

Shake-up at Antigua Sailing Week

Story on Page 2



Cabinet invites senior officials of the NPA to discuss Antigua Sailing Week's decline

Local News

A new management team to take over Antigua Sailing Week, 2026



Following another disappointing staging of the once very popular, Antigua Sailing Week (ASW), the Cabinet has decided that a new team will assume responsibility for planning and executing the event from next year.

This comes as the Cabinet expressed its disappointment over the Antigua Sailing Week 2025, events.

The Cabinet noted that although the franchise is held by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) and that a contract with a well-known promoter permits all major decisions to be made by that promoter, the Cabinet sought answers from the Chairman of the National Parks Authority (NPA), Senator Philip Shoul, and the Executive Director of the NPA, Ms. Annemarie Martin.

The duo explained that in 2007/2008, the then Minister of Tourism, Hon. John Maginley, privatized Antigua Sailing Week by selling the franchise to the Hotel and Tourism Association. A licence was then given to a private individual to


determine the events which would characterize ASW.

In those days, it was explained, as many as 142 boats would participate; the number today has fallen to less than 50 boats.

Cabinet sources say the

Chairman sought and received policy guidelines that will result in ASW continuing at the end of April each year, and that the licence to the private individual which has expired will not be renewed.


“Nevertheless, a Committee made up of all stakeholders will be asked to plan and execute Sailing Week 2026 with Government’s support pledged,” the Cabinet sources revealed.



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Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission to the OAS writes to Chair of the Permanent Council on the Alfa Nero Smear Campaign

Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States has written to the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS amidst a smear campaign launched against the government of Antigua and Barbuda by Opposition forces and persons with interest in the Alfa Nero sale matter.

Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the Organization of American States

PM/22/25

The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the Organization of American States (OAS) presents its compliments to the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS and has the honour to advise as follows:

Several delegations have expressed curiosity regarding the appearance of a truck in the vicinity of the OAS headquarters, prominently displaying false and inflammatory statements concerning the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

In the interest of transparency and to dispel speculation, my delegation provides the following clarification:

Although the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is not the subject of an ongoing civil matter before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, it has been drawn into the case by the applicant, who has filed suit **against the Federal Reserve Bank of New York**. The applicant, who is a relative of a Russian national currently subject to sanctions imposed by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, is seeking to subpoena the Government of Antigua and Barbuda under a statute that permits discovery in aid of foreign legal proceedings.

Rather than focusing their efforts on lawful process, the applicant's team appears to have launched a public campaign aimed at smearing and pressuring the Government. This has included a series of misleading social media posts, the creation of a false website and, most recently, the appearance of the truck in Washington, D.C. bearing similar disinformation.

That these theatrics coincided with the official visit of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda - alongside six other Caribbean Heads of Government – for discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is unlikely to be mere coincidence. It reflects a calculated attempt to distort public perception and to pressure a sovereign government through spectacle rather than substance.

In assuring the Chair of the Permanent Council of its highest consideration, the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda requests that this Note be circulated to the Missions of Member States and Permanent Observers.

Washington, DC
7 May 2025

Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS
OAS Headquarters
Washington, DC

Local News



Cabinet seeks clarity on the issues at the heart of the current unrest among teachers



PS Ministry of Education at Cabinet on Wednesday

The latest industrial action by teachers who have downed tools in the public school system over non-payment of certain allowances to a small number of teachers, led the Cabinet to make contact with senior technicians to get clarity on the issue.

Reports are that the Cabinet on Wednesday held a discussion with the

Accountant General, by telephone; and, with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, in person.

According to the officials, it appears that arrears date back to the Covid-19 pandemic when many payments were put on hold. Although all vouchers were submitted to the Treasury in November 2024, the *Free Balance* sys-

tem utilized by the Treasury would pose a challenge, rejecting several vouchers; it required new vouchers to be re-issued.

“The Treasury reported that all vouchers have now been processed and cheques submitted on Tuesday and Wednesday, to meet all payments due. The Permanent Secretary acknowledged that additional checks were received Wednesday but their names required double-checking which was not complete when she left for the Cabinet meeting,” Cabinet sources stated.

Accordingly, the Ministry has informed the various Principals of each of the schools that cheques are now available for the teachers. The Cabinet expressed the view that return of the teachers to teaching their charges would re-commence immediately.

The Cabinet repeated its exhortation to both teachers and their Union to take into account that the students bear no responsibility for the disagreement that exists, and to remind that the education of the future generation is always to be treated as highly valued.

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Local News



20-year old woman jumps to her death from a moving motor vehicle

A 20-year-old Guyanese woman, who reportedly arrived in Antigua only a few days ago, reportedly jumped from a moving motor vehicle and died in an incident that is currently being investigated by the police.

The woman has been identified as Joylene Abraham,

and according to reports she was traveling in a Noah van - licensed C 20181 - that was allegedly being driven by a man identified as her boyfriend. The incident happened on the backroad leading from New Winthorpe's to Coolidge sometime after 4:00 pm on Wednesday.

The police will be seeking to determine why the woman felt the need to jump from a moving vehicle and what may have influenced her decision-making.

The police are expected to issue an official statement on the matter sometime today (Thursday).



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- Organizational Communication
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Dissatisfaction raised over quality of road construction on the Friar's Hill Road



The Cabinet expressed its dissatisfaction with the quality of engineering that leads to rapid deterioration of that 500-foot length of Friars Hill Road, immediately west of Woods Shopping Center.

It noted that hundreds of

drivers traverse the short length of highway daily, and the potholes that have re-appeared as a result of the recent rains serve as an irritant and danger to their vehicles. The accumulation of runoff from the paved parking lot and the all-glass building immediately east of the strip

of roadway, results in the erosion of the asphalt-filled-in potholes, attesting to poor execution and engineering.

Reportedly, the Cabinet sought the presence of the Director of Public Works, who is himself a trained engineer, to determine why this small piece of roadway continues to plague drivers and pedestrians whenever there is rain. The Director explained that three sources of water have plagued the roadway since its construction.

Sources familiar with the discussion said nevertheless, the Director's answers

were challenged by several Ministers who insisted that the situation could be solved by using a very strong concrete mix, and by diverting the runoff towards the pond or the nearby waterway by inserting piped drains below the surface to channel the accumulating water away from the surface of the low-lying road.

Accordingly, the Cabinet charged the Director with fixing the roadway immediately and to present a long-term plan for Cabinet's review. He is expected to return to Cabinet next Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

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The repairs to the VCBIA runway is to begin shortly

The long-awaited repair of the runway at the V.C. Bird International Airport will begin in earnest.

Informed sources say the work will take place at night, however, so that there will be little or no interruption of aircraft traffic during daylight hours. The re-paving is expected to last two years. New equipment dedicated to the resurfacing will also be purchased and stored on site under special sheds that will be built to very high standards, the Cabinet was told.




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Antigua and Barbuda participates in preparatory meetings for high-stakes global financial conference in Spain

Antigua and Barbuda's Debt Manager, Peter Abraham Jr, has just completed two crucial meetings at the United Nations that focused on mobilising sustainable financing for development.

His participation underscored Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to advancing the interests of all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in bringing crucial reforms to the global financial architecture.

Abraham joined colleagues from around the world at the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development on April 28 and 29, where he engaged in ministerial discussions on reducing borrowing costs, mobilizing private investment, and revitalizing international development cooperation. He used the opportunity to highlight the fiscal vulnerabilities of SIDS and advocated for innovative solutions such as climate-resilient debt instruments and increased concessional financing.

