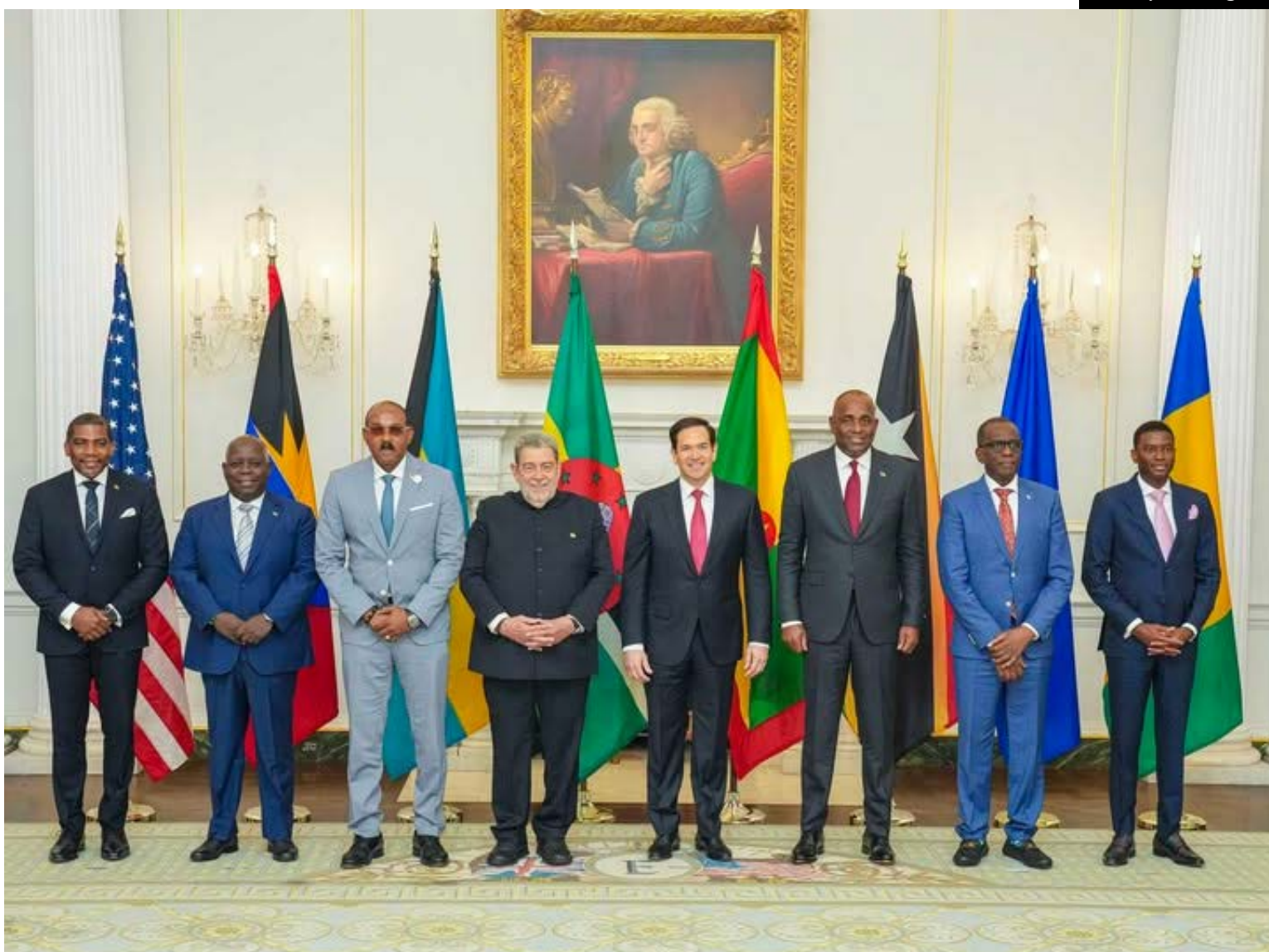


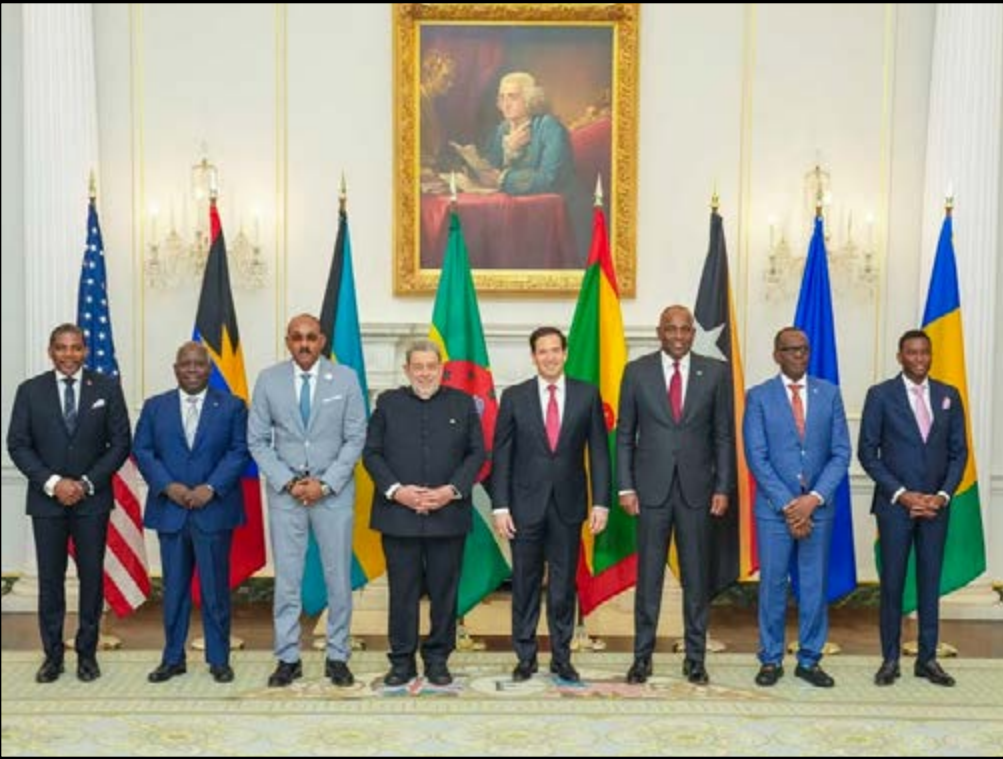
PM Browne makes powerful defense of Cuban

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (third from left) with US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio (fourth from right) with other OECS and the Bahamas leaders in Washington on Tuesday

PM Browne makes powerful defense of Cuban Medical Brigade services



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (third from left) with US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio (fourth from right) with other OECS and the Bahamas leaders in Washington on Tuesday

Prime Minister Gaston Browne was in fine form when he staunchly defended the Cuban Medical Brigade initiative through which medical personnel from the Spanish speaking Caribbean country are employed within Antigua and Barbuda's healthcare services.

