

Teachers are 'heartless' in their actions

Story on Page 2



Robert Prevost, become first American Pope

Teachers are taking ‘disproportionate’ action in long-running unrest, says PM Browne

Prime minister Gaston Browne is voicing frustration over the actions of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers for its latest round of industrial action that places the welfare of the nation’s youth at risk.

In an interview done moments after he returned from his trip to Washington, PM Browne described the action of the teachers as ‘disproportionate’ as while he agrees that the outstanding allowances ought to have been paid, there is no question that the government is fully committed to making the payments.

PM Browne is also questioning where there are no other voices in the society speaking out on what he sees as an ‘unconscionable’ act. “Are teachers now above the fray; that they can take disproportionate action and put our children out of school and have them languishing for a week, for outstanding allowances that are being paid?” he queried.

According to the prime minister the government is committed to making the payments and most of the teachers have since received



their cheques, adding that it unfortunate that the ministry officials took a long time to process the documentations. “You don’t ‘throw out the baby with the bath water’ and I want to know what teaching has come to; what happen, they don’t prioritise the interests of their students?” he again queried.

The prime minister also suggested that there may be teachers who are involved in politics. “If we are going to call a ‘spade a spade’, we have a lot of teachers who are into politics; this is actually a political response. This has nothing to do with

the payment of allowances. It doesn’t even have to do with salaries and wages,” he declared.

PM Browne gave as an example the last increase which teachers received when all public servants received salary increases over a year ago. “You know how many adjustments we have made; we gave an increase of 9 percent so the issue is not about pay. Outstanding allowances, which I accept should have been paid, but the fact that they are being dealt with and now they come up with all kinds of spurious arguments; the lat-

est I am hearing is that there are six individuals who did not get some kind of allowance because they were not part of the original list that was submitted and instead of the teachers’ union taking some responsibility for this, they continue to strike and keep our children out of school? I say that this is heartless and totally ridiculous and the people of Antigua and Barbuda better make a stance on this issue,” he declared.

Teachers have been engaged in a ‘work to rule’ over the past week where they report for work and do not teach.


 An advertisement for Curry House restaurant. The background shows a variety of colorful Indian dishes in bowls. The text "Curry House" is written in a large, stylized red font. Below it, in white text, it says "Open Daily - 12:00pm - 10:30pm". At the bottom, it says "ANTIGUA" and provides social media handles for Facebook (@curryanddoorhouseanu) and Instagram (@curryhouseanu), along with a phone number (268) 736-7165.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CLARIFIES PUBLICATION OF NAMES OF TEACHERS WITH UNCOLLECTED CHECKS



The Ministry of Education wishes to clarify the recent publication of the names of teachers with uncollected checks at the Ministry.

The sole purpose of releasing the

names was to efficiently and directly inform affected teachers that their checks are ready for collection, ensuring that the ongoing industrial action ends. Although the Ministry of Education has an internal mechanism to contact recipients, this process is sometimes slow and tedious; the publication of names was intended to complement this internal process.

The Ministry never intended to suggest that these checks had been left uncollected for an extended period or to cast any negative impression on the professionalism or diligence of our educators. Indeed, the Treasury delivered some of these checks to the Ministry of Education only on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

Our goal has always been to support our teachers and facilitate their smooth return to the classroom, where they continue to do the important and passionate work they love.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this may have caused. The Ministry deeply values the dedication and service of all educators, and we remain committed to continuing to work with A&BUT to resolve any outstanding matters swiftly and collaboratively.

Together, we will continue to build a strong and responsive education system that serves the best interests of our teachers, our students, and the nation as a whole.



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PM calls out 'mercenaries' who are engaged in a smear campaign against the country



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne used very strong language to describe a group of Antigua and Barbuda nationals in the United States, whom he accused of engaging in a smear campaign against the country.

The prime minister was speaking of a small group of individuals who picketed outside the building in Washington, USA, where he and five other Caribbean leaders were meeting with US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio on Tuesday.

“What is happening is that senior members of the UPP are collaborating with foreign mercenaries to destroy the image of the country. I happen to be the current prime minister so they believe that by tearing me down they will be able to undermine the prospects of the country, and, they are doing this for power. They are using the Alfa Nero as a ‘red herring’ but we all know that the US\$40 million which the vessel was sold for have been properly accounted for by the Ministry of Finance,” PM Browne explained.

He noted that the UPP and others’ first claim was that US\$10 million was missing from the US\$40 million, but after an accounting of the amount was provided by the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury, the

claim changed to suggest that the vessel was sold for US\$50 million instead. However, that claim has been dismissed with the man who purchased the Alfa Nero issuing a signed affidavit confirming that he paid US\$40 million and not US\$50 million.

“What they are doing now, having lost the moral argument, they are literally now engaged in a smear campaign and whereas there are individuals who may believe that they are targeting me exclusively, it is really the country that they are tearing down. For example, they were trying to suggest to US officials, including the Secretary of State, based on their protestation, that we have

relationships with China, Cuba and Venezuela that will undermine US interests. They even had a mobile electronic billboard to that effect,” the prime minister reported.

He said these individuals were acting against the interest of Antigua and Barbuda and that their actions ought to be condemned in the strongest manner by men and women of good conscience here in the country.

“They have been protesting using lies and disinformation and it is clear that they are mercenaries, paid by the UPP and those who are funding the UPP. It is clear that the UPP has aligned with Russian interests and are taking their money,” he suggested.



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Antigua PM responds to Gonsalves unfortunate comments on CBI

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has defended Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) against criticism from St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

Browne expressed shock at Gonsalves' characterization of regional CIP programmes as corrupt and poorly managed, calling his fellow regional leader's statement "unfortunate" and "irresponsible."

He emphasized that Antigua and Barbuda has not processed any single application without appropriate due diligence, including review by international due diligence agencies, regional institutions, and global or-



St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

ganizations like Interpol.

Gonsalves' public criticism of Caribbean CIP programmes on April 15 high-

lighted the sale of passports as an "existential threat" to the region's democratic systems and alleged widespread corruption within

programme administration.

Browne argued that accusations of corruption within the program could not apply to Antigua and Barbuda, as the country runs a legitimate investment immigration programme similar to the EB-5, Canada, and European Union programs.

Browne also questioned Gonsalves' warning about potential visa restrictions against CIP countries, suggesting that St Vincent and the Grenadines could face similar consequences regardless of its participation in such programmes.

Article Published May 07, 2025 on stvincenttimes.com

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Guyanese woman's death ruled 'suspicious'...boyfriend in custody



The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of 19-year-old Joyleen Abraham, a national of Guyana.

Reports indicate that sometime shortly after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, the deceased allegedly jumped from a motor vehicle driven by 24-year-old Victor Ince of Lightfoot West. The incident occurred along a by-road leading from New Winthorpes to the Jabberwock Main Road.

Police responded to the scene and found the body of the deceased lying motionless on the southern side of the roadway with multiple injuries. A medical doctor later pronounced her dead at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The driver of the vehicle is currently in police custody assisting with ongoing investigations. The vehicle involved has been seized and transported to Police Headquarters for further forensic examination.

