

# The Jolly Beach Hotel is a key pillar in Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry

*Story on Page 2*



**The Japanese Government donates a piece of equipment to the Antigua and Barbuda government to remove sargassum seaweeds from the nation's coastline.**

*Story on Page 7*



## The Jolly Beach Hotel is a key pillar in Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry



**Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez speaking about The Jolly Beach Resort**

The Jolly Beach Hotel, a proposal for which is being considered to transfer its ownership to the Social Security Scheme, is currently performing an important role in the overall tourism product of the country.

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez told the debate on the proposal in the House of Representatives on Monday, that the Jolly Beach Hotel's value to the tourism sector is quite significant.

For example, the minister said the property is one of only two properties that currently cater to the family segment of the market. Additionally, because it is largely seen as an 'affordable' property, it provides a demand for economy seats on the airlines, thus increasing demand for additional

airlifts.

"There is now an increased demand for this type of property in our tourism product. As a matter of fact, once when we toured the property, one guest approached the prime minister urging him to keep the Jolly Beach open because as a repeat guest, 'it was the only property available for middle income travelers like her'," the minister reported.

According to Fernandez, it is just as important to attract the high-end traveler who would usually fill the first or business class seats, as it is to fill 'the back of the planes' with travelers who want to stay at a middle-income-type-hotels such as Jolly Beach.

He disclosed that in 2023, Jolly Beach accounted for 23 percent of the visitors

to the country. In 2024, the property generated \$21.84 million in revenues with an operating profit of \$4.35 million. As of May 31, 2025, the resort had generated revenue of \$13.31 million which is 6 percent more than for the same period of a year ago. Projected revenue for 2025 is \$23 million. There are approximately 200 employees at the hotel.

Currently, the Jolly Beach Hotel comprises of 27.2 acres of beach-front property; the total length of the white-sand beach in front of the. The hotel property is 1,650 feet; the average width of the white sand beach is 120 feet; approximate area of beach is 5.5 acres; there are 382 rooms, 318 of which are now operational with another 20 expected to become operational shortly; 18 suites will become oper-

ational in the fall; there are four restaurants (a buffet, pool bar and restaurant, a beach restaurant and a regular restaurant); it has a gym and a gift shop; and there are two pools that are now being refurbished.

The hotel currently has an occupancy 62 percent which is expected to rise following the planned renovations and which will drive further demands for rooms with the attendant airline flights especially in the summer months.

In its current state, the Jolly Beach is a major stop for nationals who spent time there on day-passes. In 2023, 1,383 nationals went there on day passes, in 2024 that amount rose to 2,396 and for the first six months of 2025 it totaled 1,726 persons.



## FESTIVALS COMMISSION ENDORSES RECOMMENDATION FOR KNIGHTHOOD OF BURNING FLAMES



**Members of Burning Flames Band receiving an award during this year's Carnival celebrations marking 40 years of their entry into the festival**

The Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) proudly endorses the recommendation by Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne and the Hon. Daryll S. Matthew, Minister of Creative Industries, for all members of the legendary band Burning Flames to be conferred with Knighthood during Antigua and Barbuda's 44th Independence Celebrations.

Formed in 1984 in the village of Potters, Burning Flames revolutionized the soundscape of Antigua Carnival and the wider Caribbean. As pioneers of modern soca and stewards of Antigua and Barbuda's Benna tradition, the group reshaped Carnival music with their infectious energy, groundbreaking use of technology, and unmatched ability to produce anthem after anthem. With over 30 albums and a record-breaking 17 Road March titles, Burning Flames hold the distinction of being the most decorated band in Antigua

Carnival history. Their dominance in Road March competitions is unmatched, having consistently delivered the most celebrated and infectious songs of the Carnival season year after year.

Their catalogue, including global classics such as Styley Tight, Workey Workey, Crazy, Swinging Engine, Gym Jam, Knuckle and Island Girl, just to name a few hits has defined generations of Caribbean music. Beyond local acclaim, Burning Flames achieved iconic international status, consistently selling out venues and exporting the sound of Antigua and Barbuda to the world for over four decades. Their innovative fusion of calypso, reggae, zouk, funk, and soca continues to inspire musicians globally.

The Hon. Daryll S. Matthew added: "This honor is long overdue. Burning Flames' contribution to Antigua and Barbuda's culture, coupled with

their accolades locally, regionally, and internationally, has set them apart as cultural icons. Their body of work and influence on the creative industries make this recommendation for knighthood most fitting."

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson of the ABFC, stated: "I echo the Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister Daryll Matthew in recommending the knighting of the legendary Burning Flames! Their music has inspired many for the last 40 years and will continue to do so for years to come. Burning Flames have not only shaped the landscape of our Carnival and culture but have also provided the soundtrack of our lives. Their contributions represent a living legacy of creativity, passion, and Antiguan pride."

The band's legacy includes collaborations with regional and international stars, elevating Antiguan soca to the global stage while remaining deeply rooted in their homeland. Among their many partnerships, Burning Flames were featured alongside Machel Montano in "Showdown (Band Meet Band)" from Xtatik's Any Minute Now album, a landmark fusion of two soca powerhouses. In their early years, they served as the backing band for Arrow of Montserrat, the global superstar behind Hot Hot Hot, an experience that helped shape their musical foundation. Their breakout hit Workey Workey was later covered by Byron Lee & the Dragonaires of Jamaica, further cementing their regional influence. In the late 1990s, they welcomed Onika Bostik of Trinidad & Tobago and Bryan Fon-

# Local News

tanelle of St. Lucia for the Hokus-Pokus album, adding fresh creative layers to their evolving sound.

Burning Flames revolutionized the Jam Band landscape and remain the benchmark for live performances, drawing massive audience's year after year.

In a fitting tribute during this year's Carnival celebrations, the Cabinet announced the renaming of Potters Village Road to Burning Flames Highway, a permanent and powerful symbol of their roots and enduring impact.

As the nation approaches its 44th Independence, the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission once again congratulates Burning Flames on 40 years of extraordinary contributions with hit after hit, Road March after Road March and decades of inspir-



ing cultural pride. The Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission firmly supports the recommendation for the legendary Burning Flames members in Clarence "Oungku" Edwards, To-

riano "King Onyan" Edwards, David "Bubb" Edwards and Rone "Foxx" Watkins for this Knighthood is not only well-deserving, but historic.



