



# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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## A record 1.2 million persons visited Antigua and Barbuda in 2024

*Story on Page 2*



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez (centre) with Executive Director of the ABTA, Patrice Simon (extreme left) ABTA CEO Colin C James (on her left) with the ABTA team members

# A record 1.2 million persons visited Antigua and Barbuda in 2024



More than 1.2 million cruise and stay-over visitors journeyed to Antigua and Barbuda in 2024, making it a record year for visitor-arrivals for the country.

This was one of the accomplishments of the tourism sector highlighted at a press conference held on Monday by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez and CEO of the ABTA, Colin C. James, acknowledged that the tourism industry in Antigua and Barbuda continues to per-

form exceedingly well as the statistics have been able to confirm.

Fernandez thanked the tourism teams in the United States, led by Dean Fenton, in Canada, led by Tameka Wharton, in the UK and Europe, led by Cherrie Osborne, in the Caribbean, led by Charmaine Spencer and the team at head-office led by the CEO, Colin James for their continued efforts to maintain Antigua and Barbuda's position as a premiere destination within the Caribbean.

The tourism minister re-

vealed that in 2024, Antigua and Barbuda had the fastest growing service-based economy in all of CARICOM. Seventy percent of the country's GDP was tourism based and with over 12,000 employees, the sector accounted for 34 percent of employment in the country.

"Tourism is firing on all cylinders in the post-COVID era," he emphasized.

Here are some of the statistics presented by the ABTA at Monday's press conference.

## Fernandez: In an era of tariffs local tourism may benefit because of its 'high-end' status

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez believes that the fact that Antigua and Barbuda is seen as a high-end tourism destination, this may enable it to weather the upheavals that may be caused by the United States' decision to impose tariffs against its trading partners and neighbours Mexico and Canada, as well as China.

US President Donald Trump has imposed 25 percent tariffs on goods entering the US from both Mexico and Canada. It is generally felt that these tariffs will lead to higher prices for many products imported into the US from these countries.

“When those tariffs kick in, it is believed that this would be a definite concern in terms of the economic and future growth of those in our source market, i.e. the United States. Of course, when you have these types of issues, people look at where they can cut back and one of the areas in which they would cut back is in travel as this is not seen as a necessity,” he remarked.

On the flip side, the minister is of the view that the high-end travel will not be affected by such concerns as would those at the lower end of the travel market. “When you are a high-end traveler, you tend to be more resilient in terms of those kinds of external shocks. So, I think that the fact that we are considered high end is a positive for us under the circumstances. However, we have to keep our service at top-of-the-line,” he declared.

To this end, the minister revealed that the ministry is

working hand-in-hand with the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) to produce graduates who will be able to provide such services to guests. Additionally, he said similar discussions are taking place with the UWI FIC with the same aims in mind.

Fernandez also revealed that he held discussions last week with the visiting Ambassador for Ireland on the possibility of that country providing training for hospitality workers through exchange programmes and short courses.



Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez



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# Local News



## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

**FASTEST GROWING SERVICE BASED ECONOMY IN CARICOM**

**TOURISM  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
GOVERNMENT/  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

**70%**

OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S GDP IS FROM TOURISM

**12,000+**

JOBS OR 34% OF EMPLOYMENT

**THE TOURISM ENGINE:  
FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS  
POST COVID**

OVER

**1.2 MILLION**

AIR AND SEA ARRIVALS IN 2024

ECLAC GDP GROWTH in 2024

**+6.1%**

ECLAC GDP GROWTH forecast in 2025

**+3.5%**



## TOURISM ARRIVALS

**STAY-OVER ARRIVALS**

**17%**

Antigua and Barbuda had a strong end to 2024, with a stay-over tourism arrivals growth rate of 17% in the 12 months of 2024.

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

**281,896**

STAY-OVER ARRIVALS

**330,281**

STAY-OVER ARRIVALS

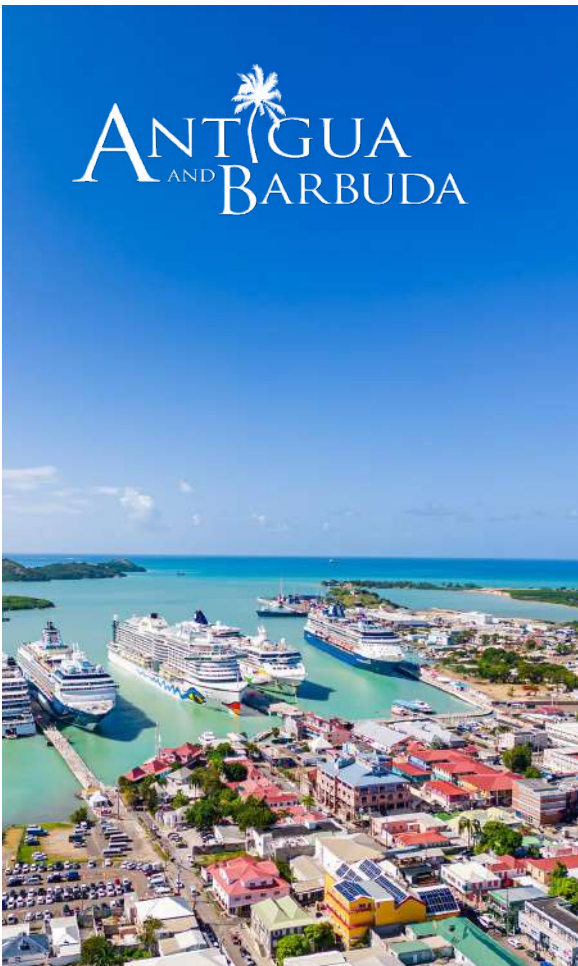
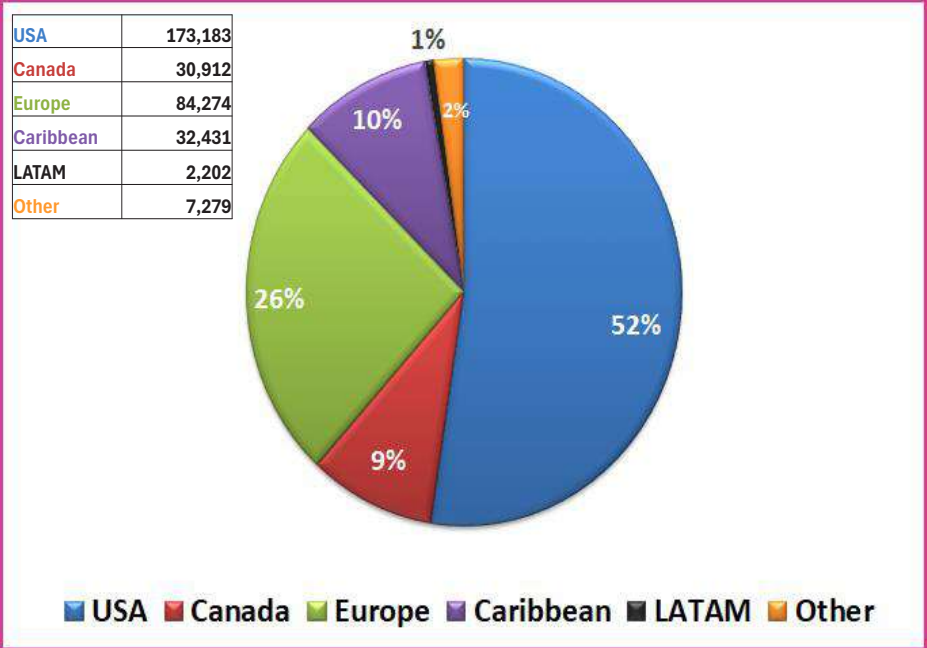
*10% increase over 2019 benchmark year*

