

Prime Minister Browne is concerned about the impact of new US tariffs on the country

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Honey-tasting event by the Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers' Cooperative at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday. Prime Minister Gaston Browne participated in a show of support for local honey producers

Photos courtesy ASP Cecil Daley

Prime Minister Browne is concerned about the impact of new US tariffs on the country



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is concerned over the likely impact of the new round of tariffs that have just been announced by US President Donald Trump and how they will impact Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister noted that the amount of goods that are exported to the US from this country is negligible as there is a huge trade imbalance between the two countries that is highly skewed in the US favour.

However, the prime minister noted that the impact on the costs of goods entering the country from the United States could increase adding to the inflationary pressures. "Where it will impact us is in the goods that we import from the US. What will happen is that goods imported into the US will become more expensive when those goods are then imported into Antigua and Barbuda. Even American made cars and other (US-made) products that we import from the US, we are likely to see an increase in those prices and that is extremely worrisome," PM Browne ob-

served.

As a consequence, the prime minister is encouraging residents to 'shop smart' and

to purchase local goods as much as possible in face of this new challenge.

"It's not the first time that we are faced with a significant challenge, in fact, we have become accustomed to challenges and we are a resilient people so I say to the people of Antigua and Barbuda that notwithstanding these challenges, I am quite sure that we will surmount them but we have to be very intelligent about how we approach these issues, especially with the increase in prices. We have to buy smarter, buy local and using local substitute would be important in order to ensure that we do not have any

significant impact from the expected increase in the cost of living," he stated.

PM Browne revealed that the matter is being addressed at the CARICOM level with the pro tem chair, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados asked to write on behalf of the region to President Trump outlining the potential fallout from the new tariffs on the economies of the region.

He added that the region is looking forward to a favourable response as 'these unintended consequences' of US policies could destabilize the region.



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Antigua Port Authority acquires new highly sophisticated mobile crane



A new highly sophisticated mobile crane has just been purchased by the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority.

The new crane is expected to significantly improve the efficiency of the operations at the St. John's Harbour, the main gateway for goods entering the country.

Port Manager, Darwin Telemaque is in

the United Kingdom where the crane has been purchased where he undertook an inspection of the crane while it was in operation.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who has portfolio responsibility for the port, revealed that the new equipment was purchased for less than four million Euros. According to the prime

minister the purchase of the equipment was done in a transparent manner in keeping with his administration's commitment to the principles of good governance.

"This crane will make a major difference as the one that we have currently is not as reliable as it was in the past now that it is over twenty years old. It is the first time in two decades that we are purchasing a new crane and you can see that systematically, we are addressing all the issues that the country we inherited, one by one," he remarked.

Telemaque revealed that the current crane has a lifting capacity of just over 80-tons, while the new crane's capacity is over 120-tons. The crane will be disassembled and shipped to St. John's. When it arrives, technicians from the company will travel to the country to reassemble it.



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ALL PROCEEDS TO ASSIST THE DIALYSIS UNIT AT SLBMC

Antigua and Barbuda continues to honour its several multilateral environmental agreements

The Antigua and Barbuda Government held its inaugural Multilateral Environmental Treaties (Focal Points) Coordination Meeting this week bringing together key stakeholders from across government ministries to enhance the nation's approach to international environmental agreements.

The meeting, chaired by Ambassador Dr. Walton Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, featured Minister of the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph as well as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim. "This coordination effort marks a new chapter in how Antigua and Barbuda engages with the international community on environmental matters," stated Ambassador Webson. "By speaking with one voice nationally on these critical issues, we strengthen our position globally." Also present were the, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Environment, Ena Dalso-Henry and Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ann-Marie Layne.

The meeting addressed the country's participation in numerous multilateral environmental agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and several others. Representatives from various government depart-



ments presented on their respective treaty responsibilities and highlighted both achievements and challenges.

Minister Joseph emphasized the importance of strategic coordination: "Our active participation in these agreements has positioned Antigua and Barbuda as a leader among Small Island Developing States. This coordina-

tion mechanism will further enhance our ability to secure resources for national implementation."

The Department of Environment, which serves as a focal point for 16 multilateral environmental agreements, highlighted the country's success in placing Antigua and Barbuda nationals in key international positions and securing signifi-

cant funding through these agreements.

The coordination mechanism aims to further strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's climate change action on the global stage while bolstering coordination and maximizing benefits from multilateral arrangements.

Launch of the 2025 Assisting Nursing Personnel Programme



Launch of the 2025 Assisting Nursing Personnel Programme group photo that includes senior officials of the Ministry of Health



Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph

The Ministry of Health has announced the launch of the 2025 Assisting Nursing Personnel Programme, an initiative designed to strengthen the healthcare workforce by training individuals to support registered nurses in their essential duties.

Participants in this rigorous six-month training programme will receive comprehensive instruction in fundamental nursing care, equipping them with the necessary skills to assist nurses in delivering quality patient care. Upon successful completion, they will be



Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Stacey Gregg-Paige

eligible to work within the healthcare system as nursing assistants, contributing significantly to patient care and the overall efficiency of medical services in Antigua and Barbuda.

Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, addressed the participants at the launch, emphasizing the programme's role in bridging the gap in healthcare services. "This initiative is not just about providing jobs; it is about building a robust and resilient healthcare system. Each of you plays a vital role



Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamaria DeCastro,

in ensuring that our patients receive the care they need. I urge you to take this opportunity seriously, as it can be the beginning of a lifelong career in nursing and healthcare."

He further encouraged participants to think beyond this initial step and strive for continuous professional growth. "Let this be your stepping stone towards becoming a registered nurse or even further. The healthcare sector

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needs passionate, dedicated professionals who are willing to advance and take on greater responsibilities. I will personally be advocating for you to receive a stipend during your training period, as I understand the financial challenges that come with pursuing education.”

Acting Principal Nursing Officer, Clarissa Christopher, highlighted the overwhelming interest in the programme, noting that due to the high volume of applicants, the 2025 cohort will be divided into two groups to accommodate all eligible candidates effectively. “The response to this programme has been incredible. It is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our people who are eager to serve in the healthcare sector. Splitting the 2025 intake into two cohorts ensures that we can provide quality training and give each participant the attention and resources they need to succeed.”

Permanent Secretary with responsibility for Primary Health Care, Stacey Gregg-Paige, challenged the participants to fully embrace this opportunity with open minds and a deep understanding of their critical role in primary healthcare. “This is more than just a job; it is a calling. You will be on the frontlines of patient care, providing support where it is needed the most. Take this training seriously, learn as much as you can, and remember that the way you care for patients can make a significant difference in their lives.”

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamaria DeCastro, also addressed the new trainees, encouraging them to remain focused and committed to excellence. “This programme is an important step in strengthening our healthcare system. We need individuals who are not just skilled but also compassionate and dedicated to patient care. Give your best effort in this training, because the knowledge and skills you gain here will directly impact the lives of those

you serve.”

Minister Joseph closed the event with words of encouragement: “Healthcare is one of the most rewarding careers you can pursue. Your contributions will save lives, provide comfort, and improve the well-being of many. I want each of you to envision where you see yourselves in the next five years—whether as a registered nurse, a healthcare administrator, or a specialist. This is just the beginning, and I encourage you to aim high.”

The launch of the Assisting Nursing Personnel Programme 2025 reflects the Ministry’s continued commitment to strengthening the healthcare system by fostering talent and providing structured opportunities for career advancement in the medical field.

The Ministry wishes to thank the Management of the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology for making the facility available for the training programme.

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The Browne's Avenue Clinic relocation announced ahead of renovations

The Ministry of Health is in the process of temporarily relocating the Browne's Avenue Clinic to the Infectious Disease Center at the Holberton Hospital. This decision is part of an ongoing effort to facilitate essential renovations at the Browne's Avenue Clinic, to ensure the delivery of improved healthcare services to the community.

Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, emphasised the importance of maintaining uninterrupted access to healthcare services while necessary upgrades take place. "The Browne's Avenue Clinic plays a critical role in our healthcare system, and we are committed to ensuring that it continues to serve the public effectively. While plans are being finalized for its temporary relocation, we assure the public that every measure is being taken to minimise disruptions and enhance service delivery."

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has already allocated funding to cover the cost of the refurbish-



Browne's Avenue Clinic to undergo renovations

ments, recognizing the vital role the clinic plays in community healthcare. Meanwhile, the Pediatric Department of the Browne's Avenue Clinic has already been relocated to the Villa Polyclinic, where pediatric services continue without interruption.

Permanent Secretary Stacey Gregg-Paige reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to a smooth transition. "We understand that

change can bring concerns, but this move is necessary to modernize the clinic and improve the quality of care for all who depend on it. We encourage the public to remain patient and stay tuned for updates on where additional services will be offered during this period."

This development is part of the Ministry's broader initiative to upgrade healthcare facilities across Antigua and Barbuda. It

follows the successful refurbishments of clinics in Bolans and Liberta, demonstrating the government's continued investment in improving healthcare infrastructure.

The Ministry will provide further updates as plans are finalized and will communicate details regarding the timeline and logistics of the relocation. Residents are encouraged to stay informed through official Ministry channels.



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Akeem Brookes to serve 4-years, 3-months prison term

The 24-year old Grays Farm man who was intercepted with a firearm and ammunition has been sentenced to serve a prison term of 4-years, 3-months and 29 days when he appeared in the magistrate's court for sentencing on Thursday.

Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel imposed the prison term on Akeem Brookes who was found guilty of the

charge in the court a day earlier. He was also sentenced to one year for the unlawful possession of ammunition. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The magistrate followed the sentencing guidelines as laid down by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court when she imposed the prison terms.

Earlier this week, the police were carrying out a patrol in the Grays Farm

area when they came upon a group of men who they saw were acting suspiciously. The police decided to carry out a search of the men individually and Brookes was found in possession of a .32 Walter pistol with 7-rounds of ammunition. He was immediately arrested and charged with the illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Free online courses in Portuguese are available to residents

Residents of Antigua and Barbuda who wish to commence the study of Portuguese as a foreign language have an opportunity to do so under a programme organized by the Brazilian government.

