

# Prime Minister Gaston Browne Champions AIDS Agenda at Global Finance Summit in Spain

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*Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas (centre) in conversation with Ambassador Michael Kozak (white shirt, brown pants) with other members of the tour party looking on*

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## Prime Minister Gaston Browne Champions SIDS Agenda at Global Finance Summit in Spain



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne and UN SECRETARY GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES**

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, delivered a powerful and resonant message on behalf of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the opening of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), commanding the attention of the global community.

The high-level conference, held in Seville, comes at a critical juncture for SIDS, which continue to bear the brunt of an inequitable international financial system that restricts access to essential climate finance and development resources. FfD4 brings together governments, UN agencies, multilateral financial institutions, and the private sector in an urgent effort to reshape global finance so that vulnerable nations are no longer excluded or left behind.

On the opening day, Prime Minister Browne engaged in a series of strategic meetings, diplomatic discussions, and a powerful na-

tional address that placed Antigua and Barbuda—and the broader SIDS agenda—firmly on the global stage.

During the General Debate, Prime Minister Browne delivered an impassioned statement, outlining the systemic barriers that continue to marginalize SIDS. With striking clarity, he warned:

“SIDS will remain trapped in a vicious cycle of costly borrowing, escalating debt, and rising vulnerability.”

Calling for equity, not charity, Prime Minister Browne declared: “Let us be clear: we are not asking for charity. We are demanding fairness—a financial system that reflects our reality and supports our right to thrive.”

He closed with a firm pledge to maintain unwavering advocacy on behalf of SIDS: “I will continue to speak—loudly—for Antigua and Barbuda, and for all SIDS.”

Later in the day, Prime Minister Browne participated in the high-level forum “*South-South Synergies: Financing Devel-*



**Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, delivered a powerful and resonant message**

opment in Latin America and the Caribbean through Strategic Partnerships with the Arab Coordination Group.” The forum explored new opportunities for deepened collaboration between the Latin American and Caribbean region and the Arab world, with a focus on mobilizing innovative development finance.

That evening, Prime Minister Browne attended an official dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Spain, H.E. Pedro Sánchez. He expressed appreciation for Spain's support of SIDS, particularly in areas such as climate resilience and sustainable development. In bilateral discussions, Prime Minister Browne highlighted three key areas where Antigua and Barbuda seeks Spain's partnership:

□ Scholarships for capacity

building and tourism development;

□ Support for the SIDS Center of Excellence to strengthen institutional capabilities;

□ Endorsement of the Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS), a mechanism aimed at enabling development-oriented debt management.

Prime Minister Browne's contributions on Day One of the Conference reaffirm Antigua and Barbuda's leadership in advocating for global financial reform and equitable development. The nation remains firmly committed to building a fairer, more resilient international economic system—one that includes and uplifts the world's most vulnerable nations.



## US Government working to attract more joint venture partnerships in the Caribbean



**Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas (centre) in conversation with Ambassador Michael Kozak (white shirt, brown pants) with other members of the tour party looking on**

The Trump Administration is looking to encourage more American investments in the Caribbean region to participate in joint partnerships with local private sector entities that have the support of the governments in the respective countries.

That's the word from Senior Bureau Official in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Ambassador Michael Kozak, who spoke with reporters in Antigua and Saturday following a tour of the LNG Power plant at Crabbes Peninsula, which is a joint undertaking of the American company, Eagle LNG and the Antigua Power Company Ltd.

"There is a lot of opportunities here; it is also something that we are working on in Washington, where from our side, we want to make it more viable for our investors to go and work on projects in smaller economies but there are plenty of opportunities," he stated.

Ambassador Kozak noted that in the past the focus was always on mega-projects while there are so many projects, similar to the Eagle LNG/

APCL project, that benefit the Amer-

ican investors as well as bring benefits to countries such as Antigua and Barbuda.

He commended the 'synergy' between Eagle LNG, APCL and the Antigua and Barbuda in executing the LNG Power plant project in Antigua and Barbuda.

"This is a case where the people who know the business figure out the most efficient way to implement the project with the government offering its support; that's the way it should be," he emphasized.

The new Caribbean LNG Inc. power plant is currently in operation utilizing diesel to produce power. However, the dredging of the Crabbes Harbour is slated to be completed by September



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## Prime Minister Gaston Browne Deepens Strategic Partnership with Global Citizen at FfD4 in Spain

Seville, Spain – 30 June 2025 – The Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, met with Mr. Michael Sheldrick, Co-Founder and Chief Policy, Impact, and Government Relations Officer at Global Citizen, during a high-level bilateral engagement on the margins of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain.

The meeting reinforced the strong and growing partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and Global Citizen, focusing on expanding collaboration across critical global development and advocacy priorities.

Discussions centered on several joint initiatives, including the potential hosting of a global event dedicated to world peace.

Both leaders recognized the urgent need for international platforms that foster unity, dialogue, and multilateral cooperation amid rising geopolitical tensions.



**Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Mr. Michael Sheldrick, Co-Founder and Chief Policy, Impact, and Government Relations Officer at Global Citizen**

Prime Minister Browne also highlighted the SIDS Center of Excellence, an Antigua and Barbuda-led initiative, as a key area for partnership. He welcomed the opportunity to leverage Global Citizen's extensive platform to enhance visibility, mobilize investment, and build capacity across Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The bilateral dialogue included forward-looking conversations on youth empowerment and

education. Prime Minister Browne and Mr. Sheldrick explored pathways for Antigua and Barbuda to benefit from the FIFA Education Fund, established by Global Citizen in collaboration with the FIFA World Cup, to advance equitable access to education and support youth development across vulnerable communities.

Prime Minister Browne reaffirmed his government's commitment to sustained collaboration

with Global Citizen and confirmed his continued advocacy role at the upcoming Global Citizen Festival in September. The Prime Minister also indicated that the possibility exist for him to potentially participate in Global Citizen's strategic events in Singapore later this year.

On the pressing issue of climate finance, both parties agreed to intensify cooperation around innovative and scalable financing mechanisms. This includes a joint exploration of solidarity levies and other creative funding solutions to support climate-vulnerable nations.

Prime Minister Browne emphasized the critical importance of multilateral engagement, civic activism, and public-private partnerships in addressing the world's most urgent challenges.

He reiterated Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to working closely with Global Citizen to drive measurable impact for both people and the planet. (Ends)





# CALYPSO MONARCH

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**JACK  
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**FRI 4TH & SAT 5TH JULY**



*Itz A ViBe*





## Craig Marshall Reappointed as Chairman of ABHTA, Leads New Slate of Directors for 2025–2027

Craig Marshall, Regional Commercial Director – West Indies at Blue Diamond Resorts, has been reappointed to serve a second term as Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA).

In a media release, the ABHTA said Marshall leads a new and dynamic slate of Directors for the 2025–2027 term.

