

Caribbean CIP countries to meet in St. John's this month

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Chief Catalyst of OPEN Interactive Inc., Stacio Williams, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda CIU, Charmaine Donovan and Ercil Charles Jr. of ABS

Caribbean CIP countries to meet in St. John's this month

The Eastern Caribbean countries which operate Citizenship by Investment Programmes (CIP's) are to gather in Antigua and Barbuda this month to discuss a wide range of issues related to the future of the industry.

The occasion is the annual Caribbean Investment Summit 2025 (CIS25) slated for April 22 to 26 at the American University of Antigua conference centre at Jabberwock Beach.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda CIU, Charmaine Donovan, told a news conference that CIS25 comes at an opportune time as the theme will be; **Integrity, Stability and Sustainability**. Prime ministers, heads of the respective CIP units in each of the territories – St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia will travel to St. John's to participate in the conference.

The conference comes against the backdrop of increased scrutiny for these programmes coming from the European Union nations as well as from the United States. However, Donovan said the agreement signed by these countries a year ago seeks to strengthen their operations and that CIS25 is a bid to satisfy the international concerns.

"We are exceedingly pleased that this summit will provide a platform for all stakeholders to increase their awareness of the advancements made on the regional regulatory body for the Programmes, which is being spearheaded by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank in collaboration with the OECS Commission. The Interim Regulatory Committee has been established and is well underway with developing the appropriate legislation and administrative framework. These Programmes are a very important revenue source for our economies and we continue to demonstrate individually and collectively our commitment to continuously improving our Programmes to secure long-term sustainability," she



CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda CIU, Charmaine Donovan

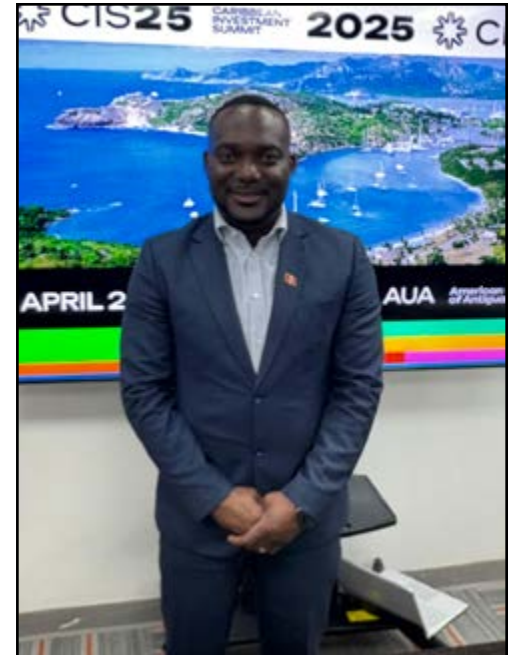
explained.

According to the CEO...Antigua and Barbuda continues to focus on integrity and transparency in its processes and that these safeguards have made its programme to generally be considered the 'gold standard' for CIP's in the sub-region.

"This summit allows us to place a well-deserved spotlight on Antigua and Barbuda, not just as investment jurisdiction, but as an amazing place to live, work and vacation. With the eyes of the region and the wider international investment migration industry on us, we've made sure to infuse this summit with the best of who we are," she observed.

Also addressing the news conference was Chief Catalyst of OPEN Interactive Inc., a St. Kitts-based company that is working along with the CIU to organize the event, Stacio Williams. He noted that the summit was the brain child of Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne who felt that it was important for these countries to meet regularly to review the operations of the programmes.

"Prime Minister Gaston Browne start-



Chief Catalyst of OPEN Interactive Inc Stacio Williams

ed this summit right here in 2016 and 2017. He didn't just create a conference - he created a movement for better citizenship programmes across the Caribbean. The Prime Minister understood before anyone else that we needed to work together rather than compete with each other," he stated.

Williams added that the Antigua and Barbuda CIP is the undisputable leader of these programmes in the OECS.

"The Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Unit has become a model for the entire region:

- Their background checks are so thorough that other countries now copy our methods
- They process applications quickly while never cutting corners on security
- Every dollar is tracked and accounted for with complete transparency
- Their integrity has never been questioned by international organizations

"This is why our theme of "Integrity, Stability, Sustainability" isn't just words - it's exactly what Prime Minister Browne and CEO Donovan have already built," Williams declared.

Commonwealth team visits Cabinet



Antigua and Barbuda will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGAM) in 2026 at a date to be announced and a theme to agree upon.

A ten-member delegation visiting from the Commonwealth, the Metropolitan Police, the Palace and Se-

curity and experts in various fields including cyber security were invited Cabinet on Wednesday.

Since the visiting team has had experience with previous Commonwealth Heads Meeting, the provided assurances to the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda that

every aspect of the meeting will be planned. The visiting Presidents, Prime Ministers', Foreign Ministers' and other heads will comprise six to seven thousand delegates who will descend upon Antigua and Barbuda that is the CHOGM. There will be several fora including Business Forum, Women Forum, Youth Forum and People Forum each attracting three to four hundred people from across the Commonwealth.

