

Good Friday Blessings



*From the management and staff of
Point Ville Communications Inc.*



EASTER MESSAGE

Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua and Barbuda



*Dr. Emanuel Elizée, Chairman
Ecclesiastical Commission*

As we welcome the month of April, we are reminded of its accompanied spiritual significance: a time of reflection and redemption, a time of resurrection and regeneration. The month of April corresponds to the month of Nissan of the ancient Jewish calendar. Nissan was the first month of the Jewish religious year when Israel commemorated their deliverance from four hundred and thirty years of Egyptian bondage. It was that very month in which the Passover was instituted. The event is recorded for us in the Old Testament book of Exodus, chapter twelve, verses one to twenty-eight (Exodus 12:1-28).

This year 2025, as per each year, the Christian church commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ commensurate with the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb instituted by Moses

and celebrated once a year for fourteen hundred years before Christ. The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus Christ was and is the fulfilment of the foreshadowed Passover.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:26–28 (English Standard Version)

Jesus' finished work on the cross makes possible eternal life for all who are bound by sin, Satan and self. The substitutionary death of Christ and His glorious resurrection power possess freedom for all who place their faith in Christ.

As we celebrate this season of remembrance, the Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission invites the nation to avail ourselves to every opportunity for corporate prayer and praise. We encourage the church through our representative denominational con-

ferences, alliances and associations [churches] to extend warm invitations to the general populace to avail themselves to these means of grace. Let us maximize the weekend of April 18th to 20th 2025, as opportunities to experience the Holy Spirit's regenerative power and refreshing presence.

The Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission reminds us to continue in prayer over the increasing wave of crime and violence within the borders of our twin-island nation. Let us continue to petition God's throne of grace to extend His hand of mercy over our country and convert the hearts of those whose intent are bent to crime. King Solomon, a major contributor to the book of Proverbs offers this profound principle, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). God has blessed us indeed despite the prevailing moral and economic challenges. God has promised His constant presence and provision. The presence of God's people (the church) in the nation accounts for God's protection over us. Let us remain in this state of submission and expectation, confidently believing that greater blessings are yet ahead. Have a blessed Easter! ■

*Dr. Emanuel Elizée, Chairman
Ecclesiastical Commission*

*From the management and staff of
Point Ville Communications Inc.*

Work on the Booby Alley Project halted temporarily



Work on the Booby Alley Housing project that is being financed by the People's Republic of China, has come to a halt following Wednesday's tragedy when one of the Chinese construction workers died from what appears to be electrocution.

Chairman of the Booby Alley Project Oversight Committee, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim made the announcement on Thursday during a visit to the site to speak with a representative of the ZhongAn HuaLi Construction Group Co., Ltd, which has been engaged by the Chinese Government to undertake the project.


Following discussions with the company representative, Tang Weiwei and a representative of the Chinese Embassy in

St. John's, it was agreed that work on the project will cease temporarily as a mark of respect for the 52-year old man who died in the construction accident.

"We have decided to cease the work on the project for three reasons;


as a mark of respect for the fallen Chinese worker, secondly, to allow the investigators to carry out their task and thirdly, to allow us to have a review of the safety protocols that are in place on the construction site," he explained.

Ambassador Pilgrim used the occasion to extend sincere condolences to the company and its staff and expressed the view that the government stands ready to offer any assistance that it can to the company and the staff.



Deepest Condolences

On behalf of the ABLP City West Branch, we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the Chinese national who tragically lost his life in the electrocution incident at the Booby Alley Housing project on Wednesday morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. We also wish a full and speedy recovery to the individual who was hospitalized as a result of the incident.

