

# Prime Minister Browne expresses condolences on the Passing of Pope Francis

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**Team Antigua and Barbuda congratulated on the return from this year's Carifta Games in T&T**

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# Local News



## Prime Minister Browne expresses condolences on the Passing of Pope Francis



**Prime Minister Browne**

**Pope Francis**

Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne has written to Bishop of St. John's-Basseterre, The Most Rev. Robert Llanos expressing condolences on the passing of the head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis who died on Monday.

In his letter to Bishop Llanos, Prime Minister Browne noted that the death of Pope Francis is an immense loss not only to the Roman Catholic Church but to the global community. "His life was a testament to the power of humility, mercy, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel of Christ. From the moment of his election, Pope Francis captured the hearts of millions with his simplicity, his openness, and his courageous voice in defense of the marginalized, the poor, and the voiceless. His papacy was marked by a renewed call to love, justice, and dialogue across all boundaries," the country's leader wrote.

Prime Minister Browne also outlined that Pope Francis inspired a spirit of renewal and compassion within the Church, while exemplifying the virtues of listening, discernment, and servant leadership. He said that the Pope's commitment to interfaith dia-

logue, social justice, and care for the environment has left a profound and lasting impact.

"For us in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Pope Francis' stance on environmental issues has been a beacon of hope as we continue our pursuit of Climate Justice. His 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'* ("Praise Be to You"), stands as a groundbreaking appeal to humanity to care for our common home—the Earth. Rooted in Scripture, theology, science, and the wisdom of his predecessors, the encyclical introduces the concept of *integral ecology*, highlighting the deep interconnection between environmental, economic, and social systems," he said.

The country's leader said that the Pope's writings on Climate Change was more than a critique of unsustainable practices calling for dialogue and collective action. "It transcends religious boundaries, urging all people to take responsibility for the well-being of our planet and each other. His Holiness' call for global cooperation, meaningful lifestyle changes, and a transition to sustainable practices mirrors the longstanding advocacy

of SIDS. Like us, he challenged individuals, communities, governments, and the private sector to work together in safeguarding the only planet we all share," concluded Prime Minister Browne.

*We reproduce below the full text of Prime Minister Browne's letter to Bishop Llanos:*

**The Most Reverend Bishop Robert A. Llanos**  
**Bishop of Saint John's-Basseterre**  
**Holy Family Cathedral**  
**Michael's Mount, St. John**  
**Antigua and Barbuda**

Your Excellency, Bishop Robert Llanos,

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, and in my own name, I extend our deepest condolences to you and to the Catholic faithful across our nation and the Diocese of Saint John's-Basseterre, on the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis.

The death of Pope Francis is an immense loss not only to the Roman Catholic Church but to the global community. His life was a testament to the power of humility, mercy, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel of Christ. From the moment of his election, Pope Francis captured the hearts of millions with his simplicity, his openness, and his courageous voice in defense of the marginalized, the poor, and the voiceless. His papacy was marked by a renewed call to love, justice, and dialogue across all boundaries.

During his time as the successor of Saint Peter, Pope Francis inspired a spirit of renewal and compassion within the Church, while exemplifying the virtues of listening, discernment, and

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con't from pg 2

servant leadership. His commitment to interfaith dialogue, social justice, and care for the environment has left a profound and lasting impact.

For us in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Pope Francis' stance on environmental issues has been a beacon of hope as we continue our pursuit of Climate Justice. His 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'* ("Praise Be to You"), stands as a groundbreaking appeal to humanity to care for our common home—the Earth. Rooted in Scripture, theology, science, and the wisdom of his predecessors, the encyclical introduces the concept of *integral ecology*, highlighting the deep inter-

connection between environmental, economic, and social systems.

More than a critique of unsustainable practices, *Laudato Si'* is a visionary call to dialogue and collective action. It transcends religious boundaries, urging all people to take responsibility for the well-being of our planet and each other. His Holiness' call for global cooperation, meaningful lifestyle changes, and a transition to sustainable practices mirrors the longstanding advocacy of SIDS. Like us, he challenged individuals, communities, governments, and the private sector to work together in safeguarding the only planet we all share.

Your Excellency, I join you and the

faithful in mourning the passing of this remarkable and holy man. I pray that God may grant him eternal rest in the company of the saints, and that the light he brought into the world may continue to shine in our hearts and actions.

In this time of sorrow, may the Holy Spirit bring comfort to you, to the clergy and faithful of your diocese, and to all those who looked to Pope Francis as a spiritual father and moral guide. May his memory remain a blessing and an enduring source of inspiration.

With heartfelt sympathy and prayers,  
 Gaston A. Browne, MP  
 Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda



## DAILY PROGRAMMING




**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.  
WITH GREMSTA

**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.  
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

**TOUCHLINE** 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.  
WITH EPILUS

**BAD COMPANY** 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS  
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

**REGGAE INSPIRATION** 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY  
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

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

# Local News



## OECS CIP countries engage in important meetings in St John's

Antigua and Barbuda is this week hosting important meetings of the OECS countries which operate Citizenship by Investment Programmes.

Dubbed the *Caribbean Investment Summit 2025*, the meetings will bring together prime ministers from the five CIP countries – Antigua and Barbuda, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis – who along with their top technicians will discuss the way forward for these programmes.

Earnings from CIP programmes have helped buttress revenues from other sources and serve as their main non-tax source for revenues for all five countries. However, there are attempts by powerful entities such as the European Union and the United States to curtail or even eliminate these programmes altogether.

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank has been spearheading efforts to improve regulations among these countries and to strengthen cooperation and coordination among them as part of efforts to insulate them from the external threats.

As the business session of CIS25 gets underway on Wednesday, ECCB Governor Timothy Antoine will provide a regional regulatory update. This will be followed by a second update on the consultative process draft legislation to be presented by Lydia Elliot.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne will begin the afternoon session with the welcome address during which he is expected to underscore the value of the

CIP programme to the government's finances and he will also speak of the efforts that Antigua and Barbuda has made to ensure that its CIP programme operates at a high level of professionalism and transparency.

During the afternoon session, there will also be a prime ministers' forum where the leaders of the five countries will speak of their countries' experiences with their respective programmes.

CIS25 will continue over the next few days.

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# LABOUR Day 2025

# PICNIC DAY FETE

**5 MAY 2025 3PM UNTIL**

**FEATURING**

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SIGNAL BAND | ISLAND PRINCE | GE EVE | EMPRESS | SOCA  
VILLIAN | PEETRON | SAMMY C | KID FRESH | DJ WHO | NEW GEN  
BAND | SUPA D | DRASTIC | ZAMONI | YOUNG LYRICS | NI QKO  
DJs: DJ Jime | Mad Ras | DJ Quest **Host:** Jesse Fyah



## ABRSC poised to usher in the Second International Decade for People of African Descent



The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) has strategically positioned itself to lead national efforts in support of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent.

