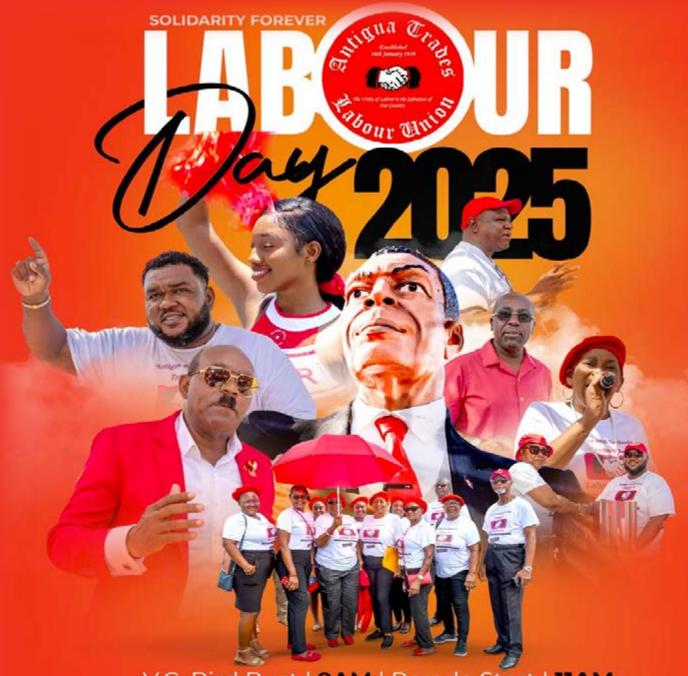


WEDNESDAY 30[™] APRIL 2025

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 84

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG



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

REVO BAND | LSA| RED HOT FLAMES

5 MAY 2025

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.



WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 2025

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 84

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

New sailing regatta in March will fail, says Senator Shoul

Story on Page 2



Local News



Chairman Shoul of the NPA disagrees with plans to introduce a new sailing regatta



Chairman of the National Park Authority, Senator Philip Shoul, is distancing himself from the suggestion of introducing a new sailing regatta in March as is being proposed by the ministry of tourism.

Speaking on the *Just for the Record*, programme aired on Pointe FM Radio on Tuesday evening, Senator Shoul is recommending instead that there needs to be a 'meeting of the minds' to revive the fortunes of the Antigua Sailing Week (ASW), the annual sailing regatta that runs from the end of April to the first weekend in May. At more than 50 years old, it is perhaps the oldest regatta in the Caribbean.

In a *Point Express* exclusive, Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez on Tuesday announced that the government plans to introduce a new regatta in March of 2027, even while ASW continues at its current dates.

According to Sen. Shoul introducing another regatta in March would not be a successful undertaking as that month is already jammed packed with other regattas.

"Introducing a new regatta in March will not solve the problems of Antigua Sailing Week for two reasons; there are now over twenty-two sailing regattas in the Caribbean within a calendar year. This does not include the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and Puerto Rico or the BVI. Within that calendar year too, we have many events already slotted for March; these include the St. Thomas International Regatta, the BVI Spring Regatta, St Maarten's Heineken Regatta and the St. Bart's Bucket Regatta. So putting another sailing event in March is going to be a failure," he stated.

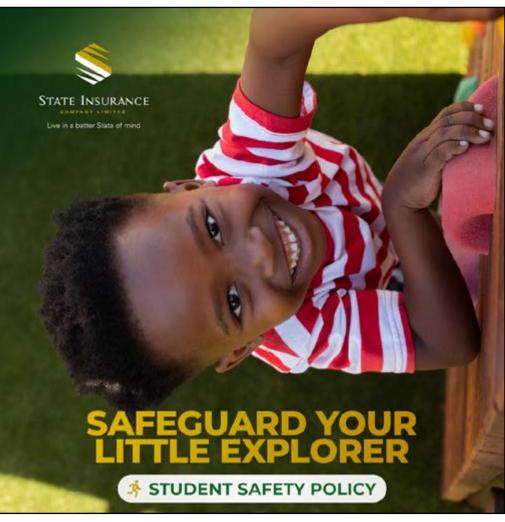
Senator Shoul emphasized that there are no slots available in March for another regatta here in Antigua.

The NPA chairman is strongly recommending that efforts be made to 'fix' ASW as he highlighted a number of missteps made by the organizing committee in the past and which have led to the current situation where the num-

ber of yachts participating is down significantly.

He noted that the Antigua and Barbuda government has pumped much money and resources into ASW and according to the senator, there has been no accounting for this. "Where is the transparency?" he asked. Additionally, he wants the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association which owns the ASW name to become more involved with planning and staging of the event.

His recommendation is for a meeting between the current organisers of the event, along with representatives from the ABHTA, the ABTA, NPA and the Ministry of Tourism to sit down and analyse fully what is wrong with the current iteration of the regatta and what can be done to save it.





Local News

PAGE 4

Hefty Fines for the indiscriminate disposal of garbage in St. John's

Two government agencies are coming together to introduce strict measures to control the issue of the disposal of garbage generated by businesses which operate in St. John's city.

The new regulations take effect on May 6 and come with hefty fines for any business owner who violates these measures.

"The St. John's Development Corporation and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWNA) hereby advise all persons who operate a business within the City of St. John's that effective Tuesday May 6, 2025, no waste or garbage is to be placed on sidewalks for collection between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:30 pm. Strict enforcement will be applied," a statement from the SJDC indicated.

The notice said any person who operates a business and fails to comply with this notice will be deemed to be in contravention of the Litter Control and Prevention Act, 2019, and will be subject to a fine of Fifteen Thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

According to SJDC this measure is necessary to maintain the cleanliness, safety, and aesthetic appeal of the city during business hours.

"We urge all businesses to com-



ply fully with this directive. clean and inviting for all resi-Your cooperation is critical in heling us keep St. John's City



dents and visitors," the notice concluded.





Local News

PAGE 5



Local News



A US Administration ban on cranes made in China will have little effect on Antigua and Barbuda

Now that the US Administration is making allowances for Chinese built ships to operate from US ports and the Caribbean without charge, there is now another concern; a proposed ban by the United States on the use of Chinese-built cranes that may be in operation in ports across the region.

However, according to the Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque this additional provision will have little or no impact on Antigua and Barbuda as there are no such cranes on the list of equipment used by the port.

"The US government is going to apply 100 percent tariffs on all cranes that are bought from China, all freight-handling equipment bought from China, such as chassis that carry the containers, all of these will now attract this new tariff. This would mean that the cost of these equipment will increase so there is some pressure that will come from that, but those are miniscule when compared with the waiver which the region received regarding Chinese built ships," Telemaque explained.

