



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 34 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

Revenues from increased vehicle licence fees will only fund roadworks

Story on Page 2



The Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Hon. Rawdon Turner and the Graduates of the GRACE Programme School for Eldercare Assistants.

Story on Page 5

Revenues from increased vehicle licence fees will only fund roadworks

The government has signaled that it will increase the licence fees paid annually by vehicle owners and it is making a commitment that these revenues will only go towards road construction and repairs.

That's the word from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who reported that already the government has had a tentative agreement with two local banks, which have indicated that they will provide the funding for the road repairs with the assurance the government will dedicate the funds raised to repaying the loan.

“The funds will be placed in a special account controlled by the Ministry of Works and they will be used exclusively for the construction of road, curbs and drains. Again, I am giving the people of Antigua and Barbuda my word that every cent raised will be utilized for road construction,” he stated.

The prime minister revealed that the agreement with the banks calls for the money to be used solely for roads.

“We have discussed with the banks that they will

have their own inde-

pendent engineer who will provide them with regular progress reports and evaluation of the





work as it progresses. It is instructive to note too, that we will not be getting all of the money at once. It will be disbursed

based on the completion of different phases of the project,” he outlined. PM Browne made the case for increasing the licence fees noting that these have remained constant for some thirty years. Additionally, he said more expensive concrete roads will be built this time around as these have lasted longer than the roads that are constructed using asphalt.

is instructive to note too, that we will not be getting all of the money at once. It will be disbursed

based on the completion of different phases of the project,” he outlined. PM Browne made the case for increasing the licence fees noting that these have remained constant for some thirty years. Additionally, he said more expensive concrete roads will be built this time around as these have lasted longer than the roads that are constructed using asphalt.



POINT FM 99.1


POINTE

ON DE STREETZ


HOSTED BY:

Vernon A. Springer



FEATURING:

Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves



Aired on:

18th February, 2025

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Pointe TV

Conversation with Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Antigua and Barbuda Demands Retraction from US Cable Network Over False Report

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has called on U.S. Cable network, NewsNation, to correct false claims made in a recent broadcast that unfairly linked the country to human smuggling activities. The report alleged that Chinese migrants were being smuggled into the U.S. from “places like the Bahamas and Antigua,” further claiming that Chinese nationals are “buying up thousands of acres of land” in both countries. In a letter sent to NewsNation, Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders, strongly refuted assertions made by Senior National Correspondent Brian Entin, in the story which aired on 29 January 2025 and was posted on the network’s Facebook page. Ambassador Sanders said: “There is no truth to the claim that Chinese nationals are buying “thousands of acres of land” in Antigua, which is only 108 square miles in size”. He also stated



Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders that the NewsNation report lacks any supporting evidence, while unjustly damaging Antigua and Barbuda’s international reputation as a premier tourism destination and a favoured location for U.S. second-home owners”. The Ambassador further emphasized that Antigua and Barbuda is not a

transit point for human smuggling or trafficking. He reaffirmed the country’s strong commitment to international security, noting that “Antigua and Barbuda works closely with U.S. law enforcement agencies, regional governments through the Organization of American States (OAS), and United Nations agencies to combat human trafficking and smuggling”. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has urged NewsNation to promptly issue a correction and remove the false statements to prevent further reputational damage. Ambassador Sanders concluded by stating: “We expect responsible journalism from media networks with wide reach and influence. It is imperative that false claims that harm the reputation of nations are swiftly corrected.” The Embassy has requested confirmation from NewsNation that the necessary corrections will be made immediately.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2 DAYS WAYS SAVE



\$16.99

- *2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink



\$19.99

- Zinger / CCB
- Drink



KFC



@kfcanu



FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY

limitations apply

Government Revokes Appointment of Ambassador Boris Latour

The government has officially revoked Ambassador Boris Latour's appointment, a decision confirmed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene. This action comes after Latour was investigated in Switzerland concerning multiple allegations of illegal activities. Prime Minister Browne emphasized that the revocation, which took place two months ago, was made as a precautionary measure, prioritizing the nation's best interests. Although the government has not substantiated the allegations against Latour, they felt compelled to act for the sake of Antigua and Barbuda's reputation. Reports from European media have raised serious concerns about Latour, describing him as a member of a wealthy family and implicating him in a notable incident: the suspected orchestration of a burglary of his own father's assets, utilizing tactics reminiscent of organized crime. Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene affirmed the decision to revoke



Boris Latour

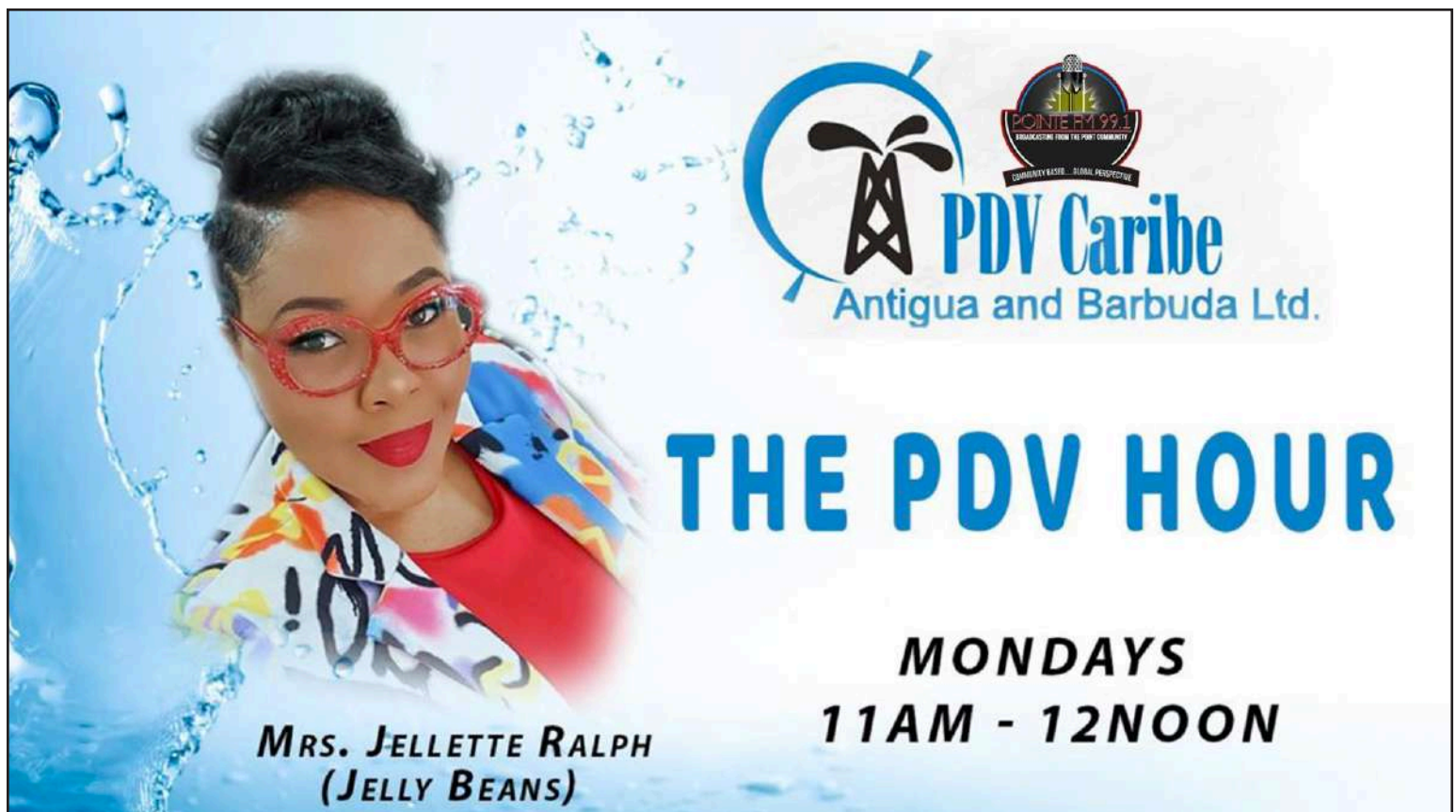
Latour's appointment, citing reports that prompted apprehension about Latour's conduct. Greene stated, "Our objective is to uphold the reputation of Antigua and Barbuda on the global stage. When these specific issues arose, we felt compelled to take decisive action."



