

More luxury cruise lines to call at Antigua, Barbuda

Story on Page 2



Ministers E.P Chet Greene (second from left) and Maria Browne (on his immediate left) and team toured the new Cobbs Cross clinic now nearing completion

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More luxury cruise lines to call at Antigua, Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda is in line for more calls from luxury cruise ships with calls not only slated for Antigua, to include both the St. John's Harbour and Falmouth Harbour, but Barbuda will benefit from these calls as well.

The disclosure comes from General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Gasper George during a stakeholder engagement held in St. John's on Monday.

George revealed that there is a growing trend for wealthy individuals to take to cruises, but they opt for smaller more luxurious vessels, rather than those larger vehicles that cater to a larger clientele.

"These passengers pay as much as US\$100,000.00 per night for their cabins, some of which are two-storey-suites with rooms even for their pets. They pay a premium price, but they also expect premium service whenever to come ashore and we have to pay keen attention to this," he emphasized.

George also stated that these passengers require high-end taxi service and that they are prepared to pay for the service that they demand.

According to the general manager the luxury market is a growing trend within the cruise sector and more and more cruise lines are adding vessels specifically built for this market. He added that even non-traditional cruise lines, such as luxury hotel chains as the Ritz-Carlton are also getting into the luxury cruise business because the demand is growing.



General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Gasper George

George quoted from the latest statistics on the worldwide trend in cruising to indicate that the Caribbean and the Americans continue to dominate the demand for cruising with 43 percent of all cruise pas-

sengers worldwide taking a cruise in this part of the world.

Additionally, he noted that the number of persons embarking on ocean cruises has increased to 34.6 million in 2024, up from 31 million in 2023. Most of the passengers embarking on cruises originate in North America, mainly the United States and Canada with Europe coming in third.

Another interesting fact, he revealed is that the demand for cruises among the younger generation is growing faster than any other sub-set of the market and for them visiting multiple destination that cruises provide is a main motivator.

George said the Caribbean need to pay attention to this group and its needs as it plots the future growth of the cruise industry.



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AI and Strategic Diplomacy in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape

A compelling theme of the upcoming UWI Five Islands Campus AI Conference is the intersection of artificial intelligence with diplomacy, especially in the context of global shifts in geopolitical power.

That's the word from Director of Academic Studies at the University of the West Indies FIC, Dr. Curtis Charles and one of the key organisers of the June 23-24 UWI FIC 5IR AI Annual Research Conference.

"One of the conference's key panels, "Sustainable Strategic Diplomacy in an Age of AI and Shifting Geopolitics," will bring together a distinguished array of voices.

"This panel will feature Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Green, Dr. Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Andrea Jacob, Antigua and Barbuda's National AI Focal Point, and Dominic Alexander Smith, Minister of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence in Trinidad and Tobago. The inclusion of a government ministry dedicated solely to AI in Trinidad and Tobago signifies the region's increasing commitment to integrating technology at a policy level," Dr. Charles revealed.

Strategic Partnerships and Scheduling Synergy

Dr. Charles noted that last year, the conference was held in early July. This year, however, the timing has been strategically moved to align with the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly here in St. John's, enabling a broader diplomatic audience.

According to senior UWI FIC official, CAF (Latin American Development Bank), a strong regional partner, was instrumental in suggesting this change. "CAF will play a prominent role this year by deploying its national AI implementation roadmap for Latin America and the Caribbean, aligning with Antigua and Barbuda's vision of

technology-led development," he explained.

He added that while formal permission to advertise the conference directly to OAS member delegates is still pending, organizers hope that early-arriving participants will attend and engage with local and international thought leaders.

AI and Climate Change: Building Resilience Across Sectors

This panel aims to draw participation from environmental stakeholders, including Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment, highlighting how AI can support climate resilience and environmental protection.

Energy: Powering Sustainable Futures

Dr. Chris Jones of MIT, also known for being the 2022 Democratic nominee for Governor of Arkansas, will lead this session. Local energy entities such as APUA are expected to be present, emphasizing how AI can modernize energy infrastructure and support sustainability goals.

Accessible AI and Disability Inclusion

Spearheaded by Ambassador Walton Aubrey Webson, this crucial panel on 'accessible AI' will feature voices from the University of Glasgow and Dr. Kwasi Tonge of the UWI FIC. The session ensures that digital transformation includes persons with disabilities, reinforcing the ethos that no one should be left behind in the AI revolution.

Health and Noncommunicable Diseases

One of the most pressing concerns in the Caribbean—Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)—will be tackled by a young professor from Harvard alongside Dr. Tulloch from Antigua and Barbuda. This session seeks to reveal how AI is being applied to combat chronic health conditions and improve healthcare delivery. It will also foster vital collaboration among healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers.



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Roadworks earmarked for St Paul constituency



The Ministry of Works is giving an undertaking to commence much-needed road repair and construction work in areas of the St. Paul constituency that have long been in dire need of roadworks.

Works Minister, Maria Browne, along with Member of Parliament for St. Paul, E.P Chet Greene and technicians

toured parts of the constituency to get a first-hand look at the areas where road construction is most urgently needed.

They visited areas of Cobbs Cross, Piccadilly and Liberta to identify what is needed and the scope of the work involved.

Ministers Browne and Greene also visited the Cobbs Cross clinic

which is in need of minor finishing touches before it is formally opened shortly. The Works Minister asked engineer, Telly Cornelius, to have the remaining work on the clinic completed as soon as possible.

MP Greene said he is looking forward to a June opening of the clinic, which has been a key campaign promise he made to the St. Paul constituency, especially the residents of Cobbs Cross and surrounding areas.

Minister Daryll Matthew Empowers Cadet Corps with Support for Caribbean Cadet Camp 2025

The Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps will be among similar organisations from the Caribbean participating in the upcoming Caribbean Cadet Camp 2025 in Dominica from July 19 to August 2.

In preparation for this impactful regional initiative, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin met with the Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew, who announced a generous donation from the Ministry of Education to support the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps (ABNCC).

This donation will assist in the transportation of 2 adult supervisors and 10 cadets to attend the camp. The cadets selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda will come from a cross-section of institutions, including St. Anthony's Secondary School, Clare Hall Secondary, All Saints Secondary, Seventh-day Adventist, Antigua Grammar School, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, and UWI Five Islands, a proud reflection of the nation's diverse academic community.

The ABNCC says it is grateful for this support, which not only enables participation but also strengthens the Cadet Corps' capacity to enhance its training programs, inspire discipline, and enrich the lives of its young members. "This opportunity will allow our cadets to grow as individuals, contribute meaningfully to their communities, and proudly carry the values of service, respect, and leadership," a media release stated.

The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force extends its

deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Education for its continued investment in the nation's youth. Initiatives like the Caribbean Cadet Camp are more than just events; they are stepping stones toward nation-building, regional collaboration, and youth empowerment.

