



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

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THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2025

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ANTIGUA TRADES
& LABOUR UNION &
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
LABOUR PARTY
Presents

LABOUR Day 2025



5 MAY

2025 3PM UNTIL

FEATURING

RICHIE SPICE | TIAN WINTER | CLAUDETTE PETERS | MENACE
SIGNAL BAND | ISLAND PRINCE | GE EVE | EMPRESS | SOCA
VILLIAN | PEETRON | SAMMY C | KID FRESH | DJ WHO | NEW GEN
BAND | SUPA D | DRASTIC | ZAMONI | YOUNG LYRICS | NI QKO
DJs: DJ Jime | Mad Ras | DJ Quest Host: Jesse Fyah

Crime on the decline

Story on Page 2



Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Dr. Didacus Jules, is encouraging the Antigua and Barbuda government to be more aggressive in the aviation sector by acquiring new radar system and to explore regular flights to West Africa.

Story on Page 6

Local News



Crime on the decline



Acting Police Commissioner, Everton Jeffers

Antigua and Barbuda has witnessed a reduction of crime in all categories for the first quarter of the year when compared with the same period for last year.

The disclosure came on Wednesday during a press conference convened by Acting Commissioner, Everton Jeffers and senior officers to update the public on several ongoing investigations.

Reporting on the crime statistics for the first quarter of 2025, head of the Criminal Investigation Department, Assistant Commissioner Clifton Cabral said all categories of crime are down; except for two areas, murder and missing persons.

“When we compare the figures of 2025 versus the same period for 2024 we see that last year we had 1,032 cases compared with 996 for 2025. This decline is represented in all areas; for example, last year we had 384 larceny cases versus 342 for this year. Last year we had 57 robberies, these include aggravated

robberies (with violence) and ordinary robberies, this year the figure is ten less at 47. For house and business breaking and larceny, we

had 486 last year compared with 420 this year,” Cabral reported. Additionally, there were 128 cases of malicious damage in 2024 versus 114 this year.

The only areas where we saw increases were murder and for missing persons; there were only three murders at this stage last year while the figure for the year at the same date is five.

“As far as missing persons are concerned there were a total of 16 reported to the police there are only three (on land) that are unaccounted for; these are the three young men who went missing Davis, Richards and Vasquez. There are

three others who are missing at sea,” he reported.

Police Commissioner Jeffers attributed the lower crime figures to new strategies that the police have implemented and which have led to a reduction of crime. Additionally, he said greater police presence at various events has helped serve as a deterrent.

“I received a call after the recent Easter Monday holiday, and the person said to me that wherever he went as he traveled from beach to beach, he saw uniformed police officers; don’t underestimate the impact of such a move,” he urged.

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Senior Counsel makes call for responsible reporting regarding the Alfa Nero case

Senior Counsel, Anthony Tony Astaphan is advising media houses, locally and regionally to be responsible in reporting on the Alfa Nero matters especially as the core of the discussions concern allegations which are not facts or objectively verifiable.

He said this is an essential requirement under the country's constitutional framework of freedom of expression, which protects the rights and reputations of others including elected public officials. Any other approach is contrary to the public interest.

While he did not name any media house, Astaphan, speaking on the *Browne and Browne* Show over the weekend, expressed his displeasure with the republication and dissemination of mere allegations, premised as they are on unnamed sources, and other misinformation being published or shared on radio, social media, and the Internet.

He added that the re-publication of allegations of misconduct and corruption are libelous.

SC clarified that the allegations made are not facts, that the motions to quash the subpoenas were not dismissed, and that Prime Minister Gaston Browne's and the other interested parties financial accounts have not been published publicly or otherwise as was being widely alleged.

He further explained that any receipt of documents has to be strict-



Senior Counsel, Anthony Tony Astaphan

ly controlled under the Judge's order that the documents must be limited to attorneys' eyes only, and the terms of a protective order to be approved by the Judge. SC also emphasized that "Importantly, the Judge also ordered that if the motions to quash the subpoenas are granted, then these documents must be destroyed".

Astaphan went on to say:

"When you listen to and read some of the comments being made on the radio station, social media and the Internet you are getting the impression that the motions to quash were dismissed, full discovery has taken place, and that all hell is going to break loose now. None of this is true"

Indeed, he said all of this misinformation could have been avoided if

the disseminators had merely read the Order of the Judge. He is calling on those people, media houses and others who fabricate the stories or are pushing misinformation on the respective media to desist and act responsibly.

The Alfa Nero saga continues, as the government of Antigua and Barbuda makes every effort to show transparency regarding their dealings with the vessel.

The Prime Minister maintains that he has no regrets about the transaction, citing a necessity to avoid potential disaster, and a legal obligation that was carefully and thoroughly justified. It remains to be seen what – if any – political and socio-economic backlash awaits as the situation develops.

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

LABOUR DAY 2025

The logo of the Antigua Trades Labour Union is a red circle with a white border. Inside the circle, the words "Antigua Trades" are written in a white, serif font at the top, and "Labour Union" is at the bottom. In the center, there is a white silhouette of two hands shaking. Below the handshake, the text "Established 1868 January 19th" is written in a small font. At the very bottom of the circle, the motto "The Unity of Labour is the Salvation of Our Country" is inscribed in a small font.

V.C. Bird Bust | **9AM** | Parade Start | **11AM**

featuring:

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5 MAY
2025

ROUTE:

VC Bird Bust - up market street - left onto Newgate street - right onto Wilkinson cross - Right onto North Street - Left onto Popeshead Street - onto Fort Road - Left onto fort James Road - ending at Fort James.

