

Safety: A Top Priority for Carnival 2026

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Participants listen intently at the safety workshop organized by the Festivals Commission

Safety: A Top Priority for Carnival 2026



Reinforcing its commitment to delivering a safe and enjoyable Antigua Carnival experience, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) successfully hosted its inaugural **Carnival Parade Driver Safety Workshop** on Saturday, July 18, 2026.

The described the workshop as a ‘resounding success’, attracting approximately 60 rig and truck drivers, as well as several band leaders representing some of Antigua and Barbuda’s largest carnival bands.

Designed to strengthen the safety culture surrounding Carnival parades, the initiative forms part of the Commission’s broader strategy to enhance operational standards while safeguarding participants, patrons, and spectators throughout the festival.

Participants received comprehensive training in **Risk Management, Human Factors, and Parade Safety Standards**, equipping them with practical knowledge to identify and assess potential risks during parade opera-

tions and in their everyday work environments. The sessions also explored the relationship between human cognitive capacity, decision-making, and how task demands can contribute to errors and accidents.

Minister of Creative Industries, **Dwayne George**, praised the initiative, emphasizing that safety remains a cornerstone of the Government’s vision for Antigua Carnival. “Safety must always come first. As we continue to grow Antigua Carnival as the Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festivals, we must ensure that every aspect of the event is underpinned by strong safety standards. From our performers and vendors to our drivers, organizers and patrons, protecting lives will always remain at the forefront of our planning and execution.”

ABFC Chairperson **Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul** said the Commission is committed to implementing meaningful measures that promote a safer Carnival experience. “The Commission is doing its part by putting the

necessary safety training and mechanisms in place to ensure that everyone involved in Antigua Carnival is better prepared. This workshop is another example of our commitment to raising standards, reducing risks, and ensuring that safety remains a shared responsibility across every sector of the festival.”

Chairman of the Parade Safety Committee, **Commander (Ret’d) Elroy Skerritt**, underscored that safety is a non-negotiable priority for the Commission. “The Commission’s mandate is clear, safety is our number one priority, and we are not cutting any corners. This workshop is a major step in ensuring our parade drivers are properly trained and equipped to manage the unique challenges of Carnival.”

Commander Skerritt, who facilitated the workshop, also announced that all participants will receive an official Certificate of Participation, which will remain valid for **24 months** before refresher training is required.

Nearly 700 Acres of Agricultural Land Hve Been Re-possessed for Redistribution

The ministry of agriculture has announced that it has re-possessed nearly 700 acres of government agricultural lands which are now earmarked for re-distribution to qualified farmers as the government ramps up efforts to dramatically improve food production.

Agriculture Minister, Anthony Smith Jnr. reported that his ministry has identified and taken possession of approximately 682 acres of abandoned and underutilized agricultural lands that have remained unproductive for more than four years. He revealed that the lands, which have been categorized through a comprehensive assessment conducted by the Agriculture Extension Division, include properties under the Extension Division, the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), livestock holdings, and parcels with unresolved ownership.

He disclosed that the lands have been earmarked for redistribution to qualified farmers who have demonstrated a commitment to agricultural production. The first phase of the programme will see 50 vetted farmers receiving land allocations to increase domestic food production and improve national food security.

The Ministry also reported that a pool of applicants has already been vetted through the Agriculture Extension Division, with allocations to be made in accordance with the order in which applications were received and approved.

To ensure accountability and productive use of the land, Cabinet agreed that the initial allocations will be granted for a six-month probationary period. During this period, the Ministry of Agriculture will closely monitor cultivation, pro-



Agriculture Minister, Anthony Smith Jnr

ductivity, and adherence to agreed development plans. Farmers who

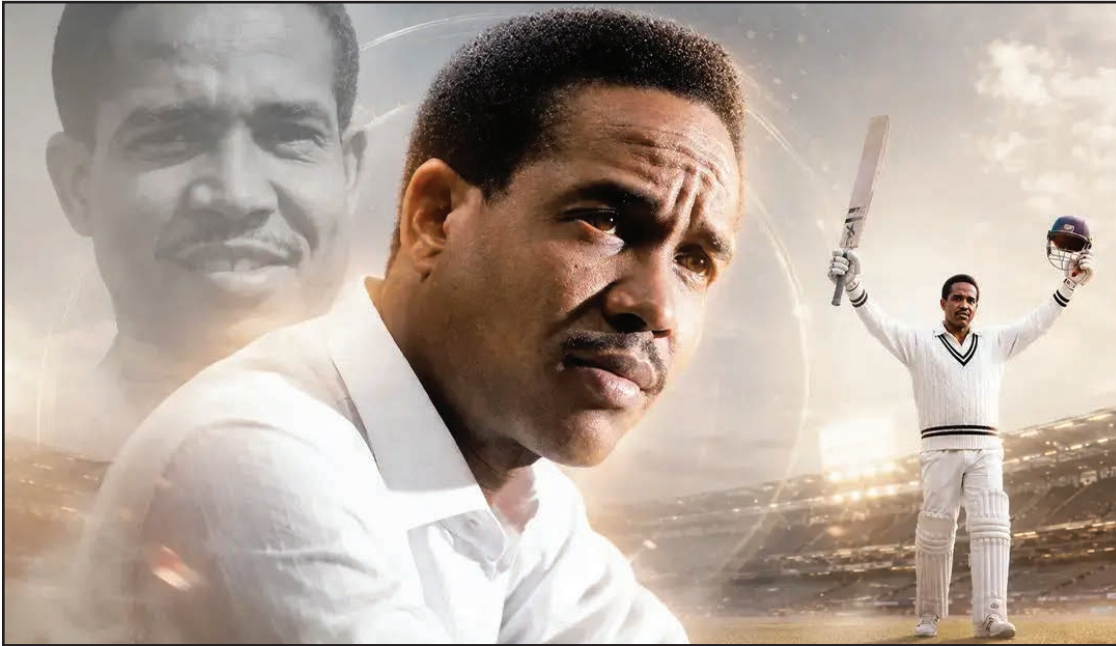
demonstrate active and sustained production will be granted longer-term occupancy.

The Minister further advised that a significant portion of abandoned livestock lands, particularly in the Northeast District—including Pares, Parham Lodge, Betty's Hope, and Comfort Hall—has been identified for conversion into crop production to maximize agricultural output.

Cabinet noted that the repossession initiative is intended to ensure that Government-owned agricultural lands are utilized efficiently and that scarce agricultural resources are placed in the hands of productive farmers capable of contributing to the nation's food supply.


 An advertisement for State Insurance Company Limited. It features a smiling woman with long, dark, wavy hair against a green background. The company logo, a stylized 'S' made of horizontal bars, is in the top left. Below it, the text reads 'STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED' and 'Live in a better State of mind'. At the bottom, large white text says 'TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE!' followed by a yellow text box containing the message: 'Whether it's securing your home, planning for your family, or pursuing your dreams, now is the time to make those important decisions.'

Government Announces a Period of Mourning Following the Death of Sir Garfield Sobers



All flags on public buildings throughout Antigua and Barbuda are to be flown at half-mast in honour of the late Sir Garfield Sobers, one of the greatest cricketers of all time, who passed away on Friday, just a few days short of his 90th birthday. This will continue until Sir Garfield's funeral.

The Acting Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Hon. Sir Steadroy Cutie Benjamin, made the announcement on Saturday, following consultation with Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne and members of the Cabinet. It was agreed that the nation of Antigua and Barbuda will honour Sir Garfield, a son of Barbados but who has been adopted by all of the English-speaking Caribbean, in this manner.

In an official statement, the government said the decision reflects the profound respect and admiration held by the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the Barbadian legend, whose extraordinary achievements transcended sport and inspired generations across the Caribbean and beyond.

Sir Garfield Sobers, who passed away

at the age of 89, is universally regarded as the greatest all-round cricketer the game has ever produced. During a distinguished international career spanning two decades, he revolutionized cricket with his unparalleled versatility as a batsman, bowler and fielder. A left-handed batting genius, Sobers amassed 8,032 Test runs at an average of 57.78, including 26 centuries, and famously became the first player to hit six consecutive sixes in an over in first-class cricket. His mastery extended beyond the bat, excelling as a fast-medium bowler, left-arm swing bowler and spin bowler, while his brilliance in the field set standards that few have matched.

Acting Prime Minister Sir Steadroy Benjamin who is a former player of the game and avid supporter of cricket said the Caribbean has lost one of its brightest sons.

"Sir Garfield Sobers was not merely a cricketing icon; he was a Caribbean icon whose remarkable talent, humility and love for the game united people across nations and generations. His achievements elevated West Indies cricket to unprecedented heights and gave immense pride to every Carib-

bean citizen. On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I extend our deepest condolences to his family, the Government and people of Barbados, and the entire West Indies cricket fraternity."

Sir Steadroy noted that the decision to lower the national flags symbolizes Antigua and Barbuda's gratitude for Sir Garfield's immense contribution to Caribbean identity and excellence.

"Sir Garfield showed the world that a son of the Caribbean could become the benchmark against which greatness is measured. His legacy will continue to inspire young athletes to pursue excellence with discipline, courage and imagination. Flying our flags at half-mast is a fitting tribute to a man whose influence reached far beyond the boundary ropes."

The Acting Prime Minister also acknowledged the close ties shared among Caribbean nations and emphasized that Sir Garfield Sobers belonged not only to Barbados but to the entire region.

"At moments such as these, the Caribbean mourns as one family. Sir Garfield Sobers represented the very best of our region—extraordinary ability, resilience, confidence and grace. His life serves as a reminder of what Caribbean people can achieve on the world stage."

