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Tragedy Strikes As Two People Are Killed In Traffic Accident

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Pictorial highlights of Sunday's Independence Ceremonial Parade

Tragedy Strikes As Two People Are Killed In Traffic Accident

A traffic accident on the Pares Main Road on Monday night has claimed the lives of two persons, including a young child.

Reports are still sketchy but speeding may have been a factor in the accident. It is alleged that the child may have been thrown from the motor vehicle in which she was traveling after it crashed into a concrete wall. There were four persons traveling in the vehicle at the time of the accident; an adult male, an adult female and two children.

The driver of the motor vehicle, the male, is believed to have been the second fatality. The second child and the adult female reported survived the crash and are hospitalized.

The sad news comes amongst the national celebration of Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.





CHOGM-26 Is Off to A Grand Start in Antigua and Barbuda



More than thirteen thousand persons have registered for the 4-day Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which Antigua and Barbuda is hosting for the first time and which has already surpassed all expectations.

Kicking off on Sunday morning with an Inter-Faith Service at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on the Lauchland Benjamin Drive attended by Their Majesties, King Charles 3rd and Queen Camilla along with the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Hon. Maria Browne, Commonwealth Envoy, Sir Vivian Richards, Commonwealth Secretary General, Shirley Botchwey and a host of heads of government and other heads of delegations, specially invested guests, delegates and the media, the event marked a fitting start for CHOGM-26.



Special prayers were offered by the leaders of the members churches of the Antigua and Barbuda Christian Council; the Moravian Church, the Roman Catholic, the Methodist and the Salvation Army while the service was officiated by the Anglican Church.

Following the church service, there were a series of planned meetings throughout the day that culminated in the evening with the official Independence Ceremonial Parade held at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium where thousands of Antiguans and Barbudans joined in celebrating the country's 45 anniversary of Political Independence.

Among the highlights of the evening was the sight of King Charles taking the salute from the uniformed bodies led by the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. King Charles even withstood being wet by a passing shower of rain.







Sports and entertainment dominated the rest of the evening with two cricket matches...a fun game between Caribbean Heads versus a combined Commonwealth team of non-Caribbean leaders. A second match pitched an Under-23 team from the Caribbean versus a team of similar stars from the wider Commonwealth.

On Monday morning, the SJPC was again the focus of attention for the joint opening of the Forums; the Business Forum, the Youth Forum, the People's Forum and the Women's Forum. Chaired by Minister of State Kiz Johnson who delivered the welcome remarks, other speakers included Prime Minister Browne and Secretary General Botchwey and the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. During the ceremony, there was a high-level panel discussion moderated by Prof. C. Justin Robinson of UWI FIC that examined the future of the Commonwealth. Among the panelists were Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica, the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Samoa Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molioo.

Later in the day, was the start of the forums with the Women's Forum and the People's Forum being held at the American University of Antigua, the Business Forum at the Sticky Wicket and the Youth Forum at UWI FIC.

Monday's activities again ended on a high note with the One Commonwealth Concert that was held at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

According to the latest records coming from the Accreditation Unit... there are 13,652 persons accredited for CHOGM 26 up to Monday evening. More than nine thousand are Antigua and Barbuda residents... these included several thousand hotel staff, who for security reasons also had to be accredited.

The records show that 4,477 international delegates registered for the event...including more than 200 media representatives.

Prime Minister Browne and His Majesty King Charles III hold discussions on wide ranging issues

Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne and His Majesty King Charles III, Head of the Commonwealth, held discussions on the margins of the Official Ceremonial Parade marking Antigua and Barbuda's 45th Anniversary of Independence.

His Majesty, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Camilla, is in Antigua and Barbuda to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026.

The discussions between Prime Minister Browne and King Charles covered a range of matters of mutual interest, including climate change, trade among Commonwealth member states, reparations, and issues relating to Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.





Lady Sandra Williams Earns the Title of Dame



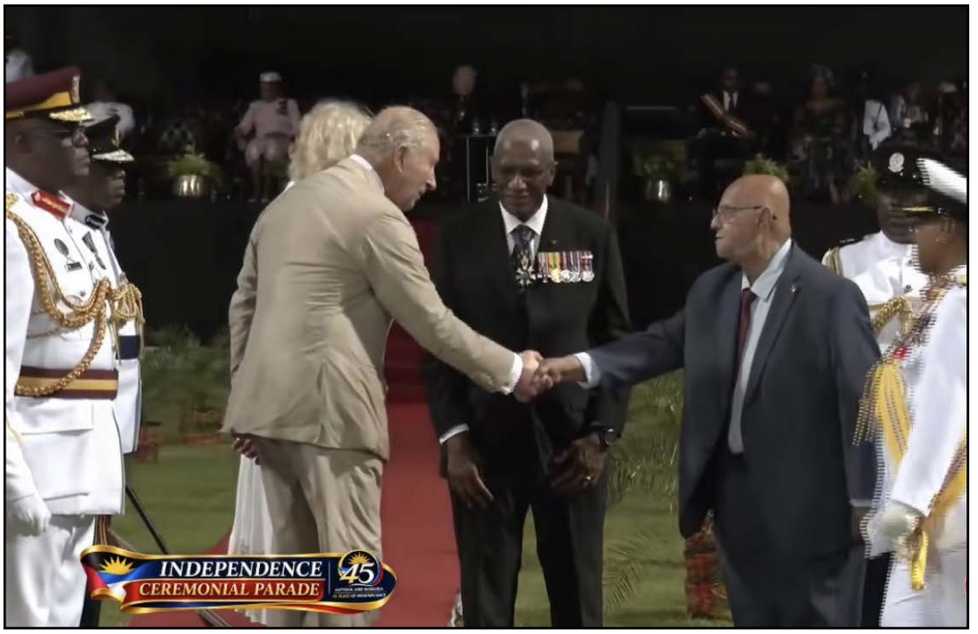
Lady Sandra Williams is getting due recognition for her many years of outstanding charity work for and on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Lady Sandra has been elevated to the position of Dame, which is the female equivalent to a knighthood that is bestowed on a male recipient.

She is among six persons who were honoured during the Independence Ceremonial Parade on Sunday night and was presented the award by His Majesty, King Charles.

The citation reads: Sandra Louise Williams; To be Dame Grand Collar, the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation, (DGN), For exceptional and exemplary service to Antigua and Barbuda through sustained national and international advocacy to young people, to youth leadership, charitable cause and philanthropy.

Celebrated attorney, Anthony Waddy Astaphan was named Grand Cross, of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contributions to regional and national legal service, governance and public legal education.



Songwriter and cultural icon, Stanley Raphael Clement Humphreys has been named a Grand Cross of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution to music, culture and national development.

The fourth person honoured was Susan Jennifer Sharp who was named a Grand Officer of the most Illustrious Order of Merit (GOM) for distinguished guidance, mentorship. development and education of young people.

Former national and regional netball star, Karen Joseph has been named Grand Officer of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GOH) for her distinguished contribution to netball, sports development, youth mentorship and national representation.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities has been named to the Most Distinguished Order of Merit (OM) for outstanding service to persons with disabilities and for the advancement of the disability community.

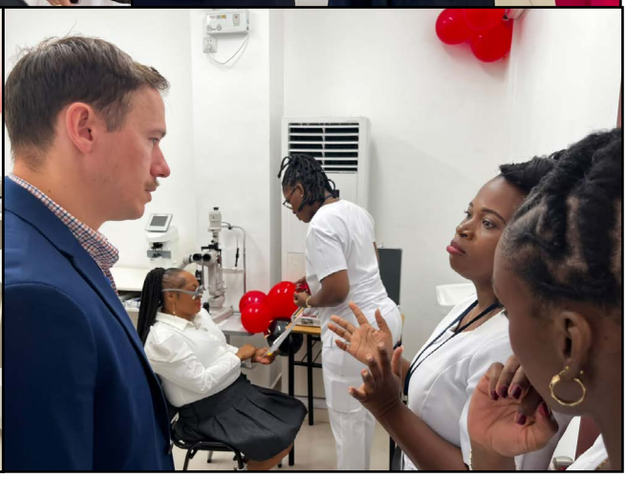
Duchess of Edinburgh Visits Primary Eye Care Unit at Gray's Green Community Centre











Minister of Health, Michael Joseph welcomed Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh on a tour of the newly softly opened Primary Eye Care Unit at the Gray's Green Community Centre on Thursday.

The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the Government's efforts to strengthen eye care services and expand access to vision screening, early detection and treatment through community-based healthcare.

Her Royal Highness engaged with representatives of the organisations supporting the initiative, including Cure Blindness, VisionSpring, Trinidad Eye Hospital, Orbis International and RestoringVision. Also in attendance were Kathleen Sherwin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orbis International; His Excellency Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson; and senior Ministry officials.

Four nurses from the Ministry of Health who recently completed specialised training in eye care in India were also present. During the visit, the nurses conducted vision screenings to demonstrate the unit's capabilities and the range of primary eye care services it is expected to provide.

The establishment of the unit forms part of the Ministry's broader strategy to bring essential eye care services closer to communities. While the facility has undergone its soft opening, it is not yet open to the general public, as additional equipment and operational arrangements are being finalised. The official opening and commencement of services to the public are expected in January 2027.

Minister Joseph also highlighted the Government's longer-term vision of establishing a dedicated eye hospital within the next five years, further demonstrating its commitment to strengthening specialist eye care services in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Ministry acknowledges the continued collaboration of its international partners and healthcare professionals in advancing access to quality eye care and reducing preventable blindness.


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A US$202 Million Commonwealth Nature Initiative Has Been launched in Antigua and Barbuda



The Commonwealth Nature Initiative (CNI) was launched Monday at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda aboard the Fortescue Green Pioneer, bringing together governments, philanthropic leaders and conservation organisations behind a landmark US$202.2 million pledge to accelerate progress towards protecting at least 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030, the 30x30 target. Following the launch, His Majesty The King joined high-level segment attendees and CNI supporters for a reception aboard the Green Pioneer.

Minderoo Foundation, the Rob Walton Foundation, the Rainforest Trust, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Waitt Foundation, and National Geographic Pristine Seas are the founding supporters of the CNI, with initial commitments supporting the establishment, expansion, and implementation of terrestrial and marine protected areas across Commonwealth countries, including through investment in programs to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' and the rights and governance of local communities. These serve as the initial pledges at launch with the goal of raising attracting a further USD$1 billion from other donor countries and philanthropic efforts by 2030 to finance 30x30 action across the Commonwealth.

At the launch, which took place aboard Fortescue's vessel the Green Pioneer, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Right Hon. Gaston Browne, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Fiji, Guyana, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Uganda, the UK, and Zambia showcased ambitious 30x30 initiatives, including the establishment of new protected areas, revealing a breadth of ambition across Commonwealth regions, from the Caribbean and the Pacific, to Africa.

The CNI demonstrates a new partnership between nations, philanthropies, Indigenous People and local communities to deliver the global 30x30 target and reinforces a shared commitment to turn conservation ambition into practical action across the Commonwealth. The launch comes at a critical moment for global biodiversity. With just four years remaining to achieve the 30x30 target agreed under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022, governments and partners must accelerate the pace of conservation and increase finance to protect habitats and ecosystems, and support the communities that depend on them for their survival.