OECS Secretariat sees value in Antigua and Barbuda/West Africa airbridge



Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Dr. Didacus Jules, is encouraging the Antigua and Barbuda government to be more aggressive in the aviation sector by acquiring new radar system and to explore regular flights to West Africa.

Dr. Jules was invited to Cabinet to discuss issues relating to aviation and transatlantic connections between the Caribbean and West Africa. He pointed out that all the countries of the Eastern Caribbean, inclusive of Guadeloupe and Martinique, utilize a radar system that is managed by Trinidad and Tobago; therefore, all fees which air carriers pay for the

freedom to fly in the airspace of these countries are paid over to Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Jules is of the view that Antigua and Barbuda could in fact sell those same services to the countries of the Northern Leeward Islands with the acquisition of such a radar system.

Cabinet sources say Dr. Jules successfully persuaded the Cabinet to accept that flights from

many West African countries have a shorter distance to fly to Antigua and Barbuda than any other Eastern Caribbean country. He therefore encouraged the Cabinet members to continue to pursue the development of links between West Africa and Antigua and Barbuda.

The Cabinet successfully enabled Air Peace, a Nigerian airline company,

to invest in putting LIAT (2020) back in the air, allowing Caribbean nationals to experience the enhanced connectivity that once was common.

Dr. Jules indicated many small airlines began operating along routes that LIAT (1974) used to service, and the routes have become very competitive although the price of airline tickets have become very high.



Renaissance "THE REBIRTH"



Abigail Piper
St. John's Rural North



Amiaha James
St. Mary's South



Danijha Simon
St. John's Rural South



Aaliyah Taylor
St. John's Rural West



Jamona Samuel
All Saints East & St. Luke



Coshana Constant
St. Phillip's North



Alisha Alie
St. George



Tia James
St. John's Rural East



Christine Powell
St. John's City West



Cyczique Teague
St. Pauls

Work to become immediately on repurposing the Deluxe Cinema



The long-awaited work on the repurposing of the Deluxe Cinema on High Street to become the National Performing Arts Centre is set to begin immediately.

Following discussions at the Cabinet on Wednesday, it was agreed that the work will begin immediately and completion is anticipated before October 2026 when the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will take place in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Deluxe Cinema building is to be turned into a National Performing Arts Center – where the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) will have its home, and a Theatre for the Performing Arts will also be housed. It is now anticipated that many schools, whose students engaged in Theatre Arts and Drama competitions, will be able to utilize

the re-purposed building when completed.

According to reports, there is a

tenant in the building at this time and Notice has to be given for the tenant to vacate.



The Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU) in conjunction with the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) invites you to the 74th Labour Day Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 4th May, 2025 at 9 AM at the Gracehill Moravian Church, Liberta Village, St. Paul's, Antigua.

Government is considering a proposal regarding abandoned buildings in St. John's that are now an eyesore

As the government embarks on a drive to improve the aesthetics of the City of St. John's, consideration is being given to the case of abandoned buildings that populate the city many of which have become eyesores.

On Wednesday, a two-man team from the Inland Revenue Department, led by Commissioner, Ralph Warner, were invited to the Cabinet to discuss the issue.

The team was asked to provide a report to the Cabinet on abandoned buildings within the commercial sector of St. John's City; the IRD presented photographs of more than 20 abandoned/unoccupied buildings within the area marked by the Vivian Richards Street, along Market Street, all of Newgate Street and across Independence Avenue.

"Property tax exceeding \$1 million dollars are owed, and the buildings are an eyesore; they have become a place where rodents and rubbish are to be found. The Legislature recently adopted a law that would allow the government to seek the permission of the Court, following Notice to the last-known owners; to remove the threat to safety and good sanitation which they pose to neighbouring properties and the City in general," Cabinet sources reported.

The sources say failure to so act would allow the government to forcibly acquire the properties, to remove buildings, rubbish, rodents and unwanted



vegetation from the sites and to dispose of the properties with any over-



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Local News



Prison terms handed down for two men on illegal firearms charges

The two men who pleaded guilty to charges of the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition are to serve separate prison terms in HM Prison.

33-year-old Ridge Turner of Parham had pleaded guilty to the illegal possession of one (.32mm) pistol and one (.32mm) round of ammunition.

The magistrate applied the sentencing guidelines as spelt out by the ECSC Sentencing guidelines and ordered that Turner should serve a 27-month jail term for the possession of the firearm charge and another three months for the possession of ammunition charge. The sentences are to run concurrently.

It was also revealed that Turner had an outstanding



warrant for non-payment of a warrant imposed for the breach of the mandatory curfew back in 2020. He was sentenced to a three-month jail term for this matter.

Meanwhile, Neil Guye, who also pleaded guilty on a firearm and ammunition charged, was also sentenced in the magistrate's court on Wednesday.

The court applied the aggra-

vating and mitigating factors of offence and offender when determining the sentence. Guye was ordered to serve a 4-years-5-months prison term for the possession of the firearm and for the possession of ammunition 2 years five months and for possession, a further three years.

The sentences are to run concurrently.

Guye's attorney, Sherfield Bowen has indicated to the court that he wishes to appeal the sentences and thus take it to the high court. Bowen stated that he wishes to appeal and stated that the court erred in its sentencing.

In both matters, the firearms and ammunition are to be lodged with armory.

