

“We will not be bullied”, says FA Minister Greene

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CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime Security workshop on the Treaty of San Jose that is being held at the American University of Antigua conference centre on Monday

Story on Page 6

We will not be bullied, says FA Minister Greene



CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P Chet Greene, has made a vigorous defence of the country's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) in wake of new threats from the United States regarding possible visa restrictions.

Speaking on Monday at a function at the University of the West Indies FIC, Minister Greene said Antigua and Barbuda will be 'fighting like hell' to defend the CIP programme. "They want to impose travel restrictions on us; for what reason, God only knows. We will not be bullied; our foreign policy is one of principle," he declared.

On Saturday, the Washington Post reported that Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia were identified in the memo, which was signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio

and circulated to U.S. diplomatic missions over the weekend. The memo reveals that the Trump administration is reviewing possible visa bans or other travel restrictions targeting these countries and others.

Minister Greene noted that the CIP programme brings much benefits to Antigua and Barbuda and that it is operated with integrity.

"We can defend the CIP; anybody in this room, we are all senior civil servants, anyone of us can defend the CIP. We know that Charmaine Donovan and her staff are all people of impeccable character and that this nation's integrity is not to be questioned where their work is concerned," he remarked.

Meanwhile, The US Embassy in Barbados has not confirmed or denied media reports that Antigua

and Barbuda and three other countries that offer Citizenship By Investment programmes are among 36 nations named in a leaked US State Department memo outlining potential new visa restrictions.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, has reported that both he and Foreign Affairs Minister, Greene, held discussions with the US Embassy and that the Embassy could not provide any additional information based on the media reports. "They neither denied nor confirmed the media reports. All they said is that they will get back to us," Ambassador Dr. Pilgrim revealed.

Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship by Investment Unit, Charmaine Donovan, stated that her investigations have confirmed

that the Antigua and Barbuda government has not been formally notified by the US government about any proposed changes to the visa requirements for nationals.

Antigua and Barbuda has always maintained that countries previously banned by the US such as North Korea and Iran, would automatically be barred from attaining CIP passports. Additionally, it pointed out that all Antigua and Barbuda passport holders must obtain a visa prior to entry into the United States. This, the government suggests, provides the US with a screening mechanism to determine who enters the country.

The Caribbean nations in question have long maintained that their CBI programmes are legitimate development strategies that include strong due diligence and security checks.

According to The Post, the memo gives listed governments 60 days to meet newly defined bench-

marks. An initial action plan detailing how they intend to meet the requirements must be submitted by 8:00 a.m. next Wednesday.

A primary concern cited in the memo is the sale of citizenship without a requirement for residency. It also raises other issues, including reported instances of “anti-American activity” by nationals from the countries listed.

However, the memo also leaves room for diplomatic negotiation, noting that countries willing to accept third-country nationals removed from the U.S., or enter into a “safe third country” agreement, may be able to ease Washington’s concerns.

The list includes 25 African countries as well as several from Central Asia and the Pacific. It expands on a June 4 presidential proclamation that imposed full travel bans on citizens of 12 countries—Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial

Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen—and placed partial restrictions on another seven: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

The full list of nations identified in the memo includes: Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Benin; Bhutan; Burkina Faso; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Côte d’Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Ethiopia; Egypt; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Kyrgyzstan; Liberia; Malawi; Mauritania; Niger; Nigeria; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; South Sudan; Syria; Tanzania; Tonga; Tuvalu; Uganda; Vanuatu; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

The White House has not issued a formal response. A spokesperson for the State Department declined to comment, telling The Washington Post that the agency does not discuss internal communications.



PM Browne Highlights Strategic Vision for Brazil-Caribbean Partnership



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, delivered powerful and forward-looking remarks on Friday at the Brazil-Caribbean Summit, underscoring the critical importance of renewed regional cooperation and solidarity in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

In a speech delivered alongside, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and fellow CARICOM leaders, Prime Minister Browne commended Brazil's proactive re-engagement with the Caribbean under President Lula's leadership, describing the Summit as a "vital opportunity to reshape, reimagine and strengthen the Brazil-Caribbean partnership."

Speaking against the backdrop of global instability and

mounting climate threats, Prime Minister Browne emphasized the urgent need for collective action to advance sustainable development, combat poverty and hunger, and build climate resilience. He pointed to shared vulnerabilities and intertwined futures as the foundation for deeper regional integration.

"In today's complex and rapidly changing global environment, Latin America and the Caribbean must stand together — we have no choice if we want to be resilient," Prime Minister Browne stated. "Our futures are deeply intertwined."

The Prime Minister also highlighted Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to sustainable food systems, climate-resilient agriculture, and enhanced South-South cooperation. He applauded Brazil's leadership

in launching the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, of which Antigua and Barbuda is a proud member.

Looking ahead to **COP30**, which Brazil will host later this year, Prime Minister Browne called for tangible progress on climate financing and the operationalization of the **Loss and Damage Fund** to support countries most vulnerable to climate change, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

He urged Brazil to champion the **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)** and lead efforts toward meaningful reform of international financial institutions to ensure fair access to development financing for vulnerable nations.

"Climate change is not just

a challenge for us — it is an existential threat," he said. "With Brazil's leadership, I believe we can advance a fairer, more responsive global financial architecture that leaves no vulnerable nation behind."

The Prime Minister praised Brazil's energy transition leadership and its potential to support a just and inclusive shift toward renewable energy across the region.

In closing, Prime Minister Browne reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to working closely with Brazil and Caribbean partners to shape a future defined by resilience, equity, and shared prosperity.

"This spirit of partnership is not just about closer cooperation," he noted, "but about shaping policies that build resilience and prosperity across our region."

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Local News



Antigua and Barbuda set to Ratify Treaty of San Jose at upcoming sitting of Parliament.



Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin has announced that Antigua and Barbuda will ratify the Treaty of San Jose at an upcoming meeting of the country's parliament.

Sir Steadroy made the announcement during his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime Security workshop on the Treaty of San Jose that is being held at the American University of Antigua conference centre on Monday. The treaty facilitates regional cooperation in the suppression of illicit maritime and air trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances throughout the Caribbean Region.

Benjamin further mentioned that the treaty plays a critical role in helping the country to maximize its maritime resources and to forge greater connections and synergies with regional and international partners in assisting the country in protecting its vast ocean space.



Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin and Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Innovation CARICOM IMPACS Callixtus Joseph

Brigadier Telbert Benjamin, Chief of Defense Staff Antigua and Barbuda expressed his support for the develop-

ment noting that discussions have been ongoing for years and he is pleased that this workshop is being held to

finally bring into force the Treaty of San Jose which is critical in directing the path of Maritime protection within the twin island state.

Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Innovation CARICOM IMPACS Callixtus Joseph says though the country may be small in size, it is a large ocean nation, which needs to further capitalize on its Blue Economy, which could offer a broad horizon of benefits and opportunities.

