

PM Browne Intervenes In PWD Payment Issue

Story on page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (centre) with Works Minister Maria Browne (on his left) joined to end a protest by PWD workers over outstanding payments

PM Browne Intervenes In PWD Payment Issue



Protesting workers from the Ministry of Works who mounted a picket near the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday morning, came away with exactly what they wanted; word about outstanding payments.

The workers gathered on the vacant law adjacent to the Passport Office, across the street from the Parliament Building from where they shouted; 'no money, no work', among other slogans.

True to his unique style of finding immediate solutions to problems, Prime Minister Gaston Browne left his office and walked outside to where the pickers gathered to have a direct interaction with them and to hear their grievances.

"You are gathered here and I believe that the reason why you are here it's because you want to hear directly from me. Let me first say that this is your right to protest; we operate in a democratic system and peaceful protest is the right of every citizen. You have been wronged, and you want the wrong corrected. Am I right?" the prime minister said to the protestors.

PM Browne then went on to offer an apology to the workers stating that he

had checked with the relevant agencies and a number of them had in fact been owed payments for some time and their documentations have not


STATE INSURANCE
 COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

WHAT ARE MY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES?



ANTIGUA
 (268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA
 (268) 727-7422

www.siclfmfinancial.com



been fully processed to allow timely payments.

“I apologise for the fact that Public Works dropped the ball; that they have not prepared the documentation to be sent to the treasury so that you can be paid. Now, the issue is not about the lack of money, there is money there to pay you all for your salaries/wages or overtime. However, the treasury cannot pay unless there is documentation; that is a requirement. If there was no such requirement it means that persons could take money out of the treasury without accountability,” he indicated.

According to the prime minister he had been informed that the problem is rooted in the alleged failure of the Director Public Works, Colis King, who reportedly had not submitted the documentation containing the names of those who were entitled to be paid.

However, shortly after Director King himself arrived on the scene and he informed the prime minister that in fact, he had submitted the documentation to the appropriate department within the ministry so that the processing for payments could commence.

The prime minister tried to contact the permanent secretary by phone but that proved to be unsuccessful. Following the arrival of the Minister of Works, Maria Browne on the scene...a consensus was reached where the prime minister promised that he would make monies available immediately so that the workers could receive some form of payment today (Wednesday 29 July).

While acknowledging that this would not cover all outstanding payments, he gave an assurance that everything would be done so that another payment could be made by the end of the week.

With the workers signaling that acceptance of this offer, the prime minister returned to his office and the protestors eventually dispersed without incident.




FEEDING THE VYBEZ
 ...IN THE FETE AND ON THE ROAD!!

BENNA BOX
 -2pcs -Burger -Biscuit -Fries
\$39.99

BOLYON BUCKET
 -5pcs -4 Strips -5 Hot Wings
\$59.99

RIDDIM BOX
 -2pcs -Biscuit -Drink
\$17.99

@KFCANL

AllMart

Ministry of Works Reassures Workers of Ongoing Processing of Outstanding Payments

In light of Tuesday's protest action by workers, the Ministry of Works issued a statement informing those affected that the processing of their documents is being done to allow for payments.

This is the full statement: "The Ministry of Works wishes to reassure affected members of staff that Management is fully engaged in completing the processing of outstanding payments.

Since inquiries were raised on the morning of Tuesday, 14 July 2026, the relevant processes have continued to advance, and the Ministry assures that every effort is being expended to resolve this matter to the satisfaction of our hardworking staff as soon as possible.

The Ministry wishes to once again express its deep gratitude to its dedicated staff and reaffirms its pledge to provide unwavering support as we move forward with transforming Antigua and Barbuda's infrastructure."





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!

Recent Lightning Strikes Blamed For Electricity Outages

Much of Antigua was plunged into darkness on Monday night as a failure of a critical equipment within the distribution system caused an island-wide power outage.

The APUA Electricity Business Unit is reporting its teams worked through the night first to identify the root cause of the problem and then to effect the necessary repairs.

APUA spokesperson, Anazette Reynolds is reporting that the power outage was caused by damaged lightning arrester located on one of the 69 kv transmission towers. She said the technicians believe that the system was damaged by recent lightning strikes that accompanied heavy rainfall over the weekend.

According to APUA's Electricity Business Unit the 69 kV transmission lines carry electricity at 69,000 volts from the power station to substations across the island. A fault or sudden interruption along one of these major transmission lines can create a significant disturbance on the electricity sys-



Electricity Business Unit Manager Leads System Outage Review

tem and result in a widespread outage such as the one experienced Monday night.

"We regret the inconvenience and appreciate the patience of affected customers. As at 3:53 a.m., electricity service was restored to all feeders and communities," the company said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Electricity Business Unit Manager, Andre Matthias met with team members to review the system wide outage that occurred on Monday, 27 July. The discussion recapped the sequence of events, the damaged arrester identified as the cause of the fault, planned repairs and mitigation measures.

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER



TUE - FRI

2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

 **POINT FM99.1**

UK Is Helping Antigua and Barbuda Strengthen Cybersecurity



The Antigua and Barbuda Government is not taking the issue of cybersecurity lightly especially with the country serving as host of the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) later this year.

To this end, the Ministry of Information Communications Technologies has made another significant step towards strengthening the nation's cybersecurity resilience with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Kingdom.

The agreement reinforces the long-standing partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom while enhancing the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber threats, particularly as preparations continue for the CHOGM 26 from November 1 – 4.

ICTs Minister Melford Nicholas welcomed the collaboration, noting that cybersecurity has become an essential pillar of national development and international cooperation.

The Minister stated that every advancement in digital transformation brings new cyber risks, making it imperative for governments to continuously strengthen their protection, prevention, and incident response capabilities.

The Resident British Commissioner



to Antigua and Barbuda, John Hamilton MBE, highlighted that cybersecurity is no longer simply a technical issue, but a matter of national security closely linked to economic stability, public confidence, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Hamilton announced that, through the partnership, the United Kingdom will provide incident response and cyber management support to assist Antigua and Barbuda during preparations for CHOGM 2026.

The support package also includes the donation of ten laptop computers to the Directorate of Cyber Security to strengthen its operational capaci-

ty. Director Gordina Hector-Murrell stated that the agreement reinforces the long-standing partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom, while also enhancing the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber threats—particularly as preparations continue for CHOGM 2026.

Both parties emphasized that the collaboration is designed to leave a lasting legacy by building institutional capacity, strengthening cyber governance, and fostering continued cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom.

A Second Cohort of Apprentices Commences Maritime Training



The Maritime Apprenticeship Programme, an initiative designed to develop the next generation of maritime professionals for Antigua and Barbuda, has welcomed its second cohort of maritime apprentices.

The programme is a joint undertaking of Tropical Shipping, the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC), and the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, is providing valuable on-the-job training for three young people who have their sights set on becoming maritime professionals.

Launched in 2025, the programme

was established to bridge the gap between education and industry by providing young people with meaningful, hands-on exposure to careers in shipping, port operations, logistics, and the wider maritime sector. Following the outstanding success of its inaugural year, the programme has returned in 2026 with a new group of promising young participants eager to explore the industry firsthand.

This year's apprentices are Dezante Maile, Myah Ward, and Shekinah Hector, who were selected through a competitive application process. Over

the next six weeks, they will participate in a structured programme that combines practical workplace experience with mentorship from industry professionals.

During their time with Tropical Shipping, the apprentices will rotate through customer service, sales, accounting, documentation, operations, vessel activities, and logistics. They will also gain valuable exposure to the operations of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, as well as other industry partners, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of how the maritime supply chain supports trade and economic development throughout the Caribbean.

Building on the momentum of last year's inaugural programme, the second cohort has been designed to provide an even richer learning experience, encouraging participants to develop new skills, broaden their perspectives, and consider long-term careers within the maritime industry.

The programme reflects Tropical Shipping's longstanding commitment to the Caribbean and aligns with PMAC's broader focus on workforce development throughout the region. It also demonstrates the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority's commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen the local maritime industry by investing in its future workforce.



Claim Your Keys. Secure Your Land.

Apply today.



Home Advantage



LOTS
Land Owners' Trust
Tomorrow Secured.







CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CXC Categorises Reformed SBA Framework

Approximately one week after announcing that the rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence and other technological advancements will result in reform of the School-Based Assessment (SBA) method, the Caribbean Examinations Council has published a simple version of its decision so that its candidates and other interested persons can be properly informed.

The regional examinations body reiterated on Monday that it has categorised the Reformed SBA Framework into three categories: Increase use of SBA for some subjects, as the Alternate Paper 032 will be discontinued; subjects which will retain the SBA, and subjects which will utilise the Alternate Paper 032 only.

For the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), the School-Based Assessment will remain in place for Agricultural Science, Family and Resource Management, Food, Nutrition and Health, French, Industrial Technology, Music, Physical Education and Sport, Portuguese, Spanish, Technical Drawing, Textiles, Clothing and Fashion, along with Visual Arts.

For Biology, Chemistry, Electronic Document Preparation and Management, Geography, Integrated Science, Physics, and Theatre Arts Group 2), increased use of SBA will apply. However, this will be introduced from May-June 2028. There will be no Alternate Paper 032.

In the Group 3 category, SBA or Alternate Paper 032 will be accepted effective May-June 2027. But CXC officials have advised that from May-June 2028, only Alternate Paper 032 will be offered for English A, English B, Additional Mathematics, Caribbean History, Economics, Human and Social Biology, Mathematics, Information Technology, Office Administration, Principles of Accounts, Principles of Business, Religious Education, and Social Studies.

The SBA Reforms also apply to CAPE subjects.

There are no changes in the way the Group 1 assessment is administered. SBAs will continue for Agricultural Science, Animation and Game Design, Art and Design, Building and Mechanical Engineering Drawing, Design and Technology, Electrical

and Electronic Engineering Technology, Food and Nutrition, French, Performing Arts, Physical Education and Sport, and Spanish.

