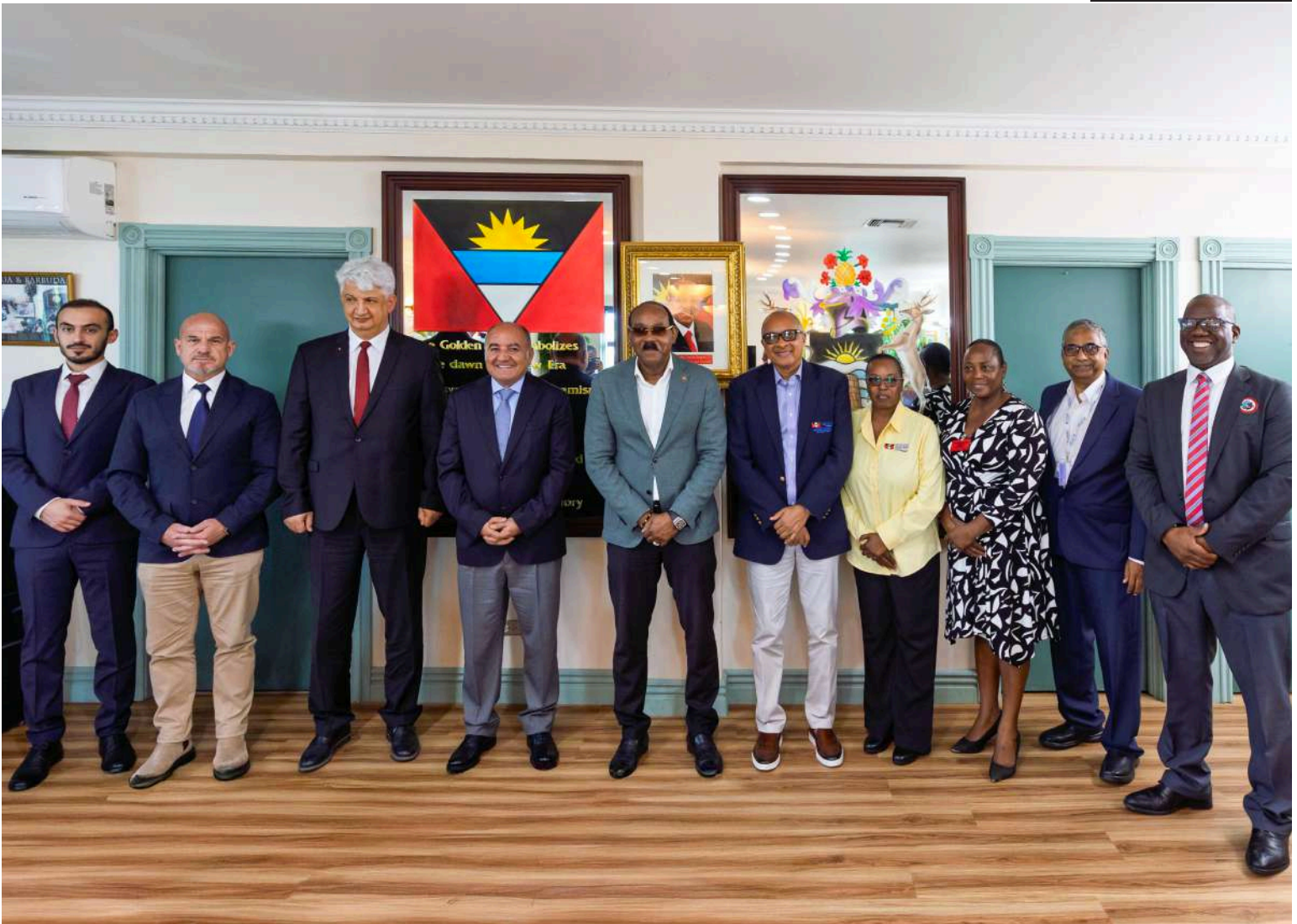


“The truth is my defence” says PM

Story on Page 3



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (grey jacket) Ambassador Dwight Gardiner (white pants) with officials of FEMA Marine SA and local officials at signing ceremony on Tuesday

Story on Page 6

**Press statement
From the
Hon Gaston Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda**

Re: Alfa Nero Sale

I refer to the controversy that has arisen over the sale of the Alfa Nero by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and the disposition of the sales proceeds.

I will be perfectly clear about this.

The Alfa Nero was sold by the Government through an entirely lawful and transparent process for a total sales price of US\$ 40 million. This was publicly reported, and it was documented before the High Court in Antigua.

Every dollar received, and every dollar expended, has been publicly accounted for. I am today releasing an accounting in a form that can be clearly and easily understood by all interested parties. The same information was previously provided to the High Court.

The Government has nothing to hide. In fact, it invites and welcomes public scrutiny of this transaction in all its aspects. I trust this public disclosure will put an end to the false accusations that have been made by unscrupulous persons attempting to further their own selfish interests.

I refer, in particular, to statements that were made by on behalf of Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov, the daughter of a Russian oligarch who is sanctioned by the US, UK and EU, among others. She has falsely claimed in our courts that she had an entitlement to the Alfa Nero in order to claim for herself the sales proceeds and damages and rob the people of Antigua and Barbuda of these public benefits. This alleged entitlement to the vessel was vigorously opposed by the legal team which represented the State.

She and her attorneys have made scandalous, malicious and entirely false accusations in order to further her illicit ends. The principal targets of her defamatory comments have been myself, and members of my family. There is not a grain of truth to any of these attacks on me, or my family's integrity.

It is apparent that Ms Guryeva-Motlokhov has not acted alone, but in cahoots with desperate political opponents here in Antigua, who have previously raised some of these stale fabrications, which have already proven to be false.

I will not be deterred by this smear campaign against me. I have always been an advocate and practitioner of good governance, and I will continue to govern our country with the highest standard of integrity.

I am currently discussing with my attorneys, in Antigua and Barbuda and in the United States, the legal remedies available to me as a result of the libelous statements and other wrongs that have been committed against me and my family.

“The truth is my defence” says PM



Prime Minister Gaston Brown

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is confident that the truth regarding the expenditures arising from the sale of the Alfa Nero, will clear his name and that of his family.

The Associated Press has reported that a federal judge in New York granted the attorneys of a Russian woman permission Monday to issue subpoenas to access the financial records of Antigua and Barbuda’s prime minister and other officials involved in the sale of a megayacht that her father had abandoned.

The attorneys must first notify Prime Minister Gaston Browne and others before serving subpoenas on the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the U.S.-based Clearing House Payments Co.

However, speaking in the Cabinet Room on Tuesday during the signing of the agreement between the government and FEMA Marine SA, PM Browne referred to the allegations made against him as ‘spurious’.

FEMA Marine SA’s CEO, Nazmi Topcuoglu, informed the prime minister

that he was the one who had recommended the eventual buyer of the Alfa Nero to the government and that his company now manages the yacht. He revealed that FEMA Marine SA was called in to do a valuation of the Alfa Nero and that several million Euros were spent bringing back the vessel to a saleable condition as over time, it had significantly deteriorated.

