

Bendals man dies following workplace accident

Story on Page 2



Sunnika Joseph successfully completed her specialized training as an Air Traffic Controller in Trinidad and Tobago

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Bendals man dies following workplace accident



The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of a 43-year-old man from Bendals.

It was reported that the man was working on a concrete structure at Jennings when a portion of wall collapsed on him. The incident is be-

lieved to have occurred between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 5.

Emergency personnel responded to the scene,

where the man was subsequently pronounced dead at approximately 7:29 p.m. Further investigations remain ongoing.

Meanwhile, the Police Administration is appealing to contractors, site managers, and construction workers to prioritize safety on all job sites. Workers are urged to wear proper protective gear and adhere to established safety standards to help prevent similar incidents.

The Police Administration regrets the unfortunate incident and expresses sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased.



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Legal action likely against those who sully the country's name

Those individuals who were part of efforts to discredit the name of Antigua and Barbuda and its elected and other officials over the Alfa Nero issue may very well have to answer in a court of law for their involvement in this sordid affair.

Director General of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant said those involved in attempts to besmirch the name and reputation of the country 'should not go scot free'.

"The government is resolute in its position that those who defame government, country and government officials will receive the necessary reaction from the government; they will not go unpunished," he declared.

This comes as the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, which quashed every subpoena issued at the request of Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov—daughter of the sanctioned Russian national who owned the super-yacht Alfa Nero—against Prime Minister Gaston Browne, members of his family, senior Government officers, and several private companies.

This ruling confirms what the Government has said from the outset: the application had no merit, no legal foundation, and no legitimate purpose. It was a fishing expedition aimed at harassing the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, its Prime Minister, and others through false and malicious allegations.

Merchant said there are local elements who were engaged in colluding, even abetting with Yulia, in a campaign to undermine the reputation of Prime Minister Browne in the



Director General of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

international space.

"In this Alfa Nero matter, they were aided by individuals here in Antigua and Barbuda, some would say abetted even, and it can be considered criminal, what was done to the country at this time; to the country's image; and the image of its officials," Merchant explained.

According to Merchant the government is currently receiving legal advice on the issue before making a final determination.



ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SJDC)

VACANCY

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC) invites applications from suitably qualified professionals to fill the post of Chief Financial Officer.

The successful candidate will provide strategic financial leadership and oversee the Corporation's financial operations, including accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, treasury management, and compliance. The CFO will also supervise the Accounts Department and work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversight of all financial activities including Payroll, Accounts Payable/Receivable, Cash Flow, and Debt Management.
- Prepare budgets, monitor performance, and conduct variance analysis.
- Manage internal and external audits.
- Ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Lead the development and implementation of financial systems, controls, and policies.
- Supervise and guide accounting personnel, including performance evaluations and training.

Minimum Qualifications:

- A Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration.
- Professional designation (ACCA, CPA, CGA) is required.
- A Master's in Business Administration (MBA) would be an asset.
- Minimum of 7 years' experience in a senior financial management role.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Excel, and QuickBooks.
- Excellent communication, analytical, and leadership skills.

Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director
 St. John's Development Corporation
 P.O. Box 1473
 St. John's
 Antigua
 Or email: hr@sjdcanu.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Local News



Government to acquire a cargo plane to establish the country as a regional transshipment hub



The government has announced plans to acquire a cargo aircraft that it plans to use to transport cargo, mainly from the South America to Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS.

Cabinet spokesman, Maurice Merchant said the matter was discussed on Wednesday with the Cabinet acknowledging that cargo transportation within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) remains a vital yet under-developed pillar of regional integration and economic advancement. "The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has made a strategic policy decision to acquire a cargo aircraft. This initiative is intended to enhance the transshipment of goods between South America and OECS member states, positioning Antigua and Barbuda as a key logistics hub in the region," Merchant noted.

He added that while regional efforts have been made to improve cargo transport within the region, the Cabinet recognizes that substan-

tial investment and greater coordination are necessary to build a resilient and efficient system capable of withstanding global supply chain disruptions and climate-related challenges.

A government statement said the introduction of a dedicated cargo plane in Antigua and Barbuda is expected to significantly strengthen trade links, improve the movement of essential goods, and contribute meaningfully to food security across the OECS and beyond.

Meanwhile, as Antigua and Barbuda remains at the forefront of the regional port sector, Darwin Telemaque has been re-elected unopposed as chairman of the Port Management Association of the Caribbean, PMAC.

He was re-elected at the Association's Annual General Meeting now underway in Curacao. Telemaque will be in the role for another three-year term.

His re-election comes amidst global trade and geopolitical shifts. Telemaque has also been bullish on positioning the twin-island state as a major transshipment hub. The country boasts the most modern port in the sub-region, following a redevelopment project financed by funds from the People's Republic of China and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

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Opposition Leader escorted from parliament chambers

Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, was escorted from the parliament chambers on Thursday after he attempted to hold what appears to be a press conference without the knowledge or the Clerk of Parliament.

What happened may have to do with a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, which Pringle chairs, and which was scheduled to take place on Thursday. However, that meeting was postponed until July 3 because several of the members were unavailable, including the member for Barbuda, Trevor Walker.

It appears as though, Pringle decided to show up at the parliament meeting with an entourage in what can only be described as 'grand-standing'.

