

Closer Cooperation and Advancing Mental Health Among Key Outcomes of Prime Minister Browne's Bilateral Engagements at FfD4

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne (3rd from left), Permanent Representative of the Mission of Antigua and Barbuda at the UN Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson (2nd from left) and Deligates of the Ffd4 Conference in Seville Spain.

Closer Cooperation and Advancing Mental Health Among Key Outcomes of Prime Minister Browne's Bilateral Engagements at FfD4

Deeper international cooperation and the elevation of mental health on the global development agenda emerged as key outcomes from a series of high-level bilateral meetings held by Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne on the sidelines of the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** in Seville, Spain.

Prime Minister Browne began the day with a major bilateral meeting with H.E. Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, President of the OPEC Fund for International Development. Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between the OPEC Fund and the Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS), a SIDS-led mechanism to address debt vulnerability and unlock development finance.

In advocating for greater OPEC Fund involvement with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Prime Minister Browne emphasized the importance of coordinated financing, technical assistance, and capacity-building:

“The OPEC Fund has the reach and resources to make a transformative impact in SIDS—this is the moment to act,” he said.

The Prime Minister also met with Dr. Amit Prothi, Director General of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Their conversation focused on enhancing regional collaboration and data-driven planning to strengthen infrastructure resilience across SIDS.

A key highlight was the proposal for CDRI's support in developing the SIDS Data Hub, to be housed at the SIDS Centre of Excellence. This



hub aims to provide real-time, actionable data to improve climate adapta-

tion and infrastructure planning across vulnerable island states.

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“We cannot manage what we cannot measure—reliable data is the bedrock of resilience,” Prime Minister Browne noted.

Later, Prime Minister Browne held a follow-up meeting with Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr., Director of the Pan American Health Organiza-

tion (PAHO), to advance discussions initiated during the recent 55th OAS General Assembly held in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda.

The two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to implementing a landmark OAS resolution that places mental health at the center of the

hemispheric health agenda. The resolution includes:

- The creation of a regional mental health partnership to expand access to services and scale up community-based initiatives.
- Formation of an Inter-American working group to draft a regional action plan aligned with PAHO strategies.
- Consideration of a regional mental health fund to support high-impact initiatives across the Americas.

Dr. Barbosa described the resolution as a “groundbreaking achievement,” stating: “We must recognize the fundamental role that mental health plays in strengthening human capital, economic sustainability, and social well-being and growth.”

Prime Minister Browne, who played a pivotal role in getting mental health on the OAS agenda, praised PAHO for integrating mental health into primary care systems through routine screenings and workforce training:

“No longer can the world and its leaders neglect mental health. The time for action is now,” he affirmed.

The meeting also reinforced the strong partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and PAHO, particularly in addressing the mental health needs of SIDS in the context of climate shocks and economic pressures.

As the second day of FfD4 concluded, Prime Minister Browne continued to demonstrate Antigua and Barbuda’s leadership among SIDS by driving forward a practical, development-focused agenda. His engagements reflect a commitment to securing measurable outcomes in financing, climate data systems, and public health—ensuring the voices and needs of vulnerable nations remain at the forefront of global discussions.

Prime Minister Browne Advances National Agenda Through Strategic Bilateral Engagements at FfD4



Prime Minister Gaston Browne in discussion with Minister of State for International Cooperation for the UAE, Her Excellency Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy on the margins of the Conference. Both officials discussed varying levels of cooperation and advancing the diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne maintained a strong and focused presence on the second day of the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** in Seville, Spain, engaging in a series of high-level bilateral meetings aimed at advancing Antigua and Barbuda's national development objectives.

The day's agenda was strategically crafted to maximize opportunities for impactful collaboration with

key international partners and financial institutions. Each engagement was guided by a singular purpose: to deliver tangible and lasting benefits for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"This Conference is not just about speeches—it is about results. Every conversation I've had today is part of a broader mission to improve lives at home—whether through better financing, technical cooperation, or long-term strategic partnerships," said Prime Minis-

ter Browne during a media briefing.

Throughout the day, Prime Minister Browne held targeted discussions on pressing development priorities, including debt relief strategies, climate resilience financing, and capacity-building programmes. He consistently advocated for expanded access to concessional financing, greater technical assistance for small states, and robust partnerships to support growth in tourism, renew-

able energy, and digital infrastructure.

Antigua and Barbuda's delegation continues to earn recognition at FfD4 for its principled advocacy and forward-thinking approach. Under Prime Minister Browne's leadership, the country has positioned itself as a leading voice calling for a more equitable and inclusive global financial system—one that reflects the unique vulnerabilities and development goals of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Key bilateral meetings on Tuesday included:

- ▣ **Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa**, President of the OPEC Fund for International Development
- ▣ **Dr. Amit Prothi**, Director General of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- ▣ **Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr.**, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

As the Conference continues, Prime Minister Browne's active diplomacy is translating global dialogue into practical outcomes—reaffirming Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to transformative development and international cooperation.



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Local News



Hotels sector records good performances for March, April and May this year



The hotels sector of Antigua and Barbuda tourism continues to perform very well with occupancy levels for March, April and May this year showing good performances.

The latest data released by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA), showed that occupancy for March this year was the highest for that month over the last seven years. For March, occupancy was 83.8 percent. For March 2024, the percent was 82.0 percent and for 2023 it was 82.4 percent. This showed that the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic years is complete. For example, in March 2020, occupancy was 45.2 percent and fell to 31.7 percent in 2021.

In April this year, occupancy was at 76.4 percent; it is lower than for March but still better than in 2024, with 73.3 percent and 2023, with 75.8 percent.

The occupancy rate for May this year dropped as the winter tourist season ends in April. May's occupancy was 64.1 percent. Interestingly, that was fourteen percent lower than in 2021, the second year of the pandemic, when occupancy for May was 78.3 percent.

Stay over visitors figures for the months of March and April contin-

ue to show marginal improvements in some markets and decline in others. The United States continues to be the main source market for visitors to Antigua and Barbuda making up no less than fifty percent of the market share.

The figures show that in March,

18,219 visitors arrived by air from the United States, representing 51 percent of total visitors for that month. Last year March, the amount was 17,674 or 50 percent of the market. The UK is the second most important market with 8,503 visitors or 24 percent of the market. Canada ranks third with 4,197 visitors for 12 percent of the market. The Caribbean market with 2,469 was fourth with 7 percent market share.

In March the overall number of visitors was 35,401 compared with 35,345 for the same month 2024. April stayover totals were 28,908 for 2025 and 28801 for 2024.

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Utilities Minister Nicholas gets first-hand update on new RO plant



Minister with responsibility for ICTs, Utilities and Energy, Melford Nicholas,



Minister with responsibility for ICTs, Utilities and Energy, Melford Nicholas, inspected the construction site the reverse osmosis plant at the Ivan Rodriguez Water Plant, a vital project aimed at significantly boosting the island's water production capacity. This facility, a collaborative effort between the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and the Seven Seas Water Group, is being erected at Barnacle Point. The centerpiece of the project is a state-of-the-art reverse osmosis plant, poised to augment the daily water output substantially. The plant is projected to generate an additional 2 million imperial gallons of water each day, offering a much-needed solution to the persistent water shortage issues.

During the Minister's visit,

System Management Specialist at APUA's Business Management Unit and Project Manager Sean Peters comprehensively explained the plant's intricate operational mechanisms, with a particular focus on the high-pressure motor pumps that are integral to the reverse osmosis process. He meticulously detailed the journey of the seawater, from its initial intake to the sophisticated filtration procedures designed to remove impurities and sediment. The project has also taken into account the harsh coastal environment, with the crucial connection being strategically relocated underground to mitigate the corrosive effects of the salty air and prolong the lifespan of the infrastructure. Sean asserts that most of the equipment is weather-resis-

tant.

