

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
POINT EXPRESS
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FRIDAY 25TH APRIL 2025

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 81

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LABOUR
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DJs: DJ Jime | Mad Ras | DJ Quest Host: Jesse Fyah

CBI is a life-saver for Antigua and Barbuda

Story on Page 2



PM Gaston Browne (third from left) with leaders from all five OECS CBI countries at Caribbean Investment Summit 25 on Thursday

CBI is a life-saver for Antigua and Barbuda



Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Gaston Browne

Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship By Investment programme has been a 'life-saver' for the country which has helped it to meet many critical social, infrastructural and developmental needs.

This is the assessment of Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Gaston Browne, speaking as part of a 'prime ministers' panel discussion on the value of the CBI programmes to their respective countries.

PM Browne revealed that when he suggested to the United Progressive Party Government back in 2013 to introduce the programme, he did so out of a recognition that the country was tinkering on the brink of collapse and a CBI programme was the only option available to avoid such a disastrous outcome.

"It was a real dire situation at the time and it has been the careful, strategic use of CIP proceeds that helped us to stabilize the country's economy. We have utilized those funds in health-care, education, road infrastructure and entrepreneurship. Even in terms of our social programmes, the CBI helped us to fund a number of initiatives, including our HAPI programme in which we provide free homes to the poor and the indigent. Additionally, in

beautification, CBI funds have helped in the area of garbage collection extensively," he noted.

The prime minister recalled that in 2014, two items, salaries, wages and pension emoluments and debt repayment accounted for up to ninety per-

cent of the budget making it difficult for the government to do anything else with the remaining resources.

"We had less than ten percent of the budget available for discretionary spending and it was the CBI programmes that provided the fiscal space to the extent that we could pursue other initiatives. The point that I am making is that it has been a life-saver for the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. Our international partners may see these programmes as insignificant or corrupt programmes; perhaps, in your eyes but for us they are a lifeline for our people," PM Browne declared.

He added that the CBI programmes need to be maintained; to be sustained and to continue to be developed so that they can provide benefits to the peoples of the sub-region.

**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.

Peddling disinformation: A threat to the CBI programme

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is calling for a concerted national effort to help to advance the development of the country through the CBI programme, warning that peddling disinformation and misinformation will only harm the programme and the country by extension.

PM Browne made the call during his welcome address to delegates attending the Caribbean Investment Summit 25 that is being held at the American University of Antigua Conference Centre at Jabberwock.

He told the gathering that investment migration is not a threat to national integrity, for when properly governed, it is a strategic pathway to economic resilience and sustainable prosperity. However, he warned some of the biggest threats to the CBI programme do not come from external sources, but are homegrown.

“One of the most significant endogenous threats is the peddling of misinformation and disinformation about our programmes by political operatives who are seeking to undermine our programmes for political gain.

“I wish to caution our political opponents who have sought to mire our respective programmes in unjustifiable propaganda in their ill-advised attempt to destroy our programmes to create hardships for our people. The misinformation and disinformation that have been peddled about our programmes have created certain anxieties among our regional and interna-



tional partners, subjecting our programmes to unjustifiable ridicule. This type of behavior is destructive and served no useful purpose,” he emphasised.

PM Browne observed that the sub-regional Citizenship By Investment programmes are so important to nation

building and the advancement of their people, that they should not be the subject of battleground partisan politics.

“We however, need the assistance of the agents and other industry practitioners to assist with the public information and awareness

advocacy to keep our CIP programmes above this destructive partisan fray,” he urged. Responsible opposition, he suggested, prepares opposition parties for governance responsibilities.

The prime minister is reassuring all stakeholders that Antigua and Barbuda will continue to lead by example.

“We believe that good governance is good business; and we will continue to uphold the values of integrity, stability, and sustainability, not only in our CBI program, but in every aspect of national development,” he declared.



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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.

Local News



Dominica PM Skerritt wants the private sector, agents to help defend the CBI programmes



Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerritt, is calling on those who benefit directly from the Citizenship By Investment programmes operated in five OECS countries, to be vigorous in defending the programmes, especially in light of external and other threats. Speaking at the opening of Caribbean

Investment Summit 2025 at the AUA Conference Centre on Thursday, PM Skerritt was one of four prime ministers who participated in a panel discussion on the topic "Creating and Implementing the Vision".

The Dominican leader underscored the immense importance that the CBI programme has been for the development of his country, noting that it has helped to reduce the country's debt to GDP, establish an emergency fund as well as to build homes for nationals of the country.

However, PM Skerritt expressed his disappointment that at a time when these programmes are under attack from outside sources, it is only the governments that are heard defending these initiatives.

"It should not be left to the governments alone to be the ones extolling the virtues of the CBI programmes. We do not hear the agents or the developers,

we do not hear the private sectors who are benefitting directly from the CBI programmes," he stated.

The Dominican leader voiced his concerns over the issue as he believes that the 'silence' from those who benefit may be interpreted negatively by others.

"Our silence gives people the impression that there is something untoward with these programmes. That's why with our presence here today we are hoping that your conscience would be moved and we would have a paradigm shift in the way that we conduct ourselves on this because our silence is not helping the cause of our CBI programmes," he declared.

PM Skerritt described the CBI programmes as beneficial, helpful, life-changing and important particularly in light of an ever-changing global environment.

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Caribbean CIP countries are leading the way in the migration investment space

Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship By Investment Unit, Charmaine Donovan is congratulating the five OECS countries which operate CBI programmes for being leaders in the migration investment industry.

Donovan made the observation on Thursday as she welcomed delegates to the Caribbean Investment Summit 2025 that is being held at the American University of Antigua Conference Centre.

