

Antigua and Barbuda makes history as the smallest country to host OAS General Assembly

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Panel on public sector reform on Day Two of AI Conference at UWI FIC: (L-R) Dr. Christopher Jones, Dr. Jonathan Johnson, Dr. Laleta Davis-Mattis and Information Technology Minister Melford Nicholas

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Antigua and Barbuda makes history as the smallest country to host OAS General Assembly



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, OAS, Albert Ramdin and Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders

All systems are go for Antigua and Barbuda to create history by becoming the smallest country to host the regular session of the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly. It's the 55th Session of the GA and while other Caribbean states have served as host in the past, Antigua and Barbuda is the smallest to do so.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will deliver the feature address while newly elected Secretary General of the OAS, Albert Ramdin, the first person from within CARICOM to hold the post, will also address the opening ceremony. Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene will serve as the chairman of the meeting.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders, has provided some insights into some of the concerns of Antigua and Barbuda ahead of the General Assembly. He noted that the country has built its reputation on advocating for 'justice, fairness, and the needs of the vulnerable'. Sir Ronald clarified that the country's diplomatic strategy is based on 'principles', not posturing. The nation's stance in places like the OAS, the United Nations, and the Common-

wealth reflects a moral compass guided by equity and responsibility.

When asked about key topics on the agenda, Sir Ronald emphasized three priority areas:

1. Climate Change

A critical issue for Caribbean and Pacific island nations, climate change remains at the top of the Assembly's agenda. Despite political resistance—especially from the United States, whose representatives have instructions not to use the words “climate” and “change” together—Antigua and Barbuda remains determined to push the conversation forward. He expressed confidence in the country's ability to reframe the issue and drive meaningful dialogue.

2. Mental Health

Another priority, mental health, was proposed by Prime Minister Browne over a year ago. The goal is to ‘raise global consciousness’ about the pervasiveness of mental health issues. PM Browne's position: ‘every family is affected, yet few societies give the issue adequate attention. The discussion is not limited to extreme cases but includes the broader definition—how

mentally stable people are in managing stress, trauma, and emotional well-being’.

3. Consensus over Conflict

Sir Ronald noted that while differences are inevitable, the OAS seeks consensus rather than majority rule, which helps ensure broad, unified support. Ministers attending the Assembly are expected to approve resolutions already debated and refined by technical experts, with little room for last-minute disputes unless major ‘political or financial implications’ arise.

Sir Ron concluded by affirming Antigua and Barbuda's status as a ‘dynamic force in international affairs’. Hosting major global events—such as the UN SIDS4 Conference and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2026—cements the nation's place on the world stage.

He recalled a well-known Caribbean expression: “*We may be small, but we talawa*”. He emphasized that this bold, resilient spirit is evident in ‘every diplomatic victory’, every global conference hosted, and every principle defended by Antigua and Barbuda.

Technology Minister Nicholas: AI will not eliminate the public bureaucracy



Information Technology Minister Melford Nicholas

Information Technology Minister, Melford Nicholas, is allaying concerns in some sectors about the role of Artificial Intelligence and the possible elimination of the government bureaucracy as it is presently constituted.

Minister Nicholas was speaking Tuesday at the 2nd Artificial Intelligence Research Conference convened by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. He was part of a panel that discussed; ***Supporting Public Sector Reform: AI – Ethics and Responsible Implementation.***

The discussion, included Minister Nicholas as well as academics, and legal experts, offered a deep dive into both regional achievements and global benchmarks in digitizing public services.

Minister Nicholas reflecting on his experiences with the World Bank and its “Ease of Doing Business” initiative, underscored that all developing countries must pursue digitization not only due to external pressure but as an intrinsic need for improved governance. He clarified a common misconception: the goal is not to eliminate government bureaucracy, which serves important roles in accountability and



Dr. Jonathan Johnson

continuity, but to streamline and digitize processes while retaining neces-



Dr. Laleta Davis-Mattis

sary institutional checks. He shared a success story — the implementation



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of a one-stop-shop at the Intellectual Property Office, where businesses can now file and manage multiple aspects of their operation, including social security and education benefits, from a single digital window.

Moreover, a collaborative technology platform now enables 17 different government agencies to integrate services, drastically reducing administrative friction. This cross-agency collaboration is seen as a model for future reforms.

He also pointed to international best practices in countries like Estonia and Georgia, both recognized for their digital government excellence. With a goal of getting all public services online by 2030, the Minister emphasized that the Caribbean must keep pace while respecting its own unique cultural and administrative landscapes.

Another member of the panel, Dr. Laleta Davis-Mattis noted that AI is no longer an emerging trend — it's embedded in daily life, influencing sectors ranging from health and education to finance and religion.

She drew on the experiences of Jamaica where Prime Minister Andrew Holness has indicated that while AI may disrupt some traditional jobs, it will simultaneously open new, higher-value opportunities. The Jamaican government, she noted, has proactively established a national AI task force tasked with creating a policy that promotes innovation while managing risk responsibly.

Panelist, Dr. Jonathan Johnson, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Florida International University, followed with a practical look at how AI can transform the operations of government. He encouraged attendees to envision a future where AI seamlessly improves the efficiency and productivity of public institutions. Citing research, Dr. Johnson revealed that governments that have heavily invested in AI have reaped measurable benefits, especially in productivity. While only 1% of jobs are expected to be entirely replaced by AI, about 60% could see one-third of their responsi-



Panel at AI Conference on Tuesday: (L-R) Dr. Christopher Jones, Dr. Jonathan Johnson, Dr. Laleta Davis-Mattis and Information Technology Minister Melford Nicholas

bilities automated — a clear indication that AI is more about transformation than elimination.

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Tourism Minister Fernandez says AI will not replace humans within the tourism industry



Minister of Tourism for Antigua and Barbuda, Charles Fernandez and Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Dr. Michelle Allen.

As part of the ongoing UWI Five Islands Campus (FIC) Conference: AI for Caribbean Sustainability, regional tourism experts gathered for a panel discussion titled “Sustainable Tourism: Leveraging AI for Eco-Friendly and Resilient Travel Experiences”.

Featured speakers included Minister of Tourism for Antigua and Barbuda, Charles Fernandez and Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Dr. Michelle Allen. Together, they addressed how artificial intelligence (AI) can drive sustainability, resilience, and innovation across Caribbean tourism.

Minister Fernandez emphasized that AI must be seen as a tool to enhance—not replace—human resources within the industry.

“Our people are our greatest asset. AI should support and elevate the service

we deliver, making it smarter, more efficient, and even more personalized,” he stated.

