

Government to enforce the nightly curfew for young people

Story on Page 2



The GEF-funded PATH to 2020 Project, the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund and the Department of Environment (DOE) have introduced DJI Agras T40 Agricultural Drones to support local Farmers

Government to enforce the nightly curfew for young people

The Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, has announced that the curfew that applies to young people in the country will be enforced by the police even as the Carnival festivities approach.

Sir Steadroy said this follows a meeting he held with the Acting Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, and other senior officers of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda when they discussed the matter.

“I was of the view that with the Carnival season right upon us that we would have relaxed the curfew for the festivities. However, following the discussions with the senior management of the RPFAB, it was strongly recommended that the curfew should remain in place,” he reported.

The matter also came up in Wednesday’s meeting of the Cabinet and following their deliberations, the members of the Cabinet agreed to have the curfew remain in force.

“The main reasons why the police in particular are against lifting the curfew has to do with the spate of crimes that have been committed in recent weeks many of which have been perpetrated by young people. Lifting the curfew at this time, it is felt, would not be advantageous to the entire country,” he remarked.

Under the curfew, young



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

people age 18 years and under will be required to be in the company of an adult if they want to be on the streets after 10:00 pm. The police are authorised by

law to take into custody any young people they feel may be a danger to the society if they are found on the street during the curfew hours, which run until 6:00 am.

The curfew was introduced as part of measures to curb rising criminal and gang related activities in the country.

Recently, an 18-year old and a 16-year old were arrested in the company of an adult who committed two armed robberies within the spate of 48 hours.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind

LIFE & MEDICAL INSURANCE

LET LIFE BREEZE BY - WE'VE GOT YOU.

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 www.siclfincial.com   

Breaking News - Teenager Shot and Killed



Police from the Criminal Investigation Department and other investigators are gathered at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre after an apparent shooting incident in the Villa

Area on Wednesday night.

Tafari Joseph 16 of the Villa Area succumbed to single gunshot wound to the upper body. He was transported to the hospital by a per-



sonal vehicle.

Dozens of young boys and family members gathered at the hospital. The teenager's mother had to be consoled by other family members.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

NOTICE OF EARLY CLOSURE

We wish to advise the general public that due to our **Bi-Annual General Staff Meeting** on **Thursday, July 17th**, the following branches will close early:

-  **Ebenezer Branch** – closes at **1:30 PM**
-  **Barbuda Branch** – closes at **2:00 PM**
-  **Head Office (St. John's)** – closes at **2:00 PM**

We apologize for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your understanding as we continue to serve you.

- MANAGEMENT

Local News

Antigua and Barbuda to assume chairmanship of ECCB Monetary Council

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston A. Browne, will assume the chairmanship of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Monetary Council during an official handing-over ceremony, which will take place at the Conference Center of the American University of Antigua in Osbourn, Antigua and Barbuda, on Thursday, 17 July.

Prime Minister Browne succeeds Cora Richardson-Hodge who chaired the Council from February 2025, effective upon her appointment as premier of Anguilla.

The Monetary Council is the highest decision-making authority of the ECCB and comprises the eight ministers for finance of the ECCB



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

member governments.

Chairmanship of the Council rotates alphabetically each year among the eight ECCB member countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis, Saint Lu-

cia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The handing-over ceremony will feature a Ceremonial Parade with the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps; a Cultural Performance from the Antigua and Barbuda Dance Company;

and addresses by Governor of the ECCB, Timothy N. J. Antoine; the outgoing chairman of the ECCB Monetary Council, Cora Richardson-Hodge; and incoming chairman, Prime Minister Gaston A. Browne.

The meeting of the ECCB Monetary Council will mark a significant first; while the opening exercises will take place here in Antigua, the Council members will travel to Barbuda on Friday where the business session will be held at the Barbuda Ocean Club (PLH Resort) from where Prime Minister Browne will deliver the end-of-meeting final communique.

Media representatives will pose questions to the prime minister via ZOOM connections.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays are...

#KRUNCH DAYS

4 Pieces
2 Biscuits
\$24.00

**BURGER
Medium Drink
\$19.99**

WEEKEND!!...

KRUNCH BUCKET

12 Pieces
\$72.00

...add a 2 liter soda for **\$10.99**
while supplies last
...dont forget your favorite sides







FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY:









@kfcanu



Antigua Barbuda
**FESTIVALS
COMMISSION**

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

CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI-FINALS

CARNIVAL CITY
JUL 17²⁰²⁵ | 8PM | \$20



Itz A ViBe



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

Local News

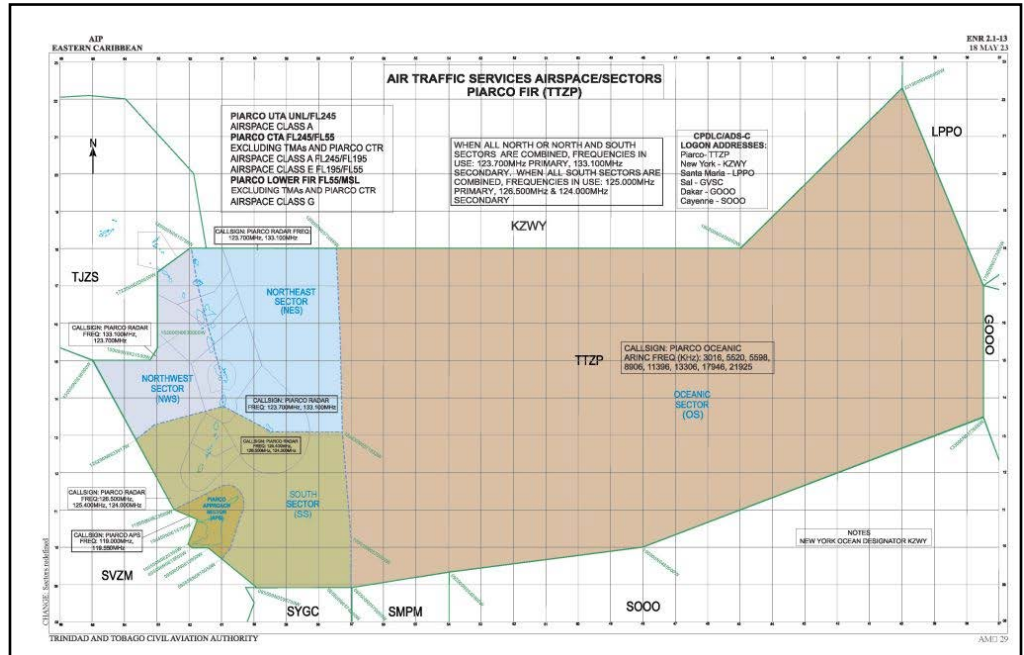
Antigua and Barbuda joins SVG in calling for sharing of fees for Caribbean overflight

The prime ministers of Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are calling on Trinidad and Tobago to share revenue generated from overflight fees collected within the Piarco Flight Information Region (PFIR), which they say includes parts of their sovereign airspace.

The PFIR, managed by Trinidad and Tobago under International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines, spans from Antigua and Barbuda in the north to Trinidad in the south, covering around 750,000 square miles of airspace.

Antiguan Prime Minister Gaston Browne told *Guardian Media* his government has acquired radar technology to monitor its own airspace and is seeking a share of the fees. He first raised the issue at a Cabinet press briefing.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves criticised the current arrangement as a colonial-era holdover, saying it lacks transparency and excludes other Eastern Caribbean states from both management and revenue.



Trinidad & Tobago, through the TTCAA, is responsible for the Piarco FIR (TTZP) and provides Air Navigation Services throughout the Eastern Caribbean (from Antigua in the north to Trinidad in the south) and east of Barbados, stretching across the Atlantic Ocean toward Africa. It should be noted that each country is responsible for ANS within their own airspaces which resides from the surface to its TMA which varies between 13,500 -24,500 feet over each country.

“Barbados and OECS countries are locked out... there’s no transparency in the accounting,” Dr Gonsalves said during his own press briefing.

More than 108,000 flights entered the PFIR between October 2023 and September 2024, according to Trinidad and Tobago’s Civil Aviation Authority.

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

TUE - FRI

2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

f POINT FM99.1

VACANCY

ACCOUNTANT

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated Accountant to support the timely preparation of financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), reconcile key balance sheet accounts, and enhance our financial reporting systems. Working closely and under the direct supervision of the Senior Accountant, the incumbent will be responsible for the reconciliation of key accounts, enhancement of financial reporting processes, and providing support on various finance-related special projects. This position requires a detail-oriented, analytical, and results-driven individual.