A release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Government of Brazil wishes to inform that the Brazilian National Association of Directors of Federal Higher Education Institutions (ANDIFES) is offering, through the ANDIFES IsF Network - Languages without Borders, free online Portuguese as a Foreign Language Courses.

The courses are open to the general foreign public, and participants do not need to be affiliated with the universities in the network or be in Brazil. In addition, most of the courses can be taken by people who do not have knowledge of Portuguese.

There are 325 places available in 11 courses. Registration is free and open until 12:00 p.m. on April 4, 2025,

(Brasília time). To register, candidates must present an identification document (Passport, RNE - National Foreigner's Registry -, RNM - National Migration Registry -, or CPF) and, if necessary, proof of profi-

ciency or a self-declaration that they can attend classes at the level they have indicated.

The list of selected candidates will be released on April 24 and the courses

will begin on April 28.

Additional information may be obtained from the official website <https://www.andifes.org.br/institucional/rede-isf/>. The following links are also useful:



Photo Story



Honey-tasting event by the Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers' Cooperative at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday. Prime Minister Gaston Browne participated in a show of support for local honey producers Photos courtesy ASP Cecil Daley

Photo Story



A Call for US to Revisit new Tariffs on CARICOM Countries



By Sir Ronald Sanders

For decades, the 14 independent nations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have helped sustain American prosperity by collectively importing far more from the United States than they export, creating an enduring trade surplus in Washington's favour.

Yet, they have not escaped the tariffs that President Donald Trump has imposed on all countries of the world. Thirteen of the 14 CARICOM nations now face a 10% tariff on all their exports to the U.S. Guyana – a relatively large oil exporter – confronts a tariff of 38%.

Because CARICOM nations consistently favour U.S. goods, American industries, farmers, and manufacturers have long found profitable markets in our small economies. Meanwhile, our own exports remain modest and pose no threat to U.S. producers, as confirmed by the U.S. Trade Representative's annual reports to Congress.

Ensuring U.S. Energy Security

There are, of course, exceptions that

illustrate another form of partnership. Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago – two of our member states which do have trade surpluses with the U.S. – provide vital supplies of oil and gas. This is not simply a commercial arrangement; it meets a core U.S. need for secure, dependable energy sources. These exports have strategic importance. They ensure that the United States has nearby, friendly suppliers in times of volatility and hostility.

Impact on Haiti's Path to Recovery

One especially delicate case for the CARICOM group now is Haiti, where the social and economic fabric remains under strain from political uncertainty and armed groups disrupting daily life. Imposing further tariffs on Haiti's exports under the current circumstances, risks inhibiting the very progress the country so urgently needs. Deterioration in Haiti's economic circumstances will only increase the Haitian impetus to seek refuge in the U.S.

Undermining the Spirit of CBI and CBERA

Since 1983, under President Ronald Reagan, the U.S. has recognized the importance of supporting Caribbean development – and, by extension, U.S. security interests – through measures like the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA). These programmes opened new opportunities for our countries to participate more fully in international trade, while benefiting American exporters seeking markets for their products. Today's tariffs, however, threaten to undo those gains by treating CARICOM countries as though they impose high barriers on U.S. goods or run large surpluses at America's ex-

pense.

Strengthening the Case with Data

We do not have to look far for evidence of CARICOM's consistent support of the U.S. economy. For instance, data from the US Census Bureau shows that, in 2024, the United States ran a \$5.8 billion trade surplus with CARICOM as a whole. For a tangible illustration, Antigua and Barbuda's imports from the U.S. exceeded \$570 million, while its exports in return were a mere fraction of that total – demonstrating a deep trade surplus in favour of the U.S. The same story is repeated across our member states, underscoring our loyalty to the U.S. market.

The Human and Economic Costs

While the new tariffs, announced by President Trump on April 3, will raise the cost of CARICOM products in the United States – and very likely reduce exports and revenues for already challenged Caribbean economies – American consumers will also feel the effects. Increases in duty rates often translate to higher prices on store shelves. Thus, while Caribbean exporters lose potential income, U.S. buyers face higher costs.

Given limited resources in the majority of CARICOM countries, any drop in export earnings can hit local communities hard. This complicates broader recovery efforts for nations battling economic hardship. However, decline in the economic circumstances of these countries will also deprive U.S. firms of markets where they have historically thrived.

Why CARICOM Will Not Retaliate

Despite the harm imposed by these tar-

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Feature

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iffs, CARICOM countries are unlikely to respond with reciprocal duties for one fundamental reason: we import 60 to 70 percent of our consumer products from the United States. Matching U.S. tariffs with equally high barriers would only push up the cost of living for our own populations. Our economies cannot afford to engage in a tit-for-tat scenario that might escalate into a larger trade conflict, undermining stability in both our region and the broader hemisphere.

Avoiding a Global Trade War

The last thing our region wants is to exacerbate a global trade war. When powerful nations escalate tariff battles, the consequences ripple out to vulnerable communities worldwide—including our own. CARICOM's priority is a stable environment that benefits all, including the United States, by sustaining trade relationships that

have proved beneficial over many decades.