Acting Water Manager Jason "Basu" Peters offered insights into the project's timeline and progress. He acknowledged that the construction schedule had ex-

perienced some setbacks due to inclement weather, and cement supply issues.

However, he reassured that with the 28 tradesmen, including some from APUA, significant milestones were

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on the horizon, with the casting of the processing unit and the floor foundations anticipated to take place within the coming weeks. Minister Nicholas emphasized the importance of operational efficiency, remote management, and automation in the transfer of best practices. Addressing the plant's power requirements, Jason Peters highlighted the installation of two on-site transformers, which will collectively provide approximately 2 megawatts of power to sustain the plant's operations.

In the realm of contingency planning, Jason Peters addressed the crucial aspect of backup power. He clarified that the current design does not incorporate a built-in backup power system directly at the Ivan Rodriguez plant. Nevertheless, he emphasized that proactive discussions are actively underway to strategically deploy generators at key power plant

locations across the island. This strategic placement of generators is intended to ensure uninterrupted water production, even in scenarios where the main power

grid experiences disruptions. Furthermore, Jason Peters noted that while the Crabbes plant doesn't necessitate a generator due to its central role as an electricity hub, the Fort James and Ffreys plants are under consideration for generator installations. This measure is aimed at safeguarding water production from disruptions, especially during major storm events. The new Seven Seas Reverse Osmosis Plant is being developed over a 12-year built-own-transfer agreement between APUA and Seven Seas.


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STATEMENT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

“Not us!” Caricom Reparations Commission

The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica W.I. Tuesday, July 1, 2025—The following statement is issued by the Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Professor Sir Hilary Beckles in his capacity as Chair of the CARICOM Reparations Commission.

There has been much media reporting in the last week referencing a Caribbean group visiting Britain and the European Union with a reparations agenda; statements to the effect that these individuals, comprising a few from the Caribbean but mostly Europeans, will engage in reparations conversations with political officials and civil society groups.

As a consequence, the Caricom Reparations Commission (CRC) has received several requests for interviews and comments, necessitating a statement to clarify the situation for the betterment of all concerned.

These persons who have arrived in Eu-

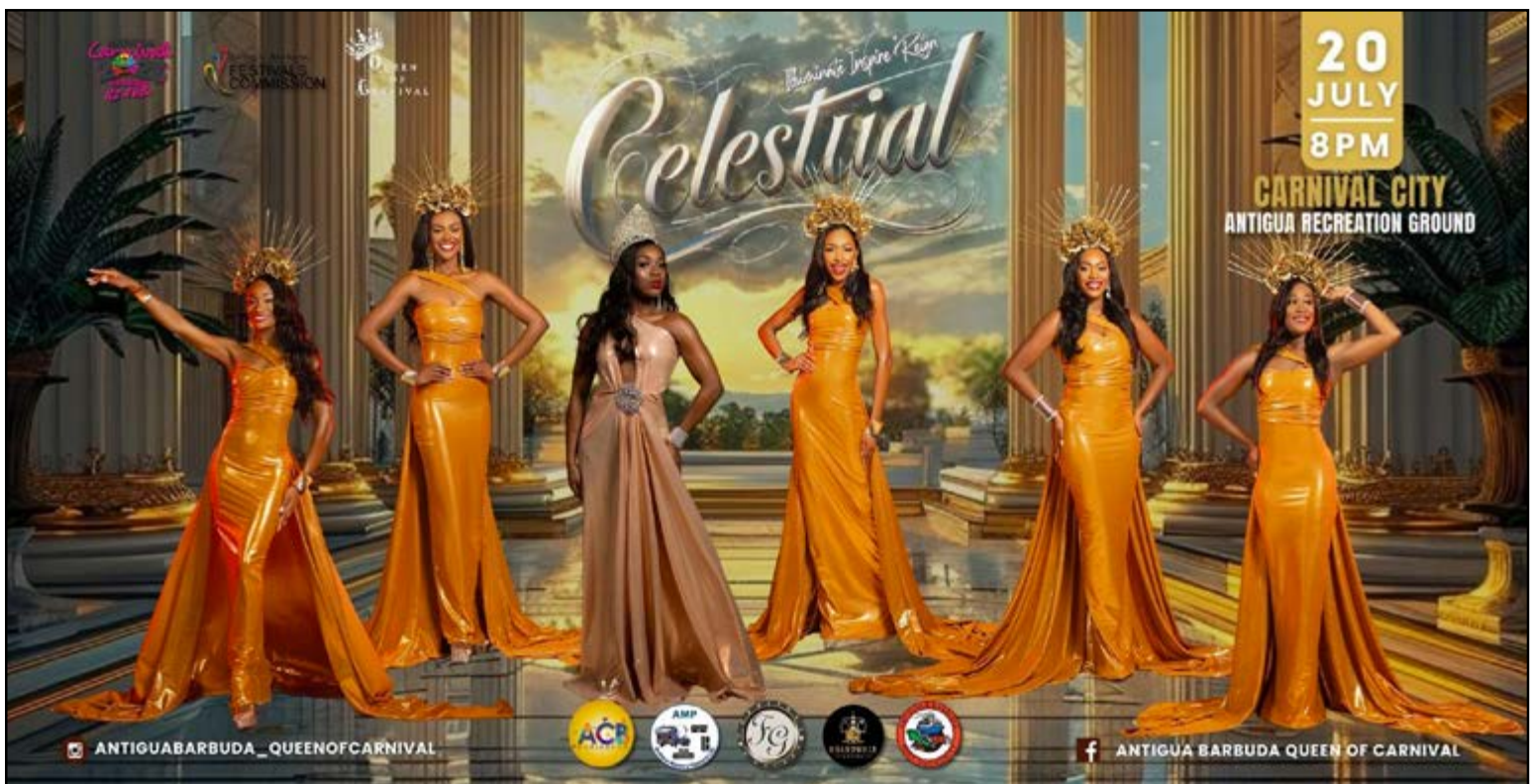


Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

rope are neither members of the CRC nor formally affiliated.

For over a decade, the CRC has been actively promoting reparatory justice campaigns on a global basis and has adopted an open-tent policy approach to facilitate broad-based advocacy. Through mutual agreements and formal Memoranda of Understanding, the CRC has partnered with many organisations, including universities, churches, families and financial institutions.

The CRC has recently received approval from the Caricom Heads of Government to inaugurate a European public relations campaign to share its vision of reparations with political stakeholders and the general public. It is actively working on the design of the same. Supporting the historic grassroots movement with government support, the CRC is deeply mindful of its complex diplomatic role and public responsibility in shaping the regional and global movement.



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 ****
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Local News



Genevieve Smith Foundation Donates \$2,000 to Support Four Outstanding Students from Potters Primary School for Second Consecutive Year

The Genevieve Smith Foundation is proud to announce its donation of two thousand dollars to four deserving students from Potters Primary School, continuing its tradition of supporting academic excellence and community growth. This marks the second consecutive year the Foundation has awarded scholarships, celebrating the ongoing impact of its founder, Genevieve Smith, affectionately known as Teacher Gen.

Teacher Gen has dedicated over 50 years to education, with many of those years spent teaching at Potters Primary School. Her unwavering commitment to the students and the Potters community has shaped



generations of learners, especially those facing challenges. Beyond her impactful teaching career, she remains deeply involved in the community, having provided a loving home to over 60 abused and abandoned children throughout her life.

