

GG and PM meet with students from Five Islands Primary School

Story on Page 2



A touching moment of clarity: both Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne joined to show love and support for the students of the Five Islands Primary School in the Parliament Chambers on Monday

GG and PM meet with students from Five Islands Primary School



The top two members of the government, the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, head of state, and Prime Minister, Gaston

Browne, head of government, engaged in a remarkable event on Monday; they held a joint interactive session with Grade One

students of the Five Islands Primary School at the Parliament Chambers.

con't on pg 3



Local News

PAGE 3



con't from pg 2

Those were the students with whom, the late 9-year old Chantel Crump shared a classroom for several years. It was a moving experience as both men sought to offer words of comfort and empathy to the young people, who may still be in a state of shock and disbelief over the sudden passing of their classmate and the circumstances of her death.

During the visit, the leaders spoke with the eager students on im-

portant topics, including “stranger danger”, self-confidence, the workings of government and parliament, and the importance of striving for excellence.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams encouraged the students to stay focused on their education, to remain determined, and aim high to achieve great things. Prime Minister Browne reinforced the importance of developing good habits to become responsible citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

Addressing the recent passing of their schoolmate, Chantel Crump, both leaders expressed their condolences and reassured students that the government is committed to their safety. They urged them to be cautious, avoid strangers, and always report any concerns to their teachers or parents.

The visit was part of a Social Studies project, providing the young students with a firsthand look at leadership and governance.



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A call for dialogue with US leaders on policies that affect Caribbean nations

There is a call for dialogue between the United States and countries of the Caribbean there are likely to be negatively impacted by recent policy announcements from the Trump Administration.

Making the call is the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne who noted that small countries of the region especially those in the Eastern Caribbean could be the ‘unintended victims’ of these policies if there are to take effect.

PM Browne specifically mentioned three new policy announcements from the US; the employment of Cuban doctors within the health services of the region; the purchase of petroleum products from Venezuela and the importation of goods into the region on Chinese built vessels.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show last Saturday, the prime minister said the policies have the potential to ‘upend the economies’ of the small states of the Eastern Caribbean.

On the issue of the purchase of oil from Venezuela, PM Browne noted that while his administration has not purchased any such products from Venezuela, the arrangements under which these purchases were made by the previous government have been beneficial to Antigua and Barbuda.

He said the arrangements to sell petroleum products on credit benefitted the countries of the Eastern Caribbean and he is asking the Americans to consider a special ‘carve out’ for the sub-region whenever it plans to implement that policy.

The nation’s leader acknowledged that the \$500 million dollars- worth of petroleum products purchased under the UPP Administration from Venezuela ‘was a lifeline as it saved the country



Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne
 from collapse’ during the global financial crisis at the time.

Similarly, with regard to the use of Chinese built ships, the prime minister suggests that this policy could add up to US\$4,000.00 on the cost of shipping a container from Miami to St. John’s which could be devastating for

the local economy as it would cause inflation to rise exponentially.

“At some point, I am hoping that we can have a broader discussion with US Secretary of State for him to understand that even if Venezuela was to continue supplying the countries of the Caribbean, especially the OECS, the magnitude of the sale cannot keep a regime in power based on the small amount of money, but giving us the credit can make a difference in our development,” he explained.

PM Browne reiterated that he is not interfering in the internal politics of the United States, however, he emphasized that where US policies impact negatively on the country, then it has an obligation to speak out and to defend its sovereignty.



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Office of the NAO Debunks Claims of Late Notification to CSME Consultation



The Office of the NAO, a division of the Ministry of Trade, is debunking claims about late notification of CSME consultation for members of the opposition United Progressive Party.

In a press statement, this is what the ONAO said; On Monday March 31, 2025 on the *Voice of the People Program* hosted by Franz DeFreitas, a WhatsApp message was read to the listening audience, which stated that the Ministry of Trade contacted the Opposition Leader, Hon. Jamale Pringle with a request for a meeting the night before the actual engagement with the CARICOM Delegation.

The Office of the National Authorising Officer (ONAO), within the Ministry of Trade, wishes to state categorically that at the request of the visiting CARICOM Delegation,

contact was made via telephone and WhatsApp messaging with the Leader of the Opposition, to facilitate consultations with the Opposition during their mission. This initial contact was made on January 30, 2025, prior to the arrival of the delegation in Antigua on February 4, 2025.