PM Browne sought to put to rest the notion that Antigua and Barbuda or any of the other OECS country or the Bahamas was engaged in human trafficking. He made the point during a meeting on Tuesday between the leaders of five OECS states and the Bahamas with the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, in Washington.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ron Sanders, who accompanied PM Browne to the talks, noted that the prime

minister was forceful in defending the Cuban medical assistance programme.

"He made the point that we are not involved in trafficking. We pay the Cuban doctors and nurses well, we treat them well, we place no restrictions on them, they are not trafficked as far as we are concern, and the relationship that we have in paying the Cuban government is no different from what we would have done had we entered into an arrangement for medical services from Ghana or the Philippines who also export medical services. There is nothing sinister in it," he observed.

According to Sir Ronald, PM Browne was both 'surgical' and 'precise' in his presentation at the meeting with Secretary Rubio. "Prime Minister Browne was ex-

tremely good; he was surgical and precise in putting forward the concerns of Antigua and Barbuda and the ways in which he sees the relationship between the United States and the countries of the Caribbean, including Antigua and Barbuda. What he said was this; there is no question of the strength of the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States and there is no question about the deep regard that we have for that relationship. He pointed out that we probably have a bigger diaspora of Antiguan and Barbudans living in the United States that we have living in Antigua and Barbuda. That was one of the points that he underscored," Sir Ronald reported.

The US Secretary of State also raised the issue of the flow of guns that enters the region from the United States and the impact these weapons are having on crime and safety in the region.

"Secretary Rubio said he realizes that a lot of the guns that are entering the Caribbean and are being used by criminals and gangs, come from the United States and the State Department and the US government will make every effort to bring this to an end," he revealed.

The matter of the CBI programmes operated by five OECS countries also came up for discussion. No details were immediately available.

On the issue of trade, PM Browne reportedly made a call for more dialogue between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies.

The Labour Minister to spearhead discussion on a possible 4-day work-week



Labour Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

Labour Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, said the government is open to initiating discussion related to the

possible implementation of a 4-day work-week in the country.

The minister noted that the matter has been raised both by union representatives as well as permanent secretaries in the public sector.

“There have been many studies done by experts in the field and there are some people who feel that if you give a four-day workweek, bearing in mind the Labour Code’s provisions, once the hours are met, why shouldn’t we,” he noted.

Sir Steadroy added that there are some who hold the view that once a four-day work-week is instituted that productivity can be increased and that he is prepared to spearhead consultations on the issue.

The Labour minister is giving those making a case for the four-day work-week the assurance that the government will look at it, although it is not making any promises that it will become the law of the land anytime soon.

“We will look at it, we will check it out and once we have commonality of all stakeholders together; the Employers Federation, the unions, social partners and social groups and it is thought fit that the four-day work-week will lead to greater productivity in the society, then I believe the government would see it proper to look at its introduction,” Sir Steadroy revealed.



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Local News



Ambassador Gardiner appointed as Honorary Fellow at The UWI Five Islands

Ambassador Dwight C.R. Gardiner, OBE, has been appointed as an Honorary Fellow in the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE) at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. Ambassador Gardiner is currently the Director/Registrar-General of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping and serves as the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the International Maritime Organization and the International Seabed Authority.

Ambassador Gardiner, who brings extensive expertise in maritime affairs and ocean governance, will collaborate with faculty and students on research initiatives aimed at advancing sustainable development in the blue economy sector.

Ambassador Gardiner holds an Associates of Science Degrees in Marine Technology and Marine Management with Distinction and also a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Technology with Honours majoring in Business Management and Marine Technology from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, USA. He also possesses a Master of Science Degree in Maritime Safety Administration (Nautical) from the World Maritime University in Sweden, a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Buckingham in the United Kingdom and a Legal Education Certificate from the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2024 he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the Caribbean Maritime University in Jamaica for his service to the regional and international maritime industry. Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor C. Justin Robinson welcomed the appointment noting the value that the addition of Ambassador Gardiner to the Centre will bring. "Ambassador Gardiner's significant contributions to marine policy, international maritime regulations and sustainable use of ocean resources make



Ambassador Dwight C.R. Gardiner, OBE

him exceptionally qualified for this position," he noted.

Ambassador Gardiner expressed his appreciation for the appointment. "I am truly honoured by this appointment. The COBE will be a key factor in the maritime development in Antigua and Barbuda and will unlock the potential of our region and especially our young people to develop sustainable careers in the maritime sector. I

am confident in COBE's leadership to lead the charge on expanding how we view and interact with our maritime space."

In his role as Honorary Fellow, Ambassador Gardiner will provide mentorship to emerging scholars, contribute to academic discussions and workshops, and support the strategic development of the Centre's research agenda.

The appointment aligns with the university's strategic goals of fostering high-impact marine and blue economy studies research through COBE. COBE, which was established in 2021, is based at The UWI Five Islands Campus and focuses on developing sustainable approaches to ocean resource management in the Caribbean. The campus looks forward to Ambassador Gardiner's contributions to advance its academic mission in oceanography and blue economy studies.

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Two men sent to the September Assizes to answer illegal firearms charges

Two men who police charged separately on a variety of gun related crimes have had their cases referred to the September sitting of the Assize Court for determination.

The magistrate's court gave the ruling on Tuesday when the men appeared to answer the charges. Among the charges, they both face include shooting with intent.