He reiterated the government's commitment to maintaining high standards of ethical behavior among its elected and appointed officials, emphasizing the importance of preserving the nation's

integrity.

The case has drawn considerable attention and is currently under investigation, involving complex elements such as a safe, a contentious contract, recruited criminals, and deep-seated grievances tied to financial motives. Recently, one of the individuals associated with the burglary was arrested in France and is set for trial on January 29 in the criminal court of Pontoise (Val-d'Oise).

Latour has publicly declared his innocence, claiming the allegations are part of a smear campaign orchestrated by his father. He insists that his legal team is prepared to take action, aiming to file lawsuits against his father and anyone else involved in these purported claims. In 2023, Latour was appointed as the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN in Geneva and also held ambassadorship roles in France, as well as serving as the Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris and Vienna.



PDV Caribe
 Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

GRACE Programme Graduates 32 Eldercare Assistants in Special Ceremony

Thirty-two individuals have completed a six-month eldercare training through the GRACE Programme School for Eldercare Assistants.

The GRACE Programme, part of the Family and Social Services Division

held at the Zion Church of God on North Street.

The training covered essential topics such as Professionalism and Work Ethics, Customer Service, Safety of Older Persons, Nutrition, Vital Signs, CPR, Caregiving and the Law,

Margaret Jarvis-Joseph. Melvina Pascal, Director of the GRACE Programme, expressed her hope that the school would soon acquire a permanent building and achieve accreditation. Deputy Director of the Family and Social Services

prizes. Kemelee Lawman was named the 2023 valedictorian, with Josephine Liverpool earning the honour for 2024.

Since its inception, the GRACE Programme School for Eldercare Assistants has certified 222



under the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, is dedicated to supporting senior citizens and individuals with physical disabilities. It offers assistance with personal care, household tasks, cooking, and errands.

The recent cohort of eldercare assistants, which included trainees from both 2023 and 2024, graduated on Thursday at a ceremony

and Disaster Management. For the first time, trainees participated in rotations at the Hospice located at the Holberton Hospital, where they gained hands-on experience caring for terminally ill patients. Practical sessions were also conducted at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, the Fiennes Institute, and two nursing homes. The primary facilitator for the training was

Division, Marsha Pharaoh, delivered an inspiring charge to the graduates, emphasizing the nobility of eldercare and the importance of commitment, love, compassion, patience, and dedication in their roles. Certificates were presented by the Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, while Permanent Secretary, Colin O'Keiffe, presented special

individuals through its Care of the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Home Nursing Course. Three graduates have further advanced their careers by completing the Nursing Assistant Course.

This milestone underscores the Ministry's continued commitment to enhancing care for the elderly and disabled across the nation.

Government and NGO entities pooling efforts to construct a shelter for victims of GBV

Several entities drawn from the government sector are pooling their efforts with Non-Government Organisations to bring into operation a shelter that will house the victims of Gender-based Violence (GBV).

Executive Director of the Director of General Affairs, Jamie Saunders told a press conference on Monday that as a society there has been a haphazard and disjointed approach to tackling the issue of GBV. This, he said, has lessened the impact of the gains that have been made to tackling the issue.

Currently, he revealed that the Directorate offers emergency accommodation for short-term transitional cases for persons needing support in dangerous situation as it relates to GBV. “We need a more robust structured approach and so we are very pleased that this is something that is being worked on so all of the entities working towards creating a safer society, particularly for vulnerable groups like women and girls, youth, the disabled and the elderly can have a safe haven and a place to address their needs,” he remarked.

Executive Director of Integrated Health Outreach, Dr. Nicola Bird, noted that gender-based violence cannot be restrict to what happens in the home as this has repercussions that affect the whole society. “It’s very important that we have support and services for wom-



en/girls and families experiencing this violence as without resources, the cycle cannot be broken. The Directorate has outlined its various programmes that are in place, but now we want to take it further with the erection of a shelter,” she revealed.

Dr. Bird noted that the process is now in the ‘beginning’ stages but it is important to start the process and to see that it becomes

a reality. “Its not just about providing the physical space, but the services that are offered are also important. The women also have to be self-sufficient because often times what leaves women in these vulnerable positions is that they are not able to provide for themselves and their families,” she observed.

Treasurer of Integrated Health Outreach, Louis Rivera, announced that

discussions are underway with the HAPI programme administered by Inspector Veldon Raggette, who has committed to providing the labour to construct the building. He said discussions are also underway to find suitable lands to erect the shelter.

He added that land that will not only accommodate the building, but also to allow for the residents to produce honey on a commercial

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

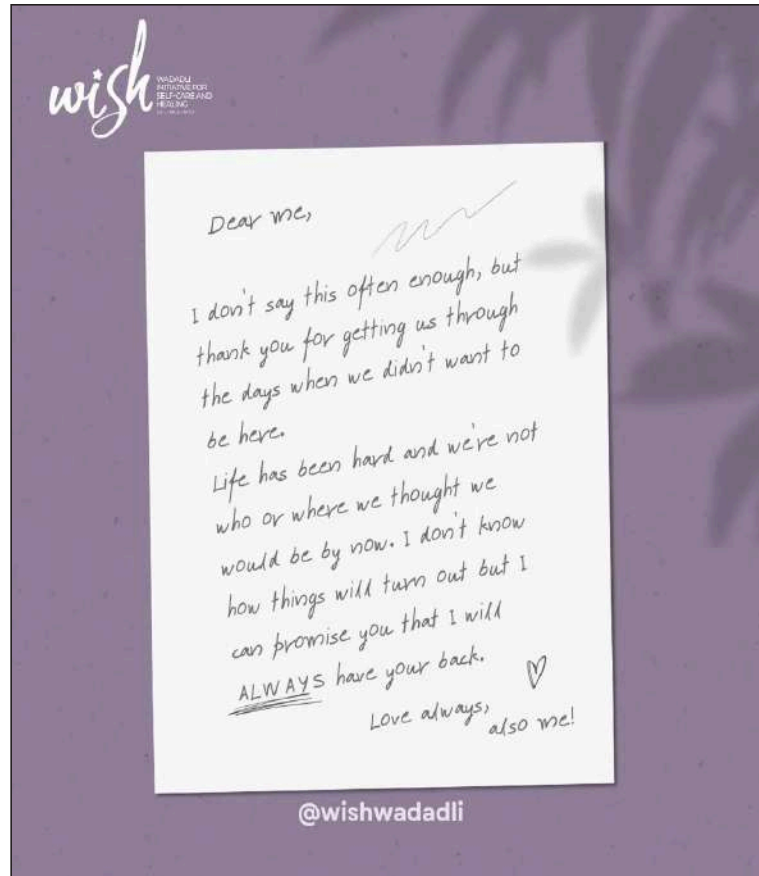
**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

WISH Launches the “Dear Me Campaign” for International Women’s Day 2025

The Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) is proud to announce the launch of the “Dear Me Campaign” in celebration of International Women’s Day 2025. This initiative invites women to engage in self-reflection and share messages of hope, kindness, and acceptance with themselves, fostering a supportive community dialogue around the multifaceted experiences of womanhood.

Participants are encouraged to write letters to their past or future selves, offering advice, encouragement, or insights they wish they had received at a younger age or hope to embrace in the future. These personal narra-



tives can be shared publicly on Instagram by tagging @wishwadadli and using the hashtag #iWISHyouknew, or submitted anonymously through the [WISH website](#).