With this new term, the ABHTA has unveiled its forward-looking theme: **“Investing in People, Powering the Future.”** This direction signals the Association’s commitment to workforce development and industry transformation, with a sharpened focus on upskilling the current labour force and ensuring that Antiguan and Barbudans are equipped and empowered to excel at the highest levels of tourism and hospitality.

“In this new chapter, we are taking decisive steps to invest more intentionally in our people,” said Chairman Craig Marshall. “We are prioritizing training, leadership development, and the creation of meaningful opportunities for advancement in our industry. This includes confronting long-standing



challenges such as absenteeism in the workplace and putting mental health and employee wellness at the heart of our strategic agenda.”

Chairman Marshall also noted the Association’s support for the call to action made by Minister of Tourism, Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez, who emphasized the importance of preparing the tourism workforce for the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI). “We fully support the Minister’s call to ensure that our employees are retooled to thrive in

this evolving digital age,” said Marshall.

### 2025–2027 ABHTA Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

- **Craig Marshall** – Chairman, Blue Diamond Resorts
- **Brian Murphy** – 1st Vice Chairman, Carlisle Bay Antigua
- **Norma Holder** – 2nd Vice Chair, Curtain Bluff
- **Korey Boyce** – Associate Executive, St. James’ Travel & Tours

#### Directors

- **Patrick Ryan** –

Destination Antigua Ltd

- **Patrice Skerritt** – British Airways (*Airline Association Appointee*)
- **David Latchimy** – Sandals Grande Antigua
- **Mario Colindres** – Goddard Catering Group (Antigua) Ltd
- **Erica Michelin** – Cocos Hotel
- **Antoine Brown** – Galley Bay Resort & Spa
- **Rachel Browne** – Hermitage Bay Antigua
- **Roy Bento** – Siboney Beach Club
- **Julia Harripaul** – Blue Waters Resort & Spa

The ABHTA extends its deepest appreciation to all the candidates who offered themselves for service and to the members who participated in the voting process. Their involvement continues to strengthen the Association’s democratic values and governance.

As the ABHTA moves forward, its leadership remains committed to working collaboratively with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, private sector stakeholders, and the broader community to ensure that the nation remains a model of tourism excellence in the Caribbean.

## Ministry of Agriculture launches its internship programme, 2025



**Carol-Faye George (centre with red headband) and some of the 2025 interns at the Ministry of Agriculture**



**Opening of the ceremony welcoming the MOA 2025 interns**



The Ministry of Agriculture officially launched its 2025 Internship Programme on Monday by welcoming a cohort of interns during an opening ceremony held at the Point Wharf Fisheries Complex Conference Room.

The programme, which runs for one month, offers participants hands-on exposure across key departments within the Ministry and in other related areas, including Extension, Fisheries, Veterinary & Livestock, Communications, Agro-processing, Beekeeping and Aquaponics/Hydroponics.

The ceremony opened with a prayer led by Carol-Faye Bynoe-George/Head of the Communications Unit and the MOA Internship Coordinator. Additionally, messages were delivered on behalf of Agriculture Minister,

Anthony Smith Jr., and Director of Agriculture, Gregory Bailey as both were unable to attend due to other duties overseas.

Bynoe-George encouraged the interns to view the experience not just as a placement, but as an opportunity to shape their professional journey.

Education Officer for Agricultural Science at the Ministry of Education, Nicolette Francis, delivered brief remarks. She urged interns to remain curious, professional, and proactive. "Agriculture is evolving," she said, "and you are stepping into a space where your contribution can matter."

This internship is designed to give serious Agricultural Science students meaningful field experience, deepen their understanding of the agricultural sector, and introduce them to

the real-world demands of public service.

Present were fifteen interns which consisted of nine females and six males ages ranging from 15 – 20years old. The combination included young persons from Antigua Girls High School, Antigua Grammar School, Clare Hall Secondary School, Irene B Williams Secondary School, Jennings Second-

ary School, Princess Margaret Secondary School, Sir McChesney George Secondary School, Sir Novelle Richards Academy and a former student of the Christ the King High School who is currently pursuing a degree in Agricultural Economics.

Fresh energy meets fertile ground — and the season of learning has begun.



## Two men received jail-time for the possession of firearms and ammunition

Two men - a thirty-nine (39) year old and a twenty-five (25) year old were sentenced to prison terms when they appeared in the Magistrate's Court on Monday to answer separate charges for the possession of firearms and ammunition.

39 year Jamall Prince of Seatons was arrested and charged by the police on June 17, following an incident in the village on the said date. A police task force was in the village searching for an individual when they saw three men standing together. When one of the men recognized the police officers, he ran off and hid between two motor vehicles. The police became suspicious and gave chase. The man was held and identified as Jamall Prince. The police asked for person to search his person and after that was done there was nothing illegal found.

However, when the police searched the area where he hid between the vehicles, a black and silver pistol was found hidden underneath some dead bushes. At the police station the weapon was identified as a Smith and Wesson 9mm pistol.

When Prince appeared before the magistrate on Monday, he was sentenced to three-years-five-months in HM Prison for the possession the firearm and one year for possession of ammunition. Both sentences are to run concurrently.

Meanwhile, 25-year old Malique Challenger of Yorks also had to answer for possession of a Brown .45 Remington pistol and seven rounds of ammunition.



On June 21, 2025, the police executed a search warrant at a home occupied by Challenger and his live-in companion. During the search, the weapon and ammunition were found in the kitchen area of the home. Challenger admitted to the officers that the pistol belonged to him.

The court heard that this particu-

lar weapon has been described as 'extremely dangerous'. It was first used in World War 2 and the magazine can carry up to seven rounds. There were seven rounds in the ammunition in the magazine, three of which were 'hallow point'. These rounds expand on contact with human body causing severe damage and are said to be much more dangerous than regular rounds.

Challenger was sentenced to serve three years and eight months in HMP for firearm possession and one year for the possession of ammunition. Both sentences are to run concurrently.



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# Party Monarch

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JACK IDLE  
7:30 PM | \$20

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## Ireland and Antigua and Barbuda pledge to strengthen ties after 25 years of close relations



Ambassador Karen-Mae Hill, Antigua and Barbuda Non-Resident Ambassador to Ireland, has reaffirmed the deepening partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and Ireland, guided by Ireland's Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Strategy. Antigua and Barbuda remains a key partner in shaping and implementing this Strategy.

During a visit to Dublin on May 19th which marked the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Ireland, Ambassador Hill engaged in a series of meetings and activities

focused on celebrating Irish-Antigua and Barbuda relations over the years as well as looking ahead to new aspects of this relationship in a fast-changing geopolitical landscape.

