

Teachers' industrial action ends

Story on Page 2



Left to right: Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez, Senior Customs Officer Randy Baltimore, Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood, VCBIA CEO Wendy Williams, ABTA CEO Colin C James and ABAA Chairman Rolston Potter at the launch of ArriveAntigua.com

Teachers' industrial action ends



The industrial action by teachers in the public education system has ended as the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers has advised its members to return to the classroom.

The Ministry of Education, which announced the cancelation of all classes within the public school system for Monday, issued a statement later that day to indicate that classes will resume on Tuesday (today).

This comes after the ABUT issued its own missive to its members for them to return to the classroom as the outstanding matters that were the source of the contention between them and the Ministry of Education had been resolved.

"The general public is hereby notified that all public schools will resume classes on regular schedule from Tuesday, 13th May, 2025.

"This notice is in response to the information from the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers, which was communicated to its membership instructing them 'to resume your requisite duties effective immediately'," the ministry statement noted.

The ministry was responding to the ABUT which issued the following; "The Executive of the **Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers** hereby informs you that we have confirmed that our demands in respect to Travel, Telephone and Technical Vocational Allowances, as well as, Head of Department Ex gratia payments for the period 2018 – 2024, have been met by the Ministry of Education, as of Monday, May 12, 2025.

"Consequently, the Executive of the **Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers** hereby instructs you, its membership, as well as all public school teachers, to resume your requisite duties effective immediately.

"The Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers thanks you for your support during this challenging period. We look forward

to your support in our upcoming activities," the release stated.

The union had instructed its members from participating in actual teaching effective Friday May 2, until Monday May 12, over the outstanding allowances issue. Teachers were therefore engaged in a 'work to rule' where they were present at school but did no teaching.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne called out the union leadership over the issue noting that the government had given a commitment to pay all outstanding amounts and that the delays were mainly due to administrative issues rather than any intention by the government not to pay.

He called the action 'disproportionate' in scale relative to the issue at hand.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

**SATELLITE
BRANCH
EBENEZER**

**DO BUSINESS IN
A BETTER STATE
OF MIND**





Gas Station



St. John's



Big Creek



FULL
SERVICE



EASY
PARKING



HASSLE-FREE
PAYMENTS



GREAT CUSTOMER
SERVICE

(268) 481-7800/04 | info@sicantigua.com | www.sicantigua.com |   

Paperless ED cards formally launched at VCBIA



Antigua and Barbuda has now formally the paperless entry and departure immigration and customs system at the VC Bird International Airport which has been in a 'testing' phase for the last several months.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) invited industry partners, including the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, the Immigration Department, Customs, the Police, the Ministries of Information, Tourism and Foreign Affairs among others to be on hand for a LIVE demonstration of the new app; ArriveAntigua.Com.

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez hailed the launch of the new system as a 'game-changer' for Antigua and Barbuda as it provides a seamless entry and departure from the country, thus reducing the processing time for visitors to the country. Fernandez revealed that some seven years ago, he started the discussions with key personnel

from agencies such as Immigration to explore the country's options in moving to the paperless system, as such a system was more efficient and user-friendly, but also 'a must-have' for a tourist destination.

"This has been something that has been on the radar for some time as we realise just how important it is for tourism to allow ease of entry/exit as invariably one of the most challenging things about coming to Antigua and Barbuda is the amount of time that is spent in the long lines at the airport on arrival or at departure; this system will fix that," he observed.

ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James also spoke of some of the other benefits of the system to the country, especially its introduction of cutting edge technology. One of the areas of benefit will be the elimination of the use of actual papers and the beneficial effect of this move on the environment.

"When you have an effi-



cient system at arrival at an international airport, it sets a first impression; and as we know, first impressions are long-lasting. Therefore, being able to move passengers through the airport adds to customer satisfaction; they are happier, they enjoy the destination and most importantly, they tell people about it," he remarked.

James revealed that the new ArriveAntigua.com system utilizes Artificial Intelligence to gather information about passengers, including their home addresses in the United States and elsewhere and that this information is now readily available rather than technicians in the minis-

try of tourism having to wait until the end of the month to get this vital information," he stated.

VCBIA CEO Wendy Williams also welcomed the introduction of the new system adding that it will lead towards a more efficient and customer-friendly experience for passengers arriving at the airport.

She said she will gather stakeholders shortly to discuss the new system and how it will make their work easier.

A demonstration of the system was done for the benefit of those in attendance. This was led by Jeff Wellemeyer of the company that developed the software.

Enhanced revenue collection; one of the benefits of new paperless system at VCBIA



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez



ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James

Tourism officials are welcoming the launch of the new paperless ED card system that has been introduced at the VC Bird International Airport as they say this will help with the collection of revenues that often go uncollected.

Those were the sentiments expressed by Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez and ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James at the launch exercise on Monday.

“Apart from the visitor experience of a seamless entry and departure, we want to ensure that we capture all of the taxes that our visitors pay as separate and apart from the government’s share, our (tourism’s) share goes to marketing the destination. We have seen increases where last year was a record year in terms of arrivals, but we want to see that translate into record tax collection. These



Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood

taxes are not on the properties but are on the guests. Everywhere now is taxing visitors so there is nothing

new or onerous. That is important for us and we are working with the ministry of finance to see how we

can collaborate to get every penny to ensure that we can properly market the destination,” he emphasized.

CEO James explained that the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority uses ‘every penny’ it gets in marketing the destination so the more people who come to the country, the authority expects to see higher collections.

“All those villas that are selling their rooms for US\$10,000.00 per night and don’t pay their taxes, we will now know who is staying there and you will be forced to remit the taxes so that the people of Antigua and Barbuda can benefit from the taxes that you collect and maybe not pay in,” he declared.

Additionally, James said the system provides very detailed information on visitors and that this will also help in fine-tuning marketing efforts in the future.

ArriveAntigua.com puts Antigua and Barbuda 'ahead of the pack'

Antigua and Barbuda started discussion regarding the introduction of a paperless border control system at the VCBIA some seven years ago, however, the country may benefit from introducing such a system at this time after all.

Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood said the delay has helped Antigua and Barbuda to introduce a system that is at the cutting edge of available technology and already it is better than what she has observed during recent travels in the Caribbean.

"If we had gone ahead and introduce such a system seven years ago, it would



Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood

not have been as sophisticated as the one we have now and secondly, we have been able to get a system that already incorporates Artificial Intelligence that is no integrated in the system," she observed.

Yearwood noted that fol-

lowing recent trips to St. Maarten and Curacao she can now say that Antigua and Barbuda is leading with this type of technology.

It was also disclosed that other islands are looking at the new ArriveAntigua.com system and are currently exploring how they can introduce a similar system into their destinations.

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mariales Mejia Linares of Dickenson Bay Street, St. John's Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Minister of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

NEW!!

KFC

Apple Pie

\$5.99

TRY IT!!
It's Finger Lickin' Good







FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY







@kfcanu



**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Mosquito Awareness Week 2025 focuses on new ways to fight the insect

The Vector Control Unit of the Central Board of Health is this week observing Mosquito Awareness Week with the focus on creative ways to fight the spread of this disease-carrying insect.