But when the matter was brought to the attention of officials of the Clerk of Parliament's office, the Opposition Leader was advised that he first need-



Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle

ed to get the consent of the Clerk of Parliament to use the parliament chambers before proceeding to hold any interaction with media representatives who formed part of his entourage. He

was asked to leave and while he left without incident, somehow the police were notified and they assisted in having the parliament chambers cleared.

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Injured police officer Travon Giddings loses his right leg

The Police Administration has reported that police constable, Travon Giddings, who was injured in the line of duty during a recent shooting incident, has since lost his right leg.

The police said in a statement that Constable Giddings remains hospitalized and is currently recovering after undergoing emergency surgery to amputate his severely injured right leg. Despite the seriousness of his injuries, he is reported to be in good spirit and showing signs of steady recovery.

The Police Administration remains deeply concerned about this incident and is closely monitoring his medical progress. Acting Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, has been in direct contact with



Police constable, Travon Giddings,

Constable Giddings' family and has assured them that all necessary resources are being provided to ensure he receives the highest standard of medical care.

Acting Commissioner Jeffers also extends heartfelt gratitude to members of the public who have expressed their support and concern, and to those who have already come forward with information.

The police continue to appeal to anyone who may have information that could assist in identifying and apprehending those responsible to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/462-3914 or call Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).



SLBMC Launches Inaugural Stroke Training Summit



The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) successfully launched the first day of its inaugural Stroke Training and Assessment Summit on Thursday, bringing together local and international healthcare professionals to enhance stroke recognition, response, and treatment across Antigua and Barbuda.

Held at the SLBMC Auditorium, the Summit welcomed physicians, nurses, emergency responders, and allied health professionals for a day of interactive education, engaging presentations, and capacity-building focused on improving outcomes for stroke patients.

This week's event builds on a comprehensive six-week training course that laid the foundation for the advanced sessions and practical assessments taking place throughout the Summit.

"This is more than a training; it's a turning point," said Dr. Gaden Osborne, Neurologist and Chair of the Subspecialty Services Department at SLBMC. "We are committed to creating a system where every minute counts, and where our healthcare teams are empowered to act quickly and decisively to give stroke patients the best possible chance at recovery."

Thursday's program featured an im-

pressive international lineup of stroke care professionals, including neurologists with different subspecialties—such as endovascular and neuroradiology—and a registered nurse serving as a stroke coordinator. These experts delivered engaging and interactive presentations on a wide range of stroke-related topics, offering global insights to support local capacity-building.

The sessions addressed critical aspects of stroke care, including stroke recognition by EMS, neurological assessments in triage, thrombolysis decision-making, and the management of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes. Additional topics included mechanical thrombectomy, dysphagia screening, post-thrombolysis care, inpatient stroke nursing, and effective discharge planning—underscoring the importance of a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach from first response through recovery.

A key goal of the summit is to support SLBMC's ongoing efforts to achieve formal stroke center certification from the World Stroke Organization (WSO). The hospital has already begun the certification process, which aims to align its stroke protocols and performance with international standards. Becoming a certified stroke center would mark a major advance-

ment in reducing stroke-related deaths and long-term disability in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Summit is made possible through the generous support of Medical Benefits Scheme, Caribbean Alliance Insurance, Caribbean Pharmaceutical Supplies Ltd., and Sagicor Life.

"We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors and partners," said Salma Crump, Head of Marketing & Communications at SLBMC. "This kind of training is only possible through strong collaboration. It's a reflection of what we can achieve when healthcare institutions, private sector partners, and the broader community work together to build a healthier, more prepared nation."

Friday's sessions will center on a review of SLBMC's stroke services and performance data, followed by a formal assessment by the World Stroke Organization—an essential milestone in the hospital's journey toward certification and ongoing advancement in stroke care.

SLBMC extends heartfelt thanks to all participants, facilitators, and partners working to improve stroke outcomes and elevate healthcare delivery across Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua and Barbuda singled out for its commitment to marine conservation



Antigua and Barbuda has earned a place on the respected 2025 Travel Green List by Wanderlust, a global travel platform based in the UK. This marks the first time the destination has been featured on the list, which celebrates global leaders in sustainable and responsible tourism.

Antigua and Barbuda's inclusion recognises the groundbreaking work of The Elkhorn Marine Conservancy's Coral Reef Restoration Project, an initiative focused on protecting and rebuilding the twin-island nation's marine ecosystems. It supports local biodiversity, safeguards coastal communities, and strengthens the tourism and fishing industries central to the country's economy.

This global recognition was the result of ongoing efforts by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's UK team, led by Director of Tourism for the UK and Europe, Cherrie Osborne, to spotlight the destination's sustainability initiatives in one of its key markets. The UK team worked closely with media to raise

awareness of the Coral Reef Restoration Project, culminating in its selection by Wanderlust's editorial board for the 2025 list.

"The Coral Reef Restoration Project is a shining example of the impactful, long-term environmental work being done in Antigua and Barbuda," said Cherrie Osborne. "It's a privilege to see this recognised by a publication as influential as Wanderlust."

The project, operated by The Elkhorn Marine Conservancy, involves collecting coral fragments, nurturing them in underwater nurseries, and transplanting them onto damaged reefs. Over 1,000 coral fragments are currently being cultivated, with expansion plans underway.

At World Travel Market 2024, the project was also featured on the Antigua and Barbuda stand through an immersive VR coral restoration experience a key moment in the UK campaign to promote sustainable tourism.

