

# Government takes steps to deal with administrative issues within the Ministry of Education

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**The Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the China-CELAC meeting includes Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Free Trade and Processing Zone, Senator Lamin Newton, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, E.P. Chet Green, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt M. Williams and Senior Consular Officer, Lance Browne.**



# Local News

## Government takes steps to deal with administrative issues within the Ministry of Education

The government is taking decisive steps to deal with the administrative weaknesses that were exposed in the Ministry of Education by last week's industrial action by teachers employed in the public school system.

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers instructed its members to return to the classroom on Tuesday following five days of industrial action over the non-payment of several allowances and perks.

While Prime Minister Gaston Browne and other senior officials in the government made it clear that the payment to the teachers was not the issue, as administrative weaknesses within the ministry of education were exposed and blamed for the hold-up in making the payments

Early on Tuesday, in what some have described as 'a significant development', the government announced a high-level reassignment within the Ministry of Education.

According to informed sources, effective immediately, Permanent Secretary, Rosa Greenaway, has been reassigned and will now serve as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Transformation. This move comes in the wake of intense public scrutiny and



**Permanent Secretary, Ena Dalso-Henry**

union criticism regarding delayed teacher upgrades and unpaid allowances—issues which led to widespread teacher protests and disruptions to the education system in recent weeks.

Replacing Greenaway at the Ministry of Education, is Permanent Secretary, Ena Dalso-Henry, who has been described as a 'no-nonsense' administrator and manager and who previously was assigned to the Ministry of Health. This move is seen as a role central to executing government's policy and addressing administrative bottlenecks that have plagued the Ministry of Education.

Greenaway heads for the Ministry of Social Transformation as the new Permanent Secretary.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary, Colin O'Keiffe,

is expected to replace Dalso-Henry in the Ministry of Health as the permanent secretary responsible for administration and the ministry headquarters.

The reassignment is widely viewed as a response to mounting pressure from educators and the public, with Prime Minister Gaston Browne himself expressing frustration over bureaucratic delays and lack of responsiveness within the Ministry. He recently urged the Minister of Education to "move people" if necessary to restore efficiency and accountability.

This leadership change is expected to signal a new chapter in the Ministry's handling of educational affairs and a stronger commitment to resolving outstanding issues raised by the teachers' union.



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## Foreign Minister Greene calls for closer ties between the Caribbean and Latin America and China

Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene, wants closer ties between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and China in the face of rising global tensions.

Minister Greene, who heads Antigua and Barbuda's delegation attending the

4th China-CELAC Forum currently being held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, delivered remarks on behalf of the twin island state.

During his speech Minister Greene remarked on the historic relations between China, and Latin American and Caribbean countries, which undoubtedly have resulted in mutual benefits for the peoples of both regions. Minister Greene following the earlier speech of Chinese President Xi Ji Ping, also called for further solidarity between both regions in the face of rising global tensions.

"At this critical juncture, when global trade and political dynamics are increasingly volatile, we must be vigilant. If unchecked, these tensions could inflict hardship across the Global South, on a scale surpassing the economic and social toll of the COVID-19 pandemic," he stated.

The Foreign Minister placed on record Antigua and Barbuda's support for both the Beijing Declaration 2025, and the China-CELAC Joint Action Plan for Cooperation (2025-2027) which would result in more robust trade between both regions, and support in the areas of education, climate resilience, sustainable development, technology and cultural exchanges. He however reminded the forum that CELAC member states must continue to work hand in hand to bring about tangible results for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Minister Greene charged his col-



leagues that as members of the Global South it is necessary for enhanced multilateral coordination on issues critical to their people such as climate change, pandemic preparedness and food security. He further stated that with an elevated collective voice on these issues, the challenges of the region would be enhanced on the global stage, hopefully resulting in a more balanced and

inclusive international order.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the China-CELAC meeting includes Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Free Trade and Processing Zone, Senator Lamin Newton, Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt M. Williams and Senior Consular Officer, Lance Browne.



## Antigua Black Pineapple to Be Showcased at Chelsea Flower Show 2025

More representation for Antigua and Barbuda at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show now taking place in London, United Kingdom, where along with locally grown flowers and plants, the famous, Antigua Black Pineapple will also be on display.

This as, Grant Joyce of Claremont Farms, an esteemed Antigua Black Pineapple farmer for over 40 years, has traveled to the UK as part of a delegation participating in the Chelsea Flower Show 2025, in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Horticulture Society.

This prestigious international event, often regarded as the “Olympics of Flower Shows,” will take place in Chelsea, England, and will feature a visit by His Majesty, King Charles III on Monday, May 19, 2025. The Antigua and Barbuda display, themed “A Glimpse of Antigua and Barbuda”, aims to showcase the best of the nation’s natural offerings—including our national fruit, the Antigua Black Pineapple—to a global audience.