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda joins governments, sporting organizations and millions of admirers across the world in paying tribute to Sir Garfield Sobers, whose legacy as the complete cricketer and one of the greatest sporting figures of all time will endure for generations.

PRIME MINISTER GASTON BROWNE PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR GARFIELD SOBERS

On behalf of the people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, I extend sincerest condolences to the people and Government of Barbados, to the family and friends of Sir Garfield Sobers on the sad passing of this giant.

At a time—60 years ago, when West Indian Nationhood was taking form—when colonialism was in retreat, one of the most outstanding cricketer/athletes to emerge from the Anglo-Caribbean region was this outstanding cricketer called Garfield Sobers.

So well-admired was Garfield Sobers that his country conferred on him a Knighthood and would subsequently declare him a living National Hero. He was so loved and admired that many mothers and fathers, in Antigua and Barbuda and throughout the CARICOM region, named their baby boys Garfield.

Cricket history recalls that Garfield Sobers held the highest score of a single batsman in international test-match cricket of 365 runs; that record stood the test of time for decades. He would captain the West Indies Cricket side to many victories, demonstrating exquisite leadership and outstanding sportsmanship.

For many Antiguan and Barbudans, the West Indies team embodied the fighting spirit of the CARICOM people. His story would influence out-



standing cricketers, diplomats, politicians and sports-people from Antigua and Barbuda, and other places. He was admired globally. Although retired from the game, he remained a fixture even as cricket transformed into its many abbreviated forms.

May the soul of Sir Garfield Sobers rest in peace and rise in Paradise.

*Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda*



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Final Call For Nominations For National Honours 2026

The Honours Committee is reminding the public that the deadline for the submission of nominations for consideration for the 2026 National Honours is Friday, 31 July 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

This is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate outstanding individuals and institutions whose exceptional service, dedication and achievements have made a significant contribution to Antigua and Barbuda.

Nominations are invited for consideration for membership in:

- The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation
- The Most Illustrious Order of Merit
- The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage

The Committee encourages members of the public, community organisations, professional bodies, churches, clubs and other institutions to nominate deserving persons or organisations whose service has positively impacted their communities or the nation.

Individuals nominated should have demonstrated distinguished or meritorious service, integrity, selfless commitment and sustained excellence in their chosen field or in service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Institutions may also be nominated where they have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion, development or protection of the nation's arts, history, cultural heritage or humanitarian endeavours.



Nomination forms, together with guidance notes, are available from the Office of the Governor General. Nominations should be accompanied by as much supporting information as possible, including at least two letters of support from persons familiar with the nominee's contribution.

Completed nomination forms should be submitted to:

The Secretary
Honours Committee
Government House
Independence Drive
St. John's, Antigua
Antigua and Barbuda

Signed scanned copies may also be emailed to hcabgov@gmail.com, with a copy to govgenab@gmail.com.

Members of the public are encour-

aged not to wait until the final day to submit nominations. Early submissions allow the Honours Committee sufficient time to acknowledge receipt and begin the assessment process.

The Honours Committee urges all citizens and residents to take this opportunity to ensure that the exceptional service and achievements of deserving individuals and institutions receive the national recognition they have earned.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations is Friday, 31 July 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Submissions received after this deadline will be considered for the 2027 National Honours.

Chairman

Honours Committee

The Office of The Governor General
- Antigua and Barbuda



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

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Antigua and Barbuda Supports Cardiac Care Through Polo For Heart Partnership



Antigua and Barbuda brought Caribbean warmth, culture and creativity to Polo For Heart 2026 in support of cardiac care.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority celebrates the success of its first year supporting Polo For Heart, one of Canada's longest-running charity sporting events, bringing the warmth, culture and energy of Antigua and Barbuda to a weekend dedicated to raising funds for cardiac care.

Now in its 46th year, Polo For Heart welcomed guests to the Toronto Polo Club for three days of philanthropy, polo and summer celebration in support of Southlake Health. The 2026 event raised funds through ticket sales, donations, silent auctions and more, with proceeds supporting critical car-

diac care services for patients and families across the region.

As part of the first year of a multi-year program, Antigua and Barbuda brought a taste of its relaxed Caribbean luxury to the event, creating an immersive presence that carried through



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Local News



the opening evening, weekend activations and a curated showcase of work by artists from Antigua and Barbuda.

“Polo For Heart brings together many of our shared values: community, generosity, culture and connection,” said Tameka Wharton, Director of Tourism for Canada, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. “This cause has incredible heart behind it, and we were proud to support an event that makes a real difference for cardiac care while also allowing us to share the warmth and vibrancy of Antigua and Barbuda with Canadian guests.”

To mark the opening evening, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority co-hosted Polo in Paradise, bringing the colour, sound and hospitality of Antigua and Barbuda to the polo grounds through specialty cocktails, authentic island cuisine, steelpan music and an après polo celebration with DJ entertainment and dancing.

“What we witnessed at Polo in Paradise was the excellence of Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism offering brought to life,” said Gail Christian, Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda, who attended the opening event. “The Tourism Authority created a true sense of the warmth, hospitality and luxury that define our destination. Bringing that experience into a traditional sporting event clearly demonstrates our desire to share Antigua and Barbuda’s paradise with Canada and the rest of the world.”

Throughout the weekend, Antigua and

Barbuda also welcomed guests into a destination-inspired space featuring music, massages and wellness touchpoints designed to bring the feeling of the islands to the polo grounds. The destination also facilitated the donation of a four-night stay at Curtain

Bluff, a boutique luxury resort on Antigua and Barbuda’s southern coast, to the silent auction. On Sunday’s family day, Antigua and Barbuda added family-friendly activations, including a colouring wall mural that invited young guests to engage with the country in a fun and creative way.



STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

21ST & 23RD JULY
8:00PM

PAN CRAWL

ROUTE STARTS AT SIDL REDCLIFFE ST.

TUESDAY 21ST JULY
ORIGINAL STEEL ORCHESTRA
PANDEMONIUM STEEL ORCHESTRA
HARMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA
HELLS GATE STEEL ORCHESTRA

THURSDAY 23RD JULY
PANACHE STEEL ORCHESTRA
GEMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA
WESTSIDE SYMPHONY
HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA

Police Search for Male Suspect in Recent Shooting Death Incident

The police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying and apprehending a male suspect believed to be involved in the shooting death of 29-year-old Leyandrew Hubbard of Potters.

Just after 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 19, the police received a report of a shooting on Ladoo Road in Potters.

Upon arriving at the scene, officers discovered Hubbard lying unresponsive along the southern side of the roadway with multiple gunshot wounds to his body. He was pronounced dead at approximately 12:37 p.m.

Preliminary investigations indicate that Hubbard and several other persons were playing cards beneath a shed when a lone gunman approached the group and opened fire.

A second man, of Urlings, was also shot during the incident. He sustained a gunshot wound to his back. He was transported by the Emergency Medical Services to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he remains in critical condition and is expected to undergo surgery.

The police are appealing to anyone who witnessed the incident, or who may have information that can assist with identifying or locating the suspect, to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

The Police Administration is also appealing directly to the suspect to surrender himself to the police without delay at any police station.

Investigations into the matter remain ongoing.

The Commissioner of Police and the entire Police Administration extend sincere condolences to the family and friends of Leyandrew as they mourn his tragic passing.





SUMMER SALE

STOCK UP AND SAVE



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EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT → 2026 ←



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- Wadadli Vybez Band
- Calypso Renditions
- Antigua Dance Academy
- Da Vibz Steel Band
- Point Iron Band
- spoken word and Anastis storytelling, the Point Iron Band so much more

Experience an unforgettable night
of music... culture... history...
and pride.

Be inspired by internationally
acclaimed performer and
educator Kim Pole and
hear a powerful message
from renowned Caribbean
Historian Professor Hilary
Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of
The University of the
West Indies and Chair of
the CARICOM Reparations



EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT 2026

FRIDAY, JULY 31 | 8:00 P.M. | BOTANICAL GARDENS

FREE ADMISSION

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND FRAUD PREVENTION FORUM



*Protecting the public through awareness,
prevention, and digital safety*



Location: John E. St. Luce
Finance & Conference Centre,
Factory Road, St. John's



Date: July 23rd, 2026



Time: 5:00–6:30 PM



Format: Hybrid Event –
In-Person & Online



Registration: Scan QR Code



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Local News

St. George MP Calls for Unity Following Deadly Potters Shooting



St. George Member of Parliament Michael Freeland

St. George Member of Parliament Michael Freeland has appealed for unity and an end to violence following Sunday's fatal shooting in Potters Village that left one man dead and another critically injured.

The shooting claimed the life of 29-year-old Leyandrew Hubbard, while an 18-year-old male remains hospitalized in critical condition after the pair came under gunfire in what police believe was a drive-by attack.

In a statement released Sunday, Freeland said the incident had deeply affected the St. George community and expressed sympathy to Hubbard's relatives and friends.

"My heart goes out to the family of Leyandrew Hubbard during this painful time," the parliamentarian said. "I also continue to pray for the young man who is receiving medical treatment and hope for his full recovery."

Freeland described the attack as a tragic reminder of the human cost of violent crime, noting that communities should never become accus-



tomed to such incidents.

"No family should have to experience this kind of grief, and no community should live under the shadow of violence," he said. "We must remain committed to creating opportunities for our young people and strengthening the bonds that keep our communities safe."

