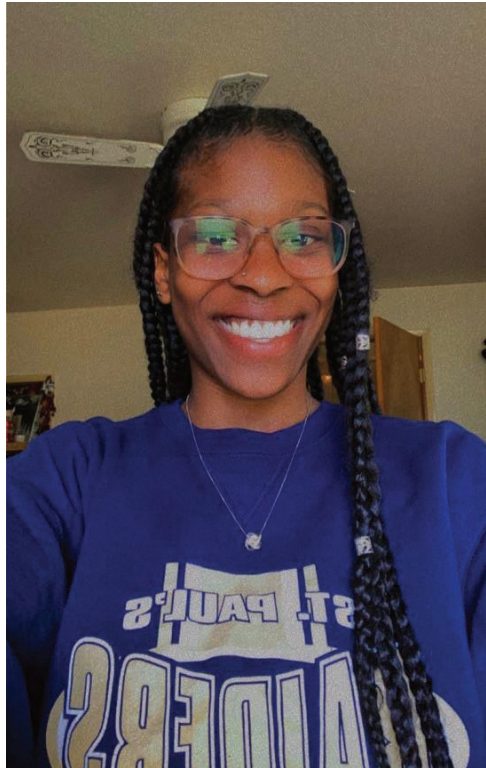
The Antigua & Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) has selected national athlete Josanne Lewis and coach Randy St. Jean to represent the twin-island state at the Regional Beach Volleyball Referee Course, which will be held in St. Kitts & Nevis from July 8 to 12.

According to a media release, their selection reflects ABAVA's ongoing commitment to developing every aspect of volleyball—not only its athletes and coaches, but also the technical officials who play a vital role in the sport.

The course will provide advanced training in beach volleyball officiating, equipping both representatives with enhanced knowledge of the latest rules, mechanics, and international standards.

The ABAVA extends best wishes to Lewis and St. Jean as they proudly represent the nation and is confident they will return with valuable experience to further strengthen beach volleyball officiating in Antigua and Barbuda.

The course will be conducted by facilitator Keith Murlless, who is a widely respected and accomplished official and mentor in beach volleyball. Murlless has been an active referee, both indoors and on the beach, for FIVB, USAV, NCAA, and AVP for the last three decades.



Josanne Lewis

The beach volleyball referee course is part of a full week of beach volleyball development activities being hosted by the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, bringing together coaches, referees, and athletes from across the region from July 6 to 12.

In collaboration with regional and international partners, ECVA will stage a Beach Volleyball Coaches Course, a National Referee Course, an Inter-

national Continental Referee Course, and a Training Camp & Athletes Development Forum.

All activities are scheduled around the ECVA Under-20 Beach Volleyball Championship and will take place primarily at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, Frigate Bay.

These initiatives reflect ECVA's ongoing commitment to building capacity and raising standards in all areas of beach volleyball, including coaching, officiating, and athlete performance.

By bringing world-class instructors and facilitators to the Eastern Caribbean, the ECVA is investing in the sustainable growth of the sport and creating new pathways for regional talent.

ECVA President Glenn Quinland of St. Kitts noted that these activities form part of a broader strategic effort to strengthen volleyball throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

“The ECVA continues to build capacity across the national federations, ensuring that the ECVA is always ready and that the growth opportunity for all is there to embrace.

“By equipping our coaches, referees, and athletes with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed, we are laying the foundation for long-term success and excellence in the region.”

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Australia crush Windies to storm into Women's T20 World Cup final



Australia's Beth Mooney plays a shot during the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup semi-final between Australia and the West Indies in London, Tuesday, June 30, 2026. (AP)

LONDON (AP) — Australia cruised into yet another Women's Twenty20 World Cup final after hammering the West Indies by eight wickets in their semi-final at The Oval on Tuesday.

The West Indies were restricted to 125 for seven off their 20 overs and the inadequacy of that total was exposed by Australia chasing it down with seven overs to spare.

Opener Beth Mooney and Ash Gardner partnered in the seventh over of the chase and smoked the West Indies bowlers in an unbeaten third-wicket partnership of 63 runs from 37 balls to lead Australia to victory at 127 for two in 13 overs.

Mooney hit an unbeaten 61 from 36 balls and her eighth T20 World Cup fifty, tied for the most with New Zealand's Suzie Bates. Gardner was not out on 35 from 20 and struck the winning runs with her fourth boundary in the innings.

Undefeated Australia will chase their seventh T20 World Cup crown in their eighth final in 10 tournaments.

The Aussies will face either host England or South Africa in the final at Lord's on Sunday. England and South Africa will clash in the second semi-final at the Oval in London on Thursday.

"The T20 World Cup, you just have to ride it. It's full of momentum, swings," Australia captain Sophie Molineux said. "The group's really enjoyed it and that's the important thing."

