

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
POINTVILLE EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2025

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 80

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SOLIDARITY FOREVER

LABOUR
Day
2025



V.C. Bird Bust | **9AM** | Parade Start | **11AM**

Featuring:

REVO BAND | LSA | RED HOT FLAMES

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.

“We dodged the Bullet!”

Story on Page 3



The King's Baton is welcomed to Antigua and Barbuda by local officials

"We dodged the bullet!" says Port CEO Telemaque

Antigua and Barbuda and the other countries of the Caribbean 'dodged the bullet' through activism and skillful negotiations to get the United States to provide the region with an exemption from new charges that go into effect on May 7 targeting Chinese built ships or shipping lines with these vessels in their fleets.

That's the word of Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque, in explaining the significance of the announcement of the exemption and what it means for the economies of the region.

Telemaque explained that the powerful trade unions in the US pressured the Biden Administration to take action to return ship building to the US, once a leader in this industry but which has been eclipsed by China over the last twenty years.

He added that a study was commissioned, but when the recommendations were made it was the Trump Administration that was in office and it decided to adopt some of the recommendations from the US Trade Representative, the office that oversees all trade relations between the US and



Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque

other countries.

In essence, the US is proposing to add as much as US\$3 million extra on these Chinese built ships that call at US ports. This increase could translate into a doubling of shipping costs between Miami and the Caribbean, Telemaque noted.

"The results would have been devastating for Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the region. It would have been worse than COVID-19. At least during the pandemic, none of the shipping lines that serve our region increased prices in any significant way. That was not the same for other regions such as the Pacific

where shipping costs rose by 25 percent in many cases. Shipping costs of up to US\$3,000.00 more per container would have had a crippling impact on our economies," Telemaque declared.

During negotiations with the USTR office, the Caribbean negotiators were able to get three of five of their requests accepted by the Americans. One of these provided a geographical space that included all of CARICOM.

"We literally got most of what we wanted from the recommendations that we pitched. That also meant that these recommendations would directly benefit the shipping lines

serving the Caribbean. One of the key ones that we wanted to have was designing the space, the CARICOM space, from the US within a nautical miles range so we said let's exempt an area from the US to include the Bahamas all the way down to Suriname of over 2000 nautical miles; that was clearly in the document and that was accepted by the Americans," he stated.

The Caribbean negotiators also asked and received a waiver for vessels of certain as this would not affect the small volume on ships heading for Caribbean ports.

"We were heading into a situation where we were going to have freight rates that would have been extremely difficult for the Caribbean and Antigua and Barbuda and the impact would have been worse than COVID-19 in terms of shipping rates," he remarked.

Telemaque played a key role in the negotiations representing the Caribbean Port Managers Association as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority.

The exemption from the fees is permanent.

US Court sets strict guidelines for access to financial records in Alfa Nero case.



U.S. District Judge Jesse M. Furman on Tuesday issued a memo endorsement lifting the stay on subpoenas for the financial documents of individuals named in the Alfa Nero

case.

In a MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: [38] Response in Opposition to Motion, filed by Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov, the federal judge wrote; ENDORSEMENT : *Upon review of the parties' letters, the Court concludes that the proper way to balance Applicant's interest in avoiding unnecessary delay and Movants' privacy interests is to lift the stay and require production subject to a protective order providing that any responses to the Subpoenas are to be held on an Attorneys-Eyes-Only basis until further order of the Court and are to be destroyed to the extent that the Court*

grants a motion to quash. Applicant and Movants shall confer and, no later than April 25, 2025, file a proposed protective order. SO ORDERED. (Signed by Judge Jesse M. Furman on 4/22/25) (yv)

What this means is that the lawyers representing Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov, will have access to the financial records which they subpoenaed. However, this will only be done by the lawyers involved in the case and only under the direction of the court. Whatever information is gleaned from the search must be destroyed if after hearing the arguments the judge decides to quash the case.



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ANTIGUA TRADES & LABOUR UNION & ANTIGUA & BARBUDA LABOUR PARTY Presents:

LABOUR Day 2025

ABL P

PICNIC DAY FETE

5 MAY 2025 3PM UNTIL

FEATURING

RICHIE SPICE | TIAN WINTER | CLAUDETTE PETERS | MENACE
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

The poster features a vibrant orange background with a collage of diverse people, including men and women in various styles of clothing and work attire like hard hats and safety vests. A large white seagull is depicted in flight on the left side. The bottom of the poster shows a sandy beach with palm trees and large black speakers. The overall theme is a celebration of Labour Day with a focus on community and music.

Local News



The late UPP parliamentarian, Hon. Hilson Baptiste to receive official funeral



Former Member of Parliament for the St. Mary's South constituency, Hon. Hilson Baptiste, who died on Wednesday, will be accorded an official funeral. This as Prime Minister Gaston Browne has expressed condolences to the family, friends and supporters of

the late parliamentarian.

The prime minister's sentiments were conveyed via a public statement on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. The statement reads as follows;

On behalf of the people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Gaston Browne M.P. expresses his sympathy to the wife of Honourable Hilson Baptiste, Ethlaine, his family, friends, and his supporters. The Honourable Hilson Baptiste died Wednesday 23 April 2025.

The Honourable Member of Parliament from 1994 until 2014 was elected by the constituents of the St. Mary's South Constituency; his election on four occasions attest to the approval which his constituents conferred on him for 20 years. He had been an entrepreneur/businessman in his previous life, bringing that experience to

governance while his political party formed the majority.

The Honourable Member acquired lands that are still very useful for tourism investment in several areas of Antigua; he ensured that jobs and investment were generated by these holdings. Mr. Baptiste was a plain-speaking representative who would sprinkle his public pronouncements with rich Antiguan language and sayings.

The Honourable Hilson Baptiste fell ill and was infrequently seen in public. Nevertheless, he remained attached to his constituency and was embraced by many. An official funeral is being offered to show respect for this former parliamentarian. May his soul rest in perpetual peace.

Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.

Prime Minister

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 | |

Caribbean Scholar Proposes Bold New Economic Vision for Caribbean



Caribbean Scholar, Dr. Andrea Baldwin

Caribbean Scholar, Dr. Andrea Baldwin has proposed that the Caribbean must re-imagine its response to the ruptures in today's society in light of the new global trends.

Baldwin, Associate Professor of Gender and Ethnic Studies at the University of Utah, delivered the Sir Arthur Lewis Distinguished Lecture this month, marking a highlight of the 26th Annual Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) Conference at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus.

