

Antigua and Barbuda and Panama Sign Air Services Agreement

Story on page 2



Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas (right) was joined by two of his Caribbean counterparts in celebrating the award of next year's CWWA conference to Antigua and Barbuda

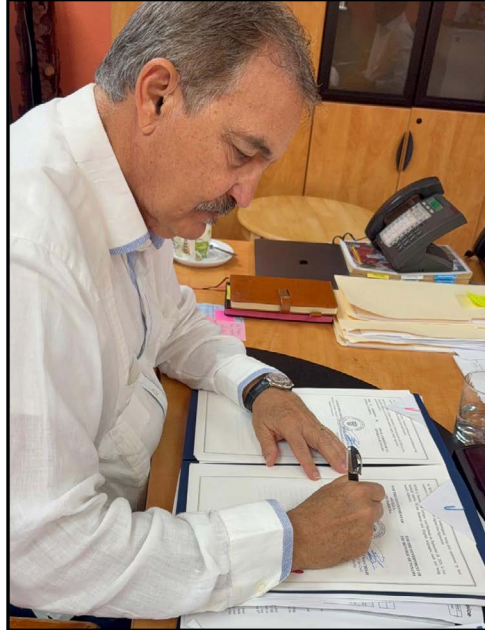
Antigua and Barbuda and Panama Sign Air Services Agreement

Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Panama have signed an air services agreement aimed at expanding and facilitating air travel between and beyond the two countries.

The agreement, concluded through an exchange of Diplomatic Notes between the two countries, was signed by Minister of Tourism, H. Charles "Max" Fernandez and by Rafael Barcenas Chiari, Director General of the Civil Aeronautical Authority of the Republic of Panama.

Under the agreement, airlines from both countries enjoy route rights into each other's territory as well as so-called fifth freedom rights allowing them to transport passengers from third countries enroute to and from both countries.

Speaking following the signing of the agreement, Minister Fernandez noted that the agreement offered important opportunities for Antigua and Barbu-



Minister of Tourism, H. Charles "Max" Fernandez

da airlines, passengers and tourism stakeholders to benefit from the extensive Panama aviation gateway with its

strong levels of connectivity to destinations throughout Central and south America. He pointed to Panama's role as a major commercial, financial and shopping destination and noted the opportunities which this agreement presented for expanding commercial and other relations at a time when traditional trading and commercial markets were experiencing challenges.

Minister Fernandez noted that at the same time the agreement also opened the growing Antigua and Barbuda tourism market to traffic from Panama and neighboring countries, further consolidating Antigua and Barbuda's role as a primary tourism destination and aviation hub in the Eastern Caribbean. Minister Fernandez indicated that at least one Antigua and Barbuda airline had already expressed interest in operating services between Antigua and Barbuda and Panama.

Midweek Deals

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-Burger
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Attorney Slams Police's Treatment of Man who was Reported Missing

Attorney-at-law and former Commissioner of Police Wendel Alexander is blasting the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for their actions in the case of a man who was reported missing.

The communications department of the police force Monday issued a statement seeking the public's assistance in locating 20-year-old Jerad Jonas of Paynters who was last seen at his residence.

But just hours after the bulletin was issued, STRATCOM, without further explanations said Jonas had been found.

The announcement drew a terse response from attorney Wendel Alexander who demanded that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda should issue an apology instead.

Alexander explained that Jonas' father filed the missing person's report, which led law enforcement officers



Attorney-at-law Wendel Alexander

making inquiries at police stations across the island to determine whether the young man was in their custody. It turned out that he was not.

However, it turned out that Jerad Jonas was in police custody and was allegedly deprived of the opportunity to

make contact with his family.

"Everybody said he wasn't in custody, only to discover later that the young man [was] in police custody and was refused a phone call since Sunday afternoon," Wendel Alexander alleged.

"Basic fundamental rights of a phone call and something to eat he was deprived of," the attorney-at-law argued.

Alexander expressed displeasure over what transpired and said to simply state that Jerad Jonas was found is inadequate.

"And now just saying he was found without more, without an apology is very poor police/public relations," he stated.

It is unclear whether Jonas is Alexander's client.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has not responded to the allegation as outlined by Wendel Alexander.



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Governor General Urges Nation to Turn Pride into Purpose

Governor General His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Rodney Williams has called on Antiguan and Barbudans to translate their national pride into meaningful action, stressing that the country's 45th anniversary of Independence must serve as an opportunity to reflect on its progress and renew its commitment to a better future for all.

Delivering remarks during Sunday's 45th Independence Anniversary Church Service held at Precision Centre, Sir Rodney said the national theme, "Renaissance: Rooted in Pride, Bounded by Prosperity for All," was both hopeful and demanding, requiring citizens to examine the direction in which they want the country to go.

"Today is more than a celebration of a date on the calendar. It's a chance to reflect on the direction we want our nation to take," the Governor General said.

He explained that renaissance represented renewal, drawing on the country's strengths and experiences to shape a better future.

"It does not mean returning to the past, but learning from it and making the lessons count," he said.

Sir Rodney noted that being rooted in national values meant standing firmly on principles passed down through generations, including honesty, hard work, learning and bravery.

However, he stressed that national development also required an honest assessment of the country's history, acknowledging achievements while learning from mistakes, correcting injustices and addressing factors that



Governor General His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Rodney Williams

had hindered progress.

The Governor General said genuine national pride should be based on a sense of belonging and should inspire discipline, service and responsibility rather than become an end in itself.

He emphasised that the prosperity envisioned in the Independence theme must extend beyond economic growth to ensure that its benefits reach citizens across all sections of society.

"That means the benefits of growth must be shared in work, in education, in opportunity, and in the dignity afforded every citizen," he said.

Sir Rodney Williams maintained that no community, family or child should

be denied a fair opportunity to build a secure future, underscoring the importance of inclusive development as Antigua and Barbuda continues its national journey.

He said the country's values must be reflected in the decisions and actions of its people and leaders, with truth, excellence and unity serving as guiding principles.

