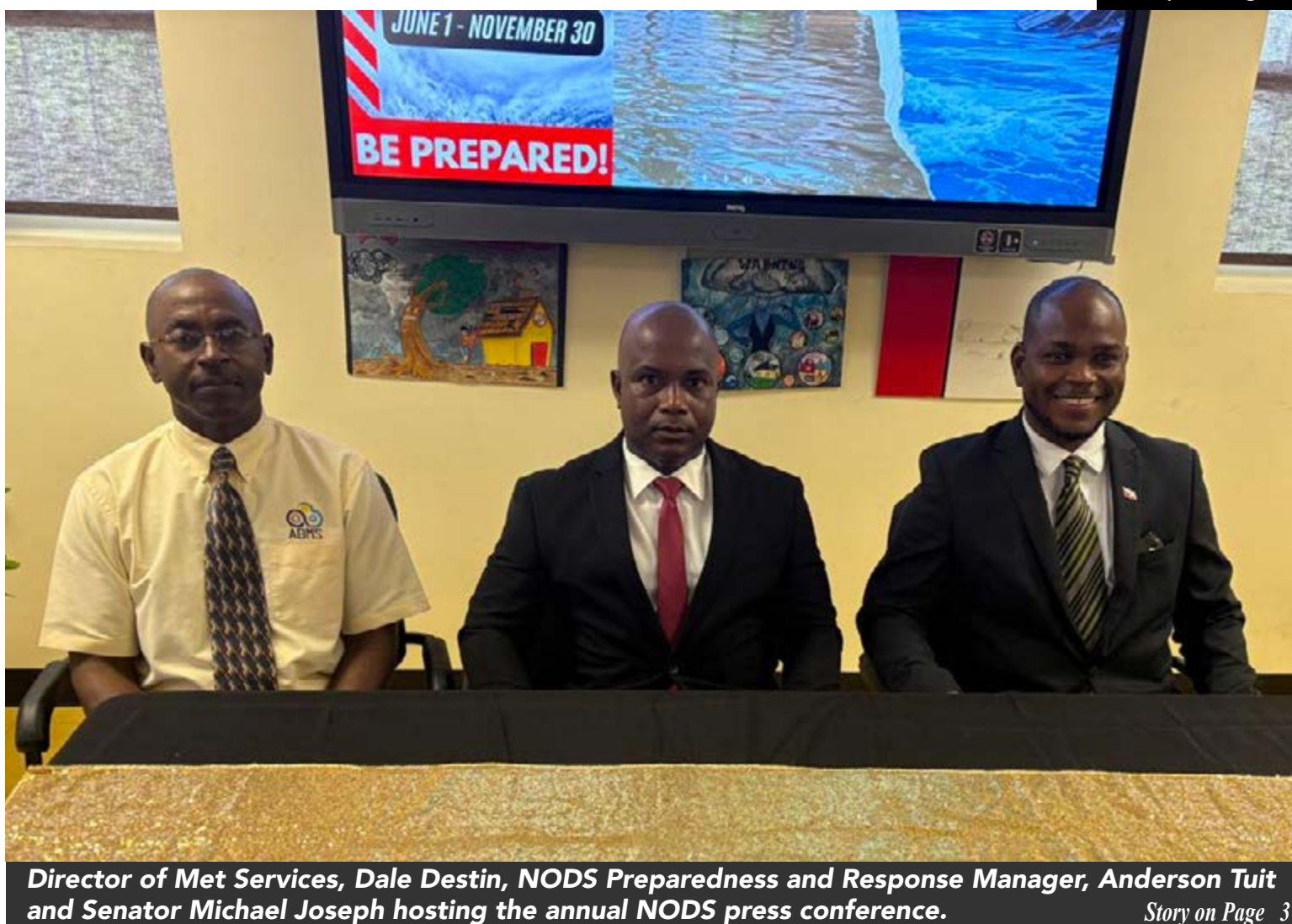


Trump Administration's cuts to USAID, NOAA hurt Antigua and Barbuda

Story on Page 2



Director of Met Services, Dale Destin, NODS Preparedness and Response Manager, Anderson Tuit and Senator Michael Joseph hosting the annual NODS press conference.

Story on Page 3

Local News



Trump Administration's cuts to USAID, NOAA hurt Antigua and Barbuda

The cutting off of funding for many federal agencies in the United States, is affecting Antigua and Barbuda much more than many nationals and residents realize.

The stark reality of the impact of these sharp reduction in funding for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has affected disaster readiness training as well as several projects that were being spearheaded by the Met Office.

"We would have had a number of projects shelved as a result of the dismantling of USAID. We would have had the early-warning for flooding that was about to get underway, that is now obviously scrapped and there is also a project in tsunami warning, that too has come to a screeching halt," Director of Met Services, Dale Destin, reported to the annual NODS press conference that coincides with the start of the hurricane season.

Along with these impacts, Destin revealed that there



Director of Met Services, Dale Destin

are also there are other areas of grave concern for Met services across the Caribbean which could see their capabilities to monitor storm severely diminished as a result of the loss of critical data from US agencies such as the National Hurricane Center.

These include the services provided by the US Hurricane Hunter aircraft. According to Destin he raised

this matter with a US Official at a recent meeting and was told, 'we are good for the next year, but I can't project beyond next year'.

"Not withstanding that statement, we have already seen impact; we have stations across the Caribbean that were funded by US support and that support has been cut so we have a number of stations that no longer operate. These stations are

quite crucial because of the data they collect are put into the forecast models used by many agencies. The research has shown that if you withhold the data from the stations, you see a notable degrading of the skills to do forecast models and we rely on these forecast models for guidance in tropical cyclone monitoring," he revealed.

According to the Met Director, there are also concerns about whether the region will be able to continue to rely on the US for the provision of satellite imagery to augment their hurricane tracking and forecasting capabilities. "We can't function without satellite imagery, and no one knows if this service will now come at a charge," he declared.

National Office of Disaster Services' Preparedness and Response Manager, Anderson Tuitt revealed that several training programmes that the agency had planned to upskilled those involved in all aspects of disaster preparedness and relief, have had to be scrapped because of the cutback in funding from USAID.



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- 🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Met Office forecasts 'an above normal' 2025 hurricane season



Director of Met Services, Dale Destin, NODS Preparedness and Response Manager, Anderson Tuitt and Senator Michael Joseph. hosting

The Met Office is predicting an 'above normal' 2025 hurricane season with a possibility that there could be as much as 21 named storms.