The Palace will dispatch special police who will spend two weeks this month preplanning for the inclusive of King Charles and his Queen in the events that have been scheduled. There will be spouses programme to be led by Minister Maria Browne that will include a trip to Barbuda. The King may also visit Barbuda. There are a number of activities planned including i. a concert featuring global artiste ii. T10 cricket match.



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- MANAGEMENT

Local News



UPP operatives fail to prove wrong-doing in Alfa Nero sale

The Cabinet expressed disbelief that operatives of the UPP who collaborated with a Russian Lady are surprised that the Government's defense of the sale of the Alfa Nero Vessel confirms that transaction was correctly carried out.

According to the Cabinet Notes all the documents pertaining to the lawful sale of the vessel have been published in the newspaper, have been distributed on the worldwide web, and have been made available to the court in Antigua and Barbuda, and the US Court that issued the order for subpoenaed documents.

It was explained to the Cabinet that the UPP operatives were engaging in "willful suspension of disbelief" a psychological condition which plagues those who engage in dissembling and wish not to be found out, even when evidence subsequently demonstrates that their statements were false.

Every effort to prove the falsity of their claims made to investigators dispatched to Antigua, continue to be pursued. The Cabinet agreed that a two-hour program is to be aired on ABS-TV on



Thursday night, 10 April 2025, at 8:00 pm. That broadcast is to be followed by a public meeting on Friday evening, 11 April 2025 beginning at

7:00 pm that will further bury the fictitious and false claims which the UPP operatives made in flagrant disregard of the truth.





The image of Antigua and Barbuda and several government officials have been badly tainted by the false claims.

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FRIDAY

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APRIL**

7PM

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Nugent Avenue**

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda Set to Host the 2nd Annual Wadadli Cannabis Festival 2025



MEDICAL CANNABIS AUTHORITY

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA) is proud to announce the Wadadli Cannabis Festival (WCF) 2025, a groundbreaking event that will fuse education, cultural celebration, and industry advancement hosted in the heart of the Caribbean. From April 17th to 20th, 2025, St. John's will transform into a global hub for cannabis wellness, innovation, and heritage, welcoming medical professionals, industry

leaders, cultural icons, and enthusiasts from around the world.

The WCF 2025 is more than an event; it is a national movement dedicated to cannabis education, empowerment, and unity through Caribbean culture. With a dynamic lineup of expert-led conference sessions, vibrant cultural showcases, and sacred traditions, this festival promises an unforgettable experience.

Day 1 - Medicinal Cannabis Educational Conference

April 17th | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM | EC\$135 | US\$50 John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center, Factory Road, St. John's

A full day of cutting-edge discussions on medicinal cannabis research, regulatory best practices, and holistic wellness. Featuring panels with global experts, interactive workshops, and industry exhibitions, this conference is a must-attend for professionals and advocates.

Day 2 - Cultural Day & Concert - Headlined by Chezidek!

April 19th | 1:00 PM – 11PM | EC\$50 | US \$20 Botanical Gardens, St. John's

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Antigua and Barbuda wants a regional approach to tackle the impact of US tariffs



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene

Antigua and Barbuda is again sounding the alarm about the likely impact of the recently announced US tariffs will have on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, who are members of CELAC.

Speaking at a CELAC meeting in Honduras, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, described the current international environment as an era marked by uncertainty and rapid change, noting that it is imperative that CELAC countries recognize the steps they are taking collectively to address these challenges and foster a resilient future for their nations.

“Antigua and Barbuda like all other member states are very concerned about the negative effects that unilateral sanctions, tariffication and other unilateral coercive measures have on some of our member states, the consequences these measures have on the economic and social development of the targeted countries and

of power, characterized by complex trade relationships, climate change, migration crises, and shifting alliances.

These factors, he added, have prompted countries in the region to re-evaluate their strategies and enhance cooperation in a way that fortifies their collective interests.

Despite the challenges, Greene remains hopeful that working together through the several regional organisations can chart a pathway through the current crises.

“The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Bolivarian Alliance (ALBA) provide

platforms for dialogue and cooperation. By working together, we can amplify our voices on the international stage, ensuring that our concerns are heard and addressed by global powers,” he observed.

FA Greene pointed out that the need for enhanced cooperation in trade is essential in order to foster economic integration. “By reducing trade barriers and promoting investment, we not only enhance our economies but also create a united front to address external pressures. It is vital that we build robust economic ties that benefit all member nations, enabling us to innovate and compete globally,” he declared.



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The Horticultural society to participate in a London flower show



The Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society has accepted an invitation to participate in the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London next month.

This was revealed when the society held a fundraiser in the form of a cocktail party at its headquarters at the lush Agave Gardens on Friar's Hill Road last Saturday. The event provided a preview of the country's first-ever appearance at the prestigious event.



