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Cabinet team visits WOTA on-site testing facility

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne (fifth from left) along with other government officials with representatives of WOTA on Tuesday

Cabinet team visits WOTA on-site testing facility



The Antigua and Barbuda government continues to show interest in the WOTA reusable water system which is undergoing a series of on-site tests under the supervision of representatives of the manufacturers.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne and a team that included members of the Cabinet, including Environment Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, representatives from CHAPA and the Ministry of Works visited the company's site on Friar's Hill road for a first-hand look at the system in operation.

The WOTA Group (from Japan) made a presentation to the Cabinet last Wednesday on the issue of waste-water treatment by small plants that can serve households, businesses, schools, and other places where APUA water is regularly discharged.

The representatives explained that the small plants would receive greywater (not black water), remove the pol-



con't on pg 3



con't from pg 2

presented two sealed bottles of water, one from a regular supplier and the other from their wastewater plant.

Last week, the Cabinet was told the quality of the water was indistinguishable, as was the smell and the taste. The WOTA Group revealed that the output is tested each week, air-shipped to Japan to a laboratory there.

The cost of each unit is pricey, the Cabinet found, but perfect for use in the National Housing projects that have been located in several places around Antigua, and soon in Barbuda.

WOTA wants to enter into an arrangement with the government to test and develop the system here in Antigua and Barbuda to help tackle the country's longstanding water deficit issues. Additionally, the hope is for the systems to be exported from here to other Caribbean countries.

Tuesday's site-visit from the Cabinet team was for the members to fully understand all the parameters involved in this water recycling technology.

lutants and other impurities from the wastewater, and transform the greywater into pure, potable water that can be used by humans, or used in gardens, or put to other uses.

Three of these plants have been undergoing testing at three separate locations in Antigua since sometime in 2024. The presenters reported that the plants work extremely well. They

Occupancy rates across the hotels sector averaged nearly 70 percent for 2024

Antigua and Barbuda recorded an overall occupancy rate of 69.1% in 2024, as the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association provides details of the sector’s performance over the past year.

The information released by the association said the performance of 2024

marks a significant improvement compared to 64.6% in 2019, highlighting the destination’s robust recovery and continued appeal to travelers. This growth reflects the destination’s ability to adapt to changing market dynamics and effectively attract a diverse range of visitors.

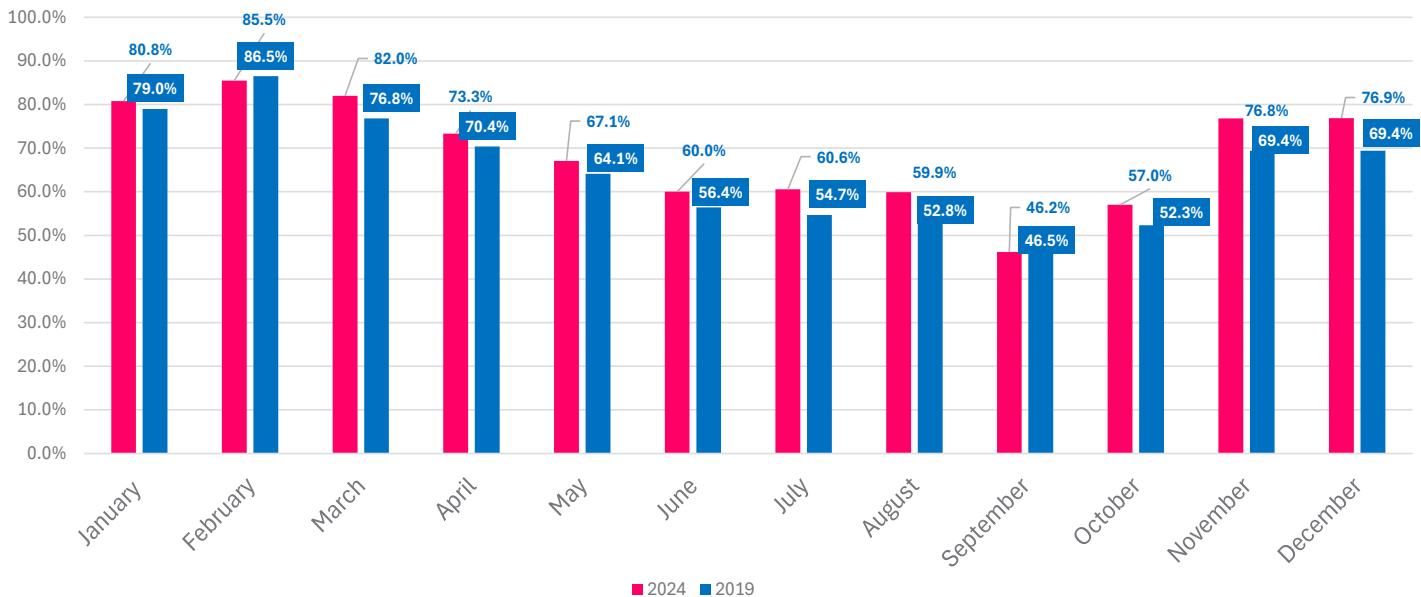
The United States continues to be the dominant source market of visitors to Antigua and Barbuda with more than half of the 330,281 visitors to the country in 2024 coming from that source. Of that amount, the US accounted for 173,183 visitors. This is one hundred thousand more visitors than

the second biggest market, the UK, which had a total of 70,848 visitors.

According to the data, the year 2024 was better than 2019, the previous best performing year for tourism in Antigua and Barbuda.

Details of the comparisons are provided below.

Occupancy Comparison January – December 2024



Antigua and Barbuda recorded an overall occupancy rate of **69.1%** in 2024, a significant improvement compared to **64.6%** in 2019, highlighting the destination's robust recovery and continued appeal to travelers. This growth reflects the destination's ability to adapt to changing market dynamics and effectively attract a diverse range of visitors.





Arrivals

YTD December 2024 versus 2019

Market	2024	2019	Variance 2024/2019
USA	173,183	123,557	29%
UK	70,848	76,840	-8%
Canada	30,912	37,225	-20%
Caribbean	29,956	34,484	-15%
Italy	3058	9735	-218%
Other	22324	19178	14%
Total Arrivals	330,281	301,019	9%

Antiguan Writer, Jamaica Kincaid discusses national identity with Minister Fernandez

Internationally celebrated Antiguan writer Jamaica Kincaid and Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, met for an in-depth discussion on history, culture, and the evolving identity of Antigua and Barbuda.