2024 arrivals Jan-Dec reflect an increase over the 2019 benchmark year, which saw 301,019 arrivals




## SOURCE MARKET SHARE

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024 (330,281)



## CRUISE ARRIVALS

23% 

Cruise arrivals have grown by 23% in 2024 vs 2023  
Expect increased home-porting into Antigua and Barbuda for 2025

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

**670,243**

CRUISE ARRIVALS

**372** CALLS

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

**823,955**

CRUISE ARRIVALS

**428** CALLS

*"The typical spending per cruise tourist varies but is estimated at US\$73.55 per person.\* This means taking a conservatively approach of 30% of the total expected traveller the potential tourist spending could range between US\$18million and \$25million for the season."*

*Antigua Cruise Port*

# NSWMA Engages Students in the Hidden World of Waste Management



The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), in collaboration with the Divine Academy of Excellence, recently hosted twenty-six (26) students on an educational field trip to the Cooks Sanitary Landfill. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about waste management, pollution, and environmental responsibility.

Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by Simon Moore (Landfill Consultant) and Sowande Thomas (Landfill Technician). For many, this was their first time considering what happens to waste after disposal.

From a high viewing platform, students observed the

massive landfill sections, where they saw firsthand the meticulous process of waste management. They watched as trucks delivered waste, while bulldozers compacted and covered it with soil to minimize environmental impact.

During the educational session, students learned about:

- The journey of waste from household disposal to landfill processing
- The importance of waste compaction and coverage
- Environmental risks, including fires, gas emissions, and water pollution

An engaging question-and-answer segment followed, allowing students

to share their thoughts on pollution in Antigua and Barbuda, the significance of recycling, and potential solutions to waste-related challenges.

As part of its commitment to fostering environmental stewardship, the NSWMA invited the school to return in six months to observe key improvements, including:

- Designated waste segregation zones
- Enhanced waste collection schedules
- Community awareness initiatives

These measures aim to reduce unregulated waste

disposal and promote responsible waste management across the nation.

As the students departed, it was evident that the visit had left a lasting impression. No longer viewing waste management as a distant issue, they embraced the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling in their daily lives.

The NSWMA remains committed to educating the public and encourages citizens, residents, NGOs, and community organizations to partner with them in promoting sustainable waste management practices for a cleaner, healthier Antigua and Barbuda.

## 40-Years Not Out!



Assistant Superintendent of Police, Cecil Daley

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Cecil Daley, is this month celebrating his 40th anniversary since joining the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. ASP Daley, who currently serves as the chief of security for Prime Minister Gaston Browne, said becoming a member of the RPFAB was one of the best decisions of his life. "Joining the force has allowed me to achieve many of the goals that I had set for myself. I have attended many training courses both locally and overseas all of which have helped to broaden my horizon," he told Point Express Newspaper. ASP Daley has been trained in a number of critical areas

such as crime fighting, military, human resources and intelligence. "During my years as a police officer, I have been attached to the Special Services Unit, Narcotics Division, the ONDCP among others. For the last ten years, I have been assigned to security for the prime minister and this is a role which comes with much responsibility and importance. It is one for which I am prepared in every possible way," he declared. There is no slowing down for ASP Daley as he has indicated that there are no immediate plans to retire. "I enjoy what I do and I plan to be around for a little longer," he remarked.

# TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

# 2 DAYS WAYS SAVE



**\$16.99**

- \*2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink



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- Drink

\*limitations apply\*



# Shania Samuel named Miss Amity at Miss OECS Pageant



Antigua and Barbuda's Shania Samuel did not win the Miss OECS Pageant held in Dominica over the weekend. However, Samuel walked away with the title of Miss Amity for her warm connections with the rest of the contestants.

A release from the OECS Secretariat said after an unforgettable night of amazing performances, Kyanna Dyer from Dominica has been crowned MISS OECS 2025, emerging as the embodiment of "Elysian Elegance and Empowerment."

The prestigious event,

held on Friday, January 31, celebrated the beauty, intelligence, and cultural heritage of contestants from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Miss Antigua and Barbuda did not feature in the winner's circle, however, she had the consolation of walking away with the Miss Amity meaning that she did not come away empty handed.

Ayanna Dorsett of the Festivals Office served as Miss Samuel's chaperone.

