

Government to be watchful re: pronouncements by US President Donald Trump

Story on Page 2



Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez Makes Presentation at Berlin Economic Forum 2025

Story on Page 5

Local News



Government to be watchful re: pronouncements by US President Trump

The Antigua and Barbuda government will be keeping a close eye on developments from the United States and how these will impact both the domestic situation in the US as well as internationally.

This week's meeting of the Cabinet discussed the President's address to the Joint Sitting of Congress on Tuesday night, and decided to reserve any action until it is able to fully analyse the impact of Mr Trump's announcements.

"Although no-one can predict the impact resulting from this period of chaos, the US Stock Market and other economic indicators have shown a decline in value since his first month

in office. Any decline in US GDP will no doubt impact the destinations to which US tourists visit, since travel and tourism are regarded as luxury spend," sources close to the Cabinet discussion indicated.

The Cabinet felt that it would be prudent to await the pronouncements and other actions which were announced by the US President before taking any policy decisions.

The United States remains Antigua and Barbuda's largest source market for tourism, representing more than half of all visitors to the country. Any fall-off in tourist arrivals could negatively impact a broad swath of the local economy.

Meanwhile, with the uncertainty emanating out of the US, the Cabinet is bringing back into sharp focus the discussions about food security.

The Cabinet invited several officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and a private farmer to sit with members over lunch to discuss increasing food security by producing more poultry meats, eggs, fruits and vegetables.

"It was agreed that water storage by farmers is absolutely necessary in light of the tendency to drought in this uncertain climate. Global climate change has resulted in unusual patterns of rainfall and drought; therefore, storing rainfall

and runoff would be necessary on every farm and would therefore require the building of many small and large dams. Although self-sufficient in egg production the cost of feed is likely to increase overtime; therefore, local production of poultry feed is likely to become a necessity if prices are to be held down," the sources revealed.

They say Cabinet will continue to encourage backyard gardening and increased food production across the country. The abandon coconut plantation in Barbuda for example is to be put to productive use working with the Barbuda Council.

CELEBRATING 6 YEARS OF AMAZING SERVICE!!



SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.
Cassada Paints & Supplies Inc
 Utility Drive Cassada Gardens
 (268) 562-9450






15% OFF STOREWIDE

MARCH 10TH - MARCH 15TH

Senate gives 'greenlight' to Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The intense debate on the government's plans to increase the fees paid annually to licence motor vehicles continued in the Upper House, the Senate when it convened a sitting on Wednesday.

The decision to raise the licence fees has caused much discussion among members of the public and in a bid to appease vehicle owners, the prime minister announced that the proposed 40 percent increase across the board has been adjusted and already approved by the Lower House, the House of Representatives.

In piloting the Bill in the Senate, Leader of Government Business, Senator Shenella Govia, provided the rationale for the government to raise the user fees noting that the monies will be specifically dedicated to road repairs. She pointed to the ongoing road repair programme that is even causing traffic delays because many secondary roads have been closed off in order to affect repairs.

"The increase (in fees) works out to be 28 cents a day for most vehicle owners; how can anyone say that 28 cents per day is onerous?" she queried.

Senator Govia stated that the nation's road network is in urgent need of repairs and what the government is asking is for the driving public to assist with financing this costly undertaking by paying more for their annual licences.

However, Leader of Minority in the Senate, Senator David Massiah, pointed to the need for accountability on the part of the Transport

Board for the monies that it has collected in past years. This has been a theme of the opposition members in the Lower House as well.

But the government's senators responded well noting that claims that Antigua and Barbuda residents were being over-taxed were highly exaggerated. Senator Dwayne

George noted that the Gaston Browne Administration was a responsible and caring government and that it would never place unnecessary burdens on the people.

Following a spirited debate, the legislation was passed by the Senate and it will go before the Governor General for his assent into law.



ABLP ST JOHN'S RURAL WEST

MEET AND GREET

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

14 MARCH

Eldeana R. Martin Recreational Community Park
Golden Grove New Ext.
6-9pm

Sen. Michael Joseph
ABLP CARETAKER- ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST

Refreshments will be provided

Local News

Another missing person's motor vehicle found

It is a worrying development for both the family and the police as the motor vehicle belonging to missing Yorks resident, Keon Richards, has been found by the police.

The Nissan car belonging to missing Yorks resident Keon Richards has been found, as police intensify their search for him. Law enforcers are remaining tight-lipped about the details surrounding the recovery of the car, but confirm their search is on in earnest for the missing man.

Police are asking anyone with information which can assist in finding Richards to call the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crimestoppers at 800-8477.

Meanwhile, the Police Administration has indicated that it too, is concerned about the increased number of missing persons' cases reported to the force over a short period.

The administration encourages families to at least inform someone of their plans to leave home or be away from home for an extended period. The public is also urged to report missing persons to the authorities in a much more, timely manner.

Recently, the police have received three separate reports of missing persons, including Keon Richards of Yorks. While the locations of two individuals were made known, Keon's whereabouts remain unknown. He was last seen on Wednesday, February 26 at




his workplace at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort. His mother reported they last spoke with each other sometime on February 18. He is 6ft tall with a brown complexion and weighs approx-

imately 200lbs. The police are in the process of searching several areas utilizing all available resources with the hope of finding him.

Anyone with information regarding his disappearance

or whereabouts is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline number at 800-8477.

Meanwhile, police continue to seek additional information into the disappearances of Orden "Passo" David, Donna-Marie Christian, and others who are still missing. David's vehicle was found near Pares Village with the interior burnt out, but there has been no sign of him. Anyone with any information, please contact any police station or call the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.



STATE INSURANCE

COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

COVERAGE FOR ALL STAGES OF LIFE

ANTIGUA
(268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA
(268) 727-7422

info@sicantigua.com

www.sicantigua.com

Tourism Minister Fernandez addresses Berlin Economic Forum 2025



Minister Fernandez Makes Presentation at Berlin Economic Forum 2025

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, captivated global business leaders and policymakers on Wednesday at the Berlin Economic Forum 2025, delivering a compelling presentation on “Sustainable Investments in Tourism: A Catalyst for Global Development and Environmental Resilience.”

The forum, held under the theme “International Business, Sustainable Investments & Environmental Projects for Advancing Global Development, Democracy and Peace,” brings together leading politicians, diplomats, economists, corporate executives, and entrepreneurs to discuss strategies for aligning economic progress with environmental responsibility.

Minister Fernandez emphasized the pressing need for sustainable invest-

ment in tourism, highlighting Antigua and Barbuda’s pioneering approach to balancing economic prosperity with environmental conservation.

“Tourism is one of the world’s largest industries, yet it stands at a crossroads. The question we must ask is: At what cost?” Minister Fernandez stated. “In Antigua and Barbuda, tourism accounts for approximately 60% of our GDP, supporting nearly half of our national employment. But as a small island nation on the front-line of climate change, we understand that our greatest economic asset—our environment—is also our most vulnerable resource.”