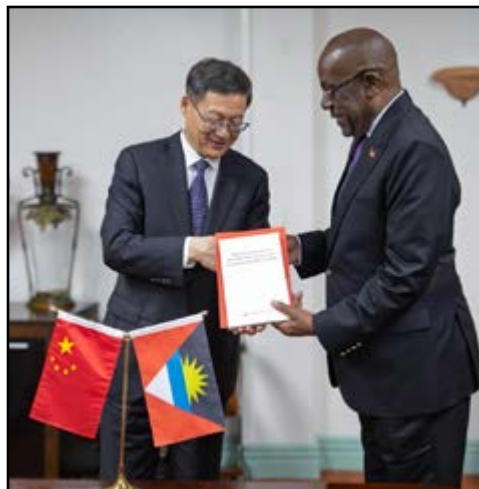


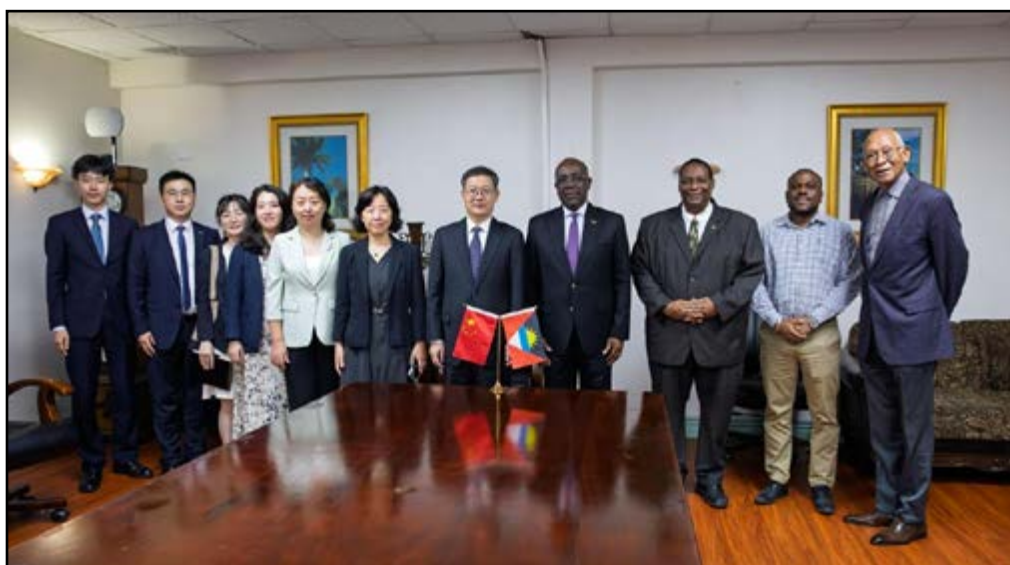
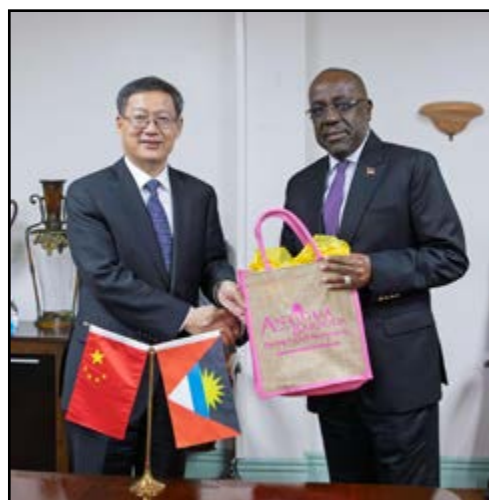
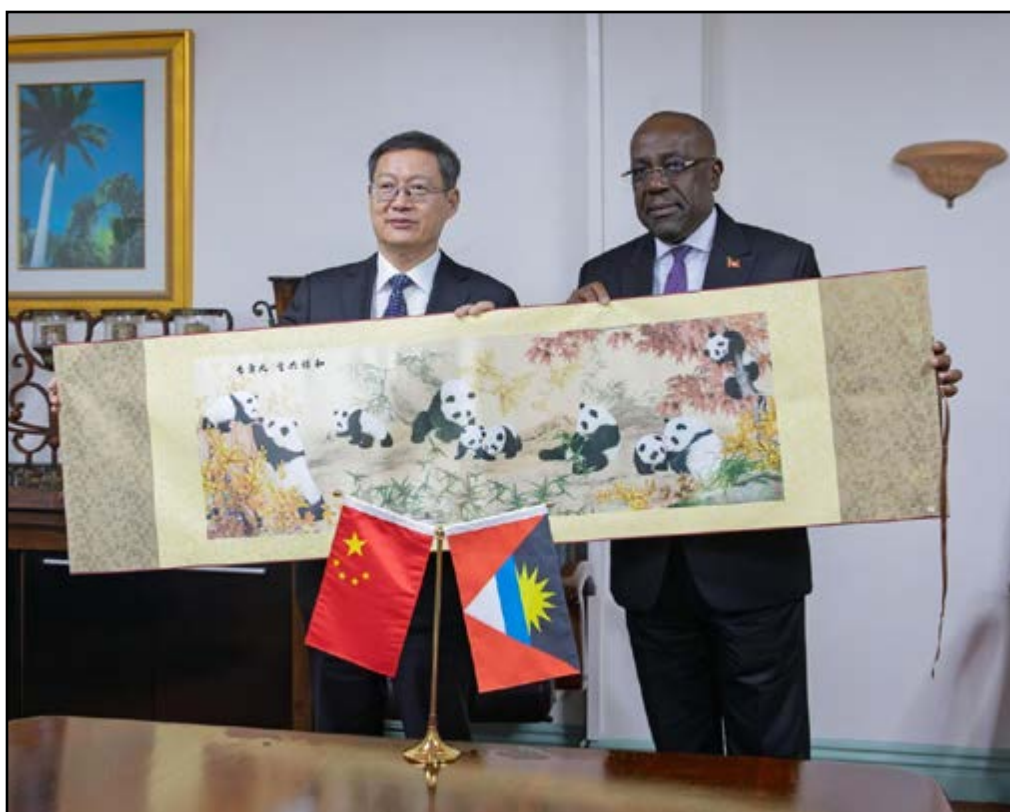
High-level Chinese team visits Antigua and Barbuda



The government of the People's Republic of China is seeking to bolster its relations with countries of the Caribbean, including Antigua and Barbuda with the visit of a high-level delegation to St. John's starting Thursday.

The seven-member team is led by the Deputy Secretary in Charge of Daily Work of the Central and State Organs Working Committee, Guo Wenqi,





who spent Thursday holding discussions with senior government officials including Acting Prime Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene as well as Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle.

Not much is being said about the purpose of the visit but Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, who welcomed the team to Antigua and Barbuda at the VC Bird International Airport, emphasized the close ties that currently exist between St. John's and Beijing.

He gave a commitment on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda that those ties will continue to grow and to strengthen into the foreseeable future.

Youths at the very centre of United Nations discussions on protecting the world's marine resources



Antiguan and Barbudan youth were fully in action this week at the United Nations as they actively participated in crucial discussions that shared similar themes and focused in helping to shape the future of small island states.

The twin island nation was represented by a strong delegation of young people at both meetings. On the second day of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, Sustainable Development Goal 14, Life Below Water, commanded the focus of the discussion.

Also taking place over the next two weeks is a pivotal Preparatory Committee meeting on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, otherwise known as the High Seas Treaty. The treaty, which Antigua and Barbuda has already ratified, is seeking to protect the marine resources of countries beyond their national boundaries. Representing Antigua and Barbuda at this meeting is First Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission Asha Challenger, Crown Counsel Zachary Phillips and Legal Officer at the Department of Marine Services (ADOMS) Darius Joseph.

While speaking at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, Director of Youth Affairs, Dr. Jrucilla Samuel, insisted that the successful implementation of the BBNJ agreement “relies on an empowered

workforce. So building youth capacity—values, skills and knowledge—is key for scientific research and innovation.”

With Antigua and Barbuda’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson present, Dr. Samuel further highlighted the pivotal role of the UWI Five Island Campus Centre of Excellence in developing Oceanography and the opportunities in the Blue Economy.

Meantime National and Caricom Youth Ambassador Esquire Henry, who was one of the moderators for the Caribbean session of the Youth Forum, appealed for collective action, noting that ratifying the BBNJ Agreement was a “bold and timely move that underscores Antigua and Barbuda’s intent to strengthen ocean governance.”

“If we are to realise the promise of SDG 14 truly, we must move beyond policies and legislation and ignite a movement rooted in education, empowerment, investments, and the mobilisation of all our people, especially our youth, fisherfolk, and coastal communities,” Henry affirmed.

Henry told the packed room of global delegates that Antigua and Barbuda is no stranger to sustainability initiatives. “Antigua and Barbuda has long demonstrated its commitment to safe-

guarding marine ecosystems through a comprehensive and adaptive legislative framework,” he said.

Ambassador Webson joined the discussions by speaking briefly about the cornerstone pillars of the SIDS4 outcome document, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, the ABAS. The ABAS establishes the Antigua and Barbuda Centre of Excellence and its four strategic components - the SIDS Global Data Hub, an Innovation and Technology Mechanism, an Island Investment Forum, and a Debt Sustainability Support Service.

The Centre, according to Ambassador Webson, will provide technical assistance, capacity development, and bolster knowledge sharing to support sustainable development initiatives for all SIDS.

Also forming part of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation attending the United Nations gathering were Youth Coordinator and Mobilization Officer, Rushell Ellis, and Programme Assistant Officer, Lael Farrell.

Wednesday’s session was held under the theme “Navigating our Future: Empowering Caribbean Youth to advance sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Bridging Science and Community: The Elkhorn Marine Conservancy's Mission to Restore Antigua's Reefs

The Elkhorn Marine Conservancy (EMC), a non-profit in its fourth year of existence, was founded in 2021 with the mission to restore Antigua's marine ecosystems, starting with the island's degraded coral reefs. Named after the iconic elkhorn coral that once defined large swathes of coral reefs in Antigua and the broader Caribbean, the elkhorn coral is now a critically endangered species.

This year, thanks to funding from philanthropist Wendy Schmidt and the Deep Blue sailing team, EMC was able to set up a pop-up research-grade coral display tank at the entrance of Marinaside Restaurant at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina (AYCM). This tank allows the public to view several species of native stony corals first hand through the viewing window of the tank while placed at the AYCM. Once moved to a laboratory space, the system's robust operating, maintenance and filtration systems will allow the science team to conduct experiments needed to identify the most resilient corals and sexually propagate them to restock wild populations.