The Police Administration is appealing to members of the public who may have witnessed the incident or have any relevant information to come forward. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Coolidge Police Station at 462-3185, the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/14, or anonymously call Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Meanwhile, the police are seeking the public's assistance in locating 13-year-old Kira Bright, who has been report-

ed missing from her home.

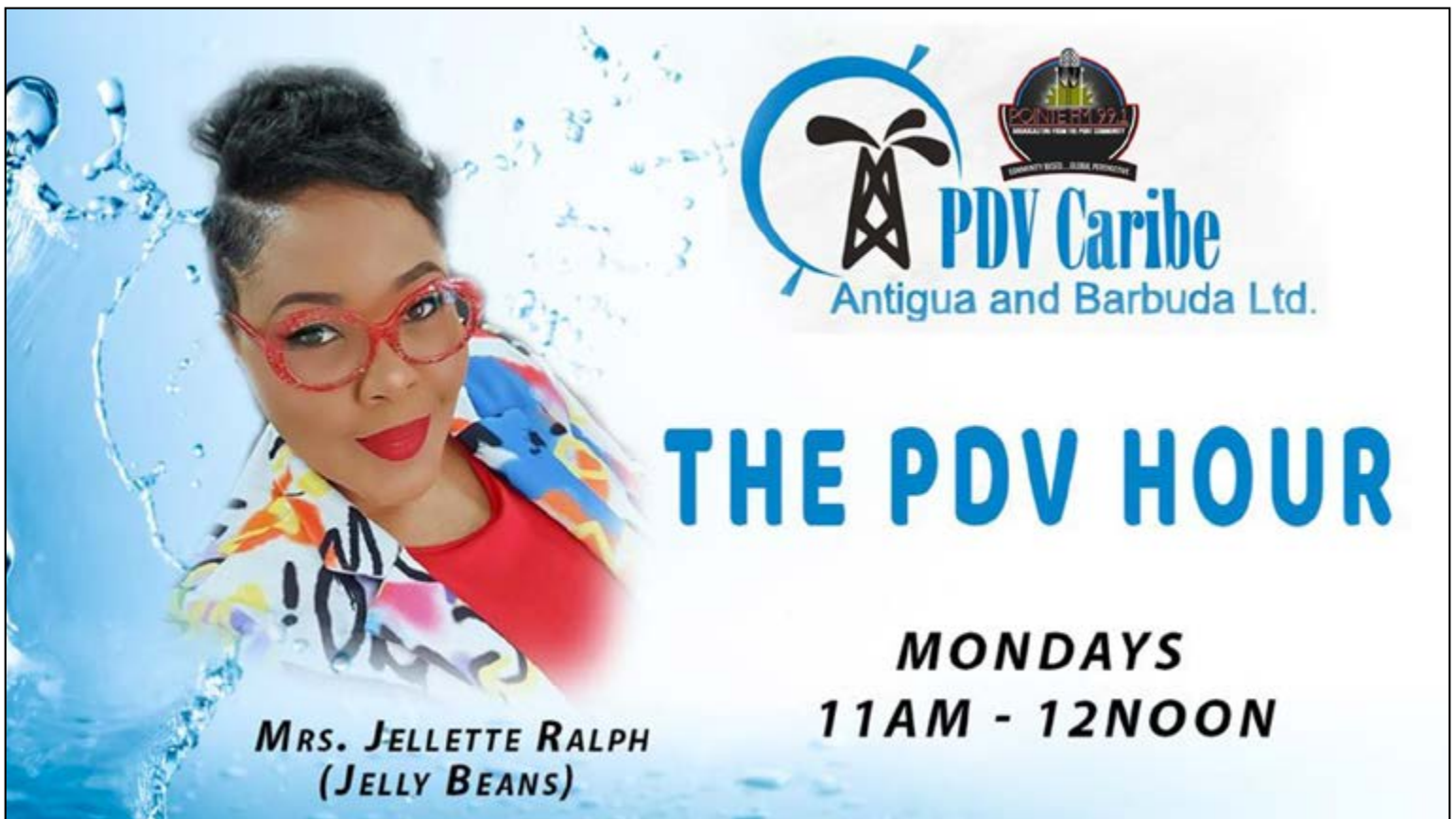
Kira reportedly left her parents' residence without consent on Thursday, May 2, 2025, and has not returned since. The young teen is known to have a history of leaving home without permission and was reportedly seen at several different locations since her disappearance.

The police have launched a search operation in an effort to locate her and ensure her safety.

The Police Administration is appealing directly to Kira to return home without delay.

The public is further reminded that it is a criminal offence to harbor a minor or assist them in eluding authorities.

Anyone with information regarding her whereabouts is asked to contact the Grays Farm Police Station at 462-0481 or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462



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2 arrested in missing Trini case in Antigua

Reprinted from the Trinidad and Tobago Newsday

ON May 7, heavily-armed Antiguan police officers searched a house in Hodges Bay as part of the ongoing investigation into the mysterious disappearance of Trinidadian national Thomas Vasquez.

A woman was taken into custody during the operation. She is believed to have spoken with Vasquez on the night of his arrival to the island on April 14 and is reportedly professionally linked to the marijuana farm where he was employed. She was released same day.

Also arrested at the home was a senior male employee of the same farm and a young woman.

Up to midday on May 8, he was still in police custody but had not been charged. His arrest has only deepened speculation surrounding the case. It is unclear if the young woman is still in police custody.



Last week, in three separate operations, police searched the English Harbour Marina, locally known as Pharm Dock, for a boat suspected to be connected to Vasquez's disappearance. Though the boat was not located, a source close to the investigation said it allegedly belongs to a close associate of the senior employee now in custody.

Vasquez vanished without a trace on April 15, just one day after returning to Antigua to resume work at what was believed to be a legal cannabis

cultivation site. However, as investigators become more familiar with the case, questions have emerged about the farm's legitimacy and operations.

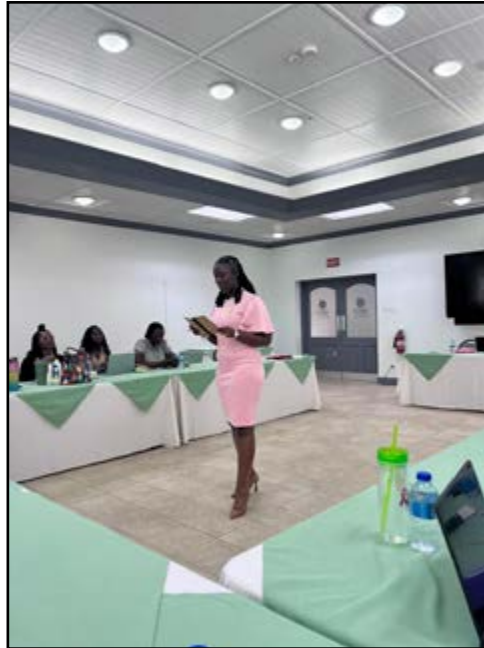
According to reports, after arriving on April 14, Vasquez spent the evening drinking with a coworker at a local bar. He reportedly later stayed the night at the home of a couple who dropped him off at the farm the next morning. A farm employee said Vasquez spent the day sleeping on the premises, but by the end of that day, he was nowhere to be found.