A Constructive Path Forward

As the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and Dean of Ambassadors of Western Hemisphere countries (including CARICOM nations), I respectfully urge a thoughtful review of the tariffs placed on our member states. We have faithfully supported U.S. economic interests by purchasing American goods and welcoming American investors, and we stand ready to continue doing so. Reviewing these tariffs - particularly where they compromise CBI and CBERA objectives or burden countries striving to build resilience to disasters - would be a constructive move that strengthens our shared commitment to prosperity and security.

For the American people, upholding strong trade ties with CARICOM delivers accessible, high-quality prod-

ucts and reliable export markets that, in turn, protect and create jobs within the United States.

For CARICOM's part, we remain committed to buying American, as we have done for decades. I believe that, together, we can preserve and enrich the partnership that has brought so many benefits to both sides. This will help strengthen America and ensure that the Caribbean remains a cornerstone of regional stability, economic growth, and goodwill—ultimately benefiting all, including the United States.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the Dean of the Ambassadors of the Western Hemisphere Group accredited to the U.S. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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Embracing Opportunities, Sharing benefits



Authored by H.E. Zhang Yanling, Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda

We are living in a changing and turbulent world, where certainty is becoming a scarce resource.

While the international situation is full of challenges, with the multilateral trading system being hindered and additional tariffs being imposed, the choices made by countries will determine the trajectory of our times and shape the future of the world. I would like to share here the choice made by China, which is, to bring much-needed certainty to this uncertain world.

On 28 March, President Xi Jinping had a meeting with more than 40 global Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers of foreign

businesses as well as representatives of business councils in Beijing. The meeting reiterated China's resolve to open wider at a high standard, its determination to share development opportunities with the rest of the world, and built a consensus that "oasis of certainty" is China's calling card.

China's door will only open wider. The reform and opening-up over the past four decades in China has proven that the country's development benefits from foreign investments, at the same time, it provides a broad platform for foreign business' growth. In 2024, China's economy grew by 5%, and consistently accounted for around 30% of global economic growth.

For 2025, considering both domestic and international conditions, China has set its economic growth target at around 5%. China will remain steadfast on the right side of history, along with international enterprises that are sincere partners, further focus on cooperation, reject protectionism, and continue to be each other's development opportunities.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." China's modernization is not "for China only". While committed to improving the life of Chinese people by domestic development, China is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of people from other countries through shared development. With high-quality development as the guiding principle, China is accelerating its transition toward green, digital, and intelligent economy. From leading the global trend in new energy vehicles to empowering low-carbon development with green technologies, China's innovation follows an open philosophy of "sharing opportunities, sharing benefits". By unleashing the vast opportunities of our super-sized market and fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem, we will join hands with all partners to uphold the multilateral

trading system, stabilize global industrial and supply chains, and achieve mutual success. Together, we can turn the tide of challenges into a rising wave of shared prosperity.

With a keen understanding of the increasingly close interdependence among countries, President Xi Jinping proposed building a community with a shared future for mankind in September 2015 at the UN General Assembly, and called on all countries to transcend disagreements and differences, jointly protect our only planet, and develop together the global village as our common home. This great vision reflects not only the fine tradition of Chinese civilization that the world belongs to all, but also the internationalist commitment of Chinese nation.

China stands ready to walk hand in hand with Antigua and Barbuda on our respective national development paths, and hopes Antigua and Barbuda will benefit more from China's further high-standard opening up. We look forward to building together with Antigua and Barbuda a community with a shared future, which will ensure that the world belongs to every country, and that everyone will have a bright future.

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Regional News



Dominica: Former opposition legislator awarded damages for false imprisonment

High Court judge, Justice Colin Williams, Wednesday ordered the state to pay EC\$10,500 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) to a former opposition legislator after he had been falsely imprisoned in August 2020.

Justice Williams said that Office of the Attorney General, one of three defendants in the case, must pay EC\$5,500.00 in damages to Daniel Lugay, who had been detained outside the residence of Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit on August 15, 2020.

In addition, the state has also been ordered to pay EC\$5,000 in costs, "being the figure agreed to prior to the commencement of this matter."

"The total sum of EC\$10,500 shall be paid by the first defendant by Wednesday the 30th of April 2025," Justice Williams said in his ruling.

Lugay had claimed that he was assaulted and battered, wrongfully arrested, and falsely imprisoned or kidnapped, by police officers on August 15, 2020. He had sought remedies from the state, specifically damages for what he believed were



torts committed by state agents.

At the time of the incident, Lugay, was the elected representative for the Roseau North constituency and was a member of the opposition United Workers Party (UWP).

He was arrested outside the residence of Prime Minister Skerit at Morne Daniel on the outskirts of the capital by then-Inspector of Police Michael Sebastien, the second defendant, who is now an Assistant Superintendent of Police.

The court was told that

the second defendant was all material times, the Supervisor of the Protective Services Unit (PSU), Special Branch Department (SB), both of which provides security for the President and the Prime Minister and their respective families.

The court heard that when Lugay was arrested by Sebastien he was placed in the custody of Martin Anatol, the third defendant, and transported to the police headquarters in the capital.

