

A Government White Paper On The US 3rd Party Nationals Soon Goes To Parliament

Story on page 2



Overall winner Gigar Campbell represented Antigua and Barbuda with mentorship from Chef Giovanni Meyer and cocktail expert Kanto George

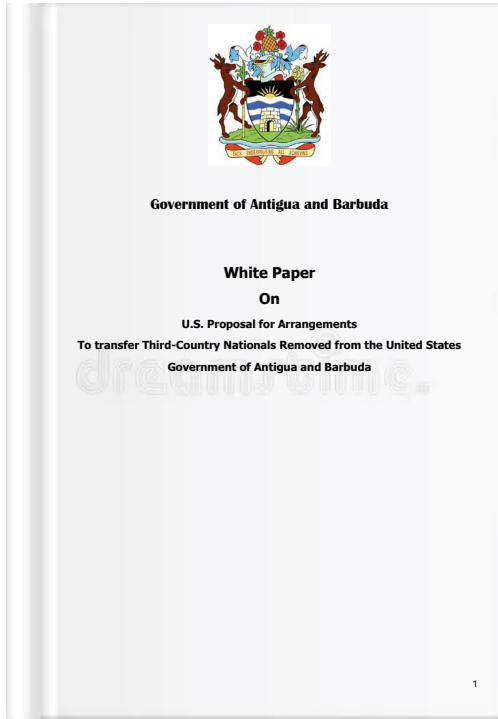
Government White Paper on U.S. Proposals Concerning Third-Country Nationals to be Tabled in Parliament

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda announces the publication of a White Paper on proposals by the Government of the United States concerning the possible reception in Antigua and Barbuda of certain third-country nationals removed from the United States.

The White Paper sets out the background to the discussions, the issues engaged for Antigua and Barbuda, the Government’s assessment of the proposals received, and the principles and conditions on which any cooperation could responsibly be considered.

The Government has determined that the matter engages important questions of sovereignty, legal responsibility, public finance, national security, social stability, and Antigua and Barbuda’s international obligations. It has therefore concluded that the issue should be addressed in a clear, orderly, and transparent manner.

The White Paper explains that Anti-



gua and Barbuda has approached the matter in a spirit of friendship and cooperation, while making clear that, as a small state with limited resources and limited absorptive capacity, it cannot

responsibly accept open-ended obligations involving persons who are not its nationals and whose removal is sought by another country.

The Government further announces that the White Paper will be laid before Parliament for debate at a Special Session to be convened for that purpose during the week of July 13. This will afford Members of Parliament the opportunity to consider the matter fully and to express their views on an issue of national importance.

In taking this step, the Government reaffirms its commitment to transparency, accountability, and informed national discussion. Parliamentary consideration will ensure that Antigua and Barbuda’s position is examined in the nation’s highest representative forum.

The White Paper is appended to this Media Release and will also be made available on official Government websites for public access.

\$ 29.99 Combo
- 5 Wings
- Fries
- Medium Dink

\$ 15.99
- 5 Wings ONLY

KFC SAUCY WINGS

Citrus Chipotle BBQ Sweet Red Chili












Prime Minister Gaston Browne Congratulates President Donald Trump and the American People on the 250th Anniversary of U.S. Independence

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – July 2, 2026 – Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne has extended warm congratulations to the President of the United States of America, the Honourable Donald J. Trump, and the American people on the occasion of the 250th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States, to be celebrated on July 4, 2026.

In a letter addressed to President Trump, Prime Minister Browne described the historic milestone as one of global significance, noting that it is celebrated not only across the United States but by freedom-loving people around the world.

The Prime Minister reflected on the enduring legacy of the Declaration of Independence, observing that the principles proclaimed in Philadelphia in 1776—particularly the affirmation of the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—remain among the most influential ideals in human history.

“The American founders did not merely claim independence for themselves; they proclaimed a universal principle that became a beacon for oppressed peoples everywhere,” the Prime Minister wrote.

Prime Minister Browne also acknowledged the profound influence those ideals had on Antigua and Barbuda's own journey to nationhood. He



President of the United States of America, the Honourable Donald J. Trump

noted that when Antigua and Barbuda achieved Independence on November 1, 1981, the nation embraced the same tradition of self-determination and the universal rights championed by the American patriots more than two centuries earlier.

The Prime Minister further commended President Trump for the leadership and commitment demonstrated in organizing commemorative activities befitting the historic anniversary. He recognized the President's efforts in mobilizing the resources of the United States Federal Government to ensure that the nation's 250th anniversary

is observed with the grandeur and dignity such a landmark deserves.

Prime Minister Browne also conveyed prayers for God's continued guidance and blessings upon President Trump and the people of the United States, expressing the hope that the enduring flame of liberty first ignited in Philadelphia in 1776 will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

Reaffirming the longstanding friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States, the Prime Minister emphasized the shared democratic values, mutual interests, and deep people-to-people ties that have characterized the relationship between the two countries for decades.

He expressed confidence that the partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States will continue to deepen in the years ahead, advancing cooperation in areas of mutual benefit and strengthening the bonds of friendship between the peoples of both nations.

Prime Minister Browne concluded his correspondence by extending his warmest congratulations to President Trump and the American people on this historic occasion, while reaffirming Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to maintaining and expanding the close bilateral relationship enjoyed by both countries.



**Claim Your Keys.
Secure Your Land.**

Apply today.

[f](#) [@](#) [v](#) [in](#)



Home Advantage



LOTS
Land Ownership. Tomorrow Secured.



Government Commits Millions to Modernise Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has approved a sweeping package of healthcare investments aimed at modernising the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC), including the purchase of new medical equipment, expanded ophthalmic services, a 24-hour pharmacy, and the introduction of advanced diagnostic technology.

The decisions were taken during this week’s Cabinet meeting after Minister for Health, Michael Joseph, presented a comprehensive plan outlining the hospital’s most pressing equipment and infrastructure needs.

Cabinet authorised the Ministry of Health to begin negotiations with a financial institution to secure a **EC\$14 million loan** to finance the acquisition of critical medical equipment and technological upgrades. The investment is expected to significantly strengthen healthcare delivery at the country’s principal referral hospital.

Negotiations are expected to conclude within a week it was noted.

As a matter of urgency, Cabinet approved the immediate allocation of **EC\$2.5 million** for the purchase of a new Computed Tomography (CT) scanner to replace ageing equipment currently in use. The new scanner is expected to improve diagnostic accuracy, reduce patient waiting times and enhance emergency and specialist care.

The modernisation programme will also include the procurement of new hospital beds, fluoroscopy equipment, laparoscopic tower systems, neonatal incubators, digital X-ray equipment, ophthalmology surgical equipment, anesthesia machines, patient monitors, operating theatre tables, diathermy machines, cryotherapy equipment for eye procedures, cybersecurity upgrades and other specialised medical devices.

Cabinet described the initiative as one



of the most comprehensive equipment modernisation programmes undertaken at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in recent years, noting that it will

improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of healthcare services across multiple clinical disciplines.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

SATELLITE BRANCH EBENEZER

**DO BUSINESS IN
A BETTER STATE
OF MIND**



FULL SERVICE



EASY PARKING



HASSLE-FREE PAYMENTS



GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE



(268) 481-7800/04 | info@sicantigua.com | www.sicantigua.com | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#)

Minister Joseph Highlights Food, Soil and Environment as Pillars of Preventive Healthcare

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph has underscored the critical link between food, environmental health and disease prevention, calling for a more integrated approach to public health during the opening of the workshop, “Food as Medicine, Soil as Health: Cultivating Health from the Ground Up.”

The workshop, hosted by the American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine in collaboration with the University of Illinois and the University of Birmingham, brought together researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, educators and community stakeholders to explore the relationship between soil health, nutrition and human wellbeing.

Addressing participants, Minister Joseph commended the partnering institutions for convening experts from multiple disciplines to examine what he described as an issue that lies at the heart of public health.

“Our health begins long before we enter a doctor’s office or a hospital,” Minister Joseph said. “It begins with the quality of the food we eat, the soil in which it is grown, the water that nourishes it, and the environment that sustains it.”

Drawing on his background as a pharmacist, the Minister emphasized that while medicines remain essential in treating illness, prevention must remain the cornerstone of healthcare.

“One of the greatest lessons from healthcare is that prevention will always be preferable to treatment. While medicines are essential, they should never replace the value of healthy living, balanced nutrition and disease prevention. In many respects, the healthiest prescription we can write begins with the choices we make every day about the food we consume,” he stated.

Minister Joseph also highlighted the natural connection between his min-



isterial responsibilities for health and the environment, noting that healthy people depend on healthy ecosystems.

“Healthy soils produce nutritious crops. Clean water sustains agriculture. Biodiversity supports resilient food systems. Responsible environmental stewardship protects the natural resources upon which our health ultimately depends. When we care for our environment, we are investing in the health of current and future generations,” he said.

The Minister noted that global challenges such as climate change, food insecurity and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases demonstrate that health outcomes are influenced by sectors far beyond healthcare, including agriculture, education, environmental management and community development.

He reaffirmed the Government of Antigua and Barbuda’s commitment to strengthening preventive healthcare, promoting healthier lifestyles,

supporting sustainable environmental practices and fostering partnerships that encourage evidence-based solutions to improve national health outcomes.

Minister Joseph encouraged participants to actively engage in the day’s discussions, share their expertise and explore innovative approaches that shift the focus from treating illness to cultivating wellness.

“The path to a healthier nation is not found solely in our healthcare facilities, but also in our farms, our gardens, our schools, our communities and the environment that surrounds us,” he said.

The Minister officially declared the workshop open, expressing confidence that the collaboration among academia, healthcare professionals, environmental experts and government agencies would contribute meaningfully to shaping healthier and more sustainable communities.

COBE Sees Upskilling the Local Fishing Community As Part of Its Mandate



The Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE), a research unit established at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, says while its main focus is on research, it wants to develop programmes to help the local fishing community as well.

Speaking on *'The Road to CHOGM'* television programme aired on ABS Television on Thursday night, Director of COBE, Dr. Brandon Belle, said it is the intention of COBE to undertake programmes to upskill members of the fishing community to reduce risks as well as to diversify their businesses.

“At the Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy, our main remit, our mission statement is to build capacity and research expertise around areas related to oceanography and the blue economy. However, this is not our only mandate, we also have a mandate to build capacity in the local economy, and this means vocational training,” he revealed.

Dr. Belle also highlighted some of the areas where COBE can assist fisher folks with improved safety measures to reduce injuries or being lost at sea, both regular occurrences.

“For example, we have fisher folks who dive for conch and lobster, many of whom end up with the ‘bends’ for various reasons, so we would like to help educate the local community in safe dive practices. We would like to empower them through dive certification so that they can carry out their practice in a safer manner,” he noted.

The COBE director said the training for fisher folks would also include boat-handling skills.

“Often we hear we have lost fishermen at sea and this happens too often. We believe that this is because our fishing community could perhaps do with some upskilling, understand the limitations of their own skill-set as well as the capacity of their vessels. So we believe through vocational training for the maritime sector, we believe that

this would be a powerful tool to help reduce the amount of incidents that we currently have,” Dr. Belle added.

He noted that while the Harrison Centre is offering many programmes in vocational training, so far, there is nothing that focuses on the maritime sector.

