

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**POINTVILLE EXPRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2025

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 86

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SOLIDARITY FOREVER  
**LABOUR**  
*Day*  
**2025**



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

featuring:

**REVO BAND | LSA | RED HOT FLAMES**

**5 MAY**  
**2025**

ROUTE:

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



# Culinary Month is here!!!

*Story on Page 2*



**Chef Claude Lewis (left) ABTA CEO Colin C James (centre) and Shermain Jeremy (right) participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the start of Culinary Month 2025**



# Culinary Month is here!!!



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and its industry partners held the formal launch of Culinary Month, 2025, at a cocktail reception at Fox House Restaurant at Valley Church.

Head of the Planning Committee for Culinary Month, Shermain Jeremy said the idea is to expand the events of the highly successful, Restaurant Week and spread them over a month. She said this has been in response to public comments that Restaurant Week was too short.

“We listened and now with an entire month of events, we expect to see them all well-supported by the public. There is no reason to complain now. It is for everyone to go out and enjoy all these culinary experiences!” she remarked.

While the launch took place on Thursday, May 1,



the first major event takes place on Sunday at the Cedar Valley Golf Course where stalls will be operated by many local restaurants. “Sunday is Labour Day weekend and we have the best event ever, for everyone including families with small children. Anyone who has been to any of our food and arts events over the past two years will be familiar with what Sunday will be like. However, this year we are calling it something new; its

Food, Arts and Beverage Festival, FAB FEST. All the things that you loved from our past events will be there so all is invited,” she declared.

ABTA CEO, Colin C. James describes the Culinary Month activities as ‘an explosion’ from what happened when the festival started three years ago. “It was only one week, but the buy-in from local restaurants and the local community has been tremendous,” he exclaimed.

He said close to sixty restaurants will participate this year and that the Passport, introduced when the festival started, returns completely revamped and rebranded. In addition, this year the activities of Culinary Month take place when Caribbean Market Place will be held in Antigua and Barbuda. This according to James provides a unique opportunity to promote the local cuisine to an international market.

This year the celebrity chef, is Chef Claude Lewis, of the United States but whose parents are from Antigua. He said he grew up in a household where the Antiguan culture was highlighted and preserved. His dream is to highlight different ways to prepare local dishes during the Festival, but he also has long-term plans to return to Antigua and to invest and perhaps teach.



## Saudi Arabia's Ambassador pays courtesy call on Antigua and Barbuda



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassador Abdullah Al-saihani, met with senior officials of the government in St. John's on Thursday during which the strengthening of cultural and other ties between the two countries was discussed.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne hosted the ambassador during which he raised the issue of continued assistance from the Kingdom particularly in the areas, of education, cultural exchanges and investments.

Already, Antigua and Barbuda has negotiated an US\$80 million from the Saudi Sovereign Fund for the expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. The first phase of the project, which is the construction of a new primary school to replace the current Five Islands Primary, is slated to begin later this year.

The prime minister also used the opportunity to invited Saudi investments in Antigua and Barbuda, noting that the country is a safe place to invest and



to visit.

The ambassador also paid a courtesy


call on Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene.


**NEW  
UPDATE**

  
*Renaissance*  
**"THE REBIRTH"**

**EVENT VENUE  
CHANGE**

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA**  
 UNIVERSITY PARK, JABBERWOCK BEACH  
 ROAD, COOLIDGE, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

 **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

 **8:00pm**



# Local News

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

# LABOUR Day 2025

**PICNIC DAY FETE**

**5 MAY 2025 3PM UNTIL**

**FEATURING**

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



# Local News

## Prime Minister Browne Congratulates Newly Elected Leaders of Trinidad and Tobago and Canada



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne*



*Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar*



*Prime Minister Mark Carney*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has extended congratulations to two newly elected heads of government—Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago, and Prime Minister Mark Carney of Canada—following their recent electoral victories.

In separate letters, Prime Minister Browne praised both leaders for their successful campaigns and expressed his hope for deepened bilateral cooperation in the years ahead.

Writing to **Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar**, Prime Minister Browne acknowledged her return to leadership as a moment of historic significance and reaffirmed the strong bonds of friendship and regional solidarity shared between Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago.

“Your leadership has once again been entrusted with the responsibility of guiding the people of Trinidad and Tobago, and I am con-

fident that your government will work diligently to meet the aspirations of your citizens,” Prime Minister Browne wrote.

He also expressed his commitment to continued collaboration within the framework of CARICOM, emphasizing the importance of unity in addressing

shared regional challenges and advancing economic growth and social development across the Caribbean.

In his letter to **Prime Minister Carney**, the Antiguan leader congratulated the incoming Canadian Prime Minister on a decisive mandate and underscored the long-standing friendship

between Canada and Antigua and Barbuda.

“I look forward to working with your administration in strengthening the longstanding partnership between our nations,” Browne wrote, adding that he is eager to deepen cooperation on issues such as climate change, trade, and global security.



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



# Renaissance "THE REBIRTH"



**Abigail Piper**  
St. John's Rural North



**Amiaha James**  
St. Mary's South



**Danijha Simon**  
St. John's Rural South



**Aaliyah Taylor**  
St. John's Rural West



**Jamona Samuel**  
All Saints East & St. Luke



**Coshana Constant**  
St. Phillip's North



**Alisha Alie**  
St. George



**Tia James**  
St. John's Rural East



**Christine Powell**  
St. John's City West



**Cyczique Teague**  
St. Pauls



# The police to get sniffer dogs



The Cabinet has agreed to provide the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda with the requisite resources it needs to conduct its mission effectively and efficiently.

The Cabinet Notes revealed that the government has approved the purchase of 4 police dogs for the Royal Police



Force of Antigua and Barbuda. They will be trained

to sniff out explosives, guns, cadavers, and a variety of evidence that may be found at crime scenes.

This comes as the police are reporting that except in the case of murder and missing persons, crime in Antigua and Barbuda is on the decline.

There are three missing young men whose whereabouts continue to baffle the police and voluntary groups who have mounted search parties each of which have returned empty-handed.

The presence of the dogs will greatly enhance the overall capabilities of the force to fight crime.

## Barbuda senator victim of armed robbery at Point Wharf

The police are investigation a brazen daylight robbery at the Point Wharf on Thursday morning that involved the Barbuda Council appointed senator in the Upper House, Sen. Fabian Jones.

According to police reports, Jones had just arrived in Antigua from Barbuda by boat when an unknown armed assailant dressed in dark clothing robbed him of an undisclosed sum of money shortly after disembarking a vessel

from Barbuda.

“This vehicle pulled up next to me as I was walking and a man wearing sky-mask demanded that I hand over my bag with the money. I have a friend with a similar colour vehicle and I thought it was him and that it was a joke,” Senator Jones told Point Express newspaper.

The suspect reportedly then fled the

scene in a black Honda CR-V. No injuries were reported during the incident.

Police are appealing to anyone with information regarding the suspect or the vehicle to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914. Members of the public can also call the anonymous Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).



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## REGISTRATION

# OPEN

Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission

## CATEGORIES:

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

### WHERE TO COLLECT FORMS:

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

### HOURS:

**MON - THURS**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**FRI**

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

### COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO:

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

# ANTIGUA Carnival 2025

*Itz A ViBe*

"THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL"



@Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission



@antiguacarnival



@antiguacarnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial



## Tropical Shipping Hosts Disaster Preparedness Workshop



**Tropical Shipping partners**

Tropical Shipping showed its commitment to island life Wednesday by hosting a disaster management workshop on the theme; *‘Beyond the storm: Strengthening the public-private partnership resiliency’*.