Aiding with the installation and design of this tank system was Indies Greens, a local aquaponics facility in Seaview Farm who have been dedicated collaborators of EMC's for several years. The launch of the

tank system took place on Tuesday 18th February to an engaged crowd made up of both local and visiting sailors who were gearing up for the Nelson's Cup regatta and the RORC 600 a week later.

A few weeks later, on Saturday 8th March at the same venue, the tank was a backdrop to the EMC annual community event 'Making Waves' which welcomed new members for the 2025 season, while also providing an opportunity to engage with the local community. Highlights of the event were performances from local artists Arlen Seaton and Joshu. Young children enjoyed facepainting and making marine-themed masks that were assembled by students of the Seventh Day Adventist School. Older children enjoyed the Augmented Reality trivia scavenger hunt and for adults, a silent auction of 11 items donated by local artists and business owners was well received. The event was also an opportunity to christen the EMC team's first work boat, named 'Caicu' which in the indigenous Taino language means "reef" or "small bridge between islands". Supporting the event were the local businesses at the AYCM including the UP Bar, where 2025 members will receive a discount for the remainder of the year.



Philanthropist Wendy Schmidt



As EMC continues to grow in its fourth year, the organisation remains committed to its founding mission of restoring Antigua's vital marine ecosystems. The combination of scientific research, community engagement, and educational outreach represents a holistic approach to conservation that addresses both environmental needs and human connections to the ocean. With the support of local businesses, interna-

tional funders, and an expanding membership base, EMC is positioned to make meaningful progress in coral restoration efforts in the years to come. The journey from critically endangered elkhorn coral to thriving marine habitats may be challenging, but through collaborative efforts like these, Antigua's underwater treasures stand a fighting chance at revival and long-term sustainability.

Halo Foundation and Jumby Bay Fund Collaborate to organize youth Art Workshop



The Halo Foundation, in partnership with the Jumby Bay Fund, has launched an inspiring and complimentary six-week art workshop designed to cultivate creativity and artistic talent among the nation's youth. Commenced on April 1, 2025, this innovative programme provides students aged 10 to 18 with hands-on artistic experiences, guided by expert Instructors from the prestigious Royal Drawing School in London — David Gardner and Dexter Phillips.

Thanks to the generous support of the Jumby Bay Fund, a total of thirty-two enthusiastic young artists from various public and private primary and secondary schools are participating in this transformative resourcefulness. The workshop runs Monday through Thursday, offering a dynamic environment where students can explore their creativity and develop essential artistic skills.

This initiative is part of the Halo Foundation's year-long celebration of its 10th anniversary, themed "10 Months of Giving." April also marks Youth Month, a perfect opportunity for the Foundation to engage young people in meaningful activities that promote their development and empowerment.



Originally established three years ago to enhance the skills of art educators, this program has evolved under the visionary leadership of Halo Foundation founder, Sandra, Lady Williams. This year's workshop is particularly focused on empowering youth, providing them with the tools, guidance and space to express their artistic voices and hone their creative abilities.

Special acknowledgment is extended to Anson Henry of Anson Studios, whose local involvement in the program at his venue in Market Street has

assisted in making this vision become a reality.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Patron of the Halo Foundation, praised the collaboration between the Jumby Bay Fund, the Halo Foundation, Anson Studios and the Royal Drawing School. "Our youth are tomorrow's leaders, and art serves as a powerful medium for them to communicate their thoughts, ideas, and aspirations," he stated.

•

Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVAL'S
COMMISSION


CIVILIAN INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

ANTIGUA
and
BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning
PRESENTS

JULY
31
CARNIVAL CITY
Itz A ViBe

Caribbean


MOT


LONG BAY
LAGER


TRIPLE K

FEATURING

MACHEL MONTANO
TIAN WINTER & ICONIC | CLAUDETTE PETERS | TRIPLE K

Early Bird General
\$100

House of Vibes
\$350

Showtime
8PM


TICKETS AVAILABLE

 @Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission

 @antiguacarnival

 @antiguacarnival

 @antiguafestivalofficial

Soca artist charged with sexual offences

A local Soca artist has been charged with two sexual offences stemming from an alleged incident late last year.

The artist, who cannot be named for legal reasons until convicted, appeared before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel this week facing charges of indecent assault and serious indecency.

The charges relate to allegations made by a woman regarding an incident that reportedly occurred on December 23, 2024. During the court appearance, the magistrate granted bail to the accused.



A committal hearing has been scheduled for May 12, at which point the court will determine if there is sufficient evidence for the case to proceed to trial.



ANTIGUA

**Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm**




[currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)

[curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)

[\(268\) 736-7165](tel:2687367165)

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Itz A ViBe

JUL 25 2025
AUG 05 2025

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



Commentary



May 6: A Chance to steer U.S.–Caribbean Relations through Trade Winds and other Passing Storms



By Sir Ronald Sanders

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has signaled a genuine willingness to hear the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) speak for itself. At a moment when his diplomatic files stretch across numerous crisis zones, that attention is neither trivial nor routine.

Barely three months into his tenure, Secretary Rubio has already conferred with six CARICOM Heads of Government and will host seven more in Washington on May 6. Such early, sustained engagement signals that the region's counsel carries weight. In diplomacy, there is no substitute for dialogue, especially when new policies are being cast. These meetings, therefore, are vital.

Secretary Rubio began his Caribbean circuit in Jamaica on March 26, consulting with the Prime Ministers of Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. The next day, he met Presidents Irfaan Ali in Guyana and Chandrikapersad Santokhi in Suriname. The itinerary now moves to welcoming the leaders of the six independent Eastern Caribbean states and The

Bahamas.

When Secretary Rubio met Caribbean leaders on March 26–27, the White House had not yet unveiled the sweeping tariff order issued on April 3 by President Donald Trump. As a result, neither the immediate blow to regional exports nor the wider shockwaves of Washington's global tariffs could be weighed. The tariffs—and their direct and indirect impact on Caribbean economies—will undoubtedly be addressed when the leaders meet Secretary Rubio in Washington on May 6.

Central to that conversation is the fate of the Caribbean Basin Initiative—President Reagan's legacy program—formalized in the 1983 Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), which has long granted duty-free entry to a swath of CARICOM exports. The new tariffs announced on April 3 cast a shadow over those preferences; no one yet knows whether CBERA's hard-won relief survives intact or has been diminished in the flood of duties.

Tariffs are only the first set of concerns that should be discussed on May 6. The agenda could also confront: U.S. allegations that Cuban medical personnel in CARICOM are “trafficked,” a claim CARICOM governments vigorously dispute; Washington's unease over China's growing role in the development plans of nine CARICOM members—balanced by the fact that three of the seven leaders arriving in Washington recognize Taiwan; the treatment and due process rights of CARICOM nationals in the U.S. who may face deportation for violating visa conditions or committing criminal offenses; and the future of Citizenship-by-Investment programmes, which have been lifelines

for five Eastern Caribbean economies.

