

# FUEL PRICES REMAIN UNCHANGED

*Story on Page 2*



With just over a month to go before Antigua and Barbuda welcomes hundreds of delegates for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, an intense period of training is underway to prepare volunteers for their various roles in helping to make the conference a success. *Story on page 4.*

## Fuel prices remain unchanged

The West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) has reported a five (5) per cent increase in the cost of gasoline and a three (3) per cent decline in the cost of diesel.

Based on the refined pass-through mechanism for fuel prices, which takes into account revenue assurance, price stability, and maintenance of subsidies for certain petroleum products, the Government has decided to maintain the retail prices at the pump.

Effective Wednesday 17, April 2024, fuel prices will be as follows:

Gasoline: \$14.50 per gallon  
 Diesel: \$14.25 per gallon  
 20 Pound LPG: \$32.00 per Bottle  
 25 Pound LPG: \$40.00 per Bottle  
 100 Pound LPG: \$155.00 per Cylinder

The average regional prices for gasoline and diesel are currently \$15.86 and \$15.91 respectively while the regional average for the 20 pound and 100 pound cylinder of LPG is

\$38.66 and \$204.18 respectively.

To support affordability for consumers, the Government continues to provide the following subsidies:

20 Pound LPG: Subsidy of \$5.16 per bottle  
 25 Pound LPG: Subsidy of \$6.45 per bottle  
 100 Pound LPG: Subsidy of \$17.64 per cylinder

Margins for WIOC, inland transport, and gas station dealers remain unchanged.

## PM Browne: UPP losing support at the constituency level

Just one year on from the 2023 General Elections where the opposition United Progressive Party increased its numbers in the House of Representatives, the party is losing some of the gains it made among the population.

And according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne the recent polls have found that members of the electorate who cast votes in favour of the UPP in the elections 15 months ago, are now having regrets.

“What we find from the recent polls that have been done is that those who voted for them (UPP) in the last general elections are now having regrets; they are actually losing support within the constituencies. Isn’t that amazing?” he exclaimed.

PM Browne said he wondered what gave rise to the amount of support the UPP enjoyed at the last election where they performed better than expected



Prime Minister Gaston Browne by increasing their numbers in the House from one to six members. He added that this was however explained by several of the pollsters who did opinion surveys.

“A couple of the poll-

sters said to me it was ‘a perfect storm’ with the ABLP having practically everything against it; high cost of living, high fuel prices, water problems and the roads, and that’s why we

are focusing on the water and the roads to take these off the table,” the prime minister explained.

PM Browne takes the view that even with the ‘perfect storm’ that included high unemployment, the UPP did not win the general elections, which, he feels, is quite significant.

“This tells you that the people of Antigua and Barbuda did not have the confidence to give them the government,” he remarked.

The prime minister is suggesting that some UPP parliamentarians, especially in the House of Representatives, have a checkered record of performance in terms of their attendance and their participation in the debates when they do attend, that these ‘have left much to be desired’.

He believes that this is one issue that may be driving the decreasing support by the electorate.

## Bethesda Primary school to become satellite of ABICE focusing on agriculture

The Bethesda Primary school has been earmarked for re-purposing to become a satellite campus for the Harrison Centre’s Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) focusing on agricultural science.

Making the announcement was Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, who reported that the Cabinet has already given the green-light to proceed with the expansion of the course offerings of the Harrison Centre.

Matthew told the Browne and Browne show that the Harrison Centre itself is in for major upgrade where the ‘old’ section of the facilities will be replaced with new buildings. The re-purposing of the Bethesda Primary school also forms part of the expansion of the course offerings at the centre.

“One of the things that we are now doing is to have the Harrison Centre offer an agricultural programme and that will be at the Bethesda Primary school. A curriculum is now being developed to come on stream in January where the school will become a campus of ABICE and where it will offer courses such as the fundamentals of agriculture, aquaponics, the business of agriculture among others,” the minister revealed.

He noted that the location of the school, in one of the nation’s agricultur-

al belts, opens up the opportunities for collaborations between students and neighbouring farmers to do internship programmes that would benefit both the farmers and the students.

“We are trying to build out the entire education infrastructure; we are trying to build out ABICE as a technical-vocational training institution where our students can not only have the benefits of learning to do the ‘trades’ such as electricals, carpentry and masonry etc.,



Education Minister, Daryll Matthew

but now agriculture and the associated areas whether its bee-keeping, aquaponics or crop production will be a part of this new facility at the re-purposed Bethesda Primary school,” he remarked.

