

Antigua and Barbuda's CIP programme regarded as the 'gold standard'

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Queen of Carnival Subcommittee members

Antigua and Barbuda's CIP programme regarded as the 'gold standard'



CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

The Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) is highly regarded in the industry because of the high standards of due diligence and the professional manner in which the programme is operated.

Those were some of the points shared when the Chairman of the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU), Ambassador Jeff Hadeed, and Chief Executive Officer of the Unit, Charmaine Donovan addressed the recent gathering of the nation's diplomats at the Royalton Hotel last week.

Both senior officials said whenever members of the international community undertake inspections of the CIP programmes operated in the Eastern Caribbean, they often point to the programme operated by Antigua and Barbuda as the way these programmes ought to run.

"Last year, we had a team from the UK conducting an inspection of our Unit here in St. John's, and every question that was asked, we had an any of what we have done to mitigate such issues. In the end, the head of the team, had to commend us on how efficient and how professionally we ran our operations, noting that the other territories ought to implement some of the steps that we have done here in Antigua and Barbuda," CEO Donovan stated.

Meanwhile, Donovan noted that 2024 has been a good year for the programme with over two thousand applications. She explained that while it was expected that there would be a fall-off because

the increase was anticipated because the increase in the investment threshold that took effect last August, the demand for the programme however remains strong. "The investment threshold would have changed in August, 2024, so prior to that and in anticipation of that, persons actually fast-forwarded their applications that they would have probably made at the end of last year or even this

year in order to capitalize on the lower investment threshold. So we anticipated thereafter there would have been a slow down while the industry regroups etc. but we have been fortunate, as we continue to see a steady interest in the programme even after such a big jump in the threshold from US\$100,000.00 to US\$230,000.00," she explained.

According to Donovan, Antigua and Barbuda is the only CIP programme that requires a 5-day residency, which is one of the things that separates it from the others.

On recent US concerns about the CIP programmes, Donovan noted that while the previous administration and the five CBI programme countries had come to an understanding, she is a little unsure of what will happen now that the Trump Administration appears to have its own policies towards these programmes.

"It's a wait and see matter at this point," she stated.



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PM Browne is renewing his call for a unified national approach to the 2025 National Census

The prime minister is again making an appeal for all residents of Antigua and Barbuda to participate in the National Housing and Population Census due to kick off with Census Day on June 25.

PM Gaston Browne said the census is a critical undertaking as it will determine the nation's population which is necessary to inform national planning in all critical areas such as education, health and social planning.

The prime minister said the census is one issue that should be free of politics as the information that is generated by the Census will be equally as important to an opposition party as to the government. "It's your civic duty to participate in the census and I am appealing to all residents, everyone living in the country to participate," he urged.

He made a call for the Leader of the



Opposition, Jamale Pringle and other members of the UPP to embrace the census and to encourage their members to make themselves available to be counted.

Regarding members of the non-national community, PM Browne is assuring them that they too should make

themselves available to be counted as the census seeks to ascertain the number of residents, not who are nationals and who are not.

"In fact, the information regarding a person's immigration status in the country cannot be shared by the census department so there is no fear that anyone who is here illegally can be deported because they participated in the census. In fact, anyone sharing a person's immigration status may be severely punished by law," he declared.

Additionally, he noted that his government does not have a history of deporting anyone except in cases where they run afoul of the law.

PM Browne further explained that the census will answer questions regarding morbidity rates, mortality rates and other critical information that are necessary for national planning.



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Local News

Government makes advanced payments for legal fees in the Alfa Nero saga

The Antigua and Barbuda government has dispatched the sum of US\$35,000.00 to the US law firm that will undertake the case on its behalf in the United States.

Word of this comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who disclosed that the law firm charges US\$900.00 per hour and the money has been deposited as an advance to engage the services of the law firm.

The matter comes from the ongoing claims by the Russian daughter of the oligarch who had abandoned the Alfa Nero in Antigua and Barbuda for over a year before it was compulsorily acquired by the government and eventually sold.

Now, acting in concert with local opposition forces, the Russian woman has asked the courts to inquire into the bank accounts of the prime minister and all the other local officials who were involved in the sale. They are claiming that an amount of US\$10 million went into the account of the prime minister, a claim he has strenuously denied.

However, stating that he has nothing to hide and after expressing a willingness for the probe to take place, PM Browne said he has been strongly advised against such a move.

“The lawyer said to me, there is no precedent of anyone having the right to go into the personal banking account of a prime minister and he said to me; do not do it and to set that precedent,” he declared.

Additionally, the prime minister noted that as a politician he is what has been described as a Politically Exposed Person (PEP), meaning that there are additional interests in his banking and other information and under those circumstances it is impossible for that money to have been siphoned off and



deposited into an account locally, or internationally without raising numerous alarm bells. “It just could not happen,” he emphasized.

Meanwhile, the prime minister explained that the government is footing the bill for the legal fees as all the persons involved were acting in their official capacities when dealing with the Alfa Nero matter.



Antigua Cruise Port to implement new ground transportation plan

The Antigua Cruise Port is to implement a new system for all ground transportation operations at its Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay cruise terminals to control the issue related to over aggressive taxi and other ground transportation operators.

Marketing and Communications Manager, Elijah James, said the ACP will hold a public consultation on Wednesday at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre at Perry Bay to discuss its new 'shore to explore' system for all ground transportation operators.

"We are inviting taxi-operators, tour operators and rental car operators to this meeting when we will unveil the new system which will go into effect for the start of the upcoming cruise season later in the year. This system will be introduced in collaboration with both the police and the transport board as our partners. It requires that all ground transportation operators must be registered and must display our decal or badge on their garments at all times," he stated.

James said those taxi or other ground transportation operators who fail to comply with the new rules will be suspended from operating in the area for a period of time and repeated offences could lead to the offender losing his/her public service licence. He added this

is necessary because of the large number of complaints the ACP is reaching from visitors who arrive aboard the cruise ships.

"We have a situation where the authorized St. John's Taxi Association members are having difficulties utilizing the parking areas reserved for them because other taxi operators from the airport or the hotels come to the port and take their spots. Additionally, there are numerous instances where the 'independent taxis or poachers' as they are described, are openly underbidding the authorized taxi operators in an open and aggressive manner," he disclosed.

According to James the complaints have reached the senior levels of the cruise lines and there are indicating that if this problem is not arrested, and fast, Antigua and Barbuda could see cruise ships calling elsewhere.

He gave as an example a recent case where a person operating a rental car service was utilizing vehicles with private 'A' plates and overcharging the unsuspecting visitors.