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- Koscab J'ouvert Troupes
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- Road March
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Local News

Venue Change Announced for Labour Queen Pageant 2025 – “Renaissance: The Rebirth”

The organizers of the highly anticipated Labour Queen Pageant 2025 are pleased to announce a change in venue for this year’s event. Originally scheduled to be held at the *People’s Place*, the pageant will now take place at the American University of Antigua (AUA) Conference Center, located at University Park, Jabberwock Beach Road, Coolidge.

The event is set for Friday, May 2, 2025, with a prompt start time of 8:00 PM.

This move comes as part of the pageant’s continued efforts to elevate the experience for both contestants and attendees, offering a more spacious and, accessible setting to host this year’s theme — “Renaissance: The Rebirth.” The change marks an exciting new chapter, with the same dazzling performances, vibrant energy, and celebration of culture, confidence, and empowerment.

Patrons are advised to

take note of the new venue and plan accordingly. Tickets previously purchased remain valid.

For more updates, follow the Labour Queen Pageant on social media and stay tuned as we count down to a night of elegance, talent, and transformation.



**NEW
UPDATE**



Renaissance
"THE REBIRTH"

**EVENT VENUE
CHANGE**

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA
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Friday 2nd May 2025



8:00pm

Renaissance
"THE REBIRTH"



Tia JAMES

Ms. St. John's Rural East is the resilient and talented Tia James, a 26-year-old trailblazer. Her journey began at Sunny Dale Primary School, where she excelled academically and nurtured a lifelong passion for dance. A pageantry enthusiast, she captured the Miss Sunny Dale 2009 title and earned accolades like 3rd Runner-Up in the Optimist Petite Pageant.

At Clare Hall Secondary School, Tia thrived in academics, sports, and pageantry. As a female football captain for five years, she achieved a remarkable seven-goal hat trick and also participated in netball, track and field, and cheerleading. Her dedication led her to win Miss CHSS and place 1st Runner-Up in Teen Xplosion 2015.



Delegate 8
St. John's Rural East

Professionally, Tia began in customer service at Alorica Call Center and joined the Antigua & Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) in 2019. She has earned certifications in Basic Recruit Training, Seamanship, Dignitary Medicine & Close Protection, and Emergency Medical Response. Rising to the rank of Lance Corporal, she trains recruits and demonstrates exceptional leadership.

Beyond her military achievements, Tia is an entrepreneur, co-founding businesses in the culinary and fashion industries while pursuing specialized training in Close Protection for Dignitaries and business management studies. She aspires to inspire young women to chase their dreams, showcasing the power of determination and perseverance.

Tia James - Ms. St. John's Rural East



Tia introducing herself to the students and faculty at CHSS

As part of her community service initiative in the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) Labour Queen Pageant 2025, Miss St. John's Rural East, Tia James, returned to her alma mater — Clare Hall Secondary School — to donate two large air conditioning units and a surround sound system. This donation is part of a broader effort to create more climate-resilient educational environments.



Tia with students of the Clare Hall Secondary School



Tia at the CHSS

The AC units will provide relief from rising temperatures linked to climate change and will complement earlier contributions made by the area's Member of Parliament, the Hon. Maria Browne.

In addition, the donation of a smart TV, surround sound system — including speakers and multimedia equipment — is a timely investment, enhancing the school's ability to host assemblies, plays, pageants, and community-cantered



Tia receives a gift from students at CHSS

activities with proper audio-visual support. With the school's growing student population and its increasing role as a hub for community events, the upgrades are both functional and forward-looking.

Tia, who proudly serves in the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force for the past six years, spoke passionately to the students during the handover. Reflecting on her own time at Clare Hall, she shared:

“Returning to Clare Hall Secondary School brings back cherished memories,” Ms. James remarked. “It’s here that I learned the values of perseverance and community service. I’m honoured to contribute to the school’s growth and to support the next generation of leaders.”

“When I attended this school, I was active in pageants like Teen Splash and our school competitions, participated in sports, and was involved in extra-curricular activities. But I never lost focus on my academics. You can be well-rounded — you don’t have to choose one or the other.”

She also encouraged students to avoid negativity and stay committed to their goals:

“Block out the noise and don’t let anyone dim your light. Stay focused, get involved, and give back when you can — that’s how we build community.”

The school’s administration extended deep appreciation for the donation, emphasizing how much it will benefit both students and the wider Clare Hall community.

Renaissance
"THE REBIRTH"



Alisha **ALIE**

Ms. St. George Alisha Alie is a passionate and ambitious young woman committed to personal growth and professional excellence. Born on September 5, 2002, she is an alumna of All Saints Secondary School and holds an Associate Degree in Hospitality Management from the Antigua & Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute.

With a heart for service and leadership, Alisha actively participated in the Tourism Cadets and served as a Junior Minister of Tourism. She proudly showcased her confidence and talent in the 2018 Mister and Miss Teenage pageant. Professionally, she has experience nurturing young minds at St. John's Lutheran School and now thrives in the finance sector as an accountant.



Delegate 7
St. George

Beyond her career, Alisha expresses her creativity through dance and modeling, embracing these as empowering outlets. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and aspires to become a forensic scientist, delving into the fascinating world of crime investigation. She firmly believes in determination and resilience as keys to success, striving to inspire others to pursue their dreams and embrace opportunities.

Coshana Constant - Ms. St. Philip's North



Coshana Constant with Caretaker Randy Baltimore (with roller in hand) painted one of the bus sheds in the constituency with the help of a group of residents

Community Spirit Shines Bright in St. Phillip's North!

