



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

# POINT EXPRESS

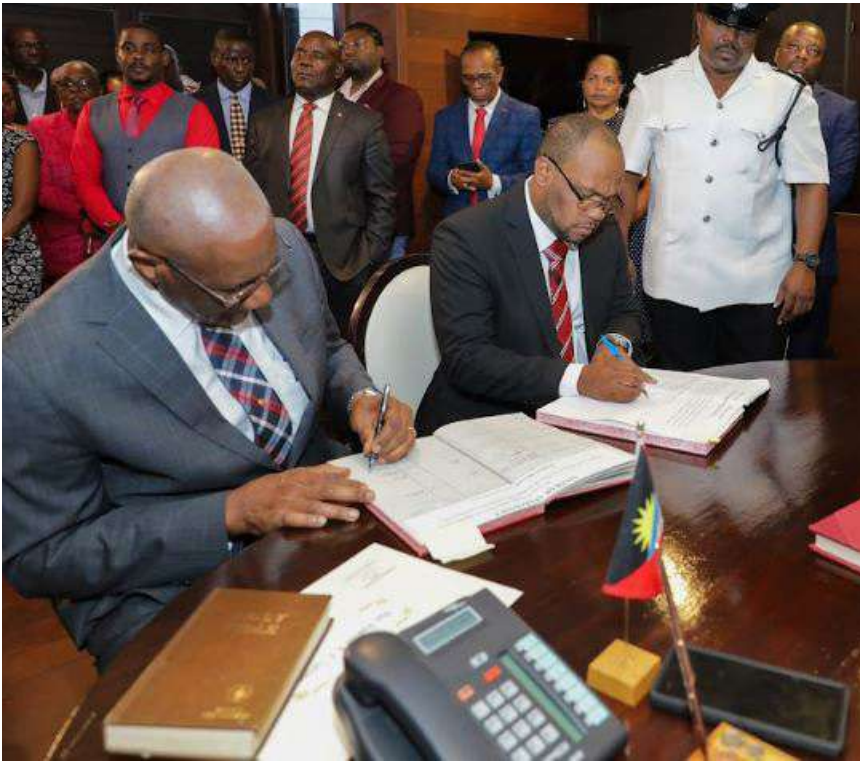
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 11 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# HON. RAWDON TURNER ATTENDS FIRST CABINET MEETING



*Story on Page 2*



## Hon. Rawdon Turner attends first Cabinet meeting

Less than 24-hours after he was declared the winner in the January 14 by-election in St. Peter, and a few hours after he was appoint-

ed as a member of the Cabinet, Member of Parliament, Rawdon Turner attended his first Cabinet meeting as a member in his own right.

As he walked into the Cabinet meeting, Minister Turner was greeted with a thunderous applause as the other members stood and

warmly welcomed him into the membership.

Earlier, The Cabinet attended the swearing in ceremony of the new minister, the Hon. Rawdon Turner, as a show of complete support for his appointment as Social and Urban Transformation Minister.

The Cabinet returned to its conference room at the Prime Minister's Office where there was further discussion of the expectations of the incoming Minister. Primary among his responsibilities are: The clean-up and tidying of commercial St. John's; the regulation of vending on the city's streets and public spaces; and to bring new energy to the management of the St. John's Development Cooperation.





## New Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**  
Office of the Prime Minister  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

His Excellency  
Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KStJ, DSc, PhD (h.c.), MBBS  
Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda  
Government House  
Independence Avenue  
St. John's, Antigua

Your Excellency;  
In accordance with Section 69 – Sub-section 3, 4 and 6 and Section 71 Sub-section 1 of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, I respectfully advise that you issue Instruments of Appointment, assigning responsibilities of government business to the following members of the Lower House of Parliament with effect from 15th January 2025:

**No. 1 Honourable Rawdon Nirobi Antonio Turner,**  
**Minister for Social and Urban Transformation:**

Ministry Headquarters  
Social Welfare Division  
Urban Renewal  
Community Development  
Social Improvement

Probation  
Social Policy and Development  
Single Parents  
Substance Prevention  
Boys Training School  
Youth Department  
Poverty Eradication  
Care of the Elderly  
Rehabilitation & Assessment Centre  
Disaster Preparedness  
Rural Development  
Vendors  
Board of Guardians  
Gender Affairs  
Ecclesiastical Affairs  
Alliance for Social Well Being  
Community Development and Beautification  
Development Control Authority (DCA)  
St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC)  
Home Assistance Programme for the Indigent (HAPI)  
The portfolios of several Ministers, Excellency, will now require appropriate adjustments since their portfolios have been accordingly .

**No. 1 Honourable Sir. Molwyn Morgorson Joseph**  
**Minister for Health, Wellness, Environment AND Civil Service Affairs**

Ministry Headquarters  
Health

Wellness  
Mt. St. John's Medical Centre  
Holberton Hospital  
Antigua and Barbuda Hospital Board  
Medical General  
Medical Benefits Scheme  
Fiennes Institute  
Mentally Handicapped  
Central Board of Health  
AIDS Secretariat  
Mental Hospital  
Health Information  
Health Education  
Persons Living with Disabilities  
National Solid Waste Authority  
Botanical Gardens  
The Environment  
Dog Registration and Control  
Public Administration  
The Civil Service  
Establishment Department  
Training Division  
Human Resource Development and Management Services  
Pension Reform Public Sector  
Transformation & Empowerment  
Local Government

**No. 2 Honourable Henry Charles Fernandez,**  
**Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation AND Investment**

Ministry of Tourism Headquarters  
Ministry of Civil Aviation Headquarters

*cont'd on pg 4*

## GG calls for national unity

With the electoral victory of newly elected Member of Parliament, Rawdon Turner, secured, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams is calling for the nation to come together in the interest of all.

Sir Rodney made the point on Wednesday at Government House as he presided over the swearing in ceremony for the newest member of the Cabinet.

“It is imperative that we come together, beyond our political differences, to focus on the collective development of our nation.

“The challenges we face are numerous, from addressing the needs of our



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, right, and newly appointed Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner.

vulnerable populations to ensuring sustainable urban growth and disaster resilience. These require innovative solutions and a deep commitment to service,” Sir Rodney stated. He pointed to the newly created Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation,

which Turner now heads, as having a crucial role to play in this regard. “It is a ministry tasked with addressing the very heart of our society, ensuring the well-being of our most vulnerable, fostering inclusive communities, and creating an environment where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive,” he remarked.

Sir Rodney expressed the view that Minister Turner previous roles as a senator, vice president of the Senate and Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing and Urban Renewal and Development Company have undoubtedly prepared him for the challenges ahead.