Director of Met Service, Dale Destin, told a news conference on Monday that there may be as much as nine hurricanes up to five of which could be classified as 'major storms'.

Destin noted that this year the phenomenon referred to as El Nino, the warming of a large body of water in the Pacific Ocean and which have had the effect of disrupting the strengthening of hurricanes, is not in effect this year so that this natural barrier to the strengthening of hurricanes is not present this year. However, he noted that water temperature is not as warm as they were this time last year.

Against this background, Destin is urging the nation to be prepared as

much as possible.

NODS Preparedness and Response Manager, Anderson Tuitt emphasized the need for families and businesses to develop their own disaster plan. "For a business, everyone in the organization should be familiar with the disaster plan to know what role they should play in the event of a hurricane or other disaster. Each employee down to even the cleaner must be familiar with the plan and know what to do in times of disasters without having to be told," he explained.

The US National Hurricane Centre said the seasonal activity is expected to fall within these ranges in 70% of seasons with similar conditions and uncertainties to those expected this year. These ranges do not represent the total possible ranges of activity seen in past similar years. These expected ranges are centered above the

1991-2020 seasonal averages of 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. Most of the predicted activity is likely to occur during August-September-October (ASO), the peak months of the hurricane season. The North Atlantic hurricane season officially runs from June 1st through November 30th. This outlook will be updated in early August to coincide with the onset of the peak months of the season (ASO). NOAA's outlook for the [2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season](#) indicates that an above-normal season is most likely, with a moderate probability that the season could be near-normal and lower odds for a below-normal season. The outlook calls for a 60% chance of an above-normal season, along with a 30% chance for a near-normal season and only a 10% chance for a below-normal season.

Local News



Met Office presentation reveals lack of legislation to formalize entity



Mali Barnes, National Technical Consultant for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

There continues to be a need for legislation updates to modernise disaster management in Antigua and Barbuda and to formalise the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service (ABMS) as an official government entity.

Mali Barnes, National Technical Consultant for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) revealed during his presentation on the Early Warning System for All initiative that there is still no legislation which formalises the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service (ABMS) as an entity—nearly six decades after the body came under control of the

state.

“Another thing we’re trying to do is to formally adopt legislation to establish the Met Office, because that came up as one of the things that is a gap and I didn’t even know until we had these consultations that the Met Office is not established by legislation,” Barnes said. The ABMS started in the mid-1940s as a weather observation station operated by the British until it came under control of the Antigua and Barbuda government in 1965 and developed into a forecasting office in 1967 to support a growing aviation sector.

Barnes explained that due to the absence of formal

legislation, the Met Office “established with custom, essentially, there’s no paperwork supporting the existence of the Met Office as an entity, which prevents them from being able to do things like access funding internationally in a way that an established agency perhaps could.”

Speaking at the 2nd National Outlook Forum last week, Barnes outlined plans to modernize the country’s disaster response capabilities backed by up to \$12 million in international funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

“This act has been unchanged since 2002, which is a long time ago. That was before social media, before smartphones, so things have changed a lot since then,” Barnes said, referring to the Disaster Management Act.

For example, under the disaster management law, the only reference to the “Meteorological department” was listed as a member of the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Advisory Committee, with the service lacking formal statutory recognition as an independent government entity.

The legislative updates formed part of a four-pillar approach covering governance, hazard monitoring and forecasting, warning dissemination, and emergency preparedness and response.

According to Barnes, each pillar operates under the co-

ordination of different UN agencies, with the UNDRR and World Meteorological Organization handling risk knowledge and detection respectively, while warning dissemination falls under the International Telecommunications Union and preparedness is managed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

“We had two consultative workshops... and through that, we developed a gap analysis and implementation plan which then went on to become a funding proposal to the Green Climate Fund,” he noted.

The funding proposal was approved by GCF in February 2025.

The funding will support three main outputs that combine various elements of the four-pillar framework.

Output 1 will improve how government agencies work together during disasters by combining leadership structures with risk knowledge systems, addressing the issue that the Met Service was operating without proper legal backing despite its important role in disaster preparation.

Output 2 will boost weather forecasting and hazard knowledge by combining risk assessment with better monitoring systems, adding new modern technology and communication tools that didn’t exist when the current disaster law was written over 20 years ago.

Barbuda
Caribana
2025

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CLAUDETTE PETERS • BARBUDAN ARTISTS
DJ JIME • DJ MARLON • DJ FLUSH • DJ WAYNE**

FRI. JUNE 6TH 2025

8PM **CARIBANA CITY**

JR'S BLUE OCEAN VIP EXPERIENCE

ADM: GENERAL \$75 • VIP IN ADVANCE: \$150 • VIP AT THE GATE: \$200

**WHERE RHYTHM AND CULTURE THRIVE,
BARBUDA'S CARIBANA 2025**

Liberty Caribbean ready for 2025 Hurricane Season



Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean

Liberty Caribbean, formerly C&W Communications, the operators of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC, has confirmed its state of readiness for the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which officially begins on June 1.

With more than a century of experience serving the Caribbean, the company remains steadfast in its mission to provide reliable connectivity and to support the region's communities in times of crisis.

"We have served the Caribbean for more than 150 years, and with that experience, we are well equipped and stand ready to respond to any eventuality. Our teams have been working diligently – conducting simulation drills, strengthening critical infrastructure, and reviewing emergency response protocols – so we are once again leaving nothing to chance," said Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean.

According to the U.S. Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its Climate Prediction Centre, the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season is forecast to be *above normal*, with an 85% chance of an above-normal season, a 10% chance of a near-normal season, and a 5% chance of a below-normal season.

The forecast includes 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 may become hurricanes, including 3 to 5 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher; winds of 111 mph or higher).

"As the leading telecoms provider in the Caribbean, we understand just how essential our services are during emergencies. Families, businesses, and governments rely on us to stay connected," said Smidts.

"That's why our teams are always on alert, and our infrastructure is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our communities and support recovery when

it matters most. While we hope for a quiet season, we are prepared to respond with speed and compassion should the need arise."

Liberty Caribbean has been investing in robust network infrastructure and redundancy measures to ensure the resilience of its telecommunications networks during extreme weather conditions. This includes the deployment of backup power systems, hardened network facilities, and strategic network routing to mitigate the impact of service disruptions.