Drawing from Antigua and Barbuda’s success in public-private partnerships and green investment initiatives, the

Minister outlined strategic solutions, including:

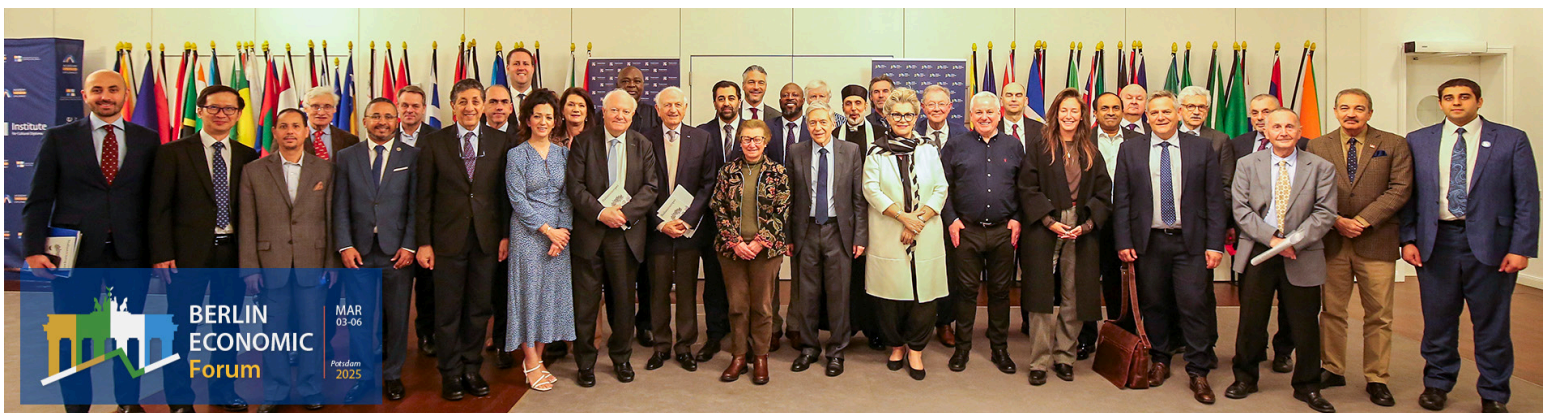
- The Nobu Beach Inn in Barbuda, a project led by Robert De Niro, designed with environmental sustainability at its core.
- Ambitious renewable energy targets, including 100% renewable energy in Barbuda by 2030 and solar-powered public buildings across the nation.
- Destination stewardship policies that support small businesses, local artisans, and eco-conscious tourism ventures.

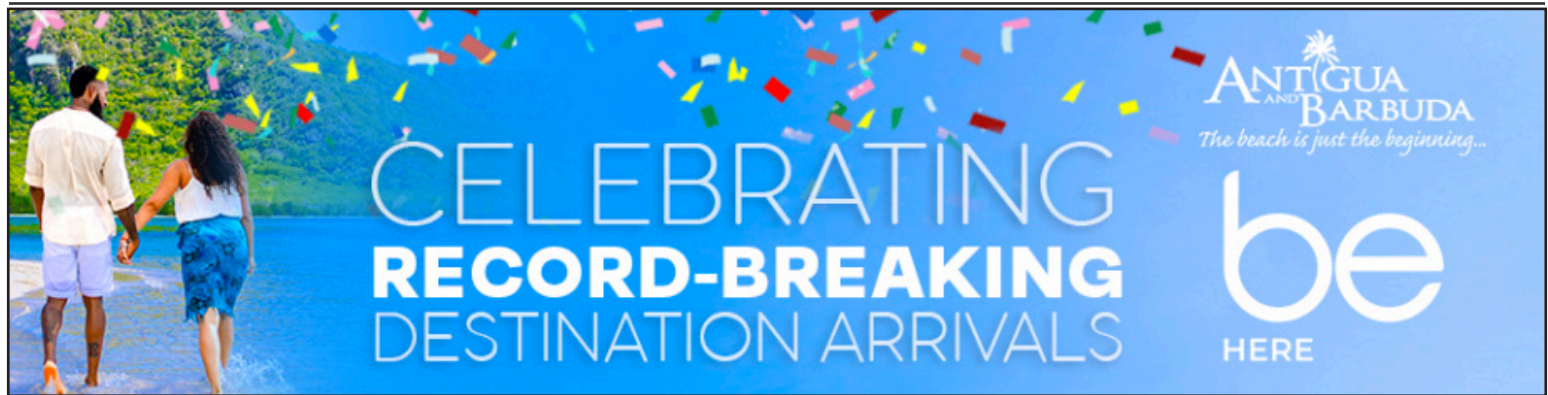
Minister Fernandez also highlighted Antigua and Barbuda’s global leadership in climate justice, referencing the historic victory at the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and ongoing legal efforts at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to hold major polluters accountable.

“Climate change is not just an environmental issue—it is a justice issue. Those least responsible for the crisis often bear its harshest consequences. The tourism industry must acknowledge this imbalance and shift from exploitation to stewardship.”

Minister Fernandez concluded with a call to global investors, policymakers, and industry leaders to embrace tourism as a vehicle for long-term sustainability.

“We must redefine investment in tourism. It is no longer just about profit margins—it is about people, planet, and prosperity.”





Antigua and Barbuda celebrates multiple nominations at World Travel Awards

Antigua and Barbuda has been nominated in seven prestigious categories in the 32nd annual World Travel Awards, highlighting the destination's appeal as a top Caribbean getaway.

The nominations include:

- ☐ Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination 2025
- ☐ Caribbean's Leading Destination 2025
- ☐ Caribbean's Leading Family Travel Destination 2025
- ☐ Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Destination 2025
- ☐ Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board 2025 – Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority
- ☐ Caribbean's Leading Wedding

Destination 2025

- ☐ Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination 2025

With award-winning beaches, world-class sailing, historic charm, luxurious accommodations, and warm hospitality, Antigua and Barbuda captivates travelers from around the world.

Marketing Communications Manager of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Maria Blackman said "These nominations reflect the charm, strong product offerings, and warm hospitality of our twin-island paradise. We invite first-time travellers and our many repeat visitors to 'Be Here' and to immerse themselves in all that Antigua and Barbuda has to