The first defendant, Reuben Forde of Upper Gambles appeared in the magistrate's court to answer charges of unlawfully and maliciously shooting with intent Dwayne DeSilver, contrary

to the Offences Against the Person Act. This incident happened on March 24, 2024 at Lower All Saints Road.

Forde was also charged with discharging a firearm in a public place contrary to the Firearms Act. Additionally, he is charged with the illegal possession of a fire arm – a Bryco Jennings T .380 pistol contrary to the laws of the land. The police are alleging that same day he was found with one Brown and Brass Colt 1851 Navy .36 revolver without having a firearms licence.

The police have attached a

further charge of shooting Dwayne DeSilver with intent to do grievous bodily harm

Meanwhile, Landre Williams of Villa appeared before the court to answer charges emanating from an incident that happened on September 11, 2024, at Hans Street in Villa.

According to the police, Williams was found with one modified flare gun without having a firearm user licence with respect to those firearms contrary to the Firearms Act of Antigua and Barbuda

Williams also unlawfully

and maliciously wounded Zahvante Hill with intent to do grievous bodily harm contrary to the Offences Against the Person Act.

Williams also faces charge for allegedly shooting Zahvante Hill with intent to murder.

An additional charge of the possession of one .32 round of ammunition without the appropriate licence was also filed against Williams.,

Both defendants' matters were committed to the High Court for September, 2025, Criminal Assizes.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Police identify Labour Day traffic fatality

The police are continuing investigations into the circumstances surrounding a fatal traffic accident that claimed the life of 45-year-old Allissa Chiddick of Martin's Village.

The incident occurred around 4:00 p.m. on Labour Day, Monday, May 5, in the vicinity of Millaz Beach Bar and Restaurant on Fort Road. It is alleged that the victim attempted to board a trailer truck travelling west to east along Fort Road when she accidentally fell beneath the rear wheels of the vehicle. She sustained multiple injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 5:30 p.m.



45-year-old Allissa Chiddick

A postmortem examination will be conducted as part of the ongoing investigation.

The Police Administration sincerely regrets this tragic incident and extends heart-

felt condolences to the family and loved ones of Allissa Chiddick during this difficult time.

Meanwhile, the police are once again urging the public to exercise extra caution and prioritize safety during festive events. Drivers and operators of trailer trucks are also reminded to ensure their vehicles are properly equipped with appropriate safety measures and protective barriers to prevent injuries or loss of life.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has information that can further assist in the investigation is asked to contact the Traffic Department at 462-0125.

Police urge business owners to be extra cautious

The police are appealing to business owners across the country to remain on high alert and to exercise extra caution, following a recent robbery incident in which an individual was attacked while attempting to make a deposit at a local financial institution.

To enhance everyone's safety, business operators are encouraged to adopt more discreet and secure methods for transporting and depositing daily earnings. Avoiding routine deposit schedules and utilizing available security services can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a target.

Additionally, proprietors are strongly advised to invest in reliable security systems, including surveillance cameras, alarm systems, and proper lighting around their business premises to enhance safety and deter criminal activity.

The police have since increased patrols and surveillance around banks



and other financial institutions to provide added security and reassurance to the public.

Members of the public are encouraged to report any suspicious activity by calling 911 or contacting the nearest police station.

The Police Administration remains committed to protecting the business community and will continue to work diligently to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

**MON - FRI
6:30AM TO 9AM**



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

It could have been avoided



By Dr. James Knight

I am extremely saddened, and even more annoyed, by the tragic death of the young woman Monday afternoon. It should have been the last thing expected to happen, and someone should have to answer for it.

Public safety regulations for parades are supposed to be enforced for all mass events, especially parades. All trucks participating in mass events should be prepared to prevent such tragedies.

This latest incident is especially painful for me, because as Health Disaster Coordinator, over three decades ago, I discussed the relevant safety measures with Philmore Mullins of NODS, and he presented them to the persons in charge of annual parades, especially those related to the carnival. Illustrations, drawings that I made, were presented.

It's very simple; no one is run over by the front wheels, because the driver can see, or can be alerted in time. The problem is with the space between wheels on any side of the truck. There is no way of alerting the driver in those crowded and noisy circumstances, that someone is going under. The suggestion has been, therefore, that a horizontal bar or two, preferably two, running parallel to each other, be installed between the wheels of the side of the truck. The idea is to give the individual who slips something to grab to prevent the fall, or use to push or to pull themselves to safety, even if with the help of others, who, in the absence of the suggested bars, would be scared to endanger themselves.

In 2009, I was in California during the carnival celebrations in Antigua. Mr Mullin had tried once more, and what was done was senseless. I saw images of parade trucks with plywood guards over the wheels. Nonsense. That could only add to the trauma of the hapless victim. While acting as Chief Medical Officer during one carnival shortly before the COVID pandemic, I had an article published in the newspapers about the toxic mixture of excessive alcohol and dangerous circumstances, and repeated the importance of the measures.

Then more recently, I wrote about the same issue once more, and also that of the dangling electrical lines which fellows hold up with a stick for the trucks with all the tall musical equipment to pass un-

der. My question was, what is the standard or the minimal clearance that APUA can guarantee the all trucks and heavy duty vehicles, on all days. I shudder at times when I see tall trucks speeding along barely passing beneath live electrical cables, with or without people sitting atop or holding on. I submitted drawings with my articles and I can recall one publication showing instead how similar was being done in Trinidad. I was pleased to see that.

However, last year carnival - I'm not sure about the previous year - I actually noted from pictures that some effort had been made by most, if not all of the truck operators, probably, and hopefully, on the insistence of the relevant authorities. But that should not be applied only to carnival. Public safety regulations are for all mass gatherings and festivities.

I lost two female former classmates from Princess Margaret School to the wheels of heavy trucks, just a few years apart.

One in 1989 during the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the AT&LU, and another, along with her boy child, on an ordinary day in St John's.

By now we should probably be thinking of sensors near those wheels, which drivers must activate while in parades. Slow moving vehicles can easily stop suddenly if an obstacle is detected in the path of the dangerous wheels, without any deceleration issue. But not even the simplest safeguard is being practiced. Who dropped the wheel?