Key benefits of the initiative include:

□ Strengthening local

fisheries and protecting coastal areas

- Creating eco-tourism experiences rooted in education and engagement
- Promoting biodiversity and long-term environmental health

This recognition by Wanderlust affirms Antigua and Barbuda's place on the global stage as a destina-

tion not only rich in natural beauty but also committed to protecting that beauty for future generations. It follows other standout moments this year, including a beautiful Caribbean feature in Wanderlust spotlighting Humble and Free's Raz and Kayla, which captured the spirit of the islands through local voices and authentic storytelling.

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
 St. Johns Magistrate Court
 High Street
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police
 American Road
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 Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice-Application for Bottle Licence

I, Carlus Stephens and Tariq Genno Phillip both of Martin Village, with registered business situate at Martin Village in St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our 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 Bottle 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 "**Higher Life Corner Shop**" situated at Martin Village in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

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Antigua and Barbuda Scholar Dr. Marissa Michael Graduates with Top Honors from Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Marissa Michael, a standout medical student from Antigua and Barbuda, graduated with distinction from Weill Cornell Medical College on May 15, 2025. Dr. Michael's academic and research achievements have garnered recognition from esteemed surgical societies and academic institutions based in the United States, underscoring her role as a rising leader in surgical medicine.

The daughter of Francis and Teresa-Anne Michael, Marissa has long been known for her academic excellence. She was Antigua and Barbuda's Island Scholar for the 2014 CSEC examinations and the top scorer on the 2009 Common Entrance Examinations. She graduated summa cum laude from Tufts University in 2018. At Weill Cornell Medical College, she continued her tradition of academic success, earning numerous awards from the medical school by the time of her graduation.

Dr. Michael was awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Global Health for her deep engagement in international health initiatives, including research on global health partnerships, which she presented at the International Society for Burns Injuries Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico in 2022, and a clinical elective in Doha, Qatar. Her research career is



Dr. Marissa Michael, the daughter of Francis and Teresa-Anne Michael,

equally impressive. As a second-year student, she earned 2nd Prize for Posters at Weill Cornell Medical Student Research Day for a project conducted at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In 2024, she won First Place in Clinical Research at the American College of Surgeons Medical Student Program for a study validating a diagnostic tool for occult tethered cord syndrome. She also designed and served as a sub-investigator on a randomized-controlled clinical trial in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell.

Dr. Michael's Area of Scholarly Concentration – an area of research focus during medical school – was conducted in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Weill Cornell. Her work exploring tumor-draining lymph nodes in non-small cell lung cancer response to immunotherapy earned her the Best Thoracic Presentation Award at the inaugural Women in Thoracic Surgery Conference (San Diego, 2024). She also presented work related to this project at the prestigious American Association for Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting (Seattle, 2025). For this

work, at the Weill Cornell 2025 Convocation Ceremony, she received an Area of Concentration Certificate of Excellence and the Susanna Cunningham-Rundles Medical Student Research Prize, awarded to the medical student with the most outstanding research completed in the graduating class.

In addition to her research accolades, Dr. Michael was awarded the Clarence C. Coryell Prize in Surgery for highest performance in surgical rotations and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the highest distinction a U.S. medical student can receive, recognizing the top ~20% of the class for scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service.

Dr. Michael will continue her training in a competitive General Surgery Residency Program at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical Center, where she will complete five years of clinical training and two years of research. Her goal is to subspecialize in thoracic surgery with a focus on thoracic oncology.

“Dr. Michael's achievements exemplify the best of what medicine and academic commitment can produce,” said a spokesperson for the Antigua and Barbuda government. “She brings honor not only to her institution but to her country.”

Cedar Grove community celebrates one of its own

The Cedar Grove community is celebrating the outstanding achievements of one of its own, Sunnika Joseph, who has soared to incredible heights in her civil aviation training in Trinidad!

Reports from Trinidad indicate that not only did Sunnika successfully completed her specialized training as an Air Traffic Controller, she emerged at the top of her class as Valedictorian, and received the Academic Excellence Award and the Outstanding Practical Performance Award.

Sunnika was one of seven Air Traffic Controllers from Antigua and Barbuda selected for this training under the government's commitment to strengthening the aviation sector.



Sunnika Joseph

Parliamentary Representative and Aviation Minister Charles Fernandez emphasized, "With the continued growth in air traffic, it is critical that we equip our air traffic controllers with the necessary skills to handle our airspace safely and efficiently."

"Your achievements, Sunnika, are a shining example of discipline, brilliance, and national pride. You have made Cedar Grove and the entire Rural North community beam with pride."



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Antigua and Barbuda's Moment: A New Path to Prosperity by 2030

By Staff Reporter

A new national policy paper has sparked a fresh wave of optimism—and serious reflection—about the future of Antigua and Barbuda's economy. The message, delivered on June 4, 2025, by Dr. Curtis Charles to more than 25 department heads at the Ministry of Finance, was clear: "The time to transform is now."

In a meeting that some described as unusually candid and future-focused, Dr. Charles laid out the real possibilities—and the urgent work still required—for Antigua and Barbuda to become a regional economic leader by 2030. Drawing from years of national employment and social data, the message wasn't about doom or decline, but about direction: a shift away from dependence on tourism alone, and toward something broader, smarter, and more resilient.