He further explained that the crane recently purchased by the port authority is a German crane that was built in the UK. "Our crane will not fall under this new provision. Except for one folk-lift that was sourced in China,



the other equipment such as stackers were sourced elsewhere," he emphasised.

There are fears that these

measures introduced by the US as part of its ongoing trade war with China will undoubtedly harm the Ca-

ribbean economies as they will likely lead to higher prices for many goods.



The Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU) in conjunction with the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) invites you to the 74th Labour Day Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 4th May, 2025 at 9 AM at the Gracehill Moravian Church, Liberta Village, St. Paul's, Antigua.













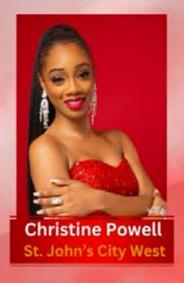










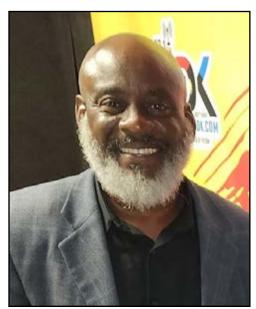




Local News



Head of the CARICOM Observer Mission to T&T elections gives poll high marks



Antigua and Barbuda's Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes

Antigua and Barbuda's Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes, who led the CARICOM Elections Observer Mission to this week's general elections in Trinidad and Tobago, is giving the conduct of the poll the 'thumbs up'.

Hughes and his 12-member team traveled to Port of Spain on April 21 for the elections that were held on Monday which were won by UNC whose political leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar will be sworn in as Prime Minister for a second time.

The CEOM head said the polls were conducted in an orderly manner and that there were no major incidents during the elections.

"The polls were opened on time in the polling districts. All polling stations observed were fully staffed and most had at least two Polling Agents present. Most polling stations were conveniently located and easily accessible to the voters, although in some instances, it was noted that accessibility presented challenges for persons with disabilities, and the elderly. The Mission further observed that there was a sufficient supply of the required voting materials at all polling stations," the mission preliminary report stated.

Additionally, the Mission noted that there were few queues at the opening of the poll. The CEOM observed that voting proceeded in a peaceful and orderly manner. Most polling stations were divided into two streams, which aided queue management.

The report said that in all polling stations visited, a sample of the ballot paper and relevant instructions were clearly displayed. Signage was also visibly displayed outside polling stations.

The mission also credited the elections authority for ensuring that there was adequate police security was in place at all locations visited. The polling officials conducted their duties with professionalism, transparency, diligence and dedication. They were helpful to voters especially the elderly and persons with disabilities.

"This contributed to the level of calm which accompanied the day's activities. Generally, the poll workers were focused as they steadily carried out the required procedures, thereby ensuring that all eligible electors who turned out to vote were able to exercise their franchise.

"The initial assessment of Election Day activities by the CEOM is that the voters were able to cast their ballots without intimidation or fear, and that the results of the 28 April 2025 Parliamentary Elections reflect the will of the electorate of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago," the report stated.

Hughes is returning to St. John's on Wednesday at the end of a mission that he has described as 'successful'.





Cyczique Teague, 21, embodies resilience, empowerment, and transformation. Proudly representing St. Paul's, she is an entrepreneur, model, and aspiring pilot determined to break barriers and redefine her future.

Her journey reflects continuous evolution—from earning nine CSEC subjects at Princess Margaret School to pursuing Information Technology studies at ABIIT, challenging the underrepresentation of women in tech. As the owner of C'est Trendy, Cyczique merges fashion with ambition, creating opportunities and championing women's empowerment, youth development, and mental health awareness.



A passionate dancer, she sees movement as a metaphor for growth, while her dream of soaring as a pilot represents her pursuit of new heights. Cyczique proves that transformation is powerful, inspiring others to rise, reinvent, and embrace their destiny.

Delegate 5 St. Paul

Local News



The police are continuing their no-nonsense approach to illegal firearms





Two more men have been brought before the court to answer charges related to the illegal possession of firearm and ammunition.

The latest case involves Otineo Thomas of Clare Hall and Roan Hector of Hatton. The court heard that the men were intercepted at Sutherlands during a patrol of the area by a squad of police officers.

They had in their pos-

session one black Taurus GX4 9mm pistol and ten rounds of ammunition contrary to the Firearm Act of Antigua and Barbuda.

Thomas and Hector appeared before Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel on Tuesday where Hector pleaded guilty to the charge while Thomas entered a 'not guilty' plea.

The prosecution in the case has decided to pro-

ceed to trial in the 'not guilty' matter. Under those circumstances, the magistrate decided to defer the 'guilty' plea until the trial has been completed.

Both men have been denied bail. However, they have been advised by the court to apply to high court for bail via indigent bail or through an attorney. The trial date has been set for August 27, 2025. The prosecution has indicated

that it will call a minimum of five witnesses.

Since the announcement of the National Gun Amnesty, the police have been making a concerted effort to have those with illegal firearms turn them in voluntarily. Failure to do so may result in them being arrested and charged for the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.





Coshana Constant, a 20-year-old national of Antigua and Barbuda, is passionate about personal growth, community engagement, and women's empowerment. She is pursuing an Associate Degree in Business Branding with a Marketing focus at Antigua State College, refining her entrepreneurial skills and building a bright future.

A past student of Pares Secondary School, Coshana is driven by creativity and innovation, channeling her artistic talents into graphic and creative design. Her multifaceted pursuits include roles as a hairstylist, auxiliary service agent, promotional model, and assistant secretary, exemplifying her strong work ethic and determination.



Coshana finds joy in simple pleasures like food, Netflix, TikTok, and time with friends. As an active representative of St. Phillip's North Constituency, she champions youth and women's empowerment while contributing to community development initiatives.

Through her pageant journey, Coshana aims to inspire young women to seize opportunities and foster unity and progress within their communities. With dedication and a heart for service, she is poised to make a lasting impact.