Commencing May-June 2027, only SBA will apply to Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Digital Media, Environmental Science, Geography, Green Engineering and Physics. The Alternate Paper 032 will not be offered.

Meantime, the Barbados-based CXC announced that commencing May-June 2027, only Alternate Paper 032 will apply to Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Caribbean Studies, Communication Studies, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Financial Services Studies, History, Information Technology, Integrated Mathematics, Law, Literatures in English, Logistics and Supply Chain Operations, Management of Business, Pure Mathematics, Sociology and Tourism.

With the changes, CXC says it “remains committed to qualifications that reflect students’ knowledge, skills and authentic achievement with the highest standards of integrity and excellence”.

Touch di road with **Free groceries.** We live for this.

Sign up for a home
internet plan to claim.

**\$200 grocery
voucher**



**Free local
CPL tickets.**



Plus enter the draw to win all summer.

We keep your riddim flowing.



FLOW



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

PANORAMA

AUGUST 1ST

📍 CARNIVAL CITY @8PM

Ticket \$40



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF Pan



Antigua Carnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial



Parades Sub-Committee Chair Underscores Importance of Safety Standards

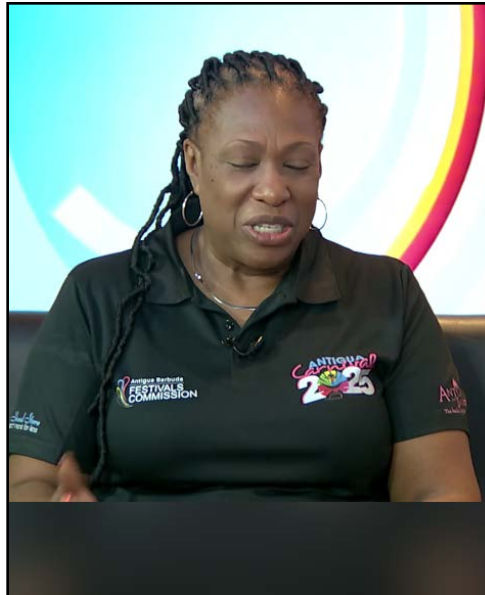
Marcelle Freeland, Sub-committee chairperson for parades has explained that the reason behind music trucks falling silent when turning corners is a safety measure that cannot be overlooked.

The requirement was enforced throughout the T-Shirt Mas route last Saturday, leaving many revelers to wonder why it was being done.

According to Freeland, it is absolutely necessary that every music truck operator comply with the regulation.

“It is for the safety of the patrons and even for the onlookers to keep clear so the trucks can make the turn safely,” Marcelle Freeland said.

Mas troupes are reminded that in addition to music being turned off, no food or drinks should be served when drivers are navigating the turns. Further, on High Street in the vicinity of the building that was formerly Deluxe Cinema, where construction is ongoing, revelers are required to move to



Marcelle Freeland, Sub-committee chairperson for parades

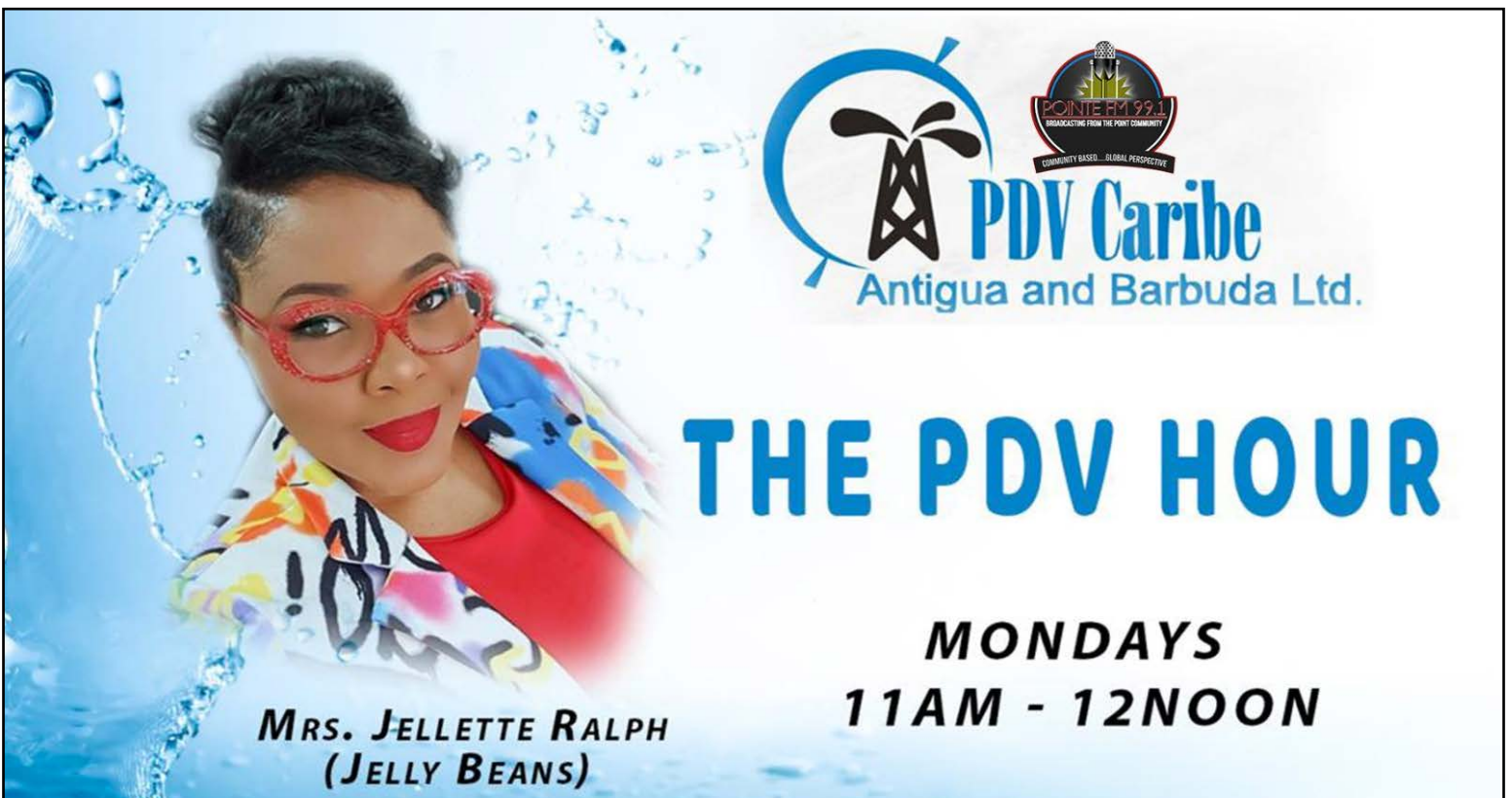
the left side of the street, while vehicles move ahead on the right side, Freeland noted.

She applauded bands that were on the road last weekend for heeding to the requests, noting that overall, they did not encounter any issues.

“The bands, especially where Saturday was concerned, were the ones who requested the two o’ clock start instead of three. So, it was up to them to show us that they meant business and they did. So, we have to commend them for that. We want to encourage them to let us start on time. The earlier we start, the more time we have to do things,” Freeland stated.

Meanwhile, Junior Carnival, which was postponed last Sunday due to inclement weather will be held today commencing at 2PM.

The parade will begin on Parliament Drive and wind its way through the city, turning right onto Queen Elizabeth Highway, right on Independence Drive, left onto Redcliffe Street, then turning right on Thames Street. It will continue with a right turn on High Street, a left on Independence Drive, right on Old Parham Road, and right in Coronation Road before entering Carnival City, where judging of troupes will take place.



PDV Caribe
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Police Search For Suspects In Bellevue Estate Shooting

The police are searching for the suspects alleged to be involved in a shooting incident on Monday, July 27 that left a Bellevue Estate man nursing a gunshot wound at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on Monday, police responded to a report of a shooting incident at Bellevue Estate, where Alvin Spencer was reportedly shot in his neck by an unknown assailant.

He was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he underwent emergency surgery. He is reported to be in stable condition.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the victim had just arrived at his Bellevue Estate residence, when a suspicious vehicle reportedly stopped behind his vehicle.

An individual wearing a mask and dressed in dark clothing, exited a vehicle, and discharged several rounds before fleeing scene in the said vehicle.



The police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or who may have seen any suspicious vehicle in the Bellevue Estate area around the time of the incident to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers

at 800-TIPS (8477).

The Police Administration remains committed to identifying and apprehending those responsible and continues to urge members of the public to cooperate by sharing any information that may assist with this investigation.



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	



Congratulations, Hon. Michael Joseph!

The Management and Staff of the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs proudly extend heartfelt congratulations to the Honourable Michael Joseph, who on Tuesday officially received his Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree with a specialty in Risk Management.

“On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Ministry’s Headquarters, all Departments and Units under the Ministry’s portfolio, and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, we celebrate this proud moment and congratulate Minister Joseph on this outstanding achievement.

“We wish him continued success as he carries this accomplishment forward in his service to our nation. Congratulations, Minister Joseph, and best wishes for every success in your future endeavours!” a ministry media release stated.



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Communication on this subject
should be addressed to:
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands,
Fisheries and the Blue Economy
Independence Drive
P.O. Box 1282
St. John's
Antigua W.I

Email: mafba@ab.gov.ag
Telephone: (268) 462-1213

Ref: ALFBE 46/4

27th July 2026

Dear General Public, Farmers and Stakeholders,

**PUBLIC NOTICE: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REGULARIZATION OF CROWN
LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

The Ministry of Agriculture advises that, by Cabinet Decision #20 of 19th November 2025, all lands previously managed by the Agriculture Development Corporation (ADC) are now under the direct management of the Ministry.

These lands are government-owned and designated for agricultural production in the national interest. To ensure food and nutrition security, all former tenants are required to regularize their tenancy with the Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Extension Division.

Legitimate tenants must book appointments promptly to confirm their engagement in active cultivation. Lands not brought under production will be reallocated to farmers who are ready and able to contribute to national productivity.