“Vulnerability isn’t easy, but it’s always worth it. And you? You are worth it,” says WISH Founder, Chaneil Imhoff. “The

‘Dear Me Campaign’ is an opportunity for women to honor their journeys, celebrate their triumphs, and acknowledge the challenges they’ve overcome. By sharing our stories, we not only heal ourselves but also inspire and uplift others who may be navigating similar paths.”

This campaign aims to create a safe and empowering space where women can connect through shared experiences, fostering a sense of community and solidarity. By highlighting the diverse narratives of womanhood, WISH seeks to promote mental wellness and resilience, emphasizing the importance of self-care and mutual support.

UPP names 14 candidates/caretakers

United Progressive Party (UPP), Political Leader, Jamale Pringle, has named fourteen candidates/caretakers who the party expects to be part of its slate at the next general elections. Party sources say the candidates for two constituencies have not yet been determined. The party

confirms that Franz DeFreitas will return to St. John’s City South and Alister Thomas to St. John’s City West. Ashworth Azille will represent the party in St. John’s Rural East and Emanuel Peters in St. John’s Rural South. Senator Johnathan Joseph returns to St. Mary’s North; Senator

Alex Browne to St. Philip’s North; and George Wehner to St. Peter. Freshman Barbara Coates joins the slate in All Saints West and another newcomer, Wayne Benjamin Marsh, will carry the UPP flag in St. Paul. The five incumbent representatives will

continue in their constituencies: MP Algernon Watts in St. George; MP Kelvin Simon in St. Mary’s South; MP Richard Lewis in St. John’s Rural West; MP Sherfield Bowen in St. Phillip’s South; and MP Jamale Pringle in All Saints East and St. Luke.

Antigua-born Storyteller Baden Prince Junior in Marrakech for Unique Guinness World Record - The Longest Storytelling Session

The Marrakech International Storytelling Festival has officially broken the Guinness World Record for the longest continuous storytelling session, completing an awe-inspiring 80 hours and 34 minutes of uninterrupted storytelling in the iconic Jemaa El-Fnaa Square, in Morocco.

This monumental achievement featured 103 storytellers from 33 countries who shared tall and small tales from a vast range of diverse cultures, reflecting the festival's 2025 theme, Bahja (Joy

and Healing).

One of the rules from Guinness required that each performance be attended by at least ten people, and as audiences gathered day and night to witness the historic storytelling, it was never in doubt this could be achieved.

Storytellers from across the globe, including Antigua and Barbuda native son, Baden Prince Jnr., each played a significant role in the record-breaking event, contributing stories rooted in the rich oral heritage of their

countries and beyond.

Each participant underscored the festival's mission of uniting global storytelling communities while celebrating cultural diversity.

Mike Wood from Hertfordshire, the owner of the World Storytelling Café in central Marrakech and who is one of the key organisers of the festival, said "On behalf of the festival I am honoured to dedicate this world record to our patron, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, may God assist him. We

are delighted with this collective achievement and proud that our storytellers were also able to complete more than two hundred workshops in schools bringing Bahja, the joyfulness of our festival community, to over five thousand children. Baden added, "Bahja means joy and healing. It (the festival) delivered exactly that and we loved it."

The attempt was adjudicated by Anouk de Timari from Guinness World Records.



PLATINUM FM
We Entertain You **97.9**

DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

Commentary

A tribute to the late Colin Jah Bone Cumberbatch, photo-journalist and cultural ambassador



Colin Jah Bone Cumberbatch

By Colin James

As we say goodbye for Colin ‘Jah Bone’ or ‘Bone’ Cumberbatch, I cannot help but reflect on the indelible mark he has left on society.

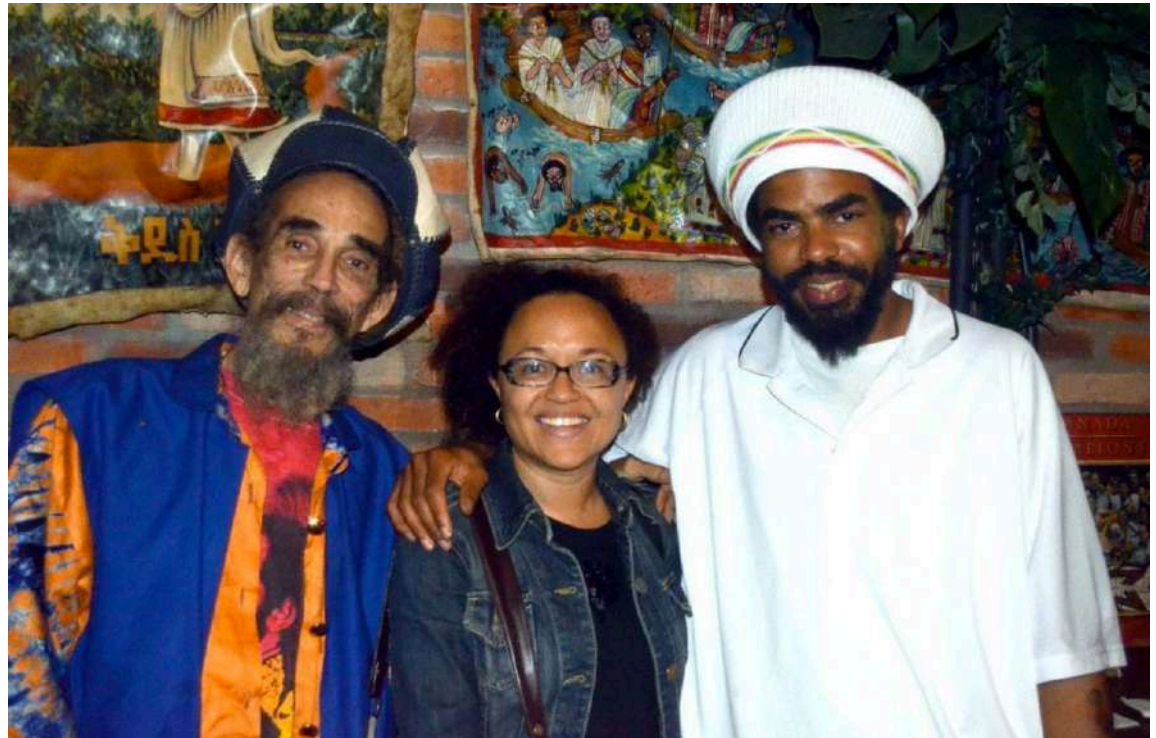
If you rightfully remember him for his sterling contribution to photo-journalism, not just sports-photography, then you cannot be faulted.

But he was that and much more.

If you only remember him for his erstwhile and intimate knowledge of the musical art form – particularly pan, calypso, reggae and soca – then you would not be surprised if you were told that he was an avid fan of the classics, jazz, soul, R&B, Hip Hop, Rap and other genres.

He was a devoted Rastafarian, a conscious pan-Africanist, a Caribbean citizen and above all, a family man.

I was privileged to have known and interacted with the parents of ‘Jah B’, as I fondly hail him, even



Colin ‘Bone’ Cumberbatch with two of his children, Gail-Anne Cumberbatch and Kamau Cumberbatch

before our journalistic lives intertwined in the mid-1980s.

I was grateful to learn about him – even before I met him – through the pontifications of his fraternal friend and journalism colleague, the late Ras King Frank I Tafari, who would regular feather the voice and thoughts of Jah B on the “ever-popular and most-authoritative” ‘Sports Line’ show on ZDK radio which spanned more than three decades from the late 1970s.

I was aware of Jah B’s photographic excellence from shots he sold to publications produced by the late legendary Barbadian journalist and commentator Tony Cozier who edited the yearly West Indies Crick-

et Annual, the Red Stripe Bowl Quarterly among other periodicals between the mid-1970s to the early 2000s.

