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Statement by the Hon. H. Charles Fernandez

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Scrub Life Cares (SLC) officially unveiled its first menstrual health awareness mural at the Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) on Tuesday

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Government of Antigua and Barbuda

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St. John's, Antigua.
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24 November 2026

Statement by the Hon. H. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment

We wish to clarify our comments from earlier this week.

The project we referenced with Royal Caribbean Group was an initial agreement in 2019 but did not resume after the pandemic. Even in its initial stages, the proposal always considered local beach access.

We value our collaboration with Royal Caribbean Group and regard the company as a good partner.

Hon. H. Charles Fernandez
Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment

Festivals Commission Kicks Off 4-Day Songwriting Workshop



A workshop, which runs from November 24-27, 2026, at the Eustace Hill Campus in Coolidge, was opened on Tuesday by the Minister of Sports and Creative Industries Dwayne George, alongside Cleofoster Harris, Operations Lead at the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission. The initiative forms part of the Commission's continued commitment to investing in the development of local creatives and strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's cultural and creative industries.

Facilitated by Kitwana Israel of ADVOKIT Productions and Emmanuel Rudder, the workshop brings together aspiring and established songwriters for a series of interactive sessions, practical demonstrations and collaborative exercises designed to elevate musical craftsmanship across Antigua and Barbuda.

The intensive programme offers participants hands-on writing activities to strengthen songwriting techniques, encourage creative expression, foster collaboration and broaden their understanding of the music industry and the wider creative economy. Through practical learning experiences and guided instruction, participants will



have the opportunity to develop their craft while exploring pathways to professional and commercial success within the industry.

Participants are encouraged to engage actively throughout the programme by bringing laptops, tablets, notebooks, and other tools to support their creative process and participation in workshop exercises.

In addressing participants, Minister George highlighted the growing importance of the creative sector as a contributor to national development and economic diversification. "The creative industries represent far more than entertainment. They are a critical component of Antigua and Barbuda's growing orange economy and a powerful avenue for job creation, entrepreneurship, cultural preservation, and international visibility. As a government, we remain committed to creating opportunities that equip our creatives with the knowledge and tools needed to transform their talent into economic success and position Antigua and Barbuda as a competitive player in the global creative marketplace."

Cleofoster Harris encouraged participants to view songwriting as both an artistic pursuit and a professional opportunity. "Antigua and Barbuda has never lacked musical talent. Our responsibility is to invest in that talent, strengthen the craft, and create pathways for our creatives to transform their ideas into intellectual property, careers, and sustainable opportunities." Harris noted that the workshop is the third songwriting initiative of its kind and reflects the Commission's deliberate and ongoing investment in the people behind the music."

Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, said, "We recognize that our creative people are among our nation's greatest assets. We will continue to invest in programmes that provide access, education, mentorship, and professional development, because when our creatives are given the tools to grow, entire industries benefit. This workshop is another example of our commitment to creating spaces where talent can be nurtured, strengthened, and transformed into opportunity."



The intensive programme will expose participants to songwriting techniques, lyric development, creative collaboration, music industry fundamentals and the processes for developing marketable musical content.

Through initiatives such as the Songwriting Workshop, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission continues to champion talent development and capacity-building across the cultural and creative sectors, ensuring local creatives are equipped to compete, succeed and tell Antigua and Barbuda's stories on regional and international stages.



Scrub Life Cares Unveils Menstrual Health Mural at Antigua Girls' High School

The initiative marks a significant step towards a period-friendly Antigua and Barbuda through art, education, advocacy and community collaboration.



Scrub Life Cares (SLC) officially unveiled its first menstrual health awareness mural at the Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) on Tuesday, marking a meaningful milestone in the organisation's ongoing efforts to advance menstrual equity, challenge stigma and promote reproductive and sexual health education across Antigua and Barbuda.

The mural forms part of Scrub Life Cares' broader vision of creating a Period-Friendly Antigua and Barbuda, where menstruation is recognised as a natural biological process and no individual is disadvantaged, excluded or made to feel ashamed because of their period.

The initiative holds particular significance for Founder and Chief Executive Officer Tanya Ambrose, a proud alumnus of the Antigua Girls' High School. Launching the project at her alma mater, the country's only all-female government secondary school, represents both a personal homecoming and an opportunity to give back to the institution that contributed to her personal and professional development.

"This is more than paint on a wall. It is a statement of dignity, empowerment and change. We want every young girl who walks past this mural to be reminded that her body is not something to be ashamed of, that her health matters, and that she deserves access to the information, resources and support necessary to thrive. Returning to my alma mater to launch this initiative makes this moment even more meaningful," said Ambrose.

Despite growing awareness, menstruation continues to be surrounded by stigma, misinformation and cultural silence. Through this initiative, Scrub Life Cares seeks to use public art as a catalyst for meaningful conversations, increased menstrual health literacy and collective action towards ending period poverty.

Art, Youth Engagement and the Power of Una

The mural was conceptualised and designed by Scrub Life Cares' Project Manager and Creative Director, Caralee Nicholas, bringing together creativity, public health education and social advocacy.

Commencing during Antigua Art Week, the project brought together members of Scrub Life Cares and students of the Antigua Girls' High School, who dedicated their time, creativity and talent to bringing the vision to life. Their participation reflects the organisation's commitment to ensuring that young people are not simply beneficiaries of health initiatives but active contributors to the changes taking place within their schools and communities.



The unveiling also marked the official introduction of Scrub Life Cares' new mascot, **Una (pronounced "Younah")**, lovingly hand-knitted by fifth-form student Zari Roach and named by third-form student Schniea Browne.

Una will serve as a creative and approachable symbol of the organisation's menstrual health advocacy, helping to make conversations surrounding menstruation, puberty and reproductive health more accessible, engaging and relatable to young people.

Principal Rosalind Beazer expressed her appreciation for the collaboration, stating:

"Antigua Girls' High School was honoured to collaborate with Scrub Life Cares in the painting of a mural designed to publicise the importance of menstrual equity and sexual health education."

A Collective Commitment to Menstrual Equity

Scrub Life Cares extends its sincere gratitude to the sponsors whose generosity and contributions made this initiative possible: **Cassada Paints, A&R Hardware, Epicurean and the Antigua Women's Group.** Their support demonstrates the important role that businesses and community organisations play in advancing menstrual health, dignity and equity.

The organisation also acknowledges the Ministry of Education, particularly Director of Education Mr. Clare Brown and Education Officer for Visual Arts Mr. Bernard Peters, for their support in facilitating this initiative.

Special appreciation is extended to Principal Mrs. Rosalind Beazer, Deputy Principals Ms. Samista Ellis and Ms. Sharon Joseph, Visual Arts Teacher Ms. Dosher Williams, and the entire staff and student body of the Antigua Girls' High School for embracing the initiative and contributing to its successful completion.

The unveiling was attended by members of the school community, the Scrub Life Cares team, partners and supporters, including Ministry of Health Coordinator for Non-Communicable Diseases Valerie Williams, Deputy Director of the Family and Social Services Division Marsha James-Pharaoh, and cricket legend Sir Curtly Ambrose, accompanied by his family.

Building a Period-Friendly Antigua and Barbuda

The unveiling represents more than the completion of an artistic project. It signals Scrub Life Cares' continued commitment to creating supportive school environments, strengthening menstrual health education, expanding access to essential resources and advocating for sustainable changes that protect the health and dignity of women and girls.

Through its ongoing programmes, community outreach, research and advocacy, Scrub Life Cares remains committed to working alongside educational institutions, government agencies, private-sector partners and communities to address menstrual inequities.

The organisation envisions this mural as the beginning of a wider movement that uses art, education and community engagement to transform how menstruation is understood, discussed and supported across Antigua and Barbuda.

Menstrual health is a public health priority, a matter of equity and a fundamental human rights issue. Creating a period-friendly society requires a collective commitment to ensuring that every individual can manage their menstrual health safely, confidently and with dignity.

CIBC

The future is for everyone

Here are some of the men building it with us.