Dominica will host the Biennial Caribbean Cadet Camp, welcoming over 350 cadets and officers from across the region. Organized by the Caribbean Cadet Association, this prestigious event is designed to shape the next generation of Caribbean leaders through military-style training, cultural exchange, leadership development, discipline,



Brigadier Telbert Benjamin and Minister of Education Daryll Matthew

and a shared commitment to service.

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Antigua and Barbuda participates in regional workshop on investment facilitation



Garfield Joseph actively participates in discussion

Antigua and Barbuda was among OECS territories that were represented at two high-level workshops aimed at bolstering investment facilitation reforms through the implementation of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Organised by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the pivotal high-level events took place in Miami on 22 and 23 May 2025. The events brought together ministers, heads of investment promotion agencies, and representatives from key international organisations to advance efforts in creating more transparent, efficient, and predictable investment environments.

Minister of Trade, E.P Chet Greene and Chief Executive officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Investment



Minister of Trade, E.P Chet Greene and Chief Executive officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority, Garfield Joseph



Authority, Garfield Joseph were Antigua and Barbuda's two representatives.

The events commenced on May 22, 2025, with the OECS Investment Facilitation Self-Assessments: Strategies to Enhance the Investment Climate and Attract Sustain-

able FDI. Organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the OECS Commission, this session focused on reviewing and finalising the categorisation of IFD provisions for notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Six OECS countries—Antigua and Barbuda,



Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis—had completed draft investment facilitation self-assessments in September 2024, providing a foundation for discussions on implementation strategies and capacity building to attract high-quality, sustainable investment.

Following this, the Strengthening Investment Facilitation in the Caribbean Region high-level event took place on May 23, 2025. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) partnered with the OECS Commission and the ITC to facilitate this second event. In addition to OECS countries, it also involved several Member States of the Caribbean Community, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Investors and private sector stakeholders were also present.

This gathering aimed to raise awareness and understanding of the developmental impacts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the transformative potential of the IFD Agreement for the Caribbean's in-

vestment landscape. Speakers from the private sector shared insights on the importance of investment facilitation for their operations, fostering an exchange of experiences on the value of the IFD Agreement within national development plans and the associated technical assistance support.

The successful conclusion of these events marks a significant step towards reinforcing national efforts on investment facilitation already underway in the Caribbean region, ensuring that FDI serves as a true catalyst for inclusive and sustainable development.



Barbuda Caribana 2025
JUNE 5TH - 9TH
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OPENING PARADE – 4:00 PM · JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH – 8:00 PM 	SATURDAY, JUNE 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · BARBUDA OCEAN CLUB CARIBANA BEACH BASH · FISHING TOURNAMENT · INTERNATIONAL SHOW · STARTS 8:00 AM – UNTIL
FRIDAY, JUNE 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · CARIBANA CULTURAL SHOW – 8:00 PM · JR'S BLUE OCEAN EXPERIENCE VIP 	SUNDAY, JUNE 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · CARIBANA CLASSIC HORSE RACING – 1:00 PM · CALYPSO/SOCA MONARCH – 8:30 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · JOUVET – 4:00 AM TO 10:00 AM · LAST LAP – 6:00 PM TO 10:00 PM 	

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Aspire Artemis Foundation Brings Global S.T.E.A.M. Powerhouse to United Nations House in Barbados, Championing AI, Climate, and Women's Leadership

The Aspire Artemis Foundation, in collaboration with global and regional partners, hosted a landmark edition of its Conversations in S.T.E.A.M. series at the prestigious United Nations House in Barbados. Held under the theme “Inspiring, Engaging and Educating – Conversations in STE(A)M: Health, Climate, and the Role of AI,” the event served as a pivotal platform to amplify female leadership, promote inclusive innovation, and bridge the digital divide—particularly for the Global South.

Timed strategically ahead of the UN's upcoming 80th anniversary celebration, this high-level convening marks a powerful statement: the Global South must be at the table—not on the menu—when it comes to the future of artificial intelligence, climate resilience, and STEM education.

A High-Impact Agenda for a New Generation of Leaders

As the UN grapples with internal changes, the Aspire Artemis Foundation set the stage for their preparations in celebration of the upcoming High Level celebration for the UN's 80th anniversary this September cementing the need to look more closely towards including the global south in discussions they are often left out of. Holding their high level event at the UN HOUSE in Barbados on May 9, a house set up by Kofi Annan. They shared powerful stories, antidotes for change and uplifting young people to take action towards their future goals. The event highlighted stories from women who have broken barriers and cementing legacies of being first in their families and nations to accomplish groundbreaking achievements.

One of the most moving moments was a one on one interview with a young girl aspiring to go into leadership, young Aniya Legall from St. Paul's Primary

School and Trinidad and Tobago's Penelope Beckles, the very first woman in her country to become Leader of the Opposition in a country whose President, Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition are all women! This was a vision for what future leadership could look like, charting the argument that the next leader of the UN system should be a woman from the Global South, empowering generations of female leadership and highlighting the transformative impact of mentorship, representation, and resilience in leadership. Their shared experience as athletes and Head Girls created a meaningful cross-generational connection, culminating in a rallying message inspired by Aaliyah's lyric: “If at first you don't succeed, dust yourself off and try again.”

This first-of-its-kind S.T.E.A.M. forum in the Caribbean brought together distinguished policymakers, tech innovators, and next-

gen changemakers. Speakers included:

- * Hon. Penelope Beckles, Leader of the Opposition of Trinidad and Tobago and the first woman to hold that office

- * Sarah, Duchess of York, who delivered a powerful keynote

- * Aniya Legall, head girl of St. Paul's Primary and emerging youth leader

- * Senator Elizabeth Thompson, noted environmental advocate

- * Andrea Jacob, Antigua and Barbuda's National AI Expert

- * Juliet Ibrahim, acclaimed Ghanaian-Liberian actress and humanitarian

- * Safiya Paul, tech entrepreneur from St. Lucia

- * Laura Hildenbrandt, UNDP's Global Lead for Digital Transformation Journeys

- * Michelle Gall, US STEM advocate

DR's Consulate in Antigua and Barbuda holds historic commemorative event



The Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in Antigua and Barbuda, led by the Honorary Consul, Joaquín Díaz and supported by Vice Consuls Alvantrop Castillo and Mario Alejandro, held a meaningful commemorative event of national importance, the observance of Mother's Day (on May 25). (Mother's Day is observed on the last Sunday in May each year in the

Dominican Republic).

This marks the first time a Dominican consulate on the island has organized such an activity, demonstrating its strong commitment to the Dominican community and the preservation of national identity abroad.

The event brought together members of the diaspora in a spirit of pride and unity.



