

# Government hires US law firm to fight its case in the Alfa Nero matter

*Story on Page 2*



Members of the new Social Security board

*Story on Page 6*



# Local News

## Government hires US law firm to fight its case in the Alfa Nero matter

The government has hired an American law firm to fight on its behalf in the lawsuit that has been filed in US Courts on matters related to the sale of the Alfa Nero.

Cabinet sources say this comes in recognition of the fact that a barrage of misinformation and disinformation regarding the Alfa Nero continues to be spread around to the detriment of Antigua and Barbuda's image.

"Following the service of a subpoena issued by a US Federal Court. The Cabinet selected a US law firm to plead before the US Courts on behalf of all the defendants in this frivolous and fictitious lawsuit that was initiated by Yullia Gureyev. The plaintiff claimed ownership of the vessel two years after it sat in Antigua Harbour, sanctioned by the United States Government," the sources stated.

The Antigua and Barbuda Government is asserting that the US Federal Court has no jurisdiction in this matter; therefore, a single lawyer is defending all those named in the lawsuit. It is the obligation of the Government to meet the expenses of the lawsuit since it acted in the best interest of the Government and People in the disposition of the Alfa Nero.



**HARRIS**

**UP TO 50% OFF**

**MARCH MANIA**

**WAREHOUSE SALE!**

**2 DAYS ONLY**  
**March 27th & 28th**  
**Deals at a Steal!**

Plus, receive a **FREE Harris Recyclable Bag** with each purchase over \$100 while stocks last

**SAVE UP TO 50%**  
 OFF select Accessories some as low as \$5

**SAVE UP TO 45%**  
 OFF select Perma whites & colours:  
 Flat \$55/1 gal  
 Satin \$65/1 gal & \$265/5 gal

**SAVE UP TO 40%**  
 OFF select Excel colours:  
 Flat \$45/1 gal & \$190/5 gal  
 Gloss \$65/1 gal & \$295/5 gal  
 OFF select decorative paints:  
 \$25/quart

**Harris Paints Warehouse,**  
**Powell's Main Road 9am - 4pm daily**  
**Cash Sales & Cheques only Everything Priced to Go!**

  @championsofcolour | championsofcolour.com

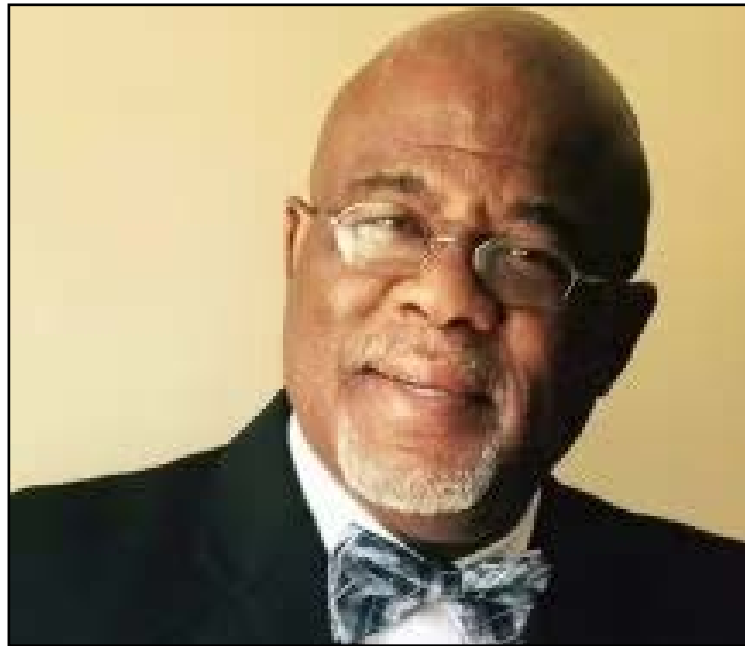
## Cabinet to deploy AI to help with crime-fighting

Cabinet wants to pursue a policy where it will make the resources available to enable the police to utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool to fight crime.

To this end, the Cabinet on Wednesday invited Principal of the UWI Five Island Campus, Professor Curtis Charles to address the issue of the second annual conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Since the OAS General Assembly will take place in late June 2025, the annual conference on AI will precede the OAS General Assembly by two days. UWI Five Islands Campus has shown an abiding interest of teaching AI to new students and the OAS members have indicated their interest in adopting AI for a host of solutions.

“It was suggested that UWI expertise in AI could be effectively deployed in professionalizing the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and to serve Criminal Justice. The government will provide fifty scholarships to the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda annually for its members to earn Bachelor of Science Degrees in the application of Artificial Intelligence to Criminology,” Cabinet sources revealed.

According to the sources the UWI Professor indicated that UWI is keen to apply AI Solutions to three areas of governance: Crime, Climate Change and Non-Communicable Diseases. UWI will also apply AI solutions to FIN-TECH (banking, sports management and public health).



*Professor Curtis Charles*

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also discussed a plan to bring

all of the country's tertiary level institutions under one central managements structure. It said that an act to establish The University of Antigua and Barbuda- College of Advanced Studies is to be brought to the Parliament when the body next meets on April 8, 2025. It will bring together all the tertiary institutions that now have separate boards and management structures to include Antigua State College, Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology, Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute and the Harrison Center.


**STATE INSURANCE**  
 COMPANY LIMITED  
 Live in a better State of mind

YOU'RE ALWAYS  
 SECURED WITH **STATE.**





ANTIGUA  
 (268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA  
 (268) 727-7422

info@sicfinancial.com

www.sicfinancial.com





# BLM sweeps local government elections

The Barbuda People's Movement's grasp on the control of the levels of power on the island remains firmly intact following Wednesday's Council Elections where its candidates swept all five seats that were contested.

With just over seven hundred of the more than thirteen hundred eligible voters participating in the elections, the BPM candidates won by convincing margins.

The results released overnight by the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission are as follows;

## BPM

*Nico Antonio- 414*

*Melanie Beazer- 426*

*Wayde Burton- 540*

*Jacklyn Frank- 428*

*Nadia George- 451*

## ABLP

*Bernard Christian- 219*

*Bonneitha John- 222*

*Orlando Morris- 252*

*Arthur Nibbs- 221*

*Mackiesha Desuza- 215*

*Jermaine Desouza- 178*

*Hasketh Daniel- 58*

During the campaign, the BPM made the land issue its central campaign theme which has been a winning formula for the party in previous elections.