The country's Debt Manager also attended the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) from 30 April to 1 May. Antigua and Barbuda, through the Permanent Mission at the United Nations, has also been participating in a series of preparatory activities for the FFD4 conference,



scheduled to take place in Spain from June 30 – July 3.

At this latest meeting, Abraham contributed to technical sessions on debt sustainability, international financial architecture reform, and domestic resource mobilization. He emphasized the need for a fair, transparent, and responsive financing framework that meets the urgent needs of developing nations.

The Mission has also been spearheading the country's participation at the preparatory meetings for the conference, seen as one of the most crucial gatherings of financial experts, government leaders and development partners across the globe and will seek to meaningfully address some of the world's most urgent and pressing financial challenges, many of them being faced by small and devel-

oping economies like Antigua and Barbuda. Joining Abraham at the recent UN meetings was the Second Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Mission Jerri-Anne Jeremy.

The two conferences brought together ministers and high-level government officials as well as senior officials of international organizations, civil society and the business sector in an effort to help shape the discussions and outcome of the meeting in Spain.

"These meetings are instrumental in shaping global policy responses to the growing SDG financing gap, and Antigua and Barbuda remains steadfast in its advocacy for financial reforms that support resilience and equitable growth for all," Abraham affirmed.

Halo Foundation hosts annual art workshop as part of 10th anniversary celebrations



The Halo Foundation held activities at the National Public Library this week marking the culmination of its annual Art Workshop Programme and the commemoration of the Foundation's 10th anniversary of service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

In attendance were The Governor general, Sir Rodney Williams and Sandra Lady Williams, the President and founder of the Foundation.

Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, who was accompanied by his wife Lady Roberts, in his remarks extended congratulations to the thirty-one young artists who completed the six-week workshop. The programme brought together students aged 10 to 18 from across the country to explore artistic techniques, engage with pro-

fessional instructors, and discover their creative voices through immersive learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Attendees were also treated to an inspiring exhibition of student artwork, with pieces reflecting themes of observation, perspective, landscape, and transformation. The exhibit, enhanced the halls of the Library with colour and vision, served as a proud testament to the students' growth and achievement.

Sir Clare also highlighted the visionary leadership of Lady Williams, "Under Lady Williams' guidance," he noted, "Halo has grown from a bold idea into a movement, uniting nearly 40 charities under one umbrella and transforming lives through its focus on youth empowerment, education, culture,

and social support."

Founded in 2014, the Halo Foundation has become a leading force in charitable advocacy in Antigua and Barbuda, working tirelessly to assist the vulnerable, amplify the voices of the underserved, and create pathways for young people to flourish. From the arts and literacy to disability advocacy and mental health, the Foundation's impact has been both broad and deeply personal.

Sir Clare praised Sir Rodney, Patron of the Foundation, for his steadfast support of its mission, and commended the continued collaboration of partners such as the Jumby Bay Fund, the Ministry of Education, Sports, and the Creative Industries, and the Royal Drawing School, whose volunteer instructors travelled from

the UK to lead the workshop sessions.

This year's programme represented a shift in focus, from training educators to direct student engagement, giving youth a chance to develop their creative voice in settings such as the Botanical Gardens, Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, and Fig Tree Drive Art Studio.

In recognition of their efforts, Director of Education Clare Roberts presented certificates to several outstanding participants, acknowledging their dedication, creativity, and commitment to the artistic process.

As the ceremony concluded, students, instructors, and supporters were reminded that the arts are not just about expression but about building community and shaping the nation's future.

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Criteria & Guidelines

1. The applicant must be a member of the AT&LU for over 2 (two) years
2. The members must have the necessary prerequisites required from UWI Global Campus
3. Interested members should email the AT&LU at Email: atandlu@hotmail.com stating their interest in the course that they would like to pursue between 29th April to 13th May, 2025.
4. Drawing will take place on Wednesday, 14th May, 2025 on ABS Television Live to determine the 4 (four) successful applicants.
5. For additional information, please feel free to Contact the AT&LU at Tel: 1 (268) 462-0090/562-2501

scholarships for a series of professional development courses that are currently being offered by the University of the West Indies Global Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.

AT&LU President, Bernard DeNully said the scholarship programme started in January when two scholarships were offered, however, for the upcoming semester, the union will offer four scholarships with the intention to offer another eight in September.

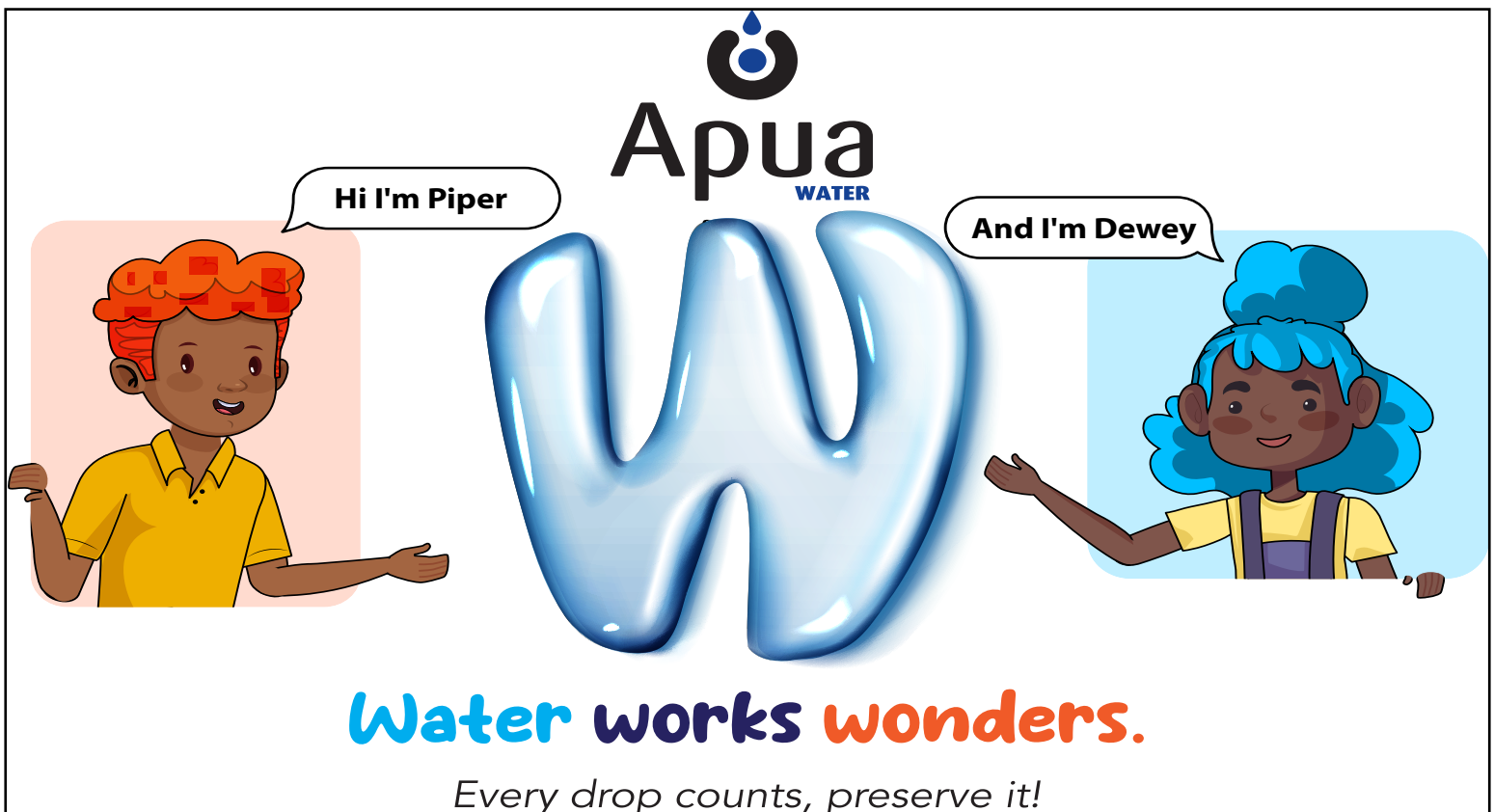
“What we are recognizing is that many of our members do not possess the required certification that are often needed for advancement in many work places. We are of the view that if we as-

sist our members to upskill themselves then they will be in a better position to be considered whenever opportunities for promotion arise,” he stated.