Adding a grim layer to the mystery is the death of another farm worker just weeks earlier. On March 24, 27-year-old Jahkeem Browne was found shot to death at the abandoned site of Bruce's Night Club in Hatton. The investigation into Browne's murder remains open and unsolved.

However, in a phone interview with Newsday on May 8, Browne's mother disputed claims he worked on the farm.

Vasquez was initially hired in 2024 by a fellow Trinidadian to work at the farm.

Communicators engage in workshop to enhance skill-set



Some twenty communicators drawn from both the public and private sectors are attending a two-day workshop designed to sharpen their communications skills.

Organised and facilitated by Samoya Kirby, a media practitioner with many years of experience and knowledge, the workshop is being held under the theme; *Elevated communications for communicators.*

The workshop is taking place at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute at Dutchman's Bay. Kirby has invited other media professionals to make presentations on specific subject areas. For example, Information Technology specialist, Elijah James, spoke on The Age of AI and Marlon Jeffers who assisted participants with practical on-camera presentations.

Kirby said it is her intention to launch her own media consultancy and that the workshop is the first venture along this path.

Robert Prevost, becomes first American Pope...the Spiritual Leader of more than 1.4 billion Catholics



VATICAN CITY (AP) — Catholic cardinals broke with tradition Thursday and elected the first U.S. pope, making Chicago-born missionary [Robert Prevost](#) the 267th pontiff to lead the Catholic Church in a moment of global turmoil and conflict.

Prevost, a 69-year-old member of the [Augustinian religious order](#) who spent his career ministering in Peru,

took the name Leo XIV.

In his first words as [Pope Francis' successor](#), uttered from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Leo said, "Peace be with you," and emphasized a message of "a disarmed and disarming peace" dialogue and missionary evangelization.

He wore the traditional red cape and trappings of the papacy — a cape that Fran-

cis had eschewed on his election in 2013 — suggesting a return to some degree of tradition after Francis' unorthodox pontificate. But in naming himself Leo, the new pope could also have wanted to signal a strong line of continuity: Brother Leo was the 13th century friar who was a great companion to St. Francis of Assisi, the late pope's namesake.

"Together, we must try to find out how to be a missionary church, a church that builds bridges, establishes dialogue, that's always open to receive — like on this piazza with open arms to be able to receive everybody that needs our charity, our presence, dialogue and love," Leo said in near-perfect Italian.



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PRESS RELEASE

The Consulate of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana wishes to inform all Guyana nationals that the processing of passport applications has resumed.

The new 10-year Guyana/Caricom passport, with computer chip, requires that biometrics be taken electronically. As a result, the Consulate will no longer be accepting passport applications via mail and all applications must be submitted in person.

The Consulate in Antigua will now be processing passport applications for Guyanese nationals in Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis and the British Virgin Islands. Persons from overseas must make an appointment in order to ensure prompt service by emailing to: guyconsulantigua@gmail.com or calling 1-268-720-5751.

Nationals are also asked to note that all other services provided by the Consulate remain unchanged,

The Consulate of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in Antigua and Barbuda wishes to thank you for your understanding and cooperation at this time.

8th May, 2025

Community Gardens and Beautification Festival 2025, “Think Beautification for the Nation’s Health and Wealth.”



A new season of beauty, community spirit, and national pride is upon us, as registration officially opens for the 2025 Community Gardens and Beautification Festival. Hosted by the Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division under the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, this beloved national initiative continues to unite citizens around a shared mission: to build a cleaner, greener, and more connected Antigua and Barbuda.

What began in 1951 as the Homes, Families and Gardens Festival was reintroduced in 2008 under the bold and hopeful theme, “Think Beautification for the Nation’s Health and Wealth.” Today, under its refreshed name, the Community Gardens and Beautification Festival is more than a competition—it’s

a movement of empowerment, civic pride, and resilience. It’s a joyful invitation to citizens from all walks of life to nurture the land, their communities, and one another.

A Festival with Deep Roots and Fresh Growth

The Festival celebrates the power of gardening, creativity, and cultural heritage in shaping vibrant, resilient communities. Through hands-on planting, historical storytelling, and poetic expression, participants uplift their neighborhoods while deepening their connection to the land and their collective history.

This year’s competition features three major components: The Garden Competition, The Poetry and Research Competition, and the Poetry in Motion, a vibrant new category designed for ages 7–10, 11–15, and 16–20, encouraging youth

to share their voice through performance poetry.

Growing Knowledge: Free Workshops for All

To empower participants with practical skills and environmental wisdom, the Festival offers free educational workshops throughout May. Whether you’re a novice or an experienced gardener, these sessions provide essential tools for sustainable and rewarding cultivation.

Workshop Schedule:

Community Gardens & Beautification Festival 2025

Theme: Think Beautification for the Nation’s Health & Wealth



Categories:

- Fruits & Vegetables
- Flower
- Herb & Spice
- Stone & Ornamental
- Water
- Best Kept Community








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Rubio's outreach to CARICOM leaders lays groundwork but work remains on both sides



By Sir Ronald Sanders

By any diplomatic measure, the recent engagement between U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the independent states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is historic. Within just four months of taking office, Secretary Rubio has held substantive in-person talks with 13 of the 14 CARICOM Heads of Government. The Prime Minister of Belize, John Briceño—whose nation straddles the Central American isthmus—also received a call focused mostly on Central American matters.

Never before has a U.S. Secretary of State conferred so extensively and swiftly with CARICOM leaders. This matters.

It signals that even amid a maelstrom of global crises, the Caribbean is not being ignored. Indeed, the weight of Rubio's global responsibilities was brought into sharp focus during the meeting with the Prime Minister of The Bahamas and six Eastern Caribbean leaders, when an aide interrupted to report India's missile strike on Pa-

kistan. The strike was in retaliation for a massacre in Indian-controlled Kashmir which borders India and Pakistan. The world was on edge, and yet Rubio remained in the Caribbean meeting as long as he could – listening and engaging.

Adding to the weight on his shoulders, Rubio has also been appointed National Security Adviser to President Donald Trump—a dual role not seen since the era of the legendary Dr. Henry Kissinger. The expectation, then, is enormous. Yet his direct and personal outreach to the Caribbean underscores an intent to understand the region.

When Secretary Rubio first met six CARICOM leaders on 26 and 27 March, the looming threat of U.S. trade tariffs had not yet materialized. But by the time of the May 6 meeting, President Trump had signed an Executive Order imposing a sweeping 10% tariff on all imports into the U.S.—including from CARICOM states, and much higher tariffs on other nations, especially China. This second round of meetings with Caribbean leaders offered the opportunity to address these tariffs directly.