Initial areas of focus for the CNI include the Eastern Caribbean, where the OECS seeks to deliver their 30x30 Transformation Program; the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership, which aims to secure sustainable financing for 162 of Africa's most irreplaceable protected areas; and the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity initiative which seeks to secure long-term financing for marine and coastal conservation across the Pacific.

In the coming years, the Initiative will seek to expand its network of conservation programmes and financing opportunities across the Commonwealth, supporting countries in translating their 30x30 commitments into enduring action.

Protecting nature is fundamental not only to biodiversity, but also to climate resilience, economic prosperity and human security. Healthy oceans, forests, and other ecosystems help regulate the climate, sustain food systems, protect communities from extreme weather and support livelihoods across the Commonwealth. Through continued partnership and new investment, the Initiative aims to help ensure that the Commonwealth's natural heritage is protected.

Antiguans and Barbudans hold fifth annual flag raising ceremony as nation celebrates 45 years of political independence

As Antigua and Barbuda marks 45 years of political Independence, members of the the diaspora in the United States are putting on display their national pride and enduring connections to their homeland during the milestone occasion.

On Friday, the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Philadelphia Inc. hosted its fifth Annual Flag Raising Ceremony at Philadelphia City Hall, at the John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The occasion brought together members of the Antiguan and Barbudan community, distinguished guests and friends of the nation for the celebratory and symbolic event.

A particularly meaningful highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a proclamation from the City of Philadelphia, signed by Mayor Cherelle L. Parker, officially recognising October 26 through November 1, 2026, as Antigua and Barbuda Week.

The recognition provides an opportunity to bring greater visibility to the country's heritage and the contributions of its nationals who continue to maintain strong connections to their homeland while making their mark in Philadelphia.

In attendance at the ceremony were President of the Association Helenmay Bady and Vice President Dawn



Greene. Other executive members joining the activities were Treasurer Hadassa George, PRO Barrymore Richards and Charles Ellison.

The Association was honoured by the presence of several distinguished guests, including Kyra Harris, of the Office of the City Representative, City of Philadelphia, the Honourable Stanley Straughter, Vice Chair of the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs and Christopher Chaplin, Jamaica's Honorary Consul in Philadelphia. Also in attendance were Charles Ellison, Director, Office of Immigration Affairs,



City of Philadelphia and the Honourable Jannie Blackwell, Chair of the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs.

The Philadelphia Association sees the flag raising ceremony as another expression of the national spirit that travels well beyond the shores of the beloved nation of its members.

"Wherever Antiguans and Barbudans gather, the pride in our heritage and the love for our country remain firmly rooted," the association declared.



Halo further develops artistic talent through Royal Drawing School classes





The Halo Foundation continues to highlight the importance of creativity, artistic expression and youth development through its Royal Drawing School Annual Art initiative, sponsored by the Jumby Bay Fund.

The Workshop is being hosted at Government House from October 12 and will conclude on November 4, 2026 — coincidentally concluding with the closing of CHOGM.

The classes welcomed participants 12 years and older, and this year included the registration of senior citizens. This provided an opportunity for aspiring artists to develop their drawing skills, explore their creativity and learn through artistic expression. Participation was free, allowing individuals from varying socioeconomic backgrounds to benefit from the programme.

The initiative aims to nurture emerging artistic talent while providing a platform for participants to showcase their work. Some of the selected artwork will be featured in an exhibition at Government House, with the top two participants receiving a ten-week online art workshop scholarship with the Royal Drawing School, an institution based in the United Kingdom. The scholarship is being awarded in recognition of their outstanding contribution and creativity.

Dame Sandra Williams said, "We usually work along with our very talented, renowned artists in Antigua and Barbuda, and we were very pleased to have Anson Henry on board in 2025. Unfortunately, this year, all of the artists which we approached were involved in various other projects, so time did not permit them to add their talent to the teaching pool. We are looking forward to their involvement again in 2027."

She added, "We are particularly grateful for the unwavering assistance of the Jumby Bay Fund, a non-profit entity which clearly understands the necessity of developing our local human resource and is always so gracious in their support of our efforts."

The Halo Foundation recognizes that art is more than a form of self-expression. It is a powerful tool for education, confidence building, cultural appreciation and personal growth. Through programmes such as the Royal Drawing School initiative, the Halo Foundation remains committed to creating meaningful opportunities for young people as well as adults.



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Tel: (268) 460-5100
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30th October, 2026

His Excellency Mr Magnus Brunner
Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Dear Commissioner,

Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme and continued visa-free access to the Schengen area

I write in response to your letter of 25 June 2026, in which you invited Antigua and Barbuda to close its Citizenship by Investment Programme by 1 June 2028 in order to retain visa-free access to the Schengen area for our citizens. I also recall, with appreciation, our meeting in New York on 23 September 2026, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, at which you kindly extended the deadline for communicating our decision to the end of October 2026 and arranged a follow-up technical meeting.

I am grateful to Mr Henrik Nielsen and his team at DG HOME for that technical meeting, held in Brussels on 20 October 2026, at which the deadline was further extended to 12 November 2026. Our delegation was led by Mr Konata Lee, Secretary to the Cabinet, and Ms Charmaine Donovan, Chief Executive Officer of our Citizenship by Investment Unit. We valued the respectful, frank and constructive exchange.

At the meeting, the Commission tabled three options for countries operating citizenship by investment programmes:

- Continue the programme and accept suspension. The programme would continue and the European Union would suspend visa-free access to the Schengen area. A decision would likely be announced in January 2027 and take effect from around March or April 2027. The suspension would be temporary in the first instance, for 12 months, but could be extended and would ultimately become permanent, if the necessary actions to terminate the programme are not implemented.

- Terminate the programme by June 2028. The country would confirm the closure of its programme by June 2028, in line with the Commission's current offer and your letter of 25 June 2026

- Terminate the programme with a longer transition period. The country would confirm its intention to close its programme but request a longer transition, specifying the period proposed for the Commission's consideration, together with the support it would need to manage the transition and any other special requests.

Antigua and Barbuda places great value on its partnership with the European Union and on the freedom of our people to travel to Europe. In that spirit, the Government has weighed these options carefully, and I am pleased to advise that we have selected the third. Antigua and Barbuda is prepared to terminate its Citizenship by Investment Programme on the following basis:

- A macro-economic and social assessment of programme termination. The assessment will examine the fiscal, financial, economic, social and legal consequences of closure, and will be completed and shared with the European Commission by the end of the first quarter of 2027. We welcome the Commission's agreement in principle that the impact of termination should be assessed and would value the technical assistance the Commission indicated it may be able to provide, so that the assessment can be undertaken jointly.

- A package of budget and development support from the European Union. On the basis of the assessment's findings, we request a package of budget support and development assistance commensurate with the revenue, investment and employment that will be lost. We note that the only support identified to date is the Global Gateway, which is broad in scope, and that there is as yet no dedicated envelope for countries closing their programmes. We ask that such support be considered in the preparation of the Union's next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034).

- A transition period to the end of 2030. This would allow the programme to be wound down in an orderly manner, existing obligations to be honoured and the economy to adjust. Throughout the transition, Antigua and Barbuda will apply the binding safeguards discussed with the Commission and will cooperate fully in their monitoring.

Commissioner, these conditions reflect how important these programmes have been, not only to Antigua and Barbuda but to the Eastern Caribbean as a whole. The International Monetary Fund has documented this. IMF staff found that government revenue from citizenship by investment in the five members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union that operate programmes averaged 6½ per cent of GDP between 2019 and 2023, rising to nearly one third of total non-grant revenue in 2023. They further estimated that total inflows under these programmes in 2023 may have reached around one fifth of the currency union's GDP, much of it invested in private construction and tourism.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the IMF's 2026 Article IV consultation attributed our primary surplus of nearly 5 per cent of GDP in 2025 in part to stronger programme inflows, and noted that these inflows helped to finance a current account deficit of around 11½ per cent of GDP. For a small island developing state with a narrow revenue base and high exposure to climate shocks, these resources have financed hurricane recovery, social programmes and public infrastructure. They have supported the strengthening of our public finances that has reduced public debt from about 101 per cent of GDP in 2020 to an estimated 68 per cent in 2025. They have also supported hotels and other tourism developments that employ thousands of our citizens and sustain many small businesses and communities.

The IMF has also shown how costly an abrupt fall in these inflows can be. In one member of our currency union, a sharp decline in programme revenue widened the fiscal deficit to 11 per cent of GDP in 2024, and the Fund has called for contingency planning across the region. An abrupt end to the programme would leave Antigua and Barbuda with fiscal and external financing gaps that could not be closed quickly without serious harm to our people. The assessment will measure these effects precisely, so that the transition and the support requested can be calibrated to them. Two further matters make an orderly transition essential.

First, the contractural arrangements of several approved developers whose projects are financed, in whole or in part, through the programme. Many of these projects are well advanced, and their completion depends on investment yet to be received. Closure without adequate time to complete these projects, or to renegotiate the agreements, would expose these developers to substantial claims and litigation and could leave unfinished projects across the country.

Second, domestic and regional banks have pre-financed a number of these developments, in the expectation that programme proceeds would repay those facilities. A sudden stop would place these exposures at risk, with possible consequences for asset quality and capital in our banking system. Because our banks operate within the single currency and financial space of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union, such strain could spread beyond our borders. A transition to the end of 2030 would allow these exposures to be repaid or restructured in an orderly manner, under the supervision of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

The suspension mechanism set out in Articles 8a to 8f of Regulation (EU) 2018/1806, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2025/2441, envisages close cooperation and an enhanced dialogue between the Commission and the third country concerned. That dialogue is surely better pursued before any suspension than after it, when it would serve only to remedy harm already done to our citizens and to the relationship. Antigua and Barbuda has engaged in such dialogue in good faith, and the commitment set out in this letter is its result. In that spirit, we would welcome the Commission's agreement to:

- take note of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to terminate its programme on the basis set out above, and reflect it in the Commission's December 2026 report under the visa suspension mechanism;

- confirm a transition period to the end of 2030, together with the binding safeguards that will apply during it;

- provide technical assistance for the joint assessment, to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2027; and

- open discussions, once the assessment has been shared, on the package of budget and development support.

I propose that our officials meet to take these matters forward. Antigua and Barbuda is also working closely with its partners in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, so that the region may speak with one voice on these matters wherever possible.

Commissioner, Antigua and Barbuda has chosen a path that respects the concerns of the European Union while safeguarding the stability and wellbeing of our people. I am confident that, working together, we can manage this transition in a way that strengthens the long and valued friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the European Union.

Please accept, Mr Commissioner, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The Right Honourable Gaston Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

cc: H.E. Ms Fiona Ramsey, Ambassador of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM
Mr Henrik Nielsen, Director, International Affairs, Returns and Visa, DG HOME
Dr Didacus Jules, Director General, OECS Commission
Mr Timothy Antoine, Governor, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Freeland Makes Case for Sport Tourism to Drive Jobs and Investment at CHOGM Forum

Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Hon. Michael Freeland, has outlined how sport tourism could create jobs, attract investment and expand opportunities for businesses in Antigua and Barbuda.

In remarks prepared for the Commonwealth Growth Panel during CHOGM, Freeland called for stronger links between sport and tourism, highlighting benefits extending beyond athletes to coaches, event organisers, taxi operators, caterers and other service providers.

"When someone travels here for sport, we should be creating opportunities for businesses right across the country," he said.