The CSME Focal Point, Ms. Barbara Williams, was directed by the Opposition Leader who indicated he was overseas, to make contact with the Deputy Leader of the United Progressive Party Hon. Sherfield Bowen, to make arrangements for a meeting with the Opposition.

In the course of these arrangements, the Office of the NAO facilitated multiple time and date change requests from the Deputy Leader, to accommodate the convening of the meeting.

It therefore stands to reason that the ONAO did not notify the Opposition Leader of the said meeting the night before the scheduled engagement.

After reaching agreement with the Deputy Leader, the meeting took place on Thursday February 6, 2025, 9am at the Charlesworth Samuel Building, Independence Drive.

The ONAO is however grateful for the convening of the meeting which allowed the exchange of information by the CARICOM Delegation with those in attendance.

The objectives of the consultation in the country were to engage with stakeholders from February 5 – 7, 2025, on matters related to the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).



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Local News



Jennings man jailed for possession of modified flare gun

Jennings resident, 32-year old Steven Roberts, has been sentenced to a two-year jail term for the illegal possession of a modified flare gun and two rounds of ammunition.

Roberts pleaded guilty to the charge when he appeared before Senior Magistrate, Ngaio Emanuel in District 'B' of the magistrate's court last Thursday. Similar charges were brought against his live-in companion, Tashiba John, but which were later withdrawn by the prosecution in light of the fact that she was visibly pregnant.

The police had executed a warrant on the home in Jennings which both Roberts and John shared. During the search, they came upon the weapon and the ammunition and John admitted to the police that he did not possess a firearms licence.

When Roberts appeared before the court on Monday for sentencing, the magistrate sentenced him to a two-year prison term on the weapons charge and six months on the ammunition charge. They are to be served concurrently.

Meanwhile, Hopeton Roach of Ottos New Town who faced a charge of assault against Shantalee Simpson who



he threatened with a knife during an incident in All Saints on March 22, has been sentenced to a 5-month prison term.

The court heard that Roach, who had a relationship with Simpson which she broke off late last year because of his abusive behaviour, forced his way into the woman's house on March 22 and

held her by her hair causing her much pain and anguish stating that she didn't know who she was 'playing with'.

Roach appeared before Senior Magistrate Emanuel on Monday where he was found guilty and sentenced for the assault as well as one month for unlawful entry. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Six in Police Custody for Unlawful Possession of Firearm & Ammunition

Six Grays Farm men are being questioned by the police for the unlawful possession of a firearm and several rounds of ammunition.

On Sunday, March 30, po-

lice were patrolling Grays Farm and found a firearm with several matching ammunition among a group of men near Hoppers' Playing Field. They were all arrested and taken into custody

for unlawful possession of the illegal items. Further investigations are ongoing.

It is not immediately clear if this round-up of these men forms part of the ongoing

investigation into the shooting death of 23- Taheem Jackson of Grays Farm who was shot and killed on Saturday night in Grays Farm.



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World Consumer Rights Day awards presented



The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division hosted World Consumer Rights Day Awards Ceremony, celebrating the outstanding efforts of young innovators in promoting sustainable living. The event featured a keynote address from Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Trade, who stressed the importance of this year's theme: "A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles."

In his speech, Ambassador Pilgrim highlighted that the theme is "both timely and critical as we continue to navigate the balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship." He emphasized that sustainability is no longer an option but a necessity, noting, "It requires innovation, creativity, and a commitment to new ways of thinking and doing business. Our youth—our future engineers and innovators—will lead the way in this transition."

Joanne Peters, Deputy Director of the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division, welcomed the attendees and reflected on the significance of the ceremony. Peters said, "Today, we not only recognize our winners but also honor the brilliant ideas from young minds who

con't on pg 9





con't from pg 8

are showing us how we can transition to sustainable lifestyles in Antigua and Barbuda.”

She further emphasized the event's importance: “These young consumers—our future leaders—are already demonstrating how to live more sustainably through their innovative mod-



els, posters, and essays. They are leading the way in shaping the future of sustainable living in our nation.”