"We have the talent. We have the tools. And we have the time—if we use it well," Dr. Charles reportedly



Dr. Curtis Charles

told the room.

The report behind the conversation outlines how education, entrepreneurship, and digital readiness are already reshaping parts of the economy. New academic programmes at the University of the West Indies—like artificial intelligence, blue economy science, and data-driven health care—are helping train a generation of workers who could power new sectors the country hasn't even fully tapped yet.

Still, the report doesn't shy away from challenges. Business formation has been sluggish, and self-employment—especially in the formal sector—remains low. Yet the outlook is far from bleak. With the right support structures in place, the nation could turn those gaps into engines of growth.

For many in the room on June 4th, the takeaway wasn't just about hitting a target by 2030. It was about building a society that's prepared to adapt, grow, and thrive, no matter what the global economy throws its way.

"This isn't a warning," one Ministry official said after the briefing. "It's a call to lead."

Antigua and Barbuda now stands at a crossroads. The next five years will decide whether the country simply recovers—or reinvents itself.



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Regional News

PAGE 17

UK and CDEMA renew MoU to strengthen Caribbean disaster preparedness and response

As the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season gets underway, the United Kingdom has reaffirmed its commitment to Caribbean disaster resilience by signing a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

The agreement, signed at CDEMA Headquarters in Barbados, reinforces collaboration between the UK and CDEMA to enhance disaster preparedness and emergency response across the region. It is particularly focused on supporting national efforts when local capacity is exceeded. The MoU includes provisions for flexible emergency funding, such as an immediate mobilisation fund to enable rapid deployment of emergency response teams when disaster strikes.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Simon Mustard, British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, emphasized the UK's continued support for the region:

"The UK is proud to stand in solidarity with CDEMA and its member states. This MoU ensures that we can respond swiftly—within 24 hours—to any CDEMA request for emergency funding, recognising the critical importance of timely humanitarian action. It builds on our longstanding partnership, which has supported responses to major disasters including Hurricane Dorian, the La Soufrière eruption, the



2021 Haiti earthquake, and Hurricane Beryl."

The renewed MoU builds on an earlier agreement that allowed the UK to support over 200 expert responders through CDEMA's Regional Response Mechanism during Hurricane Beryl in 2024. That storm caused an estimated US \$1.5 billion in damage and inflicted significant economic losses across the Caribbean.

In addition to emergency response, the UK continues to invest in long-term climate resilience in the region. Through the £350 million UK-Caribbean Infrastructure Fund, the UK is supporting a range of climate-resilient infrastructure projects, including the development of roads, bridges, sea-ports, and renewable energy systems.

The UK's broader support also includes strengthening disaster-resilient health systems through the SMART Health Care Facilities initiative, promoting the use of sustainable energy sources such as geothermal and off-shore wind, and enhancing disaster risk financing through the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). The CCRIF has recently expanded to include coverage for water utilities under the new Caribbean Water Utility Insurance Collective (CWUIC).

Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director of CDEMA, welcomed the renewal of the partnership and its role in strengthening the region's emergency management capabilities:

"Together, these partnerships represent a significant investment in regional resilience. We at CDEMA are confident that with the support of critical partners, our Regional Response Mechanism is better equipped than ever to respond swiftly to emergencies and continue building a more resilient Caribbean."

As the region faces another above-average hurricane season, this renewed UK-CDEMA partnership underscores the importance of forward planning, rapid response capabilities, and strong international cooperation in protecting Caribbean lives and livelihoods. (*Loop Caribbean*)

DR: Illegal Haitians held for environmental violations

Members of the Dominican Army detained 23 Haitian nationals found in the country without legal immigration status and involved in environmental destruction.

The police report that the operation uncovered charcoal kilns, felled trees, sacks of charcoal, and various agricultural tools, along with the seizure of 12 riding animals and an ox with a

Plow.

The detained group included seven men, 4 women, and 12 minors, who were transferred to the 10th Infantry Battalion headquar-

ters for further processing.

The seized animals will be handed over to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources for appropriate action. (*Loop Caribbean*)



PARTY MONARCH

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Regional News

PAGE 19

St Kitts tourism minister awarded 2025 Minister of Tourism award



St Kitts and Nevis Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation and International Transport, Marsha T Henderson, has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Minister of Tourism Award, the St Kitts Tourism Authority announced on Tuesday.

The honour was presented at the inaugural Caribbean Women's Leadership Awards, held during Carib-

bean Week in New York. Hosted by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the event celebrates the achievements of women shaping the future of Caribbean tourism.

Minister Henderson was recognized for her "visionary leadership, commitment to sustainable tourism development, and transformative contributions to St

Kitts' growing tourism sector."

She was selected by fellow tourism ministers from across the region, who acknowledged her excellence in leadership, innovation in destination marketing, and dedication to elevating the Caribbean's profile on the global tourism stage.

"Under her stewardship, St Kitts has seen notable ad-

vances in airlift, community engagement, and experiential tourism offerings—positioning the island as a leading destination for authentic Caribbean travel," a release from SKNIS stated.

In response to the award, Minister Henderson said, "I am humbled and honoured to receive this recognition among such inspiring and accomplished women. This award is a reflection of the collective work of our tourism stakeholders in St Kitts, and I remain committed to fostering inclusive growth, resilience, and opportunity through tourism."