In recent weeks, St. Phillip's North has seen a powerful demonstration of unity, service, and youth empowerment through two outstanding community initiatives.

The first project took place on Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th, 2025, starting at 7:00 AM each day. A long-overdue restoration of the community bus shed was brought to life by the dedicated members of

the St. Phillip's North Youth Arm, in collaboration with MP-in-waiting Mr. Randy Baltimore and Coshana Constant.

This effort included a full deep clean and repainting of the structure, which had fallen into disrepair. Beyond revitalizing a key community space, the initiative inspired local pride and highlighted the power of teamwork and youth leadership in shaping a better environment for all.

The second initiative followed

shortly after on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025, and was all about celebrating and uplifting the youngest members of the community. Titled "Eggsplo-ration", this special field trip treated children aged 3 to 10 to an unforgettable day at Nelson's Dockyard. The fun-filled agenda included an Easter egg hunt, lively games, and thoughtful gift-giving to honour the joy and potential of every child in attendance. The day wrapped up with a hearty lunch at the Interpretation Centre, group photos, and happy memories that will last for years to come.

Together, these two events reflect the heart and vision of leadership in St. Phillip's North—a vision grounded in upliftment, action, and unity. Through hands-on projects and meaningful outreach, the community continues to be a shining example of what's possible when people come together for a common good.



Coshana (left) is quite a painter



Coshana and Randy share a light moment

Renaissance
"THE REBIRTH"



Christine POWELL

Christine Powell, 22, is a passionate and ambitious young woman dedicated to personal growth, creativity, and community empowerment. A multifaceted individual, she blends her love for art, fashion, and dance with her commitment to education and collaboration. Christine proudly embodies the vibrant spirit of St. John's City West, representing its beating heart with grace and determination.

Her academic journey, spanning Baptist Academy, St. John's Lutheran School, and St. Anthony's Secondary School, culminated in eight CXC passes, laying the foundation for her aspirations. Beyond academics, Christine excelled in sports, dance, and pageantry, earning second place in a regional dance competition and the title of second runner-up in the Miss Saint Anthony's School pageant.



Delegate 9
St. John's City West

Currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Business Management at the University of the West Indies, Christine sharpens her leadership skills as a member of the UWI Debating Society, where she recently guided her team to victory. She aspires to inspire young women to pursue their passions boldly, knowing their voices and ambitions matter.

Balancing academic and creative pursuits, Christine maintains an active lifestyle through daily workouts, reading, and sewing, which fuel her artistic passions and overall well-being. She is excited to be part of this pageant, where she can continue growing and inspire others to embrace their dreams.

Amiaha James - Ms. St. Mary,s South



Amiaha (back to camera) assist with the cheer-leaders' practice for Labour Day

Rather than introducing a brand-new initiative, Amiaha chose to support and enhance programs already being implemented within the constituency of St. Mary's South by Senator



Amiaha with Sen. Dwayne George (back to camera) during a walk-through

Dwayne George over the last month to build on what already exists.

By building on what was already in the pipeline, she was

able to have productive conversations with her representative about his current work and vision for the constituency. This enabled Amiaha to become more consistently involved.

The initiatives she's been actively involved in include:

Weekly Community Walk-throughs: These provide a firsthand look at the day-to-day concerns and needs of residents, helping to build stronger ties with the people Senator George aims to serve.

Soup Kitchen: This initiative supports the most vulnerable members of the St. Mary's South Constituency community, offering nourishment and care in a warm environment.

Cheerleading Practices for Labour Day 2025: Amiaha believes that youth engagement is key. She has actively been assisting with and supporting these practices allowing her to work with young people, foster teamwork, and prepare them to represent their community proudly in the upcoming Labour Day celebrations.

Choosing to strengthen what already exists has allowed Amiaha to be a part of the constituency's ongoing progress, reinforcing her belief that consistency, collaboration, and continuity can bring powerful results.



Amiaha takes time out to socialise with community members

**MON - FRI
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Regional News



Bahamas: Woman injured after hair caught in industrial machine

A 24-year-old woman was airlifted to New Providence for emergency medical treatment following an industrial accident at a Bimini business establishment on April 29.

The incident occurred shortly before 3:00 pm when the

employee's hair became caught in a pressing machine while she was working in the laundry department. She sustained severe injuries to her head before a coworker was able to assist her.

Police and medical person-

nel quickly responded to the scene and transported the victim to the local clinic for initial treatment. Due to the severity of her injuries, medical officials arranged for her to be airlifted to New Providence for specialized care.

Authorities report that the woman's condition is currently listed as stable. Police on the island of Bimini are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the industrial accident. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Rowley to quit: Former prime minister resigning as PNM leader

Dr. Keith Rowley has officially announced his resignation as Political Leader of the People's National Movement (PNM), bringing to a close more than two decades of political leadership.

The resignation takes effect on Thursday, the same day Kamla Persad-Bissessar will be sworn in as Prime Minister following the UNC's general election victory on April 28.

In a statement released today, Dr. Rowley reflected on his planned departure, first disclosed on January 6, 2025, when he revealed his intention to step down as Political Leader by September, following the PNM's internal convention.

However, he has opted to accelerate the timeline and formally tendered his resignation to the party's General Council today.

There was expected to be a call for Rowley to tender his resignation with immediate effect as People's National Movement (PNM) leader at today's General Council meeting.

There is a feeling within the party that Rowley has to accept the largest portion of the blame for Monday's election, which saw the PNM moving



from 22 seats in the Parliament down to 13, the Express understands.