CIBC BUSINESS BANKING



## Preparing a renewable energy project?

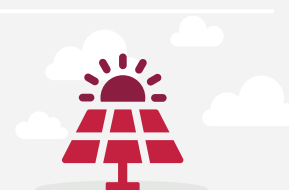
We support renewable energy projects across the region. With our expertise, you can apply for the funding you need. We have experience financing small, medium and large renewable energy projects, and can help you every step of the way.

### In addition, we offer commercial clients:

- Flexible financing for commercial mortgages with up to 15 years to repay\*
- Flexible financing on new commercial vehicles\*
- bizline™ Visa Credit and Debit Cards with higher purchase limits than personal cards, separation of business and personal expenses, and enrolment in My Rewards



Scan for more information and to reach a Business Banking Manager.



\*Financing is subject to lending criteria. "bizline" is a trademark of CIBC, used under license. The CIBC logo is a trademark of CIBC, used under license.





ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SJDC)

## VACANCY

### MAINTENANCE MANAGER

The **St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC)** is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of **Maintenance Manager**.

The successful candidate will be required to ensure smooth, safe, and efficient operation of the Corporation's facilities by overseeing all aspects of maintenance, including planning, scheduling, execution and quality control. This involves managing resources, leading a team and optimizing maintenance practices to reduce downtime, extend asset life and minimize cost. The Maintenance Manager will be required to work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

#### Key Responsibilities include:

Overseeing daily maintenance of facilities, equipment, and machinery

- Managing and guiding maintenance staff
- Developing preventative maintenance schedules and procedures
- Coordinating with vendors and contractors
- Managing inventory, budgets, and maintenance records
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations
- Supporting emergency repairs and disaster preparedness initiatives

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Degree or certification in Engineering, Facilities/Maintenance Management or a related field (BSc/BA in Business or Facility Management is an asset)
- Minimum 5 years' experience in maintenance management
- Strong technical knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and mechanical systems
- Proven leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills

#### Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director  
St. John's Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 1473  
St. John's  
Antigua

Or email: [hr@sjdcanu.com](mailto:hr@sjdcanu.com)

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

## Antigua and Barbuda speaks loudly at pre-COP30 meeting in Mexico



**Antigua and Barbuda delegation at Mexico meeting**

Antigua and Barbuda participated in the Ministerial Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean for the Implementation of Regional Climate Action, held on 25–26 August 2025 in Mexico City.

Ministers and representatives from the region convened to forge a united position ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil. The delegation of Antigua and Barbuda was led by Senator Michael

Joseph, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs, alongside Ambassador Ruleta Camacho Thomas.

During the plenary session, Minister Joseph emphasized that for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Antigua and Barbuda, the transition to low-carbon, resilient economies is an economy-wide challenge requiring transforma-

tive, non-debt-creating finance. He highlighted the importance of accountability from the world's largest emitters, noting that “rights without remedies are not justice.”

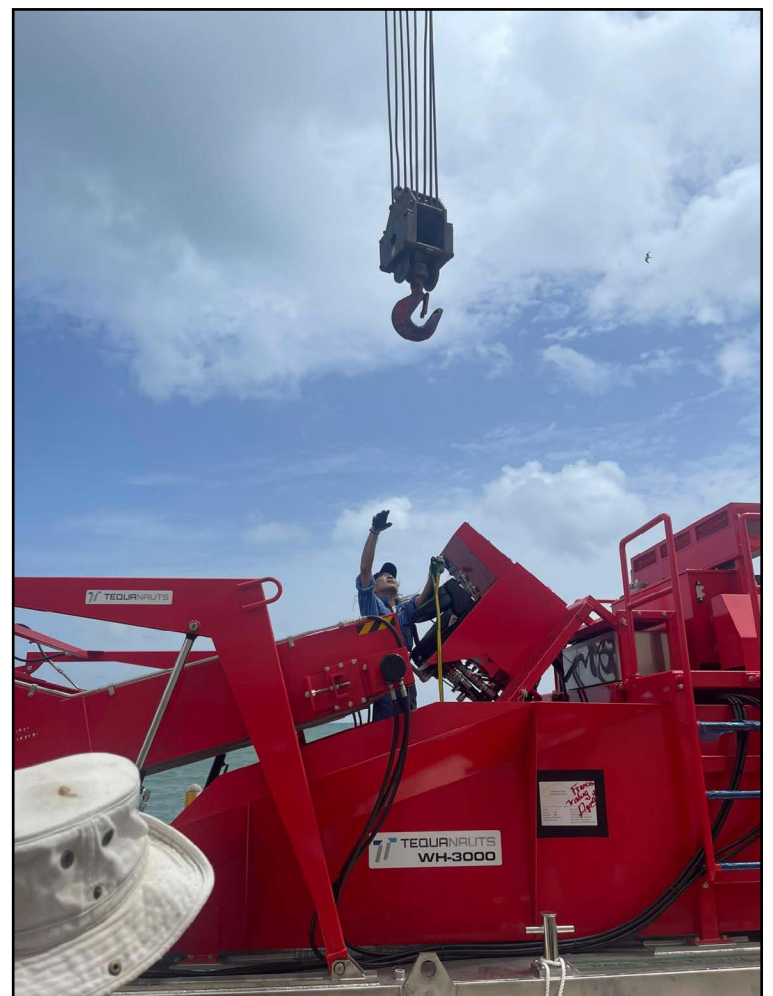
The Antigua and Barbuda delegation also participated in a special session on sargassum, where innovative uses for sargassum biomass were demonstrated. While acknowledging the value of innovation, the del-

egation stressed the urgent need for sustainable management and financing for large-scale clean-up operations, given the mounting costs.

Minister Joseph and Ambassador Camacho used the opportunity to meet with Alicia Barcena-Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico and Andre Correa do Lago- President-Designate of the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference, COP30



## Japan donates harvester for sargassum removal



The Japanese Government has donated another piece of equipment to the Antigua and Barbuda government to be utilized in the removal of sargassum seaweeds from the nation's coastline.

General Manager of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), Indira James Henry, said the equipment - a harvester - is

the final donation in a set of equipment for removal of the invasive seaweeds. Other equipment included booms that have been used for similar purposes.

The donation was made through the Japanese International Corporation Agency and technicians from the suppliers are currently in the country conducting training

session with members of the Coast Guard who are the ones who will operate the machine.