In fact, he informed the prime minister that when his team had concluded their surveys of the vessel, they gave it a value of no more than US\$30 million, less than the US\$40 million that the government concluded with the buyer.

According to PM Browne the sale of the vessel was done ‘in a most transparent way’ and in collaboration with both the US Treasury Department and the State Department.

“The irony is that after having such a

transparent process, they (Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov, the daughter of a Russian oligarch who is sanctioned by the US, UK and EU) are now making the claim, fallacious as it is, that US\$10 million are missing. It’s totally untrue, but they have now joined our political opponents who, over the past decade, have been throwing a lot of mud at me because they are mad because our country has been doing well economically, and their political fortunes have been fading as a result,” he stated.

He accused the opposition elements of seeking the use of the issue to tarnish the country’s reputation as well as his reputation and that of his family.

However, PM Browne remains confident that their names will be cleared with the truth is revealed.

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No Travel Ban on Antigua and Barbuda from the United States

Statement from the Antigua and Barbuda Government

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda wishes to reassure all travellers from the United States that there is no ban on travel between our two countries. Nationals and legal residents of the United States continue to enjoy visa-free entry when traveling to and from Antigua and Barbuda.

We are aware of recent media reports speculating about potential travel bans. However, we emphasize that no such ban has been imposed, nor has the United States government indicated that such a measure is under consideration. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda maintains open communica-

tion channels with U.S. authorities and confirms there have been no advisories



or indications suggesting any changes to current travel arrangements.

Antigua and Barbuda has long been a favoured destination for U.S. citizens and residents, who continue to be warmly welcomed. We deeply value our friendly and cooperative relationship with the United States and look forward to strengthening the strong ties that bind our nations.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, travellers are encouraged to visit official sources, including the U.S. Department of State's travel website and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's official website. Our commitment remains unwavering in providing a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience for all visitors to our shores.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
2024 NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS
22ND
MARCH 2025
6:00PM

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 Antigua and Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

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Michael Freeland...all the way!



The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party members in the St. George constituency have made their choice...and its Michael Freeland all the way!

Following a hotly contested and close primary elections held at the Potters Primary School on Tuesday, Freeland emerged with a total of 350 votes... nineteen more than Joel Rayne's 331

votes. The other two candidates in the contest, Bakisha Francis secured 142 votes while Salim Browne emerged with 42 votes.

It was one of the closest primary elections held so far as the ABLP seeks to select its candidates for each of the constituencies that it lost during the 2023 general elections.

Freeland's victory signals the return of the 'Freeland brand' as his father, the late Sir Adolphus Freeland served as the constituency representatives for several decades.

The three losing candidates have all publicly pledged their support for the winner, Michael Freeland.

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Government signs an agreement to boost the country's registry of superyachts

The government through the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS) has signed an agreement with a company out of Switzerland that will undertake the promotion and marketing of the country's registry of superyachts.

The agreement was inked on Tuesday by Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Merchant Shipping and Ship Registration, for and on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne and Chief Executive Officer of FEMA Marine S.A, Nazmi Topçuoğlu with Director of ADOMS, Ambassador Dwight Gardiner serving as the witness.

Under the agreement, the government agrees that the Company will exercise the rights conferred upon it by the agreement to promote and expand the international yacht registry in the Mediterranean, for a period of two (2) years commencing on the date of execution of this Agreement (March 18, 2025). This Agreement may be renewed on such terms and conditions as the parties may agree.

Both parties agreed that during the term of the agreement, the Government will not appoint or



engage any other person (natural or juridical) in the Mediterranean, for the purpose of providing yacht registration services

on its behalf.

Additionally, in order to strengthen and expand the ADOMS network, the

Company will have the right to open and operate sub-branches in the Mediterranean, as deems appropriate to promote the activities contained in the agreement.

Nazmi Topçuoğlu, as the Chairman of FEMA Marine SA, is a qualified and experienced Marine Engineer, who is an accredited Marine Surveyor appointed by the Government of Malta and also a Helicopter Pilot.

ADOMS said he is the proposed Deputy Registrar, and the partner identified for development of Yacht registration business in Mediterranean and Turkey.

FEMA Marine SA is a Superyacht Management Company based in Neuchatel, Switzerland. It has a large team of skilled and experienced yacht surveyors, offering worldwide services and expert advice.

Further a business plan was requested from FEMA. According to ADOMS the plan was positive and showed that the company had developed a plan for marketing yacht registration and providing operational support to ADOMS and by extension the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua and Barbuda Represented at Green Climate Fund Regional Dialogue



The Antigua and Barbuda delegation at this week's GCF meeting in St. Kitts and Nevis



Senator Michael Joseph is engaged in a panel discussion at the GCF regional meeting in St. Kitts

Antigua and Barbuda is actively participating in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Dialogue, taking place in Saint Kitts and Nevis from March 17-20, 2025.

The country's delegation at these discussions is being led by Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Michael Joseph, Permanent Secretary Ena Dalso-Henry, along with Garth Simon and Gita Gardner from the Department of Environment.

The regional dialogue brings together key stakeholders, including government ministers, National Designated Authorities (NDAs), and other GCF partners, to strengthen engagement with the GCF. The event serves as a platform for peer-to-peer learning, sharing experiences and best practices, and identifying new initiatives to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation



Delegates at GCF meeting in St. Kitts and Nevis

efforts across the region.

Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to advancing climate resilience and sustainability, leveraging opportunities provided by the GCF to secure funding and technical support for national and regional environmental initiatives. Through active

participation in discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions, the delegation aims to reinforce the country's leadership in climate action and contribute to shaping effective strategies for addressing climate challenges in the Caribbean.

Minister Greene invited to address Raisina DPI Conclave in India



Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene and Dr. S. Jaishankar

Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, is

currently in India where he has been invited to address the Raisina Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Conclave in New Delhi.

This significant global event brings together Foreign Affairs ministers from around the world to discuss the future of public infrastructure development.