Key duties include:

- Preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements in compliance with IFRS.
- Reconciling key accounts, including but not limited to bank accounts, payables, receivables, inventory, accruals, and other general ledger balances.
- Working closely and under the supervision of the Senior Accountant to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with internal policies.
- Assisting in the preparation and review of audit schedules and supporting external and internal audit processes.
- Identifying and implementing improvements to enhance and streamline financial reporting processes and applications.
- Ensuring all financial records are maintained in an organized and timely manner to support management reporting and decision-making.
- Analyzing financial data and trends to identify variances and recommend corrective actions.
- Assisting in the preparation of budgets and forecasts as needed.
- Supporting the automation of routine reports and development of financial dashboards.
- Participating in the implementation of new accounting systems or process improvements.
- Providing support for special projects, including financial analysis for capital projects, regulatory reporting, and funding applications.
- Maintaining compliance with company policies, internal controls, and regulatory requirements.

The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- A minimum of three (3) years of experience in a similar role; utility or public sector experience is an asset.
- Minimum professional accounting designation of ACCA, CPA, or CMA.
- Strong knowledge of IFRS and financial reporting standards.
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, accounting software and ERP systems.
- Excellent analytical, organizational, and time-management skills.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work effectively within a team.
- A high level of integrity, discretion, and commitment to confidentiality.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Friday 1st August, 2025

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Local News

ABFC to Proceed with Live Coverage of Soca Monarch Events Despite Request from Soca Fraternity

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) acknowledges receipt of a formal correspondence dated July 16, 2025, from **Mr. Peetron Thomas and Ms. Tammisha Roberts, Chairman and Secretary of the National Soca Fraternity of Antigua and Barbuda.**

In their letter, the Fraternity requested that there be no live media coverage of the upcoming Soca Monarch Semifinals on Friday, July 18, 2025, and Finals on Saturday, August 3, 2025. Specifically, the request sought to prohibit:

- Live streaming
- Live broadcasting
- Real-time social media feeds



Mr. Peetron Thomas

The stated intention was to preserve the live event experience, protect the creative work of the artists, and encourage in-person attendance.

While we respect the Fraternity's views and remain committed to engaging with all cultural stakeholders, the ABFC has reviewed the request and will proceed with its current media coverage

plans, which include live broadcasting and digital streaming of the Semifinals and Finals.

Our mandate is to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda's premier cultural events are widely accessible both to our local audience and to our diaspora and global Carnival community. Live coverage plays a critical role in that mission, allowing us to expand our reach, promote our talent, and uphold transparency in national competitions.

We remain open to continued dialogue and collaboration with the Soca Fraternity as we work together to elevate the cultural landscape of Antigua and Barbuda.



DAILY PROGRAMMING




| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| EARLY VIBRATIONS | 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI. |
| WITH GREMSTA | |
| THE RUSH HOUR SHOW | 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI. |
| WITH ROGER LAKE | 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS |
| TOUCHLINE | 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS. |
| WITH EPILUS | |
| BAD COMPANY | 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS |
| LIVE FROM THE V.I. | & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS |
| REGGAE INSPIRATION | 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY |
| WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN | |
| JAH WADADLI | 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS |
| WITH DJ JAH WADADLI | |



ANTIGUA Carnival Itz A ViBe



OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2025

**26
JUL**

T-SHIRT MAS 3 PM - 9 PM

Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.N. Kirnon School

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Bolivar Dr. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.
LEFT onto Parliament Dr. **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.
LEFT onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd.

**27
JUL**

Junior Carnival 2 pm

Assembly point: Old House Of Culture (1:30 pm | move off at 2 pm)

Turn **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.
LEFT on Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** on
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** at the roundabout onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City.
Water breaks between (Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street) and (between corner ACB & Magistrate Court)

**04
AUG**

J'Ouvert 3 AM - 10 AM Steel Bands (Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** on Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.,
RIGHT on Market St. **RIGHT** on High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.

J'Ouvert 3 AM - 10 AM Jam Bands & Sound System (Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Vivian Richards St.
RIGHT onto Market St. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St.
RIGHT onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.

Judging of Bands 2 pm

Assembly point: Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive

RIGHT onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto
Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave.

**05
AUG**

Parade of Bands 12 Noon

Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.n. Kirnon School

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Blvd. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.
LEFT on to Parliament Dr. and **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto
Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto
High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City

Last Lap | 7 pm - 10 pm

UP Old Parham Rd. turn **RIGHT** on Coronation Rd
RIGHT onto Factory Rd., **LEFT** onto Independence Ave., **RIGHT** onto Redcliffe St.
RIGHT onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.
and continue until 10PM.

The Festivals Commission Responds to Concerns Regarding Party Monarch Quarterfinals Results



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) acknowledges receipt of correspondence dated July 11, 2025, expressing concerns related to the quarterfinal results of the 2025 Party Monarch Competition, specifically regarding the placement of competitor Ms. Ebony Thomas, known professionally as “Ebony T.”

Following a thorough review, the Commission confirms that the competition was conducted in full alignment with the established rules and procedures outlined for the Party Monarch Competition.

The following clarifications are provided:

1. Judging Panel Compliance

Contrary to claims that five judges were utilized in violation of Rule 15.1, the official records confirm that a panel of three judges adjudicated all performances. These same three judges evaluated every contestant, ensuring consistency and fairness. Score sheets from the judges are available to validate this process.

2. Ranking and Tie-Break Pro-

cedure

The primary rankings were determined by the sum of each competitor’s individual rankings from the three judges. Both Ms. Thomas and another contestant, Dior, received a total rank score of 48. As per standard tie-breaking procedure, the competitor with the majority of lower (better) individual rankings is awarded the higher placement.

Judge 1: Dior (20) vs. Ebony T (21) – Dior placed higher

Judge 2: Dior (5) vs. Ebony T (17) – Dior placed higher

Judge 3: Ebony T (10) vs. Dior (23) – Ebony T placed higher

With two of the three judges awarding lower scores to Dior, Dior was rightfully awarded 15th place, and Ms. Thomas placed 16th.

3. Context for Run-Off Event

In addition to the explanation of the judging process, it is important to clarify that the situation involving two competitors who performed early due to prior international performance commitments was reviewed in consultation with the

relevant stakeholders.

A resolution was proposed by the National Soca Fraternity to address the matter fairly and transparently. The Fraternity recommended a run-off event featuring the two early performers along with the next five placing artistes (positions 16–20) in each segment. The ABFC accepted and supported this proposal in full.

As Ms. Thomas officially placed 16th, she was eligible under this arrangement and was formally invited to participate in the run-off. However, Ms. Thomas chose not to attend or participate in the event.

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission reiterates its commitment to fairness, consistency, and transparency in the execution of all events under its purview. We remain grateful to the public and participating artists for their continued passion and engagement, and we look forward to the remainder of an exciting and culturally rich Carnival season full of VIBZ.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The UWI Five Islands Campus invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Web Programmer (IT Officer I)**.

The UWI Five Islands Campus Information Technology Services (CITS) seeks a Web Programmer to support strategic growth objectives. This role addresses evolving IT demands by providing scalable resources for technological advancement. The position focuses on developing, maintaining, and optimizing campus websites, web-based applications, and platforms to ensure seamless user experiences. As FIC expands, this skilled team member will be essential for delivering high-quality IT support and reliable system operations that align with business objectives.

Duties of the post include the following:

- **Web Development & Optimization:** Designs, codes, modifies and troubleshoots web applications, ensuring optimal usability, speed, and performance while creating intuitive online applications and user interfaces.
- **Campus Web Management:** Functions as Campus Web Master, maintaining all FIC websites in collaboration with Marketing to ensure university brand standards and providing technical support for Drupal CMS.
- **Database & Security Administration:** Administers databases to ensure data integrity, security and performance while managing user access and implementing proper security protocols for system users.
- **Cloud Services Management:** Manages cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) and ensures seamless integration with on-premises infrastructure systems.

Qualifications, Training and Experience:

- Education & Experience: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Information Systems with a minimum of 5 years in web programming, design, and system administration
- Core Technical Skills: Proficiency in Python, PHP, JavaScript, SQL, HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript frameworks (React, Angular, Vue.js); deep expertise in Drupal CMS
- Infrastructure & Platforms: Experience with server operating systems (Linux, Windows Server), cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud), and database technologies (Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, SQL Server)
- Security & Best Practices: Knowledge of secure coding practices, web vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, and security frameworks (OAuth, SSL/TLS, SSO)
- Support & Specialization: Experience providing technical support and end-user training; familiarity with higher education applications (Ellucian Banner preferred)

Key Competencies:

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Attention to detail and a commitment to quality.

Salary will be fixed in accordance with the IT Officer I salary scale.