Meetings were held with the Global Programmes Unit of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Directorate of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss the SIDS Ireland Fellows Programme and the outcomes of the 2024 SIDS Conference. Ireland supported this conference both financially and technically. Ambassador Hill also met with

the Climate Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to explore ongoing collaboration in the blue economy. She also engaged with representatives from the EU Presidency Policy Unit and the EU and Trade Policy Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss Ireland's upcoming 2026 Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Ambassador Hill took the opportunity to engage with Ireland on its upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union scheduled for July to De-

cember 2026. She encouraged that special attention be given to the interests and priorities of SIDS during Ireland's presidency notwithstanding the many other global issues on the EU agenda. As such, she advocated for continued Irish leadership in amplifying the SIDS agenda at the European level.

Ireland reaffirmed its support for the operationalisation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS ("ABAS") including the planned Centre of Excellence for Data and the Debt Sustainability Support Service, both to be



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# JAM SESSION

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# Feature



headquartered in Antigua and Barbuda. Ireland's engagement at the United Nations, European Union, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development also supports advocacy around improved access to funding, water security, and implementation of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index.

Among the discussions, particular attention was given to the Ireland-SIDS Fellows Programme, through which Antigua and Barbuda has continued to benefit. The Our Shared Ocean initiative, and training partnerships with institutions such as UNCTAD, the WTO, and University College Dublin were also highlighted. Three Antiguan and Barbudans to date have been beneficiaries of Irish-sponsored scholarships reflecting Ireland's commitment to building long-term skills

and leadership in SIDS.

Discussions also focused on Ireland's pledge of €225 million annually in climate finance to include €25 million for the Loss and Damage Fund. Joint priorities include advancing the blue economy through the ProBlue Trust Fund and Blue Action Fund, and supporting climate-resilient initiatives across the Caribbean. Ireland also funds the World Maritime University's BBNJ Clinic Programme, which supports Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in addressing the complexities of ratifying and implementing the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Ambassador Hill met with senior leaders from the National Museum of Ireland, the National Library, and the Cross Border Orchestra

of Ireland, exploring avenues for cultural exchange and heritage collaboration. Continued advocacy for Aer Lingus to operate flights from Ireland to Antigua and Barbuda remains firmly on the agenda. In a previous visit in 2023, Ambassador Hill joined EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum to launch the "Entangled Islands – Ireland and the Caribbean" exhibition which will be showcased in Antigua and Barbuda in 2026. This exhibition explores 400 years of Irish links to the Caribbean.

Looking ahead, Ambassador Hill shared details on planning for the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which will be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda. The meeting discussed possible areas of support including participation in side-events on ocean research and ma-

rine based economic development.

"Ireland remains one of our strongest partners—committed, consistent, and collaborative. Together we are driving sustainable solutions that serve the real needs of Small Island Developing States," said Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill.

"In Antigua and Barbuda, Ireland has a partner in the Caribbean with shared roots from the past, shared values in the present and a shared vision and ambition for the future. There is much we can do together, for the benefit of our economies, our peoples and our shared ocean", Sharon Lennon, Head of Ireland's Office for the Caribbean stated.

Ambassador Hill was joined by Brent Scotland, Political and Consular Officer, for this visit.





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# Feature



## Kicking Off Year Three in Style: Good Humans 268's Sculptural World Record Attempt

Every anniversary deserves to be memorable, but Good Humans 268 Inc. doesn't do ordinary celebrations. As the organization strides into year three of climate action and disability advocacy, it's doing so with an ambitious, unofficial Guinness World Record attempt: **three days, three large plastic sculptures, thirty continuous hours of creative effort.**

Set from Thursday, July 3rd to Saturday, July 5th, this event is more than an artistic feat. It's a living demonstration of the organization's mission to unite environmental sustainability with inclusive community action. The sculptures, created from thousands of bottle caps collected through school projects and community clean-ups, will rise as beacons of hope, creativity, and resilience.

The event intentionally ties the symbolism of the number three — marking the third anniversary — with three public messages: sustainability, inclusion, and hope. Across these three days, the unofficial Guinness World Record attempt is more than a race against time or numbers. It is a statement: that we can create art and action side by side; that environmental responsibility and inclusion are not separate struggles but shared missions.

Visitors will be invited not only to watch but to participate: adding bottle caps, helping assemble sections, or even joining workshops on upcycling and waste management. Through this, the record attempt becomes a living classroom

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**Good Humans 268 Inc**

**3 Days of Impact Starting July 3rd!**

## UNOFFICIAL GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

**John Hughes**

- Come lay a bottle cap in honor of sustainability
- Be part of something that transforms waste into wonder and purpose!

Make a donation toward our GoFundMe to help save and sustain our program

and a stage for storytelling.

This ambitious kickoff is part of a broader vision for year three: expanding recycling initiatives, advocating for disability-inclusive infrastructure, and launching new projects that provide jobs and hope for marginalized communities. At its core, the sculptures are giant reminders that the biggest challenges

— from climate change to inequality — require bold ideas, public engagement, and unwavering passion. And as Good Humans 268 Inc. enters year three, it invites everyone to join: to build, to share, to dream — and above all, to believe that together, we can craft a different story for our island and our world.



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# Regional News



## Carib Cement's US\$42m expansion project ready to boost production in Jamaica



Caribbean Cement Company Limited (CCCL), a subsidiary of global building materials leader, Cemex, commissioned its US\$42 million Debottleneck Project at its Rockfort facility in east Kingston last week.

Less than three years after being announced, the multi-faceted project, which forms part of the company's strategic initiative to strengthen the self-sufficiency of Jamaica's cement manufacturing sector and reduce dependency on cement imports, has been safely and successfully completed. In addition to enhancing operational efficiency, the project will advance CCCL's environmental sustainability objectives in line with Cemex's 'Future in Action' strategy.

The project underscores Ce-

mex's commitment to supporting national development and fostering growth within Jamaica's construction sector, as well as the wider Caribbean region.

During the ceremony, Alejandro Ramirez, regional president for Cemex South, Central America, and the Caribbean, reaffirmed Cemex's commitment to Jamaica and the region.

"With this project, we are not only increasing our production capacity, but are actively contributing to the long-term growth of Jamaica's construction and manufacturing sectors. We believe in the potential of this region and are proud to be a catalyst for its continued progress and development," he said.

Jorge Martinez, managing director of CCCL, acknowl-

edged the significant contributions made by the Jamaican workforce towards the project's successful completion.

"More than 200 local contractors contributed to the delivery of this project, demonstrating skill, innovation, and resilience. Their efforts facilitated the sharing of technical knowledge, thereby building long-term local capacity. This is a testament to the strength and potential of Jamaican talent," he remarked.

Martinez also extended his gratitude to the Government of Jamaica, particularly recognising Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness, and Minister of Industry, Investment, and Commerce Senator Aubyn Hill for their leadership in fostering a policy environment condu-

cive to investment, sustainability, and productivity.