## Independent Candidates



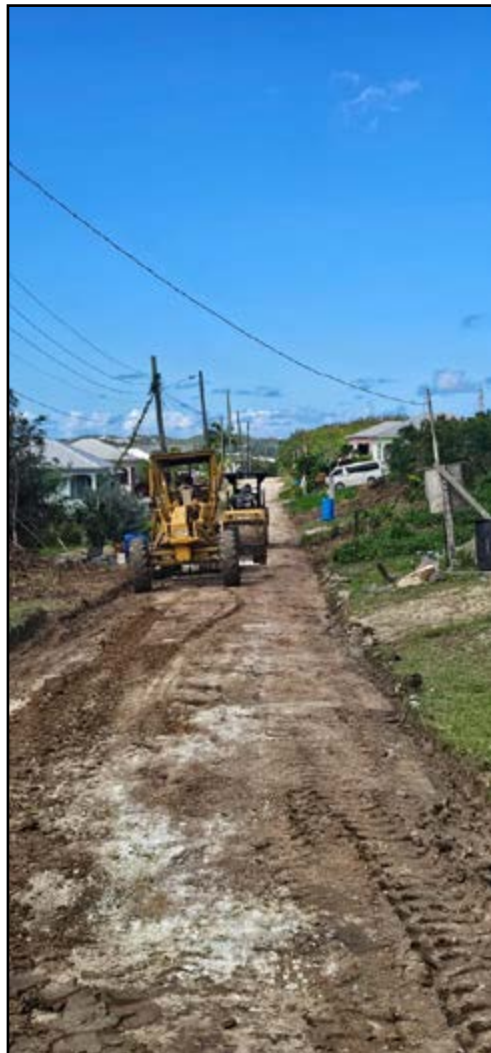


## Infrastructure work underway in All Saints West constituency



The representatives for All saints West, Agriculture Minister, Anthony Smith Jnr. is keeping his constituents apprised of infrastructure work that has commenced in the constituency.

“We’re making strides with roadwork, base preparation, and beautification efforts in Lightfoot and Law Pasture areas and transforming communities that have long awaited these improvements. We’re committed to working on all roads across the constituency, but this won’t happen overnight,” he reported. MP Smith is expressing his appreciation to the people of the constituency for their



patience noting that he is committed to see road improvements come to the constituency.

The minister noted that already he is able to see improvements as efforts continue towards progress and improve infrastructure for everyone.



# New Social Security Board takes office



Members of the new Social Security board

The newly appointed members of the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board (ABSSB) were officially sworn on Wednesday at Government House. Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, administered the oaths of office and secrecy in the presence of the Board's leadership, government representatives, and guests.

In attendance at the ceremony (from left to right in the official photograph) were:

1. **Mr. Martin Cave** – Representative, Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce
2. **Ms. Sherri-Ann Brazier** – Representative, Antigua and Barbuda Employers' Federation
3. **Mr. Alrick Daniel** – Representative, Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union

(ABTLU)

4. **Mr. Kem Tonge** – Chairman, Social Security Board
5. **Sir Rodney Williams** – Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda
6. **Mr. Peter Abraham** – Representative, Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union (ABTLU)
7. **Mr. David Matthias** – Director, Social Security
8. **Ms. Phyllis Davis** – Board Secretary

During brief remarks, Sir Rodney Williams emphasized the importance of the Social Security Board in upholding the nation's social protection framework. He urged the new Board members to act with integrity and a deep sense of public service, ensuring that the work of the Board supports the long-term welfare of Anti-

guan and Barbudan citizens.

Following the ceremony, Board Chairman Kem Tonge expressed gratitude for the confidence placed in the newly appointed members. He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to delivering quality service, enhancing transparency, and strengthening governance practices within the Social Security system.

The Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board is entrusted with overseeing and administering the Social Security system to ensure the financial protection and welfare of workers and pensioners. With broad representation from various stakeholder groups, the Board will continue to focus on the efficient collection of contributions, timely payment of benefits, and the prudent management of funds.




GET READY FOR THE ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN!

**SIX BANDS  
ONE STAGE  
ONE WINNER**



**INVASION**  
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

**The Cooler Fete**

**ADMISSION:**  
\$50 EARLY BIRD  
\$70 REGULAR  
\$100 AT THE GATE

**7PM**

FEATURING  
KAUTION BAND  
NEW GEN BAND  
VENOM X BAND  
VOLTAGE BAND  
XXPLOSIVE BAND  
ESSENCE THE BAND

**MONDAY  
JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
2025**

**ANTIGUA  
RECREATION  
GROUNDS**

**PACK YOUR COOLER  
AND COME**



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



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

# **TALKING POINT**

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



## Antigua and Barbuda inches closer towards establishing a National Bakeries Policy



*Bakers Association temporary board members with Ministry of Trade officials*

Another round of consultation was held on Wednesday by the Ministry of Trade on the development of a National Bakeries Policy and the formation of Bakers' Association.

The event brought together key stakeholders from the baking industry, including bakery representatives from Brownies Bakery, Owens Bakery, Dawn Till Dust, Eats and Treats, and Zaire's Pastry, as well as government officials and experts.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Trade, emphasized the importance of strengthening the baking industry as part of the Ministry's commitment

to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He stated, "Strengthening the baking industry supports SDG 2: Zero Hunger by enhancing food security and ensuring access to nutritious food. It also aligns with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting sustainable practices in the sector."

The consultation was chaired by Nadia James, Trade Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Trade, who emphasized the Ministry's commitment to creating a policy that ensures safe, high-quality products while promoting consumer pro-

tection. "Our goal is to develop a policy that supports the growth of the baking industry while addressing key aspects such as health, sustainability, and economic viability," said James.

Daryl Spencer, Deputy Chief Health Inspector at the Central Board of Health, also expressed his support for the establishment of a Bakers' Association, highlighting its potential to enhance the industry's standards. "The formation of an association will provide a platform for monitoring the industry's growth, ensuring quality control, and improving health and safety practices related to allergens, cross-contamination, and consistency," Spencer

stated.

As the consultation concluded, the bakers took a significant step forward by coming together to form a Temporary Board for the establishment of the Bakers' Association. The group will work to raise awareness among other bakers, draft a constitution, and organize meetings as it transitions into a permanent board.

The Ministry of Trade looks forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholders as the National Bakeries Policy and Bakers' Association take shape, ultimately strengthening the baking industry, enhancing food security, and supporting long-term sustainability.



## Latesha Latoya Azille Pilots Her Way into the Record Books as First Female Antiguan Pilot at Delta Air Lines

In a historic achievement, Latesha Latoya Azille, hailing from the Villa/Pointe community in Antigua, has become the first female Antiguan pilot at a major U.S. airline, joining Delta Air Lines as a First Officer. This milestone not only marks a personal triumph for Azille but also serves as an inspiring testament to perseverance and dedication in the field of aviation.

Azille, affectionately known as Latoya, was officially welcomed into the Delta family during a prestigious wing ceremony held at the Delta Flight Museum in Atlanta on March 19th, 2025. This event, rich in tradition, symbolizes the transition of pilots into their professional roles within the airline. Her induction is particularly significant as it coincides with Delta's centennial celebrations, commemorating 100 years of aviation excellence since its inception on March 2, 1925.