The ceremony recognized winners from several competitions, including:

- ▣ *The Sustainable Vehicle Challenge for primary school students*
- ▣ *The Sustainable Model Home Com-*

petition for tertiary students and the public

- ▣ *The Essay Competition on transitioning to sustainable lifestyles*

The winners received exciting prizes, including day passes for two, trophies, gift baskets, and gift certificates. Christian Union Academy, CT Samuel Primary School, and the Antigua State College were the schools that won prizes while individual prizes went to Joshua Stoute, Neilisha Morgan and Razonique Looby.

In closing, Peters congratulated all participants, stating, “You are all winners. Your creativity and commitment to sustainability inspire us all.” She also extended her gratitude to the sponsors for their support, saying, “We truly appreciate your partnership, which made these competitions possible.”

The ceremony underscored the importance of nurturing young innovators and their potential to drive positive change in the world of sustainability.



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The UPP's Unraveling: Vindication at Last

The latest public implosion within the United Progressive Party (UPP) with MPs Algernon Watts, Kelvin Simon, and Richard Lewis airing grievances about exclusion and toxicity feels like déjà vu. But this isn't just about internal strife. It's about a recurring pattern we've witnessed before, one the public has too often dismissed or forgotten. And it forces us to ask: Why do we only validate certain voices when it's politically convenient?

Over recent years, revelations about the UPP's internal dysfunction have exposed a culture of opaque decision-making and retaliation against dissent. Former members such as Joanne Massiah and Chaneil Imhoff—as well as voices like Lamin Newton—have bravely spoken out about the disrespect and mistreatment they endured while serving under the party's banner. Their experiences are not isolated incidents; they form part of a broader pattern of political alienation that has plagued those who dare to challenge the status quo.

Joanne Massiah was one of only three UPP candidates to win her seat in the historic 2014 elections. That achievement alone underscored her competence and the trust the electorate placed in her. Yet, her subsequent expulsion in February 2017—after she challenged the party's opaque back-room decisions—makes her treatment even more egregious. Rather than engaging in a robust debate over policy and leadership, party loyalists quickly labeled her as “difficult” and accused her of “dividing the movement.” Massiah's only “crime” was refusing to accept a process that masked undemocratic practices as internal procedure. When a leader who has earned her seat through hard-fought electoral victory is systematically erased, it is not only a personal injustice—it is a stain on the entire political system.

Chaneil Imhoff's resignation further illustrates this troubling pattern. In her public statement, she detailed how, despite years of loyal service, she was undermined for speaking out about



MPs, Kelvin Simon, Algernon Watts and Richard Lewis

irregularities during the St. Peter primary. Critics dismissed her concerns as mere overreaction, yet history tells a different story. Notably, the very individual, Tevaughn “Peter Redz” Harriette for whom they destroyed her reputation, also later faced the same disrespect—only to be removed to make way for George Wehner, a party pit bull and unquestioning yes-man—illustrates the UPP's predilection for replacing dissent with blind loyalty. This replacement was not a mere personnel change; it was emblematic of a system that prioritizes conformity over constructive criticism.

Anthony Smith's journey is equally revealing. His defection from the UPP was met with venom from former allies—he was branded a liar and accused of betraying the party. Over time, however, even those who once denounced him have had to concede that his criticisms were valid. Smith's vindication, coming only after his career was jeopardized, serves as a stark reminder that true accountability should not be delayed. If the same toxic practices that forced Massiah, Imhoff, and others to leave continue to be tolerated, then the nation as a whole pays the price in lost talent, diminished trust, and weakened governance.

The recent outcry from MPs Watts, Simon, and Lewis resurrects the very issues that once compelled Massiah,

Imhoff, Newton and others to take a stand. Their criticisms—centered on exclusion, opaque decision-making, and retaliation—are dismissed as mere “internal disagreements” when voiced by certain members. The difference is largely one of perception: Massiah was labeled disruptive while these more recent voices are deemed “frustrated allies”. This double standard undermines the possibility of honest political debate.

We have a habit in Antigua and Barbuda of offering retroactive justice—only later admitting, “Oh, they were right all along.” But by that time, reputations are tarnished, careers are derailed, and public faith in our political system is irreparably weakened.

Vindication should not be an afterthought; it must start today by acknowledging those who dared to speak truth to power from the outset. It is time for the UPP—and all political institutions—to recognize that silencing dissent is not a path to unity but a recipe for internal decay. An immediate apology and a commitment to genuine transparency are essential steps toward healing our political system. Only by holding our leaders accountable can we hope to build a system that truly serves the aspirations of Antigua and Barbuda.