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Local News



Kerry Oliver aka. Dolla Man identified as the man found dead in Bendals



The man found dead in Bendals on Sunday evening has been identified as Kerry Oliver, also known as 'Dolla Man' of Pigotts. Oliver had been reported missing since last Friday. Police say his body was found in a barrel on a farm in the Bendals area. It is not yet clear how he was killed, but investigators say his hands had been tied.

The body was identified by members of his family. A motive for the murder has not yet been determined.

Police had earlier indicated they had found his white Honda HR-V, registration number A49722, during the search for him. The vehicle had been found abandoned on a by-road in the Bathlodge area. It was unlocked, with the keys inside.

Oliver is the country's sixth murder victim since the start of the year.

Anyone with information that can as-

sist in the police's probe is being asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913, or 462-3914.

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Police officer shot – suspects being sought

Police are currently searching for the suspects involved in the shooting of a Police Constable during the early hours of Monday morning.

Around 1:30 a.m. on Monday, May 26, Constable Travon Giddings was responding to a report at a nightclub located on Potter's Main Road when he was shot multiple times by an unknown assailant.

The officer sustained gunshot wounds to both legs, along with other injuries, and is currently receiving medical treatment. His injuries are not considered life-threatening, and he is reported to be in stable condition.

The suspects involved in this incident are considered



to be armed and dangerous. The Police Administration

is therefore urging those responsible to surrender themselves at the nearest police station without delay.

Members of the public who may have witnessed the incident or have any information that could assist the investigation are encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, or call Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477). All reports will be handled with strict confidentiality.

The Police Administration remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of all residents and is taking all necessary steps to bring those responsible to justice.



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D'Anchor Returns with “Keep Ya Luv”

After more than a decade since his last major release, D'Anchor is back — and he's not asking for permission.

The artist's new single, “Keep Ya Luv,” marks a powerful comeback to the soca scene. It's loud, unfiltered, and unapologetically Antiguan — everything fans didn't know they were missing. This isn't just a new track; it's a re-introduction to a voice that's evolved with time, experience, and truth.

D'Anchor first made waves with “Paparazzi” in 2010, a breakout hit that showcased his performance flair and lyrical wit. But 15 years later, “Keep Ya Luv” takes it to another level. With razor-sharp vocals, dynamic production, and bold songwriting, this track declares one thing loud and clear: D'Anchor has returned with purpose.

“Keep Ya Luv” is more than a Carnival song — it's a statement. A defiant anthem for anyone who's ever been told they're “too nuff,” “too loud,” or “too extra.” Backed by a soundscape that fuses traditional soca rhythm with modern grit and theatre-inspired flair, it demands attention from the first note to the last.

The evolution in D'Anchor's vocals is impossible to ignore — deeper, richer, more commanding. Paired with cutting-edge production by

Chronic X, the track hits with the kind of clarity and confidence that only comes from years of lived experience.

Now pursuing his medical career, D'Anchor's life has taken

him from Brooklyn to Antigua to ABS's Newsroom and now back to the studio — and every chapter of that journey pulses through “Keep Ya Luv.”

NOTICE

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UWI FIVE ISLANDS OECS BUDGET WATCH: “WHO’S GROWING AND WHO’S SLOWING? A LOOK AT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFLATION ACROSS THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN IN 2025”



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

The Eastern Caribbean is growing again, but not all growth is created equal. In 2025, some countries are sprinting toward resilience and reform, while others are jogging in place, held back by lost revenues, debt overhang, or policy paralysis. According to the 2025 budget documents and IMF assessments, **Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada** are projected to lead the region with GDP growth rates between **4% and 4.5%**. **Antigua and Barbuda** comes in just below **3.5%**, while **St. Kitts and Nevis** is taking the slow lane at just **2.5%**, dragged by shrinking Citizenship by Investment (CBI) revenue.

The Growth Leaders

- **Dominica** is riding the momentum of its international airport and geothermal energy projects.
- **Saint Lucia** continues to reap the dividends of infrastructure expansion paired with social policy innovation.
- **St. Vincent**, battered by Hurricane Beryl, is investing aggressively in recovery and modernization.
- **Grenada** manages a careful rebuild

with well-calibrated fiscal support despite the storm’s damage.

These nations are betting on capital projects to drive sustainable growth, even if that means bending fiscal rules in the short term.

The Middle of the Pack

Antigua and Barbuda sits just below the top tier, with a projected growth of **3.5%**. That is a slowdown from its substantial 6% expansion in 2024, but still a healthy clip, particularly given its conservative fiscal approach and continued push for debt reduction.

Antigua’s strategy is careful consolidation: use surpluses to clear arrears, avoid new taxes, and invest in social infrastructure like education and housing. It may not be flashy, but it is earning international credibility.

The Outlier: St. Kitts and Nevis

At the other end of the spectrum is **St. Kitts and Nevis**, with projected growth of just **2.5%**—the lowest in the OECS. The reason? A sharp fall-off in Citizenship by Investment (CBI) inflows left a significant hole in the 2024 budget and dampened investor confidence.

St. Kitts and Nevis is responding with reforms and a pivot toward renewable energy and youth empowerment, but it will take time to rebuild momentum. In the meantime, the economy is stuck in second gear.

Inflation: Finally Tamed—but Not Gone

Country	2025 Inflation (Projected)
Grenada	0.7%
St. Kitts & Nevis	~1.0%
Saint Lucia	~2.0%
Dominica	~2.0%
Antigua	~3.0% □
St. Vincent	~2.5% □

Once roaring at post-COVID peaks across the region, inflation is expected to cool.

- **Grenada and St. Kitts** are regional champions of price stability, expected to keep inflation below 1%, thanks to prudent monetary anchoring and policy buffers.
- **Saint Lucia and Dominica** are both in the sweet spot—moderate inflation, rising employment, and stable consumption.
- **Antigua** is seeing slightly higher inflation, but still below 2022–2023 levels.
- **St. Vincent**, even after Hurricane Beryl, has controlled post-disaster inflation—a commendable feat of fiscal and logistical coordination.

The Real Story: Quality Growth and Fiscal Credibility?

The 2025 growth figures are encouraging, but they mask a deeper story.

- **Dominica’s and St. Vincent’s growth is infrastructure-driven** and funded heavily by debt and CBI inflows. Is it sustainable without continued borrowing or CBI reform?
- **Saint Lucia and Grenada show balanced growth**, with capital investment and social policy working together.
- **Antigua is a model of steady fiscal management** but risks under-investing in the face of global uncertainty.
- **St. Kitts must find new economic engines fast**, or risk stagnation and fiscal fatigue.

Takeaway:

The Eastern Caribbean is bouncing back. But the composition of growth varies dramatically—from fast, frag-

ile expansion to cautious consolidation.

The region must now confront three critical questions:

1. **Can infrastructure-led growth be sustained without over-leveraging?**
2. **Will social policies deliver long-term productivity gains?**
3. **How will countries cushion**

themselves from global shocks once the next crisis hits?

The answers will not come easily, but they will shape the future of the OECS for a generation.