Adding even greater meaning to this achievement is the fact that it comes during Women's History Month—a time dedicated to honouring the contributions of women who have shattered ceilings and redefined possibility. Azille's success is not only a personal and national milestone; it's a powerful statement for Caribbean women and girls everywhere: that no sky is too high, and no dream too bold.

Her aviation career began in 2016 when she joined LIAT as a First Officer. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, which led to widespread industry layoffs, Azille's resilience remained unwavering. In 2022, she advanced her career by piloting MD-80s for World Atlantic Airlines, based in Miami. This experience paved the way for her current role at Delta, where she now serves as a First Officer.

Azille's educational foundation was laid in Antigua, where she attended Foundation Mixed School, Antigua



Girls' High School, and Antigua State College. She earned the prestigious Sir Arthur Lewis Scholarship to attend the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, where she completed a double major Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Management in three years. After graduating, she returned to Antigua and began working at Antigua Commercial Bank as a CSR/Teller. But the dream of flying still burned strong. In March 2012—13 years ago—Latesha left for flight school in Miami to finally pursue her dream. In just six months, she completed her first three licenses and officially launched her aviation journey. She attributes her success to the support of her community and the solid educational grounding she received.

A trailblazer in her own right, Azille is

deeply committed to mentoring young women and Caribbean youth aspiring to careers in aviation, embodying the ethos of lifting others as she climbs.

Her story is also one of personal resilience. Born prematurely at just 26 weeks, Azille's determination was evident from the very beginning—a trait her late mother fondly recognized. Today, she honours her mother's memory by exemplifying that with faith, resilience, and heart, one can rise, soar, and break barriers for those who follow.

As she embarks on this new chapter with Delta Air Lines, Latesha Latoya Azille not only elevates her professional trajectory but also, during a month that honours the fierce legacy of women trailblazers, cements her place among them—amplifying the voice, vision, and valour of Caribbean women in global aviation.



# Local News

## One man pleads guilty to possession of ammunition, girlfriend walks free

Two people appeared in the magistrate's court on Wednesday jointly charged with the possession of ammunition.

Thirty-two-year old Steven Roberts aka Shuk Shuk and twenty-one year old Tashiba John, his live-in girlfriend, both of Jennings, appeared in the magistrate's court, District B, to answer the charge of possessing two rounds of 9 mm ammunitions as well as a modified nail gun without having a licence to do so.

The court heard that the on Tuesday this week, the police executed a search warrant on Roberts to conduct a search of his premises for unlicensed firearms and ammunition. During the search a room that both Roberts and John share, a black pistol holster was in the room that both along with the ammunition as well as the modified nail gun. Roberts admitted to the police that they

were his and that he had found the items.

When questioned by the police, both Roberts and John admitted that they did not pos-

sess a firearm licence.

When they appeared before, Senior Magistrate, Ngaio Emanuel, Roberts pleaded guilty to the charge while the

charges against John, who is pregnant, were withdrawn.

He is to return to court on Monday for sentencing.



**CARNIVAL T-SHIRTS**  
*Itz A ViBe*

Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

**NOW ON SALE AT**  
 MINISTRY OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES – Old Parham Road, upstairs APUA and INET building  
 EXOTIC ANTIGUA – Redcliffe Street

**PRICE: \$120.00 EC / \$45.00 US**

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial Antigua Carnival 268 727 9201



## Creative Industry Ministry, ABTA to launch conch shell blowing, John Bull workshop



and Barbuda Tourism Authority – are jointly organizing training sessions for anyone interested in mastering the traditional art of Conch Shell Blowing and John Bull Whip Mastery.

The sessions will take place at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre at Perry Bay on Saturday.

The Ministry said three expert facilitators will lead this unique opportunity from Guadeloupe, a region renowned for preserving and celebrating these cultural traditions. These skilled presenters have perfected the art of Conch Shell

Blowing and John Bull Whip performance, ensuring an authentic and enriching experience for all participants.

Interested persons for the Conch Shell Blowing are encouraged to bring a Conch Shell as limited ones are available.

This initiative is part of an ongoing cultural exchange program between Antigua and Guadeloupe. A recently concluded cultural exchange established a key Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the revival of these important art forms.

Two government agencies – the Ministry of the Creative Industries and the Antigua

## National Student Council executive visits Government House

The National Student Council Executive, accompanied by four teachers, paid a courtesy call on Sir Rodney Williams on Wednesday. During the visit, the Council members introduced themselves and outlined their plans for the future.

The Governor General congratulated the students and encouraged them not only to perform their duties diligently but also to strive for excellence in their academic work.

Prior to their departure, discussions were held on various aspects of Antigua and Barbuda's history as well as a number of education related topics.





# Together for Our Children: A Call to Action for Community Protection



By E. P Chet Greene

In the heart of our communities are our most valuable asset: our children. They are our future, our joy and sometimes, the most vulnerable among us. As adults, community leaders, legislators and members of state-managed institutions, we must acknowledge the vital responsibility we bear to protect these young lives from harm. Today, I am calling on each one of us to galvanize our communities in support of robust child protection initiatives and to foster an environment where every child can thrive safely.

Child protection is not solely the responsibility of parents or guardians; it is a collective obligation that spans the very fabric of our society. An old African proverb teaches us, not Hillary Clinton, “It takes a whole village to raise a child”. Recent statistics reveal alarming rates of child abuse, neglect and exploitation, highlighting an urgent need for action. We can no longer afford to remain passive observers. It is time to come together to design, implement and enforce comprehensive programs that build awareness and engage communities

in meaningful ways.

To protect our children, we must first educate ourselves and our communities about the risks they face. Awareness campaigns can effectively highlight issues such as child abuse, neglect, bullying and online safety. Community forums, workshops and outreach programs should be organized to disseminate crucial information about the tell-tale signs of abuse and the resources needed and available for families in crisis. We should not wait for tragedy to strike; instead, let us take proactive measures to inform and educate our communities. Be a leader.

Creating a safe environment for our children requires strong community engagement. We must foster networks of care that include parents, educators, law enforcement and local organizations. By establishing support groups and mentorship programs, we can empower families and create safe spaces for our children. Neighborhood watch programs should extend their focus to include child safety initiatives. When community members come together to support one another, we create a united front against the threats facing our children.

While community efforts are crucial, we cannot overlook the key role of legislation in child protection. In the face of recent developments, legislators must prioritize the strengthening and enforcement of laws that safeguard our children. By allocating resources for child protective services, increases resources allocated for protective services. Increases in funding for mental health services and stiffer penalties for those who harm children will send a strong message that our

community will not tolerate any form of abuse.

Moreover, we must advocate for policies that promote positive parenting and family support. Comprehensive training for educators and childcare providers on child protection must be a new standard practice.