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), and copies of academic qualifications.** These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.** The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 8th August 2025.** Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. **The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

The inauguration of direct flights to Colombia opens up huge potential for trade



Minister of Tourism and Investment, Charles Fernandez, welcomes the decision to begin direct flights from St. John's to Colombia stating that beyond tourism, it has much potential for increased trade with Colombia and the wider South American market.

Minister Fernandez said the direct air link now makes it possible for Antigua and Barbuda business people to travel to Colombia to establish trade relationships with their counterparts there.

“Colombia exports coffee, apparel (clothing), fruits, vegetables, cut flowers and petroleum products. There is therefore an opportunity for business to establish those ties that would bring those products into Antigua and Barbuda,” he explained.

The minister noted that much of the goods traded between Colombia and other South American markets go through Miami and that a direct flight or a cargo ship operation between these two points would reduce the cost of these products significantly.

“If we can get a ship to operate a direct route to Colombia then goods

arriving would be much cheaper and that would be good for all of us,” the minister noted.

On the issue of tourism, the tourism minister said that Antigua and Barbuda is committed to new source markets whether it is Africa, the Middle East or South America. Regarding the weekly charters to Colombia, Fernandez suggested that filling the seats should be relatively easy even from the point of view of those individuals who travel there for medical purposes.

es.

According to the tourism minister he is quite optimistic that over time the weekly flights to Colombia will attract large numbers of persons traveling both ways; Antiguan and Barbudans going to Colombia for health and business reasons mainly and for Colombians and others from neighbouring countries, the opportunity to experience a holiday in the destination.



fake *@ Brew*
FRIDAYS

WITH
**DJ QUEST
 & DJ TENNY**

EVERY THURSDAY
 10PM UNTIL

DDD
 FRIARS HILL RD.
 WWW.BREW.AG



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

SIMULATION LABORATORY INSTRUCTOR
(Salary Range: XCD\$102,021.00-XCD\$109,866.00 per annum)
School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Managing and coordinating the activities of the Simulation Laboratory; which is a specialised facility that provides hands-on training and education to nursing students and other healthcare professionals using high-fidelity simulators and other instructional technology.
- Ensuring that students receive high-quality training and education using simulation technology.
- Identifying training needs, developing simulation scenarios, and managing the day-to-day operations of the lab.
- Maintaining communication with programme and year coordinators and faculty.
- Conducting and maintaining an accurate inventory of equipment and supplies and being proficient in preparing and processing order forms in accordance with institutional procurement policies.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Health-related discipline required. Master's degree preferred.
- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) and/or current Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Minimum of three (3) years of clinical simulation experience

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Experience in nursing simulation education or lab coordination experience working with mannequins, and software including Laerdal
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Knowledge of simulation technology and instructional design principles
- Strong organizational and record-keeping skills

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form**, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 18th July 2025**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua by **August 1, 2025**. An attractive salary package is offered.

The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

An Outstanding Panel of Judges Await Unsung Heroes Nominees



CIBC Unsung Heroes Judge - Prof. C. Justin Robinson

Professor C. Justin Robinson, Principal of the UWI Five Islands Campus heads the impressive, local judging panel which will select the Antigua and Barbuda's *Unsung Hero*.

Professor Robinson obtained his PhD in Finance from the University of Manchester, UK. He also holds an MSc in Finance and Econometrics from Florida International University and a BSc. in Management Studies (First Class Honours) from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

His leadership roles at the UWI over the past two decades have been instrumental in shaping the academic landscape. He has served as the Head of the Department of Management Studies, Executive Director of Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business & Management, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, pro vice chancellor of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, Pro Vice Chancellor of Academic/Industry Partnerships, and Princi-



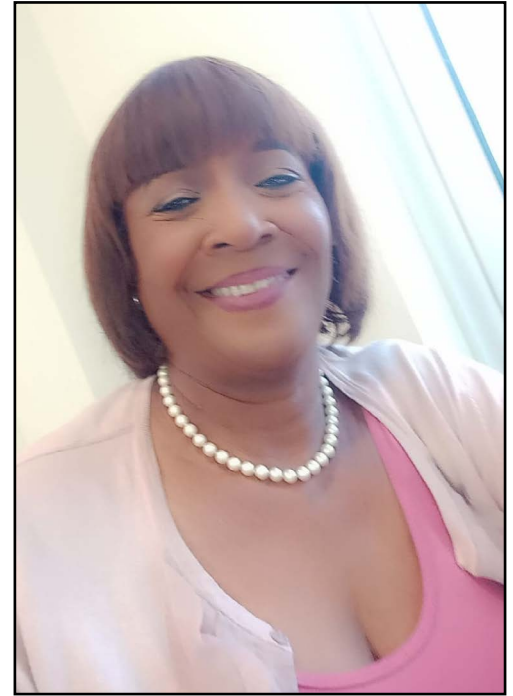
CIBC Unsung Heroes Judge - Jamilla Kirwan

pal of UWI Five Islands Campus.

The other judges are Jamilla Kirwan, a respected media and communications specialist, actress and empowerment coach with over two decades of experience shaping narratives and mentoring local talent. A trained broadcast journalist and former co-host of Good Morning Antigua and Barbuda, she is widely recognized for her contributions to media, pageantry, and self-development.

A celebrated former Queen of Carnival and Jaycees Caribbean Queen, she brings firsthand insight into excellence, discipline, and the transformative power of performance and creative expression.

As Media Relations Specialist for the Ayre Group of Companies, Manager of the Calvin Ayre Foundation, and Producer of the *InspAyre* docu-series, she exemplifies a deep commitment to social impact, authentic storytelling, and the upliftment of communities.



CIBC Unsung Heroes Judge - Valerie Gonsalves-Barreiro

The third member of the Judging Panel is the well known and respected Valerie Gonsalves-Barreiro, who is a community activist par excellence. She was the first female president of the Lions Club of Antigua and is also the first female Sexton of the Cathedral of St. John Divine, a position she currently holds. On 1st November, 2017 she was honoured by Antigua and Barbuda with a National Award and became a Member of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit, MM, for her outstanding and dedicated service to the community.

The rebooted CIBC Caribbean Unsung Heroes campaign was launched on 30th May, 2025 and is open to all individuals aged 10 and over. The deadline for the submission of nominations is 31st July, 2025.

The campaign spans the ten territories where CIBC Caribbean operates. The national winners will be announced in August, followed by the regional winners in September.



OUR CLIENT IS SEEKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES,

Manager – Customer Support Services

JOB SUMMARY

The Manager - Customer Support Services manages the organization's Customer Service Strategy to ensure the consistent delivery of excellent customer service, oversees the effective processing of customers' transactions and the execution of the Loan Administration function, and develops and implements the Outreach and Engagement Strategy in support of business growth. This position serves as a critical link between the organization and the customers making them feel supported and appreciated.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

Customer Services:

- Manages the Customer Service Strategy.
- On board new customers.
- Implements systems to ensure the timely and accurate processing of customers' transactions
- Responds and addresses escalated customer support issues.
- Formulates and revises customer support policies and promote their implementation.
- Assesses support statistics and prepares detailed reports on the findings.

Loans Administration:

- Manages systems for handling of customers' files and loan documentation
- Implements procedures for the proper disbursement of loan funds.

Outreach and Engagement Strategy:

- Organizes and executes the initiatives for the Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy

Leadership and Team Management:

- Leads and mentors the team of customer service representatives
- Conducts performance evaluations and providing feedback and development plans.
- Fosters a culture of accountability, innovation, and continuous improvement.

QUALIFICATION, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's Degree in banking, business administration, operations management or related field
- Master's degree and/or Professional Certification in banking, operations management, compliance or related field would be an asset.
- Five (5) years' related experience in customer management in a financial services environment
- Experience in organizing and managing community outreach events
- Good knowledge of the principles and guidelines relating to customer service management, loan administration, relevant laws and compliance regulations, workflow concepts and business process automation
- Strong communication, interpersonal skills; problem-solving and analytical abilities
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Competency working with digital software, and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office software

All interested candidates should send a copy of their application by Friday August 1st to nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com.

Agricultural Drones Boost Climate-Smart Farming in Antigua and Barbuda

Through the GEF-funded PATH to 2020 Project, the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund and the Department of Environment (DOE) have introduced DJI Agras T40 agricultural drones to support local farmers—including Simmons Pepper Farm and the Rastafari Food for Life Community.

These state-of-the-art drones are part of a transformative initiative under the Pilot Blended Finance Programme for Farmers, which promotes sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture.

During a recent mission to Antigua and Barbuda, representatives from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), along with DOE and SIRF Fund staff, visited Simmons Pepper Farm to observe the drone technology in action. The delegation praised Antigua and Barbuda's innovative, community-led approach to climate adaptation.

