

Antigua and Barbuda included in Trump's tariffs net

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Antigua and Barbuda has been included in the latest tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

Point Express newspaper sought clarification on the matter from the country's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders. He said Antigua and Barbuda and all of the Eastern Caribbean countries are to

pay 10 percent tariff on goods that are exported to the United States.

"I suspect it relates to the Common External Tariff (CET) that we all apply. However, Antigua and Barbuda exports very little into the US market. Therefore, the 10% tariffs on our exports to the US will have a negligible effect on our economy and none on our revenues. It simply means

that such goods as we export will be more-costly to the US consumer who will pay the tariff charge.

"We have always had a trade deficit with the US because we import almost 80 percent of all our imports from the US, and we export very little," Sir Ron explained.



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Ministry of Finance provides monthly update to the Cabinet



The monthly update that the Ministry of Finance provides to the Cabinet detailing the state of the nation's finances took place on Wednesday.

This as a 10-member team from the ministry - to include the Financial Sec-

retary, the Accountant General, the Minister of State in the Ministry, the Deputy Head of the Inland Revenue Department, the Budget Director and others— went to the Cabinet to provide a picture of the country's finances during the month just ended and

for the first quarter of 2025.

“The state of Government's finances is improving and clearly shows that the economy continues to expand, despite the threats emanating from many quarters including

the United States. The uncertain policy decisions, regarding tariffs, have proven to be harmful to the stock markets within the Western Hemisphere. Other pronouncements have caused uncertainty,” according to a source familiar with the discussion.

During the discussion, the Budget Director pointed out that overtime payments owed to Government workers is now classified as ‘salaries’, as ordered by the Cabinet, causing overtime to be paid simultaneously with salaries. In the month just ended, overtime payments exceeded \$500,000 dollars. Payments of gratuities is also high on the agenda of the Treasury, almost \$10 million dollars of gratuities have been paid, in the month of January; \$20 million dollars are still outstanding.

Cabinet learnt that Corporation Tax, ABST, Education Levy, Customs Duty, and other revenue sources have been expanding. The Tourism Guest Levy is still being under-reported by hotels with 100% occupancy. The Inland Revenue Department is set to prepare a guestimate of amounts that have not been collected, and to pursue those taxpayers who have failed to reach the estimated amounts.



Alfa Nero sale documents to be laid before parliament



The government is taking a decisive step to provide transparency in the handling of the sale of the Alfa Nero superyacht and how the proceeds from the sale were disposed.

At Wednesday's meeting of the Cabinet, members took a decision to have the Prime Minister, at the next sitting of Parliament, place all documents relating to the sale of the Alfa Nero Yacht in that public domain.

A government spokesman said although the documents have been published in the newspaper as of Wednesday 2nd April 2025, and on the Government website, there are still political operatives who continue to pedal the fictitious and false claim of a Russian citizen, seeking to harm Government officials in Antigua, has cruelly propagated, by filings in a US Federal Court.

The government has provided the documents detailing what the money from the sale was used for, yet there has been a constant, unsubstantiated drumbeat of accusations from the Russian citizen and elements within the opposition party claiming misappropriation of funds from the sale.



Blue Ocean makes its case

The principals of Blue Ocean dredging company were in attendance at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting where they were requesting additional funds to enable them to complete the task of dredging both the Crabbes Harbour and the S. John's Harbour.

Cabinet sources say the principals were invited to address the scale of the dredging that is taking place at Crabbes and in the St. John's Harbour. Blue Ocean's principals reported that the firm hired to supplement their dredging efforts at Crabbes, has not been able to remove the rocky material that has proven to be a challenge to deepening the channel.

Larger cement-carrying vessels and liquid natural gas (LNG) vessels, require a deeper draught than exists. The ability to remove the rock requires some bigger equipment, Blue Ocean reported, to crack and rip the rock from its foundation.

Blue Ocean also reported that its equipment can remove three times as much material as the other company's ocean excavator. It requires payments that will allow it to purchase spare parts, repair damaged equipment, purchase fuel, and to pay its employees.



Another gun amnesty begins next Monday

In an effort to remove illegal firearms from the streets of Antigua and Barbuda and to address the rise in gun-related crimes in recent weeks, the government will institute a gun amnesty beginning on Monday April 7.

The matter of the rise in these gun-related offences including the recent homicide of a 23-year old man, has caught the attention of the Cabinet and members considered a number of options to arrest the problem.

The government will place the Police in charge of managing the amnesty, as in times past. The police will receive the weapons from those who wish to surrender their unlawful weapons without any prosecution.




