

Antigua PM to T&T Govt: Pay up outstanding US\$60M

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Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, right, and Trinidad and Tobago Foreign and Caricom Affairs Minister Sean Sobers make their way to a plenary session at the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of Caricom in Montego Bay, Jamaica, Tuesday.

Antigua PM to T&T Govt: Pay up outstanding US\$60M



PM Gaston Browne left and PM Kamla Passad Bissessar right

(Reprinted from Trinidad Guardian newspaper)

By Akash Samaroo

Reporting from Jamaica

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne is urging the new Kamla Persad-Bissessar Government to fulfil a commitment made to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) during the tenure of the People's Partnership government—an obligation that would cost Trinidad and Tobago approximately US\$60 million.

This matter stems from the massive financial crisis that originated with the collapse of two major Caribbean insurance and financial companies: Colonial Life Insurance Company (Clico) and British American Insurance Company (Baico). This crisis, which began in late 2008, sent shockwaves across the Caribbean, particularly affecting T&T (where Clico was headquartered) and the OECS.

“About a billion dollars was lost by EC (Eastern Caribbean) depositors. Those

are funds that were invested by Clico/Baico in the Trinidad economy. And we felt that there should have been greater participation of Trinidad and Tobago in the resolution of the issue. Now, the previous Kamla (Persad-Bissessar) administration had agreed to provide a compensation of 100 million US dollars for the OECS countries, of which 40 million US dollars is paid. Unfortunately, the (Dr Keith) Rowley administration did not honour the remaining 60 million US dollars,” Browne explained

to Guardian Media during a lunch break at the 49th meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Jamaica on Tuesday.

Browne said with the return of Persad-Bissessar as T&T Prime Minister, he is hoping the balance will be paid. He, however, acknowledged that T&T has its own financial problems.

“So, we’re not even asking for all of it to be paid at once. It could be a long-term bond, payable at a low interest rate over an extended period in order to reduce the cash flow impact. But those are negotiations that we hope to have with Kamla (Persad-Bissessar). And I remain hopeful that we’ll be able to resolve the issue.”

Persad-Bissessar did not attend the CARICOM meeting in Jamaica.

However, PM Browne said the option of sending a small OECS delegation to T&T is a viable option to discuss the matter.

“Mohammed will go to the mountain,” he said.

The Clico and Baico fallout had a particularly severe and disproportionate impact on the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

The OECS/ECCU region had the largest exposure to Clico and Baico as a share of their GDPs, with some countries’ exposure reach-

ing as high as 15 per cent of their 2009 GDP.

OECS governments were forced to undertake costly interventions and bailouts to mitigate the crisis and protect policyholders. This placed a severe strain on their national budgets and significantly increased public debt.

Browne said the inequities faced by OECS members in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) framework were discussed during Tuesday's meeting. And again, he referenced T&T.

"There must be some benefit for the OECS countries. You'd find, for example, that the MDCs (more developed countries), they

produce most of the goods that we consume. Trinidad and Tobago, for example, is like a supermarket to the OECS. A lot of the goods that we consume, they're imported from Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

"But we can also source goods extra-regionally at a cheaper price. But the CET (Common External Tariff) precludes us from importing those goods, even from the Dominican Republic, for example, where we can get better prices. So technically speaking, we are subsidising prices for the MDCs."

He said within the treaty, there is the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF), which is required to assist

countries displaced as a result of the CSME to assist in capacity building but MDC's have failed to meet their subscription to the CDF.

OECS countries have felt that the CARICOM arrangements, particularly the CSME, have historically disadvantaged their manufacturing sectors, he said.

St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves recently used the phrase "Monopoly money" to describe T&T's currency due to the severe difficulties Vincentian traders face in converting their earnings in TT dollars into hard foreign currency.

PM Browne said he would

never refer to any CARICOM member's currency in that manner.

However, he said, "But in terms of settling these outstanding invoices in US dollars, understanding they're small amounts, three million US dollars, I don't know that is insurmountable. So, as far as practicable, I believe that Trinidad and Tobago should settle, and to settle in the appropriate currency, that is US dollars. And it's a work in progress. These issues that have been raised now for several years, and we're hoping that the new administration will give a tangible effect to resolving these issues."



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Four teenage Girls Awarded LEAP Scholarships to study in Jersey


The Antigua and Barbuda UK High Commission has announced that four outstanding Antiguan and Barbudan students have been selected to participate in the July 2025 Leadership and Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme (LEAP), hosted by the Jersey College Foundation (JCG Foundation) on the island of Jersey in the Channel Islands.

The initiative, now in its second year, is made possible through the continued partnership between the JCG Foundation, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs and Education, Sports and the Creative Industries. This fully funded scholarship opportunity supports the development of young female leaders from Antigua and Barbuda by immersing them in a globally recognized summer programme focused on leadership, social enterprise, and entrepreneurship.

This year's scholarship recipients are 18 years old Miya Joseph, a graduate of the Antigua State College, 14 years old Gabrielle Tuckett, a student at the Antigua Girls' High School, 16 years old Janica Adams, a recent graduate of the Antigua Girls'



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Local News

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High School and 14 years old Alleah Alfred of the St. Anthony's Secondary School. They are accompanied by Dr. E. Jonah Greene, Deputy Director of Education who will also serve as a LEAP mentor during the programme. The LEAP Programme, designed for young women aged 14–18, brings together student delegates from around the world to design and pitch social enterprise projects to a panel of investors. Participants receive intensive mentorship in business development, leadership, and social innovation from global industry experts, all while forming international networks and lifelong friendships.

Janica Adams shared, "I am ecstatic to experience the LEAP programme. I believe this is a great opportunity to represent the nation and show the best of what Antigua and Barbuda has to offer. I also hope we will learn and enjoy ourselves."

Last year's scholarship recipient, Jo-Anna Gasper, described her experience as life-changing, "Attending the LEAP Programme in Jersey was a transformative experience that expanded my perspective on business and personal growth. I was able to enhance my leadership skills, which I have since applied to my business... My time in Jersey gave me the confidence to push

forward with my goals, knowing that success is built on knowledge, resilience, and community."

Alison Morgan, CEO of the JCG Foundation, added: "At the Jersey College for Girls Foundation, we believe in the power of young women to shape a better future. Our LEAP programme isn't just about business; it's about building confident, resilient leaders who can tackle the world's most pressing challenges. We very much look forward to welcoming Dr. Greene to Jersey and are honoured to have High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill return as our keynote speaker."