More than 80 representatives from emergency service agencies, businesses, tourism organizations, as well as the Honorable Rawdon Turner, Minister of Social and Urban Trans-

formation, took part in the half-day session. The goal was simple: build private-public partnerships now to enhance Antigua and Barbuda’s resiliency after a disaster strikes.

In his remarks, Minister Turner observed that for small island developing states like Antigua and Barbuda resilience is not a luxury it is a necessity. Every disaster that touches the country’s shores, he noted, not only leaves a mark, but it also deepens the



**Tamara Lowe-James & Honorable Rawdon Turner**

determination to rebuild stronger, to plan smarter, and to respond faster. “We have learned, often through hard experience, that effective disaster management must be rooted in strong collaboration between government, the private sector, civil society, and regional partners. Tropical Shipping has long stood with the people of the Caribbean in times of need, and we are grateful for your steadfast partnership over the decades. Your continued investment in community preparedness and recovery is a powerful example of responsible corporate citizenship,” he remarked.

Minister Turner added that disaster management is not just a government responsibility — but a shared duty across every sector of society. “By investing in preparedness and building resilient communities, we not only protect lives but also safeguard our economic future and regional stability,” the minister added.

“Building strong relationships before disaster strikes lays the foundation for a resilient future,” said Tamara Lowe-James, Tropical Shipping’s Is-

*con’t on pg 11*







land Manager for Antigua and Barbuda. “Collaboration between Antigua’s private and public sectors is the key to successful disaster management.” Partners and organizations that attended the workshop included:

- Honorable Rawdon Turner, Minister of Social and Urban Transformation
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Antigua and Barbuda Sea Port Authority
- Preparedness and Response Manager, National Office of Disaster Services (NODS)
- Mario Colindres, Chamber of Commerce
- Professor Roy Watlington, University of Virgin Islands
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA)
- Antigua Barbuda Hotels & Tourism Association (ABHTA)

Tropical has held annual disaster preparedness workshops throughout the Caribbean for more than 25 years. The sessions focus on how communities can develop recovery plans so businesses, schools, and governments can resume operations

after a major hurricane or event.

Tropical was recently exempted from new port fees imposed by the Trump Administration, a huge relief to the Caribbean market it serves. The workshops are important to strength-

ening the region, so a natural disaster does not devastate its economy. Tropical has additional disaster management seminars scheduled on other islands this year.

“Part of our company’s mission is to support the health and well-being of the Caribbean before, during, and after a natural disaster,” said Tropical Shipping President Tim Martin. “When we say, ‘we’re committed to island life,’ we mean it, and providing these workshops is that commitment in action.”

Tropical Shipping is headquartered in Riviera Beach, Florida, and has served the Caribbean market since 1963. Tropical’s transportation services include refrigerated, dry, Full-Container-Load (FCL), Less-than-Container-Load (LCL), small package, consolidation, inland transportation, and global logistics services.



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## Antigua and Barbuda leads campaign to unlock crucial debt services mechanism



Antigua and Barbuda is intensifying its campaign for the full operationalisation of the global Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS).

The DSSS was launched in Antigua and Barbuda as one of the foundation pillars of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the ten-year framework document that came out of the SIDS4 Conference. A Strategic Advisory Group for the initiative is co-chaired by Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne and President of the Madlives Dr. Mohamed Muizzu.

The crucial next step is activation of the financial mechanism, where the DSSS can be used as a tool by small and vulnerable states like Antigua and Barbuda to bring relief to their paralyzing debt

burden that continues to suppress their economic growth.

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson was in Washington last Friday for the annual IMF/World Bank Spring meetings where he spoke at a high level roundtable on the operationalization of the DSSS. He used the opportunity to reflect on a number of key milestones where the DSSS has already earned meaningful support from

many countries.

"...it is now being actively considered by Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Fragile and Conflict-Affected States – many of whom face the same traps of climate vulnerability, cost capital and debt distress,"

Ambassador Webson explained.

But the reality for these vulnerable countries, he stressed, has reached frightening proportions where the severe climate events are forcing states to borrow at high interest to recover.

"We are penalized by credit rating systems that ignore our climate vulnerability and our fiscal discipline," Ambassador Webson told his audience. He therefore detailed a five tier strategy that SIDS and their partners need to pursue in ensuring that the DSSS can be operationalized in the shortest possible time.

Listed among his suggestions was the establishment of the Institutional homes for each DSSS component and engaging new partners from both the private sector and

philanthropy that would bring their capital, innovation and capacity building resources to the initiative.

Ambassador Webson also suggested that the DSSS needs to be positioned as a global solution to climate-debt-development challenges in major fora like the upcoming Finance for Development Conference, FfD4, the G20 and at COP30.

"The DSSS provides a practical pathway to re-price risk, expand access, and deliver climate finance at scale through instruments that respond to vulnerability and reward resilience," he emphasized.

Joining Ambassador at the meetings in Washington was Second Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission, Jerri-Anne Jeremy.





COOPERATION BY INVESTMENT UNIT  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



THE BEACH IS JUST THE BEGINNING  
PRESENTS

JULY  
**31**  
CARNIVAL CITY  
*Itz A ViBe*

Caribbean

**Melting**

LONG BAY  
LAGER

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# A Silent Emergency: Mental Health Demands Our Voice, Our Will, Our Action



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

Across the nations of the Americas, a silent emergency is suffocating hope, stealing futures, and exacting an unbearable toll in lives lost and potential squandered. That “silent emergency” is a mental health crisis which is growing, unrelenting, and still, tragically, hidden in plain sight.

More than 160 million people in the Americas – from Canada to Argentina with the Caribbean in between – live with a mental disorder. In 2021 alone, over 652,000 souls were lost to mental illness, substance abuse, Alzheimer’s disease, and suicide. Two of our nations rank among the ten with the highest suicide rates in the world. Each year, over 100,000 people die by suicide. Yet only one in five receives treatment.

But this is not just a health crisis. It is a crisis of conscience and commitment. It affects children, teenagers, and adults—crippling productivity, corroding public trust, and fracturing families. The stigma surrounding mental health acts like a shroud, keeping this problem out of sight

and out of political reach. Silence is no longer an option.

Even the wealthiest nations in our hemisphere are under siege. In the United States, suicide remains the 11th leading cause of death. In 2023 alone, more than 49,300 Americans died by suicide—nearly 135 every day. Among high school students, nearly 40% experienced persistent sadness and hopelessness, while one in five seriously considered suicide. The wealth of the nation offers no immunity from the affliction of the mind.

In Canada, the picture is no less grim. In 2022, over 4,850 Canadians died by suicide—an increase of nearly 9% from the year before. In 2023, 34% of youth in Canada met the criteria for a mental health or substance use disorder. Among 2SLGBTQ+ youth, one in four experienced suicidal ideation within a single year.

If the most resource-rich countries are reeling from such devastation, how much more vulnerable are the smaller and less wealthy states of Latin America and the Caribbean? This crisis does not discriminate, but its consequences are heaviest where capacity is weakest.