The centerpiece of the afternoon was the unveiling of a beautifully rendered design for the upcoming show, titled "A Glimpse into the Past." This captivating concept was brilliantly conceptualised and created by Society members Imogen Margrie Hunt and Michael Hunte, drawing deeply on Antigua and Barbuda's cultural heritage and native biodiversity.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, attended the event and ex-



pressed how impressed he was with the thoughtful integration of uniquely Antiguan and Barbudan elements. He praised the inclusion of a conch shell pathway, representations of the Barbuda Fallow Deer, the national flora, and vibrant Caribbean blooms, all of which reflect the essence of the twin-island nation.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society, Barbara Japal, highlighted the importance of this historic participation on the international stage. She encouraged public and private sector support, noting that proceeds from the afternoon's event would help cover final preparations and transportation of the exhibits to London.

Antigua and Barbuda will join exhibitors from around the globe at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025, scheduled to take place May 20–24 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The Society will exhibit within the Great Pavilion, showcasing Antigua and Barbuda's natural beauty, cultural stories, and commitment to sustainability.



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Elements of the Arts
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MATTEO MANCUSO

ETIENNE CHARLES | MANASSETH EDWARD (PAN JAZZ)

**KINGDOM
night**
WED 7TH MAY

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CHANDLER MOORE, NAOMI RAINE & MORE | JCK WORSHIP
CLEOPATRA JULES | SCHREFFLER MAXWELL | VINCENT PIERRE | ANCHELE BIROO

**Pure
Jazz**
Ladies in Concert
THUR 8TH MAY

JAZZMEIA HORN

OLYMPIA VITALIS | ZAMANI FOLADE

**Caribbean
FUSION**
FRI 9TH MAY

BEENIE MAN AND BOUNTY KILLER

PATRICE ROBERTS | YUNG BREDDA
RICKY T – THE STORY

**WORLD
BEATS**
SAT 10TH MAY

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EVENTS
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Halo Foundation presents air conditioning units to the Girl Guides

The Antigua and Barbuda Girl Guides organization has been the recipient of two (2) brand new air conditioning split units presented by the Halo Foundation, the charitable organization where the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams serve as patrons.

At a presentation ceremony this week, Lady Williams presented the units to the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Marcia Persaud, who accepted the gift on behalf of the Girls Guides, during which she thanked the Halo Foundation for always being willing to assist, whenever possible, to the prog-



ress, the activities and the upgrade of the equipment of the Girl Guides of Antigua and Barbuda.

10,000 reasons to Switch Campaign Winner

“Congratulations to Kemo Simon the latest winner in Flow’s 10,000 Reasons to Switch campaign. He is taking home \$500.00 just for making the switch! You could be next! Switch to Flow today for your chance to win a share of \$10,000.00. Don’t miss out—make the switch for your chance to win a share of \$10,000.”



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PRESS STATEMENT

**From the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (PAWI)
Antigua/Barbuda/St. Kitts/Nevis/St. Maarten and Guadeloupe District**

RE: The Passing of Bishop Dr. Lester Emanuel, OM

It is with deep sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (PAWI), Antigua/Barbuda/St. Kitts/Nevis/St. Maarten and Guadeloupe District, acknowledges the passing of a beloved father, spiritual patriarch, and Kingdom statesman, **Bishop Dr. Lester Emanuel, OM**.

Bishop Emanuel was a pioneering leader whose life was marked by unwavering faith, passionate preaching, and a heart for service to both God and humanity. His dedication to the Gospel and the growth of the Pentecostal movement across this region and beyond has left an indelible mark on the spiritual landscape.

As former District Superintendent and Senior Pastor of the Kentish Pentecostal Church, Bishop Emanuel faithfully served with excellence, humility, and anointing for decades. His voice echoed through pulpits, airwaves, and communities, calling many to salvation, transformation, and deeper commitment to Christ.

He was a mentor to many, a bridge between generations, and a national icon whose influence transcended denominational lines. His contributions were recognized not only within the church but also at the national level, where he was honoured with the Order of Merit (OM) by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The District Executive, Pastors, and members of the PAWI family extend our heartfelt condolences to the Emanuel family, the Kentish Pentecostal Church, The Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies family and all those impacted by his ministry.

As the Apostle John declared in **Revelation 14:13 (KJV)**

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

We give God thanks for the life and legacy of Bishop Dr. Lester Emanuel. Though we mourn his passing, we rejoice in the assurance that he is now in the presence of the Lord he so faithfully served.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

Issued by:

PAWI District Executive

Antigua/Barbuda/St. Kitts/Nevis/St. Maarten & Guadeloupe District

Date:

Local News



Bureau of Standards hosts civic engagement workshop



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim

The Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) hosted an engaging and thought-provoking workshop on Civics and National Responsibility, led by the Permanent Secretary in the Minis-

try of Trade, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim. The session was held as part of the Bureau's ongoing commitment to strengthening civic awareness and pride among its staff.

The interactive workshop focused on fostering a deeper understanding of civic responsibility, national service, and the role of public servants in nation-building. Ambassador Pilgrim commended ABBS employees for their efforts in maintaining high standards of civic pride and professionalism. He emphasized the importance of government workers being role models of integrity, efficiency, and national duty.

"Public servants must lead by example," Ambassador Pilgrim stated. "Civic pride begins with us through our actions, our service, and our commitment to excellence."