The Governor General urged citizens to choose unity over division and to demonstrate their commitment to the nation through responsible conduct and service to others.

"The lessons we must apply are clear. Persevere honesty, hard work, learning, and unity," he said, calling for past mistakes and injustices to be corrected and national pride to be transformed into practical responsibility.

He also challenged the country to assess its progress by examining whether opportunities and dignity were reaching every community, family and child.

His remarks placed particular emphasis on the need to ensure that the benefits of national development are experienced by ordinary citizens, rather than measured solely by economic indicators or national achievements.

Sir Rodney Williams called for prayer, reflection and thanksgiving to strengthen the nation's resolve and deepen its commitment to the future.

Sunday's church service marked the commencement of a schedule of activities to mark Antigua and Barbuda's 45th anniversary of Independence on 1st November 2026.



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Ukraine presents Order of Merit to Sir Ronald Sanders for defence of sovereignty and international law



Sir Ronald Sanders, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), has been presented with Ukraine's Order of Merit at a ceremony at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC.

The award, conferred by decree of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on 24 August 2025, recognises Sir Ronald's contribution to strengthening interstate cooperation and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Presenting the decoration on behalf of President Zelenskyy, Ukraine's Chargé d'affaires, Denys Sienik, described Sir Ronald as "an outstanding diplomat, a principled statesman, and a true friend of Ukraine".

Mr Sienik credited the Mission of Antigua and Barbuda, under Sir Ronald's leadership, with serving as a principal driving force behind the OAS's consideration of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. He highlighted Sir Ronald's work in initiating diplomatic action, negotiating texts and mobilising support for resolutions and declarations defending Ukraine.

These included the February 2022 declaration condemning the invasion, the March 2022 resolution calling for Russia's immediate military withdrawal, and the April 2022 reso-

lution suspending Russia's status as a Permanent Observer at the OAS. Mr Sienik also recognised Sir Ronald's subsequent advocacy at OAS General Assemblies and his sustained public support through widely published

commentaries.

Accepting the honour, Sir Ronald said he shared it with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, whose support for Ukraine rested on principles essential to the country's own exist-



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tence: sovereignty, territorial integrity and every nation's right to determine its future.

“For Antigua and Barbuda, and for smaller nations everywhere, sovereignty is the freedom to govern ourselves, preserve our identity and decide how our people will live. International law protects that freedom. When it is

violated with impunity in one country, its protection is weakened for all.”

He added: “Ukraine’s people bear the suffering of this war. But the principle they are defending belongs to every nation: our unequal power does not diminish our equal rights.”

Expressing solidarity with Ukrainian families who had lost loved ones or

been displaced, Sir Ronald called for a just and lasting peace that respected Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“They also deserve the support of every nation that believes in justice, international law, democracy and the right of all peoples to live free from threats and coercion,” he said.



Antigua and Barbuda Attends Regional Development Forum in Panama

Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, has departed Antigua and Barbuda to represent the country at the XVIII Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama.

The forum, scheduled for October 20 and 21 and will bring together ministers and senior officials to examine how governments can better coordinate policies to improve lives and respond to economic, social and environmental challenges.

Held under the theme “**Connecting Policies for Resilient Development**,” the gathering will focus on aligning social, economic, productive and environmental policies to accelerate human development, reduce inequalities and strengthen resilience.

Johnson’s participation follows an invitation extended to Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner. The invitation highlighted



Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson

Antigua and Barbuda’s leadership and experience as a valuable contribution to the regional discussions.

The programme will feature four ministerial round tables, giving participat-

ing countries an opportunity to share national initiatives, exchange lessons and explore cooperation on common development challenges.

Discussions will also examine the opportunities and challenges associated with green and digital transitions, strengthening public institutions and productive capacities, and securing financing for more inclusive and sustainable development.

The gathering will coincide with the Seventh Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the meetings provide an opportunity to contribute its perspective to regional policy discussions and learn from approaches being pursued by other countries to support vulnerable communities and build resilience.



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More Than 300 Delegates to Attend 36th Annual Caribbean Water Conference In Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda has been announced as the host country for the 36th Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Conference and Exhibition in 2027, with the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) serving as the local host organisation.

The announcement was made during the annual CWWA Conference and Exhibition currently taking place in Grenada, where Minister responsible for Utilities, Melford Nicholas, is leading a delegation comprising APUA's Chief Executive Officer, John Bradshaw, Water Business Unit Manager, Jason Peters, and other representatives of the Authority.

The 2027 conference is expected to welcome approximately 300 delegates, including regional government ministers, policymakers, utility executives,

water and wastewater professionals, technical experts, and regional and international providers of products, services and technologies.

Speaking on the significance of hosting the conference, Minister Nicholas welcomed the opportunity for Antigua and Barbuda to contribute to regional discussions on water security and sustainable development.

“Across the Caribbean, we face many of the same challenges in securing reliable and sustainable water supplies. This conference provides an important opportunity to share experiences, explore practical solutions and build stronger partnerships. We are pleased to bring this regional gathering to Antigua and Barbuda in 2027, and we look forward to welcoming delegates to our shores while showcasing the very best of what our country has to

offer,” Minister Nicholas stated.

The conference will feature high-level policy discussions, technical presentations, industry exhibitions and networking opportunities, bringing together decision makers and professionals to explore developments and solutions within the water and wastewater sectors.

For Antigua and Barbuda, hosting the event also presents an opportunity to promote the country's tourism offerings, culture and hospitality to a diverse regional and international audience, while providing APUA with a platform to highlight its ongoing investments in water infrastructure and service delivery.