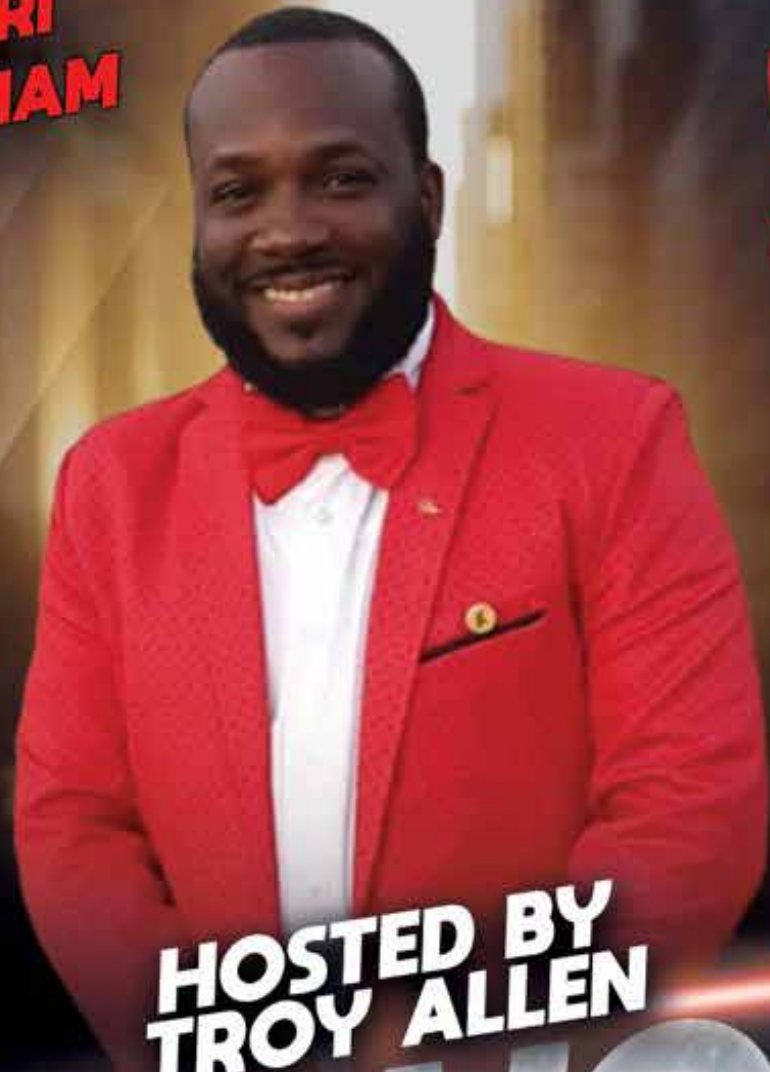
Minister Greene's at-

tendance comes on the heels of his impactful co-hosting of a similar initiative focused on small developing states held in Geneva, Switzerland, in January. He aims to highlight the challenges faced by Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the wider Caribbean, to a global audience.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

IHO continues the Call for A Safe Shelter with Barbuda GBV Prevention Walk

The atmosphere at the IHO-GBV Walk in Barbuda last Saturday was one of deep reflection and resolve as participants grappled with the tragic loss that had shaken the nation that very morning. The event, held under the theme “Men and Women United 2025: Stop Gender-Based Violence,” was not only a commemoration of International Women’s Day (IWD) 2025 but also a poignant call to action for greater protections for women, girls, and vulnerable communities.

Project Manager, Britney McDonald addressed the gathering, emphasizing the heightened risks faced by women and girls. “Women and girls are at an increased risk of violence from all angles. As a community, we must come together and be vigilant. We cannot ignore the urgent need for a safe shelter for women, girls, and persons from vulnerable communities.”

The IHO-GBV Walk in Barbuda was more than just a march; it was a declaration of resilience and an urgent plea for tangible change. The momentum generated from this event will fuel continued advocacy, ensuring improved protections and support for women and girls. The need for such a shelter in Antigua and Barbuda was made even more pressing by the outpouring of support from the local community. Members of



the Barbudan Council and local residents joined the walk as it moved through the streets, chanting, “No More Gender-Based Violence.”

The solidarity was palpable as onlookers—many of whom had personal connections to the cause—shared their stories

and reinforced the urgent call for protective spaces and resources for survivors.

Organizers from the Integrated Health Outreach Gender-Based Violence Coalition (IHO-GBV), in partnership with the Directorate of Gender Affairs (DoGA), share immense gratitude to the participants and volunteers in championing this year’s walk. McDonald noted that, “We understand that climate change is increasingly impacting our day to day lives, and we’re witnessing it unfold across several areas. Our communities are rallying together because of the ripple effects which have led to instances of gender based violence, which includes mental, emotional and financial violence. The overwhelming show of support demonstrates the need to continue the conversation in order to shift the culture forward.”

Over 2,000 people participated across Antigua and Barbuda, making this year’s event the largest turnout in the event’s two-year history. Many participants carried signs bearing the image of the nation’s most recent victim of violence, further reinforcing the gravity of the issue. Several reflected on their own childhoods, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding future generations and fostering safer communities.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Commentary

Accepting the Gift of Feedback: Where Real Growth Begins



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Imagine an orchestra where the musicians play in harmony, each aware of their strengths and areas for improvement, creating a masterpiece. Now, picture the same orchestra without feedback from the conductor, each musician unsure of their role, struggling to find their tune. This is the workplace without 360 feedback.

360 feedback, a process where employees receive performance evaluations from peers, managers, customers, and direct reports, is a transformative tool predominantly embraced by multinational corporations but less common in smaller businesses. With its holistic approach, 360 feedback offers insights that traditional performance reviews often miss.

Why 360 Feedback Is

Needed

Feedback is a gift—a mirror reflecting both strengths and weaknesses. Without it, employees operate in the dark, unaware of their blind spots and unable to improve. As the saying goes, “When you’re in the picture, you can’t see the frame.”

360 feedback bridges this gap, providing a panoramic view of an individual’s performance. It highlights what employees do well and what they need to work on, enabling them to grow. While more prevalent in multinational corporations, 360 feedback can be easily implemented in small businesses to establish a culture of openness and continuous improvement.

Furthermore, an individual’s degree or intellectual capacity does not auto-

matically make them the best fit for an organization. Behavior, emotional intelligence, and attitude are equally critical. This is why many organizations prioritize hiring for attitude and training for skill. 360 feedback plays a pivotal role in this process by providing insight into an individual’s behavior, emotional intelligence, and ability to collaborate effectively with others.

Three Ways 360 Feedback Drives Personal Growth and Improves Organizational Performance

1. Identifying Strengths and Weaknesses

Feedback from peers, managers, customers, and direct reports illuminates strengths and reveals hidden weaknesses—blind spots that individuals might not be aware of. Employees cannot grow unless they recognize both their capabilities and areas needing improvement. Research consistently shows that even challenging feedback leads to significant performance gains when acted upon.

2. Leveraging Strengths and Addressing Weaknesses

Once employees understand their strengths and weaknesses, they can maximize their potential by focusing on what they do best while managing their weaker areas. The

principle is clear: amplify your strengths and ensure that your weaknesses do not derail your personal effectiveness or career progress. For instance, someone praised for leadership skills may take on mentorship roles, while one identified as struggling with time management could work on improving organizational abilities.

3. Crafting a Personalized Improvement Plan and Managing Resistance

360 feedback lays the foundation for a tailored improvement plan. Employees can take deliberate actions, such as attending training programs, seeking mentorship, or adopting new strategies, to address their growth areas.

Additionally, organizations benefit by identifying employees who are resistant or reluctant to act on feedback. Such individuals can hinder team dynamics and organizational performance. Through 360 feedback, managers can support these employees or, if resistance persists, take measures to manage them out of the team, ensuring a high-performing and growth-oriented workplace. Furthermore, as employees work to maximize their strengths and address their weaknesses

con’t on pg 13

con't from pg 12

es while supporting each other in doing the same, the overall performance of the organization improves, creating a culture of collective growth and excellence.