The courses include; Advanced Supervisory Management, Customer Service Management, Computer Literacy, Effective Management and Leadership, Essential Business Information System, Effective Business Communications, Events Management, and Financial Planning for Small Businesses.

Applications for the scholarships are now being accepted and the four winners will be drawn during a LIVE television event next Wednesday.

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union is offering



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Fire alarm forces evacuation of APUA Headquarters Building

A fire alarm at the APUA Headquarters building on High Street triggered an immediate evacuation of the building on Wednesday.

A company spokesman said that at approximately 11:45 a.m. Wednesday May 7, 2025, the fire alarm at the APUA Business Centre was triggered. Evacuation protocols were immediately activated, and staff safely exited the building and assembled in the vacant lot at the top of High Street.

The St. John's Fire Bri-



gade responded promptly. Following a full safety inspection and routine checks of the premises, staff and customers were advised that it was safe to return to their respective areas.

"APUA is grateful that the alarm was not caused by an actual fire emergency and that all staff were safely accounted for. We extend our sincere thanks to the on-site security officers and the St. John's Fire Bri-

gade for their swift and professional response," the spokesman stated.

According to the spokesman the setting off of the fire alarm was not a malicious act but it was caused by an equipment that was being used at the time.

Additionally, suggestions that the assembling of the staff in the vacant lot adjacent to the building was because of industrial action, were also dismissed. "There was no industrial action," the spokesman declared.



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Hike for a Cure attracts many despite inclement weather



Photos: Hikers participating in CIBC Caribbean's Hike for the Cure Saturday 3rd May, 2025

About CIBC Caribbean

Early morning showers did not deter participants of the CIBC Caribbean's 4th Hike for a Cure which took place last Saturday.

The organisers say more than 100 persons participated in the hike that took place near Morris Bay in Old Road.

Walk Manager, Natasha Charles, and her assistant, Khadijah James, both expressed their delight with the turnout. "We are happy that so many persons supported this Hike, in spite of the rain. We thank everyone for their encouragement and support," James said.

Priscilla Leonce, the bank's Corporate Manager, said that the hike serves

three purposes.

"Obviously it helps to raise funds and awareness and creates the build-up to Walk for the Cure but it is also a healthy outdoor exercise in which cancer survivors, their children, other family members and friends and the general public all get together for a common cause."

Meanwhile country head, Ladesa James-Williams noted that the aim this year is to break last year's fundraising record of \$105,000 and to continue to raise awareness of cancer and the terrible toll it takes on persons with the disease and their families.

"This year, our goal is to raise \$150,000.00 with every cent raised

going to fund cancer research and advocacy. Last February, we made our largest donation to date of \$105,000 to the Breast Friends Organisation and the SLBMC's Oncology Department, which were funds raised from the 2024 Walk for the Cure. This year we hope and intend to break that record. We can only do so with the support of our sponsors and the public," she added.

The next fundraising event will be Jam for the Cure T-Shirt Mas on Saturday 26th July. Registration is now open at the bank on Old Parham Road. The 14th Annual CIBC Caribbean Walk for the Cure Will be held on 11th October 2025.

UWI FIC announces dates and theme for second annual 5IR AI conference



The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Five Islands Campus in Antigua is set to facilitate meaningful high-level policy discussions among Caribbean leaders and experts in Artificial Intelligence. These forums are on the agenda as the campus hosts its annual 5IR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Annual Research Conference from June 23-24 2025, under the theme 'Bridging Digital Frontiers: AI For Caribbean Sustainability'. This 2025 edition of the conference is co-chaired by Dr. Curtis Charles, Director of Academic Affairs, The UWI Five Islands; Dr. Ilenius Ildephonse, Head of the School of Science Computing and Artificial Intelligence, The UWI Five Islands; and Dr. Indrani Bachan-Persad, Unit Head, Economic Engagement & Industry Partnerships, The UWI Office of Planning.

A discussion on Sustainable Strategic Diplomacy in an Age of AI and Shifting Geopolitics will be led by Dr. Indrani Bachan-Persad, Conference Co-Chair (Moderator); The Honourable Chet Green, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Antigua and Barbuda; and Andrea Jacob, Attorney-at-Law and Head of AI and Legal Innovation at the Ministry of Legal Affairs of Antigua Barbuda. The forum will exam-

ine how Caribbean nations can build coalitions and negotiate from positions of strength in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. The Caribbean Latin American Development Bank (CAF) will also present its Roadmap for National AI Implementation, offering insights into national policies and incentives that leverage AI for economic development and social inclusion. Targeting policy makers and stakeholders committed to building a responsible AI ecosystem in the Caribbean is a forum on AI Ethics and Governance that will examine the tension between innovation and ethical oversight in Caribbean contexts. Other policy discussions will focus on AI capacity building in education and AI applications for improved government service delivery, transparency and citizen engagement.

According to Professor Justin Robinson, the Principal of The UWI's Five Islands Campus, it is critical for Caribbean leaders to engage in these high-level discussions: "In a time of increasing climate vulnerability, economic pressures, and rapid technological change, this conference positions the Caribbean region as an active participant in shaping global AI development while addressing Caribbean development priorities. We are creating the collaborative space needed to ensure AI serves our unique regional context, from disaster resilience and blue economy opportunities to workforce development and cultural preservation."

Among the Antigua-Barbuda policy makers expected to engage in the discourse are Prime Minister, The Honourable Gaston Browne; Minister for Education, Sports and the Creative Arts, The Honourable Daryll Matthew; Minister of Information, Broad-

casting, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, The Honourable Melford Nicholas; and Minister of Tourism, Investment, and Economic Development, The Honourable Charles Fernandez. Also contributing are Mr. Bevil Wooding, technologist and Executive Director of the Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions, Dr. Dale Alexander, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), and Dr. Armstrong Alexis - Deputy Secretary General - CARICOM

The annual AI research conference brings together international AI experts, policymakers and other key stakeholders to explore AI's transformative role in the region's sustainable development. The Caribbean's top researchers will present cutting-edge research along several technical tracks. These will address AI applications across key sectors, including education, healthcare, creative industries, justice, climate resilience, and financial inclusion. Leading an impressive slate of international speakers, Mr. Tianze Zhang, founder of the AI for Developing Countries Forum (AI-FORD), will deliver a keynote on AI for Sustainable Development. Also carded to speak are Mr. Ray Quintana, CEO of Environ – a French wealth management company that leverages Web3 Technology; and Dr. Chris Jones, former Executive Director, Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub.

Registration is now open on the conference website, <https://fiveislandsai-conference.com/>. To stay informed on conference developments, connect on LinkedIn and Facebook at <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/the-uwi-five-islands-ai-conference>; www.facebook.com/UWIFICAIconference.