This new decade provides a critical opportunity to take meaningful and sustained action in confronting the enduring legacies of slavery and colonialism, advancing reparatory justice, and securing the full realization of human rights and freedoms for people of African descent worldwide.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the Commission's work during this period will center on recognition, with an emphasis on research and documentation of resistance efforts, including the pivotal roles of women freedom fighters. Key focus areas include renaming and reimagining spaces of historical significance, as well as collaboration with the CARICOM Reparations Commission to advance implementation of the CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice.

This renewed thrust follows the ABRSC's participation in the Fourth Session

of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PF-PAD), which took place at the UN headquarters in New York last week. The two-member delegation of Commission Chair Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde and Commissioner Angelica O'Donoghue engaged in high-level sessions and working groups, building critical alliances to support capacity-building and the Commission's future work. At the heart of the Forum was "The Garvey Talks: Reparations Rap Session," which brought together reparation advocates from across the African Diaspora under the theme "*Reparatory Justice for Africa and People of African Descent*." The event featured speakers from the CARICOM Reparations Commission and the National African-American Reparations Commission, sharing insights, achievements, and strategies for collective advancement.

Another featured session, "The Role of Arts and Culture in Acknowledging the Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Supporting Afro-Descendant Communities," explored how

national museums, cultural programming, and targeted grants can play a transformative role in advancing reparatory justice through storytelling, education, and community empowerment. As part of its cultural engagement strategy, the ABRSC is currently preparing to host Dr. Julius Garvey, son of the legendary Pan-Africanist Marcus Garvey, for Antigua and Barbuda's Watchnight Celebration on July 31st. His visit is expected to deepen public understanding of reparations and the global Black liberation struggle.

A powerful highlight of the Forum was its closing session, which focused on Haiti's Independence Debt — 200 Years Later. The session marked two centuries since France imposed an "independence debt" on Haiti, the world's first Black republic, underscoring Haiti's central role in the global history of anti-colonialism, abolition, and African self-determination.

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson delivered a compelling address on behalf of CARICOM

stating:

"The world owes a moral and historical debt to Haiti. The success of its revolution further emboldened the ancestors in the Caribbean. Haiti stood first, and for that it stood alone. Now, centuries later, we must not leave Haiti to stand alone again. This is a time for reparations. A time for justice. A time to restore Haiti — not just in words, but through concrete international action. France must account. The world must acknowledge. And we — people of African descent across the Caribbean and beyond — must unite in defense of Haiti's future."

Moderated by H.E. Martin Kimani, Chair of the Permanent Forum, the discussion illuminated Haiti's historical significance and the urgency of supporting its restoration as a vital component of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent.

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission reaffirms its unwavering commitment to public education, community engagement, and projects that advance the global movement for reparatory justice.

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

# LABOUR Day 2025



**Antigua Trades Labour Union**  
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**5 MAY 2025**

**ROUTE:**

VC Bird Bust - up market street - left onto Newgate street - right onto Wilkinson cross - Right onto North Street - Left onto Popeshead Street - onto Fort Road - Left onto fort James Road - ending at Fort James.





## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO), Chairman, Gervase Warner,  
Pleased with Exemption for Caribbean from USTR Proposed Fees regarding  
'China's Targeting of the Maritime, Logistics and Shipbuilding Sectors'**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago - April 19, 2025,** On behalf of the regional private sector, the CPSO is grateful for the 'USTR Determination', on 'China-built vessels', published on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This Determination, in effect, exempts Caribbean Shipping from the high port fees on China-built vessels, originally proposed by the United States Trade Representative (USTR). As originally proposed by the USTR, these high port fees, in excess of US \$1,000,00000 for each US Port call , would have increased the cost of shipping between the Caribbean and the United States, with crippling consequences for inflation, shortages, delays and other 'supply-chain' disruptions for the people and the economies of CARICOM and the Caribbean.

The CPSO appreciates the 'USTR Determination' and recognizes that this tremendously beneficial outcome is the product of leadership and collaboration among several key private sector stakeholders and the governments of the CARICOM states. We make particular mention, in this regard, of our CARICOM Heads of Government, chaired by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley. The priority attention given to this issue by the Heads of Government, evidenced by their fervent advocacy at the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and their communication to President Donald Trump under the pen of Prime Minister Mottley, has been a significant driver of this positive outcome.

The technical leadership and commitment of our CPSO Secretariat, led by one of CARICOM's most competent Economist, Dr Patrick Antoine and his team, and their submissions and oral testimony was a major determinant of the positive USTR outcome. The coordination and advocacy of the CPSO was demonstrated by the record setting 700 plus attendees from multiple industries and countries in the Caribbean on the first coordination call to deal with the issue on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Indeed, the two community-wide regional consultations subsequently held to define and refine the regional private sector position for submission to the USTR, were proud moments for the private sector, symbolizing the enormous possibilities for successful outcomes inherent in collective action in pursuit of common goals.

The CPSO credits the openness and transparency of the USTR and the USTR Panel, comprising various representative from other US Government Departments. The USTR and its Panel were receptive to the issues peculiar to the Caribbean, introduced via the submissions made by and testimony of the CPSO and other Caribbean partners.

The partnership and collaboration with Tropical Shipping's CEO Tim Martin and Jennifer Nugent-Hill, a Director on the CPSO-United States Business Council Executive (CPSO-USBC), has been invaluable. We publicly acknowledge the collaboration with Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), Caribbean



Tourism Organisation (CTO), Seaboard Marine, Atlantic Council, Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA), Mr. Darwin Telemaque, CEO of the Antigua Port Authority, Mr. Gerard Bergasse, Regional Manager Tropical Shipping, and the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC), all of which/whom contributed to the USTR positive determination for the Caribbean.

The positive outcome was facilitated by the seamless coordination efforts of Ambassador Wayne Mc Cook, Assistant Secretary General - CARICOM Single Market and Trade and Dr. Wendell Samuel, CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General (Ag), Economic Integration, Innovation and Development.

We were humbled by the contribution of Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, Representative of United States Virgin Islands, who participated, at short notice, for the entire duration of the briefing meeting with the CPSO, Tropical Shipping and CARICOM Ambassadors. The strategic timing of the questions posed to the Hearings of the U.S. Ways and Means Committee, by Congresswoman Plaskett, was a significant contributor to the USTR outcome.

Profound appreciation is also extended to the Caucus of CARICOM Ambassadors accredited to the United States for their support.

The CPSO on behalf of the regional private sector advocated for:

- (i) an exemption for 'short Sea' Shipping, defined as vessels plying the route between **2,750 Nautical Miles** of the CARICOM/Caribbean and the Continental United States – the USTR Determination recommended the exemption for **2,000 Nautical Miles** (acceptable to CPSO);
- (ii) an exemption for vessels carrying less than **55,000 deadweight tons** and less than **4,999 TEU's** – USTR Determination recommended the exemption for **55,000 deadweight tons** and less than **4,000 TEUs** (acceptable to CPSO);
- (iii) an exemption for **specialized cargo, such as energy and chemical products** which may **exceed 55,000 deadweight tons** – USTR Determination proposed exemptions for **individual bulk capacity of 80,000 deadweight tons; and exemptions for specialized or special purpose-built vessels for the transport of chemicals substances in bulk or liquid forms** (acceptable to CPSO).