He announced that Antigua and Barbuda is already exploring technical AI innovations, including a Virtual Reality (VR) tour experience tailored for travel agents as part of its marketing modernization. He also highlighted the need for tourism stakeholders to retool and modernize operations using AI-driven solutions such as:

- Automated hotel and airline check-in systems
- Smart energy and building technologies
- AI-enhanced guest personalization and concierge services

“For a high-end destination like Antigua and Barbuda, the VIP product is especially pliable to AI interfacing,” the Minister noted. “We must also prepare our workforce to adapt—now is

the time for upskilling in AI.”

Dr. Michelle Allen centered her presentation on the practical applications of AI for building eco-friendly and resilient tourism models. She emphasized the power of advanced data analytics in shaping smart, climate-resilient policies and practices.

“AI can help us not only optimize experiences, but also support long-term sustainability through intelligent systems,” she explained.

Dr. Allen showcased a range of AI-powered smart tourism solutions, including:

- Smart hotels that promote sustainable hospitality practices
- AI-driven waste management and reduction technologies
- Neural network applications in transportation optimization
- AI-powered environmental conservation and ecosystem monitoring

She also reinforced the urgent need for climate change adaptation in Caribbean tourism, noting that AI offers the ability to identify and engage priority policy actors through data-driven decision-making and predictive modeling.

“As we face rising climate threats, AI provides the intelligence and foresight needed to protect our destinations, livelihoods, and natural heritage,” Dr. Allen said.

The panel discussion served as a cornerstone of the UWI FIC Conference, which explores how artificial intelligence can accelerate sustainable development across critical sectors in the Caribbean. It concluded with a shared call for regional collaboration, strategic investment in AI tools, and a people-first approach to digital transformation in tourism.

Local News



Ministry of Health sends high-level delegation to 2nd Artificial Intelligence Conference

The Ministry of Health was represented at the landmark AI Conference at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus on 23 and 24 June, 2025. The conference which explored the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in driving sustainability and digital innovation across the Caribbean convened with high-level representatives from across the region to examine how AI can be strategically applied to address pressing challenges and support the region's development agenda.

Representing the Ministry of Health at this significant forum were Permanent Secretary, Colin O'Keffe, Principal Assistant Secretary, Marsha Joseph, Deputy Director, AIDS Secretariat, Oswald Hannays, Special Projects Coordinator, Monifa St. John, I.T. Technician, Dejaunte Adams and Dashawn Browne of Health Information Division.

The Ministry's participation underscored its commitment to embracing innovation, building technological



Permanent Secretary, Colin O'Keffe, Principal Assistant Secretary, Marsha Joseph, Deputy Director, AIDS Secretariat, Oswald Hannays, Special Projects Coordinator, Monifa St. John, I.T. Technician, Dejaunte Adams and Dashawn Browne of Health Information Division.

resilience, and ensuring that public health systems remain agile and responsive in an evolving digital era.

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in robust discussions on the potential of AI to reshape Caribbean societies. Topics ranged from digital infrastructure and healthcare applications to regional policy harmonization, inclusive innovation, and capacity

building. Presenters highlighted the role of AI in enhancing hospital resilience, improving disaster response through satellite data and predictive tools, and fostering more inclusive systems that serve the unique needs of small island developing states.

Special attention was given to the transformative impact of AI on work, with speakers challenging traditional

views of automation and emphasizing the importance of AI in complementing human roles rather than replacing them. Case studies from sectors such as tourism, container shipping, and healthcare showcased how coordinated AI strategies can drive systemic change and sustainable economic growth.

The Ministry of Health welcomed the opportunity to learn from and contribute to these regional dialogues. The insights gained will support the Ministry's ongoing efforts to modernize healthcare delivery, strengthen data systems, and integrate technology into public health planning and services.

As the region looks ahead, the Ministry of Health remains committed to collaborating with national and international partners to harness the full potential of AI for the advancement of public health and the broader Caribbean development agenda.

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Prime Minister Browne Reaffirms Solidarity with Ukraine and Calls for Stronger Bilateral Cooperation



ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – [24th June 2025] — Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne has reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's solidarity with the people of Ukraine and emphasized the urgent need for peace, while calling for deeper bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

During a high-level courtesy call by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Her Excellency Ambassador Oksana Markarova, Prime

Minister Browne expressed strong support for Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict, noting the wide-reaching impact of the war—even on small island states thousands of miles away.

"We are standing with you, and we'll continue to do so," said Prime Minister Browne. "This is a conflict in which there are no winners. As one of the world's smallest and most vulnerable nations, global crises like these affect us disproportionately."

He highlighted that during Antigua and Barbuda's 2023 general elections, the economic repercussions of the Ukraine conflict—including significant inflation—had direct social and political consequences. Rising prices, driven in part by global instability, nearly cost his administration re-election.

"Though geographically distant, the war's ripple effects were felt in our economy, our cost of living, and our political stability. That's why we have a vested interest in peace and stability globally," Prime Minister Browne added.

The Prime Minister welcomed the opportunity to elevate bilateral relations and proposed cooperation in several key areas. Notably, he emphasized the urgent need for technical assistance in agriculture, as Antigua and Barbuda remains one of the most food-insecure countries in the world—importing up to 80% of its food weekly from the United States.

"We cannot allow our people to remain vulnerable in the face of geopolitical shocks," Prime Minister Browne said. "We are eager to build local capacity in agriculture, and Ukraine, as a global agricultural leader, can be a critical partner in that transformation."

The Ukrainian Ambassador extended warm gratitude on behalf of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine for Antigua and Barbuda's principled and early stance in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of ongoing conflict.

"Your strong position to defend not only Ukraine, but to defend what is right, is deeply appreciated in Kyiv," said Ambassador Oksana Markarova. "Antigua and Barbuda may be a small nation, but its voice and values resonate powerfully around the world."

Discussions also focused on areas

Local News

of tangible cooperation, including Ukraine's offer to support Antigua and Barbuda in implementing advanced digital technologies, particularly in agriculture. The Ambassador highlighted Ukraine's successful government-developed "DIA" digital transformation programme, noting its applications across health, education, fintech, and agri-tech sectors. Ukraine offered to provide technical assistance and training to Antiguan teams to support smart farming initiatives—a move that aligns with Antigua and Barbuda's transition toward precision agriculture and more efficient water use.

"As one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, efficient use of water through smart agriculture is a national priority," Prime Minister Browne said. "We welcome this opportunity to explore Ukraine's digital and sensor-based technologies to support our goals in climate resilience and food security."

Both parties also explored the potential for future student and academic exchanges, particularly in agriculture, medical sciences, and information technology. Ukraine expressed interest in welcoming Antiguan students to its universities—joining peers from other Caribbean nations—and signaled openness to reciprocal opportunities on Antigua's growing university campus at the University of the West Indies Five Islands.