UWI Five Islands Campus Calls for Papers and Offers Special Rates for its 2025 Caribbean AI Conference

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Five Islands Campus in Antigua will host the second installation of its 5IR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Annual Research Conference from June 23-24, 2025. Building on the success of the inaugural conference held last July, this edition will explore the theme *'Bridging Digital Frontiers: AI For Caribbean Sustainability'*.

The annual conference serves as a hub for AI experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to present cutting-edge research, propose transformative ideas, and explore AI's revolutionary role in shaping the Caribbean's future. It creates an important space for high-level policy discussions on how Caribbean nations can shape AI policy to support economic growth, ethical governance, educational transformation, and digital innovation in the public sector while emphasising regional cooperation, workforce development, and responsible AI adoption.

Researchers and innovators interested in presenting at the conference should submit abstracts by the May 15, 2025, deadline at <https://fiveislandsaiconference.com/>, the official conference website.

Registration is also now open via the conference website for the university network and the wider regional and international community. Special rates are available for international attendees – USD 300; local attendees – USD 250; academic presenters – USD 250; one-day access – USD 150; and students – USD 100.

The conference is scheduled to start with an opening reception, including welcome remarks from UWI Vice Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, The Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Professor Justin Robinson, Campus Principal of The UWI Five Islands.

Day One will begin with a keynote by Mr. Tianze Zhang, founder of the AI for Developing Countries Forum

(AIFORD). His address, *AI for Sustainable Development: The Chinese Perspective*, will explore AI-driven strategies for economic diversification, sustainable resource management and enhancing climate resilience, highlighting opportunities for policy-driven AI adoption. Other conference speakers across the two-day conference will include Mr. Ray Quintana, CEO Envviron – a French wealth management company that leverages Web3 Technology; Dr. Chris Jones, former Executive Director, Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub; Dr. Dale Alexander, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC); as well as several of Antigua and Barbuda's distinguished cabinet ministers.

In addition to high-impact plenary sessions, the conference agenda also includes expert-led panel discussions and AI Tech Talks centred on AI's applications in oceanography and the blue economy, tourism, cybersecurity, the public sector, climate resilience, and justice.

Among this year's conference highlights is the inaugural *AI Robotics Track*. Five Islands Campus Principal Professor Justin Robinson noted that the track, which targets student researchers and innovators, will spotlight the boundless potential of robotics and intelligent automation in tackling Caribbean challenges. He elaborated, "We cannot explore AI as a tool for Caribbean sustainability without engaging the next generation of Caribbean innovators and problem solvers. For this Student Robotics/AI and Data Science Competition, we are gathering the Caribbean's brightest, young minds and creating the opportunity for them to present their innovations to a panel of academic and industry experts and sponsors. We will have the right stakeholders in the room. I expect that the track will deliver real, adoptable solutions in robotics for disaster response and resource management in the Caribbean."

The conference is set to close with a roundtable featuring Mr. Tianze Zhang (AIFORD); Mr. Bevil Wooding, Director of Caribbean Affairs, The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN/ Connected Caribbean) and moderated by conference co-chair Dr. Curtis Charles, Dean and Director of Academic Affairs, The UWI, FIC. The session will bring together policy-makers, researchers and private sector leaders to discuss key insights on AI policy, partnerships and contributions to sustainable regional development.

In 2024, the UWIFIC 5IR AI Conference accepted over 40 research papers from regional and international academics and saw participation from more than 400 attendees. According to the conference chairs, this year aims to deliver another high-impact, quality conference in artificial intelligence in the region, attracting some of the best speakers within and outside the Caribbean. Urging Caribbean participation, Dr. Curtis Charles noted, "Ultimately our objective is to ensure that the Caribbean does not simply remain a passive consumer of AI technologies developed elsewhere but becomes an active participant in shaping global AI development while addressing local priorities." Dr. Indrani Bachan-Persad, Conference co-chair, said, "We aim to attract the same level of participation from both Antigua and the wider Caribbean as well as outside the region." She indicated that last year the conference surpassed expectations and placed the Caribbean, especially the Five Islands Campus centre stage on the topical issue and current dialogue on artificial intelligence, taking place globally.

Sponsorship packages ranging from USD 3000.00 to USD 30,000.00 are also available to Caribbean-serving businesses, organisations, and individuals wishing to partner with this pioneering event to advance the Caribbean technological development agenda.



PRESS RELEASE

National Parks Authority Responds to Public Statement by Lucky Eddi's

Date: 6 May 2025

The National Parks Authority (NPA) has taken note of the press release issued by Mr. Paddy Prendergast on behalf of Lucky Eddi's, announcing the immediate closure of the business. While we regret the closure of any establishment, it is important to correct several inaccuracies and provide the public with the factual context surrounding this matter.

The NPA's core responsibility under the law is to preserve the integrity, safety and sustainability of the Nelson's Dockyard National Park ("the National Park"). The Regulations which address persons and operations in the National Park, including the 2014 Trading Regulations and the 2012 General Regulations, are designed to do just that. This includes upholding regulatory standards for environmental protection, structural safety, compliance with laws and regulations and public order. This responsibility takes on even more significance internationally as the Nelson's Dockyard National Park houses the "Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites" which are recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In keeping with the policy directive given by the Minister for the NPA, the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, the NPA is committed to bringing to National Parks a balance between commerce, the interest of residents and its statutory mandate.

The NPA strongly rejects any suggestion that Lucky Eddi's has been unfairly singled out. On the contrary, the record clearly shows that the NPA has gone above and beyond to support the business's continued operations while encouraging it to bring itself into full compliance.

The event fee for the 2024 Heineken Party was waived entirely for Lucky Eddi's. This further demonstrated the NPA's flexibility and willingness to work with businesses in the area, especially when they are demonstrating an effort to comply with the Regulations and the Laws.

The need for structured event controls was reinforced by the issues arising out of the 2024 "Heineken Party" hosted at Lucky Eddi's for which the NPA had given its approval, subject to strict safety conditions set by both the NPA and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. Unfortunately, these conditions were not followed by the owners of Lucky Eddi's. This resulted in a public safety hazard which required police intervention. The incident concreted the NPA's policy decision to scale back high-risk, paid events within the Dockyard and Falmouth Harbour areas, such as the event "Reggae in the Park" which is privately organized by a third party. Consequently, the Interpretation Centre had been identified as the venue within the National Parks for these type of large scale events. The 2024 "Reggae in the Park" and the 2024 English Harbour Rum Party which drew large crowds were held at the Interpretation Centre.

In 2022 Lucky Eddi's started operations in the National Parks before an application for a licence under the Trading Regulations was submitted. In an attempt to regularize this position under the Trading Regulations, the NPA has been working with the owners of Lucky Eddi's to address a range of serious compliance concerns, including:

- Inadequate wastewater treatment and environmental safeguards
- Fire safety and occupancy capacity issues

- Excessive and late noise complaints from surrounding businesses and residents

With a firm commitment from the owners, the NPA allowed Lucky Eddi's to continue operations while efforts were made by the owners to regularize the concerns identified.

In fact, the NPA has demonstrated considerable leniency with respect to Lucky Eddi's operating since 2022. NPA has permitted the various events which have been enumerated in the Press Statement issued by Mr. Prendergast including the 2025 Oyster Regatta Closing Party. This does not support the allegation of "the threat of immediate enforced closure remains a possibility". The NPA has not issued any notice to this effect to Lucky Eddi's.