The campaign by the regional private sector and the Community, would have been far more challenging without the overwhelming support of the regional print and electronic media. As Chairman of the CPSO, I convey heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee and the 5,500 plus members of the Organization. We at the CPSO anticipate your continued support, even as we direct our focus to other matters critical to the Community, such as the impact of US tariffs on CARICOM trade. Dr. Antoine and his team at the CPSO are also playing an important strategic role with the CARICOM Secretariat on this issue..

To anyone I may have neglected to name and to the People of CARICOM and the Caribbean, the CPSO extends an enormous thank you.

The CPSO is honoured to have been pressed into the service of the people of the Community on such a significant issue, at such a critical time.

Gervase Warner  
 Chairman  
 CARICOM Private Sector Organization

## Antigua and Barbuda strengthens ties with Arab countries; the Republic of Egypt and the State of Kuwait.



The new Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Dr. Sherif Shehata and the new Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, His Excellency Adel Al-Adgham paid separate courtesy calls on the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Acting Prime Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene on Tuesday





# FIXTURES

27TH APRIL - 11 MAY 2025



## PRELIMINARIES



**PYTHONS VS TIGERS**

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025  
(4:00 PM)



**LIONS VS CRUSHERS**

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025  
(7:00 PM)



**NATION VS PYTHONS**

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025  
(4:00 PM)



**BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS**

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025  
(7:00 PM)



**LIONS VS TIGERS**

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025  
(4:00 PM)



**PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS**

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025  
(7:00 PM)



**CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS**

SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025  
(3:00 PM)



**NATION VS TIGERS**

SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025  
(6:00 PM)



**CRUSHERS VS NATION**

SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025  
(3:00 PM)



**BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS**

SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025  
(6:00 PM)



**NATION VS LIONS**

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025  
(4:00 PM)



**TIGERS VS CRUSHERS**

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025  
(7:00 PM)



**BLACKHAWKS VS NATION**

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025  
(4:00 PM)



**PYTHONS VS LIONS**

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025  
(7:00 PM)



**BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS**

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2025  
(6:00 PM)

**ELIMINATOR**

**2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE**

SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025 (5:00 PM)

**FINALS**

**WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE**

SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)



## John Hughes duo committed to the September Assizes for trial

Two men who face several charges related to the illegal possession of firearm and ammunition as well as the illegal possession of cannabis have been committed to stand trial at the September sitting of the Assize Court.

The men – Zamir Amir O’Garro and Hewette Sean Weathered of John Hughes – jointly appeared before Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel in the Magistrate’s Court on Tuesday.

Weathered faces a separate charge of armed robbery allegedly committed

on August 19, 2024, where he is accused of robbing the Guang Yuan Supermarket of \$700.00 in cash along with a cash pan valued at \$700.00 for a total of \$1,400.00.

Additionally, Weathered and O’Garro are jointly charged with the illegal possession of a .380 pistol and 4 rounds of ammunition without either being the holder of a firearms licence. They also face the charge of possessing 113 grams of cannabis as well as possession with intent to sell contrary to

the Misuse of Drugs Act.

They men are also charged with the robbery of Andy Benjamin of one silver bracelet valued at \$660.00, \$400.00 in cash as well as US\$5.00. These alleged acts violate the Larceny Act. These acts allegedly happened in March of last year.

After listening to testimony from multiple witnesses and a perusal of several exhibits, Senior Magistrate Emanuel committed the pair to stand trial at the Criminal Assize Court in September.

## Police have arrested and jointly charged two men in connection with a recent break-in at the TINY Supermarket

The accused, 24-year-old Jahbal Grant of Parham and 29-year-old Kamory Miller of Hatton, are facing charges of Breaking and Larceny after allegedly unlawfully entering the business premises and stealing several cartons of cigarettes, a pack of Blunt, and two boxes of Raw rolling papers. They were further charged with Resisting Arrest and Battery on Police.

The incident took place in the early hours of Sunday, April 20. Police responded promptly to a report of sus-

picious activity at the location and found both suspects hiding inside the supermarket. They were arrested and taken into custody.

Both men were expected to make their first appearance before the St. John’s Magistrate’s Court on Tuesday.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to urge business owners to strengthen security measures and encourages the public to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station or by calling 911.

### Potters man hospitalized with life-threatening injuries

A 31-year-old resident of Potters is currently hospitalized at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, nursing life-threatening injuries.

It was reported that around 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 20, Josh Charles was walking along Berlin Main Road in Potters Extension when an unknown assailant sprayed him with a hazardous substance. He suffered severe injuries to multiple

areas of his body, including his face, eyes, chest, back, arms, and legs, and he is reported to be in critical condition.

The police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has information that could lead to the identification and apprehension of the perpetrator to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).



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## Ministers Congratulate Team Antigua and Barbuda on Outstanding CARIFTA 2025 Performances



*Team Antigua & Barbuda 2025 Carifta Team*

Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll S. Matthew and Minister of State, Senator Shenella Govia extend heartfelt congratulations to members of Team Antigua and Barbuda for their remarkable performances at the 2025 CARIFTA Swimming and Athletics Championships, held over the weekend in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Team Antigua and Barbuda proudly returns with an impressive medal haul of 2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 1 Bronze medals, alongside multiple personal bests, national records, and top 10 finishes.

**Athletics Medalists and Highlights**

### • Tyra Fenton

- o Gold – 400m U17 Girls – 53.93 (PB)
- o Bronze – 200m U17 Girls – 23.68 (PB)

### • Zonique Charles

- o Gold – Javelin U17 Girls – 46.29 (PB)

### • Geolyna Dowdye

- o Silver – 100m U20 Girls – 11.41 (PB)

### • Ranique Richards

- o Bronze – Shot Put U17 Girls – 12.46

### Honourable Mentions

• Tyra Fenton – A standout performance with two podium finishes and personal bests in both the 400m and 200m U17 Girls events.

• Zonique Charles – Showed exceptional strength and technique to claim gold in Javelin U17 Girls.

• Geolyna Dowdye – Demonstrated top-tier sprinting talent in the 100m U20 Girls.

• Ranique Richards – Showcased great promise and consistency in the Shot Put U17 Girls event.

### Swimming Medalists and Highlights

#### • Alessandro Bazzoni

- o Gold – 200m Butterfly (PB, Age-Group Record)
- o Silver – 200m Individual Medley (PB)

#### • Ellie Shaw

- o Gold – 50m Breaststroke

#### • Madison MacMillan

- o Silver – 1500m Freestyle

#### • Anya DeGannes

- Silver – 200m Butterfly
- o 8th Place – 200m Individual Medley

#### • Ethan Stubbs-Green

- o Silver – 200m Butterfly

### • Aungelique Liddie

- o Bronze – 100m Freestyle (PB, New National Record)

### Honourable Mentions

• Reuben Edwards – 7th in 200m Butterfly Final (PB)

• Selah Wiltshire – 8th in 50m Breaststroke Final

• Mila Festini-Cromer – 7th in 200m Butterfly (improved from prelims)

• Tivon Benjamin – 7th in 200m Butterfly

• 11–12 Mixed Relay Team (5th Place Finish):

o Kaylee Warner, Keziah Joseph, Christopher Walter, Alessandro Bazzoni

Ministers Matthew and Govia applauded the entire delegation, including athletes, coaches, team officials, and supporters, for their unity, determination, and excellence.