In recognition of her lifelong dedication and to give back to the community she cherishes, the Foundation

awards four scholarships annually to outstanding students from Potters Primary School. This year's recipients, each awarded \$500, are:

Top Female Student: Adora Browne

Top Male Student: Caleb Samuel

Most Improved Student: Elrion Colbourne

Exceptional Dedication

and Potential: Deidra In-Baptiste

Inoure Smith-Kellman, granddaughter of Teacher Gen and representative of the Foundation, stated, "Our family is honored to continue supporting the students at Potters Primary School, where Teacher Gen has devoted so much of her life. Her passion for education and community upliftment continues to inspire us all."

The Genevieve Smith Foundation remains steadfast in its mission to foster academic achievement and personal growth among young learners, reflecting Teacher Gen's enduring commitment to love, dedication, and service.



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JAM SESSION

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7PM
REDCLIFFE STREET IN FRONT OF
NATIONAL FESTIVALS OFFICE

NEW GEN HOSTED BY
IBIS DYMOND
BURNING FLAMES SOCA ARTISTES
CALYPSO ARTISTES **DJS**



New executive takes office in the Rotary Club of Antigua



A new executive has been installed into office at the Rotary Club of Antigua marking transition phase in the leadership of the Club.

In a handover ceremony, the body celebrated the achievements of the Rotary Year 2024-2025 with the handover of leadership from outgoing President Sherrie-Ann Brazier to incoming President Elisa Graham.

In her farewell address as the Club's outgoing President, Sherrie-Ann Brazier, reflected on the achievements of the Rotary's areas of focus during the

2024-2025 Rotary year and thanked the outgoing Board of Directors and Rotarians for their support. She also extended well wishes to incoming President Elisa and board for the new Rotary Year.

With a new leadership team in place, the Rotary Club of Antigua is set to build on its successes and overall impact in the community through this year's guiding principle: **Unite for Good** as coined by Rotary International.

In her first official address, incoming President Elisa expressed thanks to family, friends and the Club for the opportunity to lead the organization for the next year. She outlined that the message "**Unite for Good**" captures the heart of the Club's mission—to bring together individuals from all walks of life to make a positive and lasting difference.

She noted that this year, there will be increased focused on growing the Club while keeping members engaged, continue efforts to support the global eradication of Polio through the Rotary Foundation, launch targeted projects focused on mentorship, literacy, education, and life skills—especially for vulnerable youth—with intent to renovate the National Youth Intervention Centre, enhance and develop new partnerships for scholarship opportu-

nities through the Club's relationship with the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) and the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE).

The Club will also continue its legacy projects to include: Education Through Technology, its Sewing Project (active in 12 sewing centres across the island) and its Meals on Wheels initiative.

President Elisa emphasized the importance of the public's support for the Club's annual fundraiser- this year's, *Colours of the Wild Wild West*, which plays a significant role in financing impactful projects and donations to the community annually. This year the event will take place at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Saturday 19th July 2025 from 8pm -2am.

The new board of directors are: Immediate Past President Sherrie-Ann Brazier; President Elect Anastasia Wilson; Vice President Vanetta Rodgers; Secretary Nikki Laville Benjamin; Treasurer, Kadesh Bailey; Rotary Foundation Director, Evangeline Allen; Membership Chair, Samoya Kirby; Club Administrator, Linda Watkins; Service Projects Director, Paul Ryan; Youth Services Director, Rosanne Emmanuel; Public Image Chair, Sherwyn Greenidge; and Training Officer, Denise Armstrong.

The poster features a central image of Machel Montano smiling, wearing a black bandana with white patterns, sunglasses, and a black shirt. To his left is a large, stylized graphic of a 'POT' (pottery) with 'Caribbean' written vertically. The 'POT' is decorated with various Caribbean flags and has 'LONG BAY LAGER' written on it. To the right of Machel Montano is a black box containing the date and time: 'JULY 31 CARNIVAL CITY 8PM'. Below this is a purple musical note icon. The main title 'BYD HOUSE OF VIBZ' is in large, bold, yellow and red letters, with 'VIP EXPERIENCE' in black letters below it. Below the title is a black banner with the text 'PERFORMING LIVE' in yellow, followed by 'MACHEL MONTANO' in large white letters. Below this are the names of other performers: 'SKINNY FABULOUS • TRIPLE KAY • FULL BLOWN TIAN WINTER • CLAUDETTE PETERS AND SO MUCH MORE!' in yellow and white. At the bottom, it says 'ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE' in large black letters, followed by 'MOUTH WATERING EATS + PREMIUM DRINKS ALL NIGHT' in black. Below that is 'TICKETS: GET YOURS NOW!' in yellow, followed by '\$350 EARLY BIRD | \$400 REGULAR' in white. At the very bottom, it says 'TICKET OUTLETS: EXOTIC ANTIGUA, ROTI KING, LARDER, BYD SCOTTS HILL' in white. In the bottom right corner is the 'ticketing' logo with 'TICKETS AVAILABLE' below it. The background is a dark, textured orange-brown.

JULY 31
CARNIVAL CITY
8PM

BYD HOUSE OF VIBZ
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Antigua and Barbuda Youth Cricketers Embark on International Summer Tour Across England and Jersey



The Hon. Darryll Matthew, Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries and Youth Cricket team

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London, in partnership with the Ministry of Sports, presents the 2025 Youth Cricket Tour – a tour designed to provide high-level cricket and cultural experience to some of the nation's most promising young cricketers.

Departing Antigua on 6th July, 10 players will join 6 counterparts already in the United Kingdom on the annual Antigua Cricket Exchange programme, to participate in a two-week tour across England and Jersey (Channel Islands), returning home on 21st July. This initiative, now in its second year, reflects the Government's commitment to youth development through sport, discipline and international exposure.

Led by Head Coach Winston Benjamin and supported by Assistant Coach David Joseph, Physiotherapist Amy Harris and Tour Manager Brent Scotland, the squad includes the following players: Brent Joseph Jr, Hosea Roberts, Jaylen Francis, Jared Jno Baptiste, Jayden Charles, J'Quan Athanaze,

Kerique Mentore, Malique Walsh, Michael Greaves, Ozan Williams, Tarek Charles, Tayari Tonge, Vonde Bowers, William Pitman, Xanden Hobson and Xaveek Toppin.

The tour features seven competitive fixtures, including both T20 and 50 over matches:

1. Match 1(T20) – Antigua and Barbuda vs Rollins Cricket Academy – 9 July, 1:00 PM
2. Match 2 (50 overs) – Antigua and Barbuda vs West Herts CC – 10 July, 11:30 AM
3. Match 3 (T20) – Antigua and Barbuda vs Weybridge CC – 11 July, 5:30 PM
4. Match 4 (T20) – Antigua and Barbuda vs AEP All Stars Team – 14 July, 1:00 PM
5. Match 5 (50 overs) – Antigua and Barbuda vs Jersey – 16 July, 11:00 AM
6. Match 6 (50 overs) – Antigua and Barbuda vs Jersey – 18 July, 11:00



AM

7. Match 7 (T20) – Antigua and Barbuda vs ACE – 20 July, 12:00 PM

The fixtures against Jersey will serve as the host side's preparations for Jersey's ICC U19 World Cup Qualifier campaign.

During the tour, the young athletes will experience some of England's cultural and educational attractions. Highlights include a West End theatre production, a visit to Chessington World of Adventures, and a church service at Westminster Abbey.

Minister of Education and Sports Darryll Matthew, said: *"This tour is a reflection of our ministry's commitment to providing young athletes with opportunities that go beyond the cricket field. Now in its second year, this initiative will equip our players with international sporting experience, broaden their worldview, and build discipline, camaraderie and pride in representing Antigua and Barbuda".*

High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill, added: *"While the players*

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will hone their cricketing skills against competitive sides, they will also engage with the culture of the United Kingdom. We hope these experiences shape them not only as athletes, but as well-rounded ambassadors of our country who embrace excellence, spirituality and global citizenship. I warmly encourage the Antiguan and Barbudan diaspora across the UK to come out and support our young cricketers."