The MP encouraged residents to cooperate with investigators, expressing confidence that law enforcement officers would conduct a comprehensive investigation into the shooting.



CARNIVAL CORNER

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July 3rd – August 7, 2026
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\$75

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Brew
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Every Friday, No Excuses

Commissioner Jeffers: Policing is Not for Clock-watchers

The 43 newest members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda have been told that the demands of the police force are unlike what they would expect in other areas of employment in either the public or the private sector.

Speaking at last Thursday's graduation ceremony for the new police men and women at the Sir Wright George Police Academy, Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers made the point that the force is not merely an 8-hour job.

"It is not for clock-watchers or those who are simply looking forward to a pay cheque. Today, you are not just simply receiving a certificate of completion. You are accepting a sacred trust. From this day forward, you become guardians of the law, protectors of the vulnerable, and ambassadors of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. The authority you now carry is not a privilege to be abused, but a responsibility to be exercised with fairness, humility, compassion, and unwavering integrity," he advised.

Commissioner Jeffers told the new officers that policing is a career opportunity for them to serve at the highest level in this noble profession. It requires commitment and dedication, especially in the most demanding and difficult times.

"It is important for me to also remind you; there are no shortcuts to providing top quality service to the public. Each complaint must be properly investigated with the highest level of professionalism, courtesy, and respect



Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers

for the rights and dignity of everyone," he further stated.

The Commission of Police noted that the has often said that the police force needs men and women, who have what it takes to be a good police officer.

"We need men and women who are dependable, courteous, polite, and sensitive to the needs of others.

"Men and women, who, even in the face of adversity, can keep their com-

posure and remain professional. As ambassadors, your general attitude must be reflective of the quality of training you received at the academy. There is no tolerance for unprofessionalism, tardiness, and unproductivity within this organization. As young officers, your honesty and integrity will be tested. However, I urge you to do the right things at all time, even when no one is watching," he declared.



268 736 7165

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



↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

↑ Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

↑ Breakfast served from 7:30am

↑ Games Night - COMING SOON!



St. John's Rural South Youth Arm Crowns First-Ever Talent Takeover Champion

The St. John's Rural South Youth Arm successfully hosted its inaugural Talent Takeover on Saturday, July 18, at Club Labour on Nugent Avenue, bringing together a talented lineup of young performers for an evening of music, entertainment, and community engagement.

The competition featured eight contestants who showcased their vocal and performance abilities before an enthusiastic audience, with winners determined entirely by audience vote.

Emerging as the inaugural Talent Takeover Champion was Abigail Noel, whose powerful rendition of Adele's *One and Only* earned her first place and the grand prize of \$1,000. Ari Royer claimed second place and \$600 with her original song, *Young and Reckless*, while Junior Thomas aka Alstar Braffer secured third place and \$400 with an impressive performance of his original song.

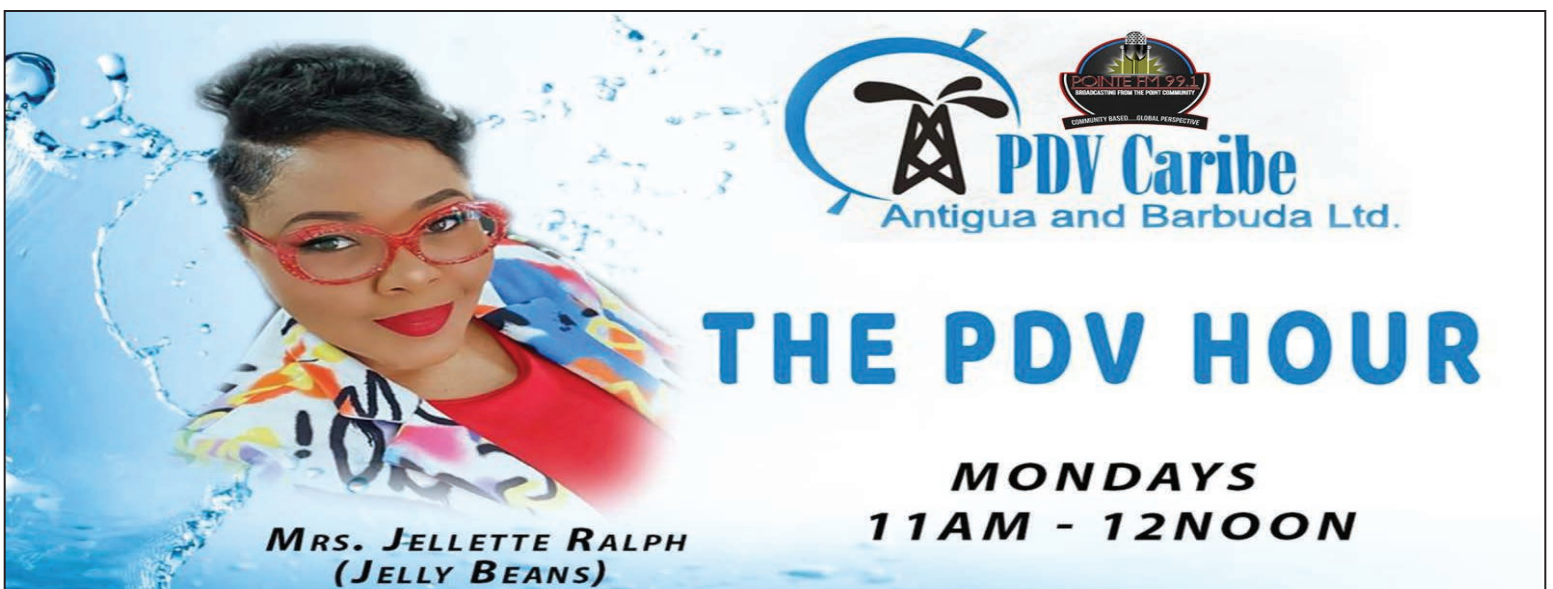
The event also featured guest performances by Voltage Band, C4 Entertainment, and Antsness, adding to the night's vibrant atmosphere.

The St. John's Rural South Youth Arm extends sincere thanks to all contestants, performers, sponsors, volunteers, and patrons whose support



made the event a success. Following the overwhelming response to the inaugural staging, the Youth Arm looks forward to making Talent Takeover

an annual platform that celebrates and nurtures young talent across Antigua and Barbuda.




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 Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

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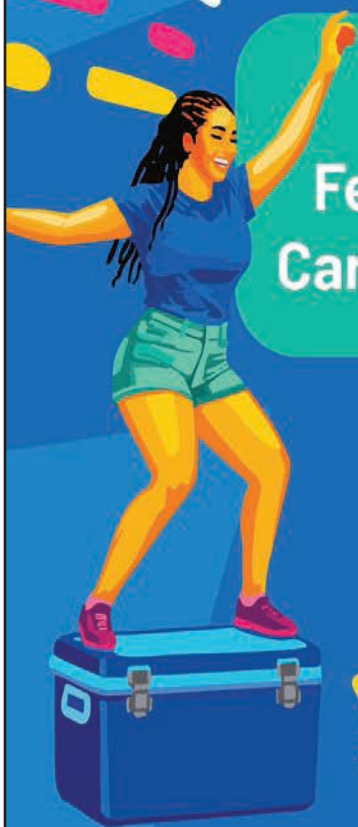
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ISLAND PRINCE - YOUNG LYRICS - VICIOUS - ARLEN SEATON - NIKKI NOOKS - DMITRIB
DJ QUEST - DJ ALTITUDE**

HOST : IBIS AND SUPA DYMOND

JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
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RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
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1

WEEK TO



ANTIGUA Carnival 2026



Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission



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inet PARTY MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS
COOLER FETE

17TH JULY 2026
CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00PM

ADM: \$20



ORDER OF APPEARANCE **GROOVY**

ARTISTE

SONG

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dior | Tired Of De Work |
| 2. Daddy Fergus | One Night |
| 3. Kid Fresh | Break Away |
| 4. Bless Eye | Showtime |
| 5. Menace XL | Teddy Bear |
| 6. Naycha Kid | Jam & Fete |
| 7. Young Lyrics | Wrap Me Up |
| 8. Ezzy Rattigan | Walla Walla |
| 9. Chin | Fruit Basket |
| 10. VICIOUS | No Apology |
| 11. Island Prince | Whine Of The Year |
| 12. Raiine | So Magical |
| 13. Queen Thalia | Winner Circle |
| 14. Zan | Ah Guilty |
| 15. Empress | Til De Last |





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION

EMANCIPATION OBSERVANCES



JULY 24TH
AFRICA DRESS DAY



JULY 29TH
UHURU – TV PROGRAMME
Spiritual awakening



JULY 31ST
WATCHNIGHT GATHERING
"A Night of Reflection, Remembrance and Renewal"



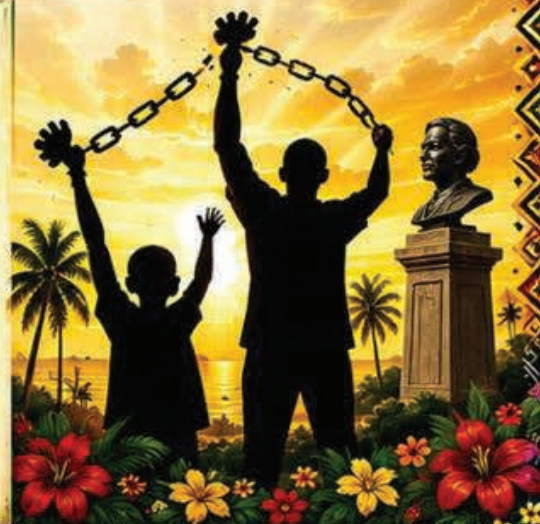
AUGUST 1ST
EMANCIPATION DAY



• EMANCIPATION BREAKFAST SERVICE –
GREENBAY MORAVIAN CHURCH **6:00 AM**



EMANCIPATION VILLAGE –
VC BIRD BUST **10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**



HONOURING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM • BUILDING OUR FUTURE

The Colour of Our Believing

Modern anti-Black racism was not found in nature.