The conversations were respectful, candid, and forward-leaning. No grandstanding, no finger-pointing—just clear-eyed dialogue on pressing concerns: trade imbalances, Cuban medical personnel, narcotics trafficking, gun crime, immigration, and the role of China in the region.

On the matter of Cuban doctors, Caribbean leaders pushed back firmly but respectfully against any suggestion of human trafficking. They explained that Cuban medical teams are indispensable to their public health systems. These professionals are compensated directly, with governments paying a

facilitation fee to Havana—similar to arrangements with other states that deploy medical missions abroad. Still, the leaders made it clear: they remain open to reviewing their processes to ensure alignment with international labour standards.

As for immigration, the region reiterated a long-standing position: they accept the return of their nationals, consistent with the deportation laws of the United States. Pre-meeting speculation that Washington might pressure these small Caribbean states to take in non-nationals proved unfounded, although it would have been resisted as far too burdensome had it been raised.

The topic of China was dealt with sensitively. The four Caribbean nations present, including Antigua and Barbuda and The Bahamas which have diplomatic and economic relationships with China, reaffirmed their right -and the necessity - to maintain broad-based economic partnerships. Their relationships with China, they stressed, are rooted in development cooperation, not ideology or military alignment. Their only military alliances, they emphasized, are with the U.S. and fellow CARICOM states.

On trade, the leaders laid out stark numbers: in 2023, the U.S. exported approximately \$2.23 billion in goods to the Eastern Caribbean, importing a mere \$67.5 million in return. The resulting U.S. trade surplus underscores a one-sided flow that the region has not sought to disrupt. The newly imposed 10% tariff, however, risks making U.S. goods - already the source of over 60% of the region's imports, including food and medicine - even more expensive, threatening economic resilience and development gains. Worse yet, it

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could increase poverty and unemployment and weaken the rule of law in the region.

This was no showdown. It was a beginning. The first lap of what Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, described as a marathon. The tone was constructive, the atmosphere collegial, the intentions clear: deepen cooperation, reduce misperceptions, and build a relationship grounded not in dependency and

dictation but in mutual respect and shared interest.

The Caribbean spoke clearly and with unity on their shared concerns. Secretary Rubio listened. That alone marks a notable departure from past dynamics. But listening is only the first act. The true measure of success lies in the follow-through, and there is much work still to be done by both sides.

Still, May 6 was a good start. A solid foundation upon which both the United States and the Caribbean can build

- not just in this moment of global stress and strain, but toward a renewed partnership for the long road ahead to stability, predictability and prosperity.

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

The Longest Running Caribbean & International Food Fair belongs to Us!

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 Website: www.antigua-barbuda.com

PRESS RELEASE

8th May 2025...Heydar Aliyev International Education Grant Programme Scholarship Opportunity – Deadline for Applications 12th May, 2025.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda is pleased to invite eligible Antiguan and Barbudan students to apply for the Heydar Aliyev International Education Grant Programme for the 2025 – 2026 academic year. This scholarship, funded by the Government of Azerbaijan, provides fully funded higher education opportunities at leading universities in Azerbaijan.

Established by decree of H.E. Ilhan Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the programme honours the memory of Heydar Aliyev, the National Leader of Azerbaijan, and supports the development of human capital and international cooperation.

Successful applicants will receive full tuition fees and language preparatory courses, international round- trip airfare (once per year), monthly stipend of 800 AZN (approximately US\$470) for accommodation, daily expenses, and educational materials, annual medical insurance allowance of 200 AZN (approximately US\$117) and visa and residence permit support for the duration of the programme.

Antiguan student, Dr Abosede Winter, who is currently benefiting from the Heydar Aliyev International Education Grant Programme shared her experience:

“Studying in Azerbaijan has been a really great experience. The rich culture, friendly community, and the chance to explore new perspectives have made it truly memorable. It’s a great opportunity for anyone looking to grow, learn, and step outside their comfort zone.”

Dr Winter is enrolled at Azerbaijan Medical University, where she is pursuing a medical residency in Obstetrics and Gynaecology under the scholarship programme.

Interested applicants may apply for any of the following courses:

- Preparatory courses: 6 months to 1 year
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- General medicine programmes: 5 – 6 years
- Master’s programmes (including medical residency): 1.5 – 5 years
- Doctoral (PhD) programmes: 3 years

Applicants for undergraduate/general medicine programmes must be under 35 years as of 15th September 2025. Applicants for graduate/Medical residency programmes must be under 40 years and applicants for doctoral programmes must be under 45 years.




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How to Apply

Interested candidates must be officially nominated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Applicants are invited to submit all required documentation, including the nomination form and passport copies to the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission (Highcommission@antigua-barbuda.com) by midnight on **Monday 12th May 2025**. Documents must be computer-typed (not hand-written) and submitted in PDF format. The application must include all of the following documents:


- (i) Completed Nomination Form
- (ii) Copy of Passport valid for the duration of the study period
- (iii) Copies of Educational Certificates and Transcripts relevant to the chosen level of study
- (iv) Curriculum Vitae (CV) detailing academic background, work experience (if any), and other relevant achievements
- (v) Motivation letter explaining why the applicant wishes to study in Azerbaijan and how the programme aligns with their future goals
- (vi) Proof of English Language Proficiency (if applicable)
- (vii) Medical Certificate confirming good health and ability to study abroad
- (viii) Two reference letters from academic or professional referees
- (ix) any additional documents required by specific universities or programmes. These will be confirmed after nomination.

For more information please contact the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission (London) at highcommission@antigua-barbuda.com





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Press Release

We need your help!

At Good Humans 268, we are committed to achieving lasting environmental change through the collective efforts of our community. Our current project aims to reduce waste, increase recycling, and inspire sustainable practices across Antigua and Barbuda. We are excited to launch our "3-2-1 Impact Drive" This drive was created to ensure that we are able to complete objective 3 of our Student Community Service - Recycling Project.

3: Help us complete the third objective of our project.

2: Individuals can help this drive by donating starting from as little as \$2.00, while larger companies can support by making donations of \$2,000.00.

1: Sort all the contents diverted from the landfill in year 1 with 10,000 pledges.

Every contribution, large or small, will bring us closer to achieving this goal and fostering a sustainable future. We also warmly invite individuals to visit our facilities to see firsthand the difference their support makes. This invitation is an opportunity to witness our recycling processes, learn about our waste management strategies, and get inspired to make sustainable changes.

Considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact. Let's build a cleaner, greener, and more responsible community!

Sincerely,



Joshuanette Francis

Founder & President

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

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 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)

Guyana: Opposition Leader calls for Assistant Commissioner's arrest in Adrianna Young case



Opposition Leader Audrey Norton has called for the immediate arrest and prosecution of Assistant Commissioner Khalid Mandall, citing alleged false statements made during the investigation into the death of 11-year-old Adrianna Young.

In a strongly worded press statement, Norton demanded equal treatment in the ongoing investigation that has

sparked public unrest.

"The Guyana Police Force must immediately issue a wanted bulletin for Assistant Commissioner Khalid Mandall," Norton declared. "When this issue with Adrianna began, the police was called in and the commander told this nation that they had video evidence of this young lady leaving the hotel. That turned out not to be true."