In her lecture entitled “(Re) Imagining Caribbean Futures at a time of Imposed Epochal Rapture,” Dr. Baldwin introduced the concept of “brackish economies,” building upon Sir Arthur Lewis’s dual sector model

to propose a new economic framework for the Caribbean.

“The Caribbean is not bound by history. It is a guide, a conductor of new frequencies through rituals, rebellions, and rhythms. Caribbean people have long practiced futurity. We know how to cultivate possibility from contradiction,” Baldwin told the audience of academic leaders, government officials, and conference delegates.

Baldwin’s lecture examined three major “ruptures” in Caribbean history: colonialism, post-World War II global economic restructuring, and current climate collapse. She argued that Caribbean societies have consistently responded to these challenges with creativity and resilience.

“Each rupture is also a portal, a chance to build something new,” Baldwin said. “As Sir Arthur Lewis taught, people, not profits, drive transformation. Equity is as important as efficiency, and sustainable futures must center justice.”

Baldwin, a Barbadian scholar, developed the “brackish economies” model by drawing inspiration from the unique ecological systems of the Caribbean. The model envisions economies not based solely on traditional metrics like GDP, but centered on care, community, and environmental stewardship.

“What if instead of growth at all costs, we modeled our economies on the mangrove — flexible, rooted, cooperative?” Baldwin asked, challenging conventional economic thinking.

Professor Justin Robinson, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of UWI Five Islands Campus, praised Baldwin’s lecture as “thought-provoking and insightful,” highlighting how it connected economic theory with Caribbean realities especially in this turbulent time with shifting geo-political boundaries and trends.

The lecture was attended by distinguished guests including Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Williams as well as other government officials, academics, policymakers, and cultural leaders. SALISES also recognized Antiguan Soca band Burning Flames for their outstanding contribution to Caribbean music and culture.

Local News



Police reassure the public regarding the legitimacy of the Gun Amnesty

The Administration of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is reaffirming its full commitment to the ongoing National Gun Amnesty, assuring the public that the initiative remains a legitimate, transparent, and vital step towards enhancing public safety.

This reassurance is in response to recent attempts to misrepresent the amnesty program and undermine public trust, while discouraging participation, in light of a court conviction earlier in the month.

Based on the facts of evidence, the accused in question had several options and reasonable time to voluntarily surrender the illegal weapon; however, he chose not to do so. The Police Administration is urging the public not to be swayed by these misleading narratives. From its inception on April 7, 2025, the National Gun Amnesty has been guided by clear and consistent protocols. The public was advised that individuals in possession of illegal firearms and ammunition can voluntarily surrender them to any police station without fear of arrest or prosecution. Residents also have the option to contact the police station nearest them to make the necessary arrangements when surrendering a weapon.

To date, two illegal firearms and several rounds of ammunition have been safely surrendered under this ini-



tiative, with no arrests or prosecutions resulting from these submissions.

The Police Administration

remains resolute in its commitment to public safety and urges all citizens to support the National Gun Amnesty.

Additionally, this program offers residents an opportunity to do the right thing and contribute to a safer Antigua and Barbuda, free from the threats posed by criminals armed with illegal weapons. The public is further reminded that all submissions are handled discreetly and with the highest level of confidentiality. Anyone seeking additional information or guidance regarding the amnesty is encouraged to contact Police Headquarters at 462-0125.

**26
APRIL
2025**
2:00pm

Renaissance

"THE REBIRTH"

MOTORCADE

ROUTE:

Starting at People's Place - left on to Old Parham Rd - left on to Independence Drive - right on to Vivian Richards Street - right on to Market Street - left on to Redcliffe Street - right on to Thames Street - right on to St. Mary's Street - left on to Market Street - left on to High Street - right on to Thames Street - left on to Newgate Street - left on to St. John's Street - in to Point Fm - Ending at People's Place.

A&B stands with India following terrorist attacks that claimed 27 lives

Antigua and Barbuda is voicing solidarity with the government and people of India following terrorist attack that killed 27 people and injured many others that happened in Kashmir and

other regions.

In a statement issued from the Office of the Prime Minister, the prime minister said Antigua and Barbuda joins with all of humanity in rejecting these

acts of violence perpetrated by those who wish to satisfy their narrow ends.

The full text of the statement reads;

GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Office of the Prime Minister

Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda

Tel. (268) 460-5100
Fax. (268) 462-3225
pmsecretariat@ab.gov.ag

23 April 2025

His Excellency Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Republic of India
New Delhi, India

Excellency:

I express the heartfelt sympathy of the people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda on the deaths caused in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, by terrorists who attacked innocent and defenseless men, women and children, killing 27 civilians. I have learned that many more innocent civilians were seriously injured in the attack. I pray for their recovery.

Antigua and Barbuda joins the global community in condemning those who would unleash deadly violence on innocent persons, in order to advance their narrow ambitions. Barbarism has no place in a world in which peace and justice are the pursuits of every nation. The harm and pain which are inflicted on innocent humans cannot be justified.

The people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda will forever reject the course of action which these murderous groups have adopted; all civilized people continue to oppose violence against innocent civilians for any purpose.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister



Abigail Piper Inspires Youth with Financial Literacy Tour Across Rural North Primary Schools

Abigail Piper, representing St. John's Rural North and Delegate #1 in the upcoming Labour Queen Competition, is taking her pageant platform "Future Funds: Financial Literacy Among Youth" directly into the classroom.

Her recent school tour through the constituency saw her empowering Grade 6 students with the tools and knowledge to make smart financial choices while encouraging them as they prepare for their National Assessments.

At Cedar Grove Primary School, Ms. Piper delivered a presentation to the graduating class, sharing essential life skills, study techniques, and the value of gratitude. She reinforced her message by gifting each of the 24 students a custom exam preparation kit, which included a pencil case, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, a ruler, sticky notes, and a motivational affirmation card that read: *"I am prepared and confident for my exams."*

Additionally, she donated to the school's library a full three-book series of engaging, child-friendly financial literacy texts by Dr. Terrance Martin, titled "Kids Teaching Kids About Money," including *The Mystery of the Mind*, *The Promise of the Pitons*, and *Treasury Trail: The Money Adventure*. These books form part of her commitment to promoting early financial education and instilling a reading culture among youth.

Joining Abigail on this initiative was the Member of Parliament for St. John's Rural North and Minister of Tourism, Charles "Max" Fernandez, who offered words of encouragement to the students, urging them to study diligently and reach for excel-

lence. The visit also included an interactive Q&A and math quiz session that sparked enthusiasm and engaged students in a fun yet educational experience.