In response, Holness praised Cemex for its ongoing investments in Jamaica and its vital contributions to local manufacturing.

"To the management and team at Cemex and Carib Cement, I commend your vision and partnership. You are not just investing in equipment; you are investing in Jamaica's future. You have demonstrated that local capacity can meet global standards. That innovation can be married with sustainability. That business success can support national development," he said.

Meanwhile, Hill welcomed the investment as significant. He also lauded the role played by the employers.

The scope of work for the project included the installation of a new main bag-house, a solid fuel dosing system with storage silo, CO<sub>2</sub> fire suppression and inerting systems, upgraded process ducts, a new compressed air system, and a kiln chimney.

The Debottleneck Project is a key development for CCCL in its efforts to enhance efficiency and sustainability in cement production, contributing to the stability and growth of Jamaica's infrastructure and economy. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



# Regional News

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## The Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association announces new United Airlines flight and increased American Airlines service



The Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association has announced what it calls “a significant enhancement to the island’s

growing airlift capacity”: the upcoming addition of a United Airlines flight to Dominica, scheduled to commence in October 2025.

The Association released a statement acknowledging that the development marks a notable enhancement to Dominica’s airlift capacity, complementing the expansion of services from American Airlines and underscoring the island’s growing appeal as a premier Caribbean destination. The increased air connectivity opens new opportunities for sustained tourism growth and solidifies Dominica’s position on the regional and international tourism map, stated the DHTA.

United Airlines’ new flight service builds upon the success of its existing weekly flights, to Dominica from the Tri-State area and other key U.S. markets. This

increased frequency is expected to facilitate shorter, more flexible getaways and attract a broader spectrum of visitors, including adventure enthusiasts, leisure tourists, and members of the diaspora. Notably, United Airlines’ flights are now available for booking for the upcoming winter season, adding options for travelers to explore the island during peak periods.

In tandem with United Airlines’ expanded service, American Airlines has also increased its flights to Dominica, further enhancing the island’s connectivity to major international hubs.

Commenting on the development, Kitwani Ferreria, President of the DHTA, stated, “This is a positive step forward for Dominica’s tourism industry. Reliable and frequent airlift is key to driving visitor arrivals, supporting our hotel and tourism businesses, and solidifying Dominica’s place on the global tourism map. These additional

flights from both United Airlines and American Airlines not only make travel easier but also signal growing confidence in Dominica as a destination of choice.”

The DHTA views these enhancements in airlift capacity as an opportunity to foster stronger collaborations with international travel advisors, tour operators, and diaspora communities.

It says that increased flights are expected to lead to higher visitor spending, more opportunities for local service providers, and overall economic growth that benefits communities across the island.

The association is urging actors across the tourism sector—hotel operators, tour providers, and others—to leverage this momentum by elevating service standards, intensifying marketing efforts, and creating memorable experiences that will encourage repeat visits. (*Dominica News Online*)



# Regional News



## PNM 'ready for battle'



"Stand by. Get your marching shoes ready, Get your clothes ready. The battle has just begun. They touch one. They touch all," PNM chairman Marvin Gonzales said yesterday as he vowed that the PNM would take up the challenge of defending the rights of the retrenched and the vulnerable.

Speaking at the PNM convention at the Port of Spain City Hall, Gonzales said: "If it is one thing that is going to wake up the PNM fighting spirit is now that they are going after the CEPEP workers,...the URP workers...the reforestation workers. They have touched us and we are going to respond, and we are going to respond, and we are going to respond not only in the courts, but we are going to

respond politically as well."

"Today, more than ever, our country needs us, needs the PNM to be great again. In one week, we have lost our Central Bank governor. In one week, the chief executive officer of the Water and Sewerage Authority was similarly dismissed and nine executive officials. All the (300) CEPEP contractors and, by extension, the 10,000-plus workers. We are also hearing of job cuts at the Land Settlement Agency, more job cuts at WASA and the reforestation programme. And we know that it is only a matter of time before every CEO of every State enterprise, all employed under vigorous recruitment and selection criteria, will now face the acts of hurricane and brutal (Minister Barry) Padarath,"

he said.

"Only yesterday and a short while ago, we saw the UNC PRO launch a scathing attack on Her Excellency. She perhaps might be next on the chopping block. They have launched a scathing attack against Independent senators who dare to challenge what they perceive to be an excess of power. In the Parliament, too, we witnessed the unprecedented horror of an Attorney General declaring his intention to wage war on the Opposition, and then singling out and pointing to members of the Opposition, saying, 'I intend to wage war and I am coming for you and I am coming for you. I'm coming for you'," he added.

"But today, I want to tell (AG) John Jeremie, 'no

weapon formed against us shall prosper'. And the PNM is going to respond to you. We will respond with our feet. We will respond with our fingers and we will beat you on every single angle. We are not afraid of you, sir. We are not afraid of you....You're a tyrant."

And while other boards are being appointed, the country's singular largest earner of foreign exchange, Trinidad Petroleum Holding Limited, remains without a board, leaving companies like Heritage Petroleum and Paria Fuel rudderless and open to the vagaries of ministerial oversight by none other than Roodal Moonilal, Gonzales stated.

"It was more important to address the boards under the ambit of Barry Padarath, none of which earn foreign exchange than those that earn precious and scarce foreign exchange. After her initial flurry, the Prime Minister has stopped attending post-Cabinet press conferences, and the ministers who attend refused to answer legitimate questions posed by the media. ....After only two months in office. The country is already on autopilot. The Prime Minister has retreated to her mansion in Phillipine, but will undoubtedly emerge for the visit of the Indian Prime Minister this coming week," he continued.

Gonzales also accused the UNC Government of offer-



ing “millions of dollars” to PNM councillors along the East-West Corridor to cross the floor.

“As I speak to you here today, they (the UNC) are not prepared to wait for the next local government election. They are offering bribes to some of our PNM councillors to cross the floor. They can’t wait for the next local government election because they believe that the PNM will emerge stronger and those corporations that they intend to take, they may not take. And at this point in time, as I speak to you, they are offering millions in bribes to some of our councillors in the East-West Corridor to cross the floor. But you will hear more of that. We will fight them there, too, because they know that they’re on a slippery slope and very soon, very, very soon, they will be an unpopular squatting government,” he said to cheers.

Responding to Gonzales’ claim that the UNC was offering millions of dollars to PNM councillors along the East-West Corridor to cross the floor, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government and UNC deputy political Leader Khadijah Ameen said last night: “He has to be delusional. That makes no sense. We have already won the election. We are focused on fixing the mismanagement of PNM.

“There are in fact a number of PNM party members

who voted against PNM because they lost their way. He’s probably only now realising because he was so disconnected from reality and focused on giving friends and family last-minute contracts.”