The evening also marked the official launch of the CTO's From the Sea Suite magazine, a new platform dedicated to highlighting female leadership in Caribbean tourism. (*Loop Caribbean*)


 A vibrant promotional poster for the Antigua Carnival 2025. The poster features a central figure in a colorful, ornate costume with a large feathered headdress. To the left, there are smaller figures in traditional costumes, including one playing a drum. The background is a bright, colorful gradient. The text "ANTIGUA CARNIVAL" is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, the slogan "Itz A ViBe" is written in a stylized font. The dates "JUL 25 2025" and "AUG 05 2025" are shown in a pink box. The Antigua Barbuda logo and the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission logo are at the top. At the bottom, there are social media handles and contact information: "Antigua Carnival", "@antiguafestivalofficial", "Antigua Carnival", "info.nfo@ab.gov.ag", and "268 727 9201".

Holness moves to strengthen prep for hurricane season

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness says the Government is addressing gaps identified in the country's storm response plans as it enters what has been forecast to be a very active hurricane season.

"We were spared the worst in our recent disaster, Hurricane Beryl, and being at the forefront of the response, I saw the gaps, I saw the potential threats," Holness stated.

Experts have predicted a 60 per cent chance of an above-normal 2025 Atlantic hurricane season, with a range of 13-19 named storms. Of these, six to 10 are forecast to become hurricanes with winds of 74 miles per hour (mph) or higher, including three to five major hurricanes with winds of 111mph or higher.

Hurricane Beryl, a Category 4 storm, pummelled Jamaica in early July last year, causing extensive damage to properties and infrastructure, especially in the southwestern section of the island.

It damaged crops, lifted roofs, and left hundreds of citizens without power for weeks.

Speaking at a National Disaster Risk Management Council (NDRMC) meeting yesterday, Holness highlighted the impact of Hurricane Beryl and stated that it is imperative that the country further strengthen its institutions to mitigate the effect of any future storms.

"Our approach includes strengthening national institutions and legislations; investing in science, technology and early warning systems; building capacity at community level; aligning the national framework with climate resilience; and ensuring that disaster risk reduction is cross-cutting – touching education, housing, health, infrastructure, energy and the environment," he said.



He emphasised the importance of improving the resilience of the country's utilities, and noted that the Jamaica Public Service Company had already started a comprehensive review of its distribution network to replace broken or damaged poles.

He stated that this work should be ongoing throughout the year and be done "with great speed and alacrity".

The Government has also commenced work to provide an independent source of energy for key National Water Commission pumping stations, in the event of power outage during a hurricane, Holness disclosed.

He noted that the long-term plan is to ensure that those pumping stations that are critical areas for supply and distribution have backup generators or are powered by solar energy.

The damage caused to roofs underscored the need for hurricane straps, Holness contended. To this end, he said the municipalities have some

work to do.

"The parish councils (municipal corporations), the approval entities and the Ministry of Local Government, through a national public campaign, must reinforce the building codes as it relates to roofs, and the need to build according to code, and use in particular hurricane straps to secure roofs," he said.

Minister of Local Government Desmond McKenzie declared that the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) would continue the distribution of hurricane straps this year.

"The ODPEM initiated, last year, a hurricane strap programme, and we are expecting this year to do the same by providing, through the municipal corporations, a couple thousand hurricane straps," he said.

McKenzie added: "As we prepare for this hurricane season, more than 900

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Regional News

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shelters are being inspected and are ready.”

Holness also stated that the Government has been investing in the expansion of early warning systems, and collaborating with other regional entities. He shared that, with the help of the Japanese government, Jamaica now has a robust national disaster emergency telecommunication system and public safety network.

“These allow us to disseminate real-time alerts, mobilise response teams, and reach even our most remote communities in times of crisis,” he said.

And although he lauded the recovery of farmers from the impact of Hurricane Beryl, Holness, who chairs the NDRMC, acknowledged that the Government must strengthen its support, especially for those who utilise greenhouses.

He also stressed the need for greater investment in coastal protection, as the threat of sea level rising intensifies.

He added that there was a need for a centralised database of citizens affected by the disaster, to prevent the duplication of aid distribution.

Holness outlined proactive steps taken by the Government to fortify Jamaica’s ability to respond to and recover from disasters. These include establishing a disaster recovery fund and a contingency fund.

The Government is also participating in, and has embarked on, other initiatives, such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility and the Catastrophe Bond.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service Fayval Williams noted that this National Natural Disaster Risk Financing Policy, which ensures financial flexibility to meet natural disasters, now stands at approximately \$130.6 billion. The amount the Gov-

ernment can access will depend on the severity of the disaster, she said.

“An advantage of the catastrophe coverage we have in place is that it is parametric, meaning there are predefined thresholds, and predefined payouts,” she said.

The prime minister, in the meantime, urged citizens to safeguard their identification documents, so that in the event of a hurricane, they would be

able to access aid.

“Preparedness is not just being able to conduct humanitarian exercises when a disaster hits. You have to now be prepared to deal with the energy crisis that could come, the trade crisis that could come, the impact on the economy in terms of inflation when goods get scarce, the citizen safety and security issues that could happen; all elements of any consideration as to the stability of the society.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SJDC)

VACANCY

MAINTENANCE MANAGER

The **St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC)** is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of **Maintenance Manager**.