The tour continued to the St. Nicho-

las Primary School, where both Ms. Piper and Minister Fernandez donated additional copies of Dr. Martin's books and engaged students in lively discussions about reading, personal growth, and the importance of knowledge retention.



Tattoo artist pleads guilty to gun and ammunition charges



Oszie Kelvin Russell, aka Mongoose

A tattoo artist - 40-year-old Oszie Kelvin Russell, aka Mongoose, of Lightfoot - has pleaded guilty to charges involving the illegal possession of a firearm, matching ammunition and a silencer.

He is returning to court on Thursday to be sentenced. The case is being heard before Senior Magistrate responsible for District 'B', Ngaio Emanuel who heard from the prosecution that the police, acting on cer-

tain intelligence, executed a search warrant at Russell's home at approximately 6:55 a.m. on Tuesday April 22. The report stated that the police knocked on his door and shouted 'Police' and after there was no answer they entered through an unlocked door. As they approached the bedroom, the police again shouted 'Police' and there was still no answer. However, Russell proceeded to throw an object outside through the bedroom window. An officer was posted there for such eventuality and when he saw the object he shouted to his colleagues, 'gun'.

A further search of the house discovered 10 rounds

of ammunition along with a silencer. Russell claimed he knew nothing of the items and he was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of one Glock 80 Pistol and 10 matching rounds of ammunition, along with a firearm compressor (silencer).

During his court appearance on Wednesday, Russell pleaded guilty to the charges and sentencing was postponed until Thursday.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda says it remains committed to the safety and security of all residents and continues to actively pursue all individuals involved in criminal activities.



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POINTE BROADCASTING NETWORK

TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM

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f POINT FM99.1

Local News



Important discussions on the future of the CIP programmes that are operated in five OECS territories took place at CIS25 on Wednesday. PM Gaston Browne and CIU CEO Charmaine Donovan joined leaders from the sub-region in the discussions



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



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Obituary



Remembering Brother B

Champion of Food, Farmer, and Fighter for the People



By Julian Rogers

Caribbean Bridges with Julian Rogers | julian@caribbeanbridges.com

In the life of Hilson Baptiste, affectionately known across Antigua and Barbuda as Brother B, food was far more than nourishment—it was culture, conviction, and a calling. Whether presiding over a steaming pot in his spirited kitchen on Long Street, sharing stories thick with humour and wisdom, or representing his nation abroad, Brother B's passion always began and ended with food.

His kitchen was legendary a gathering place for meals, ideas, laughter, and love. Yet, in his public life as Minister of Agriculture, his culinary compass found national direction.

He was tireless in his mission to place food production and food security at the heart of the development agenda. For Brother B, it wasn't policy it was personal.

He believed fervently that no food should be wasted. He was known to chide diners who left their meat untouched, sometimes even reclaiming it himself, asserting that every bit of nourishment should be respected. For him, food waste represented a moral failure.

But Brother B was more than a culinary crusader. He was a voice bold, clear, and unflinching in defence of those he called "poor people". He fought hard, with heart and heat, for fairness, always siding with those he believed were treated unjustly. And though passionate in debate, he always sought agreement, believing that shared understanding was the true measure of leadership.

Even when health challenges arose later in life, Brother B faced them with the same resolute spirit that defined his political and personal journey. He remained active, sharp, and determined a fighter.

He didn't just urge people to eat what they grew; he also fought for the farmers, encouraged backyard gardening, mentored young people, and built partnerships with local and international allies. He viewed those who worked the soil as stewards of Antigua and Barbuda's dwindling breadbasket and honoured their labour with his words and actions.

Brother B's legacy is deeply rooted in the soil and soul of this nation. His vision lives on in every local dish served with pride, every school garden planted with purpose, and every policy shaped with the people in mind. He was, in every way, a man of the people rooted, resilient, and real.

May Antigua and Barbuda always remember Brother B not just as a Minister and advocate, but as a man who transformed food into a language of love, a platform for justice, and a rallying cry for national pride.

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Antigua Carnival



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Antigua Carnival



268 727 9201



REGISTRATION

OPEN

CATEGORIES:

- Carnival Floats
- The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Junior Calypso Monarch
- Junior Party Monarch
- LIAT 2020 T-Shirt Mas Troupes
- Koscab Junior Carnival
- Calypso Monarch
- APUA INET Party Monarch
- Koscab J'ouvert Troupes
- Individual Mas
- Road March
- Monday Wear
- Mas Troupes
- Vendors & Booth Operators

WHERE TO COLLECT FORMS:

- National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street
- Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road (Upstairs KFC/INET Building)

HOURS:

MON - THURS

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FRI

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

mail: info.nof@ab.gov.ag or WhatsApp: (268) 727-9201. For inquiries, call (268) 462-4707

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO:

- National Festivals Office, 1st Floor,
• Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley
• & Redcliffe Street

ANTIGUA Carnival 2025

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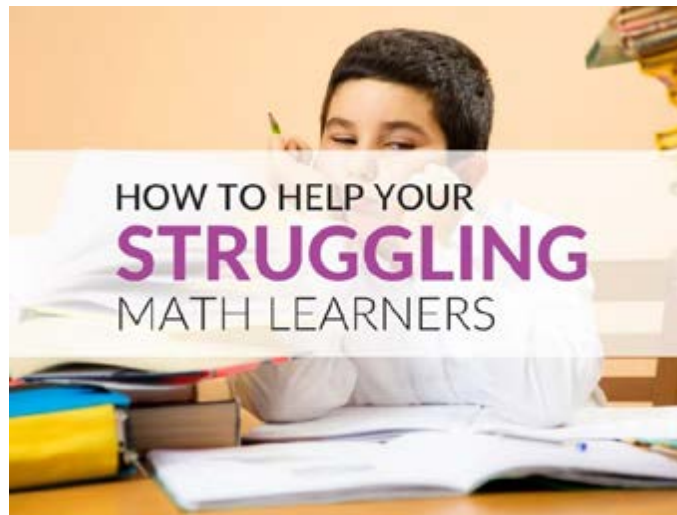
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Crisis in Mathematics

by Derrick Nicholas



The question of poor outcomes in Mathematics across the Caribbean, and what to do in order to improve the results has been discussed many times in the past.

Last year, the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) reported that the pass rate for Mathematics was 36 per cent. While those numbers are considered as unacceptable, Antigua and Barbuda's pass rate continues to fall below the regional benchmark.

Part of the problem is that students are not reading enough - not just for Mathematics, but all subject areas. It therefore calls into question the students' ability to read and understand. This inability to read and seemingly understand what is being asked is a real and present danger.