At the convention, Gonzales urged the 100,000-plus PNM voters who (didn’t come out to vote) “shouted their disapproval on Election Day”, to come back

home. “As your new chairman, I want to extend my sincere apologies to all our members and our supporters who felt hurt, who felt sidelined, who felt ostracised, who felt unheard or invisible because of our actions. This afternoon, I join with my colleagues and say, ‘we are sorry’. There has been enough bloodletting in two months since April.

“The time has come for

healing, for forgiveness, and for reconciliation and truth. The citizens of Trinidad and Tobago deserve a PNM that recommits itself to listening, to collaboration and to respecting its own.”

He pledged to be chairman of a team who will listen to the people, respect them and collaborate with them. *(Trinidad Express)*



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**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Venue: Judgement Square**

The poster features several circular inset images showing people at a festival, including a man in a blue shirt and sunglasses, a group of people, and a man in a red shirt.



## Two firefighters shot dead in Idaho ambush, police say

Two US firefighters have been killed and a third wounded after a man intentionally started a fire and began shooting at first responders in a “total ambush” which lasted several hours, authorities said.

The gunman, who investigators said acted alone, began shooting after crews responded to a fire at Canfield Mountain, just north of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, on Sunday afternoon.

Law enforcement officers and firefighters came under sniper fire during the incident and a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team later “located a deceased male” close to where the attack took place.

The fire grew to 20 acres after it was first reported and continued to burn into Sunday night, Sheriff Bob Norris said.

“We do believe that the suspect started the fire,” Norris told a late night news conference.

“This was a total ambush. These firefighters did not have a chance.

“We did lose a Coeur d’Alene firefighter, and we did lose a firefighter from the Kootenai County Fire and Rescue.”

A third was “fighting for his life, but is in stable condition”, he said.

Firefighters received the first report of a fire in the mountainside community at around 13:21 PST (20:21 GMT) and reports that they were being shot at emerged



about 40 minutes later, Norris said.

More than 300 law enforcement officers from the city, county, state and federal levels responded to the scene of the shooting, including two helicopters with snipers on board.

Video showed smoke billowing from heavily wooded hillsides.

Norris said the shooter used a high-powered sporting rifle to fire rapidly at first responders, with officers initially unsure of the number of perpetrators involved.

After an hours-long barrage of gunfire, the suspect was found using mobile phone location information. It was unclear whether the suspect had killed himself or been hit by an officer, Norris said. Authorities would not provide more details on weapons recovered, but said that officers would likely find more guns at the scene on Monday, once the fire was extinguished.

The motive for the shooting was not known and Norris did not provide any details on the suspect.

The two firefighters killed

and the third wounded have not been identified.

A shelter-in-place notice - which alerts people to stay inside their properties or in their current locations during an emergency, rather than evacuating to a different area - was lifted some seven hours later.

Canfield Mountain is an area popular with hikers about 260 miles (420 km) east of Seattle.

Norris said that a preliminary investigation had determined that there was only one gunman, after it was earlier thought that there could have been as many as four.

He said the gunman appeared to have run while shooting and may have stashed weapons in different places.

Helicopters with heat-seeking technology flew over the area in an attempt to pinpoint the suspect, but teams experienced difficulty because of smoke from the wildfire which was still burning, according to CBS News, the BBC’s US partner.

Norris added that inves-

tigators had to search the scene quickly, due to the encroaching fire, and that the information they had was still “very, very preliminary”.

“A fire was rapidly approaching that body. And we had to scoop up that body and transport that body to another location,” he said.

Officials have appealed to the public to stay away and not to fly drones over the site.

A firefighters’ union boss confirmed two of its members had been killed in the attack.

Edward Kelly, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) union, posted on X: “While responding to a fire earlier today in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, IAFF members were ambushed in a heinous act of violence.

Local fire chief Pat Riley told TV station KHQ he was “heartbroken” by the attack. The case was a big shock to those living in Coeur d’Alene, a city of around 56,000 people that is near the border with Washington state.

Coeur d’Alene resident Linda Tiger, 80, told the BBC she was shocked by the shooting.

“This has never happened here,” said Mrs Tiger, who has lived in the city for nearly 30 years.

“But it goes to show that that no-one is safe from this kind of mental sadness.”

(BBC News)



## Canada drops tech tax to restart US trade talks



Canada will rescind a tax on big US technology firms, just hours before first payments were due, to allow trade talks between the two countries to restart.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump called off negotiations over a trade deal, describing the tax as a “blatant attack”, and threatened higher tariffs on imports from Canada.

In response, Canada has said it will introduce legislation to remove the tax and would halt the collection of payments, which were due on Monday.

The digital services tax (DST) would have meant US tech giants including Amazon, Meta, Google and Apple, facing a 3% charge on Canadian revenue above \$20m.

Canada’s finance minister, François-Philippe Champagne, issued a statement saying the tax would be rescinded.

“The DST was announced in 2020 to address the fact that many large technology companies operating in Canada may not otherwise pay tax on revenues generated from Canadians,” it said.

“Canada’s preference has always been a multilateral agreement related to digital services taxation,” the statement added.

Many countries, including the UK, are changing how they tax large multinational technology firms, which have millions of customers and advertisers around the world, but high corporation tax bills due to the way their businesses are structured.

It was estimated that Canada’s tax would cost the tech giants more than C\$2bn in its first year as the tax was being applied retroactively to January 2022.

Last year’s federal budget estimated the tax would bring in C\$5.9bn

in total over the next five years.

Trump, who has forged a close relationship with tech company owners in his second term in office, has pushed back against such taxes.

He described Canada’s policy as “egregious” adding “economically we have such power over Canada”.

In a social media post on Monday, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick thanked Canada for removing the tax, saying it would have “been a deal breaker for any trade deal with America”.

Three quarters of Canada’s goods exports go to the US, worth more than \$400bn a year, while Canada takes just 17% of US production.

In a statement, the American Chamber of Commerce hailed the move to rescind the tax.

“This is a constructive decision that allows both countries to focus on strengthening their economic partnership,” said chamber president Rick Tachuk.

Canada’s climbdown comes after a rollercoaster few months for US-Canada relations.

Shortly after taking office Trump threatened to impose sweeping new tariffs and even to annex the US’s northern neighbour.

The antagonism helped propel Canada’s Liberal Party, led by former central banker, Mark Carney, back into power.

Since then, there appeared to be a rapprochement, with Canada and the US saying they aimed to agree new trade terms by 21 July. (*BBC News*)



## ‘Unprecedented’ alerts in France as blistering heat grips Europe



A record number of heat alerts are in place across France as the country, and other parts of southern and eastern Europe, remain in the grip of soaring temperatures.

Some 84 of 96 of France's mainland regions - known as departments - are currently under an orange alert - the country's second highest. France's Climate Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher has called it an "unprecedented" situation.

Heat warnings are also in place for parts of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, the UK and Balkan countries including Croatia.