In March 2025, the organizers of two specific large-scale events associated with the Sailing Week namely, "Reggae in the Park" and the Heineken Party had planned to hold these events at Lucky Eddi's. The NPA did not grant permission due to the ongoing non-compliance with the conditions and safety standards imposed since 2024. The alternative more suitable venue of the Interpretation Centre was again offered to the organizers in keeping with the previous policy decision. The NPA offered this venue free of charge to both organizers. The offer was declined.

These were policy-based decisions aimed at maintaining order and safety and attaining compliance with the Regulations; not punitive actions against any one business.

The implementation of parking restrictions in the Dockyard, Falmouth Harbour and English Harbour areas including double lines on the main highway is consistent with internationally accepted best practices for managing visitor traffic in high-density, heritage and tourism zones. These measures are intended to ensure pedestrian safety, emergency access and reduce congestion, particularly during peak seasons and special events.

For years, parking in the National Park was largely unmanaged. However, increasing visitor numbers and commercial activity have made formal regulation necessary. Park-and-ride systems have long been used during major events such as Sailing Week and the same principles are now being applied more consistently.

These measures were based on sound expert risk management principles and are applied fairly and consistently. Reviewing license structure and operating practices is not a foreign concept to any business including statutory corporations.

It is both misleading and disappointing to portray the efforts of the NPA as punitive. They are, in fact, part of the NPA's broader strategy to protect the safety and experience of all Park users-residents, businesses and visitors alike.

The public is assured of the NPA's commitment to maintain law and order in the National Park including the compliance by commercial enterprises and citizens with the legislative framework set in place by successive administrations for the improvement and upliftment of the maritime product and services by which The Dockyard is distinguished.

The NPA thanks the patrons and staff who contributed to the vibrancy of the venue and reaffirm our commitment to engaging all stakeholders in a constructive and transparent manner.

END

New government takes office in Cayman Islands

Premier André Ebanks on Tuesday led 19 successful politicians to take their oath as legislators as the new coalition government begins the task of running a government in the Cayman Islands.

Ebanks is leading the newly formed National Coalition For Caymanians (NCFC) after no single party emerged victorious following last Wednesday's general election.

According to official results, the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) won seven seats in Parliament, the most out of all parties, but was three short of a majority.

Two newly-formed parties, the Cayman Islands National Party (CINP), founded by a former manager at Ernst & Young, and the Caymanian Community Party (CCP), established by members of the dissolved United People's Movement (UPM), won four seats each.

Last Friday, the CCP and the CINP announced that three elected members were joining them – giving them a majority of 11 in the 19-seat Parliament, and had approached Governor Jane Owen to inform her they were ready to form a government.

The new grouping announced its new name at a public meeting last Saturday, noting that 'National' stood for the CINP, 'Coalition' for the independents



that joined following the election, and 'Caymanians' representing the hallmark of the CCP.

"While a broad framework for the new government has been developed, ministerial assignments and portfolio responsibilities will be finalised later this week and an official announcement will be done in due course," the NCFC said in a statement.

Ebanks said the team had decided on the NCFC to represent the merger between his party, the CINP and the independents, but most of all their commitment to serve the population.

Ebanks said the priority policies and projects for the government over the coming months include the state of the government's finances, given that the budget

predictions are now calling for a deficit, a situation that has to be rectified as the CIG begins preparations for the 2026/2027 budgets.

Ebanks said there was "a mountain of work to get through", but they would get through it as a team.

Following Tuesday's official swearing-in, members of the new government will on Wednesday meet with Deputy Governor Franz Manderson and senior civil service leadership for introductory briefings, designed to support a strong, coordinated start to the new administration.

"This is a time for focus, discipline, and collaboration. We are taking care to build a government that is not only stable and effective, but also transparent

— one that communicates clearly, involves the people, and earns the trust of the country. That's what the country deserves, and that's what we're committed to delivering," Ebanks added.

In an address at the ceremony, the Governor pledged to work with the new government "as we protect and promote the safety of the population in all areas of life and work.

"We are gathered here today in this hallowed hall of Cayman's democracy to welcome and formally confirm the 19 representatives who were successfully returned by our electorate," she said, adding, "I look forward to working with you as we plan to deliver for our people over the coming four years of this Parliament". (Jamaica Gleaner)

Gov't, Opposition spar over constitutional reform process

Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs Marlene Malahoo Forte yesterday suggested that Opposition Leader Mark Golding has backtracked on his original pronouncement of moving forward with the constitutional reform process with the things both sides of the parliamentary divide agree on.

However, in a response last evening, Golding indicated that context matters, noting that when he commented on the issue at the time, he could not have envisaged that both sides would not agree on full decolonisation.

In her contribution to the Sectoral Debate in Parliament yesterday, Malahoo Forte suggested that the Opposition leader changed his approach to the issue.

In two video clips presented by Malahoo Forte, the Opposition leader had said, among other things, "let us begin with the things that we can agree on and move forward".

She then played the second video with Golding speaking at a press conference indicating that the Opposition was not willing to support a phased approach to dealing with the matter of full decolonization.

"On this matter, I don't believe it is going to come from people who say

one thing when it suits them and then move away to something else when it suits them," she said.

The minister, who has been given the task to advance the constitutional reform process, said: "What is required to go forward is a different exercise of leadership and I don't think it is going to come from the Opposition".

But Golding has accused Malahoo Forte of "playing games by running voice clips without the context".

According to Golding, when he said "let us proceed with what we could agree", his assumption was that both parties would have agreed on decolonisation.

"I didn't envisage that we could not reach that agreement because we had some discussions and they never said definitively that they weren't prepared to proceed with abandoning the Privy Council and moving to the CCJ (Caribbean Court of Justice). They said it was under discussion and they had some internal work to do," he added.

Golding said it was "bizarre and unthinkable" that lawmakers would proceed in a piecemeal manner towards decolonisation now, when the country gained Independence in 1962.

"If we are talking about sovereignty, it must be full sovereignty and this necessitates moving away from the King's court as our final court, and giving the Jamaican people a real final court that they have access to," he said.

The Opposition leader said up to this point, Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has not stated his position on a final court for Jamaica even though Malahoo Forte told Parliament that he would do so by November 2023.

A joint select committee chaired by Malahoo Forte is now reviewing The Constitution (Amendment) (Republic) Act, 2024.

However, members of the Opposition who previously sat on the committee have stayed away from the sittings until Holness explains why his government has yet to commit to the Caribbean Court of Justice over the UK-based Privy Council.

"We are not boycotting that committee but until the prime minister, who has been promising for over a year to say what his position is on his issue, comes to the Jamaican people and explains his position, we are pausing our participation with that committee," Golding had said. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Regional News



LAC region still has highest level of inequality in the world

A World Health Organization (WHO) global report has indicated that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) remains the region with the highest levels of inequality in the world.

It said that the COVID-19 pandemic deepened this situation and that in 2020 the regional economy contracted by seven per cent, the steepest decline in 120 years, with millions of people losing income and social protection.

The WHO said that these economic shocks translate directly into higher levels of avoidable mortality and morbidity, due to deteriorating conditions of employment, for example, more than 60 per cent of workers in Latin America and the Caribbean work in the informal sector, housing, and migratory processes, among others.

The report also highlights that these effects are compounded by structural racism and the enduring legacy of colonialism, which continue to exert a significant negative impact on health and life expectancy, particularly for indigenous and Afro descendant populations.