Their exchange reflected mutual importance of each other’s work, highlighting their shared commitment to preserving and promoting the nation’s rich heritage. Ms. Kincaid is also a professor at Harvard College in the Department of African and African American Studies and Department of English.

Minister Fernandez expressed his deep appreciation for Ms. Kincaid’s literary contributions, particularly her novel *Annie John*, which has shaped Caribbean literature and is widely studied across the region. He commended her ability to capture society through storytelling, preserving both personal and collective histories. In turn, Ms. Kincaid expressed admiration for Minister Fernandez’s dedication to national development, tourism and political affairs and his active support of the local film industry.



writer Jamaica Kincaid and Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez

Their discussions extended beyond literature and culture, delving into regional and international affairs, the importance of historical narratives, and the need for Caribbean societies to take ownership of their stories. Both agreed on the urgency of encouraging young people to document oral histories, ensuring that the voices of past generations are preserved for the future.

A significant part of their conversation

centered on the renaming of key institutions and landmarks to better reflect Antigua and Barbuda’s identity, shifting away from colonial legacies toward a more authentic representation of the nation’s history. They explored the broader implications of such changes, not only within Antigua and Barbuda but across the Caribbean, as nations seek to redefine their cultural landscapes.

Minister Fernandez further encouraged Ms. Kincaid to engage with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, particularly in the areas of Caribbean studies and history, to share her knowledge and perspectives with the next generation of scholars. Ms. Kincaid welcomed the idea and expressed her enthusiasm for fostering deeper intellectual and creative engagement with the region. The meeting underscored a shared vision for a more conscious and self-determined Antigua and Barbuda, where history, literature, and policy intersect to shape a national identity, and visitors alike rooted in truth and cultural pride.

Local entities share \$105-thousand raised by CIBC's Walk for The Cure



CIBC Caribbean is reporting that its signature fundraising effort, *Walk for A Cure*, raised approximately \$105-thousand during 2024.

Co-chair of the bank's Walk for The Cure Committee, Khadijah James, made the announcement on Tuesday at a presentation ceremony hosted by Royalton Chic Hotel at Dickenson Bay.

"Year after year, CIBC Caribbean commits to engaging in this worthy cause and 2024 was no different. During our 13th year of Walk for the Cure we had numerous fundraising activities, and we saw a record number of participants at our staple event Walk for the Cure in October 2024.

"Over the past five years between 2019-2023, team Antigua raised XCD \$310,230. It's with great pleasure that I'm proud to announce that for 2024, we raised a whopping XCD \$105,000,

surpassing our 2023 donation of XCD \$90,000. This brings us to total donation of XCD \$415,000 over the past six years," she reported.

James also launched the events the committee has planned for 2025.

The WFTC activities for 2025 are;

- ☐ Music for the cure – March 8th, 2025
- ☐ Hike for the Cure - May 3rd, 2025
- ☐ Gala for the Cure- June 7th, 2025
- ☐ Jam for the Cure (T-shirt Mas) – July 26, 2025
- ☐ Walk for the Cure – October 11th, 2025
- ☐ Raffle for the Cure- which will be ongoing

CIBC Caribbean sources say the monies raised from the Walk For The Cure activities go to two entities to help people diagnosed with cancer and who are in

need of help. The Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and Breast Friends are the beneficiaries of the funds raised.

President of the Breast Friends, Euneta Bird, said the monies her organization receives go a long way in helping persons who travel to Colombia for radiation treatment with living and other expenses.

She reported that while Medical Benefits takes care of the treatment, the patients quite often have to finance lodging and meals for themselves and loved ones if they are accompanied by a family member of friend.

The ceremony also heard from a breast cancer survivor, Heike Carbon, who gave a moving account of her struggles with breast cancer and other health challenges.

TH WFTC other managers are Natasha Charles and Jesseca Ormond Byers.

Sagicor commits to title sponsorship of annual Cardiac Symposium



Antigua and Barbuda's annual Cardiac Symposium, organised by the Heart & Stroke Foundation, takes place on February 16 with Sagicor as sponsor for a third consecutive year.

This year's symposium, themed "Navigating Modern Health: Technology, Mental Well-being, Stroke & Cardiac Care," will explore the integration of technology and mental health in managing heart disease and stroke. Speakers include Dr Gillian Gordon-Perue, who will discuss Acute Stroke Management, and other experts from Jamaica, Costa Rica and Antigua and Barbuda who will address Artificial Intelligence in Stroke Care, the Effects of Cannabis Use on the Heart, and the Impact of Chronic Stress, Anxiety, and Depression on Cardiac Health.

"Our continued sponsorship underscores Sagicor's commitment to the education of Caribbean populations about non-communicable diseases, particularly stroke and cardiac

related issues which have a grave impact on health," said Marisia James, Assistant Vice President for Eastern Caribbean Operations and Branch Manager for the Antigua Branch of Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. "We believe in the importance of research and data on these diseases and understanding this data with a view to improving outcomes from our perspective as Caribbean people. The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Antigua and Barbuda has been doing commendable work that we are happy to support once more."

Dr Georgette Meade, Consultant Cardiologist and President of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Antigua and Barbuda, expressed gratitude for the ongoing support: "Sagicor's sponsorship has been instrumental in advancing our

mission to promote heart health and prevent stroke within our community. This year we are hosting a hybrid version of the symposium with the objective of reaching even more attendees not just in Antigua, but across the Caribbean and beyond and Sagicor's support helps us to achieve that objective."

The sponsorship of the Annual Cardiac Symposium is one of the highlights on Sagicor's calendar this month which is also observed as Heart Month throughout the world. This year, Sagicor has launched a digital campaign aimed at raising awareness and educating the public and will be rolling out educational initiatives for their teams across the Caribbean. The campaign encourages individuals to set goals for a healthy lifestyle and emphasizes the importance of heart care.

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Minister Fernandez commends Sandals on training initiative



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, has commended Sandals Resorts for its commitment to employee development, recognizing them as a leader in empowering their team members.

This commendation came during a recent Sandals Corporate University (SCU) graduation ceremony at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort, where twenty Sandals managers and supervisors from across the region received Diplomas in Hospitality Leadership in partnership with Accelerating Leaders and the Florida International University.