The Eastern Caribbean is growing again. But while some countries are accelerating toward recovery and resilience, others are finding themselves stuck in a slower lane.

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, a Vincentian and UWI graduate, holds a BSc in

Management Studies, MSc in Finance and Econometrics, and PhD in Finance. With over 20 years at UWI, he has served in various leadership roles, including Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies. A Professor of Corporate Finance with extensive research publications, he is actively involved in regional financial institutions and is currently the Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barb

THE UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS OECS BUDGET WATCH 2025

Tracking the Numbers. Unpacking the Priorities. Spotlighting the Future.

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UWI Five Islands Campus

In the Eastern Caribbean, budgets are more than balance sheets—they are roadmaps of resilience, declarations of intent, and reflections of political will. As each government across the OECS has tabled its 2025 national budget, several questions loom large: Who is getting it right? Who is fuelling real growth? Who is taming inflation? Who is borrowing too much—or investing too little? And what do these choices mean for the region's future?

This five-part Budget Watch series—curated by the UWI Five Islands Campus—dives into the economic and fiscal narratives unfolding across six member states: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Based on official 2025 budget estimates, 2024 fiscal outcomes, and IMF reviews, these articles combine hopefully rigorous analysis with plainspoken insight. Whether you are a policymaker, a business leader, a student, or a concerned citizen, this series is for you.

Here is what we unpack:

- Growth and Inflation: Who is growing—and who is just grinding gears?

- Debt and Deficits: Which nations are walking the fiscal tightrope—and which are losing their balance?

- Spending Priorities: Is the money going to roads, salaries, or classrooms?

- Revenue Reality: Who is paying the bills—and how long will it last?

- Big Ideas: From youth savings accounts to mega-ports, what's bold and bluff?

Read on to explore the hard data and harder decisions behind every Eastern Caribbean dollar.



Regional News

UHWI to join global observance of emergency week



The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) is joining the global recognition of Emergency Week 2025, which comes as hospitals face growing demand from patients bypassing community clinics and the surge in non-communicable diseases.

The eight-day observance is expected to highlight the work of emergency department staff including doctors, nurses, technicians, patient care assistants, phlebotomists, and auxiliary teams.

The UHWI hospital is observing the week under the theme: “Innovating Emergency Care – honouring our roots, shaping our future.” Emergency Medicine Day, officially marked worldwide on May 27, was launched in 1994 by the European Society of Emergency Medicine to promote access to competent, timely care for all.

“Emergency medicine is a specialty where practitioners are trained to assess, diagnose and manage acute life- and limb-threat-

ening pathologies,” said emergency medicine consultant Dr Romaine Edwards. “It is a unique area in that as a specialty it intersects significantly with other specialities. Emergencies spanning several specialities are seen.”

She added: “Patients are assessed, resuscitated, stabilised, investigated, diagnosed and treated, after which decisions are made regarding disposition... whether the patient needs to be seen by other specialties as an emergency, urgently, or can be followed

up in the clinic, at a private specialist of their choice, or at their general practitioner.”

On Tuesday, May 27, UHWI will host a webinar under the sub-theme “Elevating Emergency Excellence.” Speakers include Professor Phillip Levy, of Wayne State University, and UHWI’s own Professor Jean Williams-Johnson. The session will be streamed on Zoom and YouTube from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

While most of the week’s activities are scheduled for June 9–14, the celebration begins with a church service on June 8 at Dominion Kingdom Embassy Ministries on Old Hope Road. Other activities include an expo, sexual assault examination webinar, quiz, netball and football matches, social events, a dinner forum, and a final walkathon/road race.

This year’s global theme is “Proud to Provide Your Emergency Care.” (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

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Two new US-funded emergency disaster facilities handed over to local officials

Dominica has expanded its national disaster response capabilities with the inauguration of two new emergency facilities, funded by the United States Government through the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).

On Thursday, Karin Sullivan, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Bridgetown, along with officials from SOUTHCOM, participated in the handover ceremony for an Administrative Annex to the Emergency Operations Center in Jimmit, as well as a Disaster Relief Warehouse and Mini-Emergency Operations Center in Portsmouth.

This is according to a press release from the Office of Prime Minister (OPM).

The Jimmit facility, valued at USD\$1.7 million, is intended to improve coordination of disaster response efforts at the national level. The USD\$1 million warehouse, located in Cotton Hill, will facilitate emergency coordination and provide secure storage for essential supplies.

The OPM reports that the U.S. contributed an additional USD\$300,000 for furnishing and equipping both facilities with furniture, appliances, office equipment, and a forklift for use at the warehouse.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit acknowledged the ongoing support and partnership of the United States, stating, "We express our deep gratitude to the United States Southern Command, whose commitment to Dominica's security, emergency preparedness and institutional development has been unwavering. Over the years, our two nations have worked together on a range of development initiatives from education and health to economic growth and disaster resilience."



He further stated that U.S. support has helped Dominica to build capacity, strengthen institutions, and invest in sustainable development.

"This support reflects a strategic and policy-level partnership that recognizes the unique challenges faced by small island states in an era of climate uncertainty," he added.

Chargé d'Affaires Sullivan reaffirmed "the U.S. Government's commitment to regional cooperation in disaster preparedness and resilience-building."

"The devastating effects of Caribbean natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and volcanic activity, as well as other seismic events, affect the United States due to our shared culture and intertwined economies. This emphasizes the need for continued cooperation, sustained collaboration and an understanding that we must confront our shared challenges together. We know these U.S.-funded emergency operations centers, warehouses, stations, and associated training events will be leveraged to coordinate responses during natural

disasters that will undoubtedly save lives," she stated.

Major General Javier Reina, Deputy Commander for Mobility and Reserve Affairs of SOUTHCOM, highlighted the partnership's foundation on shared values and long-term commitment, noting, "These facilities will enable the government of Dominica to respond more effectively to emergencies, to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and to support the well-being of its citizens. As part of the U.S. Southern Command's efforts to build partner capacity, these projects demonstrate our strategic approach to enhance the resilience of the people of Dominica, contribute to national and regional stability, and improve our collective ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters," he noted.

Minister for National Security and Legal Affairs Hon. Rayburn Blackmore also welcomed the new facilities, describing them as a significant milestone in Dominica's disaster management efforts. (*Dominica News Online*)

Regional News



UWI to launch new School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, at the highest decision-making body outside of its annual business meeting of Council, the Campus Finance and General Purposes Committee (CFGPC), has approved a proposal from the Faculty of Medical Sciences to establish the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The school is set to begin operations in the 2025-2026 academic year and aims to meet the growing national demand for specialised healthcare professionals to provide services in rehabilitation for children and adults.

The announcement comes at a critical time for Jamaica, and the nation's agenda to meet the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; and SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries.

