

# Cabinet initiates high-level discussion with PS's, public sector unions

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## Cabinet initiates high-level discussion with PS's, public sector unions



The Cabinet has commenced what can be described as 'a national reckoning' on the issue of the systemic inefficiencies that have plagued the nation's public sector for decades.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet invited Permanent Secretaries, Union Representatives within the Public Service, the Financial Secretary, the Solicitor General and other senior officials to its meeting to address public sector service inefficiencies, worker accountability, union relations,

and efforts to reform and professionalize the public sector in Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the Cabinet Notes, the meeting, which was an introduction towards the production of an outcome document on Performance Improvement, was addressed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne with other members expressing their views on the matter.

Prime Minister highlighted the issue of chronic in-

efficiencies and abuse to include widespread absenteeism and abuse of sick/leave days and senior officials being hesitant to discipline workers due to fear of perceived political backlash or perceived protection of staff. On the issue of accountability and discipline, the Prime Minister outlined that while Ministers and not civil servants have ultimate control over ministry decisions as per the Constitution, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments must hold

staff accountable and take disciplinary action where necessary.

In addressing the union representatives, Prime Minister encouraged dialogue with unions and pointed out that Government is open to discussions and has a track record of addressing union concerns reasonably. The Prime Minister said that there is the need to develop a culture of optimal performance and responsibility, emphasizing the need for

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professionalism regardless of political affiliations. Prime Minister acknowledged that there are committed public servants, but systemic issues remain in the service.

policies, Prime Minister reiterated the government's vision of transforming Antigua and Barbuda into an economic powerhouse and outlined the critical need

for an alignment of public service delivery with national development goals.

The Permanent Secretaries and other senior officials

will be invited to Cabinet next week for a continuation of the engagement. They are expected to address their challenges and provide suggestions for the improvement of the sector.

In addressing the need for reform and upskilling, the Prime Minister announced the collaboration between the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and Harvard University in the development of modules for public management training for senior officials, which will be mandatory. He emphasized the need for upskilling, reskilling and staying current with knowledge for better service delivery in the sector, stating that promotions may require completion of this programme.

While appealing to the senior public sector officials and department heads to step up leadership, improve internal communication, and ensure efficient execution of government



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## Antigua and Barbuda makes a case for ‘a seat at the table’ regarding decisions on AI

Antigua and Barbuda has made a strong case for inclusion when decisions regarding the deployment of Artificial Intelligence are being made.

The case was made Thursday by the National Focal Point and Crowne Counsel, Andrea Jacobs, at the 34th Session of the Commission on Crime (Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) Frontier Technologies and Criminal Justice at the United Nations Vienna Office. “We want a seat at the table—not as passive recipients of standards drafted elsewhere, but as active shapers of systems that will affect our people, our economies, and our sovereignty,” Jacobs demanded. She noted that as a Small Island Developing State, Antigua and Barbuda understands both the promise and the peril of technology. “Our size does not insulate us from digital threats. It makes us more vulnerable. Cybercrime respects no borders. AI doesn’t wait for infrastructure gaps to be filled. And if international norms are not inclusive, we risk deepening the global digital divide in ways that disproportionately harm states like ours,” she emphasized.



**the National Focal Point and Crowne Counsel, Andrea Jacobs**

Jacobs noted however, that there are opportunities that come with AI.

“With proper legal safeguards, regional collaboration, and responsible innovation, frontier technologies can help reduce backlogs in our courts, increase access to legal aid, improve forensic accuracy, and enhance accountability.

“That resolution—GA Res. 78/241—reflects a new era in multilateral engagement on digital transformation. It recognizes that artificial intelligence can be a force for development, transparency, and for human

flourishing—but only if it is governed wisely, inclusively, and ethically,” she observed.

She added that this is why Antigua and Barbuda is not there just to raise concerns, but to demand action.

“We are calling for AI governance to be firmly embedded in international discussions—not just as a matter of ethics or innovation, but as a matter of justice, accountability, and human rights.

“We must move beyond voluntary principles and lofty declarations. We must operationalize AI compliance,” she stated.

That means:

- Defining who is responsible for what;
- Creating independent oversight bodies;
- Enforcing precise accountability mechanisms;
- Upholding the right to contest algorithmic decisions;
- Guaranteeing the right to explanation, and the right to non-discrimination—especially when someone’s freedom, livelihood, or life is at stake.

“Self-regulation by tech companies is not governance,” she added, “Voluntary ethical frameworks without verification are not accountability. The silence of the Global South must never be mistaken for consent,” Jacobs reiterated.

Noting that Antigua and Barbuda is committed to being part of the solution the National Focal Point revealed that the country is actively participating in:

- International discussions on responsible AI;
- And we are finalizing our own National AI Policy.



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# Local News



## The health minister wants a national education campaign on prostate cancer



**Minister for Health and Wellness, Sir Molwyn Joseph**

Minister for Health and Wellness, Sir Molwyn Joseph, addressed the Cabinet regarding the importance of launching a public awareness campaign on prostate cancer.

According to the minister, this initiative would run alongside the government's ongoing education efforts on cervical cancer. The Cabinet endorsed the Minister's proposal and approved the engagement of a local expert to advise on and oversee this aspect of the campaign.

Additionally, the Cabinet approved the deployment of a mobile testing unit to regularly travel across the country, offering screenings for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). This initiative will involve both health professionals and trainee nurses and aligns with current programmes supported by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

Cabinet also endorsed the initiative to support and encourage the training of a greater number of nurses, aimed at strengthening both the Antigua and Barbuda health sector and the community.

The Cabinet further agreed to enlist two prominent doctors

to help design and implement a public education campaign on NCDs. This campaign will also highlight the risks associated with smoking and will utilize the Government Information Service (GIS) along with all major social media platforms to reach the public. The Cabinet expects this programme to be implemented in 30 days.

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## Tranquility Gardens to open on June 16

The new public cemetery at Tomlinson's, to be named Tranquility Gardens, will be opened on June 16, 2025.

According to the Cabinet Notes, the Ministry of Works has completed the roads and parking apron within the cemetery. The Ministry is now carrying out ancillary work on the facility readying it for the June 16 opening.

The government has been working for several years to develop the new cemetery in light of the fact the current public cemetery on the Friar's Hill Road has long past its carrying capacity.