When I left ABS Radio/TV in 1986 as a 20-year-old budding journalist and broadcaster to begin a new career in industrial relations it would have been an honour to work and learn from the knowledge and experiences of ‘Bone’s’ father, the late Cyril Cumberbatch who was then a consultant to the Antigua Employers’ Federation. His late mother, Eileen, was a constant visitor and presence at the office; and often I would overhear his parents speaking reverently about their Colin.

I believe the fact that ‘Jah B’ was a practicing pho-

to-journalist made it accommodating for Mr. Cumberbatch (and by extension the late Henderson Bass who was the Executive Secretary) to accept me as a freelance reporter during my employment at the AEF.

The ‘other’ Colin would also intermittently pop into the office, especially when he was returning to Antigua from one his sojourns, but our conversations then would be limited to the customary pleasantries. I doubt we ever spoke much about cricket or sports as I should to limit my moonlighting to a minimum.

Jah B was always insightful and intellectual while expounding his view on the pros and cons of West Indies cricket; the unjust

con’t on pg 9

con't from pg 8

system and racist Apartheid system in South Africa; regional integration (or the lack therefore); and his journeys across the world chronicling the highs and lows of the Windies through his photographic lens and pen.

Yes, Jah B was an intrepid – to use a term coined by King Frank I – writer and commentator (although he rarely featured in the commentary box) but was an excellent orator when being interviewed by the latter or any other interviewer.

I would always marvel at Jah B's storyteller euphony as he related his views and offered suggestions to remedy his perceived injustices in the regional game and the marginalization of cricketers from the so-called smaller islands of the Leeward and Windward islands

He called a spade a spade and wasn't afraid to step on the toes of regional and local cricket/sports administrators even if some were his friends. And Frank I was an inviting protagonist.

All three of us collaborated on a special publication to mark Antigua & Barbuda's hosting of the Windies v England test match in 1986 and I believed it was Bone's who titled it 'Sportsworld', borrowed from the Indian version, after he toured the Asian country in 1983.

As Jah B continued his crusade across the region and globally – whenever

he could afford the expenses associated with travel,

'Dellmar' Samuels) and Observer – on their teams.

go to either Island Photo, Benjies, Photogenesis or



Colin 'Bone' Cumberbatch with his two sisters, June Blanchette (left) and Debbie Lewis (right)

accommodation and meals other than receiving from family and associates, our paths will cross again during my tenure at the *Antigua Sun* newspaper from 1997-2000.

As the Associate Editor, Sports, I convinced my bosses to engage Jah B services to provide captivating photos of not only the Windies exploits on the field but for sports and other news of national and regional interest. It was a deliberate move to pitch the SUN to be on par with the three big regional publications: the Barbados Nation (who had the late great Gordon Brooks and his son, Randy), the Trinidad Express (who had the young tyro Robert Taylor) and Jamaica's – Gleaner (who had the forthright Headley

Jah B reveled in this assignment which gave him the cushion and avenue to display his work while earning sustainable remuneration to fuel his drive to cover Windies cricket and other events.

It also meant that when international matches – Test and One-Days – came to Antigua, it meant I had to perform the role of a 'runner' not only for Jah B but the other photographers who needed to have their films 'washed' at the photo labs so that they could transmit images back to their media houses, that was long before digital images became the norm today.

So imagine me dashing from the press box to get the films from Jah B, Dellmar and Brooks to

Woods Photo at lunch and tea times and before the close of play to deposit and collect the prints.

The tales of my association with Jah B and our work and efforts to provide journalistic coverage of cricket, sports, news and culture is long and storied. It would do justice to him to compact his times in one tribute so I will endeavor to do another one soon.

Until then, on the occasion of his burial Monday (February 17) – the date of the 'earth strong' of his friend and fellow Guyanese Alan LaRose, I extend sincere condolences to his family, relatives and friends.

May His Soul continue to Rest in Peace!

Give Thanks and Praise!

Vybz Kartel to join Drake for Wireless Festival performance

Dancehall icon Vybz Kartel is set to make his long-awaited return to the international stage, joining Drake for a groundbreaking performance at the 2025 Wireless Festival. The event, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary at London's Finsbury Park from July 11-13, will feature the Toronto rapper headlining all three nights with unique setlists.

The festival's final night, Sunday, July 13, will see Drake share the stage with Nigerian superstar Burna Boy and Kartel, who is currently in London with his fiancée, Sidem Öztürk.

"London we here! #GodistheGreatess," the artiste posted to his official Instagram account, with a video of him exiting the London Heathrow Airport.

The Wireless Festival announcement follows Kartel's highly publicised release from prison last year after spending 13 years behind bars. Acquitted by the Court of Appeal in July, the dancehall legend wasted no time reclaiming his place in

the industry, hosting the celebratory Freedom Street concert in December.

Film (Deluxe). Kartel and Öztürk attended the awards ceremony on February 2 at the Cryp-



He was nominated for his first Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards for Party With Me, a project that he recorded while incarcerated. The award ultimately went to Bob Marley: One Love – Music Inspired By The

to.com Arena in Los Angeles, California.

With his first major international festival appearance in over a decade, Kartel's presence at Wireless 2025 is set to be a defining moment for dancehall music. Fans eagerly anticipate his performance along-

side Drake, who has long expressed admiration for Kartel's influence on his own musical style. The pair's collaboration on the Wireless stage is expected to be a celebration of dancehall, hip-hop, and global music culture.

Drake's headlining Wireless Festival set will span three nights, each with a unique lineup. On Friday, July 11, he will perform alongside PartyNextDoor and special guest Summer Walker, while Saturday, July 12 will feature him with 'The Mandem'.

The Toronto rapper recently released a collaborative album with PartyNextDoor, \$ome \$exy \$ongs 4 U, which dropped on Valentine's Day, February 14. It marks his first full-length project since 2023's For All the Dogs and follows his highly publicised rap feud with Kendrick Lamar. Lamar took aim at Drake during the Super Bowl Half-time Show on February 9, performing his diss track Not Like Us in front of more than 100 million viewers. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

Jet ski accident claims life of 46-year-old in The Bahamas

A tragic jet ski accident in Bimini over the weekend has resulted in the death of a 46-year-old man in the Bahamas.

The incident occurred around 1:00pm on Saturday when the victim, whose identity has not yet been released, encountered

difficulties while riding the jet ski.

Reports indicate that the jet ski overturned, and the rider was unable to stay afloat after the mishap. Despite efforts to assist him to shore, the man remained unresponsive even after CPR

was administered.

While it remains unclear whether the victim was wearing safety gear at the time of the incident, police are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Police investigate apparent suicide

The Criminal Investigations Department (C.I.D) of the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (CDPF) has commenced investigations into what appeared to be the suicidal death of 56-year-old Gifford Irish.

Police reports revealed that Irish was found hanging at his home at Castle Comfort by his wife Zarina Irish at about 6:45 AM on Sunday, February 16, 2025.

The reports stated further that according to Mrs. Irish, she met her husband hanging from a rope, which was tied over a bedroom door with a white pail and a piece of a cinder block near him.

She therefore called for help and attempted CPR to no avail. Fire department officials also arrived and attempted CPR, which proved futile. Doctor Angel was summoned to the scene and pronounced the body dead at 9:22 AM.

The scene was processed by a crime scene technician and the body was transport-

ed to Lyndhurst Funeral

Home, where it is awaiting

an autopsy. (*Dominica*)



ANTIGUA BARBUDA
**LABOUR
QUEEN
PAGEANT**

IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

APPLY NOW

REQUIREMENTS

- Should be between the ages of 18-27
- Should be from the Constituency you wish to represent

DEADLINE: 11 FEBRUARY, 2025

❖ Only serious applicants will be considered ❖

**BECOME THE NEXT AMBASSADOR
TO REPRESENT YOUR CONSTITUENCY!**

For further information contact:

Ms. Shenique Barry - 1(268) 782-2165
Ms Samantha Albert - 1(268) 775-1719
Mr. Shane Marsh - 1(268) 770-8293
Ms. Sanka Riley - 1(268) 781-0182

ECCB reports positive growth outlook for the region

Communiqué of the 110th Meeting of the ECCB Monetary Council



The Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) has reported notable growth, with the ECCB projecting a positive economic outlook for 2025, expected to range between 3.5 percent and 4.5 percent.