The situation in the Caribbean is equally alarming. Guyana and Suriname report the highest and second-highest suicide rates in the Americas—40.8 and 25.9 per 100,000 population, respectively. Trinidad and Tobago ranks ninth in the Americas. Youth are particularly affected. Between 20% and 25% of adolescents in the English-speaking Caribbean experience symptoms of mental health problems.

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a sharp rise in mental health conditions across the Americas. The isolation of lockdowns, the sudden loss of human connection—even among family members—and the cruel denial of final farewells to loved ones who died alone from the virus, inflicted emotional wounds that have not healed. These experiences unleashed waves of depression, anxiety, and trauma that continue to ripple through societies.

Worryingly, the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Sustainable Development found that mental health disorders were already on the rise globally even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. The Commission issued a stark warning: if left unaddressed, mental health conditions could drain an estimated US\$16 trillion from the global economy by 2030. Since that report, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) has tracked an alarming acceleration of mental health challenges in multiple regions, underscoring the scale and urgency of the crisis.

It is against this sobering backdrop that Antigua and Barbuda has taken the lead in crafting a resolution at the Organization of American States (OAS) to confront the escalating mental health crisis across the Americas. Work is already underway in the OAS General Committee in preparation for the Organization’s General Assembly, which Antigua will host this June. This initiative aims to put real political weight behind an issue that, for far too long, has languished on the margins of regional political policy.

We hope this resolution will serve as



a call to arms, placing mental health where it belongs: at the centre of public policy and sustainable development. It builds on the foundation laid by the Pan American Health Organization's 2022 Policy for Improving Mental Health and the 2023 Strategy for Improving Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, seeking to transform intention into action and frameworks into results.

But political will is the necessary catalyst. This resolution sets out to do four critical things: establish a Regional Mental Health Partnership to coordinate efforts; create a multi-agency Working Group to guide implementation; build a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure accountability; and launch a Regional Mental Health Fund to mobilize resources.

All our countries, including gov-

ernments and the private sector, know what must be done. Community-based care must replace outdated, often inhumane institutional models. Mental health spending, currently just 3% of national health budgets, must increase. And mental health must be woven into the fabric of education, labour, finance, and justice systems. According to the World Health Organization, every \$1 invested in scaled-up treatment for common mental disorders yields a \$4 return in improved health and productivity. The economics are clear. The ethics, even clearer.

At the OAS, I have been proud to lead Antigua and Barbuda's effort to forge consensus among the nations of the Americas in support of this resolution. If we succeed, it will not be the first time that the smallest of voices has spoken the loudest to rally nations to do the right thing for

all humanity. We are determined to make the OAS General Assembly in June a turning point - a moment when the countries of the Americas declare that the wellbeing of every mind is the bedrock of a just and prosperous future.

We want this Assembly to be remembered as one that did not turn away from uncomfortable truths, but chose to confront them with courage, compassion, and resolve. In the context of mental health, let it be said: the OAS did not flinch; it acted.

*(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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## Celebrating the Transformation of Villa and Grays Green Youths - From Rivalry to Brotherhood: A Story of Hope and Transformation



On Sunday, April 26th, the Villa Nazarene Church was filled with joy and gratitude as the community gathered to celebrate the remarkable transformation of young men from the Villa and Grays Green areas.

Once locked in conflict and rivalry, these two communities had seen their youths drawn into violence, delinquency, and hopelessness — fueled by vulnerable home environments and societal pressures. Today, however, these young men are making bold strides toward becoming positive leaders and model citizens.

It has been roughly over seven months since the intervention began, and these young men have shown incredible progress. They are now attending school, working, receiving counseling and focusing on strengthening their relationship with



God. The program's aim is to not only provide structure and opportunity but to also encourage these young men to grow spiritually, with an emphasis on church and deepening their faith.

The service was marked by a powerful sermon from the church's pastor, who preached from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

He urged the young men to hold fast to God's promises, reminding them that their past does not define their future, and that unity, purpose, and greatness lie ahead when they trust in God's plan.

Mitchell Jeremiah, who was appointed and consulted by the government of Antigua and Barbuda, led the rehabilitation initiative. He is also the founder and president of the Mitch League, a youth reformation sports program operating in the

United States with active plans to establish itself in Antigua and Barbuda.

In partnership with the government and other key stakeholders, Jeremiah and his unwavering team — too many to mention — provided mentorship, structure, and unwavering support to the young men. During the service, he expressed heartfelt thanks to all those who have played a vital role in helping bring the young men this far.

Once divided, the youths of Villa and Grays Green now stand side by side — no longer enemies, but brothers united by hope, resilience, and a shared vision for a better future. They are growing into responsible, productive citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, ready to contribute to their communities and inspire others with their powerful stories of transformation.



## As we approach another labour day

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Antigua and Barbuda's newest union, The People's Union was launched. We outlined several concepts we believe are critical for the advancement of the working people and the simultaneous development of the country.

These concepts are:

- A four-day work week
- A national retirement age with benefits
- National paternity leave
- A national living wage
- A complete review and overhaul of the Workmen's Compensation Act
- A comprehensive workers education program

Within the past few weeks, the government has announced that paternity leave will be introduced for government employees. We see that in this case the government is listening, and we applaud the move. The government must go further and make it mandatory in law for all employees as was done with respect to maternity leave.

We are also aware that the government very recently, through Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin indicated that it is looking at instituting a national retirement age. We look forward to this but feel very strongly that the government should take a comprehensive approach to these matters and include other stakeholders in the process.

The focus of this piece though is the matter of severance pay. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there was a news report that the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union is in the process of actively engaging the liquidator of the Caribbean Airport Services (CAS) to secure the best possible outcome. Well, we need to look at this matter in its current and correct context.

Caribbean Airport Services (CAS) is a company owned jointly by LIAT



(1974) Ltd and Massey on a 51%-49% split. In 2020, under the effects of Covid 19 both LIAT (1974) Ltd and CAS were forced to take action which resulted in hundreds of employees losing their jobs through redundancy. To date the employees of LIAT (1974) Ltd have seen very little of their severance and other entitlements. This includes employees who retired years ago and are yet to receive payments relative to their retirement. monies to which they are entitled. LIAT Ltd is already liquidated with hundreds of former employees not knowing how they are going to get their severance payments and other entitlements, which in the case of the severance entitlements is incurring 10% interest for each year the monies are not paid.

So, there is no money to pay the hundreds of LIAT workers in Antigua. There is no money to pay the nearly one hundred CAS employees made redundant in 2020. It is a known fact that CAS has only a few pieces of aged equipment with very little value. They own nothing else. Where then is the money to pay severance to the employees coming from? There was talk at one time that Massey had given a commitment to pay 49% of the severance entitlements. The truth of

this cannot be verified as there is apparently nothing in writing. One cannot squeeze blood out of stone. Simply put, there is no money and there are no assets to liquidate to pay the employees past or present. The employees should not be given false hope. They have suffered enough.

It was known by all concerned that what is now taking place at CAS was going to happen. It was just a matter of time. Several parties apparently had interest in acquiring the CAS Operation. One interested party is a locally owned and operated company which has been conducting business at the VC Bird International Airport for nearly forty years. This company indicated its interest to the current management of CAS as well as the Airport Authority and the Minister of Tourism who also has responsibility for aviation. Two key factors in the interest proposed by this company are to secure the jobs of the current employees as well as to give those employees shares in the company since the possibility of them receiving severance payments is very slim to none. The efforts of the company, have been frustrated at every turn.