The training focuses not

only on the operation but also on the maintenance of the equipment as well. It will run over the course of a week.



# Local News



James Henry said this is the time of the year when the sargassum seaweeds begin to taper off. The sargassum 'season' begins in late January or February and comes to an end around this time of the year.

She explained that the harvester is not likely to go into action before early next year unless there is a sudden spike in the arrival of the seaweeds over the coming weeks.

The NSWMA general manager noted that following

their removal from the shoreline, the plan is to store the seaweeds in a designated area where they will be allowed to decompose for use as fertilisers or even for export.

"We are looking at several options of what to do with the harvested seaweeds but we are not yet at a stage where there is a final definitive plan of action," she stated.

The harvester is said to be valued at over \$300-thousand.



## Antigua and Barbuda Signs Critical Agreement with OAS



**Sarah Stuart (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation); Almira Henry (Director, Department of Social Policy, Research & Planning and National Liaison Officer ONE/OAS); Diann Black-Layne (Director, Department of Environment); Marsha Joseph (Permanent Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment); Dwayne Simon (Project Coordinator); Geraldine Whyte (Administrative Assistant, Organization of American States, Country Office in Antigua and Barbuda).**


The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Health and Environment together with the Ministry of Social Transformation, has signed a Program Execution Agreement with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

(GS/OAS).

The agreement establishes the implementation of a new initiative titled “Empowering Women and Underserved Communities through Solar Technology and Climate-Resilient Housing Training in Antigua and Bar-

buda.”

This initiative is supported by a US\$125,000 contribution from the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) and aims to enhance climate resilience, provide practical skills, and empower local communities.



## PAYING SCHOOL FEES? IT'S AS EASY AS ACB, AND HASSLE FREE!

Use the ACB Smart App and pay fees on the go.  
With our instant ACB Merchant Payment  
or EFT Options, **we've got you covered!**

follow us on for the list of schools



## Royal Police Force Receives Donation from the People's Republic of China



**From left to right: Deputy Commissioner of Police, Albert Wade, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Ag. Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers**

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has received a significant donation of electronic equipment from the People's Republic of China.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda Zhang Yanling made the presentation to Acting Commissioner Jeffers.

The items include laptop and desktop computers, Projectors and Projector Screen, WiFi Routers, and other pieces of equipment that will enhance the Force's modernization efforts and improve its operational capacity.



**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind





**You only need a group of  
5 people to sign up for  
Group Medical Insurance.**

ANTIGUA  
(268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA  
(268) 727-7422

info@sicfinancial.com

www.sicfinancial.com

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons



## Chinese University delegation visits Government House

Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams recently welcomed a delegation from the South China University of Technology.

The visiting team, led by Professor Ping Su of the School of Foreign Languages, included an undergraduate and two PhD students currently in the second and third years of their four-year doctoral programmes. The group is in Antigua and Barbuda for a month-long cultural immersion, focusing on the study of Caribbean culture.

The courtesy call provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on cultural understanding and academ-



**Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams third and fourth from left and Professor Ping Su second from left with students.**

ic cooperation, while also ues of education and inter-  
highlighting the shared val- national collaboration

### **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



# Notaries Public Sworn in at Government House

Earlier this week at Government House, Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, officially swore in Ms. Latoya A. Letlow and Mr. Wesley L. George as Notaries Public, following the advice of the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

The ceremony featured the taking of oaths and the signing of the Book of Oaths in the presence of officials, family members, and friends. In extending his congratulations, the Governor General expressed confidence that both appointees will uphold the highest standards of professionalism, thereby ensuring that the people of Antigua and Barbuda continue to have confidence in the legal system.

A Notary Public is an officer authorized to perform certain legal formalities, including administering oaths, witnessing the signing of documents, and certifying affidavits and deeds.



**Ms. Latoya A. Letlow (second from left) celebrates her swearing-in as a Notary Public with family and friends, alongside His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams (third from left), Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda.**



**Ms Letlow taking the Oath of Office**



**Mr. Wesley L. George signs the Book of Oaths at Government House after being sworn in as a Notary Public, on the advice of the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.**



**Ms. Letlow (left) and Mr. George (right) stand with His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams following their official appointments as Notaries Public, on the advice of the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.**



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



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

# **TALKING POINT**

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

**FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

**WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



# Local News

## Business entities join to present back-to-school supplies to Barbuda students

Barbudan students are poised to embark on their educational journey well-prepared and enthusiastic, thanks to the annual Back-to School Community Outreach organized by the Sandals Foundation.

This year's initiative saw a significant boost from crucial partnerships with Tropical Adventures Tours and Digicel Antigua, demonstrating a powerful display of community solidarity aimed at fostering educational success across the island.

The annual back-to-school drive stands as a cornerstone of the Sandals Foundation's investment into educational advancement and youth empowerment across the Caribbean. For the Barbuda community, this initiative extends beyond simply providing essential school supplies; it aims to foster a vital sense of hope for parents, as well as stability and continuity in preparing young minds not just for the classroom, but for a brighter future.

A pivotal element of this year's outreach was the invaluable support from Tropical Adventures Tours and Digicel Antigua. Their contributions



**Digicel Antigua's Commercial Manager Ikenley Francis, Tropical Adventures representative Jolie McDonald, Sandals Environment, Health and Safety Manager Jhavline Patrick, Sandals Foundation Volunteer Linneth Pearth, Sandals Foundation Volunteer Natalee Henry, Sandals Foundation Volunteer Karen Grenado-Wong, Sandals Foundation Volunteer Brenton Bristol, Sandals Public Relations Manager Leon Norville.**

were instrumental, providing not only essential school supplies and backpacks but also ensuring crucial logistical support, including transportation. The comprehensive packages distributed to students included raincoats, dental kits, and water bottles, ensuring children are well-equipped for various aspects of their daily school life.

Representatives from both Tropical Adventures Tours and Digicel Antigua teams were also present on the ground in Barbuda, actively participating in the distribution exercise allowing them to connect directly with the students and families.

Speaking to the broader significance of the partnership, Wenise Davis, CEO of Digicel Antigua, remarked on the transformative power of education. "Digicel is proud to partner with the Sandals Foundation on this Back-to-School Community Outreach in Barbuda," Davis commented. "Education is the foundation for growth, empowerment, and lasting change. By equipping our students with the resources they need, we are not only helping them prepare for the classroom but also investing in the future of our community. Together, we are making a positive difference where it matters most – with our children."