In preparation for the tour, players have been involved in intensive training on and off the field including sessions on etiquette and communications. Special thanks to Senator Shenella Govia, Aldo McCoy and Heather Samuel-Daley for their enthusiastic and generous assistance in making this tour possible and co-ordinating the team selection process.

The tour has benefited from support from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (UK), Ambassador Ahmed



Oleiwi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, Cricket Jersey, Harrow St. Mary's Cricket Club and Keith Williams of the Antigua Exchange Programme. In

collaboration with the High Commission, the Tourism Authority has jointly sponsored the official team kit which will be worn by the players during the tour



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	

Local News

Health Fair Day 3 Update: Strong Community Turnout as Services Continue



Day three of the Health Fair, held in collaboration between the Ministry of Health, United Health Incorporated, and the Seventh-day Adventist South Leeward Conference, continues successfully.

With just one day remaining in this four-day event, hundreds of persons have already taken advantage of the wide range of free services offered, including medical check-ups, vision care, and dental services.



Health personnel providing a range of services at the Health Fair pose for group photo

Organizers are encouraged by the continued strong turnout and look forward to welcom-

ing more participants on the final day Wednesday. The Health Fair remains open to all

and aims to promote health awareness and improve wellness.

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



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

The Engagement Must Add Value

By Jameel Lee

It's summer again. Our students are out of school, and many who studied abroad have returned home for the break. It is a natural time of reflection, of planning, and of questioning what the future holds. For some, this is also the moment they begin to think seriously about the world of work.

Not too long ago, young people raised legitimate concerns about employers demanding work experience for even entry-level positions. The frustration was warranted and the philosophy should be dismantled. However, the response has been noteworthy. In recent years, we have seen a surge in summer internship opportunities, with corporate entities and statutory bodies taking steps to bridge this gap. This is commendable. More so, our local statutory bodies must be acknowledged for leading this charge. Yet, there remains room for greater uptake across both the public and private sectors.

But today, I do not wish to focus on the research, which clearly supports the value of internships. Instead, I want to raise a critical point: **the engagement must add value.**

The intention behind internships must always be developmental. Yes, internships are a way to introduce youth to the working world, but if not managed carefully, they can become vehicles for tokenism or even quiet exploitation. Young people, eager to learn and build a future, can find themselves trapped in low-impact assignments with little mentorship and even less learning. And while stipends are appreciated, simply offering financial compensation does not guarantee a meaningful experience.

What interns truly need is intentionality. We must shift the conversation from *offering internships* to *designing developmental programmes*. And this need not be overly complex or expensive. Here are a few practical, high-impact ways businesses and agencies can redesign internships to ensure mutual benefit:

- **Offer a pre-internship webinar.** Many employers lament the quality of applications received: weak resumes, poorly written cover letters, or mismatched expectations. Rather than continue to critique our education system, organizations can choose to lead. A simple webinar highlighting common pitfalls, showcasing strong application examples, and opening space for Q&A can significantly improve applicant readiness. Even better, recording and sharing this resource publicly builds a more capable talent pool for the future.
- **Provide feedback to every interviewee.** For many applicants, these internships mark their very first encounter with a professional interview panel. Some will benefit from private coaching and well-connected networks; others will not. Providing even basic feedback, either verbally at the close of the interview or in a follow-up message, can empower unsuccessful candidates with insights to improve. A small investment of time leaves no one empty-handed.
- **Create resume-building opportunities.** Internships should not simply fill a social media feed, they should fill out a résumé and lead to tangible skills. It's easy to fall into the trap of assigning basic tasks that don't translate well on a resume. But what if we deliberately gave our interns a small project, or an outcome to deliver? Assigning

interns real, achievable tasks, whether it's contributing to content creation, supporting a digital campaign, or drafting a small proposal allows them to walk away with tangible accomplishments. Imagine the growth if our interns were exposed to crisis management, strategic planning, or digital transformation, even in bite-sized forms.

- **Implement a basic performance management system.** It doesn't need to be complicated. A mid-point check-in and an end-of-term review can help the intern track their progress and prepare better for re-entering the workforce or school. A written summary of strengths, growth areas, and final feedback is also a gift that keeps on giving. For the intern returning to school, this is a lesson in accountability. For the one stepping into full-time work soon after, it's preparation for what lies ahead.

Internships must not be performative. They must be purposeful. And regardless of brand recognition, an internship that lacks structure and developmental focus will do little to prepare young people for the global job market.

Every business can offer a meaningful internship. With a little thought and care, even the smallest enterprise can make a lasting difference in a young person's professional journey.

The demand for meaningful internship experiences is growing, and rightly so. Today's interns are tomorrow's leaders, strategists, analysts, and policymakers. Whether your organization is seasoned in hosting interns or just exploring the idea, there's always room to enhance impact.

There is value in every effort to better prepare young people for the workforce and even more value in building systems that do so consistently and ethically. Many institutions are already stepping up to the challenge, and with the right framework, even more can follow suit.

About the Author

Jameel Lee is a development practitioner with over 10 years of experience designing policy and building high-impact programmes in youth development, public sector transformation, and international diplomacy. He is passionate about building systems that develop people and create long-term value across sectors.

If your organization is exploring how to make its internship programme more meaningful and structured, Jameel is available to support the design, review, or scaling of internship models tailored to your context.

 **Contact:** jameeljee@gmail.com |  **LinkedIn:** www.linkedin.com/in/jameel-lee-72a610195

Belize sugar crop falls victim to a devastating fungus

Prime Minister John Briceño says this year's sugar crop will be one of the worst in recent years after the Fusarium Wilt disease ravaged cane fields here.

The Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) in confirming the situation, described this year's performance as one of the worst in over three decades.

"The total cane received is just under 884,000 metric tons. That's a low for us," BSI director of finance, Sean Chavarria, said, adding that the only comparable year in recent history was 2020, which was still higher despite coming on the heels of the 2019 drought.

Chavarria explained that the Tons of Cane to Tons of Sugar (TCTS) ratio, a key measure of efficiency, stood at approximately 11.1 to 11.2 this season, noting "that's one of the lowest we've seen since the 2010 crop".

After liquidation, total sugar production is expected to come in at just under 79,000 metric tons, a figure not seen since 2008, making this season one of the lowest-producing crops in 35 to 40 years.

"It's not a very good crop. From our standpoint, it's been very challenging," Chavarria said, making reference also to a mix of contributing factors including adverse weather, widespread disease, and manpower shortages.



"We had long stops due to heavy rains in February and March, totaling 12 days. There was also a lot of 'out of cane' scenarios where farmers struggled to meet milling requirements," he added.

Prime Minister Briceño said that the effect of it all is that the sugar crop has come to an end and "it will be one of the worst sugar crops we have had in recent times".

He said what is even worse is that the tons of cane to produce one ton of sugar has been even worse and that the current tons of cane per ton of sugar is 12 tons of cane for one ton of sugar.

"When the cane is really good you are getting nine tons for one ton of sugar. So we are using two tons and a quarter more to make one ton of sugar. So, this is by far the worst we have had in production in recent history since 2011."

He said the BSI will produce just over 78,000 tons of sugar and for context this will be a significant decline over what was produced last year and 154,000 tons less than what it produced in 2019.

He said that with this year's production, the industry is projected to earn US\$110 million "mostly in foreign exchange, representing a significant reduction to fifty-three million from one hundred and fifty-six point five million dollars generated in 2024."

"Based on the current sugar price estimate farmers are expected to earn no more than BZ\$65 per ton of cane this year," Briceño said, noting that this represents a reduction of BZ\$25 per ton when compared to BZ\$90.23 per ton that was paid out last year.