Delegate 6 St. Philip's North



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



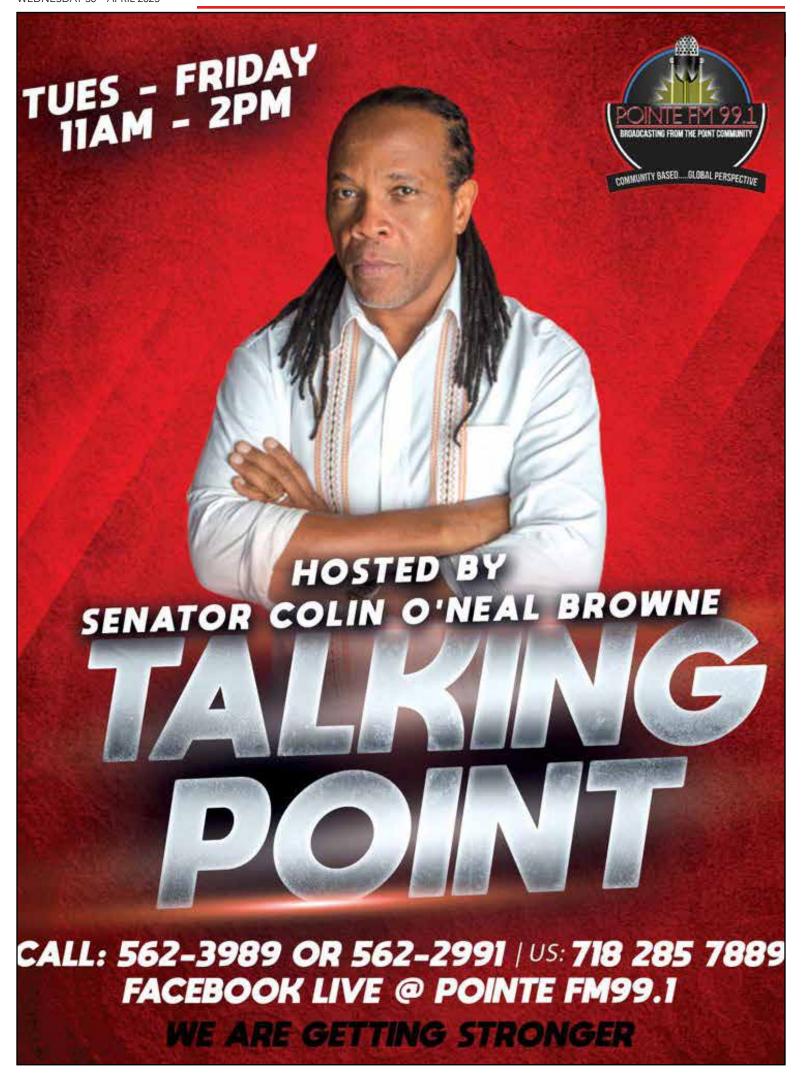
"THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL"











Feature



Miss St. Paul's Inspires Students to Go Green in Celebration of Earth Day



Miss St. Paul's, Cyczique Teague, brought a burst of green energy to the constituency of St. Paul's earlier this week, engaging students from Cobbs Cross Primary, Liberta Primary schools and New Bethel SDA Academy in activities aimed at promoting environmental stewardship while partnering with Good Humans 268 Inc.

On Tuesday, April 22, 2025, Miss St. Paul's marked Earth Day with a hands-on initiative, delivering fruit trees and vibrant flowers to the schools. With a bright smile and infectious enthusiasm, Teague spoke to students about the critical role trees play in sustaining communities, emphasizing the urgent need to keep local spaces clean, green and thriving.

"Trees aren't just pretty to look at," Teague told students during her visit. "They give us life, clean our air and make our communities healthier and more beautiful."

Students participated in discussions about environmental conservation and the steps they can take, big and small, to protect their surroundings. Teague encouraged everyone to take pride in their local environment, reminding them that small actions like planting a



tree or picking up litter can spark big changes.

In a lighthearted moment, Teague also shared a whimsical thought that left many students smiling: "If we all plant trees and sing to them every day, maybe, just maybe they'll grow faster and tell us their secrets." Returning on Thursday, April 24, Teague got her hands dirty, planting the fruit trees and flowers she had previously distributed. The event transformed schoolyards into budding gardens, creating living symbols of the students' commitment to nurturing

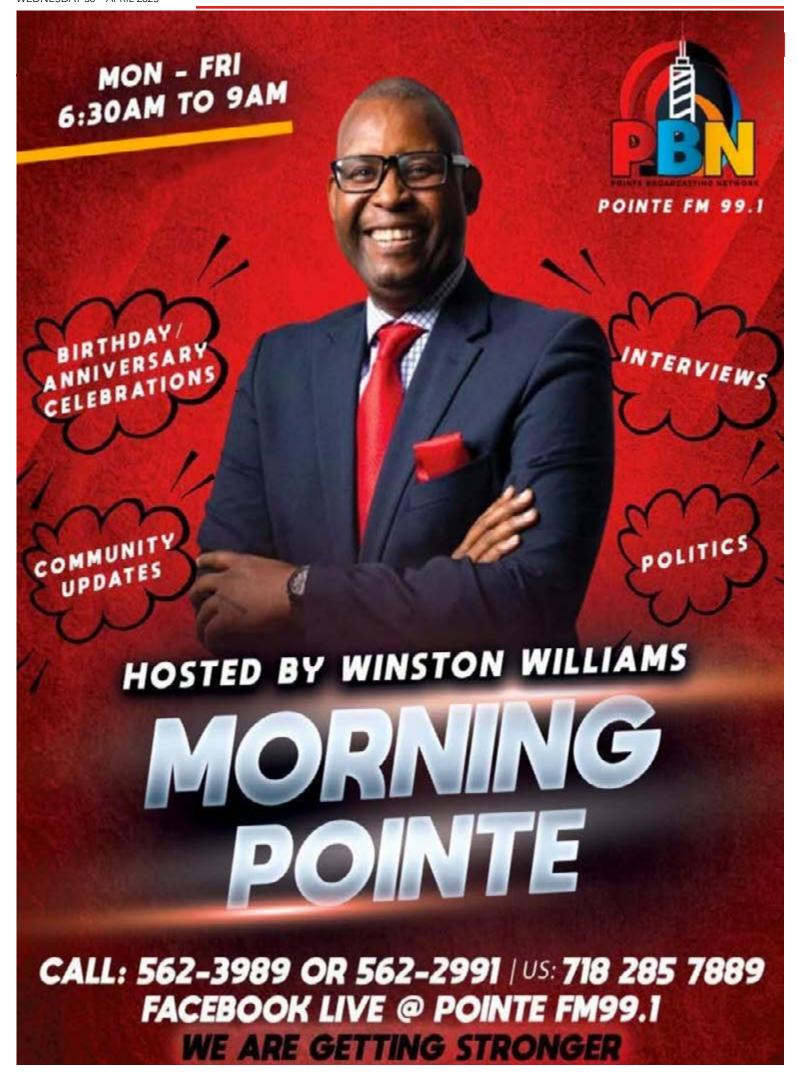
the earth.

Teague's efforts will continue into the coming week, as she returns to Cobbs Cross Primary to speak further with students and distribute educational materials.

The initiative not only celebrated Earth Day but also sowed the seeds for a lasting environmental legacy among St. Paul's youngest citizens. Thanks to Miss St. Paul's, Good Humans 286 Inc. and the enthusiastic students, the future of the constituency looks a little greener and a lot brighter.