Mark Ryan, General Manager of Tropical Adventures, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration and the direct impact on students. "We are indeed happy to have been a part of supporting the Sandals team as learning and development can only be facilitated when students have the necessary tools," Ryan stated. "We were happy to come on board to support this worthy cause, ensuring Barbudan children have the resources they need to thrive academically."

Echoing the sentiments of gratitude, David Latchimy, General Manager at Sandals, expressed profound appreciation for the collaborative effort. "We are extremely grateful for Mark and Tropical Adventures' enthusiasm and kind support in partnering with us for this vital community outreach. Their assistance was absolutely crucial for the success of this event, ensuring our team and the necessary school supplies reached the children of Barbuda efficiently. The support of Digicel's contributions was also greatly appreciated, further solidifying the impact of this year's drive."



**MON - FRI  
9AM TO 11AM**



**HOSTED BY  
TROY ALLEN**

# TALK YOUR MIND

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889  
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

**WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



# Regional News

## Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister defends support for U.S. naval presence near Venezuela amid regional criticism

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has reiterated her government's firm support for the United States Navy's deployment near Venezuela, declaring that Trinidad and Tobago's foreign and domestic policy will be guided by a "Trinidad and Tobago first" approach for the next five years.

The Trump administration has framed the deployment as part of a counter-narcotics mission targeting Latin American drug cartels, particularly Venezuela's Tren de Aragua and Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel, which it accuses of fueling the fentanyl crisis in the U.S. White House officials have stated that the operation aims to intercept smuggling vessels, gather intelligence, and potentially conduct precision strikes against cartel-linked infrastructure. President Trump has designated several cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, opening the door to expanded military action under counter-terrorism

In a detailed statement to Guardian Media, Persad-Bissessar defended her position against criticism from regional leaders and opposition figures, emphasizing that the U.S. has the operational capacity to disrupt transnational drug and arms trafficking networks. She stated that cooperation with Washington is intended to protect—not undermine—the Caribbean region.

"There is no need for this



country to consult with Caricom on domestic issues," she said, citing the disproportionate impact of illegal migration, narcotics, and firearms from Venezuela on Trinidad and Tobago. She added, "Thousands of our citizens have been murdered in the last 25 years. Just yesterday, a 65-year-old retiree was raped, most likely by an illegal immigrant."

Persad-Bissessar dismissed claims that her stance had fractured Caricom's unity, noting that several member states aligned with the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA)—including St Lucia, St Vincent, Grenada, and Dominica—had already expressed support for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and condemned U.S. actions.

"Caricom unity had already been fractured before my comments," she said. "I make no apology for standing firm against narco-trafficking and gun smuggling. I make no apology for defending a Caricom neighbour, Guyana, who is under threat. And I make no apology for putting the interests

of Trinidad and Tobago first."

Her remarks drew sharp criticism from former prime minister Dr Keith Rowley, who described her warning to Venezuela over Guyana as "the most reckless foreign policy statement in years." Former foreign affairs minister Dr Amery Browne also accused her of "sabotaging" Caricom's ability to present a unified front.

Meanwhile, ALBA member states convened virtually for their 13th Extraordinary Summit, issuing a joint statement condemning what they described as "renewed aggression by the U.S. against Latin America and the Caribbean." The group reaffirmed its commitment to the 2014 CELAC Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and expressed full support for President Maduro.

ALBA leaders rejected U.S. accusations against Venezuela's government, calling them "groundless" and "mythomaniacal," and condemned the ongoing U.S. economic blockade

of Cuba. The alliance also backed a call from Colombia's president for an emergency meeting of regional foreign ministers to coordinate a sovereign response to perceived threats.

The Venezuelan government responded to the U.S. military deployment—which includes three US battleships carrying 4,500 personnel—as a destabilizing move. In its statement, Venezuela pledged a peaceful approach and emphasized its commitment to sovereignty and crime prevention without foreign interference.

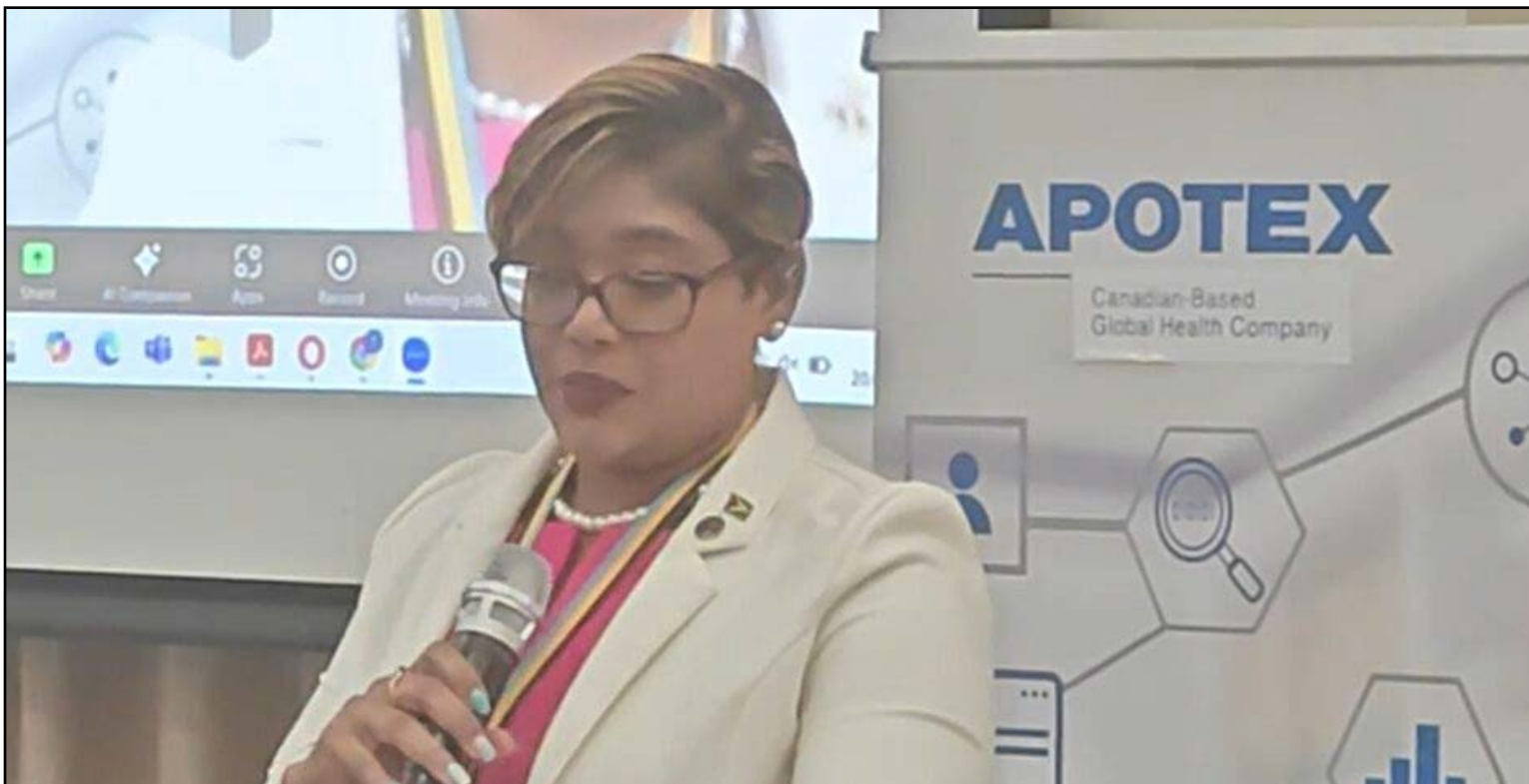
President Maduro has mobilized over 4.5 million militia members in response, dismissing U.S. claims of drug trafficking through the so-called "Cartel of the Suns" and calling the American campaign a "desperate" attempt to justify intervention.