"Our farmers will take home BZ\$31 million less than they took home last year,"

he added.

The Fusarium Wilt disease, which Prime Minister Briceño described as a "fungus ravaging cane fields," is one of the most significant threats. Chavarria confirmed that stakeholders are actively assessing the disease's long-term impact but cautioned, "It might be a little too early to see the full effect."

But despite the bleak short-term outlook, Chavarria remains optimistic going forward.

"The hope that we have is that our problems are solvable. All these issues can be solved," he said, underscoring the need for field renovation, access to agricultural credit, and mechanization of harvesting to reduce dependency on labor and increase productivity. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Elderly woman dead following explosion caused by gas stove

The Linstead police in St Catherine are investigating the fiery death of a 92-year-old woman following an explosion caused by a gas stove at her home in the parish on Monday.

She has been identified as Gloria Oldham of Jericho district, St Catherine.

Reports are that about 4:30 p.m., Oldham was



at home when she lit a gas stove and it exploded, causing her to suffer severe burns.

The senior citizen was assisted to the Linstead Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

The Linstead police have since launched an investigation into the matter. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

Bahamas: Police investigate suspected arson in New Providence

Police in New Providence are actively investigating a suspected arson incident that destroyed a residence and four vehicles in Coral Heights West early Tuesday morning.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) reported that officers were alerted to a vehicle fire at a residence on Roberts Drive, Coral Heights West, shortly after 3:00 am on July 1.

When Fire Services responded to the scene, they discovered the entire resi-

dence and vehicles engulfed in flames. Despite firefighters' efforts to extinguish the blaze, both the residence and vehicles were completely destroyed.

Four residents – one male and three females – were able to safely evacuate the property after being alerted by one of the vehicle's alarms, according to police reports.

Authorities have described a suspect in the incident as a male wearing a white shirt and black pants who was

observed lighting one of the vehicles on fire.

The investigation into the suspected arson attack remains ongoing.

Police are urging anyone with information about this incident to contact the relevant authorities as they work to identify and apprehend the suspect responsible for the property damage. *(Loop Caribbean)*



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SURINAME: WHO certifies Suriname malaria-free

The World Health Organization (WHO) says Suriname has become the first country in the Amazon region to receive malaria-free certification following nearly 70 years of commitment by the government and people of the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country to eliminate the disease across its vast rainforests and diverse communities.

“WHO congratulates Suriname on this remarkable achievement,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

“This certification is a powerful affirmation of the principle that everyone, regardless of nationality, background, or migration status, deserves universal access to malaria diagnosis and treatment. Suriname’s steadfast commitment to health equity serves as an inspiration to all countries striving for a malaria-free future,” he added.

The WHO said that as a result a total of 46 countries and one territory have been certified as malaria-free by WHO, including 12 countries in the Region of the Americas.

“Suriname did what was needed to eliminate malaria, detecting and treating every case quickly, investigating to prevent spread, and engaging communities,” said Dr Jarbas Barbosa, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), WHO’s regional office for the Americas.

“This certification reflects years of sustained effort, especially reaching remote areas. It means future generations can grow up free from this potentially deadly disease.”

Outgoing Suriname Health Minister, Dr Amar Ramadhin, said being malaria-free means that the population is no longer at risk from malaria. He



said furthermore, eliminating malaria will have positive effects on the country’s healthcare sector, boost the economy, and enhance tourism.

“At the same time, we recognize that maintaining this status requires ongoing vigilance. We must continue to take the necessary measures to prevent the reintroduction of malaria. We are proud that our communities are now protected, and we look forward to welcoming more visitors to our beautiful Suriname, while remaining fully committed to safeguarding these hard-won gains,” he added.

Certification of malaria elimination is granted by WHO when a country has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that the chain of indigenous transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the previous three consecutive years.

Suriname’s malaria control efforts began in 1950s in the country’s densely-populated coastal areas, relying heavily on indoor spraying with the pesticide DDT and antimalarial treat-

ment. By the 1960s, the coastal areas had become malaria-free and attention turned towards the country’s forested interior, home to diverse indigenous and tribal communities.

The WHO said although indoor spraying was successful in coastal areas, its impact was limited in the country’s interior due to the prevalence of traditional open-style homes that offer minimal protection against mosquitoes.

In 1974 malaria control in the interior was decentralised to Medische Zending, Suriname’s primary health care service, which recruited and trained healthcare workers from the local communities to provide early diagnosis and treatment.

The surge in mining activities, particularly gold mining which often involves travel between malaria-endemic areas, led to increases in malaria, reaching a peak of more than 15 000 cases in 2001, the highest transmission rates of malaria in the Americas.

Since 2005, with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tubercu-

Regional News

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losis and Malaria, the capacity to provide diagnosis was greatly expanded with both improvements in microscopy and the use of rapid diagnostic tests, particularly among mobile groups.

Artemisinin-based treatments with primaquine were introduced in Suriname and neighboring countries through PAHO-led studies under the Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI-RAVREDA), supported by the United States. Prevention among high-risk groups was also strengthened through the distribution of insecticide-treated nets funded by the Global Fund.

By 2006, malaria had drastically decreased among the indigenous populations, prompting Suriname to shift its focus to high-risk mobile populations in remote mining areas. To reach these groups, many of whom were migrants from neighboring endemic countries, the country established a network of Malaria Service Deliverers, recruited directly from the mining communities. These trained and supervised community workers provide free malaria diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services, playing a vital role in closing access gaps in hard-to-reach regions.

The WHO said through ensuring universal access to diagnosis and treatment regardless of legal status, deploying an extensive network of community health workers, and implementing nationwide malaria screening, including at border crossings, Suriname successfully eliminated malaria.

It said the last locally transmitted case of *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria was recorded in 2018, followed by the final *Plasmodium vivax* case in 2021.

The WHO said that the Suriname government has shown strong commitment to malaria elimination, in-

cluding through the National Malaria Elimination Taskforce, Malaria Programme, Malaria Elimination Fund, and cross-border collaboration with Brazil, Guyana and French Guiana.

It said that for many years PAHO/WHO, with the support of the US government, has provided technical cooperation throughout Suriname's anti-malaria campaign. Since 2016 Suriname also participated in the "Elimination 2025" initiative – a group of countries identified by WHO as having the potential to elim-

inate malaria by 2025.

"This success in Suriname is a demonstration that malaria elimination is possible in challenging contexts in the Amazon basin and in tropical continental countries. The country's malaria-free certification plays a critical role in advancing PAHO's Disease Elimination Initiative which aims to eliminate more than 30 communicable diseases, including malaria, in countries of the Americas by 2030," the WHO added. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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Spain and England record hottest June as heatwave grips Europe

Spain and England have recorded their hottest June ever, as scorching temperatures continue to grip Europe.

Spain's weather service Aemet said the "extremely hot" June - with an average temperature of 23.6C (74.5F) - "has pulverised records", surpassing the normal average for July and August.

In England, the Met Office said June's mean temperature of 16.9C set a new record for that month, while the UK as a whole saw its second warmest June since records began in 1884.

Mainland Portugal experienced a record daily temperature for June of 46.6C. The monthly average data is yet to be released.

Wildfires in Turkey forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, while two people died in Italy following separate heat-related deaths.

Overnight, on the first day of July, Aemet said several places across the Iberian peninsula had topped 43C, but added a respite in temperatures was on its way from Thursday.

Night-time temperatures recorded overnight into Tuesday hit 28C in Seville and 27C in Barcelona.

Later on Tuesday, the UK recorded 34.7C in St James's Park in London, making it the hottest day of the year



so far.