The judge said that during the trial, there were material conflicts

between the narratives of Lugay and the defendants particularly relating to what transpired on the road at the entrance to the driveway of the prime minister's house and the context in which the interaction between the Lugay and the police officers occurred.

"Most aspects of the evidence were however not in dispute," Justice Williams said, adding that the evidence reveals that the two police officers dealt with Lugay in a decisive and confident manner.

He said Lugay suffered no physical injury. Apart from the tort of unlawful imprisonment, what Lugay demonstrated was that he experienced hurt feelings.

"The Claimant was falsely imprisoned when he was unreasonably and unlawfully detained beyond what was necessary, and even after the second defendant knew that the claimant was not the person of interest who was involved in harassing, obstructing and verbally abusing the prime minister," Justice Williams said. (*Loop Caribbean*)

St Kitts implements ban on plastic t-shirt bags

The Department of Environment has announced that effective April 1, 2025, the distribution of plastic T-shirt bags will be prohibited across St Kitts under the newly enacted Plastic Waste Reduction Act, 2025.

“Businesses that continue this practice may face fines of up to \$3,000 for a first offense and up to \$15,000 for repeated offenses,” officials said in a statement.

Environmental officials are strongly encouraging all business establishments to begin transitioning to more eco-friendly alternatives



immediately.

Recommended options include paper bags and reusable shopping bags. (Loop Caribbean)



DAILY PROGRAMMING




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REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
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Regional News



New Limb, New Life beneficiary says he 'feels like a man again'



Where despair once held him captive, Chrishawn Cornwall now walks with renewed purpose, a testament to the life-altering impact of a well-timed government intervention that gave him a second chance.

In 2020, Cornwall's world came tumbling down. The 38-year-old father of three was walking with his wife to the bus stop when he felt a cramp in his left leg. He brushed it off as a mild inconvenience and made his way home, but by the time he got to his gate, the feeling of mild discomfort had grown so intense

that he decided to visit the doctor.

The events of the next few months were beyond anything he could imagine. A whirlwind of visits to private medical practitioners left him with myriad opinions – ranging from pinched nerves to poor circulation.

During this time, a wound which started as a small cyst on Cornwall's leg got worse and various sets of medication did nothing to alleviate the pain.

The once vibrant cabinetmaker was

left dependent on his wife, as he could no longer make the furniture that supported his family financially.

After weeks of no answers, Cornwall was admitted to the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) where he underwent a series of tests, which provided no further answers as to the cause of his affliction.

Doctors at the KPH advised Cornwall that they would have to amputate his leg. He resisted and urged the medical team to discharge him.

He was, however, advised that this was not in his best interest and after some time, he came around. In December 2020, the hospital undertook the life-altering surgery and Cornwall was discharged shortly after.

Unable to cope with his new reality, he fell into depression.

"When they discharged me and I went home, I felt like I didn't want to see anybody. I didn't want to go on the road, I didn't want to do anything," Cornwall tells JIS News in an interview.

He recalls, however, that his wife, Michelle Ann, never stopped encouraging him to return to the things that he enjoyed before losing the limb.

"Every evening she came in, she said 'you don't go on the road? You need to go look for your family and your friends. You need to go out! You can't just stay in the house'," Cornwall recounts.

At his wife's coaxing, he gradually regained the confidence to return to life as he knew it – using crutches to get around.

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Cornwall also began visiting the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre, at Mona in St Andrew, to which he was referred while at the KPH.

He had consultations for a prosthetic leg, but the costs proved prohibitive, as his wife was the only one financing the household.

Cornwall explains that his mother intervened and decided to help him with the costs to obtain the prosthetic leg. She sent him the proceeds from a partner plan to make a payment.

As fate would have it, when he went to make the payment in 2024, Cornwall was informed about the 'New Limb, New Life' programme that would change his life.

The programme, a partnership between the Ministries of Health & Wellness and Labour & Social Security, had gotten under way, recently.

The \$50-million initiative provides prostheses for patients between ages 13 and 60 who lost limbs due to health conditions or trauma.

One hundred and twenty Jamaicans have benefited from the initiative since it got under way in early 2024.

Cornwall tells JIS News that after signing up for the programme, assessments were conducted by medical practitioners from Surgix and the order placed for his prosthetic leg.

The cabinetmaker says he was pleasantly surprised that the entire process took only a few months from signing up to him being fitted with his leg in March.

"Me never know it would come through so fast. Right now, I feel like myself again. I am working again, and it feels like I have my two feet," Cornwall beams.

He recalls how difficult it was for

him to do his carpentry work while navigating on crutches and relying on others to complete some of the basic tasks that he had trouble accomplishing after he lost his leg.

"I feel like a man again. I can take care of my family," he muses.

Reflecting further on the journey from losing his leg to being fitted with a prosthesis, and the highs and lows he experienced, Cornwall says he is grateful that he was given the chance to regain his independence.

For others who are on a similar journey, whether they are faced with the prospect of having a limb amputated or have recently lost a limb, Cornwall is urging them to have faith.

"It's just a limb [that] you lose. Life is the greatest. Once you have life, there is hope. You just lose a limb, and it can be replaced. You have to just tell yourself 'Don't give up'," he advises.