“We continue to create history! Small island developing states, operating in a global marketplace, delivering competitive value and transforming our economies.

“And we continue to do it so well that we speak with authority and engage at the highest levels to strengthen



Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship By Investment Unit, Charmaine Donovan

our programmes and safeguard shared border interests,” she observed.

As participants prepare for the start of two days of discussions and networking, CEO Donovan noted that the OECS CBI countries are impelled to bring all their experience, intellect, national and regional ambitions to this discursive table and to

frame them within the context of both the threats and opportunities which confront them.

“Our focused objectives should be the crafting of future ready, innovative investment immigration programmes, poised to respond to emerging market adjustments and targeted for national transformation,” she

added.

Donovan encouraged all attendees to avail themselves of all the industry experts and change agents present at this summit.

Scores of participants representing representatives from CBI units from Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada and Dominica as well as representatives from agents, due diligence companies along with several entities that offer a wide variety of services in this migration investment industry.

The conference is significant as it brought together heads of government of the five states who shared the importance of the CIP’s to the economies of their respective countries.



OECS Sustainability Workshop opens in St. John's next week



OECS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Exhibition

APRIL 28-30 2025

Venue: UWI 5 Islands Campus, Antigua

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Daily

Logos: OECS, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, EU, Global Gateway, BioSPACE, COMES 12

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with regional partners, will host the Environmental Sustainability Exhibition from April 28 to 30, 2025, at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Five Islands Campus.

This exhibition is being held as part of the 118th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Environment and Sustainable

Development, bringing together regional policymakers, development agencies, academics, and local innovators to champion sustainability in the Caribbean.

The three-day event, open to the public daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, will feature interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and community-driven solutions in areas such as climate change adaptation, renewable energy, marine conservation, waste man-

agement, and green construction.

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Monday, April 28 at 9:00 AM, and will include remarks from CARICOM and OECS officials, government representatives, and leaders in environmental sustainability. A guided tour of the exhibition will follow for delegates and invited guests.

"This exhibition is not only a celebration of

Caribbean resilience and innovation," said a spokesperson from the Department of Environment, "it is also a call to action—encouraging our communities, especially youth, to engage with sustainable development and climate-smart solutions."

Exhibition Highlights:

- **Regional and Local Exhibitors:** Featuring nine local organizations alongside regional bodies including OECS agencies, showcasing efforts across key environmental sectors.

- **Student Innovation:** Projects from vocational and training initiatives like the Climate Leaders Fellowship Program, including hurricane shutters, park benches, and school bookshelves, all built with sustainable materials and tools provided by the GCF Build Project.

- **School Engagement:** School groups from Antigua and Barbuda will attend guided tours to learn firsthand about green jobs, environmental careers, and the importance of protecting natural resources.

- **Interactive Demonstrations:** Hands-on displays featuring solar technology, eco-friendly construction tools, and waste recycling innovations.

11-year old with mobility issues receives motorized wheel chair



The Friends of the Care Project, a local charity organization which operates a special care programme at the Old Holberton Hospital, has presented a motorized wheel chair to one of the residents of the facility.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams along with Lady Williams with special guests, Gary Randall and Kay Greveson, gathered at the Blue Waters Resort & Spa to celebrate a special occasion — the official presentation of a motorized wheelchair to Aiden Park, an 11-year old resident of the Friends of the Care Project.

Aiden, a bright and resilient young boy, lives with a rare condition that affects his ability to walk



and presents various health challenges. Despite these obstacles, his warm smile, keen intelligence, and unwavering spirit continue to inspire everyone he meets. Having had

to drag himself around on the ground by the seat of his pants for his entire life, Aiden was extremely excited and emotionally overwhelmed to receive the gift of the wheelchair.

During the brief handover ceremony, Lady Williams expressed her deep appreciation for the opportunity to engage in yet another act of kindness. She emphasized that such gestures embody the core values of the Halo Foundation's mission: to uplift spirits, foster hope, and bring comfort to those who most need love and encouragement. "Supporting such initiatives is at the heart of our work," she remarked. "We are truly grateful to Gary Randall and Kay Greveson for their generous support and genuine concern for the well-being of our eager recipient."

The Halo Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to collaborating with 39 charities under the patronage of the Governor General, including the Friends of the Care Project. The organization aims to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals and groups through acts of compassion and meaningful intervention.

Sir Rodney remarked, "This useful and invaluable gift not only enhances Aiden's mobility but also opens new horizons of independence and joy, embodying the spirit of community, care, and hope that unites us all."

Feature



Over one million recycled items showcased during Commonwealth Relay Stop



The Commonwealth Games King's Baton Relay made a memorable stop at the Good Humans 268 facility in John Hughes on Tuesday, where the organization hosted a vibrant recycling expo spotlighting environmental sustainability and innovation.

At the heart of the expo was a striking display of over one million diverted plastic items, a visual testament to the growing need for comprehensive waste management systems across Antigua and Barbuda. Joshuanette Francis, founder and president of Good Humans 268, welcomed attendees to the event, underscoring the scope of their national school recycling initiative. "We have active recycling programs in all 81 schools on the island," she said. "Everything you see on this hill—over one million items—was collected through these programs.



It's proof that Antigua and Barbuda urgently needs a more efficient waste management system."

The event featured eight interactive recycling stations that guided visitors through each stage of the recycling process—from sorting and

cleaning to manufacturing and distribution. Attendees engaged in hands-on activities like sorting bottle caps by color and witnessing live demonstrations of plastic cleaning methods.