Joseph says, "With a land area of just over 440 square kilometers, Antigua and Barbuda commands a maritime space of more than 110,000 square kilometers—a domain that is 249 times larger than its land-mass. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, this vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) grants Antigua and Barbuda sovereign rights over marine resources, including fisheries, energy production, and seabed minerals. This EEZ is not merely a geographic feature—it is an instrument of opportunity and a strategic national asset, central to the country's sustainable development."

The Assistant Director, commends Antigua on hosting the workshop and signaling its commitment to the Treaty of San Jose. He added that the treaty is a tool of empowerment and the ratification will further help to protect Maritime from various security



Brigadier Telbert Benjamin, Chief of Defense Staff Antigua and Barbuda and Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Innovation CARICOM IMPACS Callixtus Joseph



Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers and Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Innovation CARICOM IMPACS Callixtus Joseph

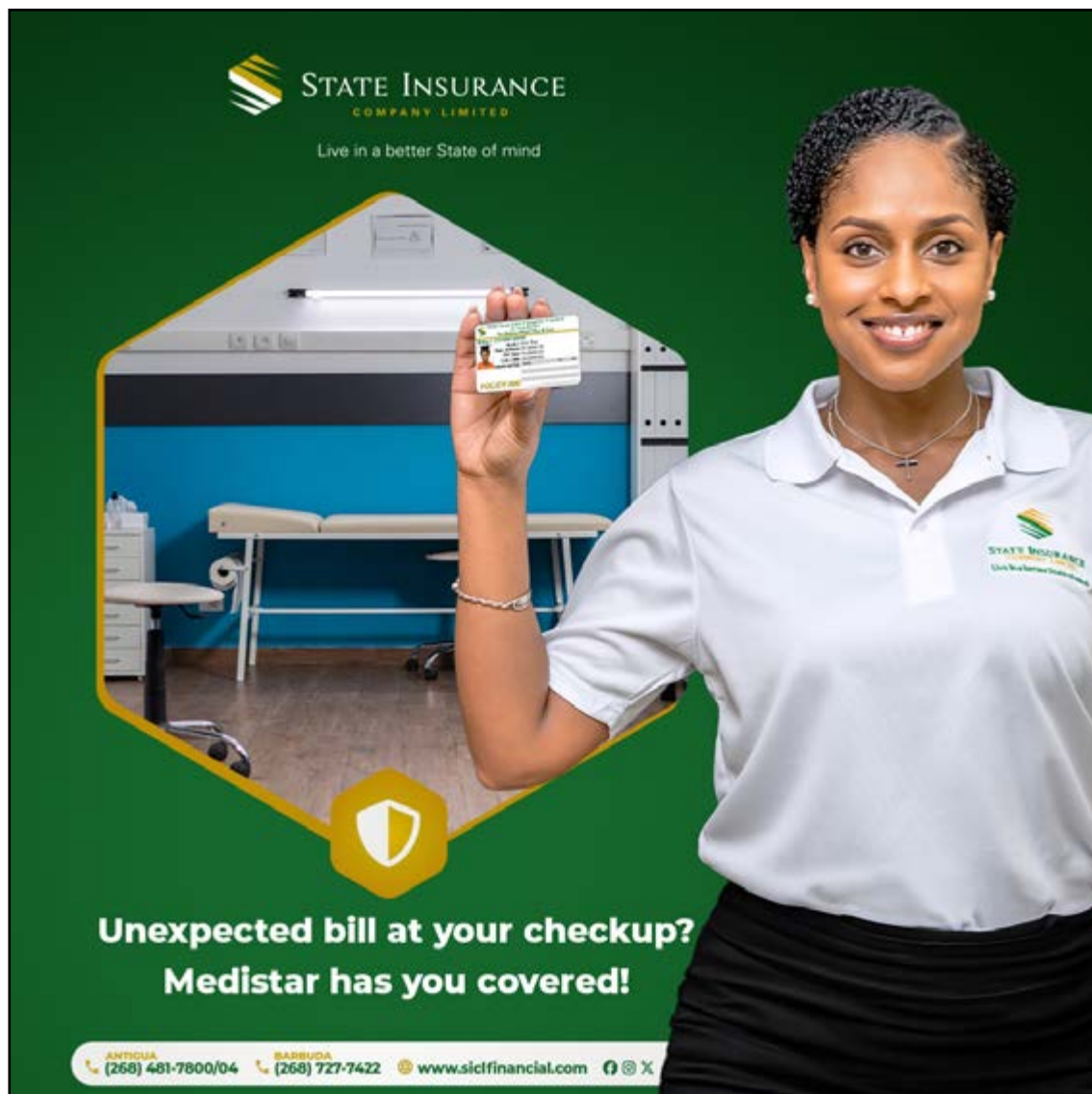
equipped with the necessary tools to protect and also advance the Blue Economy.

threats that have plagued the island and region for years.

assistance from CARICOM IMPACS will further be

He further inputs, “CARICOM IMPACS respectfully encourages the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to take the necessary steps to ratify the San José Treaty. Such a step would: Reinforce the country’s capacity to protect its vast ocean domain; Strengthen the legal foundation for maritime law enforcement operations; Expand the country’s access to shared operational frameworks; And demonstrate a clear commitment to regional security cooperation and ocean governance.”

The Attorney General clarified that the twin island state will lead the way with the ratification of the treaty and will strengthen legislation pertaining to Maritime protection. Sir Steadroy noted that the country acknowledges the importance of the Blue Economy hence the creation of a maritime division and with the further



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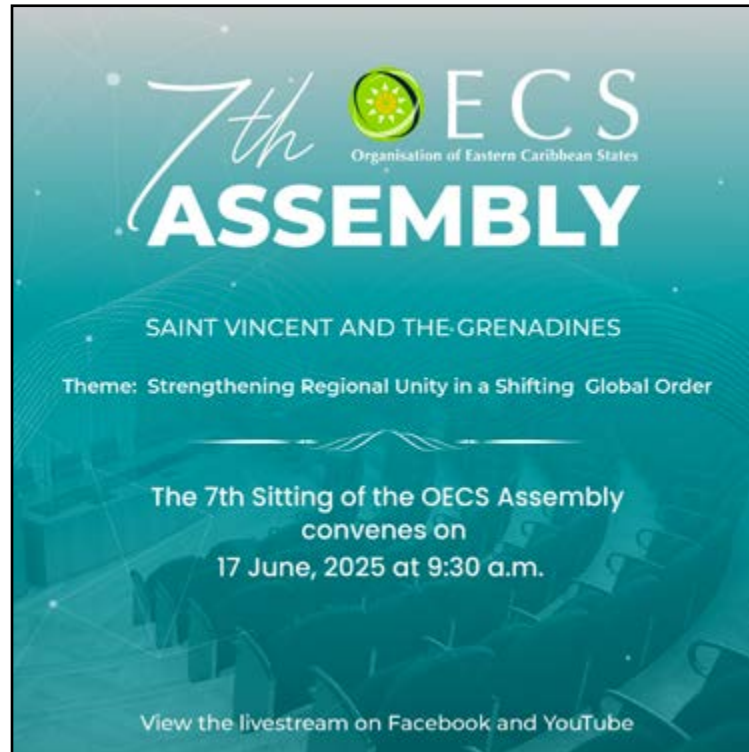


Antigua and Barbuda sends delegation to 7th Sitting of the OECS Assembly

Antigua and Barbuda is being represented at the 7th Sitting of the OECS Assembly which opens in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday (today).

