

Airlines are adding flights as the excitement builds for Antigua Carnival'25... Itz a Vibe

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Youth Parliament was held in St John's on Thursday with attention squarely focused on an issue of growing concern in the community; The misuse of drugs, cannabis and tobacco by young people

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Airlines are adding flights as the excitement builds for Antigua Carnival'25...Itz a Vibe



Minister responsible for Carnival Daryll Matthew

There is much excitement and growing interest in Antigua Carnival 2025 with several airlines indicating that they will add additional flights into the country bringing people to enjoy the spectacle.

That's the word from Minister responsible for Carnival Daryll Matthew as he updat-

ed the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday.

Minister Matthew confirmed that preparations are well advanced for what is anticipated to be one of the most vibrant and memorable Carnival celebrations in recent history.

Scheduled to take place

from July 25 to August 5, this year's festival—under the electrifying theme “Itz A Vibe”—is already generating heightened excitement and engagement both locally and internationally.

With just under three weeks to go before the official start, the Minister reported that participation levels are on the rise, as evidenced by the ongoing Soca and Calypso Quarterfinals. Final refurbishments and upgrades to Carnival City at the Antigua Recreation Grounds are nearing completion, ensuring the venue will be ready to host thousands of revelers and spectators.

Tickets are now on sale for most major events, and hotels across the island are reporting occupancy rates above 90% for the carnival period—a clear indication of strong regional and international interest.

To meet the growing demand, Caribbean Airlines has added two special flights from Trinidad and Tobago, while American Airlines is operating three daily flights from Miami, USA. LIAT is also reporting increased bookings from neighbouring islands, highlighting Antigua's position as a key cultural destination in the region.

Minister Matthew also noted that the Festivals Commission continues to play a vital role in supporting the Watch Night Celebrations, commemorating the Emancipation from Slavery—the historical foundation upon which Carnival is built.

The Minister concluded by assuring the Cabinet and the public that all signs point to an exciting, safe, and culturally rich Carnival 2025, promising unforgettable experiences for residents and visitors alike.



CBI/CIP Regulator Now Available for Public Comment



The Interim Regulatory Commission (IRC) has published the draft legislation for the establishment of a regional regulator for Citizenship by Investment Programmes (CBI/CIP) – the **Eastern Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Regulatory Authority (ECCIRA)**. The draft legislation is available on the [ECCB website](#) for public comment until 16 July 2025.

The completion and publication of the draft legislation is a significant milestone in the ongoing effort to strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity of CBI/CIP. Once operationalised, the ECCIRA will regulate and supervise the industry, through a uniform law and common standards.

The draft legislation was completed following a series of in-country consultations, which were led by the IRC, over the period March to April 2025. The consultations saw the IRC and the Legal Drafting Consultant, Ms Lydia Elliott, engage a broad and inclusive set of stakeholders – from Government, the CBI/CIP industry, international partners, the media and social partners. The engagements provided critical feedback to guide the preparation of the draft legislation.

The IRC was appointed by the Heads of Government of the five countries with CBI/CIP Programmes, to oversee the establishment of a regional regulator. The eight-member IRC comprises the following appointees:

1. Antigua and Barbuda – Lieutenant Colonel Edward Croft (Deputy Chair)
2. Commonwealth of Dominica – Ms Francine Baron
3. Grenada – Ms Julia Lawrence
4. Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis – Archdeacon Isaiah Phillip
5. Saint Lucia – Mr Evaristus Jn Marie
6. CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)/ Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) – Mr Rufus Ferdinand
7. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission – Mr Henith Gabriel
8. Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) – Governor Timothy Antoine (Chair)

The IRC wishes to thank all persons who have contributed to shaping the legal framework and now invites all and sundry to provide feedback on the draft now offered for public comment.



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PM Browne visits site of where Christopher Columbus' remains are interred



Prime Minister Gaston Browne had a packed agenda at this week's Conference for Development 4 that took place in Seville, Spain, however, he was able to squeeze in some sightseeing.

PM Browne is reporting that in true Columbus style, he "discovered" the remains of Christopher Columbus this week at the Se-

ville Cathedral in Spain; the Santa Maria de la Antigua chapel after which Antigua was named; and a portrait of the Virgin Santa Maria de la Antigua in whose honour the Chapel was named.

"I also visited the San Telmo

Bridge from where Columbus sailed before he "discovered" the new world, which was populated with Amerindians, prior to his "discovery", he revealed.

The prime minister returned to the country on Thursday.



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Local News



Youth Parliament discusses drug, cannabis and tobacco abuse among the nation's youth



A meeting of the Youth Parliament was held in St John's on Thursday with attention squarely focused on an issue of the growing concern in the community; the misuse of drugs, cannabis and tobacco by young people.

Meeting in the Parliament Chambers under the guidance of Speaker, Jessica Zouetr, the Youth Parliament debated

a motion calling for action to address the rise in drug abuse and tobacco and cannabis use among minors. (See motion attached).

Chrysean Jarvis, who appeared as Prime Minister, outlined a number of measures to address the issue. These include; Establishing a Detox Retreat / Youth Drug-Free Camp, initiate a

Youth Drug-free Ambassador Programme and a Youth Rehabilitation Facility among others.

There was a robust debate on the issue with the members of the Youth Parliament, including the Leader of the Opposition, Crystal Percival, also making a contribution.

The Youth Parliament is an independent organization that was founded in 2019 and which has grown to approximately 80 members. Zouetr also serves as president of the organization. The organization sees itself as advocacy entity that shines the spotlight on issues that affect the young people of the country. It also engages in community development projects in the various constituencies. Members are assigned to various constituencies and it is anticipated that they will work alongside the sitting Member of Parliament to executive projects in the constituencies.

Funding for these projects are provided by internal funding-raising events as well as from corporate sponsors.