This week, a team from ACP is traveling to the annual Seatrade meeting in Miami to allay the fears of the cruise lines and to inform them that the matters is being dealt with in an effective manner.



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FA Minister's charge to diplomats: Be proactive



Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene



Director General of Foreign Affairs Ann Marie Layne

Last week's Diplomatic Encounter '25, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been described as 'successful' with the minister responsible, E.P Chet Greene, urging the country's diplomats to be 'pro-active' in their endeavours.

Delivering the charge at the end-of-session on Friday, Minister Greene urged the diplomats not to wait for opportunities to present themselves; rather, they must actively seek out partnerships and collaborations that enhance Antigua and Barbuda's position in the global arena.

"Engage with nations that share our values and



Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim goals, especially in regions like Africa, Central and South America and India. Recognize the po-

FA Minister Greene also wants the diplomats to prioritize national interests while they embrace innovation and adaptability.

"As you navigate your roles, remember that every diplomatic endeavor should reflect our national priorities. Whether it is advocating for climate resilience, economic diversification or cultural exchange, ensure that your actions align with the interests of our citizens and our long-term vision for sustainable development.

"In this rapidly changing world, we must be innovative and adaptable. Embrace new technologies, approaches and ideas that

con't on pg 7

con't from pg 6

can enhance our diplomatic efforts and deliver impactful results. Foster a culture of learning and openness to new perspectives, as diplomats, being agile will allow us to respond effectively to unforeseen challenges,” he added.

The minister emphasized Antigua and Barbuda’s commitment to multilateralism and the importance of the nation’s diplomats to build networks and connections.

In his remarks, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Ambassador Clarence E.

Pilgrim underscored the need for members of the country’s diplomatic services to remain in constant contact, both with the ministry headquarters as well as with each other. He highlighted seven pathways to achieving greater communications and collaborations between those in the diplomatic service and the head office.

These include a dedicated digital communications hub, an AI-powered Diplomatic Briefing System, quarterly diplomatic performance assessment, an e-document management system and a real-time consular assistance App

among others.

Ambassador Pilgrim thanked the members of the diplomatic service for their participation and the insightful discussions that have shaped their deliberations. Noting that they have not only reinforced the importance of diplomacy but also identified tangible steps to modernize the operations and enhance the performance of the diplomatic corps.

Meanwhile, Director General of Foreign Affairs, Ann Marie Layne said based on the feedback she received from those in attendance, the Diplomatic Encounter was a success-


ful exercise.

“A key highlight of the encounter were presentations from across various sectors. These sessions provided critical updates including; on emerging diplomatic trends in the field of AI, geopolitical shifts, updates on Antigua and Barbuda’s climate policy and positions on Reparations that missions can integrate into their daily work,” she noted.

The ministry gave a commitment that these encounters will take place every two-years with the next such session slated for 2027.



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Ongoing developments result in critical labour shortage in the country



Prime Minister Gaston Browne says Antigua and Barbuda is facing a labour shortage as a result of rapid economic growth and increased construction ac-

tivity driven by foreign investment.

“We have a shortage of employment in a number of sectors the hotel sector, the construction sector. We are actually importing construction workers now because we can’t find enough skilled labor.”

Browne noted the scope of upcoming developments and said the labour force is struggling to keep pace.

“The problem we have now is labour, in terms of the physical labour to build out these projects.”

He pointed to the national housing programme as one area directly affected.

“Even national housing—the housing construction has come to a screeching halt.”

The Prime Minister disclosed that the government is already in discussions to bring in foreign workers to fill the gap.

“We are likely to get in some workers, probably from the Dominican Republic. I know that Senator Rawdon Turner is currently negotiating with the ambassador to the Dominican Republic to get some workers.”

He stressed that the influx of foreign labour is necessary to maintain momentum across the country’s development projects.

“I don’t recall at any point in the history of Antigua and Barbuda that we had to deliberately allow for the importation of foreign workers like that.”

According to Browne, the labour shortage is a direct consequence of the success of his administration’s investment-driven strategy.

“We have attracted significant investments that can take us for at least another five years... Things are really looking up.”



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This achievement stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when dedication, collaboration, and a shared vision come together. The seamless execution of homeporting operations required the unwavering commitment of multiple stakeholders, and I am immensely proud of the spirit of partnership and excellence that defined our efforts.

A special thank you is extended to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda, particularly the Honorable Minister for Tourism, Charles Fernandez, for their steadfast support in advancing cruise tourism in our beautiful destination. The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority and Royal Police Force teams played a pivotal role in ensuring smooth air-sea connections, reinforcing the strength of our logistics and security infrastructure.

We also recognize the agents for Arvia - Delisle Walwyn Francis Ltd. for their professionalism and expertise in facilitating the vessel's operations and ensuring the highest service standards were met. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the St. John's Taxi Association, whose drivers, our tourism ambassadors, were instrumental in delivering exceptional experiences to our guests.

To the Captain and Crew of Arvia, we truly appreciate your trust in Antigua as a homeporting destination and are grateful for the seamless coordination between our teams. A special acknowledgment must also go to the staff of Antigua Cruise Port, whose dedication, hard work, and passion continue to elevate the standards of our operations. Beyond these key players, we recognize and appreciate all the individuals and companies - from security personnel to baggage handlers, all the

individuals and companies - from security personnel to baggage handlers, tour providers, logistics teams, hospitality partners, and so many more - who worked tirelessly to make this a reality. Your efforts did not go unnoticed, and your contributions were invaluable in ensuring a smooth and successful season.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening these partnerships and building on the foundation we have laid. This season's success fuels our optimism for the future as we continue positioning Antigua as a premier cruise destination in the region. Together, we will embrace new opportunities, enhance our services, and ensure that every cruise season surpasses the last.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support, dedication, and teamwork. This achievement belongs to all of us, and we look forward to many more successful seasons ahead! With most profound appreciation, and on behalf of all of us at Antigua Cruise Port and Global Ports Holding Ltd.

Thank You

Gasper P. George

General Manager
Antigua Cruise Port

Regional Director Operations
and Product Development
GPH Eastern Caribbean



Seven potential Queen of Carnival contestants participate in screening exercise

The Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission is excited to announce that this year's Queen of Carnival screening of potential delegates took place last Saturday. Seven hopefuls were judged in four categories: Interview, Swimwear,

tail Attire segment was adjudicated on impact, carriage, and poise. Lastly, the potential delegates were allotted under two minutes to display their talent, with the judges looking for authenticity, interpretation, originality, natural talent, pre-

Committee, we are excited to officially introduce these young women to the nation and look forward to the journey ahead."