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, is representing Prime Minister Gaston Browne as the head of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation. He is accompanied by Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Kurt Williams.

Host Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will welcome OECS Heads of Government; Director General of the OECS; representatives from the parliament



of each full Member State and the legislature of each Associated Member State; and Members of the Oppo-

sition.

Reports from the OECS Secretariat announced that the proposed regional legislation of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union regime, developed by the OECS in consultation with the Member States, is set to be debated.

The Assembly meeting will be convened under the theme: **Strengthening Regional Unity in a Shifting Global Order**. The OECS Assembly is a regional parliament consisting of representative parliamentarians from all OECS member states, both government and opposition.

Senior public servants attend workshop to enhance their technical skills



Several public servants drawn from various departments are attending a weeklong workshop designed to enhance the technical skills of decision makers, enabling them to develop effective policies that promote sustainable development and resilience against various shocks.

The workshop marks the launch of the DA16 Project entitled to Strengthen Capacity to Design and Implement Policies to Enhance Resilience in Antigua and Barbuda and it is a collaboration between The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean regional office in Trinidad and Tobago. It is being held at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus where Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene delivered the feature address. "Through this project, we anticipate strengthening our institutional capacity, ensuring greater synergy in implementing both the SDGs and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

"To achieve these objectives with absolute brevity, I will outline for you a series of key activities. First, we will



conduct four national workshops focused on critical areas, including Proposal Writing, cost-benefit analysis, strategic policy planning and statistical approaches. Each of these workshops will involve senior management and technical staff from various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies," he stated.

In addition, the Minister noted, the government will provide technical

assistance to support the drafting and implementation of new or updated policies that address national vulnerabilities. "A significant focus will be placed on knowledge transfer in areas such as data collection, strategic policy visioning and stakeholder engagement, all vital for effective policy execution.

"We will also offer a national training course on project proposal preparation and implementation, targeting individuals responsible for project management across the ministries and departments. This course will strengthen our national capacity and reduce gaps in project execution," he remarked.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony were H.E Simon Springett, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Deputy Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Karen Cabrall, Director of International Trade and National Sustainable Development Goals Focal Point, Joy-Marie King, and team of facilitators from ECLAC, Andrea Andrew UN Local office.

Local News

COVID-19 slows Antigua and Barbuda's march towards attaining SDG's by 2030

Antigua and Barbuda and other countries around the world are falling short of their targets to attain the United Nations designated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by the 2030 target date due to the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's the assessment of the country's Director of International Trade and National Focal Point on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), Joy-Marie King, who was speaking at a capacity building workshop on Monday at the UWI FIC.

"With the 2030 deadline for the achievement of the SDGs fast approaching, the lingering impacts of



Director of International Trade and National Focal Point on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), Joy-Marie King

the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and growing climate crisis

have severely hindered SDG progress.

"According to the SDGs

Progress Report 2024, the world is falling short of achieving the 2030 agenda with only 17% of the SDG targets on track and a significant portion showing insufficient or regressing progress," she reported.

According to King the time is now for the strategic exploitation of opportunities to foster accelerated implementation of the goals including facilitating greater synergy with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

King said the workshop and the associated DA16 project provide the country with that unique opportunity in exploring the above.




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Local News



More roadworks at night

The Ministry of Works carried out road repair works on two main roadways in the City of St. John's overnight.

An announcement from the ministry advised motorists and other road users to take caution as roadworks were being conducted on Independence Drive and Redcliffe Street on Monday night.



well as to begin preparing the road surfaces ahead of the annual Carnival festivities.

The notice asked motorists to exercise caution as heavy duty equipment were being used. Additionally, it asked motorists to adhere to detour signs as well as to follow the instruction of the ministry's personnel.

The work was to repair areas recently dug up by APUA as part of its programme as

Trinidad man sentenced to two years on weapon charges



and Wesson .357 and matching ammunition were his when he was arrested.

that the gun was for his protection as he had been robbed previously.

He told the police

A St. John's magistrate has sentenced Trinidad and Tobago national, Sheldon Sambury, who now resides in Bendals to two years and six months in HM Prison after he pleaded guilty to a charge of the illegal possession of a firearm.

Sambury, 50, a farmer

and a member of Boshanti Tribe, was also sentenced to one year in prison on the charge of the illegal possession of eight rounds of matching ammunition.

The sentences are to run concurrently.

Sambury admitted to the police that the firearm – a Smith

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Carnival Corner



Pan De Vibes Sets the Stage for Panorama 2025 with Electrifying Performances and Corporate Partnership Celebration



Pan Vibes in St. John's



Festivals Commission chair, Amb. Elizabeth Mahkoul



Title sponsor State Insurance Company, CEO Aarion Nicholas



Soca diva, Claudette Peters shows her love for pan music

The spirit of steelpan echoed through the streets this past weekend as the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) hosted a successful Pan De Vibes event in front of the headquarters of State Insurance Company Limited, title sponsor of Panorama 2025. The vibrant afternoon offered an exciting preview of what's to come on Saturday, August 2nd at Carnival

City, when the national Panorama competition returns with plenty VIBES energy and passion.

The event highlighted the exciting debut of Pandemonium, the newest addition to Antigua's steelpan family, alongside veteran bands including reigning champions Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, West Side Symphony, Halcyon Steel Orchestra, and Panache Steel Orchestra.

Each band delivered a dynamic 40-minute showcase, leaving the audience captivated and hungry for more.

Adding to the cultural celebration were appearances from traditional masquerade characters and the lively iron band, creating a family-friendly festival atmosphere that united music, tradition, and community.

During a brief ceremony within the event, the ABFC and State Insurance Compa-

ny Limited reaffirmed their partnership, with this year marking the second year in a three-year title sponsorship agreement for Panorama. Also presented to the public were the 2025 ECAB Mr. & Miss Teenage and Queen of Carnival contestants further igniting excitement for Antigua Carnival 2025.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson of the ABFC, expressed her pride and optimism in



One big happy family!

brilliance. We at State Insurance Company Limited are proud to champion youth development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. The steelpan is a symbol of creative freedom and talent that echoes across all generations, and we are honoured to be part of its journey.”

“To the Pan Association leadership, I urge you to lead with unity and pur-

pose. And the public join us on August 2nd and let the power of pan music move you. You won't be disappointed you may even find it therapeutic.”