The advertisement features a green and white color scheme with a yellow sky background. At the top center is the State Insurance logo with the tagline "Live in a better State of mind". Below the logo, the text "BARBUDA WE'RE HERE!" is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath, it says "OPEN 8:15AM - 4:30PM MON-FRI". The central image is a stylized illustration of a building with a green roof and white walls. To the left of the building is a silhouette of a deer, and to the right is a silhouette of a dog. At the bottom, a yellow location pin icon is placed over the text "RIVER ROAD | MADISON SQUARE CODRINGTON | BARBUDA". Below this, there are icons for "LIFE & MEDICAL", "MOTOR", "PROPERTY", and "COMMERCIAL". At the very bottom, contact information is provided: "(268) 727-7422", "(268) 729-7422", "INFO@SICANTIGUA.COM", "WWW.SICANTIGUA.COM", and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## Volunteer training for SIDS4 kicks into high gear

With just over a month to go before Antigua and Barbuda welcomes hundreds of delegates for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, an intense period of training is underway to prepare volunteers for their various roles in helping to make the conference a success.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been managing the volunteer initiative, which is integral to the overall successful coordination of the conference. There was a massive response to a recruitment drive some months ago as scores of Antiguan and Barbudans responded to a call to enlist as volunteers with the SIDS4 Conference.

The Ministry's Protocols Office, under the guidance of its Chief of Protocols Karen Cabrall, is now leading a series of training exercises that are all geared at fully preparing the volunteers for their responsibilities during the May 27 - 30 international conference. The UK Government, an important partner in the overall effort, facilitated a virtual Train the Trainer exercise last week.

The orientation sessions for the wider group kicked into high gear on Saturday as just under 200 of the selected volunteers packed one of



the meeting rooms at the American University of Antigua, the venue for the SIDS4 Conference, to be taken through a series of modules aimed at providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding of their respective roles.

The main facilitator was Anika Kentish, an experienced trainer, who carried the selected volunteers through the various paces specifically designed to ensure that all levels of the conference benefit from the knowledgeable and nimble support of a responsive and enthusiastic group of individuals.

Sessions were split into segments that allowed participants to ask questions and fully engage in role playing activities that brought to life various potential situations that could develop during the conference.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be leading another series of training activities this week, this time targeting the Protocol Officers who will be part of the coordinating mechanism for the conference.

"The response from members of the public was indeed enthusiastic, and for various reasons, including needs and fit, we were not able to take all. But testament to the legacy of the conference, we now have a database of talented and skilled individuals which we can tap into for major national exercises," Cabrall explained.

In the meantime, National Coordinator of the Conference Sheila Roseau has expressed her appreciation to a number of companies and individuals who contributed to the training session. On her list of gratitude are the American University of Antigua, Sandals Grande Antigua, Subway, Free Trade Zone, Aesome Development Ventures (ADV) Jolly Harbour and Savita's Delight-AUA.

Volunteering for the SIDS4 Conference is expected to leave a lasting impact on the scores of individuals who signed up as they will be exposed to a life-changing opportunity while playing an important role in contributing to the future of island nations across the globe.



## 2024 Labour Queen Pageant heads for the Royalton Chic

The 2024 edition of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) Labour Queen show will take place at the new Royalton Chic hotel at Halcyon Cove on May 4.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made the announcement on Saturday when the nine delegates made an appearance on the Browne and Browne show.

“The Royal Chic hotel is now one of the best hotels in the Caribbean, boasting a number of amenities including seven restaurants, including one that is over the water, a variety of pools, a spa, you name it, the hotel has it. There is where we will host the 2024 Labour Queen show; so, we are stepping up. You know that this pageant feeds into the National Carnival Queen show and even the Jaycees Caribbean Queen show. Almost invariably, the individual who emerges as the winner of the Carnival Show, would have passed through the Labour Queen show,” PM Browne remarked.

The ABLP Political leader described the Labour Queen show as ‘an institution’ within the organization. “Show organisers, Sharilyn (James) would tell that about 15 years ago, we decided to make the show a permanent feature of the Labour Week activities each year. What would happen is that the

show would only take place in the year that preceded an election.

“We made the decision to ensure that this show takes place annually and today it is one of the most enjoyable and impactful pageants around,” he observed.

The nine contestants

are; St. John’s Rural East, Shermain Eustache, St Paul, Deneka Dublin, St. John’s City South, Shanakay Mc Donald, St. Paul, Kenesha Greene, St. John’s City West, Nevaeh Greene, St. George, Nechel James, St. John’s City West, Dominique Trotman, All Saints West, Aliyah

Wayne and St. John’s Rural West, Eddenya Aska.

The Royalton Chic will open on April 29, and hosting the 2024 Labour Queen show just six days after, is quite an achievement for the show and a marked improvement on the calibre of the show.



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## Dahlia Francis replaces Sir Eustace Francis as Norwegian Honorary Consul

The Norwegian government now has a new Honorary Consul representing its interests here in Antigua and Barbuda.

The duties of Honorary Consul for Norway are now being performed by Dahlia Francis, daughter of the outgoing Sir Eustace Francis, who has served in the post for several decades and who has retired.

HC Francis was presented with her instruments of appointment on Monday at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool officiating.