On Monday, the highest daily UK temperature was recorded at Heathrow Airport in London at 33.1C. Meanwhile, Wimbledon recorded a temperature of 32.9C, the tennis tournament's hottest opening day on record.

According to provisional data, the Met Office said the UK's mean temperature of 15.2C for June was the second highest on record for that month.

It was "only surpassed by June 2023, which recorded 15.8C", the agency said.

In Turkey, rescuers earlier evacuated more than 50,000 people - mostly from the western province of Izmir - as firefighters continued to put out hundreds of wildfires that had broken out in recent days.

Fires have also swept through parts of Bilecik, Hatay, Sakarya, and Manisa provinces.

Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said over the past three days, emergency teams had responded to 263 wildfires nationwide.

In France, the heatwave continued across much of the country on Tuesday - a day after many cities experienced their hottest night and day on record for June.

At Paris Orly airport, a reading of 37.6C was recorded a short time ago

The top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris has been closed because of the intense European heatwave; while Climate Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher called it an "unprecedented" situation

For first time in five years

the Paris region has activated a red alert - the highest extreme heat warning - along with 15 other French regions.

As many as 1,896 schools and colleges in France were closed as of lunchtime on Tuesday because of the heat.

The establishments were all in departments in the country covered by the red alert.

A reading of 46.6 C (115.9F) was registered in Mora, Portugal, about 60 miles east of Lisbon on Sunday, the country's meteorological agency IPMA reported.

It was a record reading for mainland Portugal.

In Italy, the Tuscany region has seen hospital admissions rise by 20%, according to local reports.

Italians in 21 out of the 27 cities have been subjected to the highest heat alert and 13 regions, including Lombardy and Emilia, have been advised not to venture outside during the hottest periods of the day.

In Lombardy, working outdoors has been banned from 12:30 to 16:00 on hot days on building sites, roads and farms until September

In Florence, central Italy, meteorologists registered a temperature of 38.9C on Tuesday, while the southern city of Cagliari was baking in 38.6C.

The temperatures are ex-

Three killed in Ukrainian drone attack on central Russia

Three people have been killed and 45 injured following an attack by Ukraine on a factory in the city of Izhevsk - more than 1,000km (620 miles) from the border - Russian authorities say.

Of those injured six had suffered serious injuries, the governor of Udmurtia Aleksandr Brechalov said, adding he had briefed President Vladimir Putin on the attack. A state of emergency was later declared in the region.

Drones reportedly targeted the Kupol Electromechanical Plant - a military factory which is said to produce Tor surface-to-air missile systems and radar stations.

The plant also specialises in the production of Osa air defence systems and has developed drones, according to Ukrainian media.

An Ukrainian official confirmed to BBC Ukraine that two long-range drones operated by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) struck the Kupol plant from a distance of around 1,300 km (807 miles).

"Each such special operation reduces the enemy's offensive potential, disrupts military production chains and demonstrates that even deep in Russia's rear, there are no safe zones for its military infrastructure," the source said in comments reported by Ukrainian media.

A video posted on social media and verified by the BBC showed an explosion on the roof of a building, followed by a large plume of black smoke rising over a factory-type chimney.

Russia's civil aviation regulator Rosaviatsia imposed restrictions on operations at Izhevsk airport, before lifting them a few hours later.

This is second Ukrainian drone attack on the Kupol factory since November - although that strike had not resulted in any casualties.



For its part, Moscow continues to carry out attacks in Ukraine. At the weekend Russia launched a record 537 drones and missiles on various locations across the country, including Kyiv and the western city of Lviv.

On Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky granted the Hero of Ukraine award posthumously to an F-16 pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Maksym Ustymenko, who was killed while trying to repel the aerial attack.

In a separate development on Tuesday, President Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron held their first phone talks in more than two years.

Macron "emphasised France's unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity", said a statement from his office.

The French leader also called for a ceasefire and negotiations between Ukraine and Russia "for a solid and lasting settlement of the conflict", the French statement said.

Meanwhile, a Kremlin statement said that Putin "reminded that the Ukrainian conflict is a direct consequence of the policy of Western states, who for many years ignored Russia's security interests".

Any peace settlement must be "comprehensive and long-term" and should eliminate "the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis and be based on new territorial realities", the Russian statement said.

Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and Moscow currently controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory, including the southern Crimea peninsula annexed in 2014.

On the battlefield, while Russia's advance on the Sumy region seems to have stalled, Moscow appears to be targeting the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region. Unconfirmed reports in Russian media suggested Moscow's forces took control of the first village in the region.

Two rounds of talks aimed at agreeing a ceasefire between Kyiv and Moscow have taken place at the behest of Donald Trump since May, but have failed to produce tangible results.

Last week, Putin said Russia was ready to hold a new round of peace negotiations although he said that the Russian and Ukrainian peace proposals were "absolutely contradictory".

On Monday, Zelensky again expressed scepticism of Putin's intentions. "Putin has already stolen practically half a year from diplomacy... on top of the entire duration of this war," the Ukrainian leader said.

"Russia is not changing its plans and is not looking for a way out of this war. On the contrary, they are preparing for new operations, including on the territory of European countries."

US senior envoy for Ukraine and Russia Keith Kellogg echoed this on Monday, when he wrote on X that Russia could not "continue to stall for time while it bombs civilian targets in Ukraine".

Moscow swiftly pushed back, saying it was not "interested in stalling anything" and thanking the US for its support. (*BBC News*)

Court suspends Thailand's prime minister to investigate a leaked phone call



Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on Tuesday, pending an ethics investigation over accusations that she was too deferential to a senior Cambodian leader when the two discussed a recent border dispute in a phone call that was leaked.

Paetongtarn has faced growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the dispute, which involved an armed confrontation on May 28, in which one Cambodian soldier was killed. In a call with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, she attempted to defuse tensions — but instead set off a string of complaints and public protests by critics who accused her of being too fawning.

Paetongtarn's suspension raises the possibility of renewed instability in Thailand, a still fragile democracy

that has suffered several similar bouts of uncertainty. At the root of much of that were concerns from the conservative establishment, including the military, that the political dynasty started by Paetongtarn's father, the popular but divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was growing too powerful.

She is the third member of her family to hold the prime minister's office — and the third to face the possibility of removal before her term ended. Thaksin was removed from office in a 2006 coup and driven into exile, while his sister, former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, was removed by a court order in 2014, followed shortly after by a coup.

This "recurring cycle of political instability" would likely keep repeating unless Thailand goes through a genuine

democratic reform that includes limiting power of unelected institutions, said Purawich Watanasukh, a political science lecturer at Thammasat University in Bangkok.

"Without such foundational reforms, any government, regardless of who leads it, will remain vulnerable to the same forces that have repeatedly disrupted Thailand's democratic development," he said.

The suspension also comes at a time when the country is facing an economic slowdown and growing discontent with Paetongtarn and her Pheu Thai party, in general, with critics saying her government's performance has been underwhelming.

The judges voted unanimously Tuesday to review the petition accusing her of a breach of the ethics, and voted 7-2

to immediately suspend her from duty as a prime minister until a ruling is given. The court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to give evidence to support her case.

After the court order, Paetongtarn said that she would accept the process and defended her actions.

"I only thought about what to do to avoid troubles, what to do to avoid armed confrontation, for the soldiers not to suffer any loss," she said.

She also apologised to people upset over the leaked call and left the Government House shortly after.

Suriya Jungrungrangkit, who is a deputy prime minister and a transport minister, will take charge as acting prime minister, said Chousak Sirinil, minister of the prime minister's office.

Earlier Tuesday, before the court suspended Paetongtarn, King Maha Vajiralongkorn had endorsed a Cabinet reshuffle after a major party left the government coalition over the leaked call.