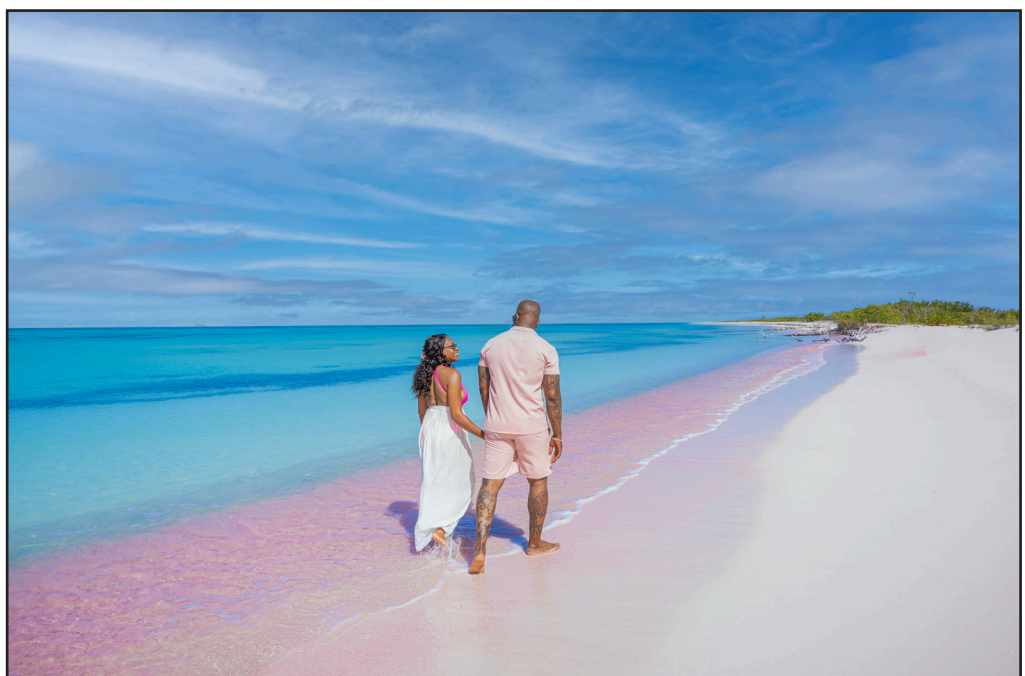
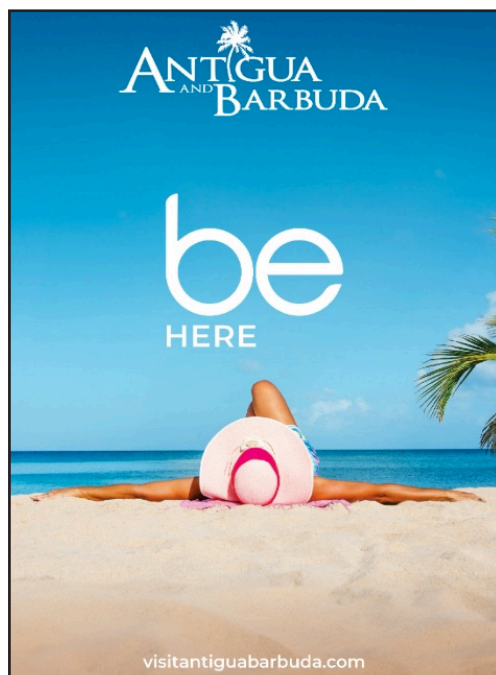
offer, from exploring our rich heritage and vibrant culture to embracing romance in stunning island settings.

"We are honoured to be recognized by the World Travel Awards, amongst the best in the Caribbean, and encourage everyone to cast their vote for Antigua and Barbuda, to help us secure these titles", said Blackman.

Voting for the Caribbean categories is now open. Votes can be cast by travel professionals, media and tourism consumers on the World Travel Awards website: www.worldtravelawards.com/vote

Voting ends on June 22, 2025.

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda go to: www.visitantiguabarbuda.com



BLUESEA The Latin American Traveller at ANATO



our of participating as an international guest at the 44th edition of the ANATO Fair, held from February 26 to 28, 2025, in Bogotá, Colombia.

On February 28, BLUESEA hosted a working breakfast during which it introduced the company and its destinations to prominent figures in the tourism industry. BLUESEA seeks to enhance its presence within the Latin American market and on a global scale, actively exploring new avenues for collaboration with travel agencies, wholesalers, and tour operators. The

company collaborates with service providers and hotel partners who uphold the highest standards of excellence across the Caribbean and Latin America.

At ANATO, BLUESEA proudly represented Antigua and Barbuda, along with our other premier destinations across the Caribbean. The company remain committed to fostering and expanding its network of relationships with clients, suppliers, and strategic partners, further solidifying its position in the industry.

BLUESEA The Latin American Traveller (DMC), an esteemed company renowned for its

expertise in destination management across Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean, had the hon-

The UWI Five Islands Campus Launches Inaugural 5K Run/Walk to Boost Health and Education



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The UWI Five Islands Campus, Antigua and Barbuda, Wednesday, March 5, 2025. — The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is set to host its first annual 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 6:30 a.m. The event, which is being held in partnership with the Five Islands Primary School, aims to promote health and wellness while raising funds for student scholarships and school programs in the Five Islands area.

Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor C. Justin Robinson, highlighted the event's dual mission: "This 5K isn't just about physical ac-

tivity—it's about uniting the community to support education and healthier lifestyles." The initiative builds on the campus's existing health campaigns, such as "No Sugar November" and a New Year's step challenge, which encouraged daily goals of 5,000 to 15,000 steps.

Principal of Five Islands Primary School, Mr Alden James underscored the partnership's long-term vision. "This event strengthens our bond with The UWI Five Islands Campus, which adopted our school during its 60th anniversary celebrations. We envision a future where our students not only participate in these initiatives but also aspire to attend UWI. Together, we're building a healthier, more connected community."

The 5K route will begin and end at

the UWI Five Islands Campus, guiding participants along the scenic route with logistical support from the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and the Antigua and Barbuda Cadet Force. Registration fees—\$20 for primary/secondary students, \$30 for tertiary students, and \$40 for adults (with group discounts available)—will directly fund scholarships at The UWI FIC and initiatives at Five Islands Primary School, including the uniforms programme and educational supplies.

Participants in the 5K Run/Walk will receive commemorative T-shirts and giveaways. The event is sponsored by the Citizenship by Investment Unit, Townhouse Megastore, Stonewall Reloaded, Green Apple Café, The Ahkimo Group, and The UWI Five Islands Campus.

Local News

RORC and AYC agreement promises much benefits for Antigua and Barbuda

*Reprinted from a
Zoe Carlton post*

The world of offshore yacht racing just got even more exciting. Two stalwarts of the sailing world—the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and the Antigua Yacht Club (AYC)—have signed a landmark Memorandum of Agreement, securing the future of the RORC Caribbean 600 in Antigua for years to come.

This agreement formalises a partnership that has been thriving for over 15 years, elevating the event from a bold new challenge in 2009 to a must-race fixture on the global sailing calendar.

“It’s one of our signature highlight races—we love it,” said Deb Fish, Commodore of RORC. “It’s a fantastic course, it really points up our program. Antigua is a fantastic host, with friendly locals and incredible sailing conditions. It was time to put this race on solid footing for the future.”

A Race Like No Other

The RORC Caribbean 600 is unlike anything else in offshore racing. Covering 600 punishing miles, it takes crews through 11 Caribbean islands, pushing them through shifting conditions, tricky currents, and relentless challenges. The combination of relentless trade winds, requiring frequent sail changes, complex navigation, and stunning scenery makes it a true test of skill and endurance.

“Antigua is a perfect ven-



ue,” Added RORC Chief Executive Jeremy Wilton. “The Antigua Yacht Club offers everything we need—it’s right on the dock, has fantastic facilities, and delivers exactly what’s required to stage and manage a race of this magnitude.”

An Historic Agreement

While RORC and AYC have worked together for over a

decade, the new agreement cements their relationship, ensuring that the Caribbean 600 remains in Antigua for at least the next three years.

Clarence Pilgrim, Commodore of Antigua Yacht Club, celebrated the occasion: “This is a fantastic time—this sixteenth edition is our best yet. We love welcoming sailors from all

over the world. Our goal is to keep expanding, hosting more regattas, and making the event bigger and better every year.”

More Than Just a Race

The race week now includes The Nelson Series, featuring the high-speed Antigua 360, a thrilling sprint around the island that sets the stage for the main event. Volunteers, locals, and international crews all play a role in making the event a success.

“We love Antigua and volunteering means we’re part of the community,” said Nicki Bovey, a long-time race volunteer, who comes every year to Antigua to support the regatta. “It’s rewarding to contribute to something so special, and every year, it just gets better.”