China also weighed in, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning stating that Beijing opposes any action that violates the UN Charter or threatens the sovereignty of other nations. China urged the U.S. to adopt measures that promote peace and stability in the region.

Russia has not issued a formal public statement on the deployment, but analysts note that the scale and proximity of U.S. forces near Venezuela raise the specter of confrontation with Moscow, which has historically supported the Maduro government. (Dominica News Online)



## Pharmacy in the Caribbean poised for transformation, says outgoing Caribbean Association of Pharmacists president



The Caribbean pharmacy sector stands on the brink of a transformative era, driven by innovation, accountability, and research, declared Kalawattie Datt-Singh, outgoing President of the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP), in a stirring address at the opening ceremony of CAP's 45th Annual Conference in Dominica.

Datsing, who hails from Guyana, emphasized that “the pharmacy industry is changing rapidly,” propelled by technological advancements, evolving patient needs, and shifting healthcare policies. She highlighted key trends shaping the future of the profession, including digital health integration, artificial intelligence, automation, and robotics. “Pharmacists are at the forefront of these changes,” she said, “playing an essential role in enhancing patient care, improving medication management, and ensuring the safety and efficacy of drug therapies.”

The conference theme, Pharmacy 2025 and Beyond: Transforming Healthcare

Through Innovation, Accountability, and Research, reflects the urgency and opportunity facing Caribbean pharmacists. Datsing urged delegates to embrace expanded clinical roles and sustainability-focused practices, noting that the profession must adapt to new technologies and collaborate more deeply with healthcare teams.

The five-day event, held from August 18th to 24th, and hosted in partnership with the Dominica Pharmaceutical Society, welcomed delegates from across the region both virtually and in person. It featured workshops, plenary sessions, and continuing education programs designed to empower pharmacists with evidence-based knowledge and tools to better serve their communities.

In a heartfelt moment, Datsing bid farewell to her presidency, thanking her executive team and corporate partners for their dedication and support. She credited her leadership journey to her roots in the Guyana Pharmacists

Association, which she said “groomed me to take up this mantle and showed my capabilities to lead at a regional level.”

The ceremony concluded with the formal introduction of CAP's new executive body for 2025–2027, led by incoming President Jorman L. Laureate of the Cayman Islands. Datsing passed the symbolic presidential medal to Laureate, expressing confidence in his leadership and the future of CAP.

“Let us empower our patients, support other healthcare providers, and open doors for those left behind,” Datsing urged in closing. “Let's make sure the changes benefit everyone, everywhere.”

With a renewed vision and leadership, CAP continues its mission to elevate pharmacy practice across the Caribbean, ensuring that pharmacists remain vital agents of change in the region's healthcare landscape. (Dominica News Online)



# Regional News

## Grange receives Port Royal World Heritage Site certificate



Culture Minister Olivia Grange is reporting that she today received the Certificate of Inscription classifying Port Royal as a World Heritage Site.

The Certificate of Inscription was presented to Grange by the Regional Director and Representative of the UNESCO Cluster Office of the Caribbean, Eric Falt.

“This is a big deal,” Grange said.

“We are proud as the Min-

istry to have completed almost 40 years of our country’s dream to have Port Royal inscribed. We have delivered,” she added.

Port Royal was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 12, 2025.

This inscription to the World Heritage List confirms Port Royal’s outstanding universal value which requires protection for the benefit of all humanity.

Grange said, “We are committed to preserving the heritage of Port Royal for the people of Port Royal, the wider Jamaica and the world.”

Mr Falt said, “It is a tremendous pleasure to celebrate this very important development. The Port Royal story is one of wealth and disaster, mirroring the weight of the human experience.”

He said that Port Royal was a place of global significance and that UNES-

CO would work with the Government to safeguard the Port Royal legacy.

Grange said Jamaica was thankful to the governments and people of Mexico, Netherlands, Canada and Japan for their support in developing and fostering the first underwater excavation led by a Jamaican team and to the “hard-working” technical team of the Ministry and its agency, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. (Jamaica Gleaner)



## Southwest Airlines to charge plus-size travellers for extra seat



Southwest Airlines will soon require travellers who can't fit within the armrests of their seat to pay for an extra one in advance, part of a string of recent changes the carrier is making.

The new rule goes into effect January 27, the same day Southwest starts assigning seats.

Currently, plus-size passengers can either pay for an extra seat in advance with the option of getting that money back later, or they can request a free extra seat at the airport.

Under the carrier's new policy, a refund is still possible but no longer guaranteed.

In a statement Monday, Southwest said it is updating some of its policies as it prepares for assigned seating next

year.

"To ensure space, we are communicating to Customers who have previously used the extra seat policy that they should purchase it at booking," the statement said.