The devoted father of three adds that it is also important to have a strong support system.

He credits his wife for her strength and resilience in taking care of the family while he was incapacitated.

"She never left me an inch. She worked full time and even one time for the day, she came to the hospital to visit me. She was there for me fully," Cornwall tells JIS News.

He describes the New Limb, New Life programme as a Godsend initiative.

"The programme is good and I don't want it to stop. I want other people like me out there who lose a limb to get help. Because the way I feel, I would like other people to feel the same. I'm telling you right now, I feel great. It feels like there is nothing that I can't do," Cornwall says. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*



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The world reacts with caution to US 'reciprocal' tariffs against dozens of nations

The sweeping new tariffs announced Wednesday by US President Donald Trump were met initially with measured reactions from key trading partners, highlighting the lack of appetite for a full-fledged trade war.

Trump presented the import taxes, which he calls "reciprocal tariffs" and range from 10 per cent to 49 per cent, in the simplest terms: the US would do to its trading partners what he said they had been doing to the US for decades.

"Taxpayers have been ripped off for more than 50 years," he said. "But it is not going to happen anymore."

The president promised that "Jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country." He framed it not just as an economic issue, but a question of national security that threatens "our very way of life."

Shortly after Trump's announcement, the British government said the United States remains the UK's "closest ally".

Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said the UK hoped to strike a trade deal to "mitigate the impact" of the 10 per cent tariffs on British goods announced by Trump.

"Nobody wants a trade



war and our intention remains to secure a deal," said Reynolds. "But nothing is off the table and the government will do everything necessary to defend the UK's national interest."

Italy's conservative Premier Giorgia Meloni described the new 20 per cent tariffs against the European Union as "wrong," saying they benefit neither side.

"We will do everything we can to work towards an agreement with the United States, with the aim of avoiding a trade war that would inevitably weaken the West in favour of other global players," Meloni said in a Facebook post.

Brazil's government said

it was considering taking the case to the World Trade Organization. And later, in a rare display of unity, Brazil's Congress unanimously passed a reciprocity bill to allow its government to retaliate against any country or trade bloc that imposes tariffs on Brazilian goods. Some countries took issue with the White House's calculations.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the US tariffs imposed on his country were totally unwarranted, but Australia will not retaliate.

"President Trump referred to reciprocal tariffs. A reciprocal tariff would be zero, not 10 per cent," said Albanese. The US and

Australia have a free trade agreement and the US has a US\$2-to-US\$1 trade surplus with Australia. "This is not the act of a friend."

Trump said the United States bought US\$3 billion of Australian beef last year, but Australia would not accept US beef imports. Albanese said the ban on raw US beef was for biosecurity reasons.

The 29 per cent tariff imposed on the tiny South Pacific outpost of Norfolk Island came as a shock. The Australian territory has a population of around 2,000 people and the economy revolves around tourism.

"To my knowledge, we do not export anything to

con't on pg 21

con't from pg 20

the United States,” Norfolk Island Administrator George Plant, the Australian government’s representative on the island, told the AP Thursday. “We don’t charge tariffs on anything. I can’t think of any non-tariff barriers that would be in place either, so we’re scratching our heads here.”

New Zealand also took issue with Trump’s tariff logic.

“We don’t have a 20 per cent tariff rate,” said trade minister Todd McClay, adding that New Zealand was “a very low tariff regime” and the correct figure was below the 10 per cent baseline rate applied by the US to all countries.

“We won’t be looking to retaliate. That would put up prices on New Zealand consumers and it would be inflationary,” he said.

Spared for the moment from the latest round of tariffs were Mexico and Canada, so far as goods that already qualified under their free trade agreement with the United States. Yet, the previously announced 25 per cent tariffs on auto imports were scheduled to take effect at midnight.

Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said Wednesday she would wait to take action on Thursday when it was clear how Trump’s announcement would affect Mexico

“It’s not a question of if you impose tariffs on me, I’m going to impose tariffs on you,” she said Wednesday morning. “Our interest is in strengthening the Mexican economy.”

Canada had imposed retaliatory tariffs in response to the 25 per cent tariffs that Trump tied to the trafficking of fentanyl. The European Union, in response to the steel and aluminium tariffs, imposed taxes on 26 billion euros’ worth (\$28 billion) of US goods, including bourbon, prompting Trump to threaten a 200 per cent tariff on European alcohol.

As Trump read the list of countries that would be targeted Wednesday, he repeatedly said he didn’t blame them for the trade barriers they imposed to protect their own nations’ businesses. “But we’re doing the same thing right now,” he said.

“In the face of unrelenting economic warfare, the United States can no longer continue with a policy of unilateral economic surrender,” Trump said.

Speaking from a business forum in India, Chilean President Gabriel Boric warned that such measures, in addition to causing uncertainty, challenge the “mutually agreed rules” and the “principles that govern international trade.”

Colombia President

Gustavo Petro, who has clashed with Trump before, said via X that the tariffs marked a global milestone: “Today the neo-liberalism that proclaimed free-trade policies all over the world has died.”

Analysts say there’s little to be gained from an all-out trade war, neither in the United States nor in other countries.