He offered congratula-

tions on behalf of the ministry and the government and welcomed her formally into the new post.

There are just over 20 persons here in Antigua and Barbuda serving as honorary consuls for various governments around the world.

“Honorary consuls are typically local citizens of the host country with careers outside of official diplomacy. They promote economic, cultural, and educational ties between the two countries. Honorary consuls help people from the sending countries with consular matters, especially in emergencies,” an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained.



## Two young cricketers leave for studies at Harrow in the UK



Matthew Miller, second from left, and Melique Jacobs, second from right, are flanked by Sports Minister Daryll Matthew, right, and Minister of State Sen. Dwayne George.

Sports Minister Daryll Matthew was on hand on Monday to give an official send-off to two young cricket prospects who traveled to the UK to take up studies at the prestigious Harrow School.

One student - Matthew Miller will undergo a six-week training at the school that has produced some of England's top cricketers.

The other - Melique Jacobs – will be at the school for a six-month training period as part of an exchange programme with Harrow Cricket Club.

Minister of State Sen. Dwayne George was also on hand to assist with the official send-off.

The Ministry of Sports has been seeking out opportunities for further development for some of the nation's top young athletes and sportsmen and women.



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## Oil prices lower after Iran attack on Israel

Oil prices fell on Monday after Iran's reprisal attack on Israel over the weekend.

Brent crude - a key benchmark for oil prices internationally - was lower but still trading close to \$90 a barrel.

Prices had already risen in expectation of action by Iran, with Brent crude nearing a six-month high last week.

Analysts said the markets would be looking to see how the conflict could affect global supply chains.

Oil price fluctuations can cause ripple effects across the world due to countries being heavily reliant on the commodity, which is used to produce fuels such as petrol and diesel. Fuel and energy prices have been a major driver behind the higher cost of living worldwide in the past couple of years.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, oil prices soared to \$120 a barrel over supply fears as western nations imposed sanctions on Russia, one of the world's major oil exporters. The jump led to not only higher prices at the pumps, but also countless other goods as businesses adjusted their prices to cover higher costs.

Analysts said Israel's reaction to the attack would be key for global markets in the days and weeks ahead.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has said the confrontation with Iran is "not over yet".

His comments came after Iran launched drones and missiles towards Israel at the weekend after vowing retaliation for an attack on its consulate in the Syrian capital Damascus on 1 April. Israel has not said it carried out the consulate strike, but is widely believed to have been behind it.

At the end of last week, the price of Brent crude touched \$92.18 a barrel, the highest since October, but on Monday it fell back to around \$89.50.

The price of gold - often seen as a



safe investment at times of uncertainty - also dropped.

After hitting a record high of \$2,431.29 an ounce on Friday, gold fell back to \$2,332.97 on Monday.

Energy analyst Vandana Hari said the fall in the price of oil meant "clearly, the oil market does not see the need to factor in any additional supply threat at this point".

But Peter McGuire from trading platform XM.com said he expected the energy market to be volatile and predicted that oil prices would surge if Israel responded strongly to Iran's move.

However, April LaRusse, head of investment at Insight Investment, said it was likely that markets would "trade sideways until we have more information".

"Unfortunately this situation in the Middle East has been going on for some time and the longer you have a bit of geo-political tension going on the more markets wait to see and there isn't sort of a panic reaction as the first move," she told the BBC's Today programme.

Share markets in the Asia-Pacific region slipped on Monday as investors weighed the impact of the attack. The

UK's FTSE 100 share index also fell marginally.

Russ Mould, investment director at investment firm AJ Bell, said the markets had "started the week with relative calm".

However, he said there was a "continuing nervousness among investors".

"The situation remains fraught and, beyond the geopolitical and humanitarian implications, a more widespread conflict in the Middle East could see energy prices surge and unpick central banks' careful efforts to bring down inflation," he added.

Iran is the seventh largest oil producer in the world, according to the US Energy Information Administration, and the third-largest member of the Opec oil producers' cartel.

Analysts say that a key issue for the oil price going forward is whether shipping through the Strait of Hormuz will be affected.

The Strait - which is between Oman and Iran - is a crucial shipping route, as about 20% of the world's total oil supply passes through it.

Opec members Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq send most of the oil they export through the Strait.



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**WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



Taylor Swift announced her upcoming album's release date while accepting her Grammy award in February 2024.

## Taylor Swift: Artist's music back on TikTok after dispute

By Hafsa Khalil

Taylor Swift's songs are back on TikTok following a dispute that led her label to stop licensing its content to the app.

Her music's return on Thursday comes ahead of the release of her new album, *The Tortured Poets Department*.

Universal Music pulled songs by its artists in January, including Rihanna and Ariana Grande, citing a licensing dispute.

Many artists have complained about inadequate royalties from TikTok.

While many of her songs - including *You Belong With Me* and *Cruel Summer* - are again available for users

to add to their videos, music belonging to Universal's other artists has still not been relisted.