With this new agreement in place, the RORC Caribbean 600 is set to continue its legacy as one of the most exhilarating offshore races in the world. Antigua remains unequivocally a powerhouse of sailing!

MP for St. Paul, E.P Chet Greene welcomed the signing of the agreement calling the race ‘a national staple’ of Antigua and Barbuda. He congratulated the organisers for the successful staging of the 16th RORC 600 race, which had its prize giving last Friday night. “On behalf of the government of Antigua and Barbuda, let me welcome you back to our shores next year, 2026, as part of this new agreement,” he declared.

ABRSC applauds schools on Black Heritage Month celebrations



Winner of Villa School Calypso Competition Jaedah 'Sweet Melody' Baird and ABRSC Member Angelica O'Donoghue

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) extends its congratulations to schools and institutions across the nation for their enthusiastic engagement in Black Heritage Month celebrations. These activities have played a vital role in deepening the focus on and spreading knowledge of the achievements of Black people, particularly within the Caribbean.

While Black History Month has traditionally emphasized the accomplishments of African Americans—understandably so, given that the observance was conceptualized and institutionalized in the United States—the ABRSC commends local efforts to highlight the rich contributions of Africans and their descendants in shaping the history of Antigua and Barbuda. These contributions span the struggles for emancipation from European enslavement, the rejection of colonial rule, the proclamation of independence, and the ongoing pursuit of social and economic development, including the global movement for reparatory justice.

A standout example of this cultural



Joy Lawrence makes presentation at Villa School celebration was the Villa Primary School's Likkle Man Pelle Black



Joy Lawrence and student
Heritage Month Calypso Competition. Now in its sixth year, the event honored the legacy of Likkle Man Pelle, a prolific writer who mentored



Dr Lenworth Johnson and Carla Knight at Villa School

numerous student artists and contributed significantly to Antigua's calypso culture. The ABRSC was proud to support this initiative and awarded the 2025 Calypso Monarch, Jaedah 'Sweet Melody' Baird, with a brand-new keyboard to aid in her musical development. The Commission also congratulates all nine contestants for their outstanding performances and their ability to meaningfully present themes of Black history and reparatory justice. Special recognition is also extended to Richie Francis for his continued dedication as a writer and mentor to young calypsonians.

Throughout February, several schools engaged in Black Heritage Month festivities, including cultural displays and African Dress Day. As part of these observances, ABRSC members Joy Lawrence and Dr. Lenworth Johnson made presentations to Grades 5 and 6 students at Villa Primary School during their Heritage Day, where she also presented a copy of her book, *The People's Point*. Lawrence also addressed students at Glan-

Scouts Association Announces New Headquarters Location



GOVERNOR GENERAL AND NATIONAL SECRETARY SCOUT ASSOCIATION DR JANIL GORE FRANCIS



CENTRE FRONT ROW CHIEF COMMISSIONER PATRICIA SALMON AND RIGHT OF CC CHAIRMAN CORDELL JOSIAH MBE

The Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association (ABSA) recently held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Ex-Servicemen's Leah's House, with Governor General and Chief Scout, Sir Rodney Williams, presiding over the session.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the Chief Scout's announcement that Leah House on Prime Minister Office's Drive will serve as the permanent headquarters of the Scouts Association.

This development marks a major milestone in providing a dedicated space for the expansion of scouting activities and youth development programmes across Antigua and Barbuda.

As part of the organization's strategic direction, the Association is placing significant emphasis on leadership training and development to meet the expected increase in enrol-

ment following its latest recruitment push. With an expanding membership base, the need for trained and committed leaders is greater than ever, ensuring that all new and returning scouts receive high-quality mentorship and guidance.

In her annual report, Chief Commissioner Patricia Salmon celebrated the increase in the number of scouts aged 18 to 25, crediting this growth to the focused efforts on attracting and developing young adult members. This initiative ensures that the organization has a strong pool of young leaders who can prepare themselves for senior positions within the Scouts movement.

Additionally, ABSA partnered with the Girl Guide Association of Antigua and Barbuda to celebrate the Annual Founders' and Thinking Day—a significant event that highlights

the shared values and community impact of both organizations. This collaboration reflects the Association's ongoing commitment to strengthening ties with sister organizations and expanding outreach efforts.

For the 2025 calendar year, the Chief Commissioner reaffirmed that the Association is open to both boys and girls, and the key focus will be to establish at least one active Scout unit in every parish across Antigua and Barbuda.

As part of its continued growth and governance strengthening, Dr. Fitzmore Burns has been appointed to serve on the Scouts Executive Committee. Dr. Burns brings extensive experience in youth development and will play a crucial role in shaping policies and programmes that foster leadership, discipline, and community service among young people. The Chairman and National Secretary

of the Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association are Mr. Cordell Josiah MBE and Dr. Janil Gore-Francis respectively.

During the AGM, reports were presented on the financial standing, strategic direction, and operational priorities of the Association, with discussions focused on strengthening partnerships, increasing public engagement, and improving resources for the scouting movement.

The Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association remains committed to empowering young people through scouting, equipping them with essential life skills, leadership opportunities, and a sense of civic responsibility. The Association looks forward to continuing its mission of positive youth engagement with the support of dedicated volunteers, community partners, and national stakeholders.

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



**BIRTHDAY/
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS**

INTERVIEWS

**COMMUNITY
UPDATES**

POLITICS

HOSTED BY WINSTON WILLIAMS

MORNING POINTE

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

Bonnietha John brings 'Water Wednesday' to Holy Trinity School



It was 'Water Wednesday' for the first time at the Holy Trinity School on Wednesday, March 5, organized by one of the ABLP candidate in this month's Barbuda Council elections, Bonnietha John.

Reports are that the principal, Sharleen Harris, expressed her sincere gratitude to candidate, John, for this bold initiative, recognizing that water is essential for life.

In a heartwarming gesture, she acknowledged the generous donation and the uplifting compliments given to Bonnietha John, highlighting the community's commitment to promoting envi-



ronmental awareness.

Reports from Codrington indicate that the event was marked by enthusiastic participation from both students and teachers, who were elated by the donation and its underlying message. The initiative was designed not only to celebrate

the essential resource of water but also to educate the school community on sustainable practices. Principal Harris noted that the efforts made during "Water Wednesday" are integral to fostering a sense of responsibility toward natural resources.

Participants at Holy Trinity School left the event inspired and well-informed about the importance of water conservation. Teachers emphasized that the new-found knowledge would benefit both educational programs and day-to-day practices at the school. As the community continues to embrace these eco-friendly initiatives, the impact of the donation and the event is expected to resonate well into the future.

Observers note that John has brought a fresh approach to campaigning in Barbuda to the point where even her opponents are paying attention.



RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

Recycling's Magic Pathway

*Recycling is more than a chore;
It's a magic path to do much more!
With every bottle, can, and jar,
We shape the earth, both near and far.
When plastics pile and glass is tossed,
The planet bears a heavy cost.
But through recycling's gentle art,
We give our world a brand-new start.
A can that clinks into the bin
Begins a tale where we all win.
From trash to treasure, waste reborn,
A greener world each early morn.
Glass, once shattered, finds new grace,
Melted, molded, finds its place.
Plastic spun to threads so fine,*

*Turning trash to a bold design.
Recycling is nature's echo, clear,
A whisper that we hold dear.
Less in landfills, more in use,
A cycle where we reduce abuse.
Every choice to sort and clean
Writes a line in nature's green.
A magic pathway, step by step,
Towards the earth we all accept.
Resolve to act, recycle right,
Turn waste to wonder, dark to light.
For when we care, our planet thrives—
Recycling breathes new life to lives0021`*

Answer to last week's Question

Can you recycle a paper cup?