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9AM TO 11AM**



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No plastic straws that harm the sea,
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Of toxins leached in every bite—
Choose compostables done right.
Swap out lights that glare and drain
For solar bulbs that smile through rain.
Reuse, reduce, recycle too,
And watch the Earth say, "Thanks to you!"



Set up bins in colors bold—
Blue for bottles, green for gold.
Label clear and sort with grace,
No trash misplaced in any space.

Cater local, cook with care,



No plastic wrap or Styrofoam glare.
Use veggies fresh, not flown by jet—
Smaller footprints, less regret.
Decor that's made by crafty hand
Can outshine things that cost a grand.
From paper rolls to fabric scraps,
Upcycled dreams earn thunderclaps.
Send invites that are paper-free—
An email sings sustainability.
And gift bags? Rethink those too:

Plant a tree or give bamboo!
 Use cloth not banners made of vinyl,
 Let nature be your grand design all.



Hang lanterns made from jars and rope,
 Infuse each detail with green hope.
 Public transit, bikes, and walks
 Beat parking lots and engine talks.
 Shuttle rides and group car shares
 Reduce the fumes that foul our airs.



Educate and entertain—
 Let purpose drive the party train.
 Workshops, games, and eco-booths
 Can teach the kids and show the truths.

Skip balloons that float away,
 They end up in a dolphin's way.
 Try flags or kites that dance above—
 Still festive, fun, and Earth-approved.

Water stations quench the thirst,
 No single-use—that's been reversed!
 Bring your bottle, fill for free,
 A little change makes history.
 Partner with some green brigade,
 Show that change is tailor-made.
 Support small vendors, artists too—
 Their eco-goods bring something new.
 Offset carbon, plant some trees,
 Celebrate with gentle breeze.
 Track your impact, share the stats,
 And show the world where change is at.
 From weddings bright to fairs and shows,
 Let every eco moment grow.
 Dance on floors from pallets made,
 In canopies of upcycled shade.
 No more glitter that won't decay—
 Use leaves and petals in display.
 For every song and speech that's said,
 Let actions echo words ahead.
 A green event's not just a phase—
 It's legacy that lights new ways.
 Where footprints shrink and hearts expand,
 And humans help instead of harm the land.

So here's a toast with herbal tea
 To planet-friendly revelry!
 Let joy and justice intertwine—
 An Earth-first path by smart design.
 Eco events, they set the pace
 For greener goals we must embrace.
 Where nature wins and waste repents,
 That's the power of kind events.

Regional News

Jamaican man in Bahamas sentenced to prison for indecent assault of stepdaughter



The lawyer for a 53-year-old Jamaican man has hinted at appealing the two-year prison sentence imposed on her client by a magistrate's court in the Bahamas after he was found guilty of the sexual touching of his 15-year-old stepdaughter on two occasions.

The man had faced the potential of the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment after Assistant Chief Magistrate, Carolyn Vogt-Evans, found him guilty of two counts of indecent assault.

His stepdaughter alleged that the incidents took place at the family's New Providence home in Feb-

ruary and March 2022.

She said the incidents left her torn because her stepfather, who had been with her mother since she was two, was the only father she'd known.

She said on one occasion, she was in her parents' bedroom when he allegedly put his hands in her tights and touched her genitals.

She said he touched her genitals the second time in the hallway as she exited the bathroom.

The teen reported the inappropriate touches to her sister, mother, and a cousin, and the matter was reported to the police.

But the man's attorney, Linda Virgill, suggested that the teenager had deliberately dressed provocatively to entice him.

But the magistrate said even if this were the case, the teen could not consent to the sexual touches.

The mother said that when she confronted her husband about the incidents, he told her he was "only playing with her daughter".

In his testimony, the man denied the allegations and that he considered his stepdaughter as his own child. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)




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Trinidadian sworn in as acting Chief Justice of ECSC

A Trinidadian judge has made a significant historical achievement by becoming the first woman from Trinidad and Tobago to be appointed as chief justice outside of the Eastern Caribbean region.

According to a report on newsday.co.tt, Justice Margaret Price-Findlay was sworn in as the acting Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court on May 2,. Her term as acting Chief Justice will span from May 5, 2025, until February 25, 2026, or until the regional court's judicial and legal service commission selects a permanent Chief Justice.

The article further elaborated that she is the first individual from outside the Eastern Caribbean to occupy this position, as all previous chief justices in the court's history have originated from within the Eastern Caribbean.

Price-Findlay was born in Diego Martin and received her early schooling at the Holy Name Convent in Port of Spain. In 1985, she earned a Bachelor of Laws degree with honors from the University of the West Indies, located at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. She subsequently attended the Hugh Wooding Law School, where she was awarded the Legal Education Certifi-



cate upon completing her studies in 1987.

The article also noted, as an interesting side detail, that Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar was a fellow student in her class at the Hugh Wooding Law School in 1987.

Later that year, Justice Price-Findlay was admitted to the Bar of Trinidad and Tobago.

Her legal career commenced as an associate at the law firm of James Brathwaite from 1987 to 1988. From 1988 to 1990, she worked as an associate at the Chambers of Clarke and Company. Between 1991 and 1994, she held the position of associate at the Chambers of McW Todman and

Company in the Territory of the Virgin Islands. In 1995, she established her own private legal practice in the Virgin Islands, which subsequently grew into a law firm with other notable partners and associates. Justice Price-Findlay served as the managing partner in her firm until she was appointed to act as a High Court Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, assigned to Anguilla, from February to May 2009.

In September 2009, Justice Price-Findlay was appointed as a High Court judge assigned to Grenada. From September 1st, 2015, to August 2022, she was assigned to St Lucia and served as a judge in the Criminal Division of the High Court. Seven years later, on September 1st, 2022, she was promoted to the Court of Appeal Bench.

In conclusion, the article quoted her biography on the court's website, which stated that Justice Price Findlay "brings extensive experience to the role, including an invaluable understanding of the trial and appellate jurisdictions. She has also acted as a judge of the Court of Appeal on numerous occasions prior to her full-time appointment." (*Dominica News Online*)



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Regional News

Guyana: Health Minister concerned about calls for second autopsy on body of 11-year-old girl



Guyana's Health Minister, Frank Anthony, has raised concerns over calls for a second autopsy in the death of 11-year-old Adriana Younge, despite a unanimous conclusion from three internationally acclaimed forensic pathologists that the child died by drowning.