He said COBE wants to fill that void.

Regarding upskilling of fisher folks, Dr. Belle said arming the fishing community with certification in boat-handling and other skills can help fisher folk diversify their skills-set to allow them to do other things such as special tours. Additionally, with certification, the fisher folks can obtain insurance thus giving visitors the assurance that they are traveling in a vessel that is skillfully handled but is also insured.

The Road to CHOGM regularly airs Wednesdays at 8:00 pm on ABS. The programme was aired Thursday night this week because of scheduling issues at ABS.



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MACHEL MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350





TICKET OUTLETS

ROTI KING ST. MARY'S STREET & CORN ALLEY

COOL & SMOOTH LOWER ALL SAINTS ROAD

APUA INET OLD PARHAM ROAD

EXOTIC ANTIGUA REDCLIFFE STREET

SIPS & TIPS CEDAR GROVE MAIN ROAD



CASHLESS PAYMENTS AVAILABLE CARNIVAL CITY



Antigua and Barbuda Celebrates Grace Junior Chef Challenge Win at Island Eats Toronto Food and Travel Festival



Overall winner Gigar Campbell represented Antigua and Barbuda with mentorship from Chef Giovanni Meyer and cocktail expert Kanto George

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Canada Office is celebrating a proud culinary moment after 12-year-old junior chef Gigar Campbell, representing Antigua and Barbuda, was named the overall winner of the Grace Junior Chef Challenge at the Island Eats Toronto Food and Travel Festival.

Held at Mel Lastman Square on June 13, the Grace Junior Chef Challenge invited young chefs ages 10 to 14 to create an original, island-inspired meal using Grace products. Participants were tasked with preparing a complete culinary experience, including a flavourful entrée, fresh salad, and mocktail, while incorporating Grace Honey Jerk Paste and Grace Coconut Milk into their dishes.

Gigar represented Antigua and Barbuda through the support of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Canada Office, which sponsored



Overall winner Gigar Campbell represented Antigua and Barbuda with mentorship from Chef Giovanni Meyer and cocktail expert Kanto George

Gigar's participation in the competition. The connection was made through Gigar's mother, a makeup artist who has worked with the tourism board, helping create a meaningful opportunity for a young chef to step into the spotlight and celebrate Caribbean flavour on a public stage.

In recognition of Gigar's achievement and as a thank you for representing Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Canada Office has also awarded him a \$500 travel voucher to visit Antigua with his family.

For his winning menu, Gigar created a Caribbean-inspired chicken schnitzel marinated with jerk paste and buttermilk, served with fried

egg aioli, mango and pineapple salad, coconut ranch, and a mango mojito made with Grace Island Mango Soda. The dish reflected creativity, confidence, and a thoughtful approach to island-inspired cooking.

Gigar was mentored by two Antiguan and Barbudan culinary talents: Chef Giovanni Meyer, Antiguan-born chef and founder of Pinch of Black Salt, and Kanto George, award-winning mixologist and resident bar manager at Goldwyn & Sons Cocktail Bar and Barber Shop. Together, they helped guide Gigar's menu development, flavour direction, and mocktail concept, offering mentorship rooted in both technical skill and Caribbean culinary pride.

ABTA Launches Art Week 2026 With Open Call To Creatives, Artists



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is inviting artists and creatives to help shape the fourth edition of [Antigua and Barbuda Art Week](#), taking place November 11–18, 2026.

The call for participation officially opens this week as planning begins for the destination-wide celebration of visual arts, culture and creativity.

Marketing Communications Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Maria Blackman said, “Antigua and Barbuda Art Week has become an important platform for showcasing the incredible talent within our destination while deepening the connection between art, culture and tourism. We invite artists and creatives from across Antigua and Barbuda to join us as we continue to grow Art Week into an unforgettable celebration of creativity that reflects the essence of our twin-island paradise.”

Visual artists are invited to register their interest in exhibiting as part of Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2026. Expressions of interest are welcomed from emerging

and established artists working across painting, photography, mixed media, textile art, digital art and other visual art disciplines.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is also inviting expressions of interest from artists, creatives, organisations and venues wishing to host official satellite events as part of the 2026 Antigua and Barbuda Art Week programme, including workshops, open studios, performances, fashion shows and other creative experiences.

Online participation forms are available at the link: [Register for Antigua and Barbuda Art Week](#) or by contacting the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority on 1 268 562 - 7600 and should be submitted on or before July 30, 2026. Registered artists and participants will receive further information on exhibition requirements, artwork submission timelines and Art Week experiences guidelines.

The full Antigua and Barbuda Art Week programme will be unveiled in the coming months.

Police Urge the Public To Remain Vigilant Against Jewelry and Mobile Phone Theft



The police are urging residents to exercise increased vigilance and take practical steps to safeguard their personal property following recent reports of jewelry and mobile phone thefts.

In one incident, police are investigating a burglary at a residence in the Green Bay area shortly before midnight on Monday, June 29.

Preliminary investigations indicate that three unknown men allegedly forced their way into the home of female occupant.

The suspects reportedly stole several items, including gold jewelry, silver chains, a cellular phone, a handbag, and a jewelry box before fleeing the scene.

In a separate incident, police are also investigating the theft of a Samsung Galaxy A22 cellular phone, valued at approximately EC\$650.00. The phone was reportedly stolen sometime between 4:30 p.m. and 5:10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, while the owner was in the Joseph Lane area.

The Police Administration reminds members of the public that criminals often target valuables that are easily accessible or left unattended. Residents are therefore encouraged to:

- Ensure all doors and windows are securely locked, especially during the

night.

- Install adequate lighting and, where possible, security cameras or alarm systems around their homes.

- Avoid displaying expensive jewelry in public unless necessary.

- Keep mobile phones and other valuables secured and never leave them unattended.

- Remain alert in public places and report any suspicious persons or activ-

ities to the police immediately.

- Record the serial numbers and identifying features of valuable items to assist with recovery if stolen.

The police continue their investigations into both incidents and appeal to anyone with information that may assist to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/462-3914, the nearest police station, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Brew
CAFE · BAR · LOUNGE

CARNIVAL CORNER

The Count Down to Carnival Is On at the Brew

Live DJ's
Every Friday from July 3rd – August 7, 2026
6:00 PM until

\$75
Unlimited drinks on select brands

ENJOY UNLIMITED SELECTIONS FROM:

- Jack Daniel's
- Hennessy
- Rude Boy *Bucket of 10
- Absolut Vodka
- Angostura 7 Year

ABSOLUT Hennessy JACK DANIEL'S
Premier Beverages

Brew
CAFE · BAR · LOUNGE

Every Friday, No Excuses

Two Teenagers Reportedly Injured In Another Shooting Incident

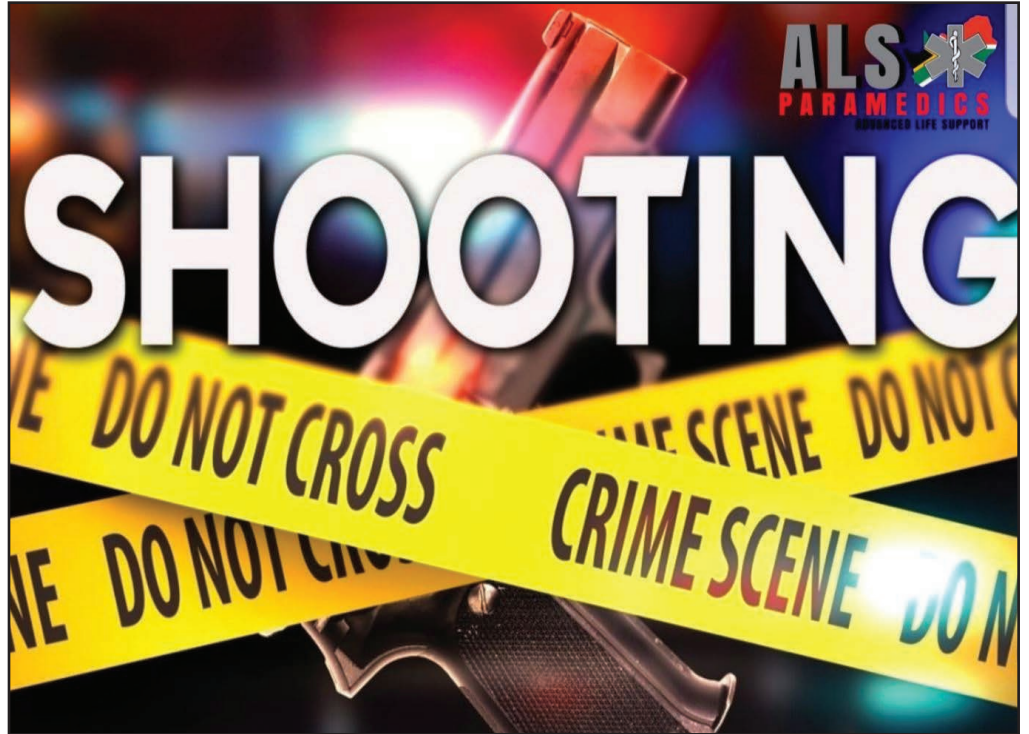
Less than a week after two teenagers were injured in a shooting incident, the police say they are investigating a second shooting incident on Wednesday evening that left two teenage males nursing gunshot injuries.

Around 5:30 p.m. on July 1, police responded to reports of a shooting on Christian Street.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the two teenagers were walking along Armstrong Road when they were approached by a lone gunman dressed in black clothing with his face covered. The assailant reportedly opened fire, striking both victims before fleeing the area on foot.

One of the victims, a 16-year-old, sustained a gunshot wound to the chest and remains hospitalized in critical condition. The second victim, a 17-year-old, received gunshot wounds to both legs. His injuries are not considered life-threatening, and he remains under medical care.

The suspect is described as being approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall with a slim build. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.



Last Saturday, a 16-year-old of South Street and a 17-year-old of Villa, were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre for medical treatment reportedly after sustaining gunshot wounds.

Medical personnel have confirmed that the injuries sustained by both vic-

tims are not considered life-threatening.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, call the anonymous Crimestoppers hotline at 800-TIPS (8477), or dial 911.



Public Warned as Police Prepare Crackdown on Illegal Ski Masks

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has announced a nationwide crackdown on the wearing of illegal ski masks, warning that police officers will confiscate the prohibited apparel from anyone found wearing them in public.

Speaking during Thursday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant said Cabinet has become increasingly concerned about the growing number of people, particularly young individuals, wearing ski masks in public.

Merchant said while the trend may be viewed by some as a fashion statement, ski masks are prohibited under Antigua and Barbuda's laws unless they are being used for legitimate occupational purposes.

"You would notice as you drive through Antigua and Barbuda and walk the streets that there is an increase in the individuals who are wearing ski masks," Merchant said. "However, the police and the Cabinet wish to advise parents and the general public that ski masks are banned apparel in Antigua and Barbuda."



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

He explained that there are limited exceptions for workers who require ski masks as part of their jobs, such as certain construction workers, but stressed that these individuals would not be expected to wear the masks outside of work.

Merchant said the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda will launch a rigorous enforcement campaign aimed at removing illegal ski masks from the nation's streets.

"If you have a ski mask, the police

will be removing that from your person," he said, adding that officers are legally empowered to use necessary force if an individual resists.