State-managed institutions must also play a pivotal role in this initiative. They should serve as leaders in the effort to create comprehensive child protection systems that are accessible, efficient and responsive to the needs of children and families. By collaborating with community organizations, schools and law enforcement, these institutions can ensure that children are not only protected but also supported in their development.

The challenge of child protection is daunting but it is not insurmountable. With a collective commitment from all sectors of our community adults, leaders, legislators and state institutions, we can create a culture of safety and awareness that prioritizes our children’s well-being. As recall the events of this past week, I implore us to stand together, united in purpose, to build a future where every child can grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.

It is time to act. Let us galvanize our community in support of child protection, not just as a duty but as a moral imperative. Our children depend on us and together, we can make a difference. Let this appeal serve as a catalyst for action, a call to each of you to join hands and hearts for our children’s safety and happiness.



WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY 2025

"A Just Transition To Sustainable Lifestyles"

**27**  
**MARCH**  
**2025**

Prices & Consumer Affairs Division  
Presents

# Sustainable Lifestyle Exhibition

- ✓ Car Show
- ✓ Marketplace
- ✓ Powering and Cooling Units
- ✓ FREE Health Screenings
- ✓ Product Information Exchange
- ✓ Consumer Information Desk



## VENUE

- Independence Drive. Green space between Sunshine Hub Car Park and Country Pond.
- 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**MORE INFO@ 462-4347**

**← Change of Venue**



## Demand to the US: Export aid and development rather threats and sanctions



**By Sergio Martínez. Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Antigua and Barbuda**

On March 21, the influential newspaper linked to the US Congress, “The Hill”, published an article referring to a report of more than 400 pages that the US State Department delivered to the US legislature, which contained the list of countless financial cuts carried out by the Trump Administration to vital health care programs that will have a devastating impact in lifesaving services — such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria prevention, along with maternal and baby health.

Ironically, that same day, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the so-called White House special envoy for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mauricio Claver Carone, and congressmen of Cuban origin from Florida, appeared in the main press outlets

in Miami assuring them that there was no need to worry about the cuts announced by the White House to USAID funds and other so-called foreign assistance programs.

This is because the millions of dollars allocated every year to try to subvert and defeat the Cuban Revolution were guaranteed, that is, the money that goes into the pockets of far-right groups, that for years have turned the genocidal policy of maximum pressure and hostility against the Cuban people into one of the most lucrative businesses in the United States, at the expense of American taxpayers.

The impudence and total disregard for human life know no bounds in the current US Administration, and especially among officials who execute its foreign policy, such as the Secretary of State and the White House Special Envoy for Latin America and the Caribbean. They launch threats of all kinds of sanctions against governments that have sovereignly maintained collaboration agreements with Cuba for more than 20 years to provide vital medical services to the people of their respective countries.

In their obsessive attempt to isolate and cause cracks in Cuba’s historic relations of brotherhood and solidarity with countries of the so-called “global south,” and especially with

the Caribbean, these governments are placed in the cruel dilemma of accepting Washington’s designs at the expense of affecting their people’s sacred right to health, or otherwise, facing the consequences of draconian punitive measures. Marco Rubio does not care that his measures could deprive millions of human beings around the world of basic health services currently provided by Cuban collaborators.

The Secretary of State should take advantage of his announced visit to the Caribbean to learn a little more about the history of struggle and rebellion of these countries to achieve their full independence and sovereignty against the colonial yoke, and to listen to the voices of their peoples who today rise up in defense of their sovereign right to continue and deepen the friendship and brotherhood ties with the noble Cuban people, and the support that Cuba provides through its medical brigades to the laudable efforts of their governments to develop a quality healthcare system accessible to the entire population.

In contrast with the policy of exporting threats, bombs, and sanctions promoted by Marco Rubio and the US government, Cuba will continue to export doctors and healthcare professionals to save human lives, not to destroy them.



**Open Daily -**  
**7:00am - 11:30pm**



-  Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
-  Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
-  Breakfast served from 7:30am
-  Games Night - COMING SOON!







# PUBLIC RALLY

*Thank you St. George!*



**27<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH**  
Time: 7PM

*Hear from our  
comrade leader  
and chairman  
of the party*

**Venue: New Winthorpes  
Primary School**

**COME MEET YOUR NEW CANDIDATE  
FOR ST. GEORGES AND TEAM LABOUR.**



@michaelfreelandconnects



# Regional News

## Member of Kenya-led MSS mission missing following gun battle with Haitian gangs

A member of the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission has been reported missing following a battle with criminal gangs in Carrefour-la-Ville, a locality in Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite in Haiti on Tuesday, the authorities have confirmed.

The spokesperson for the MSS, Jack Ombaka, said in a statement that three armoured vehicles were also destroyed in the battle with members of the “Gran Grif” gang.

Ombaka said that on Tuesday afternoon, a Haitian National Police (HNP) armoured vehicle on patrol along the Carrefour Paye-Savien Main Supply Route in the Pont-Sonde area, Artibonite Department, got stuck in a ditch, believed to have been “deliberately dug” by gangs.

He said in response, two MSS Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles from Pont-Sonde were dispatched to assist in the recovery.

“Unfortunately, during the recovery operation, one of the MRAPs also got stuck, while the other developed a mechanical issue. As the rescue teams attempted to resolve the situation, the suspected gang members lying in wait launched an attack.

“As a result of the incident, one MSS Kenyan contingent officer remains unaccounted for,” Ombaka added.

Last month, Ombaka described as a “hero” the first casualty of the MSS, who died from injuries sustained during an anti-gang operation.

In a statement then, the MSS said



that the anti-gang operation had taken place north of the capital, Port-au-Prince, in the lower Artibonite region in Segur-Savien in the town of Pont Sonde.

“The officer was immediately airlifted to Aspen Level 2 Hospital but, unfortunately, succumbed to the injuries,” the statement said.

The United Nations (UN) Security Council in 2023 passed a resolution for the Kenya-led MSS Mission, aimed at combating gang violence and restoring stability in the country.

Haiti is facing a crisis following the assassination in July 2021 of the then president Jovenel Moise. Criminal gangs are seeking to take complete control of the capital Port-au-Prince, and have launched several attacks, killing women and children among others.

The crisis in Haiti will be discussed

on Wednesday when United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio travels to Jamaica for talks with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders including Haiti.

The US Special Envoy for Latin America, Mauricio Claver-Carone, speaking ahead of Rubio’s arrival in Kingston, said that the situation in Haiti is also presenting a “challenge” and “obviously, we all know and we share the deep commitment to tackling this challenge in Haiti.