Freeland identified the country's cricket and sailing traditions as a foundation for growth. He proposed combining competitions with tourism packages that encourage visiting teams, relatives and supporters to stay longer and explore both islands.

He also highlighted school tours, club competitions, training camps and coaching clinics as opportunities to attract visitors during quieter tourism periods.

Local businesses and communities, he stressed, should share in the benefits, with guesthouses, vendors, tour guides and young entrepreneurs included in planning.

Freeland called for closer coordination among government agencies, sporting associations, hotels, airlines and investors, supported by a dependable events calendar and clear approval processes.

Where public funding or incentives are provided, he said they should deliver measurable benefits, including employment, training, youth access and opportunities for small businesses. Facilities should also remain maintained and available for community use beyond individual events.

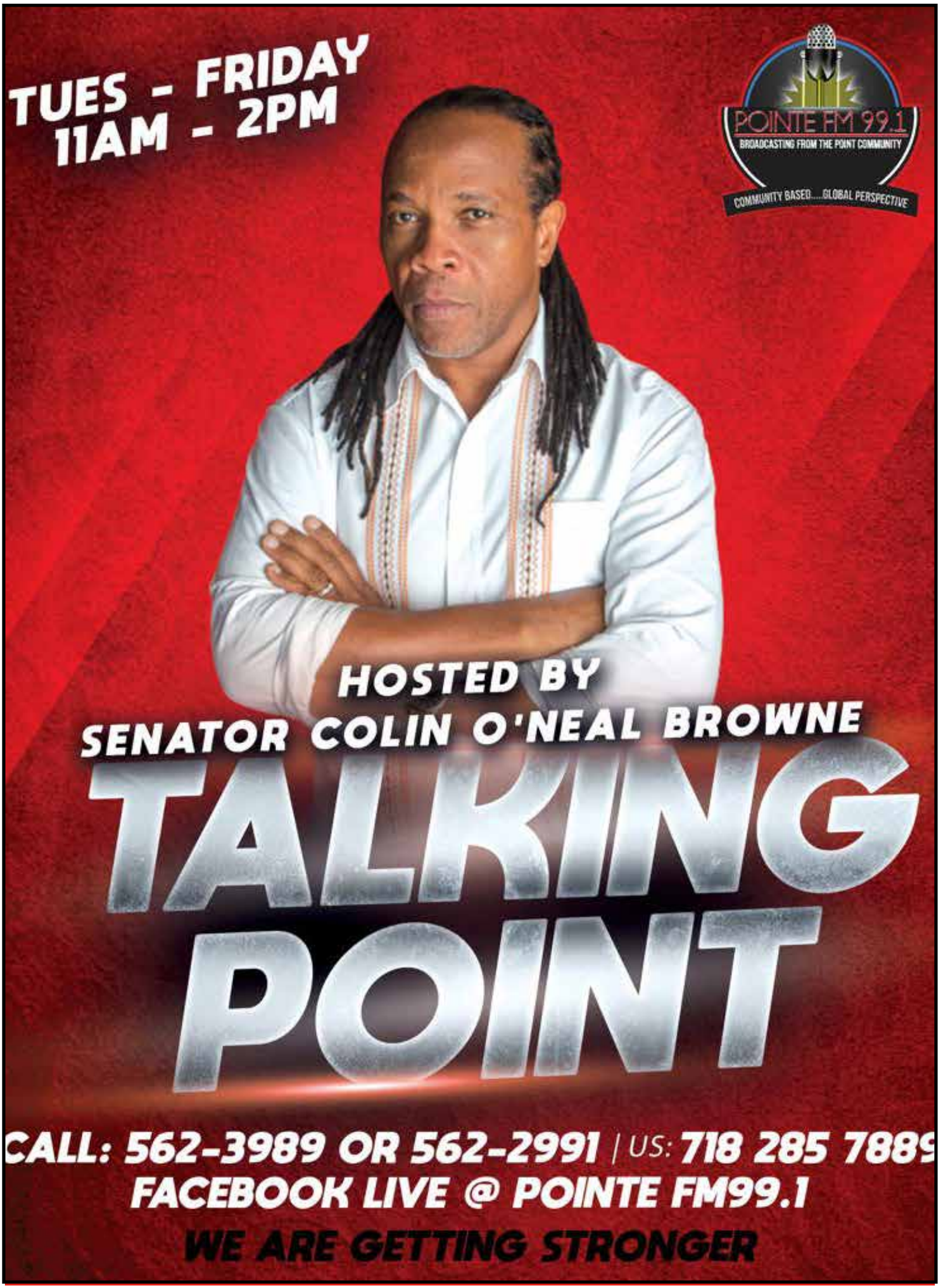
"If we want sport to be treated as a serious economic sector, we have to give it serious planning, reliable information and strong partnerships," Freeland said.



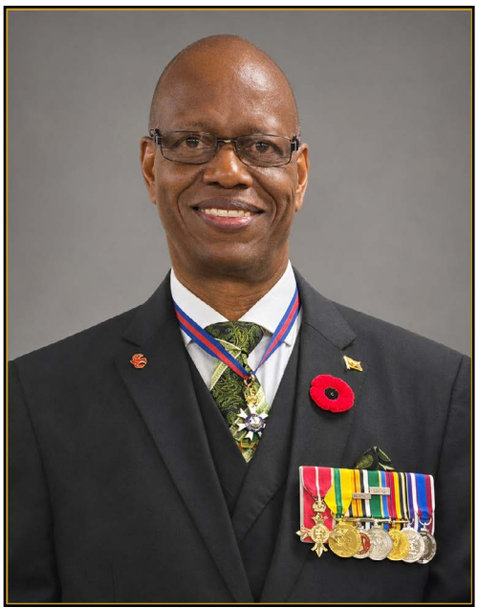
He also identified Commonwealth partnerships in coaching, school exchanges and regional sporting tours as avenues for development, saying success should ultimately be measured by the opportunities created for residents.




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Forty-Five Years Later: A Personal Reflection on Our Nation's Journey



As Antigua and Barbuda celebrates 45 years of Independence, I reflect with an overwhelming sense of pride, gratitude and admiration for the remarkable journey of our nation.

My thoughts return to that historic night of 1 November 1981, when, as a young commissioned military officer standing on the ceremonial field, I had the solemn responsibility of giving the command for the raising of our national flag. I remember standing at attention, sword in hand, saluting the flag as it was raised to mark the birth of Antigua and Barbuda as a sovereign and independent nation.

Forty-five years later, that defining moment remains deeply etched in my memory. To have participated in that historic occasion, and now to reflect upon the journey of our nation over the intervening years, fills me with profound gratitude, humility and national pride.

Forty-five years may be relatively short in the history of a nation, yet the progress we have made, the challenges we have overcome and the international recognition we have earned provide compelling reasons for celebration.

Our Independence celebrations this year have been particularly meaningful to me. They have provided opportunities not merely to commemorate our sovereignty, but to appreciate the extraordinary talent, professionalism, resilience and commitment of our people.

Celebrating Our Culture and National Talent

The opening of the Performing Arts Centre represented an important milestone in our national development. Beyond the physical structure, it symbolised an investment in our cultural identity, creative expression and the development of future generations.

The musical presentations associated with our celebrations were particularly impressive, demonstrating the remarkable talent that exists within Antigua and Barbuda and the professionalism with which our people can deliver performances of the highest standard.

These achievements remind us that national development must embrace not only economic growth and infrastructure, but also the arts, culture, education and the nurturing of human potential.

The Governor-General's Welcome Reception: Independence and Commonwealth Fellowship

Another memorable occasion was the Welcome Reception hosted by His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, in celebration of our 45th Anniversary of Independence and the Commonwealth.

Held on the evening preceding the Commonwealth church service, the reception was a distinct and significant event within the wider celebrations. It provided an opportunity to recognise our nation's Independence while embracing the friendship, cooperation and shared heritage that unite members of the Commonwealth.

The occasion reflected the dignity of the Office of the Governor-General and the importance of hospitality, fellowship and mutual respect in strengthening relationships among nations.

For me, the reception was another reminder of Antigua and Barbuda's growing confidence and maturity as an independent state, capable of celebrating its national identity while extending a warm welcome to members of the wider international community.

It was a fitting expression of national pride, gracious hospitality and Commonwealth solidarity.

A Moment of Faith, Unity and National Reflection

Another memorable experience was the Service to Celebrate the Commonwealth, held on Sunday, 1 November 2026, as Antigua and Barbuda prepared to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Although formally a Commonwealth service, its timing alongside our 45th Anniversary of Independence gave the occasion particular national significance.

The service brought together faith, national identity, international fellowship and a shared commitment to peace, justice and human dignity. Its conduct reflected dignity, careful preparation and an exceptional standard of professionalism.

I was particularly impressed by the musical contributions of the Hellsgate Steel Orchestra, the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Inspire Youth Choir, together with the accompanying musicians and soloists.

The rendition of You Raise Me Up, performed by soprano Desrie Markham and the Inspire Youth Choir, accompanied by pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason and the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra under conductor Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, was especially memorable.

The welcome by the Very Reverend Dwane Cassius, Dean of the Cathedral and Parish of St. John the Divine, the scripture readings by our Prime Minister and Governor-General, and the

prayers offered throughout the service contributed to its spiritual significance.

I was particularly inspired by the message delivered by the Right Reverend Ernest Flemming, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba. His contribution encouraged reflection on our shared humanity, our responsibilities to one another and the importance of faith and moral purpose in our lives.

The prayers for peace, responsible leadership, justice, compassion and environmental stewardship were particularly relevant to the challenges facing our nation and the wider world.

The Act of Affirmation, led by Commonwealth Secretary-General the Honourable Shirley Botchwey, further reinforced the principles of human dignity, diversity, mutual respect and international cooperation.

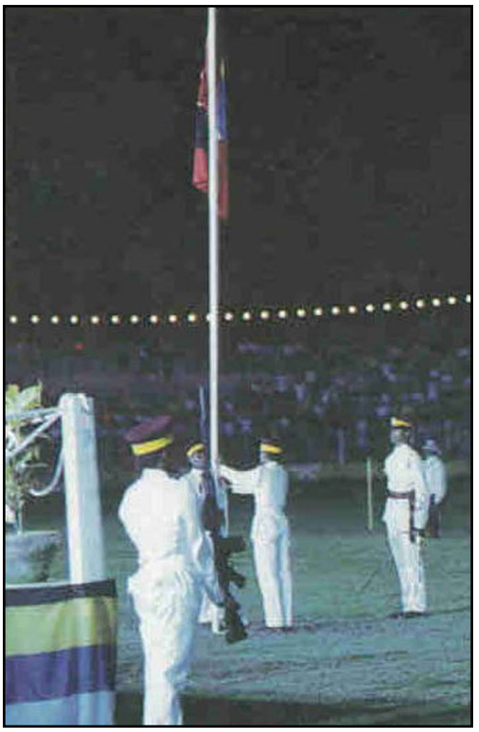
For me, the service was a reminder that the true measure of a nation's progress extends beyond physical development and economic achievement. It must also be reflected in the values we uphold, the compassion we demonstrate and the integrity with which we serve.

The Independence Ceremonial Parade: Discipline and National Pride

The Independence Ceremonial Parade was another exceptional occasion that filled me with immense pride. As I observed the precision of the marching, the ceremonial proceedings and the professionalism of our uniformed services, my thoughts returned to that historic night in 1981 when I stood on the ceremonial field and gave the command for the raising of our national flag.