Cabinet's decision comes amid growing concerns about an apparent increase in incidents involving the snatching of jewelry and other personal property. Officials believe the use of face coverings makes it more difficult to identify suspects involved in such crimes.

Merchant also revealed that Cabinet discussed stronger measures to deter offenders, including comments made by Prime Minister Gaston Browne regarding the treatment of individuals caught committing robberies.

According to Merchant, the Prime Minister suggested that offenders should face more meaningful consequences rather than what he described as merely being taken before the courts and receiving light penalties.

The Government said the enforcement initiative forms part of broader efforts to improve public safety, deter criminal activity and reassure residents that authorities are taking decisive action against crime.



AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS:

DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1

THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

Senator Shaquan O'Neil made a donation to SLBMC

In a brief presentation, the Senator Shaquan O'Neil has donated cleaning and other supplies to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and in the process has made a commitment to continuing his assistance to supporting the health institution.

The donation included hygiene and cleaning items as well as screens to be utilized for public education and training needs hospital wide.

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, expressed his gratitude for this donation and applauded the efforts of Senator O'Neil.

“As the hospital continues to enhance its services and focus on improving patient care and experiences, our Medical Director expressed her enthusiasm with this donation and stressed the im-



A brief presentation ceremony was held as Senator Shaquan O'Neil (yellow shirt) made a presentation to the SLBMC

portance of corporate and community support.

Thank you Senator! Your donation

will definitely make an impact in our delivery of care,” Minister Joseph stated.

RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

The Beat of Her Journey

Denesha Samuel
Liat Air
Rhythm of Resilience

Queenela Williams
Antigua Port Authority
Rhythm of Leadership

Christine Powell
ACB Caribbean
Rhythm of Strength

Shaveesa Gasper
Exotic Antigua
Rhythm of Culture

Zaine Frederick
Furniture Gallery
Rhythm of Elegance

Aaliyah Taylor
Cool & Smooth
Rhythm of Transformation

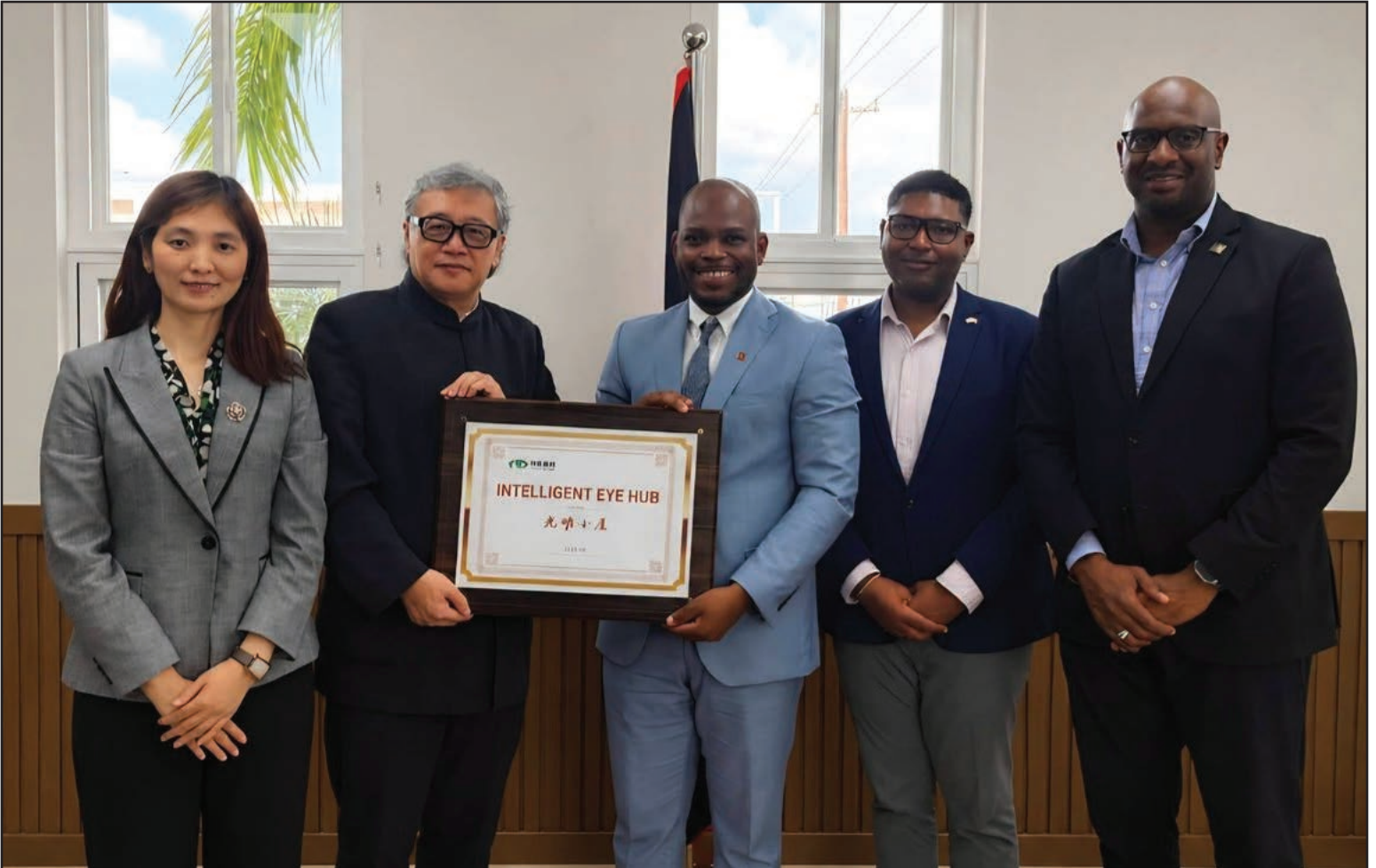
21ST JULY 2026

8:00 PM

ARG
(ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS)

TICKETS
RESERVED SEATING – EC\$50
GENERAL ADMISSION – EC\$30

Government's Comprehensive Health Programme To Include Eye Care and Blindness prevention



The Cabinet has been updated on plans to expand eye care services through a strategic partnership with China's HE Vision Group, a global leader in digital ophthalmology and artificial intelligence-powered vision screening technologies.

Minister of Health Michael Joseph is scheduled to travel to the People's Republic of China next week to discuss the acquisition of three advanced ophthalmic systems, including intelligent retinal imaging technology, portable AI-assisted vision screening devices and digital ophthalmology platforms that support rapid diagnosis and specialist consultations.

Cabinet said the initiative could enable more than **80 percent of Antigua and Barbuda's population** to receive vision screenings before the end of the year, allowing for earlier detection of conditions such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, refractive errors and amblyopia. The portable equipment will also facilitate screenings in schools, workplaces, community centres and healthcare facilities across the country.

Another area of focus for the health upgrade at the SLBMC, Cabinet was also informed that the hospital's **Sickle Cell Unit** will become fully operational on **6th August**, further expanding

specialized healthcare services available to patients.

The Government said the initiatives form part of its broader strategy to modernize Antigua and Barbuda's healthcare system through sustained investment in medical technology, digital innovation, infrastructure and specialized clinical services.

Cabinet reaffirmed its commitment to improving access to high-quality healthcare and pledged continued support for initiatives designed to enhance medical services and improve the quality of life for all residents.

School Honours Irene B. Lady Williams for a Lifetime of Service to Education and Community

The life and enduring legacy of Irene B. Lady Williams, one of Antigua and Barbuda's most distinguished educators and community leaders, were celebrated when the Irene B. Williams Secondary School presented an Honorary Posthumous Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to education, community development and nation-building.

The presentation, held on Monday, 22 June 2026, honoured the woman whose vision, leadership and unwavering commitment helped shape generations of Antiguan and Barbudans and whose life's work continues to inspire students attending the institution that proudly bears her name.

The award citation recognized Irene B. Lady Williams as the foundation upon which the school was built, acknowledging her immeasurable contribution to education and affirming that her dedication and service remain worthy of praise. It further noted that the institution is privileged to carry her name.

His Excellency The Rt. Hon. Sir Rodney Williams, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, was unable to attend the ceremony as he was overseas on official duties. The Governor-General was represented by His Excellency Sir Clare K. Roberts, Governor-General's Deputy, while the award was accepted on behalf of the Williams family by the Governor-Gener-



EWART WILLIAMS RECEIVING PLAQUE FOR IRENE B WILLIAMS

al's brother, Mr. Ewart Lee Williams.

For the Williams family, the honour represented far more than a ceremonial recognition. It was a touching affirmation that Lady Williams' decades of service continue to be appreciated and remembered by the school community and by the nation she served so faithfully.

Lady Williams was the devoted wife of the late Sir Ernest Emmanuel Williams, former Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament for the St. Paul's Constituency. Together they raised five children: Rev. Dr. Stephanie Morris, The Rt. Hon. Sir Rodney Williams, Iva David, Reginald Williams and Ewart Lee Williams. Be-

yond her own family, however, she became a mother, mentor and guiding influence to countless children and young people throughout her community.

Her career in education spanned more than forty years and began at the remarkable age of fifteen because of her exceptional academic ability. After graduating from the Antigua Teachers' Training College, she answered the call to teach in Montserrat before returning to Antigua, where she served at Swetes Government School, All Saints Government School and Liberta Government School. She later returned to Swetes Government School as Principal, leading the institution with distinction.

Today, the school stands as a lasting tribute to her dedication and proudly bears her name.

Throughout her distinguished career, Lady Williams was recognized not only as an outstanding educator but also as a disciplinarian, life coach and humanitarian. She firmly believed that education was the pathway to opportunity and devoted herself to ensuring that every child was given the chance to succeed.

Her commitment often extended well beyond the classroom. She was known to seek out children working in agricultural fields and personally counsel their parents on the importance of education, encouraging them to return their children to school where they belonged. Many of those young people went on to become professionals, educators, public servants and community leaders who have since credited Lady Williams with changing the course of their lives.

Her service to the community was equally remarkable.

Affectionately known as the "Village Nurse," Lady Williams provided care and comfort to countless families, treating cuts, bruises and minor ailments while offering sound advice and encouragement to those who sought her help. Parents frequently entrusted their children to her not only for medical attention but also for the discipline, guidance and moral instruction

for which she was widely respected.

A woman of deep Christian faith, Lady Williams dedicated herself to the spiritual and social development of her community. She established a Women's Fellowship and a Support Group and founded both a Church Choir and a Village Choir. She also taught Home Economics and the fine art of culinary practice to young women, served as the parish representative for the Red Cross and encouraged stronger family and community life through initiatives such as village garden competitions.

Lady Williams possessed an unwavering sense of justice and responsibility. She was never reluctant to challenge young men who had fathered children and failed to support them, believing that accountability was essential to building strong families and communities. Her firm but compassionate approach earned widespread admiration and often resulted in positive changes in the lives of those she counselled.

Known for her honesty, integrity, compassion and exceptional love for humanity, Lady Williams led by example. Her strength of character, unwavering principles and commitment to serving others earned her the admiration of all who knew her. Such was her influence throughout Swetes Village that she became affectionately known as the de facto Mayor of Swetes, reflecting the immense respect she commanded within the community.

Speaking on behalf of the

Williams family, Mr. Ewart Lee Williams expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Principal, staff, students, alumni and the wider Irene B. Williams Secondary School community for ensuring that Lady Williams' extraordinary legacy continues to be celebrated and preserved.