It was built in the Atlantic world, and what was built can be dismantled.

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

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



The 2026 Fifa World Cup has ignited animated conversations about race and skin colour. Consider Vinícius Júnior, Champions League winner, global icon, a talent commanding the attention of millions. Yet match after match, stadium after stadium, the same things follow him: monkey chants, thrown bananas and the crowds mimicking apes. His wealth is no shield and his fame is no shelter. In Spain, in France, in the heart of European football, a dark-skinned man at the pinnacle of his profession is still reduced to an animal by thousands of voices acting on an inherited reflex.

If a man who commands the world's attention cannot escape this degradation, imagine the fate of the invisible. The dark-skinned child in a Brazilian favela, the African migrant drowning at a European border or the Black man stopped by police for the crime of breathing while melanated. Millions lack Vinícius's platform, his legal team, his fortune. Their suffering makes no headlines. They are collateral damage in a system whose programming was written long before they were born.

I was a boy in St Vincent and the

Grenadines when I first noticed that programming in myself. Watching football, athletics and cricket beyond the West Indies, I felt a quiet but insistent pull toward the team with the Black players. Nobody instructed me, the feeling simply arrived, as natural seeming as thirst. It was not evidence that race is biological destiny, it was solidarity formed inside history. But that a child could inherit such a reflex tells us that skin has been made to perform political work.

Why should the melanin in a striker's skin, on a pitch thousands of miles away, feel like kinship? Why does colour, mine, yours, seemingly everyone's, so often present itself as the deepest fact about us?

Biologically, skin colour is among the shallowest of human differences. Our genomes are overwhelmingly alike, and pigmentation is largely an adaptation to ultraviolet radiation. More melanin protects where sunlight is intense while less facilitates vitamin D where it is scarce. Skin colour is, in that sense, a sunscreen setting, and tells us nothing reliable about intelligence, character or human worth.

So how did a minor adaptation become a social destiny?

Europe did not invent slavery, conquest or every prejudice attached to dark skin. But European empires did something historically distinctive, they fused African ancestry, dark skin, hereditary chattel slavery, law, theology, commerce and, later, pseudo-science into a transatlantic system of extraordinary scale. Modern, global anti-Black racism is therefore among the Atlantic West's most consequential and shameful contributions to the

modern world.

This is not to romanticize antiquity. Greeks and Romans enslaved and despised outsiders, but their dividing lines were legal status, citizenship and culture, not a universal caste ranked by colour. A dark-skinned free citizen could outrank a pale captive. Ancient societies were brutal; they simply did not construct our colour line. The medieval world was likewise preoccupied with faith and lineage. The "Curse of Ham", later invoked to sanctify African slavery, is revealing, Genesis curses Canaan, not Ham, and says nothing about Black skin. The association was added later, then weaponized.

A crucial hardening came in fifteenth-century Iberia. "Purity of blood" rules treated Jewish or Muslim ancestry as an inherited stain that conversion could not erase, even as Portuguese expansion turned the capture of Africans into an Atlantic enterprise. Religious difference began attaching itself to ancestry, body and colour.

But the decisive legal laboratory stood in our own region. In 1661, the Barbados Assembly enacted the first comprehensive English slave code, a regime of coercion around enslaved Africans that became the model for Jamaica, South Carolina and beyond. It was made in the Caribbean, but not by the people it enslaved, it was English colonial law, written by planters for plantation profit.

Virginia then supplied two refinements. In 1662, a child's status followed the mother, ensuring the children of enslaved women were born into bondage. In 1667, baptism was declared incapable of freeing an enslaved person. The enslaved womb

became plantation machinery, Christianity no longer offered an exit, and bondage became visible, hereditary and permanent.

Eric Williams gave us the essential sequence, “Slavery was not born of racism, rather, racism was the consequence of slavery.” The plantation required workers identifiable at a glance, whose children could be claimed, and whose condition neither conversion nor achievement could dissolve. Colour was recruited because it was visible, inheritable and inescapable. Racism became the moral technology of extraction.

The Enlightenment then supplied respectability, Linnaeus attached temperaments to his human varieties, and craniometry, ethnology and eugenics turned prejudice into measurements. The ledger acquired footnotes, and domination dressed itself as discovery. The United States became this order’s most powerful engineer as its 1790 naturalization law restricted citizenship to “free white persons”, while Jim Crow, one-drop rules and racial integrity laws made ancestry a legal fate. Europe built the Atlantic architecture while America reinforced it in law and gave it the megaphone of mass culture.

None of this assigns the inherited guilt to every European or American. Europe produced abolitionists, America produced Black resistance, Du Bois and the civil rights movement while African rulers and merchants also participated. But responsibility belongs to institutions, interests and choices, not blood, and acknowledging other par-

ticipants must not obscure the states and planter regimes that built the system and profited most.

Which brings us to the question no honest reckoning can dodge, what is the responsibility of the inheritors of the nations that built this system?

We must distinguish guilt from obligation. A modern Briton, Frenchman, Spaniard, Portuguese or American is not morally guilty of drafting the Barbados code, but they are inheritors of its compounded wealth. They walk on pavements, attend universities and draw salaries from economies whose foundational capital was extracted from Black bodies legally classified as property, within legal and fiscal infrastructures deliberately engineered to privilege their ancestors and dispossess ours. Only the inheritors of the imperial treasuries can repay what their laws took and take concrete steps to mitigate the trials many experience just because of their skin colour.

Yet the Caribbean inherited more than the wound, we inherited the tools for closing it. The Haitian Revolution destroyed Saint-Domingue’s slave regime, and Haiti’s 1805 constitution declared that all Haitians would be known by the “generic appellation of Blacks” a category of oppression seized and remade as one of dignity. Williams, C. L. R. James, Elsa Goveia, Frantz Fanon and Sylvia Wynter explained the machinery of race to the world. Our region was a laboratory of racial domination, but also of emancipation and thought.

That legacy gives us internal work.

Teach the Barbados code as Caribbean and world history. Teach Haiti as a revolution in human freedom. Confront colourism in our schools, hiring, advertising, romance and beauty standards. Place the names of maroons, insurgents, teachers and writers beside, or above, the planters commemorated in our public spaces. Use racial categories to expose inequality where necessary but never mistake categories for nature. And do not stop at cultural reckoning but demand the material restitution that alone can signal the colonial ledger is finally closed.

Skin colour is an adaptation but racial hierarchy is an artefact. It was made by identifiable institutions, in identifiable places, for identifiable purposes. That is not fatalism, it is proof that it can be unmade. The boy rooting for the Black players inherited a wound, but also a tradition of recognition. The Vinícius Júnios of this world, for all their wealth, inherit the same wound, a reminder that no individual success can outrun a systemic failure.

Our task is not to pretend we do not see colour. It is to see it without mistaking it for destiny, to remember who taught the modern world this mistake, to do our own work of cultural and institutional demolition, and to insist that those who built the cage help pay for its dismantling. The monkey chants will not stop with therapy. They will stop when the world decides that the cost of racism is higher than the cost of settling its accounts.



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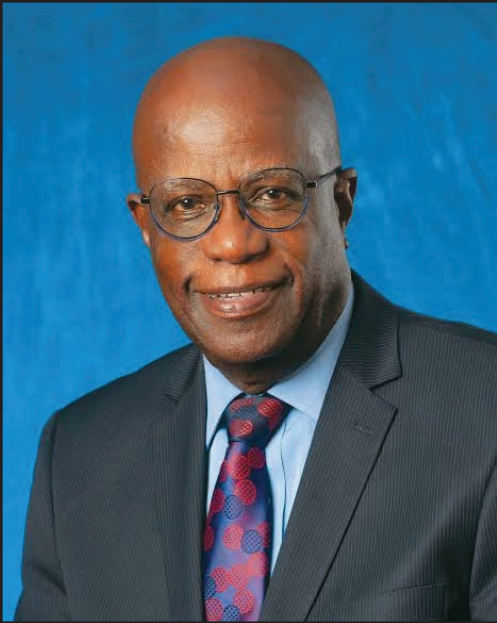
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A Garrison of Tributes: Sir Garfield Sobers and the Greatness of a Small Island



By Julian Rogers

Sir Garfield Sobers showed the world that greatness is never measured by the size of the island from which it comes.

There will be a garrison of tributes.

From Bridgetown to Bangalore, from Melbourne to Manchester, from Sabina Park to Lord's, voices will rise to celebrate the life of The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, Barbados' National Hero and, for many, the greatest all-round cricketer the game has ever known.

The records will be recalled.

The 365 not out will be remembered.

The six sixes in an over will once again enter cricket folklore.

His brilliance with bat, ball and in the field will be celebrated across the cricketing world.

But before the statistics, there was the man.

That is what has always separated Sir Garry Sobers from so many other sporting giants.