ABFC invites the Pan lovers to support the **State Insurance Company Limited Panorama** on Saturday, August 2nd at Carnival City, and to celebrate all events of **Antigua Carnival 2025 Itz A Vibe!**

Three of the 2025 Queen of Carnival delegates were also present to enjoy sweet pan music

her remarks: “On behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, I am proud to celebrate and showcase the steelpan art form Pan is trending, and Pan is a VIBE! This year, we welcome our newest band, Pandemonium, and salute the return of our veteran groups. What you experienced here today is only a taste of what's to come for Panorama 2025. I also want to thank our pan captains and leaders for making the pan yard a safe haven for our youth more than a rehearsal space, it's a summer camp, a place of discipline and belonging. And to our valued sponsors like State Insurance Company Limited thank you. Your support fuels the heartbeat of our culture.” The Chair sent a charge to Corporate Antigua to get involved. “Whether through uniforms, refreshments, or in-kind support, every contribution helps keep the steelpan tradition alive. As the saying goes, likkle, likkle full basket and every bit counts.”

Ms. Aarion A. Nicholas, CEO of State Insurance Company Limited, reflected on the deeper meaning of their involvement: “Supporting Panorama is more than a sponsorship; it's an investment in the future and a celebration of



Carnival Corner



Miss Desrie Markham Makes History as First Miss Antigua Barbuda Crowned Miss Caribbean Universe Queen



Antigua and Barbuda's pride, Miss Desrie Markham, returned home with tears of joy and humility after making history over the weekend by being crowned the first Miss Antigua Barbuda to win the prestigious Caribbean Universe Pageant. Her remarkable performance solidified her this crown.

Miss Markham dominated the stage, capturing Best Talent, Best

Interview, Best Evening Gown, and People's Choice Award. Her grace, intellect, and magnetic stage presence were so compelling that she was the unanimous choice of the judging panel.

Miss Markham was accompanied by her dedicated chaperone, Mr. Mario Thomas, and her trainer and artistic director, Mr. Owen Jackson, Deputy Director of the Cultural Di-

vision. The duo has worked closely with her since she earned the title of Miss Antigua Barbuda Queen of Carnival in 2024.

Mr. Jackson, who has mentored Miss Markham for over eight years through her involvement with the National Youth Theatre, expressed his pride in her growth and accomplishment. *"Desrie is the embodiment of beauty and brains," he said. "She exemplifies the training she has received over the years. Watching her evolution into a confident and powerful young woman has been nothing short of inspiring."*

The Hon. Daryll S. Matthew, Minister of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, joined with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) including Chairperson Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, and the Board of Commissioners to congratulate Queen Markham on her groundbreaking achievement.

Minister Matthew remarked: *"You embodied the pride and spirit of Antigua and Barbuda with every step. Your performance radiated grace, intelligence, and brilliance. We are beyond proud of you."*

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission salutes Miss Desrie Markham for her stellar representation on the regional stage and looks forward to supporting her continued journey as a cultural ambassador.

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Feature



The Caribbean's Food Insecurity Problem and the Promise of AI



By Dr. Curtis Charles

When Dr. Ranveer Chandra talks about farming, he's not just thinking of big tractors and mega-farms. He's thinking about farmers with five acres or less. The ones using machetes and wheelbarrows. The ones who, with just a little bit of help, could grow more food—not just for their family, but for their entire community.

Dr. Chandra is the Chief Technology Officer for Agri-Food at Microsoft, and he's spent years working on one question: *How can we use data and AI to make small farms work smarter, not harder?* His answer isn't something far-fetched—it's already being used in parts of Africa, India, and Latin America. Now, he's bringing that message to the Caribbean.

He'll be speaking at the Smart Farming panel during the 2nd Annual AI Research Conference at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus this June. And let's be real: the timing couldn't be better.

Food insecurity in the Ca-

ibbean is real and growing. According to the World Food Programme, about 3 million people in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean are food insecure. That's almost half the population in some places. It's up nearly 80% since 2020. Families are cutting back. Some go days without full meals. And it's often the women and children who feel it the most.

We import 60 to 80 percent of what we eat. That means when fuel prices spike, or shipping slows down, or a storm hits Florida or Panama or anywhere else—that affects us too. Prices jump. Shelves empty. Local farmers can't keep up. And praedial larceny—crop theft—is still a huge issue. All of this makes it hard to grow food, and even harder to grow enough.

So where does AI come in?

Dr. Chandra and his team at Microsoft have created tools that can run on a regular smartphone. Things like low-cost soil sensors, weather tracking, and even AI that can tell a farmer when to plant, when to water, and when to protect against pests. These aren't expensive gadgets for billionaires. They're made for farmers with one field, one phone, and a whole lot of hope.

We're seeing some of it already. In Guyana, AI tools

are helping rice farmers watch for disease. In other places, drones are flying over crops like cashews and spotting problems before they spread—sometimes with 95% accuracy. It's not just science fiction. It's happening.

But AI alone won't fix things. We need to support our farmers with training, decent broadband in rural areas, and strong laws to stop thieves from raiding fields in the night. Still, this tech gives us a real shot at

growing what we eat—and eating what we grow.

Dr. Chandra's message is simple: *This technology can work here. It can help us feed ourselves.*

The future of Caribbean farming isn't waiting. It's here. Come hear more on June 22–23. Bring your curiosity—and bring your pride.

Dr. Curtis B. Charles, Ph.D. is an MIT graduate and Data Scientist.

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A True Love for Barbuda – A Message from Bonnietha John



As a true daughter of Barbuda, my heart is heavy. I, Bonnietha, have been doing my very best to clean and care for our beautiful island—this little piece of paradise we all love. But it is deeply heartbreaking to see that those in positions of leadership are not following my example or taking responsibility for the health hazards we are currently facing in Barbuda. Our people's health should be a priority. It is devastating to see the neglect, especially when tourists fly over



in their jets and witness the heartbreaking conditions below. What impression

does that leave? What message are we sending to the world about how we treat our home?

It saddens me to see that those entrusted with the care and development of Barbuda seem content with its current state, rather than taking bold steps to fix what is clearly wrong. If they truly love Barbuda, as they so often claim, then let their actions reflect that love. Do what is right for the island and for the people who call it home.

Regional News



JLP offers \$3 million reward for information on abduction of party worker



The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is offering a \$3 million reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the abduction of party worker Lorna Robertson in St Andrew on May 30, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced.

Holness says the incident as “very troubling.”

“We have been taking note of it, we hear certain squeals

happening and I’m very hopeful that the police will eventually find a lead because such a crime should not go unsolved,” he said Friday night. “We have decided that we will put up a reward for information of three million Jamaican dollars for information leading to the arrest of those persons who abducted our worker.”

He added, “We do not intend to stop until we find

out who are the people behind it, whoever they are connected to.”