Rowley had said on Monday that he would relinquish the position of PNM political leader "during this year".

"This completes my disengagement firstly in the Government (March 16, 2025) and finally, in the party, (May 01, 2025)," Rowley stated in a post on his Facebook page.

Dr. Rowley served as Prime Minister from 2015 to 2025 and has led the PNM since 2010.

"The term as Political Leader legally runs until 2026," Rowley wrote, "but it was my intention to vacate this position at the earliest opportunity in consultation with the Leadership of the Movement." (*Trinidad Express*)

Dominica: UWP deputy leader resigns

The deputy political leader of the main opposition, United Workers Party (UWP), Delbert Paris, has announced his resignation from the position, four months after being elected to the post.

Paris had supported the electoral reform bills that the government had tabled in the Parliament on March 19, this year when police had to fire teargas and rubber bullets to disperse opposition supporters who had been protesting against the measure.

Paris, a civil engineer, Paris, nominated as a Senator, by



Anthony Charles, the independent candidate who successfully defeated the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) candidate Gregory Riviere in the December 6 general elections.

The UWP had boycotted the elections in keeping with their demands for electoral reform ahead of the polls.

Pari, who has come under pressure since the passage of the Electoral Commission Act, confirmed that he had resigned “with immediate effect” but would remain a member of the party. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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Regional News



Belize: Opposition legislator says his arrest is politically motivated



Opposition legislator, Patrick Faber, says his arrest on charges of assaulting a police officer and obstructing the officer from performing his duties on Tuesday, is “politically motivated.”

“Clearly it is to try to bring embarrassment and shame. I am saying for the record that I am not guilty of those charges and we will wait for the court for us to have our day and for that to be determined,” he added.

Faber was arrested soon after he participated in a news conference with Opposition Leader, Tracy Taegar-Panton.

The incident leading up to his arrest began when Faber allegedly sped through a checkpoint at the foot of BelChina Bridge, prompting a police pursuit. Upon stopping him, officers discovered his vehicle was unlicensed. When asked for his driver’s license, Faber claimed it was at home. The officers followed him to his Belize City residence where he produced the license.

But the police said that while issuing a

violation ticket for operating an unlicensed vehicle and having a defective light, Faber began recording the officer and placing his phone close to the officer’s face.

The officer reported feeling threatened and uncomfortable and despite repeated warnings that he was obstructing police duties, Faber’s behaviour persisted.

After being detained, Faber was escorted to Queen Street Police Station for questioning, and later to Belize City Magistrates Court for arraignment, where he pleaded not guilty to both charges.

“I just think it is politically motivated, much of it. I did not do anything that would constitute any kind of aggravated assault. Nor did I try to stop the police or obstruct the police from doing his job,” Faber told reporters as he emerged from the court.

“The police who gave me, they gave me two tickets by the way, one for my taillights, that is the real reason why they claim they stopped me, and they

don’t show you all the video. I have not seen what they showed you, but from what people are telling me, they diced and spliced what they want, which is a matter itself.”

“What is their motivation? Clearly it is trying to bring embarrassment and shame. I am saying for the record that I am not guilty of those charges and we will wait for the court, for us to have our day and for that to be determined,” Faber added.

Faber said this week makes 20 years “since I was last charged with aggravated assault against a police officer.

“So, this is ...the first time I have endured such a charge or been targeted because of politics in this manner. I am not saying the police did not have a right to stop me and all of that. But I complied with all they asked me to do.

“I was just trying to make sure I had a version of what happened, for the very same reason. I know very well how they are able to use these things in a politically slanted way,” said Faber, denying also that he had been driving under the influence of alcohol.

“Absolutely not, if the police felt that way, they stopped me in front of Blue Marlin where I came out and they asked me for my license, I told them I did not have my license on me and they insisted that the regulations that says, or what I thought to be the case, that you have twenty-four hours to produce your license, the officer said absolutely not.

“I told them that I was not too far away from where I needed to be to get the license and he followed me there. If he allowed me to do that, as you heard my attorney say. In fact, those who know me have completely stopped drinking and I only took a drink for my birthday and that was it.” (*Loop Caribbean*)

Ukraine says it hopes to sign U.S. minerals deal within 24 hours



Ukraine is ready to sign an agreement that would give the U.S. access to its valuable rare minerals in the hopes of ensuring continued American support for Kyiv in its grinding war with Russia, senior Ukrainian officials said Wednesday.

Ukraine's economy minister, Yulia Svyrydenko, was headed to Washington on Wednesday to help finalize the deal, the country's prime minister said live on air during a national telethon. For Ukraine, the agreement is seen as key to ensuring its access to future U.S. military aid.

"Truly, this is a strategic deal for the creation of an investment partner fund," Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said on Ukrainian television.

"This is truly an equal and good international deal on joint investment in the development and restoration of Ukraine between the governments of the United States and Ukraine."

The U.S. is seeking access to more than 20 raw materials deemed strategically critical to its interests, including Ukraine's deposits of titanium, which is used for making aircraft wings and other aerospace manufacturing, and uranium, which is used for nuclear power, medical equipment and weapons. Ukraine also has lithium, graphite and manganese, which are used to make electric vehicle batteries.

After Kyiv felt the initial U.S. draft of the deal disproportionately favored Ameri-

can interests, it introduced new provisions aimed at addressing those concerns.