Answer: Many paper cups are lined with plastic, which makes them non-recyclable in standard facilities.

This week's Question

Is it okay to recycle items with food residue on them?

Think you know the answer? Check back next week to see if you're a recycling pro!

Regional News

Police in Belize say plane carrying illegal drugs deliberately set on fire

Police in Belize say they believe that a jet aircraft burned near the Belize-Guatemalan border last weekend was used to transport illegal drugs into the country.

Police Commissioner Chester Williams said the plane had landed in southern Belize and that authorities had been alerted to the aircraft leaving South America and heading toward Belize at around 11:00 p.m. (local time) on Sunday.

He said authorities closely monitored the plane's movements and, "as we normally would do in these instances, we called the Joint Intelligence and Operations Center (JIOC), ensuring that we deployed personnel in different areas where we suspected the plane might land.

The aircraft was tracked until it entered Belizean airspace, at least three hours after leaving South America, before disappearing about two miles from the Belize-Guatemala border in the south.

"Our counterparts have indicated to us that the plane landed in Belizean territory near the border with Guatemala in some extremely rugged terrain. So, the Belize Defence Force (BDF) conducted a flyover, and we also sent in a team comprising police and BDF officers to the location," Williams said.


He added that while the teams were able to locate the plane in Belizean territory, near the Guatemalan border, "it is a jet, and it has been destroyed by fire."





Williams said no cargo was found on the plane, which had landed on a makeshift airstrip.

"Yes, an airstrip is there that the plane landed on. From all indications from the team on the ground, the plane landed well and was not damaged during landing. But after landing, it was tipped on its side and burned."

Belizean authorities have, in recent years, stepped up efforts to counter illegal flights carrying drugs into the country. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



Did you know?

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE

DOWN SYNDROME FACT

Why is it called Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome is a condition where people have a set of common features that often appear together. In 1866, an English doctor named John Langdon Down noticed that some people had similar physical and developmental traits. Because he was the first to describe this pattern, the condition was named after him and is now called Down syndrome.

Support AWARENESS Down Syndrome

Jamaica lifts visa requirement for Dominican Republic residents



Effective Tuesday, March 4, Jamaica waived the visa requirement for residents of the Dominican Republic who travel to the island for visits – whether for tourism or business – up to 180 days.

Tourism Minister, Edmund Bartlett, made the announcement on Monday during a press briefing at the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) head office in New Kingston.

He described this as a historic development in Caribbean tourism cooperation between Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. “This represents more than just an administrative change. It symbolises our commitment to fostering stronger regional bonds and creating new opportunities for tourism growth across our beautiful Caribbean region. By removing the visa restriction, we open doors to unprecedented multi-destination possi-

bilities between Jamaica, the Dominican Republic [and] the region on a larger scale with Europe, Asia and Africa,” the Minister said.

He added that this development is also a step towards achieving multi-destination tourism, which has been a target for Jamaica over the last five years. Bartlett said Jamaica has, so far, signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Mexico and Panama, and are in talks with Colombia to this end. “We think that this is the way forward. At the heart of multi-destination is visa facilitation, and what visa facilitation does is to create an enablement across borders that is seamless,” he stated.

Bartlett pointed out that “this visa waiver is just the beginning”, adding that “we envisage a Caribbean where visitors can freely

travel between our islands, where our shared heritage becomes our collective strength and where regional tourism cooperation drives economic growth for all our people”.

The Dominican Republic’s Ambassador to Jamaica, Her Excellency, Angie Martinez, expressed gratitude to the Jamaican Government.

“This is history in the making and I feel very grateful, very humbled. I stand here... not only as the Ambassador... but as a Dominican who is deeply moved by the significance of this moment,” she said. Ambassador Martinez pointed out that the decision to remove the visa requirement is indicative of nearly two decades of diplomatic work, which was further heightened when she arrived in Jamaica in April 2021 following her diplomatic appointment.

“To be here in Kingston announcing the removal of visa requirements for Dominican nationals travelling to Jamaica for tourism and business is not just a diplomatic achievement, it’s a testament to the power of perseverance, the power of friendship and the unbreakable bond between our nations. I cannot overstate how profoundly grateful and humbled I am to stand here today, repre-

senting my country in this time of historic transformation in our relationship with Jamaica,” she stated. Ambassador Martinez added that this historic move is a “circle of reciprocity” as the Dominican Republic has allowed free movement of Jamaicans to the country since 2007.

Meanwhile, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Senator Aubyn Hill, applauded the move, highlighting the economic growth that could result from the partnership between the countries.

He noted that Jamaica already has several Dominican Republic entrepreneurs investing in the tourism and motor vehicle industries, among other engagements, adding that this will increase consequent on the removal of the visa requirement.

“Jamaica is positioning itself as a leader in logistics, financial services, ICT (information and communications technology), BPO (business process outsourcing) investment and, of course, in tourism. With these streamlined protocols, we’re increasing our export and travel, strengthening the very foundation of our economies. This, to me, whatever is going to happen in the Caribbean, is wonderful,” Hill said.

(Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

US visitor among survivors of Carnival Tuesday mass shooting

The man killed during Carnival Tuesday festivities in St James, is 30-year-old Venezuelan national Irvin Joaquin Mayora.

The other injured victims included a 66-year-old man from Diego Martin, who was shot twice to the right leg; a 25-year-old man from St. James, who was shot in the head; a 29-year-old woman from Maraval, who was shot in her right knee; and a 65-year-old woman from Maryland, USA, who was grazed on her left leg.

The 25-year-old man from St. James, was later transferred to the Port of Spain General Hospital in serious condition.

The other three victims were taken to the St James District Hospital where they were treated.

The 65-year-old woman has since been discharged.

According to police reports, a 61-year-old man from Carapichaima was walking along the Western Main Road near Vidale Street when at about 5p.m on Carnival Tuesday, he was confronted by an individual.

The 61-year-old, claiming he was attacked, pulled out a firearm from his waist and, in fear for his life, shot at the assailant. However, during the chaos, the gunfire struck four bystanders.

Mayora collapsing.

The 61-year-old did not attempt to escape and instead stayed at the scene, where he was detained by security personnel.

Police officers, led by Sergeant Hunte, arrived shortly

after and took the man into custody, confiscating his firearm.

A team of officers, including Senior Superintendent Williams, Superintendent Gyan, Assistant Superintendent Russel, and Assistant Superintendent Lynch, also visited the scene of the incident.

Eleven spent 9mm shell casings, and two projectiles were recovered from the area.

Although the police have not yet confirmed whether Mayora was the one who attacked the 61-year-old, it is strongly suspected. Additionally, authorities have not verified if the 61-year-old man held a license for his firearm.

However, police have said that the shooter is cooperat-

ing with police.

A postmortem is expected to take place today at the Forensic Science Centre in Federation Park, in keeping with the investigatory process.

WPC Clarke is investigating the incident.