A team of nine representatives, including Joyce, departed on Tuesday for London and will return on May 26. The display will feature an array of locally sourced items including:

- ☐ Antigua Black Pineapple
- ☐ Barbuda’s pink sand
- ☐ Sugarcane barrels
- ☐ Barbuda honey
- ☐ Local hot sauces

Joyce, who began growing Antigua Black Pineapples in 1980, has since cultivated thousands of clones and remains one of the island’s leading pineapple farmers. Antigua currently has approximately eight active pine-



apple farmers, growing this unique fruit in the island’s rocky, volcanic soil—ideal for its cultivation. The fruit is also used locally to produce pineapple wine, jams, and jellies.

This initiative is a collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Horticulture Society, led by President Barbara J’Paal and based on Friars Hill Road. Founded in 1956 and revived about a decade ago under the name Agave Gardens, the society educates the public on backyard gardening, native seed collection, and sustainable agriculture. The society’s motto, “Share what you know, share what you grow,” speaks to its community-focused mission. The group also manages a medicinal garden and beautifies green spaces across the island.

The team hopes to secure the Gold Prize at this year’s event and promote Antigua and Barbuda to a global audience. The delegation has received

support from a number of sponsors, including:

- Halo Foundation
- Caribbean Alliance
- Mill Reef Trust
- Jamie Howell and family
- Friends of Horticulture
- The Harrison Trust

Additionally, BBC was recently in Antigua filming the preparations and will feature the display and participants in an upcoming special to air on BBC1 and BBC2.

Given the international attention this event will receive and the opportunity it presents for agricultural diplomacy and national branding, this is a proud moment for Antigua and Barbuda.

It is therefore important that the Ministry of Agriculture plays a role in supporting and recognizing this achievement.



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## Indian High Commissioner discusses CHOGM during courtesy call



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne and The Guyana-based Indian High Commissioner, Dr. Amit Telang**

The Guyana-based Indian High Commissioner, Dr. Amit Telang, on Tuesday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne and other officials of the Antigua and Barbuda government.

During those discussions, High Commissioner Telang discussed the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which Antigua and Barbuda will host next year.

As the largest and most populous country within the Commonwealth Grouping, High Commissioner Telang explored areas where India may be able to offer assistance to make the staging of this massive event a success.

The Antigua and Barbuda government had previously reached out to India for assistance with staging of CHOGM and the presence of the High Commissioner in St. John's is to discuss some of those details with Prime Minister Browne and others.

The High Commissioner also met with Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, Information Minister, Melford Nicholas and Education Minister, Daryll

Matthew.

During his discussions with Minister Matthew, the Indian diplomat discussed continued Indian assistance in

the field of education and he raised the possibility of offering special training in India for Antigua and Barbuda women cricketers.



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## ABTA, Grace Foods host Caribbean Food Forum as part of Culinary Month



Activities marking Culinary Month continued on Tuesday with the hosting of the Caribbean Food Forum, which was a joint undertaking of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) and Grace Foods.

The event took place at the Sir John E. St. Luce conference centre and it attracted a wide cross section of local regional and international panelists who discussed subjects relating to the promotion of local cuisine as an essential part of the tourism

package.

“The Caribbean Food Forum is a premier one-day event uniting top chefs, tourism experts, hospitality leaders, and sustainability advocates. It serves as a catalyst for discussions on food security, culinary innovation, and sustainable practices, shaping the future of food and tourism in the region,” Coordinator of the event, Donyelle Bird stated.

She described the themes and objectives as falling under several broad categories.







ries;

**Sustainability:** Responsible sourcing, waste reduction, and eco-friendly culinary solutions.

**Farm and Sea to Table:** Promoting fresh, local ingredients and sustainable fishing/farming methods.

**Culinary Traditions and Innovation:** Blending heritage and cultural flavors and traditions with modern techniques.

**Food Security:** Tackling challenges in accessibility, resilience, and agricultural sustainability.

**Collaboration and Networking:** Creating oppor-

tunities for industry professionals and creatives to connect and innovate.

“Today was the staging of the inaugural Caribbean Food Forum which was held under the theme; *Feeding, Innovation and Shaping tomorrow together*. It served as an exploration of our culinary landscape,” she noted.

Among the topics discussed was hope to provide pathways for a new generation of chefs to utilize their creativity to prepare and present local cuisine to an increasingly growing segment of the market that travels for such experiences.



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## Parham villager perseveres on her way to earning Doctorate from American University



A proud and young daughter of the soil has reached the pinnacle of her academic journey, earning a Doctoral Degree in Business Administration specializing in Finance from the prestigious Liberty University in Virginia in the United States.