The Ministry calls on all stakeholders and the wider public to support this initiative as we work together to strengthen food security and agricultural sustainability in Antigua and Barbuda.


Walter Christopher
Permanent Secretary

Amb. Dwight C.R. Gardiner Concludes Successful Term as President of the 30th Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly



The International Seabed Authority (ISA) yesterday marked the conclusion of the one-year term of **H.E., Dwight C.R. Gardiner of Antigua and Barbuda** as President of the 30th Session of the Assembly 2025-2026, paying tribute to his distinguished service, steady leadership, and unwavering commitment to advancing the work of the Authority during a pivotal period.

President Gardiner's tenure carried particular significance for the Caribbean and for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), whose economies, cultures, and livelihoods are deeply connected to the ocean. His election to lead the Assembly reflected the confidence of Member States in the leadership of Caribbean nations and underscored the important role that SIDS continue to play in shaping in-

ternational ocean governance.

Throughout his presidency, Ambassador Gardiner guided the Assembly with professionalism, impartiality, and a spirit of cooperation, fostering constructive dialogue among Member States on issues of global importance. His calm and inclusive approach helped facilitate consensus while ensuring that the Assembly's deliberations remained transparent, respectful, and firmly grounded in the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

For Caribbean countries and SIDS, the work of the International Seabed Authority is of particular importance. As custodian of mineral resources in the international seabed area, the ISA plays a central role in ensuring that activities in the Area

are carried out for the benefit of all humanity while protecting the marine environment. For island and coastal developing States, effective stewardship of the ocean, equitable participation in decision-making, capacity-building, and the fair sharing of benefits are essential components of sustainable development and the realization of a resilient blue economy.

In expressing her appreciation during a hand-over in Kingston, Jamaica yesterday, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority thanked President Gardiner for his exceptional service to the Assembly.

"President Gardiner has led the Assembly with integrity, wisdom, and unwavering dedication. His steady

leadership, thoughtful guidance, and commitment to fostering mutual understanding among Member States have strengthened the work of the Assembly and the Authority as a whole. His presidency has also demonstrated the valuable leadership that Small Island Developing States continue to bring to global ocean governance. On behalf of the Secretariat, I extend my sincere gratitude and wish him every success in his future endeavors.”

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization also conveyed warm appreciation for President Gardiner’s leadership, recognizing his commitment to multilateral cooperation and his contribution to strengthening international dialogue on ocean affairs.

Member States from every regional group joined in expressing their gratitude to President Gardiner for his exemplary stewardship over the past year. Delegations commended his patience, diplomacy, and ability to guide complex discussions with composure and respect, while ensuring that every Member State had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the Assembly’s work.

Reflecting on the conclusion of his term, President Gardiner expressed his appreciation to Member States, the Secretariat, and his fellow Bureau Members for their trust and shared commitment to advancing the mandate of the Authority.

As President of the Assembly, Mr. Gardiner presided over the Authority’s highest decision-making body during an important chapter in the ISA’s work. His tenure was marked by an unwavering commitment to effective multilateralism, leaving a lasting legacy for the Assembly and reinforcing the important role of Caribbean leadership in international governance.

President Gardiner is succeeded by

H.E. President Oliver Whitehead of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as President for the 31st Session, and who previously served as one of the Vice-Presidents of the 30th Session.

Ambassador Gardiner is also the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the International Maritime Organisation and has launched a campaign to secure the

twin-island nation’s election to Category C of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council, with elections scheduled for December 2027. This is another aspect of the national push to participate more actively in global ocean governance in the face of growing threats to the sustainability of our oceans.



EMANCIPATION OBSERVANCES - 2026

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC)

invites you to the opening of the

UKUMBUSHO EXHIBITION

Themes of Emancipation • Reparatory Justice • Reconciliation • Healing

THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2026

10:00 a.m.

MINI CONFERENCE ROOM
Multi-Purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre
PERRY BAY, ANTIGUA

WITH Ms. KIM POOLE
Executive Director
Teaching Artist
Institute (USA)
An acclaimed cultural advocate and educator dedicated to advancing arts, culture, healing, and community transformation.

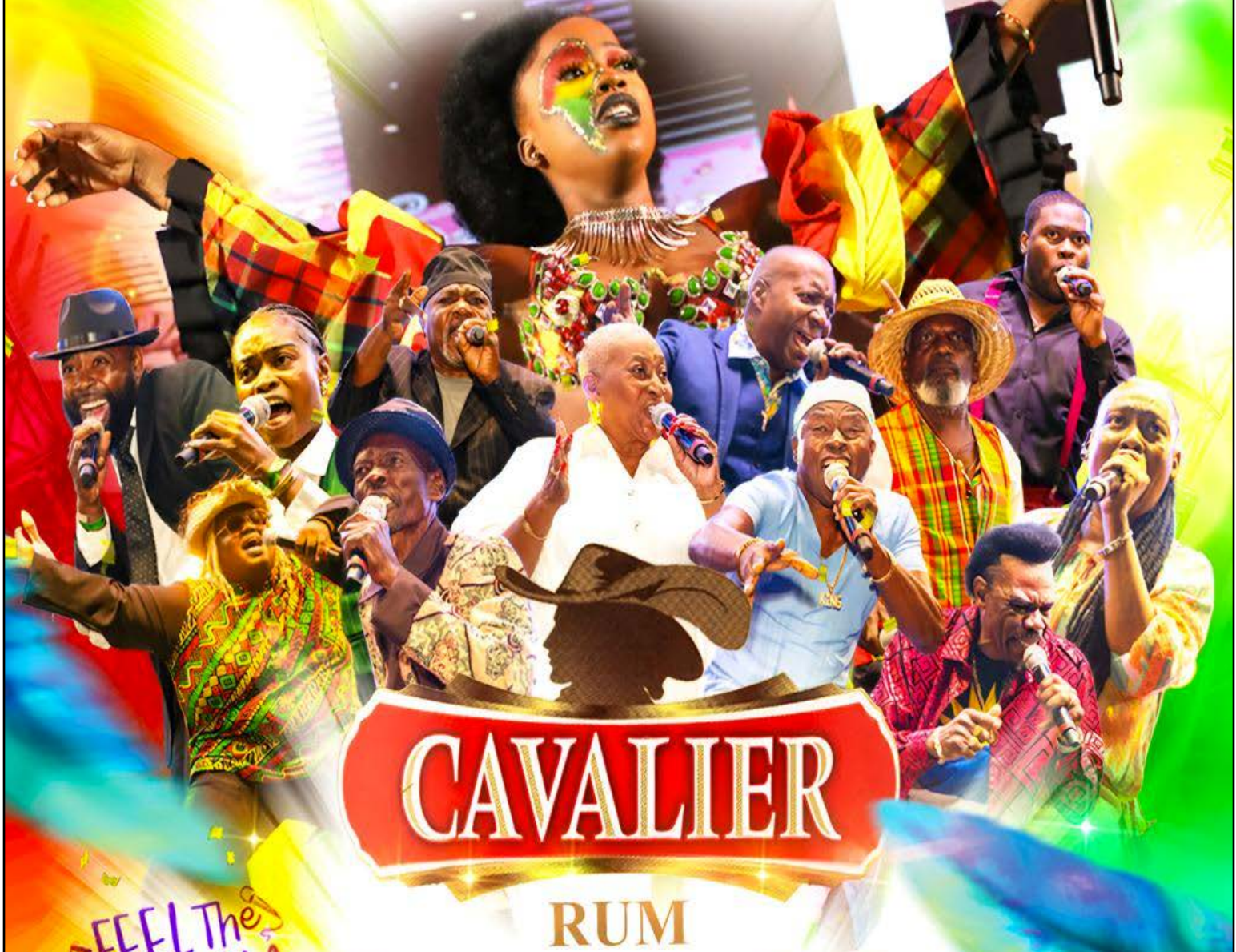
Join us as we commemorate the enduring struggle for freedom, celebrate the resilience of our ancestors, and reaffirm our commitment to reparatory justice, reconciliation, and healing.

Admission: Free

For more information:
abrscc@ab.gov.ag | (268) 462-1234

ABRSC
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION

- Honouring the Past
- Repairing the Present
- Shaping the Future



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF Calypso

CAVALIER RUM CALYPSO MONARCH

JULY 31ST

📍 CARNIVAL CITY 8PM

Ticket \$40

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE





MACHEL MONTANO

**SKINNY FABULOUS - TIAN WINTER- VOICE - MUDDY
TRIPLE-K - TIZZY**

JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

The Business of Slavery From Africa to the New World

Part 1: The Trader Who Kept a Diary

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

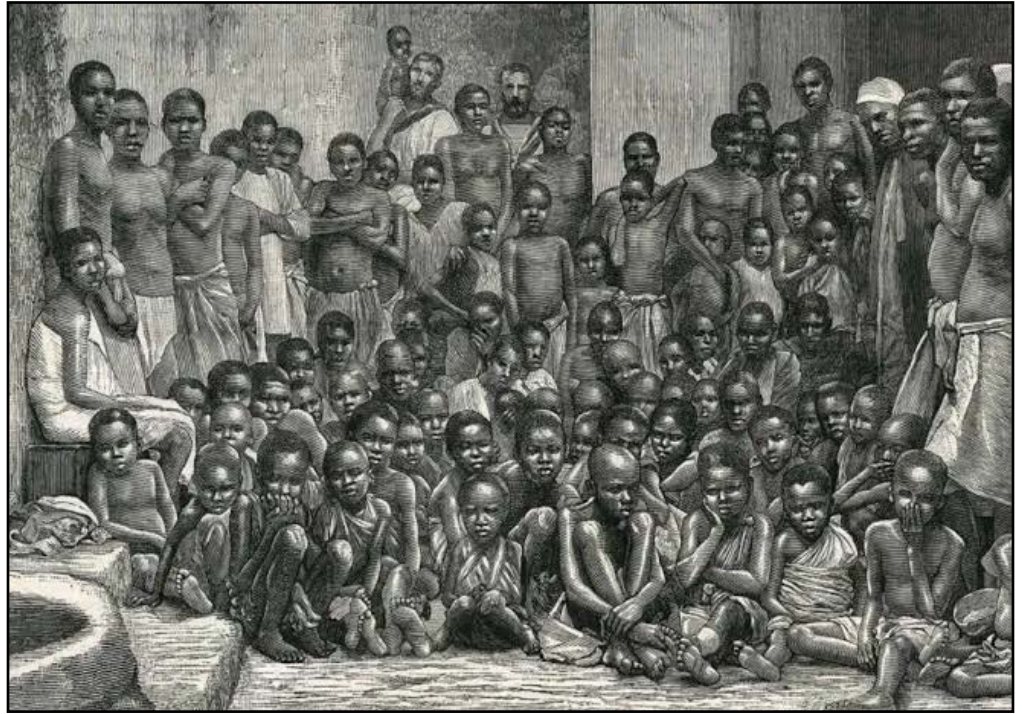
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Five Islands Campus



I first encountered the business of slavery as an academic while pursuing my Doctoral Studies at University of Manchester on the evolution of financial institutions and markets from antiquity to modern times. I was intrigued by some of the stories I came across in my readings and with all apologies to the real historians I am sharing some as we approach Emancipation Day 2026.