HC Karen-Mae Hill re-

marked: "Investing in our girls is investing in the future of our nation. The LEAP programme unlocks their leadership potential, expands their worldview, and equips them with the skills to lead and innovate. I am immensely proud of this year's cohort and excited to see the impact they will make locally and globally."

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission extends its heartfelt congratulations to the 2025 scholarship recipients and thanks all stakeholders who continue to support this impactful collaboration.



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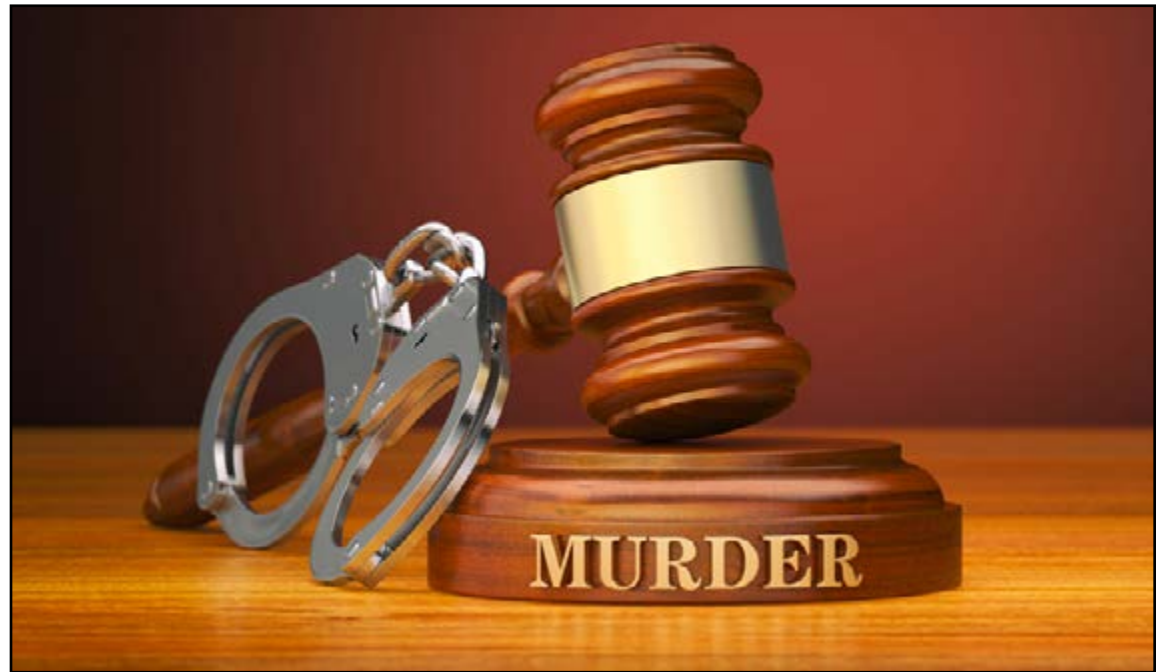
Travis Peters Charged with Murder

The police have arrested and charged 31-year-old Travis Peters of Bendals with the murder of Jah-vaughn Joseph of Jennings.

The incident occurred on Redcliffe Street around 3 a.m. on 16 December 2024. It is alleged that Peters shot Joseph while he was standing in the area. Joseph sustained a gunshot wound to his abdomen and was later pronounced dead at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Further police investigations led to Peters' arrest and subsequent charge for the offence.

He was expected to make



his first appearance before the court on Wednesday.

The public is encouraged to share any information

that may assist in ongoing investigations by contacting the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-

3913 or Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Stop and search operations yield results

Five people are in police custody, following a series of stop-and-search operations conducted across several communities on Tuesday 8 July.

Around 7:00 p.m., police arrested four male suspects, all residents of Villa, for unlawful possession of a firearm and several rounds of ammunition.

In a separate but related incident, a male resident of Ottos was arrested for unlawful possession of cannabis.

All items, including the firearm, ammunition, and cannabis, were taken to police station as part of the ongoing investigations.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to intensify its efforts to rid the streets of illegal firearms, ammunition, and narcotics. These operations form part of the force's broader strategy to enhance



public safety and maintain law and order throughout the country.

The public is once again reminded of the importance of cooperating with the police and providing information that can assist in the fight against crime.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Community activist secures laptop for top performing student

Community activist whose area of focus has been Bendals and surrounding communities, Terri London, has secured a laptop computer for Jada Sleppe, a top-performing student at the Bendals Primary School Graduation Ceremony.

London is expressing her profound thanks and appreciation to the management and staff of the Antigua Computer Technology (ACT) for their generous contribution of the laptop that was presented as prize for Sleppe.

“Your continued support for education and youth development is deeply appreciated. This meaningful gesture will un-



Community activist, Terri London, presents Jada Sleppe with laptop computer donated by ACT

doubtedly empower Jada on her academic journey and serve as a reminder that hard work is recognized and rewarded.

“Investments like these not only help shape individual futures but also strengthen entire communities. By equipping our young minds with the tools they need to succeed, you are helping to unlock their potential and fuel their dreams. We look forward to future collaborations that inspire excellence and opportunity for all,” London told the team at ACT.

London has been placing much emphasis on education as she continues to support various initiatives in the communities.


 A promotional poster for the Mr & Miss Teenage Pageant 2025. The poster features a group of young people in school uniforms and pageant sashes standing in front of a red and white background. The text includes:

- Antigua Carnival logo (top left)
- Our future. Our bank. recab logo (top center)
- MR & MISS Teenage PAGEANT (center)
- 19 JULY 2025 | 7 PM ADM: \$20 CARNIVAL CITY (bottom center)
- Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION logo (top right)
- Sashes worn by participants: "ST. JOHN'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL", "JENNINGS SECONDARY SCHOOL", "CLARE HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL", "SINCEVILLE RICHARDS ACADEMY", "PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL", "ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL", "ISLAND ACADEMY", "ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL", "ST. GEORGE'S HIGH SCHOOL".

Indian High Commission presents book on Yoga to Lady Williams

The High Commission of India, headquartered in Guyana and accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, recently marked a special milestone of a decade of celebration of International Yoga Day at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds.

Against the backdrop of this milestone celebration, the Honorary Consul of India, Vijay Tiwani, reflected on the journey, noting that the first celebration was held at Government House in 2015, made a meaningful presentation of a book on yoga's significance to Lady Williams.