On the matter of Cuban workers in CARICOM countries, Secretary Rubio can expect a firm and united repudiation of any suggestion that trafficking is taking place under the watch of Caribbean governments. Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica has already stated that Cuban workers in CARICOM are well treated, fairly compensated, and enjoy full freedom.

Leaders of the Eastern Caribbean will affirm that they pay these workers directly and are open to increasing transparency around those arrangements. CARICOM's reliance on Cuban medical personnel is born not of ideology but of necessity. Our own doctors and nurses, trained at public expense, are routinely drawn away by richer countries—including the U.S. What remains is a healthcare vacuum that Cuban professionals have helped to fill.

On the matter of China and Taiwan's role in the region's development, Secretary Rubio will find that there is no quarrel among CARICOM states about which partner a government engages—Beijing or Taipei. Each nation acts in pursuit of its national interest, driven by the imperative of economic survival and the search for meaningful international support. What unites CARICOM is a collective stake in global peace, shared prosperity, and the benefits of cooperation.

On the issue of Caribbean nationals residing unlawfully in the U.S. or designated for deportation due to criminal convictions, CARICOM governments are ready to receive their own citizens. Repatriation, in and of itself, is not in dispute. What matters is that those persons are afforded due process, fair

con't on pg 17

Commentary

PAGE 13

con't from pg 16

hearing, and humane treatment. The dignity of Caribbean nationals—even when in violation of U.S. immigration law—must not be collateral damage in the enforcement of policy.

With respect to the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes operated by five Eastern Caribbean states, leaders will remind Secretary Rubio that these initiatives are essential to their economic viability. Moreover, Caribbean CBI programmes are already closed to nationals from countries that raise red flags for U.S. authorities. And critically, citizenship in these states does not confer automatic access to the U.S. Every individual—regardless of how or where they obtained their Caribbean passport—remains fully subject to U.S. visa and homeland security vetting. The CBI framework, then, is not a backdoor to U.S. soil, but a legitimate instrument of economic survival with strong safe-

guards in place.

What Secretary Rubio will hear from every CARICOM leader is a shared resolve to preserve and deepen their partnership with the U.S. This is not a relationship of convenience, but of choice—anchored in the urgent, hemispheric challenges we face together. Diseases and pandemics do not stop at customs gates; organized crime, including the drug trade, corrodes our societies with equal menace; climate-induced disasters batter our countries with increasing ferocity. And yet, amid these trials, there is a real opportunity to build resilient, prosperous societies that are magnets for investment, hubs of tourism, and engines of shared growth.

The U.S. has consistently maintained a trade surplus in goods and services with CARICOM as a whole. In 2024 alone, that surplus stood at US\$5.8 billion—a clear reflection of CARICOM's openness and enduring

loyalty to the U.S. On matters of national security, the Caribbean has been no less dependable. CARICOM countries have proven themselves steadfast and cooperative, whether through intelligence-sharing, maritime security, or counter-narcotics efforts. In every respect, the region has functioned as a committed ally.

Hopefully, May 6 will stand as a further milestone in the renewal and strengthening of U.S.–CARICOM relations—a moment when mutual interests are acknowledged, mutual respect reaffirmed, and a shared commitment to partnership charted with clarity and conviction.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the Dean of the Ambassadors of the Western Hemisphere Group accredited to the U.S. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



ADD-ON!
 6 pieces
HOT AND SPICY
 Chicken Nuggets
 for only...

\$7.00

****With the purchase of any COMBO****

Chicken Strips Sandwich Hot Wings

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: KFC, Uber Eats, DoorDash, GrubHub, Postmates, Amazon Prime, Apple Store, Google Play, @kfcanu KFC

Regional News

France's president says that making Haiti pay for its independence was unjust



French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that historic injustice was imposed on Haiti when it was forced to pay a colossal indemnity to France in exchange for its independence 200 years ago.

Macron also announced the creation of a joint French-Haitian historical commission to "examine our shared past" and assess relations, but did not directly address longstanding Haitian demands for reparations.

France "subjected the people of Haiti to a heavy financial indemnity, ... This decision placed a price on the freedom of a young nation, which was thus confronted with the unjust force

of history from its very inception," Macron said in a statement.

It comes on the 200th anniversary of the April 17, 1825 document issued by King Charles X of France, which recognized Haiti's independence after a slave revolt — but also imposed a 150 million gold francs debt as compensation for the loss of France's colony and enslaved labour force.

Although the indemnity was later reduced to 90 million gold francs, the debt crippled the Caribbean nation, which continued to pay it off through French and American banks until 1947. Economists estimate it's the equivalent of billions of dollars today.

Experts have said Haiti's current situation can be traced back to its past. Gangs have flourished in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with a growing number of children becoming members as families struggle to find food.

Violence has surged since last year, with gangs that control 85% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, attacking new communities daily in a bid to control even more territory. More than 5,600 people were reported killed last year, with gang violence leaving more than one million people homeless in recent years.

"Acknowledging the truth of history means refusing to forget or erase it," Macron

said.

The new commission will be made up of historians from both countries, and will aim to propose recommendations to both governments, "so that they can learn from them and build a more peaceful future."

Since taking office in 2017, Macron has already addressed France's role in past colonial conflicts, including in Algeria, Cameroon, and Rwanda.

Over the years, French governments have acknowledged the historic wrong of slavery in Haiti and other former colonies but like other former colonial powers have resisted calls for reparations. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

CXC introducing Caribbean Targeted Education Certificate

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) has developed and will be introducing a new qualification called the Caribbean Targeted Education Certificate (CTEC).

The pilot for the new certification programme will be rolled out come September 2025, with the initial CTEC being issued in 2026.

CXC Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr Wayne Wesley, who made the announcement during a hybrid press conference on Tuesday, explained that the new qualification will enable students to learn and engage with topics at three different paces and modules.

He informed that CTEC will entail an advanced, accelerated track with a compressed programme; a typical, general track with a two-year programme; and an individualised, flexible track with an extended programme.

“Within this construct, the learner is at the focus of what we are treating with. As you can see, we’ll be dealing with the learning style of the individual, the learning rate and the learning depth, how students learn, the pace at which they learn and the amount of content that they can absorb at any one time,” Dr Wesley said.

He further indicated that should students leave the system for any reason, they could re-engage the subject at the next stage.

The CEO added that achieving all the modules would result in the student receiving their certificate.

“So you don’t have to start the entire CSEC (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate) syllabus all over again, if you exit with module one. You can re-engage the system at module two or module three and obtain your full certification,” he stated.



Dr Wesley explained that the new qualification will be administered at the same standard as CSEC and the Caribbean Advance Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

Additionally, he said it will be utilising the same syllabus, focused on related and relevant learning outcomes, provide for the progressive achievement of competencies, and non-terminal.

“The approaches to CTEC will be subject-based. This will be assessment based on the syllabus qualifications that we offer and it is discipline specific, or CTEC will be skills-based approach where assessment will be based on competence achieved through real-life scenarios and situations, and this will be contextual,” he said.