According to Shmyhal, the latest version would establish an equal partnership between the two countries and last for 10 years. Financial contributions to a joint fund would be made in cash, and only new U.S. military aid would count toward the American share. Assistance provided before the agreement was signed would not be counted. Unlike an earlier draft, the deal would not conflict with Ukraine's path toward European Union membership — a key provision for Kyiv.

The Ukrainian Cabinet was expected to approve the agreement's text before it could be signed in Washington. The deal would then

need to be ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament before it could take effect.

The negotiations come amid rocky progress in Washington's push to stop the war.

In Moscow, a senior Kremlin official said Wednesday that clinching a deal to end the war "is far too complex to be done quickly," as the U.S. labors to bring momentum to peace efforts and expresses frustration over the slow progress.

Meanwhile, a nighttime Russian drone attack on Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv wounded at least 45 civilians, officials said. The United Nations reported that the number of Ukrainian civilian casualties has surged in recent weeks. (*NBC News*)

Spain's grid denies renewable energy to blame for massive blackout



Spain's grid operator has denied that solar power was to blame for the country's worst blackout, as Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez faces increasing pressure to explain what went wrong.

Red Electrica de Espana (REE) on Wednesday said the source of the outage had been narrowed down to two separate incidents of loss of generation in substations in southwestern Spain, but stressed that it was too early to draw conclusions, as it had yet to identify their exact location.

REE's head, former Socialist minister Beatriz Corredor, told Cadena SER radio that it was wrong to blame the outage on Spain's high share of renewable energy.

"These technologies are already stable, and they have systems that allow

them to operate as a conventional generation system without any safety issues," she said, adding she was not considering resigning.

Life across the Iberian Peninsula was returning to normal after a power outage halted trains, shut airports and trapped people in lifts in Spain and Portugal on Monday.

Just before the system crashed, Spain's solar energy accounted for 53 percent of electricity production, wind for almost 11 percent and nuclear and gas for 15 percent, according to REE data.

Political opponents criticised Sanchez for taking too long to explain the blackout and suggested he was covering up for failings, after his left-wing coalition government invested in expanding the renewable energy sector.

"Since REE has ruled out the possibility of a cyberattack, we can only point to the malfunctioning of REE, which has state investment and therefore its leaders are appointed by the government," Miguel Tellado, a parliamentary spokesperson for the opposition conservative People's Party, said in an interview on RTVE.

Tellado called for an independent investigation to be conducted by Spain's parliament rather than the government probe Sanchez has announced. The prime minister has not ruled out a cyberattack, although this has been dismissed by REE.

Antonio Turiel, an energy expert at the state-owned Spanish National Research Council, told Onda Vasca radio station on Tuesday that the fundamental problem was the grid's instability.

"A lot of renewable energy has been integrated without the responsive stabilisation systems that should have been in place," he said, adding that vulnerabilities stemmed from "the unplanned and haphazard integration of a host of renewable systems".

The government had forecast private and public investment of some 52 billion euros (\$59bn) through 2030 to upgrade the power grid so it can handle the surge in demand from data centres and electric vehicles. (*Al Jazeera English*)



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FIXTURES

27TH APRIL - 11 MAY 2025

ABT 20
ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA
T20 PREMIER LEAGUE

PRELIMINARIES



VS



PYTHONS VS TIGERS

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025
(4:00 PM)



VS



LIONS VS CRUSHERS

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025
(7:00 PM)



VS



NATION VS PYTHONS

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025
(4:00 PM)



VS



BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025
(7:00 PM)



VS



LIONS VS TIGERS

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025
(4:00 PM)



VS



PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025
(7:00 PM)



VS



CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS

SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025
(3:00 PM)



VS



NATION VS TIGERS

SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025
(6:00 PM)



VS



CRUSHERS VS NATION

SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025
(3:00 PM)



VS



BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS

SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025
(6:00 PM)



VS



NATION VS LIONS

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025
(4:00 PM)



VS



TIGERS VS CRUSHERS

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025
(7:00 PM)



VS



BLACKHAWKS VS NATION

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025
(4:00 PM)



VS



PYTHONS VS LIONS

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025
(7:00 PM)



VS



BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2025
(6:00 PM)

ELIMINATOR

2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE

SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025 (5:00 PM)

FINALS

WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE

SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)

Heat and Daggers make winning starts to Division 2 playoffs



Spanish Heat 2 and the Old Road Daggers made winning starts to their campaigns in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division playoffs on Tuesday evening.

Both teams took a one-nil lead in their best-of-three first-round series by recording contrasting wins in their opening games at the JSC Sports Complex.

Third-seed Spanish Heat 2 snatched

a narrow 66-64 victory against sixth-seed Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew.

Jesus Emmanuel sank 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Charlie Daniel converted 15 points and snatched 18 rebounds; Sandy Valdez scored 10 points; and Erwin Rodriguez sank nine points and claimed 18 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.

Rafiki Harris produced 21 points, nine rebounds, and six assists; Joel Christian sank 15 points and claimed eight steals; Takeem Martin contributed 14 points, 13 rebounds, and five steals; and Ronel Gomez chipped in with eight points, five rebounds, and five steals for the Fearless Crew.

The fourth-seeded Old Road Daggers pulled off a commanding 79-65 victory against fifth seed EZ Fit Flyers 2.


Kelvin Simon shot a game-high 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; De-vea Aaron sank 15 points and claimed nine rebounds; Jesus Lopez produced

11 points, seven assists, and five rebounds; and Tyndale Telemaque scored 10 points for the Old Road Daggers.