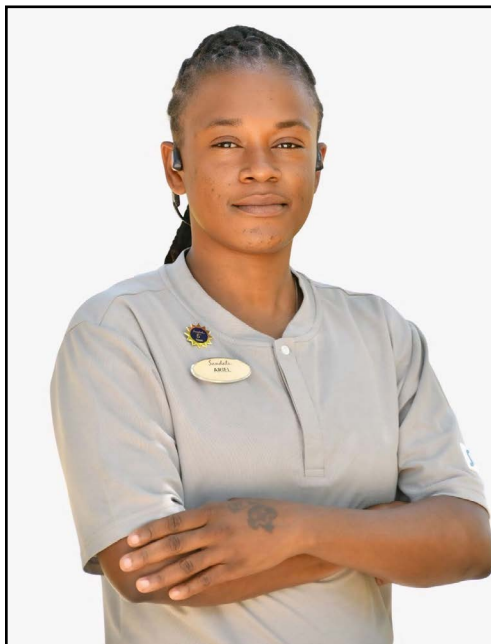
Further details regarding the conference dates, venue and programme will be announced in due course.

Sandals Celebrates Successful Completion of Supervisor's Academic Journey

Sandals Grande Antigua is celebrating another significant academic achievement among its team members, as Engineering and Maintenance Supervisor Ariel Joseph recently completed a Diploma in Executive Hotel Management at Les Roches International School of Hotel Management in Switzerland.

Joseph was awarded a scholarship through Sandals Corporate University (SCU) in 2025, providing her with the opportunity to further develop her leadership and hospitality management expertise at the internationally renowned institution.

Reflecting on the achievement, Joseph said, "receiving the Sandals Corporate University scholarship was an incredible opportunity and completing my studies at Les Roches is a milestone that I am extremely proud of. I am grateful to Sandals for believing in my potential and investing in my professional development. The experience has strengthened my knowledge,



expanded my perspective and motivated me to continue striving for excellence in my career. I sincerely thank the SCU for the support and for giving me the opportunity to grow both professionally and personally."

Joseph's accomplishment is particularly noteworthy as she continues

to establish herself as a rising female leader within the engineering and maintenance department, a traditionally male dominated area within the hospitality industry. Her journey demonstrates the importance of creating opportunities for women to pursue leadership, technical and professional development across every area of resort operations.

Sandals Grande Antigua's Learning and Development Manager Carlene Spencer highlighted the broader value of SCU's investment in team members stating that "Sandals Corporate University is a testament to our commitment to investing in our people. We believe that education and continuous professional development are essential to building confident, capable leaders who can contribute meaningfully to the future of our industry. Ariel's achievement is a primary example of what can happen when talent is supported with opportunity and we are extremely proud of her accomplishment."



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Young Readers Shine at St. Philip South Reading Competition

Ten young readers from communities across the St. Philip South Constituency took the stage at Freetown Primary School for the St. Philip South Reading Competition.

The competition featured three age categories: 6–8, 9–11 and 12–14. The winners were:

Ages 6–8: Z' Mar Massicot

Ages 9–11: Kyjah Grayman

Ages 12–14: Jahrell Joseph

Kyjah Grayman was also named the competition's Overall Reader.

Parents and supporters filled the room, cheering on the children as they demonstrated their reading skills. The competition forms part of MP Kiz Johnson's ongoing efforts to empower and encourage young people in her constituency through education.

“This initiative was also designed to bring parents closer to their children as they helped them to practice and encouraged them to be their best for this competition,” MP Johnson said. “It was also about helping the children to overcome their fears and build resilience.”

MP Johnson intends to make the reading competition an annual event.



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PUBLIC NOTICE | CHOGM 2026 TOWN HALL MEETING

The public is invited to attend an important town hall meeting on the logistical and security arrangements for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2026).

The meeting will feature the Hon. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency, Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner to the UK, and other representatives including Security, who will provide information on traffic management, public access, transportation, security measures and other matters affecting residents and businesses.

Wednesday, 21st October, 2026 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

John E. St. Luce Conference Centre

Residents, business owners and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend, ask questions and receive information directly from the relevant authorities.

An informed public is a prepared public.

#CHOGM2026 #AntiguaAndBarbuda



WEDNESDAY
21ST
OCTOBER
6 PM - 8 PM

Heads of Government Meeting

LIVE 

CHOGM
 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

TOWNHALL MEETING

 **JOHN E. ST. LUCE FINANCE AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

PANELISTS

Hon. E.P Chet Greene - Minister of Foreign Affairs
Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill - High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the UK
Superintendent Rodney Ellis - Head of Traffic RPFAB
Superintendent Elson Quammie - Head of Major Events RPFAB


 Scan to Follow the CHOGM Journey

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Is This the End of West Indies Cricket?

Financial instability, job cuts and shrinking opportunities threaten more than a cricket team. They threaten one of the Caribbean's most treasured institutions.

There was a time when West Indies cricket commanded respect across the sporting world. The maroon cap symbolised excellence, fearlessness and Caribbean unity. From Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Clive Lloyd to Sir Vivian Richards and Brian Lara, our cricketers proved that a region of small islands could conquer the world.

Today, an uncomfortable question confronts us: **Is this the end of West Indies cricket as we once knew it?**

The concern extends beyond disappointing performances on the field. Cricket West Indies (CWI) is grappling with financial difficulties that have resulted in reduced player contracts, shorter employment periods for domestic cricketers, suspended regional competitions and reviews of staffing costs.

These developments raise serious questions about the organisation's financial management, its priorities and its ability to protect the future of the game.

A Financial Crisis with Far-Reaching Consequences

The reported financial measures announced by CWI in September 2026 include a 25 per cent reduction in international players' retainer fees and a shortening of domestic players' contracts from 12 months to seven months. The men's Super50 tournament and women's T20 Blaze have also been suspended.

These are not merely budgetary adjustments. They affect livelihoods, career stability and the development of future talent.

Professional cricketers have families to support and financial commitments to meet. Reducing their earnings while shortening domestic contracts creates uncertainty for players who dedicate



years to developing their craft.

West Indies white-ball captain Shai Hope has also highlighted the importance of players being able to provide for their families.

If representing the West Indies becomes increasingly difficult to reconcile with financial security, we must consider the implications for retaining talent and attracting young people to the professional game.

The situation is further complicated by proposed staffing reductions and other cost-saving measures. Employees who help administer and sustain cricket across the region also face uncertainty.