Having experienced that defining moment in our nation's history, I have a particularly deep appreciation for the discipline, preparation, coordination and attention to detail required to execute such ceremonial occasions successfully.

Forty-five years later, witnessing the continued commitment to excellence among our uniformed services was both moving and reassuring. It reminded me that the traditions of service, discipline and national pride established at Independence continue to find expression in those entrusted with serving and protecting our nation.



The musical renditions and overall standard of the ceremonial proceedings were truly commendable, reflecting extensive preparation and a collective commitment to excellence.

The presence of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla added a further dimension of historical significance to the occasion.

As I observed the parade, I also reflected on the dedication of those who serve our nation, often under demanding circumstances and without the public recognition their contributions deserve.

The quality of the parade was a credit not only to those who participated, but also to the commanders, instructors, musicians, planners and supporting personnel whose collective efforts ensured its success.

It reinforced my conviction that Antigua and Barbuda possesses the human resources, institutional capabilities and professional standards necessary to undertake responsibilities of considerable national and international importance.

Cricket: One Commonwealth, United Through Sport

The cricket matches between the Caribbean and the Rest of the Commonwealth provided another memorable dimension to our Independence and Commonwealth celebrations.

Cricket has long been an important part of our Caribbean identity and shared Commonwealth heritage. These matches went beyond sporting competition, symbolising the friendship, camaraderie and enduring bonds that unite nations across geographical, cultural and historical boundaries.

For me, the occasion reflected the true spirit of the Commonwealth: different nations, cultures and traditions coming together through sport, united by mutual respect, friendship and a shared sense of purpose.

It was a fitting reminder that international partnerships are strengthened not only through diplomacy and formal engagements, but also through sporting exchanges that bring people together.

One Commonwealth, united through sport, friendship and partnership.

Antigua and Barbuda on the International Stage

Our 45th Anniversary of Independence also provides an appropriate opportunity to reflect on the remarkable international responsibilities Antigua and Barbuda has undertaken in recent years.

In 2024, our nation hosted the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), placing Antigua and Barbuda at the centre of international discussions concerning sustainable development, climate resilience and the future of small island states.

In 2025, Antigua and Barbuda hosted the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, bringing together representatives from across the hemisphere to deliberate on matters of regional and international importance.

Now, in 2026, our nation is hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, welcoming leaders and delegations from across the Common-

wealth.

To have undertaken these three major international engagements in three consecutive years is an extraordinary achievement for a small island developing state.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the contributions of the many individuals and organisations whose dedication, professionalism and commitment have made these engagements possible.

Our volunteers, who willingly give of their time and talents, deserve special recognition. Their enthusiasm, hospitality and spirit of service exemplify the national pride and civic responsibility that distinguish our people.

Equally deserving of commendation are our security forces, whose planning, vigilance, professionalism and personal sacrifices are fundamental to the safety and successful execution of events of this magnitude.

We must also express sincere appreciation to our regional and international partners, whose technical expertise, resources, cooperation and steadfast support have strengthened our national capacity to undertake these responsibilities.

These achievements epitomise the strength of national cooperation and regional partnership. They demonstrate what can be accomplished when government institutions, security agencies, the private sector, civil society, volunteers and international partners work collectively towards a common purpose.

Our national leaders must also be commended for the vision and confidence demonstrated in committing Antigua and Barbuda to hosting events of such international significance. In doing so, they have challenged our people and institutions to rise to demanding responsibilities, extend their capabilities and demonstrate that excellence is not the exclusive preserve of larger nations.

These accomplishments are not the achievements of any single individual or institution. They represent the collective determination of a nation, supported by valued partners, to pursue excellence and fulfil its responsibilities with distinction.

Our country has shown that geographical size need not determine the significance of a nation's contribution to international affairs.

These experiences should inspire confidence in our people, particularly our young citizens, who must recognise that their ambitions and opportunities need not be constrained by the size of the country in which they were born.

Forty-Five Years of Independence: Gratitude and Responsibility

As I reflect on these experiences, I am reminded that Independence is not merely a historical event commemorated annually on 1 November. It is an ongoing responsibility.

It requires each generation to protect the freedoms inherited, strengthen the institutions established, preserve the values that unite us and create opportunities for those who will follow.

Our national journey has not been without difficulties. Like every developing nation, Antigua and Barbuda has faced economic challenges, natural disasters, social pressures and the continuing demands of national development.

Yet our resilience, resourcefulness and determination have enabled us to persevere and progress.

We must never take our achievements for granted. We must continue to strengthen our institutions, promote excellence in public service, uphold integrity and accountability, and nurture the sense of national unity essen-



tial to sustainable development.

My Prayer for Antigua and Barbuda's Future

As I reflect on our nation's journey over the past 45 years, my prayer is that Antigua and Barbuda will continue to develop into a country where my children, grandchildren and generations yet unborn can enjoy meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, prosper and fulfil their God-given potential.

I pray for a nation that places education at the forefront of its development, equipping our young people with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to succeed.

I pray for continued improvements in healthcare, ensuring that every citizen has access to quality, affordable and compassionate medical services.

I pray for a nation that protects its natural environment, embraces sustainable development and strengthens its agricultural sector, not only to improve food security and create economic opportunities, but also to establish stronger linkages with our tourism industry, allowing more of our people to benefit from national economic progress.

Above all, I pray for peace, stability and improved safety and security throughout our beloved country, where families can live without fear, children can grow in safe and nurturing communities, and every citizen can enjoy the dignity, freedoms and protection that Independence should guarantee.

My greatest hope is that the Antigua and Barbuda we leave to our children and grandchildren will be stronger, safer, healthier, more prosperous and more united than the nation we inherited.

A Final Reflection: Faith, Gratitude and God's Enduring Love

As I conclude these reflections, I am reminded of the profound truth expressed in Psalm 127:1:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

For me, this biblical principle applies not only to our individual lives and families, but also to the building and development of our nation. However ambitious our plans, however impressive our achievements, and however determined our efforts, we must never lose sight of our dependence upon Almighty God.

My appeal to my fellow Antiguans and Barbudans is that, amid our celebrations and daily responsibilities, we take time to reflect upon our own journeys. When we look back over the years, through our triumphs and disappointments, our challenges and blessings, may we recognise the evidence of God's abiding love, His grace, His mercies and His goodness.

Let us never become so consumed by our achievements that we forget to give thanks to the One who has sustained us.

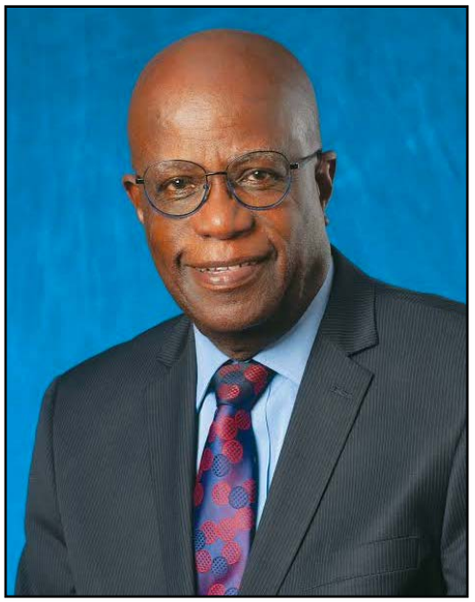
I encourage each of us to cultivate a deeper and more personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, allowing His teachings of love, forgiveness, humility, compassion and service to guide our lives and our relationships with one another.

As we celebrate 45 years of Independence, may we do so with grateful hearts, renewed faith and a shared commitment to building a nation worthy of the sacrifices of those who came before us and the hopes of generations yet to come.

May Almighty God continue to bless, protect and guide Antigua and Barbuda, grant wisdom to those entrusted with its leadership, and inspire each of us to contribute meaningfully to the continued advancement of our beloved nation.



Patterson's Choice Words On the Cuban Vote



Rarely does a former Prime Minister call his own country's vote at the United Nations "an abominable betrayal which history will never forget". P.J. Patterson did, in a statement dated 29 October that deserves to be read in full by every Caribbean citizen, whatever they think of the Cuba embargo.

The vote

On Wednesday 28 October the UN General Assembly voted on its annual resolution calling for an end to the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. It passed by 130 votes to 17, with 25 abstentions. A year ago, it drew 165 votes in favour, seven against and 12 abstentions.

Jamaica, which has voted yes, every year since the resolution was first tabled in 1992, abstained. Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson Smith said the Government had been "reflecting on this issue for some time" and described the abstention as a shift in policy, citing concern for the humanitarian situation in Cuba and support for dialogue between Washington and Havana. The Government says no outside pressure was applied. Trinidad and Tobago voted against the resolution, and Guyana abstained.

What Mr Patterson says

Mr Patterson, who served as Prime Minister of Jamaica and was present in 1972 when four newly independent Caribbean states resolved to establish relations with Cuba, calls himself "the last surviving participant in that decision". His statement makes five points, which I set out here as his arguments and not as findings of fact.

First, a break with a bipartisan policy. Every Administration since 1992, of both parties, voted yes. He notes that former Prime Minister Bruce Golding joined him and ten other former CARICOM heads of government in an open letter four days before the vote urging support for the resolution.

Second, a charge about Parliament. He says the House of Representatives passed, without dissent, the Government's own resolution on the economic and humanitarian situation in Cuba on Tuesday 27 October, and that Jamaica abstained within twenty-four hours. He calls that a flouting of Parliament's authority and says the Government must explain how it happened.

Third, an argument about small states. "When a powerful nation imposes its will unilaterally on a small neighbour, and we do not object, we weaken the very shield on which our own sovereignty depends."

Fourth, a debt of gratitude. He recalls Cuban doctors and nurses in Jamaican clinics, nearly 25,000 Jamaicans whose sight was restored or improved through Operation Miracle, and scholarships and schools. He accuses the Government of repaying that solidarity by sending the Cuban doctors home and by concluding a secret arrangement to receive third-country deportees from the United States.

Fifth, a pattern. He links the Cuba vote to Jamaica's absence from a vote on Palestine last year, which he calls "cowardice".

He ends with questions the nation, he says, is entitled to have answered: how the decision was taken, by whom and on whose advice, and whether pressure was applied, and from what quarter.

Mr Patterson's questions about process are fair ones whatever one thinks of the embargo. If a resolution passed the Jamaica House on Tuesday and the delegation abstained on Wednesday, the public should be told why.

Why it matters beyond Jamaica

This is not only a Jamaican argument. The region is being asked, openly or quietly, to choose between the rules that protect small states and the favour of a powerful neighbour. In the same week the United States sanctioned the International Criminal Court, whose idea came from Trinidad and Tobago's A.N.R. Robinson. Governments from Port of Spain to Kingston to Georgetown will be judged by how they answer.