*cont'd from pg 3*

- Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority
- Investment
- Antigua and Barbuda Airports Authority
- Meteorology
- Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority
- Overseas Tourism Offices
- Economic Development & National Economic & Social Council
- Deep Bay Development Corporation
- Antigua Isle Limited
- New Port (Antigua) Limited
- Antigua Pier Group Ltd.
- FCCA, CHTA, CTO & Yachting
- Beach Protection
- Small Business Development Centre
- SBDC
- Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI)
- Vehicular Control
- Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board
- Dispatching Facilities

**No. 3 Honourable Maria Vanessa Browne  
Minister for Housing AND Works**

- Ministry Headquarters
- Works Ministry Headquarters
- Public Works
- Housing
- Procurement
- Stores
- Infrastructure
- Maintenance
- Quarries
- Government Workshop
- Roadworks
- National Mortgage and Trust Limited
- Land For Youth
- Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA)
- National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Co. Ltd.

**No. 4 Honourable Anthony Shamari Smith Jr.  
Minister for Agriculture, Land, Fisheries AND the Blue Economy**

- Ministry of Agriculture Headquarters
- Agriculture Development Corporation (ADC)
- Fisheries
- Antigua Fisheries Ltd.
- Food Production
- Animal Husbandry
- Veterinary Services
- Agricultural Extension Services
- Central Marketing Corporation (CMC)
- Chemistry and Food Technology Division
- Marine Resources
- Agro Industries
- Surveys
- Survey Office
- Lands
- The Blue Economy

*I have the honour,  
To be,  
Respectfully Yours,  
Gaston A. Browne  
Prime Minister*

## ABLP Chairman Greene offers congratulations to MP Rawdon Turner

As Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) and on behalf of the leadership and membership of our nation's foremost political institution, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Comrade the Hon. Rawdon Turner on his resounding victory in Tuesday's by-election and his ascension to the Lower House of Representatives. This well-deserved triumph is a testament to his unwavering dedication and commitment to the people of St. Peter's and the principles we hold dear as a party.

To all of our comrades who answered the call to duty, I offer my deepest gratitude. Your unwavering support and tireless efforts in ensuring our boots-on-the-ground strategy was fully executed in the St. Peter's constituency were truly exemplary. Through superior organization and collective resolve, we demonstrated the strength and unity that define our institution.

To the residents and electors of the St. Peter's constituency, thank you for your trust, love and embrace. Your support has rekindled the connection between the ABLP and the people of St. Peter's, reaffirming your constituency's garrison status within our political family. Together, we will continue the important work of rebuilding and rejuvenating the new St. Pe-

ter's. The journey we have begun is one of progress and shared purpose and we are committed to realizing its full potential.

Finally, I extend commendations to the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) for the exceptional organization and execution of this by-election under challenging circumstances.

The compressed timeline and concurrent voter revalidation exercise underscored the complexity of



Hon. E. P. Greene

the task, yet you delivered with precision and professionalism. Your efforts are a testament to the enduring strength of our democratic

framework and the commitment of those entrusted with its preservation.

As we move forward, let us remain united, resolute and committed to the vision of a stronger, more inclusive Antigua and Barbuda. Congratulations again to Hon. Rawdon Turner and thank you to all who played a part in this significant achievement.

*Hon. E. P. Greene  
Chairman, Antigua  
and Barbuda Labour Party*



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## Message from the President



Bernard de Nully  
President of AT&LU

“As the dawn of a new day personifies the belief that all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us, and as we see the sun in the sky shining boldly and displaying its glory and authority; be it said today that the Antigua Trades and Labour Union is blessed and highly favoured with a presence that reverberates the authority as the sun to

continue to guarantee that work fulfils the function of upliftment and provides sufficient economic reward to exceed the basic requirements of our membership and their families and to a wider extent, to all citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. The Antigua Trades and Labour Union remains the Standard Bearer of All Unions.”

Happy 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Antigua Trades & Labour Union

# Photo Essay



## ABEC celebrates successful conclusion of St. Peter by-election

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the by-election held in the Constituency of St. Peter on January 14, 2025.

“We extend congratulations to the Honourable Rawdon Turner, who was victorious in the by-election over his opponent, Mr. George Wehner. The Commission applauds the voters of St. Peter for their active participation in the democratic process. Your engagement exemplifies the enduring strength of our democracy”, expressed the Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, Ambassador Arthur G.B Thomas.

He further indicated that, “ABEC is grateful to the electors who responded to our call to replace their voter identification cards, ensuring their eligibility to vote in this important election.

“This collaborative effort between the Commission and the electorate resulted in the issuance of a record num-



Ambassador Arthur G.B Thomas

ber of voter identification cards within a short period, enabling the seamless conduct of the by-election”.

The Commission expresses its deep appreciation to Mr. Ian Hughes, Supervisor of Elections and his dedicated team.

Their tireless efforts ensured that voters were able to exercise their dem-

ocratic right in an environment free from fear or favour.

“Your professionalism and commitment have been instrumental in upholding the integrity of the electoral process”, said Ambassador Thomas.

Looking ahead, ABEC encourages all electors in the other 16 constituencies to take proactive steps to replace their voter identification cards.

“This will ensure that the electorate is positioned to participate in a democratic process in the event of another by-election or a general election. Updating voter identification is essential to maintaining a robust electoral system and ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in shaping our nation’s future.

“Democracy in Antigua and Barbuda is vibrant and resilient. The Commission remains committed to maintaining transparency, fairness, and inclusivity in all electoral activities”, ABEC’s Chairman further posited.

## SLBMC names new Administrative Head of Infectious Disease & Employee Health Division

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has named Dr. Margrethe Belle as Administrative Head of Infectious Disease and its Employee Health Division.

In a statement, SLBMC said Dr. Belle brings a wealth of experience and passion to this role, and its management team is excited to have her leadership in this critical area.

“As an internist and the

head of the Infectious Diseases and Employee Health Division, I am deeply motivated by the opportunity to drive improvements in these areas and strengthen our teamwork. I feel incredibly welcomed by my colleagues at SLBMC, and I am grateful for the support and sense of belonging I’ve already experienced. It truly feels like home,” said Dr. Belle

Dr. Belle’s background

in infectious diseases, coupled with her commitment to advancing patient care, makes her an excellent fit for this position. She is dedicated to fostering a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to managing infectious diseases and employee health, and we are confident that her leadership will help drive continued improvements in these areas.

Remarkd Belle; “Since

medical school, I have been fascinated by the world of viruses, bacteria, and the complex life cycles of parasites. The field of infectious diseases is both vast and dynamic, continually offering new insights and challenges. In my clinical practice, I find treating bacterial infections particularly rewarding, as patients often recover fully, which brings

*cont’d on pg 9*



## ECCAA says its process to convert foreign pilot's licence is quite easy

The Antigua and Barbuda-based Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) is highlighting the duties and services it provides by focusing on the issue of the conversion of foreign-issued pilots' licence.