When an organisation must reduce players' earnings, shorten contracts and reconsider its workforce, the problem demands more than temporary cost-cutting. It demands a serious examination of the business model itself.

Can Cost-Cutting Save the Game?

CWI has acknowledged that its operating model is unsustainable and that spending must be restructured. The organisation has also secured approval for a US\$16 million loan facility from the International Cricket Council, subject to applicable conditions and repayment obligations.

The loan may provide short-term relief, but borrowing is not a substitute for sustainable revenue generation.

CWI must explain how it reached this position and what measures will prevent a recurrence. Its recovery strategy should examine expenditure, commercial partnerships, sponsorship, broadcasting revenue, travel costs and administrative efficiency.

There is also a fundamental question of priorities: **Are the savings being achieved today worth the potential damage to the game tomorrow?**

Financial discipline is necessary, but cutting expenditure without protecting cricket's development infrastructure risks weakening the very product CWI must sustain.

The objective should not simply be to spend less. It should be to generate more sustainable revenue, eliminate inefficiencies and direct available resources towards activities that strengthen the game.

Domestic Cricket Cannot Become Collateral Damage

The suspension of regional competitions is particularly troubling.

The Super50 and women's T20 Blaze provide important opportunities for players to develop, demonstrate their abilities and compete for national selection. Removing these platforms

may offer immediate savings, but it also reduces playing opportunities and weakens the pathway to international cricket.

Young cricketers need regular competition to improve. Women's cricket requires consistent investment to expand its reach and competitiveness. Coaches and selectors need functioning domestic structures to identify emerging talent.

There is a real danger of creating a damaging cycle: financial difficulties reduce development opportunities, weaker development affects performance, and declining performance makes the game harder to market.

We cannot expect international teams to improve consistently while undermining the competitions that produce their players.

CWI must therefore demonstrate how its cost-cutting programme will protect domestic development and ensure that suspended competitions do not become a permanent feature of regional cricket.

Accountability Must Accompany Reform

The financial crisis demands honest reflection from CWI and its stakeholders.

How did the organisation reach a point where reductions in remuneration and the suspension of competitions became necessary? Were opportunities to diversify revenue and strengthen commercial partnerships fully explored? What measurable targets will demonstrate that the restructuring is working?

These questions are not about assigning blame for its own sake. They are about restoring confidence and ensuring that the same difficulties do not continue to threaten the sport.

CWI should provide transparent financial reporting and regular updates on its recovery plan. Any staffing review should focus on genuine efficiencies while preserving the essential expertise needed to administer and develop cricket.

Players, national associations, em-

ployees and supporters deserve clarity about the organisation's direction.

Accountability must be measured not only by how much money is saved, but also by whether the game emerges stronger and more sustainable.

Rebuilding Cricket Requires Regional Commitment

Cricket West Indies cannot resolve this crisis alone, but it must lead the recovery.

Caribbean governments should work with national cricket associations to strengthen school competitions, improve facilities and establish clear pathways from grassroots participation to professional cricket.

The private sector must look beyond sponsorship of major international matches and consider supporting youth development, women's cricket, coaching programmes and regional academies. Former players can contribute through mentorship, while communities must continue nurturing young talent.

The region should also explore practical ways to reduce travel and accommodation costs, which are significant challenges for a sport spread across multiple islands.

Public support, where appropriate, must be tied to transparent governance, measurable objectives and demonstrable results. Emergency interventions cannot replace a sustainable financial strategy.

We Cannot Live on Past Glory

Our cricketing legends earned their place in history, but nostalgia will not solve today's financial problems.

The next Sir Vivian Richards may be playing on a village field. The next great West Indies fast bowler may be competing in a school tournament. The next generation of women cricketers may be waiting for opportunities that our existing structures must provide.

Their prospects depend on the decisions being made now.

We must stop celebrating our past while neglecting the foundations of

our future. The maroon cap must remain a credible aspiration for young Caribbean people, not merely a symbol of an era they hear about from their parents and grandparents.

The Maroon Cap Must Live On

Is this the end of West Indies cricket?

Not necessarily. But hope alone will not reverse financial instability, restore player confidence or rebuild regional competitions.

The present crisis should serve as a turning point. CWI must establish a credible recovery plan that balances financial responsibility with player welfare, domestic competition and long-term development.

Governments, businesses, national boards, former players and supporters must also recognise their role in preserving the game. West Indies cricket is more than a sporting enterprise. It is part of our shared Caribbean identity and a source of opportunity for generations of young people.

We cannot demand better performances while ignoring the structures required to produce them. Nor can we expect players to carry the burden of financial recovery without a clear explanation of how the organisation intends to secure its future.

The end of West Indies cricket is not inevitable. But allowing financial instability to erode player security, competitive opportunities and public confidence would place its future at serious risk.

The question is no longer simply whether West Indies can win another series. It is whether we have the leadership, accountability and collective will to protect an institution that once united the Caribbean and inspired the world.

The maroon cap must never become merely a reminder of what we once were. We owe the next generation the opportunity to wear it with pride—and to build a new era of West Indies cricket worthy of its extraordinary history.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

SPECIAL DRILLS AND CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER 2026



SIR VIVIAN
RICHARDS
STADIUM



8:30 AM



NATIONAL
EVENTS
DEPARTMENT
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



MINISTRY OF
SPORTS &
CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

18

OCTOBER

Independence Church Service

Precision Center

4:00 PM

THURSDAY

22

OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

8:30 AM

SUNDAY

25

OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

10:00 AM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

6:00 PM

MONDAY

26

OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

10:00 AM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26

Ends: October 29

TUESDAY

27

OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School

8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

28

OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY

29

OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities**Evening of Theatre**

St. Anthony's Secondary School

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

30

OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley

8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY

1

NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony

Barbuda

7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

5:45 PM



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Regional News

Jamaicans, Haitian among 16 charged with US election offences

Two Jamaican men and a Haitian are among 16 immigrants charged in the United States with election-related offences, including illegally voting in federal elections and falsely claiming US citizenship.

