

All classes in the public schools are cancelled

Story on Page 2



Three Antiguans graduate with doctorate degrees

Story on Page 8

Ministry of Education cancels all classes in the public schools for today



The Ministry of Education has made a decision to cancel all classes in the public school system, at least for today, Monday May 12, 2025.

This decision is in response to a press statement issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) indicating that its industrial action will continue today (Monday) despite the ministry of education indicating that as far as it is aware, all outstanding payments have been made to the respective teachers.

The ministry of education issued its own press statement overnight, advising parents and guardians that there will be no school on Monday.

“In light of the press statement issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers on Sunday evening of continued industrial action, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries hereby informs parents and guardians that all classes scheduled

for Monday 12th May, 2025 are canceled at public schools throughout the country and children should remain at home until all outstanding matters with the ABUT are settled and notice of resumption of classes is issued,” the ministry said.

It noted that security was at the forefront of the decision to have students remain at home.

“The closure of schools does not extend to public school teachers, who must continue reporting for duty.

“Additionally, there will be no disruptions to CSEC examinations that are being administered by the Caribbean Examinations Council,” the statement concluded.

In its public statement to teachers, the ABUT has reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing industrial action, citing the government’s failure to settle long-standing payments and respect collective bargaining agreements.

In a letter released on Sunday, union president Casroy Charles said the strike will continue on Monday, 12 May, and will persist until teachers’ demands are met or “there is consensus to offer grace to our employer”.

Charles urged members to stand firm in the face of what he described as misinformation and political scheming intended to undermine the union’s efforts.

“The leadership of the Antigua and

Barbuda Union of Teachers implores you to avoid being employees who are ignorant to employment relations... proffered by cunning and crafty people in their deceitful scheming,” the statement read.

The union says the strike is in response to unpaid arrears dating back to 2018, including travel, telephone, and technical vocational allowances, as well as ex gratia payments owed to heads of department. Despite assurances, Charles said the Ministry of Education has yet to honour its obligations.

The release also noted that the Ministry issued cheques on Friday, May 9, but emphasized that the union’s position was always clear: “no industrial action will end until all outstanding payments or allowances are settled in their entirety.”

The union leader reminded members that dissent and opposition to the strike had been anticipated but urged them not to waver.

“Do not surrender your rights, nor interests, nor cower to anyone who opposes any collective decision made by our union,” Charles stated.

The strike, which affects both primary and secondary schools, has drawn mixed reactions from the public and officials. However, the union says it will not back down until teachers’ rights are fully honoured.



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Discrepancies, misunderstanding fuel teachers' protest action

Minister of Education Daryll Matthew has indicated that both he and the Cabinet have gone the extra mile to accommodate the teachers in their demands for timely payments of outstanding allowances and other benefits.

Minister Matthew emphasized that the government has consistently prioritized the welfare of educators. "There has been no occasion where I have presented anything to the Cabinet for teachers and their benefits that has not been immediately and unanimously approved," he stated. These approvals have included remuneration increases, retroactive payments, upgraded appointment letters, and specific allowances like those for telephone and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training).

According to the minister the dispute centers around various types of allowances owed to different categories of teachers—principals, deputy principals, and TVET educators, among others. While these payments had been gradual-



Minister of Education Daryll Matthew

ly processed, the union insisted on full payment by a specific deadline, warning of industrial action if not met. He explained that while these payments were being paid on time, the difficulties encountered by the country caused the COVID-19 pandemic led to non-payments and arrears accumulated for these specific allowances.

In response, the Cabinet agreed to expedite payments. The Prime Minister himself reportedly intervened, contacting the Chief Establishment Officer to ensure all required documentation was processed on time.

Yet, due to a one-day delay, the union moved forward with industrial action, staging a sit-in for one or two days.

"We have no quarrel with the teachers or their union," the official affirmed. "Everything they've asked for; we've given to them." However, he acknowledged that delays in implementation, especially within segments of the public sector, remain a recurring challenge.

A key source of tension stems from discrepancies in records and misunderstandings surrounding eligibility and entitlements. For

example, teachers may mistakenly believe they are owed back pay from a five-year period, when in reality they only worked two of those years and are entitled to a prorated portion.

One senior technician at the Ministry of Education provided insight into these issues in a message shared by the Minister: some teachers are now querying cheques from as far back as 2018 and 2019, though records indicate these were issued and likely cashed years ago. The Treasury has advised the Ministry to compile a list of names and cheque numbers to confirm whether these payments were indeed collected.

The Ministry continues to appeal for cooperation and patience. "When these things arise, give us an opportunity to go through our records," the minister pleaded. Instead, he said, the union continues industrial action even in the face of efforts to resolve disputes.

Cuba's Medical Brigade: Going beyond healthcare



Cuban Medical Brigade 25th Anniversary Reception



Sir Clare and Cuban Ambassador Medical Brigade Photographic Exhibition 25th Anniversary



Cuban Brigade Cuban Ambassador Martinez Gonzalez, Hon Sir Molwyn Joseph and Sir Clare and Lady Roberts

The Cuban Medical Brigade is celebrating 25 years of service to Antigua and Barbuda and Cuban and local officials are celebrating the achievements of this dedicated group of health professionals and what their presence means for the healthcare service in the country.

The Cuban Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda hosted a recent commemorative cocktail reception at Blue Waters to mark the 25th

Anniversary of the Cuban Medical Brigade's service in Antigua and Barbuda. The event brought together government officials, diplomats, and friends of Cuba to honour a legacy of healthcare solidarity spanning a quarter of a century.

At the reception held at the residence of the Cuban Ambassador, Sergio Martinez-Gonzalez, Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts led the celebrations by expressing

the nation's deep appreciation for Cuba's enduring commitment to strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's healthcare delivery system.

"Cuba has not only given us doctors; it has given us friends, mentors, and partners in the noble mission of public health," Sir Clare observed.

Remarks were also delivered by Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, and Ambassador Martínez González.

Each speaker echoed sentiments of gratitude and admiration for the Cuban Medical Brigade, highlighting the medical, cultural, and humanitarian contributions made over the past two and a half de-

cades. Sir Clare reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's unwavering support for the partnership, noting:

"Even as current geopolitical narratives seek to downplay the legitimacy of such relationships, Antigua and Barbuda remains steadfast. We choose to honour those who serve our people with integrity and compassion."

During the evening there was a formal presentation of an exhibition of allegorical photographs chronicling the 25-year partnership. This moving display, first unveiled at Parliament in April, will be installed at a later date at Government House for the public and visiting dignitaries to experience.