Eleven of the graduates were team members of Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa.

Minister Fernandez specifically highlighted Sandals' approach in consistently offering learning and development opportunities, underscoring the importance of investing in human capital within the hospitality sector.

He said, "the investment Sandals makes in its team members throughout the SCU represents one of the best investments any organization can make – an investment in people. Since its inception in 2012, the SCU has been a transformative force, issuing thousands of certificate, diplomas and credentials that empower Caribbean nationals to advance in their careers and lead with confidence."

The graduation ceremony celebrated the completion of the SCU's Diploma in Hospitality Leadership Programme, a 16-week course that took this cohort of students through crucial modules in human resources, management, customer relations, and leadership, all vital components of effective leaders in the ever evolving hospitality industry.



Another ABLP hopeful delivers for people in St. Mary's North constituency



ABLP political hopeful for the St. Mary's North Constituency, Winston Williams alongside the "Better Together" Team and the Hope Tree Foundation, continues to provide tangible support towards education and community development.

On Sunday, February 2, the "Better Together" Team returned to the One Love Community to deliver on a commitment made to the leaders and children of that community. The "Better Together" team in partnership with Hope Tree Foundation,

provided essential school supplies to the children. Community leader Kenny was on hand with a number of the children to accept the donation, which included 144 exercise books, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, pencil cases, and rulers. This contribution is part of ongoing efforts to ensure that all students have the tools they need to succeed academically.

The team also visited a valued member of our constituency to confirm his absolute delight with



his new Mobility Support chair, made possible by the amazing Rotary Club Antigua. They also took the opportunity to distribute a number of food hampers within the community.

Last week, Williams delivered snacks to Jennings Primary School in support of the school's inter-house sports activities. The donation included hamburger meat patties, hotdog sausages, and an assortment of buns, with the latter generously provided by the Bendals Community Bakery.

Accompanied by members of the "Better Together" Team, Ms. Shana April and former student Mr. Sheron Alexander of Jennings village (Youth Advisor), Mr. Williams reiterated his further commitment to aid in the school's programmes and activities.

These include the reintroduction of the school agricultural farm project, supporting the children's reading programme, and supporting of visual aid learning initiatives.

Another organized search for ‘Passo’ set for today

It’s been more than a week since the family of 39-year old Orden “Passo” David of Bolans reported him missing, and to date there has been no word, no indication of what might have happened to him.

In spite of this, the Concerned Citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force and the AIDS Secretariat will be



mounting yet another search

for today, Wednesday 5th February, 2025.

In a media release, the group said anyone wishing to join the search party is asked to meet at Townhouse Mega-store at 6:00 am.

David was last seen driving a motor car and none of the several search parties have been able to locate neither him nor the vehicle.



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For Immediate Release

UWI Researchers at the Forefront of Pioneering Health and Climate Change Study for Small Island Developing States

The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica W.I. Tuesday, February 4, 2025— The University of the West Indies (The UWI) is pleased to announce that 13 of its experts are co-authors of a groundbreaking inaugural study that highlights the increasing health risks posed by climate change to Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Dr Georgiana Gordon-Strachan, Director of the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit in the University's Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR), was the lead author of 35 researchers from the Pacific, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Europe, the Americas, Oceania, and Asia who collaborated on 'The 2024 Report of the Lancet Countdown Small Island Developing States: On the frontline of health impacts, spearheading the call for action. The Report was led and managed by The UWI.

Published annually, the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change is an international, multidisciplinary collaboration that monitors the changing health profile associated with climate change. It also provides an independent assessment of the progress made by governments worldwide in fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement. The 2024 SIDS Report illustrates the growing health risks these vulnerable communities face due to climate change. Increasing emissions and climate issues threaten the survival of SIDS. The Report utilises data from global Lancet Countdown reports from 2023 and 2024 and provides critical information on how climate change affects these communities, along with mitigation, adaptation, economic capacity, and community engagement strategies.

Commenting on the Report and the current situation for SIDS, Dr Gordon-Strachan, who also serves as Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Small Island Developing States of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, stated, "SIDS are at the sharp end of the climate crisis, with peoples' health and wellbeing compromised as the planet warms, the oceans rise, and extreme weather becomes more frequent".

Professor Michelle Mycoo, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Engineering at The UWI, St Augustine Campus, highlighted the urgency of the situation for SIDS. She stated, "Small island leaders are sounding the alarm, taking the forefront in catalysing action, while the nations most responsible for this crisis continue to linger and delay."

Dr Harewood, a Lecturer in Public Health and Epidemiology and Head of the Public Health Group at the Faculty of Medical Sciences at The UWI, Cave Hill, added, "Our collage of evidence on small island vulnerabilities is a clarion call for climate justice: Small islands, big voices!"

The Report will be launched during [a live online event](#) on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 4:30 PM EST/Jamaica Time. This event will feature the authors and guests who will delve into the study's findings, including health outcomes, data-driven strategies, and perspectives from the global contributors.

The event is being co-hosted by Professor Marshall Tulloch-Reid, Director of CAIHR. Professor Tulloch-Reid noted, "This Lancet Countdown Report forms part of CAIHR's mandate to enhance the health and wellbeing of Caribbean and global populations through our innovative research and strategic partnerships and to provide timely knowledge for sustainable development. As we celebrate 25 years as a UWI Centre Institute, we will continue to tackle this and other issues that threaten the health gains that the Caribbean has made as a region over the last 75 years."

Dr Harewood, Dr Abigail Harrison, Senior Lecturer and Consultant Paediatrician/Adolescent Medicine at the UWI Hospital, Professor Denise Eldemire, Senior Lecturer at Mona, and Dr David C. Smith, Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development and Director of the Centre for Environmental Management, are also set to speak during the launch.

The involvement of The UWI academics highlights the University's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in climate action. Focusing on climate change and sustainable development, The UWI has gained recognition as a key information source for SIDS. Over the last decade, the University has formed partnerships with other institutions to promote sustainable development. In 2024, UWI launched the International School for Development Justice (ISDJ), the world's first global business school dedicated to online graduate programmes focusing on leadership in the SDGs.