Both Spain and Portugal had their hottest June days on record at the weekend.

El Granado in Andalucía saw a temperature of 46C on Saturday, while 46.6C was recorded in the town of

Mora in central Portugal on Sunday.

Many countries have emergency medical services on standby and are warning people to stay inside as much as possible.

Nearly 200 schools across France have been closed or partially closed as a result of the heatwave, which has gripped parts of Europe for more than a week now but is expected to peak mid-week.

Education Minister Elisabeth Borne said she was working with regional authorities over the best ways to look after schoolchildren or to allow parents who can to keep their children at home.

Several forest fires broke out in the southern Corbières mountain range on Sunday, leading to evacuations and the closure of a motorway. They have since been contained, fire authorities

told French media on Monday.

Meanwhile, 21 Italian cities are also on the highest alert - including Rome, Milan and Venice, as is Sardinia.

Mario Guarino, vice president of the Italian Society of Emergency Medicine, told AFP news agency that hospital emergency departments across the country had reported a 10% increase in heatstroke cases.

Parts of the UK could see one of the hottest June days ever on Monday, with temperatures of 34C or higher possible in some parts of England.

Much of Spain, which is on course to record its hottest June on record, also continues to be under heat alerts.

"I can't sleep well and have insomnia. I also get heat strokes, I stop eating and I just can't focus," Anabel Sanchez, 21, told Reuters news agency in Seville.



It is a similar situation in Portugal, where seven districts, including the capital, Lisbon, are on the highest alert level.

Meanwhile, the German Meteorological Service has warned that temperatures could reach almost 38C on Tuesday and Wednesday - further potentially record-breaking temperatures.

The heatwave has lowered levels in the Rhine River - a major shipping route - limiting the amount cargo ships can transport and raising freight costs.

Countries in and around the Balkans have also been struggling with the intense heat, although temperatures have begun to cool slightly.

In Turkey, firefighters continue their efforts to put out hundreds of wildfires that have broken out in recent days.

A fire in the Seferihisar district, 50km (30 miles) south-west of the resort city of Izmir, is being fuelled by winds and has already destroyed around 20 homes and some residential areas have had to be evacuated.

Wildfires have also broken out in Croatia, where severe heat warnings are in place for coastal areas.

Temperatures in Greece have been approaching 40C for several days and coastal towns near the capital Athens last week erupted in flames that destroyed homes - forcing people to evacuate.

On Wednesday, Serbia reported its hottest day since records began, while a record 38.8C was recorded in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Thursday. In Slovenia, the hottest-ever June temperature was recorded on Saturday.

The temperature in North Macedonia's capital, Skopje, reached 42C on Friday - and are expected to continue

in that range.

While the heatwave is a potential health issue, it is also impacting the climate. Higher temperatures in the Adriatic Sea are encouraging invasive species such as the poisonous lionfish, while also causing further stress on alpine glaciers that are already shrinking at record rates.

The UN's human rights chief, Volker Turk, warned on Monday that the heatwave highlighted the need for climate adaptation - moving away from practices and energy sources, such as fossil fuels, which contribute to climate change.

"Rising temperatures, rising seas, floods, droughts, and wildfires threaten our rights to life, to health, to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and much more," he told the


UN's Human Rights Council.

Heatwaves are becoming more common due to human-caused climate change, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Extreme hot weather will happen more often - and become even more intense - as the planet continues to warm, it has said.

Richard Allan, Professor of Climate Science at the University of Reading in the UK, explained that rising greenhouse gas levels are making it harder for the planet to lose excess heat.

"The warmer, thirstier atmosphere is more effective at drying soils, meaning heatwaves are intensifying, with moderate heat events now becoming extreme." (*BBC News*)



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## Thousands set up street blockades in Serbia after crackdown on protesters

Thousands of people have set up street blockades in Serbia, where tensions are boiling over after the arrest of antigovernment protesters who clashed with police at a massive night-time rally a day earlier that demanded early elections, marking a crescendo of months-long public dissent.

Protesters put up metal fences and garbage containers at various locations in the capital Belgrade late on Sunday into early Monday, also blocking a key bridge over the Sava River. Protesters in the northern city of Novi Sad pelted the offices of the ruling populist Serbian Progressive Party with eggs.

Serbian media said similar protest blockades were organised in smaller cities

across the country.

Protesters are demanding that authorities release dozens of university students and others at the demonstration who were jailed for allegedly attacking the police or purportedly plotting to overthrow the government at Saturday's student-led protest in Belgrade.

At a news conference earlier on Sunday, Serbia's embattled populist leader Aleksandar Vucic accused the organisers of the protest of inciting violence and attacks on police.

"There will be many more arrested for attacking police ... this is not the end," Vucic said, accusing the protesters of causing "terror".

Clashes erupted after the of-

ficial part of the rally ended. Police used pepper spray, batons and shields while protesters threw rocks, bottles and other objects.

Critics say Vucic has become increasingly authoritarian since coming to power more than a decade ago, having served as first deputy prime minister from 2012 to 2014 and prime minister from 2014 to 2017 before becoming president, stifling democratic freedoms while allowing corruption and organised crime to flourish. He denies the accusations.

Saturday's rally was one of the largest in eight sustained months of demonstrations triggered by the roof collapse at a train station in the city of Novi Sad in November that killed 16 people – a

tragedy widely blamed on entrenched corruption.

Following the outcry over the disaster, Prime Minister Milos Vucevic resigned, but the governing party continued in power, with a reshuffled government and Vucic still in office.

Authorities put the crowd's size at 36,000 – well below an independent estimate by the Archive of Public Gatherings of about 140,000.

During his news conference, Vucic also criticised "terrorists and those who tried to bring down the state", singling out University of Belgrade's head dean, Vladan Djokic, who was among the protesters. (*Al Jazeera English*)



## 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



## More than a dozen teams confirmed for Antigua Cup



**Hot Springs Bath United of Nevis won the Under-15 and Under-17 division titles at the inaugural Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament at the Buckley's playing field on Sunday, July 14, 2024. (File photo)**

Organisers are delighted to announce that more than a dozen clubs or teams will be competing in the second edition of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament, which will commence on Sunday, July 6, at the Buckley's Primary School playing field.

Overseas guests and defending champions in the Under 15 and Under 17 male categories, Bath United of Nevis, are returning to defend their titles during the Antigua Cup from July 6 to 13.

A 35-member delegation from Charlestown will travel to Antigua to represent Bath United, which will also compete in the Under-13 age group.

The Antiguan team Earthquake of Fort Road will be defending their Under-13 division title. Lion Cub of former Antiguan Premier Division champions, Lion Hill, who won the Under-10 division last year, will be stepping up to compete in this year's

Under-13 and Under-15 divisions.

Host Young Warriors, Old Road, and Gray's Green, who participated in 2024, have also confirmed their participation in this year's competitions.