Dr Wesley added that the students will

be afforded significant flexibility to assist them in achieving and demonstrating the level of competences acquired.

“We have started this process in both English and Mathematics. The modularisation of English and Mathematics will be done across three modules. Each module will be assessed independently and the combination of those three modules will provide for the award of the full certification,” he said.

Dr Wesley informed that countries have expressed an interest in starting the pilot, noting that CTEC’s introduction will address the issue of students leaving school without certification.

He added that CXC seeks to become more flexible and responsive to the region’s needs. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News



IACHR expresses concern regarding the electoral reform process in Dominica

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Wednesday expressed concern over what it described as Dominica's electoral reform process and reiterates its confidence in the government to uphold democratic principles enshrined in the Organization of American States (OAS) Democratic Charter and in the American Convention on Human Rights.

In a statement, the IACHR, a principal and autonomous organ of the OAS, said that it has monitored Dominica's electoral reform efforts since 2018, noting civil society's concerns regarding the integrity and independence of electoral entities, lack of campaign finance regulations, and the recent removal of the five-year absence rule for voter registration.

"The financing of voter transportation from abroad by political parties has also been flagged as an issue by electoral missions. In 2023, the Electoral Reform Commissioner, appointed in 2020, proposed draft Bills to enhance electoral transparency and voter protections, and ensure a more inclusive and equitable electoral process," the IACHR said.

It recalled that in May 2024, the government introduced three pieces of legislation, namely the Registration of Electors Bill and its accompanying Regulations, the House of Assembly Elections Bill, and the Electoral Commission Bill.

"These Bills include provisions on

a range of electoral matters, such as voter identification requirements, procedures for the registration of electors, and the implementation of an annual review of the electoral register.

"They also address issues such as bribery and treating, residency rules for voter registration, and the principle of equal access to state media, among other topics. However, the content of these Bills omitted provisions that the IACHR considers important to protect political rights, including measures related to campaign financing and safeguards to ensure the independence of the Electoral Commission," the IACHR added.

It said in contrast, the Dominica government has indicated that the issue of campaign financing warrants further analysis and should be addressed through a regional approach.

"It also reports that the draft electoral Bills were subject to broad consultations with opposition parties, civil society, the Bar Association, religious organizations, and the media. According to the State, these consultations were broadcast live to ensure transparency and public accessibility," the IACHR said.

It said on March 19, this year, Parliament passed these bills, triggering widespread protests. The IACHR said that state forces, warning that no "permission" had been granted to anyone to stage a protest outside the Parliament

building, responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and physical attacks against persons assembled.

"The Commission has been informed that, as a result, since the date of approval of the reform until April 9, at least 24 persons, of which four are women, have been arrested, including opposition leaders, lawyers and human rights defenders. While the majority have been released on bail under strict conditions, one person remains on remand at the Dominica State Prison."

The IACHR said that the American Convention on Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter collectively affirm that citizen participation in decision-making is both a fundamental right and a cornerstone of democratic governance.

It said the American Convention on Human Rights explicitly guarantees every citizen's right to vote and engage in public affairs. These instruments serve to uphold and protect political rights, ensuring the integrity and legitimacy of electoral processes.

Additionally, the IACHR has underscored that social protests play a crucial role in the preservation and strengthening of democratic systems, encompassing the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association.

"In principle, any restrictions imposed on these rights must not be

con't on pg 21

con't from pg 20

based on the content or form of the protest, nor on subjective assessments of its legitimacy. Furthermore, the exercise of freedom of assembly through social protest should not be conditioned on prior authorization or on disproportionate requirements that hinder its execution.

“Any limitation must strictly adhere to the principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality. States have an obligation to safeguard the rights of individuals engaging in protests, to protect their physical integrity, and ensure unhindered access to the press.”

The IACHR said that it is calling on Dominica “to respect the prin-

ciples of democratic participation and to end the targeting and criminalization of citizens exercising their rights to assembly and to participate in public demonstrations.

“The IACHR further calls on the Commonwealth of Dominica to ensure that the electoral reform process, beyond the passage of legislation, adheres to international human rights standards.

“The reform of electoral systems must aim to strengthen the independence of electoral institutions, promote fair and transparent campaign financing, and ensure equitable access to the electoral process.

“Additionally, the Commission calls on the State to continue to en-

gage in meaningful dialogue with civil society, opposition groups, and all stakeholders to address their ongoing and unresolved concerns regarding electoral reform.”

The IACHR said that mechanisms for transparency and accountability in electoral processes, particularly in relation to campaign financing and the transportation of voters from abroad, must be implemented.

“The IACHR reaffirms that citizen participation is a fundamental pillar of democracy and calls on the State to ensure that all electoral reforms respect the principles of universal suffrage, equality, and accessibility,” the statement added. *(Loop Caribbean)*

Man killed, another wounded in gun attack at airport in Trinidad

A passenger who landed at the Piarco International Airport in Trinidad was shot and killed early Thursday shortly after his arrival and another person was wounded when gunmen opened fire on a car parked near the arrivals area.

According to police reports, gunmen opened fire on the vehicle, fatally wounding one occupant and the second man managed to flee the scene.

An investigation is now under way.

The airport shooting is second homicide since the State of Emergency officially ended on April 13.

The State of emergency that was declared on December 30, 2024, followed a deadly

weekend in Port of Spain, where six people were murdered. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*



WHO member countries agree on draft 'pandemic treaty' to try to avoid COVID-19 mistakes

Five years after COVID-19 triggered national lockdowns, economic uncertainty and killed millions, the World Health Organization's member countries agreed on a draft "pandemic treaty" that sets guidelines for how the international community might confront the next global health crisis.

After the world's largely disastrous response to the coronavirus, countries tasked the WHO with overseeing a pandemic treaty in 2021. Negotiations concluded early Wednesday on an agreement expected to be adopted next month at the United Nations' health agency's annual meeting in Geneva. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus heralded it as a historic moment, saying countries have proven that "in our divided world, nations can still work together to find common ground and a shared response."

Following United States President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the country from the WHO in January, American officials were barred from participating in the talks by the Trump administration and are not expected to sign the treaty.

During COVID-19, it was largely American research and development that produced the most effective vaccines and medicines.

Weeks after Trump's decision, Argentina's President Javier Milei also exited the WHO, citing "profound differences" with the UN agency.

Rachael Crockett, of the advocacy group Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, described the draft pandemic treaty as "a product of compromise". She said it contained strong provisions, but only if countries chose to implement them: "This could change what we saw in COVID, when some populations didn't get access to what they needed."

The draft treaty notably includes a provision to guarantee that countries that share critical virus samples receive any resulting tests, medicines

and vaccines, with the WHO to hold up to 20 per cent of such products to ensure poorer countries get supplies. Negotiations on this provision are expected to continue after the treaty is likely accepted by member countries in May.

Crockett acknowledged that, as is often the case with international law, there are few consequences for countries that don't comply: "There's not



much that can be done if countries choose not to ratify or abide by it."