Jasiel Murphy, Head of the Environmental Management System and Pollution Unit, applauded the initiative, calling it a vital step in changing how the nation views waste. "Recycling should not be seen as a novel idea—it's a necessary part of our overall waste management strategy," Murphy said. "What's happening here in John Hughes is a powerful example of what's possible when community-led action meets environmental responsibility."

The expo also announced two upcoming Guinness World Record attempts during Antigua Sailing

con't on pg 19



con't from pg 18

Week: the most plastic bottles launched simultaneously and the most paper boats launched. These events aim to engage the community while raising awareness about the plastic crisis. Natalya Lawrence, Coun-

try Director of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, emphasized the urgent need to reduce single-use plastics and commended the program for providing a meaningful interim solution.

"Single-use plastics are used for minutes but last for centuries. In the absence of a complete ban, recycling is our best option," Lawrence noted. "We must all be part of the solution." The event was further supported by the Depart-

ment of Environment, which provided 100 recycling bins for household distribution—an effort to extend sustainable habits beyond schools and into the wider community. Neil Cochrane of the Antigua and Barbuda Olympic Committee added historical context to the relay's visit. Following Queen Elizabeth II's passing in 2022, King Charles III revised the tradition by sending unique batons to each territory, with a strong emphasis on environmental stewardship. This new direction aligns with the King's vision for a more sustainable Commonwealth, as preparations build toward the 2026 Games in Glasgow, Scotland.

The King's Baton Relay in Antigua carried more than ceremonial significance—it underscored the urgent need to address plastic pollution in island nations. By spotlighting the impressive recycling efforts of Good Humans 268, the relay amplified the call for increased plastic recycling as a critical measure to protect our oceans. The visit served as a powerful reminder that small island states like Antigua and Barbuda are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and must lead by example in promoting clean, sustainable practices.

'Mongoose' receives 3-years-6-months prison term

40-year-old Oszie Kelvin Russell, aka Mongoose, of Lightfoot has been ordered to serve a jail term of 3-years and six months for the illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Russell appeared before Senior Magistrate, Ngaio Emanuel on Thursday for sentencing after he pleaded guilty to the charge on Wednesday for possessing one Glock 80 Pistol and 10 matching rounds of ammunition, along with a firearm compressor (silencer).

After following the sentencing guidelines as set out by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Magistrate Emanuel ordered Russell to 3-years and six months on the illegal possession of a weapon charge, one year for the illegal possession of ammunition and one year for the illegal possession of the compressor (silencer). The sentences



Oszie Kelvin Russell, aka Mongoose

are to run concurrently.

Earlier this week, the police executed a search warrant on Russell's home in Lightfoot when, during the search,

he threw what turn out to be the pistol outside through the bedroom window. A further search uncovered the ammunition as well as the compressor.

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RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

From Trash to Treasure, See the Pleasure

From bottles tossed and cans once
crushed,
To wrappers in the wind that rushed—
We often throw and look away,
But waste returns another day.



The planet pleads, the oceans cry,
While smokestacks paint a choking sky.
Yet in this mess, a spark remains—
To turn our loss into our gains.



What if that box or bag you bin
Could spark a change that starts within?
What if your trash, once thrown aside,
Could be a cause for hope and pride?

A glass jar cleaned can light a room,
A tire old can start to bloom.
A plastic spoon, with clever hand,
Becomes a bird, a flower, a stand.

From trash to treasure, we create,
A brighter world that won't deflate.
With art and skill and greener ways,
We set the Earth ablaze with praise.



The climate calls in storm and fire,
The floods, the droughts, the rising higher.
But we respond with heart and song,
To right the path we've steered so wrong.

Let's rhyme our way to greener days,
With conscious minds and kinder ways.

Let's plant a tree, reuse with flair,
And show the Earth how much we care.



Sort your waste and spread the word,
Let every voice and deed be heard.
Refuse the plastic, choose to mend,
And be the Earth's enduring friend.



Compost bins and bottles blue,
Cloth bags strong and clothing new—
Not from a store, but stitched with pride,
From garments once cast aside.

The joy is found in every feat,
Each act that helps the Earth repeat.
The pleasure's not in things we buy,
But in the change when we reply.

Communities can lead the way,
With upcycled art and Cleanup Day.
From children crafting eco-scene,
To grandmas keeping sidewalks clean.

Let businesses join in the cheer,
And pledge a planet-first frontier.
Let schools go green, let gardens grow,
Let rivers run with cleaner flow.

Resolve is more than lofty dreams,
It's action strong in steady streams.
It's voting green, it's planting seeds,
It's meeting Earth's unspoken needs.

So take a stand, both big and small,
And rally to the climate call.
For when we care and when we act,
We write a brand new climate pact.

Together we can shift the tide,
With conscious love and global pride.
From trash to treasure—what a ride!
Let's walk with nature, side by side.

Let's rhyme for Earth, let's make her whole,
Let greener living be our goal.
Let's turn our waste to wondrous art,
And heal the world with hands and heart



REGISTRATION

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- 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
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Regional News



Bahamas: Authorities issue warning over fake video of prime minister

The Bahamas government has issued an urgent warning about a fraudulent video circulating online that shows Prime Minister Philip Davis apparently promoting an investment scheme.

In an official statement released yesterday, the Prime Minister's Office confirmed that the video is "fake and generated using artificial intelligence (AI) technology."

"This video was not produced, authorized, or endorsed by the Office of the



Prime Minister or any government agency," the statement read. "We strongly caution the public against sharing or relying on digitally manipulated media

designed to mislead or exploit."

The statement indicates that the matter has already been referred to the Royal Baha-

mas Police Force for investigation.

The incident comes amid growing concerns worldwide about the potential for AI-generated content to spread misinformation or be used in financial scams that leverage the perceived endorsement of public figures.