Feature



Complexion of Labour Unions in Antigua

Monday May 5, 2025 will be celebrated as Labour Day in Antigua and Barbuda, when the two major labour unions will separately parade in the streets in solidarity of their respective organizations. The Antigua Trades and Labour Union, like a red tsunami will sweep the area from North Street to Fort James Beach. And The Antigua Workers Union, like a blue wave will flow through the streets from the West Bus Station all the way to Friar's Bay. There will be large amplified speakers mounted on trucks, bellowing out our Caribbean music, behind which, people will be jamming in a frenzy as they consume their alcoholic beverages.

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union was organized in 1939 as a result of the dire need for workers of the country to escape the dreadfully fierce conditions of labour under the hands of the white plantocracy, which commanded the heights of economic activities, chiefly sugar production.

The union had to be very aggressive in order to affect any improvement for the working-class, therefore its methods were somewhat antithesis toward entrepreneurship. It was not envisaged that ordinary Antigua citizens would one day become entrepreneurs.

The union developed its political arm and was very successful in its mission of raising the living standards of the Antigua people. The union and the government virtually became one. But when the common enemy, the plantation bosses were removed, the organization started to fight within itself.

In May of 1967, the General Secretary and some other officers were dismissed from The Antigua Trades and Labour Union/Antigua Labour Party, and proceeded to form their own Antigua Workers Union (AWU), which developed its own political arm, the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM), which morphed into the United National Democratic Party (UNDP); and later the United Progressive Party UPP). This phenomenon was one of the major causes of descent in the AT&LU/ABLP, when it was vehemently expressed that the union/ government combination could not work.

Today, the two major unions form the bases of the two major political parties; and the union-officers use the unions as stepping stones into the political realm. They would resign their union positions in order to contest general elections, and when they are unsuccessful they would just reinstate themselves in the union to try at a future date.

Some union members have become disillusioned with their leaders because they have been seen dining with the managers of companies which are diametrically opposed to trade unionism. And some officers have been known to be employed as part-time consultants to hotel managers, which situations cause workers to question the loyalty of their union leaders.

With the development of Antigua and Barbuda, and the improved living standards of its people, the unions appear to becoming somewhat redundant. The conditions which subsisted seventy years ago do not exist today. Both employers and employees have become more sophisticated; and ordinary Antiguans have become entrepreneurs, owing banks, insurance companies, hotels, hardware stores, supermarkets, and a host of other enterprises. Hence the unions need to temper their aggression towards local entrepreneurship. And when the union/political leader, V C Bird tried to accomplish that many years ago, the Outlet Newspaper wrote a vicious article, accusing him of *reversing himself*. He saw the necessity to *change with changing times*.

In the ensuing years, many improvements in the society have caused a reduction for the services of the unions in contemporary times. The education standard has been vastly improved, and workers are better equipped and more productive today. The Antigua Labour Code was introduced with a bias towards the workers, (and rightly so.) And the Industrial Court was established to adjudicate industrial disputes. Also, labour lawyers became more available to defend the rights of workers when necessary. And, because these changes resulted in the reduction for the demand of services provided by the unions, they started to change their complexion.

The unions became antagonistic towards the governments of the day, making all kinds of unreasonable and unlawful demands, as was seen in the LIAT 1974 situation, where Section C-40 of the Labour Code states clearly, the circumstances under which Severance is due and payable. And in order to maintain relevance, they would support op-

con't on pg 17

Feature

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con't from pg 16

position to many development projects initiated by the government. They would try to implement certain conditions from developed industrial countries which are irrelevant to the local situation; such as demanding that workers be given equity in a business after being employed, for several years, without the Input of investment capital. And they demanded a reduction in working hours and extended vacation period, in spite of workers enjoying a forty-hour work week, and clement weather conditions in the country. They are now requesting paternity leave for the fathers of new born babies, many of whom do not live with the mothers of their children, but often boast that, "Me hab nine pickney wid seven different oman."These conditions, if implemented, will result in reduced productivity.

There has been attempts in the past

to form a trade union congress for all workers in the country, in order to negate any political influence by the incumbent governments. But that notion was still-born, since the two major unions are inextricable linked to the two political parties.

A new union, The People's Union has been launched recently, "With the concept we believe are critical for the advancement of the working people and the simultaneous development of the country." Whereas this appears to be a noble notion, the reality is that Antigua has a small population with two main employment opportunities, working for the government or the service tourism industry; and the majority of the workers are already members of the two major unions which are joined to the two major political parties. And whenever the union's party is in government that union flourishes, and the reverse is also true. However, third political

parties in this country have never gained traction, mainly because they never had the critical union base. Therefore, it would be reasonable to assume that the new union could only survive if it were able to poach members from the existing unions, which would appear to be a dismal possibility.

Because of changed and changing times, the unions need to reorder themselves by fostering their members to become entrepreneurs and capitalists, themselves, even though they are workers, by way of establishing cooperatives, credit unions, and other enterprises for the benefit of their members.

There can be no doubt that Labour Day in Antigua has evolved into a demonstration of political strength of the Red and Blue camps, even more so, when there is an imminent election.

Cecil E. W. Wade



Regional News



CARICOM chairman, regional leaders congratulate Kamla

Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CAR-ICOM) and Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Motley, congratulated leader of the United National Congress (UNC), Kamla Persad-Bissessar on her success at the polls in Trinidad and Tobago's April 28 general election.

This will mark Persad-Bissessar's second term as Prime Minister since her term of office from 2010-2015.

Motley issued well wishes to Persad-Bissessar and Trinidad and Tobago on the execution of a peaceful general election.

"Today, as Barbados celebrates National Heroes Day—the birthday of the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams and the seventy-fifth anniversary of universal adult suffrage, we are reminded of the enduring gift of democracy.

"It is therefore a pleasure, on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados, and as Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to extend warm congratulations to Prime Minister Designate, Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the United National Congress on their success.

"We also warmly congratulate the people of Trinidad and Tobago on the peaceful exercise of their democratic rights. In a world where democracy is often tested,



Trinidad and Tobago has shown that true strength lies in the commitment of its people to participation, fairness, and free expression.

"May your democracy continue to grow, deepen, and inspire generations to come.

"We look forward to working together in the spirit of partnership and shared purpose, for the benefit of our peoples and the wider Caribbean region."

Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerritt, also issued well wishes to Persad-Bissessar on her "sweeping victory":

"On behalf of the Government and people of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I extend congratulations to Prime Minister- Elect, Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the United National Congress on your victory in the general elections held on Monday in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The sweeping victory at the polls reflects the confidence of the people of Trinidad and Tobago in your leadership and vision for the nation's development.