The Ukrainian Ambassador also extended an invitation to Antigua and Barbuda's First Lady to participate in an upcoming First Ladies Summit in Ukraine, focusing on global partnerships in health and education.

In closing, the Prime Minister extended gratitude for Ukraine's outreach and reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's consistent voice in support of peace, sovereignty, and human dignity.

"We look forward to building a stronger, enduring partnership based on shared values and mutual respect. Antigua and Barbuda will continue to be a steadfast advocate for peace and progress," he concluded. (Ends)




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Trinidad Eye Hospital team arrives for landmark visit



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph poses with members of the Trinidad Eye Hospital team here in Antigua and Barbuda to conduct eye surgeries

A new round of cataract surgeries and eye procedures is set to take place at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC), thanks to the continued collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Trinidad Eye Hospital (TEH).

Dr. Ronnie Bhola, CEO and Chief Surgeon of TEH, arrived in Antigua Tuesday with his surgical team to carry out the procedures over the coming week.

This mission marks a significant milestone in the partnership, which began in 2019 and has already delivered 976 successful eye surgeries to date. With this visit, the total number of procedures will rise to 1,126.

The team will perform cataract surgeries at SLBMC, along with laser treatments and diabetic eye procedures, expanding the scope of care available to patients.

The SLBMC team has worked diligently to prepare patients and secure additional equipment in anticipation of this visit, and is already preparing for the team's return in September, when vitrectomy surgeries will also be performed at the facility.

This initiative reflects a renewed national commitment to reducing preventable blindness caused by cataracts and to addressing diabetic eye disease within the population. The surgical team is looking forward to a productive and impactful week of service



Trinidad Eye Hospital Surgery Team; Left to Right: Senior Resident in Ophthalmology; Dr. Zahrid Mohammed, Stakeholder Engagement Manager; Ms Franka Mohammed, CEO & Chief Surgeon; Dr. Ronnie Bhola; Surgical Aides; Ms Duana Edwards, Mr. Eliza Gonzales and Ms. Anisa Thomas

Two-member team represented Antigua and Barbuda at Commonwealth meetings in Namibia



Delegates at CTMM in Namibia pose for group photo

Antigua and Barbuda was among country which participated in the Second Commonwealth Senior Trade Officials Meeting (STOM II) and the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting (CTMM), which took place from June 16th to 20th, 2025, in Windhoek, Namibia.

The delegation was headed by Chantal Phillip, Minister Counsellor at the High Commission for Antigua and Barbuda in London, accompanied by Jomica Car-

bon, Senior Trade Policy Analyst within the Ministry of Trade.

The meetings brought together senior trade officials, business leaders, and policy stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to advance strategic discussions on digital trade and AI-driven trade facilitation, green trade and circular economies and critical minerals and the sustainable energy transition.

The inaugural Commonwealth Business Summit

(CBS) was also held concurrently on the sidelines of the CTMM, where market executives, strategists and trade experts from across the Commonwealth convened to explore investment during the landmark event.

During the Trade Ministers Meeting, Antigua and Barbuda was invited to provide an update on national preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which the country will host in 2026.

Minister Counsellor Phillip reaffirmed the Government's commitment to delivering a successful and inclusive CHOGM and highlighted progress in infrastructure, security, logistics, and the thematic focus areas of the 2026 agenda. She also underscored Antigua and Barbuda's ambition to ensure that CHOGM 2026 becomes a platform for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to shape the policy priorities of Member States.



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Two UWI FIC Students gain scholarship support from the Antigua Rotary Club



The Rotary Club of Antigua reaffirms its longstanding commitment to transforming lives through service, education, and community development with the award of scholarships to two students who are pursuing studies at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

This has been an ongoing commitment by the Club since the university opened in 2019.

This year's outstanding students are; Cristin McLean and Ann-Marie Julian, both enrolled in the School of Humanities and Education. These scholarships serve to ease the financial barriers that can hinder academic pursuits, empowering students to focus on their studies and future contributions to society.

"The magic of Rotary lies in its ability to ignite hope and empower individuals to realize their full potential," said Sherrie-Ann Brazier, President of the Rotary Club of Antigua. "Our scholarships are tangible proof of this magic - investments in the dreams and aspirations of our youth that will shape the future of Antigua."

The President also expressed her gratitude to the dedicated members of the Scholarships Committee, stating, "I want to sincerely thank the committee members - Dr. Vanetta Rodgers and

Dr. Errol Samuel - for their unwavering commitment and diligent efforts in selecting and supporting these talented students. Their dedication embodies

the true spirit of Rotary."

Past President Dr. Vanetta Rodgers, Chair of the Scholarships Committee, commented, "The ongoing support of our scholarship program exemplifies the true magic of Rotary—creating lasting change and opening doors for deserving youth. I am proud to be part of an organization that transforms lives through education."

Dr. Camille Samuel, Campus Registrar at UWI Five Islands, also expressed appreciation for the partnership, noting, "The support from the Rotary Club of Antigua has been instrumental in transforming lives through education, and their continuous engagement inspires our community to continue to strive for excellence."

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ABYSO Musicians Attend Prestigious Interlochen Arts Camp



Three musicians from the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (“ABYSO”) have become the first musicians from Antigua and Barbuda to participate in the prestigious Interlochen Summer Music Camp located in Traverse City, Michigan, United States.

Amari Cornelius, viola, Sa’Kyah Leadedette, cello, and Aria Tulloch, film score composition, were selected for participation following a formal audition process. All musicians were part of the one-week intensive programmes in their respective areas of music from 14th to 20th June.

Interlochen offers a range of summer programmes for students focused on developing their artistic skills and fostering a love for the arts. Students can explore different disciplines like music, theatre, visual arts, creative writing, dance, film and new media, and interdisciplinary arts. The camp provides opportunities for students to learn from experienced faculty, meet guest artists, and collaborate with peers.

During the week, the students engaged in a rich programme of learning and development which culminated with public performances of their work. The viola and cello intensive pro-

grammes allowed musicians to expand their technique and explore the vast possibilities of their instrument alongside other accomplished young musicians and world-renowned musicians and educators.

Aria shared, “Interlochen was an exciting and unforgettable experience. I learned new concepts from my teachers and peers, including the technical and business sides of film scoring. The authentic camp setting was fun and interactive, and I really enjoyed spending time with my cabin mates and counsellors. I look forward to building on everything I’ve learnt”.