It is a real and present danger because it means that students are not employing any critical thinking in their work. Inasmuch as we are focusing on Mathematics, this inability to apply critical thinking extends to other subjects.

Another part of the problem is that quite a number of students are lacking in the knowledge or understanding of foundational skills in Mathematics. It therefore means that they are unable to master more advanced topics.

Feature

Even more shocking is the dual problem of (i) the lack of mental math in schools, and (ii) the over reliance on calculators. This over reliance on the calculator is robbing students of the ability to develop their mental capacity to solve problems without the use of a device.

Of course, another result of this lack of mental math and the over reliance on a calculator is the ability to apply any critical thinking to their work. It is this (critical thinking) that Mathematics is meant to foster and develop. Ironically, with the Ministry of Education ‘sanctioning’ the use of calculators in primary schools, they are inadvertently producing students who cannot think critically or function ordinarily without the aid of a device. In other words, it has created an unintended consequence.

If there is to be a turnaround in the poor outcomes, urgent and immediate interventions are required. Those interventions of necessity must include the teachers and students, if they are to be successful. The question therefore that should be asked “**is there an appetite to turn around these poor outcomes in Mathematics?**”

The first such intervention **must** be with the teachers so that their approach to teaching Math can be addressed, and the students so they are taught to **understand** concepts rather than to **memorize** them. It may even require reteaching for some students, who did not learn after the initial instruction.

The intervention must also include the use of real-world connections. These concepts must be taught in a logical way, as some topics are prerequisites for other topics.

Finally, the quality of the teachers who will deliver these lessons must also be addressed. There are teachers in the ‘system’ who proudly confess that they are only teaching the subject because their principal asked them to do so. No intervention would be complete without the involvement of supportive parents. Parental involvement must be encouraged both at school, and by the Ministry of Education.

If we adopt and embrace the above measures, we could start to see better results in Mathematics for Antigua and Barbuda. The time is therefore right to stop playing lip service and do what is right for our students. If we are to move forward as a nation, we need far better outcomes in Mathematics. We need to continue to nurture and encourage critical thinking among our students. It is **that** intangible thing called ‘critical thinking’ that would propel us as a nation.

Moon Gate Hotel & Spa is preparing to welcome its first guests



Construction is well advanced on one of Antigua and Barbuda's most eagerly anticipated new resorts.

Moon Gate Hotel & Spa is preparing to welcome its first guests in the fourth quarter of 2025, in time for

the upcoming tourist season.

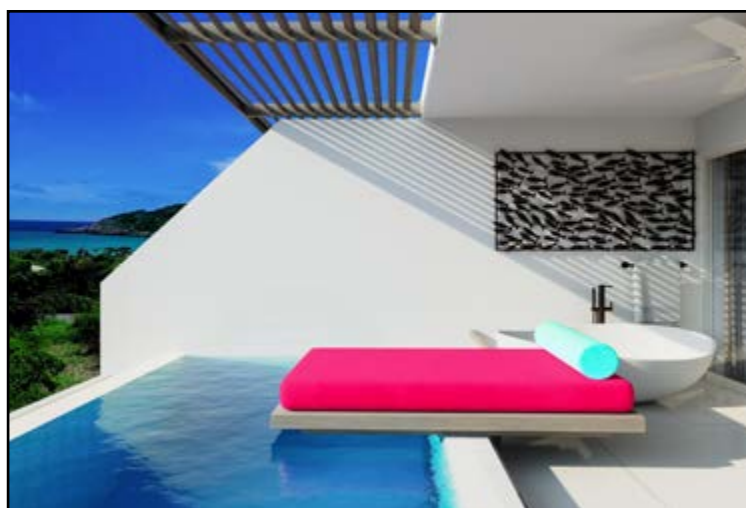
Recruitment is already underway at Moon Gate Hotel & Spa which is set to create significant jobs for the Antiguan and Barbudan community. The luxury boutique hotel comprises 71 suites set

across nine buildings, each one offering stunning beach views, with an additional seven two-bedroom villas with scenic, green hillside views.

Headed by Antiguan developers Gaye Hechme and Cameron Fraser, both deeply

passionate about their island home, the eco-conscious all-inclusive places wellness and sustainability at the heart of its operations.

With its signature 'Gracious Hospitality' philosophy, Moon Gate heralds a new era in the hotel industry. The



Feature



Moon Gate Hotel & Spa is preparing to welcome its first guests



team has carefully crafted a community-minded space where guests can relax, enjoy an authentic Antiguan experience and make meaningful connections.

Moon Gate proudly redefines luxury with timeless elegance, a fresh, carefree

vibe, and farm-to-fork cuisine. Discreet service and an effortlessly enchanting ambience combine to create a restorative stay, stir the five senses and ensure guests feel cherished and at home.

Both Hechme and Fraser are deeply passionate

about their island home, the eco-conscious all-inclusive places wellness and sustainability at the heart of its operations.

“We believe in developing our community above all else, and we are proud to support initiatives that uplift the spirit, fuel shared prosperity, and promote environmental sustainability,” Fraser stated.

The resort will feature an à la carte restaurant, plant-based café, swimming pools, gym, and a deeply meditative spa. Real human connections that embody the simple pleasure of being genuinely hosted will be the thread that runs through each of its endeavours.

Finding the right team members to extend that level of care is key, Hechme said. “We are looking for passionate team members who embody traditional Caribbean warmth and invite appreciation for our culture and heritage. They will be highly professional yet personable, and empathetic to our guests’ needs. In exchange, our team will have the opportunity to grow and flourish, both personally and professionally,” she added.

Moon Gate takes its name from a circular architectural feature that has its roots in ancient China. It is said to offer an auspicious welcome and good fortune to all those who pass through.



RSS completes probe into death of man shot and killed by Guyana police



Investigators from the Barbados-based Regional Security System (RSS) have completed their investigations into the police shooting death of Ronaldo Peters, 21, earlier this month.

Peters was shot and killed on April 7, when police, acting on information, went in search of him. Police claimed that Peters was wanted for a rape that occurred sometime between December 1, 2024 and January 31, 2025.

President Irfaan Ali had said that the RSS would assist local police in their probe of the deaths of Peters and Keon Fogenay, 26, who was killed during protests of the police killing on April 8.

In a statement, the Guyana Police Force (GPF) said that its Office of Professional Responsibility and the Regional Security System “have completed their investigation into the alleged fatal shooting of Ronaldo Peters.”

“The case file is expected to be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecution by April 23rd, 2025, to obtain legal advice.”