I was reminded of this while standing in a bank in Belize and sharing the news of his passing with another cus-

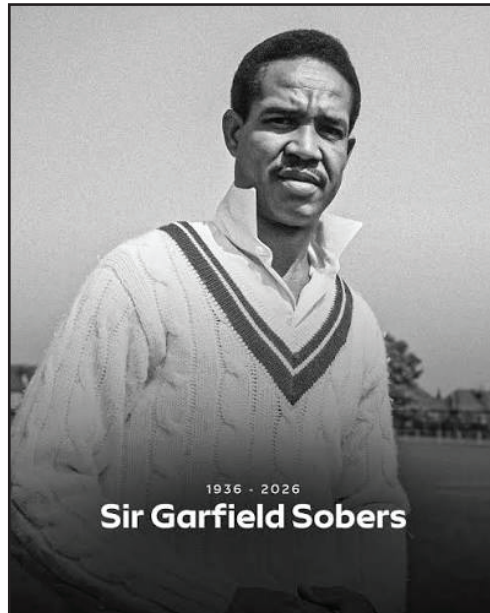
tomers.

He paused and reflected before saying quietly: "Barbados is tops in so many things."

Then he spoke of Prime Minister Mia Mottley, whom many beyond Barbados have come to regard as a Caribbean leader of global stature.

The connection was clear.

Sir Garry belonged to that same remarkable Barbadian tradition of excel-



lence, a tradition that has repeatedly shown the world that a small island can produce individuals of extraordinary impact.

The Quiet Colossus

The last time I met Sir Garry was at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre in Barbados.

Before that, I encountered him at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain and later at a gathering in Kingston, Jamaica, honouring one of West Indies cricket's greatest sons.

Each meeting left the same impression.

He was a quiet colossus.

The world struggled to find enough words to describe his cricketing genius.

But greatness for Sir Garry was never only about the batting, the bowling or the breathtaking catches.

It was the humility.

He carried fame without being burdened by it.

The man who conquered bowling attacks around the world remained approachable, gracious and deeply connected to the people who celebrated him.

More Than Cricket

Others will tell the cricket story better.

They will speak about the majestic cover drives, the late cuts that seemed to defy geometry, the effortless sixes, the beguiling left-arm spin and the deceptive pace that troubled the finest



batsmen of his generation.

They will remember that familiar walk to the crease — calm, almost leisurely — as if greatness had all the time in the world.

But Sir Garfield Sobers represented



something larger.

For generations of Caribbean people, West Indies cricket was never simply sport.

It was identity.

It was pride.

It was a declaration that a region emerging from colonialism could stand confidently on the world stage.

C.L.R. James understood this better than most.

In *Beyond a Boundary*, James showed that cricket was woven into the social and political story of the Caribbean.

When he reflected on Sobers, he saw not merely an extraordinary player, but a symbol of a changing West Indies, a region finding confidence through excellence.

And the calypsonians captured that same feeling in song.

The Mighty Sparrow's celebration of Sir Garry as a cricketer whose great-

ness stretched beyond ordinary boundaries reflected what Caribbean people already knew.

It was not simply humour.

It was pride.

Long before statistics confirmed it, the people had already recognised genius.

The Pride of Barbados

We will hear again the story of Bay Land.

We will remember the young Barbadian who became a global icon.

We will remember that unforgettable day at the Garrison Savannah when Queen Elizabeth II conferred his knighthood before thousands.

It was more than a ceremony.

It was the world acknowledging what Barbadians and West Indians had known for years.

Greatness had come from a small is-

land.

The Elder Statesman

In later years, Sir Garry became one of the guardians of West Indies cricket.

Young players sought his encouragement.

Great players sought his counsel.

He understood that the maroon cap belonged to no single generation.

It belonged to all of us.

That is why his passing is felt across the Caribbean.

Barbados has lost a national hero.

The Caribbean has lost one of its greatest ambassadors.

A Legacy Beyond Records

Over the coming days, there will indeed be a garrison of tributes.

Former teammates will tell stories.

Opponents will remember battles.

Historians will revisit milestones.

But the greatest tribute will not come from scorecards.

It will come from the young boy or girl somewhere in Bridgetown, Georgetown, Kingston, Port of Spain, St John's, Castries, Roseau or even Belize who picks up a bat and dreams impossible dreams.

That may be Sir Garfield Sobers' greatest legacy.

He did more than score runs.

He expanded the boundaries of possibility.

His bat is finally silent.

But the garrison of tributes will ensure his legacy never will, even as the cricket scoreboards read – Garry Sobers, 89...eleven short on a century.

Julian Rogers

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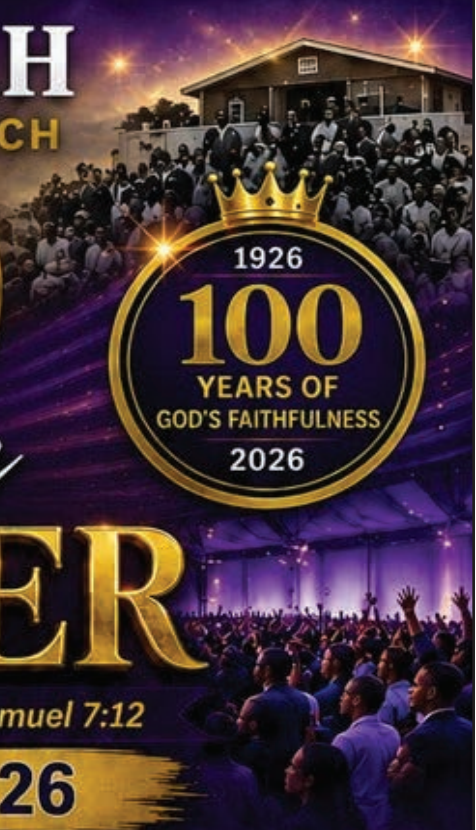
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THURSDAY JULY 23RD  CONCERT/ TESTIMONY NIGHT	FRIDAY JULY 24TH  BANQUET	SATURDAY JULY 25TH <i>Willikies Day</i> 9:30AM – 2:30PM  FOOD PACKAGE DISTRIBUTION  HEALTH FAIR	SUNDAY JULY 26TH  CLOSING SERVICE CHURCH GROUNDS

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No cost hikes for students amid UWI expansion plans

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has detailed a comprehensive capital expansion and modernisation project for its Mona and Western Jamaica campuses, set to be executed over the next three to four years.

Key developments in the short to medium term include the construction of a 50-bed hospital in western Jamaica, alongside a new School of Engineering and a centralised campus hub at the Mona site.

“The truth is that Mona is on a transformational path, and what we’re seeing is that we are reviving the systems and procedures and processes about how we do things at our Mona campus. We are talking about modernising the campus, not only in terms of infrastructure work, but in terms of our governance, in terms of our academic programmes, and also in terms of the processes and systems that we do,” stated The UWI, Mona principal, Professor Densil Williams.

Williams shared the plans with the Jamaica Observer following his presentation at the inaugural Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information Higher Education Leadership Conference 2026 held at Princess Grand Hotels and Resorts in Green Island, Hanover, last Thursday.

He also detailed the plans for the Western Jamaica campus.

“We have great plans for our Western Jamaica campus as well, where we’re going to be building out a proper global health facility. We’re going to be looking at a 50-bed hospital over there, and we’re going to look at a teaching and research complex for medical education in western Jamaica... We’re going to over-



haul the current site of the Western Jamaica campus to look at business and management education and also short and professional courses as well,” said Williams, who noted that all these are long-term plans that will be done “step by step”.

The principal said ground-breaking for the Mona project is expected by the end of this calendar year, with completion anticipated within 18 to 24 months. The Western Jamaica project will follow approximately two years later.

The UWI, Mona principal pointed to the importance of a step-by-step approach to risk management, ensuring all projects align with the university’s financial realities.

“We risk manage them, we build, we see how they operate, we look at the returns, and then we move to the next phase,” he explained.

While no cost was provided for the Western Jamaica campus project, the plan for the Mona campus is estimated at US\$30 million, and the university does not intend to pass these costs onto students.

“All our capital projects are not going to touch on our existing opera-

tional budget at the campus. We’re looking at new revenue streams to support these projects, so it will require us to actually get into the international space and get international students etc to come and finance those projects as well,” explained Williams.

In fact, the principal said students will benefit even more “because they will have more modern facilities and they will not be asked to pay any significant amount in terms of increased tuition for these, because we’re diversifying our revenue stream to pay for these projects. So we’re looking at commercial operations, international students, etc to pay for these.”

Williams explained the importance of the Mona campus — the founding campus of the regional institution started in 1948 — undertaking such a massive project at this time

“We just have to modernise our facilities, and that’s a key driver. Our facilities are, in some cases, 30-40 years old, and they don’t really have the kind of modernity to deal with the kind of technological revolution that we’re dealing with — to deal with AI and those kinds of things.

Our labs need upgrading, etc, and so we have to look at the overall infrastructure overhaul that is supporting the campus,” Williams insisted.

The principal said the influx of overseas universities offering their services on the island also played a key part in their consideration.

“The truth is that we’re not resting on our laurels. The education industry has become much more competitive, and as a result of that, we have to now actually forecast what the future will look like, and we have to lead the future. I mean, let’s make no mistakes about it, UWI is still the number one recognised university in the Caribbean, and also within the top 1.5 per cent of the best universities globally. We have that reputation; we have to use it. We have to leverage that reputation,” said Williams.

The three-day conference, which ended last Friday, was held under the theme ‘Transformational Leadership for Institutional Excellence and Sector Renewal’.

It was aimed at bringing together leaders of Jamaica’s publicly funded higher education institutions, board chairs, representatives of key sector agencies, and ministry officials to examine strategies for strengthening institutional leadership, enhancing governance, improving student success, advancing quality assurance, and positioning the higher education sector to respond to emerging national and global priorities.