In the reshuffle, Paetongtarn also received the position of culture minister, in addition to prime minister, though it's not clear if she can take the oath to take up that role.

In the call about the border tensions, Paetongtarn could be heard urging Hun Sen — a longtime friend of her father — not to listen to a Thai regional army commander who had publicly criticized Cambodia about the border dispute, and called him "an opponent."

Thousands of conservative, nationalist-leaning protesters rallied in central Bangkok on Saturday to demand Paetongtarn's resignation.

Paetongtarn also faces separate investigations by another agency over the leaked call — a case that could also lead to her removal.

The Constitutional Court last year removed Paetongtarn's predecessor over a breach of ethics. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court,

are viewed as a defender of the royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent agencies such as the Election Commission to cripple or sink political opponents.

Paetongtarn, 38, is the youngest daughter of Thaksin. Her father has remained beloved by many of the Thailand's poor and working classes who long saw him as their champion.

But the family's political fortunes now may be on the wane.

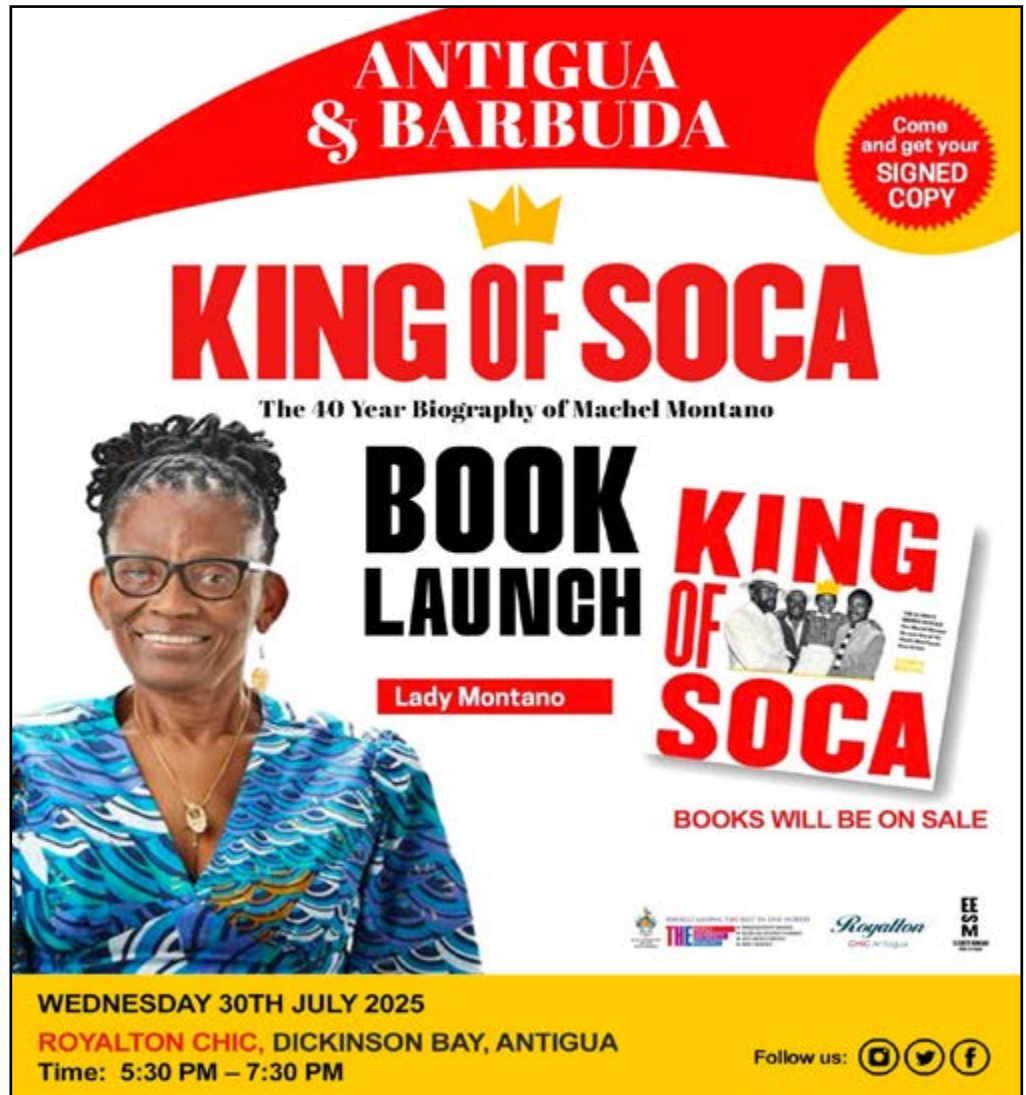
Thaksin alienated many of his supporters with what looked like a self-serving deal with his former conservative opponents. It allowed his return from exile in 2023 and the party he supported to form the new government, while sidelining the progressive Move Forward Party, which finished first in a national election, but was seen by the

conservative establishment as a greater threat.

Thaksin has faced several legal challenges since his return. On Tuesday, he attended a court hearing in a case alleging he defamed the monarchy in 2015.

He also is under investigation over the handling of his return to face an eight-year prison term on charges related to corruption and abuse of power. At the time, he was transferred almost immediately to a hospital, and later granted clemency because of his age and health without spending a single night in jail.

The complaints argue he avoided properly serving his sentence and raise the possibility that Thaksin could be forced to serve prison time. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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CWI Under-19 Tournament to bowl off this week in St. Kitts



2024 double regional Under-19 champions Barbados

The 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Championship will commence in St. Kitts and Nevis on Thursday.

The competition, which has been hosted annually in St. Vincent since 2018, will be returning to St. Kitts and Nevis from July 3 to 24 this year.

Matches will be played across five venues. They are the Len Harris Cricket Academy, Conaree Sports Club, St. Mary's Park in Cayon, St. Paul's Cricket Ground in St. Kitts, and the Elquemedo Willett Park in Nevis.

The regional under-19 tournament, which was last hosted in St. Kitts and Nevis in 2017, will also see a change in format with only a 50-over competition this year.

In recent years, the regional under-19 tournament comprised a 50-over championship in conjunction with a three-day or two-day competition.

Barbados will be the defending champions after capturing the double, winning both the two-day and 50-over contests at last year's tournament in St. Vincent.

Two teams from the United States will be joining the six regional territorial teams in the competition.

The eight teams in this year's com-

petition will contest seven round-robin matches. The top two teams at the end of the round-robin stage will advance to the final, which will take place on Thursday, July 24.

The other teams will also have a final round of matches to determine third place, fifth place, and seventh place on July 24.

The competition will bowl off with four opening-round matches on Thursday.

Champions Barbados will launch the defence of their title against Guyana at the Elquemedo Willett Park in Nevis.

The Leeward Islands will begin their campaign against the Windward Islands at Conaree.

In the other two opening round matches, Jamaica will tackle USA 1 at St. Mary's Park in Cayon, and Trinidad and Tobago will clash with USA 2 at St. Paul's Cricket Ground.

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Suitably qualified applicants are invited to email their applications to: humanresources.ntw@gmail.com on or before July 11, 2025.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

South Africa beat Zimbabwe by 328 runs in first Test



The players of South Africa celebrate a dismissal on the fourth day of the first cricket Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. (Getty Images)

BULAWAYO (Reuters) - All-rounder Corbin Bosch took a first five-wicket haul in test cricket to go with his maiden century as a much-changed South Africa thumped hosts Zimbabwe by 328 runs on day four of the first test in Bulawayo on Tuesday.

Set a massive target of 537 for victory, Zimbabwe were bowled out for 208 in the afternoon session as Bosch, who finished 100 not out in the visitors' first innings, took five for 43 and debutant seamer Codi Yusuf chipped in with three for 22.