However, the GPF said that additional witnesses into the fatal shooting of Fogenay are expected to be interviewed on Monday “to complete the case before the file is submitted”.

It said that the RSS “is also expected to submit a report

containing findings and recommendations”.

Both Peters and Fogenay were buried last weekend as families and friends gathered, cried and eulogized their lives. There was also a collective call for justice.

“One of the most important things for us to do, is to fight for justice for all of us, because the government has the tendency of compensating, but let us be clear, you cannot compensate for life,” Opposition Leader, Aubrey Norton, said, noting that there is a worrying trend that has developed in Guyana with the police killing of unarmed young men. He said it is a trend that must stop.

The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Morris McKinnon, who in offering comfort to the families and the community of Linden said that though the situation is painful and hurting, the families and the community can overcome.

“It wouldn’t be easy of course because your mind will always reflect and you will always think about this scene and the other scenes some of you saw, but I want to direct you and direct your minds to Jesus and I want you to know that Jesus ain’t done with this world,” he added. *(Loop Caribbean)*

Regional News



Digicel celebrates 24 years of connecting, empowering people across the Caribbean



Digicel is celebrating 24 incredible years of connecting and empowering people across the Caribbean as it looks to the future with confidence.

With Saturday, April 19 marking the anniversary of its launch in Jamaica and the start of its remarkable expansion across the region, Digicel's legacy of challenging the status quo, reshaping the telecoms landscape, making powerful social impact investments and creating a brand that is known and loved across the region, is built on passion, innovation and an unwavering commitment to keeping people connected.

With a new Group senior leadership team in place, the last 12 months have seen a focus on empowering the 25 Digicel markets across the region with a strong focus on customers and service delivery translating into EBITDA growth of approximately six per cent and

growth of cash balances by 50 per cent.

Digicel Group CEO, Marce-

lo Cataldo, commented; "The legacy of Digicel is a proud one – as inspirational as it is impressive. When we launched in Jamaica 24 years ago, democratising telecommunications and connecting

the unconnected was our mission. I'm honoured to be stewarding the company in our next era under our new mission of Connecting and Empowering as we build on our past and position ourselves powerfully for our future."

He continued; "I would like to thank our customers for putting their trust in us and allowing us to serve them and of course our amazing team who show up and step up every day, going the extra mile and living our DIGI values of diversity, integrity, growth and innovation."

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Haiti could face 'total chaos' without more international support, UN envoy warns

The top UN official in Haiti sounded an alarm to the UN Security Council on Monday that escalating gang violence is liable to lead the Caribbean nation to "a point of no return."

María Isabel Salvador warned that "Haiti could face total chaos" without increased funding and support for the operation of the Kenya-led multinational force helping Haiti's police to tackle the gangs' expanding violence into areas beyond the capital, Port-Au-Prince.

Most recently, she said, gangs seized the city of Mirebalais in central Haiti, and during the attack, over 500 prisoners were freed. It was the fifth prison break in under a year, "part of a deliberate effort to entrench dominance, dismantle institutions and instil fear."

Haiti's police, supported by the armed forces and the Kenya-led force, were overwhelmed by the scale and duration of the violence, the UN special representative said.

The gangs have grown in power since the July 7, 2021, assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and are now estimated to control 85% of the capital and are moving into surrounding areas. Haiti has not had a president since then.

The UN-backed mission led by Kenyan police arrived in Haiti last year to help local authorities quell gang violence, but the mission remains understaffed and underfunded, with only about 40% of the 2,500 personnel originally envisioned.

Salvador said that in February and March alone, 1,086 people were killed and 383 injured. In addition, according to the UN migration office, over 60,000 Haitians were displaced in the past two months, adding to 1 million already displaced by Decem-



ber. "These figures are expected to rise," she said.

Earlier this month, the leader of Haiti's transitional presidential council, Fritz Alphonse Jean, tried to allay surging alarm among Haitians over the rampant gang violence by acknowledging that the country has "become hell for everyone." He promised new measures to stop the bloodshed.

But Salvador, who heads the UN political mission in the country, said the Haitian government's efforts alone will be insufficient to significantly reduce the intensity of the violence perpetrated by criminal groups.

In February, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said he would ask the Security Council to authorize funding for the structural and logistical expenses of the Kenya-led mission from the UN budget.

But there are no signs that the 15-member council plans to address this request any time soon.

"Without timely, decisive and concrete international assistance, the security situation in Haiti may not change," Salvador warned. "Haiti could face total chaos."

Kenya's national security adviser,

Monica Juma, told the council in a video briefing from Nairobi that the force has entered "a decisive phase of its operation" where gangs are coordinating operations and attacking people and strategic installations, and targeting the political establishment.

While the Haitian police and the multinational force have launched intensive anti-gang operations and achieved some notable progress, especially in securing critical infrastructure, she said a significant gap exists.

Juma said 261 Kenyan police officers are trained and ready to deploy to Haiti, but they can't get there because of a lack of equipment and logistical support.

She urged the council to take a "more assertive and proactive role" in helping to stabilize Haiti, saying time is of the essence.

Juma said critical to stabilizing the country is stopping the flow of guns and ammunition to the gangs and implementing sanctions against gang leaders. UN experts say most arms come from the United States, specifically the Miami area. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Regional News

St Elizabeth woman dies after gate falls on her

The police in St Elizabeth are investigating the death of a woman who died after a gate fell on her.

She has been identified as 49-year-old housekeeper Donna Ebanks of Round Hill in Pedro Plain in the parish.

The incident happened on Monday.

It is reported that about 2:10, Ebanks was injured after an electronic gate malfunctioned and fell on her.

She was assisted to the Black River Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.
(Jamaica Gleaner)



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Jury convicts California judge of second-degree murder in wife's death, prosecutor's office says



Jurors have convicted a Southern California judge of second-degree murder for fatally shooting his wife while the couple argued and watched television at home, a prosecutor's office says.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Ferguson, 74, was on trial for the 2023 death of his wife Sheryl.

Kimberly Edds, a spokesperson for Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer, said ju-

rors reached the decision on the murder charge after receiving the case earlier in the day.

Authorities said Ferguson had been drinking when he and his wife began squabbling over family finances during dinner at a Mexican restaurant with their adult son. Prosecutors said the couple continued arguing after returning home and Ferguson reached for a gun he carried regularly in his ankle holster and shot his wife.

Ferguson did not deny shooting her, but had said it was an accident.