The complete list of UWI expert contributors to the inaugural indicator 2024 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Report is as follows:

Faculty of Engineering, The UWI, St Augustine
- Prof. Michelle A. Mycoo

Faculty of Medical Sciences, The UWI, Cave Hill
- Dr. Heather C. Harewood

Faculty of Medical Sciences, The UWI, St Augustine
- Dr. Sandeep B. Maharaj,
- Prof. Christopher A. L. Oura

George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, The UWI, Cave Hill
- Dr. Madhuvanti Murphy

Institute for Sustainable Development
- Dr. David C. Smith

Tropical Metabolism Research Unit at the Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR)
- Dr Georgiana M. Gordon-Strachan

- Mrs. Natalie G. Guthrie-Dixon
- Dr. Kwesi G. Marshall
- Dr. Shelly R. McFarlane
- Ms. Kimberley S. McKenzie
- Mr. Kimalie F. Parchment
- Ms. Stephanie Y. Parker

For more information or to register for the virtual launch event, [click here](#).



UWI Researchers at the Forefront of Pioneering Health and Climate Change Study for Small Island Developing States

Faculty of Engineering, The UWI, St Augustine

Prof. Michelle A. Mycoo

Faculty of Medical Sciences, The UWI, Cave Hill

Dr. Heather C. Harewood

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Dr. Sandeep B. Maharaj

Prof. Christopher A. L. Oura

George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, The UWI, Cave Hill

Dr. Madhuvanti Murphy

Institute for Sustainable Development

Dr. David C. Smith

Tropical Metabolism Research Unit at the

Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR)

Dr. Georgiana M. Gordon-Strachan

Mrs. Natalie G. Guthrie-Dixon

Dr. Kwesi G. Marshall

Dr. Shelly R. McFarlane

Ms. Kimberley S. McKenzie

Mr. Kimalie F. Parchment

Ms. Stephanie Y. Parker



Virtual Report Launch
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Trinidad police officer convicted on human trafficking charges

A 63-year-old Trinidadian police officer will return to the Trinidad and Tobago High Court in March for sentencing after he was found guilty on human trafficking charges.

The policeman, Valentine Eastman, had been charged in 2013 on grounds that between March 3 and 25, of that year, he harboured Colombian women at Princes Town in south central Trinidad for the purpose of exploitation, in the form of prostitution.

Eastman and a co-accused had gone on trial in November 2024 before Justice George Busby. Eastman was found guilty on two of these charges but was acquitted on a charge of rape.

Fourteen witnesses, including two of the women, testified during Eastman's trial before Justice Busby and Eastman was remanded in custody.

Eastman's co-accused, who faced six counts of transporting persons for exploitation under the

twin island republic's Trafficking in Persons Act, was acquitted on January 13, after the state discontinued its case against him.

The man was charged in April 2013 based on allegations from three Colombian women who claimed they were trafficked into Trinidad for prostitution.

The prosecution alleged

that he transported the women from their apartment to the Santa Maria Hotel in Chaguanas in Central Trinidad, where they worked as prostitutes, and to the Hawaii Hotel in San Fernando.

The women refused to testify in person or virtually at the trial of the co-accused and the state sought to admit

prior statements and evidence recorded in the magistrate court, but the defence team for the co-accused contested the application.

The court ultimately rejected the prosecution's application.

Eastman will return to court for sentencing on March 28. (*Trinidad Express*)

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Gangs attack a neighbourhood in Haiti that's home to the country's elite



Heavily armed gangs in Haiti have attacked a neighbourhood that's home to most of the country's elite and had been largely untouched by criminals, and police have demanded help repelling the assault that has killed at least 40 people.

"It's been eight days since Kenscoff has been under attack," Mayor Jean Massillon told The Associated Press on Monday. He blamed the attack on the Viv Ansanm gang coalition, with gunmen going home to home and indiscriminately opening fire. "As we speak, they

have surrounded the area," Massillon said as he called for reinforcements.

The dead include pastors, teachers and children, although the number is expected to be higher because authorities haven't been able to reach certain parts of the neighbourhood, which is home to many politicians and business leaders. Many victims are working-class people who tend crops on the outskirts of the neighbourhood in the foothills of a mountain range.

Gangs already control 85 per cent of Port-au-Prince, and the United

Nations secretary-general warned last month they could overrun the capital.

The assault on Kenscoff occurred days after the government and police warned about imminent attacks in the capital, but the warnings did not say where they might occur. Jean Bertho Valmo, a 45-year-old farmer who fled Kenscoff, told the AP that 12 members of one family were among the dead.

He said he woke to another round of gunfire before dawn Monday. He and his family sought shelter in the yard of the mayor's office along

with dozens of others. "There is not enough water and food for everyone," he said, and lamented the loss of his crops including cabbage, carrots and broccoli. "I invested everything I had in them," Valmo said. "The police, the government need to put a stop to this."

The attack on Kenscoff that began January 27 has left more than 1,660 people homeless, according to the International Organization for Migration on Monday.

Overall, gang violence has left more than one million people homeless across Haiti in recent years.

On Friday, one police union said the attack on Kenscoff "could have been avoided if police had good equipment" including a helicopter and an all-terrain vehicle, as well as funds to gather intelligence.

"Despite these bad conditions, our policemen are making tireless sacrifices, but we cannot tolerate the negligence of the authorities on what must be done to protect their lives and the safety of the population," the union, SPNH-17, said in a statement. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Dominica breaks ground for multi-purpose centre for Kalinago people



Over the weekend, groundbreaking took place for a new multi-purpose centre and emergency shelter in the Kalinago Territory of Dominica, marking a significant step toward building resilience against the increasing threats of climate change and natural disasters.

Agriculture Minister Roland Royer, speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister, emphasized that the project is part of a broader government strategy to protect communities, especially those in vulnerable

areas, like the Kalinago people.

“The construction of this multi-purpose centre is a deliberate action by the government to strengthen our communities in the face of natural disasters,” Royer said.

The island, which has faced catastrophic weather events such as Hurricane Maria in 2017 and Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, has seen the southeastern region, including the Kalinago Territory, heavily impacted by flash floods and heavy rains over the years.

Royer assured the community that the emergency shelter would provide a safe haven during crises, offering protection to the Kalinago people in times of need.

In addition to its emergency role, the centre will serve as a hub for training, economic activities, and community engagement, fostering growth and cooperation among the people of the territory.