Personal Reflections

Be aware that a strength can also become a weakness if not properly managed. For example, you may have the knowledge, experience, and track record of achieving breakthrough results—and that may be one of the main reasons you were hired in the first instance. However, with such a track record, you might not be open to new ideas, as you've done it in the past and believe you know exactly how it should be done now. While it's true you've succeeded before, circumstances may have evolved, or more efficient methods might now exist to achieve even greater results. *The moral of the story: keep an open mind.*

In these situations, what was once a strength can become a weakness. One way to address this issue is to ask more questions and explore alternatives rather than being overly directive. By doing so, you'll remain open to new ideas and foster stronger collaboration, ensuring your strengths remain assets rather than liabilities.

The SARA Model: Processing Difficult Feedback

Feedback can be difficult to accept, especially when it challenges one's self-perception and is far from complimentary. The SARA model—*Shock, Anger, Resistance, and Acceptance*—captures the emotional journey many experience. Initially, feedback may come as a shock, followed by anger or resistance. However, with reflection, individuals move toward acceptance, the stage where real growth begins. Acceptance allows individuals to embrace feedback as a gift and use it to unlock their potential.

Conclusion: Embracing Feedback for Growth

360 feedback is more than an evaluation tool—it's a transformative pathway to personal and professional growth. By identifying blind spots, amplifying strengths, and creating actionable improvement plans, individuals unlock their true potential. As all employees work to maximize their strengths, improve their weaknesses, and support each other along the way, organizational performance flourishes.

To all the peers, managers, colleagues, and customers who have ever given me the gift of feedback, thank you. They are some of the best gifts I have ever received. Without it, my career might have remained stagnant.

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Murders down 30 per cent

Jamaica recorded 158 murders between January 1 and March 15 this year, a 30 per cent decline in homicides compared with the similar period last year, according to latest police data.

The serious crime statistics published Sunday by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) show that 13 murders were recorded over the last week March 8-15, bringing the total so far this month to 41.

A total of 28 murders were committed in the first eight days of March.

For the entire month of February 47 murders were committed, the lowest monthly total in 25 years.

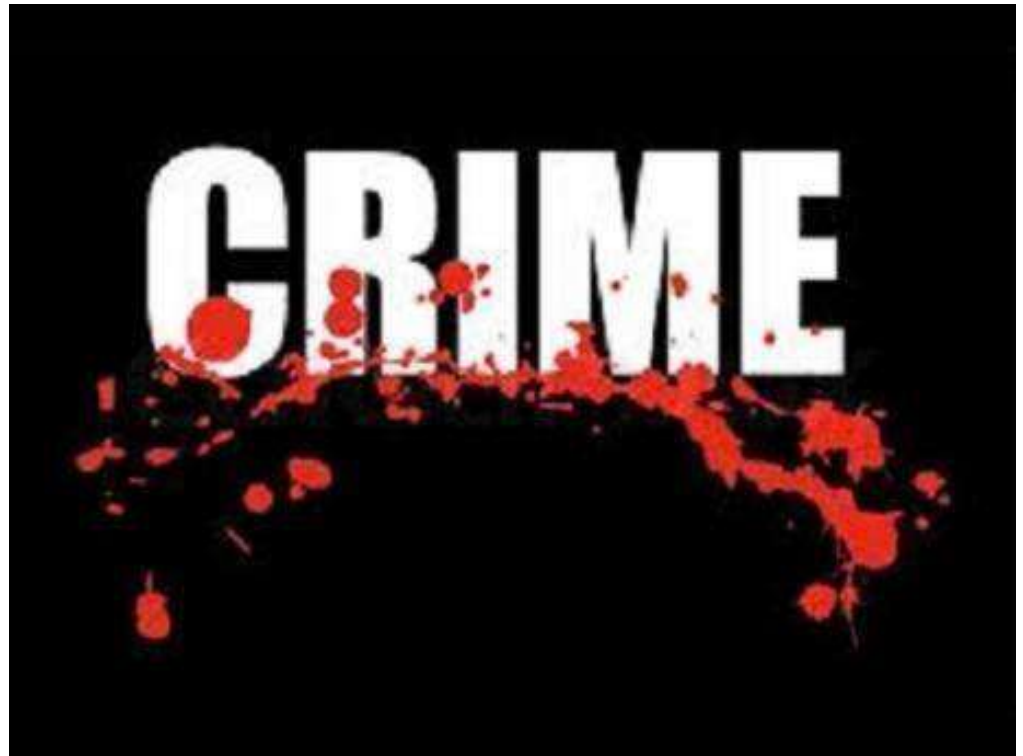
The 30 per cent decline in murders as of March 15, is about 70 fewer than the 228 recorded for period under review last year.

Seven of the 19 police divisions are in double-digit figures.

These include St Andrew South 24, St Catherine South 18, Westmoreland 13, St James 12, St Andrew Central 12, St Catherine North 11 and Kingston Western 10.

St Elizabeth has the least with only one homicide.

There is also a decline in shooting,



injured persons, rape and robbery.

Break-ins and motor vehicle larceny have seen an increase.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Dr Horace Chang is optimistic that the country's murder toll for 2025 could fall below 800.

“If we can maintain the trend, look at the projection and ensure that we pursue programmes and policies that [can aid] the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), then we could

see under 800 murders,” he said at Friday's official opening of the Frome Police Station in Frome, Westmoreland.

Dr Chang stressed that sustainable crime reduction requires continued government investment in police resources, technology, and infrastructure.

Jamaica ended 2024 with 1,141 murders, a decrease of 252 compared to 2023, when the country recorded 1,393 homicides. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Vincientian police officer arrested for drugs in St Lucia

On Thursday, March 13, 2025, an intelligence-driven operation conducted between Sandy Beach and Savannes Bay in Saint Lucia resulted

in the arrest of four Vincientian nationals.

The individuals were intercepted while disembarking from an unregistered fishing

vessel. They were found in possession of suspected controlled drugs and other restricted imports. One of the individu-

als, a Vincientian police officer, was also arrested during that operation. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Dominican historian in competition for Caribbean's biggest book prize

A book by renowned local historian and anthropologist, Dr Lennox Honychurch, has been shortlisted for the 2025 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the most coveted award for Caribbean authors.