Amari noted: “Interlochen was an experience of a lifetime. It taught me a mixture of patience and musical mastery, as I have to acclimatize to a new climate and different hours of classes and practice all while learning new skills useful to my development as a violist. Interlochen was an amazing experience”.

Sa’Kyah describes her time there as follows, “My experience at the Interlochen Arts Camp changed my life and helped me develop both personally and artistically. I was continuously motivated to push myself and take on new creative challenges by the



passionate and gifted artists around me. I was able to develop my passion for music even more by the supportive and encouraging environment”.

The ABYSO extends thanks to Dr Cherrie Tulloch, its Health and Safety Officer, for chaperoning the musicians during this visit. Thanks are also extended to the Mill Reef Fund for its continued support of the ABYSO. The organization is offering special thanks to Leslie Heaney for introducing ABYSO to Interlochen and to Heather Lee, Dean of Admission, Interlochen Center for the Arts, for patiently guiding the ABYSO students through the application process. The ABYSO will continue to encourage its musicians to audition for Interlochen each year as part of its commitment to developing the highest levels of artistic excellence in its musicians.



The poster features a vibrant, multi-colored background with radiating lines in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red. In the center, a group of five people are depicted in traditional carnival costumes, including feathered headdresses and patterned clothing. They are smiling and appear to be dancing or singing. The text 'ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025' is prominently displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'TICKET' is written in a large, stylized font, and 'OUTLETS' is written vertically to its right. The text 'THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES (OLD PARHAM ROAD)' is written in a smaller font. Below this, a list of outlets is provided: 'ROTI KING', 'COOL AND SMOOTH', 'APUA INET', 'EXOTIC ANTIGUA', and 'THE LARDER'. At the bottom of the central section, logos for VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER, and AMERICAN EXPRESS are displayed. Below these logos, the text 'CASHLESS PAYMENT AVAILABLE AT CARNIVAL CITY' is written. The bottom of the poster features a row of logos for various sponsors and partners, including CCIU, STATE INSURANCE, inet, LONG BAY BREWING, RECAB, LIAT 20, FBN, Royallton, and the Antigua and Barbuda coat of arms. At the very bottom, social media handles for Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission are listed: @antiguacarnival on Facebook and X, and @antiguafestivalofficial on Instagram.

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Andrea Jacobs attends UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of AI



Delegates at UNESCO Global Forum on AI in Bangkok, Thailand

Antigua and Barbuda's National Focal Point on Artificial Intelligence, Andrea Jacobs, this week participated in the main multilateral meeting on ethical governance of artificial intelligence, convened by UNESCO in Bangkok, Thailand.

Jacobs reported that during the conference, delegates shared Chile's regulatory advances, including the first draft law on AI.

"In addition, we presented the new Emerging Technologies Division, positioning Chile as a regional benchmark in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and biotechnology strategies," she noted..

According to Jacobs the forum also opened a key space for regional articulation towards the October Ministerial Summit in the Dominican Republic.

Jacobs also participated as a member of a panel during the just-concluded 2nd Artificial Intelligence Conference con-



Andrea Jacobs with another delegate at UNESCO forum

vened by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. She participated virtually.



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23rd June 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Recalled Little Remedies® Honey Cough Syrup present on Antigua market

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is informing consumers of a product recall for five lots of **Little Remedies® Honey Cough Syrup** due to the presence of *Bacillus cereus* and loss of shelf-stability. Preliminary investigations by the Division have revealed that the recalled infant cough syrup is in Antigua and Barbuda, and we are advising consumers not to consume this product.

According to the manufacturer, Medtech Products Inc., the affected lots were distributed from 14 December 2022 through 4 June 2025. The following table identifies the UPC, lot numbers, and expiration dates of the Little Remedies® Honey Cough Syrup impacted by this recall.

Item UPC	Lot #	Exp. Date
7-56184-10737-9	0039	11/2025
	0545	01/2026
	0640	02/2026
	0450	05/2026
	1198	12/2026

Little Remedies® Honey Cough Syrup is packaged in a 4 FL OZ (118 mL) amber bottle and is sold in an outer carton with the Lot Code appearing both on the bottle label and on the bottom of the carton. All lots of Little Remedies® Honey Cough 4 FL OZ (118 mL) still within expiry are being included in the scope of the recall. This recall does not include any other Little Remedies® products.

The Division is advising consumers who may have purchased the product not to consume it, but rather return it to the place of purchase for a full refund.

According to the manufacturer, *Bacillus cereus* is a bacteria that can cause two kinds of foodborne illnesses, both related to gastrointestinal issues. The first illness is marked by nausea, vomiting and stomach cramps that begin anywhere from one to six hours after consuming the contaminated product. The second illness, which tends to begin eight to 16 hours after consuming the contaminated product, is marked by stomach cramps and diarrhoea. Consumers should contact their physician or healthcare provider if they have experienced any problems that may be related to the use of this product. "Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term illness, exposure to high levels of foodborne *B. cereus* can cause death," the announcement stated.

Consumers may also contact the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division at 462-4347 or consumeraffairs@ab.gov.ag for additional information or assistance.

###

Digicel unveils ESG report for FY25



Digicel has published its Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) report for FY25 covering its 25 markets in the Caribbean, Atlantic, Central and South America regions highlighting its efforts and achievements for the year, whilst mapping out a sustainable future.

With its Connecting and Empowering vision and DIGI values of diversity, integrity, growth and innovation at the centre of everything, Digicel's commitment is to enable its customers to operate at the forefront of the global knowledge economy and help to bridge the digital divide.

That translates into an ESG focus on ubiquitous access for all to its superfast resilient networks; building education and special needs capacity; and advocating for in-

clusion in its communities and workplace. The full report can be viewed or downloaded at <https://www.digicelgroup.com/en/environmental-social-governance>

From improved governance and a strong focus on building out and operationalising a robust ethics and compliance programme to implementing sustainable technologies on its path to Net Zero, FY25 was about laying solid foundations and building a burning platform for future success.

Commenting on the report, Digicel Group CEO, Marcelo Cataldo, said; "It's been a year of bold decisions and deliberate actions for Digicel with a new strategy focused on long-term sustainability, a simplification of our operating model and a commitment to the right culture

with our Connecting and Empowering vision at the centre of everything we do."

He continued; "Our network is at the heart of family lives, social lives, business lives, entertainment lives and love lives – and we're right there with our customers at every moment. That's a powerful privilege.

With our ESG journey a pivotal part of this, Digicel expressed satisfaction with the strides we made in the year to set ourselves up for success in the future.