Dr. Jerri-Anne Jeremy, a graduate of the Parham Primary, the Pares Secondary and Antigua State College, has been successful in skillfully balancing the demands of her new role as Second Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission to the United Nations in New York with her academic pursuits. Dr. Jeremy's unwavering dedication and personal sacrifices culminated in a well-deserving reward as she successfully defended a dissertation before her professorial committee. Her doctoral research provided a comprehensive analysis of "Credit and Risk Management in the Banking Sector in the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)."

Her specialization is also complementary to her substantive role at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission where she has been preoccupied with Antigua and Barbuda's position on global financial matters such as debt sustainability, cli-



mate financing and the proposed SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Services (DSSS). Dr. Jeremy was the financial controller and one of the senior fund raisers for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) during the period of Antigua and Barbuda's Chairmanship

and for last year's groundbreaking SIDS4 Conference. As a member of the diplomatic team at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission, Dr. Jeremy serves on the Fifth Committee of the United Nations, which is concerned with the Budgetary and Administrative matters of the international body.

In reflecting on her achievement, Dr. Jeremy gives credit to her humble up-brings and her faith and belief in God for keeping her focused and true to her goals. She is the product of a single parent household, where her mother, Ruthlyn Edwards, instilled in her positive values that have accounted for her success so far in life.

Already a holder of a Degree from Monroe University and a Masters in Business Administration with a focus in Finance at Devry University, Dr. Jeremy stated she has drawn strength and motivation from not only God, but an inspiring network of teachers, classmates, colleagues, family, church, friends and the members of her Parham community.

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## Caribbean Native Joshel Wilson Embarks on Conservation Journey in the Channel Islands with Durrell



life conservation began with a childhood fascination with the natural world, through programmes shown on the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet. That developed into a university career which involved searching for a species that had been undocumented in one region for over 40 years.

He holds a full-time role with the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) in Antigua, having initially moved to support a rat eradication programme. Durrell housed the rare Antigua Racer as part of a breeding programme from 1995-2002, while the Jersey Trust currently has a centre based in Saint Lucia, to help protect the rarest snake in the world, the Saint Lucia Racer.

“The course has been fantastic for me,” Joshel added. “Durrell’s armoury is growing, and people are taking what they’ve learned

back to their countries and improving their projects. There’s a wall in the Durrell Academy with photos of people who have gone on to do great work. I hope that funding can spread out into the Caribbean, where I’m hoping to one day start a conservation and environmental department, based on climate change.”

High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, Karen-Mae Hill, said: “The relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey continues to showcase the immense opportunities for small states to support each other in advocacy, knowledge-transfer and capacity building. We understand each other through our shared realities as island nations and I am pleased to see yet another successful collaboration which will benefit both our Islands as well as the wider Eastern Caribbean”.

A bursary from the Government of Jersey has paved the way for Caribbean native, Joshel Wilson, to spend five months in the Channel Islands, United Kingdom, to complete the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate (DESMAN). Developed and delivered by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, the course offers hands on training in conservation science and species management, attracting students from across the globe.

doing the course, and I’m very grateful for it,’ snake specialist Joshel explained. “There are a lot of amazing people in the Caribbean who are passionate about the environment but never get to experience this kind of work. It’s not a common career path. I’ve never had a scholarship from an organisation before and I’d like to keep my relationship with Jersey going into the future.”

Joshel’s journey into wild-

Joshel’s bursary selection, through Jersey’s Bilateral Programme Fund (BPF), is a tangible benefit of the Education, Sport and Cultural Memorandum of Understanding signed between Jersey and Antigua and Barbuda in 2024. The BPF facilitated the enhancement of Jersey’s international identity and relationships by providing funding for a diverse programme of projects across priority jurisdictions.

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# Local News



## Gareth Walker remanded to prison on firearm charges



Gareth Walker of Ottos has been remanded to His Majesty's Prison in connection with firearm-related offences.

The 44-year-old was formally charged with the unlawful possession of one .45 pistol and the unlawful possession of five (5) rounds of matching ammu-

nition.

Last week, the police issued a wanted bulletin for Walker. He later surrendered himself to the police at the Police Headquarters on American Road, shortly after 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9.

He appeared before Acting Chief

Magistrate Dexter Wason on Tuesday and was remanded into custody until May 19. The charges are linked to an incident that occurred on Friars Hill Road on March 20, 2025 during a traffic check.

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# Regional News



## PM Skerrit to seek parliamentary approval for electoral reform loan

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has announced his government's intention to seek parliamentary approval for a loan from the National Bank of Dominica to finance the implementation of electoral reform. The Prime Minister will present his request to Parliament at its upcoming session on Monday, May 19.