MOTION

RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE

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 4 Pieces
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CALYPSO MONARCH

QUARTER FINALS

**JACK
IDLE** | **7:30
PM** | **\$20**

FRI 4TH & SAT 5TH JULY



Itz A ViBe



OF ASSEMBLY, CALLING FOR ACTION TO ADDRESS THE RISE IN DRUG ABUSE AND TOBACCO AND CANNABIS USE AMONG MINORS

WHEREAS the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has decriminalized the use of Cannabis for recreational purposes among adults in March 2018; **WHEREAS** this progressive step toward criminal justice reform was intended to reduce incarceration rates and allow for responsible adult use of cannabis;

WHEREAS since decriminalization, there has been a significant and troubling increase in the number of minors engaging in Cannabis use;

WHEREAS there is legislation in place criminalizing the use of controlled drugs, namely the Misuse of Drugs Act 1974 as amended;

WHEREAS the Tobacco Control Act No. 17 of 2018 prohibits the sale, distribution, purchasing and use of Tobacco by minors;

ALARMED by the escalating rates of drugs, tobacco and Cannabis consumption among teenagers, which poses serious risks to their mental health, cognitive development, and academic performance;

ALARMED by the lack of proper enforcement of the legislations already in place;

RECOGNIZING that rehabilitation and support services for young persons misusing drugs, tobacco and Cannabis remain underdeveloped and underfunded;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the lack of targeted public education efforts aimed at discouraging drug, tobacco and Cannabis use among adolescents;

CONDEMNING in the strongest possible language the actions of adults who encourage, influence, or facilitate drug, tobacco and Cannabis use by minors, including those who illegally supply them with the substance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House of Assembly calls upon the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to:

1. **Amend the Misuse of Drugs Act** to explicitly state that where children are found to be in possession of cannabis, exposed to its use, or otherwise adversely affected by cannabis consumption within a household, the responsible parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall face penalties.
2. **Establish a national youth rehabilitation initiative** specifically tailored to assist minors struggling with drug, tobacco and Cannabis misuse, including access to counseling, mentorship, and drug education programs.
3. **Launch a comprehensive public education campaign** to raise awareness among young people about the risks and consequences of drug, tobacco and Cannabis misuse, to be executed through schools, social media, and community outreach programs.
4. **Strengthen enforcement mechanisms** to penalize individuals found supplying drug, tobacco and Cannabis to minors or promoting its use among young people.
5. **Encourage greater parental involvement and community vigilance** in protecting young people from drug, tobacco and Cannabis abuse and educating them about safe and healthy lifestyle choices.
6. **Support research and data collection** to assess the full impact of Cannabis decriminalization on minors and to inform future policy decisions. Passed by the House of Assembly this ___ day of ___, 2025.

WE ARE HIRING

Truck Driver/Porter

We are looking for a reliable and experienced driver/porter to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for driving company vehicles, ensuring the safe and timely transportation of goods, and maintaining the vehicles in excellent condition.

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- ☐ Comply with driving rules and regulations as well as company policies and procedures.
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- ☐ At least 3 years' experience as a delivery driver.
- ☐ Hands on experience with operating forklifts and trolleys.
- ☐ Extensive knowledge of applicable driving rules regulations.
- ☐ Valid driver license to drive Box Trucks and Vans.

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.

Antigua Barbuda
**FESTIVALS
COMMISSION**

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



ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025 **TICKET** **OUTLETS**

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**CASHLESS PAYMENT AVAILABLE AT
CARNIVAL CITY**



Free health clinic identifies need for more focus on dental health



The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has extended high commendations to the United Hands Inc. and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for their outstanding partnership with the Ministry of Health in hosting a successful four-day Health Fair at the Multi-Purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre.

The Minister for Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, reported that over the course of just three days, the Fair delivered critical healthcare services to 1,110 individuals, including comprehensive medical assessments for more than



400 children.

Preliminary findings from the event have highlighted the need to re-evaluate healthcare delivery for the elderly, and revealed a growing demand for expanded dental services across the nation.

In response, Cabinet has approved several key health initiatives based on the Minister's recommendations:

- Extended Clinic Hours: Community clinic operational schedules will be reviewed and adjusted to better accommodate elderly patients and others who rely on caregivers or

public transport for medical access.

- National Dental Expansion: Beginning in September, the Ministry of Health will roll out a Fluoride and Sealant Programme targeting school-aged children. This initiative will be implemented in all schools nationwide, with technical guidance and support from the United Hands Inc. and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Legislative Action: The Cabinet also announced that the Second Reading of the Sugary Beverages Act will proceed during the next sitting of Parliament, reflecting the Government's commitment to improving public health outcomes and tackling non-communicable diseases.

Importantly, the Cabinet recognized the remarkable cost savings achieved through the Fair. It is estimated that the collaboration resulted in savings over \$2.5 million in dental services and \$1.5 million in eye examinations and prescription eyewear—a major benefit to both government resources and the individuals who received care.



A break-in has caused a delay in the opening of a pharmacy at the Villa Polyclinic

The planned opening of pharmacy at the Villa Polyclinic has been postponed because of the action of thieves who broke into the building and made off with a number of items.

This was the report presented to Cabinet on Wednesday by the Minister for Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph who informed the Cabinet of a deeply concerning incident involving the soon-to-be-opened pharmacy at the Villa Polyclinic, which was recently broken into and completely looted.

According to Sir Molwyn, the theft has resulted in a delay in the launch of pharmacy services, which were intended to serve residents



Villa Polyclinic

of the Point, Villa, and surrounding communities with much-needed access to medications and healthcare support.

In response, the Cabinet has

issued a directive mandating the immediate installation and enhancement of modern surveillance systems at all government and public facilities to safeguard public infrastructure and assets.

Priority buildings for security upgrades include:

- ☐ Health clinics
- ☐ Government offices
- ☐ Public schools
- ☐ Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre

Facilities already equipped with surveillance systems will undergo assessments to determine whether upgrades or expansions are necessary to meet current security standards.

This decisive action reflects the Government's commitment to protecting public resources and ensuring that essential services are delivered to communities without disruption or compromise.



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Murder-accused makes court appearance

A Lightfoot man who is charged with kidnapping and murder of Guyanese national, Joyleen Abraham, appeared in the magistrate's court on Thursday when the charges were formally read to him.

The police are alleging that on May 7, 2025, Victor Ince of Lightfoot forcibly seized and confined Abraham against her will. The incident, according to the police happened at Judges Hill.

Ince is also charged with killing Abraham, who had arrived in Antigua only days prior to the incident.



Joyleen Abraham

Abraham died when she fell from a moving vehicle that was traveling on the byroad that links the Jabberwock Road with Judges Hill.

This was Ince's first court appearance and he was not required to enter a plea as this is an indictable offence. The magistrate will determine whether enough evidence exists to send the case to the High Court where Ince will stand trial before a judge.

Ince has been remanded to His Majesty's Prison until his next court appearance on September 17.

ROYAL POLICE FORCE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



Office of Strategic Communications (STRATCOM)

MEDIA RELEASE

Police Stop and Search Operations Reap Success

The police conducted several stop and search exercises across the island on Thursday, July 3, which resulted in drug arrests and a number of drivers ticketed for traffic violations.

The operation covered multiple locations including Big Creek, Lachland Benjamin Drive, Friars Hill Road, Old Parham Road, Independence Drive, and other areas around the city.