Robertson, also known as ‘Nikki’, is a JLP election scrutineer. She was abducted while walking along Old Hope Road in St Andrew. She is a resident of Swallowfield in the St Andrew South Eastern constituency.

Her family has also offered a \$500,000 reward for her safe return

Member of Parliament Julian Robinson, of the Opposition People’s National Party, has rejected social media claims linking the abduction to politics.

He said there has been no evidence linking the abduction to politics, and Robertson is a respected resident.

“They’re trying to insinuate and suggest that it is politics that is behind it. I knew Nikki very well and I won’t go into all the things but I had a

close relationship with her,” Robinson said on June 8.

Detectives assigned to the St Andrew Central police have not disclosed a motive. On June 11, a major search was conducted in sections of August Town, according to Radio Jamaica.

It is reported that Robertson was approached by a man who pulled her into a black Honda Stepwagon with fake licence plates. The abduction was captured on CCTV.

Superintendent Mark Harris, head of the St Andrew Central Police Division, told Radio Jamaica News that the vehicle was recovered a week ago. Bloodstains were reportedly found inside, and DNA samples were collected.

Several individuals have since been questioned in connection with the case. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

The Bahamas: Police investigate fatal shooting of two men

Bahamian police have launched an investigation into a fatal shooting that claimed the lives of two men on Sunday.

According to police reports, officers were dispatched to Madeira Street shortly before noon, where they discovered two unresponsive males lying outside a business establishment. Both men appeared to have sustained gunshot wounds.

Emergency Medical Services responded to the scene but found no signs of



life in either victim.

Preliminary information suggests that the incident began when a police re-

servist attempted to make a deposit at a bank’s drop box. He was allegedly approached by individuals in a white Japanese-model vehicle. A shootout reportedly ensued, resulting in the deaths of the reservist and one of the suspects inside the vehicle. The other suspects fled the scene.

Police are urging anyone with information related to the incident to contact 911. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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Regional News



Guyana: Police probe death of Venezuelan construction worker by other Venezuelans

Two Venezuelans have been arrested as prime suspects in the stabbing death of their countryman late Saturday in West Bank Demerara.

The police report that construction worker Omar Nazareth Martinez Rodriguez, 30, was beaten and stabbed in the right hand, right foot, neck, and chest.

They say earlier in the day on Saturday, Rodriguez was heading home in a taxi when the suspects rode up on a motorcycle, opened the car door and began assaulting him.

The driver of the car man-



aged to drive off with one of the suspects in the car, stopped in a nearby town, pulled the suspect off of Rodriguez and locked Rodriguez in the car.

The driver reportedly told the cops that he went into a supermarket and while heading back to his car, he saw Rodriguez running towards the supermarket.

A security guard who was on duty saw the victim running towards the entry of the Supermarket, being chased by three men, who then began assaulting Rodriguez. The security guard said one of the suspects, who was armed with a knife, stabbed Rodriguez several times before they escaped.

Rodriguez was pronounced dead at the scene.

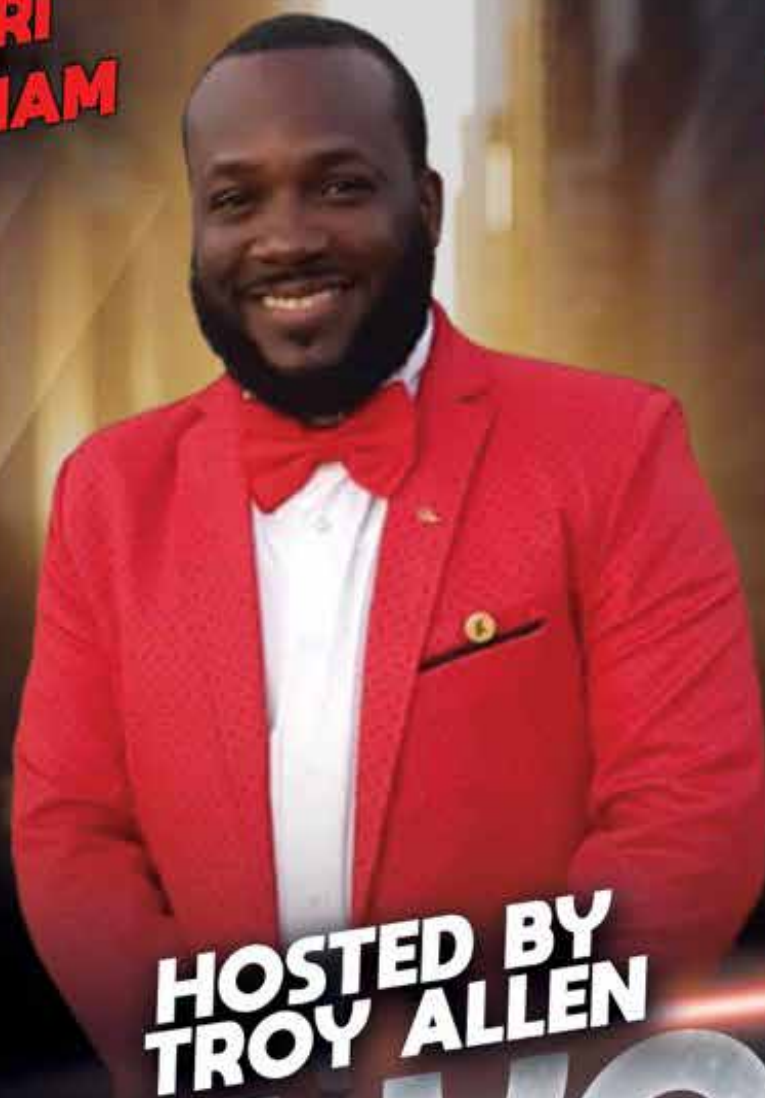
Investigators, based on intelligence, later apprehended two of the suspects who are currently in custody, assisting with the ongoing investigation. (*Loop Caribbean*)

DAILY PROGRAMMING

EARLY VIBRATIONS	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
THE RUSH HOUR SHOW	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
TOUCHLINE	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
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Helicopter carrying Hindu pilgrims crashes in India's Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, killing 7

A helicopter carrying Hindu pilgrims crashed on Sunday in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, killing seven people on board, officials said.

The helicopter was headed to Guptkashi, a prominent Hindu pilgrimage site in the Himalayas, from Kedarnath temple town when it crashed minutes after taking off, officials said, on what should have been a 10-minute flight.

Nandan Singh Rajwar, a local disaster management official, said authorities have launched a rescue and search operation following the helicopter crash.

The helicopter, operated by Aryan Aviation, a private helicopter service company, went down in a forested area near the Kedarnath pilgrimage route at around 5:30 a.m. local time. Officials said the crash was believed to have been caused by poor weather conditions.

Officials said the dead included the pilot and pilgrims from the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh and western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The bodies were badly burned in a fire that followed the crash, they said.