In March, the Dominica Parliament passed three key pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening the country's electoral process, including the Registration of Electors Act, which mandates voter confirmation within a designated 12-month period. However, Prime Minister Skerrit acknowledged that implementing these reforms would be costly and emphasized the need for secured funding.

"I want to ensure that the Electoral Commission has all of the money upfront so nobody says that they don't have the money," Skerrit stated, during the 'Government in 5' radio programme. "The Minister of Finance has started discussing the issue of the loan, and I'm hoping we can go to Parliament on May 19 to contract this loan and transfer the money in one scoop to the Electoral Commission."


The Prime Minister stressed that this financial commitment would ensure transparency and accountability. "Nobody can accuse me or the government and say, well, they don't have the money and the money doesn't come yet," he stated.


Once approved, the funds will allow the Electoral Commission to cover staffing, confirmation officers,

rent, and necessary equipment. Skerrit mentioned that discussions are underway with a European firm to provide electoral technology.

Beyond electoral reform, the government will also seek approval for a separate loan from the World Bank to support the relocation of residents from vulnerable areas, including Petite Soufrière, San Sauveur, and Campbell. The relocation efforts will ensure safer living conditions and economic stability for affected communities.

"A portion of the funds will also be used to pay off private sector service providers and contractors to stimulate economic circulation," Skerrit explained. (*Dominica News Online*)





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## False alarms frustrating St James firefighters

Acting Superintendent of the St James Division of the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB), Keneisha Vaccianna, is calling on residents to stop making prank calls to emergency services, describing the act as a dangerous and costly distraction.

“For the month of April, we received five malicious false calls,” Vaccianna told *The Gleaner* on Monday.

He further noted that his office has responded to at least 25 prank calls since the start of the year. This figure includes 10 in February and nine in January – an alarming trend that he says is putting undue strain on the division’s resources and personnel as they are obligated to respond to every call.

Prank calls, he emphasised, not only disadvantage firefighters, but also residents in genuine difficulty.

“One false call in itself is too much. Each time we receive a call, we have an obligation to respond; it’s our duty to respond. However, when that call is with malicious intent, it deprives someone who might have a genuine emergency for the use of the resource which is responding to a false call, which might be miles away,” Vaccianna told *The Gleaner*.

“Not only would it deprive someone who has a genuine emergency, it creates unnecessary wear and tear on the unit, which comes at a price tag to service and repair a fire unit. And, each run, there is consumption of fuel,” he added.

At the same time, the acting superintendent stated that firefighters are



also at a higher risk of being engaged in a motor vehicle collision.

“Whether it’s responding to a call or returning from a call, once you’re mobile on the road, there’s a risk of a potential motor vehicle accident. So, with those false calls, they put the firefighters at unnecessary risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident. Even with the best of defensive driving, there is always the risk of an accident,” he stated.

With only three fire trucks in St James, the acting superintendent stressed that firefighters take their duties seriously and are becoming frustrated with the impact of false alarms.

“They see themselves as professionals and to respond to a call with the mindset that someone is genuinely in distress, only to turn up and realise it’s a prank call. It affects the mood of some individuals,” said Vaccianna. “They think that members of the public take the whole emergency response for a joke,

which to us is serious business.”

JFB Commissioner Stewart Beckford previously disclosed that there were 1,759 malicious false alarms last year, a 24.4 per cent rise from the 1,413 calls received in 2023.

Meanwhile, Vaccianna is urging locals to put themselves in the shoes of those who actually require emergency services. He believes that this selfish act should be halted.

“[I] just want for each individual to put themselves in the position of someone who is in an emergency situation and request assistance from the fire department,” he said. “The situation which exists at the moment is that the necessary resource is 30 kilometres away responding to a prank call, whilst you’re there in a genuine distress, requiring the resource. Just put yourself in that situation and you’ll realise how important it is to desist from making those prank calls.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



# Regional News

## Over 600 earthquakes recorded under Mount Pelée ; no need for alarm officials say



There has been an increase in earthquake activity under the Mount Pelée volcano in the neighbouring French island of Martinique but officials are saying that there is no need for alarm.

The latest bulletin from the "Observatoire Volcanologique et Sismologique de la Martinique" (OVSM) shows that between May 2 and 9, 256 tremors were recorded. Over the past month the observatory said, 632 volcanic earthquakes were recorded – an average of 158 earthquakes per week.

The observatory broke down the quakes over the past month as "243 low-energy volcano-tectonic earthquakes, 9 long-period earthquakes and 4 deep hybrid earthquakes." Despite this increase in activity, Je-

rome Vergne, director of the OVSM told French news outlet, RCI, that there is no need for alarm.