Minister of State for Education, Sport, and Creative Industries, Sen-



Cocktail Attire, and Performing Talent.

A panel comprising Eustace James (seasoned adjudicator, trainer, and pageant expert), Jamilla Kirwan (1996 Miss Antigua Barbuda and Miss Jaycees), and Terri Ann Richardson (2003 Miss Antigua Barbuda) adjudicated the screening process.

During the Interview, the judges assessed the applicant's mastery of the English language, delivery, content, diction, clarity, and fluency. In the Swimwear segment, the young ladies showcased their modeling skills and were judged based on muscle tone, poise, and carriage in their personal selection. The Cock-



sentation, and relevance.

Raynel Carroll, Co-Chair of the Queen of Carnival Subcommittee, shared her thoughts on the screening, stating: *"We were quite pleased with the caliber of young women who presented themselves at the Queen of Carnival 2025 Screening. While we anticipated nine attendees, seven potential delegates participated, each displaying confidence, poise, and a passion for representing Antigua and Barbuda. After careful deliberation by the panel of judges, five outstanding delegates who truly embody the essence of this prestigious competition were selected. Alongside my fellow Co-Chair, Shenique Barry, and the entire Queen of Carnival*

ator Shenella Govia, also expressed her enthusiasm for this year's competition:

"The Queen of Carnival has long been a symbol of grace, talent, and national pride, and I have no doubt that this year's delegates will uphold the high standard set over the years. Reigning Queen Desrie Markham has paved the way for young women to step into this role with confidence, and I am certain that the ladies selected will do an amazing job. With a newly appointed committee at the helm, I am confident that the dedication and hard work they invest will result in an exceptional show that the public will truly enjoy."

A 23-year old man is the latest shooting death

Police are stepping up the investigating the circumstances surrounding a shooting incident at Grays Farm that resulted in the death of a 23-year-old Taheem Jackson of Grays Farm.

Reports are that 'persons of interest' are presently assisting the police with their investigation.

The alleged incident occurred around 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 29 on Christian Street when an assailant or assailants approached Jackson and shot

him multiple times. The victim was pronounced dead, shortly after arriving at the hospital. Police officers were on the scene late Saturday night conducting further investigations.

He is the nation's fifth homicide victim for the year.

Meanwhile, the police are asking anyone with information that can further assist them in their investigation to contact the Grays Farm Police Station at 462-0481 or call the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.




DAILY PROGRAMMING



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

ABLP to form a Men's Group

Since the 2023 general elections the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has witnessed what its political leader, Prime Minister Gaston Browne calls 'a renaissance' or a rebirth with the party being the undisputed political party of choice of the majority of voters in the country.

This, according to PM Browne is evidenced by the attraction that young people in the country have for ABLP and its announcement of a group of younger candidates/caretakers who will contest the next general elections as part of its slate. These include Independent member of the House of Representatives, Anthony Smith Jr., who the Political Leader announced will be the ABLP's candidate for the All Saints West constituency in the upcoming elections.

Now, there is word that several men who are members of the ABLP have been meeting with the sole intention of forming a men's arm of the ABLP, similar to the Youth for Labour and the Women's Action Group. Spokesman for the group, Kevin 'AG' Morgan said a meeting will take place at People's Place on Wednesday to elect an executive. He said the group will be called the *Action Men Group* and it will have members from across all the constituencies and its role will be two-fold;

one political and the other social.

"We will assist the party to mobilise in the constituencies but we will also assist members in need with things such as painting of their homes and minor repairs especially for the most-needy among us," he stated.

One of the persons spearheading the efforts to establish the Action Men Group is Pastor Bertrand Bloodman. The announcement of



the formation of the group was made last Friday at the ABLP executive meeting at People's Place.



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International Day of Zero Waste 30TH March



The International Day of Zero Waste serves as a reminder that waste is not just an environmental issue it is a human rights issue. In Antigua and Barbuda, waste management affects tourism, public health, and economic resilience. For individuals with disabilities, accessibility in recycling programs and waste management jobs can mean the difference between exclusion and empowerment.

“Waste is a design flaw,” says environmental advocate Kate Kreba. This statement highlights the need for systemic change in how Antigua and Barbuda approaches waste. Traditionally, waste disposal has been linear—items are used and then discarded. But with innovative policies and community engagement, the country is beginning to shift toward a circular economy.

Good Humans 268 Inc. is spearhead-

ing efforts to integrate individuals with disabilities into waste reduction initiatives. The organization’s recycling program not only diverts waste from landfills but also creates employment opportunities for people who are often marginalized in traditional job markets. “The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for,” wrote Ernest Hemingway, a sentiment that fuels the passion of those working to create a sustainable and inclusive future for all citizens.

Tourism, a pillar of Antigua and Barbuda’s economy, stands to benefit greatly from stronger waste management policies. Visitors are increasingly drawn to destinations that prioritize sustainability. Hotels and resorts are responding by implementing zero-waste policies reducing single-use plastics, and adopting composting programs. At the same time, local businesses are embracing the refill revolution, offering alternatives to

disposable packaging and encouraging customers to bring their own containers.

Despite these positive developments, there are still challenges to overcome. A significant portion of waste on the island comes from imported goods with excessive packaging. Additionally, waste separation at the household level is not yet widespread. To address these issues, a combination of government regulation, corporate responsibility, and public education is needed.

As the nation observes the International Day of Zero Waste, it is crucial to remember that everyone has a role to play. Sustainable change happens when individuals, businesses, and policymakers work together. “We cannot achieve zero waste without reuse,” reminds MaryEllen Etienne. By supporting inclusive waste management programs, advocating for smarter policies, and making personal commitments to reduce waste, Antigua and Barbuda can become a leader in the Caribbean’s sustainability movement.

With the right investments, education, and community-driven action, a zero-waste Antigua and Barbuda is within reach. Let March 30 serve as not just a day of awareness, but as a catalyst for long-term change.

Joshuanette Francis

*Business Teacher at All Saints Secondary
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01:30 PM Solo Competition
Villa Polyclinic

03
THUR

1:00 PM Working Session: Improvisation
Presenter: Zahra Lake
Special guest: Aubrey Lacu Samuel
Villa Polyclinic
2:00 PM Steelpan Maintenance & Care
Presenter: Veron Henry & Team
Villa Polyclinic

04
FRI

1:30 PM Masterclass with Andre White
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05
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Regional News



Jamaica to host 49th Regular Meeting of CARICOM in July

Planning is under way for the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Jamaica is set to host the meeting in July 2025.

Speaking at a recent JIS Think Tank, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, said that Prime Minister, Dr Andrew Holness, will assume the Chairmanship of CARICOM on July 1.