"We know our communities are depending on the con-

nections we provide, especially during those critical moments, so our priority is to safeguard the connectivity of our customers and support the resilience of the communities we serve," added Smidts.

"We remain committed to delivering reliable communication services and standing by our customers during times of need. While we are hopeful that no customers will be impacted during this year's hurricane season, we must also ensure that we are ready to face that reality, and we are prepared to respond."

EMERGENCY MEETING NOTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA LABOUR PARTY ST JOHN'S CITY SOUTH BRANCH

Date: Thursday, 6th June 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Branch Office, Corner of Cross & Nevis Streets

An emergency meeting has been scheduled to discuss the Housing Development in the Briggins and Belmont areas.

We strongly encourage all branch members to make a special effort to attend, as your input is essential.

This meeting is critical to the planning and progress of the Belmont and Briggins housing project.

Thank you

BARBUDA
OCEAN CLUB

Car/bana
2025

BEACH BASH

International Night

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TIAN AND ICONIC
ASA BANTON
MENACE
LIPS INTERNATIONAL
KID FRESH
PHAROAH X

ADM
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MUSIC BY
DJ KRIS
DJ FLUSH
DJ WAYNE
DJ WEZEL

SAT. JUNE 7TH 2025
8PM **RIVER DOCK**

Barbuda Local Government

G Productions

Opening Day of AI Conference to focus on teachers, public servants

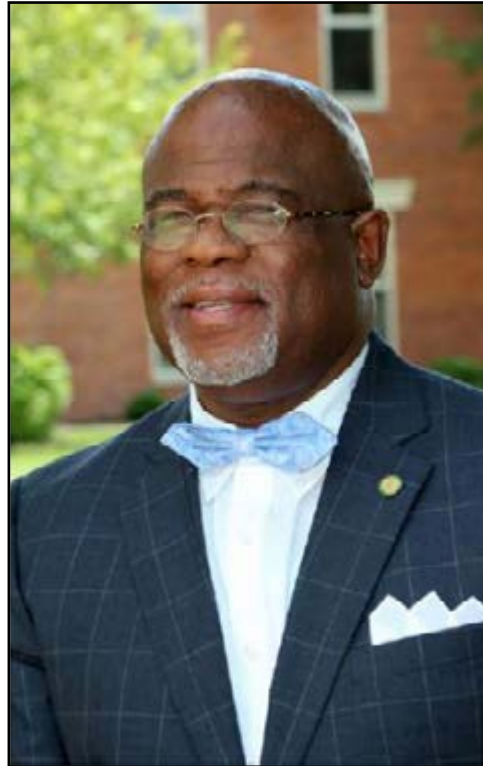
The organisers of the upcoming 5th Industrial Revolution Artificial Intelligence Research conference, are putting together special workshops to empower teachers and public servants in how to use AI to improve efficiencies.

Academic Director of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Dr. Curtis Charles, said the organisers are adopting what he termed ‘a hands-on approach’ with the first day of the conference, Sunday June 22, primarily dedicated to workshops for public servants and teachers.

“As part of the upcoming conference, there will be two key AI workshops on Sunday: one for teachers and another for public servants. These workshops will be held in the afternoon, allowing attendees to participate after church services, and importantly, they will be free of charge.

“For public servants, the workshops aim to provide hands-on exposure to AI tools that can be used in their daily tasks. For teachers—who often face financial constraints—the focus will be on equipping them with tools like Khan Academy and introducing software that allows AI integration into the classroom. Dr. Andrew Hunt and other facilitators will lead these parallel sessions, ensuring both groups receive targeted training,” Dr. Charles disclosed.

The focus on teachers and public servants us an essential part of what Dr. Charles describe as ‘re-



Director of Academic Studies at the University of the West Indies FIC, Dr. Curtis Charles

imagining government through change management’.

“True transformation,” the UWI academic argued, “requires more than just training a few departments.” The entire government must undergo a cultural shift, he added.

“You can’t put new wine in old skin,” he explained. It’s not enough to teach AI to a few public servants while others remain in legacy systems and outdated thinking. “All branches, including those in public diplomacy, must be aligned. Change management,” he noted, “can reveal resistance and friction—but it is the only way to future-proof public service.”

Turning to the speakers and pre-

senters for the three-day conference, Dr. Charles described it as ‘a global conference with elite speakers’.

This year’s speaker roster is world-class and it includes:

- Sandy Chaipal, one of the world’s top AI specialists, will join from Dubai.
- The Vice President of Microsoft’s Agriculture Division will share innovations in AI for food systems.
- NVIDIA, the tech giant behind AI’s most powerful chips, will conduct workshops offering participants educational credits.
- Google will participate in discussions around AI and accessibility, with leadership from Ambassador Dr. Aubrey Webson.
- A Harvard professor will speak on AI and sustainability.
- Dr. Cherie Tulloch and another Harvard researcher will lead the panel on AI in healthcare.

This breadth of topics—from governance and education to health and agriculture—demonstrates the conference’s comprehensive vision.

It is the second staging of this important AI conference and the UWI FIC is at the cutting edge within the UWI system spearheading research and discussion on AI.



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

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

**WHERE RHYTHM AND CULTURE THRIVE,
BARBUDA'S CARIBANA 2025**

Local News

Ian Joseph, unofficial 'Cultural Ambassador', heads for African festival in Germany

Ian Joseph, who has been attending a festival held annually in Germany that celebrates African history and culture, is on his way to Germany to attend the **25th International Afrika Festival Tübingen** as an honorary guest.

Joseph who has delivered several lectures on the history of the Bethesda community

and its historic role in providing education for formerly enslaved people following emancipation.

"This landmark event will celebrate 25 years of uniting African communities, friends of Africa, investors and development partners under the theme, *'Africa's Future: Connecting the Diaspora, Investment and*

Sustainable Development'.

"As an esteemed representative of your country, your presence and insights will be invaluable in promoting investments, tourism, cultural exchange and economic opportunities between your nation and the African diaspora in Germany and Europe. This platform will also facili-

tate direct engagements with potential investors and development partners keen on fostering Africa's sustainable growth," the invitation letter stated.

The festival will feature a cultural forum, Africa marketplace, tourism and cultural exhibitions as well as networking sessions.