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) said the charges, announced on Friday, involve immigrants in North Carolina, New York and Idaho, including lawful permanent residents and an undocumented immigrant.

Jamaican Lawton Caswell McKenzie, 46, a lawful permanent resident, faces charges of falsely claiming US citizenship and voting illegally. Prosecutors allege that he registered to vote in 2007 and 2012 and cast ballots in the 2012, 2020 and 2024 general elections.

Another Jamaican, Mervin Sylvester Bogle, 60, also a lawful permanent resident, is charged with falsely claiming citizenship to vote.

According to the DOJ, Bogle registered in 2024 and completed a ballot in that year's general election. He is also accused of voting in the 2008 and 2012 elections.

Haitian Lionel Paul, 62, a lawful permanent resident, faces charges of falsely claiming citizenship and voting illegally after allegedly registering and casting a ballot in the 2024 general election.

The other defendants include nationals of El Salvador, Bosnia, Germany, Panama, Britain and Canada, among other countries.

Meanwhile, US immigration authorities have announced a separate charge against Bahamian national Terrance Patrick Evans, 37, a lawful permanent resident living in Ocala, Florida.

Evans is accused of voting in the 2024 federal election despite knowing he was not a US citizen.

The charge followed an investigation involving Homeland Security Investigations, Florida election authorities



and the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections.

If convicted, Evans faces a maximum sentence of one year in federal prison.

The announcements come ahead of the November 3 midterm elections,

with federal authorities maintaining that efforts to prosecute alleged illegal voting are aimed at protecting election integrity. (CMC)

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Regional News

PAGE 19

PAHO calls for stronger regional role in global health reforms



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is calling for greater involvement of countries and regional institutions in reshaping the global health system amid tightening financial resources and concerns over fragmented health services.

PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, addressing the World Health Summit 2026 in Berlin, said clearer responsibilities at national, regional and global levels could reduce duplication and improve the use of limited resources.

“As the global health architecture evolves, regional institutions must have a stronger voice in shaping decisions, not only in implementing them,” Barbosa said.

“Country ownership, regional leadership and effective partnerships are essential to building a more inclusive, responsive and sustainable global health system.”

His comments come as World Health Organization (WHO) member states and international partners review how global health cooperation is governed, financed and delivered, with recommendations expected to go before the World Health Assembly in 2027.

Barbosa highlighted PAHO’s more than 120 years of regional cooperation, citing joint procurement, prima-

ry healthcare, disease elimination and health innovation as examples of successful collaboration.

He said countries must lead their own health priorities, while regional institutions should adapt global policies to local realities and international bodies provide standards and technical guidance.

The PAHO director also stressed the importance of sustainable financing, noting that most countries in the Americas, including the Caribbean, are middle-income nations that rely heavily on domestic resources to fund healthcare.

He said better coordination of national funding, development assistance and international cooperation could help countries achieve improved health outcomes.

During the summit, Barbosa also held discussions with international partners on pandemic preparedness, dengue, noncommunicable diseases, mental health, artificial intelligence and digital healthcare.

“The future of global health must be built on health sovereignty, country ownership and regional solidarity,” he said. (CMC)



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Regional News



MP wants livestreaming of MV Barima COI hearing

Member of Parliament and Leader of the Forward Guyana Movement, Amanza Walton, has issued a formal appeal to the Chairman and Members of the Commission of Inquiry into the capsizing and sinking of the M/V Barima, calling on the panel to immediately reverse its decision prohibiting the livestreaming of public hearings at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

In a letter addressed to the Commission, Walton argued that restricting proceedings to physical attendees severely disadvantages the families of victims, many of whom reside in remote Region One communities such as Port Kaituma and Mabaruma, as well as the wider Guyanese public and diaspora.

“While the Commission has opened its proceedings to members of the public who wish to attend, public access must be practical and not merely theoretical,” Walton stated. “Many of the families directly affected reside in Region One. For them, attendance involves considerable travel, accommodation expenses, lost earnings, and disruption to family life... No family should be forced to choose between its livelihood and hearing how its loved ones died.”

The Parliamentarian emphasized that livestreaming would disclose no testimony that a citizen seated inside the hearing room cannot already hear. She noted that relying solely on physical attendance risks reinforcing public suspicion and undermining trust in the inquiry’s transparency.

To demonstrate feasibility within the region, Walton-Desir pointed to the recent maritime Commission of Inquiry



in Saint Lucia regarding the fatal Anse Cochon collision, which made its proceedings accessible online. She sug-

gested that the Commission could implement standard safeguards, such as a short broadcast delay or temporary suspension of transmission for sensitive testimony, rather than enforcing an outright prohibition on broadcasting.

“The families of the MV Barima have already paid a price no family should ever pay,” Walton-Desir wrote. “They should not be made to pay again simply to hear the truth.” The Commission of Inquiry, convened to investigate the fatal maritime disaster, is currently conducting its sessions at Liliendaal, East Coast Demerara. The panel has not yet issued an official response to the letter. (Kaieteur News)

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Trump endorses embattled Netanyahu for re-election



United States President Donald Trump on Sunday endorsed embattled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu late in his re-election campaign, a coveted boost because of Trump's popularity but one that the American had withheld for months as the vote neared and the leaders' strategies in the Middle East diverged.

Trump said in a post on social media that Netanyahu "has been a Great Warrior Prime Minister, and an even greater Partner for Peace in combatting the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Israelis are set to vote October 27, in the first national elections since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023.

The absence of an endorsement was a setback for the Likud politician, who had billed his tight ties to the Republican president as a selling point for staying in power.

"Thank you, President Trump, for the tremendous support and work together," Netanyahu said in a statement in Hebrew posted on X. "Together we

will complete the mission!"

His Likud Party attached to the statement a 35-second video showing clips of the two leaders together and Trump praising Netanyahu.