Members of the public who encounter the video are advised not to share it and to report it to appropriate authorities. (*Loop Caribbean*)

US advises prospective adoptive parents to reconsider inter-country adoptions from Haiti



The United States Department of State is "strongly" advising prospective adoptive parents to reconsider inter-country adoptions from Haiti, particularly those who have not yet selected a country from which to adopt or those who have not yet been matched with a child from the French-speaking CARICOM country.

The State Department said that adoption from Haiti is a long process in "a dangerous environment" that impedes

processing, adding that conditions in Haiti include protests, demonstrations, and roadblocks, as well as criminal activity involving firearms, assault, kidnappings, and carjackings.

It said since March last year, Haiti has been under a state of emergency and that the US travel advisory for the country has been at Level 4, Do Not Travel since March 2020.

"The airport in Port-au-Prince has been closed to commercial aircraft since November 2024. Even prior to 2024, inter-country adoptions from Haiti have typically taken an average of four years to complete.

"This timeline has lengthened in some cases due to country conditions. Proximity to armed gang violence can cause Haitian government offices and courts that process adoptions and monitor child welfare to shut unexpectedly, further delaying case processing," the State Department added.

It said foreign supervised providers (FSPs) responsible for shepherding adoption cases through courts and local government offices report increasing difficulties in safely processing adoption cases as they navigate difficult security conditions on behalf of prospective adoptive parents.

US embassy employees are prohibited from travel in Haiti, use of public transportation, and visiting certain areas of Port-au-Prince, and FSPs must assume such risks to advance adoption cases.

"There may be times where FSPs are unable to advance cases as security conditions compel them to shelter in place. The Department of State has no capacity to provide security or transportation to FSPs involved in case processing."

The State Department said that children awaiting adoption also navigate difficult security conditions to complete required steps in adoption processes, including travel for personal appearance requirements at courts, passport offices, and medical clinics.

"Biological relations of children undergoing adoption may also be required to make multiple trips to give testimony in court. Adoption processing steps that are required by US and/or Haitian law cannot be waived. The Department of State has no capacity to provide security or transportation for children or birth families to complete adoption processing," Washington said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Pete remains undersea: Family disgusted



Forty-seven days ago, the employers of missing rig worker Pete Phillip contacted his family saying they are doing their best to retrieve his remains from the wreckage of Well Services Rig 110, which suffered a partial collapse in the Gulf of Paria on December 22, 2024.

They never heard from them again.

Phillip's brother, Elvis Phillip, said yesterday in a telephone interview with the Express that he had made several attempts to reach the company but failed.

He described the company's lack of response as 'disgusting'.

'I tried calling yesterday (Tuesday) and they didn't answer. They didn't even return the call. We messaged in the family group WhatsApp chat about three weeks ago and nothing yet. This whole situation is disgusting,' he said.

He said Tuesday marked four months since the tragic incident occurred.

The company has said that the location of Phillip's remains had been identified and efforts were being made to have an international company assist in the recovery.

'Four months and you're telling me you have nothing for the family? We don't know what angle the company

is trying to take because after a while, even bones will deteriorate. So if they are going to do DNA testing, what can they test?' he said.

He added that while he was aware that the company maintained contact with Phillip's wife, Candacy, he said it was 'inconsiderate' that there was no communication with other family members.

'They're talking to Candacy because of the obligation, but what about us? We are his family, too. We are getting impatient. It is taking a real mental toll on my mother. She is not well after the incident, and she suffers from high blood pressure. Other family members have breakdowns,' he said.

Elvis Phillip said his brother's eldest child from a previous relationship, Isaiah, 18, was trying to cope with the loss. He said Isaiah, a Form Five student of St Benedict's College, San Fernando, will sit the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examination in May/June.

'Isaiah is really taking a hard hit. He has to live with the trauma of not having a dad, and he is also not able to receive the support he had from his dad. Right now, he is getting some financial support from the company as he's still in secondary school, but what will

happen when he goes to university?' he said.

He added: 'There are days I'll wake up and cry. I neglect my emotions to do what I need to do to work and take care of my family. But now that we are not getting any response, that is making it even worse. We're getting treated like we weren't even related to Pete. We would have spent so many years together as brothers, and now we're getting treated like we're nobody.'

In a media release on March 7, Well Services said through collaboration with a renowned international company in the search-and-recovery efforts for the missing rig worker, the company 'thoroughly explores a range of alternative strategies'.

'One such option involved the possibility of deploying divers to retrieve the remains. However, after careful assessment, this approach was deemed infeasible due to the inherent risks posed by the unstable and volatile conditions of the Well Services Rig 110. The safety of the divers could not be assured under these dangerous circumstances, and as such, this option was ultimately ruled out,' it said via the release.

The company added that they were 'simultaneously made aware of various administrative requirements related to the mitigation of environmental risks that needed to be addressed promptly'.

'Given the critical nature of these concerns, specific stipulations set forth by the insurance company and the international contractor have contributed to delays in the process.

'These requirements are crucial for ensuring compliance and minimising environmental impact, and as such, they have necessitated careful attention and coordination'. (*Trinidad Express*)

Regional News



Belize Police Commissioner says justifiable force used to kill hijacker of plane carrying passengers

Police Commissioner Chester Williams says “it is reasonable to say” that justifiable force was used by the passenger, who shot and killed Akinyela Taylor, who last Thursday had hijacked a Cessna 208EX Grand Caravan carrying 15 passengers and one pilot.

Taylor, an American citizen, was killed when the plane landed at the Philip Goldson International Airport by one of the passengers, who was armed with a licensed gun.

Asked by 5 Great Belize Television as to whether the authorities are considering laying charges against the passenger, the Police Commissioner said, “that is not something that is going to be decided by the police.