That may be because unlike other artists, Swift owns the copyright to her music under the terms of a 2018 deal with Universal. Some reports speculated Swift reached a separate deal with TikTok.

"Swifties" - Taylor Swift fans - took to the platform to share their delight at her music returning.

"OMG this made my whole year," wrote verified user Jessica Golich, adding that users would "have the whole new album to play with".

Divendra Rai recorded a video lip syncing to *Cruel Summer*, captioned: "Welcome back Taylor!!!"

In an open letter published on 30 January, Universal claimed that "ultimately TikTok is trying to build a music-based business, without paying fair value for the music".

Universal said it was also concerned about getting fair compensation for artists for AI-generated songs made to sound like the real thing, such as one made to sound like Drake and The Weeknd which went viral.

Swift announced her upcoming album while accepting her 13th Grammy award earlier this year.

*The Tortured Poets Department*, which will be released on 19 April, is her 11th album.

The BBC has contacted Universal and TikTok for comment.

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## Rust armourer sentenced to 18 months for Halyna Hutchins' death

Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the movie set weapons handler who loaded a gun for actor Alec Baldwin before it fired and killed a cinematographer has been sentenced to 18 months in prison.

The armourer, 26, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in March.

She was found not guilty of a second charge - tampering with evidence - over the 2021 shooting of Halyna Hutchins on the set of *Rust*.

The sentence Gutierrez-Reed received is the maximum possible.

Mr Baldwin, 65, also faces a manslaughter trial in July. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer, who handed down the sentence on Monday in a New Mexico court, said Gutierrez-Reed's actions constitute a serious, violent offense, committed in a physically violent manner.

"You alone turned a safe weapon into a lethal weapon," Judge Sommer said, addressing the armourer. "But for you, Ms Hutchins would be alive. A husband would have his partner and a little boy would have his mother."

Ms Hutchins, 42, was killed after a gun Mr Baldwin used in a rehearsal fired a live round on the set of the Western in New Mexico.

Prosecutors said Gutierrez-Reed had failed to ensure the weapon was only



Hannah Gutierrez-Reed.

loaded with dummy rounds - fake bullets used to look and sound like real ones.

"This case is about constant, never-ending safety failures that resulted in the death of a human being," prosecutor Kari T Morrissey said during closing arguments in the trial.

Gutierrez-Reed was "negligent", "careless" and "thoughtless" when she failed to notice that live bullets had mixed with dummy rounds in a box of ammunition on set, Ms Morrissey told the jurors.

One of those bullets was in the firearm that was used by Mr Baldwin, prosecutors said.

Jurors deliberated for three hours before returning their verdict in March. Ms Hutchins' parents and her sister said they were "satisfied" with the verdict.

Their statement added:

"We look forward to the justice system continuing to make sure that everyone else who is responsible for Halyna's death is required to face the legal consequences for their actions."

Before she was sentenced, Gutierrez-Reed addressed the court, saying that her heart aches for the Hutchins family and friends.

"The jury found me guilty; that does not make me a monster. That makes me human," she said through tears.

But Judge Sommer said she felt the armourer did not take responsibility for her actions. "I did not hear you take accountability," the judge said.

Ms Hutchins' mother and sister also spoke in recorded videos from their native Kyiv, Ukraine. The mother, Olga Solovey, said in a translated video that no

one involved in her daughter's death ever reached out to express sympathy.

"It's very important to me that there is justice," she said.

During the trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Gutierrez-Reed had brought a box of live bullets to the New Mexico film set from her California home. They said these live rounds slowly spread throughout the set over the course of 12 days.

Ms Morrissey said she believed the armourer did not intend to bring live rounds to the set, but rather that Ms Hutchins' death was a case of tragic negligence.

The prosecutor added that Gutierrez-Reed was more "worried about her career" and less about the victims in the aftermath of the shooting.

*cont'd on pg 14*

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## Grenada wants Cuba removed from US terrorism sponsors list

CMC - Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell on Sunday called on the United States to remove Cuba from the list of countries labelled as sponsoring terrorism, and to end the economic blockade on the Spanish-speaking nation.

“The people of Cuba have been under an unjust economic blockade for the last six decades and despite that they have not closed themselves off from the world, they have not only looked internally but they have continue to share, continue to help,” he said during a news conference at the Maurice Bishop International Airport to update citizens about the official three-day visit to Cuba.

His return to Grenada coincided with the 45th anniversary of Cuba and Grenada establishing diplomatic ties.

“We owe it to the Cuban people to stand in solidarity

with them and to continue to call for removal of the economic blockade against the people of Cuba and the removal of Cuba from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism,” said Mitchell who was surrounded by four government ministers who accompanied him on the trip.

“I want to emphasise this latter point because by continuing to do so, the United States is preventing millions of ordinary men and women from around the world from visiting and experiencing the wonder that is Cuba.