Amare Brown shot a team-high 20 points; Naheem Joseph sank nine points and claimed five rebounds; Sha-vaun Francis converted eight points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Delroy Foster also scored eight points and snatched eight rebounds for the Flyers.

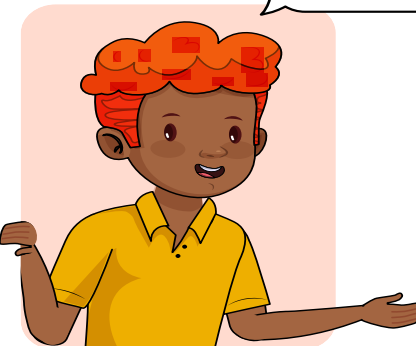
The ABBA Division 1 playoff series will resume with two more opening round matches in the best-of-three first round series at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday (today).

Second seed Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers will face seventh seed Kennedy's Club Ottos Full Throttle at 6:45 pm, and league champion and top seed EZ Fit Flyers will launch the defense of their playoff title against eighth seed Northside Stingerz at 8:30 pm.





Apua

WATER



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Water works wonders.

Every drop counts, preserve it!



Jamaica Titans Kirk McKenzie, center, celebrates the wicket of Quentin Sampson of Guyana Rainforest Rangers with bowler Tamarie Redwood during their match in the West Indies Breakout T20 League at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on April 29, 2025. (CWI Media)

Titans get first win in tense T20 Breakout League clash

A half-century from Kirk McKenzie proved the difference as the Jamaica Titans held their nerve to seal a thrilling three-run win over the Guyana Rainforest Rangers in the West Indies T20 Breakout League at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Tuesday.

The Titans secured their first victory of the campaign and left the Rangers rooted to the bottom of the table with a third straight loss.

McKenzie, all class and composure, top-scored with 51 off 31 balls as he stroked five fours and two sixes to anchor the Titans' innings of 166 all out.

It was a performance laced with intent and one that proved enough as the Rainforest Rangers came up short at 163 for eight off their allotted 20 overs in search of 167 runs for victory.

After being sent in, the

Titans were immediately pegged back by the early loss of opener Leroy Lugg for one in the opening over. But McKenzie and young talent Jordan Johnson rebuilt the innings with a 72-run stand for the second wicket.

McKenzie played the aggressor, timing the ball sweetly on a surface offering some reward to the bowlers.

Johnson, who blazed his way to 30 from just 16 balls, including six crisp boundaries, looked in sublime touch before he was undone by Ashmead Nedd, and soon after McKenzie was trapped lbw by Kevin Sinclair.

With the Titans slipping from 74 for one to 86 for three, the innings threatened to unravel. But Zion Brathwaite (29 off 29) and Andrew Rambaran (36 off 22) steadied the ship with a vital 57-run partnership.

Rambaran's knock included two fours and two sixes, while Brathwaite, who had just one four and a six in his knock, rotated strike smartly to keep the scoreboard ticking.

However, a late collapse—sparked by Rambaran's run-out, a golden duck for skipper Ramaal Lewis, and Brathwaite's dismissal with the total at 153 for six—saw the Titans lose their last four wickets for just 13 runs.

The Rangers' pursuit began with early jitters as Adrian Sukha was caught for four, but Rivaldo Clarke, who slammed three fours and a six in a 15-ball 24, and Kevlon Anderson, who struck four boundaries in his 21 off 14 balls, counterattacked to lift their side before both fell to leave the score at 55 for three.

Captain Kemol Savory (25 off 29) and Zeynul Ramsammy then stitched

together a promising 62-run partnership, steering the Rangers to 117 for four by the 16th over and seemingly in control of the chase.

However, just when the Rangers looked poised to record their first win, the Titans turned the screws. Anthony Dackers removed Savory, and Brathwaite, returning for a second spell, sent back Sinclair (one) to leave the Rangers wobbling.

Despite Ramsammy's unbeaten 44 off 43 balls, which included a four and a six, the lower order crumbled under pressure. Quentin Sampson (eight), Ashmead Nedd (11), and Nial Smith (3) could not provide the finish their side desperately needed, and the Rangers fell three runs short.

The Titans' bowling was led by Zion Brathwaite (two for 24) and Anthony Dackers (two for 23) delivering under pressure.

GCB backs players in legal challenge against ball tampering charges



Veerasammy Permaul

The Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) has thrown its full support behind Guyana Harpy Eagles duo Veerasammy Permaul and Kevlon Anderson, who have taken legal action to challenge ball tampering charges laid against them earlier this month during the final round of the West Indies Championship.

The players, represented by attorney Arudranauth Gossai, have filed an application in the High Court of Guyana, aiming to clear their names after being found guilty of Level 2 breaches of Cricket West Indies' (CWI) Code of Conduct during their match against Trinidad and Tobago Red Force.

Anderson was fined 90 per cent of his match fee,

while Permaul received a 75 per cent deduction. While both players initially pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted sanctions from match referee Michael Ragoonath, they now contend that their admissions were made under undue pressure.

According to court filings, Ragoonath presented the players with an ultimatum to plead guilty and pay a fine or face a 100 per cent fine and suspension if they pursued a hearing.

The GCB has condemned the handling of the matter, describing the conduct of Ragoonath and on-field umpires Christopher Taylor and Kashif Sandy as "unprofessional, unethical, and a serious breach of procedural fairness."

"Faced with this repre-

sentation from the referee, the two players formed the opinion that they had no choice but to plead guilty to the charge, despite previously submitting written denial to the referee and, in the case of Permaul, maintaining his innocence at the hearing. Anderson was not afforded a hearing," the GCB said in a strongly worded statement.