"International Yoga Day - observed every year - emphasizes the profound benefits of yoga for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. It promotes awareness of the importance of incorporating yoga into our daily routines to foster harmony, health, and peace across the globe.

"This decade-long tradition underscores yoga's universal appeal and its role in promoting global unity and wellness," Honorary Consul, Tiwani



Indian Honorary Consul, Vijay Tiwani presents book on Yoga to Lady Williams

stated.

HC Tiwani is urging Yoga enthusiasts to continue to embrace yoga's timeless

wisdom and its power to transform lives.

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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRE-EVENTS

**THURS
FEB 27**

CARNIVAL LAUNCH

**SUN
JULY 13**

**AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S
KIDDIES FETE**
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 17**

**CALYPSO MONARCH
SEMI-FINALS**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI
JULY 18**

**PARTY MONARCH
SEMI-FINALS**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI
JULY 25**

FACE OFF
CARNIVAL CITY

**SAT
JULY 26**

LIAT 2020 T-SHIRT MAS
ST. JOHN'S

**SUN
JULY 27**

GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND
JUNIOR CARNIVAL PARADE
ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY
FREE

**MON
JULY 28**

**OASIS WATER
JUNIOR PARTY
MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | *FREE*

**TUES
JULY 29**

**KARI SOCA
INTERNATIONAL
SOCA MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY

**WED
JULY 30**

**BURNING FLAMES
40TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 31**

DRINK TILL YA WEAK
BOAT CRUISE
**LONG BAY LAGER
MELTING POT**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM
\$100 (GENERAL)
\$350 (HOUSE OF VIBES)

EMANCIPATION WATCH NIGHT
ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS

**SAT
JULY 19**

WITNESS YA FITNESS
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

**SUN
JULY 20**

**ECAB MR & MISS
TEENAGE PAGEANT**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**TUES
JULY 22**

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
CARNIVAL CITY
\$30 (STAND) | \$50 (RESERVED)
**THE UNIVERSITY
OF WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS
JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | *FREE*

**FRI
AUG 1**

EMANCIPATION DAY
CALYPSO MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$30

**SAT
AUG 2**

RISE
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM

CARNIVAL DREAMZ
HODGES BAY

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PANORAMA**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

**SUN
AUG 3**

D BREAKFAST FETE
SPLASH ANTIGUA

INET PARTY MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

**MON
AUG 4**

J'OUVERT
ST. JOHN'S
**MONDAY MAS
PARADE**
ST. JOHN'S

**TUES
AUG 5**

**PARADE
OF BANDS**
CARNIVAL CITY
LAST LAP
ST. JOHN'S



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A Decade of Service Honoured at Wings of Charity 8 – The Masquerade Ball

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams celebrated a momentous milestone of ten years of unwavering commitment to humanitarian service in Antigua and Barbuda and across the globe at the highly anticipated Wings of Charity 8: The Masquerade Ball. The signature black-tie event was held at the Peninsula Hotel in London and welcomed over 400 esteemed guests from around the world.

Among the distinguished attendees were Grammy-nominated artist, Ambassador of the Halo Foundation and special guest performer, Kathy Sledge. The evening served as both a celebration of the Foundation's enduring legacy and as a heartfelt appeal to continue supporting the vulnerable and differently-abled communities the organisation has long championed.

A touching message was read by Sir Clive Alderton, Private Secretary to the King, from His Majesty King Charles III.

Guests were treated to an enchanting evening that masterfully blended elegance and entertainment. The evening's musical performances included the soulful sounds of saxophonist Vince Thomas, the captivating vocals of Ms. Daina Barnes and live band The Strays, as well as a surprise performance by the legendary Kathy Sledge, who brought the crowd to its feet with her timeless hits.

A gourmet three-course dinner was served alongside an exciting live and silent auction segment. Proceeds from the evening will directly bene-



fit the Sickle Cell Association of Antigua and Barbuda—a cause close to the hearts of Their Excellencies.

Adding to the occasion's prestige, Dr. Brian Reuben, through his Chief of Staff, Dr. Alison Chewy, presented Lady Williams with the Global Woman's Award, recognising her outstanding contribution to global philanthropy, advocacy, and inclu-

sive development for all. The honour underscored the far-reaching impact of her work and the Foundation's mission.

The Governor General and Lady Williams expressed sincere gratitude for the overwhelming turnout and generous support shown by attendees. The success of Wings of Charity 8 marks a resurgence for the



Foundation and paves the way for its future endeavours.

This year's event would not have been possible without the unwavering support of generous sponsors. The Calvin Ayre Foundation, Platinum Sponsor since 2017, has been a steadfast partner in advancing the Foundation's charitable mission.

Gratitude is also extended to Ms. Gaye Hechme, Managing Director of Moongate Antigua, Chesterton's and Island Living Antigua and Barbuda - as well as Ocean Club, who has graciously supported three consecutive hosting of the event. The Blue Waters Hotel and Spa continues to encourage the efforts of the Charity. Their dedicated commitment and belief in the work of the Halo Foundation have been instrumental in making Wings of Charity not just a night of elegance, but a meaningful force for good.

As the evening concluded, The Governor General and Lady Williams reaffirmed their continued dedication to the causes they serve. With renewed momentum and a steadfast commitment to service, the Foundation looks forward to building on its legacy—creating lasting change, one act of compassion at a time.

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PRESS RELEASE

The Antigua and Barbuda Trades & Labour Union welcomes the Labour Department's certification of a collective agreement recently negotiated with Interline (Antigua) Limited, on behalf of the Line Staff. Deputy General Secretary of the AT&LU, Avelyn Watley lead the negotiations for the Union.

The collective agreement provides the employees with many enhanced terms and conditions of employment, above and beyond the minimum employment standards established by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code. Some of these enhanced terms and conditions include:

☐ 15 working days vacation leave

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days provided under the Labour Code;
☐ 10 days Paternity

Leave with full pay;
☐ 5% wage increase.



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• GROWTH STRATEGY

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WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 2025

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Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

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Regional News



Caregiver charged after elderly woman's mummified body found in Westmoreland, say police

The Westmoreland police have launched an investigation after the mummified remains of an elderly woman were discovered at her home on Sunday. Her live-in caregiver is accused of hiding the body for more than a year without alerting authorities.

The deceased has been identified as Viola Destin. Her age and date of birth have not been confirmed.

The police believe she died on December 10, 2023.

However, rather than reporting the death, the woman's caregiver, 54-year-old Gena Robinson, is alleged to have hidden the body inside a room at their shared residence in Old Hope district, Little London.