“Cuba certainly has a lot to teach the world, a lot to share with the world and the continued blockade, the continued wrongful listing of Cuba as a state that sponsors terrorism is actually preventing Cuba from giving more of itself to the world. So, we stand in solidarity with you on this issue



Grenadian Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell (left) with his Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz. Photo: Office of the Prime Minister of Grenada.

and we will continue to advocate for its removal,” added Mitchell who received a red-carpet welcome when he arrived in Cuba on April 11.

The UN General Assem-

bly in November 2023 voted by a large margin against the US economic and trade embargo against Cuba, first imposed in 1960. A total of 187 UN member states voted for the resolution put forward each year against the embargo with only the US and Israel voting against and Ukraine abstaining.

The Assembly voiced concern that despite its resolutions dating back to 1992, “the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is still in place”, and that “the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries”.

### *cont'd from pg 12*

Gutierrez-Reed did not testify in the two-week trial, but her lawyer said in closing arguments that prosecutors had failed to prove his client was the sole person responsible for the fatal shooting.

“The [ammunition] boxes don’t matter, because we don’t know what was in them three or four days before,” her lawyer, Jason Bowles told the jury, arguing his client did not know that there were real bullets on set.

Mr Bowles also blamed Mr Baldwin, arguing that he had “gone off-script” when

he pointed the gun at film crew. “It was not in the script for Mr Baldwin to point the weapon,” he said. “She didn’t know that Mr Baldwin was going to do what he did.”

Bowles had vowed to appeal the guilty verdict.

Gutierrez-Reed was found not guilty of evidence tampering stemming from accusations that she attempted to dispose of a small bag of narcotics after the shooting.

Last year, the movie’s cast and crew finished filming in tribute to Ms Hutchins, with her husband serving as an executive producer.



Philippa Phoebe Marshall in 2019. Photo: The Tribune

## Bahamas: Release ordered of woman convicted of murdering her daughter

CMC – A High Court judge has ordered the immediate release of a woman from a rehabilitation centre, who had been convicted in 2019 of murdering her one-year-old daughter whom she had set on fire.

Justice Neil Brathwaite in ordering the release of Philippa Phoebe Marshall, said that while “I am satisfied that the continued incarceration is not necessary,” she must nonetheless continue with her treatment “in order for you to continue to do well for yourself and for your family”.

On July 17, 2019, a jury unanimously rejected Marshall’s defence of insanity and diminished responsibility and convicted her of the murder of her daughter Philica Marshall.

The court heard that on December 28, 2017, Marshall set her baby afire on the instructions of “demons”. The

baby died 47 days later on February 14, 2018 as a result of her wounds.

But during the trial, her lawyer Bjorn Ferguson had argued successfully before Senior Justice Bernard Turner that his client’s diagnosis of schizophrenia justified a departure from the sentencing guidelines for murder.

As a result, Turner ordered Marshall be detained at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre (SRC) for a period of six years, “unless a court determines, based on a medical report submitted to a court by a doctor with special experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, that she should be earlier released.”

Her new attorney, Tai Pinder, asked psychiatrist Dr Kirk Christie to submit a psychiatric report to Justice Neil Brathwaite.

In the report, Christie said that

Marshall’s symptoms had been “markedly attenuated” and that she could continue to receive treatment as an outpatient.

Marshall’s brother, Charles Whymms, testified that he was prepared to provide his sister with housing and to ensure that she was compliant with her treatment plan. He had assumed responsibility for Marshall’s lodging and medical care while she was on bail awaiting trial.

The judge noted that he was not being asked to impose or to revisit the sentence already imposed.

“Having regard to the report and the evidence of Charles Whymms, I am satisfied that the continued incarceration is not necessary. I, therefore, order that she be immediately released from the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.”

## Sydney church stabbing declared a 'terrorist attack'

Australian police have declared Monday's stabbing at a Sydney church a religiously motivated "terrorist act".

A 16-year-old boy was arrested after a bishop, a priest and churchgoers were attacked at a sermon at the Assyrian Christ The Good Shepherd Church.

At least four people suffered "non-life-threatening" injuries, police say. The attacker was also hurt.

The incident was captured on a church livestream and quickly triggered unrest in the suburb of Wakeley.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the Assyrian Orthodox Church - about 35km south-west of the city centre - and clashed with police. Two officers were injured, one with a broken jaw after he was hit with a brick and fence paling. Twenty police vehicles were also damaged, with 10 left unusable.

The violence similarly left paramedics retreating for cover in the church, where they were "holed up" for more than three hours.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has convened an emergency meeting of national security agencies, calling the attack "disturbing".

"We're a peace-loving nation... There's no place for violent extremism."

Authorities are concerned about the role of social media, he added, "including the publication of videos that can be very harmful, particularly for younger people".

Tying to quell further violence, he urged that people "not take the law into their own hands".