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, one of the driving forces behind the project, said the new cemetery will

introduce new system of burials where the grave will be flat after the body has been interred and not

have mounds as is common at other burial sites in the country.



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## Run in Paradise Returns for 9th Year with Strong Local and International Participation



With just days to go, excitement is building across Antigua and Barbuda for the 9th Annual Run in Paradise, taking place this Sunday, May 25th, 2025.

The signature road race has attracted a vibrant mix of seasoned athletes, amateur runners, and health enthusiasts from across Antigua and Barbuda, the wider Caribbean, North America, and Europe, all preparing to lace up and experience what has become one of the region's most scenic and spirited race events.

With a growing reputation as a destination race that marries athletic challenge with stunning landscapes, Run in Paradise offers three signature events: the Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K. Runners will set off from different starting points across the island, with all races culminating in a breathtaking seaside finish at Fort James Beach. Except for a few slight elevations to provide a bit of a challenge, the course is mostly flat, making it ideal for both seasoned runners and first-time participants.

The Half Marathon, beginning at Sugar Factory at 5:00 a.m., takes runners along Antigua's northeastern coastline before turning west toward the finish line. The 10K and 5K races, which begin at Ocean Point Hotel and Royal Palms Plaza respectively, will also conclude at Fort James Beach. The reward for all finishers? All finishers re-

ceive a medal, inclusive refreshments, and a cool-down dip in the calm, clear waters of the Caribbean Sea.

Run in Paradise continues to exceed



expectations each year thanks to a strong partnership between organizers, the community, and an exceptional group of sponsors. This year's event is proudly supported by FLOW, Guardian Group (OECS), GWM, Island Provision Group, Siboney Beach Club, Clean Food 'n Jooce, Cool and Smooth, and Signs and Impressions, among others. The unwavering support from the Royal Police Force Antigua and Barbuda and the Antigua Girl Guides Association, among others ensures the event runs to international standards of safety, coordination, and hospitality.

Water and aid stations will be available every mile along the course, offering hydration in the form of water and Gatorade. Spotters outfitted in



clearly marked T-shirts will be stationed throughout the route to provide first aid if needed, and medical personnel will be on standby at critical points to ensure runner safety and care. The course will remain open for four hours to allow both marathoners and walkers to complete their race and receive their finisher's medals.

Organizers encourage runners to collect their race packages during the scheduled pickup times: Friday at Royal Palm Place on Friars Hill Road and Saturday at the YASCO Sports Complex.

Shuttle buses will transport 10K participants from Royal Palms to their start lines, with buses departing promptly at 4:45 a.m. After the race, transportation will be available from Fort James to return participants to their original locations at Royal Palms and Charlies Gas Station.

As anticipation builds for race day, the Run in Paradise team reminds the public that this is not just a sporting event, but a celebration of community, resilience, and the natural beauty of Antigua and Barbuda. For more information, updates, or last-minute registration, visit [www.runinparadise.com](http://www.runinparadise.com) or follow @werunantigua on social media.



# Local News

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## Police Sgt. Karim Warner's case adjourned until June 13

The case against the policeman – Sgt. Karim Warner – for shooting with intent has been adjourned in the Magistrate's Court.

The case has been plagued by several delays, but the court has now determined that a prima facie case has been made against Warner. His attorney has since filed a number of submissions before the court to which the prosecution has responded.

The court named June 13 as the date when it will give its ruling on the defence's submissions.

Warner is charged with discharging his weapon at an



**Sgt. Karim Warner**

individual with whom he had a dispute over payment for the rental of a vehicle.



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# A Dangerous Game: Venezuela's Election Gambit over Guyana's Essequibo



By Sir Ronald Sanders

On May 25, a day before Guyana commemorates its 59th year of independence, the government of Nicolás Maduro says it intends to stage elections in Guyana's Essequibo region. This territory, comprising nearly two-thirds of Guyana, lies entirely within its internationally recognized borders.

This is not a demonstration of democratic governance, but a politically charged act that challenges established international legal norms. It represents a serious escalation in Venezuela's posture toward the territorial controversy—one that raises profound concerns about adherence to the rule of law and respect for the authority of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Essequibo has been a settled part of Guyana since the arbitral award of 1899, a legally binding decision rendered by an international tribunal comprising the Chief Justices of Russia, Britain, and the United States—

the latter nominated by Venezuela itself. Venezuela not only participated in the proceedings but also hailed the award as a diplomatic success, ratifying it in its National Congress and benefiting from its expanded territory, including access to the mouth of the Orinoco River.

For over sixty years, the boundary was recognized and respected. Then, in 1962, Venezuela submitted a memorandum to the United Nations challenging the award, and in 1966, on the eve of Guyana's independence, the two countries signed the Geneva Agreement. This Agreement provided for a series of steps to resolve the controversy, including ultimately granting the UN Secretary-General the authority to choose a final means of settlement should all others fail.

In 2018, following decades of inconclusive dialogue, the Secretary-General referred the matter to the ICJ—consistent with his authority under the Geneva Agreement. Guyana then initiated proceedings at the Court, requesting a ruling that the 1899 award is valid and legally binding.

Venezuela initially objected to the Court's jurisdiction and declined to participate in the case. While it later filed written submissions, it has refused to accept the Court's binding authority and continues to disregard its interim measures, most recently an order issued on May 1, 2025, which states: "Pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shall refrain from conducting elections, or preparing to conduct elections, in the territory in dispute, which the Co-operative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exer-

cises control."

Despite this clear directive, Venezuela's National Electoral Council has announced plans to elect eight deputies and a governor for Essequibo. Yet, no details have been provided about voter registration, polling stations, or administrative arrangements—unsurprising, given that Venezuela has no jurisdiction or administrative presence in the region of Essequibo or any part of Guyana.

To justify this act, the Maduro government cites a 2023 domestic referendum, which it initiated, conducted, and supervised without independent oversight. Based on the outcome of that unilateral process, the government now claims the authority to incorporate the Essequibo region into Venezuelan territory. Acting on this assertion, the National Assembly enacted the "Organic Law for the Defense of Guayana Esequiba," which purports to formalize the creation of a new Venezuelan state. The law proposes that, pending the so-called installation of elected officials, the territory will be administered from the town of Tumeremo in Bolívar State, within Venezuela's existing borders.