This growth is expected to be driven by the tourism industry, post-hurricane reconstruction efforts, and large-scale infrastructure investments across member countries.

The forecast was part of the Governor's Report presented during the 110th meeting of the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) held on February 14, in St Kitts.

Premier Reuben Meade of Montserrat was welcomed back as a member of the Council, as the region continues to focus on sustainable development and financial resilience.

The ECCB's positive growth projections come amid a global environment marked by economic uncertainty, with risks such as inflation and geopolitical tensions posing challenges to international markets the Union reported.

However, the ECCU's credit conditions, coupled with efforts in infrastructural projects and financial sector reforms are seen as opportunities for enhanced regional stability.

Among key highlights of the meeting was the continued strength of the Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC\$), with reserves at EC\$5.5 billion as of February 2025. The region's banking sector remains stable, and liquidity remains robust, with strong capital reserves supporting ongoing growth, the ECCB said.

The Monetary Council also

addressed financial inclusion and the region's efforts to improve accessibility to banking services.

A new initiative encouraging banks to offer basic accounts is being rolled out across the ECCU, with a target completion date of April 2025. In addition, the ECCB continues to work toward rolling out the DCash 2.0 digital currency, with the revamped DCash website playing an instrumental role in public outreach and digital finance education.

A significant development in the financial sector was the approval of a \$25 million allocation to support food and nutrition security in the region. This initiative aims to help ECCU member countries reduce their food import bill by 25 percent, strengthening regional sustainability.

Looking forward, the ECCB stated next steps include addressing critical challenges such as high intra-regional air connectivity costs, which hinder trade and regional competitiveness.

The ECCU's fiscal situation also showed signs of improvement in 2024, with increased economic activity and stronger fiscal management leading to an increase in funds raised through the Regional Government Securities Market.

The next meeting of the Monetary Council is scheduled for July 2025, with a key change in the chairmanship as Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda is set to take over leadership. (*Loop Caribbean*)

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889

FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Trump fires FAA air traffic control staff weeks after fatal crash

VThe Trump administration has begun firing several hundred Federal Aviation Administration employees, upending staff on a busy air travel weekend and just weeks after a January fatal mid-air collision at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Probationary workers were targeted in late night emails Friday notifying them they had been fired, David Spero, president of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists union, said in a statement.

The impacted workers include personnel hired for FAA radar, landing and navigational aid maintenance, one air traffic controller told the Associated Press. The air traffic controller was not authorized to talk to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Spero said messages began arriving after 7 pm on Friday and continued late into the night. More might be notified over the long weekend or barred from entering FAA buildings on Tuesday, he said.

The employees were fired “without cause nor based on performance or conduct,” Spero said, and the emails were “from an ‘exec order’ Microsoft email address” — not a government email address.

The firings hit the FAA

when it faces a shortfall in controllers. Federal officials have been raising concerns about an overtaxed and understaffed air traffic control system for years, especially after a series of close calls between planes at US airports. Among the reasons they have cited for staffing shortages are uncompetitive

Committee, a panel mandated by Congress after the 1988 PanAm 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The committee is charged with examining safety issues at airlines and airports.

One FAA employee who was fired over the weekend suggested he was targeted

ter,” Spitzer-Stadtlander wrote. “Less than a week later, I was fired, despite my position allegedly being exempted due to national security.”

He added: “When DOGE fired me, they turned off my computer and wiped all of my files without warning.”



pay, long shifts, intensive training and mandatory retirements.

In the Jan. 29 fatal crash between a US Army Black Hawk helicopter and American Airlines passenger jet, which is still under investigation, one controller was handing both commercial airline and helicopter traffic at the busy airport.

Just days before the collision, President Donald Trump had already fired all the members of the Aviation Security Advisory

for his views on Tesla and X, formerly Twitter, not as part of a general probationary-level sweep. Both are owned by Elon Musk, who is leading Trump’s effort to cut the federal government.

Charles Spitzer-Stadtlander posted on LinkedIn that he was fired just after midnight Saturday, days after he started getting harassing messages on Facebook.

“The official DOGE Facebook page started harassing me on my personal Facebook account after I criticized Tesla and Twit-

Spitzer-Stadtlander said he was supposed to be exempted from the probationary firings because the FAA office he worked in focused on national security threats such as attacks on the national airspace by drones.

The Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The firings were first reported by CNN. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Suspect in Tupac Shakur killing seeks to delay trial



Attorneys for the man suspected of killing rap icon Tupac Shakur want to delay next month's trial, saying more time is needed for investigative work to ensure that Duane "Keffe D" Davis gets a fair trial.

The motion filed Friday in a Nevada court provides insight into Davis' defence, noting that a private investigator has identified witnesses who can testify that he was not at the scene of the 1996 shooting, nor was he in Las Vegas at the time.

The motion also suggests that someone else may have orchestrated the shooting and that witnesses who could testify on the matter are being interviewed.

The defence team said in a statement that the new developments and the need to interview key witnesses necessitate a delay. A hearing was scheduled Tuesday to discuss the timing of the trial, currently set to begin

in March.

"This case involves decades-old allegations, and with every new piece of evidence, it becomes increasingly clear that critical facts have yet to be fully examined," said attorney Carl Arnold, who is leading Davis' defence.

On the night of September 7, 1996, Shakur was in a BMW being driven by Death Row Records founder Marion "Suge" Knight. They were waiting at a red light when a white Cadillac pulled up next to them and gunfire erupted.

Davis, an ex-gang leader who is accused of orchestrating Shakur's killing near the Las Vegas Strip, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and has been jailed since his September 2023 arrest.

Long known to investigators as one of four suspects identified early in the investigation, he is the only one to be charged.

Arnold has argued that Da-

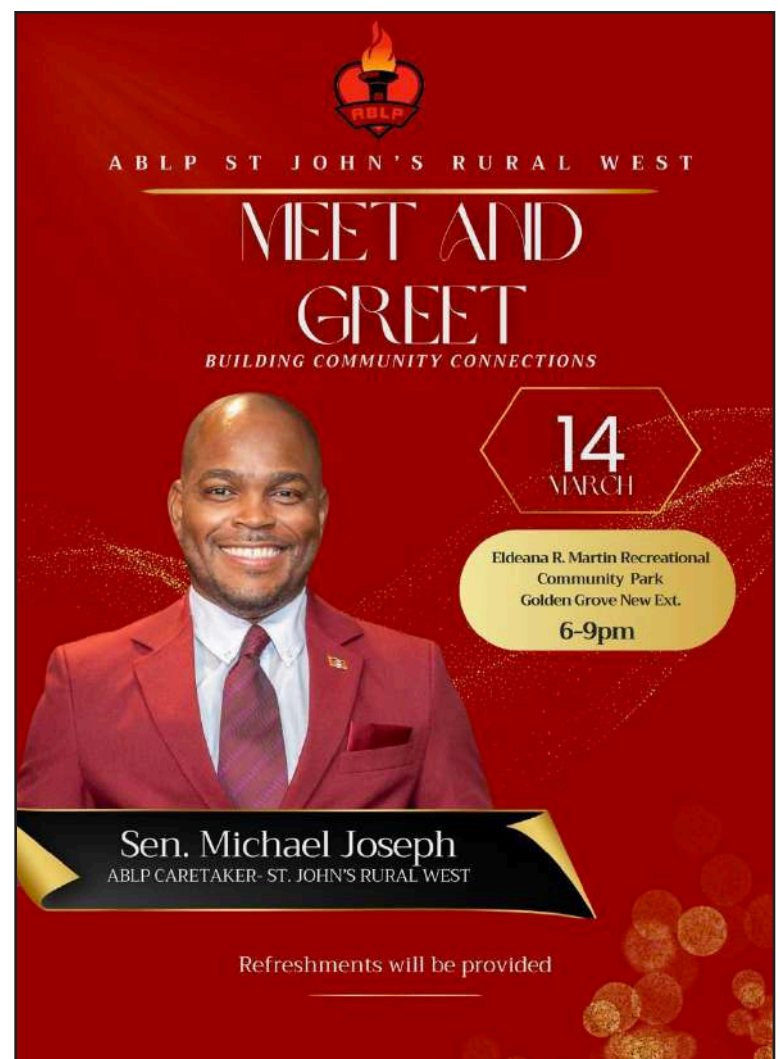
vis never should have been charged because of immunity agreements that Davis says he reached years ago with federal and local prosecutors while living in California.