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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

APUA Announces Water Levels at Potworks Reservoir and Increased Supply Measures to Ensure Continued Service

St. John's, Antigua – April 2, 2025: The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) continues to monitor and manage the island's water resources to ensure a stable supply for residents. Potworks Reservoir, the largest natural water catchment in Antigua, has a capacity of one billion gallons. Rainfall in February and October 2024 significantly replenished the reservoir, raising water levels by approximately 12 feet and allowing the Authority to extract an average of 900,000 gallons daily.

As of April 2, 2025, measurements indicate that the reservoir holds 6 feet 11 inches of water. Based on current extraction rates, APUA technicians estimate that this supply will last approximately three weeks before reaching the extraction threshold.

Potworks Reservoir primarily services the following communities: American Road from NODS, Belmont, Bethesda, Briggins, Buckleys, Follys area, Horsford Hill, John Hughes, Law Pasture, Liberta, Ottos New Town, Pattersons, Radio Range, St. Clair Heights, Swetes, Wallings Tank, and All Saints Road from Zephy's Tire Shop to John I. Martin Racetrack, extending up to Farrell Road in Falmouth.

To compensate for the reduced supply from Potworks Reservoir, APUA has increased an existing water purchase agreement with North Sound Management at Crabbs. This facility currently contributes an average of 300,000 imperial gallons per day to the APUA distribution network. North Sound Management has also invested in additional Reverse Osmosis (RO) units, which will increase capacity by a further 1,000,000 imperial gallons per day. Testing of these new units will commence on April 7, 2025, with commissioning expected by mid-April.

APUA remains dedicated to meeting the water needs of its customers and encourages the residents of Antigua and Barbuda to continue practising water conservation daily. In the event of planned or unplanned disruptions due to emergencies or routine maintenance, residents are advised to store enough water for their basic needs. Together, we can ensure a consistent water supply for everyone.

- END -

The UWI FIC offers Spanish classes to police officers



Officers of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) were awarded scholarships to pursue studies in Spanish at the Lifelong Learning Unit at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

While attending the presentation ceremony at the Headquarters of the RPFAB, Paula C. M Lee, Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Unit stated that, “as diverse groups of people migrate globally, inevitably, language barriers will exist. Huge gaps in language support for individuals who speak English as a second language may result in misunderstandings, wrongful arrests, and deteriorating trust in the police. In Antigua and Barbuda, Spanish scholarships awarded to police officers could improve improved multilingual services, language and cultural immersion and continuous learning, the RPFAB can enhance its performance and serve residents and visitors with distinction”.

In addition to the awardees, senior leaders of the RPFAB and the Acting Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers attended the event. Acting Commissioner Jeffers expressed gratitude for the training opportunities that are

being offered through The UWI FIC and encouraged the officers to excel in all their endeavours.

“We welcome the scholarships and believe that the recipients will engage their knowledge of Spanish to help strengthen police-community relations. Together, as a cohesive unit, the police and civilians can identify and solve problems. We are committed to improving the cooperation between ourselves and all stakeholders so that our collective efforts can result in safer communities and confidence in the abilities of the RPFAB”.

Since its inception in 2021, the Lifelong Learning Unit programmes are offering working adults multiple pathways to increase knowledge, enhance skills and earn credentials. In preparing the people of the OECS for the global world of work, our foreign language portfolio will be expanded to include Mandarin, Hindi and French.



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Antigua and Barbuda's UK High Commission launches new website



Antigua and Barbuda High Commission London, UK

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London has launched a new official website.

In a statement posted on the website, it said that as an extension of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Commission is entrusted with representing the Government of Antigua

and Barbuda in the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Far East. Our mission is to foster and strengthen these international relationships while raising Antigua and Barbuda's profile on the global stage.

"The High Commission is dedicated to promoting

trade and investment opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda, showcasing the twin-island nation's status as a premier destination for eco-tourism, leisure, and culture. We also encourage Antiguan and Barbudans to continue serving as ambassadors for our nation, actively contributing to the shared vision of national de-

velopment," the statement added.

Additionally, the statement said a key focus of the High Commission is cultivating a strong connection with the Antigua and Barbuda communities in the United Kingdom. "By engaging with the Diaspora, fostering collaboration, and supporting local associations, we aim to create a vibrant network that bridges our people abroad with our homeland," it declared.

The HC expressed the hope that this website serves as a valuable resource and gateway to all that Antigua and Barbuda has to offer.