This shooting occurred just hours after a 'confidence walk' in Port of Spain, led by Minister of National Security Fitzgerald Hinds and Acting Commissioner of Police Junior Benjamin, in which they praised both the police and the public for maintaining a safe Carnival season. Prior to the incident, only one serious event had been reported during the Carnival celebrations—a fatal road traffic accident in San Fernando on Carnival Monday. (*Trinidad Express*)



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS
COMMISSION

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Itz A ViBe

JUL 25 2025
AUG 05 2025

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial Antigua Carnival info.nfo@ab.gov.ag 268 727 9201

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

‘Wrong, wrong, wrong’: Trump’s far-right allies in Europe fault his Ukraine stance

President Donald Trump is used to shocking critics with his approach to foreign policy. But his hard-line Ukraine tactics have this week unnerved some of his political allies on the far right, too.

The White House this week paused aid to Ukraine, which is fighting off Russia’s invasion, after Trump and Vice President JD Vance publicly berated President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Dutch anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders — often referred to as the “Dutch Trump” because of his flamboyant blond hair and anti-immigration politics — said Saturday that he stood by Ukraine “with conviction.” He reacted to Trump’s Oval Office clash with Zelenskyy by posting on X that it was “fascinating TV, but not necessarily the best way to end the war, gentlemen.”

Marine Le Pen, leader of France’s far-right National Rally party, called the decision to halt aid “brutal,” “cruel” and reprehensible,” speaking to the *Le Figaro* newspaper Tuesday.

And Britain’s Nigel Farage, a longtime friend and ally of Trump’s, said Tuesday that Vance was “wrong, wrong, wrong” after the vice president appeared to ridicule the idea of Britain sending peacekeepers to Ukraine.

Only Britain and France have offered to send such a force, but Vance denied



he was referring to those countries when he derided his idea of “20,000 troops from some random country that hasn’t fought a war in 30 or 40 years.”

Cue uproar in Britain, which lost 457 and 179 troops fighting U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan respectively.

The comments are notable because these are Trump’s natural allies in geopolitics: insurgents attacking the political establishment from the right with a mix of populism, extreme opposition to immigration and, critics say, authoritarianism. Last month, Le Pen and Wilders were among a clutch of hard-right leaders who gathered for the “Make Europe Great Again” summit in Madrid. “We’re facing a truly global tipping point,” Le Pen told the audience. “Hurricane Trump is sweeping across the United States.”

Wilders called the American president “a brother in arms.”

But the criticism also

highlights the complex, confusing and often seemingly contradictory web of interests and viewpoints on the continent when it comes to Russia and Ukraine.

Like many far-right figures in Europe, Le Pen, Farage and Wilders have all faced past accusations of being too close to the Kremlin — which they have all denied. They have also displayed varying degrees of skepticism when it comes to supporting Ukraine: Le Pen said she would oppose the use of French long-range missiles being used by Kyiv, Farage has argued that ending the war requires “concessions on both sides,” and Wilders’ People’s Party, which leads the current government, opposed aid being given to the country at all.

But these opinions seem to be shifting.

Le Pen is trying to distance herself from her party’s far-right roots, presenting a more mainstream image ahead of a 2027 presidential election she may well

win. In a speech Saturday, she paid tribute to the “Ukrainian people” who “heroically resist the indefensible Russian aggression,” *Le Figaro* reported. She said the crisis was a consequence of Europe’s “submission” to the U.S. Meanwhile, Wilders’ People’s Party has pivoted not only to supporting Ukraine aid — but also to the idea that Europe needs to gain military independence from the U.S.

“We ourselves must stand up for the safety of Europe and the Netherlands,” the party posted on X after the Oval Office argument. “We will continue our support for Ukraine unabated and must invest more in defense.”

Farage, meanwhile, despite his friendship with Trump, has found a political foe in his adviser Elon Musk, who said Farage “did not have what it takes” to lead Britain’s Reform UK party.

His criticism of Vance appeared to come from a different place, however, echoing an outraged supporter base that saw the vice president as betraying British troops killed fighting American wars.

“SHOW RESPECT,” the *Sun* tabloid wrote Wednesday. “Brit heroes hit back at Vance after he forgot UK’s 636 Iraq & Afghan war dead.”

NBC News has contacted the PVV, Rassemblement National and Reform UK for comment on their state



QUEEN OF CARNIVAL IS CALLING!



Application Open!

Requirements:

Citizen of Antigua & Barbuda
Female, 18-26 years
Minimum 5 CSEC, including English A
Never married & no children
No criminal record

Forms can be collected at:

The Ministry of Creative Industries,
Old Parham Road, upstairs KFC
Mon-Thurs: 10am - 2pm
Fri: 10am - 1pm
Call: 562-9605/06

Deadline March 14th 2025

International

AROUND THE WORLD

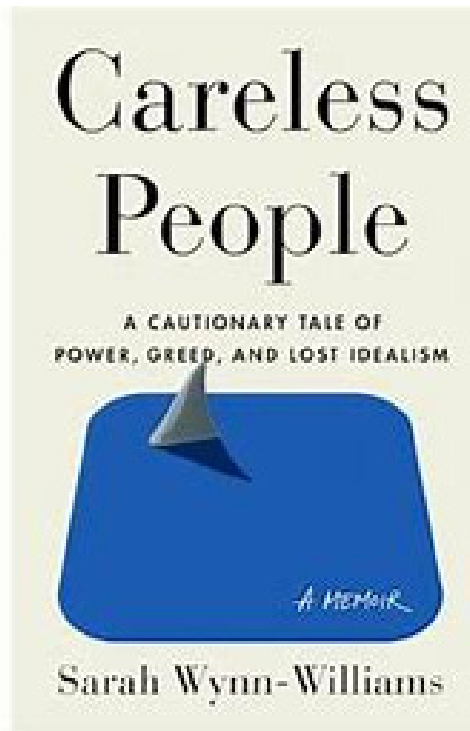


Former Meta official's 'explosive' memoir about the social media giant to be published next week

An insider account being billed as an “explosive dispatch” about “seven critical years” at Facebook/ Meta will be published next week.

Flatiron Books announced Wednesday that “Careless People” is scheduled for Tuesday. The memoir is written by Meta’s former director of global public policy, Sarah Wynn-Williams, who left what was then Facebook in 2018.

“‘Careless People’ takes readers inside Meta’s board rooms, private jets, and meetings with heads of state, revealing the appetites, excesses, blind spots, and priorities of executives Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg, and Joel Kaplan,” the publisher’s announcement reads in part. “Wynn-Williams paints a portrait



of this group as profoundly flawed, self-interested, and careless human beings, callously indifferent to the price others would pay for their own enrichment.”

According to Flatiron, Wynn-Williams will describe in detail Zuckerberg’s efforts to allow Meta in China and her own efforts to get the company to monitor hate speech and misinformation on social media. She will add everything from “shocking accounts of workplace harassment and misogyny to the grueling demands and humiliations of working motherhood during the same time that Sheryl Sandberg, was winning international acclaim for urging women to ‘Lean In.’” (*Associated Press*)

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

South Sudan arrests key Machar allies as army surrounds his house



South Sudanese forces have arrested the petroleum minister and several senior military officials allied with First Vice President Riek Machar as soldiers surrounded his home in the capital, Juba. Deputy army chief, General Gabriel Duop Lam, a Machar loyalist, was held on Tuesday, while Petroleum Minister Puot Kang Chol was arrested on Wednesday alongside his bodyguards and family.