The successful candidate will be required to ensure smooth, safe, and efficient operation of the Corporation's facilities by overseeing all aspects of maintenance, including planning, scheduling, execution and quality control. This involves managing resources, leading a team and optimizing maintenance practices to reduce downtime, extend asset life and minimize cost. The Maintenance Manager will be required to work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

Key Responsibilities include:

Overseeing daily maintenance of facilities, equipment, and machinery

- Managing and guiding maintenance staff
- Developing preventative maintenance schedules and procedures
- Coordinating with vendors and contractors
- Managing inventory, budgets, and maintenance records
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations
- Supporting emergency repairs and disaster preparedness initiatives

Minimum Qualifications:

- Degree or certification in Engineering, Facilities/Maintenance Management or a related field (BSc/BA in Business or Facility Management is an asset)
- Minimum 5 years' experience in maintenance management
- Strong technical knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and mechanical systems
- Proven leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills

Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director
 St. John's Development Corporation
 P.O. Box 1473
 St. John's
 Antigua

Or email: hr@sjdcanu.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



US vetoes UN Security Council resolution demanding immediate Gaza ceasefire



The United States on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza because it was not linked to the release of hostages, saying it would embolden Hamas militants.

All 14 other members of the council voted in favour of the resolution, which described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as “catastrophic” and called on Israel to lift all restrictions on the delivery of aid to the 2.1 million Palestinians in the territory.

The resolution before the UN’s most powerful body also did not fulfil two other US demands: It did not condemn Hamas’ deadly attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, which ignited the war, or say the militant group must disarm and withdraw from Gaza.

Acting US Ambassador Dorothy Shea, speaking to the council immedi-

ately before the vote, said the resolution would undermine the security of Israel, a close US ally, and diplomatic efforts to reach a ceasefire “that reflects the realities on the ground.”

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the resolution would only have empowered Hamas. “Hamas could end this brutal conflict immediately by laying down its arms and releasing all

remaining hostages,” he said in a statement.

Israel’s UN Ambassador Danny Danon thanked the United States for refusing to abandon the hostages.

He said the resolution’s failure to make the release of hostages a condition for a ceasefire would have put all the pressure on Israel and handed Hamas “time, leverage and political cover.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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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**

Trump announces travel ban and restrictions on some countries effective Monday



President Donald Trump on Wednesday resurrected a hallmark policy of his first term, announcing that citizens of 12 countries, including Haiti, would be banned from visiting the United States and those from seven others, including Cuba, would face restrictions.

The ban takes effect Monday at 12:01 a.m., a cushion that avoids the chaos that unfolded at airports nationwide when a similar measure took effect with virtually no notice in 2017.

Trump, who signalled plans for a new ban upon taking office in January, appears to be on firmer ground this time after the Supreme Court sided with him.

Some, but not all, 12 countries also appeared on the list of banned countries in Trump's first term. The new

ban includes Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

There will be heightened restrictions on visitors from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

In a video released on social media, Trump tied the new ban to Sunday's terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, saying it underscored the dangers posed by some visitors who overstay visas. The suspect in the attack is from Egypt, a country that is not on Trump's restricted list. The Department of Homeland Security says he overstayed a tourist visa.

Trump said some countries had "deficient" screening and vetting or have

historically refused to take back their own citizens. His findings rely extensively on an annual Homeland Security report of visa overstays of tourists, business visitors and students who arrive by air and sea, singling out countries with high percentages of remaining after their visas expired.

"I must act to protect the national security and national interest of the United States and its people," he said in his proclamation.

Haiti, which avoided the travel ban during Trump's first term, was included for high overstay rates and large numbers who came to the US illegally.

Haitians continue to flee poverty, hunger and political instability deepens while police and a UN-backed mission fight a surge in gang violence, with armed men controlling at least 85% of its capital, Port-au-Prince.

"Haiti lacks a central authority with sufficient availability and dissemination of law enforcement information necessary to ensure its nationals do not undermine the national security of the United States," Trump wrote.

The list results from a January 20 executive order Trump issued requiring the departments of State and Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence to compile a report on "hostile attitudes" toward the US and whether entry from certain countries represented a national security risk. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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

Nintendo Switch 2 draws long lines and excited gamers



For the crowds outside Nintendo's store in New York's Rockefeller Center on Wednesday, a long wait was well worth getting their hands on the new Switch 2 console.

Some camped out for hours, bringing their own make-shift waterproof tents and lawn chairs. Others stood in the line, which stretched several city blocks. A handful even dressed up as iconic Nintendo characters, including Luigi, the beloved brother and sidekick in the video game "Super Mario."

"Really, it's just all about the community and sort of sharing that love of Nintendo with each other," said Lauren Hyde, who has been in line since she traveled from Maryland on Monday.

The Japanese gaming giant is releasing the coveted console Thursday, eight years after the original version hit shelves. The first iteration of the Switch was a major hit for Nintendo, selling roughly 150 million units, according to the company, making it the third-best-selling con-

sole of all time, behind the PS2 and the Nintendo DS.

The hype for the Switch 2 has been building for months, with Nintendo teasing a brief first look at it in January. With a bigger screen, better graphics and larger controls, the next iteration of the console has drummed up enough enthusiasm among gamers that many showed up early at stores like Best Buy and GameStop to pick up their units at midnight.

"We have a lot of wonderful products that create buzz," said Jason Bonfig, Best Buy's senior executive vice president in charge of customer offerings and fulfillment. "Switch is very, very special. They're a passionate community."