"These deep earthquakes simply reflect that there is currently a circulation of magmatic fluid at the level of these reservoirs, these deep magmatic chambers, which are located at the base of the earth's crust and in the earth's mantle, but really well deep under Mount Pelée," he explained.

He said the activity of the volcano is being monitored closely but there are no signs it swelling or deflating and there have been no changes in the chemistry of gases coming from it.

"So we continue to watchfully follow what is happening, but there is no need to be alarmed right now," he

pointed out.

Vergne also told RCI that Mount Pelée is one of the most monitored volcanoes on earth, in terms of the number of instruments observing it.

"We have a dozen seismic sensors all around Mount Pelée, a dozen geodesic sensors," he stated.

"Water samples are taken every month for gas analyses. So, simply, we've been doing a little more measurements lately."

He also said that there are follow-up observations several times a day to make sure there are no changes in activity.

"So, we put in place the necessary means to be able to detect a change that would be more major,"

he remarked. "But for the moment, we are on a phenomenon, certainly a little unusual, but which simply translates that it is a volcano that is active in depth with circulation of this magma, as I said, very deep. And for now, there is no connection with the top system."

On May 8, 1902, Mount Pelée erupted, sending a blast of hot gas, rock, and ashes down its slopes at 300 miles per hour. The town of Saint-Pierre, four miles away, was completely obliterated and over 27,000 people were killed.

The eruption has been classified as one of the deadliest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century. (*Dominica News Online*)

# Regional News

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## Heavy rains causing widespread destruction in Haiti



The United Nations Monday said that heavy rains over the past few days have caused widespread flooding, damaging homes, crops and vital infrastructure in Haiti's Nord-Est Department.

Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, told the daily news briefing that since May 5, more than 4,300 families have been affected across the towns of Ouanaminthe and Ferrier, where more than 3,900 homes were inundated.

"In some areas, floodwaters reached entire neighbourhoods, destroying household belongings and leaving many without shelter," Dujarric said, adding that "initial assessments indicate severe impacts on livelihoods, including the loss of livestock and the destruction

of small-scale farms.

"Key roads were also damaged, hindering access to affected communities. While no fatalities have been reported, local authorities warn that river levels remain high and weather conditions remain unstable," he stated.

He said the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is supporting local authorities and partners to coordinate the response, "but we

need additional support to scale up life-saving assistance and strengthen preparedness, particularly as the rainy and hurricane seasons is fast approaching".

Thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes as gangs, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince, are involved in criminal activities aimed at overthrowing the government. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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## Argentina's top court finds Nazi files 'of global significance' in basement

More than 80 boxes filled with documents from Nazi Germany have been discovered in the basement of Argentina's Supreme Court, decades after the crates were stashed in 1941.

The "discovery of global significance" came as workers were clearing out the area in preparation for transferring the archives to a newly-established museum, the court said in a statement on Monday.

The 83 boxes were sent by the German embassy in Japan's capital Tokyo to Argentina in June 1941 on board the Japanese steamship "Nan-a-Maru", the court statement said.

At the time, German diplomats in Argentina claimed they contained personal effects, but the shipment was held up by customs and became the subject of a probe by a special commission on "anti-Argentine activities". A judge later ordered the seizure of the materials, and the matter ended up before the Supreme Court, which took possession of the crates.

About 84 years later, upon opening one of the boxes, the court identified material "intended to consolidate and propagate Adolf Hitler's ideology in Argentina during the Second World War".

The rest of the boxes were opened last Friday in the presence of the chief rabbi of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) and officials of the Buenos Aires Holocaust Museum.



"Given the historical relevance of the find and the potential crucial information it could contain to clarify events related to the Holocaust, the president of the Supreme Court, Horacio Rosatti, ordered an exhaustive survey of all the material found," the court said.

"The main objective is to ... determine if the material contains crucial information about the Holocaust and if any clues found can shed light on aspects still unknown, such as the route of Nazi money at a global level," it added.

The court has transferred the boxes to a room equipped with extra security measures and invited the Holocaust Museum in Buenos Aires to participate in their preservation and inventory.

Experts will examine them for any clues about still-unknown aspects of the Holocaust, such as international financing networks used by

the Nazis.

Argentina remained neutral in World War II until 1944. The South American country declared war on Germany and Japan the following year. From 1933 to 1954, according to the Holocaust Museum, 40,000 Jews entered Argentina as they fled Nazi persecution in Europe.

But after World War II, Argentina, led by President Juan Peron, became a haven for several high-ranking Nazi officials.

They included Adolf Eichmann, who was considered a key architect of Hitler's plan to exterminate Europe's Jews. He was captured in Buenos Aires in 1960 and taken to Israel, where he was tried and executed.