This initiative forms part of a broader blended finance strategy spearheaded by the DOE and SIRF Fund, which combines concessional financing with technical support to help farmers adopt advanced technologies that would otherwise be financially inaccessible.

The DOE and SIRF Fund extend heartfelt thanks to the GEF, UNEP, technical partners, and the

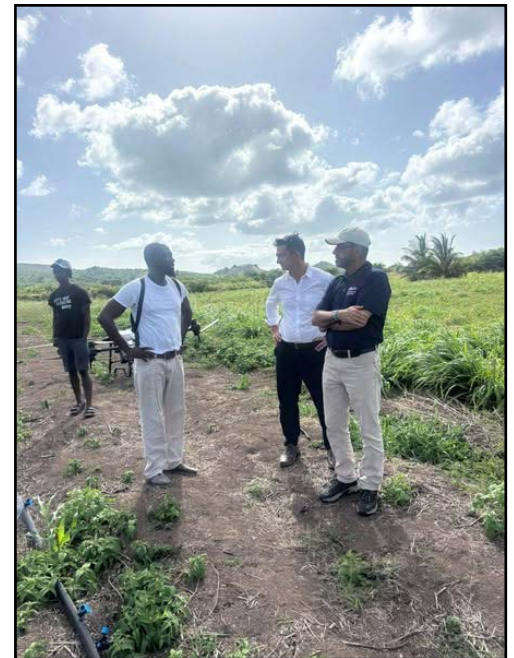


Ready for take off, agricultural drones now form part of the 'tools of the trade'



Getting the drone ready

dedicated farmers of Antigua and Barbuda whose efforts are steering the country toward a more sustainable, resilient, and food-secure future.



A discussions on the value of agricultural drones



The drone is set for takeoff



OUR CLIENT IS SEEKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES,

Manager – Credit and Business Development

JOB SUMMARY

The Manager - Credit and Business Development is responsible for profitably growing and managing an effectively diversified portfolio of performing loans, and overseeing the collection and recovery processes for non-performing loans. This position serves a critical role in driving business results, building client relationships, managing credit risks and ensuring that the business of the Bank is conducted within the prescribed legislative framework, prudential guidelines and the policies approved by the Board of Directors.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- **Credit Management:**
 - Manage the credit assessment process and ensure compliance with credit policies.
 - Mitigate credit risk and minimize loan defaults.
 - Monitor and analyze key performance indicators (KPIs) related to credit.
 - Develop and implement efficient collection strategies.
- **Business Development:**
 - Identifying new business opportunities and markets.
 - Building and maintaining relationships with clients, partners, and stakeholders.
 - Developing and executing strategies to increase revenue and market share.
 - Collaborating with other departments to develop client-focused financial solutions.
- **Leadership and Team Management:**
 - Lead and mentor the team of credit and business development professionals.
 - Conduct performance evaluations and providing feedback and development plans.
 - Foster a culture of accountability, innovation, and continuous improvement.

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- A bachelor's degree in banking, finance, business administration or related field from an accredited university.
- A master's degree and/or Professional Certification in banking, finance, risk management or related field would be an asset.
- At least five (5) years' experience in lending operation in a progressive financial services environment
- Proven ability to identify and pursue new business opportunities.
- Good knowledge of the principles and guidelines relating to loan underwriting (credit analysis and risk assessment) loans portfolio management, foreclosure proceedings, customer relationship management, relevant laws and compliance regulations
- Strong communication, interpersonal, risk management and financial modelling skills; problem-solving and analytical abilities
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Competency working with digital software, and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office software

All interested candidates should send a copy of their application by Friday August 1st to nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com.

Minister of Health hosts Collaborative Dialogue on Advancing National Health Insurance

A high-level meeting was recently convened to discuss the strategic direction of National Health Insurance (NHI) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The discussion brought together a diverse group of experts and public officials, including Professor Karl Theodore, Dr. Stanley Lalta, Ms. Charmaine Meteivier, Permanent Secretary Colin Okeiffe, Principal Assistant Secretary Gwendolyn Cafer Joseph, and CEO of the Medical Benefits Scheme Kevin Silston.

The meeting focused on shaping a sustainable and inclusive health financing model that will enhance access to quality healthcare for all citizens. Participants shared insights, technical perspectives, and a shared commitment to moving the NHI agenda forward in the national interest.

The Ministry thanked all attendees for their valuable contributions and looks forward to continued collaboration as Antigua and Barbuda advances toward universal health coverage.



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph (third from left) convenes important meeting on the establishment of a National Health Insurance




YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Amount up to
\$2,500 XCD

REQUIREMENTS

- ✦ Student at Antigua State College or the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI)
- ✦ Student entering final year of study
- ✦ Minimum "B-" grade average

Application Deadline
31 JULY, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHAIRMAN SUMMER HECTOR
(268) 732-4417

CHAIRMAN KENESHA DENNIS
(268) 775-1441

 JCI ANTIGUA- JAYCEES
  JCIANTIGUA

 JCIANTIGUA.YEPAWARDS@GMAIL.COM



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



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

TALKING POINT

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Knuckle Block complex to undergo refurbishing



The sporting and community complex at Knuckle Block in Grays Farm is to undergo extensive refurbishing a repurposing in preparation for transferring it back to its original purpose.

For years, the complex housed the magistrate's court as major repairs were being done to the building that for years housed the court. Now that the magistrate's court has returned to its High Street home, the Ministry of Social Transformation has assumed control of the facility.

ABLP Caretaker for the St. John's Rural West constituency, Senator Michael Joseph, said the idea is to undertake the refurbishing and have the multi-use facility return to community as a centre for creativity and other forms of expression.

"This week, we conducted a tour of the facility, myself and Minister Rawdon Turner of the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Telly Cornelius of the Ministry of Works. We want to see what needs to be done and the overall costs so that we can report to the Cabinet" Senator Joseph reported.

According to Senator Joseph there are plans to start a sewing class at the facility, establish a computer lab and

to make the space available to community groups to undertake different projects. It will also be made available to those wishing to start dance or drama classes or any other such activity.

The Knuckle Block sporting and multi-purpose complex was gifted to the people of Antigua and Barbuda and in particular, the Grays-Green community by the government and people of the People's Republic of China.

180th GREENBAY MORAVIAN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Celebration

**An Evening of Praise,
 Thanksgiving & Rededication!**

Guest Speaker: The Dean of the St. John Cathedral
 The Very Rev Dwane Cassius

**Thursday July 17, 2025
 6:00 PM**

**Buckley's St & George St,
 Grays-Green, St John's
 ANTIGUA**

*Fashioned By God's Hand!
 Faithful To His Call*

Pastor: Rev Dr Joseph E. Nicholas

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



POINTE FM 99.1

**BIRTHDAY /
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS**

INTERVIEWS

**COMMUNITY
UPDATES**

POLITICS

HOSTED BY WINSTON WILLIAMS

MORNING POINTE

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889

FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Regional News

Prof Donna Hope new head of Caribbean Studies Association

Professor Donna Hope of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Mona, was recently installed as president of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) at its annual conference held in Simpson Bay, St Martin.

Professor Hope, a distinguished and renowned Jamaican scholar of cultural and popular music studies, was handed the baton by outgoing CSA President Dr Rhoda Arrindell following a week of scholarly engagement, regional dialogue, and cultural exchange at the CSA's 49th Annual Conference.

In accepting the presidency, Professor Hope said, "It is an honour to lead CSA into the year that it celebrates the 50th staging of the conference. This is a moment to strengthen our foundations, celebrate our collective intellectual labour, and affirm the centrality of Caribbean



thought and culture to global conversations."