“The Secretary is obviously very familiar with the challenges posed there. It’s an intricate part of the community that the Secretary comes from, and obviously something we’ve been dealing with for a long time; and look to work with our Caribbean neighbours in handling that particular challenge in this regards,” he added. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



# Regional News

PAGE 17

## Former ICC President Dr Chile Eboe-Osuji named new CCJ judge



Nigerian-Canadian judge Dr Chile Eboe-Osuji has been selected by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) to be a judge on the benches of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

Eboe-Osuji will assume his duties next month following Justice Andrew Burgess retirement on April 11, 2025.

The CCJ said Eboe-Osuji is an international jurist who served as a Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Hague, from March 2012 to March 2018.

He then served as the President of the ICC from March 2018 to March 2021.

Prior to joining the ICC, Eboe-Osuji was the Le-

gal Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

He served as principal appeals counsel for the Prosecution in the Charles Taylor Case at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Eboe-Osuji also taught international criminal law as an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa, Canada.

He has practiced law since 1986.

Chairman of the RJLSC and President of the CCJ, Justice Adrian Saunders, took the opportunity to commend the independent and meritocratic process used to recruit Judges of the Court, stating: "The RJLSC prides itself on a recruitment process

that is both meritocratic and fiercely independent. Each appointment reflects our unwavering commitment to selecting individuals of the highest calibre based solely on their expertise, integrity, and dedication to justice. During the recruitment process, we received 26 applications from The United States of America, Canada, Nigeria, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Saint Lucia, Fiji, Cam-

eroon, Kenya, Pakistan, Australia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Of the applications received, five candidates, three males and two females, were shortlisted for further consideration and subsequently interviewed. This process ensures that our Court continues to be a beacon of fairness and excellence, characterised by the utmost professionalism and impartiality." (*Loop Caribbean*)





# Regional News



## UWI student goes to court to overturn guild election results

University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona student Shaquille Ramsay has filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court to overturn the results of the recent guild elections, claiming that he was unfairly prevented from running for president.

Ramsay is accusing Mark Nelson, returning officer for the UWI, Mona Guild of Students, and Perry Cummings Jr, outgoing president, who are named as first and second defendants, respectively, of breaching his constitutional rights.

Ramsay claimed that his rights, as well as those of the students who nominated him, were violated by the defendants and the guild's actions prevented him from standing as a candidate for president. He argued that the alleged actions breached his right to protection against irrationality, unreasonableness, fundamental unfairness, and the arbitrary exercise of power.

Ramsay filed a lawsuit on Monday seeking, among other things, a declaration that the results from last week's elections are "null and void". He also filed an injunction to block the certification of the results.

The Guild of Students is the official student representation body at The UWI. Elections were held on March 20-21.

Cummings confirmed yesterday that the guild has received Ramsay's lawsuit. He declined to respond to the claims, saying the guild is "allowing things to take its course, and awaiting guidance from our legal campus officer".

In his filings, Ramsay said he was

encouraged by "many students" to run for guild president. He said he decided to run because he is not disqualified from holding office and that the Guild Council had not taken any disciplinary action against him.

However, a May 2023 letter from the Guild Council, that Ramsay has disclosed to the court, noted that he was barred from holding student leadership positions for the remainder of his tenure at The UWI. That was based on an investigation surrounding his handling of certain affairs while serving as chairman of Chancellor Hall, an all-male student residence.

In a March 6, 2025 email, that Ramsay also disclosed, Dr Peter Glegg, legal officer, UWI Mona, pointed Ramsay's lawyer to the Guild Council's 2023 decisions. Glegg also expressed concerns that there could be an attempt to appeal the decisions two years later.

Ramsay did not address the specific allegations in his affidavit.

He claimed that Nelson made it difficult for him to be nominated for guild president.

He said he sought clarification and ultimately received the documentation on the last day for nomination, after threatening court action.

The February 21-dated nomination form was signed by Deveisha Lynch, Theresa Wilson, and Sidonie Blake, who are also named as claimants in the lawsuit. Ramsay said the guild office confirmed receipt of his nomination on the same day.

However, days before the nomina-

tion list was to be published, he said he "heard rumours" that Nelson and "persons ostensibly under his control" would be taking steps to prevent him from standing for election.

Ramsay said he asked his attorney, John Clarke, to write to Nelson to enquire about this "unlawful action", but Nelson did not respond.

He said his name was not on the nomination list published on March 7 and he made numerous queries but received no explanation.

"Despite my best efforts, the 1st defendant (Nelson) remains recalcitrant and refuses to give due regard to my constitutional right to a fair hearing before adverse decisions are taken against me or to formally inform me of the reason(s) why any special qualification debars me from standing in the election," he said.

Ramsay further claimed that the students who nominated him, and "the majority of UWI students were deprived of their constitutional right to vote at a guild election, which included all duly nominated persons for the office of guild president, including me".

He also claimed a further breach of right to peaceful assembly and association, alleging that he was not allowed use of the Guild of Students' premises.

Five students were nominated for the guild presidency which has been won by Roshaun Wynter, law student and the sitting chairman of Chancellor Hall.

The date for a hearing has not been set. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## Authorities intercept cannabis shipment at St George's port

The Drug Squad and Grenada Customs & Excise Division in Grenada successfully intercepted a substantial shipment of cannabis at the St George's Port on March 21.

Investigators discovered 26 packages of cannabis concealed within a barrel

during a thorough search of the port located on Port Highway, Tanteen. The seized contraband weighed approximately 6.83 pounds, with an estimated street value of EC\$61,470.

James Clarkson, a 56-year-old auto body repairman from Café St George, was

arrested and charged with trafficking a controlled substance.

Following his appearance at St George's Magistrate's Court on Monday, Clarkson was granted bail of EC\$50,000 with strict conditions.

The court-imposed restric-

tions require Clarkson to surrender all travel documents, seek court permission for travel outside Grenada, and report to South St George Police Station every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. (*Loop Caribbean*)



## DAILY PROGRAMMING




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

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

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

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

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

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



## Netanyahu accuses Israel's opposition of fuelling 'anarchy'



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused the opposition of fuelling “anarchy” in Israel, after mass anti-government protests in recent days, while the opposition leader Yair Lapid has called for a “revolt” if the government refuses to accept verdicts issued by the country’s Supreme Court.

Addressing the opposition during a speech in parliament on Wednesday, Netanyahu said, “You recycle the same worn-out and ridiculous slogans about ‘the end of democracy’. Well, once and for all: Democracy is not in danger, it is the power of the bureaucrats that is in danger.”

“Perhaps you could stop putting spanners in the works of the government in the middle of a war? Perhaps you could stop fuelling the sedition, hatred and anarchy in the streets?” he added.

Thousands of Israelis have taken part in several days of antigovernment protests, accusing Netanyahu of undermining democracy by removing Ronen Bar, the head of the Shin Bet internal security agency and resuming strikes in Gaza without any regard for captives held in the besieged enclave.

Netanyahu is locked in a battle with the Shin Bet chief, who is running a bribery investigation into the prime minister’s office, citing a lack of “trust”. The two men have been at loggerheads, fuelled by bitter recriminations over the failure to prevent the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attacks on southern Israel.