No reason was given for the arrests, which came after an armed group allied to Machar overran an army base in the country's northern Upper Nile state.

Machar, whose political rivalry with President Salva Kiir has in the past exploded into civil war,

said last month that the firing of several of his allies from posts in the government threatened a 2018 peace deal between him and Kiir.

The deal had ended a five-year civil war in which more than 400,000 people were killed. Water Minister Pal Mai Deng, spokesman for Machar's SPLM-IO party, said Lam's arrest "puts the entire peace agreement at risk".

"This action violates the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and cripples the Joint Defence Board, a vital institution of the Agreement responsible for the command and control of all forces. This act puts the entire agreement at risk," the statement by

Deng said.

"We are also gravely concerned about the heavy deployment of SSPDF [South Sudan army troops] around the residence of ... Machar," he wrote. "These actions erode confidence and trust among the parties."

Another Machar spokesman, Puok Both Baluang, said other senior military officials allied with Machar have been placed under house arrest.

"As of now, there's not any reason provided to us that led to the arrest or the detention of [these] officials," Baluang told the Reuters news agency.

Major-General Lul Ruai Koang, the South Sudan army spokesperson, said in a statement late on Tuesday that he would not comment on the arrest or the troops surrounding Machar's residence.

The civil war that broke out in December 2013 after Kiir sacked Machar also drove more than 2.5 million people from their homes and left almost half the nation of 11 million struggling to find enough food.

The tensions appear to have been sparked by growing concern over unrest in Upper Nile.

The SSPDF has accused Lam and his troops of working with the so-called White Army rebels in the region, who are predominantly from the same ethnic Nuer community.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan last month reported increased fighting between the army and "armed youth" in Nasir County in Upper Nile, involving "heavy weaponry which has, reportedly, resulted in deaths and injuries to civilians as well as armed personnel".

The civil war began just two years after South Sudan became independent from Sudan. The country remains mired in poverty and violence.

Ter Manyang Gatwich, executive director of the Center for Peace and Advocacy, called for the immediate release of those arrested to avert further escalation of violence and further bloodshed from degenerating into what he called a "full-scale war". (*Al Jazeera English*)

Sports News

Three wins for Villa Primary in School Basketball League

Villa Primary recorded three wins in the Mini-boys Primary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Tuesday.

Levi Richards sank 12 points to lead Villa Primary to a 15-2 victory against S.R. Olivia David Primary in one of six matches at the JSC Sports Complex.

Len Richards converted 10 points to propel Villa Primary to a 17-2 victory against T.N. Kirnon Primary.

Villa Primary also prevailed 9-3 against J.T. Ambrose Primary in another encounter.



Villa Primary's Levi Richards attempts a free throw during their game against S.R. Olivia David Primary in the Miniboy's Primary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

ter.

Xavier Greene scored seven points as Mary E. Pigott Primary romped to an 11-1 victory against J.T. Ambrose Primary.

There was success as well for Potters Primary and Post Millennial Academy.

Derrick Perez shot a game-high 20 points to lead Potters Primary to a 24-9 victory against defending champions Sea View Farm Primary.

Post Millennial Academy snatched a 5-1 victory against Golden Grove Primary.

Wins Old Road Daggers and Navigators in Division 2 league



The Old Road Daggers and the Navigators notched up wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Tuesday evening.

After losing their first two games, Curtain Bluff Old Road Daggers claimed their fifth consecutive win with an 87-45 drubbing of Da Project 2 in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

plex.

Devea Aaron produced 17 points, seven steals, and five assists; Kedar Clarke also scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; Yohhan Nicholas sank 16 points and also snatched 11 rebounds; Braulio Estrada converted 12 points and claimed five rebounds; and Jesus Lopez also had 12 points and six rebounds for the Old Road Daggers.

Raheem Charles sank 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds; Nathan Matthew also scored 11 points; and Beniah Mack had 12 rebounds, seven points, and six assists for Da Project 2, who suffered their sixth loss in as many games.

The Navigators claimed their third win in six matches with a 72-64 victory against Square One Construction United in the opening game of Tuesday's double-header.

Baldwin Anthony converted 22

points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Ricky Willock sank 18 points and snatched six rebounds; and Ryan Sheppard scored 13 points and claimed 15 rebounds for the Navigators.

Andrew Simon produced 22 points and seven rebounds, Dwayne Samuel had 16 points and six rebounds, and Neville Chambers chipped in with 10 points and nine rebounds for United, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

Basketball action will continue with a Division 1 double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday evening (tomorrow).

The Northside Stingerz will take on the Lava Smoke Shop Warriors at 6:45 pm, and Kennedy's Club Ottos Full Throttle will clash with Spanish Heat at 8:30 pm.

CFU and ABFA host workshop in observance of International Women's Day

The Caribbean Football Union (CFU), in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA), will be hosting a three-day workshop for FIFA female match officials in Antigua this weekend.

The workshop, which also serves as the CFU and ABFA's observation of the 2025 International Women's Day (IWD), will take place at the ABFA Technical Center from March 7 to 9.

The workshop will bring together a distinguished cast of predominantly female FIFA match officials from across the region in a single space over three days to train, learn, share, fellowship, and celebrate themselves and each other.

Nine emerging match officials from Antigua and Barbuda will participate in the workshop.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent, which will be led by FIFA Official Nikesha Gage, also includes Nyana Matthew, Portia Davis, Cariesa Corbett, Kemoya Jacob, Kacian Edwards, Shenella



Deane, Shernell Burton, and Courtney Browne.

During the symposium, participants will engage in physical and theoretical training covering the Laws of the Game, position and movement, match management, the psychology of officiating, and the referee as a brand.

On March 8, in honour of International Women's Day, a special workshop will focus on the challenges and wellness of Caribbean women referees, celebrating their impact and fostering a strong community.

This course aligns with the IWD 2025 theme:

"Accelerate Action," emphasizing the need for swift progress toward gender equality in all fields.

The event will commence with a short opening ceremony at the Cortsland Hotel Conference Room in Gambles on Friday, March 7, at 12 pm.

Sports News



MINISTRY OF SPORTS

Schools Netball Competition

More success for AGHS in Schools' Netball Competition

The Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) continued its successful campaign in the latest round of matches in the Ministry of Sports, Joma Caribbean, Cool and Smooth Schools' Netball Competition.

The Antigua Girls High School second team (AGHS-2) romped to a 25-0 drubbing of Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the Under-16 Secondary Division at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Jennings Secondary snatched a 5-4 victory over Pares Secondary in the same category.

Christ the King High School claimed a 15-7 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in the Under-18 Division.

Princess Margaret School snatched a 6-1 victory against All Saints Secondary in the Under-13 Secondary Division.

sion.

In the Under-13 Development Division, T.N. Kirnon Primary prevailed 3-2 against Golden Grove Primary, and C.T. Samuel snatched a 3-1 win against Freemansville Primary.

Golden Grove rebounded to prevail 2-1 against Mary E. Pigott Primary, and Buckley's Primary pulled off a 2-0 victory against T.N. Kirnon Primary.

In the Under-13 Primary Division, Villa Primary defeated Jennings Primary 2-0, and Nelvie N. Gore Primary of Wilkies snatched a 3-1 victory against St. Andrews Primary and romped to a 4-0 victory against Buckley's Primary.