“But I can tell you from a legal standpoint, looking at section 30 of the criminal court, which deals with just abuse of force and harm, it says that a person may use force even to the extreme necessity to kill in certain circumstances. And those circumstances include where it is perceived that one is going to cause grievous by the harm to another”.

Williams said that the force use can be either in defense of yourself or another person and regarding the hijack situation the persons on board that flight where the lives of 14 people were in danger by a knife-wielding man who had already injured three persons on board that flight “it would be rea-



sonable to say that the force used was justified. And so what we are going to do is put the file together and we send to the DPP for final determination.”

Prior to the hijacking of the plane, Taylor is reported to have been involved in several incidents that attracted the police’s attention.

Earlier this month, Taylor caused a disturbance at the Philip Goldson International Airport when he attempted to board a United Airlines flight to the US without a ticket, prompting security to remove him.

After the incident, Taylor tried to enter Mexico but was denied entry there and returned to Belize.

Police said they later found him hiding in an abandoned building in the Corozal Free Zone, but released him afterwards.

The Police Commissioner defended the actions of the police, who had been criticised by members of

the public, saying that the hijacking could have been prevented if Taylor had been detained.

Williams said that Taylor had arrived here through the Philip Goldson International Airport and subsequently left the country for Mexico.

“Apparently when he went to Mexico, he did not pass for immigration, so there was no stamp. From immigration to show that he had gone over to Mexico and vice versa, from Mexico coming back into Belize. And so based on that, immigration had denied him entry into the country at the northern border.

“In a situation like that, where a person is refused entry, what happens is that person is sent back to where they’re coming from. If it was a situation where they were coming through the PGIA, what immigration would do, they would issue an RLL- refuse leave to land. You would then be put on a next flight back out of

the country. In this case, it’s a land border.”

William said that Taylor went back over to the Mexican side a few days before the hijacking and was later seen in the free zone here.

“If you’re coming from Mexico, you don’t pass through immigration. You would know the immigration station is after free zone. So, once you are a tourist from Mexico or whatever, you can have access to the free zone without immigration authorization. So, he was found there.”

Williams said that the police had been told that “that there was no offense committed because he was in the free zone area, and he would not have reached immigration.

“So not even an immigration offense would’ve been committed. And so based on that...any detention then would’ve been an unlawful detention”.

Last week, the Belize government described as “an extraordinary and rare circumstance” the hijacking of the plane saying it remains confident that the event was not linked to any border threat.

It said also that the Department of Civil Aviation is working closely with the United States Embassy and other relevant authorities to ensure “a comprehensive inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident”. *(Loop Caribbean)*

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Los Angeles police arrest a suspect in the chainsaw massacre of city trees

Los Angeles police say they've arrested a man who used a chainsaw to cut down large trees in at least three neighbourhoods around the city.

Outraged residents began reporting the destruction last Friday afternoon. Photos posted online showed multiple mature trees toppled onto downtown sidewalks, and at least one fell onto a street.

The LAPD said "numerous" trees were felled at city-owned property on at least four blocks, and detectives were investigating other possible locations. On Tuesday, they released a photo of a suspect on a bicycle wear-



ing dark clothing and carrying two bags. A community alert described him as a man in his 40s.

Hours later, police announced an arrest, saying a

45-year-old man had been taken into custody on suspicion of felony vandalism and that "detectives located evidence linking him to the crimes." There was no information about a possible

motive.

A message was sent to the LA Public Defender's Office inquiring if one of its attorneys was representing the man and could speak on his behalf.

Some of the trees had wide trunks. A number appeared to be ficus trees.

In a statement, the office of Mayor Karen Bass called the carnage "truly beyond comprehension."

"City public works crews are assessing the damage and we will be making plans to quickly replace these damaged trees," the statement said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



PDV Caribe
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THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Trump-appointed judge orders return of Venezuelan migrant deported to El Salvador



A Trump-appointed federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to facilitate the return of a Venezuelan man who was deported to El Salvador last month, saying his deportation violated a prior court settlement.

The 20-year-old migrant, who goes by the pseudonym “Christian” in court filings, was deported to an El Salvador prison on March 15.

The deportation came after Trump’s “Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the Invasion of the United States by Tren de Aragua” proclamation, known as the AEA Proclamation.

Maryland District Court Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher, however, ruled Wednesday that Christian should not have been deported because he is part of a class action settlement that bars his removal pending his asylum application adjudication.

Christian was part of a class action lawsuit filed in 2019 by a group of undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. as unaccompanied children and later sought to remain in the U.S.

as their asylum applications were adjudicated on the merits by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). A settlement in the case was reached in 2024.

Despite the settlement, Christian was still deported.

Counsel for the class plaintiffs filed an emergency motion on April 14 to enforce the settlement agreement.

But the defendants — including the Department of Homeland Security, USCIS, U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement — argued that Christian’s removal didn’t violate the settlement agreement because “his designation as an alien enemy pursuant to the AEA results in him ceasing to be a member” of the class group.

A declaration filed by Robert L. Cerna, the Harlingen acting field office director of ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations in Texas, said Christian was arrested in January for cocaine possession in Harris County and ERO later placed a detainer on him. Cerna said ICE determined Christian was subject to the AEA

proclamation.

Gallagher ordered that he be returned to the U.S. under the settlement agreement.

“Therefore, under the plain terms of the Settlement Agreement and fundamental tenets of contract law, removal from the United States of a Class Member, including but not limited to Cristian, without a final determination on the merits by USCIS on the Class Member’s pending asylum application violates the Settlement Agreement,” Gallagher wrote in a memorandum.