The demonstrations, which erupted last week, have been organised by a broad coalition of anti-Netanyahu groups who say the Israeli leader is trying to stay in power at any cost.

The Supreme Court froze Bar’s dismissal after several appeals were filed, including by opposition leader Yair Lapid’s centre-right Yesh Atid party.

The opposition’s appeal highlighted what critics see as the two main reasons Netanyahu moved against Bar.

The first was his criticism of the government over the security failure that allowed Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, the deadliest day in the country’s history.

The second was what the opposition appeal said was a Shin Bet investigation into Netanyahu’s close associates on suspicion of receiving money linked to Qatar.

Netanyahu’s office has dismissed the accusations as “fake news”. (*Al Jazeera English*)



## Over 8 million under red flag warnings as wildfires still rage in the Carolinas

More than 8 million people are under red flag warnings on Wednesday, as firefighters continue to fight wildfires in the Carolinas.

In addition to the Carolinas, wildfire risk is spread

chians, where westerly down sloping winds will dry out the landscape even more.

Another factor increasing the fire threat are downed trees and dry vegetation left behind by damage

Service. The fires are in Polk, Caldwell and Swain counties, according to the map.

Earlier this week, North Carolina officials issued a statewide burn ban.

“Just because we saw rain

to help the state respond to the blazes.

“Fire risk still remains high across NC — residents please continue to pay attention to emergency alerts and evacuation orders,” Stein wrote on X on Tuesday.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency over the weekend and also issued a statewide burn ban as firefighters battle the Table Rock Fire in Pickens County.

“Anyone who violates this ban can and will go to jail,” McMaster said in a statement.

Other parts of the nation are expected to endure severe weather this week. In portions of southern and southeast Texas, there is a moderate flood risk on Wednesday and Thursday. By Friday, the flood risk will shift north and east to include Houston to Baton Rouge.

On Sunday, hail, high winds and tornadoes are expected from central Ohio down to eastern Texas. And on Monday, 45 million people are at risk of damaging winds from the Gulf Coast to the Mid-Atlantic. (*NBC News*)



throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and northern Georgia. The major cities that are currently under threat include: Atlanta; Asheville, North Carolina; Charlottesville, Virginia; and Hagerstown, Maryland.

The critical fire conditions are a result of warm temperatures combined with strong winds in excess of 15 mph and relative humidity of 25 to 30%.

The highest fire threat on Wednesday will be on the east side of the Appala-

from Hurricane Helene last year. The hurricane swept through Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and western parts of North Carolina, killing almost 250 people.

The hurricane particularly did damage in a mountainous North Carolina county where monstrous floodwaters engulfed homes.

As of Wednesday morning, there were at least five active wildfires in the state, according to an interactive map by the North Carolina Forest

in parts of the state yesterday does not mean we are out of the woods yet,” the North Carolina Department of Public Safety statement on X on Tuesday. “High fire danger conditions will persist this week with low relative humidity and gusty winds drying out fuels and creating conditions for rapid fire growth and spread.”

North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein said over the weekend that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a grant

## Academic groups sue Trump administration for arresting students and faculty linked to pro-Palestinian protests

Academic groups of professors and scholars have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, claiming the arrests of noncitizen students and faculty who participate in pro-Palestinian protests are unconstitutional.

The American Association of University Professors — which has chapters at colleges across the country — and the Middle East Studies Association filed a lawsuit on Tuesday, alleging Trump's new immigration enforcement policies violate the First Amendment, which enshrines free speech and assembly, and the Fifth Amendment, which ensures due process.

The suit was filed against Donald Trump, the Department of State, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Kristi Noem, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting director Todd Lyons, and the government in the District of Massachusetts.

In January, Donald Trump signed executive orders that ensure noncitizens in the U.S. do not bear hostility towards the country, do not advocate for foreign terrorists, and combat antisemitism.

The complaint, however, says that the orders have stretched its purview into an “ideological deportation policy.”

The Trump administration has incorrectly labeled any speech supporting Palestinian human rights and critical of Israel's military actions as “pro-Hamas,” the complaint says.

The policies have seen immigration authorities arrest and detain several university-affiliated individuals, including Mahmoud Khalil and at least four others — including one who fled to Canada in fear of arrest, the complaint says.

Further, the Trump administration allegedly supplied universities with the



names of other students “they intend to target under the policy” and they “launched new social media surveillance programs aimed at identifying still others.”

The policies have “created a climate of repression and fear on university campuses,” the filing says.

“The agencies policy, in other words, is accomplishing its purpose: it is terrorizing students and faculty for their exercise of First Amendment rights in the past, intimidating them from exercising those rights now, and silencing political viewpoints that the government disfavors,” the complaint says.

The complaint listed several examples of detained students and professors, including the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil, a 30-year-old legal permanent resident and Columbia University student who was apprehended on March 8 at his New York City campus apartment.

He has not been charged with any crime, but the administration has alleged Khalil was involved in activities aligned with Hamas, which his attor-

neys deny. He is being detained in an ICE facility in Louisiana.

Another case was that of Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian national who is a doctoral student at Columbia and an adjunct assistant professor at New York University.

The State Department revoked Srinivasan's student visa on March 5 and immigration authorities showed up at her home two days later, but she did not open the door, the complaint says. They returned the following night, but she had fled to Canada.

The Department of Homeland Security described Srinivasan as a terrorist sympathizer and as involved in activities supporting Hamas without evidence. Srinivasan has disputed those allegations, the complaint says, noting that she was involved in protesting human rights violations in Gaza.

The suit also listed the cases of Yunseo Chung — a 21-year-old legal permanent resident and Columbia University student who was involved in pro-Pal-

**con't on pg 23**



*con't from pg 22*

estinian protests and on March 10 was advised her legal permanent resident status was revoked — and Badar Khan Suri — an Indian national and post-doctoral fellow at Georgetown University who was arrested by ICE on March 17. It also names Momodou Taal, a student visa holder and doctoral candidate at Cornell University described as a pro-Palestinian advocate whose visa was revoked this month.

The suit was filed by the AAUP and its chapters at Harvard University, New York University and Rutgers.

The groups allege that the Trump policy prevents them from hearing from their noncitizen students and colleagues, makes it impossible for citizen members to organize and participate in political expression with noncitizen members, and makes it difficult to benefit from noncitizens' insights, scholarship, and academic projects.

The complaint says the plaintiffs are harmed by Trump's policies in that

they no longer can learn and engage with noncitizen members as they had in the past because resources are now being diverted "to address the all-too-real possibility that their noncitizen members will be arrested, imprisoned, and deported for exercising rights that the Constitution guarantees."

NBC News has reached out to the Justice Department and State Department for comment.