It marks the latest change at Southwest, which had long been known for letting its passengers pick their own seats after boarding the plane, and for letting their bags fly for free, which ended in May.

Those perks were key to differentiating the budget carrier from its rivals.

Southwest says it will still refund a second ticket under its new policy for extra seating if there is at least one open seat on the flight when it departs, and if both of the passenger's tickets

were purchased in the same booking class.

The passenger also needs to request the refund within 90 days of the flight.

If a passenger who needs an extra seat doesn't purchase one ahead of time, they will be required to buy one at the airport, according to the new policy.

If the flight is full, the passenger will be rebooked onto a new flight.

The airline has struggled recently and is under pressure from activist investors to boost profits and revenue.

It also said last year that it would charge customers extra for more legroom and offer red-eye flights. (Jamaica Gleaner)



## Manhunt under way after two police officers shot dead in rural Australian town

A huge manhunt is under way for a “heavily armed” male suspect after two Australian police officers were shot dead and one injured in an ambush at a property in a small rural town in the state of Victoria.

Police described the situation in Porepunkah in the Australian Alps - some 300km (186 miles) north-east of Melbourne - as an “active incident” with hundreds of personnel deployed to find the suspect.

Officers were attacked as 10 of them attended the property to serve an arrest warrant, which Australian media said was for historical sex offences.

Police say the suspect escaped by running into the bush alone after the shooting. Officers are still trying to find the man’s wife and children.

Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush said that 10 officers went to the property on Tuesday at about 10:30 local time (00:30 GMT).

They were fired upon by a heavily armed offender, he said, adding that two colleagues - a 59-year-old detective and a 35-year-old senior constable - were “murdered in cold blood”.

A third officer was shot in the lower body. He was airlifted to hospital and was undergoing surgery, Mr Bush said. His injuries are not life-threatening.

The state police chief said all the available resources were being used in the manhunt for a “dangerous” suspect, and urged locals to stay indoors.

“[Our] priority is to arrest him and bring safety and security to this community,” the officer said.

He added that the suspect was believed to have been on his own at the time of the shooting, and that police “are still looking to locate his partner and two children, but he was not seen to head into the bush with them”.

He said the fact that so many officers



were attending, highlighted that they knew the risks - and urged the gunman to give himself up.

The police chief did not confirm the nature of the raid that officers were executing at the property.

Footage from the scene earlier on Tuesday showed dozens of police deployed to Porepunkah and a police helicopter circling in the area.

The town, home to about 1,000 people, is part of the Alpine Shire local government area. People have been warned not to travel into the area.

In a statement, Mayor Sarah Nicholas paid tribute to the officers, extending “thoughts, love and unwavering” support to their families.

“Today has been a day of deep sorrow and shock for our community... We are grieving together,” she said.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan both praised the officers for their bravery.

Local resident Emily White told the BBC she and her guests had been sheltering in a caravan park that she owned.

“I think reality really set in - that this is a really, really horrible situation,” Ms

White said.

“We’re such a small community, and we’ll leave our cars unlocked, and we’ll leave our front doors open. Nothing like this ever happens.”

Local media are naming the suspect as Dezi Freeman - who claims to be a “sovereign citizen” - which refers to someone who falsely believes they are not subject to Australian laws and government authority.

Called SovCits for short, these people have been a presence in the nation for decades, according to the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

The police say they are mostly harmless, but there has been a resurgence of the beliefs in recent years - in part fuelled by mistrust in authorities which was exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

In a 2023 briefing note, the AFP said the movement had “an underlying capacity to inspire violence”.

Gun crime is relatively rare in Australia, which has some of the world’s strictest gun regulations.

But similarities are being drawn with an ambush attack in 2022, when two police officers were killed at a rural property in Queensland. (BBC)



## Tropical Storm Juliette forms in Pacific as Fernand churns over open waters in the Atlantic

tropical Storm Juliette formed Monday in the Pacific Ocean hundreds of miles from Mexico's Baja California peninsula as Tropical Storm Fernand churned in the Atlantic Ocean.

No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for either storm, the Miami-based US National Hurricane Center said.

Juliette posed no immediate threat to land, forecasters said.

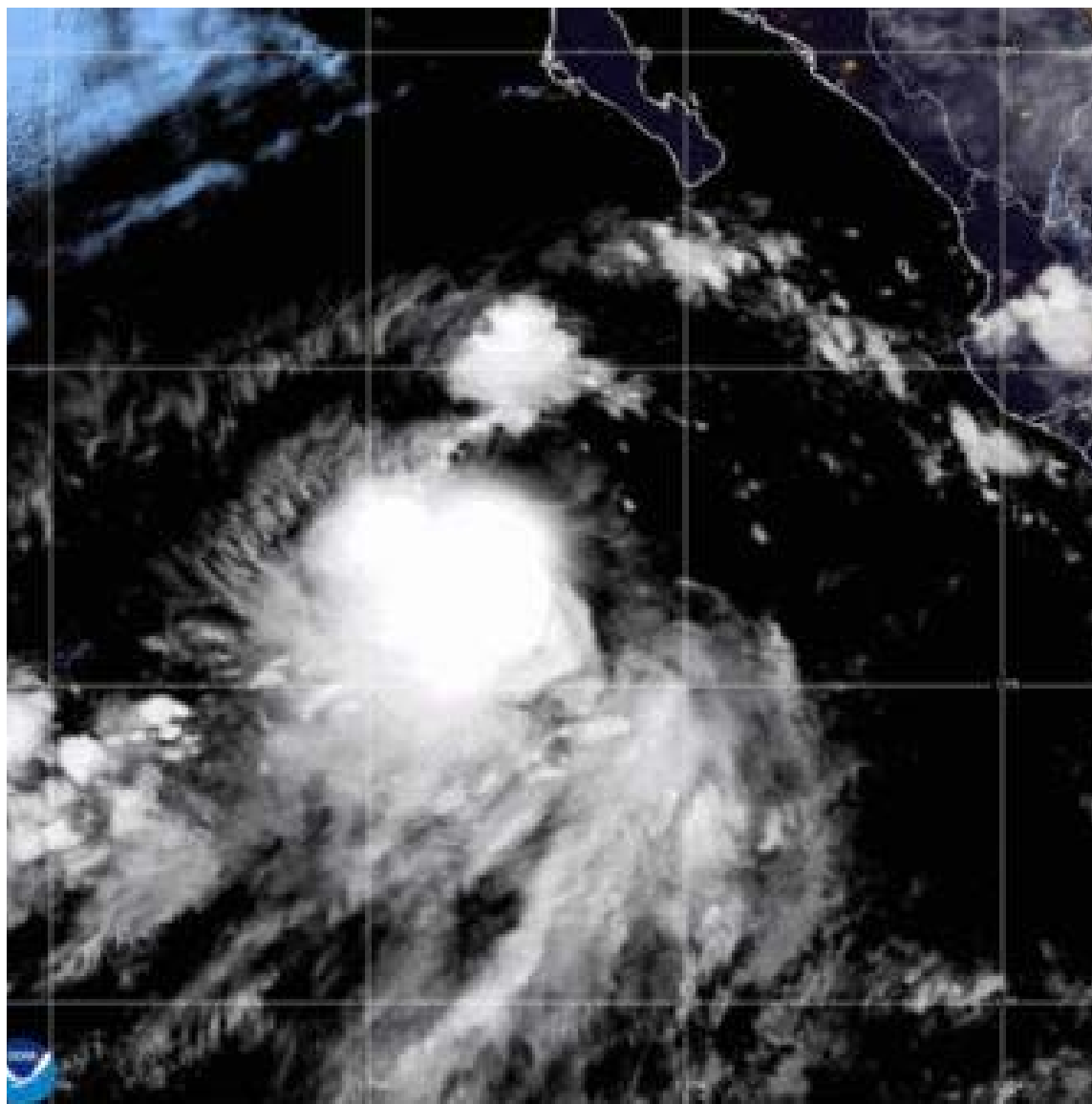
The storm was about 470 miles (760 kilometres) southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula. It had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph) after strengthen during the day.