Speaking on Friday, Anthony questioned the rationale behind seeking another post-mortem when the initial examination was thorough, witnessed by family representatives, and deemed satisfactory by all parties involved—including Trinidadian-born Dr Gary Collins, the chief medical examiner for the state of Delaware in the United States.

Anthony warned that the integrity and legal effect of a second autopsy could be questionable, as the body has not remained in official custody since the original procedure.

According to Anthony, the initial autopsy was performed by a team that included Collins, Dr Shubhakar Karra Paul, a UK-trained forensic pathologist serving in Barbados, and Dr Glenn A Rudner of Mount Sinai Hospital also in the United States.

All three independently and collectively concluded that Adriana died from drowning, with no signs of forced submersion or trauma.

Anthony noted that the autopsy included full body scans and internal examinations, with samples sent for advanced analysis to Mount Sinai and the National Medical Services Laboratory in the United States.

Now, a fourth opinion is reportedly being sought from Trinidad and Tobago's Dr Hubert Daisley—a controversial figure previously criticised for an incorrect cause of death determination in a 2013 case, where

he mistakenly attributed a death to strangulation/murder rather than an asthma complication. At the time, Trinidad's then-Health Minister stated that Daisley was not qualified as a forensic pathologist under their Medical Board.

Adriana Younge was discovered dead in a swimming pool at a local hotel on April 24, during a family outing. Her body was examined on April 29 and subsequently released to her family for burial.

The government has reiterated its confidence in the findings of the original post-mortem and cautioned against undermining public trust in the process without credible reason.

Anthony stressed that Daisley would first need accreditation from Guyana's Medical Council before being allowed to practise locally. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Protesters in Haiti demand new government, more security as anger over gangs spreads

Dozens of protesters marched up the hills of Haiti's capital on Sunday, demanding an end to persistent gang violence as they called on the country's prime minister and transitional presidential council to resign.

It's the latest protest to reflect growing anger and frustration over a surge in violence as gangs try to seize full control of Port-au-Prince.

"The only thing the Haitian people are asking for is security," said Eric Jean, a 42-year-old bus driver with a large Haitian flag tied around his neck. "We're losing more neighbourhoods, more people are dying, more people are fleeing their homes."

Also joining the protest was Marc Étienne, who blamed gangs for raiding his small business and leaving him homeless. The 39-year-old now lives in a squalid, makeshift camp like tens of thousands of others forced to flee their homes after gangs razed their communities.

Étienne called for a new government as he blamed the current leaders for the ongoing violence and an increase in the number of children joining gangs. "Haiti cannot be run among friends," he said. "The city is dying because the (council) is not doing anything to make it better."

Sunday's demonstration comes a day after hundreds of people gathered in Port-au-Prince to honour several community leaders killed in recent clashes with gangs.

"Freedom or death!" the mourners shouted on Saturday as the leaders of the Canapé-Vert neighbourhood entered a small stadium where the memorial was held.

Videos posted on social media showed the leaders carrying automatic weapons and wearing black T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of those killed. Many wore balaclavas to cover their faces and protect themselves from possible retaliation by gangs.

Clad in white, the mourners raised their fists and clutched hands in the air as a man on stage roared in Haitian Creole, "The blood is not going to be



shed in vain! The fight is what?"

"Just beginning!" the crowd answered in unison.

The unidentified man on stage said the community would never forget the slain leaders as he condemned gang violence. "People are dying, and they don't even know why they're dying," he said.

Canapé-Vert is one of the few neighbourhoods that has yet to fall to gangs that control at least 85% of the capital. It is also known for having one of Port-au-Prince's most powerful neighbourhood organisations, led in part by frustrated police officers.

In early April, Canapé-Vert leaders organised a large protest that became violent as they, too, demanded that Haiti's prime minister and its transitional presidential council resign.

Sunday's demonstration and other recent protests have decried the country's spiralling crisis, with more than 1,600 people killed and another 580 injured from January to March.

In mid-March, hundreds of people armed with sticks and machetes, accompanied by members of an armed environmental brigade, successfully ousted more than 100 suspected gang members who had seized control of a Catholic school, according to a new report issued by the U.N. political mission in Haiti.

But the ouster is only one of a handful of successful fights against powerful gangs backed by certain politicians and some of Haiti's elite.

Last year, more than 5,600 people across Haiti were killed, according to the U.N.

Gang violence has also left more than one million people homeless in recent years.

Gunmen in recent months have targeted once peaceful neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince that would give them easy access to Pétion-Ville, a residential area where banks, embassies and other institutions are located.

In a February attack on Delmas 30, gunmen "indiscriminately fired on the population in the neighbourhood, killing 21 men and injuring eight others," according to the U.N. report.

In a separate attack on a nearby neighbourhood where the French embassy is located, at least 30 people were killed, many of whom were travelling in small colourful buses known as tap taps, according to the report.

Other victims include at least 15 people who were family members of police officers.

Gangs also have attacked multiple communities in Haiti's central Artibonite region, killing adults and small children as they fled.

"The indiscriminate and brutal nature of some of these attacks shows the gang's strategy to spread panic and reduce the resistance of the local population," according to the BINUH report. Meanwhile, Haiti's National Police, bolstered by a U.N.-backed mission led by Kenyan police, has struggled in its fight against gangs as the mission remains underfunded and understaffed, with only 1,000 personnel of the 2,500 envisioned.

In a push to crack down on gangs, the U.S. government on Friday officially designated Viv Ansanm, a powerful gang coalition, and Gran Grif, the largest gang to operate in Haiti's central region, as foreign terror organizations. Critics warn the move could affect aid organizations working in Haiti at a critical time, since many are forced to negotiate with gangs to supply people with basic goods including food and water. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Pope Francis donated popemobile to serve as mobile health unit for Gaza children



Before he died, Pope Francis donated one of his popemobiles to be converted into a mobile health unit to serve the children of Gaza, officials said Monday.