She noted that trade and security are among the key issues to be discussed by the CARICOM Heads.

She mentioned that Prime

Minister Holness, who chairs the Prime Ministerial Subcommittee on External Trade Negotiations had presented on the topics at the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads in Barbados in February.

“We’re doing the work between the two meetings to allow for a richer discussion. Security, as you know, is one of the critical constraints on economic growth across all of the countries in the region,” she pointed out.

The Prime Minister has been calling for a more global approach to transnational crime and focusing on the connections and the cooperative mechanisms that are



needed in a more strategic manner. So, this is likely to be a major part of the agenda as well,” she noted.

The upcoming CARICOM meeting coincides with the International Conference on Financing for Development meeting in Seville, Spain from June 30 to July 3.

“So, we are likely to have the CARICOM meeting one week later than usual,” Senator Johnson Smith said, noting that the adjustment is to allow the Heads of Government, who also serve as finance ministers, to attend the meeting in Seville. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Two rescued, one still missing after boat accident in St Vincent and the Grenadines



One man remains missing following a marine incident in which a fishing vessel capsized near Fort Duvernette.

The Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF), along with the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard Service, is

actively searching for the missing man, Prince Yearwood.

He was aboard the vessel Guillotine with Justin Brooker and Kamara Phillips when it capsized.

According to a police press release, the Coast Guard received a report of a missing person at sea at around 3:26pm on Thursday after the incident occurred.

Brooker and Phillips were rescued safely, but Yearwood remains miss-

ing.

Coast Guard personnel conducted an extensive search through Thursday afternoon and evening but were unable to locate Yearwood.

The police said search efforts resumed at first light today and are still ongoing.

The RSVGPF and SVG Coast Guard have stated they will provide updates as more information becomes available. (*Loop Caribbean*)



Dominica: Caribbean union condemns arrests of opposition members

The Caribbean Democrat Union (CDU) has issued a forceful statement condemning what it describes as the “blatant abuse of state power” following the arrest and detention of opposition members in Dominica, including opposition member Johnson Boston.

In a strongly-worded press release, the regional political organization expressed “grave alarm” over the detentions, which occurred after opposition members participated in protests concerning electoral reform legislation in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

“Political dissent is not a crime. Speaking out against the government is not a crime. Assembling to peacefully protest is

not a crime,” the CDU declared in its statement. “These are the hallmarks of a functioning democracy—not threats to it.”

The controversy stems from demonstrations that took place on March 19, when police deployed tear gas against protesters who allegedly attempted to breach security barricades and throw projectiles at officers near Parliament on Victoria Street in Roseau. The protesters were voicing opposition to three electoral reform bills that were subsequently passed unanimously in Parliament on March 20.

According to the CDU, the arrests represent “a disturbing and deliberate trend” of using state machinery as “a tool of political victimization and

intimidation.” The organization characterized these actions as bearing “the hallmarks of authoritarian regimes and dictatorships that have no place in the Caribbean.”

The demonstrators reportedly expressed specific concerns about the electoral reform legislation, particularly citing the absence of provisions for updating the voters’ list and addressing campaign financing issues. Police have arrested at least ten individuals since the protests began.

The CDU has called on Dominica’s President to “immediately uphold the Constitution, denounce these scare tactics, and ensure that the fundamental rights and freedoms

of all Dominicans—regardless of political affiliation—are protected and preserved.”

The organization has further appealed to democratic institutions, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and regional bodies including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to unite in condemning what it terms as “abuses” of power.

“Silence in the face of injustice is complicity,” the statement concluded. “Democracy in Dominica is under threat. We must defend it.”

Government officials have not yet responded to requests for comment on the CDU’s statement. *(Loop Caribbean)*

TO: The Commissioner of Police
 Police Headquarters
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 St. Johns
 Antigua.

TO: Your Worship
 St. Johns Magistrate Court
 High Street
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notice- Application for Tavern License

I, Darren Uriah/Racquel Wrigh of Pigotts Village Saint George Antigua and Barbuda St. Johns Antigua, with registered business situated at Pigotts main road SMOOSH ICE CREAM PARLOR BAR & MORE Saint Antigua located on Pigotts main road in St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street St. John’s, Antigua on Thursday 3rd April 2025 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, respect of premises known as a “SMOOSH ICE CREAM PARLOR BAR&MORE” Situated on Pigotts Main Road in the parish of Saint George Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 19th March 2025

Smell of death permeates Myanmar cities after quake kills over 1,600 and leaves countless buried

The smell of decaying bodies permeated the streets of Myanmar's second-largest city on Sunday as people worked frantically by hand to clear rubble in the hope of finding someone still alive, two days after a massive earthquake struck that killed more than 1,600 people and left countless others buried.

The 7.7 magnitude quake hit mid-day Friday with an epicenter near Mandalay, bringing down scores of buildings and damaging other infrastructure like the city's airport.

Relief efforts have been hampered by buckled roads, downed bridges, spotty communications and the challenges of operating in a country in the midst of a civil war.

The search for survivors has been primarily conducted by the local residents without the aid of heavy equipment, moving rubble by hand and with shovels in 41-degree Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) heat, with only the occasional tracked excavator to be seen.

A 5.1 magnitude aftershock Sunday afternoon prompted screams from those in the streets, and then the work continued.

Many of Mandalay's 1.5 million people spent the night sleeping on the streets, either left homeless by the quake, which also shook neighboring Thailand and killed at least 18 people there, or worried that the continuing aftershocks might cause structures left unstable to collapse.

So far 1,644 people have been reported killed in Myanmar and 3,408 injured, but many areas have not yet been reached, and many rescue efforts so far have been undertaken by



people working by hand to try and clear rubble, said Cara Bragg, the Yangon-based manager of Catholic Relief Services in Myanmar.

"It's mainly been local volunteers, local people who are just trying to find their loved ones," Bragg said after being briefed by her colleague in Mandalay.

"I've also seen reports that now some countries are sending search and rescue teams up to Mandalay to support the efforts, but hospitals are really struggling to cope with the influx of injured people, there's a shortage of medical supplies, and people are struggling to find food and clean water," Bragg added.

The organization was sending a team by road on Sunday to assess peoples' most pressing needs so that it could target its own response.

With the Mandalay airport damaged and the control tower toppled in the capital Naypitaw's airport, all commercial flights into the cities have been shut down.

Official relief efforts in Naypitaw were prioritizing government offices and staff housing, leaving locals and aid groups to dig through the rubble by hand in residential areas, the hot sun beating down and the smell of death in the air.