Since the devastation of Hurricane Maria in 2017, Dominica has worked to strengthen its national disaster strate-

gy, focusing on rebuilding infrastructure and prioritizing the safety and well-being of its citizens.

This new centre is another critical step in ensuring the island’s resilience for future challenges.

In early January government signed a EC\$7.6 million contract with local firms OYO Construction Inc. and Virtuoso Architects Ltd (Joint Venture) for the construction of the facility. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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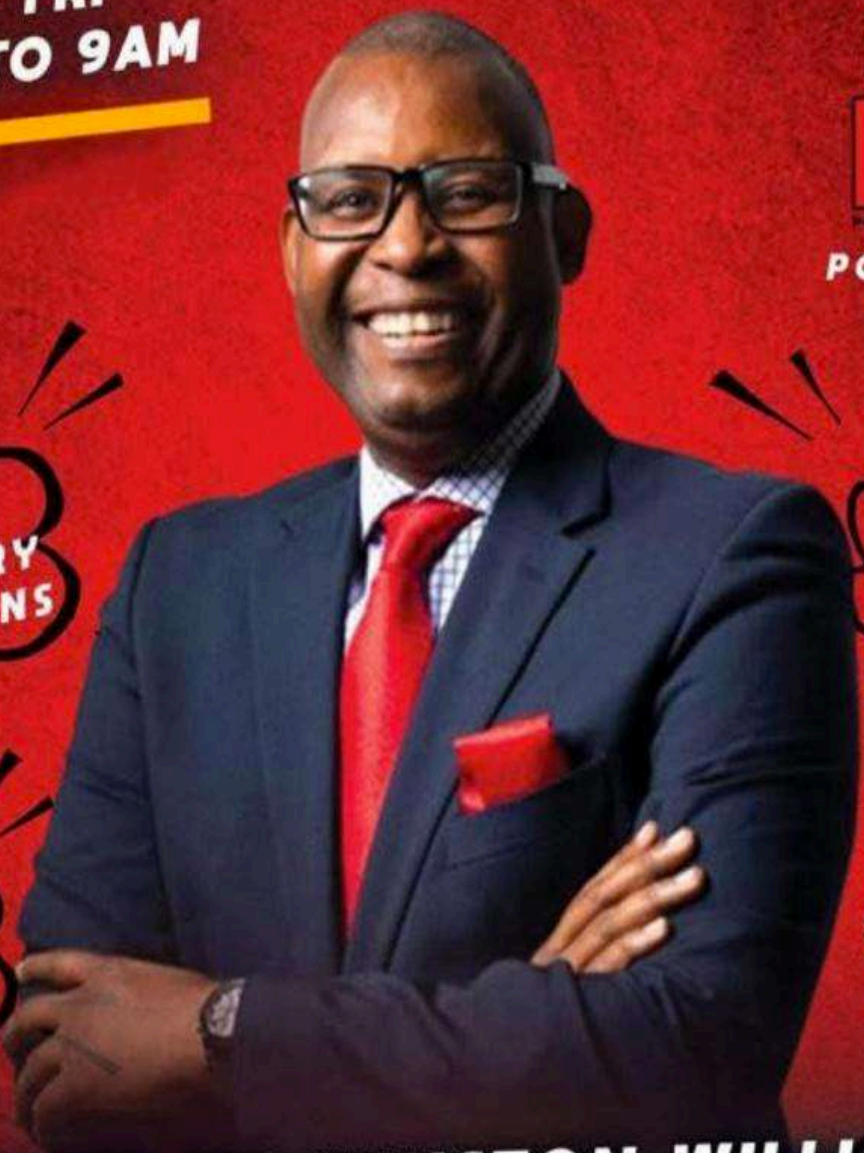


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Spain men's soccer coach distances himself from controversial kiss in sexual assault case



Spain men's coach Luis de la Fuente told a judge in the Luis Rubiales trial on Tuesday that he did not get involved in discussions related to Jenni Hermoso following her World Cup kiss from the former Spanish soccer boss.

Rubiales is accused of sexual assault for kissing Hermoso, the Spain forward, at the 2023 Women's World Cup final presentation ceremony in Sydney, as well as of coercion for allegedly trying to convince the player to support his version of the kiss. Hermoso says she did not consent to the kiss while Rubiales says it was consensual.

De la Fuente said during

his brief appearance in court that he spoke with Hermoso only about two months ago at a gala. He was at the Women's World Cup final in Australia but said he did not have any discussions with Spanish federation officials about the kiss and alleged attempts to support Rubiales.

The 47-year-old Rubiales and three other former federation officials — former Spain women's coach Jorge Vilda, former sports director of the Spain men's team Albert Luque, and former head of marketing Rubén Rivera — are accused of pressuring Hermoso to defend Rubiales publicly in a statement after the incident, which

she refused to do.

"Nobody talked to me or asked me about" a possible statement, De la Fuente said.

The coach said that when he visited the federation in the days following the scandal, he only "talked about football" and business related to his position as the men's national coach.

De La Fuente last week had his contract with the men's national team extended to 2028.

The judge got angry at one point on Tuesday with the testimony of former federation press chief Pablo García Cuervo, asking him to be more clear with his

answers.

Cuervo said he wrote up some of Hermoso's comments to a local radio station to release them to the media. He said Hermoso asked if they wanted her to do a video with the comments, and he said that it was not necessary.

Hermoso testified on the first day of the trial on Monday and said she "felt disrespected" by Rubiales after winning the Women's World Cup final and the kiss "stained one of the happiest days of my life."

The kiss sparked outrage in Spain about the prevalence of sexism in sports and beyond.

Rubiales has yet to testify and denied the charges. He resigned under pressure three weeks later and was banned by FIFA for three years. Rubiales had said he was the victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists."

Prosecutors, Hermoso and the Spain players' association want Rubiales jailed for two and a half years, fined 50,000 euros (\$51,800) for damages, and banned from working as a sports official. They want the other three defendants sentenced to one and a half years in prison.

The trial will continue on Wednesday. It is expected to last at least 10 days. Rubiales attended the first day on Monday. *(NBC News)*

Five people shot at school in Sweden's Orebro

Police have said five people have been shot at a school in Sweden.

The attack occurred at an adult education centre in the city of Orebro on Tuesday. The area where the centre, called the Risbergska School, is located also houses several other schools, including those with children in attendance.