PM Browne weighs in on the missing T&T national reportedly missing in Antigua

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says there is no evidence that the Trinidad and Tobago national – Thomas Vasquez – has gone missing here in Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister addressed the issue after a member of the Trinidad and Tobago government raised concern over the alleged missing individual.

However, according to PM Browne, the T&T national has had a history of arriving in Antigua and Barbuda by aircraft and leaving clandestinely via boats. This, he disclosed, is something which the individual has been reportedly done several times.

The prime minister noted that if the T&T official wanted to raise the matter, then he ought to do the right thing; write formally to the ministry of foreign affairs and make a formal request.

Noting that more than 500 persons go missing annually in T&T, PM Browne said the official has no moral authority to making the assertion regarding the situation in Antigua and Barbuda when he has a much bigger problem on his hand.

According to the prime minister, while he sympathises with the family of the young man, his 'disappearance' is at this point a matter of conjecture.

Meanwhile, a woman who was reported missing more than 30 years ago, has surfaced in Venezuela and the government is making arrangements for her safe return to Anti-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

gua and Barbuda. PM Browne said he spoke directly with the individual who explained that her disappearance was a result of a set of circumstances beyond her control.



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It's Nurse's Week in Antigua and Barbuda

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) joins the nation in celebrating Nurses Week 2025, observed from May 11–17 under the national theme, *“Our Nurses, Our Future – Caring for Nurses, Strengthens Economies.”*

This year's theme reflects the critical role nurses play—not only as compassionate caregivers, but as key contributors to health equity, innovation, and system-wide resilience. As the largest segment of the healthcare workforce, nurses shape the delivery of care and touch lives far beyond hospital walls—impacting families, communities, and the future of national development.

Director of Nursing Jacqueline Jno-Baptiste expressed her deep admiration for the SLBMC nursing team:

“This is a time to recognize the essential role of nurses in shaping the past, present, and future of health care. Nurses are not only trusted care providers—they are problem solvers, advocates, educators, and change agents. Their unique position at the intersection of compassion and clinical expertise gives them the power to drive real and lasting improvements in patient care, health equity, and systemwide outcomes.”



SLBMC Medical Director Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis

Speaking not only as a leader, but also as a fellow nurse, JnoBaptiste continued:

“In the fast-paced, demanding world of healthcare, it's easy to feel like we must carry it all. Nurses are conditioned to be the caregivers, the fixers, the doers, the ones who always show up. But in serving others, we often neglect ourselves—fearing that asking for help will make us appear weak. So today, I remind every nurse: care for yourself. Refill your cup. You deserve to be celebrated not just for what you do, but for who you are. You matter. Your health matters.”

SLBMC Medical Director Dr. Shivon

Belle-Jarvis echoed these sentiments and emphasized the critical role nurses play within the institution and beyond:

“There is no healthcare system without nurses. They are at the heart of everything we do—from stabilizing the critically ill, to comforting grieving families, to ensuring every patient feels cared for. Their presence, professionalism, and heart set the tone for the care we deliver. This Nurses Week—and every day—we honor and thank you for all you do.”

Throughout Nurses Week, SLBMC will host a series of appreciation activities, and wellness initiatives to honor its nurses and reaffirm the institution's commitment to supporting their holistic wellbeing.

As the nation reflects on the contributions of nurses, SLBMC encourages the public to show gratitude to the professionals who form the backbone of healthcare delivery.

When we care for those who care for us, we don't just strengthen our health systems—we strengthen our society.

Happy Nurses Week to all nurses, and especially to the incredible SLBMC team.

IHO to represent SIDS CSO Coalition at SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum



Britney McDonald

Director of Operations at Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), Britney McDonald, will represent IHO and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Civil Society Organization (CSO) Coalition at this week's SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum, taking place from May 12–13, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Her participation continues the efforts initiated at the 4th International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024. The SIDS CSO Coalition conference brought together over 95 civil society organizations from SIDS regions and international allies for events such as the SIDS CSO Expo, the Global CSO Summit and public consultations. These events contributed directly to the development of the SIDS Civil Society Road Map and Action Plan and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

The SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum in New York provides an opportunity to further shape civil society's role in implementing the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the official outcome document from SIDS4. The ABAS outlines a 10-year global framework that



guides sustainable development across SIDS. It highlights themes such as climate resilience, sustainable financing, environmental protection, digital innovation, inclusive governance, youth and gender inclusion. Civil society participation helps ensure these priorities translate into action, particularly at the local and national levels. The ABAS reflects contributions from local island communities and regional stakeholders who understand the unique challenges and strengths of small island nations.

Britney McDonald has played an active role in strengthening civil society participation throughout the SIDS4 process. With a background in International Relations and Information Systems, she has coordinated with regional organizations, facilitating consultations, co-developing documents,

and amplifying grassroots voices. At the SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum, she will continue to represent the shared voice of CSOs working to advance sustainable futures for SIDS. On behalf of IHO and the SIDS CSO Coalition, the inputs shared will support stronger representation of civil society action in regional and global policy frameworks and programmes.

Speaking ahead of the forum, McDonald noted, *"This SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum is a follow-up from SIDS4 that provides an opportunity for civil society and communities to receive support toward building their capacity for ABAS implementation. We're already a year post the SIDS4 Conference, and now is the time to link ideas with action."*

On May 11th, IHO will release a working document that gathers inputs from across the SIDS CSO network from post-conference consultations. This document remains open for public review and comment and invites all interested individuals and organizations to help shape the final content presented during and after the forum.

To contribute feedback or connect with Integrated Health Outreach regarding the SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum and the ongoing process, interested parties can visit www.ihoad.com or email info@ihoad.com.

Following the Engagement Forum, IHO will organize a post-forum activity to share the outcomes with civil society networks and partners. This follow-up meeting will outline key discussions, agreed actions, and opportunities for continued engagement and implementation of the roadmap in national contexts.

For more information on the SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum, please visit the following link: <https://sdgs.un.org/2025SIDSCSOForum>

Local News



Three Antiguan graduates with doctorate degrees

Three Antiguan are today celebrating a momentous occasion in their lives; their graduation with doctorate degrees from Western Illinois University, in the United States.

They are Dr. Tristan Browne of Piccadilly, and Doctors Zahra Lake and Sequoyah Survia of the Grays Green Community.