Antera Duke was a merchant prince of the Efik, a leader of Duke Town, and between 1785 and 1788 he kept a diary in the trade English of the coast. Oxford University Press published the scholarly edition in 2010. It is, as far as anyone knows, the only surviving day-by-day account written by any slave trader on any continent, and it reads exactly like what it is, a businessman's diary. Customs duties, called comey, collected from ship captains. Dinners aboard Liverpool vessels, credit disputes and their settlement and consignments of captives delivered downriver. The tone is flat, commercial, unbothered.

That diary forces the question this piece asks. Before the auction room in Richmond, before the cane piece in Barbados, before even the ship what



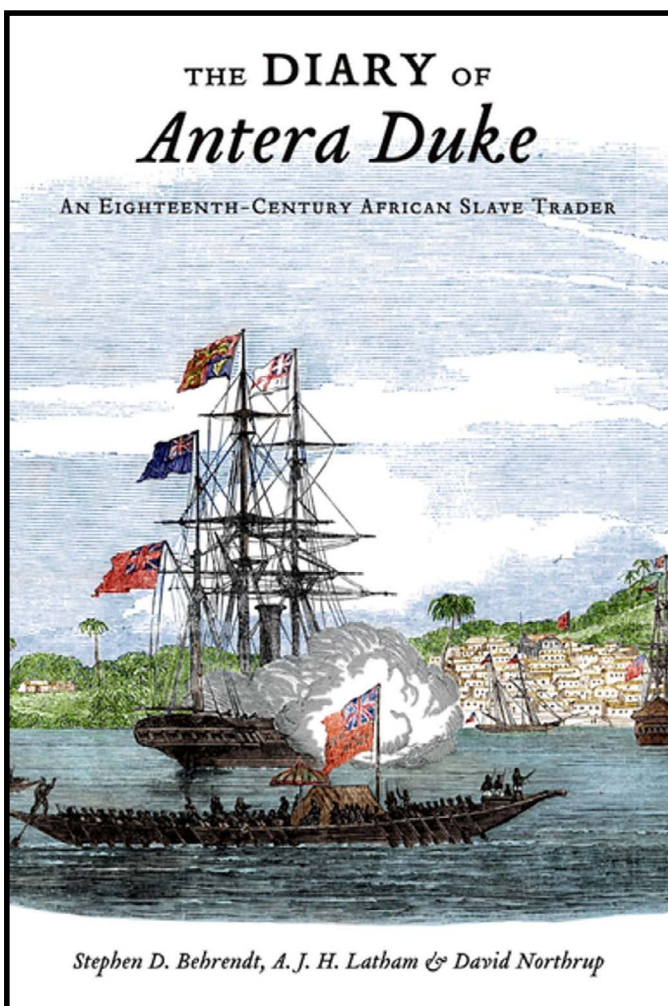
was the business? Who ran it, and on what terms? The records are uncomfortable in every direction at once.

Start with a fact that may surprise some readers, Europeans almost never captured anyone, they could not. West Africa's disease environment killed roughly half of newly arrived Europeans within a year, the coast was called the white man's grave for sound actuarial reasons and so the Europeans stayed on their ships and in their coastal forts and bought. The capturing, the marching, and the wholesaling were done by African states and merchant networks. The kingdom of Dahomey, which ran the port of Ouidah under a royal customs regime, the Aro network of Igboland, the canoe-house firms of Bonny and Old Calabar in which Antera Duke was a principal. Captives were produced by war, by raiding, by judicial condemnation, by seizure for debt, by kidnapping and then sold, at the beach, where the African procure-

ment business met the European shipping business.

I will not soften this, because our history deserves better than flinching, and because the record also shows the other side of it. In 1526 the King of Kongo, Afonso I, a Christian monarch, wrote to the King of Portugal protesting that merchants were seizing his people daily, that "our country is being completely depopulated," and asking that Portugal send priests and flour for the sacrament, not traders and goods. The letter is on file. So the archive holds both truths at once, African rulers and merchants who ran the supply side for profit, and African rulers who saw precisely what was happening and objected in writing, five centuries ago. The demand shock came from the sea, it industrialized the violence inland. Both facts stand, neither cancels the other.

Now follow the money, because the



money is a map of the early modern world. A captive was priced in an “assortment” a bundle of goods bargained line by line, reckoned in units of account like the trade ounce. And what filled the bundle? Not trinkets! The largest category by value, in David Richardson’s survey of more than ninety English voyages, was textiles, above all Indian cottons, woven in Gujarat and Bengal. Then guns from Birmingham, by the hundred thousand a year at the trade’s height. Iron bars. Brandy and rum. And cowrie shells, harvested in the Maldives and shipped to the Slave Coast by the ton as small currency, the young Olaudah Equiano was sold, he tells us, for 172 of them. A weaver in Bengal, a gunsmith in Birmingham, a shell diver in the Indian Ocean, and a cutlass hand in the Grenadines stood, without knowing one another, in a single supply chain. Prices behaved as prices do, on Richardson’s series, the cost of a captive on the coast rose roughly fivefold across

the eighteenth century, as demand outran supply.

The ship itself was a financial instrument. An English slaving voyage was divided into sixty-four shares, and the shareholders were not only great merchants but shopkeepers, clergymen, and widows holding a sixty-fourth as an investment. Mounting a Bristol voyage cost about £8,500 by 1790. The round trip took twelve to eighteen months, and the returns came home mostly as bills of exchange drawn on London. The tidy schoolbook triangle of goods, slaves, and sugar is partly a myth, the real return leg was paper. The cargo was insured, premiums near ten percent of outward costs, the Middle Passage leg priced at about four point eight percent,

each human being covered at thirty pounds a head, with insurers not liable for death by illness or by suicide, and losses from insurrection excluded below one-tenth of the cargo’s value. Note what those clauses assume. And note the finding of the economic historians who reconstructed the underwriting books, a slaving voyage was not even an unusually risky policy to write, an East India voyage cost more to insure.

When Parliament first regulated the trade in 1788, it regulated it as what it was, logistics. Dolben’s Act fixed carrying capacity to tonnage, the Liverpool ship *Brookes*, which had carried 609 people on an earlier voyage, was now lawfully permitted 454, each man allotted a space six feet by sixteen inches. The Act also paid a bonus, one hundred pounds to the captain, fifty to the surgeon, if deaths on the crossing came in under two percent. Mortality as a key performance indicator, with

incentive pay. Across the whole trade, about one captive in seven died at sea. And here is the fact the trade’s defenders never survived, the crews died too. Thomas Clarkson went to the muster rolls and counted in a single year, 216 dead of 910 Bristol slave-trade sailors, more than the rest of Britain’s shipping lost in two. The “nursery of seamen” was a grave for them as well.

So what did it all earn? Here the scholarship delivers its coldest finding. Average British slave-voyage profits, on the best modern estimates, ran at roughly eight to ten percent and Anstey’s careful series averages 10.2 percent, with enormous variance, and some historians argue the biggest firms did far better in boom years. But the consensus figure is the story, a normal commercial return, shipping money. The trade did not persist for three centuries because it was a bonanza. It persisted because it was ordinary, diversified, insurable, respectable, and open to a clergyman’s widow with one share. Africa, meanwhile, paid a price no ledger recorded. By one careful estimate, the continent’s population in 1850 was half what it would otherwise have been, and modern economics still finds the scar in the data.

The trade was built with ledgers, and it was dismantled with ledgers. Clarkson’s muster-roll tables, the *Brookes* diagram printed seven thousand times, Equiano’s memoir, the first data-driven human-rights campaign in history, numbers marshalled against power. That is the tradition this series tries, at its small scale, to stand in. But the diary of *Antera Duke* will not let me stand there comfortably, and it should not let you. The buyers kept books, the sellers kept books, nobody in this story is safely somebody else. The eye of the needle was the beach where the two ledgers met and every generation since has had to decide, with its own accounts, which side of that beach it is standing on.

Tomorrow, Part 2: the auction room, and the man who banked it.

Grenada Tourism Authority Conducts Sales Mission in Antigua to Boost Regional Travel

The Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) is currently undertaking a strategic sales mission in Antigua and Barbuda as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen regional travel and increase visitor arrivals from one of its key Caribbean markets.

Leading the initiative on the ground is Marketing Executive, Melinda Telesford, who is engaging with key stakeholders within Antigua's travel trade sector to promote Grenada as a premier tourism destination and encourage greater travel between the two islands.

According to Telesford, Antigua has been identified as an important market for Grenada, particularly as the destination continues to experience growth in visitor arrivals.

"We have seen an increased number of visitor arrivals in Grenada so far for the year, and we are optimistic that Grenada is growing in popularity as a destination of interest among Antiguans," Telesford said.

She explained that the sales mission includes a series of meetings with local travel professionals aimed at strengthening partnerships, increasing destination awareness, and providing stakeholders with updated information about Grenada's tourism offerings.