The Jerusalem and Sweden branches of the Vatican's Caritas charitable federation released photos of the repur-

posed vehicle on Monday. There is no word, though, on when it might be put to use. The donation was announced on the same day that Israel approved plans to seize the Gaza Strip and to stay in the Palestinian territory for an unspecified amount of time.

"When the humanitarian corridor to Gaza reopens, it (the popemobile) will be ready to give primary healthcare to children in Gaza," Caritas Jerusalem said in a statement.

The vehicle will be outfitted with equipment for diagnosis, examination, and treatment. Caritas said it would have testing equipment, suture kits, syringes and needles, oxygen supply, vaccines, and a refrigerator.

"This vehicle represents the love, care and closeness shown by His Holiness for the most vulnerable, which he expressed throughout the crisis," the secretary general of Caritas Jerusalem, Anton Asfar, said in a statement.

During Israel's war in Gaza, Francis became increasingly outspoken in his criticism of the Israeli military's harsh tactics while also demanding the return of hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7. Last year, he urged an investigation into whether Israel's war amounted to genocide — a charge Israel vehemently denies.

He repeatedly spoke out about the plight of people in Gaza, and had a nightly ritual that he even maintained while he was in the hospital in February with pneumonia: he would call the lone Catholic church in the Gaza Strip to see how people huddled inside were coping.

Francis died April 21 at age 88. (NBC News)



DAILY PROGRAMMING




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

Trump and Canadian PM Mark Carney to meet amid clashes over trade, annexation



President Donald Trump will meet Tuesday with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, the man whose country Trump has repeatedly floated as a potential 51st state as he touched off trade disputes with the U.S.'s historically steadfast ally.

Tuesday morning's meeting marks the first time the two leaders have come face-to-face. It comes just over a week after Canadians backed Carney's Liberal Party in elections that were widely seen as influenced by the country's newly tense relationship with its southern neighbor.

Carney, a Trump critic, directly invoked the U.S. president in a victory speech in which he argued that Trump's comments about Canada becoming a 51st state were "not idle threats."

"President Trump is trying to break us so that America can own us. That will never, that will never, ever happen," Carney told supporters.

The Canadian prime minister said in a Friday post to X his meeting with

Trump would "focus on addressing immediate trade pressures — and the future economic and security relationship between our two sovereign nations."

The two leaders have previously spoken by phone, and Trump said he congratulated Carney after his victory, calling the prime minister "very nice" during an interview with NBC News' "Meet the Press."

When asked whether Trump would talk with Carney about making Canada a 51st state — a frequent refrain for Trump — the president said, "I'll always talk about that."

"When I look down at that without that artificial line that was drawn with a ruler many years ago — was just an artificial line, goes straight across," Trump told "Meet the Press" moderator Kristen Welker, referring to maps of the U.S. and Canada. "You don't even realize what a beautiful country it would be. It would be great."

Trump's repeated comments about annexing a sovereign nation and strong

U.S. ally has touched off a wave of anti-American sentiment in Canada.

Hockey fans in Canada have booed the American national anthem before games. Some Canadians began boycotting U.S. products. And after the Trump administration hit Canada with tariffs, Canadian politicians fired back with tariffs on U.S. goods.

Trump had argued that tariffs on Canada and Mexico were necessary in part to push the countries to crack down on fentanyl entering the U.S. from their shared borders. Out of the 21,900 pounds of fentanyl seized on the border by U.S. authorities in fiscal year 2024, only 43 pounds were seized on the northern border, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data.

On Monday, Carney posted a video to X of him arriving in the U.S., writing that "Canada and the United States are strongest when we work together — and that work starts now." (*NBC News*)

UK and India agree 'landmark' trade deal

After three years of on-off negotiations, the UK and India have agreed a trade deal that will make it easier for UK firms to export whisky, cars and other products to India, and cut taxes on India's clothing and footwear exports.

The deal does not include any change in immigration policy, including towards Indian students studying in the UK, the British government said.

Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said the benefits for UK businesses and consumers were "massive".

Last year trade between the UK and India totalled £41bn and was already forecast to grow, but the government said the deal would boost that trade by an additional £25.5bn a year by 2040.

Reynolds met his Indian counterpart Piyush Goyal in London last week to put the final touches on the deal.

Once it comes into force, which could take up to a year, UK consumers are likely to benefit from the reduction in tariffs on goods coming into the country from India, the Department for Business said.

As well as clothing, that will include some Indian foodstuffs, such as frozen prawns, jewellery and



gems.

The government also emphasised the benefit to economic growth and job creation from UK firms expanding exports to India.

Gin and whisky tariffs will be halved to 75%, with further reductions taking effect in later years.

Levies on cars, aerospace, electricals and some UK food products will also fall, including lamb, salmon, chocolates and biscuits.

The British government said the deal was the "biggest and most economically significant" bilateral trade agreement the UK had signed since leaving the European Union in 2020.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer described it as a

"landmark deal" which would boost growth and "deliver for British people and business".

India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, described the deal as an historic milestone that was "ambitious and mutually beneficial".

It includes a three-year exemption on the social security paid by Indian employees working in the UK.

India is forecast to become the world's third-largest economy in a few years.

US President Donald Trump's tariff campaign has focused minds in other countries on how to respond, and increased the impetus to strike trade deals.

The UK is also a high priority trading partner for

Prime Minister Modi's government, which has an ambitious target to grow exports by \$1 trillion by 2030.

Rain Newton-Smith, chief executive of the business lobby group, the CBI, welcomed the deal saying it provided a "beacon of hope amidst the spectre of protectionism" following Trump's wave of tariffs.

UK businesses saw "myriad" opportunities in the Indian market, she added.

Allie Renison, from communications firm SEC Newgate, and a former government trade adviser, said the deal was potentially "transformational" due to India's size, growth rate and relatively high existing barriers to accessing its market. (BBC News)

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



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Sports News



Buckley's 3Js get second win in men's softball cricket competition



The Buckley's 3Js softball cricket team

Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js and Rackaman Construction Strictly Business claimed their second wins in three matches in the Antigua Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5 FM Men's 30-Over Championship at the Swetes playing field on Sunday.