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The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Launches Official Facebook Page

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) is announcing the launch of its official Facebook page, designed to enhance communication, transparency, and public engagement.

The new platform will serve as a direct source of information for residents, offering timely updates on crime prevention tips, public safety advisories, community initiatives, and official police announcements. Citizens will also have the opportunity to engage with the Force, learn more about their work, and stay informed about important law enforcement matters.

Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers stated, "The launch of this Facebook page is a significant step in our ongoing efforts to build trust and strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the community. We encourage everyone to follow and engage with us as we work together to create a safer Antigua and Barbuda."



The public is encouraged to like and follow the official RPFAB Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/>

[profile.php?id=61574667671207](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574667671207) to remain updated and engaged.

A man who entered the country illegally is to be deported

A St. Vincent and the Grenadines national who entered into the country illegally and was deported is being held by the Immigration Department awaiting deportation after entering the country illegally for a second time.

38-year old Kemanie Curtis Spencer appeared before Senior magistrate Ngaio Emanuel on Wednesday on charges brought by the Chief Immigration Officer.

These include; departing from a vessel without the consent of the Chief Immigration Officer; and 2, having been legally deported from the state, did enter the state of Antigua and Barbuda without permission in writing, from the Chief Immigration Officer.

He has been ordered to be deported by



the court which is to be carried out on Thursday. He is being held at the Immigration Detention Centre until the deportation order is fulfilled.

Meanwhile, Akeem Brookes of Grays Farm who was charged with the possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition pleaded guilty in the magistrate's court on Wednesday. The court heard that on Sunday March 30 at 1:30 am, a police tactical team was patrolling in the Grays Farm area when they came upon a group of men near the Hoppers Playing Field who were acting suspiciously.

A search of the men was carried out and Brookes was found to have in his possession a .32 Walter pistol and seven rounds of ammunition.

Following his guilty plea, Brookes is due back in court on Thursday for sentencing.

WISH Hosts Community Support Circle for Healing & Resilience

In response to the recent tragic events that have deeply affected our community, the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) is hosting a Community Support Circle for Healing & Resilience on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 10 AM at the Botanical Gardens. This gathering aims to provide a safe and supportive space for individuals to process emotions, find comfort, and build resilience together.

The Support Circle for Healing & Resilience is designed to bring community members together in solidarity, offering guidance from mental health professionals and wellness practitioners. Participants can expect guided discussions, mindfulness exercises, and access to coping resources, all aimed at fostering emotional healing and collective strength.

“During difficult times, it is important for communities to come together, support one another, and encourage healing. WISH is committed to providing safe spaces where individ-

uals can share, reflect, and access professional mental health support,” said Chaneil Imhoff, Founder of WISH. “By opening up a dialogue and providing coping mechanisms, we hope to equip individuals with the tools they need to navigate challenging emotions and experiences.”

In addition to the structured discussions and activities, attendees will have the opportunity to connect with others who have been affected

by similar experiences, fostering a sense of unity and understanding. The event will also feature self-care strategies, practical techniques for managing stress, and information on available mental health services within Antigua and Barbuda.

WISH encourages anyone who has been impacted by recent events, or who simply seeks a space for healing and connection, to attend. The organization recognizes that mental

well-being is a crucial aspect of community resilience and is dedicated to ensuring that support remains accessible to all.

This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Individuals interested in attending are encouraged to register in advance at <https://forms.gle/Puymg4627nSsL9FTA>.

For more information, please contact WISH at wishwadadli@gmail.com.



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- ✓ Safe and supportive sharing circle
- ✓ Wellness & mindfulness exercises
- ✓ Resources for coping and healing

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LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Final Comments and Charge to Antigua and Barbuda Diplomats: Closing of Diplomatic Engagement 2025



By E. P Chet Greene

As we come to the conclusion of our diplomatic engagement for the year 2025 under the impactful theme of 'Aligning Diplomatic Outreach with National Priorities,' it is important to reflect on the progress we have made, the challenges that lie ahead and our shared commitment to the vision we have articulated for Antigua and Barbuda.

Throughout our discussions, we have explored the importance of strategic partnerships, the value of multilateralism and the essential role of effective communication in advancing our national interests. We have emphasized the need for our diplomatic efforts to be intricately linked with the aspirations of our citizens, ensuring that the outcomes of our work resonate at home and contribute to the sustainable growth of our communities.

As we move forward, I charge each of you, our esteemed diplomats, with the responsibility to be both advocates and ambassadors, embodying the values and priorities of Antigua and Barbuda in every engagement.