It was moving west-northwest at 14 mph (22 kph).

Forecasters said Juliette was expected to strengthen further in coming hours and had the potential to become a hurricane by Tuesday

In the Atlantic basin, Fernand formed Saturday but also was far from land and forecast to remain over open ocean waters.

On Monday afternoon, it



25 Aug 2025 11:20Z - NOAA/NESDIS/STAR - GOES-West - GEOCOLOR Composite - EP102025

was about 485 miles (775

kilometres) east-northeast of Bermuda with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph) and heading north-northeast at 14 mph

(22 kph).

The storm was expected to turn more to the northeast as it moves away from Bermuda.

Forecasters said it would begin weakening and could become a post-tropical cyclone on Wednesday before dissipating Thursday. (AP)



268 736 7165

**Open Daily -**  
**7:00am - 11:30pm**



Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

Breakfast served from 7:30am

Games Night - COMING SOON!





## Business football league to commence early next month



**Players of the Hermitage Hotel football team after winning the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Saturday, December 14. (File photo)**

The 2025 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship is set to commence on Saturday, September 6.

Thirty-four (34) teams, an increase of seven teams from last year, will battle for supremacy in this year's competition.

2024 champions Hermitage Hotel will be defending their title in the competition in which the 34 teams are divided into four groups to engage in round-robin pool play in the preliminary stage.

Hermitage Hotel is among eight teams that will compete in Group 4, which also includes 2023 champions

APUA Telecoms. The other Group 4 teams are APCMOL, AS Bryden Green Acres, Immigration, Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, and Civil Registry.

Eight teams will also contest Group 3, while the other two groups will each feature nine teams. Contesting Group 3 are CHAPA Warriors, General Post Office (GPO), Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Oasis United, Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, ACE Trucking FC, SkyTiger Services, Keyonna Beach Hotel, and Royalton Chic Hotel.

Group 2 will feature last year's second-place finishers, Ministry of Agriculture, along with Hodges Bay Re-

sort, JH Stingers, University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC), Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Macky Enterprise, the Ministry of Tourism, Fresh Acres, and Central Marketing Corporation (CMC).

Group 1 includes last year's third-place finishers Sandals, along with Royalton Strikers, St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC), Blue Waters, Galley Bay Ballers, APUA Head Office, Public Works Asphalt, and newcomers Automotive Art and National Housing.

Matches in this year's competition will be played at five venues. They are Radio Ranger in Ottos,

Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park (formerly King George V Recreational Park), Golden Grove, Jennings, and St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Hermitage Hotel won their maiden title by prevailing 4-2 against the Ministry of Agriculture in a penalty shootout after both teams battled to a goalless draw in regulation during the final at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) last December.

Last year's losing finalists, Sandals Resort, captured third place via default after DEWS Pro Builders failed to show up for their encounter in the playoff for the bronze medals.



## Venus' return means more to her than a US Open loss



**Venus Williams, of the United States of America, waves to fans after being defeated by Karolina Muchova, of the Czech Republic, during the first round of the US Open tennis championships in New York on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025. (AP)**

NEW YORK (AP) — That Venus Williams lost her first Grand Slam match in two years — and what she says will be her last match of 2025 — didn't really matter Monday night.

Certainly not to the thousands of supportive spectators in the Arthur Ashe Stadium seats who roared for her best shots and, in a way, for everything her career means to them, before sending her off the court with a standing ovation after a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 defeat against 11th-seeded Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic at the US Open.

The result also sure seemed beside the point to Williams herself, at 45

the oldest singles player at Flushing Meadows since 1981. She smiled and laughed and joked through her post-match news conference — until, that is, a reporter asked something that made her think back to all of the injury and illness issues she dealt with for years.

“Oh, what did I prove to myself?” Williams began, repeating part of the question. “I think for me, getting back on the court was about giving myself a chance to play more healthy. When you play unhealthy, it's in your mind. It's not just how you feel. You get stuck in your mind too. So it was nice to

be freer.”

As she spoke those last few words, Williams bowed her head and closed her eyes, which welled with tears. After several seconds of silence, the tournament moderator ended the Q-and-A session and Williams rose from her seat at the front of the room.

This was just the fourth singles match of a comeback that began in July after 16 months off the tennis tour, time marked by pain from uterine fibroids she had surgery for last year.

“My team and I, we worked as hard and as fast as we could. We literally took no days off. I hav-

en't gone to dinner. I haven't seen friends. I haven't done anything except train for three months as hard as I could,” Williams said. “From each match that I didn't win, then I tried to go back and learn from that and then get better.”

She hasn't won a match at the US Open in singles since 2019, when she got to the second round. Since then, Williams exited in the first round in 2020, 2022 and 2023, and missed the tournament in 2021 and 2024.