In alignment with the Vi-

sion 2030 plan, the Faculty of Medical Sciences is taking the step in training professionals who can provide much-needed services for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy and autism, and persons in need of rehabilitative services for disabilities resulting from traumatic injuries and non-communicable lifestyle diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases – heart attacks and stroke.

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

laborative, interdisciplinary environment focused on both academic training and clinical service delivery.

“This school will be a major game-changer for Jamaica’s education sector,” said Professor Densil Williams, principal of The UWI, Mona.

“The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will provide Jamaica with highly qualified professionals to assist students with special needs to better position themselves in the education system in order to secure their success. The dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Minerva Thame, and the team from the faculty who conceptualised the project, must be celebrated for this excellent institutional intervention that will have far-reaching positive impact on the human capital development of our nation.”

The initiative is part of the faculty’s ongoing efforts to align its academic programmes with the real-world health and developmental needs of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Currently, Ja-

maica has only a handful of occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists — most of whom operate in the private sector. The scarcity of such professionals poses a major barrier to early intervention and support for children with developmental challenges, as well as adults in need of rehabilitation services.

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

In time, the school is expected to expand further, incorporating additional rehabilitative disciplines to strengthen the overall health system in Jamaica.

The initiative supports the calls from the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, both of which have emphasised the urgent need for these services to support national development goals. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Teen heads to Yale, First from T&T



St Joseph's Convent, San Fernando student Krisann Bedassie is the first from this country to be admitted to the Yale university summer programme.

The 17-year-old is excited to be a part of the institution's Young Global Scholars programme and described it as miraculous and life changing.

"This stands as a pivotal moment for us in Trinidad and Tobago and I am very happy to have that honour," Bedassie said during an interview at her school on Friday.

She has been accepted in the two-week politics, law and economics session which is scheduled for July 6 to the 18.

While she has received partial sponsorship that covers tuition, accommodation, healthcare and meals, she has had to seek airfare and other travel related costs. Due to the availability of flights she will be in New York for two days leading up to the event and leave on July 19.

And while she has her plane ticket in

hand—due to a kind sponsor—she is hoping to have her mother at her side

In light of this, they are seeking to raise funds to cover Bedassie's expenses and also have her mother Suzannah Bedassie accompany her, for added security. They are hoping to raise US\$4,000 and are appealing for help from members of the public and corporate T&T.

St Joseph's Convent has been supportive and has allowed Bedassie to host a donut sale to raise funds. At the schools she has been taught to use her voice for "the right things", and to advocate for those who are unable to do so themselves. "I have decided to learn about politics, law and economics not just because they interest me (but) because I want to help achieve a better Trinidad and Tobago," she said.

Bedassie of St John's near San Fernando, has been following Yale on social media for years and applied as soon as she saw the opportunity to be part of the programme. She en-

sured that she possessed the required grade point average (GPA) and was involved in extra curricular activities. She also had to submit personal essay questions and believes this gave her an edge for a space in the programme.

Bedassie is also a National Youth Award recipient in the category of Health and Wellness, a sustainable development goal ambassador for the UNESCO and an awarded spoken word artiste.

She will be writing Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) exam next year and aspires to become an ambassador at the United Nations.

Susannah Bedassie, a single mother and a divorcee, said that while over 80 letters were sent to various corporate entities, the responses she expected did not materialise. However, she continues to press on believing that, "if God has brought us this far, He would finish it."

The self-employed hair dresser and mother of two, said that she was honoured that her daughter was accepted to the programme and she is thankful to God. She said her daughter continues to persevere in the face of difficulties and challenges. "She remains focused on her education, she remains focused on her goals. She is so committed to making this world a better place and I'm truly thankful for that," she said.

Anyone willing to assist can contact Susannah Bedassie at 336-2805 or make a donation to First Citizens Bank account# 1984690. (Trinidad Express)

At least 11 hurt in South Carolina beach town shooting

At least 11 people were taken to hospitals after a shooting Sunday night in a South Carolina beach town, authorities said.

Horry County Police did not give the conditions of anyone hurt or detail how they were injured in the incident, which happened about 9:30 p.m. in Little River.

Investigators were getting reports of more people arriving at the hospital in private vehicles, Horry County Police said on social media.

About 90 minutes after the shooting, police called it an isolated incident and said there is no risk to the community. They did not release any information on possible suspects or what led to the shooting.

The shooting happened around a boat dock near the Intracoastal Waterway.



Video from the scene showed dozens of police cars and ambulances rushing in and out of the area.

A North Myrtle Beach police officer responding to the

shooting accidentally shot himself in the leg at a marina about three miles (five kilometres) away and is in the hospital in stable condition, North Myrtle Beach

spokeswoman Lauren Jessie said.

Little River is about 20 miles (32 kilometres) north-east of Myrtle Beach. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Macron's office downplays video appearing to show his wife pushing him in the face

French President Emmanuel Macron's office Monday played down the moment his wife, Brigitte Macron, appeared to shove him in the face in Vietnam at the start of the couple's Southeast Asia tour.

In the video captured Sunday, Macron could be seen standing in a plane's open doorway when a hand appears to shove him in the face. Macron then pauses, turns to face outside the plane, and flashes a smile and waves, before moving out of frame.

The person who pushed Macron was largely out of frame but appeared to be wearing a jacket matching the suit color Brigitte Macron had on when the couple exited the aircraft together minutes later. Macron appeared to offer his wife his arm, which she did not take.

An official for the Elysee Palace played down the moment, saying the couple were "having a laugh."

"It was a moment when the president and his wife were relaxing one last time be-

fore the start of the trip by having a laugh," the official said in a statement, according to Reuters, calling it a "moment of closeness."

The Élysée Palace did not immediately respond to a request for comment from NBC News.

Macron, 47, and Brigitte Macron, 72, have been married since 2007. Neither independently addressed the incident.

Macron's visit to Vietnam marks the first by a French president in almost a de-

cade, with the trip aimed at promoting France's influence in its former colony.

The visit comes after President Donald Trump threatened Friday to impose 50% duties on European Union goods starting June 1, before delaying the deadline to July 27.

France and Vietnam signed a deal Monday for 20 Airbus planes, as well as defense and space agreements during Macron's visit to Hanoi. (NBC News)

Israeli strikes kill 52 in Gaza, including 36 in a school-turned shelter, medics say

Israeli strikes killed at least 52 people in the Gaza Strip on Monday, including 36 in a school-turned-shelter that was struck as people slept, igniting their belongings, according to local health officials. The military said it targeted militants operating from the school.

Israel renewed its offensive in March after ending a ceasefire with Hamas. It has vowed to seize control of Gaza and keep fighting until Hamas is destroyed or disarmed, and until it returns the remaining 58 hostages, a third of them believed to be alive, from the Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist attack that ignited the war.

Israel began allowing a trickle of humanitarian aid into Gaza last week after blocking all food, medicine, fuel or other goods from entering for 2 1/2 months. Aid groups have warned of famine and say the aid that has come in is nowhere near enough to meeting mounting needs.