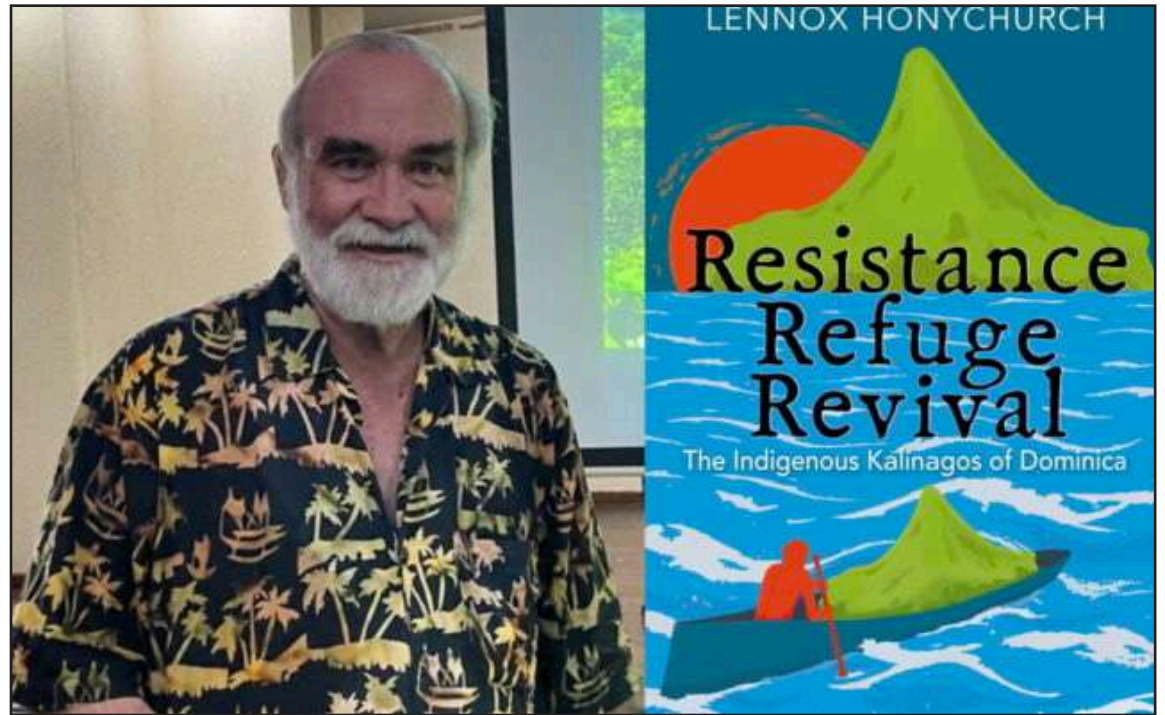
His work, "Resistance Refuge Revival: The Indigenous Kalinagos of Dominica" was recently published and it has already gained critical acclaim. It is one of 15 books by authors with roots in eight Caribbean countries shortlisted by judges of the competition.

Judges said the book, which falls under the category of best nonfiction, is an "epic account that restores to the Caribbean a story that should be our lingua franca."

"This elegant and accessible story is a gift to the region, its artists, its students, its Kalinago population, and Indigenous activists throughout the Americas," they said.

"We are left with the ethical imperative of centering this encounter as we go forward into the future."

The competition now moves on to the second stage and the judges will announce the winners in three categories – poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, on Sunday, April 6. The winners will then move on to compete for the grand



prize of US\$10,000 to be announced on Saturday 3 May, during the 15th annual Bocas Lit Fest in Port of Spain.

"Happy my latest book shortlisted," Dr Honychurch wrote in a brief note on his Facebook page.

The book has already been praised by his peers. "In this impressive book, Honychurch presents a history that emphasizes a Kalinago perspective and shows the important role they have played in the complex social and cultural evolution of Dominica," Mark Hauser, Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University wrote.

"The product of a lifetime of engagement and decades of study, Lennox Honychurch's 'Resistance, Refuge, Revival' tells the story of the Kalinago peo-

ple of Dominica with consummate skill and compassion," Peter Hulme, emeritus Professor of Literature, University of Essex, wrote.

"It instantly becomes the most authoritative book on the subject, to which both scholars and the general reader will turn."

Dr Honychurch dedicated the book to the Kalinago people. "To the Kalinago people of Wai'tukubuli who, by the courageous resistance of their ancestors, defended, protected, and bequeathed this island to generations yet unborn," he wrote at the beginning of the book.

His most recent book "In the Forest of Freedom: the Fighting Maroons of Dominica" was published in 2017. He is well-known to generations of students as

the author of the secondary school textbook series, "The Caribbean People."

His books include: Dominica: Isle of Adventure (1995); Caribbean Camera: A Journey Through the Islands (1998); The Cabrits and Prince Rupert Bay (1983); The Caribbean People (1979); Caribbean Landmarks: Historic Events and Sites (1983); Our Island Culture (1982) and The Dominica Story (1974).

He has also written countless articles and papers on a variety of subjects concerning history and literature.

Dr Honychurch lives in Dominica and is responsible for the restoration of Fort Shirley at the Cabrits National Park. (*Dominica News Online*)

Hinds, Imbert moved, as Stuart Young takes charge

Senior Counsel Stuart Young was officially sworn in as this country's eighth Prime Minister today, along with Camille Robinson-Regis as his Attorney General.

The duo received their letters of appointment from President Christine Kangaloo at a ceremony held at President's House, St Ann's, which started at 10 am.

In a second ceremony held at 3 pm, at the same venue, the rest of the country's Cabinet was unveiled.

Among the notable changes, former High Commissioner to the UK and former Permanent Secretary Vishnu Dhanpaul was named Minister of Finance, while Marvin Gonzales was appointed Minister of National Security.

These appointments were followed by Fitzgerald Hinds being named Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Colm Imbert being assigned the portfolio of Minister of Public Utilities.

Imbert had previously served as Minister of Finance, Hinds had held the position of Minister of National Security, and Gonzales was formerly the Minister of Public Utilities.

Here is the full list of Cabinet appointments:

Stuart Young- Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

Camille Robinson-Regis- Attorney General



Kazim Hosein - Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

Avinash Singh - Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

Renuka Sagramsingh Sooklal - Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs

Hassel Bacchus - Minister of Digital Transformation and Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly - Ministry of Education

Vishnu Dhanpaul - Minister of Finance

Brian Manning - Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Dr Amery Browne - Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Terrence Deyalsingh - Minister of Health

Adrian Leonce - Minister

of Housing and Urban Development

Stephen Mc Clashie - Minister of Labour

Marvin Gonzales- Minister of National Security

Keith Scotland- Minister in the Ministry of National Security

Fitzgerald Hinds- Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister

Symon De Nobriga - Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister- Communications

Ayanna Webster Roy - Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister- Gender Affairs

Pennelope Beckles - Minister of Planning and Development

Allyson West - Minister of Public Administration

Colm Imbert - Minister of

Public Utilities

Faris Al-Rawi - Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

Donna Cox - Minister of Social Development and Family Services

Shamfa Cudjoe-Lewis - Minister of Sport and Community Development

Randall Mitchell- Minister of Tourism Culture and the Arts

Paula Gopee-Scoon- Minister of Trade and Industry

Rohan Sinanan - Minister of Works and Transport

Richie Sookhai - Minister in the Ministry of Works and Transport

Foster Cummings - Minister of Youth Development and National Service (*Trinidad Express*)



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At least 42 deaths linked to severe US storms



A series of storms in the United States that sparked tornadoes, wildfires, high winds, and dust storms while barreling across eight states over the weekend have left at least 42 people dead and dozens injured.

Scattered tornadoes in Missouri killed over a dozen people, and a string of twisters in Mississippi — including

two that hit near the same town within about an hour — left six people dead. Hundreds of homes and businesses were destroyed throughout the South and the Midwest.

The violent weather began Friday and earned an unusual “high risk” designation from meteorologists.

There were 46 tornadoes on Friday and 41 on Saturday, according to a preliminary count. The storm also spurred more than 130 wind-driven wildfires that damaged more than 400 homes in Oklahoma. Dozens of fires were still burning across the state on Monday, said Keith Merckx at Oklahoma Forestry Services.

High winds spurred several dust storms that led to almost a dozen deaths in car crashes on Friday.