Dr. Survia's dissertation was on the topic; *Teachers' Ways of Handling Teenage Pregnancy Cases in Secondary Schools in Antigua and Barbuda: A Qualitative Study*. For Dr. Lake, her dissertation focused on: *Perspectives on the Impact of Steelband Education in the African Diaspora: Exploring Empowerment, Cultural Identity, and Social Justice*. While for Dr. Browne, he chose for his dissertation;



Dr. Zahra Lake, Dr. Tristan Browne and Dr. Sequoyah Survia (Left - Right)

The Impact of COVID-19 on Student Achievement in Texas: Deepening Disparities.

Speaking with Point Express newspaper, Dr. Survia described her achievement as a very challenging

but rewarding milestone. "I had to find the balance, as I have two young children, between working full-time and as a full-time student. I've missed many opportunities to sleep for a full eight hours but it was still re-

warding. There were some moments of self-doubt, but I pushed through and persevered," she stated.

The graduation exercises were held on Saturday.

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FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY:

Antiguan attorney has been called to the bar in Barbados

Antigua and Barbuda's Jamoy Morrison, an attorney-at-law, has been called to the bar in Barbados where he now resides and where he has been invited to be part of a law firm in the Caribbean territory.

Jamoy is originally from Pigotts village and made his name as a young and gifted organist within the Antigua Conference of the Moravian Church. He was also the musical arranger for the Moravian Mass Choir.

Despite being raised by a single parent, the late Jackie Freeland-Morrison, Jamoy was able through the support and love of his family and his own dedication and perseverance, to emerge today as one of Barbados' newest attorneys, being called to the Barbados Bar last week.

Jamoy earned his LL.B. in 2020, finished law school in 2022, and spent a year thereafter completing postgraduate studies in international economic law and policy in Bern, Switzerland. He returned to the Caribbean in 2023 and eventually settled in Barbados.



Jamoy Morrison(left) and Anthony Francis-Worrell who presented him to the Supreme Court in Barbados

He was among group of four applicants participating in the private ceremony held at the Barbados Supreme Court, before the Chief Justice.

Jamoy's interest lies in tax law. His master's thesis explored the relationship between expropriation and taxation in international investment law.

Jamoy is the nephew of the late pan maestro, Vincent Freeland and related to the Freeland Family of Potters.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Terri London and Level Up team donate fresh fruits to Care Project

The recent rains have resulted in an abundance of fruits and vegetables in communities across the country and one advocacy group is sharing its bounty with those in the society who are in need of assistance.

Terri London and the Level Up Team say they are honoured to share this abundance by donating a variety of fresh fruits to the Care Project in Antigua.

"This gesture reflects our belief that everyone de-

serves access to nutritious, homegrown food, especially those who need it most. May these fruits bring nourishment, joy, and a reminder that we grow stronger together when we care for one another," London stated.

Matron at the Care Project, Ashley Francis, expressed her appreciation to the Level Up Team for thinking of them at this time.



The Sacredness of a Mother's Work: A Tribute to Mothers on Mother's Day



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Introduction

A woman holds a child on her breast, feeling the quiet rhythm of its heartbeat against her own. In that moment, she is more than just a mother—she is a protector, a guide, a foundation upon which a life will be built. She dreams of who her child will become, of the joys they will know, the lessons they will learn, the future they will create. Yet, she understands that while she may nurture, shape, and influence, she cannot dictate their destiny.

The Lebanese writer and poet, Khalil Gibran, captures these sentiments in his timeless poem:

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of Children.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

Gibran's words remind us of the bittersweet truth—that children come through their mothers but do not belong to them. They are like arrows sent forth, shaped but not controlled, guided but not owned.

Yet, this reality does not diminish the sacred work of a mother. Instead, it magnifies her labor, making her role even more profound. Let us now explore some key principles of a mother's work.

A Mother's Work is the Greatest Influence on Earth

Of all the forces that shape society, a mother's influence surpasses them all. Politicians govern, educators instruct, leaders inspire—but a mother nurtures the very core of humanity.

One famous writer once wrote, "*The influence of a mother in the home is greater than any other influence on earth.*" It is the mother who whispers words of encouragement, wipes away tears, and teaches lessons that determine the kind of adults her children will become. No success or honor in the world surpasses the power of a mother's touch on a child's soul.

A Mother's Work is Sacrificial

A mother's love demands everything

yet asks for nothing. She gives her nights to restless infants, her energy to growing children, and her years to the endless needs of her family.

She sacrifices sleep, dreams, and comforts so that her children never feel the absence of love. She goes without so they can have, bears burdens so they can thrive. And though the world may not see these sacrifices, they are the quiet pillars upon which generations are built.

A Mother's Work Must Be Bathed in Prayer

There are days when a mother's strength fails, when weariness weighs heavy upon her soul. In those moments, she turns to prayer.

She prays over her children—for their safety, wisdom, and hearts. She prays when they are young, asking for guidance in raising them. She prays when they grow, hoping they will make the right choices. She prays even when they stray, trusting that they will find their way back.

Her prayers do not end when they leave home. They remain, like whispers carried by the wind, echoing in their lives long after she is gone.

A Mother's Work Never Ends

Though a mother may one day rest, her work continues through the lives she has touched. Her teachings, her love, her sacrifices—they are woven into the fabric of her children's existence.

Yet, amidst the routines of daily life, a mother may not always recognize the profound impact of her labor. The endless meals she prepares, the comforting words she speaks, the quiet sacrifices she makes—these may seem ordinary, even unnoticed. But in truth, they are the foundation upon which the future is built.

A mother does not simply nurture a child; she shapes the ideals, resilience, and character that will influence generations.

A Mother's Most Important Work: Teaching Children to Resist Evil

Success in the world means nothing if a child is lost to it. A mother's greatest responsibility is not merely to raise educated, accomplished individuals but to instill in them the strength to resist corruption, deception, and evil.

"You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth." — Khalil Gibran

She strengthens them for life—not just with knowledge, but with wisdom. She prepares them—not just for careers, but for character.

She teaches them—not just how to achieve, but how to discern right from wrong.

The world will tempt them with riches, power, and prestige. But *what shall it profit a man if he gains the world, yet loses his soul?*

A Final Reflection: A Mother's Love Lives On

As I write these words, I know that I cannot celebrate Mother's Day with my own mother, for she passed away in 2019 after a labor of love for her nine children—almost entirely on her own. She bore the weight of responsibility, the trials of life, and the sacrifices that often went unnoticed. Yet, she never wavered in love, never relented in prayer, never ceased believing in the future of her children.

