

Antigua and Barbuda students survived Melissa unharmed

Page 2



The Antigua and Barbuda team members for the Taste of the Caribbean culinary competition with CEO ABTA Colin C. James (center), Chef Arielle Mills, Bartender Auslando Davis, Chef Eustace Cabral Jr. and Junior Chef Azarie Crump.

Story on Page 3

Local News

Antigua and Barbuda students survived Melissa unharmed

The Antigua and Barbuda students who are studying in Jamaica have emerged unscathed following the passage of dangerous Hurricane Melissa on that island on Tuesday.

Director of Communications and Coordinator of the Prime Minister's Scholarship Programme, Maurice Merchant reported that all 53 students who are housed at the Pegasus hotel in Kingston are doing well.

Their stay at the hotel has been extended until the weekend as there is now word that classes at the University of the West Indies will resume on Monday. "The Cabinet has been informed by the UWI (Mona) that it will resume face to face teaching on Monday. We expect our students to return to their dormitories at the university over the weekend. However, they must await word from the university indicating that all is clear before they return to campus," Merchant told Point Express newspaper.

Not all Antigua and Barbuda students fared as well as those who are staying at the Pegasus. Merchant reported that some students have had the places where they were staying being affected by the storm with roofs blown off or structures sustaining severe damage.

"This was the case especially in Montego Bay where at least two of our students were staying. The structures where they sheltered sustained damage. However, thankfully, they remain unharmed. For this we are extremely grateful," Merchant declared.

He said the Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, has been following developments in Jamaica, prior to, during and after the passage of Hurricane Melissa. "At all times,



Prime Minister Browne followed the developments in Jamaica and especially the situation with regards to the Antigua and Barbuda students

there. We thank God for sparing their lives and for keeping them safe," he stated.

Independence is here !!!!

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FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY:



Antigua and Barbuda named Caribbean's top emerging culinary destination



Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez

A strategic plan to establish Antigua and Barbuda as a destination for culinary tourism is paying dividends with Antigua and Barbuda's selection as the top emerging Caribbean destination for culinary tourism.

The announcement was made Wednesday by Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez as he addressed a press conference where the Antigua and Barbuda team members for the *Taste of the Caribbean* culinary competition in Barbados next month, were revealed.

According to Fernandez, this aspect of culinary tourism is important for the country and it is something that the Ministry of Tourism and its partners have been cultivation as part of a three-year national strategy.

"This brings international recognition as we had been nominated and now we can announce that we have emerged winners of the "Caribbean's Best Emerging Culinary City




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Destination 2025” by the World Culinary Awards further exemplifies our success in this endeavor,” he declared.

The Minister said the plan involves showcasing the country’s heritage

by telling the nation’s “food story”, and celebrating its rich culinary identity.

Fernandez added that this has both an economic and a community impact as it creates income for local

artisans and entrepreneurs thereby ensuring that tourism benefits local communities.

“The government and Tourism Authority have developed a comprehensive, month-long initiative to celebrate and promote the culinary heritage - through Antigua and Barbuda Culinary Month: This is the cornerstone of their efforts, a month-long celebration in May that has grown from a simpler “Restaurant Week.” It features a robust schedule of events designed to highlight local and Caribbean cuisine,” the minister explained.

Fernandez emphasized that this initiative is deeply rooted in the community. “As noted by Shermain Jeremy, the Culinary Month Lead, the program is “powered by the community” and is about creating opportunity and pride, showing that “small islands can lead with big ideas”,” he indicated.

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 Guest: Dr. Len Johnson

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A 4-person team will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the “Taste of the Caribbean” competition



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL CULINARY TEAM

TASTE of the CARIBBEAN
A SHOWCASE OF CARIBBEAN CUISINE

CHEF EUSTACE CABRAL JR.
Chef de Cuisine at Jumby Bay Island
SENIOR CHEF

AZARIE CRUMP
Student at Muriel O'Marde School of Tourism and Hospitality Services
JUNIOR CHEF

CHEF ARIELLE MILLS
Pastry Sous Chef at Galley Bay Resort & Spa
PASTRY CHEF

AUSLANDO DAVIS
Food & Beverage Supervisor
Sommelier at Curtain Bluff Antigua
BARTENDER

Showcasing the Flavours of Antigua and Barbuda to the World!