The gruesome discovery was made on Sunday, after one of Destin's relatives reportedly became suspicious and contacted the police.

Her decomposed body was found

lying on a mattress in the home.

The scene was processed, and the body was removed to the morgue, where a post-mortem examination is pending.

Robinson has since been charged with failure to report the death of a person, preventing the lawful burial of a corpse, and attempting to pervert the course of justice. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

CARICOM Summit | Crisis in Haiti a regional emergency and an economic opportunity – Holness

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness says the worsening security and humanitarian crisis in Haiti must no longer be treated as a national issue, but as an urgent regional priority—with economic consequences for the entire Caribbean.

Speaking at a high-level CARICOM–CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) engagement on Tuesday at Sandals Montego Bay in St James, held on the sidelines of the 49th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government, Holness stressed that a secure Haiti is essential to a secure Caribbean.

“This is not only a national emergency. It is a regional priority. The success of our region is tied to the security and stability of all our member states,” Holness said, adding that the prolonged collapse of governance in



Haiti presents a dangerous precedent.

“The situation that gangs have taken over a state is not a good example for this region, and the longer it stays in that state, the longer it will be a threat for all states in this region.”

His comments come as Haiti continues to grapple with the devastating consequences of political instability,

gang violence, and the absence of a functioning government.

In March, then Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced his intention to step down following an emergency meeting of Caribbean leaders in Jamaica—a move that followed months of pressure from CARICOM and the international community to find

a solution to the leadership vacuum.

Holness, now chair of CARICOM, signalled Jamaica's intention to build on the efforts of former chair, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, who helped broker that transition agreement.

“I’m going to dedicate great effort, as did Prime Minister Mottley, to ensure that the situation in Haiti is again brought to the fore of global attention,” Holness said.

“I believe that we can have a positive impact.”

He called for greater coordination and urgency in supporting Haiti's path to stability, noting that regional security extends beyond crime and borders—touching sectors like telecommunications, banking, shipping, and judicial systems. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

CARICOM Summit|Barbados, Belize, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica to implement full free movement in October



Four CARICOM member states will implement full free movement of nationals by October 1, 2025, marking a major step forward in regional integration under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

They are Barbados, Belize, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica.

The announcement was made by CARICOM Chairman and Jamaican Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness during the closing news conference of the 49th Regular Meeting of the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government in Montego Bay.

“We agreed that the pace and scope of implementation [were] just too slow, and we agreed that we will do everything in our power to speed up implementation,” Holness said.

Holness said the four nations reiterated their willingness to imple-

ment full free movement under the Protocol on Enhanced Cooperation, which all CARICOM members signed.

Full free movement within CARICOM allows for the free movement of skilled nationals, services, capital, and the right to establish businesses or offer services in other participating member states without restrictions. The free movement of skilled nationals means that qualified workers can seek employment in other member states without needing work permits.

Holness said Jamaica remains committed to the goal and is working to overcome its own internal constraints.

“I want to make clear that Jamaica remains committed to implementing full free movement in accordance with the treaty amendments, and we are also examining ways to speed up our own implementation,” he stated.

Explaining Jamaica’s slower progress, he noted: “Due to our legislative framework and other considerations, we have had to move with greater consideration. However, it is our intention to speed up the implementation of full free movement.”

The Prime Minister also announced that CARICOM leaders agreed to expand the list of approved skilled categories under the CSME regime.

“Aviation personnel have been added to the list, and it is worth noting that Jamaica contributed three new occupations: photogrammetry, field maintenance personnel, and aircraft maintenance personnel,” he said.

The Protocol on Enhanced Cooperation, signed in 2023, aims to eliminate the need for work permits or skills certificates for nationals moving across CARICOM borders.

The October rollout in four countries is expected to serve as a key test case for full free movement across the region, part of CARICOM’s broader 2030 agenda for deeper economic and social integration.

Holness also called for better governance and implementation structures across the Community.

“The reality is that our operations must be more agile and fit for purpose as we seek to deliver outcomes for our community in more efficient and timely ways,” he said.

Progress will be reviewed at the upcoming CARICOM–Africa Summit in Ethiopia this September. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News



Digicel Shuts Down Loop News After 11 Years, Plans to Close SportsMax



Digicel announced Tuesday the immediate closure of its Caribbean-wide news platform Loop News and plans to wind down regional sports broadcaster SportsMax by August 8, marking the end of two prominent media brands in the region.

The telecoms giant said the move represents a strategic pivot away from consumer-facing content toward a greater focus on enterprise solutions and digital services under its business arm.

In a farewell statement, Loop News said: “They say all good things must come to an end and so it is, that after 11 years of proudly serving the Caribbean as a trusted media partner, Loop News is today announcing the end of our operations.”

“Since our inception, Loop has become a trusted source of news, winning several awards and building a passionate, engaged community of readers and viewers,” the statement continued. “As we reflect on over a decade of journalism and community impact, we are deeply grateful for the relationships we have built and the stories we have told.”

Loop News acknowledged the difficulty of the decision, stating: “This decision marks the end of an era. While it wasn’t an easy choice, we believe it is the right one for this moment.”

Loop News, launched in 2014, had established itself as a popular regional digital news outlet covering Caribbean affairs. SportsMax, founded in 2002, was home to high-profile sporting con-

tent and played an instrumental role in the careers of numerous Caribbean broadcasters.

Digicel said affected staff had already been informed and that transition support would be provided in line with local labour laws.

Loop News had one Antiguan reporter.

The company indicated its new focus will center on Trend Media and the recently acquired Symptai, allowing it to offer an expanded suite of ICT services including cloud, cybersecurity, digital advertising, and compliance solutions.

In closing, Loop News stated: “We would like to say thank you for the incredible support we have received from our readers and viewers across the Caribbean and beyond over the years and are deeply honoured to have been a part of your daily lives.”

Digicel thanked its audiences and employees, acknowledging the legacy of the two media brands but stating that the shift was necessary to create greater value in its business offerings across the region. (*Antigua.News*)



Nvidia becomes first company to be worth \$4 trillion



Nvidia is the first company to be worth \$4 trillion.

The chipmaker's shares rose as much as 2.5% on Wednesday, pushing past the previous market value record (\$3.9 trillion), set by Apple in December 2024. Nvidia has rallied by more than 70% from its April 4 low, when global stock markets were sent reeling by President Donald Trump's global tariff rollout.