The extent of the injuries was not immediately clear, according to police, and the identities of those shot were not immediately released.

"This is currently seen as attempted murder, arson and aggravated weapons offence," police said in a statement.

A large emergency response was on site, with

police saying students on the campus were being held indoors. They urged the public to stay away from the scene.

Andreas Sundling, 28, spoke to the Expressen newspaper while sheltering in a classroom.

"We heard three bangs and loud screams," he said.

"Now, we're sitting here

waiting to be evacuated from the school. The information we have received is that we should sit and wait," he said.

It was not immediately clear whether police were counting the perpetrator among the five shot. Police said that no officers were shot during the violence. *(Al Jazeera English)*

El Salvador offers to lock up US criminals in its mega-jail

El Salvador has offered to take in criminals deported from the US, including those with US citizenship, and house them in its mega-jail.

The deal was announced after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele during his visit to the central American nation.

Bukele - whose iron-fist approach to gangs has won him plaudits from voters but been heavily criticised by human rights groups - said he had offered the US "the opportunity to outsource part of its prison system".

Rubio said the US was "profoundly grateful" to Bukele, adding that "no country's ever made an offer of friendship such as this".

Rubio told reporters: "He has offered to house in his jails dangerous American

criminals in custody in our country, including those with US citizenship and legal residency."

Referring to two of the region's most notorious transnational crime gangs, Rubio added that El Salvador would also take in deported migrants and "criminals from any nationality, be the MS-13 or Tren de Aragua".

Bukele later confirmed the offer on X, specifying that "we are willing to take in only convicted criminals (including convicted US citizens) into our mega-prison (CECOT) in exchange for a fee".

He added that "the fee would be relatively low for the US but significant for us, making our entire prison sustainable".

Since he came into office in 2019, Bukele has made cracking down on crime his government's priority.

The newly built maximum-security jail he referred to, Cecot [Terrorism Confinement Centre], is at

the centre of his drive to lock up and punish the most violent gang members. *(BBC News)*

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
A.D. 2025

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned wooden residential dwelling registered in the name of Shemeca Colbourne of Golden Grove Ext. St. John's, Antigua.

The Chattel Dwelling House is located in Golden Grove Extension, St. John's Antigua, and comprises of a 700 sq. ft. duplex situated on 0.10 acre of leasehold land owned by William D. Martin. Each of the duplex units consists of an open living/ dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, and 1 bathroom. The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The leasehold land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows: -

REGISTRATION SECTION: Five Islands
BLOCK: 54 1489A
PARCEL: 1729

Leasehold Parcel No. 1729 of Block No. 54 1489A is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 1728;
- On the South by: Access Road;
- On the East by: Parcel 1152;
- On the West by: Parcel 1726 & 1728

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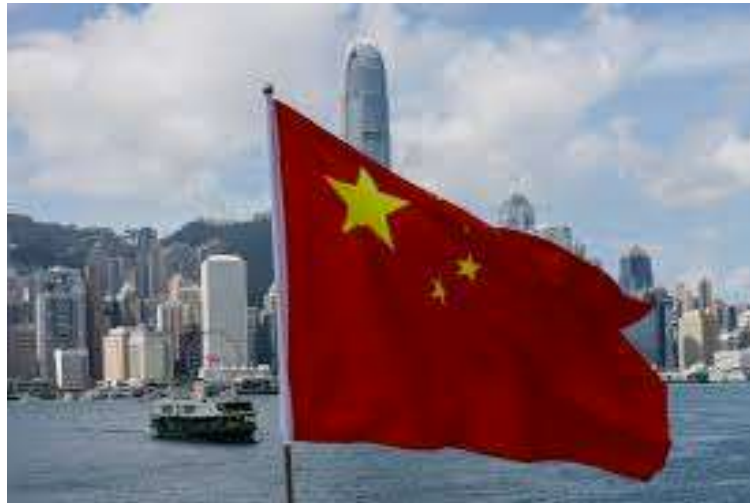
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China hits back at Trump with new tariffs on U.S. products

China retaliated immediately Tuesday as a 10% U.S. tariff on all Chinese goods went into effect, announcing a series of measures including its own levies of 10% to 15% on some U.S. products. Starting Feb. 10, China will impose an additional tariff of 15% on coal and liquefied natural gas and a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery, large-displacement automobiles and pickup trucks, the government said. The Chinese announcement came minutes after the U.S. tariff took effect at 12:01 a.m. ET, the only one to go ahead after President Donald Trump paused 25% tariffs he had announced on goods from Canada and Mexico. The failure to forestall tit-for-tat tariffs with China raises the risk of a spiraling trade war between the world's two biggest economies. "This unilateral tariff hike by the U.S. side seriously violates World Trade Organization rules, does nothing to solve its own problems, and undermines normal China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation," the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, China's Cabinet, said in a statement. In addition, Beijing announced an investigation into Google for alleged



anti-trust violations, and export controls on items related to tungsten and other rare earth elements that are critical components of high-tech products. It also said U.S. gene sequencing company Illumina and PVH Corp., the owner of Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, would be added to the "unreliable entity list," restricting their ability to operate in China. Mainland Chinese markets remain closed for the Lunar New Year holiday. Other Asia-Pacific markets were mostly still up on news that the Canadian and Mexican tariffs had been put on hold, CNBC reported, though stocks in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong pared gains. Beijing said it had referred the U.S. tariff measures to the World Trade Organization "to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests." The additional U.S. tariff "seriously violates WTO

rules and is an egregious act, representing typical unilateralism and trade protectionism," a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said. The U.S. has blocked the appointments of appellate judges to the World Trade Organization since Trump's first term, leaving it largely unable to mediate international trade disputes. But China could still use a lawsuit to gather international support against the U.S. tariffs. "The U.S. approach severely undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system, damages the foundation of Sino-U.S. economic and trade cooperation, and disrupts the stability of global industrial and supply chains," the Chinese Commerce Ministry said. Many Chinese products are already subject to tariffs that were introduced by Trump in his first term

and were maintained or in some cases expanded by then-President Joe Biden. Beijing's newly announced tariffs are more targeted than the U.S. tariff, which appears to apply to all Chinese products, and some may have more impact than others. China doesn't import much crude oil from the U.S., for example, while Google is blocked in China and has limited business in the country after withdrawing in 2010 over a censorship dispute. Others could present more of a challenge. The U.S. imports about a quarter of its tungsten from China, which produces about 80% of the world's supply, meaning there are few alternative sources. The critical metal is used by chipmakers such as Nvidia. China's tariffs are "largely symbolic" and will have limited impact on the U.S., said Tianchen Xu, senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit in Beijing, adding that they cover only 8.5% of all Chinese imports from the U.S. last year. They also represent a change in approach from Trump's first term, when China responded to tariffs more strongly. That is more difficult now as China struggles with an

con't from pg 18

economic slowdown.