It was not immediately clear what impact the endorsement would have on what is expected to be a tight race. Trump is still popular in Israel, but many Israelis, including leading commentators, have expressed disappointment over the inconclusive outcome of the Iran war and Trump's ceasefire proposal, which fell short of many of the countries' key goals when they jointly launched the war in February.

In his post, Trump again threatened to "soon finish the job" against Iran "unless they change their ways, rapidly," but added he might not want to if Netanyahu loses the election. "If Israel has the wrong Leader, which would be anyone other than Bibi, America will have to do this work ourselves, and I am not inclined to do so," Trump said.

He said Netanyahu had been "Strong,

Brave, and Brilliant in the face of tremendous opposition, including that coming from even Israel, itself."

Trump's comments about Netanyahu in recent months had been much more subdued, and he repeatedly demurred when asking if he would back the prime minister. The president, when asked in a Time magazine interview published this month about backing the Israeli leader, said, "I'm not involved in politics anymore," despite his campaigning for and endorsing US politicians.

Trump, especially in his second term, has sought to give his stamp of approval to candidates in foreign elections and claimed credit when they have been successful. He endorsed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in his unsuccessful bid for a fifth term, as well as Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Polish President Karol Nawrocki, and several Latin American leaders. (AP)

Police arrest 1,800 after violent clashes and looting mar protests

Police arrested at least 1,800 people across France after violent groups clashed with officers and looted shops during nationwide demonstrations that drew hundreds of thousands who denounced rising living costs and poor conditions in schools.

Authorities said masked groups on Saturday set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities.

In Limoges, a city in central France, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall, causing its roof to collapse. Haute-Vienne prefect Maurice Barate told LCI television that the fire was deliberately set and nearly destroyed the building. The fire was under control Sunday.

French President Emmanuel Macron will hold an emergency meeting with top government officials on Sunday afternoon, before addressing the nation at 8 p.m., according to his office.

“The right to protest is a fundamental right. Deliberately and collectively sowing disorder through violence is not,” Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez wrote on X, pointing to the looting of hundreds of businesses in many cities, including Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux.

About 550,000 people took part in protests across France, according to authorities, while organisers counted about 800,000. More than 500 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters were injured, Nuñez said.

One person died of a heart attack, Paris police said in a statement without providing details. The Paris prosecutor’s office said it was investigating.

Around Paris’ Place de la République on Sunday morning, dislodged cobblestones, shattered storefronts



and broken glass marked the aftermath of the events. Looting and damage were reported around the square and in some other tourist and shopping areas in the city centre.

Paris police said Sunday that 855 people were arrested in the French capital region alone. The Paris prosecutor’s office said that 557 of them were kept in police custody.

“I am actually stunned by the level of destruction and violence that was expressed,” Marie Peyreigne, a 57-year-old government employee, said, wondering what led to the mayhem.

Inspecting the damage, many Parisians took photos of the partially dismantled base of the central monument at Place de la République, a statue of Marianne, a symbol of France.

Jean Foissy, 74, said he wanted to join the protest but found “a wall of riot police and fires everywhere”, and went back home.

“I was very scared,” he said. “I’ve been a Parisian since I was born. So,

when I got here, it almost made me want to cry because, I find it so bad, it hurts me.”

Margaux Eude, 26, said she supports the protest movement but “didn’t think it would escalate like this”.

“It’s the troublemakers who came, and it breaks my heart because it delegitimises the movement,” she said.

Political leaders across the spectrum sought to parlay the fallout of Saturday’s riots into political capital, looking ahead to next spring’s presidential election.

Far-right leader and presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen lashed out at far-left rival Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who joined the Paris march. “Looting, ransacking, destroying and attacking law enforcement: Rioters have again spoiled the October 17 demonstrations for the protection of purchasing power,” Le Pen wrote on X.

Her running mate, Jordan Bardella, said on X that “if the silent majority

of French decide it, we will re-establish order for the long term”.

Mélenchon, for his part, traded barbs with the prime minister, accusing Lecornu of “playing with fire” and alleging that “by banking on degradation, you have only succeeded in uniting all youths and workers’ unions”.

Mélenchon insisted that “my message is clear: those who share our fight have no business in looting or destruction”.

US President Donald Trump posted “France is burning!” on his Truth Social platform, apparently linking the unrest to “the immigration of people from an entirely different world”.

“Close your Borders and take control, before it is too late!” he wrote.

French authorities and police have not linked immigrants to the rioting, and have repeatedly attributed some of the violence to “radical far-left groups” and other people who joined to loot.

“The scale of the damage is considerable and unprecedented,” Grégoire wrote in an open letter. “Paris is a city of freedoms, debate and demonstrations. It must remain so. But it must also be a city where everyone can work and run a business safely.”

Police said groups of hundreds of people formed unauthorised marches across central Paris on Saturday.

“By late afternoon, a new phase began with the arrival of large numbers of people whose sole aim was to steal and loot, taking advantage of the unrest,” police said.

The mayors of Paris, Marseille and Lyon, the three largest cities, requested a meeting with the prime minister in the coming days “given the extent of the damage and the seriousness of the situation”.

In the southern port city of Marseille, some protesters briefly forced their way into the lobby of City Hall and a group of people wearing hoods and masks damaged a police station. In Lyon, a fire broke out inside a tourist office. (AP)

Catholic priest killed by falling cross during Mass

A Roman Catholic priest celebrating an evening Mass in southwestern Ecuador has died after a crucifix fell on him during the livestreamed service.

The Archdiocese of Guayaquil, a coastal city 265 kilometres (164 miles) southwest of the capital, Quito, identified the priest as Patricio Sánchez of Perpetuo Socorro Church.

Footage of the service on Saturday night shows a heavy crucifix detaching from the wall above the altar and striking Sánchez on the head as he celebrated Mass. He did not appear to see it falling.

Worshippers cried for help as the social media broadcast continued.

Local authorities have not commented on the incident.