Participants were actively engaged in

discussions on how civic pride could be further cultivated within the organization. They also explored how emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), can be harnessed to enhance operational efficiency and service delivery.

Ambassador Pilgrim concluded his presentation with a message of encouragement, urging employees to remain committed to doing good and to never grow weary in their duties to the nation.

The Acting Director of the ABBS, Solange Baptiste, delivered closing remarks, thanking Ambassador Pilgrim for his impactful presentation. She noted that the session was highly informative and inspiring, and reaffirmed the Bureau's dedication to fostering a culture of civic responsibility and innovation.

Dear Math Warriors,

If math feels like a battlefield, we hear you. You are not alone if numbers, formulas, and graphs sometimes feel like a giant puzzle that is hard to piece together. Math can be challenging, but here is the truth: the skills you gain from learning math are worth every struggle. Why? Because math is a secret weapon that makes life a little easier and a lot more interesting.

You might not realize it, but math is everywhere. It is in the way you split your allowance to save and spend, in the sports stats you follow, in the way you organize your time, and in the music rhythms you love. Math is not just about the numbers — it is about solving problems and seeing patterns. It teaches us to think clearly, make smart choices, and find solutions in surprising places.

Here is a little secret: math is not about being a genius; it is about building skills one step at a time. Every time you try — even if you do not get it right — you are getting better. Those small victories add up, and over time, you will see how math helps you make sense of things. If you ever feel stuck, remember that everyone learns at their own pace. So, do not be afraid to ask questions or seek help when you need it. There are so many people rooting for you.

Believe it or not, math can be your friend. Once you see how it fits into your world, you might even find it is pretty cool. Hang in there, keep trying, and know that every little bit counts.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Police constable collapses and dies in St Thomas

The St Thomas police are investigating the sudden death of a colleague who collapsed while walking in the parish on Tuesday night.

He has been identified as Constable Jason Beckford of the St Thomas police division.

Reports are that about 8:00 p.m., Beckford was walking along the Hampton Court main road in Golden Grove, St Thomas, when he collapsed.

He was taken to the Princess Margaret Hospital where he was pronounced dead. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



Dragon Gas deal dies: PM says US has revoked licence

Prime Minister Stuart Young has confirmed that the United States has revoked Trinidad and Tobago's licence to develop the Dragon Gas Field with Venezuela.

Speaking at a press conference in Port of Spain on Tuesday afternoon, Young said the revocation of the OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) licence was not unexpected and that he has requested a bilateral meeting with Secretary Rubio.

According to Young Rubio had made it clear that US foreign policy is not aimed at harming Trinidad and Tobago, particularly in relation to its energy diplomacy and efforts to ensure regional energy security.

"We are not going to harm Trinidad and Tobago," Young quoted the Secretary of State as saying during their

engagement.

Young had described the meeting as "frank and detailed," saying he outlined the strategic importance of the Dragon gas project, not only for Trinidad and Tobago but for CARICOM nations that depend on the country's downstream energy products.

Young said he brought the news to the population as soon as he was told and would now be taking it to BP and Shell.

BP, Shell, and the National Gas Company (NGC), had secured licences from the OFAC to explore and develop gas fields straddling the maritime boundary between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago.

BP, working on the Manakin-Coquina field, and Shell, with the Dragon field, were positioned to tap into substantial

gas reserves in the region, with the potential to bring significant natural gas resources to Trinidad for processing into LNG and petrochemicals.

The licences, granted for two years, had enabled the companies to negotiate with Venezuela and move forward with development plans.

Last May, Young said that T&T was already paying a portion of over US\$1 million per year in taxes to Venezuela as part of the deal.

He said the payments due to Venezuela consisted of royalty, a special commission of five per cent, surface tax and social contributions totalling US\$1 million, and a confidential signing bonus.

The gas was 15 kilometres of pipeline away from Trinidad. The deal now appears to be dead. (*Trinidad Express*)

Death toll from roof collapse at Dominican club reaches 113

The legendary Jet Set club in Santo Domingo was packed with musicians, professional athletes and government officials when dust began falling from the ceiling and into people's drinks.

Minutes later, the entire roof collapsed. Concrete slabs killed more than 113 people and trapped dozens of others on a dancefloor where hundreds had been dancing to a lively merengue concert early Tuesday. More than 255 people were injured, authorities said.

The victims include merengue icon Rubby Pérez, who had been singing to the crowd before disaster struck. His body was found early Wednesday, said emergency operations director Juan Manuel Méndez.

Rescue crews were still searching for potential survivors more than 24 hours after the collapse.

"As long as they report that there is a missing person, we will be here," Méndez said.

Rescue crews from Puerto Rico and Israel arrived in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday to help local authorities with the search.

Late Tuesday night, those still looking for their fam-



ily and friends gathered around a man playing a guitar outside the club as they sang hymns.

So far, only 32 people have been identified in one of the worst disasters to hit the Dominican Republic. Local media reported that those who died include a cardiologist, a government architect, a retired police officer and the brother of the vice minister of the Ministry of Youth.