A few traditional clubs and teams, representing communities for the first time, will be making their debut in this year's Antigua Cup.

Five-time Premier Division winners Five Islands, Freeman's Village, Urlings, Swetes, and Attackers of All Saints will all be testing the competition for the first time.

So too will be fellow newcomers Freetown Ballers, Buckley's Youths, and Montrulla Stars.

The female division will feature three teams in the three age-groups: under-10, under-13, and under-15.

They are the national Under-14 girls' team, Cutting Edge, and Young Warriors Lassies. A special under-8 age category will be played among boys

and girls.

The event will commence on Sunday with a parade of the teams and an official opening ceremony, in which remarks will be made by community leaders and football personalities.

According to the organisers, a media launch will be held on Tuesday (today) to announce a major partner for the Antigua Cup.

Following the tournament, a player coaching development camp will take place from August 24 to 31. It will be conducted by three English coaches, who will be scouting for talent good enough to play in Europe.

The Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament and Player Development Camp were conceptualized by the Young Warriors Football Club.

Its main objective is to attract international, regional, and Antiguan clubs to develop and expose talented players for possible academy and professional tryouts.



# Sports News

## Semi-finalists decided for ABCA's Super40 Cup

The four semi-finalists were decided after the fourth and final round of matches in the preliminary stage of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup on Sunday.

After the penultimate round of matches in the preliminary stages were abandoned due to wet and rainy conditions on Saturday, defending three-peat champions PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks and CMW New Winthorpes Lions extended their unbeaten runs to book their spots in the semi-finals as group winners.

Pigotts Crushers and Empire Nation also won their last encounters in the preliminary stage to clinch second places in their respective groups and claimed the other two spots in the semi-finals.

The Blackhawks finished as Zone A winners with 14 points after securing their third win in four matches with a six-wicket victory against Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in Bethesda.

Gavin Tonge hit 36 as the Golden Eagles were dismissed for 122 in 25.2 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. claimed five for 34, and off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall captured three for 25.

The Blackhawks achieved victory at 124 for four in 17 overs. Captain Joshua Thomas hit 39 off 28 balls, and fellow opener Brent Joseph struck 37 off 43 balls.

The New Winthorpes Lions finished as Zone B winners with 14 points after securing their third win in four matches with a 355-run victory against Tertiary Institutions and School in New Winthorpes.



**Tyrone Williams Jr.**

Bartlette Henry and Demari Benta hit centuries to propel the Lions to 376 for seven off their 40 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Henry slammed an unbeaten 165 off 111 balls, with 14 fours and nine sixes. Benta hammered 120 off 78 balls, including 11 fours and seven sixes. Hosea Roberts captured three for 80.

Chasing 377 to win, Tertiary Institutions and School were bundled out for 21 in 9.4 overs, with seven batsmen failing to score. Orandel Boston snapped up six wickets for nine runs, and Ishmael Peters took four for 12.

Pigotts Crushers finished second in Zone A with 12 points after securing their third win in four matches with an eight-wicket victory against WES Spartan Rising Sun at Pigotts.

The Spartans tumbled to 69 all out in 21.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Captain Hilroy Andrew struck 34, and Dion Samuel snapped up six for 20.

The Crushers achieved victory at 70 for two in 7.5 overs. Opener Uri Smith hit 29, and skipper Kadeem Henry struck 22 not out.

Empire Nation finished second



**Bartlette Henry**

in Zone B with 10 points after securing their second win in four matches with a 109-run victory against the Bolans Blasters at the Factory Ground.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. smashed a century to guide Empire Nation to 265 for seven off 38 overs after being sent in to bat.

Williams Jr. hammered 110 off 108 balls, including nine fours and three sixes, and fellow opener Zianni Da Silver cracked 91 off 65 balls, with six fours and eight sixes. Taiem Tonge claimed three for 35.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed for 156 in 30.2 overs. Peter Bellanfanti hit 44, and Richie Thomas struck 37 off 28 balls. Damian Lowenfield picked up four for 22, and Yanique Watley took three for 19.

The semi-finals will take place on Saturday at 11 am. The New Winthorpes Lions will face the Pigotts Crushers at New Winthorpes, and the Liberta Blackhawks will meet Empire Nation at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The winners of the semi-finals will advance to the final on Sunday, July 6. The reserve day for the final will be Saturday, July 12.



## Alcaraz survives scare, Sabalenka serene at Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - Carlos Alcaraz survived Wimbledon's hot-test-ever opening day although the Spaniard was far from his sizzling best as he began his quest for a hat-trick of titles with a scare against Fabio Fognini at the All England Club on Monday.

With air temperatures soaring to 32 degrees Celsius, Alcaraz needed more than four hours to subdue veteran Fognini, winning 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 -- the last set interrupted after a spectator became unwell in the heat and required assistance.

Women's top seed Aryna Sabalenka, bidding to win Wimbledon for the first time, had no trouble as she dispatched Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine 6-1, 7-5 but last year's runner-up, fourth seed Jasmine Paolini, was pushed hard by Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 win.

While five-times Grand Slam champion Alcaraz, who won the Queen's Club title in the build-up, lives to fight another day, several high-profile players departed the men's draw.

No arena at Wimbledon gets as hot as bowl-like Court Two and the conditions were clearly not to the liking of ex-world number one Daniil Medvedev as the ninth seed saw his hopes scorched by Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi, who won 7-6(2), 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-2.

Eighth seed Holger Rune of Denmark, yet to really make his mark at a Grand Slam, won the opening two sets against Chilean qualifier Nicolas Jarry but succumbed 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, twice a Grand Slam runner-up was left despondent after retiring with a back injury having fallen two sets behind against French qualifier Valentin Royer.

American fifth seed Taylor Fritz looked to be on his way out before battling back to force a fifth set against big-serving Frenchman Giovanni



**Carlos Alcaraz of Spain celebrates after beating Fabio Fognini of Italy during their first round men's singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Monday, June 30, 2025. (AP)**

Mpetshi Perricard before their match was suspended with the Grand Slam's 11 p.m. curfew looming.

German third seed Alexander Zverev summoned up similar fighting spirit to draw level at one set apiece with Arthur Rinderknech in another match scheduled to resume on Tuesday.

Next up for Alcaraz is British qualifier Oliver Tarvet, who marked his Grand Slam main draw debut with a superb 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of fellow qualifier Leandro Riedi of Switzerland.

Tarvet is one of 23 British players in the singles draw, the most since 1984. The home charge was led Sonay Kartal who upset 20th seed and former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

She was joined in round two by British number one Emma Raducanu, who comfortably passed a tricky test against Mingge Xu, one of three British teenaged wild cards to play on Monday.

When Katie Boulter later knocked out Spanish ninth seed Paula Badosa 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 on Centre Court, seven British players had enjoyed victories, the most in a single day for the home nation in the professional era.