Tech analyst Dan Ives called Wednesday's milestone a "huge historical moment for the U.S. tech sector."

The record value comes as tech giants such as OpenAI, Amazon and Microsoft are spending hundreds of billions of dollars in the race to build massive data centers to fuel the artificial in-

telligence revolution. All of those companies are using Nvidia chips to power their services, though some are also developing their own.

In the first quarter of 2025 alone, the company reported its revenue soared about 70%, to more than \$44 billion. Nvidia said it expects another \$45 billion worth of sales in the current quarter.

"Global demand for Nvidia's AI infrastructure is incredibly strong," CEO Jensen Huang told investors in a May conference call.

Shares have surged nearly 20% this year on that explosive growth. Its shares are also higher by 1,500% over the course of the last five years. That also led Nvidia to unseat Microsoft in mid-June as the most valu-

able public company in the world.

A little over two years ago, Nvidia was worth just \$500 billion. In June 2023, the company surpassed \$1 trillion in value, only to double that by February 2024. Last month, the company's value hit more than \$3 trillion.

Currently trailing Nvidia and Microsoft in the rankings are Apple at \$3.13 trillion, Amazon at \$2.38 trillion, Alphabet at \$2.12 trillion and Meta Platforms at \$1.81 trillion.

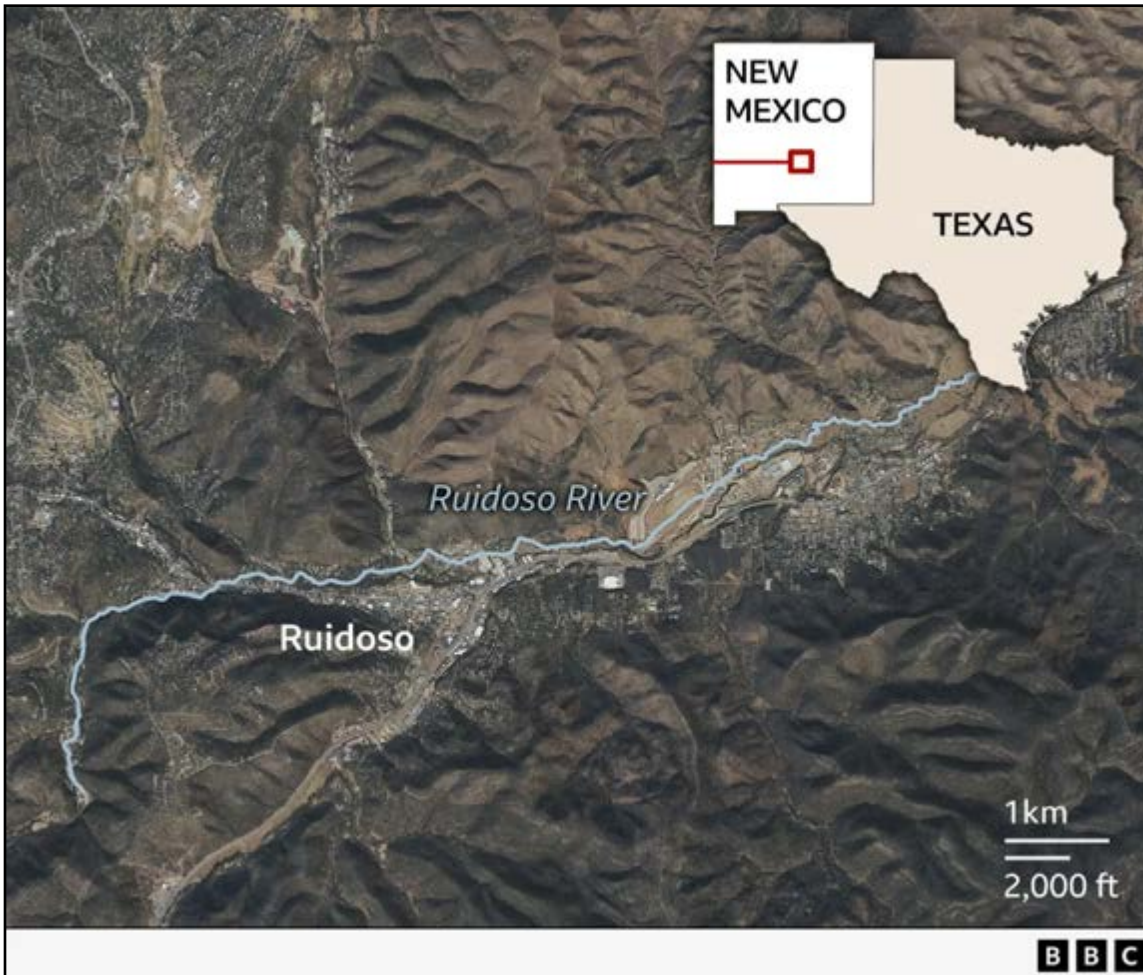
Still, Nvidia has faced a number of hurdles. In early April, as global markets were plunging on fears about Trump's global tariffs, the company disclosed that it would take as much as a \$5.5 billion hit from Chi-

nese export restrictions imposed by the U.S. government. It ended up having to swallow most of that, with a \$4.5 billion hit in the three-month period.

"The \$50 billion China market is effectively closed to U.S. industry," Huang said at the time.

The tech CEO has gained a cult following and become something of a global diplomat for artificial intelligence and Nvidia's central role in it. In the last few months alone, Huang has made trips to meet with Trump at the president's Mar-a-Lago club in Florida. Huang has also met with the chancellor of Germany in Berlin, top European Commission leaders and senior lieutenants to President Xi Jinping in China. (NBC News)

Days after Texas floods, at least 161 people are still missing in one county



At least 161 people are still missing in a single Texas county four days after deadly and devastating flash floods hit parts of the state, Governor Greg Abbott said, as hope fades for survivors to be found.

The missing in the hard-hit Kerr County include five campers and a counsellor from Camp Mystic, a Christian all-girls summer camp located on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

At least 111 people have died in the disaster, according to the latest county-by-county tolls published by US media. More than 90 were in the

Kerrville area.

Texas is not alone. Neighbouring New Mexico saw a flash flood emergency on Tuesday as well, causing the deaths of at least three people.

Up to 8.8cm (3.5in) of rain fell there, causing river waters to inundate the village of Ruidoso, officials said. That flood has now receded.

In Texas, frantic search and rescue efforts continue, with Abbott vowing emergency crews “will not stop until every missing person is accounted for”.