Also killed was MLB pitcher Octavio Dotel and Dominican player Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera, Santosky Terrero, spokesman for the country's Professional Baseball League, told The Associated Press.

Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwestern province of Montecristi and sister of seven-time Major League Baseball All-Star Nelson Cruz, alerted President Luis Abinader about the disaster. She called

him from underneath the rubble but died later at a hospital.

Other victims include saxophonist Luis Solís, who was playing onstage when the roof fell, several Venezuelan bartenders and an Army captain who left behind four young girls. Grupo Popular, a financial services company, said three of its employees also died, including the president of AFP Popular Bank and his wife.

But countless more remained unidentified.

"I have been to many hospitals, and I have not found her," said Deysi Suriel of her friend, 61-year-old Milca Curiel. Suriel lives in North Carolina and was vacationing in the Dominican Republic.

Dozens of frantic relatives crowded at the country's National Institute of Forensic Pathology, scanning a list of the victim's names

while others went from hospital to hospital looking for their loved ones, some clutching pictures of them.

"There's a lot of pain," said Senator Daniel Rivera, the country's former public health minister. "We need to have a lot of patience."

Among those searching for their relatives was Kimberly Jones, whose godson, 45-year-old artist Osiris Blanc, and his friends were missing.

"It was their favourite place, they went there almost every Monday," Jones said, adding that her niece also was missing.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the roof to collapse, or when the Jet Set building was last inspected.

The club issued a statement saying it was cooperating with authorities. A spokeswoman for the family who owns the club told The Associated Press that she passed along questions about potential inspections.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Public Works referred questions to the mayor's office. A spokesperson for the mayor's office did not respond to a message for comment. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News



St Kitts Govt revokes citizenship of several foreign nationals under CBI programme



The St. Kitts-Nevis government says it has revoked the citizenship of 13 people and their dependents as part of the “decisive actions” taken to preserve the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme through which foreign investors are granted citizenship of the twin island Federation in return for making a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

The CBI programme, which is also being undertaken by the governments in St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and Dominica, has come under scrutiny by the United States and European governments, with some claiming that it provides an opportunity for shady characters to obtain foreign passports.

In a statement, the government said that together with the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) “decisive actions” have been taken “to preserve the integrity and international reputation of the CBI Programme”.

It said following a comprehensive investigation by the Ministry of National Security, Immigration, and Citizenship, the government has issued the Saint Christopher and Nevis Citizenship (Deprivation of Citizenship) Order, 2025, resulting in the revoca-

tion of citizenship from 13 individuals and their dependents who were found to have failed to pay the statutory minimum investment required under the CBI Programme, despite having indicated otherwise in their applications.

“The investigation stemmed from a review of 158 redacted applications and contracts with two International Marketing Agents linked to suspicious practices”.

The government said it contacted 158 identified individuals and of these 32 individuals paid their outstanding investment balance, 13 admitted to non-payment of the required sums and took no corrective action, while one individual requested a hearing before a Commission of Inquiry.

It said the remaining individuals are in dialogue with the relevant authority to settle outstanding investment balances.

“After careful consideration, exercising powers under Sections 8 and 10 of the Citizenship Act to issue deprivation orders in March 2025, the Ministry issued the Saint Christopher and Nevis Citizenship (Deprivation of Citizenship) Order, 2025 on the basis of false representation and willful concealment of material facts, and

in the interest of the public good”.

It said in tandem with these efforts, the CIU has permanently blacklisted two International Marketing Agents – Latitude Consultancy and RIF Trust – for their role in marketing the CBI Programme “at investment amounts below the statutory minimum and misleading clients, clear violations of the laws governing the Programme.

“Clients of both companies confirmed receiving false assurances of ‘special discounts’. Both entities are now prohibited from all CBI-related activities and cannot present themselves as agents or affiliates of the Programme,” the government said.

It said additionally, it has terminated its investment agreement with MSR Media SKN Ltd and MSR Hotels & Co. Ltd, “following multiple breaches of their contractual obligations.

“These include failures to renovate and operate key hospitality and tourism infrastructure, employ agreed numbers of local citizens, and deliver promised film productions. “Compounding these breaches, the MSR Companies and their principals launched a coordinated international campaign to discredit the Saint Kitts and Nevis CBI Programme and falsely accuse Government officials of local and cross-jurisdictional unethical practices—actions wholly incompatible with a constructive partnership under the CBI framework.”

The government said that it is reiterating “its zero-tolerance policy toward abuse of the CBI Programme and remains resolute in enforcing its regulations to ensure that only credible, compliant investors benefit from citizenship of Saint Kitts and Nevis”.
(Loop Caribbean)

Regional News

PAGE 19

Guyana: Two bandits, ages 15 & 22 shot dead during foiled supermarket robbery, two accomplices fled the scene

A 15-year-old year old and 22-year-old were both shot dead last evening by a security guard as they attempted to rob a Chinese Supermarket the Guyana Police Force has reported.

Tyrese Adams, 15, and Orwin Garraway, 22 were accompanied by two other males who escaped during the foiled attempt at armed robbery at Jai Jai Supermarket on Hadfield in Georgetown.