Approximately sixty (60) traffic tickets were issued for various offences, while three (3) vehicles were impounded for not being licensed and

insured.

Meanwhile, two people were arrested and taken into custody on separate incidents. One individual was arrested for unlawful possession of cannabis and cocaine, and the other for driving without a valid driver's license.

The Royal Police Force continues to intensify its efforts to enhance road safety and reduce criminal activity across the island. The public is further reminded of the importance of complying with traffic regulations and supporting the initiatives of the traffic department to ensure a safer environment for all.



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**2025 INET PARTY MONARCH
JUMPY
SEMI-FINALISTS**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. ISLAND PRINCE | 9. KID FRESH |
| 2. DIOR | 10. MENACE XL |
| 3. SAMMIE C | 11. RICHIE |
| 4. DJ WHO | 12. VICIOUS |
| 5. QUEEN THALIA | 13. KIMMY |
| 6. ZAMONI | 14. TIAN WINTER |
| 7. RAIINE | 15. MR. SHY GUY |
| 8. LYRICAL REDS | |



Ms. Denise Gardiner
Judges Subcommittee Chair

3.7.25



Senator Michael Freeland
Deputy Chair, Festival Commission

3.7.25

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
Parliamentary Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
National Festivals Director - National Festivals
Chairperson - Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission
Sub-Committee Chair - 2025 INET Party Monarch



**2025 INET PARTY MONARCH
GROOVY
SEMI-FINALISTS**

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. DIOR | 9. RAIINE |
| 2. QUEEN THALIA | 10. KIMMY |
| 3. RICHIE | 11. PEETRON |
| 4. NATURAL RAMPLER | 12. TAMMY |
| 5. YOUNG LYRICS | 13. KID FRESH |
| 6. TIAN WINTER | 14. NAYCHA KID |
| 7. DESTINY | 15. LYRICS MAN |
| 8. EMPRESS | |


Ms. Denise Gardiner
Judges Subcommittee Chair
3.7.25


Senator Michael Freeland
Deputy Chair, Festivals Commission
3.7.25

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
Parliamentary Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
National Festivals Director - National Festivals
Chairperson - Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission
Sub-Committee Chair - 2025 INET Party Monarch

Local News

PAGE 15

Bishop Charlesworth Browne shares his 'bounty'

FROM OUR HOME ORGANIC FOOD FARM

"Having a heart for the treasured and vulnerable among us. Making a donation of dozens of our home organic food farm quail eggs to the Disability Association of Antigua and Barbuda. Starting on July 3, 2025. Once again, we hear the challenging words of Holy Scripture: It is more blessed to give than to receive," Bishop Browne reported.




PIPER

You don't wash one shirt in the machine, Always wash full loads

DEWEY

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NECESSARY FOR LIFE

W

Water works wonders.
Every drop counts, preserve it!



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GROUNDS**

**PACK YOUR COOLER
AND COME**

Commentary



Haiti Is Bleeding—And the Caribbean Cannot Look Away



By Sir Ronald Sanders

Haiti continues to wallow in deep crisis as criminal gangs entrench their violent control over nearly 90 per cent of Port-au-Prince and other parts of the country. These armed groups have become a de facto regime of terror.

Especially chilling is the rampant sexual violence being used as a twisted reward for gang members, some as young as 14. As I noted in my previous commentary, young women and girls are being raped with impunity in areas under gang rule. Kidnappings for ransom are an everyday fear, and normal life is grasped in the brief moments that it comes. The trauma inflicted on Haitian society is incalculable.

The Transitional National Council (TNC), charged with governing Haiti until February 2026, has been unable to contain this descent into chaos. The Haitian Na-

tional Police are both outmanned and outgunned. Meanwhile, the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission of mostly Kenyan troops—deployed in the absence of a UN Security Council-authorized force—is largely confined to barracks. Starved of funding and operating without a clear mandate to use force, their capacity to confront the gangs is essentially non-existent.

Faced with these dire realities, the TNC has taken an extraordinary and controversial step: hiring a private mercenary group to combat the gangs. Until last week, this initiative remained unannounced and unexplained. The TNC had not identified the group involved, disclosed the financial terms, or described its rules of engagement. Surprisingly, this development has received scant international press coverage. But details are now beginning to emerge.

According to the UK Guardian newspaper, the mercenary group has deployed “first-person view” (FPV) kamikaze drones—equipped with commercial mining explosives—to identify and kill gang leaders. But after three months of drone operations, not a single gang leader has been confirmed killed. Instead, several drone strikes have damaged buildings in gang-controlled zones and may have harmed civilians. These are dangerous occurrences in a fragile and densely populated environment.

Yet the TNC’s decision is not without logic. With a paralysed MSS, a compromised national police force,

and no external military assistance under UN authority, Haitian leaders are at the end of their tether. In this vacuum, the mercenaries appear to be the only actors taking the fight directly to the gangs. And this has led even some Haitian human rights defenders to reluctantly view the use of mercenaries as a “necessary evil.”

But this course of action is fraught with risk. As I warned earlier, it is only a matter of time before the gangs strike back using the same technology. That time may be fast approaching. Reports surfaced last month of three alleged gang members being arrested in neighbouring Dominican Republic while attempting to purchase drones. Meanwhile, the mercenary group in Haiti is reportedly building a 150-person strike force from among overseas-based Haitians with prior service in the military forces of Canada, France, and the United States. A substantial weapons cache has already been moved into the country.

I am not surprised at this development. More than two years ago, leaders in the Haitian diaspora in the United States told me they were willing to organize themselves into a military-style force under credible leadership to confront the gangs. They already had an organizational blueprint. That vision now appears to be taking form.

Some voices—like that of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio—have suggested that, in the face of UN Security Council inaction, the Organization of American States

Commentary

(OAS) should take the lead. However, the OAS has no military capability, and its Charter forbids intervention in the domestic affairs of its Member States. Even if the Haitian government invited them, governments would still draw back in the absence of international authority.

It is in this context that the OAS held its 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly on June 27, 2025, in Antigua and Barbuda. The Assembly adopted a resolution, "Calling for Concrete Solutions to Resolve the Grave Security and Institutional Crisis in Haiti."

The resolution acknowledges Haiti's deep security, political, economic, and humanitarian collapse. It calls for urgent and coordinated international cooperation—multilateral, regional, and bilateral—to support Haiti; assistance to restore law and order, facilitate humanitarian aid, and organize free and fair elections; increased contributions to the MSS mission and the Haitian police; stricter enforcement of arms embargoes and illegal weapons control; judicial reform and anti-corruption efforts to tackle root causes of instability; and a 45-day deadline for the OAS Secretary General to present a consolidated Action Plan—developed in consultation with Haiti and the UN—to provide a structured roadmap for institutional support and national recovery.