“This is a moment of national pride,” said Minister Daryll S. Matthew. “Every single athlete who wore the national colours contributed to the strength and spirit of Team Antigua and Barbuda. From personal bests to exceptional displays of sportsmanship, each of you played an important role in this achievement. Your commitment and resilience serve as a shining example to the nation, and we could not be prouder.”

The Ministry notes that the Athletics team returned home Tuesday, and the Swimming team is scheduled to arrive Wednesday. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries reaffirms its commitment to youth development and high-performance sports. It remains dedicated to supporting our athletes as they continue to soar on regional and international stages.

# Antigua Sailing Week 2025: A Reflection of Global Maritime Trends



By Zoë Carlton

As another successful Antigua Classics Regatta draws to a close, attention shifts to the more contemporary Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) 2025, a cornerstone of the Caribbean's sailing calendar. Mirroring global trends, the event is experiencing notable shifts that reflect broader transformations within the maritime industry, encompassing participation dynamics, economic factors, technological advancements, and evolving consumer preferences.

## Evolving Participation Patterns

Traditionally, ASW attracts over 100 yachts annually, ranging from high-tech racing vessels to performance cruisers. However, as of early April 2025, only 54 entries have been confirmed, with expectations of increased registrations as the event approaches.

Major events "Reggae in the Park," a signature event during ASW, will not be taking place in 2025. This marks a significant departure from previous years, where the event featured performances by renowned artists such as Sanchez and Damian Marley.

The decline in early participation is not an isolated phenomenon. It may be attributed to factors such as economic uncertainties and shifting sail-

ing schedules. Yachts are departing the Caribbean earlier to participate in the Mediterranean sailing season, which begins in late spring, affecting the availability of vessels for Caribbean events like ASW. Fewer vessels are sailing in an increasing number of regattas in the region in recent years. In 2005, 750 boats were racing across the region. In 2024 across the Caribbean that number decreased to 500 boats, attending double the number of events.

Over the past two decades, Caribbean sailing events have witnessed a significant decline in participation, with entries reducing by approximately 40%. This downturn has been influenced particularly in the Caribbean by multiple factors, including the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the global COVID-19 pandemic, and escalating costs associated with shipping and logistics. These challenges have made it increasingly difficult for international participants to transport their vessels to the region, thereby affecting event turnout. Concurrently, there has been a notable rise in the number of cruising boats and novice sailors, a trend accelerated by the pandemic as individuals sought alternative lifestyles and embraced multihull cruising as a means to escape conventional routines. This shift reflects

a broader transformation within the sailing community, emphasizing leisure and exploration over competitive racing.

Those boats that grace the waters are changing their routines. Many left English Harbour Marinas as early as the end of March, leaving the area uncharacteristically quiet. A restaurateur in Falmouth expressed anxiety: "we usually rely on the last few weeks of the season to see us through the summer, but this year, for us, the season has already ended."

This trend aligns with a broader global pattern. According to SuperYacht Times, the total sales of sailing yachts over 24 meters declined by 51% in 2023 compared to the previous year, indicating a significant downturn in the market.

## Economic Influences on the Sailing Sector

The sailing industry is sensitive to global economic fluctuations and trends in the wider maritime industry. Interest rate variations and changes in consumer confidence can significantly impact purchasing decisions for sailboats and yachts.

The implementation of protectionist trade policies under President Donald Trump's administration has introduced further significant challenges for the global maritime industry, affecting all elements, including the sailing and yachting industry. Announced on April 2, 2025, these measures include a universal 10% tariff on all imports, with additional targeted tariffs: 20% on European Union goods, 32% on Taiwanese products, and a substantial 54% on Chinese imports.

These tariffs have disrupted the global supply chain, resulting in higher prices for imported materials and components essential to boat manufacturing and maintenance. This has led to delays in production, increased costs for



consumers, and a potential decline in participation in sailing events. The uncertainty surrounding these trade policies has also caused hesitation among investors and stakeholders within the sailing community.

In a climate of economic uncertainty, discretionary spending on luxury items such as yachts and sailing holidays is often the first to be curtailed during economic downturns. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) has noted that grassroots sailing clubs are facing difficult decisions due to rising operational costs, including energy and labour, which have outpaced general inflation. A recent RYA survey revealed that 75% of clubs anticipate financial impacts from rising energy costs, with 64% reporting increased energy expenses over the past year.

## Impact of Geopolitical Tensions

The seizure of Russian-owned superyachts has had a profound impact on the global maritime industry, reflecting the broader geopolitical tensions stemming from the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These high-profile actions have not only disrupted the luxury yacht market but have also led to complex legal disputes and significant financial implications.

While the Alfa Nero remains mired in controversy, it is not an isolated case. Among the most notable is the Amadea, a 348-foot superyacht valued at approximately \$300 million. Seized by U.S. authorities in Fiji in 2022, the vessel has been at the center of ongoing legal proceedings, with a U.S. judge recently ruling against a claim of ownership by a former Rosneft executive, thereby advancing the U.S. government's efforts to forfeit and potentially auction the yacht.

Similarly, the Tango in Spain, Phi in the UK, and Dilbar in Germany are among the seized and sanctioned yachts. These seizures have not only removed significant assets from the global yacht market but have also led to substantial maintenance costs for the detaining authorities and have sparked



intricate legal battles over ownership and the enforcement of international sanctions. Markets like Antigua that thrived on visiting Russian yachts are facing significant reductions in income. The sanctions have also created legal and logistical challenges, with many seized yachts now in a state of limbo, unclear ownership, and mounting maintenance costs, leading to complex legal disputes over their future.

## Technological Advancements and Sustainability

Innovations in sailing technology are reshaping the industry. Advancements include the integration of artificial intelligence for navigation, development of solar and wind-powered boats, and the use of sustainable materials in boat manufacturing. These developments align with a growing emphasis on environmental sustainability within the sector.

The revival of sail-powered cargo ships, such as the Grain de Sail II, underscores a shift towards environmentally friendly transportation methods. Yann Jourdan, captain of the Grain de Sail II, emphasizes the environmental benefits of this shift:

“It’s our job to prove that it’s possible. For me, it’s just logical, you know? Like the petrol is limited quantity and the wind is not.”

These efforts reflect a broader industry trend towards sustainable practic-

es, despite the challenges and reduced earnings associated with such transitions.

## Future Outlook

Despite current challenges, the sailing industry exhibits resilience and adaptability. The Global Maritime Trends 2050 report by Economist Impact discusses the transformative forces shaping the maritime industry:

“The maritime industry will transform over the coming decades, driven by technology adoption, the climate agenda, and intensifying geopolitical and macroeconomic shifts.”