Abbott added that it was very likely more missing would be added to the list

in the coming days, and urged people to report anyone they think was unaccounted for.

General Thomas Suelzer from the Texas National Guard said search efforts were using Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters with rescue hoists.

He said there were 13 Black Hawk helicopters helping in the search effort, including four that arrived from Arkansas. Authorities have also been using reaper drones. Responders from various agencies are working together on rescue efforts. They include agents from border patrol, the FBI and the National Guard.

More than 250 responders from various agencies have been assigned to the Kerrville area alone to help with search and rescue.

One of those rescue volunteers, named Tim, told the BBC he had never seen any destruction at this scale before.

“I’ve done the floods down in East Texas and Southeast Texas, and hurricanes, and this is a nightmare,” he said.

Another rescue volunteer, named Justin, compared the effort to “trying to find a single hay in a haystack”.

“There’s a wide trail of destruction for miles, and there’s not enough cadaver dogs to go through all of it,” he told the BBC.

“It’s hard to access a lot of it with heavy machinery. Guys are trying to pick at it with tools and hands, and they’re not even putting a dent in it – not for lack of effort.”

Questions have been raised about whether authorities provided adequate flood warnings before the disaster, and why people were not evacuated earlier.

Experts say there were a number of factors that contributed to the tragedy in Texas, including the extreme weather, the location of the holiday homes and timing.

Abbott, who had spent part of the day surveying the flood zone, said authorities had issued a

International

AROUND THE WORLD

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storm warning and knew about a possible flash flood, but “didn’t know the magnitude of the storm”.

No-one knew it would lead to a “30-foot high tsunami wall of water”, he said.

The governor responded to a question about who was to “blame” for the enormous death toll, saying: “That’s the word choice of losers.”

He made a sports analogy, saying American football teams make mistakes; champion teams are the ones who don’t “point fingers”.

Most of the victims died in Kerr County, where the Guadalupe River was swollen by torrential downpours before day-break on Friday, the July Fourth public holiday.

Camp Mystic had earlier confirmed at least 27 girls and staff were among the dead.

Those who survived are now focused on trying to rebuild.

Justin Brown has lived along the Guadalupe River for more than 25 years.

A week ago, he lived in his mobile home at the Blue Oak RV Park with his two young daughters and dog. Now, there is a huge puddle where his home once stood – his RV swept away in the floods.

“We were one of the few parks that got almost everybody out,” Mr Brown told the BBC, as he described the efforts of his landlord and emergency workers, who evacuated

almost all of the park’s residents.

Looking out over the empty land where his home once stood – now just debris – he said he hopes to move back in as soon as he can.

President Donald Trump will travel to the flood-ravaged areas with First Lady Melania

Trump on Friday.

In neighbouring New Mexico, officials from the National Weather Service (NWS) declared a flash flood emergency on Tuesday and told residents of Ruidoso to be on high alert for flooding.

A flood wave on the Rio Ruidoso went on to reach a height of 15ft, the NWS

said. Houses were swept down the river, and a man and two children were killed.

Officials there have been working with boats to rescue people who got trapped. A number of locals were unaccounted for as of Tuesday evening. *(BBC News)*



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Ship attacked in the Red Sea after a bulk carrier sinking claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels



A Liberian-flagged cargo ship came under fire from Houthi rebels Monday in the Red Sea, with two on board reported to be hurt and two others missing in an assault a day after the Yemen-based militant group sunk another vessel.

The attack on the Greek-owned bulk carrier Eternity C in the crucial maritime route came after the Houthis attacked the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier Magic Seas with drones, missiles, rocket-propelled

grenades and small arms fire Sunday, forcing its crew of 22 to abandon the vessel.

The two attacks and a round of Israeli airstrikes early Monday targeting the rebels raised fears of a renewed Houthi campaign against shipping that could again draw in U.S. and Western forces, particularly after President Donald Trump's administration targeted the rebels in a major airstrike campaign.

The attacks come at a

sensitive moment in the Middle East, as a possible ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war hangs in the balance, and as Iran weighs whether to restart negotiations over its nuclear program following American airstrikes targeting its most sensitive atomic sites during the Israel-Iran war in June.

The European Union anti-piracy patrol Operation Atalanta and the private security firm Ambrey reported the latest attack. They said the Eternity C had been heading north

toward the Suez Canal when it came under fire by men in small boats and by bomb-carrying drones. The security guards on board also fired their weapons.

Operation Atalanta said the Eternity C had a crew of 21 Filipinos and one Russian, plus three security personnel. The E.U. force said the ship had not requested an escort.

The E.U. force also said the Houthis carried out the attack. (AP)

Impostor uses AI to impersonate Rubio and contact foreign and US officials



The State Department is warning United States diplomats of attempts to impersonate Secretary of State Marco Rubio and possibly other officials using technology driven by artificial intelligence, according to two senior officials and a cable sent last week to all embassies and consulates. The warning came after the department discovered that an impostor posing as Rubio had attempted to reach out to at least three foreign ministers, a US senator and a governor, according to the July 3 cable, which was first reported by The Washington Post. The recipients of the scam messages, which were sent by text, Signal and voice mail, were not identified in the cable, a copy of which was shared with The Associated Press. “The State Department is aware of this incident and

is currently monitoring and addressing the matter,” department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce told reporters. “The department takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard its information and continuously take steps to improve the department’s cybersecurity posture to prevent future incidents.” She declined to comment further due to “security reasons” and the ongoing investigation. It’s the latest instance of a high-level Trump administration figure targeted by an impersonator, with a similar incident revealed in May involving President Donald Trump’s chief of staff, Susie Wiles. The misuse of AI to deceive people is likely to grow as the technology improves and becomes more widely available, and the FBI warned this past spring

about “malicious actors” impersonating senior US government officials in a text and voice messaging campaign. The hoaxes involving Rubio had been unsuccessful and “not very sophisticated,” one of the officials said. Nonetheless, the second official said the department deemed it “prudent” to advise all employees and foreign governments, particularly as efforts by foreign actors to compromise information security increase. The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. “There is no direct cyber threat to the department from this campaign, but information shared with a third party could be exposed if targeted individuals are compromised,” the cable said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)




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Sports News

Semi-finals set in All Saints Community Football League



The Fundamentals football team, one of the semi-finalists in the All Saints Community Football League. (Photo courtesy of the ASCFL)

The semi-finals line-up was confirmed in the All Saints Community Football League after the last encounter in the preliminary group stage was completed on Tuesday evening.