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Kramm Distributors
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Darrin Dalley
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Junior Codrington
Elite Pest Control Ltd.
Barbados



Steffon Andre Thompson
Frozen Caribbean
A C Tech
The Bahamas



Rudolph Moseley
Original Patties
The Bahamas



Raynard Rigby
Baycourt Chambers
The Bahamas



Kyle Albury
Kraven and Weelz
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Conray Rolle
Transformation Landscape Development
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Chris Tilling
Cocoplum Management
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Victor Porras Perez
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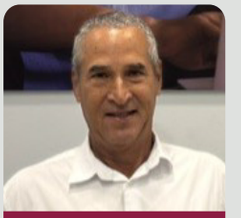

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Roger Fraites
Fraites Bakery
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Sailesh Nainaney
Smart Electronics
St. Kitts & Nevis



Nerville Labadie
Nerv's Taxi &
Auto Rental Services
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Niles Ferdinand
Southwell Inc
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Family Care Medical Services Ltd & DMR Group Holdings
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Dr. Jameika Harvey
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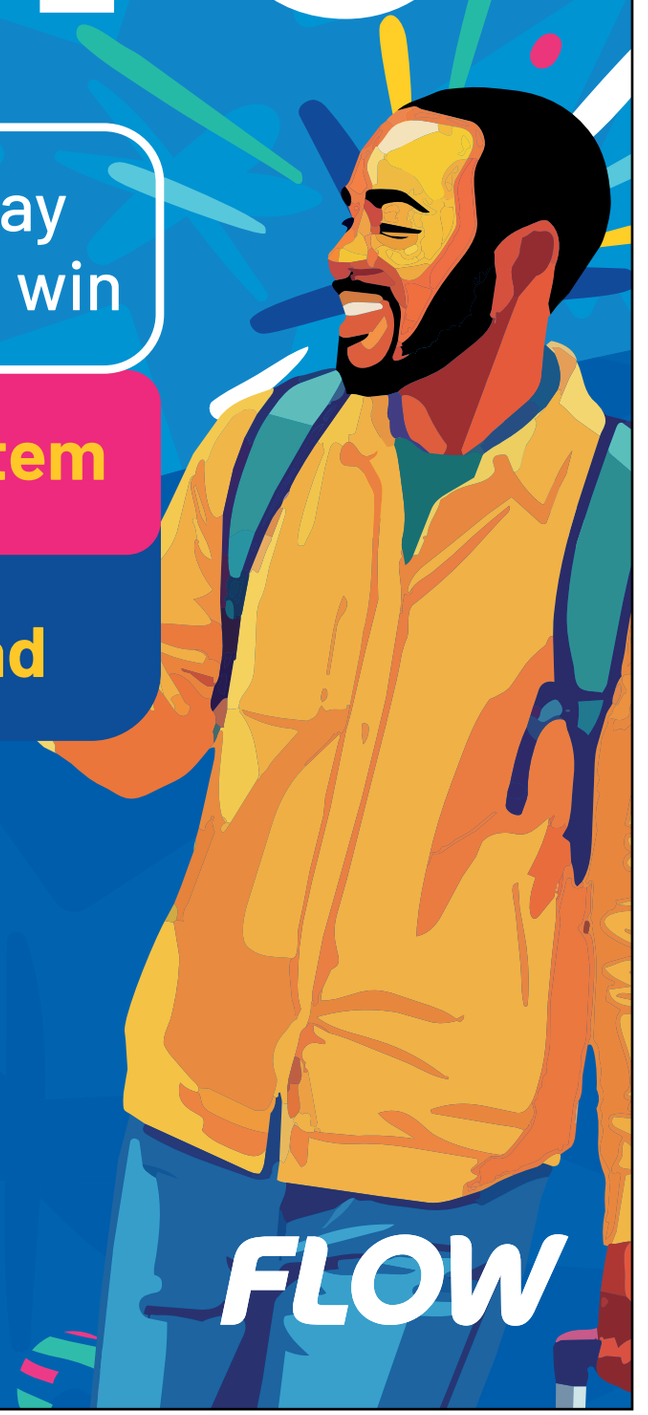

FLOW

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SENIOR COORDINATOR MAINTENANCE

Muqali Ltd, an established **Property Management Company in Antigua & Barbuda**, is seeking a skilled, experienced, and hands-on **Senior Coordinator Maintenance** to oversee maintenance and landscaping operations across its portfolio of managed properties, including villas and private residences.

As the Coordinator, the successful candidate will provide effective team leadership, coordinate and carry out preventive maintenance and repairs, supervise contractors and the technical team, and ensure that all properties are maintained to high operational, safety, and presentation standards. This is a hands-on role requiring the candidate to work alongside the team to ensure tasks are completed efficiently and on time.

Key Responsibilities

- Supervise, coordinate, and actively participate in daily maintenance and landscaping activities.
- Plan and oversee preventive maintenance schedules, property inspections, repairs, and work orders.
- Coordinate and carry out maintenance of electrical, plumbing, air-conditioning, and other property systems and equipment, within the scope of the candidate's technical qualifications.
- Supervise contractors and ensure quality workmanship and timely completion of assigned tasks.
- Maintain accurate maintenance records, monitor inventory, and support cost control. ▪ Ensure compliance with health and safety procedures and company standards. ▪ Conduct and oversee regular property inspections (scheduled as well as ad-hoc), including pre-arrival and post-departure inspections.

Qualifications and Experience

- Successful completion of a recognized apprenticeship programme or possession of a Technical/Vocational Certificate or Diploma in Building Maintenance, Electrical Maintenance, Plumbing, or a related discipline.
- An Associate Degree in Facilities Management, Engineering Technology, or a related field would be an asset.
- **Minimum of two (2) years' relevant maintenance experience in a similar supervisory role**, preferably within property management, hospitality, or facilities maintenance. ▪ Sound technical knowledge of building systems and general property maintenance. ▪ Strong leadership, planning, organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills. ▪ Computer literacy and familiarity with work-order management.
- Valid driver's licence and availability to respond to occasional after-hours maintenance emergencies.

Application Details

Suitably qualified candidates are invited to submit their résumé to **hr@muqali.ag** no later than **18 December 2026. Email Subject: Senior Coordinator Maintenance**

Safe Practices in Child Care: Promoting Safe, Clean and Healthy Environments!









On Tuesday, November 24, 2026, the Central Board of Health (CBH) was pleased to participate in the Early Childhood Development Unit's Professional Development Day, where a Public Health Inspector facilitated an engaging session on "Safe Practices in Child Care."

The session brought together daycare and preschool owners and caregivers to reinforce the importance of maintaining clean, sanitary and safe environments for children in their care.

Through discussions, demonstrations and practical engagement, participants were reminded that good hygiene and sanitation practices are essential in minimizing the risk of illness and protecting the health of our youngest and most vulnerable population.

Participants had the opportunity to view a demonstration setup highlighting important areas within a daycare environment, including sleeping and crib areas, play spaces, toys, baby-changing stations and other items commonly used in child care settings.

The display provided an opportunity to discuss the proper cleaning and sanitizing of these items and the importance of maintaining hygienic conditions throughout the day.

A hand hygiene station was also incorporated into the session, allowing caregivers to practise proper handwashing techniques. Emphasis was placed on washing hands after changing diapers, feeding children, cleaning, handling waste and other activities that may contribute to the spread of germs.

Caregivers were encouraged to make hand hygiene a consistent part of their daily routines and to ensure that frequently touched surfaces, toys, cribs and changing stations are cleaned and sanitized regularly.

The session highlighted that creating a healthy childcare environment goes beyond keeping spaces visually clean. It requires consistent, proper hygiene practices, attention to detail and a commitment to safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of every child.

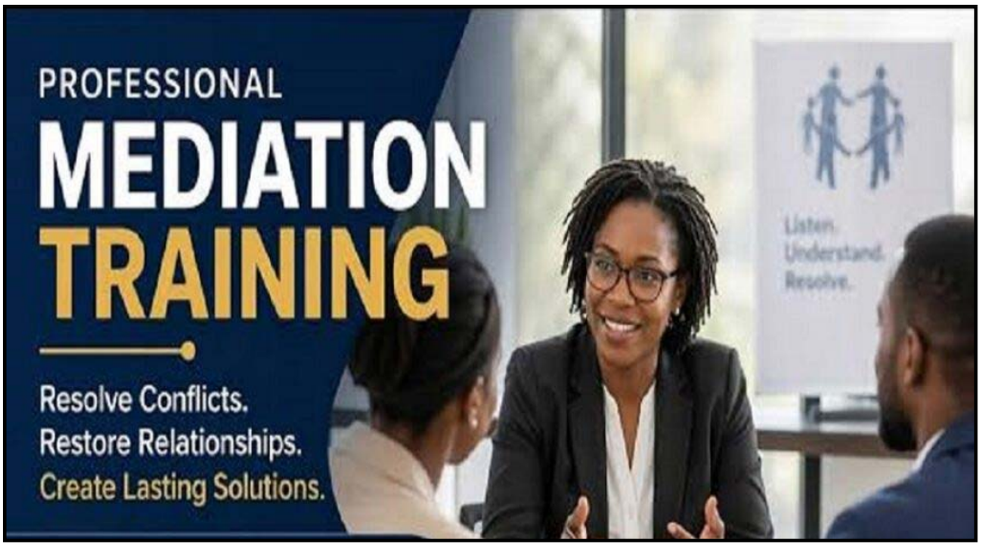
The Central Board of Health extends heartfelt thanks to the Early Childhood Development Unit for the invitation and for organizing such a meaningful, engaging and informative Professional Development Day for its daycare and preschool practitioners. We appreciate the opportunity to share our knowledge, promote good environmental health practices and contribute to building healthier and safer childcare environments.



Healthy habits start early! Together, let us create clean, safe and healthy spaces where our children can grow, learn and thrive.