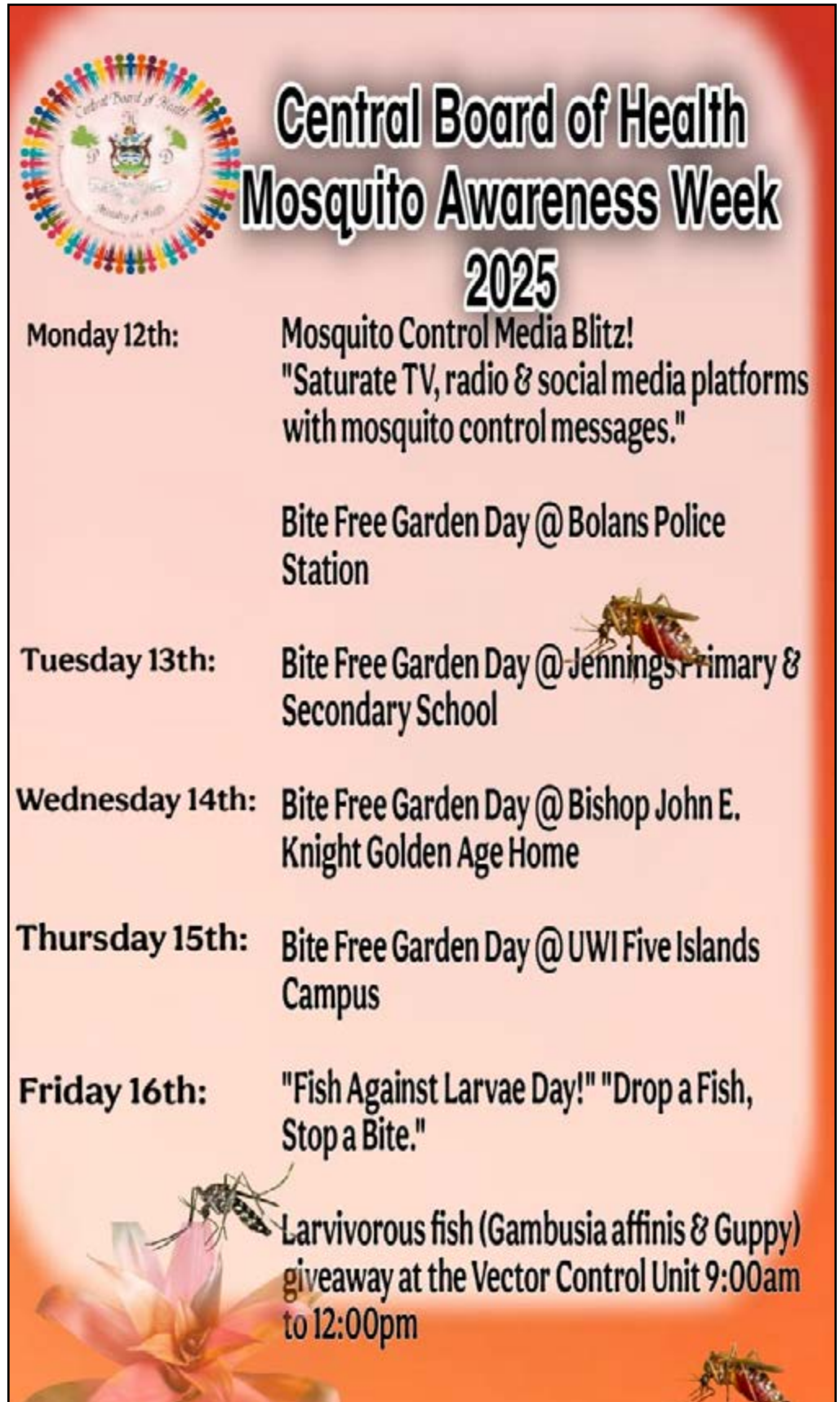
Principal Public Health Inspector, Julianne Mannix-Galloway said this year the Unit is focusing on source reduction; that is the removal not only of water catchments and containers around the home that provide breeding ground for the mosquitoes, but it is also removing bromeliad plants from government institutions as well.

"Bromeliad plants are those plants around the home that have the ability to store water for long periods of time. We are concentrating our efforts on removing them from these institutions because of their public health implications. These plants are known mosquito breeding sites. Our plan is to uproot them and to replace them with plants with opposite properties," Mannix-Galloway explained.

This week, teams from the Unit will visit schools, police stations and an old-aged home as part of the outreach. The campaign goes by the slogan: **Bite-free Garden Day**.

"On Monday we visited the Bolans Police Station. On Tuesday (today), we will visit both the Jennings Secondary as well as the Jennings Primary School. On Wednesday, our team will travel to the John E. Knight Golden Aged Home and on Thursday, their next stop will be the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. For Friday, we are trying something different; it is dubbed, **Fish against Larvae Day** where the Vector Control Unit will distribute to home owners, who have large bodies of water near their homes, fish that are known to eat larvae for the fish to feed on the larvae as a form of mosquito control," she further explained.

Using fish as a biological control method now forms part of the arsenal of weapons in the fight against the spread of mosquitoes.



**Central Board of Health
Mosquito Awareness Week
2025**

Monday 12th: Mosquito Control Media Blitz!
"Saturate TV, radio & social media platforms with mosquito control messages."

Bite Free Garden Day @ Bolans Police Station

Tuesday 13th: Bite Free Garden Day @ Jennings Primary & Secondary School

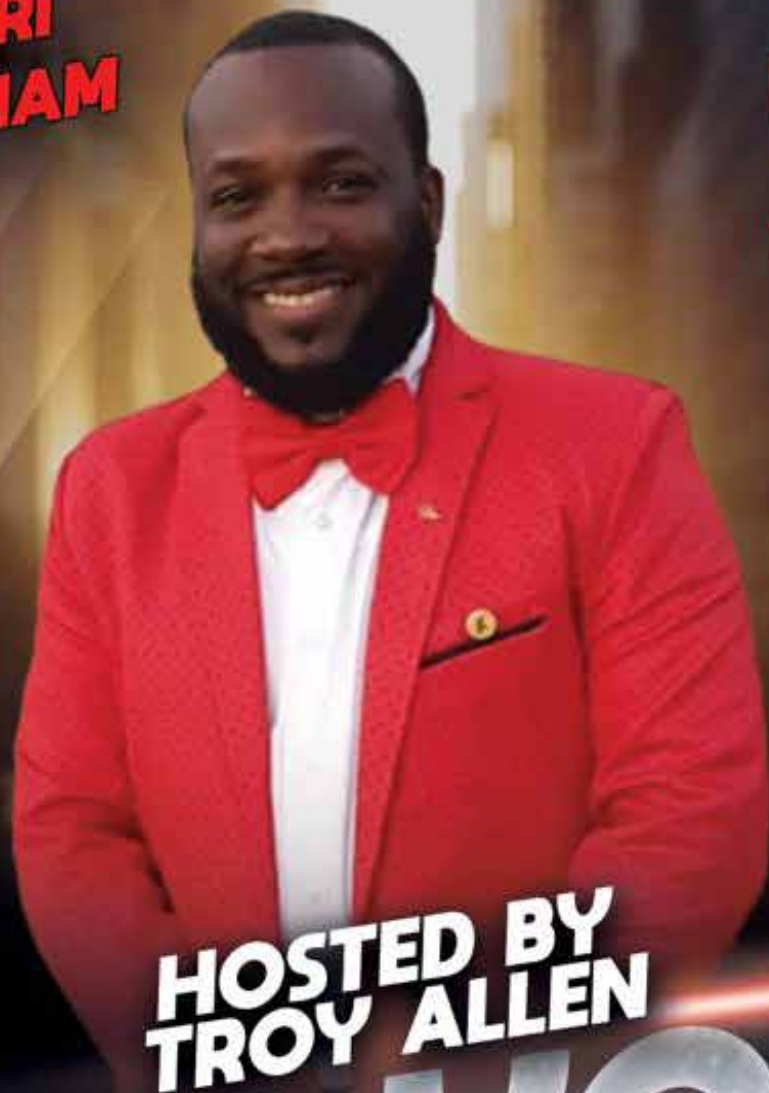
Wednesday 14th: Bite Free Garden Day @ Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home

Thursday 15th: Bite Free Garden Day @ UWI Five Islands Campus

Friday 16th: "Fish Against Larvae Day!" "Drop a Fish, Stop a Bite."