1. Be Proactive in Diplomacy

We must not wait for opportunities to present themselves; we must actively seek out partnerships and collaborations that enhance our position in the global arena. Engage with nations that share our values and goals, especially in regions like Africa, Central and South America and India. Recognize the potential these relationships hold for trade, investment and shared experiences.

2. Prioritize National Interests

As you navigate your roles, remember that every diplomatic endeavor should reflect our national priorities. Whether it is advocating for climate resilience, economic diversification or cultural exchange, ensure that your actions align with the interests of our citizens and our long-term vision for sustainable development.

3. Embrace Innovation and Adaptability

In this rapidly changing world, we must be innovative and adaptable. Embrace new technologies, approaches and ideas that can enhance our diplomatic efforts and deliver impactful results. Foster a culture of learning and openness to new perspectives, as diplomats, being agile will allow us to respond effectively to unforeseen challenges.

4. Champion Multilateralism

Continue to embrace multilateral engagements as a powerful tool to amplify our voice on the global stage. Take advantage of every opportunity to collaborate with fellow nations, leveraging our collective strengths to address issues that are pertinent to small island developing states. Strengthening our presence in international organizations will elevate our position and ensure our concerns are addressed.

5. Build Connections and Networks

Strengthen not just formal diplomatic ties, but also build lasting relationships and networks with stakeholders across sectors. Engage with civil society, the private sector and academic institutions; their insights can provide invaluable support as we navigate the complexities of global diplomacy.

I encourage each of you to uphold the principles of diligence, integrity and commitment in your roles as representatives of Antigua and Barbuda. You are the stewards of our national interests and your engagement on the diplomatic front shapes the future of our nation.

Let us move forward with conviction and purpose. Together, we can ensure that our diplomatic outreach not only reflects our national priorities but also secures a brighter, more sustainable future for Antigua and Barbuda.

Thank you for your dedication and service. Let us continue to work hand in hand towards realizing the aspirations of our beloved nation.

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In the cycle of waste, where trash piles high,
 A secret solution is growing nearby.
 Not buried in landfills, not tossed to decay,
 But turning to gold in a natural way.

The peels and the scraps, the bits that we toss,
 Are more than just garbage, they don't have to be lost.
 With patience and care, with water and air,
 We turn waste to riches—it's only fair.

Oh, composting hums, a melody bright,
 Bringing dead things back to life.
 A banana peel, a moldy bun,
 Transformed beneath the shining sun.

No plastic, no toxins, no chemicals near,
 Just nature's own hands making soil clear.
 The earth it whispers, the worms all cheer,
 As waste turns to wealth, year by year.



The world is warming, the oceans rise,
 Smoke and waste cloud our skies.
 Yet change begins where footprints tread,
 With simple choices where we're led.

For every apple core we toss,
 A piece of earth will feel the loss.
 Yet in the bin where compost grows,
 A greener future softly glows.

As Wendell Berry wisely said,
 "The soil connects us, all well-fed."
 If we protect it, give it grace,
 We heal the land, we save our place.
 Here on our islands, bright and free,
 The earth provides for you and me.
 But soil needs care, the roots must thrive,
 So compost keeps our land alive.



Farmers grow with richer ground,
 Less waste and cost, more life around.
 Less methane gas in skies so blue,
 A simple act for me and you.

As Paul Hawken shared one day,
 “Don’t steal the future—find a way.”
 And composting, dear friends, is key,
 To shape a world we wish to see.
 Greens and browns—just mix them right,
 Not too dry and not too tight.
 Leaves and fruit, some shredded grain,
 Nature’s work, without the strain.



Turn it, watch it, let it breathe,
 Soon there’s soil beneath the leaves.
 A gift of life, so dark and pure,
 For plants to bloom, for roots to cure.
 So waste no more, let nature play,
 A compost bin can save the day.
 From kitchen scraps to garden beds,
 A cycle of life where nothing is dead.

As Jane Goodall says with grace,



Regional News



T&T's Etienne Charles among exciting acts revealed for Dominica's 2025 edition of Jazz 'n Creole

The Discover Dominica Authority (DDA) has officially unveiled the much-anticipated lineup for the 2025 edition of one of the island's signature cultural event, the Jazz 'n Creole Festival.

Set to take place on Sunday, May 4, at the "stunning Fort Shirley in the Cabrits National Park in Portsmouth", the festival promises a vibrant blend of jazz, Caribbean rhythms, and cultural immersion.