The report reveals that those LAC cities that have employed a participatory



approach to budget allocation for housing, green spaces, and transportation, have also seen positive effects on both health and social cohesion, when it comes to tackling some of these social determinants.

In its report, the WHO highlights that the underlying causes of ill health often stem from factors beyond the health sector, such as lack of quality housing, education and job opportunities.

The new World report on social determinants of health equity shows that such determinants can be responsible for a dramatic reduction of healthy life expectancy, sometimes by decades, in high- and low-income countries alike.

For example, people in the country with the low-

est life expectancy will, on average, live 33 years shorter than those born in the country with the highest life expectancy. The social determinants of health equity can influence people's health outcomes more than genetic influences or access to healthcare.

"Our world is an unequal one. Where we are born, grow, live, work and age significantly influences our health and well-being," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"But change for the better is possible. This World report illustrates the importance of addressing the interlinked social determinants and provides evidence-based strategies and policy recommendations to help countries im-

prove health outcomes for all."

The report underscores that inequities in health are closely linked to degrees of social disadvantage and levels of discrimination. Health follows a social gradient whereby the more deprived the area in which people live, the lower their incomes are and they have fewer years of education, poorer health, with less number of healthy years to live.

These inequities are exacerbated in populations that face discrimination and marginalisation. One of the vivid examples is the fact that Indigenous Peoples have lower life expectancy than non-Indigenous Peoples in high- or low-income countries alike

The World report on social determinants of health equity is the first of its kind published since 2008 when the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health released its final report laying out targets for 2040 for reducing gaps between and within countries in life expectancy, childhood and maternal mortality.

The 2025 World report, shows that these targets are likely to be missed. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

Belize: Newly appointed police commissioner supports state of emergency



The newly appointed Commissioner of Police, Dr Richard Rosado, says he supports a six-month state of emergency (SoE) to help curb the increase in violence in Belize.

Appearing on the television programme “Open Your Eyes”, Rosado, who took up his position over the last week, told viewers that there has been an alarming spike in gun violence and has attributed the increase to ongoing feud among rival gangs.

Belize recorded 89 murders last year and for the first quarter of this year, the police are reporting a seven per cent decline over the same period last year. But the top cop said that there is a need for decisive action to restore peace and safety in the community.

On Monday, police said that Nelson Henry, 37 known as Mung, was gunned down in front of his children’s home. The police said Henry was targeted by two men on a dirt bike, and police suspect the killing is gang-related.

The authorities said that the Ladyville community is grappling with the violence that has shattered their sense of security.

“First of all, we have a wide continuum of policing strategies available to us from community policing to combat policing. And, our strategies on the ground will depend on what is happening on the ground,” the Police Commissioner said. “I do believe there is a need for state of emergency to address security concerns when the violence has reached a critical situation and presently we do have a critical situation in the Martins area and I do believe the guys need a time out”.

But Rosado said that rather than doing a one month or a three month, “we need to pursue a six months period. I would extend it, because if that is the only way that would calm them,” the top cop replied.

Asked whether he expected an SoE to be announced later this week, the top

cop replied “honestly, I do believe the situation is critical and it is up for discussion but I will surely support a state of emergency in order to give us the opportunity to assess the situation on the ground and put the necessary thing in place”.

Rosado during his television appearance highlighted escalating tensions among rival groups over the past few weeks, stressing the urgent need for intervention. He is convinced that the criminal elements involved need a timeout and is committed to bringing stability and safety back to Belize City.

“I do believe that the public judges us by the violent crime and murder. One of my top priorities is to reduce the violent crime and murder, while still placing emphasis on the property crimes, but the violent crimes must be addressed and reduced further.

“I think that with the way forward, we will be able to do that. The process will not be overnight. It will take some time. I believe it is doable. I am taking over office when the situation on the ground is a critical situation and we are doing our best to ensure that we address those situations, critical situation on the ground, but I do believe that the situation is so critical that the guys on the ground need a time out,” he added.

Rosado said he believes the tension among the gangs has existed for the past few weeks “and we have been putting things in place to try to address it.

“It just happens that the criminals take opportunities that present themselves to get back at their rivals, and it is up to us to try to see how we can stem that or address those situations,” he told viewers. (*Loop Caribbean*)

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Private Japanese lunar lander enters orbit around moon ahead of a June touchdown

A private lunar lander from Japan is now circling the moon, with just another month to go before it attempts a touchdown.

Tokyo-based ispace said Wednesday morning its Resilience lander entered lunar orbit

“The countdown to lunar landing has now officially begun,” the company said in a statement.

SpaceX launched Resilience with U.S.-based Firefly Aerospace’s lunar



lander in January. Firefly got there first in March, becoming the first private outfit to successfully

land a spacecraft on the moon without crashing or falling over. Another American company, Intu-

itive Machines, landed a spacecraft on the moon a few days later, but it ended up sideways in a crater. Now it’s ispace’s turn. It’s targeting the first week of June for Resilience’s touchdown. The company’s first lander crashed into the moon in 2023.

The lander holds a mini rover equipped with a scoop to gather lunar dirt for analysis as well as other experiments. (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

Disney plans to open a theme park and resort in Abu Dhabi



A new Disney theme park is coming to Abu Dhabi.

The Walt Disney company announced Wednesday that it has reached an agreement with immersive destination and experiences company Miral to bring a park and resort to Yas Island in the United Arab Emirates.

This will be Disney's seventh theme park resort and it will be fully developed and built by Miral. Disney's imagineers will lead creative design and operational oversight on the project. The entertainment giant will not be investing capital in the project, but will reap the benefits of royalties.

The development in Abu Dhabi is not part of the \$60 billion that Disney has pledged to invest in its theme parks over the next decade.

"This is a thrilling moment for our company as we announce plans to build an exciting Disney theme park resort in Abu Dhabi, whose

culture is rich with an appreciation of the arts and creativity," said Disney CEO Bob Iger, in a statement. "As our seventh theme park destination, it will rise from this land in spectacular fashion, blending contemporary architecture with cutting edge technology to offer guests deeply immersive entertainment experiences in unique and modern ways."

Iger, in an interview with CNBC's David Faber on Wednesday, said imagineers have already begun designing the park. He declined to specify when the company expects the park to open.

The announcement came after Disney reported a top- and bottom-line beat for its fiscal second quarter, with its experiences business — including parks, cruises and resorts as well as consumer products — reporting 6% year-over-year revenue growth.

Disney has slowly been entering

the United Arab Emirates in recent years, adding retail locations and touring entertainment shows like Broadway's "The Lion King" and "Disney on Ice."

The company noted that around one-third of the world's population lives within a four-hour flight of the UAE and that the region has an addressable tourism market of around 500 million visitors.

"This groundbreaking resort destination represents a new frontier in theme park development," said Josh D'Amato, chairman of Disney experiences. "Our resort in Abu Dhabi will be the most advanced and interactive destination in our portfolio. The location of our park is incredibly unique — anchored by a beautiful waterfront — which will allow us to tell our stories in completely new ways. This project will reach guests in a whole new part of the world, welcoming more families to experience Disney than ever before."

Yas Island is a hub of entertainment and retail experiences. It is already home to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld, SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi as well as the Formula 1 Yas Marina Circuit. The area also hosts Abu Dhabi's largest mall and an award-winning golf course.

Upon completion, the new Disney park will have themed accommodations and unique dining and retail experiences that integrate the storytelling heritage of Disney and the futuristic and cultural essence of Abu Dhabi. (NBC News)

Smokey Robinson accused by former housekeepers of sexual assault and rape

Four former housekeepers of Smokey Robinson allege in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that the Motown music luminary repeatedly sexually assaulted and raped them while they worked for him.

The suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court seeks at least \$50 million in damages over the alleged assaults, which the women say took place between 2007 and 2024, and labour violations including a hostile work environment, illegally long hours and lack of pay.

A message seeking comment from a representative for the 85-year-old Robinson was not immediately answered.

The four women each say that Robinson would wait until he was alone with them in his Los Angeles house then sexually assault and rape them over their objections.

“We believe that Mr Robinson is a serial and sick rapist, and must be stopped,” the women’s attorney John Harris said at a news conference.

All said they eventually quit over the assaults, though in some cases it took several years. And all said they feared coming forward over fears of retaliation, public shame and possible effects on their immigration status.

“Having to tell their husband and children of these



despicable actions left them filled with shame and embarrassment,” Harris said. “So throughout their dreadful experiences with Mr Robinson, all four women remained silent.”

He said as low-wage earners, they also all feared “missing a payday, and not being able to afford rent or buy food for their families.”

All four women withheld their legal names citing privacy concerns and are identified as Jane Does in court documents. They appeared at the news conference with their attorneys, but did not speak, and covered their faces with masks.

The lawsuit also names Robinson’s wife Frances Robinson as a defendant, alleging that she enabled his behaviour despite knowing about past sexual misconduct. It also blames her for the hostile work environment, saying she berated them with language

that included ethnic slurs.

One woman said she worked for the Robinsons from 2012 until 2024, and was assaulted at least 20 times in that span. Another said she worked for them from 2014 until 2020, and was assaulted at least 23 times. Another said she worked for them for a year before quitting in 2024 and was assaulted at least seven times. The fourth woman, who said she also acted as Frances Robinson’s personal assistant, hairdresser and cook, worked for them for 18 years before resigning in 2024. She cited similar experiences to the other women, but did not say how often she was assaulted.

The women, some of whom worked for the Robinsons at the same time as each other, also kept stories of the assaults from one another, but are now bonding over their experience, the attorneys said. They declined to give

details at the news conference about how they came forward and learned there were others.

The suit seeks damages based on sexual battery, assault, false imprisonment, gender violence and other allegations.

“Obviously, no amount of money can compensate these women for what Mr Robinson put them through,” Harris said. But he said the \$50 million was warranted “based on the gravity of Mr Robinson’s despicable and reprehensible misconduct.”

Plaintiffs’ attorney Herbert Hayden said that while they felt the assaults are worthy of criminal investigation, the women have not filed police reports, based on the same fears that kept them from coming forward.

Robinson, a member of both the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, was among the biggest hitmakers of the 1960s — both with his group the Miracles and as a solo artist, with songs including Tears of a Clown and The Tracks of My Tears.

He was a central part of the Motown Records music machine in his hometown of Detroit as an artist, producer and songwriter for other artists. (Jamaica Gleaner)

FIXTURES



27TH APRIL - 17th MAY 2025

PRELIMINARIES

ABT 20
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA PL
T20 PREMIER LEAGUE

 PYTHONS VS TIGERS  (11:00 AM)  PIGOTTS	 LIONS VS CRUSHERS  (2:30 PM)  PIGOTTS
 PYTHONS VS LIONS  (11:00 AM)  LIBERTA	 BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS  (2:30 PM)  LIBERTA
 CRUSHERS VS NATION  (2:30 PM)  PIGOTTS	 LIONS VS TIGERS  (11:00 AM)  LIBERTA
 BLACKHAWKS VS NATION  (2:30 PM)  LIBERTA	 PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS  (2:30 PM)  PIGOTTS
 CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS  (11:00 AM)  PIGOTTS	 NATION VS PYTHONS  (2:30 PM)  PIGOTTS
 NATION VS TIGERS  (11:00 AM)  LIBERTA	 BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS  (2:30 PM)  LIBERTA
 BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS  (11:00 AM)  LIBERTA	 NATION VS LIONS  (2:30 PM)  LIBERTA



SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025

TIGERS VS CRUSHERS

(2:30 PM)



PIGOTTS

ELIMINATOR

THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025

2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE

(2:30 PM)

SATURDAY, 17 MAY 2025

FINALS

WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE

(2:00 PM)

Sports News

Teams forfeit matches in ABAVA's Second Division leagues



Jets 2 female volleyball team

The latest matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Second Division Development League all ended in forfeitures.

Both teams were penalised by the ABAVA after the game between defending women's second division champions Paragons 2 and High Flyerz Valkyries was abandoned because the two teams failed to show up for the encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

It was the third loss in four matches for Paragons, while Valkyries lost for the second time in four encounters.

Jets 2 were awarded a 2-0 (25-0, 25-0) victory by default against Royal DHS, Print Xpress, and Auto Craze Cruisers 2, who failed to show up for the women's Division 2 encounter.

It was the third win in five games for Jets 2, while Royal Cruisers 2 remain second from the bottom of the

nine-team round-robin competition after suffering their fourth defeat in five games.

TOA Media & MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles are current leaders of the women's Second Division with four wins from as many games.

Jets 2 and Starz 2 Juniors are in joint second place with identical records of three wins and two losses from five matches.

Sharks recorded their first win in the Men's Division 2 league by virtue of being awarded victory by default against Invaders 2.

Sharks were credited with a 2-0 win (25-0, 25-0) after Invaders 2 failed to show up for their scheduled encounter.

However, the Sharks remain in the cellar of the four-team round-robin league with a record of one win and five losses from six games. Invaders 2 remain second from the bottom of the standings after suffering their fourth

loss in six matches.

Theatric Lighting & Stage Effect and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville 2 currently lead the Men's Division 2 league with a record of four wins from as many matches.

TOA Media & MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity are in second place with three wins from four matches.

Meanwhile, the ABAVA's First Division Local League will continue with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Thursday evening (today).

Starz 1 will take on DHS, Print Xpress, and Auto Craze Royal Cruisers in a women's Division 1 affair at 6:45 pm, and reigning men's Division I champions Theatric Lighting & Stage Effect and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville will face Renegades at 7:45 pm.

Rangpur Riders return to defend Global Super League crown



The defending champions are back. The Rangpur Riders have confirmed their return to the ExxonMobil Guyana Global Super League (GSL), aiming to defend the title they memorably captured in 2024. This year's event will take place from July 10 to 18.

Last year's tournament, staged at the Providence Stadium in Guyana, witnessed the Riders' triumph over Cricket Victoria in a thrilling final, cementing their place in GSL history.

With a combination of dynamic batting, disciplined bowling, and strong leadership, the Riders proved to be deserving champions of an action-packed competition.

The Rangpur Riders,

one of the leading franchises in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), bring a rich pedigree to the GSL.

Having won the BPL championship in 2017, the Riders have consistently been a playoff contender over the last three seasons, showcasing their reputation for excellence and resilience.

At the 2024 GSL, the Riders were ably led by captain Nurul Hasan, whose astute leadership played a pivotal role in their successful campaign.

Soumya Sarkar emerged as their standout batter, accumulating an impressive 188 runs across five innings, while Kamrul Islam Rabbi spearheaded the bowling attack, claim-

ing seven crucial wickets to finish as the team's top wicket-taker.

Reflecting on the Riders' return, Sir Clive Lloyd, Chairman of the ExxonMobil GSL, said, "We are delighted to welcome back the 2024 GSL champions to this year's tournament.