Though she is no longer here, I know that her prayers live on. They are carried in the lives she shaped, in the lessons she taught, in the love she left behind.

Her sacrifices were not in vain, and her influence did not fade with time. Even now, her presence lingers—not in the things she owned, but in the values she instilled, the faith she nurtured, and the unyielding love that continues to guide us.

This is the sacred work of a mother. It is love that transcends time, shaping not only children but generations to come.

Today, we cherish our mothers, honor their work, and will never take their love for granted.



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In a world that's moving fast,
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 From the refreshing sip of lemonade on a summer's day,
 To the sparkling water that quenches thirst in the sun's ray.

But what happens when the bottle's used and gone?
 Does it get tossed away with the waste we don't want?

Let's take a moment, pause, and think,
 Because the answer lies in reducing, reusing, and rethinking the link.

Reduce the waste, the glass, and the strain,
 The Earth can't handle the constant refrain.
 Each bottle that's tossed adds to the pile,
 But what if we changed just for a while?
 Instead of endless consumption, let's choose less,
 That one small change can lead to progress.

We can replace the plastic with glass,
 A material that's durable, but not made to surpass,
 Our need for sustainability, it's clear,
 If we act now, the future will cheer.

Reuse the bottles, don't let them go,
 Each one can serve again and again, don't you know?

Turn that bottle into a vase, a cup, or a jar,
 Let creativity flow, no need to travel far.
 With a little imagination and care,

Those glass bottles can go anywhere!

Not only does this help save space,
 But it also lowers the demand we place,
 On resources that are finite and rare,
 By reusing glass, we show we care.

Rethink the way we see waste,
 Is it a burden or a chance to embrace?
 A chance to make better choices each day,
 To choose the glass bottle and put plastic away.

We don't need to keep making more,
 When we already have enough to restore.
 The Earth is not a landfill, it's our home,
 Let's rethink the way we've always roamed.
 A mindset shift can change the game,
 For glass, for nature, for the climate we claim.
 It's time to rhyme with reason, to resolve with might,
 Let's reduce, reuse, and rethink for the future bright.

Glass bottles can speak loud and clear,
 If we listen, we'll find solutions right here.

We're calling on you, it's time to take part,
 In this movement, this revolution of the heart.
 Together, we can make a world that's wise,
 Where glass bottles don't just fade, but rise.

So let's come together, and make a stand,
 To reduce, reuse, and rethink, hand in hand.
 The climate needs us, and we have the power,
 Let's shape the future, starting from this hour!

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Regional News



Guyana: Investigation launched into death of schoolboy reportedly linked to dengue

The Ministry of Health Friday said it has launched “a full investigation” into the events leading up to the death of a 12-year-old schoolboy following complications reportedly related to dengue fever.

In a statement in which it expressed “its sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of 12-year-old Lokesh Ibrahim,” the ministry said the student of the Skeldon Line Path Secondary School “tragically passed away following complications reportedly related to dengue fever.

“We are deeply concerned by the circumstances surrounding this case and have therefore launched



a full investigation into the events leading up to Lokesh’s death, including the handling of his case by medical personnel at the Skeldon Hospital.”

According to the state-

ment, a three-member team, comprising the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh; Internal Medicine Specialist, Dr Shazeema Shaw; and General Surgeon, Dr Shiek Amir, has been appointed to lead this

investigation.

“This investigation will be thorough and transparent, and any necessary actions or disciplinary measures will be taken based on the findings,” the ministry said, adding that the Director General of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, and the Regional Health Officer of Region Six, Dr Vineshri Khiredhar, will be visiting the family of the child on Friday. “The Ministry of Health remains committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of all citizens and reiterates its commitment to full accountability in this matter,” it added. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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China dismisses US ‘smear’ during talks between Rubio and Caribbean leaders



China has dismissed comments made by the United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, to leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and The Bahamas saying they “revealed ideological bias and disrespect and ignorance of the basic norms in international relations”.

Rubio met with the Caribbean leaders on Tuesday and according to the US State Department spokesperson, Tammy Bruce, “Rubio urged our partners to make responsible, transparent decisions when selecting vendors and contractors for critical infrastructure projects, ensuring they are not vulnerable to privacy and security risks and exploitation by malign actors like the Chinese Communist Party”.

Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis, speaking on his return here confirmed that the meeting discussed the integrity of critical infrastructure projects in the Caribbean. “Secretary Rubio encouraged all leaders present to avoid choosing infrastructure partners who could pose security or data privacy risks, a point we take seriously,” Davis said.

Dominica’s Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, in an interview with his Government Information Service (GIS) in Roseau, said regarding the presence of China in the region and more particularly, its diplomatic relations with

Roseau, said “the United States of America has a relationship with China. “I think some of the things that people speak about our relationship with China are sometimes misplaced. China has been... and continues to be a major ally in our economic and social development.

“We have always maintained our relationship with China in a very transparent way. Our relationship with China is no different to that of our relationship with any country in the world, whether it’s a European country or an African country or a Caribbean country,” Skerrit added.

In a statement, the Chinese embassy said that “China firmly opposes” the comments by Rubio, adding that “these comments revealed ideological bias and disrespect and ignorance of the basic norms in international relations.

“China’s cooperation with Caribbean countries, including The Bahamas, has always adhered to the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and win-win outcomes, delivering tangible benefits to the peoples of both sides.

“Chinese-invested projects, whether ports or other facilities, aim to address local development needs, foster economic growth, and create employment opportunities,” Beijing said.

There are significant Chinese interests here with Baha Mar in Cable Beach owned by Hong Kong-based conglomerate Chow Tai Fook Enterprises, and Margaritaville owned by China Construction America. In Grand Bahama, the Hong Kong-based company CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. owns a majority of the Freeport Container Port, though it was announced in March a deal was reached for sale of the port assets to Blackrock Inc.

The Bahamas has also gotten various concessional loans from the Chinese over the years for infrastructure projects and the government is currently finalizing an agreement with Export-Import Bank of China to fund a US\$290 million hospital on New Providence.

“Both China and The Bahamas are independent and sovereign states, fully capable and wise enough to decide whom to befriend and whom to do business with,” the Chinese Embassy said, adding “China supports The Bahamas to diversify its partnerships, which serve its national interests. China does not pursue exclusive blocs, geopolitical rivalry, or camp confrontation, nor does it force any country to take sides.

“We welcome all nations to sincerely increase their investment in The Bahamas, and to pursue cooperation with The Bahamas based on equality and mutual benefit.