A new aid system supported by Israel and the United States but rejected by U.N. agencies and aid groups is expected to begin operations as soon as Monday, despite the resignation of the American leading the effort, who said it would not be able to operate independently.

Israel says it plans to seize full control of Gaza and facilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of its over 2 million population, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community.

Israel's military campaign has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and internally displaced some 90% of its population. Many have fled multiple times.

The strike on the school in the Da-



raj neighborhood of Gaza City also wounded dozens of people, said Fahmy Awad, head of the ministry's emergency service. He said a father and his five children were among the dead. The Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals in Gaza City confirmed the overall toll.

Awad said the school was hit three times while people slept, setting their belongings ablaze. Footage circulating online showed rescuers struggling to extinguish fires and recovering charred remains.

The military said it targeted a militant command and control center inside the school that Hamas and Islamic Jihad used to gather intelligence for attacks. Israel blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it operates in residential areas.

A separate strike on a home in Jabalya in northern Gaza killed 16 members of the same family, including five women and two children, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the

bodies.

Palestinian militants meanwhile fired three projectiles from Gaza, two of which fell short within the territory and a third that was intercepted, according to the Israeli military.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people in the 2023 attack. More than half the hostages have been returned in ceasefire agreements or other deals, eight have been rescued, and Israeli forces have recovered the remains of dozens more.

The offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, rendering entire neighborhoods uninhabitable. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to shelter in schools and squalid tent camps for well over a year.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed around 54,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It says more than half the dead are women and children but does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. (NBC News)

US military to African allies: Prepare to stand more on your own



The United States military is backing off its usual talk of good governance and countering insurgencies, telling its fragile allies in Africa they must be ready to stand more on their own.

At African Lion, its largest joint training exercise on the continent, that shift was clear: “We need to be able to get our partners to the level of independent operations,” General Michael Langley said in an interview with The Associated Press.

“There needs to be some burden sharing,” Langley, the US military’s top official in Africa, said on Friday, the final day of the exercise.

For four weeks, troops from more than 40 countries rehearsed how to confront threats by air, land, and sea. They flew drones, simulated close-quarters combat and launched satellite-guided rockets in the desert.

Manoeuvres mirrored previous editions of African Lion, now in its 25th year. But mostly gone now is language that emphasises ideas the US once argued set it apart from Russia and China.

Messaging about the interwoven work of defense, diplomacy and development once formed the core of Washington’s security pitch. In their place now are calls for helping allies build capacity to manage their own security, which Langley said was a priority for President Donald Trump’s Defense Department.

“We have our set priorities now — protecting the homeland. And we’re also looking for other countries to contribute to some of these global insta-

bility areas,” he said, referencing US support for Sudan.

The shift comes as the US military makes moves to “build a leaner, more lethal force,” including potentially cutting military leadership positions in places like Africa, where America’s rivals continue to deepen their influence.

China has launched its own expansive training programme for African militaries. Russian mercenaries are recalibrating and cementing their role as security partner of choice throughout North, West and Central Africa.

In an interview a year ago, Langley emphasised what US military officials have long called a “whole of government approach” to countering insurgency. Even amid setbacks, he defended the US approach and said force alone couldn’t stabilise weak states and protect US interests against the risk of violence spilling out.

“I’ve always professed that AFRICOM is just not a military organization,” Langley said last year. He called good governance an “enduring solution to a number of layered threats — whether it be desertification, whether it be crop failure from changing environments, or whether it be from violent extremist organizations.”

The “whole of government approach” no longer occupies the same place at the center of US messaging, though Langley said holistic efforts have worked in places like Ivory Coast, where development and defense had reduced attacks by jihadi groups near its volatile northern border.

But such successes aren’t a pattern. “I’ve seen progression and I’ve seen regression,” said Langley, who is scheduled to exit his post later this year.

The US military’s new posture comes even though many African armies remain ill-equipped and insurgent groups expand.

“We see Africa as the epicentre for both al-Qaida and Islamic State,” a senior US defense official said earlier this month, noting both groups had growing regional affiliates and the Islamic State group had shifted command and control to Africa. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorised to discuss the issue publicly.

Africa has rarely ranked high on the Pentagon’s list of priorities, but the US has still spent hundreds of millions of dollars on security assistance and has roughly 6,500 Africa Command personnel on the continent.

In some regions, the US faces direct competition from Russia and China. In others, regional affiliates of al-Qaida and the IS still require direct military action, Langley said.

The messaging shift from “whole of government” to more burden-sharing comes as fears grow that rising violence could spread beyond hotspots where insurgents have expanded influence and found vacuums in which they can consolidate power.

Parts of of both East and West Africa have emerged as epicentres of violence.

In 2024, more than half of the world’s terrorism victims were killed across West Africa’s Sahel, a vast desert territory ruled by military juntas, according to the Institute for Economics and Peace. The group, which compiles yearly terrorism statistics, also found Somalia accounted for six per cent of all terrorism-related deaths, making it the deadliest for terrorism in Africa outside the Sahel.

Since Trump took office, the US military has escalated airstrikes in Somalia, targeting IS and al-Shabab operatives. But despite air support, Somalia’s army remains far from being able to maintain security on the ground, Langley acknowledged. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Sports News

A Sea of Pink! Big Wins at Run in Paradise 2025



It was a spectacular sea of pink on Sunday morning as 297 professional and amateur runners took to the streets for the 9th annual Run in Paradise. Widely regarded as Antigua and Barbuda's premier health and wellness race, the event attracted participants from diverse backgrounds,

nationalities, and age groups, celebrating intergenerational fitness and community spirit.

In the Half Marathon (21K), Kamar Thomas claimed first place with a time of 1:19:26, followed by Dr. Peter Borowsky, who finished in 1:21:18. Dr. Borowsky, a seasoned marathon



enthusiast, flew into Antigua specifically to compete in Run in Paradise—his first time visiting the island. He is currently training for the Ironman World Championship in France this September.

In the 10K race, Jaiden Marajah crossed the finish line first with a time of 45:32.0, while Kevin Gomez secured second place at 53:22.7.

The 5K run saw rising young athlete Kennessa Dinard Jr. take first place with a time of 22:55.9, closely followed by Michele Delco, who came in at 25:28.5.

But beyond the top finishers, the true spirit of Run in Paradise shone through as every participant who completed the race received a commemorative medal, a testament to the commitment, endurance, and community focus of the event.

Dr. Borowsky praised the race, saying, "Run in Paradise is an elite marathon, not only for its stunning island scenery but also for the warmth and encouragement of the people. It truly sets itself apart."

This year's race also featured a strong





Jaiden Marajah...winner of the 10k

turnout from corporate teams and sports groups, who used the event as a team building and endurance exercise. With its family-friendly atmosphere, Run in Paradise continues to be a staple on the island's annual calendar of events.