This raises a fundamental question: how can a state conduct elections in a territory it does not control? The answer is: it cannot, unless through occupation. Any attempt to enforce this plan would require Venezuela to enter and assert authority over sovereign Guyanese territory—an act that would violate not only the ICJ's order but also the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States, both of which prohibit the threat or use of force to resolve territorial disputes.



# Feature

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This latest move appears to be driven less by enduring patriotic sentiment and more by geopolitical and economic calculations. The Essequibo region is rich in natural resources—gold, timber, freshwater, and oil—which have grown in strategic importance, especially against the backdrop of Venezuela's deepening economic and political crisis. These considerations, rather than legal merit, seem to be shaping Venezuela's recent actions.

Meanwhile, tensions on the ground are rising. Guyana's defense authorities have reported cross-border provocations by Venezuelan forces, and the Government has warned that participation in the May 25 vote could constitute a criminal offense under national law. Nearly 100,000 Venezuelan nationals now reside in Guyana—many of whom fled hardship at

home. These already dislocated people should not be drawn into a manufactured conflict that endangers their safety and stability.

The international community must view this development with the seriousness it warrants. The ICJ is the agreed mechanism for resolving this long-standing dispute. Its jurisdiction must be respected, and its orders implemented. Any attempt to bypass the Court through unilateral acts erodes the international system for peaceful dispute settlement and threatens regional stability.

Caribbean nations, Latin American neighbours, and global partners who uphold international law must send a clear message: borders cannot be redrawn by domestic decree, and no state is exempt from legal accountability. Elections held outside the bounds of jurisdiction do not confer

legitimacy; they invite conflict.

Guyana and Venezuela are bound by geography. Neither can relocate; both must find a path to coexistence. But peaceful coexistence cannot be built on unilateral actions or threats. It must be grounded in law, mutual respect, and diplomacy. The parties should await the ICJ's ruling—and on that basis, strive to build a collaborative relationship from which both nations can benefit.

The path to peace is through diplomacy and the rule of law. That path must not be forsaken.

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



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# Feature



## The Billion-Dollar Bite: Remembering the Day Two Pizzas Changed the World



*Prof C. Justin Robinson  
Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal,  
UWI Five Islands Campus*

Fifteen years ago, on May 22, 2010, a man named Laszlo Hanyecz unknowingly made history—not in a boardroom or laboratory, but from the comfort of his home, with a keyboard and a craving for pizza. Hanyecz, a programmer and early Bitcoin enthusiast, paid a fellow forum user 10,000 bitcoins for two Papa John's pizzas. The transaction was the first known instance of Bitcoin being used to purchase a physical good. At the time, 10,000 BTC was roughly \$41—approximately the cost of a standard pizza night. But yesterday, Bitcoin surged to an all-time high of \$105,000 per coin, making those two pizzas worth over **\$1 billion**.

This surge in value, from \$ 41 to \$ 1 billion, illustrates the exponential growth of Bitcoin's value over the years. You read that right: one billion U.S. dollars—easily the most expensive pizzas ever baked, and arguably the most famous.

### From Geek Curiosity to Global Currency

Bitcoin was barely a year old in 2010. It was an experimental digital currency known mostly to cryptographers, libertarians, and software hobbyists. Created by the still-mysterious Satoshi Nakamoto, Bitcoin promised a decentralized, peer-to-peer financial system. But it had no real-world value until someone was willing to trade it for something tangible.

It was Hanyecz, a visionary who saw his purchase not as a loss, but as a contribution to something bigger. "It wasn't like Bitcoins had any value back then," he said in interviews. "The idea of trading them for a pizza was incredibly cool." His perspective and willingness to take a risk for something he believed in, set the stage for a revolution.

It was more than cool—it was revolutionary. The transaction gave Bitcoin its first price tag and sparked a movement that would change finance, technology, and even geopolitics.

### A Slice of History

May 22 is known worldwide as **Bitcoin Pizza Day**, celebrated by crypto enthusiasts who gather online and offline to honour Hanyecz's now-legendary purchase. Memes, commemorative Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), and themed pizza parties abound. NFTs are unique digital assets representing ownership of a specific item or content, often used in the crypto and digital art communities.

Yet this is more than a quirky footnote in financial history. It's a parable of vision, risk, and the astonishing power of technology to reshape our world.

### Lessons from a \$1 Billion Pizza

There's irony in the fact that Hanyecz's modest meal would eventually be worth more than the GDP of some small nations. But there's also inspiration. His transaction reminds us that innovation often starts with small, even laughable, acts. That radical ideas may be dismissed until, one day, they aren't. And that every new economy—whether built on blockchain, AI, or something yet to emerge—begins with a first step. Laszlo Hanyecz didn't just order dinner. He served the world a vision of what money could become. And if that isn't worth a pizza, what is?







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# Opinion



## Justice Denied: Two-Year Sentence for Sexual Assault of Disabled Minor Sparks Outrage

The sentencing of Dequan Yearwood to just two years in prison for the unlawful sexual intercourse of a 14-year-old girl with a learning disability has sparked a firestorm of concern among disability advocates, legal experts, and the wider public. The offense, which took place in January 2022, involved a vulnerable minor who was found in Yearwood's apartment by someone who had gone looking for her. When Yearwood finally opened the door, the girl was reportedly adjusting her clothing. The young teen, developmentally delayed by three years, later confirmed to her mother what had happened after her siblings were overheard discussing the situation. The case made its way to the High Court, where a jury found Yearwood guilty in November 2024. However, despite the offense carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years, Yearwood received a mere two-year sentence.

For many, the outcome is devastating—not just for the victim and her family, but for the credibility of the judicial system itself. Joshuanette Francis, founder of Good Humans 268 Inc., stood outside the courthouse to peacefully voice what many were thinking: “I’m not protesting, but I want to make a statement that two years is not enough. She has a learning disability. She cannot comprehend it properly, and he only gets



**Joshuanette Francis Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.**



two years.” Francis pointed to the Disability and Equal Opportunities Act of 2017, saying that while laws exist on paper, their enforcement is often lacking, especially when the victims are people with disabilities. “We passed a law for inclusion

and protection, yet we continue to fail the very people it was meant to defend,” she said.

Sexual violence against individuals with disabilities is often underreported, misunderstood, and undervalued in the courts. The

14-year-old victim in this case, like many others, had limited ability to advocate for herself. Without a supportive family and investigative follow-through, her case may never have reached trial at all. A quote by disability rights advocate Kathie Snow resonates deeply: “Disability is natural. We must stop believing that disabilities keep a person from doing something. Because that’s not true... having a disability doesn’t mean you can’t be believed.”