Concerned Antiguan

Regional News



Intruder tells granny "Stay quiet; yuh trying to wake up the neighbour?"

One man is in police custody with a bite wound after he broke into the home of a 69-year-old woman and attacked her.

The victim told police that at about 3 a.m. on Saturday, she was asleep in the bedroom of her home located along Evelyn Trace in El Socorro, when she was awoken by a strange noise. She then felt someone's hand on her face.

The suspect said, 'Shhh! Be quiet!' Fearful for her life, the victim screamed. The suspect then grabbed the

victim by her chin and told her, 'Stay quiet; yuh trying to wake up the neighbour?'

The victim then bit the suspect's hand. The man recoiled in pain and ran out of the house screaming.

The police were notified, and officers of the Barataria Police Station, led by Cpl Nicholas, responded. The suspect was found hiding in the woman's yard. On his person he had items which belonged to the 69-year-old woman. As a result, he was immediately arrested. The victim was conveyed to



the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex to seek medical attention for inju-

ries sustained during the ordeal. WPC Baboolal is continuing enquiries. (*Trinidad*

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Dominica monitors outbreaks of Gastroenteritis and Influenza



The Ministry of Health in Dominica is actively monitoring an outbreak of gastroenteritis that began in early January, alongside an influenza ('flu') outbreak that has followed the Carnival season.

At a press conference on Friday morning, National Epidemiologist Dr Shaluddin Ahmed provided an update

on the situation, confirming that while the flu is primarily affecting individuals aged 25 to 44, the gastroenteritis outbreak has been confined to children aged 14 and under.

"The flu virus spreads through several routes," Dr Ahmed explained. "When infected individuals cough or sneeze,

they release droplets that can infect those nearby."

He also highlighted that the virus can be transmitted through direct contact with infected persons or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching one's face.

As for gastroenteritis, Dr Ahmed noted that its primary symptoms, which include diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and fever, are a result of inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

Dr Ahmed praised the Ministry of Health for its proactive efforts in managing the outbreaks. "We remain fully engaged in active monitoring throughout all communities with a focus on high-risk areas to ensure the downward trend continues," he said, referencing the recent decline in case numbers for both illnesses.

To help prevent the spread of these diseases, Dr Ahmed encouraged the public to take precautionary measures, including frequent handwashing, regularly cleaning commonly touched surfaces, and avoiding large gatherings



Policeman electrocuted while cutting tree

The Jamaica Constabulary Force is in mourning after one of its members was electrocuted while cutting a tree at his home in St Catherine on Sunday.

He is Sergeant William Wallace, who was assigned to the Protective Services Division of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

It is reported that about 6:10 p.m, the policeman, who resided in Eltham Acres, was cutting branches from a tree when the hand holding the machete made contact with a high tension wire and he was electrocuted.

He was pronounced dead at the Spanish Town Hospital. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Four killed in crash along PJ Patterson Highway

Four people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed in a two-vehicle crash along the PJ Patterson Highway early Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as 22-year-old Tyesha Manhertz, unemployed; 29-year-old Wendy Lammie, unemployed; 27-year-old factory worker, Andre McLeish; and eight-year-old Trey Stewart, all of Kingston 7 addresses.

A police report listed excessive speeding, diverted attention and a “collision with vehicle in a previous accident” as possible causes of the crash.

A 2022 Mercedes Benz and a 2002 Toyota Probox were the vehicles involved in the crash which occurred just after midnight, according to the police report.

McLeish was reportedly driving the Toyota Probox in an easterly direction, with the two women and the child as passengers, when he lost control of the vehicle and hit a median and the motor car overturned.

While the four occupants of the



vehicle were in the process of disembarking the overturned car, it was hit by the Mercedes Benz motor car, severely injuring all four.

They were later pronounced dead at the Spanish Town Hospital.

The police have warned the driver of the Mercedes Benz for prosecution.

Dr Lucien Jones, vice chairman of the National Road Safety Coun-

cil, called the news “absolutely shocking”.

“The police report suggests that somebody was speeding and that there was distracted driving,” he said.

“All hands must be on deck to stop this madness of excessive speeding and distracted driving and distracted walking on our roads,” said Jones. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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ICE nabs Caribbean immigrants in 'enhanced operation' in Massachusetts

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency says it has collaborated with other US federal law enforcement partners in apprehending 370 illegal immigrants, including Jamaicans, in Massachusetts during "an enhanced targeted enforcement operation".