Dispute Mediation Training for Businesses Comes to Antigua and Barbuda

The OHADAC Regional Arbitration Centre (CARO Centre), in partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), will host a one-day training session for businesses and private-sector stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday, 25 November 2026, under the theme *"Alternative Dispute Resolution for Businesses: Practical Tools for Commercial Risk Management."*



The training will take place at the Heritage Hotel in St. John's, Antigua. Organised in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CiArb) Caribbean Branch, the session will bring together businesses, entrepreneurs and other private-sector stakeholders to explore practical approaches and useful tools for preventing, managing and resolving commercial disputes through mediation and arbitration.

Strengthening commercial risk management through alternative dispute resolution

Commercial disputes can affect business continuity, increase costs and place pressure on professional relationships. Arbitration and mediation offer alternatives to conventional court proceedings, providing parties with different approaches to resolving disagreements according to their needs and circumstances.

Through practical discussions and contributions from experienced professionals, participants will explore the principles and applications of alternative dispute resolution, including its role in commercial risk management, negotiation and the preservation of business relationships.

Building business capacity across the Eastern Caribbean

The training in Antigua and Barbuda follows previous business-focused training sessions held in Saint Lucia on 17 September 2026 and Dominica on 19 November 2026.

As part of the OHADAC-CARO Training Programme, a regional programme implemented by the CARO Centre in partnership with the OECS, these training activities aim to strengthen the capacity of businesses across the Eastern Caribbean to anticipate commercial risks, prevent disputes and make effective use of mediation and arbitration.

By providing practical knowledge of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, the programme seeks to help businesses manage commercial disagreements more effectively, preserve business relationships and contribute to a more predictable environment for regional economic activity.

The programme is supported by the European Union and the French Development Agency (AFD) within the framework of the Interreg Caribbean VI programme.

The session will feature contributions from professionals with experience in arbitration, mediation and commercial dispute resolution.

Speakers and facilitators:

- Dr Marie-Camille Pitton, Secretary-General, CARO Centre
- Miles Weekes, CiArb Caribbean Branch
- Anaïs Leray, OECS Collaborator, CARO Centre
- Satcha S-C S Kissoon, External Trainer – Arbitration
- Tracy Benn-Roberts, External Trainer – Mediation

Volunteerism and National Service in Motion

CHOGM: A True National Effort

The successful hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was more than a diplomatic achievement. It was a remarkable demonstration of volunteerism, national service, collective patriotism and the capacity of the people of Antigua and Barbuda to rise to a challenge of extraordinary magnitude.

More than 600 volunteers/plus, supported by the machinery of Government, our security services, public institutions, private-sector partners and countless other stakeholders, came together to help deliver a historic international gathering. It was an undertaking that demanded meticulous planning, discipline, coordination, professionalism and, above all, a shared belief in our country's ability to deliver.

Having successfully hosted the SIDS Conference in 2024 and the 55th General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2025, CHOGM represented another significant milestone in our national experience of managing major international engagements. But hosting the Commonwealth was not simply about welcoming Heads of Government and their delegations. It required multiple task forces, extensive logistical arrangements and the coordination of people, institutions and resources, all working towards one common objective: presenting Antigua and Barbuda at its very best.

That achievement began with the vision and determination of Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne, who had the confidence to extend the invitation and commit our country to hosting this important gathering. It was a bold decision, rooted in the conviction that Antigua and Barbuda and its people were equal to the task.

The ministerial leadership and guidance of the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, helped maintain the coordination, momentum and direction necessary to move the undertaking forward. Equally deserving



of recognition is Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, whose leadership, organizational discipline and determination helped steer this enormous undertaking through challenging circumstances, difficult decisions and sometimes turbulent waters.

The Financial Secretary, Mrs. Rasona Davis-Crump; Permanent Secretaries Ms. Sharon Stevens and Ms. Sandra Joseph; and the teams across the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Works, Ministry of Information, Communication Techonologies(ICTs), Utilities and Energy and the Office of the Prime Minister deserve our sincere appreciation for their administrative leadership, professionalism and contribution to this consequential international engagement.

Yet, leadership alone does not deliver an undertaking of this magnitude. It takes an entire nation working together.

Our security and operational agencies, including the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, the Immigration Department, the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority and airport facilitation teams, Antigua and Barbuda Broadcasting(ABS) and the media community, played indispensable roles in ensuring the meeting's successful execution.

The task force leads and their teams responsible for accreditation, finance, ICTs, infrastructure, accommodation, transportation, communications/media, catering, production, venues, health and safety, emergency medical services, disaster management and cultural presentations must also be commended.

Our health professionals, EMS personnel, the National Office of Disaster Services, the Central Board of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, cultural practitioners, service providers, vendors, custodial staff, sanitation workers and many others worked tirelessly, often away from the public spotlight. Their contribution was no less important.

Every assignment mattered. Every department mattered. Every individual mattered.

But among the many contributors, our volunteers deserve a special word of appreciation.

To Our Volunteers – You Made Us Proud!

Our Delegation Liaison Officers (DLOs) and wider volunteer corps were, in many respects, the human face of CHOGM. You were the welcoming faces, the guides, the problem-solvers,

the troubleshooters and the ambassadors whom delegates encountered throughout their stay.

You were entrusted not simply with a task, but with our national image and reputation.

Through your professionalism, courtesy, patience, resourcefulness and hospitality, you helped create experiences that visitors will carry home with them. You made strangers feel welcome, difficult situations manageable and unexpected challenges easier to navigate. You demonstrated that, although we are a small nation, we possess an extraordinary capacity for service, resilience and human kindness.

Many sacrificed personal time, endured long working hours and sleepless nights, and worked through difficult personal circumstances. You gave far more than was expected, not because you were compelled to do so, but because you believed in the importance of the assignment and in the opportunity it presented for Antigua and Barbuda to shine.

You understood that CHOGM was not simply about making the Government look good. It was about making our country look good. It was about demonstrating that we can rise above individual differences and work together in pursuit of something greater than ourselves.

Special recognition must also be extended to Ms. Joshuanette Francis of Good Humans 268 Inc., whose creative recycled bottle-cap art installations, youth environmental education and disability inclusion advocacy brought an important dimension of environmental consciousness, creativity and inclusion to the national effort.

To all our volunteers: you made us proud. You made Antigua and Barbuda proud. And you have given us another reason to believe in the extraordinary potential of our people.

The success of CHOGM must not be measured solely by the meetings held, the declarations adopted or the diplomatic outcomes achieved. It must also be measured by the impressions left on every Head of Government, delegate, member of the Commonwealth Secretariat, professional, technical officer and visitor who came to our shores.

The relationships established, friendships developed and stories shared about Antigua and Barbuda are part of the legacy we have created.

No undertaking of this magnitude is without challenges. There were missteps, disagreements, disappointments and moments of frustration. We should acknowledge them honestly, because they provide lessons that can strengthen our approach to future national undertakings.

But we must not allow those challenges to overshadow the tremendous contribution of the thousands who worked, sacrificed and delivered.

Constructive criticism and accountability are essential. So too are gratitude, recognition, encouragement and the willingness to celebrate what we have accomplished. We must resist the temptation to focus disproportionately on what went wrong while overlooking the many things that went exceptionally well.

A balanced appreciation of our achievements and shortcomings will allow us to learn, improve and move forward with greater confidence.

The knowledge, skills, systems, relationships and experience developed through CHOGM must not disappear when the excitement of the occasion subsides. This national achievement should be properly documented, celebrated and institutionalized.

We have assembled a remarkable pool of trained volunteers, experienced professionals, operational personnel and capable national leaders. We have demonstrated that our people can organize, coordinate and deliver a major international conference to a high standard.

We developed a well-planned and structured security architecture and accreditation system worthy of sharing with our regional and international partners.

That capacity is a national asset, one that should be preserved, strengthened and replicated in future international engagements, sporting events, cultural festivals, diplomatic conferences and other major national undertakings.

Volunteerism is not simply about giving one's time. It is an expression of citizenship, national responsibility and commitment to the common good.

We must therefore find ways to sustain this spirit and ensure that those who volunteered for CHOGM remain engaged in the development of Antigua and Barbuda.

Our National Hero, Sir Vivian Richards, demonstrated to the world that a small island nation could produce an individual whose talent, confidence and determination would leave an indelible mark on the global stage. He did not merely participate in international cricket; he helped redefine it.

CHOGM has reminded us that we possess that same potential in diplomacy, political engagement, economic development, culture, innovation and global cooperation.

The potential is real. The talent is here. The capacity has been demonstrated. What we must now cultivate is the confidence, discipline and national unity to sustain it.

CHOGM was not simply an event we completed. It was a statement about who we are and what we are capable of becoming.

Let us therefore move beyond the memories and photographs with a renewed commitment to national service, a deeper appreciation for volunteerism and an understanding that the development of Antigua and Barbuda is a responsibility we all share.

To every volunteer, task force member, public officer, security officer, stakeholder, service provider and individual who contributed in whatever capacity, I offer my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude.