Nazi doctor Josef Mengele, too, hid away in Argentina before fleeing to Paraguay and later Brazil, where he died. (Al Jazeera English)



## Palestinian journalist among two killed in Israeli attack on Gaza hospital



Israel's army has admitted to carrying out "a targeted attack" on the Nasser Medical Complex in the city of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, killing two people,

including Palestinian journalist Hassan Eslaih.

Gaza's Government Media Office on Tuesday confirmed the killing of Eslaih,

who was receiving treatment at the hospital's burn unit for severe injuries sustained during an April 7 Israeli strike on a media tent located next to the hospital.

The AFP news agency footage from Nasser Hospital after Tuesday's strike showed smoke rising from the facility as rescuers searched through the rubble by the light of torches.

A hospital worker who gave his name as Abu Ghali said the Israeli bombardment "does not differentiate between civilians and military targets".

"This is a civilian hospital that receives injured people around the clock," he told AFP.

Eslaih was the director of the Alam24 News Agency and a freelancer who contributed to international news organisations, including photos of the Hamas-led October 7 attack.

Israel has claimed Eslaih was a Hamas fighter who participated in the October 7 attack, an allegation he vehemently denied. (*Al Jazeera English*)



## DAILY PROGRAMMING




<b>EARLY VIBRATIONS</b>	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH CREMSTA	
<b>THE RUSH HOUR SHOW</b>	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
<b>TOUCHLINE</b>	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
<b>BAD COMPANY</b>	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
<b>REGGAE INSPIRATION</b>	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
<b>JAH WADADLI</b>	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	



## 2nd mayoral candidate killed in Mexico's Veracruz state ahead of June 1 elections



Gunmen killed a mayoral candidate from Mexico's governing party in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz and four others who accompanied her, the second such local candidate killing in the state ahead of the June 1 election, authorities confirmed Monday.

There were reports later Monday that two federal agents were killed in another part of the state.

The attack on candidate Yesenia Lara Gutiérrez of the Morena party occurred Sunday when she was leading a caravan of supporters through Texistepec. Three more people were wounded.

Veracruz Gov. Rocío Nahle, also of the Morena party of President Claudia Sheinbaum, said Monday that Lara Gutiérrez's daughter was among those

killed.

Texistepec is a town of 20,000 southwest of the important petroleum industry port of Coatzacoalcos.

"No (elected) position is worth dying for," Nahle said in a press conference Monday, where she promised justice.

"All of the state's power will be present in coming days so that the elections are free and democratic," she said.

At a wake Monday in Texistepec, family and friends mourned Lara Gutiérrez and spoke about the fear the violence stirred around the election.

"We can't continue with the insecurity, we're tired of all of this, this is terrorism," said supporter Joaquín Fonseca. "There are five people dead, not one. We're living the worst of the terror-

ism."

Family friend Cruz Morales said the violence is so bad that "we're afraid to go into the fields, to go see our family in the evening, because we don't know what's going to happen to us on the way."

Lara Gutiérrez was the second mayoral candidate killed in Veracruz during the campaign. On April 29, the first official day of campaigning, gunmen killed Germán Anuar Valencia, also from the governing party at his campaign headquarters in Coxquihui in the northern part of Veracruz.

Nahle said that 57 local candidates had requested security offered by the state and federal government. It was not immediately clear if Lara Gutiérrez had.

Municipal elections are scheduled in Veracruz's 212 municipalities for June 1.

Local candidates are historically the most vulnerable to election violence as organized criminal groups seek to gain control of local governments.

Later Monday, local press reported that two federal agents and a third person were killed in an attack in the coastal city of Boca del Rio, Veracruz. An Associated Press photojournalist saw federal agents and soldiers maintaining a perimeter around the scene of the shooting.

Neither state nor federal authorities immediately responded to requests to confirm the toll. (NBC News)S



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## REGISTRATION

# OPEN

Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission

## 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](mailto: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

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## Strictly Business beat Buckley's 3Js in men's softball cricket competition



**Rackaman Construction Strictly Business softball cricket team. (File photo)**

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business ended the unbeaten run of Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js in the Antigua Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5 FM Men's 30-Over Championship on Sunday.

Strictly Business claimed their third win in four matches by pulling off a 30-run victory against the Buckley's 3Js when both sides met in a top-of-the-table clash at the Powells playing field.

Strictly Business made 132 for nine off 24 overs. Clinton Benjamin hit 60, Peter Bellefonte scored 15, and Jevon Howell made 12. Rodney Williams picked up four for 20.

In reply, the Buckley's 3Js were dismissed for 102 in 21.4 overs. Zavier Otto hit 20 not out. Owen Graham grabbed four for 21, and Kerry Mentore claimed two for 25. It was

the first loss in four matches, one of which was rained out, for the Buckley's 3Js.

Dredgers recorded their second win in three matches by snatching a two-wicket win against Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 at the Dredgers playing field.