Organizers of events like ASW are exploring strategies to attract a broader audience, including diversifying event offerings and enhancing marketing efforts. The industry’s focus on technological innovation and sustainability positions it well for continued growth and evolution in the coming years.

Antigua Sailing Week 2025 serves as a reflection of the broader transformations within the global maritime industry. The convergence of economic factors, technological advancements, and sustainability initiatives is reshaping the landscape.

Whatever the future brings, as Alison Sly-Adams, organiser of ASW says quite categorically, “Antigua has always been the ‘Heart of Caribbean yachting’.”

# Regional News



## 71-y-o woman dies after being hit by minibus in Cross Roads

Seventy-one-year-old Iko-del Wright, a janitor of Berwick Road in St Andrew, succumbed to injuries she sustained after being struck by a minibus on Monday in Cross Roads.

The police report that about 6:30 a.m., Wright was struck by the vehicle while she was



traversing the roadway.

The police were summoned, and on their arrival, Wright was seen lying along the roadway.

She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead.

The investigation is ongoing. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## Grenada: Man charged following fatal hit-and-run

Police in Grenada have charged a 29-year-old man with non-capital murder following a fatal hit-and-run incident that occurred last Friday in the parish of St Andrew.

Kish Duncan, a mason from

Harford Village, is charged with unlawfully causing the death of 56-year-old Lennox Bain through unlawful harm.

The incident took place on April 18 in Marquis, St Andrew.

Authorities did not provide specific details about the circumstances surrounding the hit-and-run accident that claimed Bain's life.

The victim was a resident of Mt Carmel in the same parish.

Duncan is expected to make his first court appearance later this week to answer to the non-capital murder charge. (Loop Caribbean)

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## ILO's Director-General wraps first official visit to Guyana



Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Gilbert F. Hounbo, has wrapped up a significant official visit to Guyana, during which he took part in the 13th ILO Meeting of Caribbean Labour Ministers. This visit marks Mr. Hounbo's inaugural trip to Guyana in his current capacity, shared the ILO via press statement.

The two-day event, themed "Decent Work for Resilience: Securing the Future of Caribbean Labour," gathered Labour Ministers, senior officials, and various stakeholders from across the Caribbean, including Dominica's Minister of State, Daren Pinard, to engage in discussions about regional matters, enhance collaboration, and outline a strategy for building a more equitable and sustainable labour environment.

During his keynote speech at the opening ceremony on April 7, 2025, Hounbo emphasized the ILO's robust partnership with the Caribbean region. "The discussions here at this 13th

Caribbean Labour Ministers' Meeting will help us identify the priorities we must set and the strategies we can adopt to effectively renew a new Social Contract as we prepare for the Second World Social Summit," he stated. "I will stand with the Caribbean in ensuring that the realities of the subregion are prioritized within the ILO global agenda and beyond."

A significant moment of the visit was the signing of Guyana's third Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). This tripartite agreement, witnessed by Mr. Hounbo, is part of Guyana's aim to "promote decent work through employment creation, social protection, rights at work, and social dialogue", according to the ILO statement. It was signed by representatives from the government, employers, and labour organizations, with ILO support.

On April 8, Mr. Hounbo engaged in high-level courtesy meetings with His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Repub-

lic of Guyana, and Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). These discussions reportedly emphasized mutual priorities and reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to addressing urgent regional and global issues, including climate change, labour migration, digital transformation, and the necessity for a just transition.

Throughout his visit, reports are that the Director-General's interactions underscored the ILO's commitment to fostering regional cooperation, enhancing social dialogue, and ensuring that Caribbean viewpoints are adequately represented in global policy discussions.

"As the region prepares for the 113th International Labour Conference and the Second World Social Summit, this meeting serves as a crucial step in aligning strategies and amplifying the Caribbean's voice on the world stage", said the ILO. (DNO)



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# Regional News



## Dawn Francis, sustainable agriculture and organic farming advocate and a model for small farmers in her native Dominica, is named an IICA Leader of Rurality of the Americas



Dawn Francis left a job in the corporate world to pursue her true passion, agriculture. She rolled up her sleeves and got to work, even as she remained mindful of her neighbors operating other family farms. Eventually, she was able to arrange for technical cooperation in the district and even established her own organization.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has named this Caribbean rural farmer as one of its “Leaders of Rurality of the Americas”, and as such she will receive the “Soul of Rurality” award. This organization that specializes in agricultural and rural development created the award to turn the spotlight on men and women who are leaving their mark and making a difference in rural areas of the Americas.

With a warm smile that never fades throughout the interview, Dawn tells us that “[she] worked in a bank for twenty years”. After a decade and a half as a supervisor in a branch of a well-known international bank in Rouseau, the country’s capital, she confessed that, “I realized that although I loved to help people, I no longer enjoyed the

corporate world”.

“I had a dream...”—she continues—“a dream that I was in a forest, and I looked so content and happy”. In the dream, Dawn had a “secret garden” in the forest.

That moment prompted a change in the direction of Francis’ life, which began with her learning about sustainability and organic agriculture, in particular through programs organized by international agencies.

One of these projects took her to Wa Samaki Ecosystems in Freeport, Trinidad and Tobago, where she was introduced to a practice that enticed her: permaculture. Permaculture is an agricultural design system in which production areas work in close harmony with the surrounding natural environment.

“When I learned about permaculture, I realized that I was in the right sector. I felt that I could fulfill my passion, and I discovered my reason for being on Earth”, Francis recalls.

Subsequently, thanks to an IICA program, she traveled to Mexico to pursue an earth sciences course, which she describes as “a marvelous experience”. During that visit, the Dominican farmer recalls that, “the thing that struck me the most was when I spent time with a farming family that consumed only food grown in their own fields”.

These practices became a goal for Francis, a type of sustainable criterion that stipulates that at least eighty percent of what is consumed in rural areas, should come from the land itself.

Mexico left her with unforgettable memories, such as sitting at nights with the rural women and watching them knit together. “For me, these moments represented peace and tranquili-

ty”, she reflects.

On returning to Dominica after her educational tour, Dawn found a two-and-a-half-acre farm waiting for her – a gift from her mother. She was able to establish “an adorable family farm, D-Smart Farm” on a piece of land “where [she has] been practicing organic agriculture for more than twenty years”.

She also established a biodiversity center to teach primary and secondary students about agriculture and the environment. The children enjoyed the field activities, and for Dawn, these were moments of fun on the farm.

The situation changed in September 2017, when a devastating force visited the Caribbean. Hurricane Maria, a tropical cyclone, ravaged Dominica, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, leaving hundreds of deaths and immense material damage in its wake. Experts consider it to be the deadliest Atlantic hurricane since Jeanne in 2004

“Everything was damaged”, says Francis. Maria “broke our hearts and I am still emotional when I remember it”.

However, not even this terrible tropical cycle could extinguish Dawn’s dream. “I am resilient; I am a resilient black woman”, says the farmer. In fact, she insists that, “Being close to the land makes you strong and resistant”. Furthermore, watching the forest renew itself after the hurricane, “made me stronger and my family and myself began to rebuild” the farm, which is located in the village of Pont Cassé.