## VACANCY INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Internal Auditor:

The Internal Auditor's (IA) prime responsibility is to independently evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls and risk management processes and makes recommendations for improvements. This process includes the preparation of an audit plan, conducting risk assessments, conducting audit tests on various facets of APUA's operations, then reporting on the findings. The IA also conducts special audits and internal investigations at the request of the Board of Commissioners or Management.

### Key duties include:

- Develop structured work plans to review controls, policies, operations, and accounts.
- Assess internal controls for adequacy and compliance, reporting findings and recommendations.
- Appraise the effectiveness of policies and resource management.
- Audit accounts and ensure accurate financial records.
- Safeguard assets through random inspections of cash, inventory, and equipment at all locations.
- Facilitate business risk management and value-for-money reviews.
- Collaborate with leadership to identify and analyze risks annually.
- Report to the Audit Committee and Management on activities and findings.
- Coordinate with external auditors and ensure mutual understanding of work.
- Review the accuracy and relevance of management-provided financial and other information.
- Protect billing system data integrity and document control weaknesses with recommendations.
- Conduct additional reviews requested by leadership while maintaining audit independence.

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field.
- Recognized professional accounting designation (CPA/CA/CIA/ACCA).
- Knowledge of internal controls and enterprise risk management frameworks.
- Sound IT skills (proficiency with the full MS Office suite of applications).
- At least three (3) years' experience in audit/accounting at a senior level.
- Must be able to work independently, and formulate work plans.
- Excellent written and oral communications skills.

### Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

RE: INTERNAL AUDITOR VACANCY  
 The Corporate Secretary - APUA Board of Commissioners  
 Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue  
 St. Johns, Antigua

OR Email: [jdublin@apua.ag](mailto:jdublin@apua.ag) with subject captioned:  
 INTERNAL AUDITOR VACANCY

### Deadline for application is Friday 7th February, 2025

\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\*  
 "APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



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



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**WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

## Level Up Team Supports Jennings Secondary School Sports Day - Day 2



The London Level Up team was present at Day Two of the Jennings Secondary School sports event, where they provided special treats—hot dogs for every child.

“It was truly heartwarming to witness the students giving their best in their chosen sporting events, displaying teamwork, determination, and

school spirit. The energy was electrifying as the various house teams cheered on their fellow competitors, celebrating their victories with enthusiasm and pride,” said team leader, Teri London.

Beyond supporting the students’ athletic achievements, the team remains committed to investing in their academic success. “We

will continue our contribution to the school’s database software, which provides parents with easy access to their child’s academic progress, including grades and other essential information. This initiative ensures greater transparency and strengthens the connection between parents, teachers, and students,” London added.

London Level Up team is giving a commitment to support the students in their academic and sporting endeavours in the coming months and year.

“We are excited about what the future holds and remain dedicated to empowering our youth—both on the field and in the classroom,” the spokeswoman stated.

## Our youth 'gangs' are cheerful!

By Makeda Mikeal

Coming upon a group of youngsters cutting grass at the side of the road and having fun, joking and laughing happily, I felt drawn to them. I pulled up and told them they must demand better machinery and equipment for such hard work, weed-wacker takes too long in the hot sun, telling them Government is giving loans and can set them up.

The happy crowd cheered me on and pointed to a man in charge, whom I aggressively attacked for slave-driving the youth with inadequate tools in the hot sun. Pulling me aside he explained that the youths whose cheerful work ethic attracted me, were one of the gangs they were putting to work to keep them out of trouble and paying them.

These loving rambunctious youth who had caught my eye and captured my heart, were the alleged criminals making Antigua people scared? I did not recoil, I wanted to find a way to love them, a way to make them feel the loved. Young men need to feel love, and knowing the way to a man's heart is through his belly, I am asking all to find ways to respond to these young men by feeding them while on their small gang jobs.

Yes, they get paid a small

fee, but if they know the neighborhood they are cleaning says thanks with a snack and a drink, it creates a good feeling in their heart and their belly.

This is a call out for the organizers of the 'small gangs' (a name from our plantation past) to add some community appre-

ciation to the lives of the youth, by requesting community involvement.

Our youth need to be seen and appreciated, cussing them alone can only irate them, and cause them to feel useless and abandoned. It is time to rally around our youth, enjoy their youthful joys and

pranks, as they put their energies to work, make them feel blessed. Set up the department of youth conversion to honest living with community and business help, share the money and the love while they learn to work for what they want, making our island a better place for all.



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 QUEEN  
 PAGEANT**

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**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

## Erla told not to report for duty



The Police Service Commission (PoSC) has written to Commissioner of Police Erla Harewood-Christopher requesting that she cease to report for duty and to cease to discharge the duties of the Office of Commissioner of Police, with immediate effect, until further notice.

The letter stated that the action had become necessary, as the matter involving Harewood-Christopher was still being investigated.

The PoSC stated that Harewood-Christopher was not the subject of any disciplinary proceedings.

In a media release on Monday, the PoSC stated that under the constitution, the responsibilities of the

PoSC include the appointment of persons to hold and to act in the offices of Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police, to remove from office and to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in these offices.

“On 30th January, 2025, PoSC received a communication from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Intelligence and Investigation, stating that on 30th January, 2025, Mrs Erla Harewood-Christopher, Commissioner of Police of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) was cautioned, informed that she was a suspect in an ongoing investigation into

misbehaviour in public office and was under arrest,” the release read.

And, in light of this, the PoSC requested that Harewood-Christopher cease to report for duty and to cease to discharge the duties of the Office of Commissioner of Police, with immediate effect, until further notice.

In the interim, it stated, the PoSC followed the process mandated by law, in nominating, according to two Order of Merit Lists, one in respect of Commissioner of Police, a person to act in the office of Commissioner of Police and, one in respect of Deputy Commissioner of Police, a person to act in the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police.

It stated that the names of the top ranked individuals from each respective Order of Merit List were presented to the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, for nomination to the House of Representatives. Persons are appointed to act in the office by the PoSC only after approval of the nomination by the House of Representatives.