Batting first, 300 were all out for 145 in 22.4 overs. Kennedy Tonge cracked 30, Molvin James hit 29, and Richard Dyer struck 28. Mervin Higgins bagged three for 17, Tyrone Williams Jr. captured three for 37, and Loy Weste claimed two wickets for nine runs.

The Dredgers achieved victory by scoring 146 for eight in 24 overs. Tyrone Williams slammed 38 not out, Rickey Buckley struck 29, and J'Quan Athanaze scored 22.

Vernel Isadore claimed two for 16,

Molvin James captured two for 32, and Zack Thomas picked up two for 34.

PMS notched up their first win in three matches by coasting to an 85-run victory against Mix Up Stars at the Dredgers playing field.

PMS made 191 for five from 24 overs. Clarence Francis hammered 55, Malik Marcellin hit 34, Walter Carr struck 29, and Ashfield Weatherhead scored 27. Ashaq Amhed captured two for 49.

In reply, Mix Up Stars were restricted to 106 for seven off their allotted 24 overs. Gaster Desouche hit 23, Carl Simon struck 16, and Isiah Viville made 15.

Ashfield Weatherhead grabbed three for 20, Malik Marcellin claimed two for 29, and Kenny Benjamin picked up one wicket for four runs.



## Ojays take lead in Division 2 semi-final playoffs series



League champions and top seed Cuties Ovals Ojays have taken a one-nil lead in their semi-final series in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division playoffs on Monday evening.

The Ovals Ojays prevailed 75-62 against fifth seed EZ Fit Flyers 2 in Game 1 of their best-of-three series at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Ovals Ojays led from start to finish, soaring to a 25-16 advantage at the end of the first quarter. They outscored their opponents 19-13 in the second quarter to take a commanding 44-29 lead against Flyers 2 at halftime.

The Ovals Ojays consolidated their position by outscoring the Flyers 13-9 in the low-scoring third quarter and preserved their lead in the fourth quarter to wrap up their victory.

The Ovals were led by Tajahron Davis, who produced 28 points, five rebounds, five assists, and five steals, and Tequan Brodie with 17 points and seven rebounds.

In support, Jayleyle Joseph converted eight points and grabbed 14 rebounds, while Shaheim Omarde and N'Kenge Drew each chipped in with eight points and seven rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Amare Browne sank 16 points and snatched six rebounds; Rashaun Harry produced 10 points, nine rebounds, and five assists; Tyrese White also converted 10 points; and Delroy Foster contributed eight points and 11 rebounds for Flyers 2.

Both teams will clash in Game 2 in the opening game of a double-header

at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday (today) at 6:45 pm.

Top seed and defending champions EZ Fit Flyers will face fourth seed New Generation All Saints Slam in Game 2 of their best-of-three First Division semi-final playoff series at 8:30 pm.



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# Sports News



## CWI announces women's squad for tour to England

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Tuesday announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming white-ball tour of England, which is scheduled for May 21 to June 8. The tour includes three T20 Internationals and three One-Day Internationals to be played at several venues across the country.

The squad will be led by Captain Hayley Matthews and includes a strong mix of experienced players and emerging talent eager to represent the region well and move on from the disappointment of their failed ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifying campaign in Pakistan last month.

There are two changes to the squad that contested the Qualifiers, with 20-year-old Guyanese all-rounder Realeanna Grimmond and Kittitian fast bowler Jahzara Claxton getting the nod over Jamaicans Rashada Williams and all-rounder Chinelle Henry.

Miles Bascombe, CWI Director of Cricket, expressed confidence in the squad.

"This upcoming tour of England offers our women an important opportunity to reassert themselves on the international stage. It's a chance to demonstrate the talent, grit, and character that are synonymous with West Indies cricket.

"The ongoing T20 Blaze competition has come at



**Players of the West Indies women's team (CWI Media)**

an opportune time, giving many of our senior and emerging players the chance to stay match-ready and sharpen their skills in a competitive environment. We remain committed to strengthening our women's programme and believe this tour is a vital step forward in our collective journey," Bascombe said.

Head Coach Shane Deitz also shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming series.

"Going to England is a fantastic opportunity to play one of the best teams in the world for a long time and to really test our skills and put in practice what we've talked about off the pitch. The talk is cheap off the pitch; we're going to put that talk into action and go out against England and play some good cricket.

"We've got the T20Is first, and that's where we've played our better cricket in

the past 12 to 18 months, so we're looking forward to getting the tour off to a good start and play some good attacking cricket the West Indian way," Deitz declared.

"We brought a good team to England, and we're looking forward to putting on a good performance for the crowd over there and all our supporters watching back in the Caribbean.