India's Civil Aviation Ministry suspended the operations of Aryan Aviation and directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to oversee all helicopter activity in the region, according to Press Trust of India.

The ministry also ordered an investigation by the Aircraft Accident Inves-



tigation Bureau, the news agency said. The crash comes three days after an Air India passenger plane crashed with the loss of at least 270 people in Gujarat state. The London-bound Boeing 787 struck a medical college hostel in a residential area of the northwestern city of Ahmedabad minutes after take-off Thursday, killing 241 people on board and at least 29 on the ground. One passenger survived.

Kedarnath is home to one of the four most sacred Hindu temple shrines and receives tens of thousands of pilgrims each year during the summer season, many of whom use helicopter services due to the difficult mountainous terrain.

Helicopter mishaps are not uncommon in the treacherous Kedarnath region, where sudden weather changes and high-altitude flying conditions can pose risks. According to Press Trust, Sunday's was the fifth helicopter accident since the pilgrimage began in the region on April 30.

On June 7, a helicopter operating in the Kedarnath Valley made an emergency landing on a highway due to technical fault shortly after taking off. The pilot was injured but all five passengers on board were unharmed.

On May 8, a helicopter crashed in Uttarkashi district, killing six people, including the pilot. One person survived. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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Spaniards turn water guns on visitors in cities to protest 'over-tourism'

Protesters used water pistols against unsuspecting tourists in Barcelona and on the Spanish island of Mallorca on Sunday as demonstrators marched to demand a rethink of an economic model they believe is fuelling a housing crunch and erasing the character of their hometowns.

The marches were part of the first coordinated effort by activists concerned with the ills of over-tourism across southern Europe's top destinations. While several thousands rallied in Mallorca in the biggest gathering of the day, hundreds more gathered in other Spanish cities, as well as in Venice, Italy and Portugal's capital, Lisbon.

"The squirt guns are to bother the tourists a bit," Andreu Martínez said in Barcelona with a chuckle after spritzing a couple seated at an outdoor café. "Barcelona has been handed to the tourists. This is a fight to give Barcelona back to its residents."

Martínez, a 42-year-old administrative assistant, is one of a growing number of residents who are convinced that tourism has gone too far in the city of 1.7 million people. Barcelona hosted 15.5 million visitors last year, with most being eager to see Antoni Gaudí's La Sagrada Família basilica and the Las Ramblas promenade.

Martínez says his rent has risen over 30 per cent as more apartments in his neighbourhood are rented to tourists for short-term stays. He said there is a knock-on effect of traditional stores being replaced by businesses catering to tourists, like souvenir shops, burger joints and "bubble tea" spots.

"Our lives, as lifelong residents of Barcelona, are coming to an end," he said. "We are being pushed out systematically."

Around 5,000 people gathered in Pal-



ma, the capital of Mallorca, with some toting water guns as well and chanting "Everywhere you look, all you see are tourists."

The tourists who were targeted by water blasts laughed it off.

The Balearic island is a favourite for British and German sun-seekers. It has seen housing costs skyrocket as homes are diverted to the short-term rental market.

Hundreds more marched in Granada, in southern Spain, and in the northern city of San Sebastián, as well as the island of Ibiza.

In Venice, a couple of dozen protesters unfurled a banner calling for a halt to new hotel beds in the lagoon city in front of two recently completed structures, one in the popular tourist destination's historic centre where activists say the last resident, an elderly woman, was kicked out last year.

Protesters in Barcelona blew whistles and held up homemade signs saying "One more tourist, one less resident." They stuck stickers saying "Citizen Self-Defence," in Catalan, and "Tour-

ist Go Home," in English, with a drawing of a water pistol on the doors of hotels and hostels.

There was tension when the march stopped in front of a large hostel, where a group emptied their water guns at two workers positioned in the entrance.

They also set off firecrackers next to the hostel, and opened a can of pink smoke. One worker spat at the protesters as he slammed the hostel's doors.

American tourists Wanda and Bill Dorozenski were walking along Barcelona's main luxury shopping boulevard where the protest started. They received a squirt or two, but she said it was actually refreshing, given the 83 degree Fahrenheit (28.3 degrees Celsius) weather at the time.

"That's lovely, thank you sweetheart," Wanda said to the squirter. "I am not going to complain. These people are feeling something to them that is very personal, and is perhaps destroying some areas (of the city)."

There were also many marchers with water pistols who didn't fire at by-

International

AROUND THE WORLD



standers, and instead solely used them to spray themselves to keep cool.

Cities across the world are struggling with how to cope with mass tourism and a boom in short-term rental platforms, like Airbnb, but perhaps nowhere has surging discontent been so evident as in Spain, where protesters in Barcelona first took to firing squirt guns at tourists during a protest last summer.

There has also been a confluence of the pro-housing and anti-tourism struggles in Spain, whose 48 million residents welcomed a record 94 million international visitors in 2024. When thousands marched through the streets of Spain's capital in April, some held homemade signs saying "Get Airbnb out of our neighbourhoods."

Spanish authorities are striving to show that they hear the public outcry, while not hurting an industry that contributes 12 per cent of gross domestic

product.

Last month, Spain's government ordered Airbnb to remove almost 66,000 holiday rentals from the platform that it said had violated local rules.

Spain's Consumer Rights Minister, Pablo Bustinduy, told The Associated Press shortly after the crackdown on Airbnb that the tourism sector "cannot jeopardise the constitutional rights of the Spanish people," which enshrine their right to housing and well-being.

Carlos Cuerpo, the Economy Minister, said in a separate interview that the government is aware it must tackle the unwanted side effects of mass tourism.

The boldest move was made by Barcelona's town hall, which stunned Airbnb and other services who help rent properties to tourists, by announcing last year the elimination of all 10,000 short-term rental licenses in the city by 2028.

That sentiment was back in force on

Sunday, where people held up signs saying "Your Airbnb was my home."

The short-term rental industry in the country, for its part, believes it is being treated unfairly.

"I think a lot of our politicians have found an easy scapegoat to blame for the inefficiencies of their policies in terms of housing and tourism over the last 10, 15, 20 years," Airbnb's general director for Spain and Portugal, Jaime Rodríguez de Santiago, recently told the AP.

That argument either hasn't trickled down to the ordinary residents of Barcelona, or it isn't resonating.

Txema Escorsa, a teacher in Barcelona, doesn't just oppose Airbnb in his home city, he has ceased to use it even when traveling elsewhere, out of principle.

"In the end, you realise that this is taking away housing from people," he said. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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'No Kings' demonstrators protest against Trump across the US: Organizers say millions came

Masses of demonstrators packed into streets, parks and plazas across the United States on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump, marching through downtowns and small towns, blaring anti-authoritarian chants mixed with support for protecting democracy and immigrant rights.