A team sent from neighboring China rescued an older man who had been trapped for nearly 40 hours beneath the rubble of a Naypitaw hospital, and many others are believed to still be buried under, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Myanmar sits on the Sagaing Fault, a major north-south fault that separates the India plate and the Sunda plate.

The earthquake occurred when a 200-kilometer (125-mile) section of the fault ruptured, causing widespread damage along a wide swath of territory down the middle of the country, including Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Shan State.

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With widespread telecommunication outages, few details have come out so far from areas other than the main urban areas of Mandalay and Naypitaw.

Still, two Indian C-17 military transport aircraft were able to land late Saturday at Naypitaw with a field hospital unit and some 120 personnel who were then to travel north to Mandalay to establish a 60-bed emergency treatment center, according to the country's Foreign Ministry.

Other Indian supplies were flown into Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city, which has been the hub of other foreign relief efforts.

On Sunday, a convoy of 17 Chinese cargo trucks carrying critical shelter and medical supplies was expected to reach Mandalay, after making the arduous journey by road from Yangon.

The 650-kilometer (400-mile) journey has been taking 14 hours or longer, with clogged roads and traffic diverted from the main highway to skirt damage from the earthquake.

At the same time, the window of opportunity to find anyone alive is rapidly closing. Most rescues occur within the first 24 hours after a disaster, and then survival chances drop as each day passes.

An initial report on earthquake relief efforts issued Saturday by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted the severe damage or destruction of many health facilities, and warned that a "severe shortage of medical supplies is hampering response efforts, including trauma kits, blood bags, anesthetics, assistive devices, essential medicines, and tents for health workers."

China said it has sent more than 135 rescue personnel and experts along with supplies like medical kits and generators and pledged around \$13.8 million in emergency aid.

Russia's Emergencies Ministry said it had flown in 120 rescuers and supplies to Yangon, and the country's Health Ministry said Moscow had sent a medical team to Myanmar.

Teams from Singapore have been working already in Naypitaw. Malaysia dispatched a team of 50 personnel on Sunday with trucks, search and rescue equipment and medical supplies.

Thailand said 55 of its soldiers arrived in Yangon on Sunday to help with search and rescue operations, while Britain announced a \$13 million aid package to help its locally-funded partners already in Myanmar respond to the crisis.

In neighboring Thailand, the quake rocked much of the country, bringing down a high-rise building under construction in Bangkok, some 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) away from the epicenter.

So far, 11 people have been found dead at the construction site near the popular Chatuchak market. A total of 18 people have been reported killed by the quake in Thailand so far.

Rescue efforts in Myanmar complicated by civil war

In Myanmar, which is also known as Burma, rescue efforts so far are focused on Mandalay and Naypitaw, which are thought to have been the hardest hit, but many other areas were also impacted and little is known so far about the damage there.

"We're hearing reports of hundreds of people trapped in different ar-

reas," said Bragg. "Right now we're at 1,600 (known fatalities) and we don't have a lot of data coming out but you've got to assume it will be increasing in the thousands based on what the impacts are. This is just anecdotal information at this point."

Beyond the earthquake damage, rescue efforts are complicated by the bloody civil war roiling much of the country, including in quake-affected areas. In 2001, the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking what has since turned into significant armed resistance.

Government forces have lost control of much of Myanmar, and many places are dangerous or impossible for aid groups to reach. More than 3 million people have been displaced by the fighting and nearly 20 million are in need, according to the United Nations.

The government military has been fighting long-established militias and newly formed pro-democracy People's Defense Forces, and has heavily restricted much-needed aid efforts to the large population already displaced by war even before the earthquake.

Military attacks continued with airstrikes on Friday and reports of mortar and drone attacks on Saturday.

Tom Andrews, a monitor on rights in Myanmar commissioned by the UN-backed Human Rights Council, called for the military to immediately call a ceasefire.

"Aid workers should not have to fear arrest and there should be no obstructions to aid getting to where it is most needed," he said on X. "Every minute counts." (*Loop Caribbean*)

Mexico bans junk food sales in schools in its latest salvo against child obesity

A government-sponsored junk food ban in schools across Mexico took effect on Saturday, officials said, as the country tries to tackle one of the world's worst obesity and diabetes epidemics.

The health guidelines, first published last fall, take a direct shot at salty and sweet processed products that have become a staple for generations of Mexican schoolchildren, such as sugary fruit drinks, packaged chips, artificial pork rinds and soy-encased, chili-flavored peanuts.

Announcing that the ban had become law, Mexico's Education Ministry posted on X: "Farewell, junk food!" It encouraged parents to support the government's crusade by cooking healthy meals for their kids.

"One of the core principles of the new Mexican school system is healthy living," said Mario Delgado, the public health secretary. "There's a high level of acceptance of this policy among parents."

Mexico's ambitious attempt to remake its food culture and reprogram the next generation of consumers is being watched closely around the world as governments struggle to turn the tide on a global obesity epidemic.

In the United States, for instance,

the Trump administration's health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has vowed to upend the nation's food system and "Make America Healthy Again" by targeting ultra-processed foods to curb surging obesity and disease.

Under Mexico's new order, schools must phase out any food and beverage displaying even one black warning logo marking it as high in salt, sugar, calories and fat. Mexico implemented that compulsory front-of-package labeling system in 2020.

Enforced from Monday morning, the start of the school week, the junk food ban also requires schools to serve more nutritious alternatives to junk food, like bean tacos, and offer plain drinking water.

"It is much better to eat a bean taco than a bag of potato chips," said Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, who has championed the ban.

Mexico's children consume more junk food than anywhere else in Latin America, according to UNICEF, which classifies the nation's childhood obesity epidemic as an emergency. Sugary drinks and highly processed foods account for 40% of the total calories that children consume in a day, the agency reports.

"At my daughter's school, they told us that future activities wouldn't have candy, it would be completely different, with fruit, vegetables and other food that's healthy for kids," said Aurora Martínez, a mother of two. "It will help us a lot."

One-third of Mexican children are already considered overweight or obese, according to government statistics.

School administrators found in violation of the order face stiff fines, ranging from \$545 to \$5,450.

But enforcement poses a challenge in a country where previous junk food bans have struggled to gain traction and monitoring has been lax across Mexico's 255,000 schools, many of which lack water fountains — even reliable internet and electricity.

It also wasn't immediately clear how the government would forbid the sale of junk food on sidewalks outside school campuses, where street vendors typically hawk candy, chips, nachos and ice cream to kids during recess and after the school day ends.