The family also conveyed its sincere appreciation to His Excellency Sir Clare K. Roberts for representing the Governor-General at the ceremony during his official overseas engagement.

Although the award recognizes the achievements of an exceptional educator whose influence transformed thousands of lives, it also serves as a powerful reminder that true greatness is measured not by titles or honours but by a lifetime devoted to serving others.

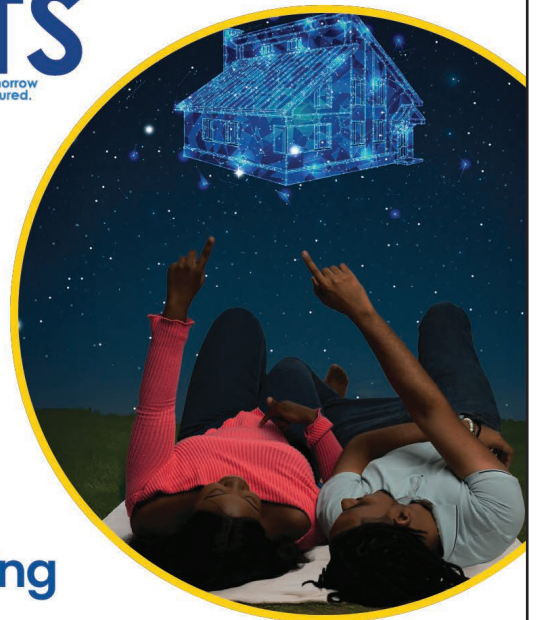
For every student who enters the gates of the Irene B. Williams Secondary School, the name on the building represents more than the identity of an institution. It stands as a lasting tribute to Irene B. Lady Williams, a remarkable educator, mentor, humanitarian and community leader whose life's mission was to educate, inspire and uplift generations of Antiguan and Barbudans, and whose legacy continues to shape the nation today.

The Irene B. Williams Secondary School, led by Principal Ms. Ursula Willock, remains committed to preserving the rich legacy of Irene B. Lady Williams by fostering academic excellence, strong values and community service among its students.



DREAM BIG!

The land you need.
For the house
you want.



100%
Financing

Ideal
For:

Residential
land buyers

Future
builders

Long-term
investors

Start now!

Call
+1 268-481-4200

Apply online at
acbonline.com



TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Bright Eyes Project to Improve Vision for Vulnerable Students



President of the Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion, Oslin Matthew and Dr. Salem Zreibi of Progressive Vision

Antigua and Barbuda 1st July 2026 - Vulnerable school-aged children across Antigua and Barbuda are set to benefit from a new initiative launched by the Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion. The project, dubbed Bright Eyes, was officially launched last weekend and has already provided several students with comprehensive eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses.

Bright Eyes builds on the club's ongoing sister project, Bright Minds, and aims to improve children's vision, helping them achieve greater success in the classroom and beyond.

The project is being implemented in partnership with Dr. Salem Zreibi of Progressive Vision and in

collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Student Support Unit.

Through the initiative, the Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion and Dr. Zreibi have committed to providing comprehensive eye examinations and prescription eyewear valued at up to EC\$600 per student for twenty (20) vulnerable students. The total budget for the project is EC\$12,000.

President of the Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion, Oslin Matthew, said the initiative reflects the club's commitment to improving the health and educational outcomes of vulnerable children by ensuring they have access to quality vision care.



cross section of members of Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion attending the launch of The Bright Eyes Project



Kiwanis ANTIGUA FUSION

Dr. Salem Zreibi said Progressive Vision was honored to partner with the AR Fusion Kiwanis Club on the Bright Eyes project, noting that 80 percent of classroom work requires vision to be successfully processed.

He explained that reading, writing, copying notes from the board, recognizing colors, and participating in sports all depend on good eyesight.

He added that the project goes beyond basic vision screenings by providing children with comprehensive eye examinations and ensuring they receive their prescription glasses as quickly as possible.

The Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion recognizes that poor eyesight often goes undetected, creating barriers that can limit children's

ability to learn, thrive, and reach their full potential. The Club is committed to eliminating this obstacle through initiatives that improve children's vision and, ultimately, their futures.

According to Club President Oslyn, "This initiative brings a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Our collaboration with Progressive Vision has allowed us to address a critical need and provide children with the opportunity to see more clearly and build a brighter future." She added, "That is why our members are so passionate about what we do. We are helping to create the positive change we want to see in our community."

The Kiwanis Club of Antigua AR Fusion expressed its sincere appreciation to Dr. Zreibi and Progressive Vision for their generosity,



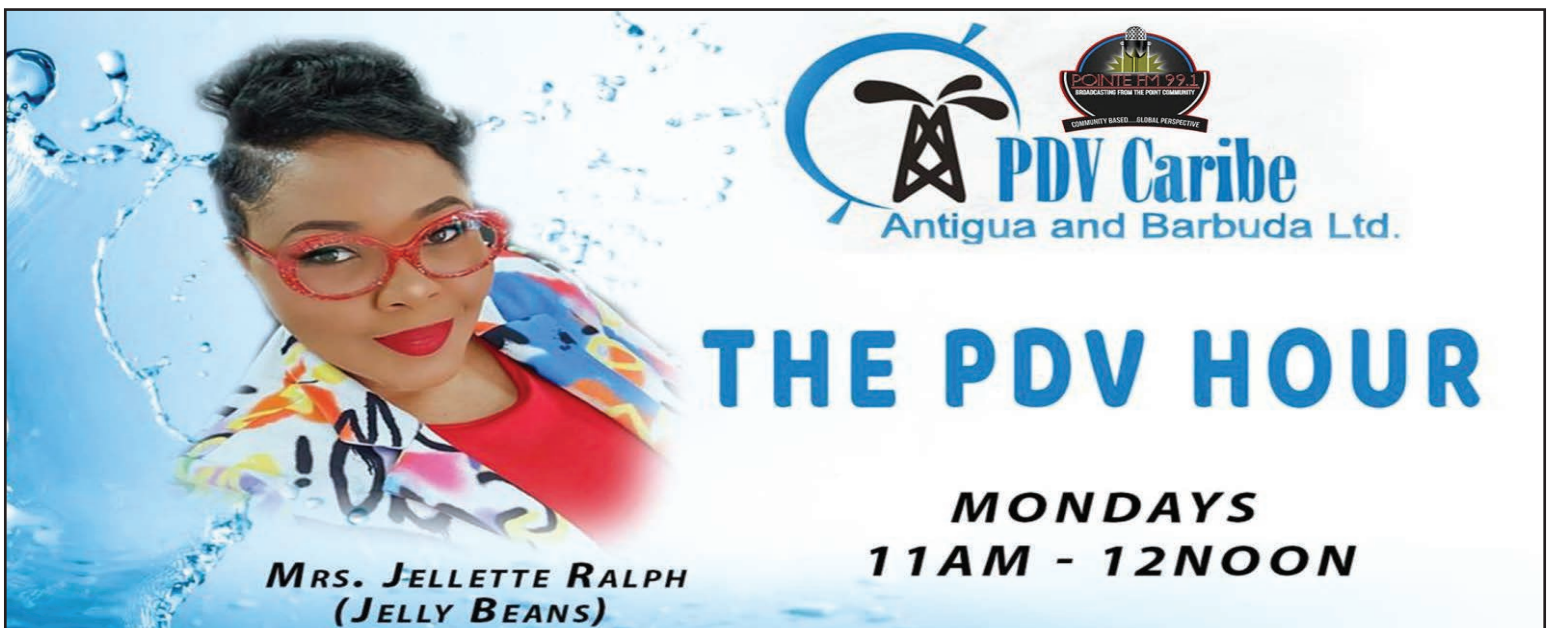
Dr. Salem Zreibi of Progressive Vision

partnership, and commitment to improving the lives of young people through this meaningful initiative.

The Bright Eyes project is expected to make a lasting

impact by ensuring that vulnerable students have the vision care they need to thrive both academically and socially.

Ends



PDV Caribe
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)



**SOCA VILLAN - YOUNG VICE - KID FRESH - EMPRESS - MENACE - ZAMONI
ISLAND PRINCE - YOUNG LYRICS - VICIOUS - ARLEN SEATON - NIKKI NOOKS - DMITRIB
DJ QUEST - DJ ALTITUDE**

HOST : IBIS AND SUPA DYMOND

JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

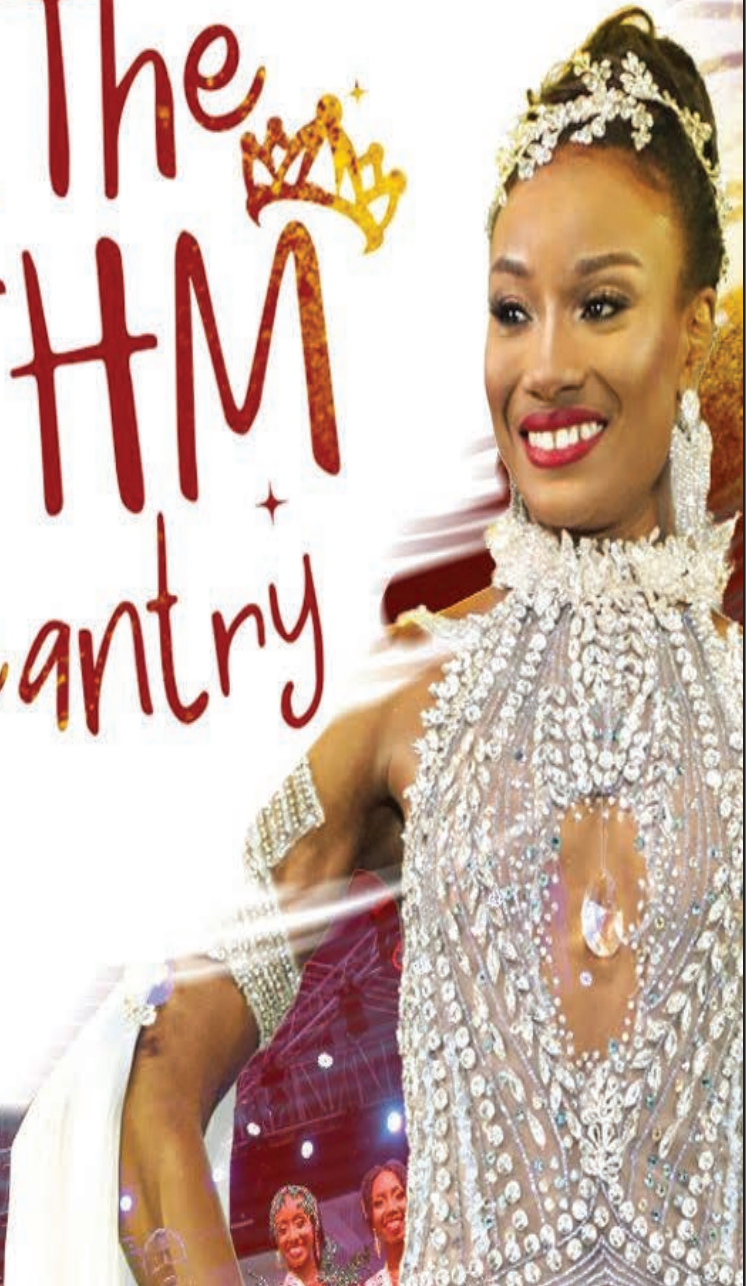




ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF PAGEANTRY

QUEEN OF
CARNIVAL



The Beacon of Freedom Seen Across Oceans: Reflections on 250 Years of American Independence



By Sir Ronald Sanders

Two hundred and fifty years ago, in the sweltering heat of a Philadelphia summer, a small group of men did something without precedent in modern history. They gathered, argued, deliberated, and then signed their names to a declaration that was a declaration of war against the mightiest empire on earth. They did so knowing that, if they failed, they would almost certainly hang.