Headlining this year's festival are two international acts—Trinidad and Tobago's renowned jazz trumpeter Etienne Charles and Jamaica's celebrated reggae star, Etana. Joining them will be Dominican-born opera and jazz singer, Marie-Claire Giraud, whose powerful voice has made her a standout on the global stage.

The 2025 festival will also feature some of the best local talent, including the Swingin' Stars, The Signal Band, ColtonT, Abiyah Israel, Marie Pascale, Shalina, and Carlyn XP, bringing an exciting mix of musical styles and performances to the stage.

The virtual launch, held on Friday, March 28, also highlighted a series of exciting fringe events designed to set the stage for the main festival. These events, taking place across the island, will offer visitors and locals alike the opportunity to experience intimate jazz performances, cultural showcases, and pre-festival celebrations, building up to the grand event in May.

The festival also places a

strong emphasis on fashion and this year's theme is 'Sunset Creole Chic.'

Inspired by the vibrant hues of a Dominican sunset—deep coral, rich gold, warm orange, vibrant red, and bright yellow, complemented by peach, magenta, and muted teal—the dress code invites attendees to embrace

bold prints, flowy dresses, and linen outfits, perfectly blending with the event's tropical ambiance.

The DDA's Communications Specialist stated that Jazz 'n Creole 2025 will be a celebration not only of music but of Dominica's culture, art, and beauty.

With the stunning natural

beauty of Dominica as a backdrop and an electrifying mix of local and international talent, the 2025 Jazz 'n Creole Festival promises to be an unforgettable experience for all who attend.

Press conferences will be held every week to keep patrons updated. (Loop Caribbean)



Belize: Funeral parlour owner guilty of having sex with a minor

A 40 year-old owner of a funeral parlour will return to court on April 25 for sentencing after he was found guilty of having sexual intercourse with an 11 year-old child.

Patrick Robinson, appeared before Justice Derick Sylvester where he was convicted on three of five counts of having sex with the 11-year-old girl and continued until she was 14 years

old.

Robinson has been remanded to the Belize Central Prison, until April 25, when his mitigation plea will be heard before sentencing. (Loop Caribbean)

Soldier drowns at Maracas; body not found

A man is believed to have drowned while bathing at Maracas Bay yesterday morning but up to last night his body had not yet been found.

Police say Keith Pearson, a Defence Force soldier, was swimming in Maracas around 8.30 a.m. when he began experiencing difficulties and disappeared below the waves.

It is not known if any life-

guards were on duty at the time.

Police said minutes after he disappeared they were informed of what happened.

With the help of fishermen from the nearby village efforts were made to search for the man but he was not found.

Maracas Bay police are continuing investigations. (Trinidad Express)



In Loving Memory



Winifred Justina John

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Regional News



NPTAJ calls for greater parental oversight after alleged school sexual assault

President of the National Parent-Teacher Association of Jamaica (NPTAJ), Stewart Jacobs, is urging parents to pay closer attention to the content their children are exposed to at home and on the Internet.

His appeal follows an alleged incident at a Kingston-based primary school, where an 11-year-old male student is accused of sexually assaulting a six-year-old female student.

Jacobs expressed his sadness over the alleged assault, highlighting it as a sign of moral decline in society.

“Children are impressionable. They are going to live out what they learn, they’re going to live out what they hear, they’re going to live out what they are seeing. What are they seeing? A high distribution of pornography on their tablets and phones and on their devices; it’s popping up,” he told *The Gleaner*.

He criticised parents for not inspecting their children’s online activity and for allowing adult conversations to take place around them, which he believes can contribute to such behaviours.

On Tuesday, the Child Protection and Family Ser-



vices Agency (CPFSA) issued a statement expressing concern over the March 11 incident. The CPFSA’s investigation revealed that the schoolboy allegedly led the girl into an empty classroom after school, where the assault took place. Following the report, the CPFSA initiated an investigation and spoke with both children and their parents. The girl was referred to the Ministry of Justice’s Victim Services Division for counselling, while the boy was referred to the Child

Guidance Clinic for psychological intervention.

“We are deeply troubled by this incident, as school should be looked at as a safe haven for students, and not one where they should be vulnerable to being sexually abused, especially not by their fellow students,” said CPFSA CEO Laurette Adams-Thomas.

The CPFSA is continuing its investigation, which includes home visits and community assessments for both children, as well

as a visit to the school for further details.

Under Section 63 of the Child Care and Protection Act, no child under the age of 12 can be held criminally responsible. Jacobs, acknowledging this legal framework, stressed that parents play a critical role in preventing such behaviour.