"It will be difficult," said Abril Geraldine Rose de León, a child therapist. "But it will be achieved in the long run." (*NBC News*)



Iran has rejected direct negotiations with the U.S. in response to Trump's letter



Iran's president said Sunday that the Islamic Republic rejected direct negotiations with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear program, offering Tehran's first response to a letter President Donald Trump sent to the country's supreme leader.

President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran's response, delivered via the sultanate of Oman, left open the possibility of indirect negotiations with Washington. However, such talks have made no progress since Trump in his first term unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018.

In the years since, regional tensions

have boiled over into attacks at sea and on land. Then came the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, which saw Israel target militant group leaders across Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance." Now, as the U.S. conducts intense airstrikes targeting the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen, the risk of military action targeting Iran's nuclear program remains on the table.

"We don't avoid talks; it's the breach of promises that has caused issues for us so far," Pezeshkian said in televised remarks during a Cabinet meeting. "They must prove that they can build trust."

The White House offered no imme-

diately reaction to the announcement.

Having Pezeshkian announced the decision shows just how much has changed in Iran since his election half a year ago after he campaigned on a promise to re-engage with the West.

Since Trump's election and the resumption of his "maximum pressure" campaign on Tehran, Iran's rial currency has gone into a freefall. Pezeshkian had left open talks up until Iran's 85-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei came down hard on Trump in February and warned talks "are not intelligent, wise or honorable" with his admin-

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istration. The Iranian president then immediately toughened his own remarks on the U.S.

Meanwhile, there have been mixed messages coming from Iran for weeks. Videos from Quds, or Jerusalem, Day demonstrations on Friday had people in the crowds instructing participants to only shout: "Death to Israel!" Typically, "Death to America" was also heard.

A video of an underground missile base unveiled by Iran's hard-line paramilitary Revolutionary Guard also showed its troops stepping on an Israeli flag painted on the ground — though there was no American flag as often seen in such propaganda videos.

But Press TV, the English-language arm of Iranian state television, published an article last week that included listing U.S. bases in the Middle East as possible targets of attack. The list included Camp Thunder Cove on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, where the U.S. is basing stealth B-2 bombers likely being used in Yemen. "The Americans themselves know how vulnerable they are," warned Iranian parliament speaker Moham-

mad Bagher Qalibaf on Friday. "If they violate Iran's sovereignty, it will be like a spark in a gunpowder depot, setting the entire region ablaze. In such a scenario, their bases and their allies will not be safe."

However, Tehran's two recent direct attacks on Israel with ballistic missiles and drones caused negligible damage, while Israel responded by destroying Iranian air defense systems.

Iran's rejection is the latest in tensions over nuclear program

Trump's letter arrived in Tehran on March 12. Though announcing he wrote it in a television interview, Trump offered little detail on what he exactly told the supreme leader.

"I've written them a letter saying, 'I hope you're going to negotiate because if we have to go in militarily, it's going to be a terrible thing,'" Trump said in the interview.

The move recalled Trump's letter-writing to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in his first term, which led to face-to-face meetings but no deals to limit Pyongyang's atomic bombs and a missile program capable of reaching the continental U.S.

The last time Trump tried to send a letter to Khamenei, through the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2019, the supreme leader mocked the effort.

Trump's letter came as both Israel and the United States have warned they will never let Iran acquire a nuclear weapon, leading to fears of a military confrontation as Tehran enriches uranium at near weapons-grade levels of 60% purity — something only done by atomic-armed nations.

Iran has long maintained its program is for peaceful purposes, even as its officials increasingly threaten to pursue the bomb. A report in February, however, by the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog said Iran has accelerated its production of near weapons-grade uranium.

Iran's reluctance to deal with Trump likely also takes root in his ordering the attack that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a Baghdad drone strike in January 2020. The U.S. has said Iran plotted to assassinate Trump over that prior to his election this November, something Tehran denied though officials have threatened him. (*NBC News*)

Small plane crashes in Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Park

A small plane travelling from Iowa to Minnesota crashed Saturday in a residential area of a Minneapolis suburb, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Officials did not immediately provide any information about possible deaths or injuries related to the crash in Brooklyn Park.

Nor was it immediately known how many people were on board, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. The agency said the single-engine SOCATA TBM7 plane departed from the Des Moines International Airport with a destination of the Anoka County-Blaine



Airport, located in another Minneapolis suburb. The National Transportation

Safety Board is investigating. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Wins for Stoneville's men and women in national volleyball league

Stoneville men's and women's teams both recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League on Saturday evening.

Reigning Men's Division 1 League champions Stoneville won for the third time in as many games by securing a 3-0 victory against Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz in their encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Stoneville took an hour and 16 minutes to prevail 25-20, 25-20, and 25-16 against the High Flyerz, who lost for the second time in three encounters.

Theatric Lighting & Stage Effects and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville notched up their second win in four games by claiming a 3-0 victory against former perennial Women's Division 1 League champions Paragons.

Like their male colleagues, the Stoneville women took an hour and 16 minutes to prevail 25-10, 25-14, and 26-24 against the Paragons, who suffered their second loss in three matches.

Reigning three-peat champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad maintained their successful start to their campaign in defense of their female Division 1 title.

After launching their title defense with a straight-set 3-0 victory against Jets in their opening match, Da Squad claimed their second win with a similar score against Royal Cruisers 1 in the 2025 club championships.

Da Squad produced another efficient performance to dispatch the Royal Cruisers 1, winning 25-17, 26-24, and 25-9. It was the third defeat in four encounters for Royal Cruisers 1.

The Storming Lions also continued their perfect start to the Men's Division 1 League, securing their third win in as many games with a 3-0 victory by default against the Renegades, who lost for the second time in three encounters.

The Storming Lions were award-



Stoneville men's volleyball team



Theatric Lighting & Stage Effects and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville women's volleyball team. (Photos courtesy of the ABAVA)

ed victory by a 25-0, 25-0, and 25-0 scoreline against the Renegades, who were unable to field a team for the encounter.

After losing their first two games, the Jets claimed their first win in the Female Division 1 League with a 3-1 victory against Stoneville.

The Jets took an hour and 41 minutes to prevail 18-25, 25-22, 25-15, and 28-26 against Stoneville.

Last year's second-place finishers, Pytonz, launched their campaign in the Men's Division 1 League with a commanding 3-0 victory against Phoenix High Flyerz.

The Pytonz took an hour and nine minutes to dispatch Phoenix High Flyerz 25-18, 25-18, and 25-16. It was the third defeat in as many games for the Phoenix High Flyerz.

Sports News



Wins for Da Project and Spanish Heat in Division 1 basketball league



Da Project and Spanish Heat achieved more success in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Saturday night.