Yuanqiong Hu, of aid organization Doctors Without Borders, said that if disputes arise between countries, the treaty includes a mechanism for them to use diplomatic channels, followed by arbitration.

Countries are already legally bound by the International Health Regulations to do things like quickly report dangerous new outbreaks. But those have been flouted repeatedly, including by African countries during Ebola and other outbreaks, China in the early stages of COVID-19 and arguably the US amid its ongoing bird flu epidemic. **KEY PROVISIONS ON THE DRAFT 'PANDEMIC TREATY':**

On April 16, 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) member countries reached a draft agreement on a pandemic treaty designed to address shortcomings revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This treaty aims to enhance global preparedness

and response for future pandemics.

Key provisions include:

1. Pathogen access and benefit-sharing system (PABS): The treaty proposes a system where countries that share critical virus samples are guaranteed access to resulting tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Additionally, manufacturers are expected to provide the WHO with 20 per cent of pandemic-related products – 10 per cent as donations and 10 per cent at affordable prices – to ensure equitable distribution to poorer nations.

2. Sovereignty and national control: The agreement reaffirms that countries retain full sovereignty over their health policies. It explicitly states that the WHO cannot mandate national laws or policies, such as lockdowns or vaccination mandates.

3. Strengthening health systems: The treaty emphasises the importance of bolstering health systems' readiness, including diversifying global research capabilities and establishing robust supply chains and logistics networks.

4. Intellectual property and technology transfer: To facilitate access to pandemic-related products, the treaty encourages temporary waivers of intellectual property rights and promotes the transfer of technology and know-how to capable manufacturers in developing countries.

5. Global coordination and equity: The treaty aims to enhance international coordination and resilience against emerging pathogens, ensuring that all countries, regardless of income level, have access to necessary medical countermeasures.

While the treaty represents a significant step toward global health security, its success will depend on effective implementation and adherence by member states.

The final proposal is expected to be discussed at the World Health Assembly in May 2025. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Chinese e-commerce sites Temu and Shein say they're raising prices due to tariffs

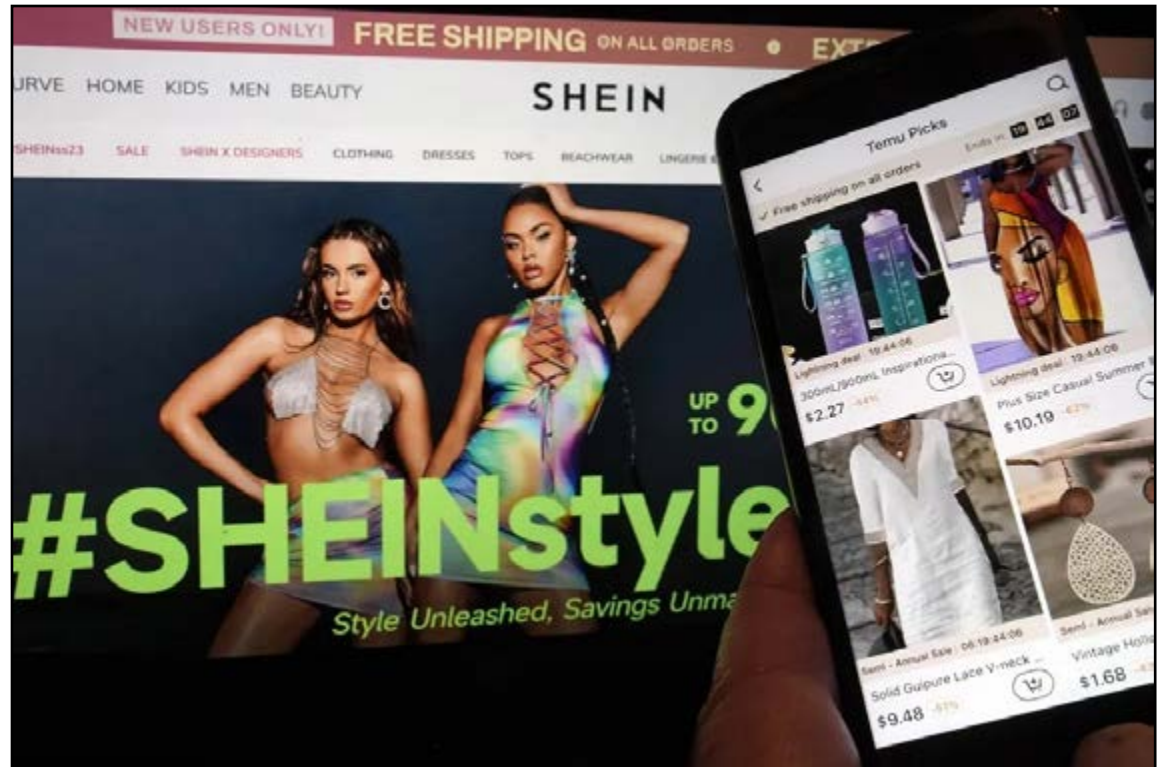
China-founded e-commerce sites Temu and Shein say they plan to raise prices for US customers starting next week, a ripple effect from President Donald Trump's attempts to correct the trade imbalance between the world's two largest economies by imposing a sky-high tariff on goods shipped from China.

Temu, which is owned by the Chinese e-commerce company PDD Holdings, and Shein, which is now based in Singapore, said in separate but nearly identical notices that their operating expenses have gone up "due to recent changes in global trade rules and tariffs."

Both companies said they would be making "price adjustments" starting April 25, although neither provided details about the size of the increases. It was unclear why the two rivals posted almost identical statements on their shopping sites.

Since launching in the United States, Shein and Temu have given Western retailers a run for their money by offering products at ultra-low prices, coupled with avalanches of digital or influencer advertising.

The 145 per cent tariff Trump slapped on most products made in China, coupled with his decision to end a customs exemption that allows goods worth less than \$800 to come into the US duty-free, has dented the business models of the two



platforms.

E-commerce companies have been the biggest users of the widely used exemption. Trump signed an executive order this month to eliminate the "de minimis provision" for goods from China and Hong Kong starting May 2, when they will be subject to the 145 per cent import tax.

As many as 4 million low-value parcels — most of them originating in China — arrive in the US every day under the soon-to-be canceled provision.

US politicians, law enforcement agencies and business groups lobbied to remove the long-standing exemption, describing it as a trade loophole that gave inexpensive Chinese goods an advantage and served as a

portal for illicit drugs and counterfeits to enter the country.

Shein sells inexpensive clothes, cosmetics and accessories, primarily targeting young women through partnerships with social media influencers. Temu, which promoted its goods through online ads, sells a wider array of products, including household items, humorous gifts and small electronics.

Last year the companies were among the largest advertising spenders on social media platforms, but they've both slashed that spending in recent weeks, according to data analytics provider Sensor Tower. That could be bad news for the platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snap, X and TikTok that rely on advertising.