“The Caribbean countries are not spheres of influence of any nation. The outdated Cold War mentality and zero-sum game thinking should be abandoned and an open and inclusive approach should be adopted toward China’s cooperation with Latin America, the Caribbean, and The Bahamas. The world is vast enough to accommodate the common development and shared progress of all nations,” the Chinese Embassy added. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Regional News

132 teen mothers reintegrated into school

A total of 132 adolescent mothers were reintegrated into the formal school system during the 2023-2024 academic year, says the National Parenting Support Commission.

Chief Executive Officer Kaysia Kerr provided the statistics during the inaugural Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation's Empowered Futures Parenting Symposium held on Friday at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston.

She said that some 152 pregnancies were recorded over the period.

Kerr, who represented Education Minister Dr Dana Morris Dixon, indicated that the girls either returned to the institutions they attended before pregnancy or were enrolled in a new school.

She noted that although many of the girls had originally earned a place in school, the response of "no space available" has been used by some institutions to exclude them from post-pregnancy reintegration.

The 1980 education regulations are the basis for ministerial discretion to facilitate the re-entry of girls to educational institutions.

The ministry's National Policy on the Reintegration of School-age Mothers establishes a framework for inter-agency collaboration to address the wider issues that limit their reintegration



into the formal school system.

Kerr underscored that reintegration in today's world means more than just getting back into the classroom.

"It must include embracing all the training and skills development opportunities available to enable you to function effectively as parents and as individuals," she told the adolescent mothers in attendance.

She reminded them that education is the gateway to empowerment, and they must embrace the opportunities.

"It is the key that unlocks not only opportunity, but also dignity. Whether in the classroom, the home,

or the community, education enables transformation. In addition, when a mother is educated and empowered, she changes not only her life, but the lives of her children, her household and ultimately, her community," she pointed out.

Kerr told the adolescent mothers that they are a powerful reminder of the resilience, hope and potential that exist within Jamaica's youth.

"You are part of a sisterhood of second chances and that is a beautiful, powerful thing," she said, commending the symposium's focus on not just their past, but more importantly, their future.

Data from the Ministry of

Education, Skills, Youth and Information's seven regions:

Region 1 (Kingston and St Andrew) – 63 of 68 adolescent mothers were reintegrated; Region 2 (St Thomas, Portland and St Mary) – 22 of 22 were reintegrated

Region 3 (St Ann and Trellawny) – 5 of 5 were reintegrated; Region 4 (St James, Hanover and Westmoreland) – 9 of 9 were reintegrated

Region 5 (Manchester and St. Elizabeth) – 8 of 23 were reintegrated; Region 6 (St Catherine) – 10 of 10 were reintegrated

Region 7 (Clarendon) – 15 of 15 were reintegrated. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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Chimpanzees use some features of language to talk to each other

New research suggests wild chimpanzees have developed a far more nuanced communication system than previously realized, using several mechanisms that combine their vocalizations to create new meaning.

These elements of chimpanzee communication, described in a study published Friday in the journal *Science Advances*, resemble some of the fundamental building blocks of human language.

Scientists analyzed recordings of three groups of chimpanzees living in the Ivory Coast and found that chimps can combine their hoots, grunts and calls in a similar way to how humans use idioms or change the order of words to build new phrases.

The new research is the first time scientists have documented such complexity in a nonhuman communication system, and they think that the chimpanzees' abilities represent an evolutionary transition point between rudimentary animal communication and human language.

"Generating new or combined meanings by combining words is a hallmark of human language," Catherine Crookford, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology who co-directs the Tai Chimpanzee Project, said in a news release. "It is crucial to investigate whether a similar capacity exists in our closest living relatives, chimpanzees and bonobos."

A separate study, published last month, provided similar evidence that bonobos, another primate, can also combine their calls to modify calls and form phrases. Together, these studies suggest both species evolved to develop fundamental building blocks of human language.

Bonobos and chimpanzees are the species most closely related to humans in evolutionary history, which means all three species could have evolved from

a common ancestor with this ability, a theory that could help researchers understand how human language developed.

"Our findings suggest a highly generative vocal communication system, unprecedented in the animal kingdom, which echoes recent findings in bonobos suggesting that complex combinatorial capacities were already present in the common ancestor of humans and these two great ape species," Cédric Girard-Buttoz, a researcher with the ENES bioacoustics research lab and the first author of the study, said in a news release.

The researchers discovered these new complexities in chimpanzees' vocal system by following particular animals in the field from dawn to dusk for about 12 hours each day, recording the sounds the chimpanzees made and the responses from others in the group. They recorded more than 4,300 vocalizations from 53 wild chimpanzees.

During the chimps' vocal calls, the researchers also tracked what activities, social interactions and environmental changes were occurring, and noted if the animals were eating, playing or encountering a predator, for example.

Then, the researchers performed a statistical analysis of specific two-call combinations — such as a grunt followed by a bark — that were documented in multiple animals.

The researchers found that chimpanzees combined calls in all of their daily aspects of life and that the combinations could express a wide variety of meanings.

Simon Townsend, a professor at the University of Zurich who studies cognition in primates and contributed to the bonobo research but was not involved in this study, said the paper is the first to show chimpanzees using several different mechanisms that are

considered to be among the building blocks of language.

He said the evidence does suggest that the common evolutionary ancestor of bonobos, humans and chimpanzees probably had this ability, too.

"It does seem to suggest that our linguistic abilities were already well on the way to evolving ... 6-7 million years ago," Townsend said, referring to when the species likely branched off from one another in the evolutionary tree.

Not all primates show evidence of such complicated communication. Forest monkeys, which have relatively simple social groups, mostly use vocalizations to manage predatory threats, Townsend said.

But he thinks the formation of increasingly large and complicated social groups — an element common to great ape species and humans — likely spurred the evolution of more complex communication and eventually the ability to form language.

For bonobos and chimpanzees, "the biggest challenge for them is navigating their complex social world. They live in much larger groups. ... There's aggression, there's reconciliation, there's territoriality, there's inter-group interactions, and vocalizations, I think, is one evolutionary solution to trying to manage these complex and fine-grained social interactions," Townsend said.

In human language, syntax is the set of rules that creates a system capable of expressing an infinite number of meanings.

"Syntax is all about providing more and more precise, refined information. And you probably only need to do that when your social interactions get more complex," Townsend said. (*NBC News*)

India and Pakistan accuse each other of violating ceasefire deal

India and Pakistan have accused each other of violating a ceasefire agreement that was reached on Saturday.