Norton argued that if nurse Tiana King is facing charges of creating public mischief and attempting to pervert and obstruct the course of justice, then similar charges should be brought against Mandall.

"If you are accusing Nurse Tiana King of creating public mischief and attempting to pervert and obstruct the course of justice, then the same thing should occur for the Assistant Commissioner," Norton stated.

"Because the Assistant Commissioner, by providing false information, can be considered one of the sources of the protests that followed at the Double Day Hotel," he added.

The Opposition Leader emphasized that he wasn't defending King but

insisted on equal application of the law. "I hold no brief for Tiana King, but what I do know is that if she is to be charged, then Mandall should be charged because it is the similar act that both of them would have committed," she said.

Norton accused the police force of political bias in their handling of the case. "The Guyana Police Force must be fair, stop being political and ensure that they issue a wanted bulletin for Khalid Mandall and subsequently charge him for creating public mischief and attempting to pervert and obstruct the course of justice," she said. "This will be the beginning of the march towards justice for Adriana Young."

The case has attracted significant public attention since Adriana Young's body was discovered in the swimming pool of Double Day Hotel at Tuschen, East Bank Essequibo, on April 24, several hours after she was reported missing. The incident sparked riots that have led to several arrests. Medical examiners have determined that the child died by drowning. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Former deputy speaker in Barbados found not guilty of rape

Former deputy speaker of the Barbados Parliament, Neil Rowe, was on Wednesday found not guilty of raping a woman.

Rowe, 45, was on trial over the last month on accusations of having sexual intercourse with the woman without her consent or was reckless as to whether she consented at his Kingsland, Christ Church residence on September 18, 2022.



But, a nine-member jury found him not guilty of the

charge that was heard by Justice Pamela Beckles,

who had given a three-hour summation in the No. 5 Su-

preme Court after 26 days of testimony.

In January last year, Prime Minister Mia Mottley defended the decision to remove Rowe as deputy speaker, saying it would allow him to deal with a matter he faces before the High Court.

She insisted that Rowe would remain as the parliamentary representative for the St Michael North West constituency. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News

DR: Authorities discover cocaine hidden in car bumpers



Dominican Republic authorities have seized cocaine concealed inside car bumpers that were being prepared for shipment to Australia.

In a joint interdiction operation, law enforcement officials and canine units discovered the drugs during a routine inspection at

one of the Dominican Postal Institute (INS-POSDOM) facilities.

Officials became suspicious after noticing a package containing two bumpers – one brown and one black wing – that displayed inconsistencies in their size and structure.

Officers conducted a more rigorous exam-

ination of the items and found several sheets of cocaine cleverly attached to the automotive parts in what authorities described as another attempt by organized crime to circumvent established security controls.

According to shipping documents, the package was alleged-

ly sent by an individual residing in the La Cienega sector of Santo Domingo Este. The intended recipient was listed at an address in Unit Toorak Court, Australia.

Officials have not yet disclosed the exact quantity of cocaine seized in the operation. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Harris Paints receives international award



Caribbean-based paint manufacturer Harris Paints achieved a notable milestone at the AMPP Annual Conference & Expo held in Nashville, Tennessee, by receiving the Master Painters Institute (MPI) 2025 Commitment Champion Award.

A company statement said that the recognition marks Harris Paints as the first and only company outside of North America to be honored with this global award. The award acknowledges the company's efforts in promoting international quality standards through the implementation of MPI systems, which include comprehensive product testing and ongoing professional development training—what it describes as “hallmarks of excellence in the coatings industry.”

MPI is an independent third-party organization in North America that establishes performance standards for commercially available paints and coatings. Its standards are adopted by both U.S. and Canadian governments.

MPI provides support to manufacturers, contractors, and asset owners to ensure durable performance, minimize risks, and elevate application practices worldwide.

MPI is affiliated with AMPP (the Association for Materials Protection and Performance), a global organization dedicated to advancing materials protection through corrosion control and protective coatings.

The award was presented by Alan Thomas, CEO of AMPP, and Juan Caballero, AMPP Chair for 2025, to Harris Paints' representative Marvin Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher is an MPI Accredited Coatings Technologist responsible for leading the Retail and Trade Sales teams at Harris's subsidiary, BH Paints. He traveled from Jamaica to accept the award on behalf of the company.

Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Fletcher stated, “For a Caribbean company, being recognized with an international award alongside global paint

brands is indeed an honour, and a testament to the quality and performance of our products and our commitment to exceeding international performance benchmarks”.

Since joining the MPI program last year, Harris Paints has had six products listed on MPI's Approved Products List, reports the company. It has also reportedly invested in MPI's educational programs to enhance technical expertise and skills within its teams. Currently, Harris Paints has over twelve MPI Accredited Coatings Technologists, representing the largest group of independently trained paint experts in the Caribbean region.

Harris Paints supplies products across 16 countries in the region, including Latin America. The company states that it intends to continue its collaboration with MPI and aims to expand its portfolio of internationally recognized MPI-approved products in the upcoming year. (*Dominica News Online*)

Smokey Robinson denies sexual assault allegations



Motown legend Smokey Robinson has denied allegations of sexual assault that were made by several former employees.

In a lawsuit filed on Tuesday, four female housekeepers accused the singer-songwriter of sexual battery including rape, plus false imprisonment and a number of labour violations.

In a statement to the BBC, Robinson's lawyer Christopher Frost called the allegations "vile" and "false".

"As this case progresses, the evidence (the crucial element that guides us) will show that this is simply an ugly method of trying to extract money from an 85-year-old American icon - \$50 million, to be exact," he said.

Robinson was Motown's first hitmaker, writing number one hits like Mary Wells' My Guy and the Temptations' My Girl.

He was both a talent scout for the record label and one of its most prominent re-

cording artists in his own right, known for songs like Tracks of My Tears, Shop Around and Tears of a Clown.

He has spots in both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Halls of Fame, and claims to have credits on more than 4,000 songs.

His second wife, Frances, was also named in Tuesday's lawsuit, which claimed she contributed to a hostile work environment and failed to stop Robinson's alleged sexual misconduct.

The women are suing under the pseudonyms Jane Doe 1, 2, 3 and 4, due to the sexual misconduct allegations, including rape, being levelled against the musician.

In the 27-page lawsuit they detail several incidents dating back to 2006 and allege they were pressured into sex.

All four women, who are of Hispanic descent, said they had not come forward un-

til now because they feared losing their livelihood, familial reprisal or embarrassment. Some were concerned the allegations could affect their immigration status.

They are seeking at least \$50m in damages and a jury trial.

No police reports or criminal charges have been filed against the musician.

The women's lawyers held a press conference on Tuesday, accusing Robinson of being a "serial and sick rapist" who "must be stopped". This drew the ire of the Robinson's legal team, who called it a "bizarre" attempt "to enlist the public as an unwitting participant in the media circus they are trying to create".

"We will have more to say in the coming days as we make our legal response, and in time Mr Robinson will respond in his own words," Mr Frost said.