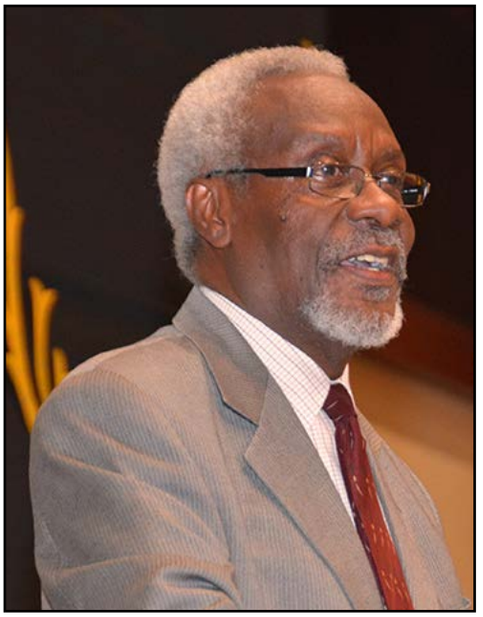
Mr Patterson's full statement is attached, and I encourage editors to carry it as they see fit.

Julian Rogers is founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges.

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers. julian@caribbeanbridges.com

#CaribbeanBridges #Jamaica #Cuba #CARICOM

AN ABOMINABLE BETRAYAL WHICH HISTORY WILL NEVER FORGET



The Most Hon. P.J. Patterson, ON, OCC, OE, KC Former Prime Minister of Jamaica 29 October 2026

On Wednesday, 28 October 2026, Jamaica abstained when the United Nations General Assembly voted on the resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. For more than three decades, under every Administration since the resolution was first tabled in 1992, Jamaica voted yes. We did so under governments of both parties, because the yes vote was never partisan. It was a matter of principle.

It was a day of shame for the land of Marcus Garvey, and a stain on the record of a nation which, before we had even raised our own flag, closed its ports to trade with apartheid South Africa. That was an unequivocal declaration that the Jamaican people, though a small nation, would not support the oppression of others. On Wednesday, Jamaica's Government trampled that tradition. It was an abominable betrayal which history will never forget.

In December 1972, I accompanied Prime Minister Michael Manley to the meeting at which four newly independent Caribbean states resolved to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba, defying the isolation others sought to impose. We took that decision not because it was easy, but because it was right, and because we understood that the sovereignty we had so recently won would mean little if we allowed others to choose our friends, least of all a friend that is our closest neighbour.

I am the last surviving participant in that decision, and I write with a sense of agony and seething outrage that Jamaica could so suddenly abandon the fundamental tenets on which it rested: the sovereign equality of states, non-interference in their domestic jurisdiction, and the right of every people to self-determination free from external threat or coercion.

Four days before the UN vote, eleven of my fellow former Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community and I wrote to all the nations of the world urging support for the resolution. We said then, and I repeat now, that the embargo is contrary to international law, that it violates Cuba's sovereignty and the most elemental rights of its people, and that the pressures being deployed to defeat the resolution must be resisted. Former Prime Minister Bruce Golding signed that letter alongside me. On this crucial matter, Jamaica's former leaders spoke with one voice. The present Government has chosen silence.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs tells us that the Government had been reflecting on this matter for some time, that the abstention represents a shift in policy, and that the resolution left no scope to reflect the broader context the Government wished to see. That explanation does not withstand scrutiny.

If there was no external pressure, as the Government insists, then it must explain how a fundamental reversal of a policy pursued by every Administration since 1992 serves Jamaica's best interest. It must also explain why it was never brought to parliament if this reflection had been under way for some time.

On Tuesday, 27 October, the House of Representatives passed, without dissent, a resolution on the economic and humanitarian situation in Cuba. It was the Government's own resolution, brought to the House by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In moving it, he declared that Jamaica could not support a unilaterally imposed blockade against Cuba. The resolution called for efforts to reduce the economic restrictions on Cuba and to facilitate its progressive integration into the international economic system, rather than its isolation under a blockade.

Within twenty-four hours, Jamaica abstained. Our abstention violated the unanimous decision of the Legislature. It was a deplorable flouting of Parliament's constitutional authority, the highest expression of the will of the people in our democracy.

Members on both sides of the House were led to believe one thing on Tuesday and confronted with its opposite on Wednesday. This is no mere discourtesy. It was an act of deception and a grave parliamentary offence. In any Parliament modelled on Westminster, what took place between Tuesday and Wednesday would have resulted in censure and ministerial resignations. The Parliament of Jamaica is entitled to no less. It was an abominable betrayal which history will never forget.

The Minister of State's own words explain precisely why we should have voted yes. Small states have no mighty army to defend us, and insufficient economic weight to shield us against the exercise of military might and power. Our security rests on the international rule of law and on a credible

multilateral system with the Charter of the United Nations at its centre. When a powerful nation imposes its will unilaterally on a small neighbour, and we do not object, we weaken the very shield on which our own sovereignty depends.

Foreign policy must rest on each nation's enlightened determination of its own sovereign interests. It is a considered judgment, drawn from a nation's history, its values and the commitments it has freely made to others. It must be guided by principle, not expediency.

If ever Cuba needed our support, it is now. Our Caribbean neighbour faces the threat of extinction from a hegemon that denies energy, food, medicine, water and sanitation to human beings whose only sin is to be Cuban.

International law cannot be selectively applied. Inhumane measures of this kind are not imposed upon great powers whose political systems differ from that of the United States. They are imposed upon Cuba because Cuba is small and adjacent. Jamaica cannot afford to look away.

The Government speaks of encouraging dialogue between Washington and Havana and reform within Cuba, and the Minister reminds us that the Prime Minister raised these matters with his CARICOM colleagues in St Kitts and Nevis. If dialogue between Washington and Havana is indeed the Government's objective, the Jamaican people are entitled to know what initiatives have been taken since the St Kitts and Nevis meeting, and what role CARICOM has been invited to play. Absent such an account, the language of dialogue cannot justify a drastic change of policy.

The people of Cuba stood with us whenever we needed support and asked nothing in return. Their doctors and nurses served in our rural clinics and hospitals.

Through Operation Miracle, nearly 25,000 Jamaicans have had their sight restored or improved, free of charge. Cuba's scholarships trained our young people. Cuba donated and built schools that have benefited generations of teachers and students. That solidarity was freely given.

And how have we repaid it? By sending the Cuban doctors and nurses home, terminating a medical cooperation programme that had served our people for half a century. By concluding an arrangement to receive from the United States deportees who have no connection to Jamaica, the so-called third-country nationals (TCN) deal, entered into without consultation with Parliament or the people, and kept secret. And now, by this abstention.

Nor is Cuba the only cause on which this Government has lost its voice. Last year, on a crucial vote pertaining to Palestine and its people, Jamaica chose to be absent from the chamber. That was not neutrality. It was cowardice. One hundred and forty-five countries voted in favour.

Taken together, these egregious errors form a pattern: absence from the vote in support of the Palestinian people; the sending home of the Cubans; the secret TCN deal; and now the UN vote on Cuba. Each step has been taken quietly; each has been explained away; and each carries Jamaica further from the principled ground on which we have always stood.

Jamaica has a long and honourable record in the councils of the world. That record was not built by abstaining when principle was on the line. It was built by a small nation that proved, time and again, what it means to say: we likkle but we tallawah. On apartheid, and in the struggles of the developing world for a just international order, our voice carried a weight far beyond our size, because the world knew we could not be bought or bent. We are now in mortal danger of losing the universal respect we once enjoyed, and respect squandered is not easily regained.

The harm is not confined to our internal reputation and standing abroad. It is felt in every Jamaican household, at home and across the Diaspora. Jamaicans in Toronto and London, in New York and Miami, who have carried our name with pride and defended our nation wherever they have gone, are offended, hurt, angry and ashamed that their government has chosen to shatter our nation's reputation in this way. They did not help to build that reputation so that it could be traded away in a single vote.

The entire nation and the Diaspora are entitled to a full and truthful account of how this decision was taken, by whom, and on whose advice. They are entitled to know whether pressure was applied, from what quarter, and what, if anything, was promised or threatened. They are entitled to a Parliament whose unanimous resolutions are honoured, not set aside overnight in New York. And they are entitled to see Jamaica restored to the position which successive Administrations of both parties have proudly held.

We are a people who came through the holds of slave ships, the brutality of the plantation and the long humiliation of colonial rule. We did not win our freedom to bend the knee. Our good name was earned after centuries of profound oppression, and a proud people is rightly jealous of it.

Those who lead such people act in its name. They must never mortgage its good name for favour, nor trade its principles for the promise of reward or the avoidance of displeasure.

They must never mistake silence for prudence, or submission for statecraft. What they must do is speak, as Jamaica has always spoken, for the right of the small to stand unafraid before the strong.

The time has come to repudiate, once and for all, the habits of genuflection. We live in no one's backyard. Jamaica must never accept the doctrine that might makes right.

When the annals of this era are written, they will record that on 28 October 2026 a Government of Jamaica resiled from our finest traditions of standing for law, justice, and sovereign equality but that the people of Jamaica did not.

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans 268 Inc

From Waste to Wonder, Let Our Commonwealth Colours Shine







Forty-five years of freedom, forty-five years of pride, Antigua and Barbuda, with the ocean by our side. Our history tells a story, our colours proudly fly, Our flag reflects the courage of the generations gone by.

The red speaks of our struggles, the sun announces dawn,
The blue reflects our waters, where our hopes are carried on.
The gold reveals the promise of a brighter, better day, The white reflects the purity that guides us on our way.

And now the Commonwealth gathers on our beautiful island shore, With nations, flags and cultures, and stories to explore.
From distant lands and oceans, across the rolling sea,
We celebrate our differences, our shared humanity.

But what if we could celebrate in a different kind of way?
By turning yesterday's waste into something bright today?
What if every bottle cap, once thrown upon the ground, Could tell a story of a nation, where belonging can be found?

Over eighty thousand bottle caps, collected one by one,
Have formed a Commonwealth of colours beneath our Caribbean sun.
Along Queen Elizabeth Highway, the flags now proudly stand, A masterpiece of unity, created by many hands.

From classrooms filled with children to volunteers working late, Each contribution helped us build something truly great.
Some collected, some were sorting, some arranged the caps with care,
And through their dedication, a celebration now stands there.

Eighty-one institutions helped this vision come alive,
With thousands of young learners helping environmental action thrive.
Our teachers shared their knowledge, our students played their part, Proving change begins with action, determination and heart.

For every cap discarded, there is a choice that we can make, To protect our precious planet for our children's future's sake.
What washes through our waterways may reach the open sea, A danger to the creatures that deserve to live there free.

Our beaches need protection, our oceans deserve care,
Our forests need defending, clean air is ours to share.
We cannot claim to love our land, then watch its beauty fade, While mountains grow from plastic and pollution fills the shade.

Climate action starts with choices, both the little and the grand, With bottles placed in recycling bins and rubbish off the sand.
It's not enough to make a pledge or speak about what's right, We have to







turn our words to work and bring our goals to light.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide a path to follow, To build a better world today, not leave it for tomorrow.
Through education, partnerships and responsible consumption too, We prove that lasting progress starts with what we choose to do.

And every flag reminds us that our nations have a voice,
That protecting our environment must become a conscious choice.
Though our borders may divide us, our futures intertwine,
For the Earth belongs to everyone, beyond each border line.

So come and find your country's flag, and stand beside its pride, Let your heritage and culture be a joy you need not hide.
Capture all the colours, let your photograph explain,
How discarded plastic found a purpose once again.

But please respect the artwork, let every flag remain,
For countless hours of effort should not be spent in vain.
Enjoy the lovely display, let its beauty touch your heart,
But do not touch the flags themselves; we each must play our part.