We mark that moment today as citizens of nations that were themselves shaped, directly or indirectly, by the audacity of what was proclaimed in Philadelphia on 4 July 1776.

Words That Shook the World

The document they produced was remarkable in its language as much as in its courage. Its opening announced a philosophy of government that was revolutionary, challenging the authority of King George III and the British political establishment.

They declared:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which

the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

That single sentence challenged centuries of accepted thinking about the relationship between rulers and the ruled. Sovereignty, the patriots were saying, did not reside in the Crown. It resided in the people. A people who had endured what they described as “a long train of abuses and usurpations” had not merely the right, but the duty, to throw off such government and establish new institutions for their future security.

Yet there was another remarkable feature of that opening sentence which resonates just as strongly today. The Declaration was not addressed solely to fellow colonists or even to the British Crown. It was consciously addressed to world opinion. The founders understood that their cause required legitimacy beyond their own shores. They sought, in their own words, “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind”. In many respects, this was the beginning of modern public diplomacy. The founders understood that military victory alone would not secure legitimacy. They also had to persuade the wider world that their cause was just, and they appreciated that, even in the eighteenth century, ideas could travel farther than armies.

The Declaration went on to specify the grievances that justified separation. Among them was the charge that the King had “endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose, obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither.” It also accused him of combining with others to subject the colonies “to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws.” These were grievances that many colonists genuinely believed they had suffered. They felt that fundamental rights to govern themselves, to make their own laws, and not to be

taxed without representation had been systematically denied.

Then came the second paragraph. Perhaps no passage has had a greater influence on the development of modern constitutional government.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

Self-evident truths. Unalienable rights. The consent of the governed. Today, many nations regard these principles as fundamental to legitimate government, though they remain elusive under repressive regimes. In 1776, however, they were revolutionary. As Thomas Jefferson himself reflected fifty years later, the Declaration was “pregnant with our own and the fate of the world.” History has vindicated that judgement.

A Beacon Beyond Borders

The Declaration was addressed not merely to the thirteen colonies, nor solely to the King of Great Britain, but, with “a decent respect”, to the opinions of mankind. Within months, translations had circulated across Europe, reaching France, the Netherlands, the German states, Scandinavia and beyond.

Its greatest influence, however, was felt among peoples living under colonial rule or foreign domination. Scores of the nations now represented at the United Nations possess founding documents that are declarations of independence. The American Declaration provided the model, much of the language and many of the principles for many of them.

Nowhere was this more dramatically demonstrated than in the Caribbean. Haiti, in January 1804, became the first Black republic and the first independent nation in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery. Its revolution drew inspiration from principles proclaimed in 1776, even though many leaders of

the young United States recoiled from their full implications.

For the Caribbean as a whole, the ideals proclaimed in Philadelphia became a lasting source of inspiration. When our nations eventually raised their own flags and assumed sovereign statehood, they entered a tradition of self-determination whose roots reached, in part, to Philadelphia. The Declaration ultimately belonged not to America alone, but to all peoples seeking freedom.

The Men Who Made It

It is right that, on this anniversary, free peoples should honour the remarkable men who gathered in Philadelphia and, despite their rivalries and competing ambitions, found common cause in declaring the rights and freedoms of human beings. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and many others helped produce a document whose influence would far outlive them.

They disagreed, often profoundly, on the powers of government, the balance between state and national authority, and the future character of the Republic. Some owned enslaved people while proclaiming that all men were created equal, a contradiction so fundamental that it nearly destroyed the nation within a century and whose consequences remain evident today.

They were flawed men, with all the imperfections and contradictions of their age. Yet they produced ideas whose influence extended far beyond their own generation and the shores on which they lived.

Whatever their personal limitations, the ideals they proclaimed acquired a unique force that exceeded both their intentions and, at times, their own conduct.

The America Free Peoples Honour

It is that America - the America of the Declaration and of universal principle - that peoples who won their freedom have long admired and sought to emulate in their own journeys towards democracy.

We should also remember the America that helped rebuild Europe through the Marshall Plan, championed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and helped establish many of the institu-

tions and alliances that underpinned the post-war international order.

It is that America whose 250th anniversary we celebrate today: an America born from the simple and powerful proposition that the rights of human beings are not granted by kings or governments, but are inherent, self-evident, and secured only by governments that enjoy the consent of the governed.

That idea was audacious in 1776. It remains so today. The world of states, large and small, is immeasurably better because those men dared to proclaim it.

Their greatest legacy is not simply the nation they founded, but the universal

principle they affirmed: that liberty belongs to all humanity, and that governments derive their legitimacy from the consent of those they govern. Wherever tyranny yields to freedom, wherever peoples peacefully claim the right to determine their own future, the enduring light - first kindled in Philadelphia - continues to shine across oceans and generations.

(The writer is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States of America and the Organisation of American States, and Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The view expressed are his own)

BACKYARD BOYS
PROMOTION PRESENTS
FIFA STREETS

5-A-SIDE UNLIMITED SUBS!

CASH PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS!

- 1 GOALKEEPER
4 OUTFIELD PLAYERS
- PLAYERS PER SQUAD:
MAX 10 PLAYERS
- REGISTRATION:
\$10 PER PLAYER

**SAT & SUN
18TH & 19TH
JULY
2026**

BLACKBURN BASKETBALL COURT

5:00 PM UNTIL LATE

CALL JP TO REGISTER
721-3559

DEADLINE
JULY 5TH 2026

1ST PRIZE
\$1500

2ND PRIZE
\$500

**BRING YOUR GAME.
OWN THE STREETS.**

The Pitch Is the Map

*A multiracial, multipolar world is playing out at the World Cup
on the soil of a power trying to hold both at the gate.*

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Five Islands Campus



The 2026 World Cup is under way. Before a ball is struck, before the anthem ends, the camera performs a kind of cartography. It glides across the line-ups and reveals what stump speeches and border walls try to conceal. Nations are no longer bloodlines, and power is no longer arranged around a single pole. The football pitch is the early twenty-first century's most honest map

The football pitch is the early twenty-first century's most honest map.

Start with the mixing because it stands in the goalmouth. Japan's goalkeeper is Zion Suzuki, born in Newark, New Jersey, to a father of Ghanaian descent and a Japanese mother, raised in Saitama, claimed by Japan, yet still made to carry the burden of other people's racial arithmetic. He has been abused for the colour of a skin that is, by any serious accounting, entirely Japanese, entirely Ghanaian, entirely American, and entirely his own.

He is not the exception but rather he is the rule the tournament keeps proving. France's captain, Kylian Mbappé, is the son of a Cameroo-



nian father and a mother of Algerian descent. Spain's young geniuses, Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, carry Morocco, Equatorial Guinea and Ghana into a team once imagined more narrowly. Switzerland leans on Breel Embolo, born in Cameroon. Germany, England, the Netherlands and Portugal all carry the histories of migration, empire, labour and return. The old fiction of the nation as a pure bloodline dies on the grass, a little more with every pass.

That is the first truth the pitch reveals. The second is harder to swallow

as influence itself has shifted. Look at who is good at the world's game. Here the map of twentieth-century dominance begins to dissolve. Football's aristocracy is not the G7. Brazil, a multiracial giant of the Global South, sits near the summit while Argentina holds the crown. Morocco, the first African and Arab nation to reach a World Cup semifinal, now plays Brazil not as a ceremonial guest but as a peer and on opening night in New Jersey the five-time champions needed Vinícius Júnior to rescue a 1-1 draw after Ismael Saibari had put

Morocco ahead. Both advanced, separated only by goal difference.

Senegal, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, these are not sentimental additions, they are nations to be feared. Côte d'Ivoire reached the knockout stage for the first time in their history. And Cabo Verde, a nation of barely half a million on its World Cup debut, held the reigning European champions Spain to a goalless draw, then came from behind to draw 2–2 with two-time world champions Uruguay. That fact alone says more about the coming century than many policy papers.

And the supposed poles of this century's power? The United States hosts the tournament, fills its stadiums, and won its group, yet it is still not one of football's ruling houses. It can stage the spectacle but it cannot command the sport. China has reached a single World Cup, in 2002, and left without a goal. India, already the world's most populous nation, has never appeared at all. In the one arena that is genuinely global, where wealth, population and weaponry guarantee nothing, American, Chinese and Indian scale shrinks. The world's game has been multipolar for a generation. It was telling us where history was going long before the diplomats caught up.

It was telling us where history was going long before the diplomats caught up!

That is the paradox. The United States is staging, on its own soil and before the largest audience on earth, a vivid demonstration of the very world its politics is trying to resist, already mixed, already multipolar.

The contradictions are not theoretical. As the tournament opened, country-specific entry restrictions were reinstated and widened. Haiti and Iran, both World Cup nations, under full bans with Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire under partial ones. Its language is screening, vetting, national

security. Its effect is plainer; the players are written into exceptions but the people who raised them and would have filled the stands behind them are left outside the gate. Iran's squad was forced to base itself in Mexico, several staff denied visas, allowed into the United States only to play and then made to leave. Journalists from affected nations have faced single-entry limits that make following a team across three host countries difficult.

Consider Omar Artan, one of Africa's finest referees and the only Somali on FIFA's list, denied entry at Miami despite a valid visa and diplomatic passport after an eleven-hour interview. Officials produced no public evidence, alleging only, anonymously, "association with suspected members of terror organizations." Somalia sits on the banned list; the vocabulary of security did the work the nationality ban wanted done. FIFA, for its part, said host governments control immigration decisions.

To be fair, security concerns are not always fiction and nations have a legitimate interest in who enters. But when the pattern is this precise, the barred so often the very nations whose players the world most wants to watch, one asks whether security is the whole story, or merely the language power has learned to speak.

The grandstands fly the flags of nations whose ordinary citizens may struggle to enter and the host sells a festival of belonging while reminding much of the world that belonging stays conditional. Name it for what it is. The wall of paperwork, the menace at the perimeter, the talent welcomed and its people doubted, this is not a show of strength. It is the behaviour of a power that feels the ground shifting beneath it. You do not slam the door on a world you still command. You slam it on a world you can feel slipping from your grip.

You do not slam the door on a world you still command. You slam it on a

world you can feel slipping from your grip.

We in the Caribbean, the world's oldest laboratory of forced mixture, are not naive about either fact. Mixture does not deliver justice on its own. Brazil is proof enough, a multiracial giant still shadowed by racial hierarchy, still fluent in the old myth of "racial democracy," still able to turn Black genius into national glory while Black citizens fight for full dignity off the field.

Nor is multipolarity salvation. A world of many poles is not automatically kinder or freer; it may only mean more doors to knock on, more powers to bargain with, more appetites. The old empires do not vanish; they learn new languages. The new powers do not arrive innocent. A world with more poles still requires small nations to know themselves, organize themselves, and build something worth bringing through the door.