Francis has a solid relationship with multilateral institutions and in 2011 even formed her own organization, EcoBalance Inc. Its Board of Directors

*con’t on pg 17*



# Regional News

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*con't from pg16*

is one hundred percent female, and it is positioning itself a conduit to nurture the future of Dominica “through environmentally conscious and purposeful initiatives that aim to achieve green transformation”. Through this effort, they are “Uniting for a Greener Tomorrow: Inspiring Hope, Catalyzing Progress”.

Thanks to funds mobilized through EcoBalance, Dawn and her partners have organized training programs for farmers and implemented plans to acquire equipment for the region. One of these programs, funded by the Government of New Zealand, enabled them to introduce poultry rearing to a dozen farms in the area, supplying the farmers with feed for the chickens, offering management classes and sharing agribusiness secrets.

By the end of the project, Francis reports that the participating farmers “were already selling eggs”. More importantly, they were using the manure from the birds to cultivate their vegetables, thereby applying less inorganic fertilizer.

Dawn shares her view that the results demonstrate that, “Every venture led by women succeeds, which is some-

thing that would also apply to the field of politics”. If there were more women leaders, she believes that “the world would be a different place, a better place”.

According to Francis, the participants in the agricultural training sessions in Dominica “are more likely than not women”. She believes that this is because “we are the ones that absorb knowledge; we are strong”.

She is quick to point out that, “This does not mean that men have no strength, but women make things materialize: “we come together, collaborate and work to ensure that our plans become reality”.

When asked about the involvement of upcoming generations in agricultural production, Francis is realistic. First, she admits that young people “do not want to cultivate crops in the way that we have been doing it, with such intense and hard work. They don’t want to do this”.

Yet, all hope is not lost. Through a program sponsored by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre, a course on agricultural hydroponics was launched in Dominica. As organizers, “we were expecting about twenty participants, but eighty people expressed an in-

terest, with half of them being under thirty-five years of age”. In the end, fifty-five students registered in the course – individuals with an interest in growing plants without the use of soil, using instead a solution of water enriched with nutrients.

Dawn realized that “young people may have an interest in agriculture”, but using alternatives such as hydroponics, rather than traditional, intensely physical methods.

Potential producers in rural areas in the future “are looking for something easier and faster, which is not physically intensive” and which can quickly generate income”.

In ending the conversation, Dawn Francis launched an appeal to multilateral institutions and development agencies. “Farmers in countries like Dominica need access to financing. They must have resources to tackle problems, such as roads in poor condition, the lack of manual labor and limited access to equipment.

Without these incentives, producers will only advance “slowly” without daring to take risks. “If big steps do not yield economic benefits relatively quickly, they won’t take them”. (DNO)



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## Vatican schedules funeral of Pope Francis for Saturday

The funeral of Pope Francis will be held on Saturday, the Vatican has announced.

The funeral ceremony will take place on Saturday at 10:00am (08:00 GMT) it was announced on Tuesday, shortly after cardinals began a meeting to prepare the next steps. World leaders are expected to attend the ceremony in advance of a conclave to elect the next head of the Catholic Church.

All cardinals currently in Rome were summoned to the meeting to outline the funeral arrangements and start preparations for the succession.

The funeral ceremony will take place in front of St Peter's Basilica, with the dean of the College of Cardinals, Giovanni Battista Re, leading the service. The pope's body will then be taken to the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome and laid to rest.

As well as agreeing the timing of the funeral, the cardinals decreed that the body of the pontiff will be taken to St Peter's Basilica on Wednesday morning at 07:00 GMT for public viewing. Francis is currently laid out



in a coffin in the chapel of the Santa Marta residence where he lived during his 12-year papacy.

The Vatican said in a statement that Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, the camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, will preside over a prayer, after which the coffin will undertake a short itinerary that will culminate with entering the Basilica through its central door.

The camerlengo will then preside over a liturgy at the altar, at the end of which it will be possible for the public to begin paying their respects to Pope Francis's body.

Francis died aged 88 on Monday following a stroke and cardiac arrest, the Vatican said, bring-

ing an end to a 12-year papacy defined by advocacy for the marginalised and at times clashes with traditionalist forces in the Church.

Having spent five weeks in hospital earlier this year with double pneumonia, the pope had returned to his modest Casa Santa Marta residence nearly a month ago and appeared to be on the mend. He had even addressed worshippers in St Peter's Square on Easter Sunday.

His passing has triggered time-honoured Vatican protocols, including the ceremonial destruction of the Fisherman's Ring and papal seal, which symbolises the end of his papal authority.

World leaders and royals,

including United States President Donald Trump and President Javier Milei of Argentina, the pontiff's native country, are preparing to attend the funeral ceremony.

Breaking with tradition, Francis wished to be buried at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, which is outside the Vatican and home to his favourite icon of the Virgin Mary, rather than at St Peter's Basilica.

As the announcements regarding the funeral and public viewing of the body were made, the Vatican also published photos and a video of Pope Francis in his open coffin, dressed in a red robe with the papal mitre on his head and a rosary in his hand.

The Church is now preparing for a conclave, expected to begin after May 6, where 135 cardinal electors, nearly 80 percent of whom were appointed by Francis, will vote in secret to choose his successor.

With no clear favourite emerging, cardinals will use General Congregations in the coming days to reflect on the Church's future direction. (*Al Jazeera English*)



## US and global economic outlook deteriorates in Trump trade war, IMF says



The United States and global economies will likely slow significantly in the wake of President Donald Trump's tariffs and the uncertainty they have created, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

The IMF said that the global economy will grow just 2.8% this year, down from its forecast in January of 3.3%, according to its latest World Economic Outlook.

And in 2026, global growth will be 3%, the fund predicts, also below its previous 3.3% estimate.

And the Fund sees the world's two largest economies, China and the United States, weakening: US economic growth will come in at just 1.8% this year, down sharply from its previous forecast of 2.7% and a full percentage point below its 2024 expansion.

The IMF doesn't expect a US recession, though it has raised its odds of one this year from 25% to about 40%. China is now projected to expand 4% this year and next, down roughly half a point from its previous forecasts.

"We are entering a new era," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist at the IMF, said.

"This global economic system that has operated for the last eighty years is being reset."

The forecasts underscore the widespread impact of both the tariffs and the uncertainty they have created. Every country in the world is affected, the IMF said, by hikes in US import taxes that have now lifted average US

duties to about 25%, the highest in a century.

The forecasts are largely in line with many private-sector economists' expectations, though some do fear a recession is increasingly likely.

Economists at JPMorgan say the

chances of a US recession are now 60%.

The Federal Reserve has also forecast that growth will weaken this year, to 1.7%.

The IMF is a 191-nation lending organization that works to promote economic growth and financial stability and to reduce global poverty.