In reflection, Williams explained the importance and benefits of the conference to tertiary institutions.

“Initially, when we thought about it, we said that we have never really

had a coming together of the higher education sector just talking about what the challenges are, how we finance ourselves, how we look at future sustainability and stuff.

“I really want to thank the Ministry of Education for hosting this particular conference because what it has done is to bring all the stakeholders together over a three-day period, where we can discuss and we can dialogue about the future of higher education and what are the lessons we can learn from each other to make sure that we build a financially sustainable sector and we also build a resilient sector for the future. So I think these conversations are extremely important, and I look forward to further dialogue with our colleagues within the higher education sector,” added the principal. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Ferry carrying 116 people capsizes off Guyana, with 67 rescued as search continues

A ferry carrying 116 passengers and crew capsized in Guyana, with 67 people rescued so far, authorities said Sunday.

The MV Barima was sailing from the capital, Georgetown, along the North Atlantic coast to Port Kaituma, said Guyanese Prime Minister Mark Phillips, who is leading the government’s response.

A distress call was received at 11:01 p.m. (0301 GMT), which prompted a search and rescue operation involving state and private boats, Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said on Facebook.

The 67 rescued include 15 children, Phillips said online.

Authorities said the vessel capsized near the Pomeroon River.

Details of the search-and-rescue operation were not clear, or if there were



any dead, but Guyanese officials said they expect more passengers to be rescued.

Edghill said the vessel was fitted with 250 life jackets, two rigid life rafts and six inflatable life rafts. (AP)

Regional News



US Customs seizes over US\$53,000 in undeclared cash from passenger bound for Jamaica

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency says officers at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida seized more than US\$53,800 in undeclared currency from an outbound traveller headed to Kingston, Jamaica.

According to the CBP, the traveller was arrested on July 1 on federal money laundering charges.

“CBP officers were inspecting passengers departing on a flight destined for Kingston, Jamaica,” the CBP said.

“Although the traveller declared they were not carrying currency, officers discovered and verified US\$53,800 in US currency. Homeland Security Investigations responded to the scene, and the individual was arrested,” it added.

“Federal prosecutors accepted charges for money laundering under Title 18, US Code, Section 1956.”

Daniel Alonso, Director of Field Operations for the CBP’s Miami and Tampa Field Office, said: “Criminal organisations often rely on bulk cash smuggling to move illicit proceeds across international borders.

“CBP officers remain vigilant in identifying these violations and work closely with our law enforcement part-



ners to disrupt transnational criminal activity while protecting the integrity of our nation’s borders,” he added.

The CBP said there is no limit to the amount of currency or other monetary instruments travellers may transport into or out of the United States.

However, it said anyone transporting more than US\$10,000 in currency or monetary instruments into or out of the country must report the funds by filing a FinCEN Form 105, Report of International Transportation of Currency or Monetary Instruments.

“Failure to report currency or filing a false report may result in the seizure of the currency and could lead to civil or criminal penalties,” the CBP said.

The CBP said its outbound enforcement mission targets illicit bulk cash smuggling, narcotics trafficking, weapons smuggling and other transnational criminal activity while facilitating lawful international travel and trade.

The identity of the passenger was not released. (CMC)

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Regional News

PAGE 29

OECS sector training workshops to be held in SVG



The Foreign Trade Department of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is organizing a series of specialized training workshops scheduled for July 2026.

This initiative, supported by the OECS Commission and the European Development Fund, aims to bolster the negotiating skills and policy knowledge of local professionals.

Participants will examine critical topics such as digital trade, regulatory reform, and international trade obligations to better navigate the global marketplace.

The sessions are designed for public and private sector stakeholders across diverse industries, including health, construction, and the creative arts.

By hosting these seminars, the government seeks to improve institutional capacity and enhance the overall economic competitiveness of the nation's service industries.

The program focuses on empowering the local workforce to effectively leverage regional trade arrangements and market intelligence. (St Vincent Times)

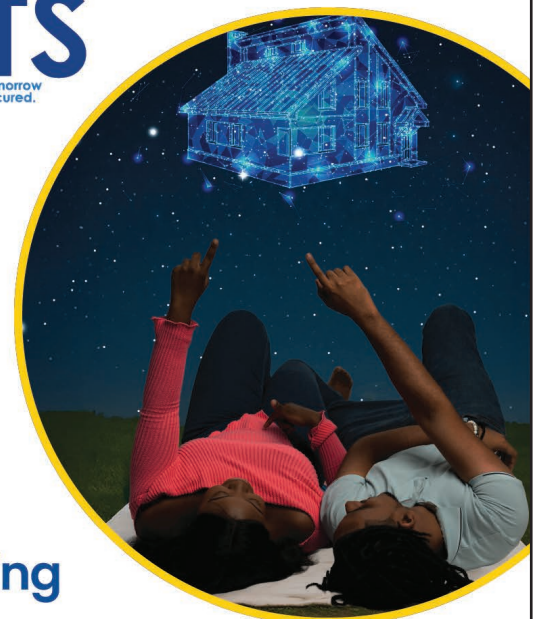


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5.5 magnitude earthquake hits Peru, kills at least five people



A 5.5 magnitude earthquake shook the Andes region of Peru, killing at least five people, authorities said Sunday. More than 20 people were injured and 300 have been displaced.

The US Geological Survey reported the quake struck on Saturday at 9:24 p.m., with its epicentre located 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) west-southwest of the city of Sicaya in Huancayo province. It was 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) deep.

Peru's National Civil Defense Institute said in a statement that the total number of missing is still unknown. Several buildings collapsed or suffered structural damage, including the

local church and convent.

Luis Vásquez, head of the local civil defence office, told journalists that the use of rustic adobe materials in construction in that Andean area "has contributed to the greater impact and damage."

Earthquakes are frequent in Peru, which is located in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire."

Images broadcast by local media captured the anguish of victims' relatives in one of the hardest-hit areas, the agricultural region of Chongo Bajo, where residents huddled under blankets outside severely damaged homes. Animals were also seen under the rubble.

"My home has been destroyed," Hermenegilda Guamato told a local radio as she sought a place to stay with her three children in the neighboring province of

Huayucachi.

In 2007, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck the province of Pisco in the Ica region, killing nearly 600 people. (AP)

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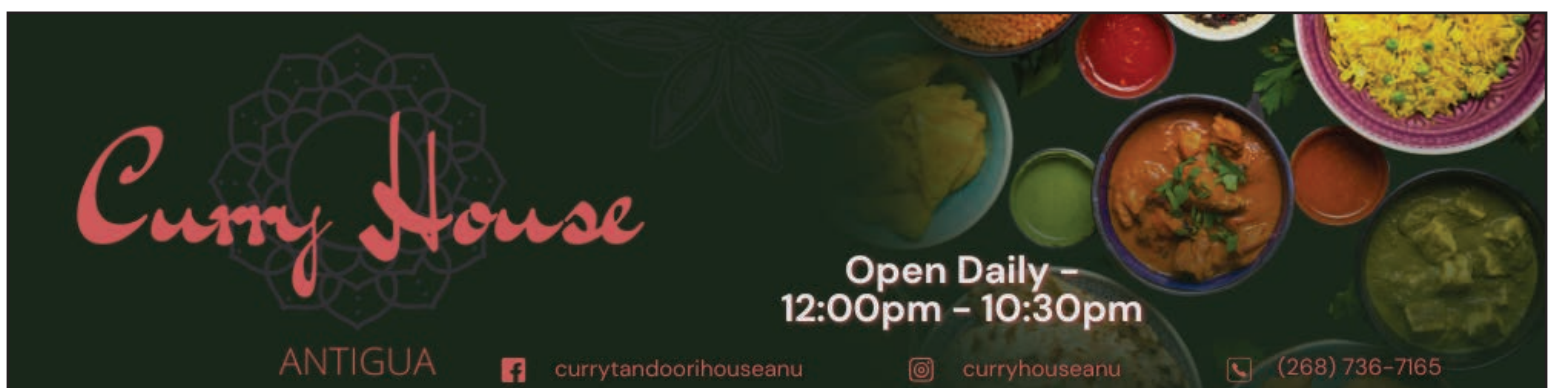
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US and Iran trade fire after two US soldiers killed in Jordan

The US and Iran have exchanged strikes for an eighth consecutive day after an Iranian attack on a base in Jordan killed two US soldiers and left another missing.

Iranian media reported that an under-construction nuclear power plant in the south-western city of Darkhov-eyn had been struck overnight, as well as Qeshm Island. In Kuwait, an electricity and water plant was hit for a second time, local officials said.

Later on Sunday, three Iranian missiles were shot down by Jordan's military and a fourth fell in a remote area, Jordan's state news agency reported.

It followed a US warning that the Jordanian port of Aqaba could be targeted.

Jordan summoned Iran's charges d'affaires in Amman to demand an immediate end to what the foreign ministry called "unjustified and blatant Iranian attacks", insisting that its security was "a red line that cannot be crossed".

The US and Iran have ramped up attacks against each other in recent days, with both sides accused of striking critical infrastructure.

Washington has also reimposed its blockade of Iranian ports and Tehran has declared the Strait of Hormuz closed and targeted US allies in the Gulf, with their preliminary ceasefire collapsing less than a month after it began.

Israel's military said that "several interceptors were launched toward missile debris in order to prevent debris impact within Israeli territory" after projectiles were launched towards Jordan on Sunday.

It said "interceptor fragments" were subsequently identified near the southern city of Eilat, near the countries' shared border, with no damage or injuries reported.

Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said two vessels had ignored Iranian warnings not to transit the Strait of Hormuz and were consequently involved in "an ac-



cident".

It warned that all vessels "influenced" by the US and which used "unsafe routes" would "certainly face accidents".

The UN's nuclear watchdog called for restraint after Iranian authorities said a nuclear plant under construction had been hit, while noting that the site was "in the very early stages" and contained no nuclear material during its last visit.

The US military said its eighth successive night of attacks on Iran had been "designed to further degrade Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz".

It also said it sought to "swiftly punish Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces who launched attacks against American service members in Jordan" on Friday.

Verified footage from inside the Jordanian facility showed at least two impacts and an explosion.

Responding to the deaths of US sol-

diers on Saturday, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said: "Godspeed, heroes. Their sacrifice only stiffens our resolve."

The US death toll in the conflict has now risen to 16 after an American Navy pilot who went missing earlier this month was declared dead.

In Iran, at least 50 people have been killed and more than 500 injured in US strikes over the past three weeks, the country's health ministry says.

On Saturday the Gulf Cooperation Council - an alliance including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates - accused Tehran of targeting civilian infrastructure after the first strike on a Kuwaiti power plant and a water distillation plant.

On Sunday, Kuwait said the same power and water distillation plant had been hit for the second time by Iran in two days, resulting in a fire.

Iran said it had also targeted an air base and a depot used by US forces in Kuwait on Saturday.

The US has meanwhile said it "carried out strikes exclusively on military targets, including military logistics infrastructure" after Iran said bridges and a station were hit earlier this week.

Under international law, attacking civilians or civilian areas is illegal. However, in certain circumstances, civilian objects - like a bridge or a power plant - lose their protection if they are used to support the enemy's war effort.

Washington and Tehran struck a preliminary deal to end the war in June, but the agreement unravelled within weeks - with President Donald Trump declaring the agreement "over" on 8 July.

Late on Saturday, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in a written statement that America's "repeated breaches" of the agreement had "laid bare a fundamental truth: the signature of the US president is utterly worthless and devoid of credibility". (BBC)

Health officials identify source of US explosive diarrhoea outbreak

A sample of iceberg lettuce from the food supplier Taylor Farms has tested positive for the parasite that caused an explosive diarrhoea outbreak affecting thousands of people in the US, officials said.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said that Taylor Farms, which supplies the Taco Bell food chain, had confirmed the sample was taken from a product not part of its current recall announced on Friday.

The agriculture company announced on Friday that it was voluntarily removing all iceberg lettuce from the US market sourced from central Mexico and issued a list of affected products.

No deaths have been reported but at least 94 people have been hospitalised due to cyclosporiasis infections.

A recall differs from a voluntary product removal in that it requires a company to notify customers and recover affected products from commerce, making it a broader and more costly corrective action.

The FDA said it collected the sample during targeted surveillance of the import as part of its investigation into the outbreak.

“Taylor Farms has confirmed that this positive product is not part of their current recall,” the FDA said. “They are currently working to identify whether



any part of this implicated lot is available in commerce or in consumers homes.”

The infections were first detected on 13 May, according to the FDA.

Symptoms of the foodborne illness can take up to two weeks to present. They include watery diarrhoea that lasts for days, sudden weight loss, and a loss of appetite.

Thousands of people have been infected with Cyclospora linked to iceberg lettuce supplied by Taylor Farms and sold at Taco Bell locations in at least five states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC advises not to eat shredded

iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell locations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

The fast food chain said it had completed its removal of affected Taylor Farms lettuce from its restaurants.

In a statement, Taylor Farms said it has “stopped receiving product from the implicated lot, suspended distribution of the iceberg lettuce from Central Mexico, notified [its] customers and [is] continuing to work with the FDA, CDC, and state authorities”.

The lettuce was recalled in 27 states. It also includes Marketside-branded iceberg lettuce sold at Walmart locations in 15 states, according to the FDA. (BBC)



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Canada to deny entry to foreigners who were recently in DR Congo, against U.N. advice



The Canadian government said Sunday it would deny entry to any foreigner who has been to the Democratic Republic of the Congo within the past 21 days as part of new, temporary border measures to combat the spread of Ebola.

The ban contravenes advice from the World Health Organization, which advises against travel or trade restrictions with Congo, where officials are currently struggling to contain a large outbreak of Ebola. The U.N. health agency says travel restrictions create stigma and can make epidemics harder to control.

“People from affected regions and

African communities have faced unfair suspicion,” WHO said in a statement last month. “The spread of Ebola is not determined by nationality or ethnicity.”

WHO estimates that the risk of Congo’s Ebola outbreak spreading internationally is low.

In a statement on Sunday, Canada’s Public Health Agency said “limiting entry of foreign nationals who have been in [Congo] in the previous 21 days may reduce public health risks for Canadians.”

The measures take effect on Monday, July 20, at 11:59 p.m., the Public Health Agency of Canada said in a statement. The agency

did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ebola is mostly spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of someone infected with the disease. As of July 15, Congo had reported more than 2,100 Ebola cases including 828 deaths.

Last week, the U.S. introduced measures preventing Americans who had been in Congo in the previous 21 days from entering the U.S. via commercial aviation. Seven American aid workers who had been working in Congo to stop the outbreak are currently quarantining in a facility in Kenya. (Reuters)

Leewards lose to Guyana, Barbados retain CWI regional under-19 title

The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave suffered their second loss as back-to-back champions Barbados crushed Trinidad and Tobago to claim their third consecutive Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Men's Championship during the fourth round of matches at the youth tournament in Antigua on Saturday.

The Leeward Islands were the only side that stood a chance of unseating the defending champions, but their title hopes went up in flames when the Tropical Wave were surprisingly trounced by 121 runs by the previously winless Guyana at Ball Beef in Liberta.

After choosing to bat first, Guyana was led by half centuries from captain Parmeshwar Ram and Adrian Hetmyer, before being bowled out for 272 in 47.1 overs.

The Leeward Islands were then doomed by a middle order collapse that saw them crumble from 70 for two to 151 all out in 37.4 overs. It was a solid all-around performance from a Guyana outfit that had failed to win any of their three previous matches.

The Guyanese owed their total to a 104-run third-wicket partnership between Ram and Hetmyer that steadied the innings following the early dismissals of opener Khush Seegobin and Justin Dowlin.

When Ram was needlessly run out for 79 off 82 balls, with 10 fours and three sixes, Guyana were still well placed at 143 for three after 26 overs.

However, Leewards' skipper Matthew Miller's four wicket haul and the unfortunate run out of Hetmyer for 76 off 90 balls, which included seven fours and one six, stunted Guyana's momentum. Emmanuel Lewis scored a vital 42 to boost Guyana's final total. Antiguan Miller ended with four for 45, while Kerique Mentore took two for 51.

After losing Antiguan opener Tanez Francis and Lyhte Browne early,



The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave under-19 cricket team

Kunal Tilokani and J'Quan Athanaze consolidated during a 41-run partnership for the third wicket.

However, when Gilbert Griffith bowled Tilokani for 37, the Leeward Islands lost four wickets for 28 runs to slide to 98 for six.

Lawshorn Bergan, who scored 31, led a brief lower order fightback, but they lost their last three wickets for four runs to seal their defeat. Griffith took three for 29 and Ram claimed two for 32.

Barbados will be crowned champions once again following their comprehensive six-wicket victory over Trinidad and Tobago at Pigotts.

It was their fourth win in as many matches for Barbados and with the Leeward Islands' loss to Guyana, Barbados cannot be overtaken in Monday's final round of matches.

The result always seemed likely once T&T were routed for just 141 in 37.1 overs, thanks mainly to a five-wicket haul by Rajeev Parsooram.

Barbados had a slight wobble early on, losing both their openers cheaply, but recovered to comfortably reach 142 for four in 31.1 overs.

Summarized scores: T&T 141 in 37.1 overs (Christian Lall 54, Levi Ghanny

25, Brendan Boodoo 22; Rajeev Parsooram 5-35, Justin Parris 2-9, Raphael Lovell 2-21) vs BARBADOS 142-4 in 31.1 overs (Seth Smith 40 not out, Jordan Graham 37, Justin Parris 27 not out, Kemar Dixon 23; Renaldo Fourmillier 2-20).

In the day's other fourth-round match, Jamaica emerged victorious by trouncing the Windward Islands by 113 runs in Bethesda.

Buoyed by an unbeaten century from opener Tyson Gordon Jr. and half centuries by captain Odane Binns and Demarco Scott, Jamaica coasted to 252 for three in their 50 overs.

The Windward Islands' batters then failed to fire, with Perico Henry's four-wicket haul helping to bowl them out for a meagre 139 runs in 25.3 overs.

Summarized scores: JAMAICA 252-3 in 50 overs (Tyson Gordon Jr. 102 not out, Odane Binns 55, Demarco Scott 52 not out, Pajay Nelson 16) vs WINDWARD ISLANDS 139 in 25.3 overs (Cody Fontinelle 47, Aiden Burton 38, Johnathan Daniel 18, Earsinho Fontaine 12; Perico Henry 4-28, Joel Williams 2-25).

FC Hollywood and Xclusive Ballaz advance to final in Gray's Green League



FC Hollywood football team

FC Hollywood and Xclusive Ballaz have advanced to the final in the Gray's Green Community Football League.

Both teams secured their spots in the championship decider by recording wins in the semi-finals at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park on Saturday evening.