“Once again, Trump has put Europe at a crossroads,” said Matteo Villa, senior analyst at Italy’s Institute for International Political Studies.

“If Trump really imposes high tariffs, Europe will have to respond, but the

paradox is that the EU would be better off doing nothing,” he added.

Villa also noted that retaliation would certainly be a further “blow” to the United States, but it would hurt Europe even more, as the EU bloc depends more on exports to the US than vice versa.

“On the other hand, Trump seems to understand only the language of force, and this indicates the need for a strong and immediate response,” Villa said. “Probably the hope, in Brussels, is that the response will be strong enough to induce Trump to negotiate and, soon, to backtrack.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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Trump announces sweeping new tariffs to promote US manufacturing, risking inflation and trade wars

President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all US trading partners — a 34 per cent tax on imports from China and 20 per cent on the European Union, among others — that threaten to dismantle much of the architecture of the global economy and trigger broader trade wars.

Trump, in a Rose Garden announcement, said he was placing elevated tariff rates on dozens of nations that run trade surpluses with the United States, while imposing a 10 per cent baseline tax on imports from all countries in response to what he called an economic emergency.

The president, who said the tariffs were designed to boost domestic manufacturing, used aggressive rhetoric to describe a global trade system that the United States helped to build after World War II, saying “our country has been looted, pillaged, raped, plundered” by other nations.

The action amounts to a historic tax hike that could push the global order to a breaking point. It kickstarts what could be a painful transition for many Americans as middle-class essentials such as housing, autos and clothing are expected to become more costly, while disrupting the alliances built to ensure peace and economic stability.

Trump said he was acting to bring in hundreds of billions in new revenue to the US government and restore fairness to global trade.

“Taxpayers have been ripped off for more than 50 years,” he said. “But it is not going to happen anymore.”

Trump declared a national econom-

ic emergency to levy the tariffs. He has promised that factory jobs will return to the United States as a result of the taxes, but his policies risk a sudden economic slowdown as consumers and businesses could face sharp price hikes.

Trump was fulfilling a key campaign promise as he imposed what he called “reciprocal” tariffs on trade partners, acting without Congress under the 1977 International Emergency Powers Act. But his action Wednesday could undermine the voter mandate last year to combat inflation that helped return him to the White House after a four-year hiatus, a choice that could carry tremendous economic risks for the public. Several Republican senators, particularly from farm states, have questioned the wisdom of the tariffs.

“With today’s announcement, US tariffs will approach levels not seen since the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, which incited a global trade war and deepened the Great Depression,” said Scott Lincicome and Colin Grabow of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank.

The president’s higher rates would hit foreign entities that sell more goods to the United States than they buy, meaning the tariffs could stay in place for some time as the administration expects other nations to lower their tariffs and other barriers to trade that it says led to a US\$1.2 trillion trade imbalance last year.

The new tariffs will come on top of recent announcements of 25 per cent taxes on auto imports; levies against China, Canada and Mexico; and expanded trade penalties on steel and

aluminium. Trump has also imposed tariffs on countries that import oil from Venezuela and he plans separate import taxes on pharmaceutical drugs, lumber, copper and computer chips.

None of the warning signs about a falling stock market or consumer sentiment turning morose have caused the administration to publicly second-guess its strategy, despite the risk of political backlash.

Senior administration officials, who insisted on anonymity to preview the new tariffs with reporters ahead of Trump’s speech, said the taxes would raise hundreds of billions of dollars annually in revenues. They said the 10 per cent baseline rate existed to help ensure compliance, while the higher rates were based on the trade deficits run with other nations and then halved to reach the numbers that Trump presented in the Rose Garden.

The 10 per cent rate would be collected starting Saturday and the higher rates would be collected beginning April 9.

Trump removed the tariff exemptions on imports from China worth US\$800 or less. He plans to remove the exemptions other nations have on imports worth US\$800 or less once the federal government certifies that it has the staffing and resources in place.

Based on the possibility of broad tariffs that have been floated by some White House aides, most outside analyses by banks and think tanks see an economy tarnished by higher prices and stagnating growth. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Jailed Tunisian opposition figure Jaouhar Ben Mbarek goes on hunger strike

A jailed Tunisian opposition activist facing state conspiracy charges has launched a hunger strike to protest against being barred from appearing in person at his own trial, according to his defence team.

Jaouhar Ben Mbarek, member of the opposition National Salvation Front

2023, Ben Mbarek is one of dozens of Tunisian politicians, activists, journalists and other critics of the president who have been targeted in what rights groups describe as a sweeping crackdown on dissent.

About 40 of the defendants, including Ben Mbarek, were put on trial together

judicial scandals”.

Ben Mbarek, a former constitutional law professor, is among nine defendants barred from attending courtroom sessions, deemed too dangerous to be released from custody.

However, he argued that the remote attendance option offered to him pre-

comprised of leading judges and lawyers, also criticised Tunisia’s judiciary for “systematic violations” of detainees’ rights in pre-trial proceedings, which it said could undermine the whole trial.