The festival runs from June 5 to 8.



25 Anniversary

The **2025** Africa we want e.V. Germany

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Michael Joseph presents

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child/children only.

No solo attendees — this event is all about sharing the
moment together.



15



JUNE 2025
1pm - 4pm

- LAWN GAMES 1-2PM
- SIP AND PAINT BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 2PM
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ENTRY



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Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS
COMMISSION



ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning.
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inet PARTY MONARCH COMPETITION

SUN. AUG 3RD | 8:00PM | \$40
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

H2A ViBe



 Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission  @antiguacarnival  @antiguacarnival  @antiguafestivalsofficial

RSS Deputy Executive Director Atlee Rodney meets visiting Royal



Princess Anne (left) with RSS DED Atlee Rodney share a light moment



Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne with Deputy Executive Director of RSS, Atlee Rodney at RSS Headquarters in Barbados



Her Royal Highness in discussion with the senior RSS team in Barbados

Royal Family member, the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, paid an official visit to the Regional Security System (RSS) Headquarters in Barbados on Monday, where she was presented with an overview of the organisation's strategic operations and received updates on its ongoing partnership with the United Kingdom.

Accompanied by the British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Simon Mustard, and her Private Secretary, Captain John Boyd, The Princess Royal was warmly received by Deputy Executive Director of the RSS, Atlee Rodney, along with senior members of the RSS

leadership team.

As part of her visit, The Princess Royal was given a virtual tour of the RSS' operational functions, showcasing the critical role the organisation plays in supporting security and stability across its eight Member States. The tour highlighted advancements in regional cooperation, intelligence sharing, and the use of technology to strengthen public safety efforts.

Rodney expressed his appreciation for the visit, stating: "We were deeply honoured to host Her Royal Highness today. Her sincere interest in the work of the RSS and her meaningful engagement with our officers were both

uplifting and inspiring. The United Kingdom has been a valuable partner in our mission, and this visit further reinforces that enduring relationship." Speaking on the importance of international collaboration and the UK's ongoing support for security initiatives in the region, His Excellency Simon Mustard, affirmed: "Our shared commitment to regional security and resilience continues to grow, and I am proud of the enduring partnership between the United Kingdom and our Caribbean allies."

Her Royal Highness was presented with a plaque on behalf of the RSS before touring the RSS Fusion Centre, where she observed the deployment of modern technologies aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of law enforcement across the region.

Rodney is the former Commissioner of Police for Antigua and Barbuda before accepting the new posting at the RSS in Barbados.



ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...



PARTY MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS

THE COOLER FETE

H2 A ViBe

CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00 PM

18TH JULY 2025

ADM:
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SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST **YUNG BREDDA**

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Regional News

PAGE 15

Guyana: President Ali announces 20,000 acres land for small farmers

President Irfaan Ali announced Saturday that some 20,000 acres of new farmland on the Essequibo coast, Region Two will become available for small-scale farmers to address the long-standing issue of high rental costs.

According to the head of state, a significant number of small-scale farmers, especially those cultivating 30 acres or less, are renting land, often from absentee landowners or larger farmers. This was highlighted as one of the most pressing issues for farmers on the Essequibo coast.

To address this, “we are going to invest, in the coming months, to open up at least 20,000 acres of land in three different clusters here in Essequibo,” Ali said during an engagement with farmers and fisherfolk.

Beyond just access, the president said plans are afoot to also invest in capital development for these lands, including providing seed paddy, building drainage and irrigation infrastructure, and ensuring that the land is farm-ready.

The region will be organised into three agricultural clusters, with each cluster being equipped with essential machinery, such as backhoes, tractors with ploughs, and combines.

“And you [will] manage those resources, [and] you



can charge each other, among yourselves, for the maintenance of the equipment,” the president said.

Additionally, to boost income and add value to existing rice cultivation, President Ali said resources will be provided to develop one acre out of every ten for high-value, high-yield crops.

With unpredictable weather patterns making it difficult for farmers to dry their produce, the president announced that two modern drying and storage facilities will be constructed in the region. Engineers are expected to complete the designs within two weeks.

In the fishing industry, plans are on the cards to diversify income for fishers and their families by promoting swamp shrimp and prawn farming as part of a large aquaculture initiative.

Additionally, the back dam access roads will be converted into durable, hard-surfaced routes using crushed-run materials. These roads are vital for improving access to farms, transporting produce, and reducing spoilage and operating costs.

These investments, he noted, are part of the government’s vision to transform Region Two into a hub for both food production and tourism, with agritourism as a central theme.

The president noted, “the government will put three coal storage facilities to support our cash crop farmers and to support our fisher folk here in the region.”

Investments in three cold storage facilities will help stabilise prices, support perishable crop farmers and fisherfolk, and create new agribusiness opportunities.

Furthermore, to improve access to agricultural support, a new control centre in Georgetown is being established to collect and analyse data, track weather and pests, and provide timely, proactive advice to farmers not just in Guyana, but across the Caribbean.

In the next two years, the president said, Guyana will operationalise its own fertiliser plant, reducing its dependency on unpredictable global markets. It will also lower fertiliser costs and enable the production of blends to suit regional soil types.

The president emphasized a collaborative approach to agricultural development, making it clear that the government intends to craft policies and measures that are deeply informed by the lived experiences of farmers. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Cuban link Refugees detained after landing in Montego Bay



Six Cuban nationals, four men and two women, were last night placed in police custody in Montego Bay, St James, after arriving in Jamaica illegally by boat on Sunday afternoon.

The group came ashore at Harvey Beach in Rose Hall, St James, aboard a small vessel.

Senior Superintendent of Police Eron Samuels, head of the St James Police Division, confirmed the arrest and said the individuals are to be processed by the relevant authorities.

Their arrival adds to a growing number of undocumented migrants turning to Jamaica as a transit point or refuge amid worsening crises in parts of the Caribbean.

The Cubans' perilous journey mirrors what has become the most significant wave of emigration from that island in recent history.

Between 2021 and 2024, more than

850,000 Cubans, nearly eight per cent of the population, have reportedly fled the country, primarily due to an unrelenting economic crisis marked by shortages of food, fuel, and medicine, along with deepening political repression.

A recent Associated Press report noted that conditions worsened significantly after Hurricane Rafael struck western Cuba in late 2024, causing widespread destruction to homes and the power grid. For many, the journey north or to nearby islands has become a last resort.