It said the operation focused on transnational organised crime, gangs and "egregious illegal alien offenders."

The immigration enforcement agency said those arrested included a Jamaican immigrant previously deported from the US, who was convicted of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, armed robbery, possession of a firearm, and assault.

Three Dominican Republic nationals were apprehended.

ICE said one was arrested in Boston, Massachusetts for illegally re-entry the US after removal and charged with multiple drug distribution crimes.

Another Dominican Republic immigrant was arrested in Boston for illegally re-entering the US after removal and charged with trafficking fentanyl, ICE said.

It said a third Dominican Republic immigrant was apprehended in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and was wanted for homicide in his native country.

"The Commonwealth is a safer place for our residents to live and work because ICE and our federal law enforcement partners arrested hundreds of alien offenders and removed them from the streets of Massachusetts," said ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Boston acting Field Office Director Patricia H Hyde.

"Throughout this enhanced enforcement operation, we targeted the most dangerous alien offenders in some of the most crime-infested neighbourhoods in and around Boston," she added. "Our efforts resulted in 370 arrests throughout the commonwealth".

"ICE and our federal law enforcement partners are committed to protecting the homeland through the eradication



of transnational criminal organisations, dismantling dangerous criminal gangs preying on the American public, locating and arresting criminal alien offenders, and making our communities a safer place to live," Hyde continued.

During the six-day enhanced operation, ICE said it and federal law enforcement partners targeted "egregious criminal alien offenders" including transnational criminal organisations known to operate in and around Boston and throughout Massachusetts.

ICE said these organisations include the notorious MS-13, Tren de Aragua, Trinitarios, and 18th Street gangs.

US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Leah B Foley said: "Everyone should agree that we cannot and will not tolerate individuals who not only violate our immigration laws but then commit crimes that endanger our communities. Those who enter and remain in this country unlawfully are breaking the law.

"My office remains committed to working alongside our law enforcement partners to ensure that dangerous individuals are identified, prosecuted, and removed, so that the people of Massachusetts can live and work

in safe and secure communities," she added.

ICE said 205 of those arrested had significant criminal convictions or charges, and six were foreign fugitives currently facing charges or convictions for murder, drug trafficking, organised crime, and money laundering.

"Safeguarding the integrity of the immigration and citizenship process is critical. We simply can't permit violent and dangerous criminals to enter or remain in the United States under false pretences, with unknown allegiances and intentions. It's a direct threat to public safety and our national security," said Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division Jodi Cohen.

"There's no question our communities are safer today because of this enhanced, targeted operation. FBI Boston, like all our federal partners, will continue to support ICE with these efforts," she added.

ICE said law enforcement officials seized about 44 kilograms of methamphetamines, 5 kilograms of fentanyl, 1.2 kilograms of cocaine, three firearms and ammunition from illegal immigrant offenders during the operation. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Trump says he's considering ways to serve a third term as president



President Donald Trump said Sunday that “I’m not joking” about trying to serve a third term, the clearest indication he is considering ways to breach a constitutional barrier against continuing to lead the country after his second term ends at the beginning of 2029.

“There are methods which you could do it,” Trump said in a telephone interview with NBC News from Mar-a-Lago, his private club. He elaborated later to reporters on Air Force One from Florida to Washington that “I have had more people ask me to have a third term, which in a way is a fourth term because the other election, the 2020 election was totally rigged.” Trump lost that election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Still, Trump added: “I don’t want to talk about a third term now because no matter how you look at it, we’ve got a long time to go.”

The 22nd Amendment, added to the Constitution in 1951 after President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected four times in a row, says “no person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice.”

Any attempt to remain in

office would be legally suspect and it is unclear how seriously Trump might pursue the idea. The comments nonetheless were an extraordinary reflection of the desire to maintain power by a president who had violated democratic traditions four years ago when he tried to overturn the election he lost to Biden.

“This is yet another escalation in his clear effort to take over the government and dismantle our democracy,” said a statement from Representative Daniel Goldman, a New York Democrat who served as lead counsel for Trump’s first impeachment. “If Congressional Republicans believe in the Constitution, they will go on the record opposing Trump’s ambitions for a third term.” Steve Bannon, a former Trump strategist who runs the right-wing “War Room” podcast, called for the president to run again during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference last month.