The verdict comes after a previous jury deadlocked in March and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Eleanor J Hunter declared a mistrial. Hunter has overseen the case to avoid a conflict of interest with the Superior Court in Orange County, where Ferguson presided over criminal cases until the shooting. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Public mourning begins as pope's coffin arrives in St Peter's Basilica



Pope Francis's coffin has been taken to Saint Peter's Basilica, where it will remain for three days of public viewing.

The coffin of the Argentinian pontiff, who died Monday at 88, left the Casa Santa Marta residence on Wednesday morning surrounded by dozens of cardinals and Swiss Guards, carried towards the main entrance of the basilica in the Vatican City.

Masses of the Catholic faithful are gathered at St Peter's Square, which leads up to the basilica, to pay their respects to Francis, who is remembered for his humble style, concern for the poor and insistent prayers for peace.

"A service is ongoing" inside the basilica, reports Al Jazeera's Jonah Hull from Vatican City. "The faithful

are waiting for their opportunity to enter the central doors a little later to be able to file past [Francis's] coffin."

The public will be able to see Francis's body lie in state for three days, ahead of his funeral on Saturday. The basilica will be open until midnight on Wednesday and Thursday, with public mourning ending on Friday at 7pm [17:00 GMT].

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who is running the Vatican temporarily until a new pope is elected, led the procession, with clouds of incense preceding him as the church choir began chanting the Litany of the Saints hymn.

Inside the basilica, Francis's casket is not being put on an elevated bier – as was the case with past popes – but is to be placed on the main al-

tar of the 16th-century basilica, simply facing the pews.

Italian police have tightened security for the viewing and the funeral, carrying out foot and horse patrols around the Vatican, where pilgrims continued to arrive for the Holy Year celebrations that Francis opened in December. The faithful who walk through St Peter's Holy Door are granted indulgences, a way to help atone for sins.

"For me, Pope Francis represents a great pastor, as well as a great friend to all of us," said Micale Sales, visiting St Peter's Basilica from Brazil.

"I think he spread a positive message around the world, saying there shouldn't be any violence, there should be peace around the world," said Amit Kukreja, from

Australia.

The funeral, set for Saturday at 10am [8:00 GMT] in St Peter's Square, will be attended by numerous world leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Cardinals are continuing their meetings this week to plan the conclave to elect Francis's successor and make other decisions about running the Catholic Church as world leaders and the faithful grieve his death.

History's first Latin American pontiff charmed the world with his humble style and concern for the poor but alienated many conservatives with critiques of capitalism and climate change. He last appeared in public on Sunday with an Easter blessing and a popemobile tour through a cheering crowd in St Peter's Square.

He had some reservations about looping through the square packed with 50,000 faithful, Vatican News reported on Tuesday, but overcame them, and was thankful that he had greeted the crowd. He died the next morning.

"The death of a pope is not a small thing, because we've lost our leader," said Julio Henrique from Brazil. "But still, in a few days, we will have a new leader. So ... the thing of hope remains. Who will assume Peter's throne?" *(Al Jazeera English)*

Costa Rica will give migrants deported from US permits to stay in the country for 3 months

Costa Rica announced Tuesday it will allow some of the approximately 200 migrants deported from the United States and held in detention in the Central American country to stay and move about freely for three months.

The move comes just days after human rights lawyers sued Costa Rica, alleging the government violated the rights of 81 migrant children by detaining them in a rural camp without any legal recourse, access to education or psychological services.

There was no immediate word how many migrants — who are mostly from Afghanistan, Russia, China, Pakistan, India and other countries — would be given the permits but the children are expected to be among those allowed to stay.

The government said the permits would be given “for humanitarian reasons” and would last for three months while the migrants seek asylum in Costa Rica or look for ways to leave the country.

The migrants were deported to Panama and Costa Rica this year as the Trump administration sought to ramp up deportations. What was once said to be a temporary stay in Central America stretched on



for months, fuelling criticisms by rights groups as many of the deportees expressed fear over returning to their own countries.

Critics warned the US was exporting its deportation process and that Panama and Costa Rica were becoming a “black hole” for deportees.

Migrants, whose passports were previously confiscated and who were detained in a former factory turned migrant camp along the Panama-Costa Rica border, were told they could have their passports returned upon signing a document accepting the government’s conditions, said Silvia Serna Roman, one of the attorneys that filed the lawsuit at the United

Nations.

“It’s a step in the right direction,” the lawyer said.

The Associated Press has repeatedly been denied access to the camp since the deportees arrived.

In the past, when reporters in 2023 visited the camp — where migrants once sought shelter during their migration north to the US — families were sleeping on cardboard or in tents on the ground with little food.

Costa Rica’s move follows similar steps taken by Panama, which last month released deportees from detention amid lawsuits and criticism. However, Panamanian authorities bussed the migrants from detention facilities and dropped most of them

off on the streets of Panama City to fend for themselves. Some were told they wouldn’t be able to seek asylum in the country, effectively leaving them in limbo.

Serna Roman said the group of lawyers with Global Strategic Litigation Council, who filed the lawsuit still have concerns. She said the migrants, despite the permits to move around, are prohibited from seeking work in Costa Rica, which would complicate their efforts to find a path forward.

“If you have children and you’re not allowed to work,” how can you survive, she said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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)

Phoenix and Fearless Crew wrap-up Division 2 league campaigns



Michael Joseph Phoenix and Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew wrapped up their league campaigns on a winning note when action resumed in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) second division on Tuesday evening.

Following an eight-day break to facilitate the CPTSA Wings Sports Club hosting its annual Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out and the Easter Holidays, both teams won their final game

in the league during a Division 2 double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Phoenix finished with a record of six wins and 10 losses after pulling off a 71-65 victory against Da Project 2 in their final league game.

Shalom Bloodman shot a game-high 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Dimetre Leitch sank 15 points and snatched 20 rebounds; Daysher Samuel converted 13 points; and Noel Ryan scored 11 points and claimed 16 rebounds for Phoenix.

Nathan Matthew sank 22 points; Beniah Mack scored 17 points and claimed seven rebounds; while Raheem Charles and Elijah Charles each chipped in with eight points for Da Project, who lost for the 14th time in 15 encounters and has one game remaining.

The Fearless Crew finished their 16-match Division 2 campaign with a record of seven wins and nine losses after securing an 82-38 victory against Square One Construction United in

their final outing.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Joel Christian sank 24 points and snatched 17 rebounds, and Ajonte Williamson scored 10 points for the Fearless Crew.

Manlight Simmons produced eight points, 17 rebounds, and six steals, and Neville Chambers also scored eight points and grabbed 13 rebounds for United, who also lost for the 14th time in 15 encounters and has one game remaining.