Prosecutors have said any immunity agreement was limited and they have strong evidence against Davis, including his own accounts of the shooting in the tell-all memoir "Compton Street Legend."

Davis has acknowledged in interviews and in the memoir that he provided the gun used in the drive-by

shooting and that he was in the car. But his court filings say his descriptions in recent years of orchestrating the shooting were "done for entertainment purposes and to make money."

Defence attorneys also say they have witness information indicating that Shakur was in stable condition after the shooting and that he died suddenly after being hospitalized for a week. They were consulting medical and forensic experts to evaluate potential alternative causes of death. (*Loop*



ABLP ST JOHN'S RURAL WEST

MEET AND GREET

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

14 MARCH

Edeana R. Martin Recreational Community Park
Golden Grove New Ext.
6-9pm

Sen. Michael Joseph
ABLP CARETAKER - ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST

Refreshments will be provided

Pope's hospitalisation extended to treat 'complex' condition, Vatican says

Pope Francis's respiratory tract infection has presented a "complex clinical picture" requiring further hospitalisation, the Vatican says.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said on Monday that the pope is suffering from a "polymicrobial respiratory tract infection" that has necessitated a change in his drug therapy.

There was no time-frame given for his

hospitalisation, which has already sidelined Francis for longer than a 2023 hospitalisation for pneumonia.

Bruni said the complexity of his symptoms "will require an appropriate hospital stay" and the pope was "in good spirits".

Concerns about the 88-year-old pontiff's health have increased since his admission to Gemelli Hospital in

Rome, Italy, on Friday after a weeklong bout of bronchitis worsened.

Pope Francis's hospitalisation has already forced the cancellation of some events connected with the Vatican's Jubilee Holy Year and put others in question.

The Vatican said the pope's planned weekly audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday had been cancelled due

to his continued stay in hospital.

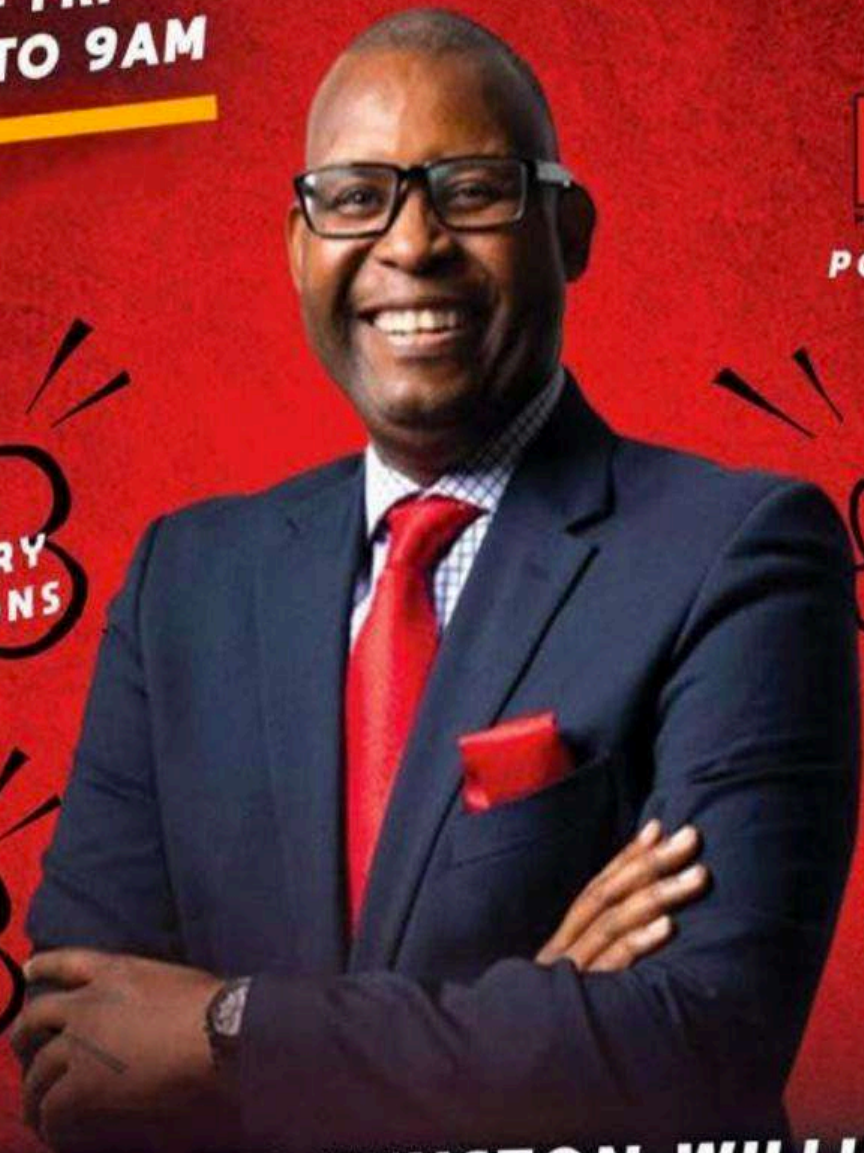
The pope's doctors had earlier ordered complete rest, and Francis was unable to deliver his regular weekly prayer on Sunday to pilgrims in St Peter's Square or lead a Mass for artists to mark the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year. *(Al Jazeera English)*

HEALTH ON POINT
WITH CHRISTOPHER HONORE
HEALTH COACH & NUTRITIONIST

EVERY MONDAY!
ON POINTE FM 99.1
12 NOON TO 2PM

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY

**MON - FRI
6:30AM TO 9AM**



**BIRTHDAY /
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS**

INTERVIEWS

**COMMUNITY
UPDATES**

POLITICS

HOSTED BY WINSTON WILLIAMS

MORNING POINTE

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Sports News

Antigua and Barbuda's Stuti Kashyap Continues to Dominate on the International Stage at WTT Doha



Antigua and Barbuda's rising table tennis star Stuti Kashyap

At just 15 years old, Antigua and Barbuda's rising table tennis star Stuti Kashyap continues to punch above her weight, proving once again that she is a force to be reckoned with on the international circuit. Competing at the WTT Youth Contender Doha and making her debut at the WTT Feeder Doha in the senior women's category, Stuti delivered yet another remarkable performance against world-class competition.

WTT Youth Contender Doha Results

- U17 Girls: Quarterfinalist
- U19 Girls: Round of 16

Ranking Surge – Breaking New Ground

Following her performance in Doha, Stuti now holds career-best rankings:

- ITTF Americas Rankings
 - o No. 1 in U17 Girls
 - o No. 6 in U19 Girls
- World Rankings
 - o No. 49 in U17 Girls
 - o No. 92 in U19 Girls

Stepping Up to the Senior

WTT Feeder series in the Women's category, where she faced experienced senior players and more than held

her own:

- Round of 64: Defeated Aia Mohamed (Qatar, World No. 546, age 30) 3-1
- Round of 32: Lost to World No. 50 Wang Xiaotong (China, 2nd seed) 3-1 in a close match, including two deuce sets

Her impressive showing at her first senior WTT event demonstrates that she is

already competing at a world-class level and will only continue to rise as she gains more experience.