"To our teams who work with passion and purpose turning our ambitions into transformational realities for our customers, my sincere thanks for the journey to an enduring future so far and the one ahead." *(Loop Caribbean)*

Regional News



SKN: Police offer \$7,000 reward for missing teen



The search into the disappearance of 15-year-old Janelika Romney continues in St Kitts and Nevis.

The Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF) reported that efforts into locating the teen commenced at approximately 6:30am on Saturday in the New Guinea area and involved a broad cross-section of participants.

“Joining the search were students from the Verchilds and Charles E Mills Secondary Schools, family members of the missing teenager, and concerned members of the public,” the police stated.

Samal Duggins, Parliamentary Representative for the area, Azard Gumbs, of the People’s Action Movement and Mandecia Marsham of the People’s Labour Party, were also reportedly assisting in the efforts.

Search teams canvassed the area stretching from New Guinea to Halfway Tree, including the Brimstone Hill vicinity, before relocating to Dieppe Bay where further searches were conducted from the Gibbons area to the

horse track police reported.

However, despite these comprehensive efforts, the search concluded at approximately 10:30am without locating the missing teen or uncovering any new leads.

The police said on Saturday that “credible intelligence” indicates Janelika is still alive and may be in contact with several individuals, some of whom are known to her. Therefore, a reward of EC\$7,000 has been offered to anyone who can come forward with credible information on the whereabouts of the teen.

The police expressed frustration that many of those interviewed during the investigation have been either uncooperative or deliberately misleading stalling efforts to locate the teen.

Earlier on Saturday between 3:00am and 4:30am, police investigators executed several search warrants at premises in Dieppe Bay, Parsons, and St Paul’s aimed at locating the missing

girl or gathering relevant evidence but did not yield any significant findings.

“If you are harbouring her or know someone who is, understand this: your silence is not protection; it is obstruction of justice and an iron-clad guarantee that you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permitted by law when we catch you – and we will,” police said.

Romney was last seen on June 16 around 3:40pm wearing her Verchild’s High School uniform. She is described as 5 feet tall with brown eyes and black locs.

The police have thanked all who participated in the search so far and have urged anyone with information that may assist the investigation to come forward.

“The public’s continued support is vital, and all credible leads will be thoroughly pursued. The investigation remains active,” the authorities said. *(Loop Caribbean)*



Dominica: PM Skerrit tells citizens no need to panic amid US Visa concerns



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has told Dominicans there is “no need or cause for panic” as he addressed concerns over reports of a potential US visa ban on Dominicans.

Earlier this month, reports of an additional 36 countries including four eastern Caribbean nations, to be banned from entering the US have been cause for concern among the small nations. St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica were the four Eastern Caribbean countries on the list of a leaked document from the

Trump Administration.

Skerrit, at a press conference on Monday morning said there is no need to be concerned over the reports. While no official communication has been received from the US authorities, the Prime Minister said the government was proactively engaging with relevant parties to ascertain the facts and address any issues diplomatically.

“I assure the people of Dominica that we take the matter seriously. And the government is addressing this through appropriate diplomatic channels. So, Dominicans who are in possession of a US visa and have legitimate reasons to travel to the United States can do so, whether on business, study or vacation,” he said.

“We are committed to protecting our national interests, the integrity of our international partnerships and most importantly, the rights and freedoms of the Dominican people. We are prepared to address the concerns raised by our international partners through appropriate diplomatic and cooperative means,” Skerrit said further.

The Dominica leader highlighted concerns raised by the US, including illegal migration and aspects of Dominica’s Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programme saying he is working in conjunction with other OECS territories with CBI programmes to establish a uniform regulatory framework for the CBI programme, including a ban on name changes for applicants.

“We met over the weekend as heads of government of these countries, and we’ve made it very clear that part of the provisions of the legislation is there will be a complete ban on the ability of any applicant to change their names. So, once you become a citizen under the programme, you will not have the ability to change your names at all or continue to benefit from the citizenship of our countries,” the Prime Minister said.

He urged Dominican citizens to respect US immigration rules, avoid overstaying their visas, and advised those undocumented to seek assistance from US authorities to return home. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Westmoreland businessman abducted by gunmen

The police have confirmed that a businessman was abducted at gunpoint by three heavily armed men from his business place in Darliston, Westmoreland, this morning.

The businessman, who operates a car mart in the town centre, has been identified as Gavin Myers.

According to reports, Myers was at his business place about 7 a.m. when the gunmen barged in and took him away. His current whereabouts is unknown.

The matter is under investigation by the Westmoreland police. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Trump says Israel-Iran ceasefire is in effect after deal initially faltered



U.S. President Donald Trump said a ceasefire between Iran and Israel was in effect Tuesday after the deal initially faltered, and the American leader expressed deep frustration with both sides.

Israel had earlier accused Iran of launching missiles into its airspace after the truce was supposed to take effect, and the Israeli finance minister vowed that “Tehran will tremble.”

The Iranian military denied firing on Israel, state media reported, but explosions boomed, and sirens sounded across northern Israel in the morning, and an Israeli military official said two Iranian missiles were intercepted.

Trump told reporters at the White House before departing for a NATO summit that, in his view, both sides had violated the nascent agreement. He had particularly strong words for Israel, a close ally, while suggesting Iran may have fired on the country by mistake.

But later he said the deal was saved.

“ISRAEL is not going to attack Iran. All planes will turn around and head home, while doing a friendly ‘Plane Wave’ to Iran. Nobody will be hurt, the Ceasefire is in effect!” Trump said

in his Truth Social post.

Indeed, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said he held off on tougher strike against Iran after speaking to Trump.

The conflict, now in its 12th day, began with Israel targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites, saying it could not allow Tehran to develop atomic weapons and that it feared the Islamic Republic was close. Iran has long maintained that its program is peaceful.

Many worried the war might widen after the U.S. joined the attacks by dropping bunker-buster bombs over the weekend and Israel expanded the kinds of targets it was hitting.

But after Tehran launched a limited retaliatory strike on a U.S. military base in Qatar on Monday, Trump announced the ceasefire.

The deal got off to a rocky start.

An Israeli military official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with military regulations said Iran launched two missiles at Israel hours into the tenuous ceasefire. Both were intercepted, the official said.

Iranian state television reported that

the military denied firing missiles after the start of the ceasefire — while condemning Israel for predawn strikes of its own.

One of those attacks killed a high-profile nuclear scientist, Mohammad Reza Sedighi Saber, at his father-in-law’s residence in northern Iran, Iranian state TV reported.

As Trump spoke to reporters at the White House before departing for the NATO summit, he expressed disappointment with both sides.

Iran “violated it, but Israel violated it too,” Trump said. “I’m not happy with Israel.”

Trump’s frustration was palpable, using an expletive to hammer home his point.