Larvivorous fish (Gambusia affinis & Guppy) giveaway at the Vector Control Unit 9:00am to 12:00pm

**MON - FRI
9AM TO 11AM**



**HOSTED BY
TROY ALLEN**

TALK YOUR MIND

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Africa and the Caribbean Unite for Sustainable Tourism: Indigenous Crops Positioned as the Future of Travel

On May 8, 2025, a groundbreaking seminar took place under the theme “Indigenous & Neglected Crops: A Gateway to Sustainable Tourism and Growth in Africa and the Caribbean.” Held in hybrid format – with most participants joining virtually and a live audience at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) – the seminar brought together global experts, entrepreneurs, academics, and policy leaders to explore how centuries old crops can shape the future of tourism.

Organized by AgriLuxe Marketing, in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Johannesburg, and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the event centered on discussing a bold new proposal for the first-ever indigenous crop-based tourism circuit connecting Africa and the Caribbean: the AfriCaribbean WILD Tourism Route, targeted to be Wholesome. Indigenous. Local. Diverse.

Rooted in the Past, Cultivated for the Future

This pioneering initiative responds to global trends demanding deeper, more authentic travel experiences, climate-resilient food systems, and wellness-oriented offerings. With climate change accelerating and the global wellness economy reaching \$6.3 trillion, including an \$830 billion wellness tourism sector, now is the time to elevate indigenous crops from the margins to the mainstream.

“These crops have sustained our communities for generations. They are nutritious, culturally rich, low-input, and climate-smart,” said Jeanette Sutherland, Founder of AgriLuxe Marketing. “But they’ve been sidelined in global markets. This initiative seeks to restore their place – not just on our plates – but as premium ingredients in immersive, multi-sensory travel experiences.”

A Multi-Destination Culinary and

Cultural Journey

Inspired by successful international corridors like the Silk Road and the South American Wine Routes, the proposed AfriCaribbean WILD Tourism Route envisions a modular, multi-country experience. Each destination will contribute a “chapter” to a shared story rooted in indigenous crops, heritage rituals, healing cuisines, and creative expressions.

The seminar was chaired by Mr. Jerry Mabena, CEO of the Motsamayi Tourism Group and featured opening remarks and a keynote address from heads of UJ’s School of Tourism and Hospitality, South Africa’s National Agricultural Marketing Council, the Tourism Business Council South Africa, and Africa Tourism Partners.

Entrepreneurs showcased real-world case studies – from indigenous teas and reimagined culinary menus in South Africa, bespoke traditional catering in Zimbabwe, artisanal chocolates by a rural network of African and Caribbean farmers and chocolate producers, founded in Trinidad and Tobago, to farm tours in Grenada, and agricultural-based spa treatments in Barbados. Senior representatives from research institutions and development partners, including the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, South Africa’s Agricultural Research Council, Afreximbank, the International Finance Corporation, the International Trade Centre, UN Tourism, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the CARICOM Secretariat, highlighted areas in which they are already partnering and other areas for future collaboration, to support the seminar objectives.

Strategic Goals and Global Relevance

- Reclaim ancestral foodways and food sovereignty
- Promote low-input, climate-resilient agriculture

- Support innovative entrepreneurship in tourism, gastronomy, and agribusiness
- Drive regional trade in indigenous foods and wellness products and services
- Foster cross-border collaboration and air and sea connectivity

Ms. Hafsa Abdulsalam, the CEO of LIAT20, Antigua and Barbuda’s innovative, start-up airline, shared insights on the company’s business plans for strengthening connectivity between Africa and the Caribbean and emphasized that direct airlinks between the two regions “are not just about transporting people and goods, they’re about unlocking economic, cultural, and historical potential.” She therefore urged for a connection “not just by air but by purpose.” Panellists also discussed mechanisms to ensure the initiative delivers shared benefits through collaborative branding, route standards and certification, and rotational culinary festivals, among other actions.

Looking Ahead

A key highlight of the seminar was an inspiring “elevator pitch session,” including a proposal for a WILD Food Safari in Mpumalanga, South Africa, to leverage the province’s wildlife game safari – an already well-established tourism offering; and another to promote high-end food events based exclusively on indigenous, underutilized, and emblematic crops, including Trinidad and Tobago’s Moruga Hill rice. The seminar concluded with a call to action from FANRPAN’s CEO, Dr. Madzivhandila, for long-term funding to be increased for feasible tourism projects that promote the regions’ indigenous and neglected food crops.

A follow-up report and roadmap for action are expected in the coming weeks.

**MON - FRI
6:30AM TO 9AM**



POINTE FM 99.1

**BIRTHDAY/
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS**

INTERVIEWS

**COMMUNITY
UPDATES**

POLITICS

HOSTED BY WINSTON WILLIAMS

MORNING POINTE

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889

FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Charitable group donates five wheelchairs to St. John's City West constituency

Members of the charitable group MissionthreeSixteen Inc. have donated five wheelchairs to Prime Minister Gaston Browne as the parliamentary representative for the St. John's City West constituency.

One of the leaders of the group, Patricia Ralph, was on hand with other members to make the formal presentation to the prime minister.

The group, which is based in the United States, has been partnering with PM Browne for the past 4 years, donating adult diapers, bed pads, school supplies etc. to members of the constituency, through him, the parliamentary representative.



MissionthreeSixteens Inc. is committed to supporting the develop-



ment of Antigua and Barbuda.




Service Stations

• OF THE YEAR •



MOUNT JOY SERVICE STATION



GLANVILLE'S SERVICE STATION

This award recognizes your outstanding achievement in exceeding WIOC Brand performance, maintaining safety standards, and delivering exceptional customer service.

 1 (268) 462 0140/1
  westindiesoil.com





Success Without Borders: Lessons in Leadership, Growth, and Organizational Excellence



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Success in Leadership

Success in leadership is not merely about titles or positions—it is about continuous learning, humility, accountability, and the ability to inspire excellence. My journey, from a young hotel manager in Antigua to a Franchise Business Manager at Yum Brands in the USA, has reinforced these principles through invaluable lessons learned from mentors and experiences in a high-performance, results-driven environment.

Yum Brands: A Fortune 500 Powerhouse

Yum Brands, the parent company of KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell, is one of the world's largest restaurant companies. With over 61,000 restaurants in more than 125 countries, the company thrives on innovation, operational excellence, and a relentless focus on results. Yum Brands' commitment to leadership development has shaped global executives, proving that success is driven by mindset and execution—not geography.

From the Caribbean to Corporate Leadership: A Testament to Growth

Starting my career in the tourism and hospitality industry, I quickly learned the value of adaptability and continuous learning. Receiving the Caribbean

Hotel Association's Michael Manley Scholarship was a pivotal moment, opening doors to new opportunities.

My leadership journey took a significant turn when I was headhunted, after graduate studies, to manage the KFC franchise in my home country. I later joined Yum Brands in the USA as a Franchise Business Manager for the Caribbean. This experience solidified my belief that ability is not limited by geography or the size of a country's economy—talent, ambition, and execution transcend borders.

It was here that I truly learned how to put academic theory into practice.

It was here that I absorbed the principles of executive management from great leaders across diverse industries and backgrounds.

It was here that I discovered the power of marketing, public relations, and effective public speaking.

It was here that I learned that you don't have to compete with others—your work will speak for itself and be rewarded.

It was here that I learned how to lead through crisis, including the global financial crisis of 2007, which devastated economies and businesses worldwide.

It was here, as a man of color, that I found inspiration in a great leader from the South Side of Chicago who became the 44th President and first African American to become President of the United States—President Barack Obama.