For independence means responsibility beyond the celebration, It's building stronger communities and protecting every nation.
It's teaching future generations that the choices made today, Will shape the world tomorrow in more than just one way.

Our flags are more than colours, they represent our story,
Our sacrifices, dreams and struggles, our independence and glory.
And though each flag is different, each country has its name, The need to save our planet is a responsibility we claim.

Let every bottle cap remind us that small actions can unite, That even waste, once overlooked, can make a future bright.
From waste to works of wonder, from discarded caps to art, We've shown that transformation begins within the heart.

So let our flags keep flying, let our young people lead,
Let environmental education become the growing seed.
For when a community comes together, there's so much we can do,
To build a cleaner, greener world for me, for them, for you.

Happy Independence, Antigua, and to Barbuda, shining bright, May our Commonwealth of colours fill our hearts with joy and light.
For every cap has value, every nation has a story,
And every act of kindness adds to our collective glory.

When we protect the land, together we stand.
When we care for the sea, we protect what will be.
When we turn waste into art, we give the Earth a brand-new start.
And when communities unite, our future shines bright.




Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
CIU
CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
9TH JAN
2027
8:00PM
NIGHT ONE
ONE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
ANTHONY B
GEN $100
ROOTS
ROCK
REGGAE
LOUNGE
$350
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL

Barbados eliminates mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Barbados has been certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV as a public health problem, following years of efforts to prevent infants from contracting the virus.

"I congratulate Barbados on protecting a generation of children from HIV," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

He said the achievement demonstrated the impact of universal health coverage, highlighting Barbados' provision of free healthcare services to all pregnant women, regardless of nationality, while respecting their rights and privacy.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) announced on Friday that Barbados had joined 26 countries and territories worldwide recognised by the WHO for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis or hepatitis B, or being on track to achieve elimination.

Fifteen of those countries and territories are in the Americas, including the Caribbean, making the region a global leader in efforts to prevent the transmission of these diseases from mothers to their children.

An independent assessment confirmed that Barbados had met the international elimination targets, with no new cases of mother-to-child HIV transmission recorded among infants born in the country between 2022 and 2024.

During the same period, 98 per cent of pregnant women accessed antenatal care, 98 per cent were tested for HIV and 98 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral treatment.

"Barbados has shown that eliminating mother-to-child transmission of



HIV is possible when women and children have access to quality health services without barriers," said PAHO Director Dr Jarbas Barbosa.

He described the certification as a significant achievement for Barbados, the Caribbean and global efforts to end AIDS in children.

Lisa Cummins, the health and wellness minister in Barbados, welcomed the recognition, saying it would help ensure that children could live healthy lives while mothers received the treatment and support needed during pregnancy.

"This is incredible for us, and it allows us to be able to see our children living their full, best lives," Cummins said.

PAHO attributed the achievement to sustained collaboration between the Barbados Government and international partners to strengthen HIV services, disease surveillance and healthcare delivery.

UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Robert Benes, said the certification demonstrated that an HIV diagnosis during pregnancy no longer had to result in transmission to a child.

Meanwhile, UNAIDS Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Luisa Cabal, also welcomed the milestone, crediting healthcare workers, civil society, people living with HIV and government leaders for their contributions.

She said the achievement reflected political commitment, investment in integrated health services and a strong emphasis on human rights and gender equality.

Barbados joins several Caribbean countries and territories recognised in recent years for progress towards eliminating mother-to-child transmission. These include the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands in 2026, and Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines in 2024.

Brazil received certification in 2025. (CMC)

POINT EXPRESS
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Regional News

MV Barima inquiry to hear survivors, relatives in November



Survivors of the MV Barima tragedy and relatives of those who died are expected to testify when the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (CoI) resumes public hearings on November 10, Guyana's Attorney General Anil Nandlall has said.

Nandlall said the hearings are expected to continue into December, with personnel from the Transport and Harbours Department (T&HD) and the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) also expected to give evidence.

The commission suspended oral hearings on October 22 to allow its secretariat to visit survivors in their communities and make statements in settings where they might feel more comfortable.

The commission's chair, Belizean Justice Godfrey Phillip Smith, stressed that the pause "does not mean that the work of the commission comes to a standstill".

During seven days of hearings at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC), the commission heard testimony from 33 witnesses, including first responders from the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Coast Guard and Air Corps, as well as officials from MARAD and the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA).

The commissioners are now reviewing a large volume of documents submitted alongside the testimony.

The commission was sworn in on July 30, 2026. Its other members are Polish physician Dr Andrzej Jasionowski, Jamaican Captain Hamada Fouda, Trinidad and Tobago attorney Nyree Dawn Alfonso, and Trinidad and Tobago Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Hayden Pritchard.

The inquiry is tasked with determining the cause of the incident, examining whether maritime laws and regulations were followed, and assessing the search and rescue operation. At the conclusion of its work, the commission is to submit its findings, observations and recommendations to President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The MV Barima capsized on July 18 while travelling from Georgetown to Port Kaituma. (CMC)



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Guyana Opposition leader, policeman jailed on cybercrime charge

Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohamed and a police officer were remanded to prison on Friday after being charged under the Cybercrime Act in connection with the alleged leak of government surveillance footage.

Mohamed and Police Constable Ryan Greene were denied bail when they appeared at the Sparendaam Magistrates' Court and remanded to prison until November 24.

The charge, brought under Section 9(2)(b) of the Cybercrime Act, relates to the alleged unauthorised access to and disclosure of electronic data connected to national security.

The case stems from the alleged downloading and disclosure of surveillance footage showing an October 12 incident in which Senior Superintendent Prem Narine, head of the Guyana Police Force's Special Branch, shot at a vehicle Mohamed was travelling in. The incident occurred after the vehicle was allegedly intercepted near Narine's residence.

Police have said Greene admitted to downloading the footage from the Government's Safe Country surveillance system. They allege that Mohamed paid the officer GY$800,000 (US$3,828) for the recording, which he played at a news conference this week.

Mohamed, his driver and the staff member are also on bail in connection with separate allegations of firearm and ammunition possession and attempting to obstruct the course of justice by discharging a loaded firearm near Narine's residence.

Narine is a key witness in proceedings concerning a United States request for the extradition of Mohamed and his father, Nazar Mohamed.



The media were prevented from entering the courtroom to cover the proceedings on Friday. Following the hearing, Mohamed's attorney, Senior Counsel Roysdale Forde, said there was "absolutely no basis for the refusal of bail" for Mohamed.

He said the magistrate had refused bail because Mohamed had previously been granted bail and had been accused of committing other offences.

Forde also argued that the prosecution had failed to demonstrate the elements of the cybercrime offence.

"Mr Mohamed was charged under Section 9 of the Cyber Crime Act, and a simple reading by a Common Entrance student would understand what are the elements of an offence. It requires for you to obtain something – in this case, data – and requires you to give it to someone. The prosecution's case has failed to demonstrate the elements of the offence," he said.

Greene's attorney, Darren Wade, also criticised the decision to deny bail, describing the charge as improper and disputing that the footage constituted information relating to national security.

"The charge of itself is nonsensical," he said.

Both attorneys said they would go to the High Court to seek bail for their clients.

In a statement, the A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) said it was "deeply concerned" by Mohamed's remand to prison, noting that the charge he faces relates to a non-violent offence.

"The Bail Act requires a court to have reason to believe, on evidence, that a defendant is likely to commit another offence before bail is refused," APNU said in a statement on Friday. "Pending allegations are not convictions, and the presumption of innocence applies. We believe the basis for the finding deserves close scrutiny, and we trust his High Court application will be heard independently and on the evidence alone." (CMC)

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Caricom urges greater investment in renewable energy to strengthen regional resilience



Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett is urging member states to accelerate investment in renewable energy and resilient infrastructure to reduce dependence on imported fuels and strengthen regional energy security.

In a message marking the launch of Caricom Energy Month 2026, Barnett said the region must take concrete steps to develop sustainable, affordable and resilient energy systems in the face of rising energy costs and the growing threat of climate change.

This year's observance is being held under the theme, "Harnessing Energy, Advancing Resilient Development".

Barnett noted that Caricom member states, as small island and low-lying coastal developing states, remain among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, while continuing to grapple with volatile global energy prices.

"These converging challenges underscore the urgency of building energy systems that are sustainable, affordable and resilient," she said.

The secretary-general said the Caribbean possesses significant renewable energy resources, including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass and marine energy, which could help transform the region's energy landscape.

She said greater use of these resources would improve energy security, reduce fuel imports, lower energy costs and create new opportunities for economic development.

However, Barnett stressed that investments in renewable energy must be accompanied by modernised electricity grids, energy storage technologies and infrastructure capable of withstanding hurricanes and other external shocks.

She acknowledged that conventional energy sources would continue to play an important role during the transition to cleaner technologies.

Barnett noted that although the Caribbean accounts for less than one per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Caricom remains committed to expanding renewable energy use.

She said the transition was not only about reducing emissions, but also conserving foreign exchange, strengthening energy security, generating economic opportunities and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Caricom secretary-general also called for stronger collaboration among governments, the private sector, development partners, academic institutions and civil society to accelerate the region's energy transformation.

"Through collective action, innovation, investment, and knowledge-sharing, we can unlock the full potential of the Caribbean's renewable energy resources, and build a more prosperous and resilient community for present and future generations," Barnett said.

She emphasised that the region's commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development must now be translated into measurable action. (CMC)

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Opposition parties stage new protest against the elections chief

India's opposition parties on Sunday renewed calls for the resignation of the country's election chief, staging fresh protests in the latest display of public dissent against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The protest, called by opposition bloc INDIA, drew tens of thousands of demonstrators, some carrying musical instruments and waving various flags, as they chanted slogans against the policies of the central government. Several opposition parties of the alliance, formed in 2023 to unseat Modi, mobilized their cadres from different states for the protest, which comes weeks after a police crackdown on protesters in New Delhi.



Led by Rahul Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress party, and backed by the youth "Cockroach" movement, the protesters called for the safeguarding of India's democracy while demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over a contentious voter roll revision.

The protesters gathered at Ramlila Maidan, a sprawling public square in New Delhi, after police last month withdrew Jantar Mantar from the list of officially designated venues for demonstrations. The historic observatory had long served as the capital's main protest site.

Authorities deployed thousands of police and paramilitary soldiers and mounted extensive surveillance, with more than 200 CCTV cameras, drones and body-worn cameras at the venue and along the protest route, officials said.

The ongoing review of voter lists has removed more than 130 million names since last year. Critics say the exercise is politically motivated, threatens to disenfranchise millions more, and has disproportionately affected minorities, particularly Muslims.

The Election Commission and Modi's administration deny the allegations and say the revision is intended to remove duplicate and ineligible entries.

Human Rights Watch on Thursday said the accusations over the voter roll revision raise "serious questions about the fairness of future Indian elections."

"The authorities should immediately scrap the voter roll revision process that has denied India's most marginalized people their right to vote and other government services," said Elaine Pearson, the group's Asia director, in a statement.

The call for Kumar's resignation has for weeks been a rallying cry for opposition parties and supporters of the Cockroach Janta Party seeking to challenge Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP. Opposition parties, mainly the Congress, say the ruling BJP has undertaken systemic manipulation of the electoral process, accusing the party of "vote chori", or vote theft.