The incident occurred about 7:30pm on Tuesday.

The bottom flat of the supermarket consists of two cashier booths (on the eastern and western sides) and is secured by one armed security guard on a 12-hour basis.

At the time of the robbery, a 35-year-old security guard was on duty armed with a 9mm pistol and 15 rounds of 9mm ammunition, when two of the suspects entered the supermarket, both

terred the supermarket, both dressed in dark clothing with black ski masks covering their faces and handguns, the police revealed.

Each of the suspects approached both cashiers at the supermarket at the time; one pointing their firearm and demanding money while the other ransacked the cashier's booth the police explained.

CCTV video footage shows the armed guard emerging from inside the supermarket and confronting the bandits, both of whom started running in an attempt to exit the supermarket.

"One of the suspects fell to the ground inside the supermarket, while the other ran out of the supermarket and fell onto the road about 15 feet west of the supermarket," the police reported.

The security guard said that as he exited the supermarket,

he observed two other suspects who were standing outside but made good their escape.

"Two blue and black Haojue motorcycles, one without a number plate and the other bearing registration number CP 623, were observed parked in front of the supermarket with the keys in the ignition," the police informed.

The EMT was summoned to the scene and both suspects were pronounced dead by Dr Kellman of the GPHC.

The police noted that "one live 9mm round of ammunition, thirteen 9mm spent shells and three fragments were found inside the supermarket, while one 9mm spent shell and three fragments were found on the road in front of the supermarket."

The bodies of the deceased suspects were examined and

it was observed that Garraway sustained suspected gunshot wounds to his right and left side ribs, hands, nose and right shoulder, while Tyrese Adams sustained suspected gunshot wounds to his upper right shoulder, stomach, one to his lower back and left hip.

The firearm, along with the spent shells, were processed, placed in evidence bags, marked, sealed and lodged to be taken to the ballistics section for analysis while several persons were questioned about the incident.

The bodies of Orwin Garraway and Tyrese Adams were escorted to the Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, awaiting post-mortem examinations while investigations continue the police said. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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China raises its retaliatory tariff on the US to 84% as it vows to ‘fight to the end’

China again vowed to “fight to the end” Wednesday in an escalating trade war with the US as it announced it would raise tariffs on American goods to 84 per cent from Thursday.

Beijing also added an array of countermeasures after US President Donald Trump raised the total tariff on imports from China to 104 per cent. Beijing said it was launching an additional suit against the US at the World Trade Organization and placed further restrictions on American companies’ trade with Chinese companies.

“If the US insists on further escalating its economic and trade restrictions, China has the firm will and abundant means to take necessary countermeasures and fight to the end,” the Ministry of Commerce wrote in a statement introducing its white paper on trade with the US.

The government declined to say whether it would negotiate with the White House, as many other countries have started doing.

On Friday, China announced a 34 per cent tariff on all goods imported from the US, export controls on rare earth minerals, and a slew of other measures in response to Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariffs. Trump then added an additional 50 per cent tariff on goods from China, saying negotiations with them were terminated.

Wednesday’s newest measures include adding 11 American companies to a so-called “unreliable entities” list that would bar Chinese companies from selling them dual-use goods. Among the companies are American Photonics, and SYNEXXUS, both of whom work with the American military.

So far, China has not appeared inter-



ested in bargaining. “If the US truly wants to resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation, it should adopt an attitude of equality, respect and mutual benefit,” said Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Lin Jian Wednesday.

The paper says that the US has not honoured the promises it made in the phase 1 trade deal concluded during Trump’s first term. As an example, it said that a US law that would ban TikTok unless it is sold by its Chinese parent company violates a promise that neither would “pressure the other party to transfer technology to its own individuals.”

Trump signed an order to keep TikTok running for another 75 days last week after a potential deal to sell the app to American owners was put on ice.

ByteDance representatives called the White House to indicate that China would no longer approve the deal until there could be negotiations about trade and tariffs.

The paper also argued that taking into account trade in services and US companies’ domestic Chinese branches, economic exchange between the two countries is “roughly in balance.”

It says that China had a trade in services deficit with the US of \$26.57 billion in 2023, which is composed of industries like insurance, banking and accounting.

Trump’s tariffs were designed to close trade deficits with foreign countries, but those were calculated only based on trades in physical, tangible goods.

“History and facts have proven that the United States’ increase in tariffs will not solve its own problems,” said the statement from the Chinese commerce ministry. “Instead, it will trigger sharp fluctuations in financial markets, push up US inflation pressure, weaken the US industrial base and increase the risk of a US economic recession, which will ultimately only backfire on itself. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Nationwide strike for better pay brings Greece to standstill

A nationwide general strike disrupted public services across Greece, with ferries tied up in port, flights grounded and public transport running only part-time as labour unions press for higher wages to cope with rising living costs.

The 24-hour strike on Wednesday was called by the two main umbrella unions covering the public and private sectors, seeking a full return of collective bargaining rights which were scrapped as part of international bailouts during

Greece's financial crisis.