Key Principles for Organizational Success and Personal Growth

Through my experiences and mentorship at Yum Brands, I have identified several key principles that drive success:

1. Commit to lifelong learning

A strong education is essential, but it is not enough. The business world

evolves rapidly, and what got you here won't take you there. Equip yourself for the journey by learning something new every day.

2. Embrace humility

Humility is not just the absence of pride—it is the willingness to say, "I don't know, teach me." The best leaders remain open to new ideas and perspectives.

3. Accountability and integrity

Leaders must hold themselves and others accountable. Credibility is built when leaders set high standards for themselves first. A leader who does not "walk the talk" loses influence, impact, and ultimately, results.

4. Lead with head and heart

Leadership is a balance between critical thinking and compassion. People matter. Showing care, kindness, and empathy fosters trust. At the same time, results matter—especially in high-performance organizations where delivering value for shareholders is non-negotiable.

5. Listen to the voice of the customer

Customers are the lifeblood of any business. They pay the bills, fund salaries, and drive success. Ignoring their needs leads to failure. A results-driven leader must prioritize customer feedback and adapt accordingly.

6. Set high expectations and provide resources

People perform best when they understand expectations and have the tools to succeed. Mistakes will happen, but leaders must create an environment where learning from failure is encouraged.

7. Create a high-performance culture

Winning organizations thrive on bold goals, strategic execution, and an unshakable commitment to excellence.

High-performance cultures are built on trust, accountability, and a shared vision where every team member understands their role in achieving success.

- Rewards and recognition: Employees should feel valued for their contributions. Bonuses, stock grants, and other incentives reinforce the connection between effort and success.

- Work-life balance: Sustained high performance is only possible when employees are supported holistically. Balance ensures long-term productivity, creativity, and well-being.

- Empowerment and growth: Great leaders foster environments that inspire, challenge, and empower individuals to grow beyond expectations.

8. Make strategic planning a cornerstone

Winning organizations are disciplined in their planning. Monthly, quarterly, and annual reviews ensure alignment between strategic goals and operational execution. Metrics, data-driven insights, and accountability mechanisms allow leaders to adjust course, maximize opportunities, and close performance gaps. Success is never accidental—it is the product of deliberate planning, execution, and review cycles.

9. Be willing to adapt and embrace diversity

Working across different cultures, industries, and regions has taught me that adaptability is a core leadership skill. Every country, organization, and team has its own unique people, norms, and practices. Leadership is about listening, observing, respecting differences, and navigating new environments with openness and flexibility.

Personal Reflection: The Power of Support and Family

Success is never an individual journey—it is built on the support, sacrifice, and encouragement of others. Throughout my career, mentors,

colleagues, and friends have guided, challenged, and uplifted me. But the most profound source of stability has been family.

What keeps me grounded is my family, including my church family, where we sing, praise, and worship together. In these moments, I find strength, hope, and determination through the connection we share and the higher power we look to for guidance. Their encouragement reminds me that success is not just about professional achievements but about the relationships that sustain us through difficult days.

Leadership is not just about business—it is about balance. It is about being present for those who love you, just as much as it is about delivering results.

Conclusion: Leadership is a Journey, Not a Destination

Leadership is not a destination—it

is a continuous journey of growth, learning, and adaptation. Anyone aspiring to be a results-driven leader should consider adopting and adapting these principles to their own context. Success is not defined by where you start, but by how you grow.

Winning cultures breed winning teams. High-performance organizations thrive because of strategic focus, strong leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. But leadership should never come at the cost of family, relationships, and well-being.

If you commit to learning, lead with integrity, embrace adaptability, and prioritize the people who matter most, you will not just succeed—you will find joy and satisfaction in the work that you do and the compensation to show for it.



CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL COMMISSION
 CIU
 ANTONIA BARBUDA
 PRESENTS

JULY 31
 CARNIVAL CITY
 11Z-4V8e

Caribbean
 Melting
 spirits

LONG BAY
 LAGER

FULL BLOWN

Early Bird General | House of Vibes | Showtime
\$100 | \$350 | 8PM

ticketing
 TICKETS AVAILABLE

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



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


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 post-graduate studies in international economic law and policy in Bern, Switzerland. He returned to the Caribbean in 2023 and eventually settled 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.





Hi I'm Piper





And I'm Dewey

Water works wonders.

Every drop counts, preserve it!

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Regional News

Registry reveal: PM wants urgent reform to Sexual Offences Act after attack on 9-y-o; discussion reignites around making past offenders known to public



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has declared that he will be pushing for urgent reforms to the Sexual Offences Act, following the tragic murder and alleged rape of nine-year-old Kelsey Cassidy Ferrigon, whose body was found stuffed in a barrel at her home on Friday night. Speaking amid the national outrage that erupted on the weekend after news of the murder, the prime minister yesterday stressed the importance of arming the public with critical information to protect themselves.

"It is time the society draws a clear line that we must eliminate the criminals from the society," Holness declared.

He disclosed that during a private meeting with Ferrigon's grieving mother, Georgette Anderson, on Sunday, she revealed that she was unaware that the person of interest in the case, Giovannie Ellis, was a repeat sexual offender.

"Where we are in the society, I said it before and I will say it again, that our laws need to favour the protection of life and the protection of the victim rather than protecting the criminals," Holness stated, in suggesting his administration would revisit the idea of making the Sexual Offender Registry accessible to the general

public.

Currently, the Sexual Offender Registry is not available to the public. It is managed by the Department of Correctional Services and is considered confidential.

Access to the registry is restricted to individuals and organisations deemed to have a legitimate interest, including law enforcement, counsellors, employers, and individuals with a specific relationship to the offender. Access is granted only on written application to the commissioner of corrections or the registrar.

Yesterday, Holness praised the community for not resorting to vigilante justice. "This is the new Jamaica that you see emerging. Even out of conflict and these kinds of gruesome situations, the citizens have confidence that the police will be able to find the perpetrator... and ensure that this does not happen again. This is how we build a strong and just society," he said.

Juliet Cuthbert Flynn, state minister in the Ministry of National Security, echoed the prime minister's call for legislative change.

"I have been a strident voice out there as far as the sex registry is concerned. I think the Jamaican people would want to see some sort of legislative change," she

said. "I do believe that us as citizens should have the right to know who is living beside us and around our children."

Cuthbert Flynn's comments come more than five years after then Attorney General Marlene Malahoo-Forte threw her support behind a call by the then head of the country's chief child-protection and welfare organisation for a more transparent sex offenders' registry.

At the time, Malahoo-Forte, who is now minister of legal and constitutional affairs, argued that the restriction on who can access the registry might defeat its purpose. Rosalee Gage-Gray, who was chief executive officer of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), had stated earlier in a *Gleaner* report that she would not be averse to having the registry open to public scrutiny.

Yesterday, before meeting the family, Holness met with law-enforcement officials and commended their work. He noted that public trust in the police had prevented mob justice.

It was a heart-wrenching scene as Holness; Cuthbert Flynn; Olivia Grange, minister of culture, gender, entertainment and sport, and member of parliament for St Catherine Central; and

Councillor Theresa Turner-Flynn of the Hampton Green Division in St Catherine Central, sought to console the grieving mother, who had to be supported by a relative throughout the meeting. She later requested privacy from the media.

One tearful relative described Ferrigon as "a respectful little girl", adding, "I haven't eaten since Friday. Every time I close my eyes, she come before me." Said another relative: "I was shocked to hear what happened. Right now I am sick, can't process what has happened to Kelsey. She don't deserve this at all."

Laurette Adams Thomas, CEO of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency, said the agency would provide the necessary intervention.