St. Andrews Primary rebounded to pull off a 2-0 victory over Liberta Primary, and J.T. Ambrose Primary notched up a 5-2 victory against

Potters Primary.

Meanwhile, the Antigua Girls High School also achieved some success in the Ministry of Sports JOMA Caribbean Inter-School Volleyball League at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Antigua Girls High School second team (AGHS-2) recorded a 25-17, 25-23 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in their female division.

But the Antigua Girls High School first team (AGHS-1) suffered a 19-25, 14-25 loss to defending female division champions Island Academy.

Defending male division champions Island Academy-1 prevailed 25-23, 25-17 against Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE).

The second team of

Island Academy also pulled off a 16-25, 26-24, 15-10 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in the male division.

But the second team of Island Academy suffered a 17-15, 24-26, 6-15 loss against Clare Hall Secondary in another male division affair.

The first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1) prevailed 25-13, 25-7 against Clare Hall Secondary in the female division.

However, the second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-2) lost 14-25, 26-24, and 11-15 against Christ the King High School, and the third team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-3) was beaten 25-20, 11-25, and 7-15 by Sir Novelle Richards Academy in their female division encounters.

New Zealand beat South Africa to reach Champions Trophy final



New Zealand's captain Mitchell Santner leads his team off the field after beating South Africa in the second semi-final of the ICC Champions Trophy at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan, on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. (ICC/Getty Images)

LAHORE, Pakistan, March 5 (Reuters) - New Zealand booked their place in the final of the Champions Trophy against India after sparkling hundreds by Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson helped them earn a 50-run victory over South Africa in the second semi-final on Wednesday. Electing to bat, New Zealand racked up a tournament record 362 for six on the back of a 164-run stand between Ravindra and Williamson. David Miller smashed an unbeaten 100 off 67 balls, while Rassie van der Dussen and Temba Bavuma struck half-centuries but South Africa managed 312 for nine in reply.

Mitchell Santner, captaining New Zealand in a global tournament for the first time, used seven bowlers and led by example with a match-turning three for 43. "It's a cool feeling (to make the final). We were challenged by a good side," Santner said after the run-fest at the Gaddafi Stadium. "We were pretty happy with 360 obviously but we know with the power South Africa have, it was going to be a challenge." New Zealand lost opener Will Young in the eighth over after Santner elected to bat. Ravindra and Williamson combined in a mammoth second-wicket stand in what looked like the coming together of the

present and future of New Zealand's batting. The curly-haired Ravindra and the cool-as-a-cucumber Williamson scored over a run-a-ball rate to deflate South Africa.

Williamson got a reprieve after completing his fifty when Heinrich Klaasen dived to his right but could not hold on to the catch. Ravindra was flawless at the other end and raced to a 93-ball hundred before Kagiso Rabada dismissed him for 108, which included 13 fours and a six.

All of Ravindra's five hundreds in one-day internationals have come in International Cricket Council (ICC) events. Williamson played two ramp shots in Wiaan Mulder's sixth over - the first brought up his 15th ODI hundred and the second his downfall. Williamson's 102 was studded with 10 fours and two sixes. Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips chipped in with brisk 49s as New Zealand eclipsed Australia's 356-5 against England last month as the highest team total in the tournament's history. New Zealand began their defence well as Kyle Jamieson started with a maiden over and Matt Henry got rid of Ryan Rickelton in his

third.

Bavuma (56) and Van der Dussen (69) revived South Africa with a run-a-ball stand of 105 before Santner hollowed out their middle order.

The spinner removed both the set batters and dismissed Heinrich Klaasen to put New Zealand on top. Player of the match Ravindra dismissed Aiden Markram (31) but Miller would not go down without a fight.

He smacked four sixes and 10 fours in his blistering knock that proved South Africa could have done better with enough wickets in hand.

"363 was always going to be tough," Bavuma said. "We needed someone to play well. David did that but we needed someone else. Credit to their batters, they put us under pressure." New Zealand will fly to Dubai for Sunday's final against India, who prevailed when the sides faced each other in a group match.

India have refused to tour Pakistan because of the strained political relations between the Asian neighbours and have played all their matches in Dubai.

con't from pg 26

There is a process and a skill set required to fulfill that role, and we have to be fair to all those young guys playing in the regional four-day tournament and putting their hand up for selection.

"When the time comes, with all the conversations

I have had, when we sit down as a selection group, we will pick the personnel that best fits the roles required."

Still, Sammy admitted that selecting white-ball players who are not involved in the West Indies Four-Day Championship is a delicate balance.

"We are in a situation where our most exposed and most successful players are playing white-ball cricket. Not taking anything away from what Kraigg Brathwaite and Andre Coley have achieved, but there is a level of consistency that we've seen in some of our white-ball players,"

Sammy noted.

Finally, Sammy reiterated that the Test team's selection criteria will not be based on past formats but on the ability to contribute effectively to the team's success. (Sportsmax)

Sammy in dialogue with white-ball players about Test move

West Indies head coach Daren Sammy revealed that he is already in discussions with white-ball players who he believes can add value to the Test squad, as he pointed out that change is inevitable if the team is to achieve success in the longer format of the game.

While Sammy, who recently took on the Test coaching responsibilities in addition to his ODI and T20 duties, made it clear that he does not intend to turn the Test side into a white-ball team, he is adamant about taking a strategic and fair approach to player selection.

In fact, Sammy, who will officially take the reins from Andre Coley on April 1, stressed that his primary focus is on selecting the best players for specific roles rather than restricting the Test team to traditional red-ball specialists.

“You want change because what has been happening was not successful,” Sammy said during a virtual press conference on Monday.

“I am one who always tries to go by the book. Andre Coley is still involved, but I intend to have all my conversations with different



Daren Sammy

players about the brand of cricket we want to play, how we’re going to do it, and the personnel that will help us achieve that,” he added.

Given the West Indies’ struggle for consistency in their recent Test performances, there has been growing speculation about integrating more white-ball players into the red-ball squad.

Sammy acknowledged the need for a fresh approach, especially if their last Test against Pakistan was anything to go by, as

the bowlers, particularly Jomel Warrican and Gudakesh Motie, had to do the job with both bat and ball.

“Apart from Kraigg Brathwaite, I don’t know any of our batters averaging 35 in Test cricket. So it is about understanding roles. We have a brand and style, and there will be roles that have to be filled. Some might suit one or the other. A batsman’s job is to score runs. I’ve never said I’m going to make the Test team a white-ball team. Let’s get that clear,” Sammy declared.

Sammy also disclosed that conversations have already taken place with certain white-ball players whom he believes possess the ability to perform well in Test cricket.

“I do believe there are players who play ODI cricket that are very much capable, based on their skill set, of being successful in Test cricket,” he explained.

“When you talk about change, there are a couple of ways it can be implemented—tactics, practice, or personnel. Conversations have already happened with certain individuals who I feel can be effective for us in that format, and I must say I have received some positive feedback,” Sammy shared.

However, the two-time T20 World Cup-winning stalwart made it clear that selection will not be automatic and will be based on fairness and a structured process.

“It will be done from a point of fairness, and it won’t be without a plan and process,” Sammy said.

“It is not everybody who wants to play Test cricket that will play Test cricket.

con’t on pg 25