Her memorandum also mentioned the high-profile deportation case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Maryland man who was deported to an El Salvadorian prison in March.

“Thus, like Judge Xinis in the Abrego Garcia matter, this Court will order Defendants to facilitate Cristian’s return to the United States so that he can receive the process he was entitled to under the parties’ binding Settlement Agreement,” Gallagher said.

She went further to say that “facilitating” includes “defendants making a good faith request to the government of El Salvador to release Cristian to U.S. custody for transport back to the United States to await the adjudication of his asylum application.”

In her order, the Trump administration was ordered not to remove any members of the class settlement, noting that once USCIS adjudicates a Class Member’s asylum application on its merits, the individual is no longer a class member.

NBC News has reached out to the attorneys representing the class group, as well as the Trump administration, for comment on the order. (*NBC News*)

China launches 3 astronauts to replace crew on Tiangong space station

China has launched three astronauts into space to replace the crew on the Chinese Tiangong space station, marking a further step in the country's ambitions for a crewed mission to the moon and exploration of Mars.

The Shenzhou 20 spaceship took off as planned atop China's workhorse Long March 2F rocket at 5:17 p.m. local time (0917 GMT). It will reach the Tiangong about 6.5 hours later.

The rocket lifted off from the launch center in Jiuquan, on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China. The spaceship will remain in space before returning the current crew.

The Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space station has made China a major contender in space, especially since it was entirely Chinese-built after the country was excluded from the International Space Station over U.S. national security concerns. China's space program is controlled by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of the ruling Communist Party. The addition of mechanical arms to the



three-module station has also raised concerns from some that China could use them to disable satellites or other space vehicles during a crisis.

Since first launching a man into space in 2003 — becoming only the third country to do so — China's space program has advanced at a steady pace. The space agency has also landed an explorer on Mars and a rover on the less-explored far side of the moon, and aims to put a person on the moon before 2030.

The Shenzhou, or "Celestial Vessel," 20 mission will be commanded by Chen Dong, who is making his third flight.

He will be accompanied by fighter pilot Chen Zhongrui and engineer Wang Jie, both making their maiden voyages, according to the China Manned Space Agency. Unlike previous crews, Shenzhou 20 is entirely male.

They will replace three astronauts currently on the Chinese space station. Like those before them, they will stay on board for roughly six months.

The space ship is due to be launched into space atop China's workhorse Long March 2F rocket at 5:17 p.m. local time (0917 GMT) and reach

the Tiangong about 6.5 hours later.

The three-person crew was sent in October last year and they have been in space for 175 days. They are due to return on April 29 after a brief overlap with their replacements. The Tiangong, fully assembled in October 2022, can accommodate up to six people at a time.

While in space, the astronauts will conduct experiments in medical science and new technologies and perform space walks to carry out maintenance and install new equipment, the Manned Space Agency said. (NBC News)

Vatican keeps St. Peter's open all night as tens of thousands come to view Pope Francis



They came from far and wide, the U.S., the U.K. and South America among other places, all united in their desire to pay their last respects to Pope Francis.

Outside St. Peter's Basilica, thousands of people lined up for hours, some waiting in the cold twilight of Thursday morning to catch a glimpse of the pontiff's body as it lay in a simple wooden coffin, dressed in red liturgical vestments, his hands folded and holding a rosary.

Closed for just an hour for cleaning, the holy place was reopened as hushed mourners including nuns, priests and members of the public started to file past Francis, who died Monday after he suffered a stroke.

California native Sonia James, 20, described him as "an extremely influential leader," as she waited in line Wednesday. "I think it's important and this is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

She was joined by her friend Molly Dorman from Fair Port, Alabama. "I can stand in a line for three or four hours. I think that it's important to do that," Dorman said.

Dorman, 19, said it was her first visit to Rome and thought it would be "solemn and surreal" to see Francis' body close up.

One of the first to pass by the coffin was Liza Massachi, who said the basilica was very crowded when she entered after lining up for around

hour inside.

She likened losing Francis to "losing your grandfather, your very wise grandfather."

She added that she said "her last goodbyes."

The basilica will be kept open until at least midnight on Thursday to allow the faithful to mourn. Francis' funeral will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. (2 a.m. ET) in St. Peter's Square, after which the Vatican press office is expected to release details of the conclave that will elect the next pontiff.

Heads of state, including President Donald Trump, are expected to attend Francis' funeral. (*NBC News*)

Sports News



Antigua T20 Premier League commences this weekend



Domestic Twenty20 (T20) competition returns to the twin-island nation this weekend when the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Premier League gets underway at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday.

The T20 tournament that will involve six domestic teams will commence with an official opening ceremony

on Sunday at 3:30 pm.

It will be followed by an opening-night double-header under the lights at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The All Saints Pythons will take on the Jennings Tigers in the opening match of the tournament at 4 pm, and the New Winthropes Lions will clash with the Pigotts Crushers in Game 2 at 7 pm.

The other two teams, Empire Nation and PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks, will make their debut on the second match day, which will take place on Tuesday, April 19.

Empire Nation will launch their campaign against the All Saints Pythons at 4 pm, while the Blackhawks will begin their battle for supremacy against the Jennings Tigers at 7 pm in Tuesday's double-header.

Each team will play each other once during their five matches in the preliminary round-robin stage of the competition.


The winners of the preliminary stage will automatically qualify for the final, which will take place on

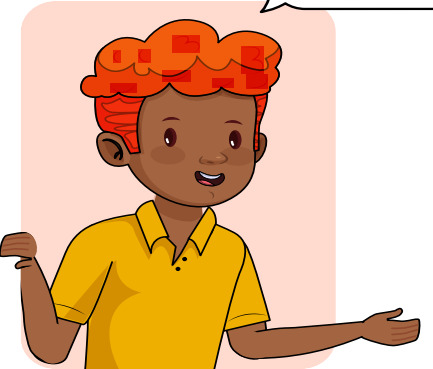
Sunday, May 11.