Francis’s peaceful demonstration has ignited public interest in the rights of disabled victims. Legal advocates are calling for: Mandatory sentencing reviews in cases involving vulnerable persons. Special provisions in criminal law to account for intellectual disabilities. Expanded training for judges and prosecutors on disability rights.

Public pressure is building. The sentiment is widespread: this case cannot become just another headline. It must serve as a turning point for how the justice system handles crimes against vulnerable populations. “I stood for her,” Francis said. “And I will keep standing until this country starts treating its disabled citizens like they matter. Because they do.”

**Joshuanette Francis**

*Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.*





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# Regional News



## Inside the UWI Debe campus

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Penal-Debe South Campus is projected to finally house classes this year, over a decade after being abandoned and a whopping \$600 million spent.

The University yesterday posted the following images of the campus' interior, noting that the southern campus, having remained largely under-utilized had experienced some natural deterioration in certain areas-though key restorations have already been

made, it said.

"Key restoration to the main buildings – the Academic Building (3-story main teaching and learning facility), Students' Union, Auditorium/Moot Court, Health Facility, Cafeteria and Gymnasium have already been made to a high standard and they are ready for occupation. Furniture and computer equipment are already fitted in the academic spaces and Students' Union."

"Further ongoing restorative works are planned

for the Faculty Building, which will not be immediately needed. A phased restoration is planned and will be implemented as funding becomes available, therefore repair to non-academic spaces such as the tennis & multi-purpose courts, cricket pavilion, and swimming pool will come after the initial reopening phase. While key areas have been landscaped, an ongoing landscape contract is at the tender stage."

"Importantly, these challenges are not unique to

the South Campus. The UWI St. Augustine Campus itself is also managing the realities of an aging infrastructure, with several longstanding facilities now requiring further investment. The University must balance its commitment to academic excellence with the fiscal limitations of maintaining and modernising its physical assets ensuring all critical spaces are safe, functional, and in line with international standards for education," it said. (*Trinidad Express*)

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## Tutor awarded \$.74m in defamation claim

A High Court judge has awarded damages to a veteran tutor and businessman in a defamation lawsuit against two doctors, ruling that the pair published and circulated unfounded accusations on social media that seriously damaged his reputation.

The judgment, delivered by Justice Ricky Rahim on May 20, concluded that Tarini Bhagwansingh defamed Colin Chin-Aleong by reposting on his Instagram and Facebook accounts a series of statements originally published by Gia Leid between October 4 and 7, 2021.

The posts accused Chin-Aleong, operator of the long-running tutoring institution Colin's Lessons, Westmoorings, of paedophilia, sexual harassment, and grooming of minors.

The allegations were accompanied by Chin-Aleong's photograph, full name, and a link to his business website.

Bhagwansingh further tagged a local sexual assault survivor group, '@sassofficialt', increasing the visibility and reach of the posts to more than 5,000 followers across platforms.

Leid, who did not participate in the proceedings, was previously served and is the subject of a pending default judgment application.

A judgment had been entered against her since March 2022, but deferred



until the judge gave his ruling against Bhagwansingh.

In his ruling, Justice Rahim found that the posts went beyond raising concerns and were direct statements that conveyed to the average reader that Chin-Aleong had committed serious criminal acts.

The court stated that the material included 'soul-damning allegations' and concluded that the defamatory content 'would tend to lower [the claimant] in the estimation of right-thinking members of society'.

Bhagwansingh pleaded justification, fair comment, and public interest, but all defences failed.

The court held that he had not independently verified the claims before reposting them.

Under cross-examination, Bhagwansingh admitted he had no first-hand knowledge of the incidents and had relied entirely on Leid's assertions and alleged third-party messages, none of

which were submitted into evidence.

The court also rejected the testimony of the defence's sole witness, a former student, on the basis that her account lacked specificity, named no individuals, and did not corroborate the severe allegations made in the posts.

The defence of fair comment was dismissed because the statements were not framed as opinion but rather as fact.

The public interest defence also failed as the publication did not meet the standard of responsible journalism.

Justice Rahim emphasised that Bhagwansingh was not a journalist, nor was he part of any recognised advocacy group, and had made no meaningful attempt to verify the claims or speak with the claimant before publication.

The judgment detailed the financial and reputational impact on Chin-Aleong's tutoring business, which reportedly experienced a

significant drop in monthly income from approximately \$110,000 to \$40,000 following the social media posts.

'The brazen and uncaring manner in which the second defendant carried out his reposting is wholly unacceptable and entirely egregious,' Rahim stated.

'In one fell swoop, the second defendant recklessly and without regard for the truth and the effects of such destructive allegations decimated the name and reputation of the claimant.'

The court concluded that Bhagwansingh failed to justify the defamatory statements and awarded general damages to Chin-Aleong, which included \$360,000 in general damages, reduced by 10% due to an offer of apology, and \$50,000 in exemplary damages.

Leid, who is said to be residing in Ireland, was ordered to pay \$300,000 in general damages and \$30,000 in exemplary damages.

'Freedom of speech is not absolute and is always constrained by the rights of others and the law,' Rahim stated.

The claimant was represented by Raphael Morton-Gittens, instructed by Amanda Seebalack. The second defendant, Bhagwansingh, was represented by Jared Jagroo, instructed by Anju Ramkissoon.

Proceedings against the first defendant, Leid, remain ongoing. (*Trinidad Express*)



# Regional News



## Vice-Chancellor Beckles takes final definitive steps towards decolonisation of UWI

UWI's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles has gone on the record, delineating the University's progress in economic development and its rising international standing over the past five years, while concurrently, he reportedly has maintained a steady commitment to decolonising the institution.

A press release from the school emphasized that the focus is on shifting away from its historical ties to British legal traditions toward becoming a fully independent, indigenous university.

During his recent presentation of the 2023-2024 annual report to the University's governing Council, with the theme 'Regionally Respected. Globally Celebrated,' Vice-Chancellor Beckles announced that the decolonisation journey is nearing completion.