In an article, ECCAA explains that it is the governing body of the Eastern Caribbean skies with aviation safety is its main business. It further explains that it facilitates the conversion of foreign licensing in accordance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). This is among the services that it offers.

The article tells the story of Mr. Carrington, a pilot who successfully completed the process and is now the proud holder of an Antigua and Barbuda Commercial Pilot's Licence.

Mr. Carrington, who

underwent flight training in the United States, obtained his licence to fly there. However, he wanted the option of flying in the Eastern Caribbean. For this, he needed the right documents.

"I have an FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) licence – an American licence issued by the US," Mr. Carrington explains. "However, in the Caribbean, the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) has its own civil aviation body...ECCAA.

"So, after job hunting, [I realized] there aren't many jobs you can get with an American pilot's licence in the region. And if you are not a US citizen, it's almost impossible to penetrate the U.S. job market coming from flight school."

Mr. Carrington said friends and family encouraged him to convert his F.A.A. licence to one rec-

ognized and used in the Eastern Caribbean – an ECCAA licence. So last year, that is what he set out to do. The process, he noted, was not exactly straight-forward but he adhered to the steps laid out for him by ECCAA and was successful.

"It's an examination you have to take -- a theory exam; there's Aircraft General and Air Law," Carrington said of ECCAA's licence conversion process.

He further explained that the conversion process



entails a certain number of documents and exams. Some of the documents include current and valid foreign licence and Medical Certificate, pilot logbook, ECCAA's application forms and fees and proof of nationality. He added that details could be found on ECCAA's Website, [www.eccaa.aero](http://www.eccaa.aero), under the sub-head of Personnel Licensing.

*cont'd from pg 8*

immense satisfaction as a clinician.

"However, the effectiveness of antimicrobial therapy is increasingly jeopardized by the worsening situation of antimicrobial resistance. To safeguard the continued efficacy of these essential treatments, it is crucial that all healthcare providers work together as part of a collaborative, interdisciplinary team.

"We must enhance diagnostic capabilities, refine our approach to the selection, administration, and duration of antimicrobial therapies, and ensure excellence in infection prevention practices."

SLBMC said it welcomes Dr. Belle to her new role as it looks forward to the positive contributions she will undoubtedly bring to its team and the institution as a whole.

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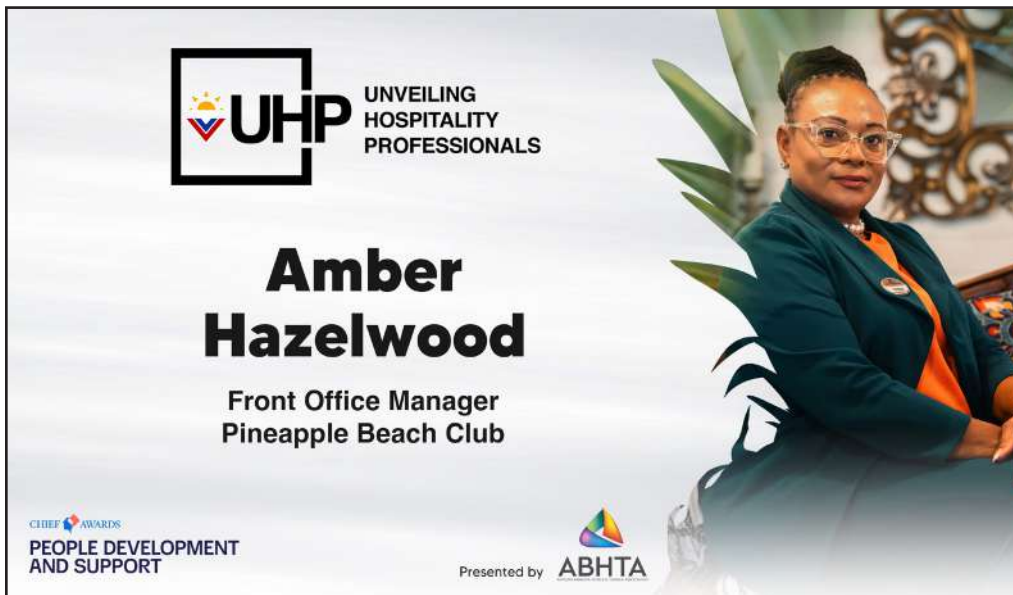
Proceeds in aid of Jernya Oscar Funeral Expenses

## ABHTA unveils another celebrated member of the tourism industry

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) proudly features Amber Hazelwood in its Unveiling Hospitality Professional series. With over 30 years of experience, Amber exemplifies dedication and excellence in hospitality.

Amber began her career in October 1991 at Pineapple Beach Club Antigua as a busser. Her passion and adaptability quickly led to promotions, eventually becoming Restaurant Supervisor, where she oversaw the opening of the renowned Pineapple Grill Restaurant.

In 1998, during the resort's re-branding to Allegro Occidental Grand Pineapple Beach Club, Amber advanced to Front Office Supervisor, expanding her responsibilities to include managing the gift shop. She later became Front Office Manager in 2006 when the resort transitioned to Grand



Pineapple Beach by Sandals Resorts International. Her focus was delivering exceptional guest experiences and fostering a welcoming environment.

After a stint as Diamond Club Assistant at Royalton Antigua, Amber returned to Pineapple Beach Club.

In March 2024, she was promoted to Rooms Division Manager, overseeing key operational departments and continuing to enhance guest satisfaction.

Beyond her professional achievements, Amber is deeply committed to *cont'd on pg 12*



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# Local News



## The magistrate's court on Wednesday imposed fines for drug offences

Two people who appeared separately in the magistrate's court on Wednesday received fines after they were convicted on drug related offences.

Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel found Rondre Robinson of Swetes guilty for the possession of 145.5 grams of cannabis contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act. Robinson was arrested at Sea View Farm on January 8, 2025, when he was found with the drug in his possession.

He was fined \$30,000.00 which the court ordered that he pays within 18-months or serve a two-year jail term.

Magistrate Emanuel took into consideration the aggravating factors prior to handing down her ruling; the fact that Robinson had two prior convictions on similar charges influenced the decision.

Another man, Okive Banton, a Jamaican, who resides at Golden Grove Extension, was found in possession of

1.25 pounds of cannabis at Paynters. He was reprimanded and discharged on the charge of possession of cannabis, but on the charge of possession with intent to sell, he was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of \$40,000.00 within two years or serve a two-year prison sentence.

Banton was found with EC \$2,160.00 and US\$20.00. The magistrate ordered that the money be forfeited to the state and that the drug be confiscated and destroyed.

## CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors endorses Minister Albert Ramdin for OAS Secretary-General

The CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors at the Organization of American States (OAS) strongly reaffirms its unanimous endorsement of Minister Albert Ramdin of Suriname as the CARICOM candidate for Secretary-General of the Organization at the election on for March 10, 2025.

As Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation, Minister Ramdin has faced the pressing challenges of governance, development,

human rights, democracy, and security in the Western Hemisphere. He has extensive experience in navigating the complex realities confronting hemispheric governments, including those in Latin America and the Caribbean. His deep understanding of these issues positions him uniquely to lead the OAS during this pivotal time.

Minister Ramdin is deeply committed to reforming the OAS in collaboration with member states, addressing financial

and administrative challenges while enhancing its relevance and impact. His leadership will prioritize consensus-building among member states, narrowing divisions and fostering collective responses to the region's shared challenges.

Despite CARICOM comprising 44% of the OAS membership, no Secretary-General has ever come from the Caribbean. Minister Ramdin's election would mark a historic recognition of the region's contributions while ensuring the OAS

is guided by a leader with the vision, experience, and diplomatic expertise to reinvigorate the organization and address the needs of all member states.

The CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors strongly believes that Minister Ramdin's election will strengthen the OAS and benefit the entire Western Hemisphere. We urge all OAS member states to support his candidacy.

Minister Ramdin's candidacy, officially endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government during their 46th Regular Meeting in February 2024 and reaffirmed by the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) in May 2024, reflects CARICOM's united commitment to advancing strong and effective leadership within the OAS.

### *cont'd from pg 11*

inspiring young people to explore the diverse career opportunities in the hospitality industry.

She emphasizes the urgent need for fresh talent to rejuvenate the sector that plays a vital role in Antigua and Barbuda's economy.

She underscores the need for young people who are motivated and passionate to bring their energy and creativity into

this field to help shape their future.

Amber Hazelwood's career is a testament to her perseverance, leadership, and unwavering dedication to excellence, making her a true inspiration in Antigua and Barbuda's hospitality industry.

For more information about the Unveiling Hospitality Professional series or the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, please contact [abh-ta@antigua-hotels.org](mailto:abh-ta@antigua-hotels.org)

## Google faces UK investigation over search dominance

By Liv McMahon

The UK's competition watchdog has launched an investigation into whether Google has too much power in online search.

Google accounts for 90% of UK web searches - the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is looking at whether it is using that dominant position to harm competition or choice for users.

It is its first investigation after gaining new powers to investigate and enforce changes at firms it determines to have "strategic market status" in digital markets.

The CMA says it wants to ensure the tech giant is "delivering good outcomes for people and businesses" and that there is a "level playing field" for rivals.

Google says it will cooperate with the investigation but has warned against what it calls «overly prescriptive digital competition rules.»

In a statement Google said: "We will continue to engage constructively with the CMA to ensure that new rules benefit all types of websites, and still allow people in the UK to benefit from helpful and cutting edge services."

It is the latest in a series of investigations Google faces worldwide.

In the US, the government wants it to sell its



browser, Chrome, to address what a judge ruled was its illegal monopoly in search and related advertising.

The CMA says potential changes it could impose include sharing data Google collects with other businesses, or giving publishers more oversight of how their data is used for its artificial intelligence (AI) features.

"Millions of people and businesses across the UK rely on Google's search and advertising services," said Sarah Cardell, the CMA's chief executive on Tuesday.

"And for businesses, whether you are a rival search engine, an advertiser or a news organisation, we want to ensure there is a level playing field for all businesses, large and small, to succeed," she added, especially given the potential for AI to "transform" the

market.

The CMA's announcement of its Google search and advertising investigation follows the digital market competition regime coming into force in January.

It gives the CMA powers to investigate firms it believes may dominate or occupy a key strategic position in a certain sector.

An explainer on its website says a company must meet several conditions before it can be determined to have «strategic market status».

These include having a UK turnover of more than £1bn or global turnover of £25bn, occupying a position of strategic significance or "entrenched market power" in relation to a certain digital activity.

The CMA says it will look at whether Google is

using its position in search to prevent rivals from innovating or entering the market, or if it is «self-preferencing» its own services.

It will also look at whether Google is collecting large amounts of user data without proper, informed consent.

"It's our job to ensure people get the full benefit of choice and innovation in search services and get a fair deal - for example in how their data is collected and stored," said Ms Cardell.

It will have nine months to carry out its investigation and two options at its disposal if it finds Google to have strategic market status - imposing rules on how it behaves, or making interventions designed to boost competition.

*cont'd on pg 14*



Kendrick Lamar's Not Like Us has been nominated for four Grammy Awards.



Drake is one of the best-selling artists of the last decade.

## Drake sues for defamation over Kendrick Lamar song

By Mark Savage

Rap superstar Drake is suing Universal Music Group (UMG) for defamation and harassment, over its release of the Kendrick Lamar diss track Not Like Us last year.

The song, which formed part of a furious back and forth between the two stars, accused Drake and his entourage of being “certified paedophiles” who should “be registered and placed on neighbourhood watch”.

In papers filed in New York, Drake’s lawyers accused the record label of

launching “a campaign to create a viral hit” out of a song that made the “false factual allegation that Drake is a criminal paedophile, and to suggest that the public should resort to vigilante justice in response”.

Universal has yet to respond to the allegations.

The move comes just 24 hours after Drake withdrew a separate legal action against UMG and Spotify, in which he accused the two companies of conspiring to artificially boost streams of Not Like Us, at the expense of his own music.

In that case, he argued that Universal had licensed the song “at drastically reduced rates to Spotify” and used bots to generate extra plays, generating “the false impression that the song was more popular than it was in reality”.

In a statement at the time, Universal told the BBC: “The suggestion that [the company] would do anything to undermine any of its artists is offensive and untrue.”

It added that “no amount of contrived and absurd legal arguments... can mask

the fact that fans choose the music they want to hear.”

Spotify also responded that there was “no economic incentive for users to stream Not Like Us over any of Drake’s tracks”.

The Swedish streaming company later filed an opposition brief to Drake’s petition, stating that it “should be denied”.

His lawyers withdrew the case on Tuesday, after meeting with representatives from both companies, according to court papers.

That appeared to draw a line under the legal action - until the story took a dramatic twist on Wednesday morning.

In a lawsuit filed at the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, Drake accused Universal - which distributes both his music and Lamar’s - of prioritising “corporate greed over the safety and well-being of its artists”.

His lawyers noted that *cont’d on pg 15*

*cont’d from pg 13*

Pinar Akman, professor of law at the University of Leeds, says it is “highly likely” the CMA will launch further, similar investigations under the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer (DMCC) Act in coming months.

“There is a general trend of regulating digital markets with large players around the world and the DMCC Act represents the UK’s response to that growing trend,” she told BBC News.

Prof Akman added that the regime of-

fers more flexibility than regulation such as the EU’s Digital Markets Act in tailoring any interventions or requirements to market specifics. It comes after the Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer lauded AI’s “vast potential” to transform public services.