Modi has not publicly commented on the protests. Some of his party leaders have dismissed the demonstrators as "anarchists" and suggested, without offering evidence, that they are backed by foreign powers.

In July, protests led by the youth "cockroach" movement forced the resignation of Modi's education minister, a rare setback for Modi, who has been in power for more than 12 years. The movement began as an online satirical campaign this summer after India's chief justice compared unemployed young people to parasites.

Suresh Sharma, a protester from northern Haryana state, said the country's system needed reform as democracy was being throttled.

The process of voter roll revision needs to be scrapped, Sharma said, adding: "We demand that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resign and be arrested." (AP)

Pirates seize Iranian fishing vessel, raising fears of attacks on cargo ships



Somali pirates have seized an Iranian fishing vessel carrying 23 people, the Maritime Security Center Indian Ocean said, warning that the ship was approaching a commercial shipping lane and could become a floating base for further attacks.

The Azini was hijacked Thursday between the coastal towns of Bandar Bayla and Hafun in northeastern Somalia, a maritime security officer with the Puntland Maritime Police Force said Sunday.

The officer told The Associated Press that 12 pirates seized the vessel, which was carrying 21 Iranian crew members and two Somali security guards. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorised to speak with the media.

The crew's safety was unknown, the centre said in an alert dated Saturday. In an updated warning, it said that pirates could use the vessel as a "mother ship" to support attacks on commercial vessels.

The European Union's naval Operation Atalanta was investigating. The centre urged ships in the area to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity.

The seizure follows a resurgence of Somali piracy across the Gulf of Aden and western Indian Ocean. By August, pirates had hijacked six commercial vessels since April, with some attacks taking place far from Somalia's coastline. The captures included the oil products tanker Sibu 1, seized about 136 nautical miles (252 kilometres) east of al-Mukalla, Yemen.

In September, Puntland authorities said pirates killed five crew members of the tanker MT Honour 25 before security forces recovered the vessel. The tanker had been held since April. Authorities said that 16 suspected pirates were detained. (AP)

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Jet nosedives and erupts into fireball near busy roadway in South Florida, all 9 on board died

A business jet carrying nine people nose-dived into a South Florida neighbourhood Sunday and erupted into a giant fireball that appeared to just miss homes near a busy roadway.

Everyone on board was killed, the nation's transportation secretary said.

Video recorded by people inside their cars captured the terrifying moment the Bahamas-bound aircraft plunged from the sky before striking near the Palm Beach County roadway and exploding.

Flames flickered around chunks of pavement lining a crater as people milled about, expressing shock that it landed only feet from homes and inches from passing vehicles.

Thick black smoke engulfed the crash site.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy posted on X that the Learjet 60 crashed in Palm Beach County at 12:50 p.m. and called it a "horrific tragedy."

The Federal Aviation Administration is sending a team to support the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation, he said.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said there were no immediate reports of anyone on the ground injured or killed.

"It was a cataclysmic plane crash," DeSantis told reporters at the scene. "It looked like a missile going down and left a big crater on the side of the road."

Rain pounded the region on Sunday.

A flood watch due to excessive rainfall was in effect through Monday afternoon, the National Weather Service said.



The aircraft had departed Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas and was headed to the Bahamas, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Authorities did not immediately say what caused the jet to go down or who was on it.

The plane was heading east at 35,000 feet (about 11 kilometres) when pilots reported turbulence, icing and precipitation and requested to climb another 2,000 feet (about 610 meters).

Moments later, the plane entered a steep dive, first 10,000 feet per minute, then 20,000 feet per minute and up to 30,000 feet per minute, speeding the plane beyond its design limits, according to air traffic control recordings and flight tracking data.

A pilot declared an emergency and issued distress calls. The plane banked sharply to the right before it smashed into the ground.

Minutes before the crash, the pilot reported ice accumulating on the jet and turbulence that was jolting it by as much as 700 feet (213 meters), according to air traffic control recordings captured by LiveATC.net.

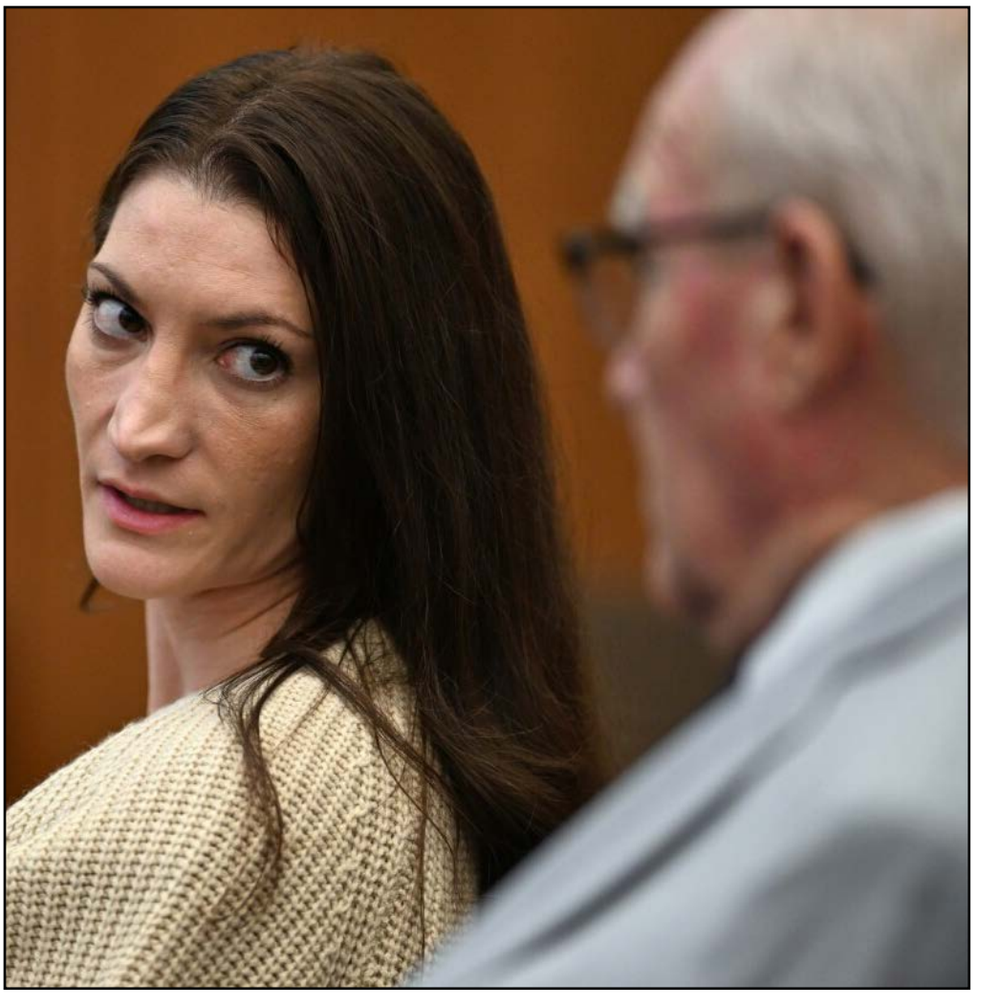
"We have light, clear ice that is manageable and moderate turbulence," the pilot told controllers.

But the situation rapidly deteriorated. After encountering precipitation and requesting to climb, the pilot declared an emergency as the aircraft began losing altitude at an alarming rate.

"We're descending 8,000 – mayday, mayday - we're descending 10,000 feet per minute," the pilot radioed.

"We are in an overspeed condition descending 20,000 feet per minute," the pilot radioed, before delivering a devastating acknowledgment of what was about to happen. "We're going to crash into the ground." (AP)

Lindsay Clancy returns to court in a bid to dismiss charges she killed her three young children



Lindsay Clancy returns to court Monday in a bid to dismiss the charges that she murdered her three young children.

The hearing Monday is the second time the Massachusetts mother has been in court since her trial ended with a deadlocked jury in September after jurors were unable to agree on a verdict. Prosecutors have yet to announce whether they plan to retry Clancy. They could choose to retry her on first-degree murder charges or pursue lesser charges, including second-degree murder or manslaughter, or drop the case entirely.

Clancy has never disputed killing her three young children in 2023, but her lawyer has argued she had postpartum psychosis and was unable to control her behavior. Prosecutors have acknowledged that the 36-year-old Clancy had mental health problems but said she acted deliberately and understood her actions were wrong.

The focus at Monday's hearing in front of Judge William Sullivan is expected to be on a motion from the defense to dismiss the charges on double jeopardy grounds.

They argue that the court did not need to declare a mistrial. Instead, it could have questioned the lone holdout juror Michael Desronvil, or the jury foreperson, regarding reports that he was refusing to follow court instructions with regards to reasonable doubt and failing to follow the law as he was instructed. That could have led to Desronvil being removed, thus avoiding the need for a mistrial.

Since the trial ended, Desronvil said he was certain of Clancy's guilt but that no one would listen to him.

Prosecutors, in their motion to dismiss, argue that double jeopardy "does not bar the Commonwealth from seeking justice on behalf of the three victims."

They argue it was unnecessary to investigate Desronvil, whom they don't name but describe as the dissenting juror, because the foreperson complaint did not allege "any personal issue, bias, or extraneous attributable to the dissenting juror." Singling that juror out, they argued, for an investigation "surely would have led to judicial coercion" and the "impermissible intrusion into the substance of the jury's private deliberations."

The other motion expected to be discussed is the Commonwealth's request for a gag order that would bar attorneys and their supporters "from making extrajudicial statements to the media that would have a substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing the criminal proceeding."

Attorney Kevin Reddington has given a series of interviews since the mistrial and held walking news conferences almost every day during the proceedings. Prosecutors, in contrast, never talked to reporters.

In response, Clancy's lawyers said this motion would amount to prior restraint since it is barring speech before it occurs. "The government bears a heavy burden to justify such an order," Laura McConnell, who was hired by Clancy's defense team, wrote. "There is no jury and it is unknown whether one will ever be impaneled. There is no trial date. The motion should be denied." (AP)

Grenades and Bullets advance to final of ABFA Knockout Cup



Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades

Defending champions Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades and Auto Craze Pigotts Bullets will battle for the title in the 2026/27 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) pre-season knockout competition.

Both teams advanced to the final of the ABFA Knockout Cup by securing wins in the semi-finals at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday evening.

Obafami Poyotte scored twice as the top-seeded Jennings Grenades surged to a 4-1 victory over fifth-seed Garden Stars in the second semi-final.

Poyotte had conversions in the fifth and 51st minutes, while teammates Barrington Blake and Troy Jules scored in the 58th and 85th minutes, respectively.

Tarik Charles scored a consolation goal in the 22nd minute for the Garden Stars, who finished the match with 10 men due to the expulsion of Devon Spencer in the 87th minute after he received a red card.

Kemoi Walsh also produced a double-conversion to propel the third-seeded Pigotts Bullets to a 3-2 victory against the second-seeded Aston Villa Lions in the first semi-final.

Walsh had conversions in the second and 57th minutes, while the other goal for Pigotts Bullets was scored by Malcolm Stewart in the 81st minute.

Emerson Tibert scored in the 29th minute, and Jordan Francis had a 90th-minute conversion for the Villa Lions, who finished the match with nine men.

Two Villa Lions' players received red cards and were expelled, one in the first half and the other in the second half.