Gourinchas said that the heightened uncertainty around the import taxes led the IMF to take the unusual step of preparing several different scenarios for future growth. Its forecasts were finalized April 4, after the Trump administration announced sweeping tariffs on nearly 60 countries along with nearly-universal 10% duties.

Those duties were paused April 9 for 90 days.

Gourinchas said the pause didn't substantially change the IMF's forecasts because the US and China have imposed such steep tariffs on each other since then. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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## Israeli spy chief accuses Netanyahu of demanding illegal operations



Israel's spy chief has accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to fire him for his refusal to commit illegal acts aimed at protecting the leader's personal and political interests.

Ronen Bar, chief of Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence service, made the assertion in an affidavit to the Supreme Court on Monday. Netanyahu's move last month to dismiss Bar was suspended by the court pending an investigation, and the ensuing tussle has provoked large protests, with crowds accusing the prime minister of endangering democracy.

Netanyahu said he would sack the spy chief due to a breakdown in trust, supposedly linked to Hamas's

attack in October 2023 that led to the Gaza war.

However, Bar said Netanyahu's decision was motivated by a series of events between November 2024 and February 2025.

In the unclassified part of the court submission, Bar said Netanyahu had told him "on more than one occasion" that he expected Shin Bet to take action against Israelis involved in antigovernment demonstrations, "with a particular focus on monitoring the protests' financial backers".

The Shin Bet head also said he had refused to sign off on a security request aimed at relieving Netanyahu from testifying at an ongoing corruption trial in which he faces charges of bribery, fraud and breach of public

trust.

Netanyahu's bid to oust Bar came as Shin Bet was investigating financial ties between the prime minister's office and Qatar, a key mediator in the Gaza war. Critics say the firing is tainted by a conflict of interest and was meant to derail that inquiry.

Shin Bet also happened to be carrying out an inquiry based on suspicion that the government had ignored warnings in advance of Hamas's attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, when the armed Palestinian group killed more than 1,100 people and took about 250 captive.

More than 50 of them remain in Gaza. Netanyahu and the hardline Zionist parties that support his gov-

ernment have faced harsh criticism for their failure to agree to a ceasefire and the return of the remaining prisoners.

Israel's onslaught on Gaza has killed more than 51,000 people, according to the enclave's Ministry of Health.

Netanyahu's office has said Bar's affidavit was "full of lies", and later responded to several of his claims, stating that he had "failed miserably" when Hamas attacked Israel.

It also denied that the move to sack Bar was aimed at thwarting the so-called "Qatargate" investigation.

"The dismissal was not intended to prevent the investigation. Rather, the investigation was intended to prevent the dismissal," it said.

Netanyahu's move to sack Bar was suspended by the Supreme Court after political watchdogs and opposition lawmakers argued the dismissal was unlawful.

The bid to unseat the spy chief and the continuing fight have further fuelled the protests over the government's failure to secure the captives from Gaza.

Bar has accepted Shin Bet's failure to stop Hamas's attack, saying on Monday that he would "soon announce the date of my resignation". (*Al Jazeera English*)





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# Sports News



## Maginley claims runner-up spot in doubles at Ivory Coast Open

Just two weeks after capturing his first doubles crown, Antigua and Barbuda's only professional player, Jody Maginley, just fell short of securing his second title on the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Challenger Tour.

Maginley and teammate Clement Chidekh of France captured the runner-up spot at the Ivory Coast Open 1 in West Africa on Sunday, April 20.

Maginley, who won his first ATP Challenger Tour event when he and teammate Alfredo Perez of Cuba captured the doubles title at the Morelos Open in Mexico earlier this month, lost in the final of the Ivory Coast Open 1 event in Abidjan.

The Antiguan and his French teammate were beaten 7-6, 6-4 in the final by the duo of Matt Hulme of Australia and Thijmen Loof



Antigua and Barbuda Jody Maginley, left, and doubles teammate Clement Chidekh of France, right, hold their runner-up trophies at the Ivory Coast Open 1 Tournament in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on Sunday, April 20, 2025. (Photos courtesy of Jody Maginley)

of the Netherlands.

On their way to the final, the combination of Maginley and Chidekh ousted the

second-seeded pair of Anthony Genov of Bulgaria and Tom Hands of Great Britain 7-6, 6-7, 12-10 in a

keenly contested semi-final.

In the quarter-finals, the Maginley and Chidekh duo defeated wild card entrants Myko Kouame of the Ivory Coast and Benoit Paire of France 7-6, 6-2.

Maginley and Chidekh also combined their efforts to prevail 7-5, 7-6 against the Yanki Erel and Ergi Kirkin of Turkey in a keenly contested first-round encounter.

The result allows Maginley to improve to a career-best ATP Challenger Tour Doubles Ranking of 243 points.

Maginley's participation in the ATP Challenger Tour has been supported with the assistance of Heritage Sports, the Changeover, Tennis Antigua, Wilson Tennis, Antigua Power Company, and Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

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## Several players claim titles at ABTTA's Pre-Easter Open



Winners of the Under-17 Girls Division. From left to right, Felicia Josiah (2nd place, Alyssa Laviscount (champion), and Seirena Albert (3rd place).



Winners of the Under-19 Division. From left to right, Barrington Loague (2nd place, Mekhi Simmons (champion), and Sandra Joseph (3rd place).

A number of players captured titles at the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association's (ABTTA) Pre-Easter Open, which was recently held at the Multi-Purpose Center at Perry Bay in St. John's.

Mekhi Simmons won the title in the Under-19 Division, which was contested by both male and female players.

Simmons defeated Barrington Loague in a thrilling final, winning 11-5, 11-8, and 11-8. Loague claimed the runner-up spot, while Sandra Joseph took third place.

Simmons also finished third in the Open Category, which was a mixed-gender round-robin contest.

Collins Abraham defeated Mekhi Simmons 11-8, 11-5 to win the Open Category. Barrington Loague finished in second place, while Simmons and Sandra Joseph tied for 3rd place.

Mitchell Coates upset competition favourite John Duncan and President of the ABTTA Charles "Chucky" Bellot to win the Masters Division, which was contested on a round-robin format. Duncan took second place, while Bellot finished in third place.

There were also several winners in the Next-Gen Divisions. The Under-15 Boys category was won by Deilin De Oleo Pina. Samuel Ambrose came second, and Stephon

Thomas finished in third place.

Je'Quan Morris took the title in the Under-17 Boys Division, with Amoy James grabbing second place and Emanuel Stoute third.

Sabrina Henry captured the crown in the Under-15 Girls section ahead of Sanaa Simon.

Alyssa Laviscount won the Under-17 Girls category. Felicia Josiah claimed second place, and Seirena Albert came in third.

The Next-Gen Open Mixed Gender Division was secured by David Emanuel ahead of Jenelle Laronde in second place and Patrice Davis in third.

From intense rallies to

stunning upsets, the tournament brought the table tennis community together in record-breaking fashion.

With 70 participants officially registered, this year's edition marked the largest local table tennis event held in Antigua and Barbuda since the nation hosted the OECS Table Tennis Championships.

It was not only a resounding success but also a bold signal that the sport is growing, and growing fast.