Over the years we have seen several companies closing operations and employees left to languish and hold on to



# Feature



false hopes. This must come to an end. We have legislation in place making the payment of severance pay mandatory when positions are made redundant. In unionized workplaces collective bargaining agreements also make provision for severance payments in matters of redundancy. In most cases the severance entitlements set out in collective bargaining agreements are better than what is provided in the Labour Code. But the law and collective bargaining agreements do not guarantee that severance payments will be

made when due. The answer is legislation whereby every employer from the date they employ anyone is made to create a fund in which monies are deposited, first to create a severance fund which is managed like a thrift fund. In cases where employees work up to retirement and positions are not made redundant the monies accrued in the names of those employees be paid to them as a retirement benefit.

A former attorney general contemplated the idea of legislation whereby

employees who had ten or more years of service would qualify for severance pay and could leave their employment and be paid severance pay for their years of service. This concept is worth looking at as one possible way to deal with this problem.

As we approach another labour day, we in The People's Union make a call to our two major political parties to do more than the normal political speeches but to outline clear positions on this burning issue. We call on the said parties to engage stakeholders to come up with a workable solution to this problem. Remember the Castle Harbour workers. Remember the workers of the two white elephant casinos, one of which was recently broken down. Remember the Arawak Motors workers. Remember the Stanford workers. And I am sure there are many more.

Ralph Potter,  
President

The People's Union.

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## Cuba again says 'Yes' to solidarity and brotherhood among peoples



Several countries around the world, including Cuba, choose May 1st to celebrate International Workers' Day. On this occasion, as in previous years, millions of Cubans marched across the island as an irrefutable demonstration of the majority support of the people for the sovereign decision to build and defend a system of justice and social equality that has characterized the revolutionary process experienced in the largest country of the Antilles for the past 66 years.

The celebration of Labor Day provided a new opportunity for the vast majority of Cubans to raise their voices against the criminal policy of all kinds of aggression and economic suffocation imposed by the US

government on Cuba and its people for more than six decades.

There were also be statements and threats from several representatives of the current US government, stating that their agencies and government institutions "would conduct a detailed monitoring of all those who participated in the march called for May 1st, as it would disqualify them from obtaining a visa to enter the US." They fail to learn the historical lesson that when there is dignity and just principles and ideas are defended, threats and blackmail are of no use.

Among the millions of Cubans who marched in every plaza across the country, the images were able to high-

light thousands of people in their white coats, representing the doctors, nurses, technicians, and other Cuban health professionals. Their voices were heard alongside those of the rest of their compatriots, in defense of solidarity and brotherhood among peoples, in defense of the right of every person in this world to have access to quality medical care and to enjoy the most important right a human being can have: the right to life.

In the coming days, it will be 25 years since the beginning of medical collaboration between Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda. Throughout this period, hundreds of Cuban healthcare professionals have made their modest contributions to the medical

care system of this beloved sister country. Today, more than 70 Cuban healthcare professionals work shoulder to shoulder with Antiguan doctors and nurses to provide quality healthcare services to the entire population. This May 1st, Cuban health workers in Antigua and Barbuda celebrated the day at their respective workplaces, at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, at the Hannah Thomas Hospital in Barbuda, or at other healthcare centers where they work. And next Monday, May 5th, the date Antigua and Barbuda celebrates Labor Day, they will also join their Antiguan and Barbuda brothers and sisters in commemorating this important date for all workers around the world.





## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

### Senior Water Business Unit Officials Tour Fort James RO Facility Ahead of Ultrafiltration Unit Commissioning

**St. John's, Antigua – May 1, 2025 – Senior members of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) Water Business Unit conducted a site visit today, Thursday, May 1, 2025, at the Fort James Reverse Osmosis (RO) facility to provide updates on the installation and upcoming commissioning of a new ultrafiltration unit.**

The ultrafiltration unit is designed to enhance the water treatment process by introducing an additional layer of filtration. This upgrade will significantly improve the facility's ability to remove fine sediments, which are typically more prevalent during periods of high sea swells. In addition, the unit will support the extended lifespan of the RO membranes, boosting overall system efficiency and reliability.

Engineers from Waterworks Technologies, based in Dubai, are currently on-site at Fort James finalizing installation and testing of the ultrafiltration unit. Commissioning is scheduled for the first week of June.

The current daily production at the Fort James facility stands at approximately 300,000 imperial gallons (IG). Once the unit is fully operational, production is expected to increase to the facility's full RO capacity of 1,000,000 IG per day.

During the visit, officials also provided updates on ongoing efforts to increase output at other RO facilities, which have been awaiting customized spare parts and critical equipment. Once these upgrades are complete, an estimated 2,000,000 IG will be added to APUA's existing daily production of 6,100,000 IG, bringing projected output to approximately 8,200,000 IG by mid-June 2025.

Further improvements are anticipated by the end of October 2025 with the commissioning of Phase 2 of the Seven Seas project at Barnacle Point. This is expected to increase total daily production to approximately 9,300,000 IG, significantly improving the distribution and availability of water to residents across the island.

APUA remains committed to strengthening its infrastructure and enhancing service delivery as it works toward long-term sustainability and resilience in water production.

- END -







# FIXTURES



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## PRELIMINARIES

<b>SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025</b> <b>PYTHONS VS TIGERS</b> (11:00 AM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>	<b>SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025</b> <b>LIONS VS CRUSHERS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>
<b>SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025</b> <b>PYTHONS VS LIONS</b> (11:00 AM) <b>LIBERTA</b>	<b>SATURDAY, 03 MAY 2025</b> <b>BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>LIBERTA</b>
<b>SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025</b> <b>CRUSHERS VS NATION</b> (2:30 PM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>	<b>SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025</b> <b>LIONS VS TIGERS</b> (11:00 AM) <b>LIBERTA</b>
<b>SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025</b> <b>BLACKHAWKS VS NATION</b> (2:30 PM) <b>LIBERTA</b>	<b>SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025</b> <b>PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>
<b>MONDAY, 5 MAY 2025</b> <b>CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS</b> (11:00 AM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>	<b>MONDAY, 5 MAY 2025</b> <b>NATION VS PYTHONS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>
<b>SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025</b> <b>NATION VS TIGERS</b> (11:00 AM) <b>LIBERTA</b>	<b>SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025</b> <b>BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>LIBERTA</b>
<b>SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025</b> <b>BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS</b> (11:00 AM) <b>LIBERTA</b>	<b>SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025</b> <b>NATION VS LIONS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>LIBERTA</b>
<b>SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025</b> <b>TIGERS VS CRUSHERS</b> (2:30 PM) <b>PIGOTTS</b>	
<b>THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025</b> <b>2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE</b> (2:30 PM)	
<b>SATURDAY, 17 MAY 2025</b> <b>WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE</b> (2:00 PM)	



## ELIMINATOR





# Regional News

## Guyana announces curfew amidst widespread looting, arson

The Guyana government Tuesday announced a four-and-a-half-hour curfew hinting at the possibility that it may be increased as efforts continue to deal with unlawful behaviour here in recent days.

Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn said that the national curfew from 12.30 a.m. to 5 a.m. (local time) could be extended as a review is taking place that could result in the measure starting at 10 p.m.

“The curfew, it might start earlier tonight, and we will review how late or early in the morning it will go to. It can start as early as 10, we are reviewing the matter at the moment,” Benn said as he toured several areas in the capital in the company of members of the joint security services.