Meanwhile, Ranjae Williams scored a late equalizer for Green City FC to salvage a 1-1 draw with promoted Freemans Village Scorpions in a rescheduled Premier Division match at the ABFA Technical Center.

Williams scored in the 90th minute after D'Andre Bishop's 27th-minute conversion gave the Freemans Village Scorpions a one-nil lead at halftime.

It was the first outing for Green City FC in this season's Premier Division League, while the Freemans Village Scorpions picked up their first point after suffering a 3-0 loss to defending champions Jennings Grenades in their season opener.

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Sports News

Real Blizzard maintain winning start in Second Division

Real Blizzard FC have maintained their unbeaten start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

Real Blizzard picked up their third win in as many games after being awarded a 3-0 victory via default against the Liberta Blackhawks in their encounter at the New Winthorpes playing field. It was the third loss in as many matches for the Liberta Blackhawks.

Sea View Farm FC continued their winning start to their campaign in the ABFA's Second Division in impressive fashion.

Sea View Farm FC followed up their 7-0 drubbing of the Liberta Blackhawks in their season opener with an 8-1 victory over the CPTSA Wings at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Nigel Graham and Azari Edwards struck first-half hat tricks to give Sea View Farm a 6-1 lead at halftime. Markland Wright and Leon O'Garro each scored a goal in the second half to wrap up the victory.

Clinton Benjamin scored a consolation goal in the 34th minute for the CPTSA Wings, who crashed to their third defeat in as many outings.

Glanvilles FC claimed their second successive win in the ABFA's Second Division League. After losing their season opener 4-0 to Point Westham FC, Glanvilles FC followed up in their 3-0 victory over Police FC with a 4-2 win against FC Masterballers at the Golden Grove playing field.

Goals by Teejay Roberts in the second minute and Zach Stanislas in the fifth minute gave FC Masterballers a two-nil lead. But Glanvilles FC hit back to score four goals to win the match.



Real Blizzard football team

Roshaun Martin scored his first of two goals in the 34th minute for Glanvilles, which allowed FC Masterballers to take a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Jayquanie Nanton equalized for Glanvilles FC by converting a penalty kick in the 60th minute. Martin scored his second goal in the 64th minute, and Zaleeq Lake sealed the win with an 83rd-minute conversion.

It was the first defeat for FC Master Ballers after recording a 3-1 victory over Wadadli United FC in their season opener.

After winning their first two matches, Bendals FC maintained their unbeaten start to the second division by salvaging a 2-2 draw with Tryum FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Glenroy Bartley snatched a late equalizer for Bendals FC with a conversion in the first minute of added time to secure the draw.

Alvah Guishard Jr. scored in the 23rd minute to give Bendals FC a one-nil lead at halftime despite his team being reduced to 10 men with the expulsion of teammate Jahken Jacobs, who received a red card in the 20th minute.

But Tryum FC hit back to take a 2-1 lead late in the second half. Deotcha Moses put Tryum FC ahead with a strike in the 81st minute after teammate Jamarre James scored the equalizer in the 78th minute.

The result allows Tryum FC to pick up their first point after crashing to a 4-1 defeat against Police FC in their opening game of the season.

But the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, who were relegated from the ABFA's First Division last season, continued their dismal start to competition in the second division.

After losing their first two matches by defaulting to the Young Warriors and Blackburn Palace, the Cedar Grove Blue Jays suffered their third successive loss with a 3-2 defeat against Lion Hill FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Kishorn Hamilton scored the opening goal via a fifth-minute conversion to put the Blue Jays ahead. But Jevio Grey produced a double conversion with goals in the 11th and 13th minute, and Kenique Jackson scored in the 12th minute to give Lion Hill FC a 3-1 lead at halftime.

Damion Lara reduced the deficit by scoring a second goal in the 62nd minute for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, who finished the match with 10 men after Ja-Rohn Thomas received a red card and was expelled in the 84th minute.

It was the first win for Lion Hill FC after suffering a 6-1 drubbing to Real Blizzard FC in their season opener.

But the match between the Urlings Golden Stars and Point West Ham was stopped in the 55th minute due to bad light at the Fort Road playing field.

At the time when the match was halted, the Urlings Golden Stars were enjoying a 3-0 lead, courtesy of two goals by Kion Jackson and a conversion from Derrick Pryce. Point Westham also failed to convert a penalty kick during the encounter.

Both the Urlings Golden Stars and Point Westham FC won their previous two matches.

The Second Division match between Police and Bethesda at Clare Hall was postponed. It means Bethesda remains on one point from two matches, while Police FC has three points from two games.

The match at Mount Pleasant between North Coast FC and Fort Road FC was also postponed. North Coast FC won their previous two matches, while Fort Road FC drew one and lost the other of their two previous encounters.

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BOE beat Shooterz to level business league playoff finals



The Board of Education basketball team

Cup-holders Board of Education (BOE) has drawn level with Richie's Shooterz in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Playoff Championship finals.

In a repeat of last year's finals, the top-seeded Board of Education stayed on course to make a successful defense of their title by surging to a 76-59 victory over the second-seeded Richie's Shooterz in Game 2 of the best-of-five series at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday night.

Daniel Perez led the way for the BOE by scoring 22 points. In support, his brother Danny Perez and Xavier "X-Man" Meade each converted 16 points, and Adonis Humphreys sank 13 points for the BOE.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 27 points, and Cohen Desouza scored 18 points for Richie's Shooterz.

The series is now tied at 1-1 after last year's losing finalists, Richie's Shooterz, took the early advantage by snatching a 68-61 victory over the Board of Education in Game 1.

Richie's Shooterz were led by Steven Matthew, who produced 18 points. Kwame Braithwaite sank 14 points, and Cohen Desouza and Jaheem James each converted 13 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Adonis Humphreys shot a game-high 20 points, and Daniel Perez scored 14 points for the Board of Education.

The Board of Education, which won the round-robin league title for the second successive year, will resume their quest for a back-to-back playoff title when they clash with Richie's Shooterz in Game 3 of finals at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday evening at 7:30.

Richie's Shooterz are seeking to do much better than their second-place finish in this year's round-robin league by overcoming the Board of Education in the finals and capturing the playoff title.

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West Indies beat Bangladesh to win first Test



West Indies John Campbell, left, and Brandon King compiled a 112-run opening partnership against Bangladesh on the fourth day of the first cricket Test in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Saturday, October 31, 2026. (Getty Images)

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Opener Brandon King hit an unbeaten 81 as West Indies chased down 170 with ease to beat Bangladesh by eight wickets in the first cricket Test on Saturday.

Bangladesh was bowled out for 142 in the second innings, taking a lead of just 169 runs after losing nine wickets to the West Indies spinners.

Skipper Roston Chase claimed five for 36 with his wily off-spin, and left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican followed his five for 53 in the first with four for 63 in the Bangladesh second innings.

On an increasingly deteriorating pitch on Day 4, interrupted by bad light, rain, and lightning, the West Indies openers John Campbell and King employed an attacking approach rather than defending the spinners.

They swept with precision to score runs fluently and put on 112 runs for the opening stand, which determined the course of the game.

"The two openers gave us a good start," Chase said. "Sometimes, when a couple of wickets fall early, it creates a bit of panic in the dressing room, but the guys went out there today and got us off to a lovely start in the second innings. It gave us that momentum, and we carried it right through to the end."

King raised his sixth fifty from 68 balls, with a late-cut-boundary toward deep backward point. It also brought up 100-run partnership, keeping Bangladesh bowlers frustrated.

Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam broke through with the wicket of Campbell with a perfect in-swinger that flattened the stump. After scoring 54 in the first innings, Campbell made 49 in the second.

Pacer Hasan Mahmud then dismissed Tagenarine Chanderpaul for one to offer Bangladesh some hope. But Kavem Hodge, unbeaten on 31, and King put on 50 from 58 balls to help the side seal the game and take 1-0 lead in the two-match series. King struck 10 fours and one six for his 115-ball 81 not out.

"We fell on the back foot in the first innings," Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said.

"After finishing the day at 213, we were bowled out for 272. We fell quite far behind at that point. We knew batting would become difficult later in the match.

"We are taking one match at a time. We did not play our best cricket in this test. Now we have to look forward to the second Test and think about how we can come back strongly."

Starting the fourth day on 79 for six, Bangladesh was able to add just 63 runs with Nayeem Hasan scoring most of them. Nayeem was the last batter out for 52, after brining up his maiden half-century in the Test.

Nayeem guided the lower order astutely to take the lead past 150 amid the vicious spin bowling from Warrican and Chase.

Chase dropped Nayeem on 29 but the batter showed the grit on tricky surface to raise his maiden half-century off 87 balls when he guided a delivery from Warrican to mid-wicket for a single.

Chase, however, dismissed him for his fifth five-wicket haul and wrapped up Bangladesh innings as Nayeem miscued a shot to long-on.

Bangladesh was bowled out for 272 in their first innings before dismissing West Indies for 245. The final Test is in Sylhet, starting on Wednesday.

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Second-place finish for Antiguans at Battle of the Isles tourney



Team Antigua and Barbuda with their trophies at finishing second at the Battle of the Isles Netball Tournament at the LB Sports Auditorium in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten on Sunday, November 1, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABNA)

Antigua and Barbuda's senior national team claimed the runners-up spot in the 2026 Battle of the Isles Tournament (BOIT), which took place in St. Maarten from October 28 to November 1.

Antigua and Barbuda finished in second place after suffering their only loss in the seven-team round-robin tournament with a narrow 40-43 defeat to champions, the Commonwealth of Dominica, in their final encounter at the LB Sports Auditorium in Phillipsburg.

Tashana Bloomfield scored 22 of her 30 attempts, and teammate Erverdine Parker-Barnarde, who was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) for Antigua and Barbuda at the tournament, converted 17 of her 34 shots.

After launching their campaign with a commanding 71-7 drubbing of Saba, the Antiguans claimed their second win by snatching a 38-33 victory against St. Kitts and Nevis.

Erverdine Parker-Barnarde produced 25 points from 38 shots, and Kizzy Hughes scored 11 of her 15 tries for Antigua and Barbuda.

Rochella Challenger converted 20 of her 23 shots, and Aaliyah Gibson scored 13 of her 33 attempts for St Kitts and Nevis.

Team Antigua and Barbuda also surged to a commanding 60-16 victory over host St. Maarten, crushed Anguilla 52-13, and prevailed 39-12 against St. Eustatius.

The Commonwealth of Dominica played unbeaten to claim the title, winning all six matches at the 10th edition of the annual tournament. The Dominican prevailed 48-33 against St. Kitts and Nevis before crushing St. Eustatius 69-8.

Dominica trounced Saba 87-15, prevailed 65-24 over St. Maarten, and crushed Anguilla 82-7 before clinching the title with their three-point win over Antigua and Barbuda.

St. Kitts and Nevis clinched third place ahead of St. Maarten after both teams finished with identical records of three wins and three losses.

The Kittitians claimed the bronze medal by winning their last two matches, beating St. Maarten 62-32 and crushing Saba 73-17.

St. Maarten captured fourth place, while St. Eustatius secured fifth place by recording two wins from their six matches. St. Eustatius won by default over St. Kitts and Nevis and prevailed 29-13 against Saba in their final encounter.

Anguilla claimed one win to finish second from the bottom of the standings, while SABA finished in the cellar, losing all six matches.

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