"During this period, we are conducting a series of meetings with the local travel trade as well as collaborative initiatives with airline partner, LIAT Air," she added.

As part of the mission, the GTA joined forces with LIAT Air over the weekend to participate in the popular Breakfast Inclusive event in Antigua. The partnership provided an opportunity to directly engage with consumers and promote both



Marketing Executive, Melinda Telesford

Grenada's tourism product and the convenient airlift options available through LIAT Air.

Representatives spent the event interacting with patrons, highlighting Grenada's attractions, accommodations, cultural experiences, and accessibility from Antigua.

"We are happy to engage with hundreds of patrons at the event, talking about how to get to Grenada and the many exciting things that can be done while in Grenada, especially the highly anticipated Spicemas, which will be happening from August 6 to 13 this year," Telesford said.

Spicemas, Grenada's premier carnival celebration, continues to attract thousands of regional and international visitors annually with its vibrant blend of music, culture, pageantry, and festivities. The festival remains one of the island's most significant tourism drivers and forms a key part of the GTA's promotional push across the Caribbean.

However, Telesford emphasized that Grenada's appeal extends well beyond the carnival season, with a robust year-round calendar of events designed to attract visitors with diverse interests.

"For persons who are not able to travel for Spicemas this year, Grenada offers a healthy events calendar with something exciting to do in almost every month of the year," she said. "Some of these include our Dive and Conservation Festival in October and the Lobster and Lambi Festival in January."

She further revealed that Grenada will be introducing a new event to its cultural and tourism calendar later this year.

"In November this year, we will also be hosting our inaugural Flower Festival, having won 19 Gold Medals at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London," Telesford stated.

The new festival is expected to showcase Grenada's rich biodiversity, vibrant horticultural heritage and internationally acclaimed floriculture sector, further diversifying the destination's tourism offerings.

The Antigua sales mission forms part of the Grenada Tourism Authority's broader strategy to expand its footprint within the Caribbean market, foster stronger tourism partnerships, and drive increased intra-Caribbean travel through targeted marketing initiatives.

With improved connectivity, growing visitor interest and an expanding events calendar, the GTA remains confident that Grenada will continue to attract more travellers from Antigua and across the region in the months ahead.



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

TIAN WINTER & ICONIC



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE





**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

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



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



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

TIZZY



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CELEBRATING 192ND ANNIVERSARY
OF EMANCIPATION.

EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT → 2026 ←



PERFORMANCES:

- Nyabinghi Drummers
- 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

Regional News

Trinidad's prime minister says probe of alleged plot to assassinate her now includes foreign investigators

Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar says the investigation into the alleged plot to assassinate her and senior members of her government has widened significantly and now involves multiple foreign agencies.

"I would not have any specific details on the ongoing local and foreign investigations. As Minister Roger Alexander stated in his press release, the investigation has widened beyond the original scope to new areas and across multiple jurisdictions," Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar told the Trinidad Guardian newspaper, adding that she could not comment on the specifics of the ongoing investigation.

"I am advised that multiple foreign intelligence and investigative agencies are involved and that new persons, financial institutions and businesses have been identified in the expanding investigation. I am also advised by local and foreign authorities that these investigations have increased in complexity and will take some time," she noted.

Last week, Homeland Security Minister Roger Alexander revoked the Preventive Detention Orders (PDOs) issued against prominent businessman Dominic Hadeed and his wife, Genevieve, leading to their release while investigations into the conspiracy-to-murder allegations against them continue.

The Hadeeds were arrested on June 24 as part of a Trinidad and Tobago



Police Service (TTPS) investigation into the alleged plot to assassinate Persad-Bissessar and Attorney General John Jeremie.

In revoking the PDOs, Alexander said their continued detention was no longer proportionate after considering legal, medical and constitutional issues, as well as a recommendation from the Constitution Review Tribunal. The Hadeeds were not charged with any offence.

On Monday, High Court Judge Vigel Paul ordered the release of 69-year-old Star Sabga, a relative of Genevieve

Hadeed, after a month in prison and placed her under house arrest.

The judge had earlier ruled that Sabga should be released from prison pending the hearing of her constitutional challenge to the PDO. He also found that Sabga had raised a serious issue to be tried and that the balance of convenience favoured granting interim relief.

Under the interim order, Sabga must remain confined to her residence under police supervision. She is required to surrender her passport and electronic devices, cannot leave her home except



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!



Regional News

in the event of a medical emergency, and is prohibited from communicating with persons outside the residence except for her attorneys, medical personnel and approved family members.

Police officers are also permitted to enter the premises at reasonable times to ensure compliance with the order.

Alexander had previously maintained that, despite revoking the PDOs, the criminal investigation remains active and that investigators had informed him the probe now spans multiple jurisdictions and requires cooperation between local and international law enforcement agencies.

Alexander, a former senior police officer, said the Hadeeds will remain under monitoring and surveillance while investigators continue their work and that measures have been put in place to protect anyone who may still be at risk.

Meanwhile, Jeremie has said that a leaked audio recording purportedly featuring Sabga and Genevieve Hadeed may not have stemmed from a lawful local intercept and that modern technology allows external actors to intercept communications.

The leaked recording allegedly contains comments described as a threat against Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar. However, Sabga has not been charged with any offence arising from the audio.

“Please remember that given modern technology, it is possible for external actors to also conduct interceptions,” said Jeremie, who has expressed confidence in both Alexander and the TTPS despite criticism over the government’s handling of the high-profile Hadeed matter.

“The question of charging is different from a decision to ensure the public good and I support the efforts of the police and the agencies in that matter and the work of my colleague in Homeland Security,” Jeremie said.

On Monday, Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro said he had “ordered an immediate investigation” into the

circulation on social media of the audio recording and its contents, which were first published by the Sunshine Newspaper, owned by former government minister Jack Warner, over the weekend. Since then, there have been calls for an independent inquiry into the matter.

Former police commissioner Gary Griffith called for an immediate independent investigation, saying the apparent breach of the Strategic Services Agency’s (SSA) intelligence systems is a greater national security concern than the contents of the recording itself.

In a statement, Guevarro said the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) “acknowledges the circulation on social media, of an audio recording which is alleged to be intercepted communication”, reminding the public that, under the Interception of Communications Act, communications may only be lawfully intercepted pursuant to the legislation.

He said the public is further reminded that “the Act expressly forbids the unauthorised disclosure of intercepted communications” and provides that “a person who discloses the existence of a warrant or an application for a warrant... commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars (One TT dollar = US\$0.16 cents) and to imprisonment for three years.”

Guevarro said the investigation will

also determine whether any person unlawfully disclosed protected information and whether any breach of operational security, data-handling protocols or statutory obligations has occurred.

“No further comment will be made while the investigation is active, however updates will be provided only when it is appropriate to do so in the interest of national security,” Guevarro added.

The main opposition People’s National Movement (PNM) has called for Alexander’s resignation over his handling of the Hadeeds’ detention and the eventual revocation of the PDOs.

PNM chairman Marvin Gonzales, in a statement posted on Facebook, welcomed the TTPS decision to investigate the leak but said the probe must be comprehensive and independent.

“I wish to commend the commissioner of police for finally breaking his silence on the recent illegal release of intercepted audio communication,” Gonzales wrote, cautioning that investigators should not allow political influence to interfere with their work.

“I also wish to take the opportunity to publicly advise the commissioner again, that he must take extra careful precaution so as not to allow his office to be manipulated and used by dangerous and deceitful politicians,” he said, urging investigators to be prepared to examine the actions of senior public officials. (CMC)

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

150KVA single phase 3wire.120/240v.
50KVA single phase 3wire 120/240v.

CONTACT:

THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Regional News

More than 50 Haitians intercepted at sea

Bahamian law enforcement agencies say they have detained 54 Haitian migrants, including a three-year-old child and drugs after intercepting their vessel on Sunday in the Exumas.

“United States partners provided updated intelligence regarding a vessel suspected of transporting migrants and illegal drugs in the vicinity of Ship Channel Cay and Beacon Cay,” said the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF).

The RBDF said that it had dispatched the HMBS Maderia along with US air assets and personnel from the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park to search the area and early Monday found the vessel near Norman’s Cay and Wax Cay.

Officers, who boarded the vessel, found 54 Haitian migrants including six women and the three-year-old girl as well as two bales of suspected marijuana and 10 bricks of suspected cocaine.

The migrants and drugs were taken to the force’s Coral Harbour Base for



processing.

Meanwhile, the RBDF said together with the US Coast Guard, they seized a Bahamian-registered vessel and recovered 97 bales of suspected hydroponic marijuana that weighed 2,318 pounds with an estimated street value

of US\$5.9 million.

The RBDF said that three Bahamian men, ages 35, 46 and 55, who were on the 35-foot go-fast vessel had been arrested and that the operation was a two-day affair that started last Friday. (CMC)



AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS: DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1

THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

OECS appoints new strategic advisor for Africa-Caribbean cooperation

The St Lucia-based Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission Tuesday announced the appointment of Aisha Maina as OECS strategic advisor for Africa-Caribbean cooperation.

It said that the appointment, effective July 1, 2026, “marks a pivotal moment in advancing transatlantic South-South collaboration” and that Maina’s role will serve as a vital catalyst in forging historic bridges between the Eastern Caribbean and the African continent.

The OECS Commission said that Maina, who is the chief executive officer of the Nigeria-based Aquarian Consult Limited, brings to the commission an extraordinary record of visionary leadership.

It said that she has led high-impact initiatives spanning governance, trade, energy, agribusiness, social impact, and the creative economy.

“Her strategic expertise and deep network across public and private sectors in Africa will be instrumental in elevating trade, investment and cultural linkages to unprecedented level,” the commission said, adding that in her advisory mandate, Maina will work directly with the Office of the Director General to guide policy frameworks and operational strategies that unlock tangible, mutual economic benefits.