T-Shawn Lewis had 23 points, 14 rebounds, and six assists as Da Project claimed their ninth win in 13 encounters by pulling off an 83-50 victory against Kennedy's Club Ottos Full Throttle in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Terry Dawkins produced a triple-double with 20 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists, and six steals; Sean Nicholas sank 12 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; and Delonte Phillip scored 12 points and claimed seven rebounds for Da Project.

Akeem Davis converted 16 points and snatched six steals; Warren Bogle produced 11 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; and Morlon Davis had 10 points, seven rebounds, and six assists for the Ottos Full Throttle, who lost for the 11th time in 12 games

to remain in the cellar of the First Division League.

Spanish Heat notched up their sixth win in 13 games with a 102-74 drubbing of the Northside Stingerz in the second game of Saturday's double-header.

Bernard Andrew converted 46 points and grabbed 23 rebounds; Steven Matthew had 29 points, seven assists, and six rebounds; and Gabriel Perez sank 23 points and snatched 20 rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

Ammiel Williams converted 23 points and claimed eight rebounds; Alexander Fuller sank 14 points and snatched eight rebounds; Christopher Henry produced 13 points and six rebounds; Tristan Jacobs had 12 points and 11 rebounds; and Jaheem James scored 12 points for the Northside Stingerz, who will remain second from the bottom of the standings after losing a match for the 10th time in 12 games.

Meanwhile, Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers maintained their unbeaten run by recording another win in their latest outing.

The Steelers won for the 11th time in as many games to remain the only unbeaten team in the league with an 84-60 drubbing of the

All Saints Slam.

Cohen Desouza produced 23 points, nine rebounds, and six assists; Lindsay McDonald sank 16 points; Keroi Lee converted 15 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; and Devorn Benjamin scored 15 points for the Steelers.

Humroy Wright sank 16 points; Wilkin Floyd produced 12 points and six steals; and Sergio Symister had 10 points and five rebounds for All Saints Slam, who lost for the seventh time in 11 games.

Defending champions EZ Fit Flyers stayed within touching distance of the Steelers by soaring to their 11th win in 12 matches with a 102-41 drubbing of Kennedy's Club Ottos Free Throttle in their latest outing.

Alexis Jackson converted 26 points and claimed nine rebounds; Adonis Humphreys sank 20 points and grabbed 14 rebounds; Sellaie Brathwaite produced 16 points and claimed seven rebounds; and Javonte Daley had 12 points, seven rebounds, and six assists for the Flyers.

Morlon Davis sank 12 points and snatched five rebounds, Akeem Davis converted nine points, and Mali Newton had eight points and nine rebounds for the Ottos Full Throttle.

Shallow and Bassarath returned as president and vice president of CWI

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced that Dr. Kishore Shallow has been returned as president, with Azim Bassarath continuing as vice-president, following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Saturday at the St. James' Club in Antigua.

Both men were unopposed and will begin a new three-year term, effective immediately.

In a unanimous vote, all territories supported Shallow, securing twelve (12) votes, while Bassarath received the backing of four territories, amassing eight (8) votes.

This marks the first three-year term under CWI's recently implemented governance reform, which introduces term limits to enhance accountability and long-term sustainability.

The AGM was attended by all member shareholders representing Barbados, the Leeward Islands, Jamaica, Guyana, the Windward Islands, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Dr. Shallow, a Vincentian IT and business consultant, first took office in 2023 and has been at the forefront of transformational changes within CWI, focusing on governance modernization, high-performance development, and strengthening stakeholder engagement.

Upon his confirmation, he expressed gratitude for the continued confidence placed in his leadership and reaffirmed his commitment to progress.

"I am truly honoured by the trust shown in me to continue leading



Dr. Kishore Shallow, right, with Azim Bassarath. (CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies. This confidence suggests that the shareholders appreciate that there is a clear direction of progress—one that respects and values each and every stakeholder and promotes oneness in our approach.

"Critically, we must continue on this trajectory and build on the foundation. It's a new day for Cricket West Indies, and together, we will push our cricket forward," Dr. Shallow stated.

Vice-president Bassarath, who also serves as president of the Trin-

idad and Tobago Cricket Board, pledged his continued support to Shallow and the broader CWI leadership team as they embark on this new term.

"I remain fully committed to supporting Dr. Shallow and working alongside the entire board of directors as we enter this new period for West Indies cricket.

"There is important work ahead, and we will continue to strengthen the game at all levels for the benefit of our players, fans, and stakeholders," Bassarath said.

Sports News



United and Rangers remain in tight race for First Division title

A point continues to separate leaders Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United and Ottos Rangers at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League after both teams won their latest matches in the group stage.

Jennings United reclaimed their one-point lead over second-placed Ottos Rangers after recording their 13th win in 17 matches with a 2-0 victory against Bolans in their fourth match in the group stage at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday.

The result allows Jennings United to lead the First Division by advancing to 42 points, one more than Ottos Rangers, with both teams having two games remaining.

Bolans FC will remain in eighth place with 16 points after slumping to their seventh defeat in 16 matches.

The Ottos Rangers recorded their 12th win in 17 matches, coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against Bendals FC at the Bendals playing field.

Darren Stevens scored in the 33rd minute to give Bendals FC a one-nil lead at halftime. But Josue "Naymar" Arias struck an equalizer in the 52nd minute, and teammate Junior Benjamin scored the winner in the 65th minute to snatch victory for the Rangers.

The result allows Ottos Rangers to advance to 41 points, while Bendals FC



The Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United football team after one of their group stage matches at the ABFA Technical Center. (File photo)

will remain in seventh place with 19 points after suffering their seventh loss in 16 matches.

SAP FC jumped from fifth to fourth place on goal difference after pulling off a 6-3 victory against the Freemans Village Scorpions in their fourth encounter in the second round at the Freemans Village playing field.

Peter Byers scored twice, while Devonta Kirk Geran, Tyrique Tonge, Emerson Henry, and Daniel Joseph each converted once for SAP FC. Darius Hector scored twice, and Kyle Grayman converted once for the Scorpions.

The result allows SAP FC to advance to 35 points, the same as the Freemans Village Scorpions, after securing their 10th win in 17 matches.

The Scorpions remain in third place on goal difference with 35 points after

slumping to their fourth defeat in 17 matches.

Swetes FC jumped from sixth to fifth place on goal difference by pulling off a 4-2 victory against Empire FC in their second-round match at the ABFA Technical Center.

Jondale Jno-Lewis scored twice for Swetes, who scored all their goals in the first half. Jno-Lewis had conversions in the 31st and 38th minutes, while the other goals for Swetes were scored by Railique Browne in the 35th minute and Vashawn James in the 43rd minute.