You answered the call. You gave of yourselves. You stood up for your country. And together, you helped Antigua and Barbuda deliver a moment in our national history that we can all celebrate with pride.

May the spirit of CHOGM live on in our communities, our institutions and in the hearts of every citizen who believes that, together, we can achieve great things.

God bless our volunteers. God bless our people. And may God continue to bless our beloved Antigua and Barbuda.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ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
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The beach is just the beginning...
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NIGHT TWO
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GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
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DEWS

Build • Renovate • Improve

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

DRESSED TREATED LUMBER

2x4x12 Dressed Treated
2x4x14 Dressed Treated
2x4x18 Dressed Treated
2x6x14 Dressed Treated
2x6x18 Dressed Treated
2x8x12 Dressed Treated
2x8x14 Dressed Treated
2x8x18 Dressed Treated
4x4x16 Dressed Treated



ROUGH TREATED LUMBER

1x4x14
1x4x18



SIDING

1x8x16
1x6x14



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Department of Environment Invites Public to Celebrate Arbour Day 2026

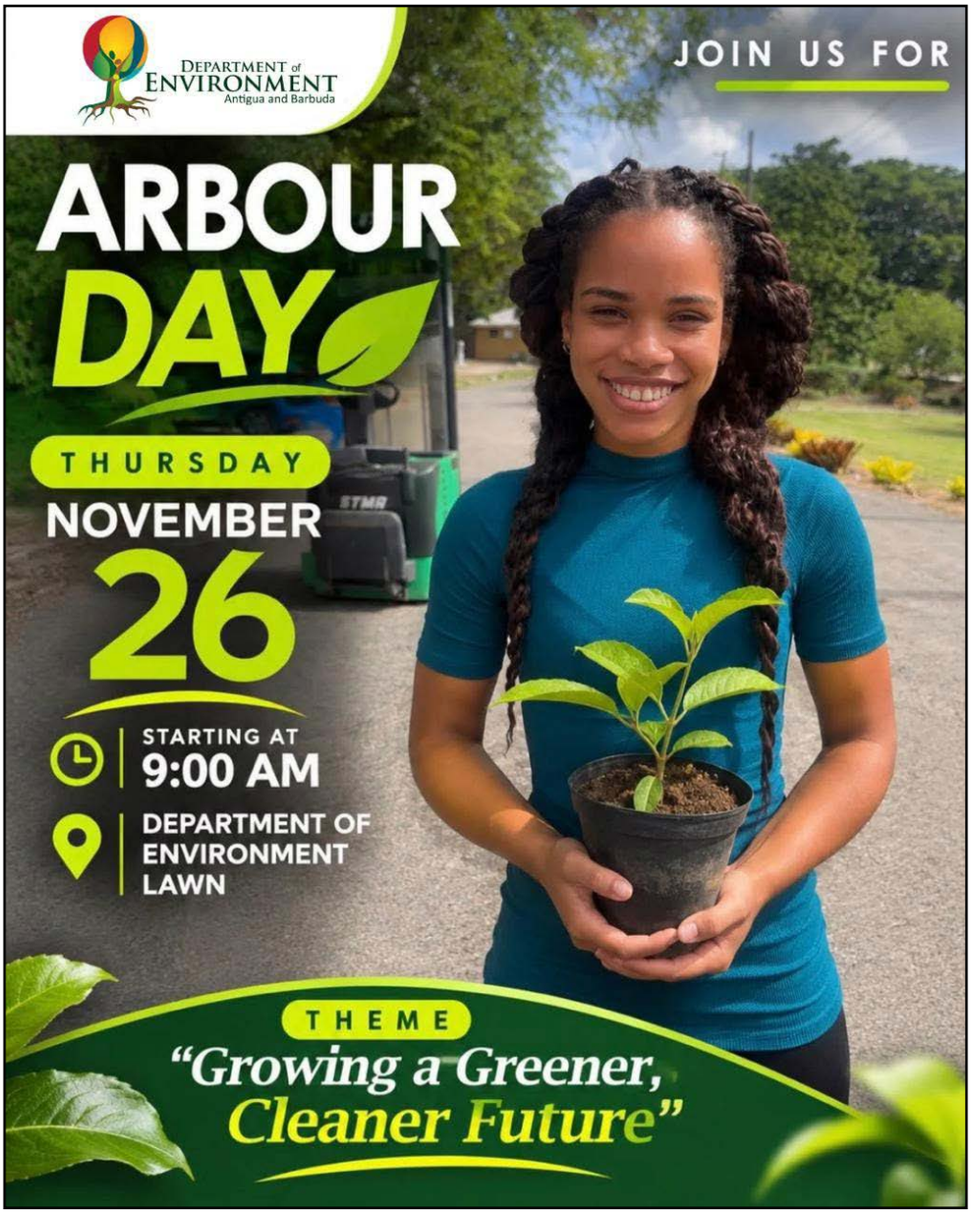
Theme: "Growing a Greener, Cleaner Future"

The Department of Environment wants members of the public to join its Arbor Day 2026 celebration on Thursday, November 26, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the Department of Environment Lawn.

Held under the theme "Growing a Greener, Cleaner Future," this year's observance seeks to inspire greater environmental awareness, encourage sustainable practices, and reinforce the importance of trees and plants in building a healthier and more resilient Antigua and Barbuda.

Arbor Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the essential role trees play in protecting the natural environment. From improving air quality and providing shade to supporting biodiversity, reducing soil erosion, and contributing to climate resilience, trees are vital to the environmental health and well-being of communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

As a Small Island Developing State, Antigua and Barbuda faces unique environmental challenges, including rising temperatures,







changing rainfall patterns, and the increasing impacts of climate change. Protecting and expanding green spaces is therefore an important part of strengthening the country's resilience while safeguarding its natural heritage for future generations.

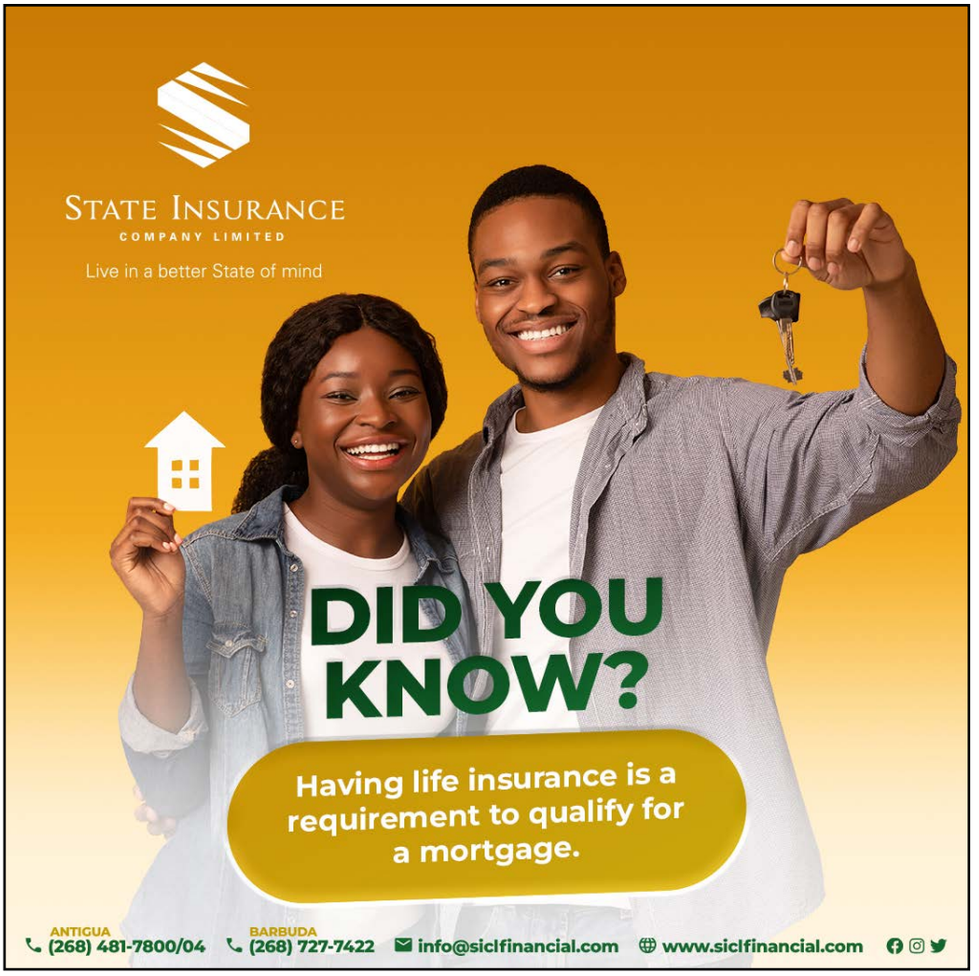
The Department of Environment continues to emphasize the importance of collective responsibility in environmental protection. Through public engagement, education, and community participation, the Department seeks to encourage individuals, households, schools, businesses, and community organizations to adopt practices that contribute to a more sustainable future.