"Dominica looks forward to working closely to strengthen our existing ties for the mutual benefit of our peoples and for the advancement of our Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

"Please accept our warmest wishes for the success of your administration as you begin a new term of service. May your tenure be marked by peace, progress and prosperity for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago."

The Office of the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, also shared congratulations via social media.

The UNC declared victory in Monday's general election, with reports of UNC wins in 25 out of 41 constituencies, according to preliminary data on Monday night.

Outgoing Prime Minister Stuart Young thanked supporters in a social media post, vowing to continue to fight for Trinidad and Tobago. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Regional News



Organised crime, violence holding back Latin America and Caribbean countries, says World Bank report



A new report by the World Bank says organised crime and violence have become a central obstacle to development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank, William Maloney, will on Wednesday participate in a panel discussion along with Beatriz Magaloni, Professor of International Relations at Stanford University and General Óscar Naranjo, former Vice President of Colombia and a security expert on the issue.

"Together, they will explore how the lack of opportunities fuels organised crime and violence, what reforms can strengthen states to face these challenges, and the need for greater international cooperation and collaboration to protect citizens," the World Bank said.

The Washington-based financial institution said its Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review (LAC-ER), has underscored how these issues "exacerbate the region's already fragile economic landscape".

The report, titled "Organized Crime and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean", projects the region to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2025 and 2.4 per cent in 2026, positioning it as the slowest-growing region globally.

The report notes that "the region grapples with alarmingly high levels of lethal violence linked to organised crime" and that victimisation rates are three times higher than the global average, with homicide rates standing at eight times the global average.

The report outlines several factors contributing to the rise in organised crime, including escalating global demand for illegal goods, government crackdowns that have reconfigured criminal networks, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed these groups to solidify their power in areas where state presence is weak.

"Organised crime is rapidly proliferating across the region, transcending domestic borders and becoming a pervasive threat," said Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank.

"This is no longer an isolated issue; it demands a regional and global dialogue to elevate solutions and mobilise our collective expertise and resources," he added.

The report states this proliferation has clear development consequences, outlining how it threatens public safety, stifles economic growth and erodes the integrity of public institutions.

"The uncertainty surrounding property rights, rampant extortion, and pervasive insecurity inflate transaction costs for businesses, undermining competitiveness. Moreover, the diversion of public security resources from essential services like health and education burden countries already facing high debt and fiscal challenges," the report noted.

Maloney said that fighting organised crime is "not merely a law enforcement issue; it's a development priority.

"It undermines governance, distorts investment, and exacerbates inequality. We must address this issue head-on to prevent it from becoming a permanent drag on growth."

To address these challenges, the report calls for a "robust agenda" to enhance state capacity against organized crime, including police reform, improved prison systems and strengthened judicial processes.

"Well-equipped institutions are key to achieving growth and development in the region," the report stated, adding that economic policies also "play a crucial role in combating organised crime, promoting growth and job-creating reforms while providing youth with options through improved education and training.

"These initiatives raise the opportunity cost of crime, reducing its labour supply," the report said, stressing the need for long-term research to inform government actions, "as the absence of regular, comparable surveys hampers the development of effective policies." (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News



Belize man dies after pig attack

Police say they are investigating a case in which a pig is reported to have attacked and killed a 46-year-old man, who had been trying to prevent it from eating his plants.

"Investigations revealed that Anton Andrewin was at Gales Point when he went to chase a pig that was causing damage to or eating his plants. The pig attacked him and he received an injury. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead," Assistant Commissioner of Police, Hilberto Romero, the regional commander of the Eastern Division told reporters.

Asked whether the owner of

the pig might be in breach of the law, Romero replied "an investigation will be carried out and we will have the results at the end of the investigation."

Media reports said that on Sunday, the father of five was in his yard, enjoying time with friends, when the hungry animal appeared.

He tried to move it away but the pig turned aggressive. Its tusk cut Andrewin's leg, severing an artery, which proved fatal.

Village chairman, Jason Altschaft, is urging animal owners to follow the law and prevent their pets from roaming freely since it is ilin public spaces.

"When we had heard that he didn't make it, that's when I went back over to the family and I found out that they were chasing down the pig," Altschaft said, adding "I went back to go get my licensed firearm...(and) we put it down."

The media reports said that the pig's owner had moved out of the village earlier this year and that his pig became wild, searching for food.

The wife of the deceased, Michelle Andrewin, said at first she wasn't aware that the pig had injured her husband saying "when I look,

legal for animals to wander he was there coming and the blood was running down... he had on long pants, the blood was running on his leg."

> "I was sitting here and we were having a conversation and laughing and everything, and then the pig came in the yard and was at the back of the yard over there. And he went after the pig and the dog went after the pig, and he went after the pig and it was not the first time that he got in contact with that pig. That pig hurt him more than once. He was like stoning the pig and the pig was aggressive," she recalled.Charred remains of the pig. (Loop Caribbean)



International

AROUND THE WORLD

PAGE 21

Guyana: Autopsy rules out foul play in child's death, President pledges justice for family



Guyana's President, Irfaan Ali, has reiterated a call for calm and the maintenance of the law, as he sought to re-assure the population that the authorities will continue their efforts to bring justice to the family of 11-year-old Adrianna Younge, whose body was found floating in a pool at a hotel here last Thursday.

He said that the results of the autopsy conducted by three internationally acclaimed pathologists – Dr Glenn Rudner, Dr Shubhakar Karra Paul, and Dr Gary Collins – had shown that the child had died by drowning. The three foreign forensic pathologists said they did not find evidence that Younge died from forced drowning or was otherwise killed and placed in the pool, the President said.

"Upon completing the procedure, the forensic pathologists ruled out signs of physical and sexual trauma on Ms. Younge's body. After careful deliberation, the team concluded that Ms. Younge died as a result of drowning," he said, adding that due to the state of de-

composition of the body, the pathologists were unable to provide an exact time of death.

He said the relatives were also informed that the pathologists ruled out theories of forcible drowning or any other means of killing, followed by disposal of the body into the water.

Ali said that toxicology tests are to be conducted.

Earlier, the family's lawyer, Darren Wade, told reporters that the cause of death was drowning and that there were no broken bones.

He said the autopsy found that the marks on Younge's skin were due to the water in the pool.

"I would like to call upon all Guyanese to respect the rule of law...to avoid action that will put you in breach of the law. The destruction of public infrastructure and private property, burning of people's vehicles, and inconveniencing others, is not what we want to demonstrate as a people and as a nation," Ali told a news conference late on Monday night.

Several images and videos have already captured indi-

viduals participating in riotous protests. He has promised that those individuals will be prosecuted.

"There are a lot of images already captured of persons who were creating destruction along the roadways, public and private property, and those persons will be prosecuted...I'm appealing to every citizen to let good sense prevail," he said.