The problem with the resolution is that it is binding on no one, and the Secretary General cannot develop a plan that is not approved, mandated, and resourced by Member States. So, while the resolution is encouraging, it is still words on paper. Haiti needs action, not just

the expression of commitments. It requires resources, not just rhetoric.

Worse now, US President Donald Trump has called for slashing \$9.4 billion in UN contributions. As columnist Jacqueline Charles pointed out recently in *The Miami Herald*, this would jeopardize programmes for Haiti, including the MSS mission.

If this crisis escalates—as it now seems set to do—the consequences will not stop at Haiti's borders. Regional migration pressures, transnational crime, and humanitarian spillovers will affect us all. Warfare of drones, gangs, and mercenaries will not spare the Haitian people from suffering. It may seem necessary out of desperation, but the longer this violent path continues, the

harder it becomes to find a peaceful solution.

CARICOM does not have the money or troops to help Haiti. Still, it does have the capacity for diplomatic coordination, humanitarian response, and high-level advocacy at the UN, as well as for assisting the OAS Secretary General's plan to become a reality.

The Caribbean cannot look away. CARICOM governments must continue to seek new ways to offer Haiti meaningful engagement.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the Dean of the OAS Corps of Ambassadors. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

2025 REGISTRATION OF NEW STUDENTS

The registration of new students for the 2025/2026 school year will take place on Thursday, 10th July 2025 at the school in Bolans from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To ensure a successful registration, parents are advised to bring along the following documents when registering their child/ward:

1. An original and a photo copy of the child's birth certificate
2. An original and a photo copy of the child's Health Card
3. One passport size picture of the child
4. The Clearance Letter from the Book Scheme Manager of the child's former school

*The registration fee for male students is \$420. This will cover the school tie, a tie pin, the school ID, the school belt, the school Handbook and Songbook, a merit card, a P.E. Shirt and P.E. Pants.

*The registration fee for female students is \$345. This will cover all the items above with the exception of the school belt.

THE SCHOOL'S UNIFORM IS AVAILABLE AT JUST IN TIME AT BEN' DUNG (779 - 3788; 783 - 4868), SHOUL'S TOYS, GIFTS AND HOUSEWARES ON NEWGATE STREET, SEWING MISTIQUE (TANNER STREET 782 - 8516) AND STITCH-WORLD AT COOLIDGE (462 - 3207).

Commentary

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

Cans' Journey in the Circular Economy

Once upon a shiny morn, in a factory bright and warm,

A little can was born from ore, a vessel ready to perform.

Stamped and shaped with care and pride,

It dreamed of journeys far and wide.

Its name? Just "Can" — quite plain, you see,

But destined for circular economy.

Filled with soda, fizz, and cheer,

It rolled to stores both far and near.

On shelves it sparkled, neat and sleek,

Waiting for a hand to seek.

A thirsty soul, on summer's day,

Chose our Can without delay.

Psssssst! went the tab, a joyful start,

A bubbling tune right from the heart.

Refreshing sips and laughter free,

Then empty, Can thought, "What now for me?"

But its journey had just begun, you see,

In the grand design of economy.



Tossed aside, but not in vain,

Into the bin, it clinked with grain.

With many brothers, sisters too,

All dreaming of what next they'd do.

The recycling truck, all rumbling might,

Came at dawn to claim the night.

Oh, how wondrous! Can could see,

A destiny of continuity.

Not tossed forever, doomed to rust,

Commentary

But saved by hands who choose to trust

In bins and trucks and fiery kilns,

And workers' sweat and whirring mills.



Yet Can, reborn, knew deeply too,

That each new life depends on you.

If tossed away on roadsides bare,

It wouldn't dance through heat and air.

It'd lay in dirt, unseen, alone,

Its promise lost, its worth unknown.

Beyond the bin, there's art and craft,

Upcycled lamps, old cans re-draft.

Kids make drums that clink and bang,

Garden pots where flowers hang.

Innovation, bold and free,

Feeds the circular economy.

Brands, too, awaken and decide

To keep recyclables in their stride.

Designing cans with mindful thought,

Easier to melt, remake, replot.

Producers, sellers, buyers too,

All play a part in what cans do.

Can's story isn't trash or end,

It's life renewed, again, again.

From mine to shelf, from shelf to bin,

From molten pool to mold within.

A humble hero, small and round,

Whose value loops from pound to pound.

So when you see a can tonight,

Remember journeys out of sight.

Not single-use, but cycle free,

A shining truth of industry.

And whisper thanks, and do your part,

For circular dreams start in the heart.

And Can shall roll, reborn and bright,

In kitchens warm or garden light.

Its story told by every clink,

By every mind that stops to think.

A dance of metal, hope, and plan —

Forever rolling: the life of Can.

Regional News

Haiti's gangs have 'near-total control' of the capital as violence escalates, UN says

Haiti's gangs have gained "near-total control" of the capital and authorities are unable to stop escalating violence across the impoverished Caribbean nation, senior UN officials warned Wednesday.

An estimated 90% of the capital Port-au-Prince is now under control of criminal groups who are expanding attacks not only into surrounding areas but beyond into previously peaceful areas, Ghada Fathy Waly, executive director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, told the UN Security Council.

"Southern Haiti, which until recently was insulated from the violence, has seen a sharp increase in gang-related incidents," she said. "And in the east, criminal groups are exploiting land routes, including key crossings like Belladere and Malpasse, where attacks against police and customs officials have been reported."

Waly said the state's authority to govern is rapidly shrinking as gang control expands with cascading effects.

Criminal groups are stepping into the vacuum left by the absence or limited delivery of public services and are establishing "parallel governance structures," and gang control of major trade routes has paralysed legal commerce, leading to soaring prices for cooking fuel and rice, Haiti's staple



food, she said.

Without increased action by the international community, the total collapse of state presence in the capital could become a very real scenario," he warned.

Gangs have grown in power since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 and previously were estimated to control 85% of the capital.

Haiti has not had a president since the assassination.

A UN-backed mission led by Kenyan police arrived in Haiti last year to help quell gang violence, but the mission remains understaffed and underfunded, with only about 40% of the 2,500 personnel originally envisioned.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' proposal in

February to have the UN provide drones, fuel, ground and air transport and other non-lethal support to the Kenya-led mission has languished in the council.

In response to the gangs, the UNODC's Waly said there has been a rapid growth in the number and activities of private security companies and vigilante self-defence groups, with some trying to protect their communities while others act illegally and collude with gangs.