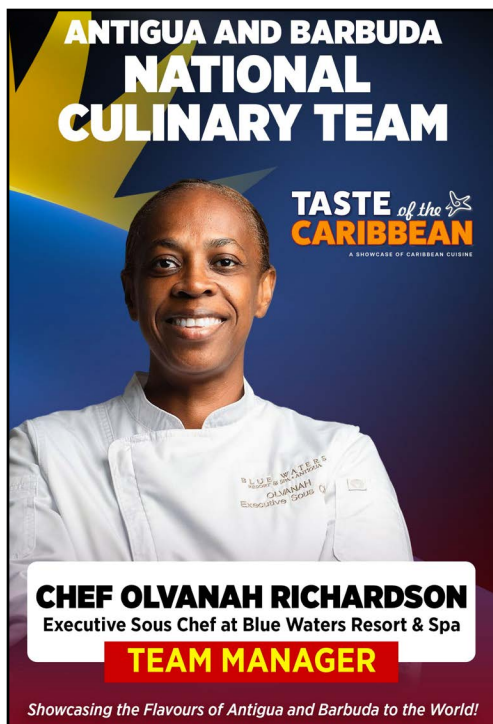
ABHTA ANTIGUA BARBUDA The beach is just the beginning... CIU CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BLUE WATERS RESORT & SPA - ANTIGUA CURTAIN BLUFF Antigua WEST INDIES Galley Bay Resort & Spa ANTIGUA Jumby Bay Island Liat Air Pride of the Caribbean

The names of the four persons who will represent Antigua and Barbuda at next month's Taste of the Caribbean culinary competition in Barbados have been revealed.

In a news event on Wednesday, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) announced the National Culinary Team of Antigua and Barbuda 2025, set to represent the destination at the prestigious CHTA Taste of the Caribbean culinary competition, taking place November 16–18, 2025.

The ABHTA names the National Culinary Team of Antigua and Barbuda 2025 as;

- Caribbean Chef of the Year: **Eustance Cabral Jr.**, Chef de Cuisine, Jumby Bay Island
- Caribbean Junior Chef of the Year: **Azarie Crump**, Student, Muriel O'Marde Campus for



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL CULINARY TEAM

TASTE of the CARIBBEAN
A SHOWCASE OF CARIBBEAN CUISINE

CHEF OLVANAH RICHARDSON
Executive Sous Chef at Blue Waters Resort & Spa
TEAM MANAGER

Showcasing the Flavours of Antigua and Barbuda to the World!

ABHTA ANTIGUA BARBUDA The beach is just the beginning... CIU CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BLUE WATERS RESORT & SPA - ANTIGUA CURTAIN BLUFF Antigua WEST INDIES Galley Bay Resort & Spa ANTIGUA Jumby Bay Island Liat Air Pride of the Caribbean

- Tourism and Hospitality Services
- Caribbean Pastry Chef of the Year: **Arielle Mills**, Pastry Sous Chef, Galley Bay Resort & Spa

(2025 Taste of Wadadli Pastry Chef Winner)

- Bartender of the Year: **Auslando Davis**, Food & Beverage Supervisor and Sommelier, Curtain Bluff Resort

The ABHTA also announced the supporting team members as;

- Team Manager: **Chef Olvanah Richardson**, Executive Sous Chef, Blue Waters Resort & Spa
- Junior Chef Mentor: **Chef Jean Pierre Tuitt**, Executive Sous Chef, Jumby Bay Island Resort
- Logistics Manager: **Jesse Thomas**, Director of Agri-Tourism, Ministry of Tourism

Organized by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, Taste of the Caribbean is the region's premier culinary competition and cultural showcase. Since its inception in 1993, the

Local News

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL
CULINARY TEAM**

**TASTE of the
CARIBBEAN**
A SHOWCASE OF CARIBBEAN CUISINE



JESSE THOMAS
Director of Agri-Tourism, Ministry of Tourism,
Transportation, Civil Aviation and Investment
LOGISTICS MANAGER

Showcasing the Flavours of Antigua and Barbuda to the World!