“We basically have two countries that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don’t know what the f— they’re doing,” he said.

Later, however, he announced that Israel had backed off its threat to attack Tehran and would turn its jets around.

Netanyahu’s office said Israel struck an Iranian radar site in response to the Iranian missile attack early Tuesday, but Israeli forces held off on some-

International

AROUND THE WORLD



thing bigger.

Following Trump's conversation with Netanyahu, "Israel refrained from additional attacks," Netanyahu's office said.

Netanyahu said Israel agreed to a bilateral ceasefire with Iran, in coordination with Trump, after the country achieved all of its war goals, including removing the threat of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

It's unclear what role Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, played in the talks. He said earlier on social media that he would not surrender.

Trump said Tuesday that he wasn't seeking regime change in Iran, two days after floating the idea himself in a social media post.

"I don't want it," Trump told reporters on Air Force One. "Regime change takes chaos and, ideally, we don't want to see much chaos."

Before the ceasefire was announced, Israel's military said Iran launched 20 missiles toward Israel. Police said they damaged at least three densely packed residential buildings in the city of Beersheba. First responders said they retrieved four bodies from one building and were searching for more. At least 20 people were injured.

Outside, the shells of burned out cars littered the streets. Broken glass and rubble covered the area. Police said some people were injured while inside their apartments' reinforced safe rooms, which are meant to withstand rockets but not direct hits from ballistic missiles.

The attack followed a limited Iranian missile attack Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for earlier American bombing of its nuclear sites. The U.S. was warned by Iran in advance, and there were no casualties.

Drones attacked military bases in Iraq overnight, including some housing U.S. troops, the Iraqi army and a U.S. military official said Tuesday.

A senior U.S. military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause he was not authorized to comment publicly, said U.S. forces shot down drones attacking Ain al-Assad in the desert in western Iraq and at a base next to the Baghdad airport, while another one crashed.

No casualties were reported, and no group claimed responsibility for the attacks in Iraq. Some Iran-backed Iraqi militias had previously threatened to target U.S. bases if the U.S. attacked Iran.

In Israel, at least 28 people have been killed and more than 1,000 wounded in the war. Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 974 people and wounded 3,458 others, according to the Wash-

ington-based group Human Rights Activists.

The group, which has provided detailed casualty figures from Iranian unrest, said of those killed, it identified 387 civilians and 268 security force personnel.

The U.S. has evacuated some 250 American citizens and their immediate family members from Israel by government, military and charter flights that began over the weekend, a State Department official said.

There are roughly 700,000 American citizens, most of them dual U.S.-Israeli citizens, believed to be in Israel. *(Loop Caribbean)*



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Oil prices drop sharply, and stocks rally worldwide after announcement of Israel-Iran ceasefire

Oil prices are dropping further, and stocks are rallying worldwide Tuesday on hopes that Israel's war with Iran will not damage the global flow of crude, even if a tentative truce seemed to fray under fire in the morning.

The S&P 500 was 0.7 per cent higher in early trading, following up on even bigger gains for stocks across Europe and Asia, after President Donald Trump said late Monday that Israel and Iran had agreed to a "complete and total ceasefire." The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 289 points, or 0.7 per cent, as of 9:31 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.9 per cent higher.

The strongest action was again in the oil market, where a barrel of benchmark US oil fell 4.9 per cent to \$65.12. Brent crude, the international standard, dropped 4.8 per cent to \$67.14.

The fear throughout the Israel-Iran conflict has been that it could squeeze the world's supply of oil, which would pump up prices for gasoline and hurt the global economy.

Iran is a major producer of crude, and it could also try to block the Strait of Hormuz off its coast, through which 20 per cent of the world's daily oil needs passes on ships.

But oil prices began falling sharply on Monday after Iran launched what appeared to be a limited retaliatory strike that did not target the production or movement of oil.

They kept falling even after attacks continued past a deadline to stop hostilities early Tuesday. Trump would later said that the ceasefire was "in effect."

Oil prices have dropped so much in the last two days that they're below where they were before the fighting began nearly two weeks ago.



With the global oil market well supplied and the OPEC+ alliance of producing countries steadily increasing production, oil prices could be headed even lower as long as the ceasefire holds and a lasting peace solution can be found, said Carsten Fritsch, commodities analyst at Commerzbank.

Falling oil prices should take some pressure off inflation, and that in turn could give the Federal Reserve more leeway to cut interest rates.

Wall Street loves lower rates because they can give the economy a boost by making it cheaper for U.S. households and businesses to borrow money to buy a car or build a factory. But they could also give inflation more fuel. That latter threat is why the Fed has been hesitant to cut rates this year after lowering them through the end of last year.

The Fed has been saying repeatedly that it wants to wait and see how much Trump's tariffs will hurt the economy and raise inflation before it commits to its next move.

Trump, though, has been pushing for more cuts to rates. And two of his appointees to the Fed have said in the last

week that they may consider cutting rates as soon as the Fed's next meeting next month.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell remains more cautious. He said again in prepared testimony set to be delivered to Congress later in the morning that the Fed is "well positioned to wait to learn more about the likely course of the economy before considering any adjustments to our policy stance."

Such mixed messages had Treasury yields swivelling up and down in the bond market, but not moving all that much ultimately. The yield on the 10-year Treasury edged up to 4.35 per cent from 4.34 per cent late Monday.

The two-year Treasury yield, which more closely tracks expectations for Fed action, edged up to 3.85 per cent from 3.84 per cent.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rallied more than 1% everywhere from France to Germany to Japan following the announcement of the Israel-Iran ceasefire. Hong Kong's jump of 2.1 per cent and South Korea's leap of 3 per cent were two of the strongest moves. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Airlines divert, cancel more Middle East flights after Iran attacks U.S. military base

Airlines diverted more flights in the Middle East on Monday after Iran's armed forces said the country launched a missile strike on a U.S. military base in Qatar, exacerbating the region's military conflict.

More than 20 commercial aircraft bound for Doha, Qatar, diverted, while another four heading to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates turned around, according to aviation data firm Cirium. Meanwhile, flight-tracking platform Flightradar24 said airspace over the UAE was closed. Reuters reported that the island nation of Bahrain also closed its airspace temporarily.

British Airways said Monday it is canceling its Doha flights through Wednesday "following the latest developments."

"Safety is always our highest priority," it said. "We are contacting our customers to advise them of their options and will keep the situation under review."

Earlier, major international airlines including Air France, Iberia, Finnair and others announced they would pause or



further postpone a resumption of service to some destinations in the Middle East.

American Airlines had previously suspended its flights to Doha, and United Airlines had paused service to Dubai.