“We are thrilled to welcome Ms Aisha Maina to the OECS team. Her proven track record, leadership at Aquarian Consult, and expansive vision for South-South collaboration make her uniquely equipped to lead our strategic engagement with Africa,” said OECS Director General, Dr Didacus Jules.

“This appointment reflects our unwavering commitment to building a more resilient, globally connected and economically prosperous OECS community,” Dr Jules added.

Maina said it is a “deep privilege” to



serve the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in this capacity and that the historical, cultural and economic synergy between Africa and the Caribbean represents an immense frontier of opportunity.

“I look forward to working closely with Director General Dr Didacus Jules and the OECS Commission to translate our shared vision into transformative trade, sustainable growth and lasting partnerships for both our regions, strengthening the transatlantic bridge,” Maina said. (CMC)

VACANCY

Caribbean Premium Motors Ltd.

Caribbean Premium Motors Ltd., one of Antigua & Barbuda’s leading automotive dealerships, is seeking an experienced and dynamic **Heavy-Duty Superintendent** to provide strategic and operational leadership for its Heavy-Duty Service Division.

This senior leadership position is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and repair of commercial trucks, buses, heavy equipment and government fleets while ensuring the highest standards of customer service, workshop productivity, technical excellence and profitability.

The successful candidate will play a key role in strengthening one of the Company’s fastest-growing business units and will work closely with senior management to ensure the division consistently delivers exceptional service to both public and private sector clients.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide leadership and direction for the Heavy-Duty Service Division.
- Manage workshop operations to maximize productivity, efficiency and profitability.
- Supervise and develop technicians and support personnel.
- Ensure the timely diagnosis, repair and maintenance of heavy-duty vehicles and equipment.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with government and commercial fleet customers.
- Monitor key performance indicators, work-in-progress and workshop quality standards.
- Promote a culture of safety, accountability and continuous improvement.

Qualifications & Experience

Applicants should possess:

- A Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering, Automotive Technology, Management or a related discipline (or equivalent experience).
- Minimum of 5 years’ experience managing a heavy-duty workshop or commercial fleet maintenance operation.
- Strong leadership, planning and people management skills.
- Excellent technical knowledge of heavy-duty trucks, buses and commercial equipment.
- Proven ability to improve productivity, customer satisfaction and financial performance.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, detailed résumé and the names and contact information of **two professional referees**.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is August 7, 2026.

Email applications to: Accting.officer@gmail.com



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MUDDY



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE





FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF SOCA

innet PARTY MONARCH

AUGUST 2ND

📍 CARNIVAL CITY 🕒 9PM

Ticket \$40

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



Criminal gangs luring hundreds of thousands of people to work in online scam centres, UN warns



The United Nations migration agency is warning that criminal networks have been trafficking hundreds of thousands of people – many of them educated English speakers – to work in online scam centres, and the case-load is growing.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) says victims are often lured by fake job advertisements – mostly through social media – promising work abroad, only to get locked up, have their identity documents seized, and forced through violence, threats and “debt bondage” to participate in the online scams.

“We’re seeing so many more of these cases emerge right now,” IOM Director-General Amy Pope told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday. “We’re seeing victims from over 80 different countries being trafficked into the scams.”

“They’re recruiting people who often speak English very well, who often have graduate degrees, some level of education,” Pope said, adding that the cases are “specifically playing out across Asia”.

The migration agency cited estimates from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that losses across east Asia, Australia, and

New Zealand reached as much as US\$114 billion last year, and “scam compounds” across the region could hold hundreds of thousands of trafficked workers.

IOM said it had assisted over 3,500 such victims of forced criminality between 2022 and 2025, people who originated from nearly 40 countries: people from Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Bangladesh were most affected. (AP)

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION.

Antigua and Barbuda
CELEBRATING 192ND ANNIVERSARY
OF EMANCIPATION.

EMANCIPATION VILLAGE 2026

A LIVELY CULTURAL HUB

 V.C. BIRD BUST
MARKET SQUARE,
ST. JOHN'S

 11:00AM
TO 4:00PM

 **ADMISSION
FREE**

A day of celebration awaits in the heart of St. John's, featuring delectable food, arts and crafts, music, entertainment, and more.

**EMANCIPATION VILLAGE –
A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY**

- ◆ Traditional food, music, and dance
- ◆ Local artisans and craftspeople
- ◆ Storytelling, performances, and cultural education

It's a space where the past meets the present, inviting families, youth, elders, and visitors to experience the vibrancy of our heritage firsthand.

*Our History.
Our Culture.
Our Future.
TOGETHER.*




7.1 magnitude quake shakes Japan's Kyushu and people are missing after a shopping center collapses

An earthquake registering a magnitude of 7.1 shook Japan's southern main island of Kyushu and caused part of a shopping center to collapse on Tuesday, leaving dozens of people missing or injured, officials and reports said.

A tsunami advisory was issued but quickly lifted.

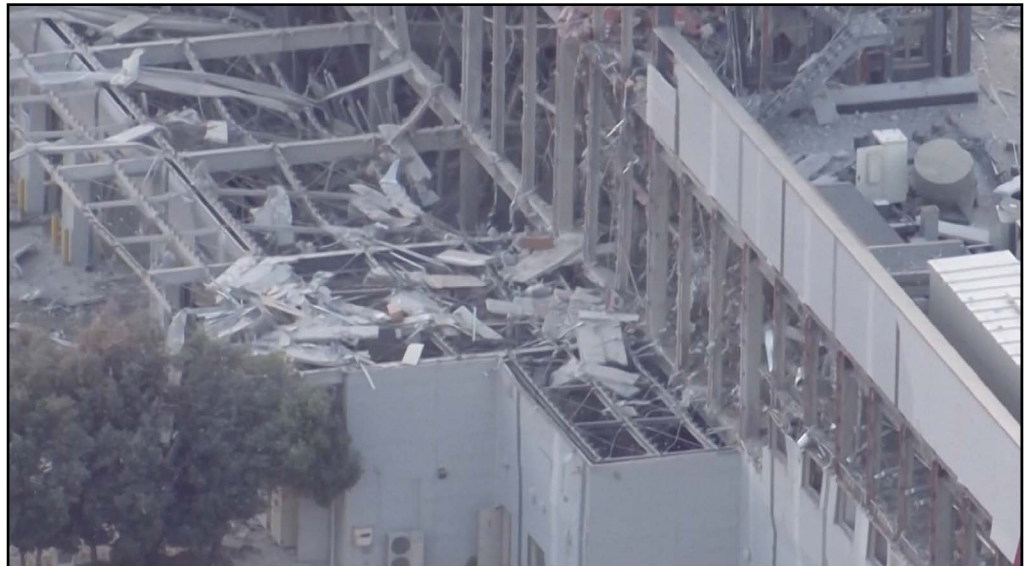
The second floor of the Aeon Mall shopping center in Kashima Town collapsed, trapping an unknown number of people. Around 20 to 30 employees were missing while several other people were dug out and taken to a hospital, Kyodo News agency reported, quoting local police.

The affected area is about 900 kilometers (540 miles) southwest of Tokyo. A tsunami advisory for the Ariake and Yatsushiro Seas on the western coasts of Kumamoto prefecture and three neighboring prefectures was lifted within two hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told reporters there were reports of damage to roads, bridges and buildings, as well as blackouts and fires, though details were unclear.

AP correspondent Charles de Ledesma reports a strong earthquake has shaken parts of southern Japan prompting a tsunami advisory.

Japan's Fire and Disaster Manage-



ment Agency said there were no reports of damage to major public facilities or infrastructure. Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said no abnormalities were found at three nearby nuclear power plants.

Kyodo said a hospital in Yatsushiro city took in about 40 people with injuries and about 50 others were taken to a hospital in Kumamoto city.

Shinkansen bullet trains and local trains in Kyushu were suspended for safety checks, and the runway at Aso Kumamoto Airport was closed, with "no prospect of resuming operations," according to a notice on the airport's website. There were no details.

The Japanese Defense Ministry said

it dispatched aircraft to the area to assess the situation.

A train derailed and fell on its side at Yatsushiro station, and stone walls were damaged at Kumamoto castle, Kyodo said.

"The shaking reminded me of the Kumamoto quake (10 years ago) and I was frightened," said Hiroki Shimoda, an official at Mifune town hall, who saw roof tiles of nearby homes crash to the ground. Kumamoto was hit with a deadly quake in 2016 that left more than 50 people dead.

Shinji Kiyomoto with the Japan Meteorological Agency urged residents to be cautious over the next two to three days. (AP)



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

ANTIGUA
 [currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)
 [curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)
 (268) 736-7165

France orders 4,000 more evacuated as fires displace a third of a million across southwest Europe



French authorities ordered nearly 4,000 more people to evacuate Tuesday from tourist sites on the Atlantic coast as returning heat threatened firefighters' fragile hold on a vast wildfire west of Bordeaux. The blaze in the Gironde region has burned an area four times the size of Paris and forced 220,000 people to evacuate.

Across France and Spain, roughly 330,000 people have been driven from homes and vacation sites by fires of exceptional scale. Spain braced for its fourth heat wave of the summer, with several blazes still out of control, including the largest in its recorded history.

France may never have seen an evacuation on this scale in peacetime. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said Saturday it was "very likely" the largest civilian evacuation operation ever carried out in the country outside war.

Firefighters held the Gironde blaze in check through a calm night, bringing flare-ups near coastal dunes under control and keeping the burned area unchanged at 420 square kilometers (162 square miles).

Authorities called the fire stabilized, not fixed — held for now, but still capable of breaking loose as temperatures rose and humidity fell.

The precautionary evacuation order covered campsites, holiday villages, tourist residences and leisure parks around the resort of Lacanau, Gironde regional authorities said.

"We are at a point of fragility," Eric Brocardi, spokesperson for France's national firefighters federation, told BFMTV on Tuesday. "We will continue attacking this fire despite the forecast rise in temperatures."

Even as homes burned nearby and authorities urged tourists to stay away to avoid risk of death, one family told *Le Parisien* newspaper it had set out rather than forfeit a 4,000-euro holiday, while another group debated abandoning a trip that had cost 650 euros each.