Yorkshire came from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against Soccerama champions Stoneville in the final Group B encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Joshua Samuel gave Stoneville the lead when he opened the scoring with a

14th-minute conversion.

But Yorkshire, who played the match with nine men, hit back to draw level when Daniel Bryan struck the equalizer in the 26th minute.

Tyrik Hughes snatched the winner for Yorkshire with a 52nd-minute conversion.

With the top two teams in each zone qualifying for the semi-finals, the result meant that Yorkshire missed out on advancing to the final four knockout stage.

Last year's runners-up, Police, clinched the second qualifying spot from Group B into the semi-finals on goal difference.

Police, Ovals, and Yorkshire all finished with seven points from five matches. Fundamental claimed the other semi-final spot as winners of Group B with 12 points.

Darg A Bark and last year's third-place finishers, El Hombre, claimed the other spots in the semi-finals from Group A.

Darg A Bark finished as Group A winners with 13 points from their five matches, and El Hombre clinched second place with 10 points.

Darg A Bark was slated to clash with Police in the first semi-final on Wednesday evening. Fundamentals and El Hombre will face off in the second semi-final on Thursday evening.

Twelve teams, divided into two zones, contested this year's All Saints Community League.



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Sports News

Strictly Business extend unbeaten run in ABSCA Men's T20 Competition

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business have maintained their unbeaten record in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's T20 Competition.

Strictly Business notched up their third win in as many games with an 89-run drubbing of Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js at the Rising Sun playing field.

Strictly Business made 158 for nine off their 20 overs. Kerry Mentore hit an unbeaten 61, including seven sixes. Jevon Howel slammed 42, including six sixes, and Raymond Leadette scored 14. Xavier Otto captured three for 55, and Charanlall Ramjohn picked up two for 15.

In reply, Buckley's 3Js were dismissed for 69 in 13.4 overs to suffer their first defeat after winning their previous two matches. Denley Thomas scored 19, and Kenrick Scott made 13.

Arthur Crigman snapped up three wickets for five runs, Owen Graham claimed two for 13, and Kadeem Josiah captured two for 34.

Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 also extended their unbeaten run. 300 claimed their third win in as many games after being awarded victory via default against Mix-Up Stars, who did not have the required number of players to start the game at Jennings. It was the third loss in four games for the Mix-Up Stars.

After losing their previ-



Strictly Business men's softball cricket team

ous two matches, Dredgers claimed their first win in three outings by pulling off a 103-run victory against PMS at the Dredgers playing field.

Dredgers made 199 for six off their allotted 20 overs. Loy Weste cracked 57, Raye Charles hit 25, Mervin Higgins struck 23, and Dervol Phillip scored 21.

Clarence Francis bagged three for 30, Kenny Benjamin took two for 31, and Malik Marcellin claimed two for 35.

In reply, PMS were dismissed for 96 in 16.2 overs. Kenny Benjamin made 27, and Walter Carr scored 14 for PMS, who lost for the third time in as many games.

Gurshan Millington picked up two wickets for three runs, Kurt Douglas claimed two wickets for nine runs, and Robin Bascus captured two for 11.

Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets and Alzzari

and Sharon Joseph North Sails Antigua Female Flyers recorded their second win in as many games in the ABSCA's Women's T20 Competition.

Bullets won by default against Police, who did not have the required number of players to start the game at Rising Suns. It was the second time in as many games that Police have forfeited their match in the T20 competition.

Female Flyers defeated Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Rockets by 71 runs at Jennings. Female Flyers made 149 for three off their 20 overs.

Makada Hector slammed 58, Robernetta Burton hit 33, there was a contribution of 32 extras, and Gaynel Ogarro struck 23 not out. Anmarie Parker took two for 25, and Valarie Isaac claimed one for 24.

In reply, the Rockets were restricted to 78 for seven off their 20 overs. Valarie

Isaac struck 24, and Roshana David made 20. Gaynel Ogarro claimed two for 10, Monique Titus took two for 11, and Makada Hector captured one for 18.

Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors secured their first win in two matches with a seven-wicket victory against Potters Uprising Cricket Team at the Dredgers playing field.

Potters were restricted to 99 for four off their 20 overs. Nolia Elvin cracked 35, and Maria Abraham hit 22. Gale Lee claimed two for 18, Menova Govia took one for 15, and Sacha Michael had one for 22.

Survivors achieved victory at 100 for three in 16.3 overs. Camille Christian struck 24, Leukelle Pelle hit 21, and Stacey Bright made 15. Carla Weatherhead captured two for 21 for Potters, who lost for the first time after winning their opening encounter.

CWI leads charge to grow cricket across the Americas



Dario Barthley, CEO of BMP Sports (centre); Mohan Vaswani, Vice President Cricket Peru (left); and Cricket West Indies President Dr. Kishore Shallow, during a visit to Lima, Peru, from February 21 to 23, 2025, to discuss and promote international collaboration for cricket ahead of the highly anticipated 2027 Pan American Games. (File Photo)

As the sport of cricket continues its rapid growth across North, Central, and South America, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced its intent to lead the charge in shaping, guiding and strengthening the development of the game throughout the hemisphere.

Following an official visit by CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow to Lima, Peru – a key moment tied to broader diplomatic and sporting engagements – the organization has announced its intention to spearhead the establishment of the La Federación de Críquet de las Américas (FECA).

This proposed regional body will act as a collaborative platform to coordinate the exponential growth of cricket across the Americas, with Cricket West Indies assuming a parental role as the only ICC Full Member in the hemisphere.

President Shallow said, “This marks a pivotal step in advancing cricket across the Americas. Cricket West

Indies embraces its responsibility not only to the Caribbean but to the wider region. We recognise the importance of structure, collaboration, and a unified vision to unlock the immense potential that exists throughout the Americas.”

CWI’s CEO, Chris Dehring, spoke about the benefits such development and expansion could have for the region.

“Our efforts to expand cricket must redound positively to each country under our remit,” he noted.

“This growth will not only uplift national programmes but will also strengthen West Indies cricket by broadening our base, increasing opportunities and deepening our regional relevance.

“With the emergence and development of cricketing hubs in areas such as Brazil, with 72,000 registered players – most of them women under professional contracts – along with Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina,

this region is ripe for meaningful engagement.”

CWI’s Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, in highlighting the engagement already taking place with member countries in territories like Bahamas and Bermuda, emphasized the growing appetite for development partnerships across the region.