"Our role is to assess the situation and determine the level and kind of support that is provided for them. What we want Jamaicans to do is to have an appreciation of the importance of protecting our children," she said. However, tensions flared after a false alarm led angry residents, armed with sticks, machetes and pipe iron, to descend on Ellis' mother's home in search of him, after law-enforcement personnel had dispersed. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

UWI Mona to launch new School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona campus at the highest decision making body outside of its annual business meeting of Council, the Campus Finance and General Purposes Committee, has approved a proposal from the Faculty of Medical Sciences to establish the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, which is set to begin operations in the 2025-2026 academic year.

The school aims to meet the growing national demand for specialised healthcare professionals to provide services in rehabilitation for children and adults.

This announcement comes at a critical time for Jamaica, and the nation's agenda to meet the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) particularly SDG3 - to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages; SDG 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; and SDG 10, to reduce inequality within and among countries.

In alignment with the Vision 2030

plan, UWI Mona, FMS is taking the bold step in training professionals who can provide much-needed services for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities, such as cerebral palsy and autism, and people in need of rehabilitative services for disabilities resulting from traumatic injuries and non-communicable lifestyle diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases, heart attacks and stroke.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences has long recognised the critical shortage of trained professionals in areas like speech and occupational therapy, and radiological sciences. The faculty is moving decisively to close those gaps and prepare a new generation of healthcare workers equipped to manage a wide range of special needs. The school will initially bring together existing programmes in physical therapy and radiological sciences, alongside two new offerings, speech and language pathology (SLP) and occupational therapy (OT). These disciplines will be housed under one umbrella, creating a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment focused on both academic training and clinical service delivery.

“This school will be a major game changer for Jamaica’s education sector,” said Professor Densil A. Williams, principal of UWI Mona. “The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will provide Jamaica with highly qualified professionals to assist students with special needs to better position themselves in the education system in order to secure their success.

The dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Minerva Thame,

and the team from the faculty who conceptualised the project must be celebrated for this excellent institutional intervention that will have far-reaching positive impact on the human capital development of our nation.”

The initiative is part of the FMS’ ongoing efforts to align its academic programmes with the real-world health and developmental needs of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Currently, Jamaica has only a handful of occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists, most of whom operate in the private sector.

The scarcity of such professionals poses a major barrier to early intervention and support for children with developmental challenges, as well as adults in need of rehabilitation services.

While the clinical arm of the school will be implemented in phases, its long-term goal is to integrate fully with healthcare institutions, such as The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), offering holistic care that addresses the full spectrum of patient needs.

In time, the school is expected to expand further, incorporating additional rehabilitative disciplines to strengthen the overall health system in Jamaica. The initiative supports the calls from the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, both of which have emphasised the urgent need for these services to support national development goals. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

Regional News



Kamla: Expect 'serious revelations'

EXPECT some "serious revelations" out of the 2024 Auditor General's report, which must be laid in Parliament before going public, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has said.

The PM dropped the hint as she fielded questions following Thursday's post-Cabinet news conference but declined to speak further on the report, stressing that the document must first be laid in the Parliament.

Persad-Bissessar said the Auditor General's report for the last fiscal year has been forwarded to the Parliament and to the Minister of Finance.

However, she added that "we do not speak to it until it is laid in Parliament".

"The practice and the protocol, and maybe even the law, is that we do not speak until it is laid in Parliament," Persad-Bissessar said, following the first meeting of her Cabinet.

She said the report will be laid in the first sitting of the next Parliament and "you will get some serious revelations contained within that, as was contained in the last one".

With respect to the Privy Council ruling in the matter between the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) and former High Court judge Marcia Ayers-Caesar, and Chief Justice Ivor Archie's role in the matter (Ayers-Caesar won the case of her forced resignation), the PM said: "We have not had discussion on that matter, as we go forward will let you know."

The 2023 Auditor General's report had spawned controversy, over an understated



\$2.6 billion in revenue.

The Ministry of Finance sought to deliver amended public accounts, which Auditor General Jawantie Ramdass initially refused to accept and took the position that legal advice was needed, as the January statutory deadline for submission had passed.

The amended records were eventually accepted and audit staff was tasked with verifying the information.

However, the original annual report was then submitted to the Parliament, based on the original records.

Ramdass subsequently stated that the audit was unable to reconcile the amended records based on the records it had audited.

Through the exchange of legal correspondence, Ramdass also stated that the amended records appeared to have been backdated to the original statutory deadline in January.

The Auditor General also took issue with the discrepancy being initially estimated at \$3.4 billion. Former finance minister Colm Imbert denied any wrongdoing.

His legal team put forth that the reconciliation, after the initial estimate, had

revealed the variance at \$2,599,278,188.72, which was attributed to Value Added Tax (VAT), Individual, Business Levy and Green Fund Levy contributions.

Tax refund cheques to taxpayers issued for the 2022 financial year being cashed in the financial year 2023 was also cited. The error was attributed to a switch from a manual to electronic cheque-clearing system by the Central Bank.

The ministry's team denied any backdating and said the allegations arose from a document which was related to the original public accounts, being inadvertently included in the revised documents.

The legal team had also contended that Ramdass acted illegally when she initially refused to accept the amended accounts and stated that Imbert had held off on taking legal action against her.

The original report was eventually laid in Parliament on May 24, 2024. Ramdass however filed a lawsuit against the ministry, over her ability to seek independent legal advice and representation, paid by the State.

Imbert had said the decision to lay the report was based on the understanding

that Ramdass would issue a special report, clarifying her initial report that was based on the amended records provided.

Ramdass eventually produced the special report but maintained concerns that echoed her previous report. Imbert has also objected to Ramdass' statements in an affidavit in her legal case against the ministry, in which claimed to have been hampered in performing a proper audit and verification by actions by the Central Bank.

Ramdass went on to file a judicial review lawsuit, challenging Imbert's decision to include her in a probe of the events.

Ramdass was refused leave to pursue the case, but this was overturned by the Court of Appeal.

This led to an appeal from Imbert and the former Cabinet to the United Kingdom-based Privy Council. The appeal was dismissed in November last year.

In March, the previous government backtracked on its decision to investigate Ramdass' conduct, as part of a wider probe into the \$2.6 billion understatement.

The Office of the Attorney General under former AG Reginald Armour had stated that pursuing that aspect of the investigation would have provided no further information on what led to the understatement, given that the investigative committee had completed its final report "which helpfully discloses what went wrong and satisfactorily explained the understatement". (*Trinidad Express*)

REGISTRATION

OPEN

CATEGORIES:

- Carnival Floats
- The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Junior Calypso Monarch
- Junior Party Monarch
- LIAT 2020 T-Shirt Mas Troupes
- Koscab Junior Carnival
- Calypso Monarch
- APUA INET Pary Monarch
- Koscab J'ouvert Troupes
- Individual Mas
- Road March
- Monday Wear
- Mas Troupes
- Vendors & Booth Operators

WHERE TO COLLECT FORMS:

- National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street
- Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road (Upstairs KFC/INET Building)

HOURS:

MON - THURS

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FRI

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

mail: info.nof@ab.gov.ag or WhatsApp: (268) 727-9201. For inquiries, call (268) 462-4707

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO:

- National Festivals Office, 1st Floor,
Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley
& Redcliffe Street

ANTIGUA
Carnival **2025**

Itz A ViBe

"THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL"



@Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission



@antiguacarnival



@antiguacarnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial

At least 20 people killed after a suspected drone strike hits Sudan prison

A suspected drone strike launched by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) hit a prison in the southern region of Kordofan on Saturday and killed at least 20 inmates, authorities said.