Bonfig estimated that 70% of Best Buy's customers indicated they wanted to pick up their Switch 2s in-store, "and the vast majority of those customers will be there at midnight to do so."

"Something about consumer electronics in general with

that instant gratification is really important," he added.

Meanwhile, the Nintendo Store is selling units at midnight only to those who secured reservations on its website, meaning many lining up outside its New York City location were doing so mostly for fun.

Nintendo even warned in a message on its website that "delivery by June 5 is not guaranteed" for customers who had not already secured pre-order invitations.

Though consumers have been fatigued by high prices amid the ongoing global trade war, Nintendo said in April that it would not hike the price of the \$449.99 device at launch.

There is also hope among some in the gaming world that the Switch 2 could spur the creation of new games and therefore new jobs. The industry has taken a hit in recent years after widespread layoffs affected many studios, and a performers strike has continued into 2025.

While some companies release consoles to reviewers early, Nintendo has remained quiet about many of the details of the Switch 2, holding off on review copies for gaming news sites like IGN.

Nintendo has not commented on how many customers have pre-ordered the Switch 2. (NBC News)




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Sports News

Wings Sports Club to stage annual Whit Monday Road Relay



CPTSA Wings SC
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4 x 1.5 Miles Relay
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June 9, 2025, 6:00AM

Assemble for registration at CKHS before 5:30AM
Medals, trophies, monetary & other Prizes up to 3rd Place
Under 16yrs; Under 30yrs; Over 30yrs
Registration: \$15.00EC for U-16yrs; \$20.00EC for Over 16yrs
Breakfast on Sale: \$15.00EC

SUBWAY

The CPTSA Wings Sports Club is extending an invitation to all current members, past members, and the public to participate in its 31st Whit Monday 4x1.5 Miles Road Relay and 10k & Fitness Walk on June 9.

Final registration will be done at the Christ the King High School (CKHS) before 5:30 am on Whit Monday. The race starts at 6 am.

Participants will compete in the under-16, under-30, and over-30 categories. The registration fee is EC\$15 for participants in the under-16 category, and EC\$20 for entrants over 16 years old.

Medals and prizes will be awarded to finishers up to 3rd place in each area and category. Several corporate citizens will provide support and sponsorship to the event.

Among them are Subway, Gores Wholesale, Louis Brothers, Bounty Furniture Mart, Design Center, Top Ranking, and Hutchinson (Antigua) Limited.

The others are Anjo Wholesale, Mega Distributors, ANR Hardware, Zephies, Robinson Gas Station, and Cool & Smooth. Proceeds are in aid of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club.



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Anguilla book spot in final of LICB T20 Festival



Anguilla's opener Jahmar Hamilton goes on the attack against Nevis during their match in the Leeward Islands T20 Cricket Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Thursday. (Photo courtesy of the LI Cricket Festival)

Anguilla claimed their fourth win in as many games on Thursday to book their spot in the final of the inaugural Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) T20 Festival in Antigua.

The Anguillans maintained their status as the only unbeaten team in the six-team round-robin tournament by pulling off a 39-run victory against Nevis at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Set 186 to win, Nevis was dismissed for 146 in 18.3 overs. Opener Ross Powell top scored for the Nevisians

with a knock of 73 off 49 balls, including eight fours and two sixes.

However, Powell got very little support from the rest of his teammates. Andros Bowens snapped up three wickets for five runs, pacer Chamiqueko Landerfort picked up three for 28, and Shivnarine Benjamin captured two for 29.

Opener Jahmar Hamilton narrowly missed out on achieving the first century of the tournament as Anguilla made 185 for four off their allotted 20 overs after losing the toss and being

sent in to bat.

Hamilton struck his third half-century in four innings by smashing 96 off 60 balls, including eight sixes and five fours.

Anguilla's captain Dimitri Adams also cracked a half-century with an unbeaten 54 off 32 balls, including four sixes and three fours. Opener Chesney Hughes chipped in with 20 off 24 balls. Pacer Colin Archibald picked up three for 20 off his four overs.

The result carries Anguilla to an unassailable 16 points

from four matches. Nevis remains in third place on eight points after suffering their second loss in four matches.

The Anguillans will face the Combined Islands (Montserrat and St. Maarten), while Nevis will take on St. Kitts on Saturday in their last encounters in the preliminary stage.

Anguilla will face either host Antigua and Barbuda or Nevis in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday.

Windies A crumble to hefty loss to South African counterparts



Players of South Africa A team celebrate a dismissal against West Indies during their four-day 'Test' at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia.

The West Indies A folded to an innings and 88-run defeat at the hands of a dominant South Africa A side on Wednesday, falling well short in their bid to salvage pride on the final day of the lopsided first unofficial four-day 'Test' at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia.

After being dismissed for 240 in their first innings, the West Indies A then watched helplessly as the visitors amassed a massive 600 for seven declared, and, at that point, the Caribbean outfit had only faint hopes of redemption.

Furthermore, the fact that they resumed at 251 for six on the final day, 109 runs behind, meant their task was always going to be difficult, and

their resistance, as expected, was short-lived.

The defeat was a sobering reminder of the gulf in quality, particularly in batting temperament and bowling execution, as West Indies A managed just 512 runs across both innings, compared to South Africa A's mammoth single-innings effort.