“Trump wants a lot from the Chinese side, and he will launch one attack after another,” Xu said in an email. “China has no intent to escalate the conflict, given that any escalation will exert further pressure onto its economy.”

Trump announced the 10% China tariff Saturday along with 25% tariffs on goods imported from Canada and Mexico, citing border security, as well as the illicit international flow of drugs such as fentanyl. Though the Canadian and Mexican tariffs have been paused for 30 days after talks with those countries’ leaders, no such deal appears to have been struck with China.

Trump is expected to speak with Chinese leader Xi Jinping “in the next couple of days,” White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday. China appears to be taking a different approach than Canada, Mexico and Colombia, all of which made concessions to the U.S. to avoid the immediate imposition of tariffs.

“I would’ve waited to try to negotiate with Trump, because Trump might have avoided the tariffs for good if China had shown some compromise,” said Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief economist for Asia Pacific at Natixis in Hong Kong.

Trump said the 10% tariff on China was meant to pressure Beijing to stem

the flow of precursor chemicals from China to Mexico and other countries, where they are processed into fentanyl and then smuggled into the U.S.

Though the U.S. and China say Beijing has taken some action, China says that the best way for the

U.S. to solve its deadly fentanyl crisis is to reduce domestic demand and that tariffs could affect future cooperation on drug control.

“Fentanyl is an issue for the U.S.,” the Chinese Embassy in Washington said in a statement Tuesday.

“In the spirit of humanity

and goodwill, China has given support to the U.S.’s response to this issue.”

Trump said Monday that the 10% tariff was just “an opening salvo.”

“If we can’t make a deal with China, then the tariffs will be very, very substantial,” he said. *(NBC News)*



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Fearless Crew and Ojays make good start in ABBA's Division 2 league



Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew and Cutie's Ovals Ojays won their opening games in the Second Division of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Monday evening.

The Fearless Crew snatched a 58-50 victory against Michael Joseph Phoenix in the first game of an open-

ing night double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Takeem Martin sank 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Joel Christian produced 13 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; Romel Diggs scored 11 points and snatched eight rebounds; and Romel Gomez converted 10 points and claimed five rebounds.

Shalom Bloodman produced 18 points, 16 rebounds, and six steals, and Isaac Perez scored nine points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Michael Joseph Phoenix.

The Ovals Ojays soared to an emphatic 78-60 victory against Curtain Bluff Old Road Daggers in the second game of Monday's double-header.

Tequan Brodie converted 19 points and claimed seven rebounds; Shaheim Omarde sank 16 points and

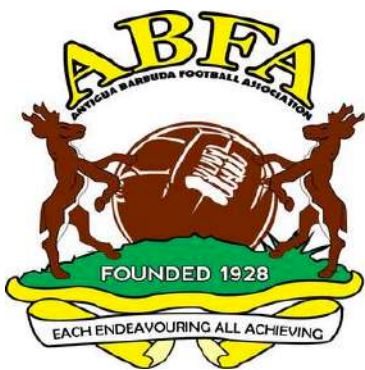
grabbed 11 rebounds; Tajahron Davis had 16 points, five rebounds, five assists, and five steals; and Jayleyle Joseph scored 14 points and snatched 14 rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Kelvin Simon sank 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Kedar Clarke had 12 points and five rebounds, and Jesus Lopez chipped in with 10 points and six rebounds for the Old Road Daggers.

The two opening night winners will clash when the ABBA Second Division continues with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening (today).

Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew will face Cutie's Ovals Ojays in the first encounter at 6:45 pm, and Curtain Bluff Old Road Daggers will take on the Navigators at 8:30 pm.

Sea View Farm drop points but continues to lead Second Division



Sea View Farm dropped crucial points in the title race but continues to lead the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Monday.

Sea View Farm suffered their second loss in 14 matches this season in a 2-1 defeat against Golden

Grove FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Stephen Hughes scored in the seventh minute to give Golden Grove a one-nil lead at halftime. Tyler Anthony doubled the lead with a 71st-minute conversion.

Rhezal Gomes pulled a goal back when he converted a penalty kick in the 74th minute to reduce the deficit, but Sea View Farm was unable to get an equalizer or winner to stave off defeat.

Their 10th win in 13 matches allows Golden Grove to jump from fourth to third place in the stand-

ings by advancing to 30 points. It moves Golden Grove within four points of leaders Sea View Farm FC, which remains on 34 points after suffering their second loss in 14 matches.

The result means that National Parks English Harbour dropped from third to fourth place with 29 points from 12 matches.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays are in second place with 31 points from 12 matches, and Belmont FC remains in fifth place with 27 from 13 matches.

The Young Lions of Old Road moved into sixth place after securing a 1-1

draw with Bethesda at the Bethesda playing field.

Zavier Joseph put the Young Lions ahead with a 30th-minute conversion, and Chunsae Martin scored the equalizer for Bethesda in the 33rd minute.

The Young Lions advanced to 19 points after securing their third draw in 12 encounters. Bethesda FC will advance to 11 points after recording their second draw in 11 matches.

The result also meant that Guydadli dropped into seventh place with 18 points from 11 matches.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Dehring begins tenure as CEO of Cricket West Indies



CWI CEO Chris Dehring (second right) with CWI President Dr Kishore Shallow (second left), CWI Vice President Azim Bassarath (left) and Chief Operating Officer Lynford Inverary. (CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies (CWI) officially welcomes Chris Dehring as he begins his tenure as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Chris Dehring was greeted at the CWI headquarters at Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) by CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow, Vice President Azim Bassarath, and Chief Operating Officer Lynford Inverary as he takes up the mantle to lead the organization into its next chapter.