Ali said that the government would review all the events surrounding Younge's death to strengthen trust in the system.

"I want to assure the public that Adrianna's death has brought a point of reflection also on how we can strengthen and improve the systems...there will be a review of all the events from the time the report was made to the time the body was found," President Ali said, adding that her death should serve as a reminder of the need for national unity.

"Let this bright young star show us that we have the ability to come together in a way that brings us closer to each other, in a way that supports each other, and not destroy each other," he told reporters.

The girl's body was discovered in a pool at the Double Day Hotel, Tuschen, East Bank Essequibo, on Thursday, a day after she was reported missing by her family, who were with her for a family outing.

Ali said the objectives of the examination were to identi-

fy signs of trauma or injuries to the body, sexual violence, collect forensic samples, document the postmortem examination through photographs and videography and determine the cause of death.

He said that a civilian had provided inaccurate information from the regional command centre that monitors the surveillance cameras in Region Three (West Demerara-Essequibo Islands).

Ali used the opportunity to accuse political activists for Monday's clashes between protestors and lawmen.

"Those political actors who have selfishly hijacked this sad situation, your actions speak volumes about your love for this country, your patriotism for this country," he said.

But Opposition Leader and head of the People's National Congress Reform (PNCR), Aubrey Norton, said the People's Progressive Party Civic (PPPC)-led administration was accusing the opposition wrongfully.

"Let it be made very clear. We do not support the looting. We do not support the destruction of property. We are fully in support in this struggle for justice," he said. Police earlier fired pellets at sympathisers and other persons who had converged outside the Georgetown Public Hospital mortuary while the autopsy was being conducted. (Loop Caribbean)

International



AROUND THE WORLD

World leaders react as Mark Carney's Liberal Party wins Canada election

Canada's governing Liberal Party has won national elections dominated by United States President Donald Trump's trade war and annexation threats.

Prime Minister Mark Carney, who campaigned championing Canada in the face of Trump's threats, led the Liberals to a fourth consecutive term, sealing a stunning turnaround for a party that until recently was on track for a crushing defeat at the hands of the Conservative Party.

As of 14:00 GMT on Tuesday, public broadcaster CBC News had projected the Liberals to have secured 168 seats in the 343-seat House of Commons. That is four shy of the 172 needed for an outright majority but still ahead of the Conservatives' projected 144 seats.

Trump has yet to issue a statement on the Liberal victory, which is widely viewed to have been driven by his actions and controversial statements, including his repeated suggestion on the cusp of Monday's vote that Canada should become the US's "cherished



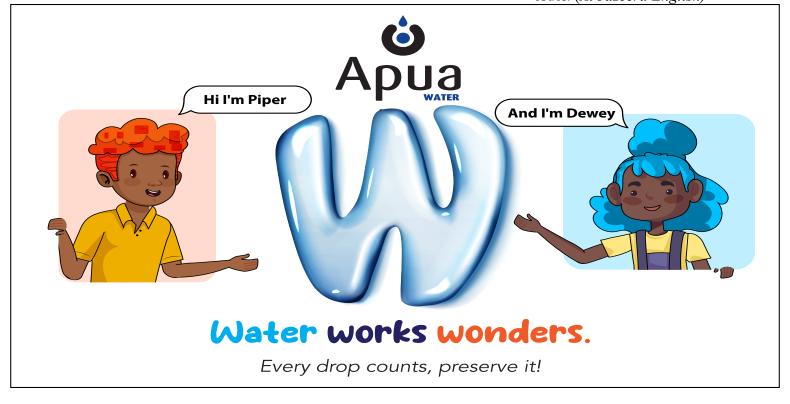
51st" state.

In his victory speech, Carney issued a dire warning and called on Canadians to unite in the face of Trump's threats.

"America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country," he said. "President Trump is trying to break us so that America can own us; that will

never ... ever happen, but we – but we also must recognise the reality that our world has fundamentally changed."

Canada's allies in Europe and elsewhere have been quick to herald the outcome of the vote and highlight their joint commitment to democratic values and the rules-based international order. (Al Jazeera English)





International

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AROUND THE WORLD

US consumer confidence plunges to lowest in 5 years on tariff worries

Americans' confidence in the economy slumped for the fifth straight month to the lowest level since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as anxiety over the impact of tariffs takes a heavy toll. The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell 7.9 points in April to 86, its lowest reading since May 2020. Nearly one-third of consumers expect hiring to slow in the coming months, nearly matching the level reached in April 2009, when the economy was mired in the Great Recession.

The figures reflect a rapidly souring mood among Americans, most of whom expect prices to rise because of the widespread tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump. About half of Americans are also worried about the potential for a recession, according to a survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center.

"Rattled consumers spend less than confident consumers," said Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics, in an email. "If confidence sags and consumers retrench, growth will go down."

A measure of Americans' short-term expectations for their income, business conditions and the job market plunged 12.5 points to 54.4, the lowest level in more than 13 years. The reading is well below 80, which typically signals a recession ahead.

How this gloomy mood translates into spending, hiring, and growth will become clearer in the coming days and weeks. On Wednesday, the government will report on US economic growth during the first three months of the year, and economists are expecting a sharp slowdown as Americans pulled back on spending after a strong winter holiday shopping season.

And on Friday the Labor Department will release its latest report on hiring and the unemployment rate. Overall, economists expect it should still show steady job gains, though some forecast it could report sharply reduced hiring.

The stark decline in consumer confidence also likely reflected the sharp swings in stock and bond prices that roiled financial markets earlier this month. While all age groups and most income brackets reported lower confidence, the decline was steepest among households earning more than \$125,000 and among consumers 35 to 55 years old.

Though major US markets rebounded over the past week, the S&P 500 is still down six per cent for the year and the Dow Jones has lost five per cent. The growth-heavy Nasdaq is down 10 per cent in 2025.

The Conference Board said that mentions of tariffs in write-in responses reached an all-time high this month, with the duties on the top of consumers' minds. Trump has imposed a tariff of 10 per cent on nearly all imports, as well as a huge 145 per cent tariff on most goods from China. He has imposed separate import taxes on steel,

aluminum, and cars.

More Americans are also now worried that the economy could tip into a recession, with the proportion of consumers expecting a downturn in the next 12 months reaching a two-year high.

Fewer consumers said they were planning to buy a home or car in the next six months. Sales of previously occupied US homes slowed last month in a lackluster start to the spring homebuying season as elevated mortgage rates and rising prices discouraged those looking.