"Over the last three months," Jenca said, "these groups reportedly killed at least 100 men and one woman suspected of gang association or collaboration."

He said the last three months have also seen an increase in sexual violence by gangs with the UN political mission in Haiti documenting

364 incidents of sexual violence involving 378 survivors just from March to April.

A new report by UN experts covering the period from last October through February said the gangs have exploited political turmoil and the disorganized response to Haiti's security crisis, pointing to competing political ambitions and allegations of corruption within Haiti's transitional governing bodies that have stymied action.

"While the expansion of territorial control brings gangs additional sources of revenue and bargaining power," the experts said, "these attacks are also backed by individuals trying to destabilize the political transition for their own political goals." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Grenada: PM Mitchell confirms corruption with Hurricane Beryl response



Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell has confirmed that financial corruption has occurred with the rebuilding or building of new houses in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl which devastated the northern part of Grenada on July 1 last year, but the illicit practice is not widespread.

“I am sure that with any government programme from time to time you may have mistake or you may have issues that need addressing but as far as I am aware there is no widespread corruption, no systematic corruption in any of these instances,” Mitchell said in response to a question posed to him during his weekly Tuesday “DMs with the PM” interactive talk show.

Admitting that there are challenges with some contractors who were awarded contracts to build the homes, Prime Minister Mitchell said that a lot of it had to do with financial management of fixed term contracts issued by the Ministry of Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation and or the Ministry of Hous-

ing.

“I have said that repeatedly with many of the contractors because in many of the instances the ability to manage their money, the ability to have the type of financial literacy that is required is sometimes not there,” he said, without providing details of the financial wrongdoings.

“Now you could say you not dealing with them in which cases that homes are not going to be rebuilt because we simply don’t have the capacity,” he said, while pointing out that the government awarded fixed term contracts for rebuilding of the homes.

“If you give a contractor a fixed price contract, say EC\$75,000 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) to build or EC\$85,000 to build a “Build Back Better” house and he does not realise that he cannot pay his workers per day because if he pays them per day and if they unproductive and if rain falls and they don’t work and they still have to be paid, he will quickly find himself running out of money and will be unable to build a home because he ought

to have said if the price is fixed I then have to give a fixed labour price,” the Prime Minister said.

Recently, Finance Minister Dennis Cornwall, announced that the Audit Department will be conducting audits into several contractors who were awarded contracts to construct houses under the Hurricane Beryl Response initiative and failed to complete the project.

The Ministry of Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation was allocated EC\$15 million under the 2024 supplementary budget to assist with the rebuilding of the homes. A total of EC\$50,000 was allocated for each house.

Speaking about the alleged financial misconduct, malfeasance and irregularities of public funds through the contracts, Cornwall said that he has heard one or two cases where contractors have started houses and disappeared.

When asked why this is happening, he said, “I don’t really know but I believe that the persons issuing the contracts to those contractors need to basically make sure that they vet these people properly.”

Announcing that all government funds must be accounted for because of the various supporting legislation, Cornwall said, “I want to put out a warning to persons who have collected government monies and did not do what they should do with it, or you used it for other purposes and so on...

“We will have the Audit Department audit those things, we will have the necessary steps taken to make sure you can account for the monies you were given,” he said. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Regional News



Noncommunicable disease deaths surge 43 per cent in the Americas since 2000

Deaths from noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes have increased dramatically across the Americas, rising 43 per cent since 2000 to reach 6 million deaths in 2021, according to a new report from the Pan American Health Organization.

The NCDs at a Glance 2025 report, released today, reveals that noncommunicable diseases now account for 65 per cent of all deaths in the region, with nearly 40 per cent of those deaths occurring before age 70.

“The surge in NCD deaths is an urgent wake-up call,” stated Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, PAHO Director. “Too many people are dying prematurely from diseases that are largely preventable and treatable. With early detection, timely diagnosis, access to care, and strong policies, we can save lives. This report gives countries the tools they need to act.”

According to the report, cardiovascular diseases led the death toll with 2.16 million fatalities, followed by cancer at 1.37 million deaths, diabetes with over 420,000 deaths, and chronic respiratory conditions claiming more than 416,000 lives. Suicide, identified as the fourth leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29, accounted for 100,760 deaths.

The report highlights alarming trends in risk factors contributing to the disease burden. In 2022, obesity affected 33.8 per cent of adults—representing a 28 per cent increase since 2010. Physical inactivity rose to 35.6 per cent, while diabetes prevalence reached 13.1 per cent. The data shows that 43 million people over 30 are unable to access needed care for these conditions.

Hypertension affects more than a third of adults in the region, yet only 36.4



per cent have their condition under control. The report also notes that air pollution increases the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, while suicide rates have risen by 17.4 per cent since 2000, affecting men three times more than women.

While total deaths have increased, the report shows some encouraging trends in age-standardized mortality rates since 2000. NCD mortality rates declined by 16.2 per cent, with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory disease mortality rates dropping by nearly 30 per cent. Cancer mortality rates fell by 24.6 per cent.

Some modifiable risk factors have also improved since 2000, with tobacco use declining by 22.1 per cent and diabetes treatment coverage rising from 46.6 per cent to 57.7 per cent.

However, the Americas region remains off track to meet the global goal of a 25 per cent reduction in premature NCD mortality by 2025. From 2010 to 2021, premature mortality decreased by just 8 per cent. Only five countries—Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Chile, and Grenada—are currently on track to meet this target, though eleven additional member states could

achieve the goal with accelerated efforts.

The report recommends that countries scale up prevention policies including tobacco and alcohol control, front-of-package nutrition labelling, and physical activity promotion. It also calls for strengthened primary care systems for early detection and management of hypertension, diabetes, and cancers, with mental health and suicide prevention integrated at the first level of care.

PAHO’s HEARTS program, now active in 33 countries and reaching 5.7 million people for hypertension treatment, serves as a model for strengthening primary care systems and implementing national action plans.

The timing of the report’s release is significant, as it can help shape policy discussions ahead of the Fourth High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs in September 2025, when countries are expected to adopt a new political declaration addressing health inequities and the root causes of noncommunicable diseases. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Regional News

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Dominica: Linton resigns as UWP president

The president of the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP), Lennox Linton, has resigned from the position, the UWP leader, Dr Thomson Fontaine has confirmed.

He said that Linton, who once served as opposition leader and UWP leader, gave no reasons for his resignation.

Party officials said that Linton, 68, had submitted his letter of resignation to the party's general secretary Nicholas George.