U.S. carriers had also suspended their Israel service after that country's strike on Iran earlier this month.

The conflict in the Middle East region comes on top of the yearslong war in Ukraine, where airlines have also been avoiding flights. The dual conflicts have forced airlines to take longer routes that are more costly because they require additional fuel, while carriers have periodically paused service when attacks escalate. (NBC News)





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Antigua Falcons launch trophy tour ahead of 2025 CPL

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, the newest vibrant franchise on the scene in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), will embark on a trophy tour on Friday.

The Falcons are set to ignite cricket fever across Antigua and Barbuda with the official launch of their participation in the 2025 CPL with the trophy tour.

The trophy tour will start at Woods Mall at 1 pm and will make five stops before culminating at the Landing Strip restaurant and bar, which is located on the Pigotts main road.

This island-wide celebration will give fans the chance to get up close with the glittering CPL trophy, meet Falcons players and ambassadors, and take part in a series of community events, giveaways, and cricket activations.

“In our first season last year, we saw encouraging support, and this year we have grown. The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons are more than a cricket team – we’re a national brand now,” said Jeff Miller, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons.

“Together with the CPL,

of bringing the excitement home to every corner of Antigua and Barbuda. The message is ‘This

Fans can follow the tour in real-time on social media using the hashtags #CPL25 and #CPLTro-



The Caribbean Premier League trophy

is your team, your trophy, and your time.”

Antiguan Jewel Andrew, the talented teenager and batsman, said, “This is a moment of national pride. Let’s unite behind our team and show the region the true spirit of Antigua and Barbuda.”

phyTour and are encouraged to post their own trophy photos for a chance to take home official Falcons gear and match tickets.

There will be a special on match tickets in which anyone who purchased one will also get a free ticket.




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Sports News

CAF, GNFC Celebrate Young Footballers' Return from UK

Generation Next Football Club (GNFC), in proud partnership with the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF), continues to transform the future of youth football in Antigua and Barbuda. This month marks a historic moment as GNFC welcomes home athletes from UK-based football programs.

National goalkeeper, Alyssa Laviscount, GNFC's lone female footballer on this particular trip, returned from Brooke House College in the United Kingdom on Sunday, while her male counterparts – Jadyn Browne, Cole Garner, Zion Philip, Sadiq Williams, and Devonte Norris - returned from Ackworth School, where they too gained invaluable football and academic experience. These opportunities are intended to open the doors for potential scholarships.

"This isn't just a proud moment for Alyssa: it's a defining moment for every girl in football across Antigua and Barbuda," said a GNFC representative, Jonathan Thoroughgood. "She's proven that talent has no gender and deserves equal opportunity."

Calvin Ayre Foundation's Manager, Jamilla Kirwan said, "As a Foundation, we believe that investing in



young people is one of the most meaningful ways to shape a brighter future, not just for individuals, but for entire communities. Whether it's a chance to train abroad, access higher-quality education, or simply believe in their own potential, we are committed to opening doors."

The young players were accompanied by GNFC Coach, Gabriel "Skinny"

Graham.

"Watching these kids rise to the occasion and represent Antigua and Barbuda with heart and discipline was incredible," Graham expressed. "This experience has opened their eyes to what's possible; and that's the true win," he said.



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More success for Darg A Bark in ASCFL

Darg A Bark is proving to have some real bite in the 2025 All Saints Community Football League (ASCFL).

Darg A Bark snapped up their second win in as many games by snatching a 1-0 victory against El Hombre in the opening game of a double-header at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints on Monday evening.

Following a goalless first half, Isaiah Thomas snatched the winner for Darg A Bark with a 54th-minute conversion.

Vashawn James of El Hombre received a red card shortly after the match ended. The result allows Darg A Bark to jump to the top of Group A with six points, while El Hombre slipped from first to third place with three points after suffering their first loss in two matches.

Defending champions Old Stagers continued their poor start to their title defence as they salvaged a 1-1 draw with Sea View Farm in the second game of Monday's double-header.

Taski Henry converted a penalty kick in the 18th minute to give Sea View Farm a one-nil lead. But Peter

Byers salvaged a draw for Old Stagers by scoring the equalizer in the 24th minute.

The result allows Sea View Farm to remain unbeaten and move from third to second place in Zone A with four points from two matches. Old Stagers remain second from the bottom of the six-team Group A with one point from two encounters.

After clinching the runners-up position in last year's contest, Police have also continued their successful start to their campaign in the ASCFL.

Police recorded their second win in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against Fundamentals. Shaquille Watkins scored both goals for Police. His first was an 11-minute strike, which gave Police the lead.

Troy Jules scored an equalizer for Fundamentals when he converted a penalty kick in the 21st minute as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

Police was reduced to 10 men after Elgebra received a second caution (yellow card) and was expelled in the 30th minute.

Watkins scored his second goal of the match when he struck the winner for Police in the 54th minute.

Police, who were awarded a 3-0 victory via default against Yorkshire in their opening game, jumped to the top of Zone B with six points.

Ovals claimed their first win in two matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Soccerama Champions Stoneville.

Vasata Daniel scored in the 25th minute to give Ovals a one-nil lead at halftime, and Blevon James wrapped up the two-nil victory with a 53rd-minute conversion.

Stoneville remains rooted in the cellar of Zone B without any points after tumbling to their second loss in as many games.

The All Saints Community Football League will continue with a double-header on Wednesday.

Darg A Bark will take on Overdose at 6:15 pm, and El Hombre will tackle Sea View Farm at 7:30 pm.



West Indies women secure 2-1 T20I series victory over South Africa



The West Indies women's team celebrate after winning the third T20 International and the series against South Africa at the 3Ws Oval in Cave Hill, Barbados, on Monday, June 23, 2025.

The West Indies Women defeated South Africa Women by six wickets in the third T20 International at the 3Ws Oval in Barbados on Monday to secure a 2-1 series victory.

South Africa first posted 147 for six from their 20 overs after winning the toss and batting first.

Miane Smit led the charge with the bat with

a 38-ball unbeaten 59, inclusive of seven fours and a six, while captain Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits made 28 and 20, respectively.

Karishma Ramharack controlled the game expertly with her off spin, conceding only 18 runs in four overs while picking up two wickets.

Afy Fletcher was also excellent with her leg spin, picking up two for

28 in her four overs.

The West Indies then reached their target with nine balls to spare thanks to excellent performances from Hayley Matthews and Shemaine Campbelle.

Captain Matthews continued her phenomenal form this year with 65 off 50 balls, including nine fours and a six, while vice-captain Campbelle made 42

off 38 balls as the pair shared in an 82-run third-wicket stand that set up the victory for the hosts.