The Run in Paradise Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all participants, volunteers, and sponsors who made this year's event possible, including:

FLOW, Guardian Life, Cool & Smooth, Total Imports, Island Provision, Caribbean Premium Motors, Siboney Hotel, Clean Food & Juice, Signs & Impressions, and the Antigua & Barbuda Police Force and the ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, ALONG WITH THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO WORKED THROUGH THE NIGHT TO ENSURE THE EVENT'S SUCCESS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING EVERYONE AGAIN



ON MAY 24, 2026, AS WE CELEBRATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUN IN PARADISE, BIGGER, BETTER, AND STRONGER THAN EVER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RACE RESULTS, PLEASE VISIT THE RUN IN PARADISE WEBSITE: [RESULTS](#) | [MARATHON RACE](#) | [RUN IN PARADISE ANTIGUA](#).

Anguilla's Carty wins ABWU Invitational road cycling race

Experienced cyclist Delroy Carty of Anguilla left the pack trailing to clinch the Elite Male Division and win the overall title at the annual Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) Invitational Cycling Road Race on Sunday.

Carty was one of five cyclists from Anguilla that participated in the race, which covered approximately 58 miles and was staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) from the ABWU's headquarters in St. John's to the St. James' Club and Villa in Mamora Bay in St. Paul's Parish.

Carty won the Elite Male class in two hours, 42 minutes, and 27.66 seconds. Antiguan Abbiel Flemming improved on last year's third-place finish to clinch second place in the same division.

Flemming completed the race in two hours, 47 minutes, and 04.46 seconds. Zefal Bailey, one of two cyclists from St. Vincent who participated in the race, captured third place in the Elite Male class with a time of two hours, 50 minutes, and 36.20 seconds.

Bailey's Vincentian colleague Lucky Antrobus finished in eighth place from a field of 12 cyclists in the elite division. Sherwin Osbourne and Justin Hodge of Anguilla took fourth and 10th place, respectively.

Last year's winner Jyme



The top three finishers in the Elite Male Division on the podium in the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) Invitational Cycling Road Race on Sunday, May 25, 2025. From left to right: Abbiel Flemming, Delroy Carty of Anguilla, and Zefal Bailey of St. Vincent. (ABCF)

Bridges of Antigua and Barbuda came in fifth place in the elite men's category. Dave Garrett, who clinched the runner-up spot last year, finished seventh in the elite men's division.

Top Antiguan cyclist Tajhe Browne, who did not compete in last year's race, returned to win the Junior Male Class. Browne crossed the finish line in two hours, 50 minutes, and 58.05 seconds.

Like last year, Jomari King clinched second place. Aiden Tonge, who won the Junior Male class last year, was relegated to a third-place finish on Sunday.

Steve Scott dethrone last year's winner Brent George to win the Sports Class, which was conducted over a shorter course.

Scott won the Sports Class with a time of two hours, 18 minutes, and 27.36 seconds. George came in second, and Tyson Robinson finished in third place. Avery Thomas of Anguilla finished fifth among a field of five competitors.

Wayne Henry claimed the Masters Division in two hours, 45 minutes, and 09.25 seconds. Patrick Niles of Anguilla came in second, and Randy Simon finished in third place.

Elite Thomas retained the title by winning the Cadet 11-14 Class in one hour, 11 minutes, and 28.27 seconds. Jahaziel Santana took second place, and Benjamin Carr claimed third place.

Lone female competitor Llori Sharpe failed to finish the race, clocking a time of three hours, six minutes, and 34.68 seconds when she abandoned the race.

Thirty-seven cyclists, 16 more than last year, participated in Sunday's road cycling race, which was also supported by the ABWU, Subway, and Gatorade.

Mona Campus make clean sweep of UWI Volleyball Games



The University of the West Indies Mona Campus women's volleyball team

The Mona Campus of Jamaica made a clean sweep by winning all three division competitions during the University of the West Indies (UWI) Volleyball Games in Antigua over the weekend.

Mona captured the titles in both male and female categories during the three-day event, which was held in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) and its affiliated clubs at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Mona reigned supreme in the UWI Intercampus Students Division and the UWI Alumni and Antiguan Clubs category during the tournament that concluded on Sunday evening.

The Mona campus defeated the Five Islands campus 2-0 (25-7, 25-13) in the final to lift the female title in the UWI Intercampus Students Division.

Their male colleagues also prevailed 2-0 (25-10, 25-22) against their opponents from the Five Islands Campus in the final to capture the men's crown in the UWI Intercampus Students Division.

After suffering their only loss to Da Squad during the preliminary round stage, Mona got sweet revenge by

pulling off a 3-1 victory against the reigning three-peat Antigua and Barbuda club champions in the final to capture the female title in the Alumni and Antiguan Club Division.

The Mona Campus women prevailed 25-21, 22-25, 25-16, and 25-11 against Da Squad to win the gold medal match. The Mona Campus advanced to the final by ousting Antiguan Club Stoneville 2-0 (25-18, 25-19) in the semi-finals.

Da Squad, who won all three matches in the preliminary stage, booked their spot in the final with a 2-0 (25-15, 25-14) victory against fellow Antigua women's club Royal Cruisers in the other semi-final.

Stoneville captured the bronze medals by defeating the Royal Cruisers 2-1 (25-12, 21-25, and 15-13) in the playoff for third place.

The men of the Mona Campus capped their unbeaten run during the tournament by surging to a 3-0 (25-11, 25-14, and 25-17) victory against Antigua and Barbuda's Storming Lions in the final to capture the title in the Alumni and Antiguan Club Division.

The Mona Campus advanced to the final after ousting Antigua and Barbuda's reigning men's Division 1 cham-

pions, Stoneville, 2-0 (25-16, 25-12) in the semi-finals.

The Storming Lions booked their spot in the final by beating fellow Antiguan club Pytonz 2-1 (16-25, 25-21, and 15-13) in the other semi-final.

Pytonz captured the bronze medal after prevailing 2-0 (25-10, 25-14) in the playoff for third place.

The players of the Mona Campus also dominated the individual awards in both female and male categories of the UWI Volleyball Games.

Erica Harris and Tevario Clarke of Mona Campus captured the Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards in the female and male divisions, respectively.

Harris and Clarke also claimed the Best Outside Hitter awards in their respective categories. Four more players of Mona Campus captured individual awards in the female division.

Johanna Belmar won the award for the Best Setter, Anesia Edwards was named the Best Middle Blocker, Logan Henderson took home the award for the Best Opposite Hitter, and Cavell Williams claimed the Best Libero Award.

The other two individual awards in the female category were captured by Da Squad. Glenda La Yalorde won the Best Outside Hitter Award, and Yuliet Lanz claimed the award for the Best Middle Blocker.

Four more players of Mona Campus also captured individual awards in the male division.