He provided historical context, recalling that The UWI originated as a College of the University of London in 1948, established following recommendations from the Asquith Commission to create colonial universities. He noted that the process of decolonisation has been gradual, beginning with the 1962 separation from the University of London and the adoption of its current constitution as The University of the West Indies. Beckles



acknowledged Sir Arthur Lewis, the institution's first Vice-Chancellor, for his pivotal role in executing this initial milestone.

Further key moments in The UWI's decolonisation included aligning the university with regional discussions about shifting away from reliance on the Privy Council and adopting the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). Reflecting these regional developments, Vice-Chancellor Beckles took steps to indigenise the role of Visitor at The UWI, ending the long-standing system where the British monarch served as Visitor and where the Privy Council functioned as the court of appeal for student and staff legal matters. Supported by Britain, the university appointed The Honourable Justice Rolston Fitzherbert Nelson as the first Caribbean Visitor in 2019.

In 2024, commemorating the institution's 75th anniversary, The UWI replaced its traditional academic regalia—originally inherited from the University of London—with designs that are uniquely Caribbean, better suited to the tropical environment and reflective of regional culture and identity.

Looking ahead, Vice-Chancellor Beckles articulated the importance of the next steps, stating, "When this University was established in 1948, we were given the power to grant degrees by means of Royal Charter, and we issued degrees on behalf of the British monarchy. Theoretically and legally that Royal Charter can be revoked — and if it is revoked, The UWI will not exist."

He referenced the 1973 Treaty of Chaguaramas, which founded CARICOM, highlighting that

"The UWI's republican status is complete with judicial and intellectual independence. The final step in decolonisation is the power to grant degrees. We have approached the Heads of Government, and have said this final decolonisation has to be the revocation of that Royal Charter. They have endorsed the transfer of that Royal Charter into an agreement embedded within the Treaty of Chaguaramas. This will reverse the existential threat, and bring the degree-granting function within legal domestic arrangements, and completely indigenise The UWI as a regional university."

He further explained that the Treaty of Chaguaramas also affirms The UWI's status as an independent, regional institution for eternity. The proposal submitted for approval to the University Council involves establishing the legal entity within the Caribbean region itself.

Finally, Vice-Chancellor Beckles acknowledged the vital contributions of Ms. Laleta Davis-Mattis, former General Counsel of The UWI, and the Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, both of whom served as lead consultants in this process. (*Dominica News Online*)

## Miss Universe Jamaica finalists sashed ahead of August coronation



Shanelle Kellyman says she entered the Hyundai Miss Universe Jamaica pageant for numerous reasons.

“I want to be my best self. I want to push my boundaries, and I also want to do things that I don’t necessarily expect myself to do,” Kellyman told the Jamaica Observer on Sunday at the AC Hotel in Kingston, shortly after she and the 29 other contestants were sashed and presented to the public for the first time.

Samantha McFarlane, one of the five regional queens in the pageant (she is Miss Universe Jamaica West), said pageantry was not in her immediate plans.

“I was not planning on entering a pageant but along the way, I’ve learnt a lot and that there’s just so much to our pageants, you can grow as a person and improve your confidence,” said McFarlane.

Model and actress Esther Moore says the pageant has provided a great atmosphere for her.

“I love the creative space, and I love

this atmosphere. I love being around the creatives, this is something that inspires me,” she said.

Imani Peterkin (Miss Universe Jamaica Northwest), who is involved in the construction management industry, says the competition has been helping her to expand her limits.

“This pageant is definitely pushing my boundaries. It has been a very transformational journey,” Peterkin explained.

Among the finalists are two medical professionals, Gabrielle Henry (she’s presently studying ophthalmology at the University Hospital of the West Indies), and Marian Millaneise, a medical doctor at the St Ann’s Bay Regional Hospital.

The diverse line-up also includes a schoolteacher, an 18-year-old student and two attorneys-at-law Keandra Wellington and Simone Gardner, both crowd favourites.

Luz Tejada-Edwards is the managing director at Magna Motors, the distributors of Hyundai, title sponsor for the Miss Universe Jamaica pageant.

“It has been a great partnership working with the Miss Universe Jamaica team. At Hyundai, we believe in empowering and uplifting women. Seventy per cent of our customers are females, so we really believe in this initiative,” Tejada-Edwards told the Jamaica Observer.

The new queen will walk away with a brand-new Hyundai Kona hybrid motorcar and will be the company’s brand ambassador for a year.

In addition to intense training, the contestants will make courtesy calls to pageant sponsors as well as government officials.

From June 26-29, the Hyundai Miss Universe Jamaica Wellness Weekend will take place at the Princess resort on the island’s north coast where contestants will compete in swimsuit and evening gown competitions, which will replace the preliminary shows.

Other lead-up events include the GO-GETTER Tea Party extravaganza on July 6 and the partner appreciation experience on July 13.

The grand coronation is scheduled for August 2 at AC Hotel Kingston, the official hotel and hub of the pageant.

The 30 finalists in the 2025 Hyundai Miss Universe Jamaica pageant are:

1. Esther Moore – Miss Jangas Sound-bar and Grill
2. Imani Peterkin – Miss Cranwata
3. Samantha McFarlane – Miss Baughaus
4. Sylene Walker – Miss Cambridge Trading Ltd
5. Nastassia Haughton – Miss Curves
6. Zoan Edwards – Miss Kadiae’s Handcraft (*Jamaica Observer*)



## Two dead in Australia after torrential rain ravages rural towns

Flash flooding on Australia's southeast coast has killed two people and cut off towns, isolating tens of thousands of residents, as officials warned Thursday that more downpours were expected over the next 24 hours.

Major flooding hit several rural towns in the Hunter and Mid North Coast regions of New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, with most of the Mid North Coast region facing further heavy rainfall through Thursday.

Police said the body of a 63-year-old man was found in a flooded home near Taree, more than 186 miles north of Sydney, while another body believed to be that of a missing man in his 30s had been discovered in floodwaters on the Mid North Coast.

"We're bracing for more bad news in the next 24 hours. This natural disaster has been terrible for this community," New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said during a media briefing.

"There's 140 flood warnings, 50,000 people are in the range where they have been asked to prepare to evacuate and could be isolated, and there's been 9,500 properties in the direct vicinity. So, we're far from out of the woods here."

Two men and one woman



have been reported missing in separate incidents, authorities said earlier.

More than 100 schools were closed on Thursday, while thousands of properties remained without power.

Cundletown in the Mid North Coast has been entirely cut off by floods, said Nicole Sammut, a nurse caring for 67 elderly residents at an aged care home, which is also being used as a shelter by emergency teams.