“Parents can put the security devices on their children’s devices that they are able to see what they intend for them to see, and to encourage not to have adult conversations around their children and to also not expose their children to the type of music that implies those sort of behaviour,” he said.

While noting that emotions surrounding this incident are “going to be high”, he called for the adults to also exercise patience, keeping the well-being of both children at the forefront.

“Give her all the love and the guidance and support that she now needs and deserves, be gentle with her,” he said of the schoolgirl, while adding that the 11-year-old boy is also deserving of love “while he goes through the process of ‘purging himself’”. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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International

AROUND THE WORLD



3-year-old discovers 3,800-year-old treasure during a family outing in Israel

She could have picked up any old stone from the thousands in the ruins of Tel Azeka, an ancient town in Israel. Instead, 3-year-old Ziv Nitzan pulled out a 3,800-year-old treasure from the Middle Bronze age.

“When she rubbed it and removed the sand from it, we saw something was different about it,” Ziv’s sister Omer Nitzan said in a Facebook post released Tuesday by Israel’s Antiquities Authority. “I called my parents to come see the beautiful stone, and we realized we had discovered an archaeological find.”

Experts later identified it as a Canaanite seal or scarab.

“Scarabs were used in this period as seals and as amulets. They were found in graves, in public buildings and in private homes. Sometimes they bear symbols and messages, that reflect religious beliefs or status,” Daphna Ben-Tor, an Egyptologist, said in the Facebook post.

Originating in ancient Egypt, scarabs were commonly used as seals and as amulets and were designed in the shape of a dung beetles. “This beetle,



considered sacred in the eyes of the ancient Egyptians, was a symbol of new life, because of the dung ball it created and then laid its eggs into it, from which new life would hatch,” the Facebook post said.

Often they carried messages, reflecting religious beliefs.

Ziv’s find is one of a number of arti-

facts found across Israel indicating ancient Egyptian presence in the country.

She picked it up at the base of a key archaeological site in central Israel. Situated 25 miles west of Jerusalem, the village of Tel Azekah is referenced in the Bible as the site of the infamous battle between David and Goliath. (NBC News)

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International

AROUND THE WORLD



An 'administrative error' sent Maryland man to an El Salvador prison, ICE says



President Donald Trump's administration has acknowledged mistakenly deporting a Maryland man with protected legal status to a notorious El Salvador prison last month, but is arguing against returning him to the United States because of his alleged gang ties and the US government's lack of power over the Central American nation.

Lawyers for Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, 29, maintain he is not affiliated with MS-13 or any other street gang and argue the US government "has never produced an iota of evidence" that he does.

Abrego Garcia was arrested in Baltimore on March 12 after working a shift as a sheet metal apprentice in Baltimore and picking up his 5-year-old son, who has autism and other disabilities, from his grandmother's house, his lawyers' complaint stated.

Abrego Garcia was then sent to the Terrorism Con-

finement Center, or CECOT, which activists say is rife with abuses and where inmates are packed into cells and never allowed outside.

Abrego Garcia's wife later saw him in photos and video from the prison, identifying her husband through his distinctive tattoos and two scars on his head.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials admitted in a court filing on Monday to an "administrative error" in deporting him. The government's acknowledgement sparked immediate uproar from immigration advocates while prompting Vice President JD Vance and other administration officials to repeat the allegation that he's a gang member.

Abrego Garcia came to the US illegally from El Salvador around 2011, "fleeing gang violence," according to his lawyers, and made his way to Maryland to join his older brother, a US citizen.

"Beginning around 2006,

gang members had stalked, hit, and threatened to kidnap and kill him in order to coerce his parents to succumb to their increasing demands for extortion," the complaint states of his life in his native country.

Abrego Garcia later married a US citizen and worked in construction to support her, their son and her two children from a previous relationship.

The allegations about his affiliation with MS-13 stem from a 2019 arrest outside a Maryland Home Depot store, where he and other young men were looking for work, according to the complaint.

County police asked if he was a gang member and demanded information about other gang members. After explaining that he wasn't a gang member and had no information, he was turned over to ICE.

ICE argued against Abrego Garcia's release at a subsequent immigration court hearing because local police had "verified" his gang membership, the complaint said. The evidence they cited included his wearing of a Chicago Bulls hat and hoodie and a confidential informant's claim that Abrego Garcia belonged to MS-13's "Westerns clique" in Long Island, New York, despite having never lived there.

Abrego Garcia filed for asy-

lum, while his lawyer submitted a "voluminous evidentiary filing establishing his eligibility for protection and contesting the unfounded allegation of gang membership," the complaint stated. In response, ICE cited the information previously provided by local police.