And in a letter sent to President Christine Kangaloo, the PoSC nominated deputy Commissioner of Police Junior Benjamin to act as Commissioner of Police, and Assistant Commissioner of Police Curt Simon to act as Deputy Commissioner of Police. (*Trinidad Express*)

## Pastor gunned down at his home in Portmore



The St Catherine South police are searching for those

responsible for the fatal shooting of a pastor inside his home in Portmore last night.

The deceased has been identified as 77-year-old Clinton Smith, a bishop and Justice of the Peace, of Mitchell Close in Portmore Gardens.

Reports are that around 7:30 p.m., residents heard explosions while Smith was at home.

He was later found suffering from what appeared to be gunshot wounds.

The police were summoned and Smith was transported to the Spanish Town Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

No motive has been established for his killing.

The Portmore Criminal Investigation Branch is investigating the matter.

*(Jamaica Gleaner)*

## 'Bob Marley: One Love' soundtrack wins Grammy for Best Reggae Album

The 10-song Bob Marley: One Love (Music Inspired by the Film) soundtrack emerged winner of the Best Reggae Album category of the 67th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday.

The project, which accompanied the box office hit film of the same name, features covers of some of Marley's better known songs such as Natural Mystic, Exodus, Waiting in Vain, Three Little Birds, One Love, Redemption Song and Is This Love.

Among the artistes featured are Marley's grandson Skip Marley, Daniel Caesar, Kacey Mulgraves, Bloody Civilian, Wizkid, Jesse Reyez and Leon Bridges.

The project was released by Island Records last February.

The other nominees in the Best Reggae Album category were Evolution by The Wailers, Never Gets Late Here by Shenseea, Take it Easy by Collie Buddz and Party with Me by Vybz Kartel. *(Jamaica Observer)*

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- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation.

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Subject: "Brand Manager Application"

**Apply Before Feb 7th**

*We appreciate all applications, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

## Six former monarchs among twenty selected for calypso semi-finals



Six former monarchs are among twenty calypsonians who have secured a spot in the Calypso Semi-Finals, after competing in the Calypso Quarter Finals on February 1, 2025. The six are Bobb, Karessah, Jaydee, Observer, Daddy Chess and Tasha P.

A total of thirty-two calypsonians took part in the event which was held at Windsor Park Stadium Forecourt. The twenty who have been selected will advance to the semi-final round of the 2025 calypso monarch competition carded for Saturday, February 15, 2025.

The calypsonians who have received the nod to perform in the semi-finals are Bobb, Checko, Karessah, Joy, Checker, Lady Esse, Jaydee, Trendsetter, Nachel, Bingo, Sye, Danyan, Observer, Shanice, Daddy Chess, Webb, Abiyah, Shadow Flow, Tasha P, and Soul Puss. (*Dominica News Online*)

### NOTICE

TO: HIS WORSHIP  
 The Licensing Magistrate  
 Magistrate's Court  
 High Street  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

TO: HIS WORSHIP  
 Magistrate for District "A"  
 Magistrate's Court  
 High Street  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
 Police Headquarters  
 American Road  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENSE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERD AS Life Lessons Snackette

I, Sheldon Lake DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 3rd day of April, 2025 next ensuing for a Bottle License in respect of premises known as "Life Lessons Snackette" situated at Hand Street, Villa Area in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 31st January 2025

S.Lake  
 Sheldon Lake  
 719-7870

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

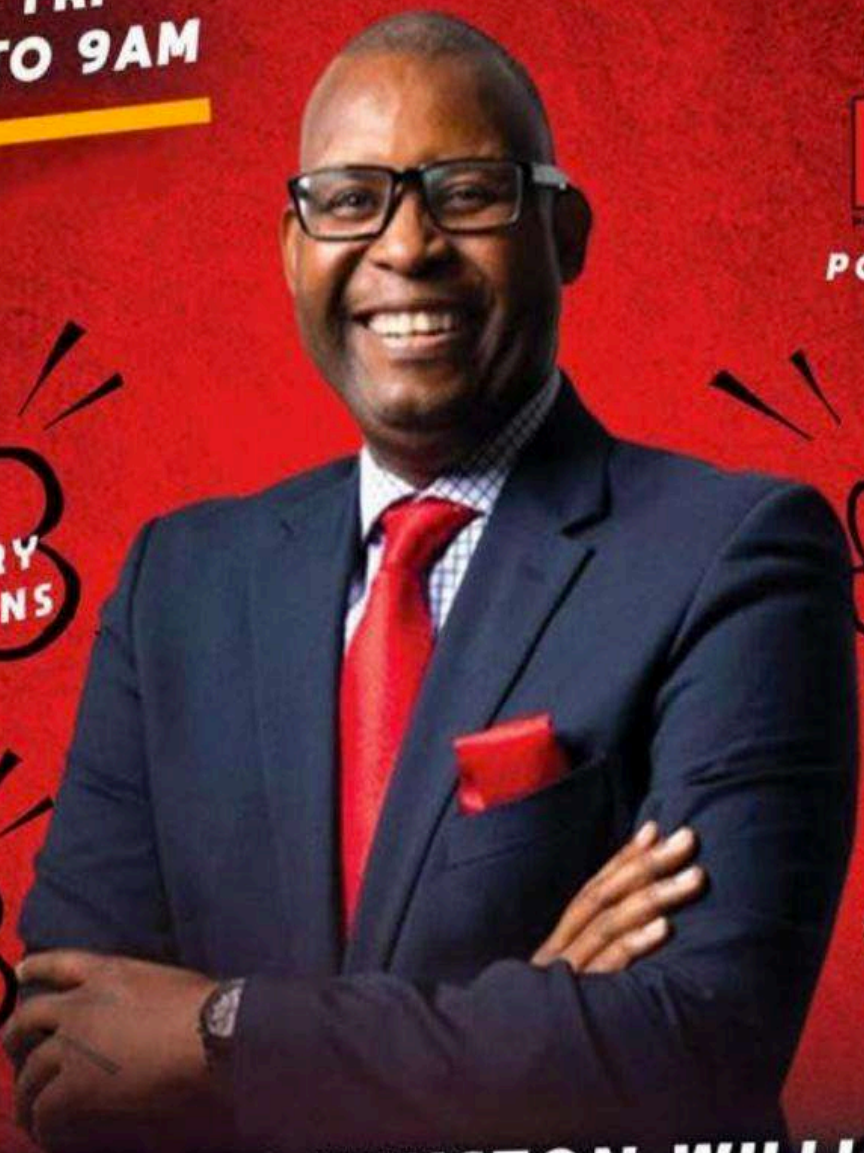


**BIRTHDAY/  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS**

**INTERVIEWS**

**COMMUNITY  
UPDATES**

**POLITICS**



**HOSTED BY WINSTON WILLIAMS**

# **MORNING POINTE**

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**WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

## Ugandan health authorities set to begin Ebola vaccine trial after new outbreak kills nurse



Ugandan officials are preparing to deploy a trial vaccine as part of efforts to stem an outbreak of Ebola in the capital, Kampala, a top health official said Sunday.