FC Hollywood snatched a 2-1 victory against Hothead & Friends. Tyrique Tonge and Kimoi Alexander each converted once for FC Hollywood, while Kamali Looby scored for Hothead & Friends.

Goals by Raheem Deterville and Carl Osborne gave Xclusive Ballaz a 2-0 victory over Nat Pan My Team

(NPMT) in the other semi-final.

FC Hollywood and Xclusive Ballaz will meet in the final at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park on Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

FC Hollywood and Hothead & Friends had secured their spots in the semi-finals by recording wins in the last two quarter-final matches.

FC Hollywood prevailed 5-3 in a penalty shootout against Jennings United. Hothead & Friends were awarded victory via default over West Side FC of Five Islands after their quarter-final affair ended prematurely.

West Side FC was penalized for displaying unsportsmanlike conduct

during the quarter-final encounter, which forced the referee to end the match prematurely.

The NPMT Upsetters coasted to a 3-1 victory over West Bank Hatton, while Xclusive Ballaz prevailed 4-2 against El Guapo in the other quarter-final encounters.

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

The league is sponsored by the parliamentary representative for St. John's Rural West, Honourable Michael Joseph; Top Speed Construction; I Love Electrics; Justin Car Wash; and Smith's Trucking.

UWIFIC win New Winthorpes Football League title



Players of the UWIFIC football team

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) has captured the title in the New Winthorpes Community Football League.

The team from UWIFIC secured the title by prevailing 3-0 against Striker Force in the final at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Kerron McKenzie had a double conversion, with strikes in the 20th and 61st minutes, while the other goal was scored by Joshua Ferdinand in the fourth minute.

Both teams booked their spots in the final by recording victories in the

semi-finals.

The UWIFIC prevailed 1-0 against The Palace in a sudden-death penalty shootout after both teams battled to a 2-2 draw in regulation time of the match.

Strike Force snatched a 3-2 victory over Cedar Grove CG in the other semi-final encounter.

The UWIFIC team won a grand prize of EC\$1,500 for winning the league, which was contested by eight teams. Strike Force received a consolation prize of EC\$750 for finishing in the runners-up position.

Joshua Ferdinand of UWIFIC was named player of the final, while teammate Jahkeffie Jeffers was adjudged the best goalkeeper in the league.

Kishorn Hamilton of Cedar Grove CG won the golden boot award by scoring a total of four goals.

The re-birth of the New Winthorpes Community Football League is a collaborative venture by Nat Pan My Team and Real Blizzard FC.

It was sponsored by the parliamentary representative for the constituency of St. George's, Honourable Michael Freeland; Kelton Dalso; Salim Browne; and Nat Pan My Team.



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West Indies legend Sobers dies aged 89

Legendary former West Indies all-rounder Sir Garfield Sobers, regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of all time, has died aged 89. He passed away on Friday, July 17, in his native Barbados.

Sobers played 93 Tests between 1954 and 1974, scored 8,032 runs and took 235 wickets. An entertaining left-handed batter, Sobers scored 365 not out against Pakistan in 1958, an effort which stood as the record Test score for 36 years. He was also a brilliantly versatile bowler, who bowled spin and seam.

Sobers, who also played county cricket for Nottinghamshire, was knighted for his services to cricket in 1975. He was also named one of Wisden's five cricketers of the 20th century.

During his stint at Nottinghamshire in 1968, Sobers became the first player to hit a six off all six balls in an over in a first-class match.

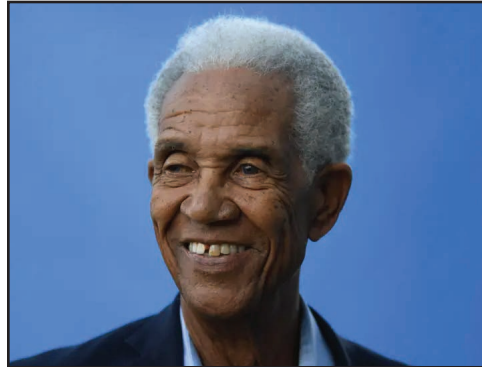
A period of celebration was held in memory of Sobers before Nottinghamshire's T20 Blast semi-final against Hampshire at Edgbaston on Saturday.

The club described Sobers as "cricket's greatest-ever all-rounder and an iconic figure in Nottinghamshire history." "We are extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Sir Garfield Sobers," Notts added.

England also paid tribute on social media, calling Sobers "one of the greatest to ever play the game." "Forever in our hearts, Sir Garfield Sobers," they added.

Sobers was also one of only two living National Heroes of Barbados alongside pop singer Rihanna. He made his first-class debut for Barbados aged 16 and was capped by West Indies aged 17.

He was initially more successful as a bowler than batter, he bowled left-arm finger-spin and occasional wrist-spin as well as pace, but went on to score 26 Test centuries and finished his career with a batting average of 57.78.



Sir Garfield Sobers

He scored 28,314 in his first-class career, including 7,041 for Nottinghamshire. He took 1,043 first-class wickets and was also a superb fielder.

Though not as successful a skipper as player, he was West Indies captain between 1965 and 1972. He also captained Rest of the World XIs during tours of England and Australia.

"Not just because of the phenomenal numbers but the style, quality, substance and flair and circumstances in which he produced those performances, he is without doubt the greatest cricketer that ever lived," said Test Match Special commentator Fazeer Mohammed.

"He was the first superstar of the game, not just in the Caribbean but in the world. His career spanned the period where the game was just starting the change.

"The mere presence of a Garfield Sobers made such a huge difference to the image of what West Indies cricket was able to do."

The president of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Jay Shah, said cricket had lost one of its "greatest icons" and the "finest all-rounder the game has ever known."

"His remarkable ability to influence a match in every facet of the game set him apart from his peers," Shah said.

"Whether with the bat, ball or in the field, Sir Garfield embodied excellence, and his achievements continue to define the standard to which generations of cricketers aspire.

"Sir Garfield was a true ambassador for our sport. His legacy extends far beyond records and statistics. He helped shape the identity of West Indies cricket during one of its most celebrated eras and leaves behind an indelible mark on the history of our game."

Cricket West Indies president Kishore Shallow paid tribute, calling Sobers a "symbol of Caribbean excellence, resilience, and possibility."

"In the story of cricket, there are great players. There are champions. Then, there are those rare individuals who redefine the very meaning of greatness," he said.

"Sir Garfield Sobers was the greatest cricketer the world has ever seen. His mastery of batting, bowling and fielding was unparalleled, but his true significance reached far beyond the boundary ropes.

"He emerged from the Caribbean at a time when our region was finding its voice and asserting its place on the world stage.

"Through his excellence, he gave millions across our islands and in the diaspora, a renewed belief in what was possible. He showed that greatness was not confined by the size of our nations, the geography of our islands or the circumstances of our beginnings.

"Sir Garfield Sobers became more than a sporting icon. He became a symbol of Caribbean excellence, resilience, and possibility.

"His achievements brought pride to Barbados, inspiration to the West Indies and admiration from every corner of the cricketing world."

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley announced Friday as a day of national mourning on the island, as would the day of Sobers' funeral, while extending her sympathies to his family and loved ones.

ABNOC announces roster for XXV CAC Games in Santo Domingo



The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has announced its 18-athlete roster for the centennial XXV Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, which will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from July 24 to August 8.

The 2026 Games mark 100 years of regional competition (1926–2026) and are expected to bring together over 6,000 athletes from around 40 countries.

Despite the scheduling overlap with the 2026 Commonwealth Games, Antigua and Barbuda will field a full team across six sports.

This presents a logistical challenge for the ABNOC secretariat, as athletes and staff will need to meet multiple protocols and administrative requirements.

Notably, the athletics contingent will compete first at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow before traveling to Santo Domingo for the

CAC Games.

Four athletes will compete in track and field and will be guided by coach Kesswin Anthony. Sprinter Cejhae Greene will contest the men's 100-meter race, and Dwayne Fleming will compete in the men's 100 and 200-meter events.

Christopher Johnson will contest the men's shot put event, while sprinter Geolyna Dowdye will run in the women's 100 and 200-meter races.

Four athletes, guided by coach Nelson Molina Fojo, will participate in the swimming events. Alandra Dublin will contest the women's 50-meter freestyle and the 50-meter and 100-meter butterfly races in the pool.

Ellie Shaw will compete in the women's 50-meter and 100-meter breaststroke and the 200-meter individual medley races.

Tivon Benjamin and Stefano Mitchell will both contest the men's 50-meter and 100-meter butterfly

and the 100-meter freestyle races.

The sailing coach is Karl James. Tiger Tyson will compete in men's kiteboarding, O'zani Lafond will contest the men's singlehanded dinghy, and Shanoy Malone will participate in the men's regional singlehanded dinghy competitions.

Coach: Olsen Joseph will guide the men's beach volleyball team of Raenor Sharpe and Miguel Pena Lugo.

Leading the three-member weightlifting team will be coach Durand Meade. Daniel Antonio will contest the men's 110 kg (clean and jerk), Ijauni Nathaniel will contest the men's 79 kg (clean and jerk), and Kevesha Nedwell will participate in the women's 77 kg (clean and jerk).

Accompanied by table tennis coach Aleena Edwards, Stuti Kashyap will contest the women's singles, and Mekhi Simmons will compete in the men's singles.

Team leadership and support staff comprise Chef de Mission Thomas Greenaway, who is also the ABNOC first vice president; team assistant Alisha Francis; physiotherapist Keston Daley; ABNOC President Paul Chet Greene; and ABNOC Secretary General Cliff Williams.