Kamali Looby scored in the 32nd minute, and Akeem Grant had a 75th-minute conversion for Empire, who finished the match with 10 men after Carlos Solomon received a red card and was expelled in the 52nd minute.

The result allows Swetes to advance to 33 points, the

same as Empire, after recording their 10th win in 17 matches. Empire dropped from fourth to sixth place after suffering their fourth defeat in 17 matches.

Urlings moved from 12th to 11th place after being awarded a 3-0 victory by default against the Liberta Blackhawks, who failed to show up for their second-round encounter at the Freemans Village playing field.

Urlings advanced to 13 points after securing their third win in 16 matches. The Liberta Blackhawks remain in the cellar of the 14-team competition with three points after losing for the 15th time in 16 matches.

Police recorded a 4-1 win against Lion Hill in their third match in the second round at the ABFA Technical Center. Joumol Semper, Devon Ollivere, Brandon Stachel, and Dimitri Scotland scored for Police,

CWI reappoints three female directors

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has reaffirmed its dedication to promoting diversity and inclusive leadership with the reappointment of three distinguished women to its Board of Directors.

This move builds on the organization's ongoing efforts to enhance governance and ensure a broader range of perspectives in the decision-making process at the highest level of cricket administration.

At the first Board of Directors meeting of the new term, held in Antigua, Dr. Kishore Shallow and Azim Bassarath were reappointed as President and Vice President, respectively.

Alongside them, Mrs. Debra Coryat-Patton (Trinidad & Tobago), Ms. Diann Campbell (Jamaica), and Mrs. Louise Victor-Frederick (St. Lucia) were confirmed as Independent Directors, continuing their crucial contributions to CWI's growth and vision.

This marks the second term in which Cricket West Indies continues its historic commitment to having three women serve on the Board simultaneously.

Diann Campbell from Jamaica brings nearly three decades of experience in cricket administration, corporate governance, and strategic development. With a background in human resource management and political studies, she has been an instrumental figure in shaping CWI's long-term strategies and operational excellence.

Louise Victor-Frederick of Saint Lucia, a Chevening Scholar, continues to serve as a prominent figure in corporate affairs, branding, and public relations. With her extensive experience in business strategy and communications, she remains an invaluable asset to the board. In addition to her role with CWI, she is also a director of

the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture.

Debra Coryat-Patton from Trinidad & Tobago brings her expertise in law and corporate governance back to the board. As an attorney-at-law specializing in employment law, intellectual property, and governance, her

unwavering commitment to excellence in governance and gender inclusivity.

"This is not about tokenism, but a deliberate and ongoing effort to ensure that women's leadership is not just acknowledged but actively embraced at every level. These women have played and will continue to play a pivotal role



From left to right: Mrs. Debra Coryat-Patton, Ms. Diann Campbell, Mrs. Louise Victor-Frederick

reappointment reinforces CWI's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of governance and accountability.

Additionally, Mr. Hallam Nichols (Barbados) has been reappointed as an Independent Director, further strengthening the board with his deep business experience in several sectors across the region spanning telecommunications, entertainment, physical planning and infrastructure development.

CWI President, Dr. Kishore Shallow, emphasized the significance of these reappointments, stating, "The reappointment of these outstanding women is a reflection of our deep and

in shaping the future of West Indies cricket, ensuring that we move beyond conversation and into meaningful, lasting action.

"We are also pleased to welcome back Mr. Hallam Nichols, a distinguished businessman whose influence and reach extend across the Caribbean and beyond, further strengthening the diverse expertise on our Board."

This decision reinforces CWI's ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive, forward-thinking leadership structure. With these appointments, the board remains poised to drive progress and foster innovation within West Indies cricket.

Attacking Saints avoid automatic relegation from Premier League

The Attacking Saints avoided being demoted, but Five Islands became the last of the four teams to be automatically relegated from this season's Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday evening.

Five Islands was relegated after crashing to a 2-1 defeat against the Attacking Saints when both sides met in their final match of the season during the opening game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Shafeeq Joseph scored in the third minute to give the Attacking Saints a one-nil lead at halftime. Obafemi Poyotte doubled their lead with an 86th-minute conversion.

Jaheim Jeremy reduced the deficit when he converted a penalty kick in the 89th minute for Five Islands. Both teams finished the game with 10 men after Jahkefie Jeffers of the Attacking Saints and Demario Roberts of Five Islands received red cards and were expelled in

the 58th minute.

The Attacking Saints finished their campaign in 10th place with 19 points after recording their fifth win from their quota of 19 matches. Five Islands ended their season in 11th place with 17 points after slumping to their 12th defeat from their quota of 19 matches.

Five Islands joined the Willikies Warriors, Cool and Smooth Greenbay Hoppers, and Parham as the four teams to be automatically relegated from this season's Premier Division League.

Island Original John Hughes and Parham wrapped up their Premier League campaigns with wins in their final matches on Saturday.

John Hughes finished in seventh place on goal difference after pulling off a 2-0 victory against the Greenbay Hoppers in their final outing during the second game of Saturday's triple-header.

Following a goalless first half, John Hughes scored both goals in the second half



Players of the Attacking Saints football team

to snatch victory. Devontae Looby broke the deadlock with a 70th-minute conversion, and Jaheim Williams added a second when he converted a penalty kick in the fourth minute of added time.

John Hughes also finished the game with 10 men after Troy Jules received a red card and was expelled in the 85th minute.

John Hughes finished their season with 24 points, the same as the Potters Tigers, after recording their seventh win from their quota of 19 matches.

The Greenbay Hoppers finished in the cellar of the 14-team league with 11 points after crashing to their 14th defeat from their quota of 19 matches.

Trevaughn Harriette and Tyrese Gowe each scored twice as Parham ended their campaign in 12th place after coming from behind to pull off a 5-1 victory against the Potters Tigers in their final

outing during the last game of Saturday's triple-header.

Keon Greene scored the only goal for his team in the 10th minute to give the Potters Tigers a one-nil lead. But Harriette snatched the equalizer for Parham when he scored his first of two goals in the 17th minute as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

However, Andy Daniel had a 56th-minute conversion, Harriette scored his second goal in the 62nd minute, and Gowe converted two late goals to secure victory for Parham. Gowe had conversions in the 86th and the fifth minute of added time.

The result allows the Parham to finish with 13 points after recording their fourth win from their quota of 19 matches. The Potters Tigers finished in eighth place with 24 points after suffering their ninth defeat from their quota of 19 matches.