Being back in the arena meant so much to her — and to those watching. This event holds a special place in her career. Her first Grand Slam final came at the 1997 US Open, when she was 17. She won two of her seven major championships there, in 2000 and 2001.

And it was at the US Open more than a decade ago that Williams withdrew before she was supposed to play in the second round, revealing she had been diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome, an energy-sapping autoimmune disease that can cause joint pain.

Some thought she might leave tennis because of that, but she remained a leading figure — on and off the court.

# Slot hails Liverpool's mentality after win at Newcastle



**Liverpool's Hugo Ekitike, left, and Newcastle's Fabian Schaer fight for the ball during the Premier League soccer match between Newcastle and Liverpool in Newcastle, England, Monday, Aug. 25, 2025. (AP)**

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Liverpool manager Arne Slot praised his players' mental fortitude after their 3-2 victory at Newcastle United on Monday, saying his team had shown the kind of mentality needed to get results in difficult places.

With the match unfolding in the shadow of Newcastle's dispute with striker Alexander Isak, who was reportedly the subject of a 110 million pounds (\$148.60 million) bid from Liverpool this month, the Premier League champions endured a roller-coaster evening at a white-hot St. James' Park.

Liverpool squandered a two-goal lead against a Newcastle side reduced to 10 men following Anthony Gordon's first-half red card, but were rescued by a 100th-minute winner from 16-year-old Rio Ngunmoh.

"Winning away at Newcastle then you definitely need to have quality, especially in an atmosphere like this," the Dutchman told reporters.

"Not football quality because that's not what we showed today — apart from the last goal we scored.

"That looked a little bit like what I see on a daily basis on the training ground. But to have the mentality to fight here in such a hostile stadium, that is definitely something you also need if you want to compete in the end.

"Winning is something else but at least competing you definitely need to have this mentality — and that's what we showed."

Meanwhile, Gordon has apologised to his teammates and supporters after being sent off in their Premier League defeat by Liverpool.

Gordon was sent off in first-half stoppage time for a rash tackle that left stud marks on the back of Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk's calf — his initial yellow card being upgraded to a red by referee Simon Hooper.

"I want to sincerely apologise to my teammates and the fans," Gordon posted on social media. "My intentions were pure. I was just trying to create energy in the game and I mistimed the tackle."

The 24-year-old England international also apologised to Van Dijk.

"I would never intend to tackle somebody like this on purpose. We spoke after and he knows that," the former Everton winger added.

Newcastle next visit Leeds United on Saturday, while Liverpool will host Arsenal at Anfield on Sunday.



## New Zealand cricket team hit by slew of injuries

HAMILTON (Reuters) - New Zealand have been hit by a rash of injuries ahead of their home summer with Will O'Rourke out for at least three months, white-ball skipper Mitch Santner undergoing surgery, and Glenn Phillips and Finn Allen both facing spells on the sidelines.

O'Rourke, who suffered a stress fracture in his back against Zimbabwe earlier this month, will miss next month's Twenty20 clashes with Australia as well as short-format series against England and West Indies in October and November.

Santner, who is set to have abdominal surgery, was described as "touch and go" to face the Australians in the three T20s in Tauranga but all-rounder Phillips will definitely miss the series as he continues to recover from a groin injury.

Opening batsman Allen will also be sidelined for three months after having surgery on his right foot.

"We're really feeling for Will at the moment and wishing him speedy recovery," New Zealand coach Rob Walter said in a news release.

"He's had such an impressive start to his career and so naturally it is disappointing when an injury like this comes along, but he's a resilient guy and determined to put the work in and come back stronger.

"It's disappointing to lose the services of Glenn and Finn who have played important batting roles in our T20 set up in recent time," he added.

Walter said he would give spin-



**Will O'Rourke**

ner Santner, who sustained his injury while playing in The Hundred in England, every opportunity to prove his fitness to face Australia in the Chappell-Hadlee series in early October.

"Mitch is a world class player and a crucial part of our T20 side from a skills and leadership point of view," he said.

"With that in mind we expect to

name him in our squad when we announce it in a couple of weeks' time, and from there we can assess how his rest and rehabilitation progresses following surgery, before making a call on the eve of the series."

New Zealand will also play the West Indies in a three-match home Test series in late November and early December.

## Antiguans remain unbeaten at ECCB International Netball Series

Antigua and Barbuda won two more matches to extend their unbeaten run at the Fifth Annual Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series, which is being hosted in Grenada at the Tanteen Sports Complex in St. George's from August 23 to 30.

After rainy weather conditions forced the postponement of all matches on the second day of the tournament on Sunday, Antigua and Barbuda trounced Montserrat 53-14 in their second encounter when the competition resumed on Monday evening.

The Antiguan team made it three wins in as many games with a crushing 60-10 drubbing of guest team Guyana in their rescheduled game on Tuesday morning.

Antigua and Barbuda launched their campaign with a commanding 63-17 victory against Anguilla on Saturday's opening day.

The competition is expected to get much tougher for Antigua and Barbuda in their remaining matches, starting with their fourth encounter against St. Lucia on Tuesday evening (last night).

Anguilla rebounded from their opening-day loss to



**Players of Antigua and Barbuda (yellow and black uniform) and Montserrat compete during their second match at the 2025 ECCB International Netball Series at the Tanteen Sports Complex in St. George's, Grenada, on Monday, August 25, 2025. (ECCB)**

Antigua and Barbuda with a 42-21 victory against Guyana on Monday.

After securing a 65-43 victory against the Commonwealth of Dominica in their opening day encounter, host Grenada suffered their first loss in a 60-68 defeat against guest team Barbados.

The Commonwealth of Dominica suffered their second loss in as many games with a 47-53 defeat against St. Lucia, whose opening game against Montserrat was stopped by rain.

After their opening game against Guyana was stopped due to rain, defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines claimed their first win with a 55-43 victory against guest team Cayman Islands.

The Vincentians made it two wins in a row with an emphatic 92-10 drubbing of Montserrat on Tuesday morning.

Antigua and Barbuda is among seven ECCB member countries that are participating in the tournament. The others are Anguilla, the

Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, and defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which won last year's championship in St. Lucia.

Barbados, the Cayman Islands, and Guyana are also participating in the tournament as invited teams.

The opening and closing ceremonies and all matches are being streamed live on the ECCB Connects Facebook page and YouTube channel.