Eight people died in a Kansas highway pileup involving at least 50 vehicles, according to the state highway patrol. Authorities said three people also were killed in car crashes during a dust storm in Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle.

President Donald Trump said the White House was monitoring the storms and would assist state and local officials to help in the recovery. He said National Guard troops were deployed to Arkansas. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Peru declares emergency and deploys army as violence surges in capital

Peru's president declared a state of emergency in the capital Monday and ordered the deployment of soldiers to help police address a surge of violence, amid widespread outcry a day after the killing of a popular singer.

President Dina Boluarte's government published a decree saying that the state of emergency will last 30 days, and authorities will restrict some rights, including the freedom of assembly and movement. That means the police and the army would be able to detain people without a judicial order.

Peru has seen an increase of killings, violent extortion



and attacks on public places in recent months. Police reported 459 killings from Jan. 1 to March 16, and 1,909 extortion reports in January alone. But outrage crested after the killing Sunday of Paul Flores, the 39-year-old lead singer of the cumbia band Armonia 10.

In Congress, opposition lawmakers requested a vote of no confidence against Interior Minister Juan José Santiváñez for what they say is a lack of a plan to fight rising violence. The vote is expected to be discussed in the Congress' plenary later this week.

Flores was shot to death early Sunday when assailants attacked the bus he and bandmates were travelling after a concert in Lima. Cumbia is a Latin music style that people dance to the rhythm of drums, maracas and other instruments.

The attack against the popular singer was not the only violent event over the weekend. On Saturday, an object exploded at a restaurant in the capital, injuring at least 11 people.

Boluarte's government previously decreed a state of emergency in an attempt to stem the violence between September and December. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

Ukraine presses for unconditional ceasefire ahead of Trump-Putin talks

Ukraine has pressed Russia to accept an unconditional ceasefire ahead of a highly anticipated phone call in which United States President Donald Trump is set to discuss the war with Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

Kyiv and its European allies are demanding that Putin agree to an unconditional US-proposed 30-day ceasefire during the call, which is scheduled to take place later on Tuesday, according to the Kremlin.

"We expect the Russian side to unconditionally agree to this proposal," said Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha ahead of the meeting. "It is time for Russia to show whether it really wants peace."

Trump said on Monday that Washington and Moscow had already discussed "dividing up certain assets" – including territory and power plants – between Ukraine and Russia as part of the ceasefire deal.

In the run-up to talks, the Semafor news website published a report that cited two sources saying the Trump administration was considering recognising Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, as Russian territory.

The Kremlin has repeatedly said that Crimea, where Russia's Black Sea Fleet is based and where the pre-annexation population was mostly Russian speakers, is already formally part

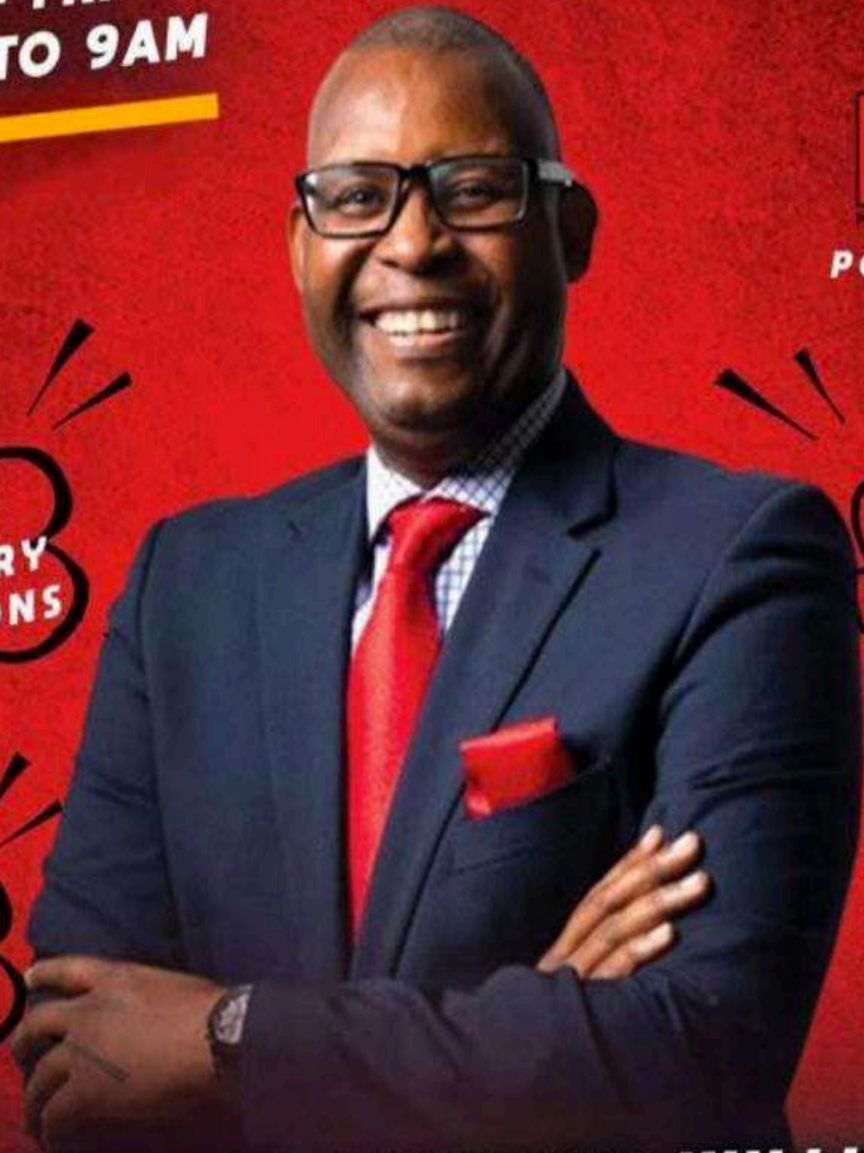
of Russia.

Kyiv has said it wants the Black Sea peninsula – internationally recognised as Ukrainian territory by most countries – back.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that Putin does not want peace, accusing him of continuing "to drag out this war" in a bid to better the country's military position ahead of any halt in fighting.

Putin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday that Trump and Putin will discuss the war in Ukraine but added that there are also a "large number of questions" regarding the normalisation of US-Russia relations. *(Al Jazeera English)*

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Wins for Spanish Heat and Flyers 2 in ABBA's Division 2 league



Spanish Heat 2 and EZ Fit Flyers 2 recorded wins in the Second Division of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Monday evening.

Spanish Heat notched up their sixth win in eight games by snatching a narrow 80-76 victory against the Old Road Daggers in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Wester Baptiste produced 23 points

and six assists; Maicol Reyes had 16 points, 17 rebounds, and six blocks; Erwin Rodriguez sank 16 points and claimed eight rebounds; Jesus Emmanuel converted 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Charlie Daniel scored 10 points and snatched 15 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.

Kedar Clarke produced 26 points, 12 rebounds, and five assists; Kelvin Simon had 11 points, 15 rebounds, and eight steals; Jesus Lopez sank 11 points and claimed six rebounds; and Braulio Estrada scored 11 points for the Old Road Daggers, who suffered their third loss in nine games.