The board emphasized that the process lacked transparency and due process, noting that such treatment is unacceptable in the region's premier domestic tournament. Despite the issues, the Harpy Eagles successfully retained the championship title.

"The Guyana Cricket Board is profoundly disappointed by the handling of this matter in Trinidad and expected a much higher standard of governance.

"In light of these events, both players have taken the bold and commendable step of seeking justice through the High Court, aiming to restore their reputations and ensure such incidents do not recur," the release continued.

The GCB reaffirmed its commitment to supporting its players as well as its advocacy for upholding principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability at all levels in West Indies cricket.

The board also argued that the charges "cast a cloud over what should have been a celebration of West Indies cricket at its highest domestic level."



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Sports News

T&T Legions fast bowler Joshua James suspended from bowling

Trinidad & Tobago legions fast bowler Joshua James has been reported for a suspect bowling action during the ongoing West Indies Breakout League.

James' action was cited by match officials during the first two matches against Barbados Pelicans on April 25 and Guyana Rainforest Rangers on April 26 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

As part of the process, once a player is reported for a suspect bowling action, video footage from the match in which the player was reported is provided to CWI.

The video footage along with the written report is sent to Loughborough University for analysis using an Opinion Report.

On Monday, April 28, Cricket West Indies (CWI) confirmed that the Opinion Report by the Independent Assessor at Loughborough University has found James' bowling action to be illegal and, as such, he has been suspended from bowling in all West Indies in-



ternational and regional matches with immediate effect.

The assessment revealed that James' deliveries exceeded the level of tolerance for extension of the elbow permitted under playing regulations.

As per the International Cricket Council (ICC) regulations, the suspension will also apply to all other domestic leagues worldwide.

James will now undergo remedial work under the supervision of the Trinidad & Tobago Cricket Board.

He will be eligible to apply for re-assessment once he has modified his bowling action, either through another Opinion Report from Loughborough or via analysis from another accredited testing centre.



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Sir Richie Parish League one-day contest begins this weekend



A new champion will be crowned as winners of this year's Antigua Commercial Bank Parish League Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Championship.

Last year's winners, Stingray City Seaton, will not be defending their crown in the 2025 Sir Richie Richardson one-day competition when the contest bowls off this weekend.

In Seaton's absence, six teams will be battling for title honours in the 30-over competition, which will commence with three opening-round matches on Saturday.

PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks will be fancying their chances of picking up their second title of the season after beating Police in the best-of-three finals to win the Dave Joseph one-day championship, which was the first of this year's four Parish League competitions.

The Blackhawks will face Mahico at Clare Hall, Police will meet Consolidated Marine Services Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm at Sea View Farm, and Freetown will tackle Urlings at Freetown in Saturday's opening-round matches.

Dirk Schouten and Dalis Adams will umpire at Clare Hall, Whitfield Hastings and Julion Daniel will officiate at

Sea View Farm, and Llewellyn Simon

and Otis Burton will be the officials in charge of the match at Freetown.

The teams will also battle in the second round of matches on Sunday. Sea View Farm will host the Liberta Blackhawks at Sea View Farm, Police will meet Urlings at Urlings, and Mahico will take on Freetown at Freetown.

Dirk Schouten and Anderson Andrew will umpire at Sea View Farm, Dalis Adams and Julion Daniel will officiate at Urlings, and Llewellyn Simon and Whitfield Hastings will be the officials in charge of the match at Freetown.





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Disciplinary records or a coin toss could decide winners of ABFA playoffs



English Harbour football team

The possibility exists that disciplinary records or even a coin toss might be required to determine the winner of the keenly contested Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First and Second Division playoff series on Thursday (today).

The three-team playoff series, which involves First Division team Tryum FC and Second Division sides National Parks English Harbour and Sea View Farm FC, will come to an end with the final match at the ABFA Technical Center.

Tryum FC and English

Harbour will clash in the final encounter at 4:30 pm.

Tryum FC must beat English Harbour by at least a two-goal margin to retain their spot in the First Division next season after suffering a 2-1 loss to Sea View Farm in their opening match of the First and Second Division playoff series on Sunday.

It means Sea View Farm ended the playoff series with a win and a loss after suffering a 2-1 defeat against fellow Second Division team English Harbour when both sides met in the opening game of the three-

team round-robin contest.

English Harbour will gain promotion to contest the First Division with a draw or a win on Thursday, while Tryum FC will be relegated to the Second Division next season.

However, a 2-1 victory for Tryum against English Harbour on Thursday will result in all three teams finishing the playoff series with identical records.

If that is the case, in accordance with the ABFA's Playoff Rules and Regulation, the disciplinary records of all three teams will be used to determine the

winner.

Under Systems of Play, Article 5.2.6 (d) states, "If two or more teams, based on the above criteria, their places shall be determined according to the least number of cards during the play-off." (The value of the red card is 2 points.)

If the teams still cannot be separated due to identical disciplinary records, a coin toss will be used to determine the winner.

The three-team Premier and First Division playoff series is also interestingly poised.

The winner of the final match of the playoff series between the Attacking Saints and the Scorpions will determine which team will play in the Premier Division next season.

Both teams will clash at the ABFA Technical Center on Thursday at 6:30 pm. Both teams will enter Thursday's decider with identical records after recording 4-1 wins against SAP FC, the other teams that contested the playoffs.

If the match ended in a draw, disciplinary records or a coin toss will also be required to determine the winner.