This year's theme serves as a reminder that meaningful environmental change begins with individual and collective action. Whether through planting and caring for trees, reducing waste, maintaining green spaces, or supporting conservation initiatives, every contribution plays a role in creating a cleaner and greener nation.

The Department encourages residents, gardening enthusiasts, students, environmental advocates, and members of the wider community to participate in this year's Arbor Day celebration and demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Department of Environment looks forward to welcoming the public as Antigua and Barbuda continues working towards a future in which environmental sustainability and community well-being go hand in hand.

Together, we can grow a greener, cleaner future for Antigua and Barbuda!



Sandals Foundation and Hands Across the Sea put a Lasting Mark on School Libraries





The transformation of a school library extends beyond the books lining its shelves. It is also about creating a welcoming space where students feel encouraged to explore, discover and develop a lifelong love of reading.

That vision is taking further shape across Antigua, where new library signs have now been installed at participating schools as part of the ongoing literacy partnership between the Sandals Foundation and Hands Across the Sea.

The signage provides a visible identity for the enhanced library spaces, helping to establish them as dedicated environments for reading, learning and discovery. It also adds another layer to the organizations' investment in strengthening literacy opportunities for children throughout the island.

In June 2026, the Sandals Foundation invested EC$54,607 through the partnership to provide new books, specialized literacy resources and strengthened school libraries for 1,192 students at TOR Memorial School, St. Michael's Primary School, Urlings Primary School, Parham Primary School and Princess Margaret Secondary School.

The installation of the signs represents a continuation of that work, reinforcing the importance of creating learning environments that are not only



equipped with appropriate resources but are also welcoming, identifiable and conducive to student engagement.

For young readers, a well-supported library can open doors to new ideas, build confidence and strengthen the foundational skills needed for success in the classroom and beyond. By pairing books and literacy resources with dedicated reading spaces, the partnership continues to support schools in nurturing these opportunities.

"Supporting education means looking at the different elements that help children thrive, including access to books and the spaces in which they learn. The installation of these library signs is another visible step in our ongoing commitment to literacy and to helping schools create environments where students are encouraged to read, learn and grow," said Sandals Public Relations Manager and Sandals Foundation Representative Leon Norville.

Through its longstanding collaboration with Hands Across the Sea, the Sandals Foundation continues to support childhood literacy and educational development across the Eastern Caribbean. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to helping schools build and sustain

CDB reinforces importance of Open, Fair, and Competitive Finance to Propel ECCU Economic Growth



Governor Timothy N. J. Antoine, Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), thanks Mrs. Gillian Charles-Gollop, Vice President, Corporate Services at the Caribbean Development Bank, following the delivery of her keynote address, "Competing for Trust: Powering the Big Push through Open, Fair and Competitive Finance," at the ECCB 8th Annual Conference with Licensed Financial Institutions. During her remarks, Mrs. Charles-Gollop underscored the importance of collaboration among financial institutions, regulators, governments and development partners to advance the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union's Big Push agenda and strengthen the foundations for sustainable economic growth, diversification and resilience.

The Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) is well positioned to build a more open, fair and competitive financial system, but success will depend on continued collaboration among financial institutions, regulators, governments and development partners, said Mrs. Gillian Charles-Gollop, Vice President, Corporate Services at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Delivering the keynote address, "***Competing for Trust: Powering the Big Push through Open, Fair and Competitive Finance***" at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's (ECCB) 8th Annual Conference held this month in Basseterre, Saint Kitts, the CDB Senior Executive reinforced the Bank's alignment behind the ECCB's vision for a more integrated and competitive regional financial system to propel economic growth across the ECCU.

"We will succeed when we convert trust into productive speed, wider choice, lower friction, deeper investment and greater opportunity for our people," she said.

Charles-Gollop noted that the ECCB's Big Push strategy aims to double the size of the ECCU's economy and the wealth of its citizens within a decade and central to that ambition is a strong financial sector that can mobilise capital, support entrepreneurship, facilitate investment and connect economic opportunity across the region. She highlighted that the ECCU already has strong foundations to fuel the Big Push, including stability, confidence and a regional financial ecosystem and multilateral partnerships that can be leveraged to mobilise investment at scale and drive regional growth.

"The opportunity before us is to move from architecture to execution; from regional institutions to regional scale; and from integration to interoperability that delivers measurable value for every jurisdiction and community we serve," she said.

Charles-Gollop highlighted three opportunities that will help accelerate progress which the ECCB is already advancing: fast payment systems that work for commerce, accountable use of artificial intelligence, and deepening regional capital markets to channel savings into more productive investment. Financial institutions, she said, can compete on customer value and collaborate more on shared infrastructure for greater interoperability, cybersecurity, identity and fraud intelligence.

The CDB Vice President reaffirmed the Bank's continued commitment to supporting the ECCB and said that CDB's Ten-Year Strategy 2026 to 2035: Transforming the Caribbean for Resilience closely aligns with the ECCB's Big Push.

CDB is currently supporting an ECCB-implemented programme on integrity and financial transparency which is helping smaller financial institutions build digital finance capability. The initiative is co-funded by the Government of Canada and supported by the International Monetary Fund, DigiLab Finance, the International Finance Corporation and the Caribbean Association of Banks.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TIAN WINTER - CLAUDETTE PETERS
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YOUNG LYRICS - YOUNG VICE - KID FRESH - EMPRESS
BALLO - SOCA VILLAN - ISLAND PRINCE - BLESS EYE
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BUDGET WATCH 2027

The Most Important Document You Never Read

The UWI Five Islands Campus Budget Watch

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, Dr. Cleopatra Gittens and Ms. Tessa Browne

Every year a Minister of Finance stands in Parliament for two or three hours and tells us how the country's money will be raised and spent. Most of us catch a headline such as no new taxes, a bigger budget than last year or a salary increase. Then the numbers go back into thick books that few people open.

That is a pity, because the budget is the most important document a government produces each year. It decides whether the road gets fixed, whether the clinic gets a nurse, and how much our children will owe.

This year the UWI Five Islands Campus is launching Budget Watch 2027. Its purpose is simple: to help citizens read a budget for themselves.

We will do three things

1. Explain the language

What is the difference between recurrent and capital spending? What is a primary balance? Why does everyone keep saying 60 per cent?

Each term comes with a real example from an Eastern Caribbean budget and a comparison with another small island state.

2. Show the record

For each of the eight members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union, the same key numbers from the last three budgets.

What was planned and, where the figures exist, what actually happened.

3. Look ahead

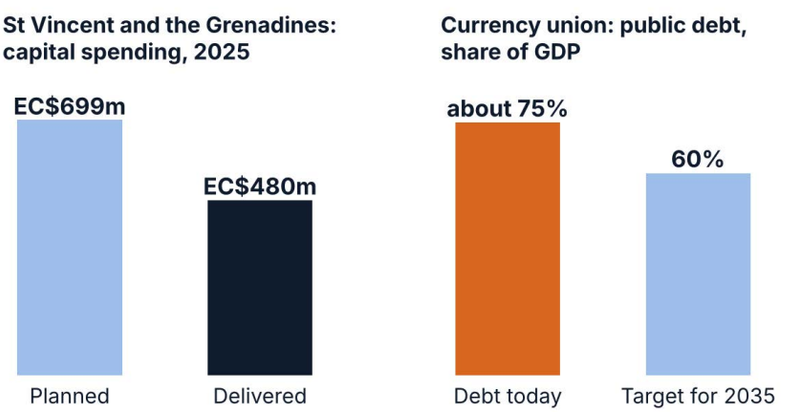
Before each 2027 budget, five things to watch.

After it, a short note on what we heard.

Large numbers for small places

EC$1.96bn
Grenada's 2026 budget

EC$2.19bn
Saint Lucia's 2026/27 budget



Source: St Vincent and the Grenadines 2025 Estimates and Ministry of Finance fiscal summary; IMF, 2026 regional consultation with the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

St Vincent and the Grenadines planned EC$699 million of capital spending in 2025 and delivered EC$480 million. Across the currency union, the IMF says public debt has stalled at around 75 per cent of GDP, against a regional target of 60 per cent by 2035.

These are large numbers for small places and they deserve more than a headline.

Eight budgets, nine months

Antigua and Barbuda's 2027 budget is due on 11 December. Others follow, through to Dominica's in the middle of next year.



Only Antigua and Barbuda's date has been announced. The other bars show when each budget is expected, based on last year's timing.

Budget Watch takes no side

We will not tell you whether a budget is good or bad. We will give you the tools to decide, and the sources so you can check us. Please follow along with us.



TODAY DEFINDING PEACE IS EVERONE´S DUTY.

By Sergio Martínez Gonzalez.

Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Antigua and Barbuda.