Wellington Masakadza top scored for the hosts with 57 and captain Craig Ervine

managed 49, but for the rest it was a procession of wickets after Zimbabwe began the day on 32 for one.

South Africa fielded only four of the players who defeated Australia in the World Test Championship final at Lord's earlier this month. The second and final match in the series will also be played at the Queens Sports Club and starts on Sunday.

"Bosch is new to the international scene, but he's really fit in well. To see him conquer both facets (bat and ball) in this test was really special," stand-in South Africa captain Keshav Maharaj said at the post-match presentation.

"We know the talent within our system. It was getting them in the right frame of mind to execute, and they showed that throughout the four days."

Zimbabwe were immediately under pressure on the fourth morning when Nick Welch was caught off the first ball of the day by short-leg Tony de Zorzi from the bowling of Bosch for a golden duck.

The latter then claimed the prized wicket of Sean Williams, who made a superb 137 in Zimbabwe's first innings, as the batter skied a top edge to wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne for 26.

Ervine and Masakadza provided some resistance with a stand of 83 for the seventh wicket, but when the former was caught from an excellent diving effort from De Zorzi off the bowling of Bosch, South Africa mopped up the tail.

The match finished with a first test wicket for part-time leg-spinner Dewald Brevis, who had Tanaka Chivanga stumped by Verreynne.

"From a batting perspective, a few guys got starts, including myself, but we need to go on and get 100s, 30s and 40s won't cut it at this level," Ervine said.

He added the team will monitor opening batter Brian Bennett ahead of the second test after he was struck on the helmet in Zimbabwe's first innings and suffered a concussion.



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Gauff crashes out of Wimbledon in first round



Coco Gauff of the USA returns the ball to Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine during their first round women's single match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Tuesday, July 1, 2025. (AP)

LONDON (AP) — Coco Gauff became just the third woman in the Open era to lose in the first round at Wimbledon right after winning the championship at the French Open, eliminated 7-6 (3), 6-1 by unseeded Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine on Tuesday night.

The No. 2-ranked Gauff made mistake after mistake at No. 1 Court, finishing with just six winners and a total of 29 unforced errors that included nine double-faults. She joined another highly seeded American, No. 3 Jessica Pegula, in bowing out on Day 2 of the tournament.

"I was really on fire," said Yastremska, who accumulated 16 winners. "Playing against Coco, it is something special."

It was just a little more than three weeks ago that Gauff was celebrating her second Grand Slam title by getting past No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final on the red clay of Roland-Garros. The 21-year-old American also took home

the trophy from the 2023 US Open.

But even though Gauff's big breakthrough came at the All England Club at age 15 in 2019, when she beat Venus Williams in her opening match and made it all the way to the fourth round, the grass-court tournament has proved to be her least-successful major.

It's the only Slam where Gauff hasn't made at least the semi-finals. Indeed, she has yet to get past the fourth round and now has been sent home in the first round twice in the past three years.

The transition from clay to grass has proven tough for most players, and the last woman to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season was Serena Williams a decade ago.

Still, since the Open era began in 1968, only Justine Henin in 2005 and Francesca Schiavone in 2010 went from holding the trophy in Paris to exiting immediately in London.

Gauff was never quite at her best Tuesday against Yastremska, who had

lost all three of their previous matchups and currently is ranked 42nd.

Yastremska's best Grand Slam result was making it all the way to the semi-finals on the Australian Open's hard courts last year, although she entered this event with a record of only 10-11 in first-round matches at majors.

Gauff, by contrast, was 20-3 at that stage, including a loss to Sofia Kenin at Wimbledon in 2023.

Yastremska's deepest run at Wimbledon was making the fourth round in 2019, although she did get to the final of the junior event in 2016.

She recently reached her first tournament final on grass, at a smaller event in Nottingham, which she said gave her confidence heading to the All England Club.

"I love playing on grass. I feel that this year we are kind of friends," Yastremska said with a laugh. "I hope the road will continue for me here."

Guardiola's Manchester City exit Club World Cup



Al Hilal players celebrate following the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Manchester City and Al Hilal in Orlando, Florida, Monday, June 30, 2025. (AP)

ORLANDO, Florida, June 30 (Reuters) - Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola was left to rue his side's inability to capitalize on a host of first-half chances as the Premier League side suffered a shock elimination from the Club World Cup against Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal on Monday.

Marcos Leonardo scored twice, including the 112th minute winner, as the Ri-

yadh-based outfit won 4-3 in extra-time in Orlando with the first-half performance of goalkeeper Yassine Bounou proving pivotal in Al-Hilal's win.

"The level in this competition is a World Cup," said Guardiola, who led City to the Club World Cup title in 2023.

"The only regret I have is that we allowed them to run

a little bit more than expected.

"Against a team that defended so deep, the wingers have been brilliant. The chances that we had in many, many departments. Bounou made a lot of saves and, in the end, you have to score, you have to be clinical."

City had taken a ninth minute lead through Ber-

nardo Silva but a string of saves from Bounou in what remained of the opening 45 minutes kept the Saudis in contention.

Leonardo and Malcom scored inside the first six minutes of the second half to turn the tables on Guardiola's side before Erling Haaland levelled in the 55th minute, taking the game into extra-time.

Kalidou Koulibaly's header put Al-Hilal back in front, only for Phil Foden to equalise again for City, and Leonardo eventually killed off the Premier League side eight minutes from the end of extra-time.

The win takes Al-Hilal through to a quarter-final meeting with Brazil's Fluminense while City return to England.

"We would have loved to continue, it's not easy to be here once every four years," said Guardiola.

"The team still has that feeling, that the team is doing well. But we go home and now it's time to rest, to refresh our minds and come back for next season."



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Wadadli United win second ABFA's Women's Knockout Classic

Wadadli United FC has losing 2-1 on penalty kicks ulation time in the semi-fi-



Players of the Wadadli United which won the second ABFA's Women's Knockout Classic at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, June 29, 2025. (ABFA Media)

won the second in a series of three women's knockout classic competitions, which are organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA), on Sunday evening.

Wadadli United won the title by snatching a 1-0 victory against Cutting Edge FC in the final at the ABFA Technical Center.

It was the second time Cutting Edge missed out on winning the contest after

in the final to Empire Trendsetters, who won the first women's knockout classic competitions on Sunday, June 22.

On their way to the final of the eight-team women's competition, Wadadli United, who received a cash prize of EC\$2,500 for winning the championship, prevailed 4-3 on penalty kicks against Lady Masters FC after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw at the end of reg-

nals.

Wadadli United also snatched a 2-1 victory on penalty kicks against Empire Trendsetters after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation time in their opening encounter.

Lady Masters hammered the Young Warriors FC 4-0 in their opening round encounter.

Cutting Edge FC, who claimed the EC\$1,500 run-

ners-up cash prize, booked their spot in the final by snatching a 1-0 win against Empire Trendsetters in the semi-finals.

Cutting Edge advanced to the semi-finals with a 2-1 victory against Lady Fort Road in their opening round encounter.

Empire Trendsetters advanced to the semi-finals by snatching a 1-0 victory against Lady Fort Road FC in their second-round encounter.

The Wadadli FC also made a clean sweep of all the individual awards of EC\$200, which were presented to outstanding performers during the second knockout competition.

Jada Benjamin claimed the Most Valuable Player Award. Carlene Thomas won the Best Defender Award, and Gabriel Desouza won the Best Striker Award.

Kanika Buckley took the award for the Best Midfielder, and Jewel Harve claimed the Best Goalkeeper Award.

The ABFA will stage the third and final knockout competitions on Sunday, July 6, at the same venue ahead of its national women's league, which is slated to commence in August.