A range of scientists are developing research protocols relating to the planned deployment of more than 2,000 doses of a candidate vaccine against the Sudan strain of Ebola,

said Pontiano Kaleebu, executive director of Uganda Virus Research Institute. "Protocol is being accelerated" to get all the necessary regulatory approvals, he said. "This vaccine is not yet licensed."

The World Health Organization said in a statement that its support to Uganda's response to the outbreak includes access to 2,160 doses of trial

vaccine.

"Research teams have been deployed to the field to work along with the surveillance teams as approvals are awaited," the WHO statement said.

The candidate vaccine as well as candidate treatments are being made available through clinical trial protocols to further test for efficacy and safety, it said.

The vaccine maker wasn't immediately known. There are no approved vaccines for the Sudan strain of Ebola that killed a nurse employed at Kampala's main referral hospital. The man died on Wednesday and authorities declared an outbreak the next day. Officials are still investigating the source of the outbreak, and there has been no other confirmed case.

Uganda has had access to candidate vaccine doses since the end of an Ebola outbreak in September 2022 that killed at least 55 people. Ugandan officials ran out of time to begin a vaccine study when that outbreak, in central Uganda, was declared over about four months later, Kaleebu said.

A trial vaccine known as rVSV-ZEBOV, used to vaccinate 3,000 people at risk of infection during an outbreak of the Zaire strain of Ebola in eastern Congo between 2018 and 2020, proved effective in containing the spread of the disease there. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

## Deaths from Israel's attacks on Gaza close to 62,000 as missing added

Authorities in Gaza have updated the death toll from Israel's war on the enclave to 61,709, having added thousands who are missing and now presumed dead.

The head of the Gaza Government Information Office

told a news conference that the bodies of 76 percent of the Palestinians killed in the conflict have been recovered and brought to medical centres. However, at least 14,222 people are still believed to be trapped under the rubble or in areas

inaccessible to rescuers.

Speaking at Gaza City's al-Shifa Hospital, Salama Maarouf told reporters that among the death toll are 17,881 children, including 214 newborn infants.

"More than 2 million peo-

ple have been forcibly displaced, some more than 25 times, under dire conditions lacking basic services," the official added, noting that 111,588 people have also been injured. (*Al Jazeera English*)



## Army prepares to lift plane from the Potomac as officials vow to recover all victims

The complex job of lifting the stricken Flight 5432 from the Potomac River is due to begin Monday, with local and state officials promising that they will recover all 67 of the victims who died when the plane crashed into a military helicopter last Wednesday.

So far, 55 victims' remains have been recovered. D.C. Fire and EMS Chief John Donnelly told a news conference Sunday: "We're going to recover everyone."

"If we knew where they were, though, we would already have them out, so we have some work to do as the salvage operation goes on, and we will absolutely stay here and search until such point as we have everybody," he added. Recovery workers have been battling difficult conditions with near-zero visibility in the dark waters.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, plans to lift the remains of the jet from the river in stages, a process that is expected to last three days.

The operation will use a crane barge, deck barges, dive boats and two surface-supplied dive systems, the army said in a statement.

The wreckage will be taken to a hangar for the National Transportation Safety Board to continue in-

vestigating the cause of the collision.

Then the recovery teams will turn their attention to the remains of the Black Hawk helicopter. The "large lifts" portion of the operation is expected to be finished by Saturday, with the clearance of other debris lasting until at least Feb. 12. An automatic stop on this work will be ordered when a body is discovered.

"The level of coordination both behind the

scenes and out on the Potomac is exceptional," said Baltimore District Commander Col. Francis Pera.

"We have not and will not lose focus of what is most important — the safety of our crews and accounting for those still missing to bring closure to their families and loved ones."

The recovery timeline is, however, dependant on the availability of lifts, as well as weather and the tides. *(NBC News)*

## USAID staffers told to stay out of Washington headquarters after Musk said Trump agreed to close it



# USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Staffers of the U.S. Agency for International Development were instructed to stay out of the agency's Washington headquarters on Monday, according to a notice distributed to them, after billionaire Elon Musk announced President Donald Trump had agreed with him to shut the agency.

USAID staffers said they also tracked more than 600 employees who reported being locked out of the agency's computer systems overnight. Those still in the system received emails saying that "at the direction of Agency leadership" the headquarters building "will be closed to Agency personnel on Monday, Feb. 3."

The developments come after Musk, who's leading an extraordinary civilian review of the federal government with the Republican president's agreement, said early Monday that he had spoken with Trump about the six-decade U.S. aid and development agency and "he agreed we should shut it down.

"It became apparent that its not an apple with a worm it in," Musk said in a live session on X Spaces early Monday. "What we have is just a ball of worms.

You've got to basically get rid of the whole thing. It's beyond repair."

"We're shutting it down," he said.

Musk, Trump and some Republican lawmakers have targeted the U.S. aid and development agency, which oversees humanitarian, development and security programs in some 120 countries, in increasingly strident terms, accusing it of promoting liberal causes.

Over the weekend, the Trump administration placed two top security chiefs at USAID on leave after they refused to turn over classified material in restricted areas to Musk's government-inspection teams, a current and a former U.S. official told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE, earlier carried out a similar operation at the Treasury Department, gaining access to sensitive information including the Social Security and Medicare customer payment systems. The Washington Post reported that a senior Treasury official had resigned over Musk's team

accessing sensitive information.