Our world today continues to be a storm of contradictions. We face regional wars that threaten to spread, a climate crisis that is no longer a prediction but a daily catastrophe, famines caused by financial speculation, forced migrations that turn the seas into cemeteries, and a social fracture where the wealth of a few has been accumulated over the misery of many. Imperial governments seek to impose their will by force, intensifying their attacks, seeking new pretexts, fabricating enemies, pressuring, threatening, and doing everything possible to destabilize nations that refuse to submit to them. Today, more than ever, we must remember one of the principal lessons and legacies that the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro left us in his tireless struggle for peace.

He reminded us in one of his many historic speeches delivered at the United Nations that "Wars, since the beginning of humanity, have arisen fundamentally for one reason: the desire of someone to take by force others lands, resources, and culture. Let the philosophy of dispossession disappear, and the philosophy of war will disappear! Let colonies disappear, let the exploitation of countries by monopolies disappear, and then humanity will have reached a true stage of progress!"

Today, defending peace is everyone's duty. The grave dangers that threaten humanity must be confronted with norms and principles compatible with human dignity and the sovereign right of peoples to self-determination.

On this global chessboard, Cuba remains one of the prime targets of imperial fury. Washington has intensified its genocidal economic war against our rebellious island, reinforcing its criminal blocked to unprecedented levels, including a complete energy blockade



Cuban Ambassador Sergio Martinez

whose objective is to cause the greatest possible scarcity and suffering as a method of punishment for an entire population who refuse to submit to its imperialist ambitions of domination.

In an act of total cynicism and perversity, the US Secretary of State has declared that US sanctions against Cuba will only intensify. "What we are trying to show them," Marco Rubio said, "is that there are no escape valves." His words are an unmistakable acknowledgment that the critical situation in Cuba, is a direct consequence of an unprecedented economic war. This statement constitutes a confirmation of the policy of genocidal extermination of an entire people if they do not submit to the dictates of the empire.

Just a few days ago, the United Nations General Assembly witnessed how an overwhelming majority of the member countries of this body once again bravely repudiated the criminal policy of collective punishment that the US Government is carrying out against the entire Cuban people.

For Cubans today saving the Cuban Revolution from one of the most serious threats it has faced in 67 years, under aggression of all kinds, is the greatest challenge of our generation.

Cuba always has been willing to establish a civilized dialogue with the US government in search of negotiated solutions to our differences, provided that such dialogue is based on total respect for our sovereignty and to the principles and norms that govern international relations between states. No matter how difficult the circumstances may be, or how terrible the consequences might prove, we will never yield to blackmail, threats or the imposition of will through force. We will always defend cooperation and friendship with all the peoples of the world. This is what we are demanding for our country and for the rest of the nations.

But faced with this immense and aggressive storm imposed upon us by the US government, what has Cuba done? We have responded precisely with what Fidel taught us: resistance cannot be passive, it has to be creative. Despite all the difficulties, we were able to developed our own vaccines that allowed us to confront the pandemic with sovereignty; we have been working to increase our agriculture production, both urban and suburban, using agroecology to guarantee food despite the lack of fuel and fertilizers; we are taking giant steps toward our goal of transforming our energy matrix and moving toward that much-desired objective of energy self-sufficiency; we have strengthened our defense systems that does not need sophisticated drones or missile systems, much less nuclear weapons, but a brave people ready to defend its land at any cost, because it defends it with its heart and with the unity of its forces.

We have learned to turn adversity into opportunity. The crisis that has been imposed us, compels us to be more efficient, more innovative, and more participatory. Our scientists, our teachers, our doctors, our farmers, workers, and students—even our children—have demonstrated that collective intelli-

gence and the will to resist, are stronger than money and all the power of the empire. And above all, we have not abandoned internationalism practice. We continue to send medical brigades to the poorest places in the world, sharing our educational and scientific methods; we remain the island that builds bridges of brotherhood. We remain the island that modestly helps to save human lives, not destroy them with bombs and predatory wars.

Yes, we have many shortcomings. Our daily life has to face endless hours of blackouts, water shortages, inflation, painful limitations in access to many medications, and the problems and limitations our healthcare professionals face due to a lack of resources in their dignified and heroic daily work of caring for and saving human life. But none of these problems has extinguished the flame of solidarity, nor have we renounced a single one of our values and principles for convenience or opportunism. Yes, the empire is powerful, but history is and always will be on the side of the people. Every child who learns to read in a Cuban school today, even without electricity, every farmer who cultivates using agroecology, every scientist who conducts first class research, every life saved in an operating room illuminated only by the cell phones of our doctors and nurses, every young person who completes their university studies—this is undoubtedly a battle won.

The Cuba of the present and future will continue to be built by hand and with the heart of all Cubans of yesterday who, like Fidel, are no longer physically with us, with those of today, and with those who will follow us tomorrow. We, the same Cubans who have been, are, and will continue to be joyful, friendly, supportive, party and dancing lovers; who laugh even at our own problems; who have never been afraid to confront the enemy, ready to fight wherever, whenever, and under any circumstances in defense of a just cause; courageous in combat, never abandoning a wounded comrade or one in difficulty, as Fidel taught us, never betraying our convictions and principles.



Her safety is not optional - Day 1 of 16 Days of Activism



November wakes beneath an orange sky, and asks whose tears we hurry past nearby. Behind the smiles we meet along the street, are stories pain has taught to sound discreet. A woman greets the morning, dressed with care, while carrying a fear we do not share. Today, we turn toward what silence hides, toward every girl whose hope still fights the tides.

From village lanes to homes beside the sea, we know how beautiful our land can be. Yet beauty cannot promise peaceful sleep, when doors conceal the wounds our neighbours keep. A house should hold the warmth of welcome light, not teach a woman how to fear the night. No loving word should come attached to dread; no child should learn to count the threats instead.

Her safety is not optional we say; a right that must survive beyond today. Beyond the orange ribbons that we wear, beyond the speeches floating through the air. What worth are promises of brighter years, if help arrives too late to dry her tears? What does protection mean upon a page, if women still must bargain with their cage?

Let us begin by listening without blame, by giving neither doubt nor room to shame. Replace the question, "Why did she remain?" with "Who will help her find her feet again?" For leaving may demand a place to stay, a meal, a ride, a wage, a safer way. Compassion grows through actions, small and clear; it makes a path where walls were built from fear.

Let classrooms teach that boundaries deserve respect, and every child has dignity to protect. Let boys discover strength in being kind, in patient words and peace of heart and mind. Let girls grow sure their voices carry weight, their futures never someone else's fate. And let the lessons learned beside the board become the values practised and restored.

Let workplaces become a place of grace, where women find support and breathing space. Let churches offer refuge, not disguise the harm that lives beneath familiar lies. Let neighbours notice changes, reach a hand, and help survivors find the strength to stand. Let those entrusted with the public good deliver care as faithfully as they should.

For women with disabilities, the door must open wide, with access at its core. A shelter needs a ramp, a trusted guide, a way for every voice to reach inside. Protection cannot stop upon the stair, or vanish when communication needs more care. Her right to safety never should depend on how she walks, or whom she must befriend.

Good Humans 268 extends this call: a safer nation asks the work of all. Sixteen days can spark a lasting flame, if daily actions honour what we name. From Antigua's shores to Barbuda's sand, let care become the promise of our land. Her safety is her right, her voice her own; no woman should face violence alone. Let orange mark the courage to begin, and let our shared compassion carry justice in.

Joshuanette Francis

Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.

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The beach is just the beginning...
9TH JAN
2027
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Elavia Foundation Launches Writing Initiative to Empower Young Girls in Grenada



The Elavia Foundation has launched its inaugural initiative in Grenada, using creative writing as a way to encourage young girls to express themselves, develop their talents and recognise the importance of their voices.

The initiative features a writing competition designed to give participants an opportunity to share their thoughts, experiences and ideas through the written word.

Beyond the competition itself, the programme aims to help girls strengthen their writing and communication skills while building confidence in their ability to express themselves. Such opportunities can also encourage creativity, critical thinking and a greater interest in reading and writing.

For young people, having a platform to communicate their ideas can be particularly valuable as they navigate school, relationships and the challenges of growing up. Writing can provide a constructive outlet for personal reflection and allow participants to explore issues that matter to them.

The foundation hopes the initiative will inspire participants to recognise that their experiences and perspectives have value. By encouraging young girls to develop their abilities, the programme also seeks to support their personal growth and help them become more confident in sharing their ideas with others.

The launch represents an opportunity to highlight the role community organisations can play in supporting youth development through education, creativity and mentorship.

As the initiative progresses, the competition could provide a platform for emerging young writers to showcase their work and continue developing their talents.

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Children Continue to Struggle with Emotional Trauma More Than a Year After Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica



More than a year after Hurricane Melissa devastated parts of Jamaica, some children are continuing to experience emotional and psychological distress as they try to recover from the disaster.

Recent periods of heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunder and lightning, have reportedly brought back frightening memories of the storm for young survivors. Sounds and weather conditions associated with the hurricane can serve as reminders of what children experienced, causing some to feel anxious or afraid even after the immediate danger has passed.

For children who experienced frightening weather, damage to their homes or the disruption of their daily lives, recovery can involve more than rebuilding physical structures. They may also need time, reassurance and appropriate emotional support to regain a sense of safety.