She said the agenda during her presidency will include:

- A rationalisation and renewal of the CSA's structures, ensuring the association's sustainability, responsiveness, and operational strength;
- A strategic expansion of CSA membership, with a focus on greater inclusion across linguistic, disci-

plinary, and generational lines; and

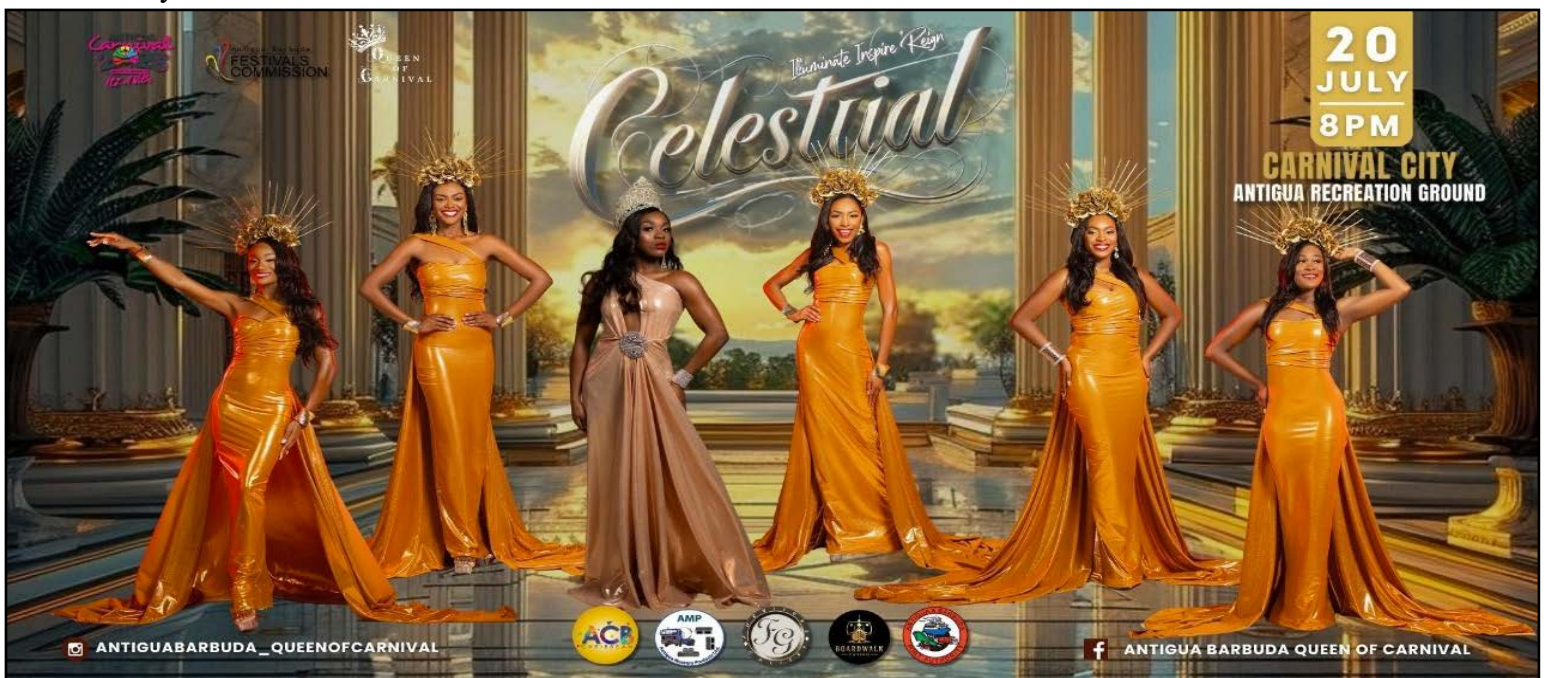
- The planning and execution of the 50th Annual CSA Conference, a landmark event that will be hosted in Kingston, Jamaica, in June 2026.

The conference will be held under the theme 'Caribbean Vibes and Vibrations: Culture, Identity and Development in Transformative Times', and the CSA promised that it will be a

dynamic space of reflection, scholarly innovation, and celebration of the Caribbean's intellectual, cultural, and social contributions.

The CSA's 50th Anniversary Conference will gather scholars, researchers, policymakers, artists, activists, and partners from across the region and worldwide, making Kingston the global capital of Caribbean thought from June 1-5, 2026.

The CSA says it is the leading independent professional organisation for scholars, students, and practitioners dedicated to the study about and advancement of the Caribbean region with members worldwide. The organisation is committed to fostering Caribbean research, dialogue, and collaboration across the humanities, social sciences, cultural and other sectors. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



UN Security Council renews Haiti mission amid spiralling crises

The United Nations Security Council has unanimously extended the mandate of the UN's political mission in Haiti until the end of the year amid escalating gang violence, political paralysis, and a deepening humanitarian crisis threatening the French-speaking Caribbean country.

By adopting Resolution 2785 on Monday, the Security Council renewed the authorisation of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), reaffirming support for a Haitian-led solution to the country's overlapping crises.

The UN said the decision comes as armed gangs maintain their grip on most of the capital, Port-au-Prince, with over 1.3 million people displaced and more than 4,000 killed in the first half of 2025 alone.

"Conditions have deteriorated dramatically amid growing food insecurity and the erosion of public institutions. Of particular concern is the safety of women and girls, with a sharp rise in reports of sexual violence since the start of the year – including rape, gang rape, and sexual enslavement," the UN said.

The Security Council also "expressed its intention to consider, without delay" the recommendations by the UN secretary general on possible future roles for the UN in sustaining security and stability in Haiti.

The UN noted that, in February, Secretary General António Guterres presented the council with a range of



options.

"Each new wave of criminal attacks against the communities and institutions of Haiti is a distressing sign that time is running out," Guterres had said in a letter, urging member states to support the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, which the Council authorised in October 2023 to assist Haiti's national police in tackling gang violence and restoring order.

Guterres also said that international efforts to improve security must be matched by national progress towards resolving the political crisis. The UN said several council members voiced willingness to engage on the secretary general's proposals, with the Chinese representative, for instance, saying Beijing is open to working with others to chart a constructive way forward.

"With regard to how to improve the situation in Haiti, including how to respond to the secretary general's recommendations, we are ready to have candid communication with all parties, explore viable solutions

and seek the broadest possible consensus," said Geng Shuang, deputy permanent representative of China to the UN.

Haiti's Permanent Representative to the UN, Pierre Ericq Pierre, welcomed the Security Council's action, underscoring the political and security stakes ahead of a critical 2026 transition timeline.

"This extension should help Haitian authorities undertake a real, genuine political dialogue to strengthen good governance, bolster security and bring about justice, and promote human rights," he said.

Pierre also expressed his government's expectation that the UN mission will support the implementation of the national road map, including constitutional reforms and elections.

"BINUH must work as part of a holistic plan to support Haitian authorities in confronting the grave crisis shaking the country to its core," he added.

The UN said the United States, which led negotiations on the resolution alongside Panama, stressed

the urgency of political progress and called on international partners to increase support.

"Less than one year remains on the Transitional Presidential Council's planned road map for the restoration of democratic institutions," said Ambassador Dorothy Shea, US acting representative.

"Supporting the security of elections and the participation of all sectors of society is key to sustainable political progress in Haiti. Without BINUH, realising the vision of a stronger, more resilient society would be less likely."

The UN said Council members also welcomed Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu, appointed as the new special representative of the secretary general and head of BINUH, succeeding María Isabel Salvador.

Ruiz Massieu, who currently leads the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, brings decades of diplomatic and political experience, including in peace negotiations and institution-building.

The UN said BINUH, a special political mission, was established in 2019 to advise and support Haitian authorities on political dialogue, justice, human rights and governance.

BINUH succeeded in a series of UN peacekeeping and political missions in the Caribbean country, dating back to 1993, including the large-scale MINUSTAH operation, which wrapped up in 2017 after 13 years. (CMC)

Regional News

Over 300 more Jamaican farm workers head overseas this week



Whatever impression you leave is the impression they will have of this entire country.”

Between January 1 and June 30, 2025, the Ministry, through the Overseas Employment Programme, has facilitated the placement of 6,886 Jamaican workers in Canada, the United States, and Guantanamo Bay.

Of this total, approximately 63.7 per cent, 4,393 workers, were placed in Canada, while 2,482 individuals secured opportunities in the United States. Additionally, eleven workers were deployed to Guantanamo Bay. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

Over 300 Jamaican farm workers are departing the island this week for Canada under the Government's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme.

An official send-off ceremony was held at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's Overseas Employment Centre on East Street in Kingston on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, 103 workers left Jamaica with another 209 set to leave on Wednesday morning, bringing the total to 312 participants in this week's deployment.

Pearnel Charles Jr, Minister of Labour and Social Security, who addressed the workers, highlighted the strong rate of returning workers and the influence they have as ambassadors for Jamaica.

“We have almost 90 per cent that are returning, 10 per cent new, and many going back to the same farms because they have done a stellar job and they have been requested,” he said.

He also reminded participants: “For many persons in North America, both in the US and Canada, the only thing they know about Jamaica is you...”



SAT 19TH & SUN 20TH

6AM BOTH DAYS

STARTING POINT:
THE CITY WEST BRANCH OFFICE

IT'S OUR COMMUNITY, SHOW YOU CARE

- ✓ BULK WASTE REMOVAL
- ✓ CLEARING VEGETATION
- ✓ CLEANING GUTTERS
- ✓ PROTECTING FLOOD PRONE AREAS



CITY WEST COMMUNITY CLEAN UP BEAUTIFICATION & HURRICANE PREP



LET US COME TOGETHER TO CLEAN, CLEAR AND PREPARE





268 7207222

US deports migrants from Jamaica, Cuba and other countries to the African kingdom of Eswatini

A Jamaican man is among five foreign nationals described by the United States as “barbaric” criminals who have been sent to the small African nation of Eswatini in an expansion of the Trump administration’s largely secretive third-country deportation programme, the US Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

In a late-night post on X, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the men sent to Eswatini, who are citizens of Vietnam, Jamaica, Cuba, Yemen, and Laos, had arrived on a plane, but didn’t say when or where.