Democratic lawmakers have protested the moves, saying Trump lacks constitutional authority to shut down USAID without congressional approval and decrying Musk's accessing sensitive government-held information through his Trump-sanctioned inspections of federal government agencies and programs.

USAID, whose website vanished Saturday without explanation, has been one of the federal agencies most targeted by the Trump administration in an escalating crackdown on the federal government and many of its programs.

"It's been run by a bunch of radical lunatics. And we're getting them out," Trump said to reporters about USAID on Sunday night.

Musk's and Trump's comments came with Secretary of State Marco Rubio out of the country, in Central America, on his first trip abroad in office. Rubio has not spoken publicly about any plans to shut down USAID.

The Trump administration and Rubio have imposed an unprecedented freeze on foreign assistance that has shut down much of USAID's aid programs worldwide — compelling thousands of layoffs by aid organizations — and ordered furloughs and leaves that have gutted the agency's leadership and staff in Washington.. (*Associated Press*)

## Agents 'have started to pack up their desks' as fear of FBI mass firings swirls

As fear of mass firings swirls through the FBI, acting Director Brian Driscoll, the head of the bureau's New York field office, and an agents group reassured staffers and pushed back against Trump administration efforts to force out FBI officials.

The unease comes after President Donald Trump publicly praised the firings of eight top FBI career executives on Friday after pardoning nearly all the Jan. 6 rioters hours after he took office for his second term.

In a message to FBI staff members Saturday night, Driscoll, the acting director, said again that the Trump administration is seeking the names of every FBI agent who worked on the Jan. 6 investigations — a number he has said is in the thousands.

"I want to assure you that we continue to work with the Department of Justice to better understand the purpose for which the lists I referenced yesterday are being sought," Driscoll wrote.

On Sunday afternoon, the FBI Agents Association sent employees a notice that some agents had received an email from senior officials ordering them to respond to a "12-question survey" asking about their involvement in Jan. 6 cases, according to two people who received it.

"We have confirmed that this is accurate and we anticipate a large majority of our members will receive this," wrote the association, which represents agents but is not a union. "At this point in time, we recommend deferring to your division leadership on how to handle these surveys."

Regarding one of the questions, the association recommended that agents respond with the following wording: "I have been told I am 'required to respond' to this survey, without being afforded appropriate time to research my answers, speak with others, speak with counsel or other representation."

The association recommended that they also write, "To the best of my ability and belief, I have performed my duties in accordance with ... the Constitution of the United States."

Legal experts, as well as current and former FBI officials, say the Trump administration appears to be waging an unprecedented campaign of retribution against prosecutors and FBI agents who worked on the criminal investigations of Trump and his supporters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"This is completely uncharted waters," said Pennsylvania State University professor Douglas Charles, who specializes

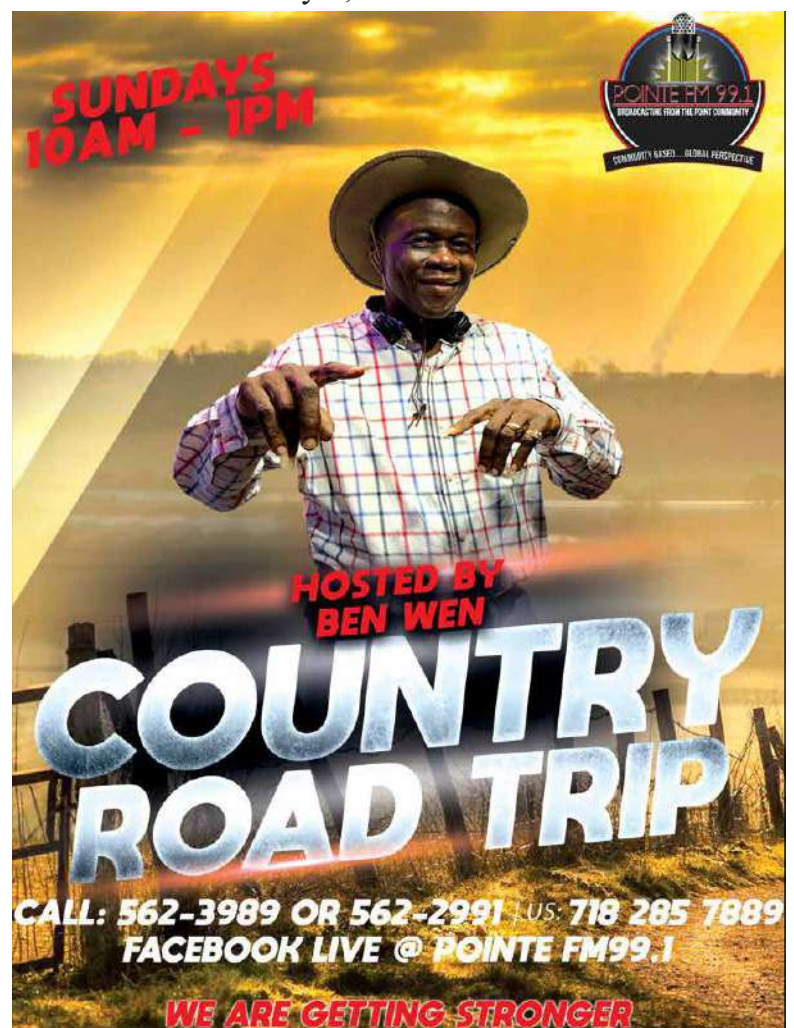
in the history of the FBI. "There have been times, different points, where the FBI has been reorganized. This is not that. ... It just seems to be a wholesale dismantling of the independent culture of the FBI."

Trump's pick for FBI director, Kash Patel, promised during his Senate confirmation hearing Thursday that "all FBI employees will be protected from political retribution."

But just over 24 four hours later, Emil Bove, the acting deputy attorney general and Trump's former defense lawyer,

ordered Driscoll to remove the eight top FBI career executives and requested the names of all agents who worked on Jan. 6 cases.