Greece has emerged from a 2009-18 debt crisis, which saw rolling cuts in wages and pensions in turn for bailouts worth about 290 billion euros (\$319bn) and economic growth seen at 2.3 percent this year, outpacing other eurozone economies.

Tapping on the country's progress, the conservative government increased the monthly minimum wage by a cumulative 35 percent to 880 euros (\$970). But many households still struggle to make ends meet amid rising



food, power and housing costs, the labour unions say.

The country braces for further global financial turmoil

triggered by US tariffs. (*Al Jazeera English*)


 A vibrant poster for the Antigua and Barbuda Renal Society's "Pre Carnival FETE FOR SO". The poster features a collage of people in colorful, festive costumes dancing and celebrating. The text is centered and includes the following details:

- Antigua and Barbuda Renal Society**
- Pre Carnival FETE FOR SO**
- Sunday 25th May, 2025**
- 4.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.**
- "The Court Yard" at Coolidge Cricket Grounds**
- Contribution: \$200.00**
- Music: DJ Nez & Iron Band Jam**
- Entertainment: Claudette Peters & Menace**
- DRESS BRIGHT & COLOURFUL!!!**
- Food Inclusive • Cash Bar • Prizes and Surprises!!!**
- \$5.00 (Old Airport Parking Lot)**
- Help us help others live!!!!**
- ALL PROCEEDS TO ASSIST THE DIALYSIS UNIT AT SLBMC**

 Logos for "Brydens", "Signs Impressions", and a kidney icon are also visible at the top.

Immigration advocates condemn moves to share sensitive information on undocumented migrants

Immigration advocates have condemned an agreement between the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to share sensitive information on undocumented Caribbean and other taxpayers with removal

Corporation (CMC).

He said undocumented Caribbean nationals and others in New York contribute US\$6.7 billion in local, state, and federal taxes annually, while immigrants with status contribute US\$74.8 billion.



orders.

The move has already led to the resignation of Melanie Krause, the acting IRS commissioner, indicating that taxpayer information is among the most closely guarded data in the federal government.

“The IRS is mandated to guard tax information within its agencies, and, over the years, it has consistently assured undocumented taxpayers that their information is confidential and that it is safe for them to file tax returns,” said Murad Awawdeh, president and chief executive officer of the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC).

“The IRS’s decision to share confidential information with the Department of Homeland Security threatens the safety of thousands of workers while forcing them further into the shadows, and discourages tax compliance,” Awawdeh told the Caribbean Media

“These dollars help fund our schools, maintain our infrastructure, and provide vital public resources that all New Yorkers depend on. The IRS sharing this information with DHS will have a devastating effect on our economy and lead to increased surveillance of immigrant communities.

“Instead of punishing people who contribute and comply with our tax laws, our government should be working to protect their rights and build trust. The federal government should be expanding pathways to legal status, not punishing people who are doing everything they can to contribute to our economy.

“We call on the federal government to stop targeting immigrant communities and Congress to exercise its oversight authority, demand clarification on the status of this implementation agreement, and uphold taxpayer privacy protections for every person in the

US,” Awawdeh said.

The IRS and DHS agreement comes as President Donald Trump intensifies the deportation of Caribbean and other immigrants.

Under the agreement, agents from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency can ask the IRS for information about Caribbean and other immigrants who have final orders of removal or are under criminal investigation.

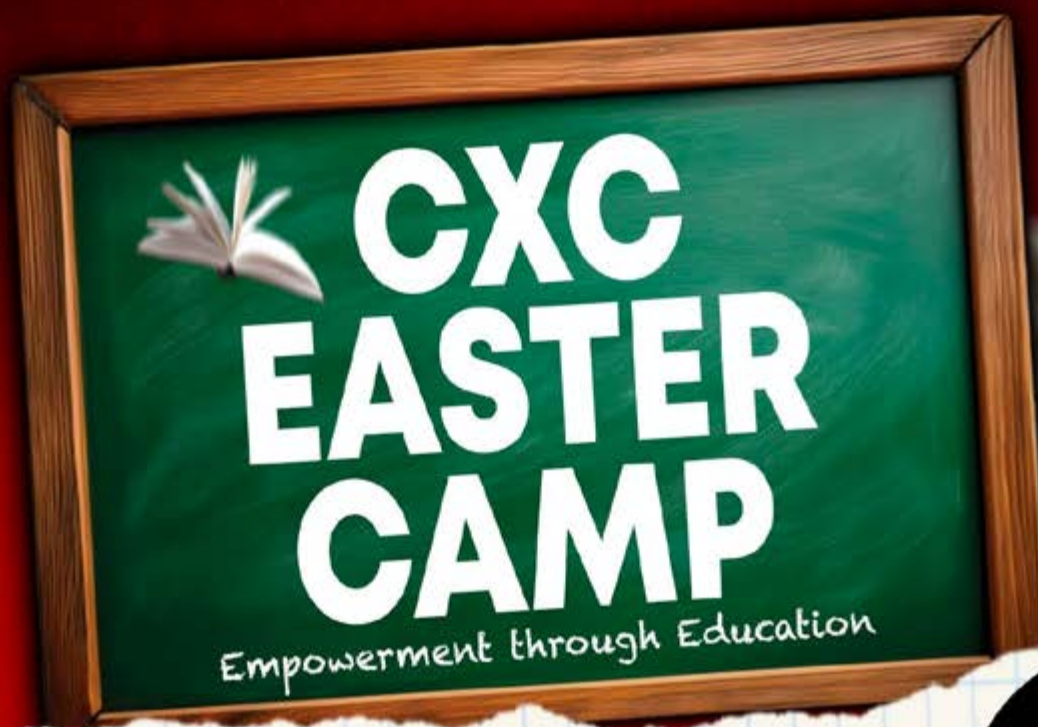
Last month, several congressional Democrats dispatched a joint letter to DHS Secretary Noem and the head of the IRS urging them not to pursue the agreement.