And Americans also said they would spend less on services. The proportion of Americans planning an overseas vacation in the next six months fell to 16.4 per cent, down from 24.1 per cent in December. And the proportion of consumers planning to spend more on dining out plummeted by nearly the most on record in April, the Conference Board said. (*Loop Caribbean*)





Kim Kardashian jewelry heist suspect says he regrets 'trauma' he caused her



A key defendant in the trial of a group accused of robbing Kim Kardashian at gunpoint in Paris in 2016 and stealing \$9 million worth of jewelry, has said he has come to regret the trauma he caused the reality star-turned-business mogul in the years since.

Yunice Abbas, perhaps the best-known defendant in the trial, said that despite a yearslong criminal history, this was the first time he had truly come to recognize the "trauma" he had caused his victim.

"I regret it, not because I got caught, but because ... there was a trauma," Abbas, 72, said before a jury Tuesday as proceedings against the 10 people charged in connection with the 2016 robbery resumed after launching Monday afternoon.

The first of several defendants set to testify in the trial, Abbas had previously confessed to his role in the heist, detailing the robbery in his 2021 book, "I Kidnapped Kim Kardashian."

The matter of the book came up during the testimony, with Abbas saying that he was not responsible for the title and that he disputes his alleged role in the heist. He added that he was not involved in tying up Kardashian, who was staying in Paris for the city's Fashion Week, instead staying downstairs to keep watch.

Abbas and nine others, dubbed the "grandpa robbers" in local media due to their ages — some of the accused are in their 70s and 80s — are alleged to have played a range of roles in the heist including holding Kardashian, 44, at gunpoint and being complicit in that crime.

During questioning, Abbas described his criminal past—he has spent a total of almost 20 years in jail for various crimes—including the armed robbery of a bank in Belgium. He said that as a young man, he was fiercely opposed to theft, but had turned to a life of crime due to the bad influence of friends and money difficul-

ties, in the hope it would In addition to Abbas, those prove an easier path.

In addition to Abbas, those standing trial will include

Abbas said his family had suffered because of his crimes, adding that he had "never had a role model" himself and he had done what he thought was needed to try to provide for his children.

The accused spoke rapidly during his testimony, his arm shaking throughout, possibly due to the fact he is now suffering from Parkinson's disease. At one point, the shaking was violent enough for him to hold one hand in the other.

In the years since the 2016 robbery targeting Kardashian, Abbas said he now felt "very uneasy" with what happened that day. But, he said, "I can't do anything besides apologize."

Kardashian had been staying at a private apartment complex in the French capital when five of the accused are alleged to have gained entry into the building and robbed her at gunpoint, taking items including her engagement ring from her then-husband Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West. The five other defendants are accused of related offenses, including planning and giving tipoffs on Kardashian's whereabouts.

In the years since, one defendant has died, while the case of another, age 80, has been separated from that of the other defendants due to medical issues.

standing trial will include Aomar Ait Khedache, 69, known as "Old Omar," who is alleged to have masterminded the robbery; his son, Harminy, 37, accused of being the getaway driver; Didier "Blue Eyes" Dubreucg, 69; and the brother of Kardashian's driver in Paris, Gary Madar, 35, who is accused of tipping the others off on Kardashian's whereabouts. Christiane Glotin, 78, is also among the accused, with authorities alleging she was an accomplice in the heist.

At least four defendants were expected to be questioned in court Tuesday.

Kardashian herself is expected to appear in court May 13.

The reality star and businesswoman has previously detailed her experience during the robbery, at one point tearing up in an interview with David Letterman as she described how she feared she would be sexually assaulted and possibly killed during the attack.

"I was like, 'OK, this is the time I'm going to get raped ... just prepare yourself," she said in the interview, wiping away tears, later describing how she feared her sister, Kourtney Kardashian, would find her dead.

"I just kept on thinking about Kourtney," she said. "She's going to be traumatized for the rest of her life if she sees me." (NBC News)



Sports News

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GNFC players off to attend trial camp in United Kingdom



The five GNFC players and coach at the V.C. Bird International Airport before departing to England on Sunday, April 27, 2025. From left to right: Dakayla Bontiff, Jaydene Carter, Ken Pennyfeather, Chloe Davis, Jordyn Henriques, and Lauren George. (Photo courtesy of the GNFC)

Five female players and a coach of the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) left Antigua on Sunday for the United Kingdom to participate in a training and trials camp.

The female players, Dakayla Bontiff, Jaydene Carter, Chloe Davis, Jordyn Henriques, and Lauren George, will take part in a 10-day training and trials camp at Brooke House College in England. They are accompanied by GNFC Coach Ken Pennyfeather, who is also a qualified FIFA football referee.

The trip is facilitated by GNFC in partnership with the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF). At Brooke House, the girls will compete for educational scholarships. Brooke House College is known to award football scholarships to outstanding players and only

opened its programme to girls in 2019.

This journey continues GNFC's proud tradition of sending players abroad to chase such opportunities and embodies the club's mission of creating new pathways for youth to achieve their academic and athletic dreams.

During their UK trip, the Antiguans were slated to be hosted by Ben Robinson, Chairman of Burton Albion FC, in the hospitality suite at the Pirelli Stadium on Tuesday (yesterday).

The girls and coach were expected to be given an inspiring stadium tour and watch a football match, learning from one of England's respected football leaders.

They have been invited by the director of the Junior Premier League, a

GNFC official partner, to attend four Cup Final matches on Saturday.

The Antiguans will get a front-row seat to elite youth football and expand their understanding of the game, with Pennyfeather officiating two of the finals.

The GNFC sees this adventure as more than just a trip — it's about realizing dreams and building brighter futures. Brooke House College's programme, now open to female players, rewards talent with scholarships, so the athletes are stepping into an environment designed to elevate them.

The Calvin Ayre Foundation's commitment to youth development – "opening doors academically and athletically" -- shines through in this opportunity.

Sports News



Ojays and Navigators off to winning starts to Division 2 playoffs



As expected, the two top seeds made winning starts to their respective first-round series in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division playoffs on Monday evening.

League champion and top seed Cuties Ovals Ojays and second seed, the Navigators, took one-nil leads in their best-of-three series after surging to contrasting wins in their opening games at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Ovals Ojays soared past eighth-seed Da Project 74-34 in the opening game of Monday's double-header.

Jayleyle Joseph produced 15 points, 16 rebounds, and five assists; point guard Tequan Brodie contributed 13 points, nine assists, and five steals; and Dajon George scored nine points for the Ovals Ojays. Nathan Matthew converted 11 points for Da Project.

The Navigators snatched a narrow 69-62 victory against the seventh seed, Michael Joseph Phoenix, in the second game on Monday.

De-Lornge Jules sank 21 points and claimed nine rebounds; Ariel Quallis produced 17 points, 13 rebounds, eight steals, and five assists; Victor Osbourne converted 14 points and snatched nine rebounds; and Baldwin Anthony scored 10 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the Navigators.