That is why this World Cup matters beyond football. It is not entertainment, it is revelation. It shows the world as it is, not as nostalgia imagines it, mixed beyond reversal, plural beyond command, competitive beyond old rankings.

For ninety minutes, the truth that borders deny becomes obvious. A Black goalkeeper named Suzuki rises to claim a cross for Japan. A Cameroonian-Algerian-Frenchman remains the most devastating footballer alive. Spain's future runs through the children of immigrants. Morocco makes Brazil sweat in New Jersey. Cabo Verde holds Spain and Uruguay. The map redraws itself in studs and sweat.

The visa line is the world as a frightened power wishes it still was, ranked, filtered, suspicious, obedient. The pitch is the world as it insists on becoming, mixed, multipolar, and increasingly indifferent to who used to run it.



Our future, Our bank



EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK

MR. AND MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT

JULY 18TH
CARNIVAL CITY

Ticket \$20

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



FEEL The RHYTHM OF Youth

 Antigua Carnival  @antiguafestivalsofficial



COME FOR THE
FETE
STAY FOR THE
MATCH

PARTY STAND



TICKET OUTLETS
SRVS TICKET OUTLET
RUBIS SERVICE STATIONS
THE STREET TEAM



VS

**20
AUG**



**22
AUG**



**23
AUG**



**25
AUG**



NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

\$65 INCL. \$25 IN
DRINK CHITS

7 PM SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM



Court awards over \$2.5m to estate of murdered woman



MORE than \$2.5 million in damages has been awarded to the estate of murdered domestic violence victim Samantha Isaacs after a High Court judge ruled that failures by the State, including the police and a magistrate, contributed to her death.

The award was made last Friday by Justice Robin Mohammed, in which he directed the Office of the Attorney General to pay a total of \$2.51 million in compensatory and vindictory damages, together with interest and legal costs, after finding that Isaacs' constitutional rights, including her right to life and the protection of the law, had been breached.

The award follows a prior ruling in which the judge held that the State was liable for failing to protect Isaacs despite her repeated reports to the police about threats and abuse from her former partner, Kahrym Garcia.

Justice Mohammed found that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) failed to properly investigate her complaints, initiate prosecutions or take reasonable

steps to protect her despite what he described as an obvious and escalating risk.

He also ruled that a magistrate had acted prematurely and arbitrarily in dismissing her application for a protection order without conducting a meaningful assessment of the danger she faced or considering the impact on her and her young son, Kaiden.

Issacs was subsequently murdered.

In assessing damages, Mohammed awarded:

- \$960,000 for Samatha's loss of earnings during her lost years of life
- \$450,000 for the pain, suffering and other non-pecuniary losses she endured before her death, including aggravated damages
- \$600,000 for the non-pecuniary loss suffered by Samantha's mother, Tot Lampkin, and her son, Kaiden Garcia, arising from breaches of their right to respect for family life
- \$500,000 in vindictory damages to reflect the seriousness of the

constitutional breaches and deter similar failures by State authorities.

The court also awarded prejudgment interest of \$131,609.58, calculated at 2.5% per annum on the non-pecuniary damages, and ordered that post-judgment interest at 5% per annum be paid on all sums until they are settled.

Additionally, the judge directed the State to bear Lampkin's legal costs.

In his ruling, Mohammed described the actions of State agencies as displaying "institutional inertia" despite repeated warning signs.

He found that Isaacs had repeatedly sought protection but was met with inaction, with the TTPS failing to properly investigate her complaints, recognise the pattern of escalating violence outlined in her reports or bring appropriate criminal proceedings.

The judge also noted that although the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) had recommended disciplinary action against an officer involved in handling one of Isaacs' reports, no action was taken, further compounding the breach of her constitutional rights.

In awarding vindictory damages, Justice Mohammed said ordinary compensation was insufficient to reflect the gravity of the breach of Issacs' right to life, stressing that such awards are intended to express public condemnation of constitutional violations, reaffirm the importance of fundamental rights, and discourage similar failures by State authorities in the future. (Trinidad Express)

Cuba's Top Diplomat Says Talks With United States Showing 'No Progress'

Cuba's foreign minister said on Tuesday that talks initiated earlier this year with long-time foe the United States had stalled, leaving little hope for an end to U.S. sanctions that have laid siege to the island's ailing economy.

Top diplomat Bruno Rodriguez told reporters that U.S. sanctions were "causing deaths" in Cuba as the island's economy collapses and severe shortages of food, fuel, medicine and electricity make life nearly unbearable for the island's approximately 9 million residents.

"Talks between Cuba and the US show no progress," Rodriguez said at a press conference in Havana. "The conduct of US government delegations — generally respectful — has been accompanied by constant threats against Cuba, the application of coercive measures, and offensive statements regarding our country's independence."

"Despite this, Cuba remains open to dialogue and the peaceful resolution of differences, based on mutual respect and non-interference in Cuba's internal affairs."

The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the foreign minister's statement.

The U.S. has called Cuba's government a national security threat and says sanctions are necessary to force a change in the island's government, a long-time aim of U.S. policy towards Cuba.

Cuba, 90 miles off the shores of the Florida Keys, has long maintained it is not a threat to the United States.

United Nations experts have previously called the U.S. fuel blockade, implemented in January, illegal and a violation of the human rights of all Cubans.

Rodriguez also said the U.S. State



Department was "pressuring and intimidating" United Nations member states to put off an upcoming floor debate over the U.S. blockade of the communist-run island.

The debate, slated for July 7, typically precedes a largely symbolic, non-binding U.N. vote of member states later in the year to call on the U.S. to end its sanctions against Cuba.

The United Nations has voted 31 times, including in November of 2025, to ask the United States to end the decades-long trade embargo. Those votes have historically been near unanimous, with typically only the United States and Israel in opposition.

The vote this year, however, takes on special relevance for Cuba after the Trump administration in January imposed a fuel blockade on the island and fresh sanctions that have led to an exodus of foreign investment and the near total collapse of tourism.

Foreign minister Rodriguez added that promised aid from the United States - slated to be distributed by church groups - appeared delayed.

The State Department did not respond to Reuters questions about the United Nations vote, but did say that the promised aid to Cuba should begin to flow shortly, adding that Cuba's government had been stalling delivery.

"We can confirm the aid is ready to go," a State Department spokesperson told Reuters. "We expect big shipments in July, if the regime will allow them."

Cuban lawmakers earlier this month approved sweeping economic reforms that, if implemented, would represent the single largest change to Cuba's socialist model since former leader Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution and a major shift towards a market economy.

Rodriguez told reporters those reforms, however, had nothing to do with U.S. threats or sanctions.

"The (reforms) adopted are a matter of sovereignty," Rodriguez said. "We have neither listened to nor are we interested in the United States' opinion." (US News)

Regional News

'I can't dictate US policy'

Cabinet Minister Audrey Marks has denied proposing the controversial deal under which Jamaica would receive up to 10,000 third-country nationals (TCNs) from the United States (US).

Marks said media reports have conflated the TCN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a separate proposal she developed in March last year as Jamaica's Ambassador to Washington to recruit skilled foreign workers.

Speaking yesterday at the National Corporate Consultation on Workforce Alignment and Jamaica's Economic Competitiveness, at the Institute for Workforce Education and Development (IWED) Corporate Consultation, Marks also suggested that the furore was intended to damage her reputation.

"To make it clear, the TCN requests originated in the United States... I noticed that there were all kinds of suggestions that I originated a TCN. Now I'm good at some things, but I'm not that good that I could dictate US policy," she said.

She said the US has already entered into TCN deportation agreements with 27 countries and has ongoing negotiations with at least 54 others.

Marks said Jamaica was approached on January 2, 2026 to also consider facilitating third-country nationals being removed from the US.

A diplomatic note from the US Embassy in Kingston, shared with The Gleaner in June, states that Marks, the former Jamaican ambassador to the US and current minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for efficiency, innovation, and digital transformation, made the proposal "for a third-country national arrangement that would have Jamaica receive up to 10,000 third-country nationals from the United States".



The note states that she made the proposal to a US official attached to the US Department of Homeland Security during the Americas Counter Cartel Conference at the US Southern Command in Miami, Florida on March 5, 2026.

After revealing the existence of the MOU, The Gleaner sought responses from Marks to several questions about whether she played a role in the development of the proposed arrangement.

On June 17, The Gleaner asked the minister, via WhatsApp, what role, if any, she played in initiating or advancing discussions with US counterparts on the arrangement.

Marks was also asked, if she played any role, whether she acted on her own initiative or if she was operating under instruction from Cabinet or the line minister.

Further, the minister was asked, if she played a role, when did the discussion with US counterparts take place?

In a late night response however, Marks would not respond directly to the questions raised.

"It is actually not protocol to comment on the matters that fall in the portfolio of other ministers. The only comment that I could make is that I supported the MOU as part of the Cabinet-approved process and decision," she had said then.

However, in speaking out on the matter yesterday, Marks said the discussions around the TCN MOU were being conflated with a proposal she made to recruit skilled workers to Jamaica while serving as Jamaica's ambassador to the US in March 2025. (Jamaica Gleaner)

New mental health chatline to support youth

A new regional initiative is set to provide young people in Saint Lucia and across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) with easier access to confidential mental health support.

The OECS, in partnership with UNICEF, the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and Zenith Centre, has launched the Young Caribbean Minds (YCM) Chatline, a free, anonymous, text-based mental health and child protection support service for children and young people

The platform was developed following the largest youth consultation on mental health legislation conducted in the Eastern Caribbean, with more than 1 000 young people contributing their views on the challenges they face and the support they need.

Their feedback helped shape the development of the Chatline and informed discussions around the future of mental health care in the region.

The Youth Voices: Mental Health Care Bill Survey Report, released alongside the platform, highlighted stigma as the biggest barrier preventing young people from seeking support.

The report found that 34.2 per cent of respondents feared being judged when seeking mental health assistance. More than half called for stronger protections in mental health legislation, while nearly 90 per cent supported rights-based approaches to mental health care.

Privacy was also identified as a major factor in building trust, with online chat support ranking among the preferred ways young people want to access help.

The Young Caribbean Minds Chatline will provide real-time psychosocial support through UWI-trained volunteers supervised by qualified psychologists. Users will be able to access the

service anonymously, without sharing personal information.

An integrated child protection referral system will also allow young people at risk to be connected with appropriate support services.

The initiative builds on a five-month pilot programme, during which more than 1,000 support sessions were provided. According to organisers, 88 per cent of users said they would use the service again.

The Chatline has also received inter-

national recognition, being identified as a best practice at the Global Conference on Child and Adolescent Mental Health and named among the Top Three finalists in the UNICEF Global INSPIRE Awards.

Following its launch, the platform will undergo further volunteer training and system strengthening before being rolled out across all nine OECS Member States, including Saint Lucia. (St Lucia Times)

NOTICE

TO: LICENSING MAGISTRATE
Magistrate's Court
Highstreet
St. John's,
Antigua

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENSE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS

BIGGIE MINI MART

I, Fabian Biggs, 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 Bottle License in respect of premises known as "BIGGIE MINI MART" situated at East Bus Station, in the parish of St. John, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, revised edition 1992.