“We want Trump in ‘28,” he said

Kayla Thompson, a 30-year-old former paralegal in Wisconsin, said she would “absolutely” like Trump to

serve another term.

“America needs him. America is headed in the right direction and, if he doesn’t do it, we’re probably headed backwards,” said Thompson, who was attending a campaign event Sunday with Elon Musk in Green Bay for a state Supreme Court race.

Jeremy Paul, a constitutional law professor at Boston’s Northeastern University, said “there are no credible legal arguments for him to run for a third term.”

NBC’s Kristen Welker asked Trump if one potential avenue to a third term was having Vice President JD Vance run for the top job and “then pass the baton to you.”

“Well, that’s one,” Trump responded. “But there are others too. There are others.”

“Can you tell me another?” Welker asked

“No,” Trump replied.

Vance’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Derek Muller, a professor of election law at Notre Dame, noted that the 12th Amendment, which was ratified in 1804, says “no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.” Muller said that indicates that if Trump is not eligible to run for president again because of the 22nd Amendment, he is not eligible to run for vice president, either.

“I don’t think there’s any ‘one weird trick’ to getting around presidential term

limits,” Muller said.

In addition, pursuing a third term would require extraordinary acquiescence by federal and state officials, not to mention the courts and voters themselves.

He suggested that Trump is talking about a third term for political reasons to “show as much strength as possible.”

“A lame-duck president like Donald Trump has every incentive in the world to make it seem like he’s not a lame duck,” he said.

Trump, who would be 82 at the end of his second term, was asked whether he would want to keep serving in “the toughest job in the country” at that point.

“Well, I like working,” the president said.

Trump suggested that Americans would go along with a third term because of his popularity. He falsely claimed to have “the highest poll numbers of any Republican for the last 100 years.” Gallup data shows President George W Bush reaching a 90 per cent approval rating after the attacks on September 11, 2001. His father, President George HW Bush, hit 89 per cent following the Gulf War in 1991.

Trump has maxed out at 47 per cent in Gallup data during his second term, despite claiming to be “in the high 70s in many polls, in the real polls.”

Trump has mused before about serving longer than two terms before, generally with jokes to friendly audiences.

“Am I allowed to run again?” he said during a House Republican retreat in January. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

International

AROUND THE WORLD



2 people killed and dozens wounded in Russian attack on Kharkiv



Russian drones hit a military hospital, shopping center, apartment blocks and other buildings in Kharkiv late Saturday, killing two people and wounding 35 others, Ukrainian officials said.

Regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said that a 67-year-old man and a 70-year-old woman were killed in the attack on Ukraine's second-largest city.

Ukraine's General Staff denounced

the "deliberate, targeted shelling" of the military hospital. Among the casualties were "servicemen who were undergoing treatment," it said.

The Ukrainian Air Force reported that Russia fired 111 exploding drones and decoys in the latest wave of attacks overnight into Sunday. It said 65 of them were intercepted and another 35 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that over the past week "most regions of Ukraine" came under Russian attack. Writing on X, he said "1,310 Russian guided aerial bombs, over 1,000 attack drones — mostly 'Shaheds' — and nine missiles of various types, including ballistic ones" had been launched against Ukraine.

Zelenskyy also repeated his assertion that "Russia is dragging out the war," echoing comments he made Thursday in Paris that Russia is prolonging ceasefire talks "just to buy time and then try to grab more land."

Russia's Ministry of Defense, meanwhile, said its air defense systems shot down six Ukrainian drones. It also claimed Sunday that its troops had taken control of a village in Ukraine's partly occupied Donetsk region. The Russian claim could not be independently verified, and Ukraine did not comment.

According to Ukrainian government and military analysts, Russian forces are preparing to launch a fresh military offensive in the coming weeks to maximize pressure on Ukraine and strengthen the Kremlin's negotiating position in ceasefire talks. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Attacking Saints avoid automatic relegation from Premier League

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

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

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

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

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


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

John Hughes finished their season with 24 points, the same as the Potters Tigers, after recording their seventh win from their quota of 19 matches. The Greenbay Hoppers finished in the cellar of the 14-team league with 11 points after crashing to their 14th defeat from their quota of 19 matches.