Shalom Bloodman scored 17 points and distributed five assists; Daysher Samuel produced 16 points,

11 rebounds, and five steals; and Noel Ryan converted 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Phoenix.

The teams will battle in the second game of their playoff series at the same venue on Wednesday (today).

Michael Joseph Phoenix will face the Navigators at 6:45 pm, and Da Project will tackle Cuties Ovals Ojays at 8:30 pm.







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Sports News

PAGE 27

T&T's Da Silva ready to lead if appointed West Indies Test captain

Having served as West Indies vice-captain for a period of time, wicketkeeper/batsman Joshua Da Silva says it would be a no-brainer to accept the Test captaincy if offered the opportunity, following the resignation of Kraigg Brathwaite last month.

With Cricket West Indies yet to announce Brathwaite's replacement, speculations have been rife about the best-suited candidate to assume the role, with Da Silva, Guyana's Tevin Imlach, and Barbadian Shai Hope among those being viewed as having leadership potential.

While the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force captain expressed pride in the prospect of leading the Caribbean side in the longest format, he remains content with just being able to represent the regional side in his current role should someone else be appointed.

"I was the vice-captain going into Pakistan, so my name might be in the hat, but if it happens, it happens. I'll take it. It would be an honour and a source of pride to represent the West Indies as skipper.

"If it doesn't happen,



Joshua Da Silva

that's life. I'm just excited, and I want to play cricket for the West Indies...whether as captain or just as a player, I'm happy to play," Da Silva declared during a recent CWI press briefing prior to the start of the T20 Breakout League.

Though Da Silva, who has 33 Test caps, traveled with the team as vice-captain for that two-match Pakistan tour, he did not feature in either Test, as Imlach assumed wicket-keeping duties in the drawn series, which ended 1-1.

However, the 26-year-old, motivated by that disappointment, returned to the West Indies Championship with renewed focus and an intent to reclaim a spot in the West Indies starting 11 for the upcoming three-Test series against Australia, as he delivered a stellar performance.

Da Silva amassed 583 runs at an average of 64.77, including three centuries and two half-centuries, to finish second on the batting charts behind teammate Jason Mohammed, who tal-

lied 679 runs.

"Being left out of the starting 11 in Pakistan was tough, but sometimes things happen to make you want to work harder. So for me, it was just to go back to the drawing board and come back to first-class cricket and dominate that format. It was to show that, look, it's okay, I'm fine, and I'm good mentally," Da Silva shared.

"Just how I'm going to get back into that Test team is the question. I did all I can, I believe. I've put my hand up, and it's up to them to se-



Sports News



Narine leads Kolkata to 14-ruEn victory over Delhi in IPL

NEW DELHI (AP) — Trinidad and Tobago's Sunil Narine's all-round performance kept defending champion Kolkata Knight Riders alive in the Indian Premier League with a 14-run victory over Delhi Capitals on Tuesday.

Narine made a brisk 27 up front to set up a platform for Kolkata's total of 204 for nine after Delhi captain Axar Patel won the toss and elected to field.

Narine, an experienced West Indies all-rounder, then grabbed three for 29 and ran out Lokesh Rahul to restrict Delhi to 190 for nine. It is the third defeat in four home games this season for the Delhi Capitals.

Faf du Plessis top-scored with 62 off 45 and had pushed Delhi to 136 for three when he combined in a 76-run partnership with Patel, who made a quick-fire 43 off 23 balls.

But Narine first had the wickets of Patel and Tristan Stubbs in one over, and then du Plessis lofted a ball to deep mid-wicket in the 16th over, which brought Kolkata back into the game.



Kolkata Knight Riders' Sunil Narine plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, April 29, 2025. (AP)

Vipraj Nigam countercharged in the death overs before Jamaican Andre Russell clean bowled him in the final over for 38 off 19 balls as Kolkata squeezed the home team in the final five overs.

Delhi stayed at No. 4 with 12 points, while Kolkata remained in contention for the playoffs with nine points after 10 league games.





SUNDAY. 11 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)

S DOFTS WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 2025



Edwards retained as Leewards' skipper for women's T20 Blaze

Antiguan Amanda Edwards will continue to lead the Leeward Islands during the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's T20 Blaze, which will bowl off in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Thursday (tomorrow).

Edwards remains at the helm of the Leeward Islands' 14-member squad that has made one change to the team that participated in the 2025 CG United Women's Super50 Cup, which took place in St. Kitts from February 24 to March 7.

The only change to the composition of the squad is the return of Nevisian Saneldo Willett, who has replaced Sainavi Kambalapalli. Willett was a member of the Leeward Islands team that contested the 2024 Cricket West Indies (CWI) CG United Women's Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze regional competitions that were both held in St. Kitts.

Unlike the previous two years, the 2025 regional T20 Blaze will be held separately from the Women's Super50 Cup, and it will be played in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from May 1 to 11.

Edwards is one of five Antiguans who have been selected in the Leeward Islands' 14-member squad to



Players of the senior Leeward Islands women's cricket team.

compete in the 20-over contest against the other five regional territorial teams, including defending champions Jamaica.

The other Antiguans selected are all-rounder Shawnisha Hector, Tonya Martin, Chey-Anne Moses, and Kimberley Anthony.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Monday confirmed the squads of the six regional teams participating in the 2025 Women's T20 Blaze.

The tournament represents the pinnacle of women's domestic T20 cricket in the Caribbean and will feature the region's finest talent across 16 matches.

The competition will feature six regional teams -- Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad & Tobago, and hosts the Windward Islands -- competing in a round-robin format in the preliminary stage.

All the matches will be played at Arnos Vale Ground. The tournament will bowl off with the opening round of matches on Thursday.

The Leeward Islands will face Guyana at 10 am; Barbados will meet Trinidad and Tobago at 2:30 pm, and Jamaica will begin their title defense against the Windward Islands at 7 pm.

Six points will be awarded for a win, three points for a no result, and zero for a loss. Bonus points for batting and bowling performances will also be awarded. The top two teams after the preliminary stage will advance to the final.

All matches will be broadcast live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel, while a live scorecard will be available on the Windies Cricket official website.

Leeward Islands Squad:

Amanda Edwards (Captain), Qiana Joseph, Reniece Boyce, Kayzg Boyles, Melicia Clarke, Rozel Liburd, Shawnisha Hector, Tonya Martin, Chey-Anne Moses, Saneldo Willett, Kimberley Anthony, Jahzara Claxton, Divya Saxena, and Davro-

Leeward Islands Support Staff: Manager Sharlene Martin, Head Coach Percy Daniel, Assistant Coach Pernell "Shafto" Watley, and Physiotherapist Akeisha-Lee Byfield.

nique Maynard.

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