In a statement, India's foreign secretary said that the ceasefire "is being violated by Pakistan. The Indian Army is retaliating and dealing with this border intrusion."

"This intrusion is extremely condemnable, and Pakistan is responsible for it. We believe that Pakistan should understand this situation properly and take appropriate action immediately to stop this intrusion," Vikram Misri, the Indian foreign secretary, added.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry blamed Indian forces for initiating the ceasefire violation. The ministry said Pakistan remains committed to the agreement and its forces were handling the situation with responsibility and restraint.

The remarks came hours after President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced early Saturday that the U.S. had mediated a ceasefire deal between the two South Asian nations after days of fighting in and around the disputed Kashmir region.

"After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social,



shortly after Rubio issued a statement announcing that the two nations "have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site."

Shortly after the ceasefire was announced, Tammy Bruce, a spokesperson for the State Department, said in a statement that Rubio "offered U.S. assistance in starting constructive talks in order to avoid future conflicts," but did not indicate when those talks would begin or where they would take place.

The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan confirmed the ceasefire agreement, with Pakistan's foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, writing in a post on X: "Pakistan and India have agreed to a ceasefire with immediate effect. Pakistan has always strived for peace and security in the region, without compromising on its sovereignty and territorial integrity!"

In a press conference, India's Misri told reporters: "Both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with ef-

fect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time today. Instructions have been given on both sides to give effect to this understanding."

Later Saturday, though, Omar Abdullah, chief minister of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, wrote on X that he heard explosions in Kashmir after the announcement of the ceasefire. The cause of the explosions was not immediately clear.

"What the hell just happened to the ceasefire? Explosions heard across Srinagar!!!" he wrote.

India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Saturday minimized the United States' role in mediating a ceasefire, saying in a post on X, "Stoppage of firing and military action between India and Pakistan was worked out directly between the two countries."

In a separate tweet, however, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked Trump and the U.S. for "facilitating this outcome," further sowing confusion about the Trump administration's

role in the ceasefire.

"We thank President Trump for his leadership and proactive role for peace in the region. Pakistan appreciates the United States for facilitating this outcome, which we have accepted in the interest of regional peace and stability," Sharif wrote.

He added, "We also thank Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for their valuable contributions for peace in South Asia."

In its statement, the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also said that there was "no decision to hold talks on any other issue at any other place," despite the U.S. State Department's claim that the two nations had decided "to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site."

The nuclear-armed neighbors engaged in their worst fighting in decades last week, when India launched an assault on Pakistan in response to a deadly terrorist attack on April 22 in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, in which 26 people, mostly Indian tourists, were killed by militants India says were backed by Pakistan, which Pakistan denies.

Almost four dozen people were killed in the initial violence between the two countries, including India's strikes on what it said were "terror camps" and the shelling in response by Pakistan. (NBC News)

Trump praises 'friendly, constructive' US-China trade talks



Donald Trump says there has been a “total reset” in US-China trade relations following the first day of talks between American and Chinese officials in Switzerland.

In a social media post, the US president described the talks as being “very good” and said change had been “negotiated in a friendly, but constructive, manner”.

An escalating trade war between Washington and Beijing has seen the US president hit Chinese imports to the US with tariffs of 145%. China retaliated with levies of 125% on some US goods.

Following months of back-and-forth, the two countries are meeting in Geneva this weekend for the first time since Trump hit China with tariffs at the start of the year.

Little information beyond the US president’s Truth Social post has so far emerged from the talks. They are due to continue on Sunday and are taking place between China’s vice-premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

“We want to see, for the good of both

China and the U.S., an opening up of China to American business. GREAT PROGRESS MADE!!!” Trump added. On Friday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Washington would not lower tariffs unilaterally, and China would need to make its own concessions.

Both sides issued various other warnings ahead of the meeting, with Beijing saying the US must ease tariffs while Bessent stressed that the focus was on “de-escalation” and this was not a “big trade deal”.

Chinese state media reported that Beijing had decided to engage with the US after fully considering global expectations, the country’s interests and appeals from American businesses. Last month, the BBC found that Chinese exporters were struggling with the US’s tariffs - one company, Sorbo Technology, reported that half of its products were normally sold to the US and were now sat in boxes in a warehouse in China.

Meanwhile, the US economy was found to have shrunk in the first three months of the year - contracting at an

annual rate of 0.3% - as firms raced to get goods into the country.

The trade war between China and the US intensified last month after President Trump announced a universal baseline tariff on all imports to the United States, on what he called “Liberation Day”.

Around 60 trading partners, which the White House described as the “worst offenders”, were subjected to higher rates than others. The list included China and the European Union.

Trump said this was payback for years worth of unfair trade policies for the US.

He also separately announced a 25% import tax on all steel and aluminium coming into the US, and a further 25% tariff on all cars and car parts.

It was announced last week that the US and UK had agreed a deal, in which the 25% will be cut to 10% for a maximum of 100,000 UK cars - matching the number of cars the UK exported last year.

Cars are the UK’s biggest export to the US, worth about £9bn last year. (*BBC News*)

Pope Leo XIV calls for Gaza ceasefire in first Sunday message



Pope Leo XIV has called for genuine peace in Ukraine and an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip in his first Sunday noon blessing as pontiff.

“No more war,” Leo said on Sunday, adding, “the dramatic scenario of a third world war being fought piecemeal.”

“I too address the world’s great powers by repeating the ever-present call ‘never again war’,” he said from the loggia of Saint Peter’s Basilica to an estimated 100,000 people below.

The new pope, who was elected on May 8 after the death of Pope Francis, evoked some of his predecessor’s favoured phrases that called for peace.

Pope Leo said he carries

in his heart the “suffering of the beloved people of Ukraine” and appealed for negotiations to reach an “authentic, just and lasting peace”.

The call came hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed direct negotiations with Ukraine to achieve “lasting peace” amid stalled attempts by the administration of United States President Donald Trump to mediate an agreement.

Leo also called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and said he was “profoundly saddened” by the war in the Israeli-besieged enclave.

He said humanitarian relief must be provided to the “exhausted civilian population”, adding that

“all hostages” held by the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza must be freed.

Pope Francis called Gaza’s Christians on a near-daily basis during Israel’s war on Gaza, which has killed more than 52,000 Palestinians and wounded 120,000 others, many of them children and women.

The Israeli military continues to maintain a total blockade on water, food and all other humanitarian aid to Gaza despite international calls to stop its starvation policy.