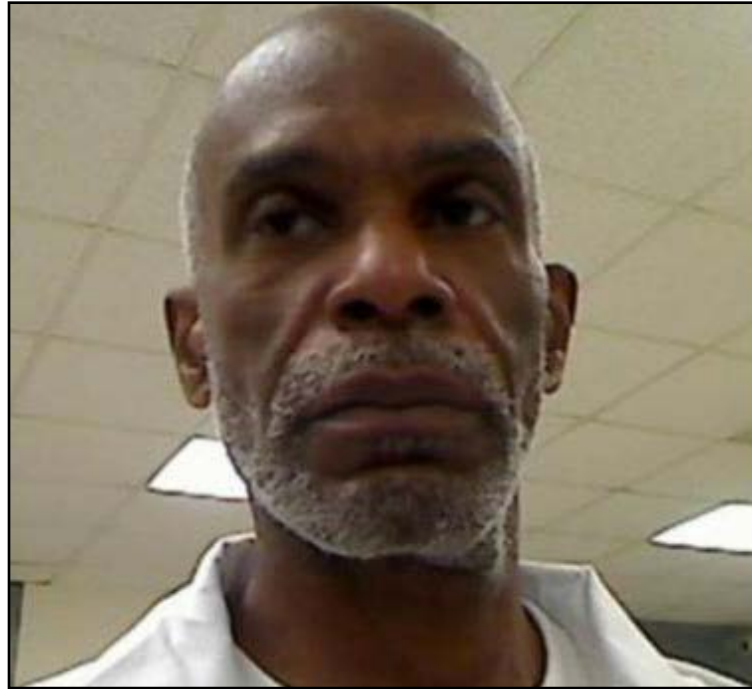
In her post, she said the Jamaican man was convicted of murder, sentenced to 25 years confinement; convicted of robbery, sentenced to six years confinement; and convicted of possession of a weapon, sentenced to six months confinement.

She said the five are all convicted criminals and “individuals so uniquely barbaric that their home countries refused to take them back.”

The men “have been terrorizing American communities” but were now “off of American soil,” McLaughlin added.

McLaughlin said they had been convicted of crimes including murder and child rape, and one was a “confirmed” gang member.

Her social media posts included mug shots of the men and what she said were



their criminal records.

They were not named.

The US has already deported eight men to another African country, South Sudan, after the Supreme Court lifted restrictions on sending people to countries where they have no ties.

The South Sudanese government has declined to say where those men, also described as violent criminals, are after it took custody of them nearly two weeks ago.

Like in South Sudan, there was no immediate comment from Eswatini authorities over any deal to accept third-country deportees or what would happen to them in that country. Civic groups there raised concerns over the secrecy from a government long accused of clamping down on human rights.

Eswatini, previously called Swaziland, is a country of

about 1.2 million people between South Africa and Mozambique. It is one of the world’s last remaining absolute monarchies and the last in Africa. King Mswati III has ruled by decree since 1986.

The Trump administration has said it is seeking more deals with African nations to take deportees from the US.

Leaders from some of the five West African nations who met last week with President Donald Trump at the White House said the issue of migration and their countries possibly taking deportees from the US was discussed.

Some nations have pushed back. Nigeria, which wasn’t part of that White House summit, said it has rejected pressure from the US to take deportees who are citizens of other countries. (AP)




GET READY FOR THE ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN!

**SIX BANDS
ONE STAGE
ONE WINNER**



INVASION
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The Cooler Fete

ADMISSION:
\$50 EARLY BIRD
\$70 REGULAR
\$100 AT THE GATE

7PM

FEATURING
KAUTION BAND
NEW GEN BAND
VENOM X BAND
VOLTAGE BAND
XXPLOSIVE BAND
ESSENCE THE BAND

**MONDAY
JULY 21ST
2025**

**ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUNDS**

**PACK YOUR COOLER
AND COME**

Syrian government and leaders of the Druze minority announce new ceasefire



Syrian government officials and leaders in the Druze religious minority announced Wednesday a renewed ceasefire after days of clashes that have threatened to unravel the country's post-war political transition and have drawn intervention by Syria's powerful neighbor, Israel.

It was not immediately clear if the new agreement — which was announced by the state-run SANA news agency and in a video message by a Druze religious leader — would hold. A previous ceasefire announced the day before quickly fell apart.

The announcement came after Israel launched a series of rare airstrikes in the heart of Damascus, part of a campaign that it said is intended to defend the Druze — who also form a substantial community in Israel — and to push Islamic militants away from its border.

The escalating violence has appeared to be the most serious threat yet to the ability of Syria's new rulers to consolidate control of the country after a rebel offensive led by Islamist insurgent groups ousted longtime despotic leader, Bashar Assad, in De-

cember, bringing an end to a nearly 14-year civil war.

"We are very worried about the violence in southern Syria," Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters. It is a direct threat to efforts to help build a peaceful and stable Syria. "We have been and remain in repeated and constant talks with the governments of Syria and Israel on this matter."

The Israeli army had struck near the entrance to the Syrian Ministry of Defense in Damascus and targeted the same site several hours later with a larger strike. Israel has also launched a series of airstrikes on convoys of government forces in southern Syria since the clashes erupted and has beefed up forces on the border.

Syria's Defense Ministry had earlier blamed militias in the Druze-majority area of Sweida for violating yesterday's ceasefire agreement, causing Syrian army soldiers to return fire. It said they were "adhering to rules of engagement to protect residents, prevent harm, and ensure the safe return of those who left the city back to their homes."

Meanwhile, reports of at-

tacks on civilians were surfacing, and Druze with family members in the conflict zone searched desperately for information about their fate amid communication blackouts.

The primarily Sunni Muslim leaders of the new Syrian government have faced suspicion from religious and ethnic minorities, whose fears increased after clashes between government forces and pro-Assad armed groups in March spiraled into sectarian revenge attacks. Hundreds of civilians from the Alawite religious minority, to which Assad belongs, were killed.

In Jaramana near the Syrian capital, Evelyn Azzam, 20, said she fears that her husband, Robert Kiwan, 23, is dead. The newlyweds live in the Damascus suburb, but Kiwan would commute to Sweida for work each morning and got trapped there when the clashes erupted.

Azzam said she was on the phone with Kiwan when security forces questioned him and a colleague about whether they were affiliated with Druze militias. When her husband's colleague raised his voice, she heard a gunshot. Kiwan was then shot while trying to appeal. "They shot my husband in the hip from what I could gather," she said, struggling to hold back tears. "The ambulance took him to the hospital. Since then, we have no idea what has happened."

A Syrian Druze from Sweida living in the United Arab Emirates said her mother, father, and sister were hid-

ing in a basement in their home near the hospital, where they could hear the sound of shelling and bullets from outside. She spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear her family might be targeted.

She had struggled to get hold of them, but when she reached them, she said, "I heard them cry. I have never heard them this way before."

Another Druze woman living in the UAE with family members in Sweida, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said a cousin told her that a house where their relatives lived had been burned down with everyone inside it.

It reminded her of when the Islamic State extremist group attacked Sweida in 2018, she said. Her uncle was among many civilians there who took arms to fight back while Assad's forces stood aside. He was killed in the fighting.

"It's the same right now," she told The Associated Press. The Druze fighters, she said, are "just people who are protecting their province and their families." The Druze religious sect began as a 10th-century offshoot of Ismailism, a branch of Shiite Islam. More than half of the roughly 1 million Druze worldwide live in Syria. Most of the other Druze live in Lebanon and Israel, including in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast War and annexed in 1981. (AP)



Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

ANTIGUA Carnival

JULY 19 2025 5AM - 7AM

MOMMA QUEST & FRIENDS PRESENTS

WITNESS & FITNESS

Carnival Road Rep

FEATURING
IBIS | CLAUDETTE PETERS | KEN | DEONDRE DALEY
DANCER BOY SHAN

\$50
BREAKFAST INCLUSIVE

INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

CALL 774-6799 | 771-0128



ANTIGUA BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Itz A ViBe

JUL 25 2025
AUG 05 2025

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial Antigua Carnival info.nfo@ab.gov.ag 268 727 9201

Thai police arrest woman who allegedly seduced and blackmailed Buddhist monks

Police in Thailand arrested a woman Tuesday who allegedly enticed a string of Buddhist monks into sexual relationships and then pressured them into making large payments to cover up their intimacy.