The effects of traumatic experiences can vary from one child to another. Some may have difficulty sleeping, while others may become distressed during heavy rain, loud thunder or strong winds. These reactions can affect their concentration, relationships and ability to participate comfortably in everyday activities.

Parents, teachers and caregivers can play an important role by listening to children's concerns, acknowledging their feelings and helping them understand that they are now safer. Where distress continues or significantly affects daily life, professional counselling and psychosocial support may also be necessary.

The situation highlights the importance of including children's mental health in disaster recovery programmes, alongside housing, education and other essential services.

As Jamaica continues its recovery, ensuring that young survivors receive sustained emotional support remains an important part of helping affected families rebuild their lives.

Amnesty Calls for Investigation into Alleged War Crimes in Ethiopia's Tigray Region



Human rights organisation Amnesty International is calling for an investigation into alleged war crimes involving Ethiopian military forces and their allies in the conflict affected Tigray region.

The call follows reports of artillery strikes on residential neighbourhoods in Alamata, where civilians were reportedly killed and others injured during fighting in September. Amnesty says its investigation drew on witness interviews, survivor accounts, video footage and satellite imagery to examine the circumstances surrounding the attacks.

The organisation says attacks that fail to distinguish between civilians and military targets may violate international humanitarian law. It has called for the allegations to be investigated and for those found responsible for crimes to be held accountable.

The renewed violence has raised concerns about the safety of residents, particularly families living in communities affected by the fighting. The situation also highlights the challenges civilians face when conflict damages homes, disrupts essential services and limits access to assistance.

Amnesty has also raised concerns about the use of populated residential areas for military purposes. The allegations involving the different parties to the conflict remain matters requiring careful investigation, and responsibility must be established through a fair and independent process.

The developments have renewed international attention on the protection of civilians and the importance of ensuring justice for victims of alleged human rights violations.

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Saint Lucia Investigates Another Maritime Incident as Safety Concerns Continue



Authorities in Saint Lucia are investigating another reported maritime incident as the ongoing Commission of Inquiry into the Anse Cochon boat collision continues to examine concerns surrounding maritime safety.

According to the supplied report, the latest incident occurred on Sunday and involved a collision between two vessels. The collision reportedly resulted in a speedboat sinking, while one man sustained minor injuries.

The incident has renewed attention on the risks associated with travelling by sea and the importance of ensuring that vessels operate safely. Maritime accidents can have serious consequences for passengers, boat operators and other people using coastal waters.

The circumstances surrounding the latest collision, including what caused the vessels to come into contact and whether any safety regulations were breached, will need to be established through the investigation.

Meanwhile, the Commission of Inquiry into the deadly Anse Cochon collision is examining the circumstances surrounding the July 18 incident involving the vessels Ocean Angel and Cazorla Jr. The inquiry was established to investigate the collision and make recommendations aimed at strengthening maritime safety and oversight in Saint Lucia.

The proceedings have brought issues surrounding vessel operation, speed and safety procedures into focus. The inquiry is expected to help identify lessons that could prevent similar tragedies in the future.

The latest reported incident adds to the importance of ensuring that maritime regulations are followed and that appropriate safety measures are in place for people travelling on the island's waters.

Brexit Debate Returns as UK European Union Relations Come Under Scrutiny

Britain's future relationship with the European Union is once again attracting political attention, as debate continues over the economic and social consequences of Brexit.

Discussions surrounding closer cooperation between the United Kingdom and the European Union have included areas such as food export regulations, youth mobility and efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Supporters of stronger cooperation argue that improving relations could create opportunities for businesses, workers and young people on both sides.

The debate over whether Britain should eventually rejoin the European Union remains politically sensitive. Any proposal to reverse Brexit would raise questions about public opinion, the terms of membership and the political process required to make such a major decision.

The issue also reflects continuing divisions within British politics, with different political figures holding contrasting views on the benefits and disadvantages of the country's departure from the bloc.



For businesses, changes to trade arrangements and regulations can affect the movement of goods and the cost of operating across borders. For young people, discussions about mobility could influence opportunities to study, work and gain experience in European countries.

Further negotiations between Britain and Brussels could help clarify the direction of future cooperation. However, the precise timetable, the proposed referendum and the political figures involved must be confirmed against the original report before this story is broadcast.



Satellite Images Raise Concerns Over Unreported Ebola Deaths in Eastern Congo



New concerns are emerging about the true scale of the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, following a Reuters analysis suggesting that the number of deaths may be higher than official figures indicate.

The analysis examined satellite imagery of burial grounds in affected areas and found that the sites appeared to be expanding faster than the officially reported Ebola death toll. The findings have raised questions about whether all fatalities are being recorded and whether the available figures fully reflect the scale of the outbreak.

Accurate information is essential during a public health emergency. Reliable death counts help health authorities assess the seriousness of an outbreak, determine where assistance is needed and plan appropriate responses.

However, satellite images alone cannot establish that every additional burial is connected to Ebola. Confirming the cause of death requires further investigation and reliable health records.

Ebola is a serious infectious disease that can cause severe illness and death. Outbreak response efforts generally include identifying cases, tracing contacts, strengthening infection prevention measures and communicating accurate information to the public.

When deaths go unrecorded, it can become more difficult for health officials and humanitarian organisations to understand the spread of a disease and provide support to affected communities.

The findings underscore the importance of transparent reporting, effective surveillance and access to dependable public health information as authorities work to determine the outbreak's true impact.


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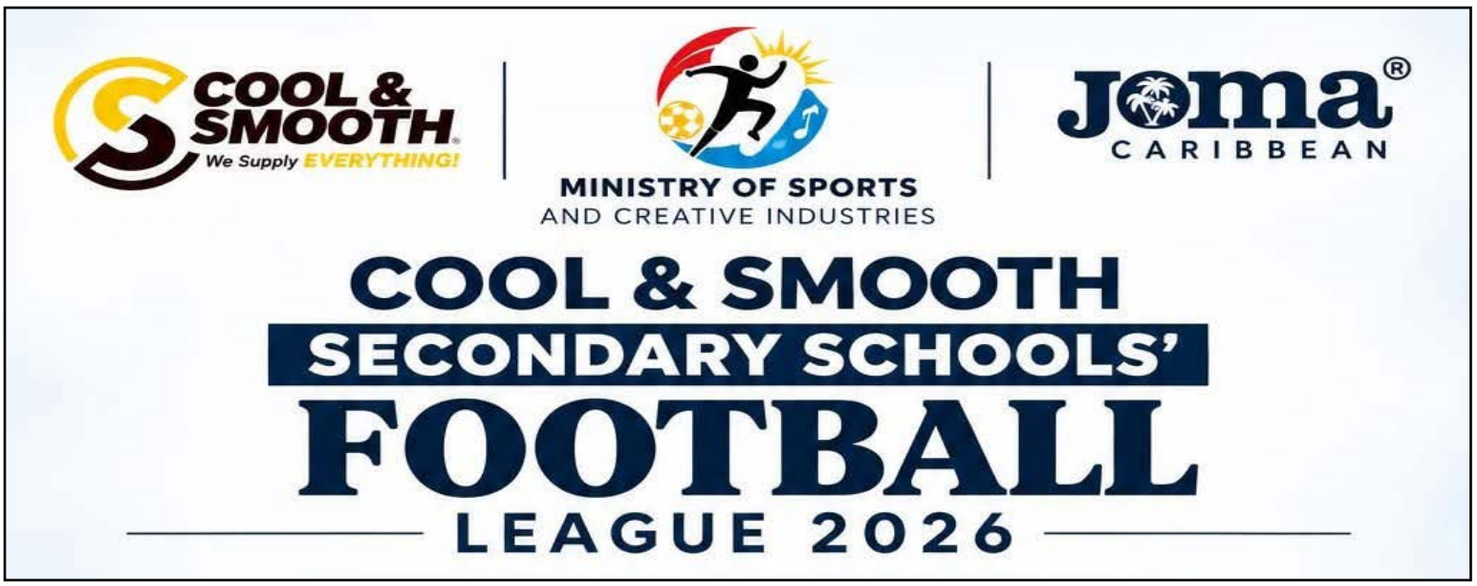

Wins for CHSS and SMSS in school girls under-15 league

The Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) and St. Mary's Secondary School picked up wins in the inaugural Girls Under-15 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Monday.

Clare Hall Secondary School claimed their third win in five matches to advance to nine points by pulling off a 3-1 victory over Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) at the PMS playing field.

Jonica Matthias produced a double conversion with strikes in the 28th and 51st minutes, while Shanice Herbert scored the other goal for Clare Hall Secondary in the 59th minute.

Skii Hazlewood scored a consolation goal in the 24th minute for Antigua Girls High School, which remains on four points after slumping to their third defeat in five matches.