An immigration judge denied Abrego Garcia's asylum request in October 2019 but granted him protection from being deported back to El Salvador. He was released after ICE did not appeal.

Abrego Garcia's lawyers say "he has neither been convicted nor charged with any crime" and has fully complied with the conditions of his protected status, checking in with ICE yearly.

Abrego Garcia's lawyer, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, said U.S. government lawyers had multiple opportunities to try legally to deport him, including appealing the judge's 2019 decision or deporting him elsewhere.

"There are lots of things they could have done," Sandoval-Moshenberg told The Associated Press. "But each one of those is in a court and gives him the opportunity to defend himself. And they didn't do any of them. They just put him on an airplane." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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Millions brace for tornado outbreak and flash flooding in powerful spring storm

A powerful spring storm is forecast to unleash a tornado outbreak in the central part of the country on Wednesday, with multiple, long-track EF3 tornadoes possible, along with a potentially historic flash flood event.

Today 72 million from northern Texas to central Michigan are under severe storm risk in the system that will see heavy rain, flash flooding and strong tornadoes hit the Lower Ohio Valley and Mid-South region of the U.S., the National Weather Service said.

The flash flooding is “only the beginning of a multi-day catastrophic and potentially historic event,” the weather service warned in its morning advisory.

Severe storms will be possible for the next five days in a row — with the greatest risk Wednesday.

Today the storms pose a risk of multiple long track EF-3 tornadoes, wind gusts up to 75 mph or higher, damaging hail two inches or larger in diameter with a high risk area from Paducah, Kentucky, down to Memphis, Tennessee.

Cities that will be impacted in the storms include Dallas, Little Rock, Memphis, Nashville, Paducah, St. Louis, Louisville, Indianapolis, Chicago and Cincinnati. Cities at the greatest risk for strong tornadoes include Memphis and Clarksville, Tennessee; Paducah and Louisville, Kentucky; Little Rock and Jonesboro, Arkansas; Evansville and Bloomington, Indiana; and Southaven, Mississippi.

This morning, tornado watches are in effect in parts of Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas, set to expire between 10 to 12 p.m. CT. (11 to 1 p.m. ET). These storms will re-invigorate with daytime heating, and head east into the night.

The storms have already started to roar.

The National Weather Service office of Kansas City/Pleasant Hill Missouri said at 7:12 a.m. CT, a confirmed tornado was located eight miles northwest of Montrose, Missouri, moving at 50 mph.



The Storm Prediction Center set a High Risk Level (5/5) of severe weather across portions of the Mid-South today, as well as a Moderate Risk of excessive rainfall from the Lower Ohio Valley to the Mid-South, where several inches of rainfall and flash flooding is forecast into the evening and overnight.

The tornado outbreak and severe thunderstorms are expected to rumble over parts of the Lower Mississippi Valley into the mid-South and Lower Ohio Valley later on Wednesday into the evening impacting western and middle Tennessee, Arkansas, western and central Kentucky, eastern Missouri, Illinois, Northern Mississippi, Indiana, northern Louisiana, western Ohio, northeast Texas and southern Lower Michigan.

This storm system will become stationary across the region on Thursday, leading to more than 6 inches of rain possible from Wednesday to Thursday.

The severe threat continues for 42

million people tomorrow, 22 million on Friday, 27 million people on Saturday and 12 million on Sunday.

All hazards from damaging winds to hail and tornadoes will be possible each day for many of the same areas from Texas to Ohio as well as into the Mid-Atlantic tomorrow.

The storm system will also bring a high risk for flash flooding Thursday through the weekend.

The front will remain stalled into the weekend and the event is forecast “to bring potentially historic amounts of rainfall, with some locations possibly seeing as much as 10 to 15 inches or rain through the weekend,” the National Weather Service said.

This will be a long-duration, multi-day event where rounds of heavy rain with intense rainfall rates of two to three inches an hour will back-build over many of the same areas over the course of four days. Once the heavy rain begins tonight, it will continue on and off until Sunday.

Thirty-three million people are under flood watches stretching from Texas to Detroit today. One of the Flood Watches is a “Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS)” Flood Watch.

The National Weather Service warned: “The forecast heavy rainfall in this event has a return interval of anywhere from 25 to 100 years. In other words a heavy rainfall event of this magnitude falling within 4 days is an event that happens once in a generation to once in a lifetime. Historic rainfall totals and impacts are possible.”