The possible violation of the celibacy rule for monks has rocked Buddhist institutions and gripped public attention in Thailand in recent weeks. At least nine abbots and senior monks involved in the scandal have been disrobed and cast out of the monkhood, the Royal Thai Police Central Investigation Bureau said.

Wilawan Emsawat, in her mid-30s, was arrested at her home in Nonthaburi province north of the capital Bangkok on charges including extortion, money laundering and receiving stolen goods. Police said they traced money transferred to her by a senior monk from a bank account belonging to his temple in northern Thailand.

Wilawan has not made a statement since her arrest and it was unclear if she has legal representation. Speaking to local media before her arrest, she acknowledged one relationship and said she had given money to that monk.

Scandals involving monks surface a few times a year in Thailand but usually don't involve senior members of the clergy. The case also puts a spotlight on the large sums of money donated to temples controlled by abbots, which is in marked contrast to the abstemious lives they are supposed to lead under their religion's precepts.

Wilawan deliberately targeted senior monks for financial gain, police said, noting they found several monks had transferred large amounts of money after Wilawan initiated romantic re-



lationships with them.

Wilawan's bank accounts received around 385 million baht (\$11.9 million) in the past three years, but most of the funds were spent on online gambling websites, police said.

Jaroonkiat Pankaew, a Central Investigation Bureau deputy commissioner, said the investigation began last month after an abbot of a famous temple in Bangkok abruptly left the monkhood.

Investigators found the abbot had allegedly been blackmailed by Wilawan over their romantic relationship. She told the monk that she was pregnant and asked him to pay 7.2 million baht (\$222,000) in financial assistance, Jaroonkiat said at a news conference in Bangkok Tuesday.

Police believed "this woman is dangerous and we needed to arrest her as soon as possible," Jaroonkiat said.

Thai media reported a search of her mobile phones revealed tens of thou-

sands of photos and videos, as well as numerous chat logs indicating intimacy with several monks, many of which could be used for blackmail.

Thai monks are largely members of the Theravada sect, which requires them to be celibate and refrain from even touching a woman.

Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai ordered authorities to review and consider tightening existing laws related to monks and temples, especially the transparency of temple finances, to restore faith in Buddhism, government spokesperson Jirayu Houngsub said Tuesday.

The Central Investigation Bureau has set up a Facebook page for people to report monks who misbehave, Jaroonkiat said.

"We will investigate monks across the country," he said. "I believe that the ripple effects of this investigation will lead to a lot of changes." (AP)

Trump to put tariffs of over 10 per cent on smaller nations, including those in Africa and the Caribbean

President Donald Trump told reporters Tuesday that he plans to place tariffs of over 10 per cent on smaller countries, including nations in Africa and the Caribbean.

“We’ll probably set one tariff for all of them,” Trump said, adding that it could be “a little over 10 per cent tariff” on goods from at least 100 nations.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick interjected that the nations with goods being taxed at these rates would be in Africa and the Caribbean, places that generally do relatively modest levels of trade with the US and would be relatively insignificant for addressing Trump’s goals of reducing trade imbalances with the rest of the world.

The president had this month been posting letters to roughly two dozen countries and the European



Union that simply levied a tariff rate to be charged starting August 1.

Those countries generally faced tax rates on the goods close to the April 2 rates announced by the US president, whose rollout of historically high import taxes

for the US caused financial markets to panic and led to Trump setting a 90-day negotiating period that expired July 9.

Trump also said he would “probably” announce tariffs on pharmaceutical drugs at the “end of the month.”

The president said he would start out at a lower tariff rate and give companies a year to build domestic factories before they faced higher import tax rates. Trump said computer chips would face a similar style of tariffs. (AP)



Antigua Carnival

Our future. Our bank
irecab
MARKET, CARRIBEAN, AVALANCHE, SANTO

MR & MISS Teenage PAGEANT

19 JULY 2025 | 7 PM ADM: \$20 CARNIVAL CITY

Participants (from left to right):
 ST. THOMAS HS, OTIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, JENNINGS SECONDARY SCHOOL, CLARE HALL SECONDARY, ISLE NOUVELE RICHARDS ACADEMY, PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL, SECONDARY, ISLAND ACADEMY, ALL SAINTS SECONDARY, ANTONIA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

Sports News

Leewards poor run continues at CWI Under-19 Men's Tournament

The Leeward Islands continued their poor form at the CWI Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Tournament in St. Kitts and Nevis on Tuesday.

The Leewards suffered their fourth loss in five matches with a narrow two-wicket loss against Guyana at Conaree Sports Club.

The Leeward Islands were dismissed for 233 in 47.2 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. De-Antre Drew hit 42, Devanand Singh cracked 41, and Kunal Tilkani made 38.

Pacer Romario Ramdehol bagged three for 22, fellow fast bowler Golcharran Chulai picked up three for 39, and captain Jonathan van Lange claimed two for 49 for Guyana, who recorded their first win after losing their previous four matches.

Guyana achieved victory at 234 for eight with five balls to spare. Rampersaud Ramnauth hit 48, and Jonathan van Lange struck 47. Antiguan captain Matthew Miller captured three for 51, Isra-el Morton claimed two for 39, and Tanez Francis of Antigua picked up two for 40.

The USA 1 remained the

only unbeaten team after pulling off a crushing 216-run victory against defending champions Barbados in a top-of-the-table clash at St. Mary's Park in Cayon.

Utkarsh Srivastava scored the first century of the tournament to propel the USA 1 to their fifth win in as many games. Srivastava slammed 124, and Sahil Garg struck 85 as USA 1 made 305 for eight off their 50 overs. Saquan Belle bagged five for 53, and Zachary Carter took two for 54.

In reply, Barbados, who had won all previous four matches, crashed to their first loss after being bundled out for 89 in 25.5 overs. Micah Greenidge scored 35, while Sabrish Prasad snapped up five for 14, and Utkarsh Srivastava claimed two for 12.

The Windward Islands and Jamaica also secured wins in the other fifth-round men's under-19 matches.

The Windward Islands claimed their third win with a six-wicket victory against Trinidad and Tobago at St. Paul's Sports Complex.

Jamaica notched up their second win with an eighth-wicket victory via the Duckworth Le-

wis Stern (DLS) method in a rain-affected match against USA 2 at the Elquemede Willett Park in Nevis.

The result allows the USA 2 to remain rooted in the cellar without a win after suffering their fifth loss in as many games.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands have claimed their second win in four matches at the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship, which is taking place in Trinidad and Tobago from July 8 to 19.

After rain forced the abandonment of their opening and second-round matches against Trinidad and Jamaica, respectively, the Leewards followed up their 81-run drubbing of the Windward Islands in their third-round encounter with a seven-wicket victory against Guyana at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex on Tuesday.

The Guyanese women were bundled out for 74 in 23.2 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Cianna Barkoye, who top-scored with 24, and Shonette Belgrave with 11, were the only two Guyanese batters to reach double figures. However, there was a contribution of 27 extras, including 24

wides.

Leg-spinner Sainavi Kambalapalli snapped up four for 22, and Courtney Browne grabbed three for 11. The Leewards women achieved victory by scoring 77 for three in 8.4 overs. Opener Sainavi Kambalapalli top-scored with 37 not out off 21 balls, including eight fours, and captain Jahzara Claxton chipped in with 21 off 13 balls.

There were wins for Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago women in the other matches. Barbados claimed their second win with a nine-wicket victory against Jamaica at Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine.

Jamaica, who lost for the second time in four encounters, made 74 all out in 27.3 overs, and Barbados achieved victory by scoring 75 for one in 14.1 overs.

Trinidad and Tobago secured their first win of the tournament with a 10-wicket victory against the Windward Islands at Gilbert Park.

The Windward Islands were bundled out for a paltry 63 runs in 18.2 overs, and Trinidad and Tobago achieved victory by scoring 64 without loss in 12.1 overs.

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.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE SALES)

We are seeking a dynamic, results-driven professional with strong business acumen and a passion for strategic client engagement. This role is ideal for a self-motivated individual who thrives on building meaningful partnerships and driving growth in a competitive environment.

Key duties include:

- Secure and grow a strong portfolio of corporate clients across various sectors
- Develop and implement strategic sales plans to achieve and exceed targets
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
- Deliver customised solutions that align with client needs
- 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
- Highly self-driven with the ability to work independently and consistently deliver results
- 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
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"





PARTY MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS

THE COOLER FETE

H2 A ViBe

CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00 PM

18TH JULY 2025

ADM:
\$20.00

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST **YUNG BREDDA**

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Villa Lions crush West Ham in Fort Road League



Players of Real Blizzard (green and black uniform) prepare to take a free kick during their match against Police Enforcers at the Fort Road playing field on Monday, July 14, 2025. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Villa Lions continued their prolific scoring form in the Fort Road Community Football League on Tuesday.