Linton was elected as UWP president in December 2024. He was first elected as the parliamentary representative for the Marigot constituency on December 8, 2014 and served as Opposition Leader until the December 6, 2022 snap general election.

Linton also served as the UWP leader from September 1, 2013 until his resignation on October 3, 2022. (*Loop Caribbean*)



Liverpool player Diogo Jota and his brother were killed in a car accident in Spain, police say

Liverpool player Diogo Jota and his brother were killed in a car accident in Spain when the Lamborghini they were in veered off a road and burst into flames, police said Thursday.

The Spanish Civil Guard confirmed to The Associated Press that the 28-year-old Jota and his 25-year-old brother, André Silva, were found dead near the northwestern city of Zamora.

Jota's death comes weeks after he married Rute Cardoso while on vacation from a long season where he helped Liverpool win the Premier League title. On getting married, he wrote in a social media post, "Yes to forever." He leaves behind him three children, the youngest born last year.

Police were investigating the causes of the accident that occurred past midnight local time. They said there were no other vehicles involved and that the brothers were alone in the car. The bodies were undergoing forensic analysis.

It wasn't clear who was driving the car. Police were looking into the hypothesis that the accident happened because of a blown tire while they tried to overtake another vehicle.

The crash occurred while they were travelling eastward along an isolated stretch of highway about an hour west of Zamora.

Video images of the aftermath published by Spanish media showed braking tire marks veering off the road toward torn-apart guardrails. The burnt-up car was seen several meters ahead, with some of the vegetation around it destroyed by the fire.

Jota was taking his summer break from football after having helped Portugal win the Nations League. That June 8 final against Spain in Munich was his last match.



Liverpool's players are due back to start training for next season on Monday. But Jota's participation in the Nations League could have earned him some extra time off before being called back to Liverpool.

Liverpool said the club was "devastated by the tragic passing."

"Liverpool FC will be making no further comment at this time and request the privacy of Diogo and André's family, friends, teammates and club staff is respected as they try to come to terms with an unimaginable loss. We will continue to provide them with our full support."

Jota joined Liverpool from Wolves in 2020 and won three major trophies with the Merseyside club.

Jota was a clinical finisher, scoring 65 goals in 182 games for the Reds. His last goal for the club was the winner in the Merseyside derby against Everton in April, which moved the team closer to the league title.

His brother Silva played with Portuguese club Penafiel in the lower divisions.

The Portuguese football federation released a statement lamenting the deaths. Federation president Pedro Proença said Portuguese soccer was "completely devastated."

"More than a fantastic player, with almost 50 appearances for the national team, Diogo Jota was an extraordinary person, respected by all his colleagues and opponents. He had a contagious joy and was a reference in his community," Proença said in the statement.

The Portuguese federation said it has requested a minute of silence before Thursday's match between Portugal and Spain at the Women's European Championship being played in Switzerland.

"We lost two champions," Proença said. "Their deaths represent an irreparable loss for Portuguese soccer and we will all do our best to honour their legacy daily."

Portugal's Prime Minister Luís Montenegro commented on the "unexpected and tragic" deaths. He said Jota was "an athlete who greatly honoured Por-

Con't on page 21

Ryanair cancels flights for 30,000 passengers due to French strike

Tens of thousands of passengers have been hit by a French air traffic control strike that has cancelled flights in France on Thursday and Friday and had a knock-on effect elsewhere in Europe.

Budget airline Ryanair said it had been forced to cancel more than 170 flights and the holiday plans of more than 30,000 passengers had been disrupted.

Two French unions were staging the two-day strike over working conditions, leading to a quarter of flights being cancelled at the main airports in Paris and half of flights at Nice airport.

French Transport Minister Philippe Tabarot condemned as unacceptable both the unions' demands and their decision to go on strike at such an important time for people going on holiday.

Ryanair said the strike had affected not only its flights to and from France, but also



aircraft flying over French airspace to destinations including the UK, Ireland, Spain and Greece.

Its chief executive, Michael O'Leary, accused the air traffic controllers of "holding European families to ransom".

"It makes no sense and is abundantly unfair on EU passengers going on holidays," he complained, calling on European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to take "urgent action" to ensure minimum service levels during strikes

and to protect flights going through French airspace from domestic industrial action.

France's civil aviation authority, DGAC, asked airlines to reduce flight schedules at several airports across the country

Disruption is expected to worsen at French airports on Friday, with 40% fewer flights from the Paris airports at Charles de Gaulle, Orly and Beauvais.

The strike was called by the UNSA-ICNA union, which

cited staffing shortages, management issues and the planned introduction of a controversial clock-in system for controllers among its concerns. Talks with the DGAC earlier this week failed to resolve the dispute.

Airlines for Europe (A4E), the continent's leading aviation body, described the strike as "intolerable", warning that it would severely disrupt travel plans at the height of the holiday season.

EasyJet, another low-cost carrier affected by the disruption, expressed "deep disappointment" and urged a resolution.

Ryanair said on Wednesday it also had been hit by the recent conflict in the Middle East and had cancelled more than 800 flights last month.

Despite the cancellations, the airline said it still operated more than 109,000 flights in June, indicating that fewer than 1% of flights were affected. (*BBC News*)

con't from pg 20

tugal's name."

"I extend my deepest condolences to their family," he said. "It is a sad day for soccer and for national and international sports."

Reaction also started pouring in from across the world, including from non-soccer players such as NBA star LeBron James — a minority owner at Liverpool — and tennis legend Rafael Nadal.

"It doesn't make any sense," Jota's

Portugal teammate Cristiano Ronaldo said. "Just now we were together in the national team, just now you had gotten married. My condolences to your family, to your wife and to your children. I wish them all the strength in the world. I know that you will always be with them. Rest in peace, Diogo and André. We will all miss you."

Former club Porto and former teammates lamented the deaths and sent condolences, as did other clubs, federations and leagues.

The Premier League said it was

"shocked and devastated."

"Our sincerest condolences go to Diogo's family, friends, Liverpool FC, and all their supporters at this heartbreaking time," it said. "Football has lost a champion who will be forever missed. We will continue to support our friends and colleagues at the club."

UEFA said its thoughts were with relatives, friends and teammates affected "by this heartbreaking loss." It said a moment of silence will be observed at Euro 2025 matches on Thursday and Friday. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Wildfire forces evacuation of thousands on Greek island of Crete



A major wildfire in eastern Crete has forced the evacuation of thousands of people and caused widespread damage to homes and businesses, as strong winds continue to hamper firefighting efforts.

The blaze, which broke out on Wednesday afternoon near the village of Achlia, has spread rapidly across forested and mountainous terrain due to gale-force winds and high temperatures.