Andrae Robb won the award for the Best Setter, Timarley Tulloch was named the Best Middle Blocker, Ronald Hastings took home the award for the Best Opposite Hitter, and Karim Mogg claimed the Best Libero Award.

Cairon Davis of the Storming Li-

England women complete T20I series sweep over West Indies



England's women celebrate after wrapping of their T20 series win against the West Indies at Chelmsford, Essex, England, on Monday, May 26, 2025. (Getty Images)

Despite another strong performance with bat and ball from captain Hayley Matthews, the West Indies Women suffered a 17-run loss to England Women to close out their T20 International series at the County Ground in Chelmsford on Monday.

Heather Knight made a 47-ball 66 not out, while skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt hit 37 as England posted 144 for five from their 20 overs after being put in to bat by Matthews.

The West Indian captain led the bowling effort with three for 32 from her four overs while debutant Jahzara Claxton was excellent in support, picking up

one for 15 from her four overs.

In reply, the West Indies were restricted to 127 for eight in their 20 overs, losing by 17 runs.

Matthews was once again the standout performer with the bat with 71 off 54 balls, including 11 fours and a six, while Realeanna Grimmond and Shabika Gajnabi hit 15 and 14, respectively.

Lauren Bell, Em Arlott, Charlie Dean and Linsey Smith all picked up two wickets for England.

The West Indian reply got off to the worst possible start when Qiana Joseph was bowled by Bell off the very first ball of the innings.

Matthews and Zaida James then combined to add 34 for the second wicket before James fell to Arlott for seven. Grimmond joined Matthews and they added a further 29 for the third wicket.

Amazingly, Grimmond survived three dropped catches in consecutive balls in the first five balls of the 11th over before she finally fell off the last ball of that over to leave the West Indies struggling at 63 for three with nine overs left.

Matthews, undeterred by wickets falling at the other end, brought up her second fifty of the series halfway through the 13th over.

The West Indies were 97 for three four balls into the 16th over when rain stopped play, affecting the momentum that the West Indian captain was building.

Not long after the resumption, hopes of a West Indian consolation victory were dashed when Gajnabi, Jahzara Claxton (0) and Matthews all fell within four balls of each other to leave the score at 113 for six, one ball into the 18th over.

The West Indians lost two more wickets, Jannilea Glasgow for one and Afy Fletcher for six, eventually ending their innings 127 for eight off 20 overs.

Punjab demolishes Mumbai and secures top-two spot in IPL playoffs



Punjab Kings' Josh Inglis plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, India, Monday, May 26, 2025. (AP)

JAIPUR, India (AP) — Punjab Kings secured a top-two spot in the Indian Premier League playoffs after defeating five-time winners the Mumbai Indians by seven wickets on Monday.

Josh Inglis (73) and Priyansh Arya (62) smashed the Mumbai bowling and propelled Punjab to victory at 187 for three in reply to Mumbai's below-par 184 for seven.

Punjab will play qualifier 1 on Thursday with the winner going directly to the June 3 final. Mumbai will play eliminator 1 on Friday against Royal Challengers Bengaluru or Gujarat Titans.

Gujarat Titans are second in the table, but could be overtaken by Bengaluru if they beat the already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

Arya and Inglis combined in for 109 runs off just 59 balls for Punjab after Prabhsimran Singh was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah inside the batting pow-

erplay.

Arya hit Trent Boult for three boundaries off the first four balls he faced from the New Zealander. Arya raised his half-century from 27 balls when he hit Hardik Pandya for six over wide long-on and bashed Jasprit Bumrah for a six over fine leg.

Inglis shrugged off the spin threat of Mitchell Santner, whose first two overs went for 23, while impact player Ashwani Kumar was dropped from the attack after being hammered for 16, in his only over.

Santner finished with two for 41 when he had Arya caught at long-off in the 15th over, and Inglis was out lbw when he missed a paddle shot against the left-arm spinner in the 18th over with Punjab just 14 runs from victory. They won with nine balls to spare.

Suryakumar Yadav's 57, his 14th successive score of 25-plus in Twenty20s, was the cornerstone of Mum-

bai's total but he felt his team was 10, 15 runs short.

Ryan Rickelton, playing in his last IPL game before joining South Africa for the World Test Championship final, lashed a 20-ball 27, while Rohit Sharma struggled to 24 when he holed out to long-on against left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar.

Mumbai stuttered in the middle overs when it lost Tilak Varma and Will Jacks quickly. Pandya grabbed two fours and two sixes in his 26 off 15 and was caught behind in Jansen's return spell.

Naman Dhir and Yadav counter-punched in the death overs and Vijaykumar Vyshak's penultimate over of the innings went for 23 runs.

Arshdeep Singh bowled splendid yorkers in the final over and conceded just three runs for the wickets of Dhir and Yadav.

Ovals Ojays complete double by winning D-2 playoffs title



Sponsor Sir Steadroy 'Cutie' Benjamin holds the trophy as he celebrates with Cuties Ovals Ojays after the team won the ABBA Division 2 playoff title at the JSC Basketball Complex on Sunday, May 25, 2025. (Photos courtesy of the ABBA)

Top seed Cuties Ovals Ojays have completed the double in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division.

After securing their league crown, the Ovals Ojays soared to the Division 2 playoff title by wrapping up their best-of-five finals 3-0 against second seed Navigators at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Division 2 League Most Valuable Player (MVP) Tajahron Davis produced 24 points, eight rebounds, six assists, and five steals

to lead the Ovals Ojays to their commanding 91-41 victory in Game 3 to complete a sweep of the series.

In support, Division 2 Playoff MVP Tequan Brodie contributed 14 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; Orion Seraphine sank 12 points and claimed nine rebounds; and Shaheim Omarde converted eight points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Ralph Spooner scored nine points and snatched 17 rebounds for the Nav-



**Division 2 League MVP
Tajahron Davis**

igators.

Meanwhile, second seed Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers have extended their best-of-five Division 1 playoff finals against defending champions EZ Fit Flyers on Sunday night.

After losing the first two encounters, the Steelers avoided being swept by surging to an impressive 86-67 victory in Game 3 against the Flyers to reduce the deficit to 2-1.

Jayden Andrew produced 21 points and 13 assists, and Cohen Desouza sank 15 points and snatched seven rebounds to lead the Steelers to victory.

In support, Keroi Lee converted 14 points and



**Division 2 Playoff MVP
Tequan Brodie**

grabbed 12 rebounds; Darnell Azille came off the bench to score 13 points and claimed seven rebounds; and veteran guard Marlon "Buju" Charles chipped in with 10 points and five rebounds for the Potters Steelers.

Selassie Brathwaite sank 17 points and snatched six rebounds; Kenya Ahcom scored 15 points and claimed six rebounds; Adonis Humphreys converted 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Xavier Meade contributed nine points and seven rebounds for the Flyers.

Both teams will clash in Game 4 at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday evening.