"I came to work on Tuesday and haven't left," Sammut told Reuters.

"We are up on a hill but behind us is all water. We are isolated. I've never seen the water this high."

The Manning River in nearby Taree had exceeded a 100-year-old flood record, emergency authorities said.

Sherinah Peck was evacuat-

ed at 2 a.m. on Wednesday (12 p.m. Tuesday ET) from her farmhouse on the river, but her belongings were swept away, with some furniture later washing up on the coast.

As she searched Old Bar beach on Thursday, strewn with debris and dead and lost livestock, for a treasured bicycle that belonged to her late mother, Peck was knocked over by a cow and injured, she said.

"The cow was distressed — a wave came. I had to scramble up the sand," she told Reuters.

A slow-moving coastal trough has dumped about four months of rain over the past two days, cutting off entire towns and stranding residents on roofs and the second floors of their homes, as rescuers struggle to access the area by boat or

air.

Minns apologized to people who had to wait for several hours for rescue crews, but assured that efforts had been ramped up with 2,500 emergency services personnel being deployed.

Twenty-two people had been rescued by helicopter, including 18 winched from flooded homes and roads, and four rescued from a bridge, NSW Police said. The helicopters have been directing more boat rescues.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology forecast that some areas could receive up to 8 inches of rain through Friday, triggering life-threatening flash flooding, before the weather system is expected to weaken and track south toward Sydney. (NBC News)

## Multiple people dead after small plane crashes into San Diego neighborhood



A small plane crashed into a San Diego military housing neighborhood on Thursday morning, killing multiple individuals on the plane, officials confirmed.

Addressing reporters at the site of the crash, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Assistant Chief Dan Eddy said that the plane struck about 15 homes, causing multiple homes and cars to catch fire.

"I just walked it myself, and down the street itself, it looks like something from a movie," Eddy said Thursday morning.

Addressing reporters for a second time Thursday morning, Eddy said that more than one person was killed in the crash, but that all of the fatalities were on the plane.

He said that the plane could have sat eight to ten people, including the pilot, but that officials did not know how many people were on the plane when it crashed. The plane appeared to be a Cessna private jet, he added.

"We do believe we have multiple fatalities, but we're going to have to go through and take our time and ensure that's exactly what we have," he said.

Eddy added that there were not fatalities from the homes the plane crash destroyed and injuries were minor.

"The good thing that we have was we have not transported anybody off scene from any of these areas here right now," he said. "And we're searching through to make sure that nobody's in any of those homes."

Eddy said that multiple neighborhoods in the area were evacuated, partly because of fuel spills caused by the crash.

"We have jet fuel all over the place," he said. "We have hazmat on scene right now, and we've asked for more resources to come for that."

He added that the homes affected were military housing.

Describing the crash site to reporters, San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said that there was "jet fuel going down the street and everything on fire all at once."

"It was pretty horrific to see," he said.

San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo said in a statement on X that "numerous homes were lost," but that "no more people are in harm's way at this moment."

"I pray for those who lost their lives and we will help those affected recover," he added.

Video of the crash site shared with NBC News shows what appears to be a car fully submerged in flames with police sirens in the background.

Forrest Gallagher, who lives in the area and captured the imagery, said a "loud boom" woke him up out of a deep sleep.

"I went outside to my neighbors out in the street and smelt a weird burning smell, like rubber/plastic smell," he said in a text message to NBC News. "I went outside to investigate and that's when I saw the car on fire."

Gallagher, a Marine Corps mechanic, added that he did not see "any plane wreckage" and that he was not evacuated.

In a statement on X, the San Diego Police Department urged people to avoid the area and said more information would be shared as it becomes available. The department added in a later statement that two local elementary schools were closed for the day.

At the press conference, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria thanked first responders.

"Every San Diegan expresses our appreciation to these heroes who got the job done this morning," he said. "Still a tragedy, and again, our hearts are with those who are impacted."

"We'll continue to be here throughout this response effort to make sure, again, the families who are impacted, those who are not able to access their homes, are well supported until they're able to get back into their homes," Gloria added.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that it did not immediately know the number of passengers onboard. (NBC News)



## US Jewish Museum shooting suspect was mistaken for witness

The suspect accused of shooting and killing two Israeli embassy staff members at a Wednesday night event in Washington DC was mistaken for a witness by security, eyewitnesses told the BBC.

Jojo Kalin, who organised the American Jewish Committee event at the Capital Jewish Museum, said she saw the attacker inside the building, looking “very distraught” after the shooting.

“The security let this person in thinking they were a bystander or witness,” she said, adding that she did not see a weapon on him. After she gave him water, she said the suspect pulled out a keffiyeh and yelled “free Palestine”.

Police have named the suspect as 30-year-old Elias Rodriguez of Chicago, who is now in custody.

Rodriguez is accused of fatally shooting Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Lynn Milgrim, who both worked at Israel’s embassy in Washington DC.

The two were a couple, according to Israel’s ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter. The ambassador said the young man had bought a ring this week and planned to propose next week in Jerusalem.

The shooting unfolded at around 21:05 local time (02:05 BST), when a gunman opened fire at the couple as they were leaving Wednesday night’s event.



The chief of police in Washington DC, Pamela Smith, said Mr Rodriguez was allegedly seen pacing back and forth outside the museum before he approached a group of four and shot two of them with a handgun.

Moments later, eye witnesses said they spotted a man entering the museum “looking very distressed.”

“We thought he just needed help and just needed safe shelter,” Katie Kalisher, an eyewitness, told the BBC.

Another witness, Yoni Kalin, said “people were calming him down, bringing him water, taking care of him”.

It later became apparent that the man they were helping was the alleged shooter, Mr Kalin said. After police arrived, Mr Kalin said the suspect confessed to the shooting and “pulled out a red keffiyeh”.

“He said ‘I did this for Gaza.

Free Palestine,’” Mr Kalin told the BBC.

Ms Kalin, the organiser, said the event was about building coalitions in the Middle East. She told the BBC it is “deeply ironic that what we were discussing was bridge building, and then we were

all hit over the head with such hatred”.