While Sunday's incident involved Cubans, the majority of recent undocumented migrants arriving in Jamaica have been Haitians. Just last month, The Gleaner reported that 42 Haitian nationals, including children and a pregnant woman, landed in Portland. Their repatriation was swift, drawing condemnation from rights groups.

Freedom Imaginaries and Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ) accused the Jamaican Government of violating international law by engaging in what they termed "collective expulsions" without properly assessing asylum claims. In a letter to the editor, published in The Gleaner, one writer argued that the repatriations defy the 1951 Refugee Convention, which prohibits returning individuals to danger, a principle known as non-refoulement.

Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, responded by affirming that Jamaica complies with its refugee protocols and that repatriations are conducted in coordination with the Haitian government.

"We treat all individuals with dignity," she said in an October 2024 article published by The Gleaner, insisting that the Government's approach is both legal and humane.

As regional migration intensifies, calls for greater cooperation and policy clarity are growing louder. In a May 25 Gleaner op-ed, educator and commentator Dennis Minott chastised the Jamaican Government for "barring the door" to Haitians.

"Our response should reflect the solidarity that has historically defined Caribbean relations," he wrote.

While the country waits until today for an official position regarding the fate of the six Cubans detained in Montego Bay, their case could reignite debate around Jamaica's role in the unfolding regional migration crisis. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News

St Kitts and Nevis joins Inter-American conventions to protect rights of persons with disabilities and older persons



The Organisation of American States (OAS) says the twin-island federation of St Kitts and Nevis has joined the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

During a ceremony at OAS headquarters in Washington, Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis, Jacinth Henry-Martin, underscored her nation's commitment to advancing inclusion and dignity for all.

"St. Kitts and Nevis is making history" with the accession of these two instruments, as it "reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles enshrined" in them, she said.

New OAS Secretary General, Albert Ramdin, welcomed the action by St Kitts and Nevis.

"We need to promote more cooperation among member states to share best practices and experiences on how to treat persons with disabilities and make progress in the scientific and technological search for treatment, as well as participation of people with disabilities themselves in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of measures," he said.

On the Convention on Older Persons, Ramdin said: "We should not forget that persons coming at that age have served the nation, the country for many, many decades before, and they deserve, in whatever capacity they had engaged in society, to be treated well." With this action, the OAS said St Kitts and Nevis becomes the newest state to join the regional effort to eliminate discrimination and guarantee equal rights for older persons and persons with disabilities.

The OAS said the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons was adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2015 and entered into force in 2017.

The OAS said it has been ratified by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay.

The CIADDIS was adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 1999 and entered into force in 2001, the OAS said.

It has been ratified by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. (*Loop Caribbean*)



NOTICE

To: The Commissioner of Police
 American Road
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

To: Your Worship
 St. Johns Magistrate Court
 Gray's Farm
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice-Application for Tavern Licence

I Brittney Lambert of Longford village St. Johns Antigua, with registered business situate at West Indies Oil Road in St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 3rd of July 2025 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap.249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "**THE BOWL EATERY**" situated at West Indies Oil Road High Street in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 27th May 2025

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

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International

AROUND THE WORLD



Thousands evacuated in 3 provinces as Canadian wildfires threaten air quality into some US states



More than 25,000 residents in three provinces have been evacuated as dozens of wildfires remained active Sunday and diminished air quality in parts of Canada and the US, according to officials.

Most of the evacuated residents were from Manitoba, which declared a state of emergency last week. About 17,000 people there were evacuated by Saturday along with 1,300 in Alberta.

About 8,000 people in Saskatchewan had been relocated as leaders there warned the number could climb.

Smoke was worsening air quality and reducing visibility in Canada and into some US states along the border.

“Air quality and visibility due to wildfire smoke can fluctuate over short distances and can vary considerably from hour to hour,” Saskatchewan’s Public Safety Agency warned Sunday.

“As smoke levels increase, health risks increase.”

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said ongoing hot, dry weather is allowing some fires to grow and threaten communities, and resources to fight the fires and support the evacuees are stretched thin.

“The next four to seven days are absolutely critical until we can find our

way to changing weather patterns, and ultimately a soaking rain throughout the north,” Moe said at a Saturday news conference.

In Manitoba, more than 5,000 of those evacuated are from Flin Flon, locat-

ed nearly 645 kilometres (400 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Winnipeg. In northern Manitoba, fire knocked out power to the community of Cranberry Portage, forcing a mandatory evacuation order Saturday for about 600 residents.

The fire menacing Flin Flon began a week ago near Creighton, Saskatchewan, and quickly jumped the boundary into Manitoba. Crews have struggled to contain it. Water bombers have been intermittently grounded due to heavy smoke and a drone incursion.

The US Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service deployed an air tanker to Alberta and said it would send 150 firefighters and equipment to Canada. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Road accident in Nigeria kills 22 athletes returning from sports festival



A bus veered off a bridge in Nigeria's northern state of Kano, killing at least 22 athletes returning home from a sports festival and leaving several other passengers injured, the state's governor said.

The cause of the accident, which happened on Saturday, was not immediately known.

The athletes had taken part in the Nigerian National Sports Festival in the southern state of Ogun over the last week.

The driver appeared to lose control of the bus and the vehicle, with over 30 passengers, plunged off the Chiromawa Bridge on the Kano-Zaria expressway, according to Abba Kabir Yusuf, the governor of Kano.

Survivors of the crash were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Yusuf said the athletes, who were accompanied by their coaches and sporting officials, were representing Kano at the sports festival, a major multi-sports event that bringing together athletes from the country's 35 states every two years.

The governor declared Monday a day

of mourning for the state. The families of the victims are to receive 1 million naira (about \$630) and food supplies as support, Kano's deputy governor, Aminu Gwarzo, said.

Road accidents are frequent in Africa's most populous country, in part due to poor road conditions and lax enforcement of traffic laws.

In March, at least six people died near Nigeria's capital of Abuja after a trailer crashed into parked vehicles and burst into flames. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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Dated the 12th May 2025

Mexico's first judicial elections marked by low turnout, confusion and disillusionment



Mexico held its first judicial elections Sunday, stirring controversy and sowing confusion among voters who struggled to understand a process set to transform the country's court system.