The current curfew order, which was gazetted on Tuesday, states that there shall be no public meetings, gatherings, and assemblies of persons, procession or marches in any public space during the hours of 12.30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

The order came following a night that saw fires being set to major roadways in several parts of the country and some businesses in Georgetown being looted, with robberies also being reported.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) in a statement said it has noted with “deep



concern” the incidents that occurred within the last 24 hours.

“The Chamber is calling on citizens to allow peace and stability to prevail. Criminal elements have hijacked and preyed upon frustrations over recent incidents, and the acts of violence, looting and destruction witnessed on Monday, and the wee hours of Tuesday morning only serve to create unrest and create divides among our people.

“The Chamber remains concerned about the continued perpetuation of violence in our society and public safety remains paramount. The GCCCI is calling on authorities to enforce the implemented measures to temper unrest and be proactive in quelling any efforts aimed at furthering instability,” it added.

Benn said the Ministry of Home Affairs has been closely monitoring the situation, as the Guyana Police Force (GPF) with the backing of the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) takes steps to clear all roadways of debris, allowing for free movement.

“We have been up all night monitoring the situation to try to see where we need to send help and support and bring some law and order. Now, we are trying to go around to the little areas particularly in the city to show presence, and to try to encourage people to come back to some level of orderliness and lawful behavior,” he said.

“There is no excuse for the behaviour,” Benn said, noting that while people were “fairly upset at the situation” regarding the death of 11-year-old Adrianna Younge, whose body was

found floating in a pool at a hotel last Thursday, the authorities have promised a full investigation into the matter.

“There were assurances not only to have an early autopsy but at the request of the family they agreed to bring in foreign doctors to do the autopsy and to make sure that they get the forensic right, all of that was done.

“There was no excuse for the behavior which unfolded particularly on social media. Those social media posts are still online, still up and have been recorded, and as a result of some of those posts more people will be arrested for creating public mischief, terror,” Benn said.

The autopsy has since indicated that the child died from drowning. (*Trinidad Express*)



# Regional News

PAGE 23

## Dominica to host 10th OECS Council of Ministers: Education Meeting in September 2025



The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission will convene its 10th Council of Ministers: Education (COM:Edu) meeting in Dominica this September.

The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of the Octavia Alfred, Dominica's Minister of Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence.

Alfred will assume the role of incoming Chair of the Council, taking over from the current Chairman, Geoffrey Hanley, Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Education, Youth Empowerment, Housing & Human Settlement, Ecclesiastical & Faith-Based Affairs, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Ageing and Disabilities for St Kitts and Nevis.

The high-level regional event will be hosted in Dominica on 25 to 26 September 2025.

Ministers of Education and senior officials from across the OECS region will gather for strategic discussions aimed at advancing the OECS Education Sector Strategy (OESS) 2012–2026—a regional roadmap for

harmonised, impactful education reform tailored to the needs of Small Island Developing States.

The COM:Edu meeting will serve as a platform for robust dialogue and knowledge sharing on key priorities such as inclusive education, quality learning outcomes, and system-wide transformation.

Delegates will also engage with development partners and regional agencies to strengthen collaboration on critical education initiatives.

The 2025 COM:Edu meeting will focus on four core objectives: transforming education Systems, enhancing digital learning, strengthening partnerships and sharing best practices.

As the 2025 host, Alfred expressed her anticipation of a meaningful and forward-looking dialogue saying:

“I welcome my regional counterparts to Dominica for what promises to be a pivotal and productive event in shaping the future of education in the Eastern Caribbean.”

The upcoming COM:Edu meeting is expected to reaffirm the OECS's collective commitment to sustainable human development through education and strengthen the region's ability to respond to evolving challenges and opportunities in the sector. *(Loop Caribbean)*

# Regional News



## Jeremie tipped for AG

Former People's National Movement (PNM) attorney general John Jeremie is tipped to be sworn in as Attorney General under the new Kamla Persad-Bissessar administration today.

He will be the first Cabinet appointment following the swearing-in of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar today by President Christine Kangaloo at President's House at 4 p.m.

A former senator, Jeremie served as attorney general under the Patrick Manning administration from November 2003 to November 2007, and again from May 2009 to May 2010.

He also served as high commissioner to the United Kingdom.

In addition, Jeremie was a lecturer at the Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

In a shocking move on April 14 at a United National Congress (UNC) public meeting in Penal, Jeremie mounted a public platform and endorsed Persad-Bissessar as prime minister.

He urged citizens to vote for the UNC, declaring that life under the PNM had not improved over the past decade,



as he emphasised the economy is in crisis and the country is besieged by crime.

Jeremie took to the UNC's platform for a second time at the party's final rally at the Aranjuez Savannah last Saturday. He waded deeper into his criticism of the PNM, saying it had presided over a "failing state" during the past decade, where over 5,000 people have been killed and murderers are 90% certain to get away without action.

As Attorney General, Jeremie will be tasked with overseeing the country's

legislative agenda, including crime-fighting legislation. Persad-Bissessar has promised to introduce stand-your-ground legislation to address home invasions.

During his previous tenure, Jeremie brought legal action against former prime minister Basdeo Panday for failing to declare all his assets to the Integrity Commission.

He was also instrumental in pursuing Jamaat leader Yasin Abu Bakr for the payment of a \$32 million debt owed to the State for de-

struction caused during the 1990 attempted coup.

Jeremie also presided over Manning's quest to impeach former chief justice Sarnarine Sharma for allegedly attempting to influence the Panday corruption case.

It remains to be seen whether, during his third stint as Attorney General, Jeremie will work towards ensuring the effectiveness of the death penalty in Trinidad and Tobago. He had previously attempted to navigate legislative hurdles on the matter. (*Trinidad Express*)



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## Dominica's international airport construction on track and ahead of schedule, despite 'hiccups' says Johnson



In the latest update on the construction of Dominica's new international airport, Samuel Johnson, CEO of the International Airport Development Company, announced that the project is progressing smoothly and even slightly ahead of schedule. Speaking recently, Johnson pointed to significant milestones achieved and the resilience of the team in navigating recent challenges.

Since the last report in March, earthworks have been advancing well, with all four culverts now completed and backfilling underway. The focus remains on creating the platform that will support the runway and accompanying facilities. Johnson emphasized that the project's earthworks are on track, and despite some land acquisition issues, these have been effectively resolved.

Addressing recent concerns surrounding quarry operations, Johnson clarified that the quarry is still active but subject to court-imposed restrictions. "There was an injunc-

tion that limited the quarry's hours of operation," he explained.

Although he did not mention names, Johnson was clearly referring to a court case between former prime minister Edison James and C5 Railway, the Chinese company constructing the airport project. The matter gained media attention last week when Clarence Christian, a C5 Railway employee claimed that James' legal action over environmental concerns related to a quarry located near his residence, was an attempt to hinder quarry operations, thereby slowing down construction. In response, James explained that his legal challenge was solely motivated by the need to protect the environment and the health of local residents, asserting that the quarry's operations were causing unacceptable noise, dust, and potential harm to nearby communities.

However, Johnson pointed out that, despite these disputes, the project

team is working diligently to find solutions, including the identification of a supplemental quarry site, to ensure that material supply remains steady and that construction stays on schedule.