In a speech on Monday, Sir Keir said recommendations from the AI Opportunities Action Plan - a set of proposals backed by several tech firms - would be implemented across a range of areas to help grow the economy and make AI “work for working people”.

## Protests and tensions surround bail hearing for murder-accused Lehrer

Residents of Soufriere and nearby areas gathered outside the Roseau High Court on Monday to protest the bail granted to US citizen Jonathan Lehrer, who faces charges in the murder of Canadian Daniel Langlois and his partner, Dominique Marchand.

Lehrer was granted bail last November under 13 conditions, including the revocation of his US citizenship.

However, his legal team is seeking to amend those conditions to allow him to travel to the US, further fueling public outrage.

Chanting “No bail for Jonathan,” protesters expressed anger over the decision, especially after Lehrer was reportedly seen near the court.

Police set up barriers to control the situation as



demonstrators voiced concerns over perceived bias towards a foreign national and Lehrer’s continued role in Dominica’s Citizenship by Investment programme despite the serious charges.

The protests reflect deep frustration within the Soufriere/Scottshead community, with the case continuing to stir debate over

justice and fairness in the legal process.

Meantime, local media report that amid growing pressure, the State’s prosecuting team advised High Court Judge Colin Williams, who had approved Lehrer’s bail, to recuse himself from the case, citing information that could compromise his impartial-

ity.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) filed an affidavit, after much debate, supporting the recusal, and the Chief Justice was notified.

As the situation unfolded, Justice Williams decided to step down, and a new judge will be assigned to handle the case.

### *cont’d from pg 14*

the artwork for Not Like Us was based on an aerial photograph of Drake’s \$100m Toronto mansion, dotted with red markers that are often used to represent the presence of registered sex offenders.

The court documents link that artwork to a shooting at the property shortly after the release of Kendrick’s song, calling it “the 2024 equivalent of ‘Pizzagate’”.

The comment referenced a conspiracy theory about a US child sex ring operating out of a Washington pizza restaurant, which led to a gunman opening fire on the eatery in 2016.

Not Like Us was widely regarded as the decisive blow in a long-running feud between Drake and Lamar, which dates back to the early 2010s.

In the lyrics, Lamar alleges that Drake “likes ‘em young” and accuses him of using other, more credible rappers, to boost his profile.

Drake responded with a track called The Heart Part 6, where he rejected the allegations, saying, “I never been with no one under age”. He also claimed to have fed Lamar “false” information through a double agent.

However, his retort failed to attract the same attention as Not Like Us, which debuted at number one in the US chart and attracted more than 1

billion streams on Spotify.

The song is nominated for five prizes, including record and song of the year, at the Grammy Awards on 3 February. A week later, Lamar will headline the Super Bowl halftime show.

However, the new lawsuit is not aimed at Lamar himself, according to Drake’s lawyers.

“This lawsuit is not about the artist who created Not Like Us,” the court documents says.

“It is, instead, entirely about UMG, the music company that decided to publish, promote, exploit, and monetize allegations that it understood were not only false, but dangerous.”



Many Haitians have been forced to flee due to gang violence.

## Number of internally displaced people in Haiti tripled in 2024

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

The number of people internally displaced by gang violence in Haiti has tripled to more than one million, the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM) warned on Tuesday.

The situation is particularly dire in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where displacement has risen by 87% between 2023 and 2024, IOM figures show.

Gangs control almost the entire city, leading to the collapse of the remaining health services and triggering food insecurity.

More than 5,600 people were killed in gang violence in Haiti last year alone.

IOM Spokesman Kennedy Okoth Omondi said many of the more than one million displaced people had had

to flee multiple times as the gangs expanded their territory in Port-au-Prince.

An estimated 85% of the capital is now estimated to be under gang control.

Most of those displaced fled Port-au-Prince for rural areas, where resources are limited, the IOM warned.

Its Director-General, Amy Pope, said that Haiti needed "sustained humanitarian assistance right now to save and protect lives".

Half of those displaced are children, according to the IOM's figures.

The agency described how families were "struggling to survive in makeshift shelters while facing mounting health and protection risks".

Haiti has been engulfed in a wave of gang violence since the assassina-

tion in 2021 of the then-president, Jovenel Moïse.

A UN-backed multinational security force arrived in Haiti in June to try and re-establish control but has so far made few inroads into gang-held territory.

The international police force, which is meant to bolster the Haitian National Police force, is underfunded and lacks the necessary equipment to take on the heavily armed gangs.

Meanwhile, the Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) - the body created to organise elections and re-establish democratic order in Haiti - appears to be in turmoil.

The TPC replaced the interim prime minister in November and seems to have made little progress towards organising log-delayed elections.



## Kenyan minister alleges intelligence agency behind his son's abduction

By Basillioh Rukanga

A Kenyan government minister has alleged that the country's national intelligence agency was behind the abduction of his son last year, as criticism against the rising cases of abductions continues.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi said that it took a call by President William Ruto to have his son released by the National Intelligence Service (NIS).

Muturi is the first member of the cabinet to publicly criticise the government's handling of the spate of abductions in Kenya.

In a statement to the police crime investigations unit on Tuesday, Muturi gave a detailed account of how his son, Leslie, was abducted on 22 June last year.

Mr Ruto and the intelligence agency have not commented on his allegations.

At least 80 people, including the minister's son, have been abducted in the last six months, according to a state-funded rights group.

The wave of abductions started after protests against tax hikes last June, and have continued since then.

Some of those abducted have been released following public pressure.

Earlier this week, the minister told journalists that he had not received answers about the abduction of his son, despite reaching out to top security officials.

Muturi said the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) subsequently urged him to record a statement with them, telling him the matter was still under investigation.

In his statement to the DCI, Muturi recalled calling the inspector-general of police, the interior minister, the DCI head, the head of the intelli-



Justin Muturi has criticised how the government has handled the issue of abductions.

gence agency and other top officials as he desperately looked for his son – but, he added, all were unable to help.

He said that he also messaged Ruto, but later decided to visit his official residence to raise the matter directly with him.

“I then narrated the ordeal [to the president] including my interactions with various senior government officials who had been unable to help. I expressed my belief that NIS was holding my son,” Muturi said in the statement.

He said that the president made a joke about the issue and then made a call to the head of the intelligence agency, who promised to release his son in an hour.

“I heard the president ask [NIS director] Noordin Haji if he was holding my son.

“[He] confirmed that indeed he was holding my son and the president instructed him to release Leslie immediately,” Muturi added.

Muturi has faced calls from some government-allied politicians to resign for publicly criticising the government in which he serves.

Foreign nationals have also been

abducted, including prominent Tanzanian activist Maria Sarungi Tsehai, who on Monday narrated how she was kidnapped by armed men and released several hours later.