The Buckley's 3Js trounced Mix Up Stars by 148 runs. The 3Js made 223 for two off 18 overs. Steve Martin hit an unbeaten 96, which included seven sixes and seven fours.

Dequan Martin hammered 54 not out, Denley Thomas cracked 34, and Randino Turner struck 21. In reply, Mix Up Stars were dismissed for 75 in 16.5 overs.

Goster Doushee scored 32. Xavier Otto bagged three for 16, Steve Martin claimed two for 17, and Rodney Williams took two for 30.

Strictly Business pulled off a 44-run victory against PMS at the Dredgers playing field. Strictly

Business made 140 for nine off 26 overs.

Owen Graham smashed 36 not out. Terence Thompson snapped up five for 31, Ashfield Weatherhead claimed two for 19, and Keny Benjamin captured two for 38.

In reply, PMS tumbled to 96 all out in 21 overs. Shawn Balgobin made 20. Melvin Charles took five for 22, and Alwyn Colbourne claimed two for 18.

Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 recorded their first win in three matches with a commanding 53-run victory against Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets at the Powells playing field.

300 made 142 for seven off 30 overs. Molvin James hit 38, Zack Thomas struck 21, and Richard Dyer scored 20. Andra Samuel picked up two for 32, and Shaquan Reifer captured two for 41.

In reply, Bullets crashed to 89 all out in 21 overs. Vernon Sam-

uel scored 19. Jared Roberts took four for 30, Molvin James snatched three for 18, and Zack Thomas picked up two for 29.

After winning their first two matches, Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors had to share points in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) St. John's Co-operative Credit Union 15-Over Women's Division Championship on Sunday.

Their third-round match against Police was abandoned after rain stopped play in the encounter at the Dredgers playing field.

Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets claimed their second win of the competition by snatching a nine-run victory against Potters Uprising Cricket Team at the Powells playing field.

Bullets made 81 for three off their allotted 15 overs. Lana Thomas struck an unbeaten 33, Karen Cort hit 15 not out, and Annette Frank scored 14. In reply, Potters were restricted to 72 for five from 15 overs. Jemma Joseph made 20, and Liza Edwards scored 14.

Alzarri/ Sharon Joseph North Sails Antigua Female Flyers notched up their first win with a 10-wicket victory against Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Rockets at the Swetes playing field.

Rockets could only muster 43 for five from their 15 overs. Flyers achieved victory by scoring 44 without losing a wicket in 6.1 overs. Makada Hector hit an unbeaten 22, and Terez Parker struck 12 not out.

Freetown make winning start to Sir Richie Richardson one-day contest



Freetown recorded the only win during the opening round of matches, which were affected by rain, in this year's Antigua Commercial Bank Parish League Sir Richie

Richardson Limited Overs Championship.

Freetown crushed Mahico by 92 runs at Freetown when the 2025 Sir Richie Richardson one-day competition contest bowled off

over the weekend.

Jamal Fernandez and Cleton Payne both struck half-centuries to lead Freetown to 184 for four off 24 overs. Fernandez hammered an unbeaten 87, and Payne slammed 70.

Mike France claimed two for 22, and Daren Dunnah picked up two for 46.

In reply, Mahico crashed to 92 all out. Deon Samuel struck 40. Jevonte Joseph snapped up two wickets for

one run, Antwone Willock claimed two for 19, and Kief Baltimore captured two for 23.

Saturday's game at Clare Hall between Mahico and PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks was not played due to a miscommunication. All the other games were abandoned due to wet playing fields.

The 30-over competition will continue with the third and fourth rounds of matches this weekend.

Blackhawks extend unbeaten run in Antigua T20 Premier League

The PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks maintained their successful start to the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda T20 Premier League on Monday.

The Blackhawks joined the unbeaten New Winthorpes Lions at the top of the standings of the six-team round-robin competition with three wins in as many games after soaring to a 64-run victory against the Pigotts Crushers at the Pigotts playing field.

The Blackhawks made 186 for five off their allotted 20 overs after being sent in to bat. Tarek Charles hit an unbeaten 54 off 32 balls, including five sixes.

Deran Benta cracked 45 off 40 balls, Joshua Thomas struck 24 off 12 balls, including four boundaries, and captain Rahkeem Cornwall scored 21 off 18 balls. Emroy Lee captured two for 54.

In reply, the Crushers were restricted to 122 for nine off their 20 overs to succumb to their third defeat in four matches.



Deran Benta

Amahl Nathaniel hit 36 off 33 balls, opener Uri Smith struck 27 off 30 balls, and Brandon JnBaptiste scored 22 off 14 balls.

Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. grabbed four for 19, Deran Benta picked up two wickets for five runs, and off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall

captured two for 18.

Empire Nation notched up their first win in three matches by coasting to a six-wicket victory against the All Saints Pythons at the same venue in Pigotts.

The Pythons could only muster 111 for nine off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Opener Michael Haynes Dover struck 37 off 20 balls, and Sean Joseph Jr. scored 25 off 45 balls for the Pythons, who suffered their second loss in four matches. Captain and off-spinner Justin Athanaze grabbed four wickets for six runs.

Empire Nation achieved victory by scoring 114 for four in 18.4 overs. J'Quan Athanaze slammed an unbeaten 38 off 36 balls, and Melvin Charles hit 31 not out off 43 balls.

Crushers skipper and spinner Ka-deem Henry picked up two wickets for 19 runs. The T20 competition will resume this weekend.

FIXTURES

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T20 PREMIER LEAGUE

PRELIMINARIES

<p>SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">PYTHONS VS TIGERS</p> <p>(11:00 AM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">LIONS VS CRUSHERS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">PYTHONS VS LIONS</p> <p>(11:00 AM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>SATURDAY, 03 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">CRUSHERS VS NATION</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">LIONS VS TIGERS</p> <p>(11:00 AM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">BLACKHAWKS VS NATION</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>MONDAY, 5 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS</p> <p>(11:00 AM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>MONDAY, 5 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">NATION VS PYTHONS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">NATION VS TIGERS</p> <p>(11:00 AM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS</p> <p>(11:00 AM) </p> </div> </div>	<p>SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">NATION VS LIONS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>
<p>SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">TIGERS VS CRUSHERS</p> <p>(2:30 PM) </p> </div> </div>	
<p>THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025</p> <h3 style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE</h3> <p>(2:30 PM)</p>	
<p>SATURDAY, 17 MAY 2025</p> <h3 style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE</h3> <p>(2:00 PM)</p>	

ELIMINATOR

FINALS

CWI announces squad for West Indies ODI tours of Ireland and England

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has unveiled an exciting and dynamic 15-member squad for three One Day International (ODI) matches against Ireland from May 21-25 and another three against England from May 29 to June 3.