Polls closed and poll workers began counting colored ballots Sunday night with the question hanging in the air of what will become of Mexico's judiciary, the answer to which will only emerge in the coming days as results roll in.

Mexico's electoral authority announced late in the night that 13% of Mexico's 100 million voters cast ballots at the polls, lagging far behind the 60% turnout just a year before during the country's presidential election.

Nevertheless, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum called the voting "a complete success."

"Mexico is the most democratic country in the world," she added.

Experts warned of startling low turnout in the lead up to the historic elections due to the mindboggling array

of unfamiliar choices and the novelty of voting for judges. Experts say those factors may throw into question the legitimacy of the election, which has faced months of fierce scrutiny.

Sheinbaum, a member of Mexico's ruling party, Morena, rejected the criticisms and insisted the election would only make Mexico more democratic and root out corruption in a system that most people in the country believe is broken.

"Whoever says that there is authoritarianism in Mexico is lying," she said. "Mexico is a country that is only becoming more free, just and democratic because that is the will of the people."

While some voters said they felt pushed to vote in an election they felt would determine the fate of the country's democracy, many more expressed a deep sense of apathy, citing disillusionment due to decades of corruption and lack of basic information about the vote.

"I'm not interested (in voting). Parties

and their messages — they come and they go. It's all the same," said Raul Bernal, a 50-year-old factory worker in downtown Mexico City walking his dog.

Even without the final tally, the results of the vote are set to transform Mexico's judiciary. Morena overhauled the court system late last year, fueling protests and criticism that the reform is an attempt by those in power to seize on their political popularity to gain control of the branch of government until now out of their reach.

"It's an effort to control the court system, which has been a sort of thorn in the side" of those in power, said Laurence Patin, director of the legal organization Juicio Justo in Mexico. "But it's a counter-balance, which exists in every healthy democracy."

Instead of judges being appointed on a system of merit and experience, Mexican voters have cast ballots to choose between some 7,700 candidates vying for more than 2,600 judicial positions.

Some of the country's voting centers opened with only a trickle of people and small lines forming throughout the day.

Esteban Hernández, a 31-year-old veterinary student, said he didn't agree with electing judges and doesn't support Morena, but came to vote because "since there isn't much participation, my vote will count more."

He had studied the candidates on a website listing their qualifications and decided to pick those who had doctorates. Other critics said they only voted for the Supreme Court and other top courts.

Francisco Torres de León, a 62-year-old retired teacher in southern Mex-

ico, called the process “painstaking because there are too many candidates and positions that they’re going to fill.”

Sheinbaum’s predecessor and political mentor, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who had pushed through the judicial reform but remained out of the public eye since leaving office last year, voted in Chiapas near his ranch.

“I wanted to participate in this historic election,” he said. “Never in the history of our country ... have the people decided and had the right to elect judges.”

The process has raised concerns.

Civil society organizations like Defensorxs have raised red flags about a range of candidates running for election, including lawyers who represented some of Mexico’s most feared cartel leaders and local officials who were forced to resign from their positions due to corruption scandals.

Also among those putting themselves forward are ex-convicts imprisoned for years for drug trafficking to the United States and a slate of candidates with ties to a religious group whose spiritual leader is behind bars in California after pleading guilty to sexually abusing minors.

Others like Martha Tamayo, a lawyer and former congresswoman from conflict-ravaged Sinaloa, cast doubt on projections that the election could hand even more power over to criminals and criminal groups, simply because they already have a strong control over courts.

“The influence of criminal groups already exists,” she said. “The cartels go with the judges (bribe them) whether they are elected or not.”

The public has been plagued by confusion over a voting process that Patin warned has been hastily thrown

together. Voters often have to choose from more than a hundred candidates who are not permitted to clearly voice their party affiliation or carry out widespread campaigning.

As a result, many Mexicans said they were going into the vote blind, though others voting Sunday noted they supported the process despite the confusion.

Mexico’s electoral authority has investigated voter guides being handed out across the country, in what critics say is a blatant move by political par-

ties to stack the vote in their favor.

“Political parties weren’t just going to sit with their arms crossed,” Patin said.

While still unsure if his vote would improve access to justice for many Mexicans, 61-year-old actor Manuel José Contreras defended the election, Sheinbaum and her party. He cast his ballot with a tone of hope.

“The reform has its problems but we needed an urgent change,” he said. “You have to start with something.”
(NBC News)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Chargers Eagles 1 win Women's Division 2 Volleyball League

The City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles 1 have captured the title in the women's division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Second Division Development League.

The Chargers Eagles clinched the title after winning their penultimate match of the season 2-0 (25-0, 25-0) by default against High Flyerz Valkyries, who were unable to field a team for their encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

The result allows Chargers Eagles 1 to extend their unbeaten run, winning their seventh match in as many games. It also gave the Chargers Eagles an unassailable 19 points at the top of the nine-team round-robin league with one match remaining.

The High Flyerz Valkyries will remain in seventh place after suffering their fourth loss in six encounters.

Jets 2 and Starz 2 Juniors recorded wins in their latest outings to remain in a tight battle in their quest to capture second place.

Both teams, who each have one game remaining, are tied with 14 points apiece. However, Jets 2 currently occupy second place by virtue of recording five wins, one more than Starz 2 Juniors, from seven matches.



The City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours, Chargers Eagles 1 women's volleyball team.

Jets 2 were awarded a 2-0 (25-0, 25-0) victory against defending champions Paragons 2, who failed to show up for their encounter.

Paragons 2 remain in sixth place after suffering their fourth loss in six matches.

Starz 2 Juniors took 53 minutes to claim a 2-0 (25-18, 25-17) victory against Dynasty Queens 2, who remain in the cellar without a win after crashing to their seventh defeat in as many games.

TOA Media & MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity has already captured the title in the inaugural four-team

Men's Second Division Development League.

Stoneville2 claimed their runners-up position in the round-robin league in which each of the four men's teams played a total of six matches.

The Women's Division 2 Development League will resume with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday (today).

Royal Cruisers 2 will tackle Paragons 2 at 6 pm, and Chargers Eagles 1 will clash with Chargers Eagles 2 at 7 pm.



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Sports News

Pakistan to play in Colombo when India hosts women's World Cup



Players of the Pakistan women's cricket team

LAHORE (Reuters) - Pakistan will play all their women's 50-over World Cup matches in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo when India hosts this year's tournament, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Monday.