Following their 8-2 drubbing of Blackburn Palace in their opening encounter in Group A, the Villa Lions romped to a 10-0 victory against West Ham at the Fort Road playing field.

Jelanie Barzey struck a hat trick with conversions in the 38th, 41st, and 55th minutes. Eroy Gonsalves and Tyrik "Castro" Hughes each scored twice. Gonsalves scored in the 20th and 35th minutes, and Hughes had conversions in the 33rd and 45th minutes.

The other goals for the Villa Lions were scored by Marley Johnson in the 39th minute, Jahquane Richards in the 48th minute, and Dejaernie Moore in the 59th minute.

It was the first loss for West Ham, who fought to a 2-2 draw with Fort Road in their opening encounter.

Real Blizzard made it two wins in as many games to remain at the top of Group B by snatching a 3-2 victory against Police Enforcers.

The goals for Real Blizzard were scored by Amos Christian in the 11th minute, Zahwanza Celestine in the

33rd minute, and Jean-Pierre Williams in the 62nd minute.

Keon Green had a 24th-minute conversion, and Troy Jules scored in the 40th minute for Police Enforcers, who lost for the first time in two matches.

Police Enforcers won their opening match 3-0 via default against Earthquake, who were unable to field a team

for their encounter.

Eight teams, divided into two zones, are contesting the Fort Road Community Football League.

The top two teams in each zone at the end of the preliminary round-robin stage will qualify for the knockout semi-final phase of the tournament.



**EVERY
MONDAY
3PM-5PM**



PointFM 99.1



**With Dr Chris
Health Coach & Public Servant**

"April Autism Awareness Month"

Sports News

Player development a hit with Rising Stars Women's U-19 participants

Players competing in this year's Cricket West Indies' Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship received comprehensive player development training through a specialized workshop designed to enhance both their on-field performance and life skills development to adapt to the demands of high-level sport.

The recent workshop held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre in Trinidad & Tobago came as the tournament, now in its fifth year under the Rising Stars banner, represents one of the cornerstones of CWI's player development pathway and regional women's cricket growth strategy as a key talent identification platform for future West Indies players.

The Player Development Workshop covered areas including sports psychology, nutrition, personal branding, social media awareness, and the protection of children's rights.

Keele Lawrence-Chan opened the workshop with welcome remarks and introductions before introducing Dr. Nadine Sammy—mental skills coach for the West Indies senior women's team—who led the sports psychology session with a particular focus on leadership both on and off the field.

Lawrence-Chan also presented on child protection rights, drawing from her



Players of the regional under-19 cricket teams at a recent CWI development workshop at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre in Trinidad & Tobago. (CWI Media)

extensive experience in the field, while media personality Jason Williams and Samantha Best conducted sessions on managing social media. Safiya Beckford spoke on nutrition for athletes.

The workshop also featured a panel discussion with current West Indies player Karishma Ramharack, an off-spinner who made her international debut in 2019 and brings substantial experience with 90 international appearances and over 80 wickets in ODIs and T20Is.

"I think it was a good opportunity for the girls to have an open forum to ask questions now that they are making some decisions about going into serious cricket," Ramharack remarked.

"The session was very well received, flowed nicely,

and gave the players the opportunity to ask some difficult questions. It allowed me and these young players to connect and have an honest discussion on life after under-19 cricket and some important dos and don'ts to look out for.

"I do believe that I utilized my experiences to answer the questions in a manner that benefits these girls and will help them in their careers. This was a truly enjoyable experience," she added.

Dr. Sammy detailed the comprehensive approach to her session on leadership.

"I described the different leadership styles with the idea to get players starting to think about which ones they might currently embody or a combination of the different styles with emphasis on which ones they

thought were best or wanted to strive for.

"It was really about understanding what is required in different situations and how each player could take ownership, take charge, and make a meaningful difference within those situations," she said.

Reflecting on his session on social media awareness, Jason Williams emphasized the transformative potential of the media training component of the workshop.

"Being part of the development seminar was very profound. Media training and interview skills will assist with their confidence so that ultimately, they can represent themselves and the region with distinction. It was a joy to witness these young female cricketers unlock their limitless potential," Williams noted.

Cricket West Indies salutes Andre Russell



Andre Russell

The upcoming T20 series between West Indies and Australia will be the final time that fans of the Caribbean side will get to see one of their recent heroes wearing maroon, as the regional outfit will bid farewell to two-time T20 World Cup winner Andre Russell, who will suit up for the West Indies in his final two international matches on home soil at Sabina Park on July 20 and 22.

Russell, who has represented the West Indies in more than 140 international matches over a 15-year career, remains a high-impact player and was selected on merit as part of the competitive 16-man squad looking to climb their way up the world rankings in the lead-up to next year's T20I World Cup.

The exciting Jamaican all-rounder expressed how grateful he is and how proud he feels to have represented the

West Indies and is honoured to have worn the maroon colours for more than a decade.

"Words cannot explain what it meant. To represent the West Indies has been one of the proudest achievements in my life. When I was a kid, I did not expect to get to this level, but the more you start to play and get to love the sport, you realize what you can achieve.

"This inspired me to become better because I wanted to leave a mark in the maroon colours and become an inspiration to others," Russell said.

He spoke about the rare opportunity of being able to close off his international chapter in familiar conditions, in front of his home fans.

"I love playing for the West Indies, and I love playing at home in front of my family and friends, where I get to

showcase my talent and produce more high-quality performances.

"I want to finish my international career on a high while being a role model for the next generation of cricketers coming out of the Caribbean."

Head Coach Daren Sammy paid tribute to Russell's career.

"Andre has always been the consummate professional and a fierce competitor. Whether I was captaining him or now coaching him, his hunger to perform and win for West Indies has never wavered. I wish him all the best on his next chapter, and I hope he continues to inspire generations to come," Sammy noted.

Russell will be replaced by Matthew Forde for the Warner Park leg of the series.

Andrew included in Windies T20 squad to face Australia



Jediah Blades



Jewel Andrew

Two of the region's most promising young talents, Jewel Andrew of Antigua and Jediah Blades of Barbados, have earned their maiden T20 International call-ups as part of a 16-member West Indies squad named to face Australia in a five-match T20I series, starting at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on Sunday, July 20.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) made the announcement on Wednesday, confirming that the core of the squad which recently secured a series win over Ireland has been retained, with the addition of the exciting newcomers set to inject fresh energy into the team.

Andrew, just 18 years old, is widely regarded as one of the region's brightest batting prospects. A stylish right-hander who also serves as a back-up wicketkeeper, Andrew has impressed selectors with his aggressive

intent and control against spin—a key asset as the team builds toward the 2026 ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

Blades, a left-arm seamer who made his international debut in 2024 against Bangladesh, was a standout performer in the inaugural West Indies Breakout League.

Known for his effectiveness in the powerplay, the young pacer brings a new dimension to the bowling attack with his ability to swing the ball early and maintain pressure with the new ball.

Shai Hope will continue to lead the side, with experienced players such as Jason Holder, Rovman Powell, Andre Russell, Akeal Hosein, and Shimron Hetmyer all named in the squad.

The return of Evin Lewis and Sherfane Rutherford adds depth to the batting lineup, while the pace battery is strengthened by the likes of Alzarri Joseph, Ro-

mario Shepherd, and Matthew Forde.

Head Coach Daren Sammy said the series forms part of the team's long-term strategy leading into the next T20 World Cup.

"Our goals and strategic plans are aligned to winning the T20 World Cup in 2026," Sammy said.

"We have continuity in the squad from the previous series and as a unit we will continue to fine tune our style and brand ahead of the World Cup."

Sammy also emphasized the importance of re-establishing the team's dominance on home soil.

"Our previous two T20 series at home we were on the wrong end of the results, but starting against Australia, we want to regain our form at home as we build momentum into next year's World Cup with our exciting and dynamic group of players."

The squad will be guided by a seasoned support team led by Head Coach Daren Sammy, with Floyd Reifer (batting), Ravi Rampaul (bowling), and Rayon Griffith (fielding) as assistant coaches. The team is managed by Rawl Lewis.

The series begins with back-to-back matches at Sabina Park on July 20 and 22, before moving to Warner Park in St. Kitts for the remaining three fixtures on July 25, 26, and 28. All matches will bowl off at 7 pm local time.

West Indies T20I Squad: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, Jediah Blades, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, and Romario Shepherd.