According to Greece's fire service, the fire has now split into three active fronts - in Achlia, Ferma and Skinokapsala.

Fire crews say the conditions are creating new flare-ups, making containment efforts extremely difficult.

Authorities have ordered the mass evacuation of hotels, rental rooms and homes in

the Ferma municipality. The operation is underway with the support of the fire service, police and local volunteers.

Manolis Tzarakis, president of the Ierapetra and South-east Crete Hoteliers' Association, told a local radio station on Thursday that around 5,000 people have been evacuated, the majority of whom are foreign tourists staying in local hotels. At least 200 evacuees are being sheltered in a sports hall in Ierapetra.

As of Thursday morning, a total of 230 firefighters, supported by 13 specialised foot teams, 46 engines, and a drone surveillance unit, have been deployed in the area. For aerial firefighting, 10 helicopters have been made available - one of them coordinating airborne operations.

Authorities say the damage is extensive, with homes, greenhouses, villas, hotels and businesses reportedly destroyed in both coastal and inland areas.

In the settlement of Agia Fotia, homes and rental properties have been destroyed, and the area is experiencing a power outage, according to local reports. At least four elderly people have been taken to hospital with respiratory problems caused by smoke inhalation.

The main road near Agia Fotia has been closed by police, who have urged residents and visitors to avoid all non-essential travel due to hazardous air quality, extreme heat, and falling ash.

As a precaution, all hospitals in Crete have been placed on alert by health authorities.

Emergency alerts via the

112 public warning system were issued throughout Wednesday, calling for evacuations from Achlia, Ferma, Agia Fotia, Galini, and later Koutsounari, instructing residents and tourists to move towards Ierapetra.

Some individuals who were cut off by road were reportedly evacuated by boat from local beaches.

Earlier this week in Turkey more than 50,000 people were evacuated due to wildfires in the western province of Izmir.

At least six heat-related deaths have been reported in Europe as the continent reels under an early summer heatwave. The latest recorded fatalities were in Spain and Italy. There were also casualties in France. (*BBC News*)

VACANCY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

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

Key duties include:

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

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE SALES)

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

Key duties include:

- Secure and grow a strong portfolio of corporate clients across various sectors
- Develop and implement strategic sales plans to achieve and exceed targets
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
- Deliver customised solutions that align with client needs
- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

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

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

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

Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****
"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Sports News



Antiguan athletes compete at NACAC championships in Nicaragua

An 11-member contingent left the island on Wednesday to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC) Under-13 and Under-15 Championships in Nicaragua this weekend.

The contingent, which was announced by the Antigua and Barbuda Athletic Association, comprised eight athletes and three coaches for the July 4-6 event in Managua.

During two days of competitions, the athletes aged 11 and 12 will compete in the pentathlon, which comprises five events. There is a 60-meter race, long jump, high jump, cricket

ball throw, an 800-meter race for girls and a 1,000-meter race for boys.

The 13 and 14 age groups will contest the heptathlon, which comprises seven events. There is an 80-meter race, a 60-meter hurdles for girls and an 80-meter hurdles for boys, long jump, high jump, cricket ball throw, shot put, a 1,000-meter race for girls and an 80-meter hurdles for boys, long jump, high jump, cricket ball throw, shot put, and a 1,000-meter race girls and a 1,200-meter race for boys.

The Pentathlon team comprised Aliyah Williams and Gideon Roberts of St. John's Catholic School and Power,

Speed, and Endurance (PSE) Club; Kiarah Simon of Freemansville; and Nicquan Webster of J.T. Ambrose Primary School and Roots Athletics Club.

The Heptathlon team comprised LeAnn Joseph and Chance DeGannes of St. Anthony's Secondary School and Wadadli Athletics Club, Marian Whyte of Pares Secondary and PSE Club, and Geron Henry of Princess Margaret School and PSE Club.

The athletes are accompanied by head coach Heather Samuel-Daley, and assistant coaches Timon Emanuel and Celisa Maloney.

Sea View Farm win, Freeman's Village draw in ASCFL

After a short break, action resumed in the All Saints Community Football League (ASCFL) on Wednesday evening.

Sea View Farm romped to a 4-1 victory against Overdose in a Zone A affair in the first game of a double-header at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Azari Edwards struck a hat trick for Sea View Farm. He opened the scoring with a conversion in the ninth minute. Overdose was reduced to 10 men in the 21st minute when Mike Lewis was expelled after receiving his second



The Freeman's Village football team

caution (yellow card) during the encounter.

Edwards scored his second goal of the match in the 37th minute to give Sea View Farm a two-nil lead at halftime.

Kenjah Matthew reduced the deficit when he scored a consolation goal for Overdoes with a conversion in the 47th

minute. Joshua Ferdinand restored Sea View Farm's two-goal cushion with a 50th-minute conversion to give his team a 3-1 lead.

Edwards accomplished his hat trick when he scored Sea View Farm's fourth and final goal in the 61st minute.

Freeman's Village

and Ovals fought to a 1-1 draw in a Zone B affair in the second game of Wednesday's double-header.

Ranique James scored in the 17th minute to give Freeman's Village a one-nil lead at halftime. But Ovals salvaged a draw when Blavon James snatched the equalizer with a 62nd-minute conversion.

Freeman's Village ended the match with 10 men after Jahmar Malone was expelled in the 69th minute when he picked up his second caution during the encounter.

Teams get second win in ABSCA's T20 Competition



Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js



Rackaman Construction Strictly Business

Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js, Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300, and Rackaman Construction Strictly Business have all notched up their second wins during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's T20 Competition.

Buckley's 3Js secured their second win in as many games with a commanding 153-run drubbing of Mix-Up Stars at the Swetes playing field.

Buckley's 3Js made 212 for seven off their allotted 20 overs. Randino Turner slammed 71, Steve Martin hit 50, and Denley Thomas and Rodney Williams each scored 19. Conrad Mathias claimed two for 25, and Carl Simon captured two for 31.

The Mix-Up Stars succumbed to their second loss in three matches as they were restricted to 59 for seven off their 20 overs. Steve Martin grabbed three for 10, and Charanlall Ramjohn picked up two wickets for nine runs.

300 notched up their second win in as many games by snatching a three-wicket win against Dredgers at the Dredgers playing field.

The Dredgers were limited to 96 for six in 14.3 overs. Robin Bascus scored 19, and Loy Weste made 15. Kennedy

Tonge picked up two for 11, and Justin "Trini" Pereira took two for 31.