The squad has the nucleus of players who were successful during home series wins against England and Bangladesh to end 2024. The highly anticipated tour will be the first one of this year for the limited-overs team and provides an opportunity for CWI to focus on building its ODI team ahead of the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Head Coach Daren Sammy welcomed the opportunity to build on recent momentum.

"These matches form a critical component towards the 2027 World Cup and there are signs of the team building consistency following the series sweep against Bangladesh and the win over England late last year," he said.

"We expect the conditions to be challenging but we are creating a culture and mindset which emphasize playing the brand of cricket that is taking us closer to some of our overall objectives."

CWI also announced changes to the coaching staff for the tour. Former West Indies fast bowler and 2012



Batsmen Keacy Carty, left, and Brandon King, center, are expected to play key roles in the West Indies team during the Caribbean side's ODI tours of Ireland and England. (CWI Media)

World Cup champion Ravi Rampaul will be the team's bowling coach, replacing James Franklin.

CWI will also utilize the services of former Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien as part of the coaching staff during the Ireland leg of the tour.

West Indies ODI Squad: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, and Rom-

ario Shepherd.

Team Management Unit (TMU): Head Coach Daren Sammy; Team Manager Rawl Lewis; Assistant Coach (batting) Floyd Reifer; Assistant Coach (bowling) Ravi Rampaul; Assistant Coach (fielding) Rayon Griffith; Physiotherapist Dr. Denis Byam; Strength & Conditioning Coach Ronald Rogers; Massage Therapist Fitzbert Alleyne; Analyst Avenesh Seetaram; and Media & Content Officer Jerome Foster.

con't from pg 26

However, the Antiguan men lost their second encounter in Pool C. Grenada's Team Two, comprising Zerick Walcott and Kibose Hamilton, recorded a hard-fought 2-1 (21-19, 20-22, 15-12) win over the Antiguan pair of Davis and Joseph.

St. Lucia's durable duo of Joseph Clercent and Sheldon Descartes recorded a hat-trick of titles by retaining their men's ECVA Senior Beach Volleyball Championship.

They came from behind to snatch a 2-1 (18-21, 21-16, 15-8) win over Bermuda's Benjamin Barnet and Sean

Tucker in the final.

The finalists emerged from the semi-finals in contrasting styles over their opponents. Clercent and Descartes beat St. Kitts and Nevis' Bristol and Pencheon 2-1 (18-21, 21-16, 15-8), while Barnett and Tucker outlasted Mervin Mingo and Bill Frederick of

Dominica's Two, 2-0 (32-30, 21-16).

The Kittitian pair of Bristol and Pencheon went on to secure third place and the bronze medal for their country by defeating Mingo and Frederick 2-1 (21-19, 10-21, 15-11) in the playoff.

Sports

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025



Antiguan beach volleyballers fail to win medals in St. Lucia



The Antigua and Barbuda men's team of Khaliq Joseph, center, and Cairon Davis, right, compete at the 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Senior Beach Championship at Cul-de-Sac Bay in St. Lucia over the weekend.

The Antiguan female duo of Jassania Joseph, left, and Rayana Regis compete at the 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Senior Beach Championship at Cul-de-Sac Bay in St. Lucia over the weekend.

Both male and female teams from Antigua and Barbuda failed in their bids to win a medal at the 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Senior Beach Championship at Cul-de-Sac Bay in St. Lucia over the weekend.

The Antiguan duo of Jassania Joseph and Rayana Regis finished in fifth place from a field of 12 teams in the women's competition that was won by Shajunee Gumbs and Shanicia Dyer of St. Kitts.

The Antigua and Barbuda team of Khaliq Joseph and Cairon Davis finished in ninth place from a field of 12 teams in the men's competition that was won for the

third successive year by the St. Lucian pair of Joseph Clercent and Sheldon Descartes.

The Antiguan female pair of Joseph and Regis lost 2-0 (21-15, 21-18) in the quarter-finals to Grenada's Team One of Thornia Mitchell and Renisha Stafford.

The team of Joseph and Regis won their opening encounter in Pool D. The Antiguan women defeated Hailey Moss and Megan Hands of Bermuda 2-1, prevailing 21-15, 12-21, and 15-12.

St. Lucia's Kerin Neptune and Erica Gaspard won Pool D after recording a 2-1 (15-21, 21-18, 15-9) win over the Antiguan women in their second encounter.

Shajunee Gumbs and Shanicia Dyer won the women's segment after coasting to a 2-0 (21-14, 22-20) win over Bermuda's Hailey Moss and Megan Hands in the gold medal match.

Before facing off in the final, Gumbs and Dyer had overcome Clio Phillip and Tenayestlni Joseph of St. Lucia Team Three 2-0 (21-15, 21-18), while Moss and Hands ensured that there will be a new champion by defeating Grenada Team One of Thornia Mitchell and Renisha Stafford, 2-0 (26-24, 21-15).

However, Mitchell and Stafford did not leave empty-handed, as they got the

better of Phillip and Joseph, 2-0 (22-20, 21-13), to claim the bronze.

The Antiguan men's duo of Davis and Joseph defeated St. Lucia's pair of Didillo Albert and Lindan Clarke 2-0 (21-18, 21-13) to win the playoff for ninth place.

Julian Bristol and Jedediah Pencheon of St. Kitts defeated Davis and Joseph 2-0 (21-12, 21-13) in the Round of 12.

The Antiguan men's pair won their opening match in Pool C. Davis and Joseph defeated St. Lucia's Team Two of Peter Emmanuel and Jentezen Joseph 2-1 (21-19, 11-21, and 15-7).

con't on pg 25