The Division 2 league will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday (today).

League winners Cuties Ovals Ojays will take on Square One Construction United at 6:45 pm, and the Fearless Crew will clash with Da Project 2 at 8:30 pm.

The round-robin league will conclude on Saturday, when Spanish Heat 2 faces off with the Navigators at 7 pm.



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Sports News



Youth football excellence celebrated at Villa Lions Easter Classic

The 14th Annual Cool and Smooth Villa Lions Easter Classic came to a thrilling conclusion after two days of intense, passionate, and high-energy football action at the ABFA Technical Center in Paynters.

Held during the Easter weekend, this year's tournament brought together over 900 young boys and girls from across Antigua and Barbuda and beyond, showcasing their skill, discipline, and unrelenting drive to compete for the coveted President's Cup.

With teams battling across four age categories – Under-12, Under-15, Under-17, and Under-20 – the tournament lived up to its reputation as one of the region's premier grassroots football events.

The competition was described by participants as intense, competitive, grueling, hardworking, nail-biting, thrilling, and fun, with many games going down to the wire and filled with heart-pounding moments.

Six teams contested the Under-12 Division, which was won by St. Peter's Primary, with Villa Lions Soccer Academy grabbing the runners-up spot.

Ten teams participated in the Under-15 Division, including eventual champions Villa Lions Soccer Academy, with Mount Pleasant FC snatching the runners-up position.

Eight teams contested



New Evolution won the under-17 division

both the under-17 and under-20 divisions. New Evolution FC won the under-17 division title, and Lions Soccer Academy took second place. The Villa Lions Soccer Academy captured the under-20 division, and Green City FC secured the runners-up spot.

Villa Lions Soccer Academy impressed across all divisions, making the finals in every age group and clinching two championship titles, a testament to their consistent player development and coaching structure.

The outstanding teams and players received awards during a presentation ceremony at the end of the event.

Under-12 Division: Best Defender: Tiquan Samuel (Villa Lions Soccer Academy); Best Striker: Johnathan Dubbery (St. Peter's Primary); and Most Valuable Player: Aiden Clarke (Villa Lions Soccer Academy).

Under-15 Division: Best Defender: Jamil Thomas (Mount Pleasant FC); Best Striker: Shumba Thomas

(Villa Lions Soccer Academy); and Most Valuable Player: Shumba Thomas (Villa Lions Soccer Academy).

Under-17 Division: Best Defender: Marlon Peters (New Evolution FC); Best Striker: Greg Williams (New Evolution FC); and Most Valuable Player: Marco Michael (New Evolution FC).

Under-20 Division: Best Defender: Rahiem Joseph (Green City FC); Best Striker: Marlie Johnson (Villa Lions Soccer Academy); and Most Valuable Player: Tyrik Hughes (Villa Lions Soccer Academy).

The Cool and Smooth Villa Lions Easter Classic has grown into more than a competition – it's a cultural and developmental cornerstone in youth football. It's where competition meets preparation and where true stars are born.

From the atmosphere of support and sportsmanship to the top-tier performances, the event continues to be a platform for young talent to

shine and for communities to come together in the spirit of sport.

The Villa Lions Soccer Academy extends heartfelt gratitude to all who made this year's tournament a resounding success.

Among the supporters of the event are Gold Sponsors Cool and Smooth and JOMA Caribbean, Silver Sponsor Antigua and Barbuda Football Association, and contributor Automotive Arts.

A special thank you goes out to the coaches and team managers whose dedication and guidance were evident in the quality and readiness of the teams.

The participation of every player, parent, volunteer, and spectator also helped to elevate the 2025 Easter Classic to new heights.

As the Villa Lions Soccer Academy looks to the future, plans are already underway to make the 2026 edition even bigger and better. With continued support from sponsors, partners, and the broader football community, the Easter Classic will remain a beacon for youth football development in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean.

The Antiguan swimmers on arrival at the V.C. Bird International Airport after returning home from Trinidad where they participated at the 38th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships. (Photo courtesy of the ABSF)

Antiguan swimmers finish 8th at CARIFTA Aquatics Championships

Antigua and Barbuda finished in eighth place among a field of 20 islands at the 38th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships, which ended at the National Aquatics Centre in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago, on Tuesday evening.

Antigua and Barbuda won three more medals on the final night to finish with a total of 20 medals and an overall points tally of 217 points.

Alessandro Bazzoni capped an outstanding championship with a haul of six medals, securing his third gold when he produced a personal best to retain his title to win the 400-meter freestyle final in the Boys 11-12 age group.

Ellie Shaw won her third medal of the games, grabbing silver in a second-place finish in the 100-meter breaststroke in the girls 15-17 age-group category.

The girls 15-17 relay team, comprising Aungelique Liddie, Ellie Shaw, Selah Wiltshire, and Alandra Dublin, fought with everything they had to win a bronze medal on the final night. The Antiguan swimmers returned home on Wednesday.

The Bahamas continued to reign supreme in Caribbean youth swimming, as they claimed a seventh consecutive Carifta Swimming Championships title and their ninth in the past 10 editions, as the curtain came down on the 38th staging of the event at the National Aquatics Centre on Tuesday.

The defending champions were relentless in the pool over four days of high-in-

tensity competition, topping both the medal table and overall points standings to further solidify their status as the region's aquatic powerhouse.

They ended the meet with a commanding 74-medal haul — including 27 gold, 23 silver, and 24 bronze. Perennial rivals Jamaica finished in second place with 56 medals, including 21 gold, 19 silver, and 16 bronze, while host nation Trinidad and Tobago came in third with 23 gold, 17 silver, and 17 bronze in their 57-medal haul.

The Bahamas amassed 979 points, well clear of Jamaica's 795.50, and Trinidad and Tobago's 735. Interestingly, the top three nations in swimming mirrored the standout trio from the track and field edition of the Carifta Games — albeit in reverse order — showcasing the region's balanced dominance across disciplines.

The Bahamas' strength lay in depth and consistency across age groups, particularly in the 11-12 and 15-17 boys' divisions. In the 11-12 boys, Dexter Russell emerged as a standout performer with 56 individual points, earning victories

in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and 100m butterfly.

Meanwhile, David Singh, representing the 13-14 boys, picked up 43 points with strong podium finishes in breaststroke and IM events. But it was the older boys where the Bahamians truly shone.

In the 15-17 category, Liam Carrington dominated with 79 points, Bahamas remained highly competitive with a string of top-five finishes that kept their medal count rising.