The second and third-place finishers at the end of the preliminary stage will meet in a single-match eliminator on Saturday, May 10. The winner of the eliminator will advance to the final.


A ticket for the matches in the preliminary stage costs 10 dollars, while a ticket for the final is 20 dollars.


The Antigua and Barbuda T20 Premier League is associated with Antigua Falcons and the Antigua & Barbuda Cricket Association, with generous sponsorship from the Ministry of Sports, Passion Village Antigua, and Antigua Concrete Services Limited.





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FIXTURES

27TH APRIL - 11 MAY 2025



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
T20 PREMIER LEAGUE

PRELIMINARIES

  <p>PYTHONS VS TIGERS SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025 (4:00 PM)</p>	  <p>LIONS VS CRUSHERS SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025 (7:00 PM)</p>
  <p>NATION VS PYTHONS TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025 (4:00 PM)</p>	  <p>BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025 (7:00 PM)</p>
  <p>LIONS VS TIGERS THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025 (4:00 PM)</p>	  <p>PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025 (7:00 PM)</p>
  <p>CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025 (3:00 PM)</p>	  <p>NATION VS TIGERS SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)</p>
  <p>CRUSHERS VS NATION SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025 (3:00 PM)</p>	  <p>BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)</p>
  <p>NATION VS LIONS TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025 (4:00 PM)</p>	  <p>TIGERS VS CRUSHERS TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025 (7:00 PM)</p>
  <p>BLACKHAWKS VS NATION THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 (4:00 PM)</p>	  <p>PYTHONS VS LIONS THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 (7:00 PM)</p>
  <p>BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)</p>	

ELIMINATOR

2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE
SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025 (5:00 PM)

FINAL

WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE
SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)




Da Squad and Pytonz continue to dominate ABAVA Division 1 leagues

Reigning three-peat champions Cool and Smooth and JOMA Caribbean Da Squad and ABI Insurance and Cool and Smooth Pytonz continued their dominance of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) women's and men's Division 1 Local Leagues on Wednesday evening.

Both teams recorded 3-1 wins in their latest matches to maintain their unbeaten runs and lead their respective divisions at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Da Squad moved to the top of the women's Division 1 standings by securing their fifth win in as many games with a 25-13, 25-16, 21-25, and 25-13 victory against former perennial champions Paragons 1 in an hour and 35 minutes.

Paragons 1 remain in the cellar of the six-team round-robin women's Division 1 league after crashing to their fourth loss in five games.

The Pytonz also moved to the top of the men's Division 1 League by surging to their sixth win in as many games with a 25-23, 25-19, 17-25, and 25-22 victory in an hour and 56 minutes against the Storming Lions.

The Storming Lions will remain in third place in the seven-team round-robin men's Division 1 League after slipping to their second loss in six games.

The ABAVA Local League



Pytonz volleyball team



Da Squad volleyball team

will continue with another double-header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday (tomorrow).

Jets will meet Da Squad in a fe-

male encounter at 6:45 pm, and the Storming Lions will clash with Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz in a men's Division 1 affair at 7:45 pm.

Navigators move closer to clinching runners-up spot in Division 2 league



The Navigators enhanced their chances of capturing the runner-up spot in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) second division by pulling off a 13-point victory over EZ Fit Flyers 2 in their penultimate match in the round-robin league on Wednesday evening.

The Navigators consolidated their second-place position in the second division by pulling off a 77-64 victory over the Flyers in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

The result ensured that the Flyers finished their second division league campaign with a record of eight wins and eight losses from their quota of 16 round-robin matches.

Rashaun Harry shot a game-high 26 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; Amare Browne sank 10 points; and Delroy Foster scored nine points and snatched eight rebounds in the last league game for the Flyers.

Ryan Shepherd produced 21 points, 10 rebounds, and seven steals; Victor Osbourne sank 14 points; Baldwin Anthony converted 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Ralph Spooner had 11 points and 15 rebounds; and Ricky Willock scored 10 points for the Navigators, who improved their re-

cord to 12 wins and three losses, with one game remaining.

The Navigators will play Spanish Heat in the last match of the second division league on Saturday. Saturday's game will determine the second-place finishers in the league.

Spanish Heat, which has one game remaining, currently occupies third place with a record of 11 wins and four losses.

Cuties Ovals Ojays, who have already won the second division league title, recorded their 14th win in 15 matches by soaring past the Old Road Daggers 68-60 in the other game on Wednesday.

Tajahron Davis produced 18 points, seven rebounds, and five steals; Jayleyle Joseph contributed 15 points, 21

rebounds, and five steals; and point guard Tequan Brodie chipped in with nine points, six rebounds, and five assists for the Ojays.

Kedar Clarke sank 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Jesus Lopez scored 18 points in the final game for the Old Road Daggers, who finished their league campaign with a record of 10 wins and six losses from their quota of 16 games.

Following the conclusion of the second division league on Saturday, the playoff championship in the first division will tip off at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

The second division playoff series will commence at the same venue on Monday evening.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Barbados retain CWI Rising Stars Under-15 title



The Barbados Under-15 team that retain their West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 Championship crown at the Coolidge Cricket Ground on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Defending champions Barbados delivered a commanding all-round performance to defeat Guyana by 49 runs and successfully retain their Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-15 Championship crown at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua on Wednesday.