The St. Mary's Secondary School recorded their first win in five matches by securing a 2-0 victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Naomi Williams had a 15th-minute conversion, and N'shia Williams scored in the 34th minute for St. Mary's Secondary School, which moves on to five points.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy remains winless and in the cellar of the six-team standings without any points after crashing to their fifth defeat in as many encounters.

Meanwhile, defending champions Harrison Center and Princess Margaret School (PMS) recorded wins in the Patrick Whyte Cup Under-20 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League.

The Harrison Center maintains their unbeaten run to move to the top of the 11-team standings with 13 points from five matches.

The Harrison Center picked up their fourth win by securing a 2-0 victory over Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Kayonzae Gifford had a 34th-minute conversion, and Xarik Richards scored in the 51st minute for the Harrison Center as the Sir Novelle Richards Academy remains third from the bottom of the standings with three points after losing for the fifth time in six matches.

The Princess Margaret School moved into second place with 12 points by recording their fourth win in five matches via a 2-0 victory against Jennings Secondary School (JSS) at the PMS playing field.

Mario Lewis scored in the 44th minute, and NaeShawn Williams had a 69th-minute conversion for PMS as Jennings Secondary School remains on four points after tumbling to their fourth loss in six matches.

But three other matches in the under-20 boys' division were not played. The match between Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) and Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS) and the encounter between Antigua Grammar School (AGS) and All Saints Secondary School (ASSS) were not played due to an unmarked playing field at AGS.

The match between the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) and Pares Secondary School was not played due to the absence of the referees.

Unbeaten ABCAS has 10 points from four matches, and All Saints Secondary also had 10 points but has played five matches. Unbeaten Ottos Comprehensive School has nine points from five matches.

The Antigua Grammar School has seven points from four matches. The Irene B. Williams Secondary has three points from five matches, while Pares Secondary School remains winless and in the cellar without any points from four matches.

Winning start for Teachers in Sherma Jackson MPL Business League



Kenrick Scott

Teachers claimed the only outright win during the opening round of matches in the Cool and Smooth Mandy Premier League (MPL) Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League.

The Teachers pulled off a nine-wicket win over the Public Works Department (PWD) in the 10 overs aside competition at the Rising Sun playing field.

The Public Works Department was restricted to 49 for eight off their allotted 10 overs. Richie Thomas got 12.

Player of the match Jared Roberts claimed three for 16, and Andra Samuel captured two wickets for five runs, while Demari Benta and Lana Thomas each picked up a wicket.

Teachers coasted to victory by scoring 51 for one in 5.4 overs. Kenrick Scott hit an unbeaten 28, and Elroy Francis Jr. struck 19.

Long Island Lightning and AS Bryden shared points after rain forced their match to stop and end without a result.

Long Island Lightning reached 73 for seven in 9.4 overs when rain came and ended the match.

An unprepared pitch forced the postponement of the other two opening round matches, which will be rescheduled.

The affected matches involved the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) and Mix-Up Stars and defending champions TG Welding and Construction Solutions.

TG Welding won the MPL for the third consecutive year in 2025 despite suffering two losses to the Antigua Barbuda Defence Force, the only team to have beaten them.



Senegal reinstated as 2025 African champions, Morocco to contest decision



Sadio Mane (centre left) and Senegal players celebrate with the trophy after winning the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations final against Morocco in Rabat, Morocco.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Reuters) - Senegal were reinstated as 2025 Africa Cup of Nations winners on Tuesday after sport's highest court upheld their appeal against being stripped of the title, ruling that the referee's decision to resume the match was covered by the "field of play" doctrine.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) panel set aside the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Appeal Board's decision that had forfeited Senegal's 1-0 extra-time win and awarded Morocco a 3-0 result.

CAF said in a statement it "respects the CAS award and will take all the necessary measures to implement it."

The panel found that "the referee (Jean-Jacques Ndala of the Democratic Republic of Congo) did not commit any error of law," CAS Secretary General Matthieu Reeb said.

CAS confirmed the result of the January 18 final in Rabat as 1-0 to Senegal. The Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) said the decision was a triumph for "sporting fairness" and that the "outcome of a match is determined solely on the field of play, under the protection of sports law."

FSF President Abdoulaye Fall said the federation was ready to put the matter behind it and offered an olive branch to its Moroccan counterparts.

"The Court of Arbitration for Sport has delivered justice for sport," Fall said in a statement. "I wish to strongly reaffirm the bonds of brotherhood that unite us with the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) and the Moroccan people.

"Senegalese football now looks firmly towards the future with confidence and enthusiasm in an Africa united around the values of sport."

The FRMF said in a statement that it will contest the decision, alleging there had been contact between its Senegalese counterpart and CAS arbitrator Ulrich Haas in the days leading up to the verdict.

However, an FSF spokesperson told Reuters, "That is false. There was no telephone contact on Sunday or on any other day."

CAS added, "Ulrich Haas strongly denies any direct contact at any moment with the parties involved in this procedure."

Senegal walked off the pitch for 14 minutes in the final after a penalty awarded against them late in regulation time. The players returned before the match resumed, Morocco missed the spot kick and Pape Gueye scored the winner in extra time.

CAS said the referee's decision to resume play fell within his sole authority, and that the effects of that decision were limited to the pitch.

Morocco's federation had argued that the referee's decision fell outside the field of play doctrine and that the walk-off breached Articles 82 and 84 of the Cup of Nations regulations.

Those articles apply only when a referee calls off a match permanently, the panel said, so did not apply here.

The panel acknowledged the referee made his decision under extreme tension but said that did not justify calling it "arbitrary."

The panel also said that CAF had already sanctioned the FSF, Senegal's then-coach Pape Thiaw and players Iliman Ndiaye and Ismaila Sarr in separate disciplinary proceedings.

The FRMF said it will "initiate all necessary legal proceedings to challenge the CAS decision" after it complained about alleged contact made between FSF President Fall and CAS arbitrator Haas 48 hours before the ruling was issued.

It can do so by appealing to the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, which is the only court with jurisdiction to hear the challenge.

French sports law expert Gerald Simon chaired the CAS panel, with assistance from Italian international law professor Luigi Fumagalli and Haas, a Hamburg-based attorney and professor of law at the University of Zurich. The ruling was unanimous.

Sooryavanshi smashes records for fastest 100 and 200 in List A cricket



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Indian cricket prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has broken yet more records, this time with the fastest century and double century in men's List A competitions.

The 15-year-old Sooryavanshi smashed a century in 28 balls, 150 in 40 balls and crossed 200 in 52 balls while playing for India A against the United Arab Emirates in the Asia Cup Rising Stars 50-over tournament.

All of those are records for List A competitions, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed, adding that Sooryavanshi's 200 was nearly twice as fast as the previous record of 103 balls.

Sooryavanshi was caught soon after on 204 to end an innings boasting 28 sixes. India easily chased down the target of 250 set by the UAE to finish on 254 for three. More than 80% of the team's runs came off Sooryavanshi's bat.

List A cricket is the level below one-day international (ODI) cricket. It covers the top level of one-day domestic cricket around the world as well as international games involving a top nation's development team, such as India A.

The records continue a spectacular year for Sooryavanshi. He scored 175 to win the Under-19 World Cup final for India in February, lit up the Indian Premier League and became the youngest player to represent India in a full international game, beating the record held by all-time great Sachin Tendulkar.



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Grenades go top of Premier Division League



Players Jennings Grenades starting XI

Cup-holders Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades extended their unbeaten run to move to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on goal difference on Monday night.

The Jennings Grenades recorded their third win in as many games by surging to a 3-0 victory against the Potters Tigers at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

Troy Jules scored his first of two goals in the 41st minute to give the Jennings Grenades a one-nil lead at halftime.

Things went from bad to worse in the second half for the Potters Tigers, who had two players expelled for picking up red cards.

Ordel Samuel received a straight red card in the 64th minute, and the Potters Tigers were further reduced to nine players in the 78th minute with the dismissal of Javorn Benjamin, who picked up a second caution (yellow card).

Elijah Whyte doubled Grenades' lead with an 86th-minute conversion, and Jules sealed his team's victory by scoring his second goal of the match in the 89th minute.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to advance to nine points, the same as the Garden Stars and Cool and Smooth Greenbay Hoppers.

However, the Grenades boast a superior goal difference to second-placed Garden Stars, who have played four matches, one less than third-placed Greenbay Hoppers.

The Potters Tigers slipped to fifth-place on goal difference with seven points after suffering their first defeat in four matches.

Meanwhile, Empire FC also maintained their unbeaten run to climb to the top of the ABFA's First Division on Monday.

Empire FC picked up their fourth win in six matches by snatching a 1-0 victory over Golden Grove FC at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

Following a goalless first half, Kamali Looby broke the deadlock by scoring the only goal of the match in the 85th minute to snatch victory for Empire FC.

The result allows Empire FC to leapfrog the Ottos Rangers to the top of the first division standings by advancing to 14 points. The Ottos Rangers dropped into second place with 13 points from five matches.

Golden Grove FC remain winless and in the cellar of the 13-team standings without any points after crashing to their third defeat in as many matches.

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