"We ask anyone following this case to reserve judgment as the evidence comes to light and all the actual facts of the case unfold.

"We will be asking the Court to dismiss the lawsuit. We will also be asking the Court to address that in their statements to the press about Mr Robinson, the plaintiff's attorneys have reached beyond the bounds of liberties that even lawyers are typically allowed in this context." (BBC News)



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Bill Gates plans to give away most of his fortune by 2045



Microsoft founder Bill Gates said he intends to give away 99% of his vast fortune over the next 20 years.

Gates said he would accelerate his giving via his foundation, with plans to end its operations in 2045.

“People will say a lot of things about me when I die, but I am determined that ‘he died rich’ will not be one of them,” he wrote in a blog post Thursday.

Mr Gates, 69, said his eponymous foundation has already given \$100bn (£75bn) towards health and development projects, and that he expects it will spend another \$200bn, depending on markets and inflation, over the next two decades.

In his blog post, Mr Gates cited a 1889 essay by tycoon Andrew Carnegie called *The Gospel of Wealth*, which argues that wealthy people have a duty to return their fortunes to society.

Mr Gates quoted Mr Carnegie, who wrote: “the man who dies thus rich dies disgraced.”

His latest pledge represents an acceleration in charitable giving. Initially he and his ex-wife Melinda had planned for the Gates Foundation to continue working for several decades after their

deaths.

Giving away 99% of his fortune could still leave Mr Gates a billionaire – according to Bloomberg, the Microsoft founder is the fifth-richest person in the world.

In the post, he shared a timeline of his wealth that showed his current net worth at \$108bn and a large hand-drawn arrow going down to close to zero in 2045.

Mr Gates also said the foundation would draw from its endowment to give away \$200 bn.

Along with Paul Allen, Mr Gates founded Microsoft in 1975, and the company became a dominant force in computer software and other tech industries. Mr Gates has gradually stepped back from the company this century, resigning as chief executive in 2000 and as chairman in 2014.

Mr Gates said he has been inspired to give away money by investor Warren Buffett and other philanthropists, however critics of his foundation say Mr Gates uses its charitable status to avoid tax and that it has undue influence over the global health system.

In his blog post, he outlined three main goals for his foundation: eliminating

preventable diseases which kill mothers and children; eliminating infectious diseases including malaria and measles; and eliminating poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

Mr Gates criticised the US, UK and France for cutting their foreign aid budgets.

“It’s unclear whether the world’s richest countries will continue to stand up for its poorest people,” he wrote. “But the one thing we can guarantee is that, in all of our work, the Gates Foundation will support efforts to help people and countries pull themselves out of poverty.”

He was more pointed in an interview with the *Financial Times*, accusing Tesla CEO and Department of Government Efficiency boss Elon Musk of being personally responsible for the deaths of children through his cuts to the US aid budget, including the dismantling of the US Agency for International Development.

“The picture of the world’s richest man killing the world’s poorest children is not a pretty one,” Mr Gates said.

Mr Gates raised the issue of cancelled grants to a hospital in Gaza Province, Mozambique, which Donald Trump erroneously claimed was funding condoms “for Hamas” in the Gaza Strip. Mr Musk later acknowledged the claim was wrong and said “we will make mistakes”, however the cost-cutting continued.

“I’d love for [Musk] to go in and meet the children that have now been infected with HIV because he cut that money,” Mr Gates told the FT.

The BBC contacted Mr Musk for comment.

The Gates Foundation is a donor to BBC Media Action, the BBC’s charitable arm which is separate from the Corporation’s news operations. (*BBC News*)

Ukraine labels Russian ceasefire a farce after reports of hundreds of violations



Russia's unilateral, three-day ceasefire has proved to be a farce because of continued attacks across the front line, Ukraine's foreign minister, Andrii Sybiha, has said.

He accused Russia of 734 violations since its truce came into effect overnight into Thursday, adding that Ukraine was responding "appropriately" to every attack.

Russia's defence ministry insisted the ceasefire - called by Vladimir Putin to mark World War Two Victory Day - was being observed and accused Ukraine of 488 violations.

At least one person was killed in Ukraine's northern Sumy region following

Russian strikes, according to emergency services.

Ukraine's air force said there had been no drone or missile strikes in its airspace overnight as of 08:00 (05:00 GMT) on Thursday, although Russia had intensified strikes using air-launched glide bombs in the Sumy area.

Buildings were hit in a residential area of Bilopillia, a town in Sumy just south of the Russian border. Rescuers freed a woman trapped under the rubble, emergency services said.

Ukrainian military spokesman Viktor Trehubov said there had also been Russian military assaults in several eastern areas after the Russian ceasefire officially

came into force at midnight Moscow time (21:00 GMT on Wednesday).

Kyiv has rejected Russia's truce, with Volodymyr Zelenskyy calling it a "theatrical show" designed to protect the Moscow Victory Day parade on Friday. The Ukrainian president has reiterated calls for a longer truce of at least 30 days.

A temporary 30-hour ceasefire was announced by the Kremlin over Easter which saw a decrease in fighting but claims of hundreds of breaches from both sides.

The Kremlin has described its pause as a "test of Ukraine's readiness for peace", although Putin earlier rejected a joint US-Ukrainian proposal for an

unconditional ceasefire.

Russia's defence ministry said all groups of Russian forces in Ukraine had "completely ceased combat operations and remained on the previously occupied lines and positions". However, they were reacting in a "mirror-like manner" to violations by Ukrainian forces.

Reacting to the bombardment of the Sumy region, Sviatoslav Yurash, a Ukrainian MP and serving soldier, accused Moscow of lying.

"We don't want a peace that breaks apart in no time, and Russia takes another attempt to try and kill us and destroy us," he told the BBC.

Sergey Sanovich of Stanford University told the

BBC the Russian truce was not meant as a gesture of goodwill to Ukrainians but rather to maintain interest in peace talks with the US.

Since his inauguration in January, President Donald Trump has sought to end the war in Ukraine by mediating with both parties - but he has been accused of trying to pressure Ukraine into making painful concessions to secure a peace deal.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, and currently controls about 20% of Ukraine's territory, including the southern Crimea peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

For three consecutive days ahead of Russia's proposed truce, Kyiv and Moscow exchanged a barrage of strikes. The Russian defence minis-

try said on Wednesday that 524 Ukrainian drones had been destroyed over the past 24 hours - a record number if confirmed. No casualties were reported but flights at Russian airports were suspended, causing disruption to some 60,000 passengers.

Sergey Sanovich told the BBC the Ukrainian drone strikes were an indication that Kyiv was not interested in "peace out of desperation".

On the eve of Victory Day in Moscow, China's Xi Jinping met Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin to sign an updated investment deal. Xi said the two countries' ties had injected "positive energy" into a world in turmoil.

The Chinese president is one of a reported 27 leaders due to attend Russia's commemorations in Moscow's

Red Square.

Ahead of the event, Ukraine warned it could not guarantee the safety of anyone attending the parade.