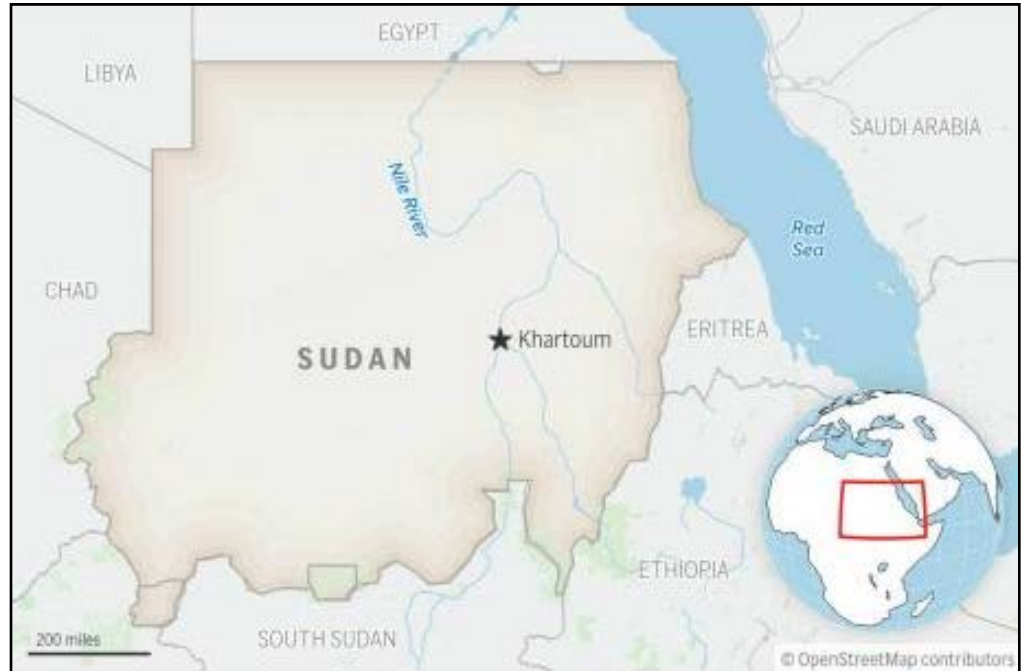
Fifty other detainees were wounded in the attack on the main prison in Obeid, the capital city of North Kordofan, Information Minister Khalid Aleiser said in a statement.

Aleiser, who is also the spokesman of the military-allied government, accused the Rapid Support Forces of the attack, which came as the militia escalates drone strikes on the military-held areas across the country.

Sudan plunged into civil war on April 15, 2023, when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in the capital, Khartoum, and other parts of the country. Obeid is 225 miles south of Khartoum.

There was no immediate comment from the RSF, which earlier this month launched multi-day drone attack on Port Sudan, the Red Sea city serving as an interim seat for the Sudanese government. The strikes hit the city's airports, maritime port, and other facilities, including fuel storages.

The military earlier struck Nyala airport in South Darfur, where the RSF receives foreign military assistance, including drones. Local media say dozens of RSF officers were killed in



last week's strike.

In the western region of Darfur, an artillery attack by the RSF on Friday on a camp for displaced people killed at least 14, according to the Emergency Room, an activist group tracking the war. The dead included two parents, their eight children, and the children's grandmother, the group said.

The RSF has launched nearly daily attacks on the camp and the nearby city of el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur, which the paramilitaries have attempted to seize for more than a year.

Last month, the RSF rampaged

through Sudan's largest camp for displaced, Zamzam, killing more than 400 people. The militia took control of the camp, pushing its population to flee.

The war has killed at least 24,000 people, though the number is likely far higher. It has driven about 13 million people from their homes, including 4 million who crossed into neighboring countries. Parts of the country have been pushed into famine.

The fighting has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, especially in Darfur, according to the U.N. and international rights groups. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am

🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!



US, China agree to 90-day pause on sky-high tariffs

US and Chinese officials said Monday they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Stock markets rose sharply as the globe's two major economic powers took a step back from a clash that has unsettled the global economy.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the US agreed to drop its 145 per cent tariff rate on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30 per cent, while China agreed to lower its rate on US goods by the same amount to 10 per cent.

Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva. The two officials struck a positive tone as they said the two sides had set up consultations to continue discussing their trade issues. Bessent said at the news briefing after two days of talks that the high tariff levels would have amounted to a complete blockage of each sides goods, an outcome neither side wants.

"The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling," Bessent said. "And what had occurred with these very high tariff ... was an embargo, the equivalent of an embargo. And neither side wants that. We do want trade."

"We want more balanced trade. And I think that both sides are committed to achieving that."

The delegations, escorted around town and guarded by scores of Swiss police, met for at least a dozen hours on both days of the weekend at sun-baked 17th-century villa that serves as the official residence of the Swiss ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

At times, the delegation leaders broke away from their staffs and settled into sofas on the villa's patios overlooking Lake Geneva, helping deepen personal ties in the effort to reach a much-

sought deal.

China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides agreed to cancel 91 per cent in tariffs on each other's goods and suspend another 24 per cent in tariffs for 90 days, bringing the total reduction to 115 percentage points.

The ministry called the agreement an important step for the resolution of the two countries' differences and said it lays the foundation for further cooperation.

"This initiative aligns with the expectations of producers and consumers in both countries and serves the interests of both nations as well as the common interests of the world," a ministry statement said.

China hopes the U.S will stop "the erroneous practice of unilateral tariff hikes" and work with China to safeguard the development of their economic and trade relations, injecting more certainty and stability into the global economy, the ministry said.

The joint statement issued by the two countries said China also agreed to suspend or remove other measures it has taken since April 2 in response to the US tariffs.

China has increased export controls on rare earths including some critical to the defense industry and added more American companies to its export control and unreliable entity lists, restricting their business with and in China.

The full impact on the complicated tariffs and other trade penalties enacted by Washington and Beijing remains unclear. And much depends on whether they will find ways to bridge longstanding differences during the 90-day suspension.

But investors rejoiced as trade envoys from the world's two biggest economies blinked, finding ways to pull back from potentially massive disruptions to world trade and their own markets. Futures for the S&P 500 jumped 2.6 per cent and for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 2 per cent. Oil

prices surged more than \$1.60 a barrel and the US dollar gained against the euro and the Japanese yen.

"This is a substantial de-escalation," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist at Capital Economics. But he warned "there is no guarantee that the 90-day truce will give way to a lasting ceasefire."

Jens Eskelund, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, welcomed the news but expressed caution. The tariffs only were suspended for 90 days and there is great uncertainty over what lies ahead, he said in a statement.

"Businesses need predictability to maintain normal operations and make investment decisions. The chamber therefore hopes to see both sides continue to engage in dialogue to resolve differences, and avoid taking measures that will disrupt global trade and result in collateral damage for those caught in the cross-fire," Eskelund said.

Trump last month raised US tariffs on China to a combined 145 per cent and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125 per cent levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the two countries boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped \$660 billion.

The announcement by the US and China sent shares surging, with US futures jumping more than 2 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index surged nearly 3 per cent and benchmarks in Germany and France were both up 0.7 per cent.

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on countries worldwide, but its fight with China has been the most intense. Trump's import taxes on goods from China include a 20 per cent charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Zelenskyy challenges Putin to meet him in Turkey ‘personally’



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday challenged Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet him personally in Turkey on Thursday. It's the latest move in a weekend-long exchange of proposals from both sides.

Zelenskyy said that he still hopes for a ceasefire with Russia starting Monday, and that he will “be waiting for Putin” in Turkey “personally” after United States President Donald Trump insisted Ukraine accept Russia's latest offer — to hold direct talks in Turkey on Thursday.

Ukraine, along with European allies, had demanded Russia accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire starting Monday before holding talks, but Moscow effectively rejected the proposal and called for direct negoti-

ations instead.

It was not clear if Zelenskyy was conditioning his presence in Turkey on the Monday ceasefire holding, and there was no immediate comment from the Kremlin on whether Putin would go.

In 2022, the war's early months, Zelenskyy repeatedly called for a personal meeting with the Russian president but was rebuffed, and eventually enacted a decree declaring that holding negotiations with Putin had become impossible.