If Patel is confirmed by the Senate, he could immediately remove Driscoll and collect the names of the agents who worked on Jan. 6 cases. Patel could place those agents on administrative leave, transfer them to new positions or attempt to fire them. The exact date of Patel's Senate confirmation vote is not publicly known. (*NBC News*)



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## Potters Steelers maintain good start to ABBA's Division 1 league



Total Imports EMCs Potters Steelers won for the second time in as many games in the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Sunday evening.

After prevailing 81-79 against Spanish Heat in their opening Division 1 affair,

the Potters Steelers notched up their second win with an 89-76 drubbing of the Northside Stingerz in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Keroi Lee produced 21 points, 13 rebounds, and five assists; and Cohen Desouza had 18 points, 17 rebounds,

and five assists for the Potters Steelers.

In support, Kareem Edwards converted 14 points, and Darnell Azille came off the bench to score 13 points and grab 12 rebounds for the Potters Steelers.

The Northside Stingerz, who lost for the second time in as

many games, were led by Tehran Zachariah with a game-high 26 points. In support, Jaheem James produced 20 points, five rebounds, and five assists, and Jevonte Valerie had 12 points and eight rebounds for the Stingerz.

The Spanish Heat claimed their second win in three games with an 81-76 victory against the All Saints Slam in Sunday's opening encounter.

Danny Perez had a game-high 30 points and six rebounds; Steven Matthew produced 29 points and 10 rebounds; and Daniel Perez scored 12 points for the Spanish Heat.

Humroy Wright had 17 points and five rebounds, and Andrew Venture converted 13 points for the All Saints Slam, who lost for the first time after winning their opening encounter 66-58 against the Ottos Full Throttle.

## Grenades drop crucial points in Second phase of Premier League

Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades dropped crucial points and relinquished their lead at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division after squandering a two-goal lead in a surprising 2-2 draw with the Cool and Smooth Greenbay Hoppers on Sunday.

The Grenades appeared to be heading to a routine victory against the league's bottom team but conceded two late goals in added-on time to draw their opening encounter in Group 1 of the second stage in the first game of a Premier Division triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Former Greenbay Hoppers midfielder Eugene Kirwan scored in the 35th minute to put the Grenades ahead, and two minutes later, teammate Barrington Blake scored to give the team a two-nil advantage at halftime.

The Greenbay Hoppers squandered a great opportunity to reduce the deficit when Javorn Stevens had a penalty kick saved by Brent Parker in the 51st minute.

However, the Greenbay Hoppers managed to produce a remarkable comeback by converting twice in a three-minute span in stoppage time to salvage a draw.

Tyree Archibald scored in the first minute of added



Players of the Jennings Grenades football team

time to reduce the deficit, and Yoandir Puga Estevez snatched the equalizer with a conversion in the third minute of added time.

The Grenades remain the only unbeaten team in the league but dropped points three times with their third draw in 14 matches.

Their latest draw allows the Grenades to drop into second place overall in the standings by advancing to 36 points, one adrift of new leaders, defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United.

The Greenbay Hoppers remain rooted in the cellar of the 14-team league, advancing to seven points after securing their first draw in 14 matches.

Old Road and Garden

Stars recorded wins during their opening matches in Group 2 in the other two encounters in Sunday's Premier League triple header.

Old Road consolidated their third-place position in the overall standings with a 3-0 victory against Five Islands. Goals by Shackwon Simon in the 38th minute and Stefan Smith in the 40th minute gave Old Road a two-nil lead at halftime.

Johnathan Shoy wrapped up the victory by scoring Old Road's third goal with a conversion in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Their 10th win in 14 matches carries Old Road to 31 points, while Five Islands remain on 10 points after suffering their 10th loss in 14 encounters.

The Garden Stars scored twice on either side of halftime to record a 4-0 victory against the Attacking Saints. Jahred Williams opened the scoring with a ninth-minute conversion, and Jevaughn Jarvis doubled the lead with a strike in the 14th minute.

Wilton Rhodes added a third goal in the 46th minute, and Ngozie Harvey sealed the win with a 53rd-minute conversion.

Their eighth win in 14 matches allows the Garden Stars to remain in fifth place on goal difference in the overall standings by advancing to 28 points, the same as Terminix Pigotts Bullets.

The Attacking Saints will remain on 15 points after crashing to their seventh loss in 14 matches.

## CWI launches new scouting system with focus on West Indies Championship

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has unveiled a groundbreaking, data-driven scouting system aimed at identifying and developing the best cricketing talent across the region.

This new initiative marks a major shift in player assessment, with Senior Talent Managers, Territorial Talent Identifiers (TTIDs), and a network of scouts now working together to provide a structured, analytical approach to talent identification.

With the West Indies Championship as their first major assignment, the scouting team will ensure that every performance is tracked, analyzed, and reported, creating a clear pathway for emerging cricketers to progress to the highest levels.

Through CWI's recently appointed Senior Talent Managers, Jamal Smith (Male) and Ann Browne-John (Female), there will now be a dedicated and robust responsibility for managing senior player data, collaborating with analysts, and assisting in selection decisions.

They will work alongside six TTIDs, each assigned to a specific region: Barbados, Henderson Broomes; Guyana, Ramnaresh Sarwan; Jamaica, Delroy Morgan; Leeward Islands, Samuel Spencer; Trinidad and Tobago, Gibran Mohammed; and Windward Islands, Craig Emmanuel.

Additionally, four regional scouts—Fernix Thomas (Dominica), Stacy-Ann Adams (St. Vincent), Anthony Gray (Trinidad & Tobago), and Shane Jeffers (St. Kitts)—will assist in evaluating talent during the current West Indies Four-Day Championship.

According to CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe, this ini-



Young West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph represents a significant step toward professionalizing talent identification.

“We are moving beyond just relying on what we see on scorecards. This system ensures that performances are seen with context and with a focus on the skill sets displayed, tactical acumen and game awareness. We are collecting real-time data, analyzing performances consistently, and making informed decisions about player development.” said Bascombe.