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL
CULINARY TEAM**

**TASTE of the
CARIBBEAN**
A SHOWCASE OF CARIBBEAN CUISINE



CHEF JEAN PIERRE TUITT
Sous Chef at Jumby Bay Island
JUNIOR CHEF MENTOR

Showcasing the Flavours of Antigua and Barbuda to the World!

event has brought together top chefs, mixologists, and culinary professionals from across the Caribbean to compete, collaborate, and share their culture through food and beverage.

In offering congratulations to the team members, Fernandez highlighted how

the nation's culinary initiatives provide both a platform and a purpose for showcasing local talent.

Chairman of ABHTA, Craig Marshall noted that the team's dedication to hard work reflect the collective com-

mitment to excellence and teamwork. "This competition not only showcases our unique ingredients and rich culinary heritage on a prestigious regional platform but also provides exposure to new trends and networking opportunities. As we continue to promote Culinary Month, their efforts inspire the next generation of chefs, promote our gastronomy, and highlight Antigua and Barbuda as a leader in regional culinary excellence," he remarked.

For his part, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C James, sees the competition is going beyond cooking. "It celebrates culinary tourism, one of the most authentic expressions of our brand. Through initiatives like Culinary Month, we continue to elevate our chefs, farmers, and mixologists, turning passion into culture. I'm confident our team will serve up more than great dishes; they'll deliver a true taste of home that makes our nation proud," he stated.



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THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES THE CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday 01st, October 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*
The Department of Creative Industries is pleased to announce the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025.

We aim to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative and dazzling lighting display of our 2025 competitors, the Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition on or before Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs INET or the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st December, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5th 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service for December 15th 2025 to January 15th 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

END.

Social Protection Board delivers food packages to the vulnerable at Independence



The Social Protection Board (SPB) is reaching out to the less fortunate in the several communities in the country to celebrate Independence with the delivery of food packages.

“As we celebrate our nation’s Independence, the Social Protection Board proudly joins in the spirit of unity, grat-

itude, and service to our people. This year, in the true spirit of independence and compassion, our teams will be out in the communities distributing food packages to our beneficiaries, bringing hope, comfort, and joy to homes across our beautiful nation,” a media release from the Board stated.

Manager of Operations at the SPB, Mary Baltimore extends sincere gratitude and thanks to the Minister of Social Transformation, Rawdon Turner, whose vision and generosity have made this possible. “Minister Turner truly started Christmas in October! His unwavering support and leadership continue to inspire us all, reminding us that independence means not only freedom but also the power to uplift



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NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY
8:30 AM

**CHEERLEADING,
SPECIAL DRILLS
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11:00 AM

THURSDAY 30 OCT

AT SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM



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Local News



one another,” Baltimore noted.

The director of operations also expressed her appreciation to the staff of the SPB for their dedication and tireless efforts, including working late into the night, to ensure that no family is left behind. “I say a heartfelt thank you. Your commitment and compassion embody the true spirit of national service,” she added.

Baltimore also thanks Inspector Veldon Ragguette, who has been a ‘shoulder to lean on’ through every challenge.

She expressed deepest appreciation

to the sponsors whose generosity has made the distribution of food possible. The sponsors include;

Mega Distributor

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Sunny’s, and,

Mrs. Jessica Wrilly

“Your continued partnership and community spirit remind us that together, we can make a difference together, and we can build a stronger, more caring nation.



“As we celebrate this Independence season, let us remember that true freedom shines brightest when we extend our hands to lift others. Happy Independence to one and all may our hearts remain united in service, compassion, and love for our country,” she concluded.



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Diaspora urged to move from the sidelines to nation building during Independence Service in New York



Antiguans and Barbudans filled the pews of the Westchester Methodist Church in the Bronx this past Sunday as they came together to give thanks for the many blessings that have fallen on the nation as it celebrates its 44th anniversary of political Independence.