Dated the 19th day of June 2026

.....
Fabian Biggs
(268) 723-9771

DR Congo's Ebola official death toll exceeds 400 — authorities

The official death toll in an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo now exceeds more than 400, according to official figures released on Thursday.

The highly contagious disease has claimed 438 lives, with 1,406 people infected since the outbreak was declared in north-eastern Ituri province on May 15, the National Institute of Public Health said in its latest report. (AFP)





DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
THE RUSH HOUR SHOW	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
TOUCHLINE	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
JAH WADADLI	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

Canadian boy, 11, dies of rabies after waking to bat on his face

An 11-year-old Canadian boy has died from rabies after being awoken by a bat on his nose and mouth.

The incident took place while the child was on a visit to a cottage in Ontario with his family in 2024, according to a report in the Canadian Medical Association Journal published on Monday.

The boy, who was not named in the report, swatted the bat off his face, after which his father caught the winged mammal in a pot and released it outside.

The boy's parents did not immediately seek medical attention due to their son not having any visible injuries and not thinking the bat behaved erratically, the journal states. But 19 days later, the boy began experiencing numbness and swelling on his face.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal chronicled his family taking him to get emergency care over the following days and both clinics and hospital doctors trying to diagnose his symptoms.

At first, an emergency clinic prescribed the boy antiviral medication used to treat infections caused by herpes viruses as they presumed he might have Bell's palsy, the temporary paralysis of facial muscles on one side of the face.

Then he went to hospital on back-to-back visits, first getting a presumed diagnosis of herpes gingivostomatitis, a viral infection of the mouth and gums,



then returning the following day after the right side of his face went weak, the journal states.

While awaiting to be admitted, he developed a fever of 39C (102F), along with difficulty swallowing, confusion and visual hallucinations. His condition rapidly worsened that day. He was intubated and admitted to the paediatric intensive care unit, the journal notes.

Doctors at the University of Manitoba, Canada's Department of Pediatrics and Child Health said they strongly suspected rabies.

Days later, a test confirmed that was the case. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency also identified a bat rabies virus variant.

The boy died 17 days after being admitted to hospital.

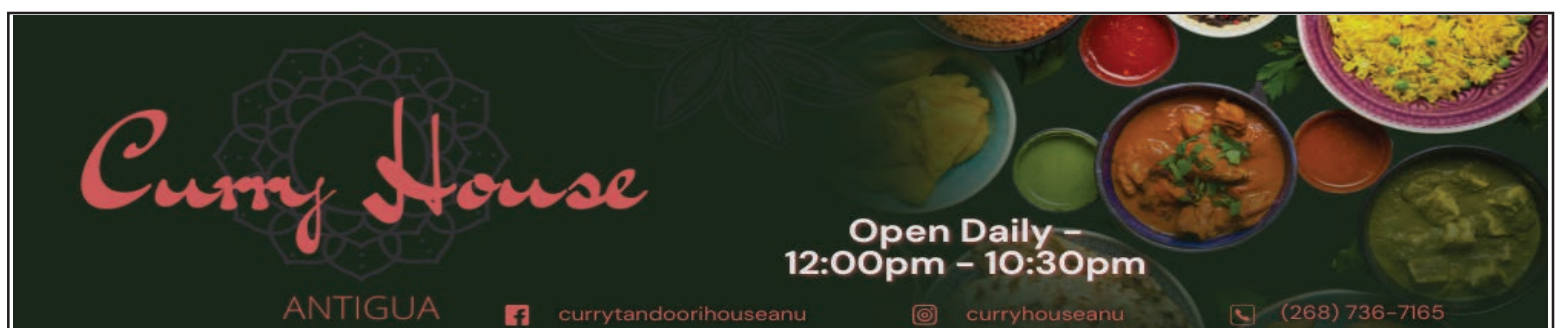
He had no history of allergies, sick contacts, tick bites, or recent travel outside the country.

Rabies infections are rare in Canada. There have been 28 human deaths due to rabies in the country since 1924, according to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

"This low rate of rabies is due to widespread, ongoing vaccination programs, and failure to continue these programs can and will result in a return of disease," the association states on its website.

Any direct human contact with a bat is an indication for rabies postexposure prophylaxis - medical treatment given immediately after potential exposure to a rabid animal.

Infection is almost always fatal once symptoms develop, the report states. (BBC)



Curry House

ANTIGUA

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

currytandoorihouseanu | curryhouseanu | (268) 736-7165

Venezuelan security guard pulled alive from building basement eight days after twin quakes

Rescuers pulled a 43-year-old security guard alive from a collapsed basement early Thursday, ending a grueling days-long operation that became a symbol of hope after the devastation of twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela eight days earlier.

Hernán Alberto Gil Flores was extracted safely after being trapped since June 24 under the rubble in the basement of the Galerías Playa Grande shopping center in the coastal town in La Guaira. Rescuers initially made contact with him over the weekend.

Teams carrying flags from across the world cheered as rescuers carried Gil, wearing an oxygen mask on a stretcher covered in an orange tarp, through throngs of people into a Red Cross ambulance.

A group of men in red Costa Rican Red Cross uniforms embraced and laughed in relief, while others broke out into applause.

The rescue was considered a small miracle cutting through a week of tragedy. With teams sustaining him with food and water while they excavated the concrete, they were able to keep him alive far longer than the 48-to-72-hour threshold most rescue operations give to find survivors in disasters.

Gil Flores worked as a night-shift security guard at the complex, and was inside his small security cabin when the first violent tremor struck. While the surrounding concrete structure collapsed around him, his workstation cabin held ground, shielding him from crushing debris and creating a vital pocket of air.

“When we found him, he asked us not to tell his wife that he was alive, just in case he wouldn’t make it,” Costa Rican Red Cross rescuer Minyar Collado told The Associated Press, but she added “We were never going to leave him here.”



A specialized team from the Costa Rican Red Cross first detected signs of life and established contact with him on Sunday.

His wife, Gusbimar González, told the AP that she had days of despair before hearing that rescuers made contact. “When I learned he was alive, I saw a ray of light in the darkness,” she said. The couple has two children, ages 8 and 10.

The operation was coordinated by an urban search and rescue team of Chilean firefighters, who worked around the clock with specialized teams from the United States, Portugal and Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Venezuela.

Rescuers navigated a highly unstable structure, torrential rain and persistent aftershocks to tunnel down to the survivor. They used a telescopic camera to help maintain constant contact with Gil Flores, passing water and liquid nutrients through a narrow shaft to keep him hydrated during the final three days of the extraction.

María Paz Campos, a veteran firefighter from Chile, talked him through the entire operation, and kept him calm during the final excruciating hours of Thursday.

In a video published by the Chilean firefighters in the hours before the rescue, Gil Flores is seen drawing, seemingly to pass the time. Campos then gently tells him to look at the camera and to wear protective goggles.

“I need you to keep the goggles on, for the small particles that are falling, to avoid them getting into your eye,” Campos told the Venezuelan survivor.

The collapse of the building was triggered by two back-to-back earthquakes on June 24 that registered magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5, respectively.

The shallow, violent tremors damaged or destroyed tens of thousands of buildings across northern Venezuela, killing more than 2,200 people, injuring over 11,000 and leaving La Guaira state as the hardest-hit region in the country. (AP)

WHO says cruise ship-linked hantavirus outbreak over



The United Nations (UN) health agency on Thursday declared an end to the deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship which sparked interna-

tional alarm, after the last person left quarantine.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference he was “very pleased to say that WHO considers the outbreak of hantavirus over”. (AFP)

POINTE ON DE STREETZ
 HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
 POINT BROADCASTING NETWORK

TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

f POINT FM99.1

Sports News

CPTSA Wings Sports Club recognizes patron Sir Reginal Samuel on his 93rd birthday

Two members of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club took the time out on Thursday morning to visit and greet the patron of the organization, Sir Reginal Samuel, on his 93rd birthday.

Vice-President and Chairperson of the Wings Youth Football Unit Barbara Coates and fellow Chairperson of the Wings Youth Football Unit Dennise Bascom presented a monetary gift to Sir Reginal in appreciation of his patronage and outstanding contribution to the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Reginal Samuel is remembered as the sports master and art teacher of the Antigua Grammar School in the 1960s. Sir Reginald also served as the nation's second director of sports and second chairman of the now defunct National Sports Council.

Sir Reginal is well known for his works of art, such as the designer of the Antigua & Barbuda National Flag, the sculpture of Prince Klass on Independence Avenue, the Statue of the Family at the State Insurance build-



Vice-President and Chairperson of the Wings Youth Football Unit Barbara Coates, right, and fellow Chairperson of the Wings Youth Football Unit Dennise Bascom, left, during a presentation to Sir Reginal Samuel, second right, on the day of his 93rd birthday, Thursday, July 2, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

ing on Redcliffe Street in St. John's, among other works of art.



**SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE
PRICES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION**
Cradled with care. With safety to spare.

Mosquito net

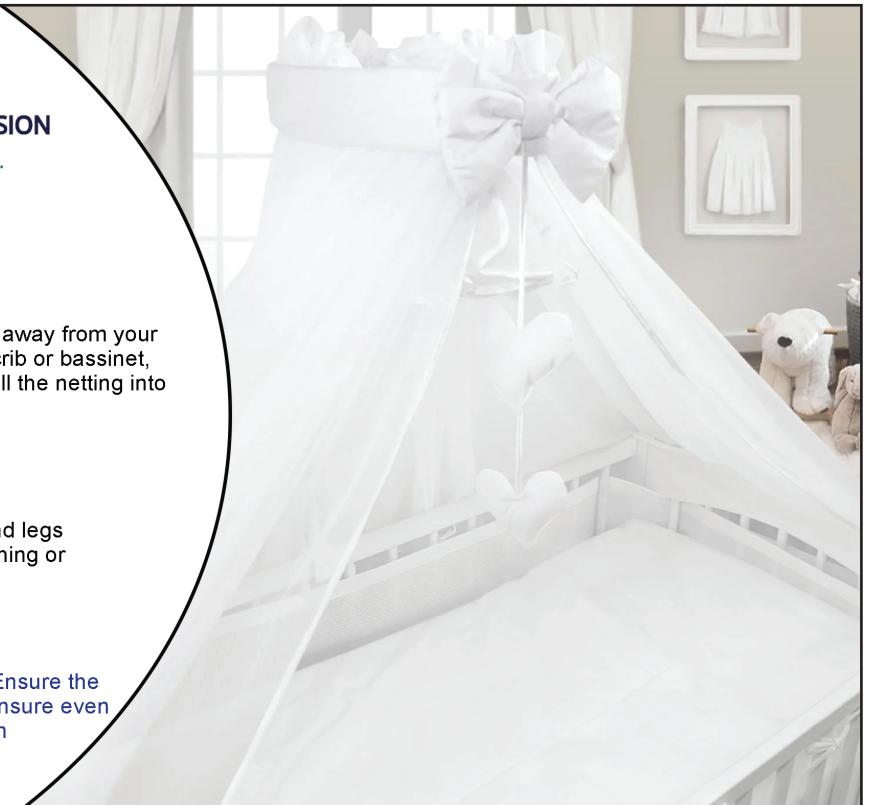
If using a mosquito net, ensure it is securely fitted and kept well away from your baby's face at all times. Avoid loose or hanging nets inside the crib or bassinet, especially once your baby begins to roll or grab, as they may pull the netting into their sleep space.