The finishing touches were applied by Chinelle Henry, who made 20 not out off 11 balls, including two fours and six. Pacer Marizanne Kapp took two for 27 from her four overs for the South Africans.

Windies women make rankings moves



West Indies women's captain Hayley Matthews

The West Indies Women have made notable gains in the latest ICC Women's Rankings following their recent T20I and ODI series against South Africa, while South Africa opener

Tazmin Brits climbed to career-best positions in both formats after a stellar tour in the Caribbean.

Brits, 34, is now ranked sixth in the ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings,

which equals her career-best position, and she has also risen to a career-high 21st in the ODI Batting Rankings.

Her impressive form included 132 runs in the three-match T20I series, headlined by an unbeaten 98 off 63 balls in the opening match, which earned her the Player of the Match award and helped her gain two spots.

She also cracked a match-winning century (101) in the final ODI to secure a 2-1 series victory for South Africa, and that propelled her six places up the ODI standings.

From a West Indies perspective, captain Hayley Matthews continues her upward trajectory, as she earned a career-best 770 rating points in T20I batting and narrowed the gap on top-ranked Beth Mooney (794).

Matthews was named Player of the Series for her all-round performance, as she scored 147 runs and took two wickets across the three T20Is.

Other ranking movers for the Caribbean side include Chinelle Henry, who rose three places to 86th in the T20I batting chart, and leg-spinner Afy Fletcher, who jumped three spots to 12th in the T20I Bowling Rankings after claiming five wickets.

In the bowling department, South Africa's Nonkululeko Mlaba moved to a joint-eighth position in the T20I Bowling Rankings after taking three wickets, while teammate Annerie Derksen climbed eight places to 79th in the bowling list.

The ODI Bowling Rankings also saw West Indies off-spinner Karishma Ramharack move up one place to 25th.

There was also progress for South African bowlers, with Marizanne Kapp up two spots to seventh, Mlaba rising three places to 20th, and Masabata Klaas climbing six slots to joint-37th.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

New-look Aussies and Windies seek fresh beginnings

A new two-year cycle awaits teams in the World Test Championship, with Australia and West Indies slated to begin their campaigns in the first of three Tests for the Sir Frank Worrell Trophy at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados on Wednesday (today).

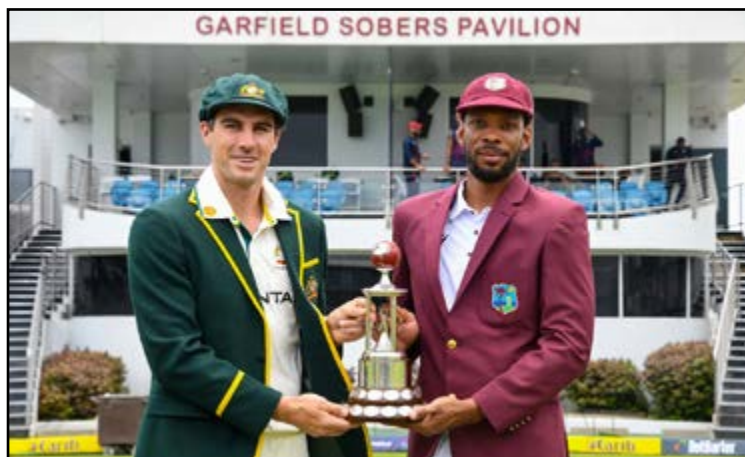
The Australians ended the previous cycle in second-spot in the league phase but failed to take home the title after a loss to South Africa in the summit clash, ending their reign as the champions. The Windies, meanwhile, got nowhere close to top-honours as only Pakistan separated them from the bottom of the table.

Such is the cricketing universe though that despite the huge contrast in fortunes, both teams have rung out the changes and opted for a new look for the new beginning.

The Caribbean outfit have been particularly brutal with their selections and have dropped seven players from their last Test assignment in Pakistan.

This includes wicket-keeper batter Joshua da Silva, who enjoyed a fruitful domestic season, and the incumbent leader of their pace attack, Kemar Roach.

Most surprising, however, has been the decision to hand over captaincy to Roston Chase after Kraigg Brathwaite vacated the spot, given the all-rounder last played a Test match over



Pat Cummins, left, and Roston Chase hold the Sir Frank Worrell Trophy at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. (Getty Images)

two years ago in 2023.

Australia, on the other hand, have finally decided to drop Marnus Labuschagne after sticking him through a horrid patch spanning years.

Despite the parity the form book and historical records seem to suggest, the Windies can bank on the fact that the last time these two teams met, they defied all odds to win an all-time great Test at the Gabba that left the likes of Brian Lara and Gordon Greenidge in tears. Whether those heroics can be repeated is a question only time can answer.

Despite a decade of West Indian dominance in the 1980s, the consistency of Australia before and since means the Men from Down Under boast a heavily one-sided head-to-head record against the Caribbean nation.

The Aussies have won 61

Tests and lost just 33 times, with 25 draws and a tie to go with it. This includes just two losses in the 21st century, and their last defeat on Caribbean soil in 2003.

In the recent WTC final in England, Australia played Steven Smith at his usual position of number four; however, Marnus Labuschagne opened the batting and all-rounder Cameron Green batted at number three.

However, Labuschagne has been dropped due to his poor run of form lately, and the young rising star Sam Konstas will now open the innings with Usman Khawaja.

Meanwhile, Smith, who injured his finger while fielding at slips in the WTC final, is also out and has been replaced by Josh Inglis, who is slotted to bat at number four. Green will continue to bat at number three.

The other pace-bowling

all-rounder, Beau Webster, has maintained his place in the side. The bowling attack remains the same with skipper Pat Cummins, Mitch Starc, Josh Hazlewood, and Nathan Lyon as the sole spinner.

The West Indies also named their XI for the first Test, with Roston Chase leading the side. The two big changes in the team are left-hander John Campbell, who is returning after a doping-related ban, and premier white-ball batter Shai Hope. Hope is slotted to bat at number six in the batting lineup, and will also keep the wickets as Joshua da Silva has been dropped.

Jomel Warrican is playing as the sole specialist spinner in the bowling line-up, with skipper Chase assisting him with his off-spin. Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales and Shamar Joseph make up the pace attack.

Australia Playing XI: Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Cameron Green, Josh Inglis, Travis Head, Beau Webster, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins (c), Mitch Starc, Nathan Lyon, and Josh Hazlewood.

West Indies Playing XI: Kraigg Braithwaite, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Brandon King, Roston Chase (c), Shai Hope (wk), Justin Greaves, Jomel Warrican, Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales, and Shamar Joseph.