Dan Bongino, the deputy director of the FBI, said police are interviewing the suspect and that “early indicators are that this is an act of targeted violence”. (*BBC News*)





## Matthews century in vain as Windies Women falter against England



**Hayley Matthews celebrates after reaching her century against England. (CWI Media)**

Hayley Matthews again etched her name into the history books with a sensational unbeaten century, her third in T20 Internationals and the first ever by a West Indian woman against England, but her brilliance proved in vain as they slumped to an eight-wicket defeat in the opening T20I in Canterbury on Wednesday.

On a sun-kissed evening at the St Lawrence Ground, Matthews, as is often the case, was a lone beacon of

resistance in the West Indies lineup, as she produced a dazzling 100 not out off just 67 deliveries, laced with 16 crisp fours and a solitary six.

It was a captain's knock brimming with timing, touch, and temperament, but the lack of meaningful support from the rest of the batting cast left West Indies with a modest 146 for seven from their 20 overs.

England, in contrast, made light work of the chase, as they reached the

target at 150-2 with 21 balls to spare. Sophia Dunkley was imperious with a stroke-filled 81 not out, while Heather Knight added a brisk, unbeaten 43. The pair's unbroken 91-run stand for the third wicket swept the hosts to victory at a canter.

Having won the toss and opting to field, England were immediately on top with the ball. Lauren Bell struck early, removing Qiana Joseph (two) and Zaida James (zero) cheaply, while the West Indies' top and middle order crumbled under tight lines and poor shot selection. Only wicketkeeper Mandy Mangru (17) and Shabika Gajabi (11) offered little resistance in the innings.

All the while, Matthews stood tall in an innings, which was a masterclass in anchoring and acceleration, as she kept her composure while wickets tumbled around her.

It was the kind of knock that deserved a competitive total, but with no batter reaching even 20, Matthews was left carrying the innings alone. Bell (2-29) led the England bowling charge.

In reply, England started at a brisk pace, though the West Indies missed an opportunity as Jannillea Glasgow, at short third, dropped Danni Wyatt-Hodge in the opening over. However, the opener was eventually dismissed for 17 by Zaida James.

Afy Fletcher then removed Nat Sciver-Brunt (zero), but Dunkley's elegant stroke play and Knight's authoritative presence nullified any pressure.

The pair rotated the strike fluently and punished anything loose, denying the West Indies any hope of a comeback. Dunkley's 56-ball knock had 12 boundaries, while Knight had six boundaries in her 27-ball knock.



# Sports News



## Da Squad and Pytons maintain dominance of volleyball league



**Da Squad 2025**



**Pytons Team 2025**

Cool and Smooth and JOMA Caribbean Da Squad and ABI Insurance and Cool and Smooth Pytonz continue to dominate the First Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

Both teams won their latest matches at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday evening to extend their unbeaten runs as leaders of their respective women's and men's Division 1 competitions.

Reigning three-peat wom-

en's Division 1 champions, Da Squad, claimed their eighth win in as many games with a 3-0 victory against former perennial winners Paragons.

Women's Division 1 leaders Da Squad took an hour and 10 minutes to prevail 25-17, 25-9, and 25-16 against the Paragons, who remain second from the bottom of the six-team round-robin league after suffering their sixth loss in nine games.

Their latest victory means that Da Squad have made a successful defence of their title, clinching their fourth

consecutive league crown in Antigua and Barbuda with two games remaining.

Pytonz remain on course to clinch their first men's Division 1 title, notching up their eighth win in eight games by snatching a hard-fought 3-2 victory against Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz.

It took the Pytonz two hours and 12 minutes to beat High Flyerz. The Pytonz got off to a great start by winning the opening set 25-23. However, the High Flyerz hit back to level the match by winning the sec-

ond set 25-23 and took a 2-1 lead by taking the third set 25-20.

The Pytonz were able to recover by winning the fourth set 25-19 to level the match 2-2 and force the deciding fifth set. The Pytonz kept their composure to close out the encounter, taking their fifth set 15-0 to clinch the match.

The High Flyers remain in fourth place in the seven-team round-robin competition after suffering their fourth loss in eight games. Both teams have four games remaining.





## ABNA extends invitations to players to try out for national team selection



The Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) has invited a large number of players to participate in trials geared towards gaining selection on the senior national team.

According to a media release from the ABNA, 57 players have been invited to a meeting at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, May 26, at 6 pm.

However, it adds that an open invitation is also extended to all players who are interested in being part of the national squad.

The ABNA will host a three-day trial that is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, May 27, to Thursday, May 29. All players are invited to attend the trials in proper attire to participate in the national training sessions.

Meanwhile, Newton's All Saints United won the latest match in the 2025 Cool and Smooth, LIAT 2020 Limited, Antigua Generators Village League Series.

All Saints United notched up a 49-30 victory against Tide Ride Auto Parts, Dr. Thwaites Medical Services, and Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers at the Potters Netball Court on Wednesday evening.

Rayana Regis sank 46 of her 57 attempts, and Paula Jackson scored three of her five shots for All Saints United. Anelle Baptiste converted 19 of her

21 attempts, and Krizia Duncan scored 11 of her 21 shots for the Flyballers.

The players chosen by the ABNA to attend the trials are as follows: Ronesa Softleigh, Azailya Simon, Charmaine Weatherill, Daniel Lovelace, Delisha Thomas, HeVyn Goodwin, Jaya Carr, Kendra Aska, Khiva Knowles, Latisha Phillip, Nzae Williams, Patara Davis, Serenity Colbourne, Shawna Smith, Shakora Prince, Summer Buckley, Tricia Jarvis, Xandea Hobson, and Zita Edwards.

Anajah Anthony, Alphonsine Lake, Christina Lloyd, Tyea Ladoo, Everdine Barnard, Jahida Payne, Jonelly

Encarnacion, Kendisha Greenaway, Kizzy Hughes, Makalah Scott, Ophelia Brown, Rayana Regis, Sharifa Simmons, ShayAnna Payne, Sonia Gregg, Tashana Bloomfield, Tyana Telemaque, Chuntene George, and Zoree Benjamin.

Keana Aska, Kenisha Aska, Clarissa Campbell, Viola Francis, Krizia Duncan, Amey Lake, Anajae Simon, Kiana Thomas, Kizzy Thomas, Micah Thomas, Daneile Michael, Rochelle Ryan, Shozuan George, Shermaine Reifer, Stacia Henry, Tanya Greene, Zaine Frederick, Abigale Sylvester, and Naomi McDonald.