"It's going to be an excellent tour for us to reestablish ourselves as a world-class team with world-class players. The girls have been working hard since the Pakistan qualification and playing some cricket at the T20 Blaze in the Caribbean.

"It's now time to switch up to international cricket, put on a good display, and give our supporters something to cheer about back in the Caribbean," he added.

The team was scheduled to depart for England on

Tuesday (yesterday), with the first T20I scheduled for May 21.

West Indies Women's Squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbelle (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Jahzara Claxton, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajani, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, and Stafanie Taylor.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach Shane Deitz; Team Manager Sheena Gooding; Assistant Coach Ryan Austin; Assistant Coach Damien Wright; Team Analyst Gary Belle; Physiotherapist Angelica Holder; Strength & Conditioning Coach Hector Martinez Charles; Performance Coach Dr. Nadine Sammy; and Media & Content Officer Nicholas Maitland.



## Pakistan T20 cricket league set to resume after ceasefire



ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Pakistan Super League is set to resume this weekend after a ceasefire between Pakistan and India.

“PSL X picks up from where it left off! 6 teams, 0 fear,” Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi posted Tuesday on X.

“Let the aura take over as we unite and celebrate the spirit of cricket,” he posted. “Get ready for 8 thrilling matches starting May 17, leading up to the Grand Final on May 25. Best of luck to all the teams!”

Pakistan and India agreed to a truce last Saturday after talks to defuse their most serious military confrontation in decades.

The Pakistan-based Twenty20 league was suspended last Thursday after an Indian drone fell near the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, which was due to host a game featuring foreign players from Australia, England, South Africa, the West Indies, New Zealand, and Afghanistan.

The organizers first proposed moving the tournament to Dubai but later decided to postpone it after foreign players showed their reluctance to participate in the tournament due to security concerns.

Around 43 foreign cricketers — competing in six PSL teams — were flown out of Pakistan from an airbase in Rawalpindi. It was not clear how many foreign players will return to Pakistan for the remaining eight games, which will be played at Rawalpindi and Lahore.

The PCB said that Rawalpindi will host the remaining four league matches between May 17-19 before Lahore hosts the playoffs from May 21, including the final at

Gaddafi Stadium on May 25.

Quetta Gladiators have already qualified for the playoffs and lead the standings with 13 points. Karachi Kings, Islamabad United, Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi are in the running to fill the remaining three playoff spots.

Multan Sultans, led by Mohammad Rizwan, are already out of playoff race after losing eight of their nine league games.

On Monday, the world’s most lucrative T20 league — the Indian Premier League (IPL) — also announced the resumption of the tournament. The IPL will run from Saturday until June 3.





# Sports

WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025



## Browne reigns supreme in Avalanche cycling race

Young sensation Tahje Browne has continued to dominate the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) 2025 domestic season.

After capturing the overall titles in the Jenel Warner Annual Race on March 2 and the ABCF Time Trial on April 6, Browne made it three wins in as many outings by winning the grueling Avalanche Race, conquering challenging climbs and inclines over 6.062 km of terrain on Sunday.

Browne was once again the standout performer of the day, completing the 10-lap course by clocking the best time of one hour, 56 minutes, and 57 seconds to win the Junior Male class and emerging as the overall winner of the race.

Aiden Tonge came second in one hour, 58 minutes and 46.39 seconds, and Jomari King finished in third place in the Junior Male category.

Elite Thomas won the 11-14 Cadets category, which was contested over four laps. Thomas



**Champion Tahje Browne, third left, rides with a group of cyclists during the ABCF's Avalanche Road Race on Sunday, May 11, 2025. (Photos courtesy of the ABCF)**



**Tahje Browne, center, accepts the champion trophy from President of the ABCF St. Clair Williams on the winners' podium for the Avalanche Road Race on Sunday, May 11, 2025.**

clocked a total time of 48 minutes and 23.85 seconds. Luis Ozuna came in second in 56 minutes and 59.56 seconds, and

Jahaziel Santana finished in third place in the 11-14 Cadets category.

Veteran cyclist Robert Marsh emerged victorious in the Elite Male category over 10 laps with a time of one hour, 57 minutes and 01.62 seconds. National champion Jyme Bridges took second place in one hour and 58 minutes, and Conroy Thomas finished in third place.

Randy Simon won the Masters category over eight laps with a total time of one hour, 39 minutes and 23.49 seconds. Micah Gore took second place in one hour, 40 minutes and 41.82 seconds, and Vaughn Gomes came in third.

Steve Scott won the Sports Class category of six laps with a time of one hour, 16 minutes and 26.14 seconds. Dexter Simmons captured second place in one hour, 27 minutes and 04.37 seconds.

There were no female participants among the overall total of 21 cyclists who participated in the event