"The Rangpur Riders added tremendous excitement, skill, and professionalism to last year's event, and were truly wor-

thy winners. We eagerly anticipate their return to Guyana and look forward to witnessing their continued excellence on the field."

The 2025 edition of the ExxonMobil Guyana Global Super League promises to be even bigger and better, with top franchises from around the world converging once again for high-quality competition and entertainment.

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mariales Mejia Linares of Dickenson Bay Street, St. John's Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Minister of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Sports News



Infernos crush Titans, advance into playoffs of T20 Breakout League



Johann Jeremiah

Johann Jeremiah etched his name in the record books of the West Indies T20 Breakout League on Tuesday night, as he produced the tournament's highest individual score to date and propelled the Windward Islands Inferno to a commanding 86-run victory over the Jamaica Titans at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

In an explosive display of clean hitting and composure, Jeremiah smashed 97 off 50 balls, including eight sixes and seven fours, and in the process, carried the Infernos to a tournament-high 211 for six—the first 200-plus total of the competition.

Though he narrowly missed becoming the first centurion in the inaugural Breakout League, his knock proved more than enough to catapult the In-

fernos into the playoffs, as they leapfrogged the Barbados Pelicans (20 points) into second place on 22 points, with one match still to play.

Leaders Trinidad and Tobago Legends (31 points) are also through to the playoffs.

The Infernos' innings was ignited by a brisk 88-run opening stand between Jeremiah and captain Alick Athanaze (34), which set the foundation for a mammoth score.

After Athanaze's dismissal in the 11th over, Jeremiah kept his foot on the accelerator as he dominated a second wicket stand with Teddy Bishop, a 54-run blitz in just three overs, as they further demoralized the Titans' bowling attack.

On 97 and within touching distance

of a historic ton, Jeremiah was bowled by Titans captain Ramaal Lewis, with the score at 142 for two in the 14th over. His dismissal briefly slowed the Infernos' charge, as Shadrack Descarte (zero), Dillon Douglas (five), and Ryan John (one) all fell cheaply.

But Bishop, who smashed three sixes in one of Michael Clarke's overs, posted a brisk 44 off 22 balls to ensure the Infernos crossed the symbolic 200-run barrier—an unprecedented feat in this year's league.

For the Titans, Jeavor Royal (two for 19) and Anthony Dackers (two for 33) were the only bowlers to stem the flow.

Any hopes of the Titans mounting a historic chase evaporated within the first six overs, as their miserable batting display continued. The top order crumbled under pressure, as pacers Ryan John and Keon Johnson ripped through the lineup.

They shared wickets of Leroy Lugg (four), Jordan Johnson (two), Kirk McKenzie (four), and Andrew Rambaran (two) to reduce the Titans to a woeful 26 for four.

From there, the collapse continued. Despite a fighting 35 from Deethmar Anderson and 25 from Lewis, the Titans were bowled out in 18 overs for 125, nowhere near the target.

Darel Cyrus (two for 16), Gaston (two for 14), and John (two for 15) shared the wickets.



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



- Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- Breakfast served from 7:30am
- Games Night - COMING SOON!

CWI pays tribute to former cricketer Hammond Furlonge



West Indies touring team to New Zealand in 1955. (CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has paid tribute to Hammond Allan Furlonge, the former Trinidad & Tobago and West Indies opening batter who died on Tuesday. He was 90 years old.

An unsung hero of Trinidad & Tobago cricket, Furlonge represented the West Indies between 1955 and 1956 in three Test matches. Furlonge made his first-class debut for Trinidad in 1954-55, opening the batting with Jeffrey Stollmeyer.

He had a most memorable and eventful third match, against the touring Australians—scoring 57 and 150 not out—which forced him into the reckoning of the se-

lectors. Furlonge was then included in the team for the fifth Test, opening with John Holt and making four and 28.

Additionally, he toured New Zealand with the West Indies team in 1955-56. He failed to score in the second Test, but returned for the fourth test where he top-scored in the first innings with 64 in a total of 145 all out in a low-scoring match.

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of CWI, paid tribute to Furlonge, citing his tenacity and commitment to the sport in the region.

“I offer sincere condolences to the family and friends

of Hammond Furlonge. He is one of those unsung heroes of West Indies cricket who served the game at all levels for several decades. During his playing career, he was a dynamic opening batter, competitive and tenacious in his approach to the game,” Dr Shallow said.

“On behalf of the Directors, Management and Staff of Cricket West Indies and all lovers of West Indies cricket, we salute his legacy and his contribution to the game in the Caribbean, and mourn his loss alongside his family, friends and the cricket-loving people of Trinidad & Tobago and the Caribbean.”

Chris Dehring, CEO of CWI, also reflected on Furlonge’s impact on the sport.

“Players like Hammond Furlonge were instrumental in shaping the foundations of West Indies cricket. His performances in the 1950s came at a pivotal time in our cricket history, as the team was building its identity and confidence on the world stage.

“His courage, skill, and quiet determination helped set the tone for future generations of West Indies cricketers,” said Dehring. “We are forever indebted to pioneers like him who paved the way with distinction and pride.”

Sports

THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2025



Flyers 2 and Fearless Crew level Division 2 playoff series



EZ Fit Flyers 2 and Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew have levelled their respective first-round series in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division playoff competition.

Both teams level their best-of-three first-round series 1-1 by recording narrow wins in Game 2 of their respective matchups at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday evening.

After suffering a 65-79 loss in the opening game, fifth seed EZ Fit Flyers

2 rebounded to snatch a hard-fought 75-71 victory in the second encounter against the fourth-seeded Old Road Daggers.

Amare Brown shot a game-high 26 points and snatched seven rebounds; Rashaun Harry sank 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds; Naheem Joseph also converted 13 points and claimed eight steals; and Shavaun Francis contributed 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Flyers.

Tyndale Telemaque sank 17 points; Kedar Clarke produced 16 points, eight steals, seven rebounds, and six assists; Braulio Estrada converted 10 points and claimed five rebounds; Kelvin Simon contributed nine points and 18 rebounds; and Jesus Lopez also scored nine points for the Old Road Daggers.

Flyers 2 and Old Road Daggers will clash in the decisive Game 3 at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday at 6:45 pm.

After losing the opening game 64-66, the sixth-seeded Fearless Crew hit

back to snatch a narrow 71-70 victory against the third-seeded Spanish Heat 2 in another nail-biting encounter between the two evenly matched teams.

Takeem Martin Produced 26 points, 16 rebounds, and five steals; Rafiki Harris contributed 22 points, 16 rebounds, and six assists; and Ronel Gomez chipped in with nine points, seven rebounds, and six assists for the Fearless Crew.

Jesus Emmanuel sank 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Rohland Hamilton converted 14 points and snatched 16 rebounds; Kevin Pimentel contributed 12 points and five assists; Sandy Valdez scored 10 points; and Charlie Daniel chipped in with eight points and 14 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.

Both teams will clash in the decisive Game 3 at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday (today) at 6:45 pm. It will be followed by another Game 3 decider in the First Division between fourth seed All Saints Slam and fifth seed Spanish Heat at 8:30 pm.

Wings to stage annual basketball festival this weekend

The Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club will be staging its 10th Annual Youth Basketball Festival on Saturday.

The exciting event will take place at the JSC Sports Complex from 9 am to 5 pm.

Both boys and girls will



Youngsters participate in a previous edition of the Wings Youth Basketball Festival at the YMCA Sports Complex. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

compete in the under-11, under-15, and under-19 categories.

Each team is required to register at least seven players but no more than eight players.

Registration is open and can be done on the day of the event before 8:30 am.