300 achieved victory by scoring 98 for six in 13.3 overs. Veston Lewis hit 24, Richard Dyer scored 18, and Kennedy Tonge made 15. Kurt Douglas and Mervin Higgins each picked up two for 29 for Dredgers, who lost for the second time in as many encounters.

Strictly Business claimed their second win in as many outings with a nine-wicket victory against Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets at Dredgers.

Vaughn Charles struck 29 as the Bullet were restricted to 108 for eight off their 20 overs. Melvin Charles grabbed three for 12, and Owen Graham bagged two for 26.

Strictly Business achieved victory at 114 for two in 12.3 overs. Clinton Benjamin slammed 49, Melvin Charles cracked 28, and Kim George struck 20. Kerry Burton captured one for 31 for Bullets, who lost for the second time in three matches.

Action also commenced in the ABSCA's Women's T20 Competition. Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets defeated Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Rockets by 40 runs at the Powells playing field.

Cheryl Williams hit a half-century as the Bullets made 150 for seven

off their allotted 20 overs. Williams smashed 72, including five sixes and four fours, and Lana Thomas made 22. Anmarie Parker and Pauline Shaw each picked up two for 31.

In reply, the Rockets were restricted to 110 for five off their 20 overs. Rashana David slammed 68. Janice Browne claimed two for 20, and Cheryl Williams captured one for 17.

Potters Uprising Cricket was awarded victory via default after Police were unable to field a team for their encounter at Dredgers.

But Alzzari and Sharon Joseph North Sails Antigua Female Flyers claimed an eight-wicket victory against Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors at the Swetes playing field.

The Survivors were restricted to 116 for seven off their 20 overs. Cerie Richards hit 19, Joan Samuel scored 17, and Grace Persaud made 15. Ake-da Francis picked up three for 33, Monique Titus bagged two for 18, and Diane Anthony captured one for 20.

Female Flyers achieved victory at 117 for three in 16.3 overs. Makada Hector smashed 42, Gaynel Ogarro hit 27 not out, and Robinette Burton made 18. Editha Burnham claimed one for 13, and Sacha Michael captured one for 18.

Liverpool's Diogo Jota dies in car crash in Spain

MADRID (Reuters) - Liverpool's Portuguese forward Diogo Jota and his brother died in a car crash in northwestern Spain early on Thursday, when their Lamborghini veered off the road and burst into flames.

Evidence at the crash site suggested Jota's car suffered a burst tyre while overtaking, police said. The vehicle then flipped over and ended up in the central reservation. The crash occurred around 00:30 a.m. (2230 GMT) in the province of Zamora.

Tributes to the 28-year-old poured in from national leaders, football presidents, his teammates and clubs, while in Liverpool, devastated fans wept and laid flowers outside Anfield stadium for a man who weeks earlier had celebrated winning the Premier League with the team.

Jota, 28, had just married his partner of 10 years in late June, with whom he had three children. "My dream came true," his wife Rute Cardoso wrote on Instagram of their wedding.

"This is a moment where I struggle! There must be a bigger purpose! But I can't see it!" former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who brought Jota to the club in 2020, said on Instagram.

"Diogo was not only a fantastic player, but also a great friend, a loving and caring husband and father!"

Jota was the blueprint for the high-pressing, high-energy goal-getter beloved by modern coaches.

"It doesn't make sense. We were only just in the national team together, you'd only just got married," fellow Portugal international Cristiano Ronaldo said on X.

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin, said, "his passion, energy and spirit on the field inspired everyone



Diogo Jota

around him. It is devastating to think that a life so full of joy and potential has been taken far too soon."

Jota's brother, Andre Silva, who died alongside him, was also a footballer, with Penafiel in the Portuguese second division.

A minute's silence will be observed at all of Thursday's and Friday's matches at the Women's Euros taking place in Switzerland, UEFA said in a statement.

Jota helped Liverpool win the Premier League last season, scoring the derby winner against Everton, and also won the FA Cup in 2022 and League Cup in 2022 and 2024 with the Merseyside outfit. Jota scored 65 goals in 182 appearances for the club. Liverpool said they were devastated.

"It is a remarkable achievement for a small guy that came from Gondomar, where I had this dream," Jota said on Liverpool's website of winning the Premier League. "It's a moment I will cherish forever."

Flags flew at half-mast outside Anfield. "I used to see him with his cars - he used to like his cars, you know," Lesley Hughes, 75, told Reuters outside the stadium. "You'd see him driving in and he'd wave."

Born in Porto, Jota began his career with local team Pacos de Ferreira before switching to Wolverhampton Wanderers in 2017.

"We are heartbroken. Diogo was adored by our fans, loved by his teammates and cherished by everyone who worked with him during his time at Wolves," the club said.

Jota also made 49 appearances for Portugal, twice winning the UEFA Nations League. On the streets of Lisbon, many Portuguese said they were devastated by the tragic news.

"He was, without a doubt, one of the great figures of our national team and a key player for Liverpool," Francisco Ferreira, 25, told Reuters. "It's a loss that saddens all Portuguese people, and I pray for him and for his family."

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

ABCA's Super40 Cup to climax this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup is expected to climax with the remaining four teams in battle for the coveted domestic one-day cricket title this weekend.

After the conclusion of the preliminary stage last weekend, reigning three-peat champions PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks are among the four teams that qualified for the semi-finals on Saturday.

The Blackhawks finished the preliminary stage as Zone A winners with 14 points, and Pigotts Crushers clinched second place with 12 points to claim the semi-final spots at the end of the five-team round-robin group play.

The New Winthorpes Lions finished as Zone B winners with 14 points, and Empire Nation snatched second place with 10 points to claim the other two spots in the semi-finals.

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, which will take place in New Winthorpes on Sunday, July 6. The reserve day for the final will be Saturday, July 12.

Meanwhile, the final two matches in the preliminary stage of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Curtly Ambrose Limited Overs Competition will also take place on Saturday.

Consolidated Maritime Services Sea View Farm will face PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks at Sea View Farm, and Freetown will meet Mahico at Clare Hall.

Otis Burton and Llewellyn Simon will umpire at Sea View Farm, and Dirk Schouten and Julian Daniel will officiate at Clare Hall.



Players of Liberta Blackhawks



Players of Pigotts Crushers

Freetown will enter the final round of matches in the preliminary stage at the top of the standings with 18 points. They are followed by Mahico and Liberta Blackhawks with 12 points apiece and Sea View Farm with six points.

The team that finishes at the top of the standings at the end of the prelim-

inary stage will advance to the finals. The second and third place finishers will meet in a playoff, with the winner advancing to the final.

The two finalists will clash in a best-of-three finals for the Sir Curtly Ambrose one-day championship.