"Taking over buildings, defacing private property, and harassing Jewish students does not constitute free speech," a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson told NBC News on Wednesday.

"It is a privilege to be granted a visa to live and study in the United States of America. When you advocate for violence and terrorism that privilege should be revoked, and you should not be in this country," the spokesperson continued.

Todd Wolfson of the American Association of University Professors called

Trump's policies an encroachment of civil liberties and education.

"The Trump administration is going after international scholars and students who speak their minds about Palestine, but make no mistake: they won't stop there. They'll come next for those who teach the history of slavery or who provide gender-affirming health care or who research climate change or who counsel students about their reproductive choices. We all have to draw a line together—as the old labor movement slogan says: an injury to one is an injury to all," Wolfson said.

"The First Amendment means the government can't arrest, detain, or deport people for lawful political expression—it's as simple as that. This practice is one we'd ordinarily associate with the most repressive political regimes, and it should have no place in our democracy," said Jameel Jaffer, executive director at the Knight First Amendment Institute, which is representing the plaintiffs. (NBC News)



**POINTE ON DE STREETZ**

HOSTED BY  
**VERNON A. SPRINGER**

**PBN**  
POINTE BROADCASTING NETWORK

**TUE - FRI**  
**2PM - 3PM**

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

 **POINT FM99.1**



# Sports News

## Jennings United move to the top of First Division League



*The Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United football team after one of their group stage matches*

Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United has once again overtaken former leaders Ottos Rangers at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Jennings United leapfrogged Ottos Rangers at the top of the 14-team standings after securing their 12th win in 16 matches by snatching a 4-3 victory against FC Master Ballerz in their third match in the group stage at the ABFA Technical Center on Tuesday.

Daviae Aaron struck the winner for Jennings United in the 63rd minute after teammate Daryl Massicot scored an equalizer in the 60th minute to allow their team to draw level with FC Master Ballerz at 3-3.

A strike by Nelson Woodman put FC Master Ballerz

ahead in the fifth minute, but goals by Dante Isaac in the 11th minute and Ori-an Isaac in the 24th minute gave Jennings a 2-1 lead.

Greg Williams scored his first of two goals in the 39th minute to equalize for FC Master Ballerz as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 2-2.

Williams scored his second in the 54th minute to give FC Master Ballerz a 3-2 lead before conversions by Massicot and Aaron allowed Jennings United to snatch victory.

FC Master Ballerz will remain in ninth place on goal difference with 14 points after suffering their 10th defeat in 16 matches.

Jennings United will advance to 39 points, one ahead of Ottos Rangers, who dropped from first to second place with 38 points

from the same number of matches (16).

The Freemans Village Scorpions also moved back into third place, leapfrogging Empire after snatching a 1-0 victory against Bolans FC in their third match in the second round at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, Roy Gregory broke the deadlock by hitting the winner for the Scorpions when he scored the only goal of the match in the 64th minute.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to advance to third place with 35 points after recording their 11th win in 16 matches. It means Empire slipped from third to fourth place with 33 points from 16 matches.

Bolans FC will remain in eighth place with 16 points

after slumping their sixth defeat in 15 matches.

SAP FC remained in fifth place after battling to a 2-2 draw with Police in their third encounter in the second round at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Devonta Kirk Geran scored in the 13th minute, and Tyrique Tonge had a 40th-minute conversion for SAP FC. Adrian Baron scored in the 35th minute, and Dimitri Scotland had a 59th-minute conversion for Police.

The result allows SAP FC to remain in fifth place by advancing to 32 points after securing their fifth draw in 16 matches.

Police will remain second from the bottom of the standings with eight points after salvaging their second draw in 15 matches.



## Rain disrupts U-19 schools' cricket competition



*J'Quan Athanaze of Jennings Secondary School*

Rain disrupted the latest round of matches in the Ministry of Sports Schools' Cricket Under-19 30-Over Championship.

The rainy weather forced the abandonment of the match at Rising Sun between defending champions Jennings Secondary and former cup-holders Antigua Grammar School.

Jennings Secondary batted first and made 150 for seven off 17 overs. J'Quan Athanaze slammed 52 off 28 balls, including five sixes and two fours.

Nazair Williams cracked 38 off 30 balls, Tanez Francis struck 22 off 12 balls, there was a contribution of 21 extras, including 11 wides, and Dale Johashen

scored 14.

Matthew Miller captured two for 29, while Isaiah Harris and Dante Odlum each picked up a wicket.

In reply, the Antigua Grammar School reached 55 for three off 8.3 overs when rain stopped play, forcing the match to be abandoned.

Matthew Miller hit 23 off 18 balls, and Anthony Pierre got 21 off 17 balls. Nazir Williams, Giovanni Thomas, and Tanez Francis each picked up a wicket.

Jennings Secondary has been dominating this year's under-19 Competition by winning all four of their previous matches.

Rain also caused the abandonment of the match between Pares Secondary and Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Factory Grounds.

Pares made 101 for six off 15 overs. Tayari Tonge struck 27 off 19 balls, including two sixes and three

fours, while Tazio Watson and Tavin Watson each made 11.

Raffique Mohabir captured three for 18, while Cheldon Charles and Clayton Joseph each picked up a wicket.

In reply, Sir Novelle Richards Academy reached 29 for two off 4.1 overs when rain stopped play and forced the match to be abandoned.

Shawn Harris scored 16 not out, and Tayari Tonge claimed two wickets for 14 runs.

Pares recorded a 42-run victory over Ottos Comprehensive School in their fourth-round match at Rising Sun.

Pares Secondary made 143, and Ottos Comprehensive School was restricted to 101. Tahari Tonge picked up four wickets for Pares Secondary.





**PDV Caribe**  
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

## THE PDV HOUR

**MONDAYS**  
**11AM - 12NOON**

**MRS. JELLETTE RALPH**  
**(JELLY BEANS)**

# Sports News



## Ojays extend unbeaten run in ABBA's Division 2 league



The Cutie's Ovals Ojays extended their unbeaten run and remain the leaders of the Second Division of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Tuesday evening.

The Ovals Ojays notched up their

11th win in as many games by snatching a 58-52 victory against Michael Joseph Phoenix in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Orion Seraphine sank 21 points; Tequan Brodie scored 16 points and dished out six assists; Jayleyle Joseph produced nine points, 14 rebounds, and five assists; and Raheem Sawyer produced eight points, seven rebounds, and five steals for the Ovals Ojays.

Shalom Bloodman converted 16 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Daysher Samuel produced 14 points and five rebounds; Roshane Hewlette had eight points and 14 rebounds; and Tahjer Jenkins chipped in with eight points and 13 rebounds for Michael Joseph Phoenix, who lost for the eighth time

in 11 games.

The EZ Fit Flyers claimed their sixth win in 11 games with an 87-45 drubbing of Square One Construction United in the second game of Tuesday's double-header.