With West Indies cricket standing at a pivotal crossroads, Dehring's arrival signals a commitment to renewal and progress.

As the regional game

navigates an evolving global cricket landscape, CWI is looking to redefine its approach—balancing tradition with innovation, restoring competitiveness, and strengthening the deep connection between the team and its people.

President Dr. Kishore Shallow emphasized the transformative nature of this appointment, stating, “The appointment of Chris Dehring as CEO is not just a change in leadership—it is the start of a new era for West Indies cricket.

“We recognize that the game is evolving, and so must we. His vision, experience, understanding of the region and deep-rooted passion for cricket make him the right person to

guide us through this period of transformation, both on and off the field.

“The road ahead requires bold decisions, fresh perspectives, and an unshakable belief in what West Indies cricket can be, and I am confident that Chris will help steer us toward that future.”

Dehring, stepping into the role with a clear sense of purpose, reflected on the responsibility before him, stating, “West Indies cricket has always been more than just a sport—it is a symbol of identity, resilience, and excellence that has united generations across the region.

“I take on this role fully aware of the weight of that

legacy, but also with the conviction that we must not stand still. Progress requires both continuity and change.

“My aim is to build on the foundation laid by those before me while charting a new course—one that embraces modern realities, reignites our competitive spirit, and ensures that West Indies cricket is not just remembered for its past, but celebrated for its future.”

With Dehring now at the helm, CWI is set to embark on a renewed push toward strengthening its cricketing structure, enhancing commercial opportunities, and deepening engagement with players, fans, and stakeholders across the region.

Emrit hopes to build on momentum left by Furlonge



Rayad Emrit

Newly appointed Trinidad and Tobago Red Force head coach Rayad Emrit is confident of making a smooth transition into the role as he looks to build on the foundation left by David Furlonge with hopes of guiding the team to long-awaited four-day championship glory.

Emrit, who previously served as assistant coach, takes charge for the remainder of the West Indies Four-Day Championship after Furlonge resigned following Red Force's innings and 75-run victory over Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Saturday during the opening round of the regional competition.

"It's a big privilege, an honour to take over from David. He's been there for a

while, and he's done a very good job with the white-ball team. Obviously, the four-day title has eluded us for some time now. That's probably my first goal; try to secure silverware in that department," Emrit told the T&T Express newspaper.

Emrit, a former Red Force all-rounder who played 84 first-class matches over 13 years, was part of the last Trinidad and Tobago squad to win the regional four-day title in 2006. Now in charge, he intends to refine match preparation and instill a new team culture in pursuit of championship success.

"We have a good bunch of guys who want to bring glory to Trinidad and Tobago cricket. I've played a lot of cricket with guys there. The camaraderie is there, the respect is there,

and I think we have a very good understanding," Emrit shared.

With the Red Force's next assignment being against the Windward Islands Volcanoes starting on Wednesday (today), Emrit welcomed the return of West Indies internationals Joshua Da Silva, Jayden Seales, Amir Jangoo, and Anderson Phillip to bolster the lineup.

Their arrival means Justin Manick, Antonio Gomez, Andrew Rambaran, and Aidan Racha will have to make way.

"It is a big boost for us to have these four international guys back in the squad. It's going to make the job a little harder now to select the final XI, but it's a good headache to have," Emrit said.

"We're hoping that they

can bring back their international experience into the team...There is a leadership role that we need. There are a lot of guys who have been playing first-class cricket for a while. I think we have a very good bunch. The focus is to play positive cricket...and get the results we are looking for," he added.

Meanwhile, most of the teams in the West Indies Four-Day Championship will also be boosted by the return of the West Indies Test players for the second round of matches the will take place from February 5 to 8.

In the three other second round matches, defending champions Guyana Harpy Eagles will face the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana.

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes will take on the Jamaica Scorpions at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua, and the West Indies Academy will meet the Barbados Pride at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Force, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, the Jamaica Scorpions, and the Guyana Harpy Eagles all recorded wins in the opening round of matches last week.

Sports

WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2025



Sir McChesney George win again in school basketball

The Sir McChesney George Secondary on the sister isle of Barbuda was once again among the winners in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Monday. Sir McChesney George Secondary launched their campaign in the Senior Boys Division with an impressive 46-35 victory against defending playoff champions, St. Anthony's Secondary School, at the JSC Sports Complex.

Simeon Adams scored 12 points for Sir McChesney George Secondary in the presence of the school's principal, Rexford Harry, who traveled with the team to Antigua.

The Sir McChesney George Secondary is making their debut in the competition, and it has been a welcomed return for the young basketball players in Barbuda to participate in the inter-school league.

In previous years, before the global COVID-19 pandemic, which severely restricted travel from early 2020 to early 2022, the Holy Trinity School in Barbuda participated in the compe-



Principal of the Sir McChesney George Secondary School Rexford Harry, (center wearing black cap) with his team and coaches that is contesting the Senior Boys Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, February 3, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

tion on several occasions.

The win for the senior boys of the Sir McChesney George Secondary follows another debut win for the school in the Junior Boys Division the previous Monday.

Sir McChesney George Secondary launched their campaign in the Junior Boys Division with an impressive 42-27 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School at the JSC Sports Complex.

Principal Harry expressed his delight with having Sir McChesney George Secondary partici-

pating in the competition. He also would like to see school teams from Antigua traveling to Barbuda to play some of the games in the Inter-School Basketball League.

"I am very encouraged. I am really pleased to see that we were able to come over to Antigua. I think that it is a very good opportunity for our students to be able to showcase their talent," Harry said.

"I think that is only fitting that if we have a national school competition, I think that we should be a part of it.

"We are very pleased with the results, including last week's game. We are just hoping that we can keep it up. We are hoping that next year we will have teams from Antigua coming over to Barbuda to play some games over there as well."

There was success as well for St. Joseph's Academy in the other two matches that were played on Monday.

St. Joseph's Academy, which won both the playoff and league title for the past two years, made a successful start in their league title defense in the Miniboy's Secondary Division with a commanding 37-15 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Erije Joseph shot a game-high 20 points for St. Joseph's Academy. The St. Joseph's Academy also launched their campaign in the Junior Boys Division with a 54-8 drubbing of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Jaden Lewis sank 13 points, Nathan Matthew converted 12 points, and Iczjaire Sebastian scored 10 points for St. Joseph's Academy.