Charges of rolling back the democratic gains of the country’s revolution of 2011 have dogged Saied since his dramatic power grab of July 2021, when he shuttered parliament and dismissed its speaker and prime minister, introducing a period of presidential rule by decree. Saied later dissolved the independent Supreme Judicial Council and ushered in a new constitution that bolstered his rule.

Many of those currently on trial, including Ben Mbarek, were prominent critics of those moves.

Others on trial include former presidential chief of staff Nadia Akacha, former head of intelligence Kamel Guizani and the former leader of opposition party Ennahdha, Abdelhamid Jelassi, who, like Ben Mbarek, was arrested in 2023.

Saied, who has called the defendants “traitors and terrorists”, says he will not be a dictator, but those who are corrupt must be held accountable. (*Al Jazeera English*)



and Citizens Against the Coup group which oppose President Kais Saied, insists on his right to be present in court to “refute the false charges” against him, lawyer Samir Dilou said in a statement on Facebook on behalf of Ben Mbarek’s defence team.

Dilou said Ben Mbarek began his hunger strike on March 30.

Detained since February

in March, facing charges ranging from “plotting against state security” to “belonging to a terrorist group”.

Human Rights Watch has condemned the mass trial as a “mockery” and urged Tunisia to “immediate release” all those charged. Bassam Trifi, head of the Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights, denounced the proceedings as one of Tunisia’s “biggest

vents him from mounting an effective defence. Instead, he insists on “being present to defend himself and expose the baseless accusations against him in a proper courtroom setting – not in a staged remote session held in a prison facility,” according to his defence team.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), an international rights group

Explosion ignites car in busy central Amsterdam square, Dutch police says

Amsterdam police said a car caught fire on the central Dam Square on Thursday afternoon following an explosion in the vehicle.

Police said the driver of the car was suspected of having caused the fire and had possibly done so on purpose. No injuries were reported.

Police said camera footage had shown that the fire was caused by an explosion, which happened among a crowd of people on the busy square.

Images on social media show a man with burning clothes close to a small red car with flames lashing out the windows on the Dam Square. Police are seen extinguishing the flames on the visibly wounded man before taking him into custody.

Police said it had sealed off large parts of the square as explosives experts were investigating the car.



Last week, a man injured five people near Dam Square in a stabbing rampage.

Police have identified the suspect

in that incident as a 30-year-old Ukrainian national from the eastern Donetsk region, who prosecutors said had terrorist intent. (NBC News)



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Sports News



New York Knicks to welcome Jalen Brunson back this weekend

New York Knicks All-Star guard [Jalen Brunson](#) is expected to return to practice and could see game action this weekend.

Brunson, 28, initially was expected to miss at least two weeks after spraining his right ankle during overtime of a March 6 road loss to the [Los Angeles Lakers](#). His recovery time has been extended as the Knicks (48-28) have gone 8-6 without him in the lineup and are in third place in the Eastern Conference.

"He's cleared for basketball activities," coach Tom Thibodeau said Wednesday before New York's 124-105 loss to the host [Cleveland Cavaliers](#).

The Knicks, with six regular-season games remaining, visit the [Atlanta Hawks](#) on Saturday and host the [Phoenix Suns](#) on Sunday. Brunson has played in 61 games, four short of the 65-game threshold needed to qualify for postseason awards.

A candidate for All-NBA honors and the Clutch Player of the Year, Brunson is averaging 26.3 points, 7.4 assists and 3.0 rebounds in 61 starts.

The [Dallas Mavericks](#) selected Brunson in the second round (33rd overall) of the 2018 NBA Draft out of



Villanova.

Voted an All-Star the past two seasons, Brunson was All-NBA second team in 2023-24. His career averages are 18.1 points, 5.0 assists and 3.2 rebounds in

483 regular-season games (333 starts) for the Mavericks (2018-22) and Knicks.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Pakistan fined for slow over-rate for third time in four ODIs



Members of the Pakistan cricket team have been penalised for slow over rates

Pakistan incurred an over-rate offence for a second game in a row against New Zealand after they were found one over short in the second one day in Hamilton. The players were fined 5% of their match fees after captain Mohammad Rizwan pleaded guilty to the offence.

Match referee Jeff Crowe imposed the sanction as per Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which governs over-rate offences. Players are fined 5% of their match fees for each over the team falls short of bowling in the given time. On-

field umpires Michael Gough and Wayne Knights, third umpire Paul Reiffel, and fourth umpire Chris Brown levelled the charge.

Pakistan were found two overs short in the opening ODI of the three-game series in Napier, where they lost by 73 runs. They went down in the second ODI by 84 runs to concede the series with a match to spare. Pakistan slipped to 72 for 7 in their chase of 293 and only managed to get to 208 because of fifties from No. 7 Faheem Ashraf and No. 10 Naseem Shah. This was after New Zealand wicketkeeper

Mitchell Hay scored an unbeaten 99 to help them post 292, and that was followed by fast bowler Ben Sears registering his ODI-best figures of 5 for 59.

Pakistan were also fined for a slower over-rate in the opening match of the 2025 Champions Trophy, which was also against New Zealand. Thus, this is the third successive match against New Zealand - and third in four completed ODIs - in which Pakistan have been docked for an over-rate offence.