Members of the Antigua and Barbuda diaspora in the New York area turned out in their numbers to hear the inspiring messages from members of the clergy, joining in the worship by lifting their voices in song and prayer for their nation.

The sermon, delivered by Antiguan and Barbudan Rev. Dr. Lennox Pigott, brought the congregation's attention to the various social ills affecting Antigua and Barbuda, likening them to significant mountains that stand in the way of achieving the nation's full development. Dr. Pigott, drawing on his experience as a psychologist and minister, encouraged members of the diaspora to remain steadfast in their faith and their commitment to nation building, considering the challenges



being faced by the youth especially.

"And so, the challenge this afternoon is for those who sit on the side and criticize. We have too many critics. Get up, grab a mountain and work on it," he urged the congregation, encouraging those in leadership to ask pointedly of those Antiguan and Barbudans they encounter: "Are you getting involved in the affairs of our nation? Are you getting involved in the lives of the youth there?"

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson, used the theme of this year's celebrations,

Solid, Stable, Soaring, to reflect on the many gains that Antigua and Barbuda continue to make as a young nation. He made note of the tireless efforts of Antiguan and Barbudans at home who continue to build a solid foundation for their country's future development. Like Dr. Pigott, Ambassador Webson issued a stirring call for members of the diaspora to strengthen their engagement with the land of their birth.

"To our diaspora, this is your moment too. Your homeland calls you home to opportunity. Your skills, your experience, your entrepreneurship can accelerate the transformation already underway. The expansion of

housing, tourism infrastructure, and small businesses opens doors for investment, family ventures, and corporate partnerships. There has never been a more promising time to reconnect, reinvest, and return," Webson declared.

Also offering prayers for the nation were other members of the Antigua and Barbuda clergy to include Rev. Dr. Freddie Mason, Rev. Eloise Hill Challenger, Rev. Dr. Cheryl White-Lewis and Rev. F. Craig Henry. Rev. Stanley Charity rendered a solo, and playing their usual role in the service, the Antigua and Barbuda International Chorale under the direction of Dean Belgrave Pelle offered musical selections while the City South Steel Orchestra, led the congregation in a joyful and melodious accompaniment of our patriotic songs.

The celebration of Independence continues with community events throughout the Northeast and concludes with the annual gala which will be held on 15th November paying special tribute to the iconic Burning Flames.

New brewing company supports ABTA's cultural initiative

Antigua and Barbuda's newest local brewery, Long Bay Brewing has announced its commitment to supporting Antigua and Barbuda's culture and community by partnering with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) as the Gold Sponsor for Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2025.

The announcement took place at the brewery's Long Bay location, where representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and Long Bay Brewing gathered to mark the partnership.

Following a tour of the brewery, Maria Blackman, Marketing Communications Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, said, "Something has definitely been brewing, and we are now so excited to finally reveal Long Bay Brewing as our Gold Sponsor for Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2025. This partnership feels like the perfect pairing between a proudly local brand that is as bold and refreshing as the art and cultural expressions that will unfold during Art Week."



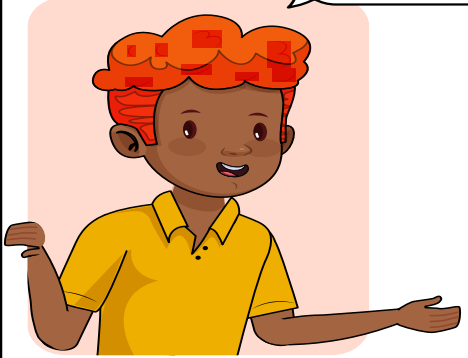
Long Bay Brewing representative Calbert Francis added, "We are thrilled to support an event that celebrates the creativity of our people. As a new brewery, this partnership allows us to connect with the community and contribute to the growth of local culture."

Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2025 takes place from November 26 – De-

cember 2, 2025, under the theme "Culture in Colour;". The week will feature exhibitions, performances, art and culture bus tours, and immersive community activities across the country. For more information on the event, go to: www.visitantiguabarbuda.com



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:00PM

SUNDAY 26 OCT

- **INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE**
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CREEKSIDE
4:00PM

MONDAY 27-29 OCT

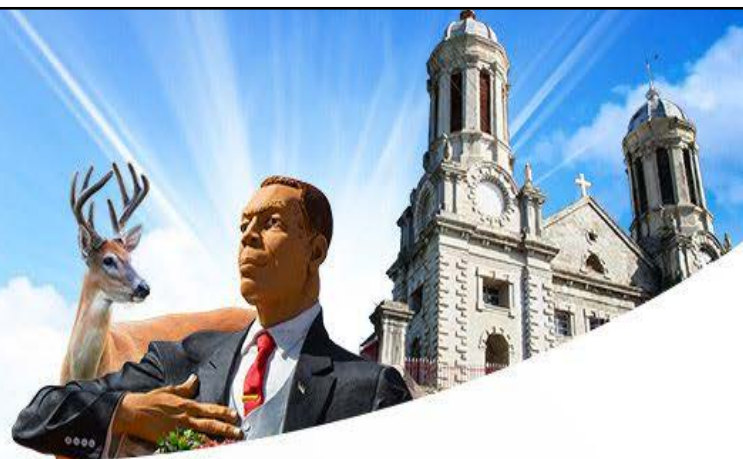
- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

MONDAY 27 OCT

- **NATIONAL HEROES DAY
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**
HEROES PARK- SIR SYDNEY WALLINGS HIGHWAY
10:00 AM

TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**
ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
8:00PM



TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**

WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

- **SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS**
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE
- **GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS**
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION
"WADADLI ROOTS"**
MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL CENTRE
7:30PM

THURSDAY 30 OCT

- **NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY** 8:30AM
- **CHEERLEADING COMPETITION** 11:30AM
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
- **INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION**
JACK IDLE
8:00PM

FRIDAY 31 OCT

- **NATIONAL DRESS DAY**
- **NATIONAL FLAG DAY**

MONDAY 03 NOV

- **INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY**
BARBUDA
9:00AM
- **NATIONAL FOOD FAIR**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
10:00AM UNTIL
- **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL
PARADE & NATIONAL AWARDS**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:30PM





GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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For Immediate Release

**Diaspora urged to move from the sidelines to nation building during Independence Service in
28th October, 2025...**

Antiguans and Barbudans filled the pews of the Westchester Methodist Church in the Bronx this past Sunday as they came together to give thanks for the many blessings that have fallen on the nation as it celebrates its 44th anniversary of political Independence.

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"And so, the challenge this afternoon is for those who sit on the side and criticize. We have too many critics. Get up, grab a mountain and work on it," he urged the congregation, encouraging those in leadership to ask pointedly of those Antiguan and Barbudans they encounter: "Are you getting involved in the affairs of our nation? Are you getting involved in the lives of the youth there?"

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson, used the theme of this year's celebrations, Solid, Stable, Soaring, to reflect on the many gains that Antigua and Barbuda continue to make as a young nation. He made note of the tireless efforts of Antiguan and Barbudans at home who continue to build a solid foundation for their country's future development. Like Dr. Pigott, Ambassador Webson issued a stirring call for members of the diaspora to strengthen their engagement with the land of their birth.

"To our diaspora, this is your moment too. Your homeland calls you home to opportunity. Your skills, your experience, your entrepreneurship can accelerate the transformation already underway. The expansion of housing, tourism infrastructure, and small businesses opens doors for investment, family ventures, and corporate partnerships. There has never been a more promising time to reconnect, reinvest, and return," Webson declared.

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They Create a Desert and Call It Peace: Lessons from Two Millennia of Failed Interventions



By Professor C. Justin Robinson
*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
 The UWI Five Islands Campus*

As negotiators struggle to maintain the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, as tensions escalate over Venezuela's disputed waters, and as great powers jostle for influence across the Pacific, an ancient warning echoes through the centuries. In 83 AD, before Roman legions crushed Scottish resistance at Mons Graupius, the chieftain Calgacus reportedly declared: "They create a desert and call it peace." Whether Calgacus actually spoke these words or the Roman historian Tacitus invented them matters less than their enduring truth. They describe a pattern that has persisted from Roman Britain to modern Iraq, from colonial Africa to contemporary Afghanistan: the powerful destroying in the name of order, then declaring victory over the ruins.