The Journey Continues

With her eyes set on the Junior Pan American Games in August 2025, Stuti remains committed to representing Antigua and Barbuda on the international stage. She continues to prove herself against older, more seasoned players, showing that her skill, determination, and work ethic are pushing her toward even greater heights.

Ranks – WTT Feeder Doha

For the first time in her career, Stuti competed in the

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

**PROTECT YOUR VALUED ASSETS
WITH STATE INSURANCE'S
COMMERCIAL POLICY**

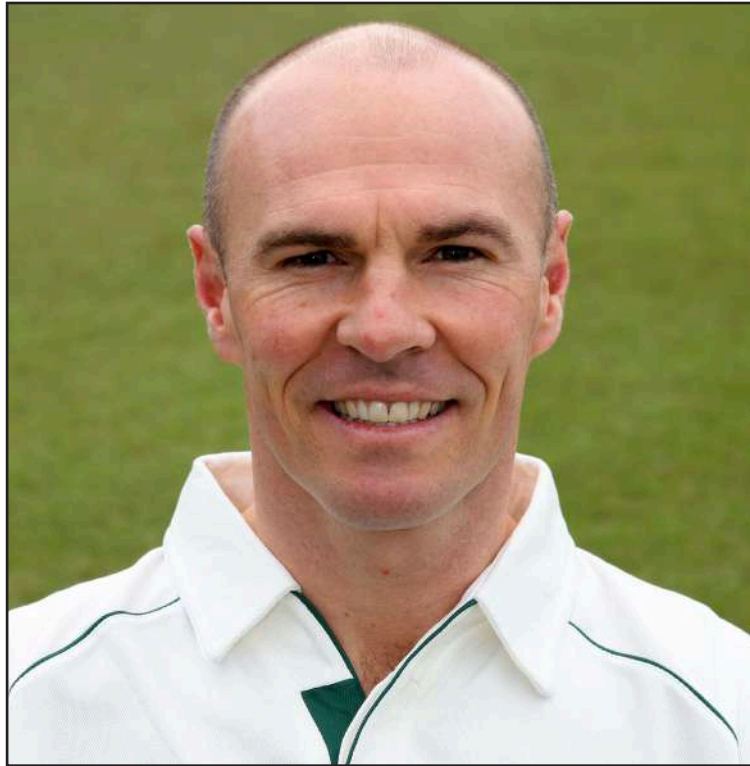
ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 info@siclfinancial.com www.siclfinancial.com

Nixon named new Head Coach of Antigua and Barbuda Falcons

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons announced Monday that Paul Nixon will be their new head coach for the 2025 season of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL). Nixon, 54, a former England wicketkeeper, has held several head coaching positions around the world with success. He previously coached Jamaica Tallawahs in the CPL. Nixon replaces former West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who was head coach for the inaugural season of the team last year.

Kris Persaud, owner and founder of the Falcons, and general manager, Jeff Miller welcomed Nixon to the franchise – and thanked Chanderpaul and for his contribution.

They said in a joint statement: “We want to welcome Paul to the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons as we pre-



Paul Nixon

pare for the 2025 Republic Bank CPL. He is an outstanding head coach with an excellent track record. We believe he will have a major impact and will bring

his energy and enthusiasm to the Falcons family as we look to improve on last year’s performance. We also want to sincerely thank Shiv, an outstanding legend

of West Indies cricket, for the work he did with the franchise.”

Nixon said: “It is a great honour to accept the invitation to serve as Head Coach for Antigua and Barbuda Falcons this year. I extend my sincere gratitude to Jeff and Kris for their belief in my abilities.

“The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) is a wonderful competition that has significantly benefited West Indian cricket. The CPL’s vibrant atmosphere, star-studded lineups, and high-quality entertainment have captivated audiences and sparked a renewed enthusiasm for the sport. Having achieved success with Jamaica previously, I eagerly anticipate a successful 2025 campaign, supported by great players and a first-class support staff.”



POINTE ON THE STREETZ
HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
POINTE BROADCASTING NETWORK

TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

f POINT FM99.1

Blackhawks extend unbeaten run in ABCA two-day contest

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks maintained their perfect start with their third victory in as many games in defense of their Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

All-rounder Kofi James slammed a century as the Blackhawks secured their third win with a 144-run victory against the All Saints Pythons at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

James struck 137 off 117 balls, including 12 sixes and six fours, and Michael Greaves got 38 as Liberta made 214 for three declared off 36.3 overs after being sent in to bat.

In reply, the Pythons were dismissed for 149 in 38.1 overs. Demetri Lucas scored 43, while Blackhawks skipper Elroy Francis Jr. bagged four for 28 and Chamiqueko Landerfort captured three for 52.

Boosted by a first innings lead of 65 runs, James slammed 69 off 54 balls, including eight fours and two sixes, as the Blackhawks declared their second innings at 137 for five off 23.5 overs. Kadeem Josiah took three for 12.

Chasing a victory target of 203, All Saints Pythons were bundled out in their second innings for 58 in 18.1 overs. Landerfort claimed four for 23, and James took three for 11.

Empire Nation and the New Winthorpes Lions both recorded their second wins in three matches. Empire Nation crushed the bottom team, the Bolans Blasters, by an innings and 102 runs at the Factory Grounds.

The Bolans Blasters were all out in their first innings for 79 in 31.5 overs after being sent in to bat. Empire's skipper, Justin Athanaze, claimed three wickets for nine runs.

In reply, Empire Nation made 212 for seven declared off 45.3 overs. Opener Damian Lowenfield hit 69, while Richie Thomas took three for 30, and Derek Mourillon claimed three for 58.



Kofi James

Asked to follow on 133 runs behind, the Bolans Blasters were shot out in their second innings for 31 in 21.5 overs. Leg-spinner Micah McKenzie snapped up six for 15.

The New Winthorpes Lions beat the Pigotts Crushers by 111 runs at the Pigotts playing field. The Lions won the toss and batted, scoring 189 off 45.2 overs in their first innings. Demari Benta hit 54 not out, and Jermaine Otto made 30.

In reply, the Crushers were dismissed in their first innings for 112 in 29.4 overs. Ishmael Peters grabbed five for 34, and Orandel Boston bagged four for 40.

Boosted by a lead of 69 runs, the

Lions declared their second innings at 246 for eight off 54.1 overs. Bartlette Henry struck 83 off 80 balls, including 10 fours and two sixes.

Ian Eusebe made 40, opener Dravid Richardson got 38, and Otto scored 37. Tyree Moore grabbed four for 15, and Essan Warner picked up four for 92.

Set 316 to win, the Crushers were dismissed in their second innings for 204 in 40.2 overs. Moore hit 43 not out, and Ronnel Jeffrey made 37 off 18 balls, including five sixes and a four. Boston took three for 32, and skipper Nino Henry captured three for 35.

The Jennings Tigers recorded their first win with a nine-wicket victory against Tertiary Institutions and Schools, formerly Combined Schools, at the Rising Sun Grounds in St. John's.

Scores: Tertiary Institutions and Schools 158 all out off 64 overs (Hosea Roberts 31; Zavier Freeland four for 39, Glenton Williams three for 21) and 56 all out off 25.4 overs (Glenton Williams five wickets for four runs); Jennings Tigers 175 for nine declared off 31.4 overs (Dahri Francis 67, Paul Miller 30; Kaivalya Mishra six for 63) and 40 for one off 8.3 overs.

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles and WES Rising Sun Spartans played to a draw at the Bethesda playing field.