Last year, Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye was kidnapped in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, allegedly by Ugandan security officials, and taken across the border for trial by a court martial.

Muturi's public mentioning of Ruto's name in connection with abductions is a defiant challenge to the president, and is seen as being against the principle of collective responsibility in government.

It has also fuelled speculation of a fallout in government, with other ministers and officials often denying that the abductions are being carried out by the state.

Amid public uproar, the president said towards the end of last year that “we are going to stop the abductions”, while advising parents to instil good values in their children.

He has also warned young people not to use social media to disrespect leaders, amid continued widespread online criticism of the government.

# Gaza ceasefire deal agreed by Israel and Hamas, Qatar and US say

By David Gritten

Israel and Hamas have agreed a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal following 15 months of war, mediators Qatar and the US say.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani said the agreement would come into effect on Sunday so long as it was approved by the Israeli cabinet.

US President Joe Biden said it would “halt the fighting in Gaza, surge much needed-humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians, and reunite the hostages with their families”.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the deal’s final details were still being worked on, but he thanked Biden for “promoting” it. Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya said it was the result of Palestinian “resilience”.

Many Palestinians and Israeli hostages’ families celebrated the news, but there was no let up in the war on the ground in Gaza.

The Hamas-run Civil Defence agency reported Israeli air strikes killed more than 20 people following the Qatari announcement. They included 12 people who were living in a residential block in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City, it said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Israel launched a campaign to destroy Hamas - which is proscribed as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the US and others - in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken

hostage.

More than 46,700 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory’s Hamas-run health ministry. Most of the 2.3 million population has also been displaced, there is widespread destruction, and there are severe shortages of food, fuel, medicine and shelter due to a struggle to get aid to those in need.

Israel says 94 of the hostages are still being held by Hamas, of whom 34 are presumed dead. In addition, there are four Israelis who were abducted before the war, two of whom are dead.

Qatar’s prime minister called for “calm” on both sides before the start of the first six-week phase of the ceasefire deal, which he said would see 33 hostages - including women, children and elderly people - exchanged for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Israeli forces will also withdraw to the east away from densely populated areas of Gaza, displaced Palestinians will be allowed to begin returning to their homes and hundreds of aid lorries will be allowed into the territory each day.

Negotiations for the second phase - which should see the remaining hostages released, a full Israeli troop withdrawal and a return to “sustainable calm” - will start on the 16th day.

The third and final stage will involve the reconstruction of Gaza - something which could take years - and the return of any remaining hostages’ bodies.

Sheikh Mohammed said there was “a clear mechanism to negotiate phase two and three”, with the agreements

set to be published “in the next couple of days, once the details are finalised”.

He also said Qatar, the US and Egypt, which also helped broker the deal, would work together to ensure Israel and Hamas fulfilled their obligations.

“We hope that this will be the last page of the war, and we hope that all parties will commit to implementing all the terms of this agreement,” he added.

President Biden said the plan, which he first outlined eight months ago, was “the result not only of the extreme pressure Hamas has been under and the changed regional equation after a ceasefire in Lebanon and the weakening of Iran - but also of dogged and painstaking American diplomacy”.

“Even as we welcome this news, we remember all the families whose loved ones were killed in Hamas’s 7 October attack, and the many innocent people killed in the war that followed,” a statement added. “It is long past time for the fighting to end and the work of building peace and security to begin.”

At a later news conference, Biden also acknowledged the assistance of President-elect Donald Trump, who put pressure on both parties by demanding hostages be released before his inauguration on Monday.

“In these past few days, we’ve been speaking as one team,” he said, noting that most of the implementation of the deal would happen after he left office.

Trump was first to confirm reports  
*cont’d on pg 19*



Celebrations erupted across Gaza as news of the agreement spread.

## *cont'd from pg 18*

the agreement had been reached, beating the White House and Qatar to a formal announcement.

In a later post on social media, he attempted to take the credit for the “epic” agreement, saying it “could have only happened as a result of our historic victory in November”.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office thanked Trump “for his help in promoting the release of the hostages, and for helping Israel end the suffering of dozens of hostages and their families”.

“The prime minister made it clear that he is committed to returning all the hostages by any means necessary,” it said, before adding that he had also thanked Biden.

Later, the office said an official statement from Netanyahu would “be issued only after the completion of the final details of the agreement, which are being worked on at present”.

Israel’s President, Isaac Herzog, said the deal would bring with it “deeply painful” moments and “present significant challenges”, but that it was “the right move”.

The agreement is expected to be approved by the Israeli cabinet, possibly as soon as Thursday morning, despite opposition from Netanyahu’s far-right coalition partners.

Then the names of all the Palestinian prisoners due for release will be made public by the Israeli government, and the families of any victims will be given 48 hours to appeal. Some of

the prisoners are serving life sentences after being convicted of murder and terrorism.

Hamas’s chief negotiator and acting Gaza chief, Khalil al-Hayya, said the agreement represented “a milestone in the conflict with the enemy, on the path to achieving our people’s goals of liberation and return”.

The group, he added, would now seek to “rebuild Gaza again, alleviate the pain, heal the wounds”.

But he also warned “we will not forget, and we will not forgive” the suffering inflicted on Palestinians in Gaza.

As news of the agreement emerged, pictures showed people cheering and waving Palestinian flags in the central Gaza town of

Deir al-Balah and southern city of Khan Younis.

Sanabel, a 17-year-old girl living to the north in Gaza City, told BBC OS: “All of us are delighted.”

“We have been waiting for this for a long time,” she said. “Finally, I will put my head on my pillow without worrying... It is time to heal.”

Nawara al-Najjar, whose husband was among more than 70 people killed when Israeli forces launched an operation to rescue two hostages, said: “After the ceasefire I want to give my children the best life.”

“I want them to get over the fear we lived. My children are really scared. The terror has settled in their hearts.”

Sharone Lifschitz is a  
*cont'd on pg 20*

# Sports News

## Jennings United still unbeaten in First Division League

Jennings United extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division league on Tuesday.

Daryl Massicot and Raheed Lambert each scored hat tricks as Jennings United claimed their fifth win in eight matches with a 7-1 drubbing of Lion Hill FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Massicot converted a penalty kick in the seventh minute and also scored in the 67th and 76th minutes. Lambert had conversions in the 80th, 82nd, and 83rd minutes.