# Sports News



## King to Royals, McCoy to Falcons in CPL trade



**Obed McCoy**

The Barbados Royals and the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons have finalised a major transfer deal ahead of the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), with Brandon King joining the Royals and Obed McCoy moving to the Falcons.

The CPL's pre-draft trade window allows franchises to negotiate player transfers ahead of the official draft, set for next month. This latest exchange sees both teams strengthen their rosters with proven performers

as they gear up for a highly anticipated season.

Brandon King, a consistent force in CPL cricket, brings a wealth of experience and runs to the Royals. The stylish right-hander has scored 1,837 runs in the tournament so far and was the leading run-scorer in 2019.

He followed that up with another standout season in 2022, where he amassed over 400 runs and was named Player of the Tournament, guiding the Jamaica Tallawahs to the title.

His arrival gives the Royals a reliable top-order option and a potential match-winner as they look to rebound from a disappointing 2024 campaign.

Meanwhile, Obed McCoy strengthens the Falcons' bowling attack with his sharp left-arm pace and death-over prowess. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines native has 56 wickets from 52 CPL matches, with a best season coming in 2022, when he picked up 15 wickets for the Royals.

His ability to swing mo-

mentum with key breakthroughs makes him a valuable asset as the Falcons look to build a competitive squad.

These moves mark a clear signal of intent from both teams as they reshape their line-ups for the upcoming CPL season.

With King bolstering the Royals' batting and McCoy bringing firepower to the Falcons' bowling unit, fans can expect fireworks when the tournament gets underway in the summer.



## Windies A fall to South Africa A in ODI opener



**West Indies A pacer Jediah Blades captured three wickets against South Africa A in their first One-Day match at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.**

On a day that cast a gloomy cloud over Caribbean cricket, West Indies A suffered a 42-run defeat to South Africa A in their first One-Day match in St. Lucia at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground, which completed a hat-trick of losses for the region's teams across formats and venues on Wednesday.

While the senior men's side crumbled to a 124-run loss to Ireland in their ODI series opener in Dublin, and the women's team were brushed aside by England in a T20I in Canterbury, the A-team's spirited chase under the St. Lucian lights fell short despite flashes of resilience.

Having won the toss and opted to field in the day-night fixture, West Indies A allowed South Africa A to pile up 283 before being dismissed for 241 in 44.1 overs.

South Africa A's innings was underpinned by a series of timely contributions, none more crucial than a trio of half-centuries from Jordan Hermann (53), Sinethemba Qeshile (55), and

Jason Smith, who unleashed a counter-attacking 55 off just 44 balls, including three fours and three sixes.

Their knock was matched in flair by Rivaldo Moonsamy, who struck five fours and two sixes in a composed 49.

The West Indies A bowlers started well, as Jediah Blades removed Lesego Senokwane (four) in the second over with nine runs on the board. However, Moonsamy and Hermann steadied the innings with a 93-run second-wicket stand and gradually applied pressure on the Caribbean bowlers.

But when Darel Cyrus ended Hermann's 47-ball knock, which had eight fours and a six, Kevlon Anderson followed up with the wickets of captain Marques Ackerman (four) and Moonsamy, as South Africa A slipped to 125 for four.

Qeshile and Smith swung the momentum back in the visitor's favour with an 85-run stand that pushed them past the 200-run mark.

However, the momentum again

shifted when Blades accounted for Smith and Bjorn Fortuin (one), while Kadeem Alleyne removed Qeshile and Tristan Luus (16) after Marquinho Mindley dismissed Mhlali Mpongwana for four, as South Africa lost their remaining wickets with little resistance.

Blades ended with three for 39, while Alleyne and Anderson had similar figures of two for 44 in seven overs.

The West Indies A began their chase tentatively, as they lost Alleyne (17) with 24 runs on the board at the end of the power play. However, Captain Alick Athanaze's 33 spearheaded a 61-run second-wicket stand with Anderson before he was removed by Mhlali Mpongwana.

Anderson, who had six boundaries in a fluent 47-ball 45, followed shortly after, and from there, West Indies A suffered a familiar sharp slide to 123 for five.

Kevin Wickham followed up with a sprightly 39, while wicketkeeper Kemol Savory (26) and tailenders Darel Cyrus (28) and Marquino Mindley (27) injected late life into the innings.

The innings was defined by a recurring failure to stitch substantial partnerships, with wickets falling in clumps just as momentum was building.

By the time Cyrus and Mindley produced a late rally with a 60-run ninth-wicket stand, it was not enough, as the middle-order collapse proved fatal.

South Africa A's bowlers shared the spoils efficiently, led by Mpongwana's three for 37, while the experienced Bjorn Fortuin (2-45) and Tshepo Moreki (2-20) offered support.

# Sports

FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025



## West Indies Academy to face Sri Lankans in home series in Antigua



**Players of the West Indies Academy team**

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the upcoming Academy home series between the West Indies and Sri Lanka from June 7 to 26.

The tour will feature two four-day first-class matches and three 50-over matches to be played in Antigua at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCC) and the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS), respectively.

This series is part of the long-term strategic plan for CWI to create a pathway for the region's

brightest talent to develop while being exposed to international competition.

These matches are at an opportune time for the academy players who recently took part in the 2025 West Indies Championship.

Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe sees the increased value in having competitive cricket for the academy team.

"These matches serve as a critical component in the pathway development of our emerging players. There is a strategic plan in

terms of bridging the gap between the junior and senior levels and the games against Sri Lanka will be used to continue sharpening and equipping our best prospects for the next level."

Head coach Ramesh Subasinghe is excited at the prospects of the players putting their skills on show.

"The West Indies Academy remains committed to learning, development, and long-term growth. Over the past seven months, our players have made steady

progress both on and off the field, growing as cricketers and as young men.

"This series against the Sri Lankan Emerging Players is an important opportunity for us to test our skills against an international team, identify areas we can develop, and continue building for the future of West Indies cricket."

All matches in this series will be free to the public. Antiguanians are encouraged to come out in their numbers to support the West Indies Academy team, take in the live action, and enjoy a unique opportunity to see the region's brightest talent compete at a high level.

The series will commence with the first four-day match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on June 7. The second four-day match will be held at the Coolidge Cricket Ground on June 14.

The first 50-Over match will take place at the SVRS on June 21, while the other two one-day matches will be held at the CCC on June 24 and 26.