Politically-estranged India and Pakistan, who have not played a bilateral series since 2013, will play their matches in neutral venues when either country hosts an ICC event, the sport's global governing body announced in December.

"The venues for the knockouts are dependent on Pakistan qualifying as two alternative venues have been identified for one semi-final and the final," the ICC said.

"Colombo will be the venue for the first semi-final and the final only if Pakistan qualify for those stages."

Bengaluru, where the tournament will start with India playing in the open-

ing match, will host the final on November 2 if Pakistan are knocked out earlier in the tournament, the ICC added.

Bengaluru will also stage the second semi-final on October 30, a day after the first semi-final in Colombo or Guwahati. Visakhapatnam and Indore are the two other host cities for the eight-team tournament.

India played all their matches in Dubai when Pakistan hosted the men's Champions Trophy this year, including the final which they won.

Both the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Pakistan Super League were

suspended last month amid clashes between the two countries following an attack targeting tourists that killed 26 people in Kashmir in April. Matches resumed after a ceasefire was announced.

The neutral venue arrangement between the countries will also be in place for the men's T20 World Cup in 2026, which India will co-host with Sri Lanka, and the women's T20 World Cup in 2028 in Pakistan.



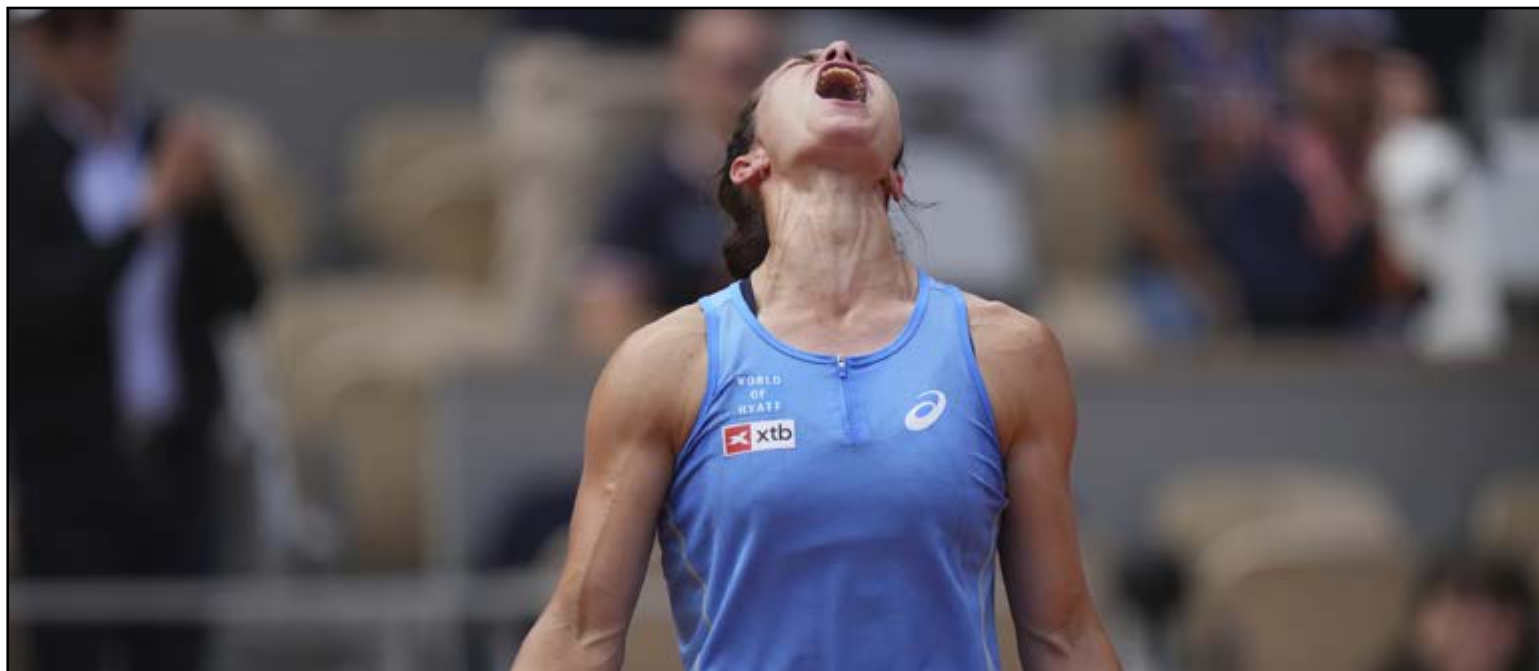
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PEOPLE'S PLACE
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361st-ranked Frenchwoman Boisson upsets No. 3 Pegula



France's Lois Boisson celebrates as she won the fourth round match of the French Tennis Open against Jessica Pegula of the US at the Roland-Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, June 2, 2025. (AP)

PARIS (AP) — Lois Boisson never had played at the French Open, let alone in the biggest arena at Roland-Garros. Nothing fazed the French wild-card entry and now she is in the quarterfinals.

Boisson, ranked just 361st, threw her head back and roared after beating No. 3 seed Jessica Pegula 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Court Philippe-Chatrier in the fourth round Monday.

She is by far the lowest-ranked woman to beat someone ranked in the top five at the French Open in 40 years. The lowest previously in that span was No. 179 Aniko Kapros, who eliminated No. 5 Justine Henin in the first round in 2002.

Boisson also is the lowest-ranked woman to reach the quarterfinals at Roland-Garros since at least 1985. Quite a victory, considering Pegula was the US Open runner-up last year. Understandably, Boisson was nervous as she served for the match and saved three break points.

After Pegula missed an easy-looking winner at the net and clutched her

head in her hands, Boisson had her first match point, the biggest point of her career.

Pegula returned a strong serve to the back of the court, where Boisson unleashed a forehand winner down the line. She then raised her arms and realized the enormity of her win.

She is the only French singles player left in either bracket and feels comfortable on clay, having played on it regularly since taking up tennis when she was 8.

Asked what her ambitions were for the rest of the tournament — she plays sixth-seeded Mirra Andreeva on Wednesday in the quarterfinals — Boisson replied, “I hope to win, right?”

That prompted more laughter from the crowd, which included tournament director Amelie Mauresmo, who has been criticized for the lack of women's matches during night sessions.