Communities are urged to prepare for the storm and “severe disruptions to daily life given the expected extreme rainfall and flood risk.” (NBC News)

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Sports News



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Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) Modernizes Governance Framework

St. John's, Antigua – April 2, 2025 – The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) has undertaken a historic modernization of its governance framework with the first revision of its Memorandum and Articles of Association since 2015. This strategic advancement is the result of a meticulous review process led by a dedicated subcommittee and supported by a retained legal advisory firm. Following rigorous deliberations, the LICB Board approved the refined document, and its Member Territories formally ratified the amendments at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on March 31, 2025.

This revision marks a significant step in LICB's pursuit of excellence, strengthening transparency and progressive leadership in cricket administration. The updated Memorandum and Articles of Association introduce key governance enhancements that fortify decision-making integrity, broaden representation, and reinforce best practices in leadership tenure.

One of the most significant changes is the introduction of term limits for the President and Vice President positions, each now serving a three-year term. To uphold the principles of democratic leadership and continuity, no individual may serve as President for more than two consecutive terms. This adjustment fosters leadership renewal while ensuring stability and sustained strategic direction within the organization.

Further advancing governance impartiality, LICB has also established the role of an Independent Director. This individual will remain unaffiliated with any territorial board and is not required to reside within the Leeward Islands. Their presence will ensure complete objectivity in LICB's governance, reinforcing professionalism and independence in decision-making processes.

Additionally, to strengthen equitable territorial representation, each Member Territory will now designate a representative - distinct from the appointed LICB Director - to attend and participate in General Meetings. This measure guarantees that all territories have a voice in LICB's governance, enhancing democratic engagement and regional inclusivity.

“The Leeward Islands Cricket Board is steadfast in its mission to elevate cricket administration to world-class standards,” said LICB President Enoch Lewis. “These reforms exemplify our dedication to principled leadership, inclusivity, and accountability, ensuring that our cricketing institutions remain robust and forward-thinking. The changes will enable us to lead with clarity and unity as we strive for excellence in the sport.”

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

OECS Countries Take the Lead at the 2025 Caribbean Trophy Boxing Championships in Guadeloupe



Organised by the Guadeloupe Regional Boxing Committee, the 2025 Caribbean Trophy Boxing Championships wrapped up in Guadeloupe on March 29, showcasing the strength of regional boxing talent. Fighters from across the OECS and beyond delivered thrilling performances, with Guadeloupe securing the overall championship title, followed by Martinique in second place and Saint Lucia in third.

Held from March 27 to 29 at the Laura Flessel gymnasium, the tournament brought together elite boxers from Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia, French Guiana (Cayenne), and Canada, with each delegation displaying remarkable skill and determination in the ring.

Regional Dominance in the Ring

Guadeloupe demonstrated their strength on home soil, securing the

title with a strong performance. Martinique and Saint Lucia both fought their way onto the podium, highlighting the range of talent in the OECS. French Guiana (Cayenne) and Canada completed the standings after some intense battles in the ring.

□ *Final Standings of the 2025 Caribbean Trophy:*

□ *Guadeloupe – Champion*

□ *Martinique – 2nd place*

□ *Saint Lucia – 3rd place*

4□□ *French Guiana (Cayenne) – 4th place*

5□□ *Canada – 5th place*

Looking Ahead: The 2025 OECS Invitational Boxing Championships

Following the success of the Caribbean Trophy, the spotlight now turns to the 2025 OECS Invitational Boxing Championships, set to take place in August 2025. This annual event, endorsed by the OECS Commission, continues to provide a high-caliber platform for boxers from across the region to compete at an elite level.

The 2024 edition in Saint Lucia saw the home team claim the OECS Championship title, while Trinidad and Tobago dominated the Invitational Category. The upcoming edition promises even greater excitement, featuring top talent from across the Caribbean.

Beyond the action in the ring, the event underscores a broader mission: fostering regional unity and empowering youth through sport—a vi-



sion strongly aligned with the OECS Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES), recently endorsed at the Inaugural OECS Council of Ministers: Youth and Sports.

Stronger Regional and International Competition

Momentum continues to build following recent bilateral meetings between French and St. Lucian officials. Led by St. Lucia Boxing Association President David “Shakes” Christopher and Public Relations Officer Shannon Lebourne, the meetings focused on strengthening cooperation, reviving the Creole Boxing Championships, and preparing for the upcoming OECS Boxing Championships.

Further details on the venue, participating countries, and match schedules will be announced soon. Fans can expect another electrifying showcase of Caribbean boxing at its finest.