Leo said he was glad to hear of the ceasefire reached on Saturday between nuclear neighbours India and Pakistan, and hoped negotiations would lead to a lasting accord. *(Al Jazeera English)*




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Sports News

Wins for Police and Freetown in Parish League cricket



Police and Freetown recorded wins in the Antigua Commercial Bank Parish League Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Champi-

onship on Saturday.

Police trounced Mahico by 91 runs at the Clare Hall playing field. Police

made 200 for three. Damon Valentine slammed 81, and skipper Vincent Shadrach Jr. hit 66. Nayon Frederick claimed two for 28.

In reply, Mahico was restricted to 109 for eight. Dion Samuel cracked 57. Kiscean Francis picked up two for 11, and Trevorson Atley took two for 11.

Freetown snatched a three-wicket victory against PIC Insurance Liberta

Blackhawks at Freetown.

The Blackhawks were restricted to 117 for six off 26 overs. Tayari Tonge hit 39, and Vishan Gobin scored 16. Antwuan Willock grabbed three for 28.

Freetown achieved victory by scoring 118 for seven. Cleton Payne struck 31, and Jamaul Fernandez made 24. Vishan Gobin snapped up four for 19, and Elvis Weaver Jr. captured two for 28.

Blackhawks extend unbeaten run in Antigua T20 Premier League

PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks extended their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the standings in the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda T20 Premier League on Saturday.

The Blackhawks picked up their fourth win in as many games to advance to eight points and secure a spot in the knockout phase of the six-team competition by snatching a two-run win via the Duckworth/Lewis Stern Method (DLS) Method against the New Winthorpes Lions at Ball Beef in Liberta.

In a match reduced to 19 overs, the Blackhawks made 180 for eight after being sent in to bat.

Hayden Walsh Jr. slammed 59 off 32 balls, including six sixes and two fours; captain Rahkeem Cornwall struck 41 off 20 balls, including five sixes and two fours; and opener Avier Christian scored 23 off 22 balls.

Orandel Boston picked up two for 16, and captain Nino Henry claimed two for 27 for the Lions, who remain in second place with six points after suffering their first defeat in four matches.

Set 182 to win in 19 overs, the Lions



Rahkeem Cornwall

just fell short as they were restricted to 179 for seven.

Opener Jermaine Otto hammered 57 off 26 balls, including six fours and

three sixes; Nino Henry slammed 54 off 19 balls, including six sixes and two fours; and Bartlette Henry struck 24 off 26 balls. Avier Christian picked up two for 10.

Empire Nations kept alive their chances of reaching the knockout phase by securing their second win in four matches with a three-run win via the Duckworth/Lewis Stern Method against the Jennings Tigers at the same venue.

The Empire Nation made 151 for four off 18 overs. Opener Tanez Francis hit 60 off 42 balls, including seven fours and three sixes. Fellow opener Tyrone Williams Jr. struck 32 off 25 balls, including three sixes and two fours, and Damian Lowenfield struck 25 off 22 balls. Shane Burton captured two for 28.

In reply, the Jennings Tigers made 154 for nine in 16.4 overs. Shane Burton hit 39 off 23 balls, Dahri Francis cracked 25 off 11 balls, and Glenton Williams scored 21 not out off 22 balls.

Lowenfield snapped up five for 22, and Javaughn James captured two for 26.

Flyers lead First Division semi-final playoff series



Top seed and defending ABBA Division 1 champions EZ Fit Flyers. (File photo)

Top seed and defending champions EZ Fit Flyers have taken a one-nil lead in their best-of-three Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division playoff series.

The Flyers, who have already retained their Division 1 league title, crushed fourth-seed New Generation All Saints Slam 96-72 in Game 1 at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

The Flyers were led by Selassie Brathwaite with 19 points, 11 rebounds, eight assists, and seven steals, and Adonis Humphreys, who sank 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

In support, Kwame Brathwaite converted 16

points, David Hernandez sank 13 points, and Devonte Daley scored 12 points for the Flyers.

Humroy Wright shot a game-high 32 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Andrew Venture produced 15 points and nine assists; Kim Casey converted 12 points; and Iornie Joseph scored seven points and snatched 16 rebounds for All Saints Slam.

All Saints Slam booked their place in the semi-finals of the Division 1 playoffs by prevailing 2-1 against fifth-seed Spanish Heat. All Saints Slam snatched an 83-78 victory against Spanish Heat in the deciding Game 3.

Humroy Wright shot

a game-high 27 points; Wilkin Floyd sank 15 points and claimed nine rebounds; and Andrew Venture produced 10 points, 10 assists, and seven rebounds for the All Saints Slam.

Damian Floyd sank 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Daniel Perez produced 22 points, seven assists, and five steals; and Steven Matthew chipped in with 15 points and six assists for Spanish Heat.

Meanwhile, fifth seed EZ Fit Flyers 2 and third seed Spanish Heat 2 have advanced to the semi-finals of the Division 2 playoffs series.

Flyers 2 snatched a 2-1 victory against fourth seed Old Road Daggers in their

best-of-three first-round series. Flyers 2 soared past Old Road Daggers 70-65 in the deciding Game 3 on Saturday.

Amare Browne sank 26 points and claimed nine rebounds; Rashaun Harry converted 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Naheem Joseph scored 10 points; and Delroy Foster chipped in with nine points and 15 rebounds for Flyers 2.

Kedar Clarke sank 20 points and snatched 12 rebounds, Kelvin Simon converted 12 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, and Braulio Estrada scored 10 points for the Old Road Daggers.

Spanish Heat 2 prevailed 2-1 against sixth-seed Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in their best-of-three first-round series. Spanish Heat 2 romped to a commanding 77-57 victory against the Fearless Crew in the deciding Game 3.

Charlie Daniel sank 18 points and grabbed 17 rebounds; Erwin Rodriguez converted 16 points and claimed 11 rebounds; and Rohland Hamilton scored 11 points and snatched 23 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.

Rafiki Harris shot a game-high 28 points and claimed six rebounds, and Takeem Martin sank 11 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Fearless Crew.

CWI conducts talent identification workshop



Participants of the CWI's Territorial Talent Identifiers Workshop, which was held in Trinidad and Tobago from May 8 to 10. (CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies (CWI) Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe met with territorial talent identifiers during the West Indies Breakout League, as the regional body conducted a three-day workshop in Trinidad and Tobago.