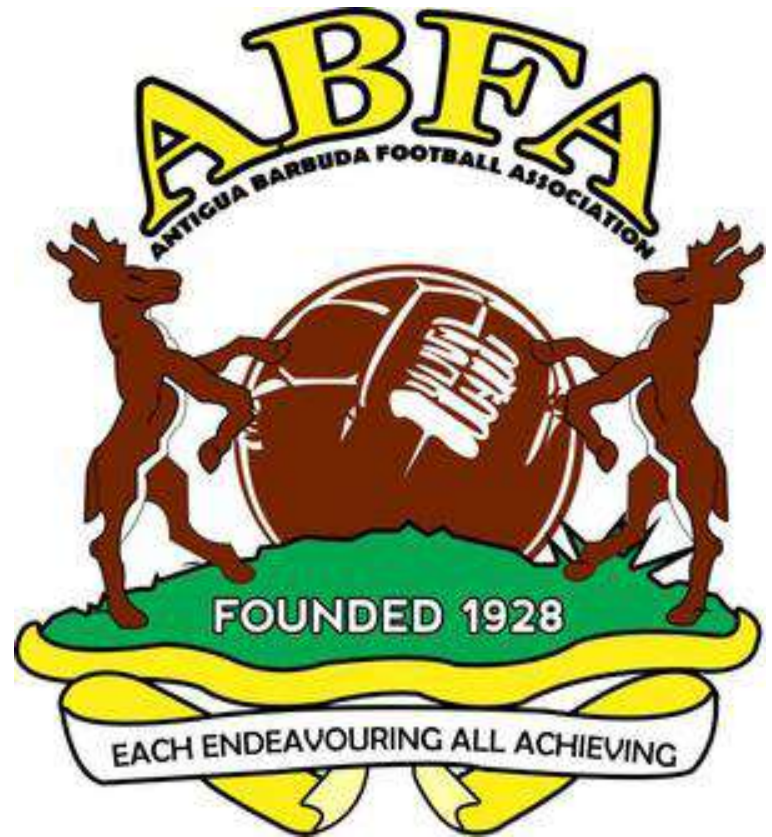
The other goal for Jennings United was scored by Daviae Aaron in the 62nd minute. Akeel Barry scored the only goal for Lion Hill in the 25th minute.

The result allows Jennings United, which is yet to lose a game, to advance to 18 points from eight matches. Lion Hill will remain on six points after suffering their fifth defeat in nine encounters.

Bendals claimed their second win in 10 matches with a 4-0 victory against Police at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Kaijah Matthew scored twice with conversions in the fifth and 32nd minutes, and the other goals were scored by Jevon Francis in the 19th minute and Mitchco Edwards in the 60th minute.

Bendals will move on to 10 points from 10 matches, while Police will remain on six points after suffering their seventh defeat in nine encounters.



FC Master Ballerz recorded their third win in nine matches by snatching a one-nil victory against Bo-

lans FC at the Bolans playing field.

Jamil Thomas scored the only goal of the match in the 10th minute.

The result allows FC Master Ballerz to advance to 10 points from nine encounters. Bolans FC will remain on 15 points after suffering their third defeat in 10 matches.

Meanwhile, Guydadli FC won their latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Second Division League on Tuesday.

Guydadli claimed their fifth win in nine matches with a 4-2 victory against Real Blizzard FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recre-

*cont'd on pg 21*

### *cont'd from pg 19*

British-Israeli woman whose 84-year-old father Oded is among the remaining hostages.

Her mother, Yocheved, was also abducted in the 7 October attack but was released after several weeks in captivity.

She told the BBC in London as news of the deal came through that it felt "like a bit of sanity", but she admitted: "I know that the chances for my dad are very slim."

"He's an elderly man, but miracles do happen. My mum did come back, and one way or another, we will know. We will know if he's still with us, if we can look after him."

She warned: "There are more graves to come and traumatised people to come back, but we will look after them and make

them see light again... May this be the start of something better."

Moshe Lavi, the brother-in-law of Omri Miran, a 47-year-old father-of-two young children, told the BBC that it was "a very mixed day for most families of hostages".

"We want to see our families come home from their mass captivity. But we also understand that this is a phase deal. Only the first phase was agreed upon," he said.

"We'll have to keep fighting, keep advocating as families with all leaders with our own government to understand they have to release all the hostages."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the "priority now must be to ease the tremendous suffering caused by this conflict".

## Warrican ready to play part in spin-friendly Pakistan

West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican says he is eager to play a pivotal role in the upcoming two-match series against Pakistan, with hopes of assisting the Caribbean side to a positive finish in their International Cricket Council (ICC) World Test Championship campaign.

Having secured figures of two for 23 in the second innings of the three-day tour match against Pakistan Shaheens, Warrican, who is experiencing Pakistan for the first time, is optimistic about his impact in Multan conditions that are expected to favour spin throughout the series scheduled to begin on Friday.

“Preparation has been very well. We had a couple of days to train and played a practice game as well. I think the guys and myself took the opportunity to get familiar with the conditions and to prepare well for the Test series,” he told Cricket West Indies (CWI) media on Tuesday.

“Some of the things that we observed are that it is clearly going to be spin-friendly conditions,

and the outfield is going to be very quick as well. So we have to be tuned in and ready to counteract the spin,” he added.

As one of three specialist slow bowlers in the squad, Warrican, a left-arm spinner, is ready to embrace the responsibility.

“In any position, you just have to embrace it and enjoy that challenge,” he said.

“For me, being one of the three specialist spinners, it’s just a case of enjoying the challenge and performing to the best of my ability to help the team defeat Pakistan in the series or at least draw the series, whatever outcome favours us,” he noted.

The series, a first for the West Indies in Pakistan in 18 years, marks the conclusion of the current ICC Test Championship cycle as well as the end of head coach Andre Coley’s tenure.

Warrican emphasized the importance of finishing strong.

“Anyone would look to have a brilliant climax. For us, we need those points to



Jomel Warrican

finish very strong, and just for us to figure as a team and finish the Test Championships with a bang,” he declared.

From an individual perspective, the 32-year-old Barbadian has clear plans for how he intends to approach the series. While

conditions may tempt spinners to go all-out aggressive, he believes balance and discipline will be crucial.

“I don’t want to get carried away with the conditions. I just have to stick to the basics, be disciplined, put the balls in the right areas, and sometimes you just have to wait for something to happen,” Warrican stated.

“With spinning conditions, we as spinners have to be 100 percent aggressive, but there also has to be a balance of sticking to the basics and being very disciplined,” he ended.

*cont’d from pg 20*  
ational Park.

Michael Peters scored twice with conversions in the 12th and 59th minutes, Terrol Ponde scored in the 18th minute, and Jaiden Wray scored in the 19th minute for Guydadli FC.

The goals for Real Blizzard FC were

scored by Dravid Richardson in the 40th minute and Clive Ambrose in the 52nd minute.

The result allows Guydadli FC to advance to 15 points from nine encounters, while the Real Blizzard FC will remain on 11 points after suffering their fifth loss in 10 matches.



The West Indies Under-19 women's team.

## Windies lose to New Zealand in ICC U/19 Women's T20 World Cup warm-up match

The West Indies Under-19 women endured a crushing 79-run defeat to their New Zealand counterparts in their second warm-up match at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup at the UKM-YSD Cricket Oval in Malaysia on Wednesday.