Sánchez belonged to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, a Roman Catholic religious order founded in 1732 with a presence in 80 countries. (Jamaica Gleaner)





A vibrant poster for the Antigua Carnival 70th Anniversary. The background features a collage of images showing carnival dancers in elaborate, colorful costumes with large feathered headdresses. The dancers are smiling and holding microphones, suggesting a lively performance. The overall color palette is bright and festive, with a mix of purple, pink, yellow, and blue. The text is prominently displayed in the lower half of the poster.

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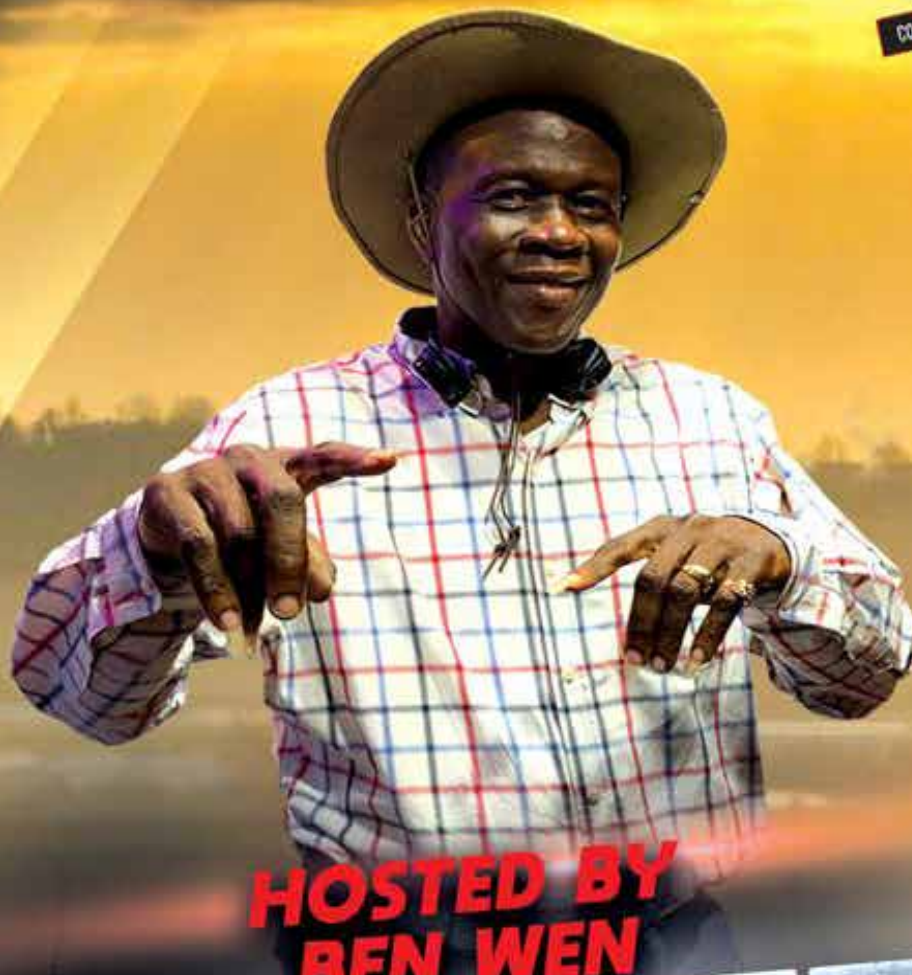
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Sports News

ECAB and APUA maintains winning starts in business volleyball league



The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank volleyball team

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) and APUA Inet have maintained their successful start in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

ECAB, which finished in the runners-up position in the business volleyball league for the past three successive years, claimed their third win with a 2-1 victory over Sandals at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

It was the second loss in three games for Sandals, who took the opening set 25-21. ECAB secured victory by winning the next two sets, 25-20, 15-10.

APUA Inet, which won back-to-

back championships in 2022 and 2023, also notched up their third consecutive win by pulling off a 2-1 victory over the Media.

After losing the opening set 23-25, APUA Inet bounced back to take the other two sets, 27-25, 15-11, to win the keenly contested affair in the mixed-team competition. It was the second loss in three matches for the Media.

Nate's Photography also maintained their unbeaten start, securing their third win in as many games with a 2-1 victory over the University of the West Indies (UWI).

The UWI lost for the second time in three games despite winning the opening set 25-22. Nate's Photography hit back to win

the match by taking the next two sets, 25-21, 15-9.

Nate's Photography recorded their second win with a 2-0 straight-set victory against Zamine Enterprises.

Nate's Photography took just 38 minutes to complete their 25-14, 25-15 victory over Zamine Enterprises, who slumped to their third loss in as many games.

The Royalton rebounded from losing their two previous matches to claim their first win with a 2-1 victory over 77 Bus

Service, which lost for the second time in as many games.

After losing the opening set 23-25 to 77 Bus Service, the Royalton recovered to clinch the match by taking the next two sets, 25-7 and 15-12.

Sandals also recovered from losing the opening set to clinch a 2-1 victory over the University of the West Indies (UWI), which lost for the first time after winning their opening game against the Media.

After losing the opening set 22-25, Sandals hit back to win the match by taking the other two sets, 25-20, 15-8. It was the first victory for Sandals after losing their opening encounter to APUA Inet.



COOL & SMOOTH SECONDARY SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2026

Wins for AGS and JSS in school boys under-14 league

Last season's second-place finishers, Antigua Grammar School (AGS), and Jennings Secondary School (JSS) both recorded their second win in the Boys Under-14 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Saturday.

Tamarey Henry struck a hat trick as the Antigua Grammar Schools kept their unbeaten start intact, claiming their second win in three encounters by surging to a 3-0 victory over Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS) in the last of four matches at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Henry had conversions in the second, 12th, and 39th minutes for AGS, as Irene B. Williams Secondary slumped to their third loss in as many games.

Jennings Secondary School also extended their unbeaten start, recording their second win in three matches by snatching a one-nil victory against St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS).