Johnson also dismissed rumors of imported materials, stating that Dominica has sufficient quarry resources to support the project's scale. "While importing is an option some islands have considered, we believe we can fulfill our requirements locally, provided we manage logistics and environmental considerations effectively," he said.

The airport project CEO revealed plans to commence construction of the land-side facilities—such as the terminal, cargo area, hangar, and control tower—potentially as early as June or July, contingent on government approval. These facilities are nearing completion at the design and planning stage, and once approved, foundation work will begin, running concurrently with runway construction.

Despite minor setbacks, notably the court-ordered reduction in quarry operating hours, Johnson remains optimistic. "If it were easy, it would have been done already," he quipped. "Our team's ability to find solutions and work with our partners, including China's C5 Railway, has been crucial in keeping the project on schedule...we are confident that, with continued collaboration and problem-solving, we will deliver a world-class airport that meets our country's needs". (Dominica News Online)

## Woman sues American Airlines claiming she was sexually assaulted mid-flight by man once accused of similar abuse

A woman has sued American Airlines, claiming she was sexually assaulted on a domestic flight last year by a man previously reported to the airline for sexual abuse allegations.

Barbara Morgan, of California, says she was sexually assaulted on an April 24, 2024, red-eye flight from San Francisco to Dallas, according to the lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California last week.

The suit accuses American Airlines of putting profits over passenger safety and that her alleged assailant, Cherian Abraham, was allowed to fly even though the airline had a notice of a 2023 sexual assault charge against him, the suit said.

Even after reporting the assault, Morgan said she was left traumatized when the airline allegedly ignored her and victim-blamed her.

An attorney for Abraham did not immediately respond to NBC News' request for comment. American Airlines said Thursday that Abraham will no longer be allowed to fly with the airline.

"The safety of our customers and team members is our highest priority. We take this matter very seriously and are working closely with law enforcement on its investigation," the airline said in a statement.

The suit states that Morgan

took the flight for a trip to celebrate her son's new job and home in Dallas.

She was placed in a middle seat next to Abraham, who was "previously reported to American Airlines for allegations of sexual abuse against a female passenger," according to a news release by her attorneys, Romanucci & Blandin.

He allegedly sexually assaulted her during the flight as the cabin lights were dimmed and she yelled at him to "stop" twice, the lawsuit says.

However, no American Airlines employee intervened or made an effort to investigate the incident. It unfolded as most passengers were asleep, wearing headphones, or were unaware of the assault, the lawsuit says.

She reported the abuse as soon as she got off the plane and pointed out her assailant, the lawsuit says. But instead of getting help, she felt rebuffed.

"The American Airlines gate agent engaged in victim-blaming, questioning why Plaintiff had not taken further action to report the assault during the flight," the lawsuit says.

Morgan explained that she was scared he'd retaliate against her, that it was challenging to report the assault while confined to her seat and that she was afraid the plane might be rerouted, potentially angering oth-

er passengers, the lawsuit says.

The gate agent stated that there was nothing they could do and advised Morgan to file a complaint on their website. The lawsuit states that she made the complaint on the same day and received a generic response indicating that someone would follow up, but no one did.

On April 30, 2024, she submitted a complaint to the Director of Customer Relations, Vice President of Reservations and Service Recovery, and the CEO of American Airlines. She again received an automated response, but "no meaningful engagement or support," according to the lawsuit.

In May, a representative of American Airlines contacted Morgan by phone, and the representative allegedly again "shifted blame onto her for not reporting it while still in the air," the lawsuit says.

Morgan only learned that Abraham had prior reports of sexual violence on an American Airlines flight when the FBI contacted her and said he was charged, her attorneys said.

In March this year, Abraham was charged with one federal count of abusive sexual contact out of the Western District of Washington "for his subsequent sexual assault of another

American Airlines female passenger," the lawsuit said. That unwanted touching incident unfolded on March 18.

The charge referenced previous sexual assaults on flights by Abraham, including Morgan's, and noted the first report was made in 2023 before Morgan's flight.

Morgan's lawsuit was filed against American Airlines and Abraham. It accuses the airline of negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and fraudulent concealment. It also accuses Abraham of sexual battery, gender violence, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

"The FBI and American Airlines passengers have repeatedly warned the airline that inflight sexual assaults are occurring on American Airlines flights—and American Airlines has had every opportunity to take those warnings seriously. Instead, they've turned a blind eye, leaving passengers vulnerable at 30,000 feet. This isn't just a failure of policy; it's a failure of basic responsibility," Patrick J. Driscoll, an attorney for Morgan, said in a Wednesday statement.

Driscoll added: "American Airlines must stop ignoring the alarm bells and take immediate, decisive action to protect its passengers like Barbara Morgan." (NBC News)



## NASA astronauts step outside space station to perform the 5th all-female spacewalk

An astronaut who missed out on the first all-female spacewalk because of a spacesuit sizing issue got her chance six years later on Thursday.

NASA's Anne McClain emerged from the International Space Station alongside Nichole Ayers. Both military officers and pilots, they launched to the orbiting lab in March to replace NASA's two stuck astronauts, who are now back home.

Minutes before floating out, McClain noticed strands of string on the index finger of her right glove. Mission Control briefly delayed the start of the spacewalk to make sure her glove was safe.

During their spacewalk, the pair will prepare the space station for another new set of solar panels and move an antenna on the 260-mile-high (420-kilometer-high) complex.

The space station had to be raised into a slightly higher orbit Wednesday evening to avoid space junk: part of a 20-year-old Chinese rocket.

McClain, an Army colonel and helicopter pilot, should have taken part in the first all-female spacewalk in 2019, but there weren't enough medium-size suits. The first women-only spacewalk was by Christina Koch and Jessica Meir. The latest was the fifth all-female spacewalk in 60 years of spacewalking.

Koch soon will become the first woman to fly to the moon. She and three male astronauts will fly around the moon without landing next year under NASA's Artemis program, the successor to Apollo.

Men still outnumber women in NASA's astronaut corps.

Of NASA's 47 active astronauts, 20



are women. And of the seven astronauts currently living at the space station, McClain and Ayers are the only women. It was the first space-

walk for Ayers, an Air Force major and former fighter pilot, and the third for McClain. (NBC News)



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## Ukraine expected to ratify US minerals deal lacking security guarantees



Ukraine's parliament is expected to ratify a controversial minerals deal with the United States in a decisive step towards securing the latter's long-term commitment to the war-battered country amid stalled efforts to strike a Ukraine-Russia ceasefire.

The deal, signed by Kyiv and Washington on Wednesday, pushed by US President Donald Trump and after protracted negotiations, marks an inflection point of sorts in the war, granting the US priority access to Ukraine's critical minerals as a means of deterring future Russian aggression. However, it stops short of offering specific security guarantees and questions remain over accessing minerals in areas under Russian

control.

Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Sybiha said on Thursday that the deal "marks an important milestone in Ukraine-US strategic partnership aimed at strengthening Ukraine's economy and security".

"We're expecting it to be discussed and ratified by Ukraine's parliament later today," said Al Jazeera's Zein Basravi, reporting from Kyiv. "The overall thinking is that if the US buys into Ukraine economically, they'll buy into Ukrainian security."

Ukraine managed to obtain a series of last-minute concessions on the deal, which will see the establishment of a so-called Reconstruction Investment Fund, with Ukraine no longer forced

to repay billions in previous US aid and retaining "full control over its subsoil, infrastructure and natural resources", according to Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

Significantly, the US Treasury statement on the deal had referred to Russia's "full-scale invasion" of Ukraine, indicating a shift from Washington's apparent tilt away from the country in favour of Russia. However, the draft does not provide the concrete security guarantees Ukraine was seeking, according to the Reuters news agency, which saw a copy.