Organizers of the "No Kings" demonstrations said millions had marched in hundreds of events. Governors across the US had urged calm and vowed no tolerance for violence, while some mobilized the National Guard ahead of marchers gathering.

Confrontations were isolated. But police in Los Angeles, where protests over federal immigration enforcement raids erupted a week earlier and sparked demonstrations across the country, used tear gas and crowd-control munitions to clear out protesters after the formal event ended. Officers in Portland also fired tear gas and projectiles to disperse a crowd that protested in front of a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement building well into the evening.

And in Salt Lake City, Utah, police were investigating a shooting during a march downtown that left one person critically injured. Three people were taken into custody, including a man believed to be the shooter, who also suffered a gunshot



wound, according to Police Chief Brian Redd.

Redd said it was too early to tell if the shooting was politically motivated and whether those involved knew each other. The shooter appeared to be walking alongside the group of thousands who were marching, he added. Video feeds showed demonstrators running for safety as gunshots rang out.

Huge, boisterous crowds marched, danced, drummed, and chanted shoulder-to-shoulder in New York, Denver, Chicago, Austin and Los Angeles, some behind "no kings" banners. Atlanta's 5,000-capacity event quickly reached its limit, with thousands more gathered outside barriers to hear speakers in front of the state Capitol. Officials in Seattle estimated that more than 70,000 people attended the city's largest rally down-

town, the Seattle Times reported.

Trump was in Washington for a military parade marking the Army's 250th anniversary that coincides with the president's birthday. About 200 protesters assembled in northwest Washington's Logan Circle and chanted "Trump must go now" before erupting in cheers. A larger-than-life puppet of Trump — a caricature of the president wearing a crown and sitting on a golden toilet — was wheeled through the crowd.

In some places, organizers handed out little American flags while others flew their flags upside down, a sign of distress. Mexican flags, which have become a fixture of the Los Angeles protests against immigration raids, also made an appearance at some demonstrations Saturday.

In Culpepper, Virginia, police said one person was struck by an SUV when a 21-year-old driver intentionally accelerated his SUV into the crowd as protesters were leaving a rally. The driver was charged with reckless driving.

The demonstrations come on the heels of the protests over the federal immigration enforcement raids that began last week and Trump ordering the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles, where protesters blocked a freeway and set cars on fire.

"Today, across red states and blue, rural towns and major cities, Americans stood in peaceful unity and made it clear: we don't do kings," the No Kings Coalition said in a statement Saturday afternoon after many events had ended. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Sports News



Cup-holders Five Islands crash out of Primary School Cup

Defending champion Five Islands Primary's successful run in the Ministry of Sports Primary School Cup football championship has ended.

Five Islands Primary, which won the title last year, was ousted in the quarter-finals stage of this year's competition on Friday.

Pigotts Primary, one of the four teams to advance to the semi-finals, snatched a 3-2 victory against Five Islands Primary in the quarter-finals at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

Elisa Dela Cruz converted twice, and Five Islands scored an own goal for Pogotts Primary. Teejay Hodge and Lashane Benjamin each scored once for Five Islands Primary.

Pigotts Primary got into the quarter-finals as winners of Zone B, while Five Islands advanced to the knockout stage by finishing as winners of Zone A.

Joining Pigotts Primary in the semi-finals are New Winthropes, Parham, and St. Peter's Primary.

New Winthropes are one of the two best third-place finishers to advance to the quarter-finals;



The Five Islands Primary School football team poses with their trophies after winning the Primary School Cup competition at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's on Friday, June 14, 2024. (File Photo)

Parham finished as runners-up in Zone B, and St. Peter's Primary clinched second place in Zone C.

New Winthropes Primary romped to a 5-2 victory against Greenbay Primary, which finished as one of the two best third-place finishers to advance to the quarter-finals.

Asana Percival struck a hat trick for New Winthropes Primary, and Raylin Rodriguez scored twice for Greenbay Primary.

Parham prevailed 2-1 on penalty kicks against Zone C winners Free-mans Ville Primary after both teams fought to a goalless draw at the end

of regulation play.

Jonathan Duberry struck a hat-trick to lead St. Peter's Primary to a

3-2 victory against former champions Golden Grove Primary, which clinched the runners-up spot in Zone A.

Khamar Lloyd and Aiquan Joseph each scored once for Golden Grove Primary.

The four winners of the quarter-finals will contest the two semi-finals at the ARG on Wednesday.

Parham Primary will take on St. Peter's Primary, and New Winthropes Primary will clash with Pigotts Primary.

The final and third-place playoff will also be held at the ARG on Friday, June 20.

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Itz A ViBe
ANTIGUA Carnival

Hope sets sights on growth, Lewis embraces comeback

West Indies captain Shai Hope and Player of the Match Evin Lewis shared their satisfaction following a commanding 62-run victory over Ireland in the third and final T20 International at Bready on Sunday, a result that sealed a 1-0 series win for the visitors after the first two matches were abandoned due to rain.

The pair led from the front with the bat, putting on a 100-run opening stand to lay the foundation for West Indies' imposing 256 for five from their 20 overs. Lewis was the standout, blasting 91 from just 44 balls, a knock that included eight fours and six sixes, while Hope anchored the innings with a well-paced 51.

"It was unfortunate we didn't get to play the first two games," said Lewis, who was named Player of the Match.

"Felt pretty good out there. Wanted to see what the wicket was doing and then step up a bit."

He added that the performance meant a lot, especially given the long gaps between matches and opportunities.



Evin Lewis

"I wanted to do well. Still grateful and thankful. Pretty easy to bat with him (Hope). He tries to get the game off to a good start, similar to me, and I am grateful to bat with him."

Ireland, chasing 257 for victory, never truly threatened and could only muster 194 for seven despite resistance from their middle order. The West Indies bowlers shared the spoils, with disciplined spells that snuffed out any momentum the hosts tried to build.

Hope, speaking after the match, emphasized the significance of the win, especially after a hard-fought series loss to England earlier this year.

"It means a lot. Really trying to build a strong team," Hope said. "Just trying to continue that (ranking progress), trying to be as consistent as possible and win as many games as possible. That was a tough series against England—nice to take something back to the Caribbean."

He praised Lewis's destructive return, highlighting the left-hander's potential impact in future fixtures.

"He's a quality striker and when he is going, he is hard to stop. Hopefully, he can continue that run-scoring and get a good start against Australia when those matches arrive."

Looking ahead to the upcoming Test series against Australia, which he will not captain, Hope deferred to his red-ball counterpart.

"Not quite sure—have not played in a little while," he said. "Want to wish Roston all the best (as captain)."



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World Test Championship format needs revamping

LONDON (Reuters) - A riveting World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa went a long way to boost the sagging credentials of the five-day game, but the format of the competition is in need of a revamp, according to many of the game's top observers.

South Africa beat Australia by five wickets at lunch on the fourth day of a fluctuating contest at Lord's in which the bowlers dominated the opening two days. A total of 24 wickets were taken, but the tables were turned as wickets turned benign and the batsmen changed the course of the match.