“Including teams from the Americas in our tournaments brings clear mutual benefits” said Bascombe.

“It expands our competitions, giving our players more games and exposure to unfamiliar opposition, while providing valuable match experience for developing teams in the region. It also opens opportunities for players, staff and officials, and allows our coaches and technical staff to both contribute to and benefit from regional capacity building.”

Currently, two youth teams from the United States are participating in CWI’s Rising Stars Under-19 Tournament in St. Kitts, furthering collaboration with the Caribbean’s North American neighbours.

In November, four Caribbean national senior teams will be selected to travel to Lima, the capital city of Peru, to participate in the Bolivarian Games, an historic first for cricket and a symbolic entry point into the South American sporting movement.

Looking ahead to 2027, cricket is set to feature in the Pan American Games, where Caribbean nations with Olympic accreditation will compete on an international stage, aligning with cricket’s reintroduction to the Olympic Games.

The proposed establishment of FECA represents a bold new chapter in cricket’s evolution in the Americas—and will solidify Cricket West Indies’ place as the torchbearer of the sport’s future in the Western Hemisphere.

Windies players climb ICC Test Rankings



Shamar Joseph

Though the West Indies meekly surrendered their three-match Test series to Australia with a 133-run defeat in Grenada, a few players managed to earn individual gains in the latest ICC Test Rankings update released on Wednesday.

The Caribbean side, which struggled for consistency, especially with the bat, across the series, found some consolation in personal achievements—particularly for fast bowlers Shamar Joseph and Alzarri Joseph, who both moved up six spots to now sit at 29th and 31st, respectively, in the ICC Test

Bowling Rankings.

Among the batters, Roston Chase advanced four places to 81st, while Brandon King, who has been working to establish himself in the longest format, surged 60 places to 83rd, following improved contributions with the bat in the second Test at the National Cricket Stadium.

From the Australian camp, Cameron Green jumped four spots to 45th and Beau Webster moved up two to 50th in the batting standings, as both delivered solid performances to help their side seal the series win.

Elsewhere in the rank-

ings, England's Harry Brook reclaimed the number one spot in the Test Batting Rankings, as he displaced Joe Root after scoring a masterful 158 in the second Test against India in Birmingham.

Brook now leads with 886 rating points, overtaking Root by 18. The Edgbaston match also saw India captain Shubman Gill rocket 15 spots to a career-best sixth position after he became just the second player in history to post 150+ scores in both innings of a Test match.

India's pace duo Mohammad Siraj and Akash Deep also reaped re-

wards, as Siraj moved up to 22nd and Deep jumped 39 places to a career-best 45th following a maiden 10-wicket match haul.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Wiaan Mulder stole the show in Bulawayo with a record-breaking 367 not out, the highest Test score by a South African.

That knock lifted him 34 spots to 22nd in the batting rankings. With three wickets in the match, he also climbed to 48th among bowlers and, more impressively, third among all-rounders, trailing only Ravindra Jadeja and Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

VACANCY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated and creative Public Relations Coordinator to support and manage key public relations and public education initiatives. This role is essential to strengthening APUA's brand presence and fostering meaningful connections with the public, media, and key stakeholders.

Key duties include:

- Develop and execute strategic public relations campaigns that align with APUA's goals
- Serve as a key contact for media, partners, and stakeholders, managing communications across multiple platforms
- Monitor media coverage and assess the impact of PR initiatives
- Craft and refine compelling content across formats, including articles, reports, and promotional materials
- Oversee the production of brochures, leaflets, videos, photography, and other multimedia assets
- Plan and coordinate events such as press conferences, exhibitions, and community outreach activities
- Manage APUA's website updates and support digital engagement efforts
- Conduct research to guide public relations and education strategies
- Strengthen community relations through public engagement and participation in local initiatives
- Provide communications support during crisis situations while upholding and enhancing the Authority's reputation

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
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- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Proven track record in B2B sales, preferably in telecommunications or a related sector
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Strong understanding of sales pipelines, client relationship management, and sales software
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- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Must own a reliable vehicle and hold a valid driver's license
- Familiarity with APUA Telecommunications products and services is an asset

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
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St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **

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Positive start for Cutting Edge under-13s in Antigua Cup



Four of the five goal scorers for Cutting Edge against Young Warriors in their opening match in the Under-13 Division of the Antigua Cup at the Buckley's playing field on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. From right to left: Kavita Cordice, Kamron Cordice, Kiran Cordice, and Tomarey Henry. (Photo courtesy of the Young Warriors FC)

Cutting Edge made a good start to their campaign in the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament at the Buckley's Primary School playing field on Tuesday.

Cutting Edge launched their campaign in the Under-13 Division with a 9-0 drubbing of host Young Warriors. Kamron Cordice, Kiran Cordice, Tomarey Henry, and Niquan Barton each scored twice, while Kavita Cordice converted the other goal for Cutting Edge.

A successful start as well for Lion Cub, who prevailed 3-1 against Bath United of Nevis in their opening encounter in the Under-13 Division. Kaden Wilman, Tremaine Budhoo and Trandre each scored once for Lion Cub.

Lion Cub also made a winning start to their campaign in the Under-15 Division, pulling off a 3-1 victory against Attackers

in their opening encounter.

Keadon Stachell scored twice, and Miguel Payano converted the other goal for Lion Cub. Kemari Brodie scored a consolation goal for Attackers.

Defending champions Bath United opened the defense of their title with a 3-0 victory against Urlings. Eliab Dickinson, Jarondo Huggins, and Zaniel France each converted once for the Nevisians.

Freeman's Village launched their campaign in the Under-15 competition with a 4-0 drubbing of the Young Warriors in their opening affair.

Erik Martin scored twice, and Keaton Kellman and D'Jarie Gregory each converted once for Freeman's Village.

Defending champions Bath United of Nevis began the defence of their Under 17 title when they defeated debutants Free-

town Ballers 3-0 on Monday.

Jaheem Hazel, Romero Hanley, and Anthony Stephen each converted once for Bath United.

Newcomers Buckley's United, who replaced Jets after they withdrew because five of their players were unavailable for playing because of national U15 team commitments, started on a bright note with a 3-0 win over Urlings, another first-timer.

Dennison Hodge scored twice, and Jaden Joseph converted once for Buckley's United.

Old Road, one of the favourites, defeated newcomers All Saints Attackers 1-0. But the game ended nine minutes into the second half because of fading light.

National under-17 forward Greg Williams struck the winner by scoring the only goal of the match for Old Road.