Questions remain over how the US will tap resources located on the territory now controlled by Russian forces. About 40 percent of

Ukraine's metal resources are now under Russian occupation, according to estimates by Ukrainian think tanks We Build Ukraine and the National Institute of Strategic Studies, citing data up to the first half of 2024.

Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko told Al Jazeera that the deal was "a step in a positive direction" in terms of cooperation with the US.

Asked whether Ukraine was relinquishing control over its economic future by giving the US rights to its lucrative minerals, Goncharuk said: "I don't see these risks, but I will be very cautious and will watch closely ... the document before voting for it in Parliament". (Al Jazeera English)



## Florida seeks to enforce law making it a crime for people in US illegally to enter the state



Florida's attorney general on Wednesday appealed a federal judge's injunction that temporarily stops authorities from enforcing a new state law making it a misdemeanour for people who came to the United States illegally to enter Florida by eluding immigration officials.

State Attorney General James Uthmeier also asked US District Judge Kathleen Williams in Miami to put her injunction on hold while the order is appealed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

"That law does nothing more than exercise Florida's inherent sovereign authority to protect its citizens by aiding the enforcement of federal immigration law," Uthmeier said in Wednesday's court filing.

The judge's order on Tuesday noted that there was a substantial likelihood that the Florida law

would be found unconstitutional.

The judge specified in her ruling Tuesday that her order applied to all of the state's local law enforcement agencies, despite a recent letter to the contrary from Uthmeier.

The judge also set a hearing in May to determine if Uthmeier should be held in contempt for sending the letter to law enforcement agencies in Florida.

"Defendants must be prepared to discuss why sanctions should not be imposed for AG Uthmeier's failure to comply with a court order," the judge wrote.

The judge had issued a 14-day temporary restraining order on April 4, shortly after the lawsuit challenging the law was filed by the Florida Immigrant Coalition and other groups with support from the American Civil Liberties Union. Williams extended the order another 11 days after learning

the Florida Highway Patrol had arrested more than a dozen people, including a US citizen.

After Williams issued her extension April 18, Uthmeier sent a memo to state and local law enforcement officers telling them to refrain from enforcing the law, even though he disagreed with the injunction.

But five days later, he sent another memo saying that the judge was legally wrong and that he couldn't prevent local police officers and deputies from enforcing the law.

Uthmeier said Wednesday in the state's request to put the judge's order on hold that the Florida attorney general's office was likely to succeed in defending the law because the plaintiffs had no standing and that the state law was consistent with federal statutes.

The lawsuit claims the new law violates the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution by encroaching on federal duties.

"Florida politicians tried to turn fear into policy and made it a crime simply to exist as an immigrant in this state," Bacardi Jackson, executive director of the ACLU of Florida, said in a statement.

"The court rightly reminded them: immigration enforcement is a job for the federal government, not a political weapon for states to use." (Jamaica Gleaner)

# Sports News



## Ojays and Navigators win first-round Division 2 playoffs series



The two top seeds advanced to the semi-finals after completing 2-0 victories in their respective first-round series in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division playoffs on Wednesday evening.

League champion and top seed

Cuties Ovals Ojays and second seed, the Navigators, both won Game 2 to wrap up their respective best-of-three series at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Ovals Ojays soared past eighth-seed Da Project 92-56 in the second game of Wednesday's double-header.

Tajahron Davis produced 27 points, 16 rebounds, eight assists, and eight steals; Jayleyle Joseph contributed 24 points, eight rebounds, seven steals, and five assists; Aiden Christian sank 15 points and claimed nine rebounds; and Shaheim Omarde scored eight points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Nathan Matthew converted 22 points, and Erije Joseph chipped in with 17 points, seven rebounds, and five steals for Da Project.

The Navigators snatched a narrow 62-58 victory against the seventh seed, Michael Joseph Phoenix, in the first

game on Monday.

Ricky Willock sank 20 points and claimed five rebounds; Victor Osbourne converted 10 points and snatched eight rebounds; and Jason Benjamin chipped in with nine points, 12 rebounds, and five blocks for the Navigators.

Noel Ryan sank 19 points and claimed eight rebounds; Daysher Samuel converted 18 points and snatched seven rebounds; and Nicholas Simpson scored 11 points for Phoenix.

The ABBA Division 1 playoff series will continue with Game 2 matches in two best-of-three first-round series at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

Fourth seed All Saints Slam will face fifth seed Spanish Heat at 6:45 pm, and third seed Da Project will take on sixth seed Lava Smoke Shop Warriors at 8:30 pm.

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## Paragons 1 move out of the cellar in women's D-1 volleyball league

Former perennial champions DHS Enterprises, Print Xpress, and Auto Craze Paragons 1 have leapfrogged Royal Cruisers 1 to move out of the cellar of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) Women's Division 1 Local League.

Paragons 1 pulled off a 3-1 victory against Royal Cruisers 1 when both sides met in a bottom-of-the-table clash at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

It took Paragons 1 an hour and 40 minutes to claim their second win in six games by prevailing against Royal Cruisers 1.

They won the encounter 25-15, 25-17, 20-25, and 25-17 as the Royal Cruisers 1 dropped into the cellar of the six-team round-robin league after suffering their



**Paragons 1 women's volleyball team**

fifth loss in six encounters.

However, the highly anticipated Men's Division 1 match between Invaders 1 and Renegades ended in disappointment for the volleyball fans on Wednesday

evening.

Invaders 1 were awarded a 3-0 victory with scores of 25-0, 25-0, and 25-0 against the Renegades, who were unable to field the minimum six players required to start

the match.

It was the second win in seven games for the Invaders 1, while the Renegades remain second from the bottom of the seven-team round-robin league after slumping to their fifth loss in six encounters.

Meanwhile, the ABAVA has postponed all games scheduled for Thursday (yesterday) and Saturday.

However, three matches are scheduled for Sunday, when the ABAVA Second Division Development League resumes at the YMCA Sports Complex.

High Flyerz Valkyries will face defending champions Paragons 2 at 3 pm, and Jets 2 will take on Royal Cruisers 2 in the women's division at 4 pm. Sharks and Invaders 2 will clash in a men's division affair at 5 pm.



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# Sports News

## Edward's five-wicket burst fire Thunder past Pelicans

A devastating five-wicket haul from left-arm pacer Nathan Edward and composed knocks from Mikyle Louis and Jewel Andrew powered the Leeward Islands Thunder to a commanding eight-wicket victory over the Barbados Pelicans in the West Indies Break-out League on Wednesday at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Barbados, electing to bat first, were restricted to 127 all out in 19.5 overs, largely due to a fiery spell from Edward, who claimed 5-27 in four overs.

He ripped through the top order, removing Kadeem Alleyne (10), Shian Brathwaite (0), Nathan Sealy (0), and Shaqkere Parris (5) within the first five overs and later returned to dismiss the innings' top scorer Leniko Boucher, who made a fighting 48 from 51 balls with two fours and two sixes.

Boucher held the innings together amid the collapse but lacked meaningful support. Kevin Wickham (13) and Nyeem Young (10) offered brief cameos, while late hitting from Joshua Bishop (24 off 16) and Sion Hackett (13 off 5) pushed the total past 120.