Andrei Fedorov, a former Russian deputy foreign minister, told the BBC that "Russia is seriously concerned about the possibility of attack by Ukrainian drones".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russian military and special services were taking "all necessary measures" to ensure the celebration takes place "in a calm, stable and peaceful atmosphere," including jamming mobile internet connections ahead of the parade.

Unlike Russia, the rest of Europe celebrates Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8 May. Commemorations this year

mark the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Zelensky released a video address on Thursday, where he was seen walking through central Kyiv and paying his respects to fallen Ukrainian soldiers at a large display of Ukrainian flags.

He said Ukraine was marking Victory Day along with all those who had fought to ensure evil would lose and and would be "never again".

"Unfortunately, three years ago, it happened again and just like before the air raid siren roared over Kyiv," he said.

Deriding Russia's celebration as a "parade of cynicism", he warned that evil had to be fought "resolutely, with force". (BBC News)



DAILY PROGRAMMING




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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	

Sports News



Five-set wins for Paragons and Storming Lions in volleyball league



The Storming Lions men's volleyball team

Paragons and Storming Lions claimed hard-fought wins in two five-setters when the Division 1 championships in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League resumed on Wednesday evening.

Former perennial champions Paragons recorded their third win in seven matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Jets in their Women's Division 1 encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

In a match lasting two hours and 20 minutes, the Paragons took the opening set 25-19, and the Jets drew level by winning the second set 25-18.

The Paragons regained the lead by taking the third set 25-20, only for the Jets



The Paragons women's volleyball team

to draw level once more by winning the fourth set 25-21 and forcing the match to go to a decisive fifth set.

The Paragons showed great composure and resilience to wrap up the match by prevailing 15-12 in the fifth set as the Jets slumped to their fifth loss in seven

encounters.

The Storming Lions consolidated their third-place position in the Men's Division 1 League by securing their fifth win in eight matches with a 3-2 victory against the Invaders.

The Storming Lions had

to come from behind to snatch victory in the keenly contested encounter that lasted two hours and 20 minutes.

The Invaders won the opening set 27-25 and also took the second set 27-25 to grab a two-nil lead. But the Storming Lions recovered to clinch the match by winning the next three sets.

The Storming Lions reduced the deficit by taking the third set 25-19 and levelled the match at 2-2 by winning the fourth set 25-14 to extend the match to a decisive fifth set.

The Storming Lions completed a remarkable comeback win by clinching their fifth and deciding fifth set 15-12.

Despite their valiant effort, the Invaders fell short as they succumbed to their sixth loss in eight encounters.

The ABAVA Local League will continue with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday (tomorrow).

Stoneville will meet Jets in a women's Division 1 affair at 6:45 pm, and Phoenix Flyerz will take on the Pytonz in a men's Division 1 encounter at 7:45 pm.

The ABAVA has postponed all games in the Second Division Development League on Sunday in observance of Mother's Day

Qualifying spots still up for grabs in Antigua T20 Premier League



The qualifiers to the knockout phase and the final placings in the preliminary stage of the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda T20 Premier League will be decided this weekend.

All six teams are still in contention to clinch one of the three qualifying spots in the knockout stage of the T20 competition.

The winner of the six-team round-robin preliminary stage will advance to the final, while the second and third-place finishers will clash in a single-match eliminator to determine the other finalist.

The last five matches in the preliminary stage will be contested this weekend. Empire Nation will take on

the Jennings Tigers in the first match of a double-header at Ball Beef in Liberta on Saturday at 11 am.

The PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks will host the New Winthropes Lions in a top-of-the-table clash in the second encounter at 2:30 pm.

In another double-header at Ball Beef on Sunday, the Liberta Blackhawks will face the All Saints Pythons at 11 am, and Empire Nation will take on the New Winthropes Lions at 2:30 pm.

The Jennings Tigers and the Pigotts Crushers will clash on Saturday at 2:30 pm in the last match of the preliminary round.

The Lions and the Blackhawks are in a great position to top the standings at

the end of the preliminary stage.

Both teams, who are unbeaten, are currently tied at the top of the standings with six points by virtue of winning their first three matches.

The All Saints Pythons are in third place with three points from four matches. Following are Empire Nation and Pigotts Crushers with two points apiece. However, Empire Nation has played three matches, one less than the Crushers.

The Jennings Tigers, who have two matches remaining, are currently in the cellar with a point from three encounters.

The eliminator will take place next Thursday, while the final will be contested on Saturday, May 17.

CWI monitoring India-Pakistan tensions



Cricket West Indies (CWI) says it is closely monitoring the escalating situation between India and Pakistan following recent military actions in the region.

The regional body explained that it

is in active communication with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), and players currently involved in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Those players include Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Sherfane Rutherford, Shimron Hetmyer, and Romario Shepherd in the IPL, while Jason Holder, Kyle Mayers, Alzarri Joseph, Shai Hope, and Akeal Hosein are the Caribbean players contracted in the PSL.

“We have also engaged our strategic partner, West Indies Players’ Associa-

tion (WIPA), to coordinate and ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all West Indies players and support personnel in the region. The welfare of our people remains our highest priority,” the CWI statement said.

“CWI continues to receive regular updates through diplomatic, governmental, and cricketing channels and stands ready to offer assistance where necessary.

“We remain committed to the spirit of international cricket and to supporting our players through this uncertain and sensitive period,” it added.

Windwards blaze to second win as Leewards crumble



Players of the Windward Islands women's cricket team

The Windward Islands delivered a clinical all-round performance to register their second win of the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's T20 Blaze when they brushed aside Leeward Islands by 53 runs in a lopsided affair at Arnos Vale on Wednesday.

Sent in to bat, Windward Islands posted a competitive 129 for seven, powered by a fluent half-century from Nerissa Crafton and a steady supporting knock from Jannillea Glasgow.

The total proved more than sufficient as Leeward Islands stumbled to 76 all out in 19.1 overs, undone by a disciplined Windward Islands bowling attack led by Afy Fletcher's four-wicket haul.

The Windward Islands' innings got off to a solid start with left-handers Crafton and Glasgow putting on a crucial 80-run opening partnership that laid the foundation for their total.

Crafton dominated the scoring with 52 off just 36 balls, including five fours and three sixes, and brought up her half-century at a brisk strike rate of 144.

When Crafton was caught off Rozel Liburd, Glasgow played the anchor's role effectively with her 38-ball 27, which included a pair of boundaries.

But the innings lost momentum, as six wickets fell for 45 runs, with captain Zaida James (six), Afy Fletcher (two), and Earnisha Fontaine (three) all falling cheaply as Leewards mounted a brief comeback through Shawnisha Hector (two for 14) and Jahzara Claxton (one for 17).

However, a late seven-ball 14 from Ashlene Edward pushed the Windwards past 120, with 21 extras also contributing significantly to the final tally.

Chasing 130 for victory, the Leewards never looked settled as the Windwards bowlers struck early and regularly. Veteran leg-spinner Fletcher turned the match decisively with four for 11 in her four overs, including a double strike in the 14th over that broke the back of the chase.