The West Indies was shaken moments before the semi-final when allrounder Deandra Dottin was helped off the field by teammates after the anthems.

"To see her almost passing out during the national anthems was a bit scary," captain Hayley Matthews said.

Australia lost Georgia Voll and Phoebe Litchfield in the powerplay but was relieved by Mooney taking 18 runs,

including four boundaries — half her total — from Jahzara Claxton's first and only bowled over in the tournament.

Ellyse Perry retired hurt on two out of precaution for a quad issue. Molineux said she should be OK for the final. Gardner replaced Perry and ended up as the player of the match.

The allrounder's earlier off-spin took two for 13, removing Claxton and Stafanie Taylor in the 11th over to hasten the West Indies' demise.

The West Indies' only two wins over Australia in 19 previous T20s was achieved with Matthews hitting 66 runs in the 2016 World Cup final and 132 in Sydney in 2023.

Matthews made 30 from 28 balls this time, the pressure on her building while opening partner Qiana Joseph was struggling to score freely. Joseph had scored eight from 19 balls at one point and was out after Matthews for 16 from 22 balls.

Dottin's absence made a good start by the West Indies vital. But the West Indies had already lost six wickets by the time Dottin appeared.

Dottin smacked an unbeaten 16-ball 26 in front of a crowd of 10,023 in an afternoon start required by India officials, who anticipated India qualifying. But India was eliminated by Australia last Sunday.

Supporting Gardner against the West Indies were Molineux with two for 30 and Georgia Wareham, who took two for 17.

Norway beat Ivory Coast to win first World Cup knockout game

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Erling Haaland scored the deciding goal in the 86th minute and Norway won a knockout game at the World Cup for the first time, advancing to the round of 16 with a 2-1 victory over Ivory Coast on Tuesday.

Three defenders converged on Patrick Berg as he moved into the penalty area with the ball. He kicked it over to a wide-open Haaland, who scored his fifth goal in three games at this year's tournament.

Antonio Nusa scored in the first half with a curling kick for Norway, which is in its fourth World Cup and will next play five-time champion Brazil in the round of 16 on Sunday at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The match comes 28 years after what many considered the greatest win ever for the Norwegians against Brazil.

Norway is playing in its first World Cup since that 1998 appearance, when the team got to the knockout round only after scoring goals in the 83rd and 89th minutes for an incredible 2-1 comeback win over then-reigning World Cup champion Brazil in the group finale.

Amad Diallo, who had kept Norway from taking a two-goal lead earlier in the second half, evened the match for Ivory Coast with a left-footed kick in the 74th minute.

After Haaland's goal, his Norway-record 60th in 53 matches, Ivory Coast kept pressing and had a chance to equalize with a direct free kick by Diallo in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

Orjan Nyland made a leaping stop, the last of his four saves, when he deflected the ball away as he extended



Norway's Antonio Nusa (20), top, celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal of his team during the World Cup round of 32 soccer match between Ivory Coast and Norway in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas, Tuesday, June 30, 2026. (AP)

his left hand across his body.

Haaland, who won the Golden Boot in the Premier League last season with 27 goals for Manchester City, has scored in 13 straight competitive international games — a total of 25 goals in that span.

The Elephants, ranked 31st by FIFA, had never before won twice in the same World Cup. This was the fourth World Cup appearance for the West African nation, the same as Norway.

Nusa scored his first World Cup goal in the 39th minute when he took a few strides past the left corner of the area and sent a right-footed kick between two defenders toward the far post.

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Ivory Coast goalkeeper Yahia Fofa-

na made a diving attempt at the ball that was just beyond his extended reach, and he was still in air when he turned his head back to see the ball curl into the net. It was Nusa's ninth international in 28 games for Norway.

Diallo evened the score at 1-1 after a give-and-go with Nicolas Pepe, who scored both Ivory Coast goals in its previous game and was stopped by Nyland in the 55th minute. Diallo found space in the area for his left-footed blast.

That came only about eight minutes after Torbjorn Hegggen had a shot for Norway that was deflected away by Diallo, who was right next to his keeper.

Ivory Coast had one more good scoring chance before halftime after Nusa drew a yellow card in stoppage time. Pepe took the free kick but the ensuing header inside went left of the post.

LeBron James not returning to the Lakers during his 24th NBA season



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James salutes public address announcer Lawrence Tanter prior to an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Los Angeles, Saturday, March 2, 2024. (AP)

LeBron James is leaving the Los Angeles Lakers, which means another decision awaits.

A mere 16 years after his first famed “decision” — the one that saw him leave Cleveland for Miami — James is getting ready to change uniforms once again.

He has told the Lakers that his eight-year run with them is over and that he’ll play a record-extending 24th NBA season elsewhere.

James has made clear many times in recent years that more championships are his motivation, which means it’s almost certain he’ll pick a team that he believes can contend for an NBA title in 2027.