In November, American e-commerce giant Amazon launched a low-cost online storefront featuring electronics, apparel and other products priced at under \$20. Many of the electronics, apparel and other products on the storefront Wednesday resembled the types of items typically found on Shein and Temu.

In their customer notices about the pending price increases, the companies encouraged customers to keep shopping in the days ahead.

"We've stocked up and stand ready to make sure your orders arrive smoothly during this time," Temu's statement said. "Were doing everything we can to keep prices low and minimize the impact on you." (*Loop Caribbean*)

**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

10-year-old girl set to be Crafton Hills College's youngest grad



Crafton Hills College is about to see its youngest scholar walk the graduation stage.

Alisa Perales is set to become the youngest graduate at the Yucaipa, California, college with two associate degrees at the age of 10.

The whiz kid from San Bernardino will take the title with degrees in multiple sciences and mathematics, on track to receive her diplomas with a GPA "close" to a 4.0, according to California Community Colleges.

The secret to her success? She just likes it.

"It's very fun to me — almost as fun as playing outside or riding a bike or whatever," Alisa told KABC. "I just

enjoy learning."

Her father, Rafael Perales, told the outlet that Alisa began homeschooling her when she was only 1 year old with help from an inheritance that allowed him to stay home. While most 5-year-olds were learning their ABCs and 1-2-3s, Alisa was already reading books and doing algebra.

"We were working from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon, and we did that six days a week," Perales told KABC. "It was a lot of work."

Alisa enrolled at Crafton Hills when she was 8 years old. Her classmates were often confused when Perales dropped her off at class, assuming he

was the student bringing his child to class.

The two years Alisa spent working for her degrees had their own difficulties, especially socially.

"We've had some challenges finding friends, because it's not like she can go to school and play with her friends like an average 10-year-old," Perales told KABC. "We've had to go out of our way, and bike the neighborhood and find other kids to play with."

But Alisa did not waver from her college journey, despite being half the age of most of her peers.

"Her young age doesn't stop her," Sandra Ruiz, a professor at Crafton Hills College, told KABC. "She was always curious to learn, to explore new things."

After graduation, Alisa has her sights set on pursuing a degree in computer science at a prestigious university.

"I'm going to plan on transferring to, hopefully, Stanford," Alisa told KABC. "I've applied there a couple months ago, and I'm awaiting a response."


Perales added that Alisa could potentially start college at 10, but never thought she would be graduating at this time.

"She's only getting started," he told KABC. (NBC News)



268 736 7165

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



Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

Breakfast served from 7:30am

Games Night - COMING SOON!

Sports News



Police and Blackhawks to clash in finals of Dave Joseph 30-over contest



Both camps, the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks and Police, are confident of securing the first title in the 2025 Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League domestic season on Saturday (tomorrow).

The Blackhawks and Police will clash in the first match of the best-of-three finals in the ACB Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship at the Clare Hall playing field.

Captain Vincent Shadrach Jr. said Police are confident of winning the match and reclaiming the title they last won in 2022.

“The players are optimistic of doing well even though Police do not have a home ground at the moment. We have been using Clare Hall as

our home base to practice, so some people will say we have a home court advantage,” Shadrach Jr. said.

“We don’t see it as an advantage because we know Liberta is a good team. Personally, I am also looking forward to the match because this is my first year captaining Police, and it is a significant achievement to reach the final in your first competition as the leader of the Police cricket team.”

Shadrach Jr.’s transition to the captaincy has been helped by his father, Vincent, who is currently the player/coach of the Police team.

The younger Shadrach expressed his gratitude for the support of his father, his teammates, and several former players, including Elmore Schol-

ar, for their assistance to the Police cricket team.

Meanwhile, reaching the final is a significant achievement for the Blackhawks, who will be competing in all four Parish League competitions this season for the first time in more than a decade.

However, the Blackhawks have been competing annually in the ACB Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League contest, including the last two years, in which they claimed the runners-up spot twice after losing the final on both occasions to reigning back-to-back champions, WES Rising Sun Spartans.

But veteran all-rounder Ian “Lumbus” Gore has also claimed that the Liberta Blackhawks are

confident of winning the ACB Caribbean Dave Joseph Parish League title.

Gore said the players are eagerly looking forward to the match since it is a significant achievement for the Blackhawks to reach the final in their first season of returning to the competition.

“Everyone is looking forward to this match. We are using Parish League to help develop our young players, so the team is a bunch of youngsters with a few senior players,” Gore stated.

We are all looking forward to this game, especially the youngsters, because it is a significant achievement to be able to reach the final in our first competition upon our return to the full season of Parish League competitions.”

Both teams will clash again in the second match of the series at Barrel Beef in Liberta on Sunday. If necessary, the teams will meet in a third and deciding game of the 30-Over contest on Saturday, April 26.

Freetown won last year’s ACB Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship.

Canucks beat cup-holders Ravens in Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-out

In an intense battle of the Canadians, Juel Canucks snatched a narrow three-point win against defending champions Juel Ravens to maintain their perfect run at the 19th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

The Canucks made it three wins in as many games in the five-team female basketball tournament, which is organized by the Concerned Parents/Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club, with a 76-73 victory against the Ravens in the first game of Wednesday's double-header.

Natalie Van Heswyk sank 23 points and grabbed 26 rebounds; Alexia Schryburt produced 18 points, four steals, and three rebounds; and Genevieve Stephens chipped in with 13 points for the Canucks.

Talya McNary produced 23 points, four assists, three rebounds, and three steals, and Sydney Cowan contributed 16 points, five rebounds, and three assists for the Ravens, who lost for the first time after winning their opening encounter 65-37 against the Dover Tigers of Barbados on Tuesday.

The Juel Stingers also notched up their second win in as many games by pulling off an emphatic 106-38 victory against the Dover Tigers of Barbados in Wednesday's second encounter.

Hailey Fennema shot a game-high 24 points and also claimed 10 rebounds, five steals, and three assists to lead the Stingers to their



Players of Juel Canucks (white jersey) and defending champions Juel Ravens (black jersey) compete during their match in the 19th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. (Photos courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club).

latest victory.

In support, Maria Nicorescu sank 19 points and snatched nine rebounds; Alexa Burtenshaw also scored 19 points and claimed three steals and three assists; and Caroline Chadwick produced 15 points, eight rebounds, and seven steals for the Stingers.

Makenna Clarke scored 10 points for the Barbadian Dover Tigers, who lost for the third time in as many games during their debut appearance in the women's basketball tournament.

The tournament will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Good Friday (today).

In another all-Canadian match-up, the Juel Stingers will meet the cup-holders, the Juel Ravens, at 6 pm. A celebrity shootout contest

will take place at 7:20 pm, and the Wings Tough Gals and the Dover Tigers will go in search of their first win when they clash at 8 pm.

The organizers will stage a Youth Basketball Camp at both the YMCA and JSC Sports Complex on Saturday at 9:30 am.

The tournament will come to an end on Saturday. The third-place playoff will take place at 5:30 pm, and the championship decider will follow at 7 pm. The event will culminate with the presentation of awards ceremony after the final.