A major feature of this new scouting approach is its reliance on advanced analytics. Talent scouts will use the Athlete Management System (AMS) to maintain player depth charts, submit performance reports, and track player progression.

Key responsibilities of TTIDs include: Scouting & Evaluation – Attending matches and training sessions to assess players' technical skills, physical attributes, and mental strength.

Reporting & Analysis – Compiling detailed scouting reports and maintaining player performance records; and Collaboration – Working



Young West Indies and Antiguan batsman Jewel Andrew (CWI Media) closely with coaches, selectors, and high-performance staff to refine the development pathway.

Bascombe emphasized that this new system provides a fair and transparent structure for all players. He further called on all stakeholders in West Indies cricket to support this new data-driven approach.

With the West Indies Championship currently underway, all eyes are on the competition as the first major test of this scouting system. TTIDs and scouts are closely monitoring every match, with performances being recorded in real-time to help identify potential future stars.

Bascombe highlighted the importance of this championship in shaping the future of West Indies cricket.

“The West Indies Championship is where we expect to see our next generation of Test cricketers emerge. With this new system, we will have more eyes on players than ever before and clarity about what we are looking for. This ensures that selection methods are consistent over time and based on merit and data-backed insights.”

## PMS makes winning start in U/20 Girls School Football League

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) made a successful start in defense of their title in the Under-20 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Joma Female School Football League.

Rolisha Humphreys scored the only goal of the match to give Princess Margaret School a one-nil victory against Clare Hall Secondary in the second match of an opening round dou-

ble-header at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

Jennings Secondary School and the Antigua Girls High School fought to a 1-1 draw in their opening encounter in the first game of the double-header at the ARG.

Abigail McDonald had a conversion for Jennings Secondary School, while Nafissa Quashie scored for the Antigua Girls High School.

St. Anthony's Secondary School also made a winning start to their campaign in the other opening round encounter.

Kavita Cordice scored twice to lead St. Anthony's Secondary School to a 5-1 victory against the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) at the St. Anthony's Secondary School playing field.

Cordice had conversions in the 48th and 49th

minutes, while the other goals for St. Anthony's Secondary School were scored by Lola Byrne in the 37th minute, Gabriella Mansoor in the 42nd minute, and Alyssa Jardine in the 44th minute.

Annika Samuel scored the only and the first goal of the match for the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education in the ninth minute.

*con't from pg 24*

fours, and Kershaski Jno Lewis hammered 76 off 73 balls, with four sixes and five fours.

Tron Payne claimed four for 71, and off-spinner James Cornelius captured four for 81.

Facing a deficit of 143 runs, the Bethesda Golden Eagles were dismissed in their second innings for 97 in 29.2 overs. Tron Payne, who opened the innings, struck 62 off 73 balls, while Empire Nation captain Justin Athanaze snapped up six wickets for six runs.

The New Winthorpes Lions crushed the

All Saints Pythons by six wickets at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Scores: All Saints Pythons 78 all out in 32.5 overs (Orandel Boston five for 16, and Demari Benta five for 18) and 91 all out in 32 overs (Demari Benta four for 28, and Orandel Boston three for 10); New Winthorpes Lions 86 all out in 19.2 overs (Michael Marcellin five for 40, and Dane Weston four for 34) and 84 for four in 20.5 overs (Demari Benta 40 not out; Justin Robinson four for 19).

However, the other two first-round matches

in the two-day contest ended in draws. The Pigotts Crushers won on first innings in their drawn encounter against Tertiary Institutions and Schools, formerly Combined Schools, at the Pigotts playing field.

Scores: Pigotts Crushers 300 for four declared off 52 overs (Demari Prince 107, Essan Warner 89, Uri Smith 47, Brandon Jno Baptiste 39 not out); Tertiary Institutions and Schools 187 all out in 58.5 overs (Kaivalya Mishra 84, Antwone Willock 34; Essan Warner three for 17, and Glen Williams three for 26).

The Jennings Tigers

also won on first innings in their drawn affair with the WES Rising Sun Spartans at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

Scores: Jennings Tigers 209 all out in 35.2 overs (Shane Burton 37, Glenton Williams 31, Matthew Miller 30; Omaley Heyliger four for 64, and Hilroy Andrew three for 39) and 98 for five off 15 overs (Matthew Miller 50 not out); WES Rising Sun Spartans 150 all out in 35.3 overs (Junior Henry 56; Bassanio Joseph four for 42, and Glenton Williams four for 48).

## Winning start for Liberta in defense of ABCA two-day title

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, who won the competition for the past three seasons, got off to a successful start in defense of their Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

The Blackhawks began the 2025 ABCA domestic season with an inning and 224-run victory against the Bolans Blasters during the opening round of two-day matches at the Bolans playing field.

Powered by a century from Michael Greaves, the Blackhawks coasted to 310 for five off 62 overs before making a declaration after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Greaves slammed 110 off 150 balls, including 15 fours. He shared a 105-run second-wicket partnership with opener Malique Walsh, who struck 94 off 107 balls, with 15 fours.

Elroy Francis Jr. made 50 not out off



Malique Walsh  
54 balls, while Mervin Higgins and Ondre Peters each picked up two wickets.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were bundled out for 21, including 10 extras, in 15.1 overs. Chamiqueko Landerfort grabbed seven wickets for 12 runs.

Asked to follow on 289 runs behind, the Bolans Blasters were dis-



Michael Greaves

missed in their second innings for 65 in 28.1 overs. Elroy Francis Jr. snapped up six for 28, and fellow off-spinner Kofi James captured three for 16.

Last season's losing finalist, Empire Nation, and the New Winthropes Lions also won their opening matches in the two-day competition.

Empire Nation trounced Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by an innings and 46 runs at the Bethesda

playing field.

The Golden Eagles were shot out for 95 in 28.1 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Xaveek Toppin, Damian Lowenfield, and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie all claimed two wickets each.

In reply, Empire Nation made a declaration of their first innings after scoring 238 for nine in 45.4 overs. Teenager Tanez Francis slammed 90 off 93 balls, including four sixes and 11

*con't on pg 23*