The event's success strengthens ABTTA's ongoing mission to build capacity, deepen talent, and position Antigua and Barbuda as a future host of both the OECS and Caribbean championships.

# Sports News



## Winning starts for Buckley's 3Js and Survivors in 2nd softball contest



*The Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js softball cricket team.*

After winning the first titles of the 2025 Antigua Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) domestic season, Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js and Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors made winning starts in their second competition of the year.

Buckley's 3Js trounced Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 by 70 runs in their opening match in the men's division of the ABSCA WTP 93.5 FM 30-Over Championship at the Potters playing field on Sunday.

Buckley's 3Js made 219 for seven off 26 overs. Denley Thomas hammered 69, including seven sixes. Steve Martin hit 34, Kemar Christian cracked an unbeaten 29, and Gregson Merrick struck 23 not out. Kennedy Tonge bagged three for 26, and Zack Thomas captured three for 48.

In reply, 300 was restricted to 149 for nine off their 26 overs. Richard Dyer slammed 39, Kareem Hayward scored 36, and Jared Roberts

hit 24. Xavier Otto took three for 31.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business defeated Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets by four wickets at the Powells playing field.

Bullets made 122 for seven off 22 overs. Essan Warner smashed 43, including five sixes. Morrison Browne hit an unbeaten 25, and Shaquan Reifer scored 21. Kerry Mentore grabbed three for 23.

Strictly Business achieved victory at 123 for six with an over to spare. Melvin Charles struck an unbeaten 48, and Kim George made 23.

Dredgers won by default against Mix Stars, who did not have the required amount of players to start the game at the Dredgers playing field.

Survivors beat Potters Uprising Cricket Team by seven wickets in their opening match in the ABSCA's St. John's Co-operative

Credit Union 15-Over Women's Division Championship at the Potters playing field.

Potters were restricted to 83 for two from their allotted 15 overs. Stacey Telemacque cracked 26, Sharon Mayers hit 21, and Liza Edwards made 19 not out.

Survivors achieved victory by scoring 88 for three with four overs to spare. Grace Persaud slammed an unbeaten 35, and Leukelle Pelle hit 20 not out. Stacey Telemacque captured two for 16.

Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Rockets beat Police by 19 runs at the Dredgers playing field.

Rockets made 100 for seven off their 15 overs. Denise Parker and Kushana David each made 20, and Chemique Jarvis Benjamin scored 17.

Lilieth Joseph picked up three for 15.

In reply, Police was restricted to 81 for six off their 15 overs. Kella Thomas hit 28, and Diana Hector scored 15. Valarie Isaac took two wickets for eight runs.

The match between Alzarri and Sharon Joseph North Sails Antigua Female Flyers and Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets at Powells was not played.

According to the ABSCA, the outcome of the match is under investigation by the national association. It was reported that Female Flyers won the game by default after Bullets did not have the required amount of players to start the game.



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# Sports News



## Barbados continue to dominate CWI Under-15 Championship



*The Barbados Under-15 cricket team*

Defending champions Barbados have all but secured a spot in the final of the West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 Championship, thanks to a 140-run win over the Windward Islands in round four at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG) on Monday.

Kelani Clarke got the first century of the tournament with 100 off 121 balls, including 11 fours and two sixes, as Barbados posted 248 all out from 48.1 overs after winning the toss.

Rajeev Parsooram (34) and Asher Branford (33 not out) also made meaningful contributions as Jershaun Joseph led the way with the ball with four for 53 from nine overs for the Windwards.

Captain Justin Parris then picked up three for 29 in 9.3

overs, while Zarell Harding took two for six in five overs to help bowl out the Windwards for 108 in 35.3 overs.

Joseph completed a solid all-round performance with a top score of 26 off 42 balls.

Elsewhere, Guyana got their third win in four matches with a dominant six-wicket victory over the Leeward Islands at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Guyana first dismissed the Leewards for 77 in 24.4 overs after the latter won the toss and chose to take first strike.

Reyaz Latif took a brilliant four for seven in six overs of leg spin, and was well supported by pacers Patrice Fraser (three for 21) and Rafell McKenzie (two for 21).

Guyana then reached 78

for four in 25 overs to secure victory. Arif Bacchus and Justin Dowlin led the scoring for the winners with 23 and 21, respectively.

The other fourth-round game saw Trinidad and Tobago get a crucial four-wicket win over Jamaica to keep themselves in contention for a spot in the final.

Jamaica, after winning the toss and choosing to bat, were bowled out for 132 in 43.1 overs.

Rajae McGeachy led the scoring with 63 as Zion Phillip (three for 14), Samuel Stewart (three for 17) and Sanjiv Bachu (two for 15) did the bulk of the damage with the ball.

Phillip then hit a crucial 61 not out off 109 balls to steer the young Trinidadians to victory at 134 for six halfway through the 41st

over.

Phillip hit eight fours and a six and was the only Trinidad batsman to pass 20. Left-arm spinner Alixandre Elliot took two for seven in five overs for the Jamaicans, while seamer Wayne Plummer claimed two for 36 in seven overs.

Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica each now have two wins and two losses in their four games.

In the fifth round of matches on Wednesday (today), the top two, Barbados and Guyana, will clash at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG), while Jamaica takes on the Windward Islands at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, and the Leeward Islands face Trinidad & Tobago at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).



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



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## Success for Antiguan swimmers at CARIFTA Aquatics Championships



Ellie Shaw



Alessandro Bazzoni

Antigua and Barbuda won seven medals on the final night to finish with an overall total of 13 medals at the 38th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships, which concluded at the National Aquatic Centre in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago, on Monday evening.

The standout performer for the Antigua and Barbuda swimmers was Alessandro Bazzoni, who dominated the boys 11-12 age group, winning five medals.

Bazzoni clocked a personal best to win two of his medals on the final

night. He won the gold in the 200-meter butterfly and claimed silver in the 200-meter individual medley final.

Earlier in the three-day regional meet, Bazzoni also won gold in the 400-meter individual medley, silver in the 200-meter freestyle, and a bronze in the 100-meter butterfly final.

Ellie Shaw won her second of two medals when she captured gold in the 50-meter breaststroke in the girls 15-17 age-group category. Shaw also captured a silver medal in the

200-meter breaststroke final.

Madison MacMillan won her only medal of the games when she captured silver with a second-place finish in the 1500-meter freestyle in the girls 15-17 division.

Ethan Stubbs-Green picked up a silver medal with a second-place finish in the final of the 200-meter butterfly in the boys 15-17 age group. Stubbs-Green had earlier won a bronze in the 100-meter butterfly final.

Anya DeGannes secured her second medal on the

last day as well, winning a silver in the 200-meter butterfly final in the girls 13-14 category.

DeGannes produced a personal best and set a national age-group record in capturing a bronze medal in the final of the 400-meter individual medley.

Aunjelique Liddie won the other medal for Antigua and Barbuda on the final night, producing a personal best and setting a new national record in winning bronze in the final of the 100-meter freestyle final in the girls 15-17 category.