Scores: Bethesda Golden Eagles 191 all out off 63.5 overs (Shacoy Floyd 75, Mekali Tonge 44; Andre Edwards four for 41, Hilroy Andrew three for 28) and 107 for three off 17 overs (Tron Payne 67; Junior Henry three for eight); Rising Sun Spartans 127 all out off 32.3 overs (Junior Henry 34; Oshane Simon five for 20).

Steelers beat Flyers to stay top of ABBA's Division 1 League



Total Imports EMCS Potters Steelers maintained their perfect start by ending the unbeaten run of reigning league and play-off champions, the EZ Fit Flyers, in ABBA's First Division League on Sunday evening.

The Steelers won for the sixth time in as many games and are now the only unbeaten team in the league after snatching a hard-fought three-point win against the Flyers in a top-of-the-table clash at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Steelers pulled off an 84-81 victory against the Flyers, who lost for the first time in five encounters after winning their previous four games.

Cohen Desouza produced a game-high 29 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Kareem Edwards sank 18 points; while Marlon "Buju" Charles and Keroi Lee each chipped in with 12 points for the Potters Steelers.

Adonis Humphreys had 18 points and nine rebounds; David Hernandez sank 14 points; Xavier "X-Man" Meade produced 11 points and nine rebounds; and Selassie Brathwaite contributed 11 points for the Flyers.

After losing their previous three matches, newly promoted Da Project recorded their first win in the Division 1 League with a

convincing 83-66 drubbing of the Northside Stingerz in the opening game of Sunday's double-header.

Sean Nicholas shot a game-high 31 points and grabbed 20 rebounds; Don-te Trimmingham had 21 points, eight rebounds, and six assists; Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew produced 16 points, nine rebounds, and five assists; and Nathan Matthew scored 11 points for Da Project.

Jevonte Valerie sank 20 points and claimed 12 rebounds; Ammiel Williams scored 12 points and snatched eight rebounds; Sadiq Phillip had 11 points and six rebounds; and Te-Ran Zachariah produced 10 points, nine rebounds, and five assists for the Northside Stingerz, who lost for the third time in five games

AGHS gets second win in U/16 Girls School Football League



Nafissa Quashie

The Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) continued their successful start in the

Under-16 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Joma Female School Football League.

Antigua Girls High School won for the second time in as many games with a 6-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School.

Nafissa Quashie scored five times for the Antigua Girls High School with conversions in the fourth, eighth, 23rd, 25th, and 45th minutes. The other goal was scored by Na'jireh Wijnaldum in the 16th minute.

The Antigua Girls High School got off to a winning start in the competition by pulling off a 6-1 victory

against Clare Hall Secondary School in their opening encounter.

Michaela Isaac hit a hat trick with conversions in the third, sixth, and 20th minutes, and Blessings Creese scored twice with goals in the fifth and 33rd minutes.

Nafissa Quashie scored the other goal for the Antigua Girls High School in the 40th minute, while Aliah London converted the only goal for Clare Hall Secondary in the 38th minute.

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) also made a successful start in defense of

their title in the Under-16 Division.

Rolisha Humphreys and J'Kayla Bellot both struck hat tricks to propel Princess Margaret School to a 9-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School in their opening encounter.

Humphreys had conversions in the 23rd, 43rd, and 49th minutes, and Bellot scored in the 32nd, 41st, and 51st minutes.

The other goals were scored by Anesa Versailles in the third minute, Aliyah Francis in the 25th minute, and Tianna Henry in the 42nd minute.

A point still separates United and Grenades atop Premier League



Players of the All Saints United football team

Only a point continues to separate leaders and defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United and Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades at the top of the standings of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

Both teams recorded wins in the third round of matches in the second round or group stage during a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday to remain strong contenders for the title.

All Saints United maintained their lead at the top of the standings by recording their third win in Group 2 with a 2-1 victory against the Potters in the last game of Sunday's triple-header.

Goals by Raheem Derterville in the 16th minute and Tiquan Isaac in the 34th minute gave All Saints United a 2-0 lead. Keon Greene reduced the deficit by scoring the only goal for the Potters Tigers in the 42nd minute.

The Potters Tigers remain in eighth place in the overall standings with 17 points after suffering their eighth loss in 15 matches. All Saints United advance to 43 points after recording their 14th win in 16 matches.

The Jennings Grenades remain in second place and the only unbeaten team in the league after recording their third win in Group 1 by coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against Island Original John Hughes in Sunday's second game.

Troy Jules converted a penalty kick in the 23rd minute to give John Hughes the lead, but Luis Labrada scored an equalizer for the Grenades in the 31st minute as both teams reached half-time deadlocked at 1-1.

Barrington Blake secured victory for the Grenades by scoring the winner in the 74th minute. Their 13th win in 16 matches carries the Grenades to 42 points, one adrift of leaders All Saints United.

John Hughes will remain in seventh place with 18 points after slumping to their seventh loss in 15 matches.

The Aston Villa Lions claimed their second win in three matches in Group 1 by snatching a 2-1 victory against Terminix Pigotts Bullets in Sunday's opening

game.

Rakeem Joseph scored both goals for Villa Lions with conversions in the ninth and 46th minutes. Villa Lions midfielder Tyrik Hughes also failed to score a penalty kick, which was saved by Bullets goalkeeper Marlon Richards in the 11th minute.

Substitute Shemoi Andrew scored the only goal for Pigotts Bullets in the 76th minute.

The Villa Lions remain in sixth place but moved within a point of Pigotts Bullets after recording their eighth win in 16 matches. The Villa Lions advance to 27 points, one adrift of the Pigotts Bullets, who remain on 28 points after suffering their sixth defeat in 16 matches.

**MON - FRI
9AM TO 11AM**



**HOSTED BY
TROY ALLEN**

TALK YOUR MIND

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Young Benna Boys win last game in 2025 CONCACAF Qualifiers

The young Benna Boys of Antigua and Barbuda wrapped up their campaign in the 2025 CONCACAF Under-17 Qualifiers in Guatemala on a winning note on Sunday evening.

Antigua and Barbuda snatched a 3-1 victory against St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their third and final match in Group E of the CONCACAF Under-17 Qualifiers, which took place at the Estadio Cementos Progreso in Guatemala City, Guatemala, from February 7 to 16.

Brandon Satchell scored the opening goal in the 15th minute to place Antigua and Barbuda in front.

Zibeon Cunningham struck from the top of the box in the 33rd minute to snatch an equalizer for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

But Greg Williams secured the victory for the young Benna Boys with a brace, striking a header in the box in the 66th minute and a header off a corner kick in the 74th minute.

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their second consecutive loss in the group last Thursday, conceding three penalty kicks in a 3-0 defeat to Haiti in their



The starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda team against Guatemala in their opening Group E match of the CONCACAF Under-17 Qualifiers at the Estadio Cementos Progreso in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. (File Photo)

second match.

The Haitians were lethal from the penalty spot, converting all three attempts, which were scored by Franco Celestin in the 14th minute and Emerson Laissé in the 34th and 82nd minutes.

Antigua and Barbuda launched their campaign in Group E with a 2-1 loss against host Guatemala.

Haiti earned a 2-0 win against Guatemala to secure the top spot in Group E on Sunday. Haiti took the lead

in the 8th minute as Djouby Jean-Phillippe struck from the top of the box.

Miguel Joseph sealed first place for the Haitians in the fourth minute of added time with a right-footed rocket from midfield.

Haiti romped to a 5-0 victory against St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their opening encounter to finish at the top Group E with three wins from as many games.

Guatemala came second ahead of Antigua and

Barbuda, while St. Vincent and the Grenadines finished in the cellar after losing all three matches.

It means Haiti has secured one of the eight CONCACAF berths at the 2025 FIFA Under-17 Boys World Cup, which will take place in Qatar from November 5 to 27.

Thirty-five (35) national teams, divided into eight groups, participated in the 2025 CONCACAF Under-17 Men's Qualifiers.