With their ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup opener against reigning champions India just days away, the Caribbean side faced a reality check against a disciplined New Zealand unit.

Chasing a challenging target of 152, the West Indies struggled to 72 all out in 18.5 overs. Despite the efforts of Brianna Harricharan (16), Kenika Cassar (13 not out), and Asabi Callen-

der (10), the West Indies team failed to build any substantial partnerships.

New Zealand's bowlers kept the West Indies batters under pressure, with Anika Todd leading the attack, as she claimed two wickets for three runs from her solitary over. Six other bowlers chipped in with a wicket apiece.

Earlier, New Zealand captain Tash Wakelin elected to bat, and her openers Emma McLeod and Kate Irwin seized control with a commanding 89-run opening stand.

McLeod retired out after scoring an even 50 off 42 balls, which included four boundaries, while Irwin followed suit with a solid 46 from 41 deliveries, striking five fours.

West Indies bowlers were unable

to make a breakthrough as Eve Woland (22 not out) and Anika Todd (20 not out) carried New Zealand to 151 for two. Both players added finishing touches with composed knocks, striking two boundaries each.

After the West Indies claimed a narrow nine-run win over Nepal in their first warm-up match, New Zealand's potential highlighted the Caribbean side's frailties, particularly in building partnerships and maintaining consistency with the ball.

As such, the West Indies camp, led by head coach Robert Samuels and assistant Shane Brooks, will need to regroup quickly, especially with their tournament opener against a formidable Indian side looming on Sunday.

## ABFA offers specialized training for goalkeepers

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) will be embarking on an initiative to develop goalkeepers throughout the twin-island state.

The ABFA will provide opportunities for goalkeepers to enhance their skills and elevate their performance through a series of specialized training sessions.

Hence, the technical department of the ABFA is extending an invitation to all goalkeepers to participate in four sessions, each lasting two hours, scheduled to take place during consecutive Saturdays in late January and early February.

The sessions will take place on January 18 and 25, and February 1 and 8, at the ABFA Technical Center from 10 am to noon (12 pm). These sessions will be led by renowned goalkeeper



National goalkeeper Zaiem Scott made a save for Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades during an ABFA Premier Division League match against Parham at the ABFA Technical Center in October, 2024. Scott has since returned to Premier League Club Green City FC, the team he had left via a transfer to represent the Grenades earlier in 2024. (ABFA Media)

coach Janil “Board” Simon, along with four other top local goalkeepers who will provide invaluable insights into goalkeeping techniques.

The ABFA is urging all coaches, particularly those involved in the first and second division leagues, to reg-

ister for this initiative.

According to a release from the ABFA, “Goalkeeping skills within the first and second divisions have room for improvement, and this specific programme aims to rectify that by equipping local goalkeepers with necessary information to develop

their skills.”

Clubs can contact ABFA’s Technical Director Sowerby Gomes via telephone at 729-1932 or Talent Development Scheme Coordinator Micah Samuel at 780-9370 to register, make inquiries, or for more information.

*cont’d from pg 24*

lence in the region.

CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe praised the three initiatives, stating, “These parallel programs represent a strategic investment in West Indies cricket’s future. By bringing together international expertise with our regional talent, we are developing skills and building a sustainable cricket ecosystem.

“The combination of specialized player development through our High-Performance Camp and the elevation of coaching standards through the symposium creates a powerful framework for success.

“Particularly exciting for us is the way we have connected our recent ini-

tiatives, like the Chennai Super Kings Academy experience, with these new programs to create continuous development pathways.

“This comprehensive approach ensures we’re developing both our current and next generation of cricket professionals in alignment with modern cricket demands.”

Cricket West Indies remains committed to a comprehensive approach to player and coaching development, ensuring the region’s cricket remains competitive and aligned with modern cricket demands.

Eleven (11) coaches from the six franchises attended the symposium, along with two coaches from the Combined Campuses and Colleges team.

Players at the CWI High-Performance Batting Camp: Kevlon Anderson, Jewel Andrew, Ackeem Auguste, Teddy Bishop, John Campbell, Tegenarine Chanderpaul, Rivaldo Clarke, Joshua Dorne, Justin Jaggasar, Jordan Johnson, Kirk McKenzie, Matthew Nandu, Carlon Bowen-Tuckett, and Kevin Wickham.

Players at the CWI High-Performance Spin Bowling Camp: Ryan Bando, Navin Bidaisee, Joshua Bishop, Yannic Cariah, Bryan Charles, Dar-el Cyrus, Mavendra Dindyal, Chaim Holder, Vitel Lawes, Avinash Mahabirsingh, Abhijai Mansingh, Abhijai Mansingh, Michael McKenzie, Zishan Motara, Tamarie Redwood, Nathan Sealy, and Hayden Walsh Jr.

## CWI launches high-performance programmes

Cricket West Indies (CWI) started 2025 with three groundbreaking high-performance programmes aimed at elevating the standard of West Indies cricket across all levels.

The initiatives brought together international expertise and regional talent in an unprecedented effort to strengthen both playing and coaching capabilities.

The first two initiatives focus on advanced batting techniques against spin bowling and enhancing spin bowling capabilities with a focus on wrist spin. The specialized High-Performance Batting Spin and Spin Bowling Camp began on January 11 and runs until January 17. It features 30 of the region's most promising players.

Under the guidance of Chennai Super Kings Academy Head Coach Sri-ram Krishnamurthi and spin bowling coach Amar Rashid, the six-day intensive programmes aim to refine participants' skills.



Players at the high-performance programme at the Cricket West Indies headquarters at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua. (CWI Media)

For players like Matthew Nandu (Guyana), Kirk McKenzie (Jamaica), and Kevin Wickham (Barbados), this camp builds on their experience at the Chennai Super Kings Academy in India last December, where they trained alongside four other West Indies players.

The third initiative is a Coaching Symposium, held at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua from January 13 to 15. The symposium aimed to

enhance the skillsets of regional franchise coaches while broadening their knowledge to support franchise and international players' development.

The symposium's key objectives included bringing clarity to coaches on the requirements for developing and managing players at the franchise level to meet the West Indies brand. It also aimed at empowering and enabling a collaborative learning community among coaches to achieve world-class outcomes.

The symposium featured newly appointed West Indies Head Coach Daren Sammy as one of six presenters over the three days. Coaches from the Chennai Super Kings Academy joined CWI Coaching Development Consultant James Davidson in delivering sessions.

In attendance were eleven franchise coaches and two from the Combined Campuses and Colleges team. The symposium provided a platform for knowledge exchange and emphasized creating a pathway for coaching excel-

*cont'd on pg 23*



Coaches who took part in the CWI Coaching Symposium, which was held at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua from January 13 to 15.