The annual tournament is held in honour of former national player Gillian Brazier, who died several years ago after succumbing to multiple sclerosis, which is a chronic disease of the central nervous system.

Sports News



Antigua hit-back with win over St. Maarten at LICB Under-19 tourney

After suffering an opening round loss to Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda rebounded to beat St. Maarten and claimed their first win at the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) Under-19 Men's Championship in St. Kitts on Wednesday.

The Antiguan coasted to a 10-wicket win against St. Maarten at the Conaree Sports Club Ground.

After dismissing St. Maarten for 60 in 16.2 overs, Antigua and Barbuda wrapped up victory by scoring 62 without losing a wicket in 10.4 overs.

Tanez Francis hit an unbeaten 39 off 35 balls, including nine fours, and fellow Antiguan opener Hosea Roberts struck 19 not out off 29 balls.

Captain Matthew Miller grabbed five for 12, Ozan Williams snapped up three wickets for eight runs, and Mikali Tonge picked up one for 21 to dismiss St. Maarten.

Opener Amari Hinds, who was the only player to reach double figures, topscored for St. Maarten with 20 off 28 balls.

Antigua and Barbuda crashed to a 76-run defeat against Nevis in their opening encounter at Warner Park.

The Nevisians batted first and was dismissed for 176 in 36.5 overs. Captain Jevon Manners hit 50, Carlton Pluck slammed 41 off 43 balls, and Leshawn Weeks struck 34.

Mekali Tonge and Xanden Hobson each picked up three for 29, and Kerique Mentore claimed two for 25.

In reply, Antigua and Barbuda tumbled to 100 all out in 31.2 overs. Matthew Miller hit 21, and Tanez Francis scored 17. Taysean Wilkinson grabbed three for nine, Tzhavir Pemberton claimed three for 15, Jhadone Herbert bagged two for 26, and Delroy Prentice captured two for 35.

In other matches, hosts St. Kitts crushed St. Maarten by 125 runs at Conaree. St.

Kitts made 222 for eight off their allotted 50 overs. Captain De-Andre Drew cracked 50, and Elijah Lewis hit 32. Ameri Hinds captured two for 43.

In reply, St. Maarten was dismissed for 97 in 19 overs. Captain Israel Morton struck 28. Lawshorn Bergan grabbed five wickets for 12 runs, and Dervonje Stokes picked up two for 20.

St. Kitts also crushed Nevis by 113 runs at Warner Park. St. Kitts was all out for 257 in 49 overs. Lawshorn Bergan slammed 56,

Eirette Richards struck 54, and Zavio Henry hit 47.

Delroy Prentice took three for 45, Leshawn Weeks bagged two for 19, and Tzhavir Pemberton captured two for 54.

In reply, Nevis tumbled to 144 all out in 31 overs. Amoree Jones hit 33, and Jevon Manners scored 20. Kunal Tilokani grabbed four for 30, Lawshorn Bergan picked up two wickets for nine runs, and Caiden Francis captured two for 32.

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

GET COVERAGE WITH **STATE**... ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT

Live in a better **STATE** of mind.

- HEALTH INSURANCE**
WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST
- COVERAGE TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS**
- PROTECT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS**
- OTHER POLICIES TO PROTECT YOU**

(268) 481-7800/04 | info@sicantigua.com | www.sicantigua.com f @

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



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

TALKING POINT

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

Sports News



Windies women beat Bangladesh to keep World Cup hopes alive



Aaliyah Alleyne

The West Indies Women secured a vital three-wicket win over Bangladesh on Thursday in Lahore, Pakistan, to keep their fading hopes of qualifying for the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup alive.

Set a target of 228, the Caribbean side achieved victory at 228 for seven in 46 overs, thanks to a composed, unbeaten 51 from Chinelle Henry and a Player of the Match performance by Aaliyah Alleyne, who not only took four for 39, but chipped in with 11 valuable runs near

the end of the chase.

The victory was West Indies' second of the qualifying tournament, having previously edged Ireland by six runs. However, earlier losses to Scotland and Pakistan mean their qualification prospects remain slim heading into the final round of matches.

Bangladesh had earlier posted 227 for nine, built around a 94-run partnership between Sharmin Akhter (67 off 79) and Fargana Hoque (42 off 78).

The pair helped Bangladesh recover from

the early loss of Sobhana Mostary to take the score from 16 for one to 134 for two before West Indies clawed back through disciplined spells from Afy Fletcher (2-43), Hayley Matthews (2-42), and Alleyne, whose four wickets included top-scorer Akhter and captain Nigar Sultana.

In response, the West Indies innings saw steady contributions throughout. Qiana Joseph set the tone with a brisk 31 at the top, while veteran Stafanie Taylor (36) and captain Hayley

Matthews (33) stitched together a crucial 66-run fourth-wicket stand after the team slipped to 74 for three.

Henry then took charge in the closing stages, anchoring the innings as wickets fell around her. She added 50 runs with Shabika Gajnabi (20) for the sixth wicket and another key 30-run stand with Alleyne to all but seal the win.

Though Alleyne fell with just one run needed, Fletcher calmly knocked off the winning run in the 46th over, giving West Indies a much-needed victory with four overs to spare.

Despite the win, West Indies remain on shaky ground in the standings and will likely need to win their final group match convincingly — and hope other results go their way — to advance to the World Cup proper.

Still, the fighting spirit shown in Lahore, led by Henry and Alleyne, has kept the regional side's dream alive — if only just.

**MON - FRI
9AM TO 11AM**



**HOSTED BY
TROY ALLEN**

TALK YOUR MIND

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

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Track and field athletes and swimmers depart for CARIFTA Games



Senator Shenella Govia, left, with the Antigua and Barbuda swimmers and officials at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Thursday, April 17, 2025.



From left to right: Front row: Senator Shenella Govia, Team Manager Gillian Matthew, Jada Gunthrope, Shenika Bentick, Geolyna Dowdye, Kettia Ambrose, Hanief Jones, Head Coach Jamille Nelson, Assistant Coach, Oswald Baptiste, and Safeguarding Officer Kesswin Anthony.

Back row: Tyra Fenton, Ranique Richards, Hannah Charles, Zonique Charles, Kevon Campbell, Naeem Simon, Maliek Francis, Judah Ashe, Marcus Henry, Kasiya Daley, Cleon Joseph, Conroy Wilson, and Javon Simon.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Sports, Senator Shenella Govia, joined national athletes and swimmers at the V.C. Bird International Airport ahead of their departure to Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the annual CARIFTA Games.

The 19 athletes, accompanied by five officials, will battle their counterparts from across the region for supremacy over three days at the Haseley Crawford Stadium in Mucurapo during the 52nd CARIFTA Track and Field (athletics) Games.

Eighteen Antiguan swimmers, accompanied by six officials, will represent the twin-island nation at the 38th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships in Trinidad and Tobago this Easter Holiday weekend.

The annual regional swimming event is scheduled to take place at the National Aquatic Centre in Couva from April 19 to 22.

The Antiguan swimmers and track and field athletes are slated to return home on Tuesday, April 22.