Needing only to avoid defeat in the final round to secure the title, Barbados instead closed the tournament in emphatic fashion, posting 209 for eight before bowling out Guyana for 160 in 45.3 overs. The victory marked Barbados' fifth consecutive win of the competition and capped a second successive unbeaten campaign.

The Bajans ended on 27.4 points, well ahead of Trinidad and Tobago in second place with (19.4 points), Guyana (18.6 points), and Jamaica (16.2 points). The Windward Islands (8.2 points), and Leeward Islands (4.2 points) round out the table.

Barbados were tested early after opting to bat, as they lost four wickets for 70, but a composed 47 from wicket-keeper Seth Smith and key supporting knocks from captain Justin Parris (38) and Rajeev Parsooram (21) helped steady the innings.

Smith and Parsooram stitched together a critical 61-run fifth-wicket partnership before the latter fell to left-

arm pacer Brandon Henry.

Smith continued to anchor the innings, sharing a further 39-run stand with Yuvraj Persaud (19) that pushed Barbados past 170. Guyana's bowlers managed to apply pressure in the closing overs, conceding just 33 runs from the final seven.

Medium pacer Reyaz Latif was the most successful of the attack, finishing with three for 31, while Henry took two for 24, and Usain Fredericks claimed two for 53.

Guyana's response never gained traction. Their top order crumbled early, slumping to 35 for three as Barbados' new-ball bowlers made early inroads. Lomar Seecharan (20) and Nathaniel Ramsammy (32) were the only batsmen to offer resistance at that point.

Medium pacers Asher Branford and Joshua Thompson intensified the collapse by removing Arif Bacchus (five) and captain Richard Ramdehol (zero), leaving Guyana in disarray at 55 for five.

A defiant knock from Henry briefly gave Guyana hope. He struck a measured 50 from 88 deliveries to lead a lower-order resistance that saw Guyana reach 156 for eight. But once Parsooram claimed his vital scalp, the innings unraveled quickly, with the last

three wickets tumbling for just four runs.

Branford led the bowling attack with figures of three for 19, while Parsooram (2-19), Thompson (2-35), and Parris (2-25) shared the other wickets to seal Barbados' title in style.

Elsewhere in the final round, Jamaica wrapped up their campaign with a dominant 10-wicket win over the Windward Islands at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The Windward Islands collapsed for a paltry 86 after choosing to bat. Six Windwards batsmen failed to score, and the team stumbled to 11 for three before Jamie Wickham's 42 added a hint of respectability.

Medium pacer Andrew Lloyd tore through the lower order with four for 25, while Eckoney Robinson (2-16), Wayne Plummer (2-18), and Raheim Livingston (2-22) shared the other wickets.

In reply, Jamaica made light work of the target, racing to 87 without loss in just 12.2 overs. Luwain Pryce (32 not out) and Rajae McGeachy (30 not out) ensured a swift and clinical finish.

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago condemned the Leeward Islands to a winless tournament by completing a six-wicket win at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

The Leewards could only muster 92 in 25.4 overs after being sent in, with Jathan Edward (19), De'Morae Prentice (18), Clayvaunte Powell (18), and Kyan Maccow (15) the only batsmen to offer little resistance in another dismal batting effort.

Trinidad and Tobago's bowlers shared the spoils, with Sanjiv Bachu (3-12), Jayden Sadaphal (3-28), and Giovanni McKnight (3-29) combining to wipe out the opposition.

Openers Jordan Julien (36) and Kaiden Pollard (21) then laid the foundation with a 55-run partnership as Trinidad and Tobago eased to victory at 93 for four in 16.4 overs, despite a brief wobble.

Wins for Scorpions and E. Harbour in opening playoff matches



English Harbour football team

Freemans Village Scorpions and National Parks English Harbour won their respective opening matches as the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) promotion playoff series got underway on Wednesday.

The Scorpions pulled off a 4-1 victory against SAP FC in the opening match of the First and Premier Division Playoffs in the second game of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Darius Hector put the Scorpions ahead with a strike in the 25th minute, and Roy Gregory scored his first of two goals in the second minute of added time in the first half to give the Scorpions a two-nil lead at the interval.

SAP FC was reduced to 10 men

in the 37th minute when Claudian Chapman was expelled after picking up a second caution, which caused the team from Bolans to struggle in their quest to take control of the match.

Junior Lee struck in the 55th minute to give the Scorpions a three-nil lead before Peter Byers scored a consolation goal for SAP in the 86th minute.

Gregory wrapped up victory for the Scorpions with his second goal of the match when he converted a penalty kick in the sixth minute of added time.

The three-team round-robin playoffs also involve Attacking Saints, who finished in 10th place in the Premier League. SAP FC finished third and the Scorpions fourth in the First Division League.

The winner of the playoff series will contest the Premier Division next season. SAP will play their second and final match of the series against the Attacking Saints at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday at 6:30 pm.

English Harbour boosts their promotion hopes by snatching a 2-1 victory against Sea View Farm when both Second Division sides clash in the opening match of the First and Second Division Playoff Series.

Nosakhare Edoleyi scored the winner four minutes before the end of regulation to snatch victory for English Harbour. His teammate Akeem Weeks scored in the 40th minute to give English Harbour a one-nil lead at halftime.

But Sea View Farm drew level when Kevin Warner scored an equalizer in the 57th minute before Edoleyi struck in the 86th minute and snatched victory for English Harbour.

The three-team round-robin playoffs also involve Tyrum FC, who finished in 10th place in the First Division League. English Harbour finished third and Sea View Farm fourth in the First Division League.

The winner of the playoff series will contest the First Division League next season. Sea View Farm will play their second and final match of the series against Tryum FC at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday at 4:30 pm.