It was classic test cricket, as good as the excitement from any limited overs contest, but the overall WTC is a bewildering competition, devoid of uniformity and an unbalanced points system.

There was much criticism of how South Africa managed to reach the final without playing either Australia and England in the two-year qualifying period.

"It's very hard for the average cricket fan to understand who's the best team in the world and how



South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma celebrates with the winner's trophy after their win in the World Test Championship final against Australia at Lord's cricket ground in London, Saturday, June 14, 2025. (AP)

exactly the top two teams make it to the final," said former England captain Michael Vaughan, now a television pundit.

The two finalists are decided by a table of test results, with points awarded for wins and draws. The pair with the highest percentage of points available to them advance to the final, which in 2027 could again be at Lord's or in India, according to International Cricket Council officials.

But there was a major discrepancy in South Africa playing only 12 tests compared to 19 for Australia and India, and even

more by England (22).

"I can't remember if I've ever even given any real time to be specifically thinking about the World Test Championship to be honest because it's utterly confusing," added England captain Ben Stokes.

Countries are free to decide how many tests they want to play, and in South Africa's case, there is much less of an appetite for test cricket because they lose money.

In the next cycle, which starts on Tuesday when Bangladesh begin a two-Test series in Sri Lanka, the new champions will

play 14 Tests, this time including three Test series against each of Australia and England but only two against India.

Five Test series are now only the preserve of contests between Australia, England, and India.

"The fixture list is uneven; not everyone plays everyone else, and some have an easier ride than others," wrote Michael Atherton last week.

"Everyone knows the WTC in its present guise is flawed, and that solutions, with so many competing interests, are fiendishly difficult," added the former England skipper.

Healthy crowds and Messi mania lift Club World Cup, but quality gap shows



The FIFA logo is emblazoned with the club crests of competing teams prior to the Club World Cup group A soccer match between Al Ahly and Inter Miami in Miami, Fla., Saturday, June 14, 2025. (AP)

MIAMI (Reuters) - The expanded Club World Cup has kicked off with healthy crowds, “Messi mania” and a festival atmosphere in Miami, giving an early vindication to world football body FIFA after fears of empty stands and global disinterest.

FIFA controversially awarded Lionel Messi’s Inter Miami a backdoor route into the tournament, ensuring the sport’s biggest name would be there after he propelled soccer to new heights in a country often ambivalent to the world’s most popular game.

Some 61,000 fans packed the Hard Rock Stadium on Saturday to watch the Argentine and teammates play Egyptian giants Al-Ahly in a goalless draw.

Another strong crowd turned out on Sunday for the clash between Paris St. Germain and Atletico Madrid, which ended in a one-sided 4-0 win

for the Champions League winners.

However, Bayern Munich’s 10-0 demolition of semi-professional Auckland City underscored the worrying gulf in quality between some of the competing clubs.

But the opening weekend largely delivered what FIFA had hoped for, vibrant crowds and global representation. South American supporters made their presence especially felt.

More than 1,000 Boca Juniors fans in blue and gold turned Miami Beach into a party strip on Sunday ahead of their opening match, singing club anthems and waving flags in scenes reminiscent of a World Cup carnival.

Boca and Real Madrid games were among the top early ticket sellers, according to FIFA, which said that top markets after the US were Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico.

Talk of empty stands was at least

provisionally dismissed as well as heightened anxiety in the immigrant-heavy Miami area following recent federal immigration raids.

At the heart of the opening weekend buzz was Messi, whose presence has elevated Inter Miami’s profile and guaranteed global glamour for the tournament.

Messi, who received a standing ovation before kickoff, was unable to find the net against Al-Ahly but provided flashes of brilliance in a tightly contested, physical match.

FIFA is banking not only on Messi’s star power but also on a radical new broadcast strategy. The tournament is being streamed for free worldwide by DAZN in a US\$1 billion deal.

That agreement followed Saudi Arabia’s SURJ Sports Investment, a subsidiary of the country’s Public Investment Fund (PIF), acquiring a minority stake in DAZN for a reported US\$1 billion — another marker of the kingdom’s growing investment footprint in sport.

The partnership, one of the largest broadcast packages in football history, is central to FIFA’s push to maximize digital engagement and position the Club World Cup as a global spectacle ahead of the 2026 World Cup in North America.

The US\$1 billion prize money, which ensures a hefty US\$125 million for the winners, was an obvious incentive for the European clubs.

“There’s a lot of money at stake. If you have the chance to earn a lot of money at a tournament, you should take the chance,” former Bayern legend Karl Heinz Rummenigge said in the run-up.

Bridges retains King of the Hills title



Jyme Bridges, right, and Tahje Browne, left, lead the pack during the King of the Hill Cycling Road Race across the south eastern area of Antigua on Sunday, June 15, 2025. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

Jyme Bridges once again proved his superiority as one of the top elite cyclists on the domestic scene in Antigua and Barbuda by retaining the title in the King of the Hill Cycling Road Race on Sunday.

Bridges left the pack trailing as he won the Elite Male Class to be crowned the overall champion of the road race, which is staged by the East Side Raiders Cycling Club in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF).

Bridges completed the 67.28-kilometer (41.80-mile) course in a time of two hours, 13 minutes, and 26.62 seconds to win the Elite Male category.

Like last year, veteran Antiguan cyclist Robert Marsh clinched second place in the Elite Male division.

Marsh, who is a perennial winner of the King of the Hills, a race he last won in 2022, crossed the finish line in two hours, 14 minutes, and .48 seconds. Abbiel Flemming took third place among a field of 11 elite cyclists.

The 2023 winner, Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Academy, won the Junior Male Class to finish second overall behind Bridges.

Browne clocked the second-best overall time of one hour, 13 minutes, and 47.92 seconds to win the Junior Male Class.

Aiden Tonge of the East-side Raiders finished second in two hours, 15 minutes, and 04.19 seconds. Only three cyclists contested the Junior Male Class, but Jomari King did not finish the race.



Jyme Bridges

Steve Scott won the Sports Class by clocking two hours, 21 minutes, and 30.44 seconds. Tyson Robinson claimed second place in two hours, 37 minutes, and 58.98 seconds.

Three cyclists also contested the Sports Class; however, Dexter Simmons did not finish the race.

Elite Thomas retained his title by winning the Cadets 11-14 age group class. Thomas beat the three-man field by completing the course in a time of one hour, 45 minutes, and 49.81 seconds.

Alexis Bastardo clinched second place, and Benjamin Carr finished in third place.

Micah Gore won the Masters Class by clocking two hours, 23 minutes, and 31.01 seconds. Patrick Peter finished second in two hours, 29 minutes, and 59.60 seconds. Jamel Gloade captured third place.

A total of 25 cyclists participated in the road race, which was also supported by APUA Inet and Gatorade.