Home hope Jacob Fearnley could not follow suit though as he was outshone 6-4, 6-1, 7-6(5) by Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca, who showed why he is creating such a stir with carnival tennis on a steamy Court One.

Several other women's contenders sparkled in the sunshine, none more than 13th seeded American Amanda Anisimova who served up a dreaded 'double-bagel' 6-0, 6-0 defeat to Yulia Putintseva.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina beat Anna Bondar in straight sets, while 2023 champion Marketa Vondrousova continued her return to form by knocking out American 30th seed McCartney Kessler, setting up a second-round clash with Raducanu.

Australian Open champion Madison Keys, seeded sixth, battled for two hours and 41 minutes to beat Romania's Elena Ruse. Four-times Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka overcame some first-round jitters to beat Australian qualifier Talia Gibson, prevailing 6-4, 7-6(4).

There was a sad end for Tunisia's twice runner-up Ons Jabeur though, as she retired against Viktoriya Tomova due to illness.

# Sports News



## After Club World Cup heatwave in US, players' union issues warning

GENEVA (AP) — Extreme heat faced by soccer players at the Club World Cup in the United States will likely be an even bigger problem at the next two men's World Cups, their global union FIFPRO warned on Monday.

The monthlong club event is being played in a heatwave in 11 American cities and union officials praised FIFA for helping to better protect players with cooling measures at games.

Still, FIFA did not take FIFPRO's pre-tournament advice to look at postponing kickoff times by several hours on the hottest days — a move that would be even more complicated at a World Cup with more commercial pressures in play and more games scheduled each day.

Six of the 16 World Cup host cities next year in the U.S., Canada and Mexico are judged by FIFPRO as "extremely high risk" for heat stress injury to players among the 48 teams. The highest risk cities are Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Kansas, Miami, and Monterrey though some have indoor, air-conditioned stadiums.

"We are anticipating that this problem is going to be even more crucial for the coming years," FIFPRO medical director Vincent Goutteborge told reporters in a briefing call.

The 2030 World Cup will be co-hosted in June and July by Spain, Portugal and Morocco where fewer stadiums are enclosed and cooled, and temperatures in some cities on Monday were at or above 100 degrees F.

By 2030 the hot weather prospects for the tournament there "is even perhaps worse than what we have been facing so far," Goutteborge cautioned.



**Wydad AC's Cassius Mailula and Wydad AC's Mohamed Moufid try to cool off during the Club World Cup Group G soccer match between Wydad AC and Al Ain FC in Washington, Thursday, June 26, 2025. (AP)**

FIFPRO said extra heat mitigation measures could include 20-minute halftime breaks instead of 15 to help lower players' core temperatures, and cooling breaks in play every 15 minutes. Currently, breaks are taken in the 30th minute of each half.

FIFA was approached for comment. FIFA has reacted during the Club World Cup to lower the threshold for insisting on cooling or water breaks, plus placing more water and towels around the edge of the field.

"We are partially happy because FIFA have been quite responsive once the tournament was underway," FIFPRO CEO-like general secretary Alex Phillips said.

Better shading benches for the substitutes and more hydration breaks are also preferred by the union, which has national affiliates representing players in about 70 countries.

"All these practical things is some-

thing that we must do better," said Alexander Bielefeld, FIFPRO strategy director, though adding "at some point that probably won't be enough."

The union gave its research to FIFA ahead of the Club World Cup opening on June 14, based on weather trends in the host cities since 2014. Seven of the 11 were judged high risk with Philadelphia and Washington, DC, at the top end.

"The past few weeks was also a confirmation of our worry," Goutteborge said, "that the heat condition would play a negative role for the performance and health of the players."

Six Club World Cup games also were stopped because of forecast electric storms nearby. The delay was nearly two hours in Charlotte during Chelsea's win in the round of 16 against Benfica.



# Sports News

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nation's young cycling sensation, Tahje Browne, on overseas duties in Italy, a new champion was crowned in the junior male category.

Over the last five years, Browne has dominated the division, and in his absence, Aiden Tonge prevailed by .54 seconds in a sprint finish against his Viper's teammate Jomari King to clinch the junior male class.

Tonge completed the four-lap race in two hours, 12 minutes, and 44.33 seconds, and King crossed the finish line two hours, 12 minutes, and 44.87 seconds.

Lone competitor Daena Bird of Team Viper won the junior female class, completing the one-lap course in 45 minutes and 09.69 seconds.

Wayne Henry of Team Pillars Cycling left the pack trailing to capture the Masters Division title with a time of two hours, 17 minutes, and 29.64 seconds over four laps.

Randy Simon of Team

Viper crossed the finish line over 10 minutes behind Henry to claim second place, and Micah Gore of

Road Runners Cycling Club took third place.

Steve Scott of the Plumb-

ing Cycling Team won the sports class by completing the three-lap course in one hour, 50 minutes, and 42.28 seconds.

Tyson Robinson of Team Viper took second place, and independent cyclist Cornel Hughes finished in third place.

Elite Thomas sped away from his Team Viper colleague Grayson Burrell to win the Cadets 11-14 category. Thomas completed the one-lap course in a time of 38 minutes and 00.79 seconds.

Burrell clinched second place in 38 minutes and 18.81 seconds, and Alexis Bastardo of Wadadli Cycling Academy finished in third place.

Three of the 28 cyclists, who participated in the road raced, failed in their bids to complete the course in their respective categories.

The National Cycling Championships were sponsored by APUA Inet, Top Ranking, and Anjo Wholesale, agents for Gatorade.



**Junior female champion Daena Bird of Team Viper. (Photos courtesy of the ABCF)**

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## Bridges claims fourth consecutive National Cycling Championship

Jyme Bridges of Team Viper continued his dominance by capturing his fourth consecutive National Cycling Championship in Antigua and Barbuda over the weekend.

After rain forced the postponement of Saturday's Inet Individual Time Trial, which comprised the first part of the dual national cycling championships, Bridges won the Elite Men's Class to claim the overall title in the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) Top Ranking Individual Road Race on Sunday.

Bridges secured victory, winning the elite male division by completing the five-lap road race in a time of two hours, 41 minutes, and 49.97 seconds.

Bridges finishes almost nine minutes ahead of his closest challenger, independent cyclist Alexander Whittaker, who clinches the runner-up spot in the Elite Men's division ahead of Newell Mack.

Whittaker crosses the finish line in two hours, 50 minutes, and 48.17 seconds, and Mack took third place with a time of two hours, 52 minutes, and 51.01 seconds.

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**Elite Male winner Jyme Bridges, center, is flanked by Alexander Whittaker, left, and Newell Mack, right, on the podium during the presentation at the National Cycling Championship road race on Sunday, June 29, 2025.**



**Winner Aiden Tonge, right, Jomari King on the Junior Male podium.**