Speaking to media on Tuesday morning, New South Wales (NSW) Police Commissioner Karen Webb said the bishop and priest were un-



The bishop was reportedly stabbed while giving a sermon that was being livestreamed. He is currently undergoing surgery and is "lucky to be alive".

The bishop has been named by local media as Mar Mari Emmanuel. Ordained in 2011, he is seen as a popular and controversial figure and his sermons have received millions of views on social media.

Australian police define terror offences as being ideologically motivated. Investigations are still underway, Ms Webb said, but investigators are satisfied this is a case of religious extremism.

The teenager allegedly made comments to the bishop as he approached which were "centred around religion", and police believe staging the attack during a livestreamed service was intended to be "intimidating not only [to] the parishioners in attendance, but those parishioners who were watching online".

Commissioner Webb said the suspect was acting alone, and while "known to police", he was not on any terror watch list.

The alleged offender has also been in surgery after his fingers were injured, police said, but it is unclear if he was hurt with his own weapon or when he was apprehended by the congregation.

The incident came only days after the nation was shocked by a separate and unrelated stabbing at a popular Sydney shopping centre, which left seven people dead.

"NSW is on edge and there's understandable community anxiety at the moment," said state premier Chris Minns. He appealed for calm, echoing calls from religious and community leaders.

"Their message to their communities was universal and identical, and that is that they deplore violence in all forms, [and] that they have faith in the NSW Police to undertake their investigation," Mr Minns said.

A strike force has also been assembled to investigate the unrest, Ms Webb said.

"Those involved in the riot can expect a knock at the door... We will find you and we will come and arrest you," she added.

The head of the NSW Ambulance also called the behaviour from crowds "outrageous".

"Our people, that do nothing but go to care and help every single day, need to know that they've got the support of the community. If they don't... who will come and do these jobs?"





Four people have been arrested in connection to the mothers' disappearance.

## Bodies recovered after two Kansas mothers go missing

Police have recovered two dead bodies in rural Texas after two mothers went missing in the nearby state of Oklahoma.

The mothers, Veronica Butler, 27, and Jilian Kelley, 39, from Hugoton, Kansas, vanished on March 30.

Police said their car was later found abandoned in rural Oklahoma, near the Kansas border.

Coroners have yet to identify the bodies, but officials said they believe the two women have been killed.

Four people have since been arrested in connection to their disappearances.

The recovery of the bodies was announced Sunday by police, who said they have since been transported to the Office of the Oklahoma Chief Medical Examiner for identification and to determine the cause of death.

At a press conference on Monday, officials said they believe the mothers were murdered.

"You have two people who are dead and four people that committed an absolutely brutal crime," said

Hunter McKee, the public information manager with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (OSBI).

Oklahoma police announced the arrest of four people on Saturday. Each was charged with two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of kidnapping, and one count of conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree.

The names of those arrested are: Tad Bert Cullum, 43, Tiffany Machel Adams, 54, Cole Earl Twombly, 50, and Cora Twombly, 44. Authorities said they were arrested without incident in both Texas and Cimarron counties in Oklahoma.

Police did not say whether the suspects knew the two missing mothers, and did not share possible motivations or details of evidence that led to the arrests.

Evidence found in the women's abandoned vehicle, plus information gathered from witnesses, as well as family and friends of the victims, pointed officials toward the suspects,

Mr McKee said.

He added authorities received multiple tips and used them "throughout the 14-day process" since the mothers disappeared.

Authorities said they do not believe the public is in danger, or that more arrests will be made.

"This wasn't random," said Matt Boley, a sheriff with the Texas County Sheriff's Office. "With some of the information coming, (it appeared to be) more targeted."

Ms Butler and Ms Kelley were last seen in a vehicle before they disappeared, according to a missing persons alert issued by the Texas County Sheriff's Department.

They had been driving through Oklahoma to pick up Ms Butler's children, and authorities said that neither "made it to the pick up location".

BBC's US news partner CBS News reported that Ms Butler had been involved in a custody battle, but it is unclear if it was related to the case. Police on Monday declined to comment on the matter.

## NBA playoffs, play-in tournament set as Thunder grab West's top seed

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The last day of the regular season finalized seeding for the NBA playoffs and play-in tournament, with the Oklahoma City Thunder earning the top seed out West and the play-in set to begin on Tuesday.

The eighth-seeded Lakers will face the No. 7 Pelicans in New Orleans, a familiar matchup after Los Angeles initiated that game by winning 124-108 in New Orleans on Sunday.

That win prevented the Pelicans from avoiding the play-in tournament altogether, and the Lakers ended up winning the regular-season series 3-1.

"We have to come back with the right mentality," New Orleans coach Willie Green said.

"We have to be the aggressive team. We have to be the more physical team. We have to keep them out of our paint."

The No. 9 Sacramento Kings will host the 10th-seeded Golden State Warriors later Tuesday, and those teams won't have that same level of familiarity, as they haven't faced one another since Jan. 25, a 134-133 Kings win. Their regular-season series ended tied at 2-2.