Parham ended their campaign in 12th place after coming from behind to pull off a 5-1 victory against the Potters Tigers in their final outing during the last game of Saturday's triple-header.



PMS PAN WEEK 2025







APRIL 2ND-5TH

02 WED	01:00 PM	Opening Ceremony Villa Polyclinic
	01:30 PM	Solo Competition Villa Polyclinic
03 THUR	1:00 PM	Working Session: Improvisation Presenter: Zahra Lake Special guest: Aubrey Lacu Samuel Villa Polyclinic
	2:00 PM	Steelpan Maintenance & Care Presenter: Veron Henry & Team Villa Polyclinic
04 FRI	1:30 PM	Masterclass with Andre White Villa Polyclinic
05 SAT	06:30 PM	Blockorama Princess Margaret School

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Sports News



Flyers end Steelers unbeaten run in ABBA's Division 1 League



Reigning champions EZ Fit Flyers ended the unbeaten run of Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Sunday night.

The Flyers soared to the top of the league by claiming their 12th win in 13 matches with a 93-76 victory over the Potters Steelers in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Steelers, who were the only remaining unbeaten team by winning their previous 11 games, slipped to second place in the standings after suffering their first defeat in 12 encounters.

Selassie Brathwaite shot a game-high 26 points and claimed seven rebounds; Xavier Meade produced 24 points, eight rebounds, and eight assists; and Alexis Jackson converted 15 points and snatched eight rebounds for the Flyers.

Kareem Edwards converted 22 points and claimed six rebounds; Cohen Desouza sank 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Keroi Lee scored 12 points and snatched 13 rebounds for the Steelers.

The All Saints Slam recorded their fifth win in 12 encounters with a 99-78 victory against the Lava Smoke Shop Warriors in the opening game of Sunday's double-header.

Humroy Wright sank 23 points and claimed seven rebounds; Andrew Venture produced 22 points and 12 assists; Iornie Joseph had 18 points, 11 rebounds, and five steals;

and Shawn Thomas chipped in with 10 points, 29 rebounds, and five blocks for All Saints Slam.

Lincoln Weekes produced 27 points and eight rebounds; Zuri Nesbitt had 21 points and seven assists; and Kebo Orford got 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors, who lost for the ninth time in 13 games.

ADM \$20

PMS PAN WEEK 2025

BLOCKORAMA

APRIL 5TH, 2025 6:30 PM

PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL

PERFORMANCES BY:

SPECIAL GUESTS

ANDRÉ WHITE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Storming Lions were award-



Stoneville men's volleyball team



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

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

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

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

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

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

Stuti Kashyap Dominates WTT Humacao 2025 – Double Podium Finish in Puerto Rico!



Humacao, Puerto Rico – Rising table tennis star Stuti Kashyap continues to make waves on the international circuit, claiming gold and bronze medals in a dazzling display of talent and tenacity at the WTT Youth Contender Humacao 2025, held at the Humacao Arena, Puerto Rico.

Kashyap clinched the U17 Girls Singles title in commanding style. She triumphed over Valentina Davila of Venezuela in the final (3-1: 11-6, 11-5, 7-11, 11-6), after dispatching April Cintron Matos (Puerto Rico) 3-1 in the semifinals and Naymaris Hernandez (Puerto Rico) 3-0 in the quarter-

finals. In the group stage, she also overcame Danelys Cruz Rosario and Kailani Cruz, both representing Puerto Rico, with clean 3-0 victories.

In the U19 Girls Singles, Kashyap earned a well-deserved third-place finish. She posted a remarkable 3-2 quarterfinal win against Kristal Melendez (Puerto Rico) before falling in the semifinals to fellow Puerto Rican Edmarie Leon, 0-3. Her group stage performance included wins over Natalia Cruzado (Puerto Rico) and Gilianie Avila (Puerto Rico), sealing her place in the knockout rounds.

Kashyap also teamed up in the U19 Mixed Doubles with Rivera (Puerto Rico). The pair reached the quarterfinals, narrowly losing 2-3 to Lopez/Medina (Puerto Rico), after a dominant 3-0 win over Torres/Cruzado (Puerto Rico) in the Round of 16.

These exceptional performances further cement Stuti Kashyap's status as a rising powerhouse in youth table tennis and a name to watch on the global stage.

Congratulations, Stuti!

Your relentless pursuit of excellence continues to inspire. The future of table tennis shines brighter with you in it.