Golden State is believed to be on his list, though there are certainly some who will wonder if reunions with Cleveland and Miami are possible. Or, perhaps, a new landing spot awaits such as San Antonio, where he could partner with 7-foot-4 global megastar

Victor Wembanyama.

“I’ve done it all. I’ve seen it all,” James said when the Lakers’ season ended in May — after what was his last game with the franchise.

“Just being able to compete and trying to win championships, I think that’s a motivating factor.”

The first half of his decision is complete. He’s back for at least one more year, which means his family agreed to that part of the plan — James had said his wife Savannah and 12-year-old daughter Zhuri would have big says in whether or not he continued to play.

His next decision — where to play — is among the biggest dominoes that will fall during the NBA’s offseason player movement window, alongside Giannis Antetokounmpo being traded by Milwaukee to Miami.

The Lakers released a statement Tuesday thanking James for his eight

seasons with the club.

“LeBron James is one of the greatest athletes in history,” said Jeanie Buss, part of the Lakers’ ownership group.

“We will always be thankful for his eight years with the Lakers, including the title he led us to in 2020 under the toughest imaginable circumstances, and the countless records he broke in purple and gold. We wish him all the best in the future, both on the court and off. He will always be a cherished part of the Lakers family.”

ESPN, citing James’ longtime agent and Klutch Sports CEO

Rich Paul, first reported James’ plans.

James can begin talking officially to new clubs after 6 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, when the league’s free agent period opens. He will not be able to sign with a new team until the league’s off-season moratorium is lifted on July 6.

James spent eight seasons with the Lakers, the longest he spent in one stint with one NBA team and led them to the 2020 NBA championship. He became the NBA’s all-time points leader while wearing a Lakers uniform and surpassed a slew of other records while in purple and gold.

He spent the first seven years of his career in Cleveland, then left for four years in Miami where he won the first two of his four championships. That was followed by another four-year stint with the Cavaliers (so he had 11 years there total), and in 2018 he joined the Lakers.

Antigua and Barbuda name squad for ANOCES Track & Field Championships

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has named a strong 16-member team to represent the twin-island nation at the 2026 Association of National Olympic Committees of the Eastern Caribbean (ANOCES) Track and Field Championships in St. Kitts from July 4 to 5.

The Antigua and Barbuda squad includes five female athletes. National sprint champion Geolyna Dowdy, along with Soniya Jones, will both contest the women's 100 and 200-meter races.

CARIFTA silver medalist Zonique Charles will compete in the women's javelin, while Kettia Ambrose and Shenika Bentick will contest the women's 400-meter event.

CARIFTA bronze medalist Maliek Francis will represent the twin-island nation in the men's javelin; Terrance Thomas will take part in the men's long jump; and Christopher Johnson will contest the men's shot put.

Kadeem Campbell will contest the men's 100 and 200-meter races, sprinter Amori Jules will compete in the men's 100-meter event, and Jalen Dyett will compete in the men's 200-meter sprint.

ANOCES
ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF THE OECS
ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
★ ST. KITTS & NEVIS ★

SATURDAY JULY 4TH - SUNDAY JULY 5TH 2026
2:00PM - SATURDAY
3:00PM - SUNDAY
KIM COLLINS STADIUM
\$25.00 KCP
GROUNDS:
\$10.00 ADULTS
\$5.00 CHILDREN

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Cleon Joseph and Dion Shaw will contest the men's 400-meter race, and Craig Prendergast will compete in the men's 400-meter hurdles.

Middle-distance runners Shawn-ze Joseph and Devon James will both compete in the men's 1500-meter event.

Antigua and Barbuda will also contest the mixed 4x400-meter relay, the men's 4x100-meter relay, and the women's

4x100-meter relay.

The Antiguan delegation will be led by Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley, along with fellow track and field coaches Kesswin Anthony and Daniel Bailey.

General Secretary of the ABNOC, Cliff Williams, who is also an ANOCES board member, will also attend to support the hosting and planning of future ANOCES events and the Congress.

Athletes from Antigua and

Barbuda, Anguilla, Dominica, the British Virgin Islands, St. Lucia, Montserrat, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and host St. Kitts and Nevis will participate in the ANOCES Track and Field Championships.

Panam Sports is supporting regional competitions across the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) through a programme delivered in partnership with ANOCES and the National Olympic Committees.

The disciplines identified for support are swimming, table tennis, 3x3 basketball, track and field, and beach volleyball.

"We are grateful to Panam Sports and ANOCES for their continued support of regional programmes that strengthen competition across the OECS, and to the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association for their leadership in assembling this team, and to the ABNOC, who lead this charge.

"I wish our athletes every success and encourage all Antiguans and Barbudans to rally behind them as they compete with pride on behalf of our nation," stated Cliff Williams.