The result allows Spanish Heat 2 to leapfrog the Old Road Daggers from third to second place in the standings as both teams continue to trail leaders Cutie's Ovals Ojays, who are perched at the top of the Second Division with eight wins in as many games.

EZ Fit Flyers 2 claimed their fifth win in nine encounters by soaring to

an emphatic 79-45 drubbing of Da Project in the opening game on Monday.

Amare Browne scored 17 points and claimed six rebounds; Tyrese White produced 15 points and five steals; Harry Rashaun converted 11 points and grabbed 14 rebounds; David Mensah sank 11 points; and Delroy Foster had eight points and 15 rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers.

Aiden Lewis sank 10 points and snatched eight rebounds, and Elijah Charles also scored 10 points for Da Project 2, who suffered their ninth loss in as many games.

Basketball action will continue with a Division 2 double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening (today).

Square One Construction United will take on Spanish Heat 2 at 6:45 pm, and Cuties Ovals Ojays will clash with EZ Fit Flyers 2 at 8:30 pm.

More success for State College in Senior Boys Division

The Antigua State College maintained their unbeaten run in the Senior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Ministry of Sports Inter-School Basketball League on Monday.

The Antigua State College notched up their fifth win in the Senior Boys Division, prevailing 56-45 against Sir McChesney George Secondary School at the JSC Sports Complex.

Aiden Christian converted 16 points for Antigua State College, while Eli Harris also scored 16 points for Sir McChesney George Sec-



The Antigua State College Senior Boys Division team.

ondary School.

St. Joseph's Academy and Antigua Grammar School

recorded wins in their latest outings in the Junior Boys Division.

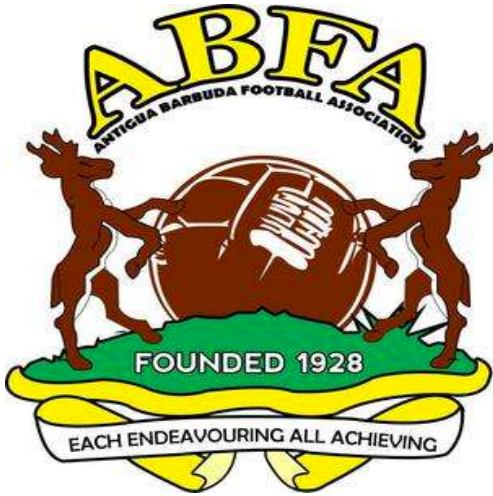
St. Joseph's Academy romped to a commanding 51-26 victory against Island Academy.

Nathan Matthew sank 13 points for St. Joseph's Academy, while Alexander Fuller scored 15 points for Island Academy.

Antigua Grammar School pulled off a convincing 62-39 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School.

Raheem Sawyer scored 12 points for Antigua Grammar School, while Yohan Nicholas shot a game-high 20 points for St. Mary's Secondary School.

Rangers crush Liberta at the start of First Division's second stage



Unbeaten leaders Ottos Rangers commenced the second round group phase of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division League in commanding fashion on Monday.

Josue "Naymar" Arias and Junior Benjamin both struck hat tricks to propel the Ottos Rangers to an emphatic 10-0 drubbing of the bottom team Liberta Blackhawks at the ABFA Technical Center.

Arias scored in the 40th, 45th, and 60th minutes, while Benjamin scored in the 56th, 58th, and 77th minutes. Jevaghn Adams scored twice with conversions in the 62nd and 66th minutes.

Damien Jeremiah of Liberta scored an own goal, and Howayne James converted the other goal for Rangers in the 47th minute.

The result allows the Ottos Rangers

to remain at the top of the 14-team standings with 34 points after recording their 10th win in 14 matches.

The Liberta Blackhawks will remain firmly rooted in the cellar with three points after crashing to their 13th defeat in 14 matches.

Empire consolidated their position in fourth place on goal difference after securing a 1-1 draw with Urlings in their opening second-round match at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Devlyn Williams put Urlings ahead with a 15th-minute conversion, and Carlos Solomon scored in the 26th minute to snatch the equalizer for Empire.

The result allows Empire to remain in first place on goal difference by advancing to 27 points after salvaging their third draw in 14 matches. Urlings will remain third from the bottom of the standings with nine points after securing their third draw in 14 matches.

Swetes remain in fifth place on goal difference after notching up their eighth win in 14 matches with a 3-1 victory against Tryum FC in their opening second-round encounter at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Kimoi Alexander scored twice with conversions in the 49th and the second minute of added time, while Juwan Roberts converted the other goal for Swetes with a strike in the 76th min-

ute.

Javon Watson scored a consolation goal for Tryum FC with a conversion in the 74th minute.

The result allows Swetes FC to advance to 27 points, the same as Empire, from 14 matches. Tryum FC will remain in 10th place on goal difference with 14 points after crashing to their eighth defeat in 14 matches.

Meanwhile, the Cedar Grove Blue Jays and Golden Grove FC have gained automatic promotion to compete in the First Division next season after finishing as the top two teams at the end of this season's Second Division.

Cedar Grove Blue Jays won the ABFA's Second Division with a total of 40 points from their quota of 16 matches, while Golden Grove FC clinched the runner-up spot with 39 points.

National Parks English Harbour claimed third place with 38 points, while Sea View Farm secured fourth place with 37 points. English Harbour and Sea View Farm will get another chance for promotion to the First Division next season.

By virtue of finishing third and fourth in the Second Division, both teams will contest a round-robin play-offs with the 10th-place finishers in this season's First Division. The winner of the playoffs will compete in the First Division next season.



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Sports News



MINISTRY OF SPORTS

Schools Netball Competition

Success for Clare Hall in schools' netball championship

Clare Hall Secondary won twice in the Ministry of Sports, Cool & Smooth Schools' Netball Competition on Monday.

Clare Hall Secondary romped to a 21-8 victory over Pares Secondary in the Under-16 Secondary Division at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Clare Hall Secondary then pulled off a 12-5 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy also suffered a 3-22 loss to the Ottos Comprehensive School.

The first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1) prevailed 13-9 against Jennings Secondary in another encounter in the Under-16 Secondary Division.

In the Under-13 Development Division, Buckley's Primary prevailed 5-0 against Five Islands Primary and defeated Greenbay Primary 5-1.

Greenbay Primary recorded a 5-0 victory against C.T. Samuel Primary and trounced Five Islands Primary 12-0.

C.T. Samuel Prima-

ry snatched a 2-0 victory against T.N. Kirnon Primary, and Greenbay Primary beat Mary E. Pigott Primary 4-2.

In the Under-13 Primary Division, Nellie N. Gore beat Sunnysdale Primary 5-0, and Potters Primary pulled off a 3-1 victory against Jennings Primary.

Potters Primary overcame Sunnysdale Primary 5-0, Villa Primary beat Potters Primary 4-1, and J.T. Ambrose Primary also claimed a 3-0 win over Jennings Primary.

Meanwhile, the first and second teams of the Antigua

Girls High School lost in the semi-finals of the Female Division in the Ministry of Sports JOMA Caribbean Inter-School Volleyball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday.