“We await a full and lasting ceasefire, starting from tomorrow, to provide the necessary basis for diplomacy. There is no point in prolonging the killings. And I will be waiting for Putin in (Turkey) on Thursday. Personally. I hope that this time

the Russians will not look for excuses,” Zelenskyy wrote on X on Sunday.

Trump said in a social media post earlier Sunday that Ukraine should agree to Putin's peace talks proposal “IMMEDIATELY.”

“At least they will be able to determine whether or not a deal is possible, and if it is not, European leaders, and the U.S., will know where everything stands, and can proceed accordingly!” Trump wrote, adding: “HAVE THE MEETING, NOW!!!”

French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday and issued a coordinated

call for a 30-day truce starting Monday. The plan has received backing from both the European Union and Trump.

The leaders pledged tougher sanctions on Russia if Putin did not accept the proposal.

Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected the offer and proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead “without preconditions.” He did not specify whether the talks on Thursday would involve Zelenskyy and himself personally.

He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations — but stressed that the Kremlin needs a truce that would lead to a “lasting peace” instead of one that would allow Ukraine to re-arm and mobilize more men into its armed forces.

Zelenskyy said on X on Sunday morning that it was a “positive sign that the Russians have finally begun to consider ending the war,” but insisted on a ceasefire first.

Putin and Zelenskyy have only met once — in 2019.

After repeated unsuccessful calls for a personal meeting with the Russian leader early on in the war, and following the Kremlin's decision in September 2022 to illegally annex four regions of Ukraine, Zelenskyy enacted a decree declaring that hold-

con't on pg 23

con't from pg 22

ing negotiations with Putin had become impossible.

Macron said Sunday that Putin's offer of direct negotiations with Ukraine is "a first step, but not enough," signaling continued Western skepticism toward Moscow's intentions.

"An unconditional ceasefire is not preceded by negotiations," Macron told reporters at the Polish-Ukrainian border, according to French media, adding that Putin is "looking for a way out, but he still wants to buy time."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in comments aired by Russian state TV on Sunday, called Putin's proposal "very serious," aimed at eliminating "the root causes of the conflict," and said it "confirms a real intention to

find a peaceful solution."

Without directly mentioning Moscow's proposal, Trump said in a social media post several hours after Putin's overnight remarks that it was "a potentially great day for Russia and Ukraine!"

"Think of the hundreds of thousands of lives that will be saved as this never ending 'bloodbath' hopefully comes to an end," Trump wrote. "I will continue to work with both sides to make sure that it happens. The USA wants to focus, instead, on Rebuilding and Trade. A BIG week upcoming!" he added.

In another post on Sunday, the US president said Ukraine should accept Putin's offer "to meet on Thursday, in Turkey, to negotiate a possible end to the

BLOODBATH." He added, however, that he was "starting to doubt that Ukraine will make a deal with Putin."

Putin spoke Sunday to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who expressed readiness to host the talks, the Kremlin said.

Meanwhile, Russia resumed mass drone attacks in Ukraine early on Sunday, after its self-declared three-day pause expired.

Russia launched 108 attack drones and simulator drones from six different directions, Ukraine's air force said. It said 60 drones were shot down and another 41 simulator drones failed to reach targets due to Ukrainian countermeasures.

The Russian Defense

Ministry on Sunday accused Ukraine of "violating" Moscow's three-day ceasefire more than 14,000 times. Ukraine, which did not agree to the May 8-10 ceasefire, has also accused Russia of violating its own truce, with the Ukrainian foreign minister calling it a farce.

A Russian official on Sunday evening also accused Ukrainian forces of a missile strike on a town in Russia's Kursk region that borders Ukraine. Acting Gov. Alexander Khinshtein said on Telegram that the strike "seriously damaged" a hotel in Rylsk, a town east of the Ukrainian border, and wounded three people. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

Sports News

Qualifiers decided in Antigua T20 Premier League

Empire Nation and the New Winthorpes Lions have joined PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks as qualifiers into the knockout phase of the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda T20 Premier League.

Empire Nations booked their spot in the single-match eliminator by pulling off a 19-run victory against the Lions in their final match of the preliminary round phase at Ball Beef in Liberta on Sunday.

Set 159 to win, the Lions were restricted to 139 for eight off their allotted 20 overs. Asher Murray Cornelius hit 26 off 25 balls, and Ishmael Peters scored 22 off 15 balls. Kershaski Jno Lewis grabbed four for 20, and skipper Justin Athanaze picked up two for 27.

Empire made 158 for six off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed 75 off 55 balls, including six fours and three sixes.

Justin Athanaze struck an unbeaten 28 off 17 balls, and opener Zianni Da Silva scored 20 off 10 balls. Demari Benta claimed two for 13, and pacer Chad Hampson captured two for 26.

It means the New Winthorpes Lions and Empire Nation have advanced to meet in the single match eliminator after finishing second and third, respectively, at the end of the preliminary stage with six



Tyrone Williams Jr.

points each from their five matches.

Both teams will clash in the eliminator on Thursday, and the winner will advance to face the Liberta Blackhawks in the final on Saturday.

The Liberta Blackhawks advanced to the final after playing unbeaten to finish at the top of the standings in the preliminary stage with a perfect 10 points by virtue of winning all five matches.

The Blackhawks clinched a three-wicket win against the All Saints Pythons in their final match in the preliminary stage at Ball Beef in Liberta on Sunday.

The Pythons were dismissed for 123 off their 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Michael Haynes Dover hammered 53 off 38 balls, including six fours and two sixes, and Kenny Sutton struck 21 off 13 balls.

Skipper and off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall grabbed three for 17, left-arm spinner Kadeem Henry captured three for 32, and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. claimed two for 24.

The Blackhawks achieved victory by scoring 129 for seven in 17.5 overs. Tarek Charles hit a run-a-ball 31 not out, Hayden Walsh

Jr. struck 23 off 17 balls, and opener Avier Christian scored 21 off 11 balls.

Shaquan Reifer picked up three for 19 for the Pythons, who failed to qualify for the knockout phase after suffering their third loss in five matches to finish in fourth place with three points.

The Jennings Tigers claimed their only win of the six-team round-robin competition by snatching a 19-run victory against the Pigotts Crushers in their final match in the preliminary stage at the Pigotts playing field.

Set 116 to win, the Crushers crashed to 96 all out in 18.3 overs. Skipper Kadeem Henry hit 26 off 19 balls, and fellow opener Uri Smith struck 25 off 29 balls. Bassanio Joseph bagged four for 12, and Kaivalya Mishra snapped up four for 21.

The Tigers made 115 for nine off their allotted 20 overs after being sent in to bat. Matthew Miller hit 38 off 50 balls, and captain Paul Miller scored 21 off 12 balls. Tyree Moore captured five for 19.

Like the Pythons, the Tigers and the Crushers were eliminated from the knockout phase of the competition. The Tigers finished second from the bottom of the standings with three points, while the Crushers finished in the cellar with two points from their five matches.

Steelers and Spanish Heat 2 lead semi-final playoff series



Division 1 second seed Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers and Division 2 third seed Spanish Heat 2 have taken a one-nil lead in their respective best-of-three Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) semi-final playoff series.

The Potters Steelers crushed third seed Da Project 81-64 in the opening game of their First Division series at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

The Flyers were led by Keroi Lee with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Raniq Nicholls, who sank 16 points and snatched nine rebounds.

In support, Kareem Edwards converted 10 points, Cohen Desouza scored nine points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Marlon "Buju" Charles chipped in with nine points and five assists for the Potters Steelers.

Terry Dawkins shot a game-high 25 points and claimed five rebounds; T-Shawn Lewis sank 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; and Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew chipped in with nine points and seven rebounds for Da Project.