On Wednesday, the league's attention turns to the Eastern Conference, as the No. 7 Philadelphia 76ers host the eighth-seeded Mi-



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jalen Williams (8) and Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jaylin Williams (6) celebrate after scoring against the Dallas Mavericks during the second quarter of their NBA game at Paycom Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA, Sunday April 14, 2024. (AP)

ami Heat.

The Sixers saw their chances of grabbing a top-six seed evaporate on Sunday despite their 107-86 win over the Brooklyn Nets, as the Indiana Pacers also won. The Heat have lost their last two games with Philadelphia, including a 109-105 decision on April 4.

The nightcap on Wednesday will feature the No. 10 seed Atlanta Hawks traveling to Chicago to take on the ninth-seeded Bulls, a matchup that has been in the making for quite some time with neither team finishing within less than three games of another team in the standings.

The Bulls won the season series 2-1, but the Hawks

took the most recent contest, 113-101, on April 1.

The winners of both 7-8 games will advance to the playoffs as No. 7 seeds to face the Denver Nuggets in the West and the New York Knicks in the East.

Friday will see the loser of Miami-Philadelphia take on the winner of Atlanta-Chicago. In the West, it will be the winner of Golden State-Sacramento facing the loser of Los Angeles-New Orleans.

The NBA playoffs will begin the next day on Saturday, with the second-seeded Nuggets and Knicks hosting their respective series.

The Orlando Magic (No. 5 seed) and Cavaliers (4)

will also begin their series in Cleveland, while the Minnesota Timberwolves (3) will host the Phoenix Suns (6) in Game 1 of their series.

Sunday, the playoffs continue with the Thunder playing host to the West's final play-in winner.

Oklahoma City earned the top seed in the West on Sunday with its 135-86 blow-out win over the Dallas Mavericks. Those Mavericks, the fifth seed out West, travel to take on the fourth-seeded Los Angeles Clippers.

The No. 1 seed Boston Celtics will be hosting Friday's play-in winner in the East, while No. 6 Indiana will take on the No. 3 Bucks in Milwaukee.

## Flyers stay unbeaten in ABBA's First Division League

The EZ Fit Flyers extended their perfect run to remain the only unbeaten team in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division I League on Sunday night.

The Flyers recorded their eighth win in as many games with an 81-74 victory against the Potters Steel-

ers in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Adonis Humphreys sank 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds; Xavier Meade converted 18 points; Selsie Brathwaite scored 15 points and claimed seven rebounds; and Kenya Ahcom chipped in with 13 points,

11 rebounds, and five assists for the Flyers.

Devorn Benjamin produced a game-high 26 points with six rebounds and five steals; Cohen Desouza had 18 points, 16 rebounds, and six assists; and Marlon Charles chipped in with eight points, six rebounds, and five assists for the Potters Steelers, who lost for the fourth time in 10 games.

The Spanish Heat claimed their second win in seven games with a 95-69 victory against the New Generation All Saints Slam in the opening game of Sunday's double header.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 39 points and

snatched five rebounds; Damian Floyd converted 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Kelvyn Pimental produced 11 points, nine rebounds, and five assists; Kevin Pimental sank 11 points; and Bernard Andrew had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

Sergio Symister converted 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Judah Ferris sank 13 points and claimed seven rebounds; Kim Casey had 12 points and seven assists; and Keaddy Martin chipped in with eight points and six rebounds for the All Saints Slam, which lost for the eighth time in nine games.

**THE MITCH LEAGUE**  
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GRAVS GREEN BASKETBALL COURT 10AM-3PM	<b>20</b>
WORKS BASKETBALL COURT 5PM-9PM	<b>20</b>

**21**  
12-4PM

**BALL-O-RAMA**  
NORTHERN UVBZ VS MJ PHEONIX  
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TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles female volleyball squad

## Chargers Eagles stay unbeaten in female volleyball league

TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles have remained the only unbeaten team in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Female Division 2 Development League.

The Chargers Eagles secured their third win in as many games with a 3-0 victory against the Dynasty Queens at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

The Chargers Eagles prevailed 25-23, 25-21, and 25-20 in an hour and 25 minutes against the Dynasty Queens, who were beaten for the second time in three games.

Starz 2 Juniors recorded their first win in three games in the female development league by snatching a 3-2 victory against Da Squad 2.

The Starz 2 Juniors won the keenly contested encounter 16-25, 25-19, 25-23, 20-25, and 15-0, as Da Squad 2 lost for the second time in three

games.

Reigning female Division 1 champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad and men's Division 1 leaders Pytonz extended their unbeaten run in the ABAVA Local League on Saturday night.

Da Squad secured their fourth win in as many games with a 3-1 victory against the Jets.

Da Squad prevailed 26-19, 25-17, 14-25, and 25-12 in approximately one hour and 40 minutes against the Jets, who lost for the third time in four games.