The workshop, which ended on May 10, ahead of the Breakout League final, brought together CWI's network of Territorial Talent Identifiers with key high-performance and coaching personnel to improve alignment, evaluation methods, and integration with the senior men's team environment.

The six talent identifiers went through several comprehensive sessions with West Indies senior men's team head coach Daren Sammy, alongside high-performance manager Dwain Gill, senior talent manager Jamal Smith, and CWI's performance analyst Avenesh Seetaram.

Sammy praised Cricket West Indies for the initiative, which is in line with the strategic plan of aligning the principles of the international team to the regional level.

"It's a great initiative brought on by

CWI with all the talent IDs that we have around the region, with the intention to provide context and guidance to this instrumental group by giving them an in-depth look into what we do at the highest level in all three formats of the game," Sammy said.

"The processes we go through, the data that is collected, and how those translate to filling the respective personnel roles in the various teams. The workshop gave us the opportunity to show our Talent IDs a template that they could mirror in their home territories regarding planning and tactical aspects at the international level," he added.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, outlined the key objective of the workshop.

"The workshop's main objective is to ensure that the territorial talent identifiers know the processes that drive selection and, by extension, talent identification and development.

"We also took the opportunity to align the depth charting process and gather their input on creating a stan-

dardised player assessment model to be implemented system-wide. The input and feedback from the group were extremely valuable and provided a foundation for continuous collaboration," Bascombe said.

Sammy explained that with the drive and desire to regain dominance and reign on the international scene, the regional talent identifiers will play a crucial role.

"With the expertise of Jamal Smith and Avenesh Seetaram, we showed the talent IDs what is required to be on par with the rest of the world, as well as explaining the brand of cricket we want to play and how we will use the regional level as the starting point to plot our way to the summit of international cricket yet again," Sammy noted.

Territorial Talent Identifiers at the Workshop: Henderson Broomes (Barbados), Ramnaresh Sarwan (Guyana), Delroy Morgan (Jamaica), Samuel Spencer (Leeward Islands), Gibran Mohammed (Trinidad & Tobago), and Craig Emmanuel (Windward Islands).

Shallow optimistic about success of incoming Windies Test captain



Dr. Kishore Shallow

Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Dr. Kishore Shallow has expressed optimism that the individual chosen through an ongoing, rigorous selection process will lead the West Indies Test team with success and distinction.

Shallow sentiments came as he confirmed that a new West Indies Test captain will be named within the next week. He

also praised the comprehensive and structured approach being taken by CWI's cricket leadership in the selection process.

"We are hopeful that by the end of next week, the Board will receive recommendations for the Test captain. The last update I got from the Director of Cricket [Miles Bascombe] is that the process is going pretty well," Shallow revealed on WESN TV's

Face of Sports show on Friday.

Six players—Roston Chase, Joshua Da Silva, John Campbell, Jomel Warrican, Tevin Imlach, and Justin Greaves—have reportedly been short-listed for the role and are currently undergoing interviews and assessments conducted by Director of Cricket Bascombe, CWI's Cricket Committee chairman Enoch Lewis, head coach Daren Sammy, and CEO Chris Dehring.

However, final recommendations for the role will be made by Bascombe and Sammy.

"This is the very first time we are going through this sort of process for identifying a Test captain. What I want the public to understand is that it is not just done with eyes on the Test captaincy only; it is actually a process where these people who are identified as potential leaders will be able to get a level of exposure to the requirements and the criteria that

we look for in a player to appoint them as captain," Shallow explained.

"The Test captain is a significant role. It's not just cricket on the field, but they are representing the entire region off the field as well, so we want to give them an insight as to what is required of them when they are considered. There is even a psychometric test as one of the components of this whole process," he shared.

That said, Shallow believes the initiative should also benefit players who are not ultimately selected by helping them grow as future leaders within the regional setup.

"It is really impressive stuff by the technical team, and hopefully, it can produce a very successful Test captain for us and hopefully, put the others who are up for consideration on a path that they would know what they need to do to be a captain in the future or whenever the opportunity arises," Shallow said.



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T&T Legions beat LI Thunder to win first T20 Breakout League



Champions Trinidad & Tobago Legions celebrate after winning the inaugural 2025 West Indies Breakout T20 League. The Legions won the title after beating the Leeward Islands Thunder in the final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Saturday, May 10. (CWI Media)

The Trinidad & Tobago Legions are champions of the inaugural season of the West Indies Breakout League after defeating the Leeward Islands Thunder by 17 runs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba on Saturday.

The Legions, after being put in to bat by the Thunder, posted 181 for five from their 20 overs. Opener Kamil Pooran led the way with 73 off 44 balls, including seven fours and four sixes.

Captain Joshua Da Silva, who entered proceedings at 83 for four halfway through

the 11th over, made a crucial 40 not out off 31 balls, including four fours and a six.

Joshua James also provided some excellent lower middle order hitting with 26 not out off 16 balls, including one four and two sixes.

Captain Karima Gore claimed two for 22 and Micah McKenzie picked up two for 29.

Then, despite a rapid 36-ball 63 at the top of the order from Kofi James, the Thunder were restricted to 164 for nine in their 20 overs.

Elroy Francis chipped in with 23 off 24 balls.

James hammered six fours and four sixes in a brilliant knock that was ended by a brilliant catch by Joshua James on the mid-wicket boundary of the bowling of Jyd Goolie.

Goolie was excellent with his four overs of off spin, picking up three for 13 from his four overs, including the crucial wickets of James, Karima Gore (5) and Anderson Mahase (4).

Pacer McKenny Clarke also bowled well to finish

with three for 34 off four overs, while leg-spinner Navin Bidaisee captured two for 27.

The Leeward Islands Thunder booked their spot in the final of regional T20 competition with a dominant eight-wicket win over the Windward Islands Infernos in their playoff game at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba on Friday.

The Infernos, after winning the toss, produced an awful showing with bat in hand, as they were dismissed for 69 in 14.5 overs.

None of their batsmen got past 20 with Johann Jeremiah top scoring with 14. Jeremiah was one of only three Infernos batsmen to reach double figures along with Noelle Leo (12) and Dillon Douglas (10).

Anderson Mahase was excellent with his 3.5 overs of left arm spin, picking up four for 10, while leg spinner Micah McKenzie, off spinner Kofi James, and left arm seamer Nathan Edward took two wickets each.

The Thunder then needed just 9.1 overs to achieve victory at 70 for two and secure a spot in the final. Kofi James finished with an unbeaten 56 off 34 balls, including three fours and six sixes.