AJ Kirwan scored the only goal of the match with a strike in the 18th minute to secure victory for JSS, as St. Mary's Secondary School lost for the second time in three matches.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) also remains unbeaten after three games. After winning their opening match, SNRA drew for the second time in succession by salvaging a 1-1 draw with the All Saints Secondary School (ASSS).

Karique Martin put SNRA ahead with a 25th-minute conversion, and Ojay

Polimis snatched the equalizer with a strike in the 41st minute for All Saints Secondary School to salvage the draw after winning their opening encounter.

Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) maintained their unbeaten start, drawing for the second time in three matches with a 1-1 draw against Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS).

Ottos Comprehensive School took the lead in the fourth minute via an own goal, but Zadeak Telemaque came to Clare Hall Secondary's rescue by scoring an equalizer in the 12th minute to salvage the draw.

The result allows the Ottos Comprehensive School to pick their first point after losing their previous two matches by default.



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Sports News



Wings football makes financial donation to mother battling cancer



Kemari Benjamin, left, accepts the gift from Chairperson of the CPTSA Wings Football Unit Barbara Coates on behalf of his mother Kevina, who is currently hospitalised. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings)

The football division of the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club donated \$800.00 to assist Kevina

Fiedtkou, a 35-year-old mother of four battling cervical cancer.

From her treatment, funds have been depleted. Kevina and her family are facing mounting emotional and financial challenges. The donation, which was made on Saturday, October 17, is intended to provide temporary financial relief as she continues her fight for recovery.

“From the bottom of my heart, thank you,” Kevina said, expressing gratitude for the support.

Persons wishing to contribute can do so via her Facebook GoFundMe, Kevina Fiedtkou Cancer Treatment.

Chairperson of the football division Barbara Coates said the donation reflects CPTSA Wings’ commitment to supporting its members beyond the playing field.

“At Wings, we understand that illness affects families physically, emotionally, and financially. We wanted to support our soccer mom as she continues her treatment and recovery,” Coates said.

The contribution underscores the spirit of unity and compassion within the CPTSA Wings family, reminding Kevina and her loved ones that they are not alone in this fight.

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Westham opens new season with promotion ambitions and community focus

The Point Westham FC opens its campaign in the 2026/2027 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division campaign with a 4-0 win against Glanvilles FC at Golden Grove on Thursday, October 15, with its sights firmly set on promotion contention.

The Point-based club enters the season optimistic about its prospects, with preparations well underway and the possibility of further strengthening its squad through key acquisitions pending a final ruling from the ABFA.

While promotion remains a central objective, Point Westham FC is also placing renewed emphasis on its community responsibilities, with plans to reintroduce a community-based youth football initiative to nurture young talent and strengthen the historic relationship between the club and the people of Point.

The club will also pursue a broader health and wellness agenda in collaboration with its primary corporate partner, the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, promoting healthier lifestyles through sports and community engagement.

Speaking about his involvement with the club, Coach Warren Ollivierre



underscored the importance of developing character alongside footballing ability.

"My goal is to help our players become better persons and ultimately better athletes through disciplined training. Equally important is recreating the connection between the club and the community of Point, which the team represents," he said.

Also returning to Point Westham FC after a prolonged absence is Petra Williams, who previously served as the club's general secretary and youth programme manager.

Williams returns as team manager,

bringing her experience in club administration, youth development and sports management to support the team's ambitions for the 2026/2027 season.

Her return also reflects the club's renewed commitment to strengthening its organisational structure, rebuilding community connections and creating opportunities for the current and next generation of footballers.

For Point Westham FC, the season represents more than a promotion campaign. It is a chance to reconnect with its roots, develop young people through sport, and reinforce the club's role as a positive force in the community.

The club is therefore issuing a rallying call to the people of Point, Villa and surrounding communities, former players, families, football enthusiasts and loyal supporters to come out, wear their maroon, bring their energy and stand behind Point Westham FC.

During the journey, the Point Westham FC believes every voice on the sidelines, every word of encouragement, and every show of support will help fuel the team's determination to make this a season one to remember.



Grenades maintain winning start in defense of Premier League title



Players of the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades football team.

Cup-holders Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades continued their successful start in defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Sunday.

After launching their title defense with a 3-0 victory over promoted Freemans Village Scorpions, the Jennings Grenades notched up their second win with a 4-1 victory over promoted Greenbay Hoppers during a Premier League double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

The Grenades were able to win the match after falling behind in the 23rd minute via a conversion by Javorn Stevens that gave the Greenbay Hoppers a one-nil lead.

Obafemi Poyotte snatched the equalizer for Jennings Grenades by scoring the first of two goals in the 29th minute.

Eugene Kirwan scored in the 39th

minute, and Barrington Blake produced a 42nd-minute conversion to give the Grenades a 3-1 lead at half-time.

Poyotte scored his second goal of the match in the 66th minute to wrap up victory for the Jennings Grenades.

It was the first defeat for the Greenbay Hoppers, who marked their return to the nation's top domestic league by snatching a 2-1 victory over former champions All Saints United in their opening encounter.

The Greenbay Hoppers were promoted to the nation's top domestic league by winning the First Division title last season after being relegated from the Premier Division in the 2024-25 domestic season.

Auto Craze Pigotts Bullets claimed their first win in two matches by surging to a 3-0 victory over Old Road FC in the second game of Sunday's double-header.

A 20th-minute conversion by Akeem Isaac gave Pigotts Bullets a one-nil lead at halftime despite being reduced to 10 men with the expulsion of Cardel Roberts, who received a red card in the 28th minute.

Raheem Deterville doubled the lead for the Pigotts Bullets with a 55th-minute conversion.

Rakeem Joseph squandered a good chance to reduce the deficit for Old Road FC when he failed to convert a penalty kick in the 75th minute.

Tyrique Thwaites wrapped up victory for the Pigotts Bullets, scoring his team's third and final goal with a strike in the fifth minute of added time.

The Pigotts Bullets suffered a 2-1 loss to Garden Stars in their opening game, while it was the second defeat in as many matches for Old Road FC, who lost 4-1 against the Potters Tigers in their first encounter.