At its most violent, the Gironde blaze built a gargantuan black thundercloud, electrified and lit from within. It generated lightning, violent winds and new fires beyond the original front — the first such storm ever recorded in France.

France's national weather service placed Gironde under a yellow heat warning from midday Tuesday, forecasting inland temperatures of 33 to 35 C (91 to 95 F). Southeast winds were expected across the department, with westerly sea breezes along the coast.

More than 1,160 square kilometers (448 square miles) have burned across France this year, according to the Interior Ministry.

Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent, heating at more than twice the global average, according to the European Union's Copernicus climate service. Western Europe recorded its hottest June on record, with extreme heat and widespread dryness contributing to the spread and intensification of fires in France and Spain, Copernicus said.

Firefighters battling the unpredictable Gironde blaze are scrambling to save homes. In Le Porge alone, west of Bordeaux, the municipal government said about 150 homes were destroyed.

Officials warned that smoldering vegetation, rising temperatures and falling humidity could produce fresh outbreaks along the fire's vast perimeter.

Military engineers and forest-fire prevention crews resumed cutting fire-breaks early Tuesday. Authorities said 103 kilometers (64 miles) had been completed.

Ninety-three firefighters have been injured, the prefecture said.

In Landes, about 15,000 evacuees — half the total — were allowed home after a separate wildfire stopped advancing.

"The fire is fixed, which is good news in Landes," French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday evening. Regional authorities said that meant its advance had been stopped and there were no new fire starts.

Those allowed back included residents of Sanguinet, Parentis-en-Born, Biscarrosse's aviation village and a large campground. Several other neighborhoods remained inaccessible.

Authorities warned that the Landes

International

AROUND THE WORLD

PAGE 37

fire was not extinguished. Residual hot spots, wind and drought could cause flare-ups, and surveillance and damping-down operations were expected to continue for days or possibly weeks.

In Spain, hundreds of firefighters backed by military emergency brigades and water-dropping aircraft continued battling several major wildfires.

Smoke from the fires reached Madrid itself, where residents in central and eastern districts could smell smoke and ash in recent days, emergency services said.

Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said Tuesday that nonstop work through the night left him “reasonably positive,” though officials warned that crews had only a brief window before extreme heat returned.

Spain’s national weather service said the country was bracing for its fourth heat wave of the summer, with temperatures expected to exceed 40 C (104 F) in some areas.

Authorities have evacuated about 79,000 people and ordered another 30,000 to remain in their homes. The government declared a national emergency over the fires.

At least 13 people have died in wildfires in Spain this year, making 2026 one of the country’s deadliest fire seasons in decades.

“I’ve been living in San Martín de Valdeiglesias for 20 years and I never thought I would see this,” said Estella Costales, an evacuated resident staying at a temporary shelter in Brunete, near Madrid. “It’s unfortunate, but I never thought I would see such destruction.”

The greatest concern remained two large fires that had at times come close to merging into a single blaze in wooded hills about an hour’s drive west of Madrid.

A fire in hilly, rural terrain in Ávila, west of Madrid, has become Spain’s largest on record, scorching more than

500 square kilometers (193 square miles), the government said.

Another fire in the eastern province of Castellón also forced mass evacuations.

“Look at how the valley is burned. Look at the houses, the people,” said David Gonzalez, a 48-year-old gardener who used his van to deliver supplies to firefighters in Ávila.

“We are feeling a lot of anger and

helplessness. It’s something inhuman,” he said.

Fires have burned 1,530 square kilometers (590 square miles) this year in Spain, Ecology Minister Sara Aagesen said.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has called for a national pact to fight wildfires, saying climate change is making them worse. (AP)



ACB
CARIBBEAN

MORTGAGES DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU

Home Advantage

- 100% Financing
- No legal or commitment fees
- Up to \$100K Unsecured Credit Card

Call
+1 268-481-4200

Apply online at
acbonline.com

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Sports News

Windies beat Pakistan to take one-nil lead in two-Test series



West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales, right, celebrates with teammate Brandon King after picking up one of his five wickets on the fourth day of the first cricket Test against Pakistan at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. (Getty Images)

The West Indies claimed a memorable 90-run victory over Pakistan on the fourth day of the opening Test at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Tuesday.

Trinidadian fast bowler Jayden Seales, who grabbed five for 20, led a superb all-round bowling display by the West Indies to secure victory and take a one-nil lead in the two-match series.

Defending 211, the West Indies dismissed Pakistan for just 120 in 40.2 overs despite a fighting unbeaten half-century from Babar Azam, who was left not out on 58.

Justin Greaves, who grabbed five for 27 in Pakistan's first innings, finished with two for 12 in the second, while pacer Kemar Roach took two for 27 in support of Seales.

The West Indies, who made 311 in their first innings and gained a 29-run lead after dismissing Pakistan for 282, resumed their second innings on the fourth day on 126 for seven, an overall lead of 155.

Despite losing regular wickets, West Indies found valuable contributions from the lower order. A rapid 50-run eighth-wicket partnership in just 41 balls between Shamar Joseph and Kemar Roach gave the innings late momentum.

Joseph hit an aggressive 30 from 17 balls, Roach got 18, and Jomel Warrican chipped in with 14 to help the West Indies reach 181 all out in 54.5 overs and set Pakistan a challenging victory target of 211.

Fast bowler Muhammad Abbas claimed five for 22, Mohammad Ali took two for 52, and Khurram Shaz-

ad picked up two for 54.

Pakistan's reply began disastrously as the West Indies pace attack struck repeatedly during the opening session.

The tourists limped to 28 for three by lunch, and although Babar Azam attempted to hold the innings together with another composed display, wickets continued to fall at regular intervals.

Pakistan reached 50 in the 18th over, but by the drinks interval they had collapsed to 53 for

six, leaving Babar with little support from the lower order.

The former captain completed a determined half-century from 81 deliveries, striking eight boundaries in a lone battle against an inspired West Indies attack.

Mohammad Abbas also resisted late in the innings, adding 49 runs with Azam for the last wicket, but the target always remained out of reach.

Pakistan reached 114 for nine at tea before the final wicket fell shortly afterwards, ending the innings on 120 in the 41st over.

The West Indies and Pakistan will clash in the second and final Test at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Sunday, August 2.

Antiguans sprinters fail to reach 100m finals at Commonwealth Games

Antigua and Barbuda's sprinters, Cejhae Greene and Geolyna Dowdye, failed in their bids to qualify for their respective 100-meter finals in the track and field competitions at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on Tuesday.

Both Antiguan sprinters bowed out of the competitions after failing to qualify in the semi-finals.

Greene finished sixth among a field of eight competitors in the third and final men's 100-meter semi-finals in a time of 10.19 seconds. The race was won by South Africa's Gift Leotlela in 10.02 seconds.

Edward Nketia of Australia took second place in 10.03 seconds, and Jamaica's Akeem Blake finished third in 10.06 seconds.

Greene advanced to Tuesday's semi-finals by clocking 10.12 seconds to win Heat 6 in the opening round.

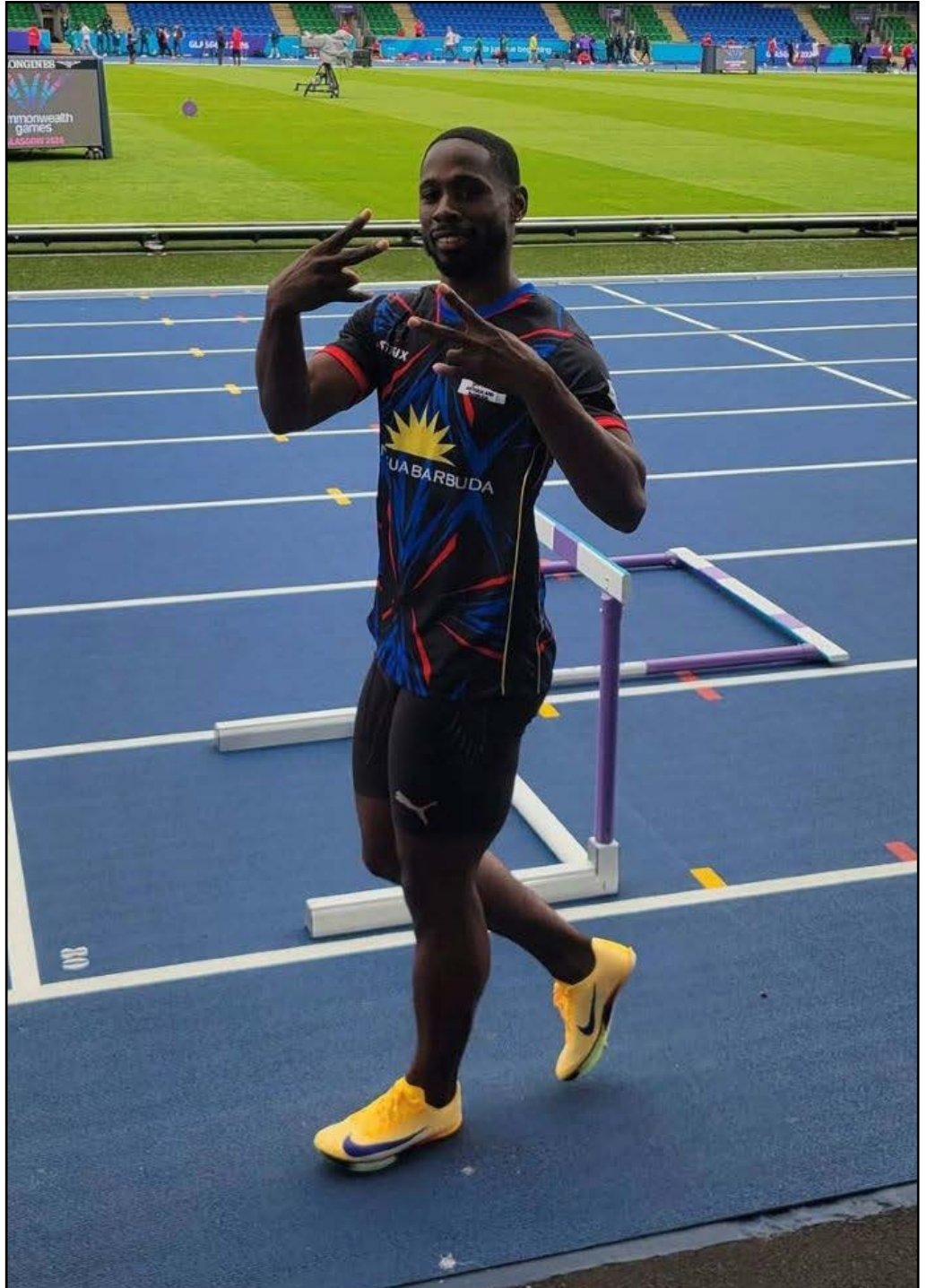
Dowdye finished seventh among a field of eight contenders in the first of three women's 100-meter semi-finals in 11.45 seconds. The race was won by Australia's Torrie Lewis in 11.00 seconds.