The Antigua Girls High School first team (AGHS-1) suffered a 23-25, 21-25 loss to defending female division champions Island Academy.

The Antigua Girls High School second team (AGHS-2) lost 22-25, 22-25 against Christ the King High School in the other semi-final encounter.

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West Indies Breakout League protected players confirmed

The six franchise teams competing in the highly anticipated West Indies Breakout League have officially confirmed their seven protected players ahead of the upcoming player draft.

As per tournament regulations, each team is allowed to protect seven cricketers, with a maximum of three players aged between 27 and 29. The remaining seven players per squad will be selected during the draft, and they must all be 26 years old or younger.

Recognizing their importance to the T20 game, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has also mandated that one of the protected seven players must be a leg spinner.

To maintain the league's focus on emerging talent, all players must also have limited professional experience, defined as having played fewer than 40 List A T20 matches and fewer than 10 International T20s.

The 2025 West Indies Breakout League takes place from April 25 to May 10, featuring 17 matches, all hosted at the prestigious Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

The protected players for



Leeward Islands batsman Keacy Carty

each franchise are as follows:

Trinidad & Tobago Legions: Kamil Pooran, Amir Jango, Jyd Goolie, Crystian Thurton, Navin Bidassie, Mikkel Govia, and Joshua James.

Leeward Islands Thunder: Jeremiah Louis, Keacy Carty, Kofi James, Karima Gore, Mikyle Louis, Jewel Andrew, and Micah McKenzie.

Windward Islands Infernos: Darel Cyrus, Shadrack Descarte, Shamar Springer, Alick Athanaze, Dillon Douglas, Teddy Bishop, and Ackeem Auguste.

Guyana Rainforest Rangers: Nial Smith, Kemol Savory, Ronaldo Alimohamed, Kevin Sinclair, Ashmead Nedd, Kevlon Anderson, and Riyad Latif.

Barbados Pelicans: Leniko Boucher, Kadeem Alleyne, Joshua Bishop, Nyeem Young, Shaqkere Parris, Kevin Wickham, and Zishan Motara.

Jamaica Titans: Deethmar Anderson, Leroy Lugg, Ramaal Lewis, Jeavor Royal, Kirk McKenzie, Jordan Johnson, and Tamarie Redwood.

Another win for Jennings in schools' cricket competition

Defending champions Jennings Secondary secured their third win in the Ministry of Sports Schools' Cricket Under-19 30-Over Championship on Monday.

After launching their campaign with an 88-run drubbing of Ottos Comprehensive School and a crushing 162-run victory against Clare Hall Secondary School, Jennings made it three wins in as many games with a 10-wicket win against Pares Secondary at the Factory Grounds.

Pares Secondary was restricted to 105 for six off 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Tahari Tonge hit 29, and Tazio Watson struck 23. J'Quan Athanaze bagged three for 11.

Athanaze then smashed an unbeaten half-century to propel Jennings Secondary to victory at 106 without losing any wickets in just 7.5 overs. Athanaze hammered 54 not out, and Tanez Francis hit 45 not out.

Clare Hall Secondary snatched a three-wicket win against Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Clare Hall playing field.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy made 143 for three off 21 overs. Opener Brian Balgobin cracked 54 not out off 64 balls; there were 51 extras, including 35 wides; opener Cheldon Charles got 18; and captain Shaun Balgobin scored 14. Ian Jerimiah captured two for 13.

In reply, Clare Hall Secondary claimed victory by scoring 144 for seven with seven balls to spare. There was a contribution of



J'Quan Athanaze

50 extras, including 25 wides and 19 byes; captain Jayden Charles struck 38 off 30 balls, and Andre Clarke hit 25 not out.

Brian Balgobin picked up two for 18, and Rohan John captured two for 21.

A player on either side hits centuries as Antigua Grammar School pulled off a 50-run victory against Ottos Comprehensive School at the Rising Sun playing field.

Opener Anthony Pierre hit an unbeaten century to lead Antigua Grammar School to 201 for one off 15 overs. Pierre struck 108 not out off 57 balls, including four sixes and 15 fours.

Fellow opener Hosea Roberts cracked 65 off 32 balls, including eight fours and three sixes, and there was a contribution of 27 extras, including 14 byes.

Xaveek Toppin also struck a century, but Ottos Comprehensive fell short of the victory target as they were restricted to 151 for seven off their 15 overs.

Toppin hammered 106 off 43 balls, including nine fours and



Tanez Francis

nine sixes, and opener Kerry Mentor scored 20. Dante Odlum claimed three for 38, and Joshua Roberts captured two for 18.

Ottos Comprehensive School claimed a nine-wicket win against Sir Novelle Richards Academy in their second-round match at Rising Sun.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy made 97 for seven off 15 overs, and Ottos Comprehensive achieved victory by scoring 98 for one.

The School Cricket Under-15 Division will continue on Wednesday (today) with four matches in the 30-Over Competition.

All Saints Secondary will host Pares Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints, and Clare Hall Secondary will take on Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Clare Hall playing field.

Ottos Comprehensive School will face Jennings Secondary at Rising Sun, and Princess Margaret School will clash with Antigua Grammar School at the Factory Grounds.

Sports

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2025

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Antigua Barbuda CIU back onboard for ASW 2025



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez at a Saling Week event (2024)



CIU and Antigua Sailing Week partner for another year of sailing

Antigua Sailing Week is excited to announce the return of The Citizenship by Investment Unit of Antigua and Barbuda (CIU) as a key sustainability sponsor of the 2025 event.

Antigua Sailing Week stands on a solid record achieving and maintaining its status as a Clean Regatta for many years in conjunction with Sailors for the Sea. One of the key requirements is the designation of a cadre of dedicated individuals as a Green Team to implement a range of initiatives, including waste reduction efforts and recycling management.

Additional responsibilities of a Green Team include

coordinating community engagement activities, such as beach clean-ups, to educate both locals and visitors about the importance of protecting Antigua's coastlines, pristine waters, and marine life.

"The Citizenship by Investment Unit is honored to continue to partner with Antigua Sailing Week in their mission to maintain their status as a Clean Green Regatta," said Sherelyn Hughes Thomas of CIU. "As a key driver of investment in Antigua and Barbuda, we recognize our responsibility to support initiatives that protect and preserve our natural environment while also fostering economic.

"Our vision has always been to maintain Antigua Sailing Week as a model that promotes the importance of recycling and encourages people to waste less, reuse materials, and work towards a more sustainable future. With the CIU's generous support, we can continue making strides toward reducing our environmental impact while inspiring the surrounding businesses and community to adopt more sustainable practices," said Rana-Jamila Lewis, Regatta Logistics & Marketing Manager.

She added, "This year, the CIU Green Team, delivered by local non-profit GoodHumans 268 will lead by example, championing

sustainable practices and raising awareness about marine conservation and eco-friendly sailing initiatives. And, through this relationship, the CIU will showcase its dedication to environmental stewardship while reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's position as a leading investment and tourism destination."

During the week-long regatta which takes place April 26 – May 2nd, key representatives from the CIU team will be available for one-on-one information sessions for anyone who would like to learn more about investment opportunities here in Antigua & Barbuda.