The girls' division also delivered standout performances across several age categories. In the 11-12 girls' division, Sapphire Parks of St. Lucia topped the age group with 65 points, claiming victories in multiple events including the 100m and 200m backstroke, 200m butterfly, and 400m IM.

Right behind her was Kaija Eastmond of Barbados with 62 points, making her mark in the sprint backstroke and butterfly events. Jamaica's own Kai Lawson wasn't far off with 58 points, earning medals in freestyle, backstroke, and butterfly.

In the 13-14 girls' division, Reagan Uszenski of the Virgin Islands put on a freestyle clinic, dominating mid- and long-distance events to rack up 64 points.

However, Skyelar Richards of Jamaica was arguably one of the most electric performers of the meet — earning 61 points and smashing the Championship record in the 50m backstroke with a time of 29.87s, breaking her own record from prelims. She also led the pack in 50m and 100m events across strokes and finished as one of Jamaica's top medal contributors.

Meanwhile, in the 15-17 girls' division, Cayman Islands' Sierrah Broadbelt ruled the pool with 56 points, shining in butterfly, backstroke, and IM events. Her technical prowess and race management were a key part of Cayman's strong fourth-place finish overall.

Heidi Stoute of Barbados impressed with 51 points, dominating the distance freestyle events, while Zuri Ferguson of Trinidad and Tobago tallied 45 points behind strong record breaking backstroke wins.



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Clarke confident as Pelicans aim to soar in T20 Breakout League



West Indies Academy spin twins Joshua Bishop, center, and Zishan Motara, left, are key bowlers in the Barbados Pelicans squad

The Barbados Pelicans head coach Shirley Clarke is backing his side to fly high as they gear up for the inaugural West Indies T20 Breakout League, which bowls off at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago on Friday.

Clarke expressed confidence in both the preparation and potential of his youthful squad, who will open their campaign against host team Trinidad and Tobago Legions in the tournament's feature clash on the opening day.

"I thought preparations went well, especially the two weeks we had at the National Sports Council venue. It was really intense. The two practice games we played also went really good ahead of the tournament," Clarke told Barbados TODAY ahead of the team's departure.

Clarke, who has worked closely with several of the players through their de-

velopment pathways, did not hesitate when asked about expectations for the league, which is designed to unearth and showcase emerging Caribbean cricket talent.

Along with Trinidad and Tobago Legions, the Pelicans will also cross swords with Guyana Rainforest Rangers, Jamaica Titans, Leeward Islands Thunder, and Windward Islands Infernos.

"For sure, it's to win the tournament. Once we can execute our plans, I think we have a really good chance," he declared.

The Pelicans will be led by all-rounder Nyeem Young, a familiar name in regional cricket and one Clarke believes is up to the task.

"Nyeem is a good leader, great thinker. I have no doubt that he will lead the team well," Clarke said, pointing to Young's ability to inspire and guide both with his performance and leader-

ship.

The squad boasts a strong blend of experience and exciting young talent. Kadeem Alleyne, Shaqkere Parris, and Kevin Wickham bring recent experience from the 2024 Caribbean Premier League (CPL) and are expected to anchor the Pelicans' batting unit.

On the bowling front, West Indies Academy spin twins Joshua Bishop and Zishan Motara add guile and control, while left-arm pacer Ramon Simmonds is set to spearhead the pace attack.

The Pelicans' depth continues with dynamic wicketkeeper-batters Leniko Boucher and Dimitrius Richards, offering versatility in the middle order.

Also named in the squad are Shian Brathwaite, Nathan Sealy, and Amari Goodridge, while Junior Sinclair and Sion Hackett are the two overseas-based players rounding out a well-balanced team.

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Sports

THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2025



Stoneville 2 beat Chargers-Velocity in Division 2 showdown



Stoneville 2 volleyball team

Stoneville 2 extended their unbeaten run to remain leaders of the Men's Second Division with a 2-0 victory against Chargers-Velocity in a top-of-the-table clash in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Development League on Tuesday evening.

Stoneville 2, who are sponsored by Theatric Lighting and Stage Effects and JOMA Caribbean, notched up their fourth win in as many games with a 25-17, 25-21 victory in a rescheduled game at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Stoneville took an hour and two minutes to beat the Chargers-Velocity, who lost for the first time in three encounters. The Chargers-Velocity, who are sponsored by City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU

Tours, had won their previous two games.

In a round-up of previous matches, Stoneville 2 defeated Sharks 2-0 in a match lasting just 25 minutes. Stoneville 2 was awarded the opening set 25-0 by default after Sharks failed to field the required number of players at the start of the match.

However, some more Sharks players arrived later, and Stoneville went on to wrap up the match with a 25-11 victory in the second set. Sharks remain in the cellar of the Men's Division 2 League after suffering their third defeat in as many games.

Chargers-Eagles 1 maintained their unbeaten run to move to the top of the Women's Division 2 Development League.

The Chargers Eagles 1, who are also sponsored by City South Municipal Foun-

dation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours, notched up their third win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against Jets 2.

The Chargers Eagles 1 took an hour and 10 minutes to soar past Jets 2, 25-14, 25-15. It was the second loss in three games for Jets2.

The Dynasty Queens 1 claimed their second win in four games with a 2-1 victory against reigning Women's Second Division champions, Paragons 2.

The Dynasty Queens 1 prevailed 25-23, 26-28, and 15-10 against Paragons 2, who lost for the second time in three games.

Reigning three-peat champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad beat Starz 1 3-0 in a top-of-the-table Women's Division 1 contest.

Da Squad claimed their fourth win in as many games with a 25-10, 25-17,

and 25-18 victory in an hour and 15 minutes, as Starz 1 suffered their first loss after winning their previous four encounters.

ABI Insurance and Cool and Smooth Pytonz beat defending champions Theatric Lighting and Stage Effects and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville 3-0 in a top-of-the-table Men's Division 1 clash.

The Pytonz surged to their fifth win in as many games with a 25-15, 25-19, and 25-18 victory in 56 minutes against Stoneville, who lost for the first time after winning their previous five encounters.

Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz claimed their third win in six games with a 3-0 victory against the Invaders. The High Flyerz soared to their 25-11, 25-14, and 25-14 victory in just 56 minutes against the Invaders, who lost for the fifth time in six encounters.

The Renegades claimed their second win in six games in the Men's Division 1 League after being awarded a 3-0 victory by default against the Phoenix High-Flyerz, who were unable to field a team.

The Phoenix High-Flyerz remain in the cellar of the Men's Division 1 League after suffering their sixth loss in as many games.

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes55@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.