Amare Browne scored 24 points and claimed five steals; Rashaun Harry produced 16 points, 19 rebounds, and five assists; Naheem Joseph sank 16 points; and David Mensah sank eight points and claimed eight rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers.

Dwayne Samuel converted 21 points and claimed nine rebounds; Mahkail Gomes scored 11 points; and Manlight Simmons produced nine points, 17 rebounds, and eight blocks for United, who lost for the ninth time in 10 games.



MINISTRY OF SPORTS

## Schools Netball Competition

## AGHS captures third school netball title of the season

The Antigua Girls High School has captured its third title this season in the Ministry of Sports, Cool & Smooth Schools' Netball Championships.

After the second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-2) won both the league and knockout titles in the Under-16 Secondary Division, AGHS-2 has won the knockout title in the 13 and Under Secondary Division. The Antigua Girls High School's second team secured the title by prevailing 6-2 against Princess Margaret School in the final at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Both teams advanced to the final after securing wins in the semi-finals.

AGHS-2 crushed the first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1) 7-0, while Princess Margaret School snatched a 7-6 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School.

In the opening rounds, the second team of the Antigua Girls High School notched up a 9-4 victory against Princess Margaret School.

All Saints Secondary snatched a 3-2 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Ottos Comprehensive School romped to a 6-0 victory against All Saints Secondary School, while the first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1) recorded a 4-1 victory against Clare

Hall Secondary School.

Meanwhile, Newton's All Saints United won the opening match in the 2025 Cool and Smooth LIAT 2020 Limited Antigua Generators Village Netball League Series, which is being staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association in Swetes.

All Saints United launched their campaign with a commanding 48-29 victory against Men's for Life Swetes Village.

Rayana Regis sank 46 of her 48 attempts for All Saints United. Jamilla Fitz converted 16 of her 26 shots, and Everdine Barnarde scored 13 of her 22 attempts for Swetes Village.



## AGS and CHSS advance to final in School Basketball League

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) and Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) booked their spots in the final of the Senior Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Tuesday.

Both teams recorded commanding wins in the Senior Boys Division at the JSC Sports Complex to advance to the final, which will be held during the Night of Champions at the same venue on Sunday, April 6.

Antigua Grammar School booked their spot in the championship decider with a 76-27 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School.

Najee Simons sank 13 points for the Antigua Grammar School, while Yohan Nicholas scored 12 points for St. Mary's Secondary School.

Clare Hall Secondary School romped to a commanding 50-36 victory against Antigua State College.

Orion Seraphine shot a game-high 22 points, and Tajahron Davis scored 21 points for Clare Hall Secondary School, while Jaleyle Joseph converted 13 points for the Antigua State College.



*The senior boys basketball team of Clare Hall Secondary School*

On Monday, Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Antigua Grammar School also advanced to two of the finals, which will be held during the Night of Champions next month.

Princess Margaret School will take on St. Joseph's Academy in the Mini Boys Secondary Division final.

Antigua Grammar School will meet

Princess Margaret School in the Junior Boys Division final.

Greenbay and Five Islands will clash in the final of the Mini Girls Primary Division, while Cedar Grove and Greenbay will battle in the final of the Mini Boys Primary Division.

**con't from pg28**  
opportunities."

The multiplier effect from the tournament also generated an estimated US\$537.4 million in secondary spending, further amplifying the economic impact.

Dr. Shallow urged Caribbean leaders to take heed of what he described as a blueprint for economic revitalization through sport.

"Our economies have been overly reliant on traditional industries for far too

long. This World Cup has proven that sport—cricket in particular—is a powerful and underutilized economic engine," he said.

"We must now invest in our sporting infrastructure, strengthen our tourism product, enhance digital and media capabilities, and craft policies that attract international sporting bodies and investors."

As the region prepares to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the West Indies' first Cricket World Cup tri-

umph in 1975, Shallow believes the legacy of the 2024 tournament will inspire a new generation—not just of players, but of sports administrators, marketers, and entrepreneurs.

"Cricket is not just something of great significance in our past," he said. "It is an economic and social force for our future. The Caribbean is open for business, investment, and global sporting partnerships."

Shallow closed his remarks with a heartfelt thanks

to all those who made the event a success—from the ICC and regional governments to the fans and communities who rallied behind the West Indies.

"You are the true champions of this tournament," he said. "Through sport, through cricket, our potential is limitless. As David Rudder sang—let's continue to rally, rally around the West Indies. Long live West Indies. Forever one race." (Sportsmax)

## CWI President hails US\$1.66 Billion economic windfall from 2024 T20 World Cup

Cricket West Indies (CWI) President Dr. Kishore Shallow has revealed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States, generated a staggering US\$1.66 billion in economic impact for the Caribbean region—an unprecedented return that he says underscores the economic power of sport and the urgent need for greater investment in infrastructure across the region.

“It was a good vibes,” Dr. Shallow said in his address, borrowing a phrase from his native St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“This tournament was more than just a sporting event. It was a transformative moment for our region, solidifying the Caribbean's position not only as the heartbeat of world cricket but also as a hub for economic growth, tourism and global investment.”

According to an independent Economic Impact Assessment conducted by the ICC and Nielson Sports, the financial windfall touched nearly every corner of the Caribbean, with each host nation reaping substantial benefits.

Barbados led the way with US\$426.4 million; St



Dr. Kishore Shallow

Vincent and the Grenadines followed with US\$224.8 million; St Lucia brought in US\$132.5 million; Antigua and Barbuda recorded US\$114 million; Guyana earned US\$76.7 million; and Trinidad and Tobago posted US\$68.9 million.

“These figures are not just statistics,” Shallow emphasized. “They represent real income for families, real opportunities for entrepreneurs, and real investments

in our tourism infrastructure.”

Shallow went further, detailing how this economic activity was spread across various sectors, directly benefiting hotels, restaurants, transportation services, retail outlets, and cultural industries.

Accommodation spending totalled US\$174.3 million, with hotels, guesthouses, and Airbnbs reporting high occupancy rates. Food and

beverage sales generated US\$116.1 million, boosting local restaurants and stimulating agriculture.

Retail and tourism spending accounted for US\$133.7 million, enhancing commerce and supporting local shops and vendors. Local transportation and flight bookings were valued at US\$124.5 million, strengthening regional travel networks.

Future tourism impact was projected at US\$36.6 million, as thousands of international fans expressed interest in returning to the Caribbean after their World Cup experience.

In total, 383,000 fans attended the tournament, many of them international visitors experiencing the Caribbean for the first time.

According to Shallow, this influx did more than fill stadiums—it brought lasting benefits to small businesses, workers, and local communities.

“This World Cup brought direct economic relief to thousands,” he said. “From hospitality and transportation workers to security personnel, media professionals, artisans and event staff, this tournament provided real employment and training

*con't on pg 27*