“If immigrants fear that filing taxes could expose them to deportation, many will choose not to file, reducing federal revenues that contribute to funding public schools, health care, and disaster relief for Americans while shifting resources to the informal economy,” they wrote.

But a Department of the Treasury spokesperson said in a statement on Tuesday that, “the bases for this MOU are founded in longstanding authorities granted by Congress, which serve to protect the privacy of law-abiding Americans while streamlining the ability to pursue criminals.”

However, Nandan Joshi, a lawyer with Public Citizen, which represents immigrant advocacy groups, said that, “the IRS has gone back on its duty to protect taxpayer information from improper disclosure.

“If allowed to stand, this agreement will provide a roadmap for federal law enforcement to gain access to confidential taxpayer information without obtaining court order as required by law,” he said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leeward Islands Cricket Board Announces U15 Squad for CWI Rising Stars 50-Over Championship

St. John's, Antigua – April 9th, 2025 – The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) is pleased to announce its Under-15 squad selected to represent the region at the CWI Rising Stars Under-15 – 50 Over Championship, scheduled to take place from April 13th to 24th, 2025, in Antigua and Barbuda. This year's tournament holds particular significance, not only as a premier stage for regional youth cricket but as a moment of pride for the Leeward Islands, serving as gracious host to teams from across the West Indies. The tournament promises to be a crucible of rising talent, sporting excellence, and regional camaraderie.

Following a rigorous selection process and careful evaluation of performance, the LICB has named a well-balanced squad of promising young cricketers. Appointed to lead this contingent is **J'Quan Athanaze** of Antigua and Barbuda, whose aptitude and leadership qualities have earned him the honour of **Captaincy**. Supporting him will be **Karese Farrell** of Nevis, a dependable and strategic player who assumes the role of **Vice-Captain**. The full squad is as follows:

U15 Squad:

1. **J'Quan Athanaze** – Antigua and Barbuda (*Captain*)
2. **Tréon Daniel** – Nevis
3. **William Pitman** – Antigua and Barbuda
4. **De'Morae Prentice** – Nevis
5. **Ondré Peters** – Antigua and Barbuda
6. **Clayvaunte Powell** – St. Kitts
7. **Karese Farrell** – Nevis (*Vice-Captain*)
8. **Aedan Williams** – Nevis
9. **Ali Adoni** – St. Kitts
10. **Rondré Daniel** – Nevis
11. **Jathan Edward** – St. Maarten
12. **Mikey Seelogam** – Nevis
13. **Kyan Maccow** – St. Maarten
14. **Kylan Woods** – St. Kitts

Reserves:

1. **Deshawn James** – Nevis
2. **Jayden Charles** – Antigua and Barbuda
3. **Vansh Aidasani** – St. Kitts
4. **Kevonte Pollin** – St. Kitts

Team Management:

- **Head Coach:** Jacques Taylor
- **Team Manager / Assistant Coach:** Ajarni Frederick

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Press Release



Jabari Williams

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-April 9, 2025...

The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) is pleased to congratulate senior men's national player Jabari Williams who signed his professional contract.

Williams who currently plays for Albany State University in the US signed with the Club Cazadores in Tapachula, Mexico where he will play in the Circuito de Baloncesto del Pacífico (CIBAPAC) League.

CIBAPAC features 31 teams across 10 states in Northwest-

ern Mexico.

The league was established in 2015 to support the development of young talent.

"It's truly a heartwarming moment as a basketball community and we want to wish Jabari all the best in this new chapter. From what I know of, he is very humble, personable and a team player, so we expect him to do very well and put his best forward as he is not only representing himself and his family but also Antigua Barbuda basketball," President of ABBA, Michael Freeland stated.

Williams made a significant impact during his time as a starting center for the Golden Rams, showcasing skills that contributed to their competitive edge. His performances include a season-high 20 points against Spring Hill and a dominant 12-rebound game versus Clark Atlanta.

He represented the nation in 2023 at the FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Qualifiers in Nicaragua.

The 6'11 center also played in 2023 for EZ Fit Flyers in the ABBA Division 1 league where he was an integral part of the playoff run that crowned them champions. He had 12.9 points per game, 13.4 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per game.

Williams has also won several ABBA D2 titles with Ottos Coolers.

He hails from Ottos and attended the Jennings Secondary School.