Audrey Luduc of Canada took second place in 11.01 seconds, and Jamaica's Jodean Williams finished third in 11.13 seconds.

Dowdye booked her spot into Tuesday's women's 100-meter semi-finals by claiming a second-place finish in Heat 3 of the opening round in a time of 11.28 seconds.

Meanwhile, the Antiguan beach volleyball men's team of Raenor Sharpe and Miguel Pena-Lugo remain winless in their campaign at the current Central American and Caribbean (CAC) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Sharpe and Lugo suffered their second successive loss in Pool D of the beach volleyball competition in a 2-0



Antiguan Sprinter Cejhae Greene

(8-21, 11-21) defeat to the Belizean team of Edward Broaster and Hauze Francis on Monday.

The Antiguan beach volleyballers were beaten 2-1 by Miguel Jahreef and Jerome Morrison of Trinidad and Tobago and lost 2-0 to Rafael Vargas and

Gabriel Vargas of El Salvador in their opening encounter.

Sharpe and Lugo were slated to take on the Cuban team of Damian Gomez and Eblis Veranes in their final Pool D match on Tuesday.

Zidane achieves his 'dream' as he takes charge of France



Zinedine Zidane, newly appointed coach of the France national soccer team, smiles during a media conference at the headquarters of French Football Federation headquarters in Paris, Tuesday, July 28, 2026. (AP)

PARIS (AP) — Moments after being announced as France's new coach on Tuesday, Zinedine Zidane clenched his fists and his usually measured voice trembled a little.

"I'm excited," he said. "The France team makes you dream. We have extraordinary players, an extraordinary team."

Zidane coached Real Madrid until leaving in 2021. He replaces Didier Deschamps at the helm of France team he led to glory as arguably its greatest ever player.

"I've waited five years for this chance, so that's why I'm a bit emotional," said Zidane, adding that it was the happiest day of his career as coach.

"I've always watched this side as a fan and also as a future coach, I won't hide it," Zidane added. "That's why I didn't take a club side. I told myself that the only thing I wanted to do after Madrid was taking the France team."

French Football Federation (FFF) president Philippe Diallo announced Zidane's appointment at the FFF head-

quarters in Paris on Tuesday, saying he has been given a 4-year contract.

Diallo called the hiring of Zidane "an exceptional moment," calling Zidane "one of the legends of French soccer."

The 54-year-old Zidane could have gone to another club after leaving Madrid in 2021. But there was no way he would.

"I had some offers during the five years I was away to take charge of a club," he said. "I turned them all down for the France team. It was the only thing I wanted to do."

Zidane called it "an immense joy" taking charge. "I have so many emotions," he said. "I am ready for the challenge."

Zidane praised Deschamps, who won the 2018 World Cup and stepped down after the recent edition, where Les Bleus lost in the semifinals to Spain.

"I will give everything so that this team can win," Zidane said. "I would also like to congratulate DD (Deschamps) for these remarkable years."

Diallo said he met Zidane for talks in

February, 2025 after Deschamps said he would stand down following the 2026 World Cup. Zidane said France would play differently to how it did under Deschamps.

"What motivates me is the game, I was a No. 10, I like goals," Zidane said. "I was a leader on the field and now I want to be a leader by experience."

His first game will be away to Turkey in the Nations League on September 25, followed by a match in Belgium three days later.

Home fans need to wait until October 2 for a glimpse of Zidane at Stade de France, when France plays Italy, 20 years after he was sent off against Italy in the 2006 World Cup final for head-butting Italy defender Marco Materazzi.

"I've noted all of the four matches to come," Zidane said, tapping his forehead. "Italy is special, because I played there, because I know people, because I speak Italian. All of those things."

Mancini returns to rescue Italy after third straight World Cup miss

MILAN (AP) — Roberto Mancini has once again been tasked with revitalizing an Italy team in crisis, almost exactly three years after he bolted on the national team.

Italian soccer federation president Giovanni Malagò announced Mancini as the new Italy coach on Tuesday, adding that Claudio Ranieri will become the new technical director after Paolo Maldini stepped down the previous day — just 16 days after being appointed.

“Time was running out ... I believed the person who should become the new coach of Italy is Roberto Mancini, for a whole list of reasons,” Malagò said.

The 61-year-old Mancini led the Azzurri to the European Championship title in 2021 but shockingly resigned as Italy coach in August 2023, taking over Saudi Arabia’s national team two weeks later.

The Italian national team is in crisis after failing for a third straight time to qualify for the World Cup, prompting the resignations of FIGC president Gabriele Gravina and coach Gennaro Gattuso in April, shortly after the playoff defeat to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mancini’s first spell as Italy coach came immediately after the team missed out on the 2018 World Cup, having lost to Sweden in a qualifying playoff.

He revived the Azzurri by adding flair and youth to a team that won admirers all over the continent during the year-delayed Euro 2020 — beating England at Wembley Stadium in a penalty shootout for the trophy.



Saudi Arabia’s head coach Roberto Mancini stands for the national anthems ahead of the Asian Cup Group F soccer match between Saudi Arabia and Thailand at Education City Stadium, in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024. (AP)

Mancini’s first spell as Italy coach came immediately after the team missed out on the 2018 World Cup, having lost to Sweden in a qualifying playoff.

He revived the Azzurri by adding flair and youth to a team that won admirers all over the continent during the year-delayed Euro 2020 — beating England at Wembley Stadium in a penalty shootout for the trophy.

Between 2018 and 2021, Mancini coached Italy to a world-record 37-match unbeaten run. However, a 1-0 semifinal playoff loss to 67th-ranked North Macedonia at home in 2022 meant that the Azzurri again missed out on the World Cup.

Mancini nevertheless kept his position before surprisingly quitting in August 2023. He left Saudi Arabia in 2024 and was most recently coach at Al-Sadd in Qatar, before

departing last month. Mancini also previously steered Inter Milan and Manchester City to league titles.

The appointment comes the day after Andrea Pirlo was dropped as the leading candidate for the Italy job amid political concerns over a sponsorship deal with a Russian betting firm.

That led to the departures of Maldini and special adviser Leonardo by what Malagò stressed was “mutual consent.”

Pep Guardiola and Carlo Ancelotti had already turned down offers to coach the Azzurri. Former Italy coach Antonio Conte was also in contention.

Italy next plays in September and October, when it will face Belgium, Turkey, and France in the Nations League.

Second loss for Antiguanans in CONCACAF U-20 Championship



Antigua and Barbuda's right winger **Sadique Adams**, right, dribbles past Guatemala's striker **Oscar de León** during their Group B match in the CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship at the Estadio Cuauhtemoc in Puebla, Mexico, on Monday, July 27, 2026.

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys suffered their second successive loss in the finals of the CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship in Puebla, México, on Monday.

After launching their campaign in Group B of the 12-team competition in a 3-0 defeat to host Mexico on Friday, Antigua and Barbuda crashed to a 4-0 loss to Guatemala in their second encounter at the Estadio Cuauhtemoc in Puebla, Mexico.

Guatemala opened the scoring in the 14th minute as **Oscar de León** finished a cross from **Julio Ramos**. In the 38th minute, the duo linked up again with de León providing the assist for Ramos to give Guatemala a two-nil lead at halftime.

The Guatemalans extended their lead in the 82nd minute when **Marvin Ávila** forced a turnover and connected with **Mayron González**, who had entered the match a minute earlier, to score their third goal of the match.

Ávila delivered his second assist of the match in the 86th minute with a pinpoint cross that **Brayan Guerra** headed home to seal the victory and recorded their first win after suffering a one-nil loss to Costa Rica in their opening encounter.

Their second loss left Antigua and Barbuda at the bottom of the four-team group and has virtually ended the Benna Boys' hopes of advancing to their next phase of the competition.

The young Antiguanans will face Cos-

ta Rica in their third and final Group B match on Thursday. Guatemala will also play their last Group Stage match against Mexico on the same day.

Meanwhile, Mexico cemented their place at the top of Group B by recording their second win of the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship in a pivotal Group B match with a 2-0 victory against **Costa Rica** at the same venue on Monday night.

Costa Rica had a good chance in the 19th minute, but **Matías Cordero**'s attempt from inside the box was denied by Mexico goalkeeper **Sebastian Liceaga**.

The Mexicans took the lead in the 42nd minute through a penalty, which was converted by **Hugo Camberos**.

Liceaga made a crucial intervention to preserve Mexico's lead in the fourth minute of added time in the first half, denying an effort from long range from **Emmanuel Hernández**.

The second half began with Mexico reduced to 10 players in the 51st minute when Liceaga was shown a red card for a foul just outside the penalty area.

But Mexico was able to double their lead in the 59th minute through an own goal by defender **Emmanuel Brenes**.

Leaders Mexico advanced to six points at the top of Group B, while Costa Rica slipped to third place on goal difference behind second-placed Guatemala, as both teams have three points from two matches.

The tournament is a qualifier to the FIFA Under-20 World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan in 2027.