The Pytonz notched up their fifth win in as many games with a 3-1 victory against the Print Xpress Renegades.

After losing the opening set 23-25, the Pytonz recovered to win the next three sets 25-21, 25-15, and 25-16 to secure their victory in an hour and 55 minutes. It was the second de-

feat in six games for the Renegades.

Former champions Paragons claimed their first win in the Female Division 1 League in their latest outing.

The Paragons recorded their first win in four encounters with a straight-set 25-18, 25-9, and 25-22 victory against the Royal Cruisers.

The Paragons completed their win in approximately one hour and 26 minutes, ensuring the Royal Cruisers remain winless as they tumbled to their fourth loss in as many games.

High Flyerz 2 Phoenix claimed their third win in five encounters by soaring to a 3-0 victory against TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity.

High Flyerz 2 Phoenix prevailed 25-9, 25-16, and 25-19 in an hour and 15 minutes against Chargers Velocity, who also remain winless as they lost for the sixth time in as many games.

## Golden Eagles get first win in ABCA's Super40 Cup

The Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles have claimed their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup.

After losing their previous three encounters, the Golden Eagles secured their first win by snatching an 11-run victory against the All Saints Pythons in the only match that was not abandoned due to rain and wet conditions in the limited-overs competition on Sunday.

In a match reduced to 15 overs due to rain and wet conditions, Bethesda made 106 for five off their allotted overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Opener Shacoy Floyd hit a top score of 39 off 37 balls, with two fours and a six. Mekali Tonge cracked 21 not out off 17 balls, and Deago Joseph got 14. Five of the six bowlers used by the Pythons each picked up a wicket.

In reply, the All Saints Pythons were restricted to 95 for nine off their 15 overs. Michael Marcellin struck 41 off 29 balls, with three sixes and two fours.

Jalanie Mussington scored 11 off 11 balls, and Conroy Semple got 10 off 11 balls. Bethesda's captain, Teron Payne, snapped up three wickets for 12 runs, and pacer Gavin Tonge captured two wickets for 15 runs.

All the other four fourth-round matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled due to wet pitches and outfielders.

The affected games are the Jennings Tigers against the New Winthorpes Lions in Jennings, and the Combined Schools against the Bolans Blasters in New Winthorpes.

Empire Nation against the Pigotts Crushers at Rising Sun in St. John's, and the WES Rising Sun Spartans against the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks at Ball Beef in Liberta.



Opener Shacoy Floyd hit a topscore for the Bethesda Golden Eagles

## Unbeaten Grenades stay perfect in Premier League

Cup-holders Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades maintained their perfect run with another win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

The unbeaten leaders notched up their second win in the second phase of the competition with a five-nil drubbing of the Willikies Warriors in the second game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Sherman Augustin scored twice with conversions in the 37th and 86th minutes; Quinton Griffith opened the scoring with a 17th-minute conversion; Rakeem Henry scored in the 57th minute; and Carl Osborne completed the rout with a goal in the 81st minute.

Willikies played most of the second half and finished the match with 10 men after the expulsion of Dillon Challenger in the 58th minute for using abusive, offensive, and insulting language to the referee.

The Grenades remain at the top of the Premier League with a perfect 48 points after winning all 16



Players of the Jennings Grenades football team

matches so far. Willikies dropped to 10th place with 17 points after losing for the seventh time in 16 matches.

Green City and Swetes also recorded wins in the other two Premier League matches on Sunday.

Green City opened their campaign in the second round group stage with a 4-3 victory against the Greenbay Hoppers in the first game on Sunday.

Nyhiem Jones scored in the 22nd minute, Vaughn Christopher had a 44th-minute conversion, Amali Colbourne scored in the 81st minute, and Ngozie Harvey scored the last goal for Green City in the 83rd minute.

Javorn Stevens scored in the seventh minute, Da Paul George had a 63rd minute conversion, and Yoandir Puga Estevez scored in the 82nd minute for the Greenbay Hoppers.

Green City moved up to ninth place with 20 points after claiming their sixth win in 15 matches. The Greenbay Hoppers will remain in fourth place with 28 points after suffering their sixth loss in 16 matches.

Swetes claimed their first win in the second round by defeating Garden Stars 3-1 in the last game on Sunday.

Raheem Carbon scored in the 16th minute, Karique

Knight had a 65th-minute conversion, and Shafeeq Joseph scored in the 76th minute for Swetes.

Wilden Cornwall Jr. scored a consolation goal for the Garden Stars in the 87th minute. Garden Stars ended the game with 10 men after Kemoi Walsh was sent off in the 27th minute for getting a second caution (yellow card), which is an automatic red card.

Swetes move up to 13th place on goal difference with 11 points after snatching their third win in 16 matches. The Garden Stars will remain in sixth place on 24 points after suffering their fifth loss in 15 matches.