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.



Former Premier champions youth teams to compete in Antigua Cup

Three former Premier Division champion teams have entered their youth teams and academies to contest the third edition of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament, which will commence at the Buckley's Primary School Playing Field on Sunday, July 5.

Four-time top-flight winners, Bassa and Parham, will join another ex-Premier League champion, Villa Lions, in the weeklong competition, which will conclude on July 12.

Participating teams will compete in five age categories: under-9, under-11, under-13, under-15, and under-17.

Bassa, who are rebuilding, having not played in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) domestic programme for the past three seasons, replace Attackers, who were one of three teams who shared the under-15 title last year.

Also entering for the first time is the academy team of current Premier Division club Pigotts Bullets, as well as CPTSA Wings, the Young Lions of Old Road, Soccer Academy, and Jennings.

They will come up against under-17 champions Old Road; Cutting Edge, who are the reigning under-11, under-13, and girls' division winners; and joint under-15 champions Lion Cubs and Bath United of Nevis.

The other teams and clubs participating are Empire, Earthquake, Free-town, and the host club, Young Warriors.

Organizers say they are humbled by the response of the teams taking part, which set the scene for an exciting tournament with a number of the country's best young talented players on display.

The 2026 Antigua Cup starts at 3pm on Sunday with an opening ceremo-

ny, featuring addresses from government and sports officials representing the ABFA, the National Olympic Committee, and the Department of Youth Affairs.

There will be a parade of teams with awards going to the best-disciplined

team, the best-dressed team, and the best-organized team.

Matches on Sunday begin from 4 pm in the under-9, under-11, and under-13 divisions as well as the girls' segment.

The Antigua Cup

JULY 5-12, 2026

Summer's most exciting youth football club tournament.

AGE-GROUPS:

- U9
- U11
- U13
- U15
- U17

BOYS COMPETITION & GIRLS COMPETITION

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 PER PLAYER

KICK-OFF: 3:00 PM DAILY

VENUE: BUCKLEY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

BUCKLEY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

FOR MORE INFO:

CALL / WHATSAPP: **268-786-0115**

EMAIL: antiguacup@gmail.com | youngwarriorsf@gmail.com

NEVER GIVE UP

Cricket West Indies announces strategic engagement with Teneo



A Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed by the two organisations. From left to right: CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow; CWI CEO Chris Dehring; David Collins, Managing Director at Teneo; and Brian Glasgow, CARICOM Chairman at Teneo.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Thursday announced a strategic advisory engagement with Teneo, a global advisory firm with a strong presence across the Caribbean and an established track record advising leading organisations in international sport. The engagement was endorsed by the CWI Board of Directors at its meeting on June 27.

Teneo, which has worked to shape innovative commercial models across football, motorsport, cricket, and tennis, will work alongside CWI's leadership to provide an independent review of the governing body's ongoing reorganisation and cost optimisation initiatives, with a focus on strengthening operational, financial and commercial performance to secure CWI's long-term sustainability.

The work will be led by Teneo's CARICOM Chairman, Brian

Glasgow, and Managing Director, David Collins, supported by specialists from Teneo's global network of more than 1,800 professionals across 50-plus offices worldwide.

Speaking on the engagement, CWI CEO Chris Dehring said, "The West Indies brand is one of the most powerful and recognisable in world sport. We need to engage partners who understand how to translate that kind of brand power into long-term operational strength. Teneo brings that experience, having advised some of the most iconic names in global sport, such as Manchester United.

"Importantly, this engagement gives us an independent, external lens on the work we have already begun, testing our thinking, and ensuring we are building on the soundest possible foundation. This is a natural next step in the broader

transformation agenda of our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan," Dehring added.

Brian Glasgow, CARICOM Chairman at Teneo, expressed the company's delight in having an opportunity to work with the West Indies cricket brand.

"Cricket West Indies is far more than a sporting organisation. It is a symbol of Caribbean pride, identity and achievement that has brought our region together for generations. We are honoured to have been invited to support Cricket West Indies and look forward to working closely with its leadership, stakeholders and partners as they continue to build for the future."

David Collins, Managing Director at Teneo, said the firm is ready to assist CWI in achieving its long-term objectives.

"Cricket West Indies has already undertaken significant work in developing its plans for the future, and we are excited to bring our experience in organisational, financial and commercial advisory services to support that journey. Our focus will be on helping strengthen the foundations for long-term success so that Cricket West Indies can continue to invest in the game, create opportunities for future generations and maximise the potential of one of the most recognised brands in world sport."

The engagement builds on CWI's broader transformation agenda including efforts to strengthen the organisation's governance, rebuild the production pipeline, and deepen engagement with territorial boards and regional stakeholders.

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Sports News



Winning start for Enforcers in New Winthropes football league

Enforcers made a winning start in the New Winthropes Community Football League on Wednesday.

The Enforcers launched their campaign by pulling off a 3-1 victory against Wile Syde FC in their opening game of the eight-team round-robin community league at the New Winthropes playing field.

Gisner Joseph scored his first of two goals in the fifth minute to give Enforcers the lead. Delano Gilead drew Wile Syde FC level with a 32nd-minute conversion.

But Joseph scored his second goal of the match when he converted a penalty kick in the 35th minute to restore the Enforcers' lead by giving his team a 2-1 advantage.

Keon Greene wrapped up the victory by scoring the third and final goal for the Enforcers with a strike in the 40th minute.

Eight teams, which are equally divided into two groups, are contesting the league. The re-birth of the New Winthropes Community Football League is a collaborative venture by Nat Pan My Team and Real Blizzard FC.

Meanwhile, there were opening game wins for West Bank Hatton and Jennings United when action continued in the Gray's Green Community Football League at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park on Wednesday evening.

West Bank Hatton launched their campaign with a 6-0 drubbing of Earthquake in the opening game of a double-header.



Shaquille Perry struck a hat trick, Navar Mason had a double conversion, and the other goal was scored by Shavin Graham.

Goals by Ian Francis, Daniel Williams, and Jvontia Benjamin propelled Jennings United to a 3-0 victory over Black Storm in their opening encounter.

The competition kicked off with wins for Xclusive Ballaz and Hothead & Friends in the opening games at the same venue on Tuesday.

Carlos Tittle and Akeem Issac each

scored once to give Xclusive Ballaz a 2-0 victory against CPTSA Wings FC.

It was much closer in the other encounter in which Hothead & Friends snatched a 3-2 victory against El Guapo in a keenly contested affair.

Kamali Looby, Josue Arias, and Adjani Thomas converted the goals for Hothead & Friends, while Rakeem Joseph and Troy Jules scored for El Guapo.

Twelve teams are contesting the Gray's Green Community League, which is organized by the Empire Football Club.

Dredgers reap more success in ABSCA men's T20 contest

The Dredgers have continued their winning run in their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5 FM and Chet Greene T20 Championships.

The Dredgers made it three wins in a row with a crushing 111-run triumph over the Mix-Up Stars at the Clare Hall playing field in their latest outing.

Player of the match Tyrone Williams Jr. smashed his second successive century to lift the Dredgers to 240 for three off their 20 overs.

After smashing an unbeaten 120 in his previous innings against Goody's Advent 300, Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed 111 not out, including nine sixes and three fours.

The Dredgers also benefitted from a contribution of 46 extras, and Mervin Higgins chipped in with 34.

In reply, the Mix-Up Stars were re-

stricted to 129 for seven off their 20 overs. Frederick Floyd hit 42, Isiah Viville struck 33, and there was a contribution of 29 extras. It was the third loss in as many games for the Mix-Up Stars.

Player of the match Kenrick Scott also smashed a century as Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js maintained their unbeaten run by surging to their third win in as many matches with a crushing 197-run victory over PMS at the same venue.

Scott slammed 133, including 11 sixes and nine fours, as the Buckley's 3Js rattled up 239 without losing any wickets off their 20 overs.

Fellow opening partner Randino Turner hammered 90, including nine fours and three sixes.

In reply, PMS crashed to their third consecutive loss after only being able to muster 42 for six in 13 overs. Richie Thomas bagged two for 10, and Rod-

ney Williams claimed two for 17.

Meanwhile, Potters Uprising Cricket Team recorded their first win in the women's T20 competition on Wednesday night.

After losing their previous two matches, Potters Uprising pulled off an eight-wicket victory against Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Jennings Rockets, who suffered their third loss in as many games.

The Jennings Rockets were restricted 82 for eight off their 20 overs. Ann-Marie Parker hit 28, and their total benefited from a contribution of 26 extras. Player of the match Coller Simon grabbed four for 18.

The Potters Uprising Cricket Team secured victory by achieving their victory target of 83 runs without losing any wickets in 12.2 overs.

Nolia Elvin slammed an unbeaten 40, and Jemma Joseph hit 22 not out.



The Dredgers men's softball cricket team

West Indies and Sri Lanka meet in second Test

The West Indies will be seeking more success when the second Test of the two-match series against Sri Lanka begins at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, on Friday (today).

The first match was a one-sided affair, with West Indies winning by an innings and 217 runs. The hosts dominated all departments, leaving Sri Lanka looking for answers after a disappointing performance.

The West Indies team, led by Roston Chase, has shown a remarkable turnaround after a string of seven defeats in their last eight Tests.

Their emphatic win in the first Test has brought back confidence in this young squad. Shai Hope is likely to return to the playing XI for the second Test, further strengthening an already promising side.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, have a lot of room for improvement after their first Test defeat. Key players like Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, and Kamindu Mendis had disappointing outings in the first match.

Despite skipper Dhananjaya de Silva's century in the first innings, more is expected from his teammates against quality pace bowling away from home.

Sri Lanka's bowling attack was also hampered by Lahiru Kumara's early injury in the first Test. However, Milan Rathnayake's five-wicket haul was a silver lining for the team.

On the batting front, Dinesh Chandimal has been Sri Lanka's most consistent red-ball batter since 2022 with an average of 54.65. He scored 97 runs in two innings during the first Test but will need to deliver bigger innings if



Shai Hope, left, captain Roston Chase, center, and head coach Daren Sammy at the West Indies final net session in Antigua on Thursday ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. (CWI Media)

Sri Lanka hopes to make a comeback in this series.

The West Indies have added fast-bowling allrounder Keemo Paul to their squad for the second Test, while Hope has recovered from his injury.

Hope's return could mean a change in the playing XI as Jangoo's impressive performance in the first Test makes him a strong contender to stay. On Sri Lanka's side, Kumara's injury will prompt at least one change with Vishwa Fernando likely to step in.

In 25 matches, Sri Lanka have secured 11 wins compared to West Indies' five. Nine matches have been drawn. On Windies soil, they have

clashed 13 times. West Indies have won five matches to Sri Lanka's two. Six matches have been drawn.

WI probable XI: John Campbell, Brandon King, Shai Hope, Amir Jangoo, Justin Greaves, Roston Chase (captain), Joshua da Silva (wk), Jayden Seales, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, and Kemar Roach.

Sri Lanka probable XI: Pathum Nissanka, Nishan Madushka, Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva (captain), Kusal Mendis (wk), Sonal Dinusha, Milan Rathnayake, Kasun Rajitha, Vishwa Fernando, and Asitha Fernando.