Aside from Edward, Cameron Pennyfeather (2-18) and Anderson Mahase (1-14) bowled with good control to keep the Pelicans in check.

In reply, Thunder's chase was set up by an assured 47-run opening partnership between Jamie Cornelius (18)



**Nathan Edwards**

and Kofi James (35 off 31), who struck six boundaries.

After both fell in the space of 20 runs, the pair of Mikyle Louis and Jewel Andrew took control.

Louis remained unbeaten on 25 from 27 balls, while Andrew played a sparkling knock of 36 not out off 25 deliveries, lacing seven boundaries.

Their unbroken 53-run stand for the third wicket saw Thunder cruise to victory at 129 for two in 16.3 overs.

The result allows the Thunder to move into second place with 14 points after securing their second win in as many games.

The Trinidad and Tobago Legions, who have won their three matches so far,

lead the six-team standings with 24 points.

The Thunders and Legions will meet in a top-of-the-table clash at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Friday (today) at 7 pm. It will be preceded by a match between the Barbados Pelicans and Jamaica Titans at the same venue at 2 pm.

The top three finishers at the end of the round-robin stage will qualify for the knockout phase of the competition.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands suffered a seven-wicket loss against Guyana in their opening match of the Cricket West Indies Women's T20 Blaze at Arnos Vale Ground in St. Vincent on Thursday.

The Leewards women were restricted to 88 for seven off their allotted 20 overs. Captain Amanda Edwards top-scored with 28 off 29 balls, and opener Qiana Joseph struck 25 off 41 balls.

Sheneta Grimmond snapped up three for 15, and Ashmini Munisar claimed two for 17.

In reply, Guyana achieved victory at 89 for three with 10 balls to spare. Opener Realeanna Grimmond cracked a run-a-ball 33, and captain Shermaine Campbell hit an unbeaten 23 off 25 balls.

Edwards, Davronique Maynard, and Rozel Liburd each picked up a wicket for the Leewards.



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## CWI Breakout League is a training ground for analysts



**CWI Performance Analyst Avenesh Seetaram, right, conducts a workshop with the six analysts assigned to franchises competing in the West Indies Breakout League which began on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago. (CWI Media)**

As part of the strategic planning and development of the regional game, Cricket West Indies (CWI), has embarked on a journey to upskill data analysts during the ongoing West Indies Breakout League.

Avenesh Seetaram, the Performance Analyst with the senior men's team is conducting a series of workshops along with seminars and one-on-one in-game training and support with the six (6) analysts assigned to franchises competing in the West Indies Breakout League, which began on Friday, April 25, at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

The six regional analysts will go through several tutorial sessions which focus on enhancing their individual development, coordinating with their respective players and coaches as well as understanding what the role demands at the international level.

This initiative is part of a wide scale push to combine data analytics with game strategy while creating a pathway for regional analysts to develop an appreciation for the modern game.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, sees the involvement at the feeder level as instrumental, in a strategic push to incorporate all the bases from the international level.

"These workshops are designed to upskill analysts and get them to align with best practices in analytics with the aim of broadening the pool of skilled analysts across the region. Given that we are embracing a data driven approach to our cricket strategies, the players and coaches will have the opportunity to integrate real time data into their strategies while the matches are in progress," Bascombe stated.

Seetaram sees this as a step in the right direction to ensure continuity and exposure.

"Data has become a critical part of the game internationally. The chance to enlighten and expose our next batch of analysts is important because it allows for our players to be involved at this level before they get to the international stage," Seetaram said.

"As the game internationally takes

shape, we are preparing ourselves and moulding those at the level below to aid in the transfer of information."

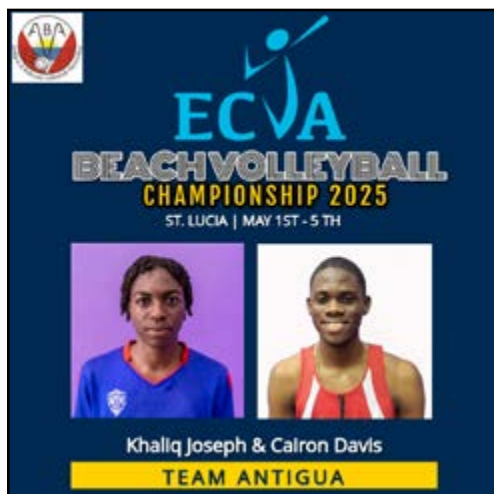
Seetaram added that the in-game situations will enable the analysts to derive plans for their respective teams and coaches during the match.

"I will be sitting with all of them for multiple games, helping each analyst utilize in-game analysis of data for use by their team. Additionally, I will be doing the same with preparation meetings for all teams to ensure the standards of information to players is consistent."

The West Indies Breakout League is a premier T20 cricket tournament designed to spotlight emerging talent from across the Caribbean.

The league will feature teams representing the six territorial boards that comprise Cricket West Indies: Barbados Pelicans, Guyana Rainforest Rangers, Jamaica Titans, Leeward Islands Thunders, Trinidad & Tobago Legions and the Windward Islands Infernos.

## Antiguans off to contest ECVA Beach tournament in St. Lucia



A group of four players will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Men and Women Beach Championships in St. Lucia this weekend.

The duo of Khaliq Joseph and Calron Davis will contest the men's tournament, while Rayana Regis and Jassania Joseph will be carrying the nation's flag in the women's competition at the event, which will take place at Cul De Sac Bay in St. Lucia from Friday, May 2, to Sunday, May 4.

The players are accompanied by coach Olsen Joseph and referees Michael Hamilton and Emroy Lee.

The Antiguan contingent departed for St. Lucia on Thursday (yesterday) and will return home to Antigua next Monday (Labour Day).

Adrian Constant and Jamarie James, who represented Antigua and Barbuda in the male competition for the past two years, finished fourth in the men's competition last year.

The Antiguan female pair of Shari-fa Simmons and Jassania Joseph also

missed out on claiming a medal as they lost all their matches and bowed out of contention in the women's division at the quarterfinal stage of last year's competition.

St. Lucia will be defending the titles in both competitions, which they won at the same venue for the past two years. Joseph Clercent and Sheldon Descartes won the men's title last year, while St. Lucia's Team One of Chenoa Evans and Denila Prospere took the women's crown.

Six other countries, one less than last year, will join defending champions St. Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda in this weekend's competitions.

Senior male and female teams from St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, St. Vincent, Anguilla, and St. Kitts will compete for top honours and the coveted ECVA Championship title.

As an officially calendarized NORCECA event, this championship offers athletes from eight ECVA member islands a platform to compete at

the highest regional level, supporting athletic excellence and personal development.

All eyes will be on Saint Lucia's Joseph Clercent and Sheldon Descartes, the reigning champions who have captured the title in 2023 and 2024. The local favourites want to make history with a three-peat on home sand and will be the team to beat.

The ECVA is confident that the tournament will be a celebration of skill, passion, and sportsmanship, uniting experienced players and emerging talent in an exciting beach volleyball showcase.

The event is made possible through the generous support of its sponsors, including NORCECA, ECVA, Buckeye, Co Williams, the St. Lucia Olympic Committee, the Ministry of Youth Development & Sports, and the National Lotteries Authority.

Their partnership is vital to the success of what promises to be a high-energy and unforgettable competition.