Resuming with their backs against the wall, West Indies A lost their remaining four wickets for just 22 runs in a collapse orchestrated by the persistent spin of Prenelan Subrayen and the disciplined medium pace of Tristan Luus.

The pair tore through the lower order, as Subrayen claimed five for 82 and Luus supported with four for

86.

The writing was on the wall early when Luus struck to remove Khary Pierre for a 19-ball duck, and from there it was a steady procession.

Subrayen then dismissed Johann Layne (12) and Oshane Thomas (zero) in quick succession before Luus returned to deliver the final blow when he removed Ronaldo Alimohamed for a defiant 40.

The Caribbean side will now turn its attention to the second match of the series, set to begin Sunday at the same venue, with hopes of regrouping and producing a more competitive performance.

Scores: West Indies A 240 & 272; South Africa A 600-7 declared.

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



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Captain Hope in good spirits ahead of England T20Is



New West Indies T20 International captain Shai Hope was all smiles at a press conference at Chester-le-Street in Durham on Thursday, June 5, 2025. (Getty Images)

New West Indies T20 International captain Shai Hope has urged his side to put the results of the recently concluded ODI series in the past and focus on the upcoming three T20Is against England, beginning at Chester-le-Street in Durham on Friday.

The West Indies will be entering the T20Is searching for their first win of the tour after being swept 3-0 in the ODIs.

Hope, in his first assignment since being named T20I skipper, wants his team to learn from their mistakes but, ultimately, put those results in the rear-view mirror.

“It’s a different squad now. We have to put that ODI series behind us. We’ll take the learnings from it, for sure, and then look ahead,” he said in a pre-match press conference on Thursday.

“We’ve got a new captain and some experienced players coming back into

the T20 side so there’s a lot to look forward to.”

The Barbadian says a key to getting better results in the shorter format will be assessing conditions more quickly.

“I would say we need to adapt a bit quicker and assess conditions to play particular situations a bit better,” he said.

Star pacer Alzarri Joseph was singled out by Hope as an x-factor that will be crucial to the team’s success in this series and going forward. Joseph was in good form in the ODIs, picking up seven wickets in the three matches.

“We always expect a lot from him. He’s shown what he can do over the last couple years and he’s been on song pretty much throughout this particular series so far,” Hope said.

“He’s an x-factor type of bowler and someone we’re certainly banking on going forward. It’s great to see he’s

been doing so well lately and, hopefully, he continues,” he added.

Batsman Jamie Smith was not originally in England’s T20I squad but was added after his blistering 64 off 28 balls in the third ODI.

“I won’t really put too many plans out there, but he’s shown that he’s capable of playing at this level. We’ve got to look at what he did in the last ODI, especially, and take some of the learnings that we got from him and then transfer that into the T20 setup,” Hope said of Smith.

“We’re going to have our in-depth chats before the game starts and find ways to formulate plans against all the batters, not just Jamie Smith. It’s important for us to know that England is one of those teams that’s always going to be coming at us and how we’re going to stop them is the biggest question,” he added.

ABNDA intensifies preparations to host World Domino Championships



From left to right: President of the ABNDA and PRO of the WDCF Carol Faye Bynoe; First Vice-President of the WDCF Veda Debellotte; Chairman of ADARP Aldo McCoy; member of the LOC Sonika Regis; and President of the WCDF Daniel McBeth. (Photos courtesy of the ABNDA)

From left to right: President of the ABNDA and PRO of the WDCF Carol Faye Bynoe; Senator Shenella Govia; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, Ena Dalso-Henry; First Vice-President of the WDCF Veda Debellotte; President of the WCDF Daniel McBeth; and member of the LOC Sonika Regis.

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) is stepping up its preparations to host the 20th World Domino Championships in August.

The ABNDA will host the biennial event at the John E. St. Luce Conference Center from August 10 to 18.

The ABNDA has established its Local Organizing Committee (LOC), headed by chairman Michael Roach, to execute the event in collaboration with the World Council of Domino Federations (WCDF).

During this week, the ABNDA has been hosting WCDF's President Daniel McBeth and First Vice-President Veda Debellotte, who are visiting Antigua to get

a first-hand update on the state of preparations for the hosting of this year's World Domino Championships.

Representatives from the ABNDA and the WCDF paid courtesy calls on officials of the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, which will provide financial support via ADARP (Athletes Development Assistance Review Panel) to the hosting of the event.

The domino officials met with Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries Senator Shenella Govia as well as Aldo McCoy, who is the chairman of ADARP.

Antigua and Barbuda will

be seeking their fourth successive world domino title at this year's event.

After capturing the title in 2016 and 2018, Antigua and Barbuda retained their World Council of Domino Federation Championship title by winning the 19th edition of the biennial tournament in Guyana in August 2023.

The 45-member Wadadli Warriors' team, which comprises male and female players, retained the title from a reduced field of competitors, as only four teams participated in the first world championship that was being held following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Antigua and Barbuda's Zenus Williams of the Dom-

inatrixx club was named the most valuable player of the tournament in 2023.

Twelve teams have already expressed their desire to participate in this year's world championships.

They are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada, the USA, Guyana, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Montserrat.

Participants will compete in the following eight disciplines: Team Four Hand, Female Three Hand, Male Three Hand, Mixed Pairs, Female Pairs, Male Pairs, Queen of Domino, and King of Domino.