Another women's quarterfinal was set up between No. 2 Coco Gauff and No. 7 Madison Keys, two Americans who each own one Grand Slam title. Gauff, the 2023 US Open champion,

won 6-0, 7-5 against No. 20 Ekaterina Alexandrova, and Keys, the Australian Open title winner in January, defeated yet another American, Hailey Baptiste, 6-3, 7-5.

Over on Court Suzanne-Lenglen, the 18-year-old Andreeva, who reached the semifinals at Roland-Garros last year for her best performance at a major, got past No. 17 Daria Kasatkina 7-5, 6-3. They are pals, and Kasatkina playfully threw her wristband at Andreeva when they came to the net; Andreeva joked she would keep it.

In men's action, Novak Djokovic earned his 100th career French Open victory and set up a quarterfinal against No. 3 Alexander Zverev, last year's runner-up. No. 62 Alexander Bublik surprised No. 5 Jack Draper 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 and next meets either No. 1 Jannik Sinner or No. 17 Andrey Rublev, who were scheduled to play Monday night for the last men's quarterfinal spot.

Djokovic overwhelmed Cam Norrie 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, and Zverev was leading 6-4, 3-0 when Tallon Griekspoor quit because of an abdominal strain.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Freetown wins Sir Richie Richardson Parish League title



Freetown has won the second Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League competition this season.

After PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks defeated Police in the final to claim the Dave Joseph limited overs championship, Freetown has captured the title in the Sir Richie Richardson one-day competition.

Freetown recovered from a one-nil deficit to win the next two matches last weekend to prevail 2-1 against Mahico in the best-of-three finals and snatched the Sir Richie Richardson limited overs championship.

Freetown snatched a two-run victory against Mahico in the third and deciding game at Freetown on Sunday to clinch the title.

Freetown made 160 for five off their allotted 30 overs. Kief Baltimore hit an unbeaten 43, Dillon Wills struck 27, Jamaul Fernandez cracked 25, and Cleton Payne scored 21. Mike France captured two for 36.

In reply, Mahico just fell short as they were restricted to 158 for eight off their 30 overs. Dion Samuel hit an unbeaten 33, J'Quan Athanaze and Darren Dunah each struck 27, and Tanez Francis scored 22.

Dean Williams picked up three for 21, and Shem Laboard captured two for 24.

After losing the opening game, Freetown levelled the

series 1-1 and forced the deciding game by pulling off a four-wicket win against Mahico in Game 2 of the finals at the Clare Hall playing field on Saturday.

Mahico was dismissed for 92. Gregg Skepple hit 35, Tanez Francis made 16 and S. Fane scored 14. Austin Richards Jr. claimed two wickets for eight runs, and Jamaul Fernandez picked up two for 20.

Freetown achieved victory by scoring 93 for six. Cleton Payne hit 32 not out. Tanez Francis captured two for 12, and Dion Samuel picked up two for 23.

con't from pg 34

their individual knocks into big scores.

Antiguan skipper and off-spinner Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall grabbed three for 24, and left-arm pacer Javier Spencer picked up two for 18 against the Nevisian, who lost for the first time after snatching a two-run win against the Combined Islands (Montserrat and St. Maarten) in their opening encounter.

Anguilla also maintained their good start to the T20 festival, notching up their second win in as many outings by pulling off a 13-run victory against St. Kitts, who lost for the second time

in two matches.

Anguilla, who beat the Combined Virgin Islands (British and United States) by seven wickets in their opening game, made 157 for four off their 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat against the Kittitians.

Jahmar Hamilton cracked 62 off 51 balls, including four fours and three sixes. Jaidel Richardson struck 26 off 19 balls, and Deon Burton scored 24 not out off 25 balls.

In reply, St. Kitts were restricted to 144 for nine off their 20 overs. Captain Cameron Pennyfeather struck 65 off 39 balls, including seven fours and three sixes.

Opener Xavier Saunders made 23 off 32 balls, and Keon Harding scored 20 not out off 24 balls. Jaidel Richardson capped a fine all-round performance by grabbing three for 27 in four overs.

The Combined Islands recorded their first win of the tournament by snatching a seven-run victory against the Combined Virgin Islands, who lost for the second time in as many games.

The Combined Islands, who lost the toss and were sent in to bat, were dismissed for 126 in 19 overs.

Captain Daniel Doram hit an unbeaten 32 off 41 balls, Ziawandi Whyte struck 31

off 21 balls, including five fours and a six, and Sherwin Peters slammed 28 off 15 balls, with two fours and two sixes.

Samuel Jones Jr. grabbed three for 15, Aviskhar Sewkarran bagged three for 16, and Gary Prince picked up two for 20.

In reply, the Combined Virgin Islands were restricted to 119 for eight off their 20 overs. Sewkarran hit 34 off 35 balls, including two fours and two sixes, and Ameri Hinds scored 23 off 35 balls.

Michael Palmer took two for 17, and Stevel Rodney and Shernyl Burns each picked up two for 20.

Antiguans win second match at LICB T20 Festival

Host Antigua and Barbuda maintained their successful start in the inaugural Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) Senior Men's T20 Cricket Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Sunday.

After launching their campaign with an emphatic 83-run drubbing of St. Kitts, the Antigua and Barbuda senior men made it two wins in as many games by coasting to a convincing six-wicket victory against Nevis in their second encounter.

Set 123 to win, Antigua and Barbuda achieved their victory target for the loss of four wickets with 37 balls to spare.

Vice-captain Karima Gore, who struck 79 against St. Kitts, once again delivered with the bat, smashing an unbeaten 44 off 23 balls, including four sixes and two fours.

Opener Kofi James hit a quickfire 35 off 27 balls, with four boundaries, and Tyrone Williams Jr. scored 17 off 19 balls. Pacer Kian Pemberton bowled impressively to pick up two wickets for 16 runs in three overs.

The Nevisians were restricted to 122 for eight off their 20 overs after they won the toss and elected to



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda senior team at the Leeward Islands T20 Cricket Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.



The Anguilla senior men national team

bat. Opener Ross Powell hit an unbeaten 50 off 54 balls, which included one boundary.

Four other Nevisian batsmen - Colin Archibald (19), Adrian Williams (16), Sheldon Forbes (13), and Bodge-

narine Sharma (10) - managed to reach double figures but were unable to convert
con't on page 33