Spanish Heat 2 coasted to a commanding 91-79 victory against second seed Navigators in Game 1 of their second division series at the same venue on Sunday.

Erwin Rodriguez produced 23 points and nine assists; Jesus Emmanuel sank 20 points and claimed six rebounds; Wester Baptiste converted 18 points; and Rohland Hamilton scored 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.

Ariel Quallis produced 25 points, 13 rebounds, and six steals; Ryan Shepherd sank 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; De-Lorngé Jules converted 12 points and claimed six rebounds; and Ralph Spooner scored seven points and snatched 12 rebounds for the Navigators.

Guyana edge Jamaica in Super Over thriller to win T20 Blaze title



Players of the Guyana women's cricket team

Guyana Women edged Jamaica in a nail-biting Super Over finish to their CWI T20 Blaze clash and claim the 2025 title on Sunday night after both teams posted identical scores of 122 in regulation play at Arnos Vale.

Opting to field after win-

ning the toss, Guyana's disciplined bowling effort was led by Nyia Latchman, who starred with figures of two for 11 from her four overs, while Ashmini Munisar also grabbed two wickets, conceding 26 runs.

Their efforts restricted Jamaica to 122-5 from their

allotted 20 overs.

Jamaica's innings was anchored by Chedean Nation, who compiled a steady 35 from 35 balls, supported by Jodian Morgan's 27 off 25 and a composed 32 not out from Abigail Bryce, who helped push the total to a competitive mark.

Guyana's response mirrored Jamaica's total, finishing 122-5 as well, with Shemaine Campbell leading the charge with 54 from 47 balls. She shared a crucial partnership with Realeanna Grimmond, who contributed a valuable 46 from 53 deliveries after the top order wobbled early.

Jamaica's bowlers shared the workload, with Chinelle Henry the most economical, taking one for 12 in three overs, and Jodian Morgan impressing again with two for 25.

With nothing separating the sides, the match went to a Super Over. Campbell and Gajnabi returned for Guyana and managed 8 runs, with Vanessa Watts picking up a wicket.

Jamaica, needing nine to win, faltered under pressure—Chinelle Henry fell for a duck, Chedean Nation was run out for two, and the team limped to three for two, handing Guyana victory in the tie-breaker.

Sports News

Jets advance to third place in women's volleyball league standings

Jets moved into third place in the women's Division 1 standings during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

The Jets claimed their third win in eight matches by soaring to a 3-1 victory against Theatric Lighting & Stage Effect and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville in their encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex over the weekend.

The Jets took an hour and 56 minutes to prevail 25-21, 27-25, 20-25, and 25-21 against the Stoneville women, who slipped to fourth place in the six-team round-robin competition after suffering their fourth defeat in seven games.

Starz 1 consolidated their second-place position in the Women's Division 1 League after claiming their fifth win in seven games with a 3-0 victory via default against Print Xpress, and Auto Craze Royal Cruisers, who failed to show up for their encounter.

Starz 1 were awarded a 25-0, 25-0, and 25-0 victory against the Royal Cruisers, who remain in the cellar af-



The Jets women's volleyball team

ter losing for the sixth time in seven games.

Leaders ABI Insurance and Cool and Smooth Pytonz consolidated their position at the top of the Men's Division 1 League with a 3-0 victory by default against Phoenix High Flyerz.

The Pytonz extended their unbeaten run after being awarded victory (25-0, 25-0, and 25-0) against the Phoenix High Flyerz, who failed to field a team for the encounter.

The Pytonz currently lead the seven-team round-robin Men's Division 1 League with a record of seven wins

in as many games. The Phoenix High Flyerz remain in the cellar after losing for the eighth time in as many games.

The Men's Division 1 encounter between Theatric Lighting & Stage Effect and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville and Renegades was not played after both teams failed to show up for the encounter.

Both teams have been penalised by the ABAVA, which ruled that they forfeited the encounter.

The result means that Stoneville remains in second place after losing for

the second time in eight matches, while the Renegades stay second from the bottom of the standings after suffering their sixth defeat in eight games.

The ABAVA's First Division Local League will continue with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

Defending champions Da Squad will take on DHS, Print Xpress, and Auto Craze Royal Cruisers in a women's Division 1 affair at 6:45 pm, and the Storming Lions will face the Renegades in a men's Division I encounter at 7:45 pm.



Curry House

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

ANTIGUA

 [currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)  [curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)  (268) 736-7165

Sports News

PAGE 27

2025 IPL to resume on May 17



The 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) will resume on Saturday, May 17, and end on June 3, as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a revised schedule on Monday.

The remainder of the tournament, which was suspended on May 9 for a week due to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan, will be played at six venues: Bengaluru, Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

The venues for the playoffs will be announced later, but they will be played on the following dates: Qualifier 1 on May 29, the Eliminator on May 30, Qualifier 2 on June 1, and the final on June 3.

A total of 17 matches will be played, with two double-headers, which will be played on two Sundays. The revised schedule features 13 league games and the four playoffs.

The match that will resume the tournament on May 17 will be played between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in Bengaluru.

The official release said the BCCI held "extensive consultations with government and security agencies, and with all the key stakeholders," before

finalizing the resumption of the tournament.

The delay of the IPL, which was originally scheduled to end on May 25 in Kolkata, means it will now coincide with the entire ODI series between England and West Indies, starting on

May 29 in Birmingham and ending on June 3 at The Oval.

It will lead to a clash for the West Indies players Romario Shepherd (RCB), Shamar Joseph (LSG) and Sherfane Rutherford (GT), all picked in the ODI squad.

England have not named their squad yet but the players likely to be affected are Jos Buttler (GT), Phil Salt (RCB), Jacob Bethell (RCB), Liam Livingstone (RCB), Will Jacks (MI) and Reece Topley (MI), depending on which teams make the playoffs.

The revised IPL schedule also squeezes the gap between the IPL final and the WTC final to just seven days, with Australia and South Africa set to clash for the ICC title from June 11 at Lord's.

Both Australia and South Africa are scheduled to announce their respective squads on Tuesday.



**EVERY
MONDAY
3PM-5PM**



**With Dr Chris
Health Coach &
Public Servant**

"April Autism Awareness Month"

ON POINTE FM 99.1 

Antiguan duo top aggregates in West Indies Breakout League

The Antiguan pair of Kofi James and Micah McKenzie of the Leeward Islands Thunder finished as the leading run scorers and wicket takers respectively at the end of the inaugural season of the West Indies Breakout League.

The season concluded on Saturday when the Trinidad & Tobago Legions defeated the Thunder by 17 runs in the final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

The Legions batted first in that final and posted 181-5 from their 20 overs before restricting the Thunder to 164 for nine, in reply.

McKenzie's two wickets during the Legions' innings took his tally up to 12 for the season, two more than Jediah Blades of the Guyana Rainforest Rangers, leg-spinner Navin Bidaisee of the Legions, and Thunder teammate and left-arm spinner Anderson Mahase, while Ryan John of the Windward Islands Infernos rounded out the top five with nine wickets.

James continued his fine form with the bat this season with a 36-ball 63, taking his tally in the competition to 240 runs.

The Rainforest Rangers' Kevlon Anderson (227), the Infer-



Kofi James

nos' Johann Jeremiah (203), Legions skipper Joshua Da Silva (161) and Infernos skipper Alick Athanaze (160) rounded out the top five.

James also hit the most sixes with 16 with Jeremiah (11) and the Barbados Pelicans' Shaqkere Parris (10) being the only other players to get double figures,



Micah McKenzie

with Athanaze and Da Silva falling just short with nine each.

No player managed to score a hundred during the season with Jeremiah coming closest with 97.

The Thunder's Nathan Edward was the only bowler to record a five-wicket haul with five for 27.