Opener Qiana Joseph provided a flicker of hope with 17, but once she was stumped off Niesha Cherry, the innings unraveled. No other batter reached 20, with only Divya Saxena (11) and Shawnia Hector (10) getting into double figures. Fletcher was well supported by Jannillea Glasgow (two for 13) and Zaida James (two for 22).

Meanwhile, Guyana women reinforced their status as the dominant

force in this year's Women's T20 Blaze with an emphatic eight-wicket thrashing of Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday night to stretch their unbeaten run to four matches.

In a late contest under the Arnos Vale lights, Guyana turned the clash into a one-sided show, as they first dismissed Trinidad and Tobago for a paltry 35—the lowest team total of the tournament—before casually chasing the target down at 37 for two in just 6.3 overs.

Opting to bowl first on a tacky surface, Guyana unleashed a disciplined and destructive bowling performance, and Trinidad and Tobago simply had no answers. None of the Trinidadian batters reached double figures in what was their worst batting effort of the competition so far.

Sheneta Grimmond did the early damage, claiming three wickets for five runs in a probing spell that broke the spine of the batting lineup.

Ashmini Munisar followed suit with an incredible return of two wickets for two runs from four overs, including three maidens—a rare feat in T20 cricket.

Plaffiana Millington also chipped in with 2-10 as she removed key batters Shunelle Sawh (eight) and Britney Cooper (four) early on. The rest of the line-up capitulated quickly, as wickets fell in a heap.

The modest chase presented little challenge for Guyana despite the early wickets of Realeanna Grimmond (three) and Mandy Mangru (six). Shabika Gajnabi and captain Shemaine Campbelle brought calm to the proceedings and knocked off the runs with a flurry of boundaries.

Gajnabi struck a breezy 14 not out off 13 balls, while Campbelle finished unbeaten on 13 from 11 balls, as both batters found the fence three times each.

The win consolidated Guyana's lead atop the standings, while Trinidad and Tobago were condemned to their second defeat of the campaign.

Henry hits century as Jamaica crush Barbados in Women's T20 Blaze



Chinelle Henry

West Indies all-rounder Chinelle Henry stamped her class on the West Indies Women's T20 Blaze in emphatic fashion, as she blasted the tournament's first century and powered reigning champions Jamaica to a comprehensive 62-run victory over Barbados at the Arnos Vale Playing Field on Wednesday.

Henry's unbeaten 100 off just 49 balls, decorated with six fours and eight sixes, turned what looked like a faltering Jamaican innings into a match-winning total of 149 for five.

She then returned to bowl three wicketless overs for a mere 12 runs to help restrict Barbados to 87 for four in their 20 overs, as Jamaica registered their second win of the tournament.

After opting to bat, Ja-

maica were rocked early by an inspired spell from West Indies speedster Shamilia Connell, who ripped through the top order to leave the innings reeling at 11 for three in the third over.

Connell removed Jodian Morgan (one), Chedean Nation (four), and Abigail Bryce (zero) in a fiery burst that returned three for 14 from her four overs.

But the crisis brought out the best in Henry, who counterattacked with authority and composure, as she dominated a stabilizing 71-run fourth-wicket stand with captain Rashada Williams, who held her end with a dogged 25 from 42 balls before she fell to Keila Elliott.

Still, Henry took charge and launched into the Barbadian bowlers with feroc-

ity—particularly punishing Naijanni Cumberbatch and Shanika Bruce in a devastating middle-overs onslaught.

Even after Keneisha Feron (six) departed with the score at 105 for five, Henry remained unfazed and accelerated in the final overs to bring up her century in style and take Jamaica to a formidable total on a challenging surface.

Barbados never got going in their reply, as they crumbled early to 26 for three inside six overs as the Jamaican bowlers applied relentless pressure.

Celina Whyte and Neisha-Ann Waisome were clinical with the new ball, as they combined for three wickets in the powerplay. Waisome picked up both Kyshona Knight (two) and Kycia Knight (seven), while

Whyte removed Trishan Holder for a duck.

Naijanni Cumberbatch, with 35 off 56, tried to hold the innings together and built a 57-run partnership with Asabi Callender, who was left unbeaten on 30.

However, when Chedean Nation had Cumberbatch caught, the asking rate kept climbing, and the boundary drought proved fatal.

In fact, Cumberbatch's solitary four, and a six from Callender, were the only boundaries in the innings, as Barbados never threatened the target. Waisome ended with two for 10.

Jamaica's emphatic victory lifts them back into contention, while Barbados are still left searching for their first win of the tournament.

Thunder grabs T20 Breakout League playoff spot despite loss to Infernos

The Leeward Islands Thunder advanced into the playoff of the inaugural West Indies T20 Breakout League after tumbling to a 37-run loss against the Windward Islands Infernos in the last preliminary round match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Wednesday evening.

The Windward Islands Infernos will carry a wave of momentum into the playoffs after wrapping up the preliminary stage with back-to-back wins.

Coming off a stunning 109-run demolition of the Jamaica Titans the previous evening, the Infernos again turned up the heat to close the preliminary phase with three wins and two losses, as they racked up 28 points.

The points total proved good enough for second place behind table-toppers Trinidad and Tobago Legions (31 points), who advanced directly to Saturday's final.

Despite their second successive defeat, the Thunder managed to cling to third place with 20 points, as they edged Bar-



Leeward Islands Thunder's batsman Cameron Pennyfeather, center, congratulates Windward Islands Infernos captain Alick Athanaze, left, during the last preliminary round match of the West Indies T20 Breakout League at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. (CWI Media)

bados Pelicans on net run rate.

That sets up a rematch with the Infernos in Friday's (today) playoff to determine who will challenge the Legions in Saturday's final for the title.

Batting first after the Thunder won the toss and chose to field, the Infernos pieced together a competitive total as captain Alick Athanaze got things going with a brisk 17, while Johann Jeremiah looked flu-

ent in his 30 from 24 balls.

But it was the middle and lower order that provided the firepower, with Ryan John playing the finisher's role to perfection, with an unbeaten 33 off just 20 deliveries, including two fours and two sixes.

Dillon Douglas also contributed a 16-ball 21 with a four and a six. Elroy Francis (three for 16) and Micah McKenzie (three for 23) were the

highlights of the Thunder's bowling.

In reply, the Thunder's innings got off to a rocky start and never quite recovered. Ryan John struck early to remove Kofi James (five), and chaos ensued with the run-out of young sensation Jewel Andrew (zero), followed by a flurry of wickets.

Left-handed opener Jamie Cornelius held the top order together with a patient 38 off 41 balls, including five fours and a six, and Anderson Mahase showed some late resistance with an unbeaten 28, but it was never enough.

Avinash Mahabirsingh continued his fine form with the ball, as he snared two for 18 from his four overs. Shadrack Descarte, Keon Gaston, John, and Kyron Phillip chipped in with a wicket apiece.

Now, with the stakes raised and just one spot left in the final, both the Infernos and the Thunders have everything to play for in their do-or-die clash on Friday.