Calgacus described the Roman method with brutal clarity. The empire was driven by greed no territory could satisfy. "Robbery, butchery, rapine, the liars call Empire," he declared. And then: "They create a desert and call it peace." Rome claimed to bring civilization—Calgacus saw exploitation. Rome promised security—he saw subjugation. Rome spoke of law and order—he saw villages burned and populations enslaved. The Romans would

call their conquest *pax Romana*. Calgacus saw only the desert left behind. The battle was a slaughter. Rome declared victory and called it peace. Tacitus himself seemed sympathetic to the critique, perhaps because he had seen enough of empire to recognize the gap between its rhetoric and its reality.

The Modern Playbook

The pattern is remarkably consistent. A crisis emerges—real or manufactured. Leaders declare that "something must be done." Military action is presented as the only serious option, with diplomatic alternatives dismissed as appeasement or weakness. The intervention will be quick, we're assured. Technology will ensure precision. Democracy will flourish. Consider the record: In Iraq (2003), we were promised a swift victory and grateful liberation. Twenty years later, after 4,400 American deaths, over 200,000 Iraqi civilian casualties, and \$2 trillion spent, the country remains fractured and unstable. In Libya (2011), NATO's intervention to prevent a humanitarian crisis created a failed state that became a breeding ground for extremism and a hub for human trafficking. In Afghanistan (2001-2021), the longest war in American history ended with the Taliban's return to power, despite 176,000 deaths and \$2.3 trillion in costs. Yet each time, the same arguments resurface. Each time, we're told this intervention will be different.

The Language of Deception

The machinery of intervention requires careful language. We don't bomb—we conduct "kinetic actions." We don't kill civilians—we create "collateral damage." We don't occupy—we "nation-build." These euphemisms serve a purpose: they make the unpalatable acceptable, the violent sanitary. This linguistic sleight of hand extends to how we frame choices. Military action

becomes synonymous with "doing something," while diplomacy, sanctions, and international pressure are recast as "doing nothing." This false binary—bomb or abandon—ignores the patient work of conflict resolution that, while less telegenic than missile strikes, often proves more effective.

The Desert Emerges

The desert doesn't appear immediately. In the first flush of victory, with statues toppling and leaders declaring "mission accomplished," the intervention seems justified. But deserts grow in the aftermath. They manifest as power vacuums filled by extremists more brutal than those they replaced. As infrastructure destroyed in days that takes decades to rebuild. As generations radicalized by grief—a UN study found that 71% of recruits to extremist groups in Africa cited government action, including the killing of a family member, as their primary motivation. The desert is Syria's 13 million refugees and internally displaced persons. It's the 37 million people displaced by America's post-9/11 wars. It's Yemen's cholera epidemic amid bombardment, Somalia's cycle of intervention and chaos, the Sahel's expanding instability following Libya's collapse.

When Intervention Might Be Justified

This critique shouldn't obscure the genuine dilemmas faced by policymakers. Rwanda's genocide in 1994, where 800,000 died as the world watched, haunts the international conscience. The siege of Sarajevo, the massacres in Darfur, the use of chemical weapons against civilians—these horrors pose real moral challenges. Military intervention isn't always wrong. The NATO intervention in Kosovo arguably prevented ethnic cleansing. The UN intervention

in Sierra Leone helped end a brutal civil war. The international coalition against ISIS prevented genocide against the Yazidis. The question isn't whether force should never be used, but whether we've honestly reckoned with its limitations and consequences. Too often, military action becomes the first resort rather than the last, driven more by domestic politics and the illusion of control than by clear strategic thinking.

Breaking the Cycle

What would a different approach look like? First, it would require humility about military force's ability to reshape complex societies. Second, it would demand serious investment in diplomatic capacity—the U.S. military budget exceeds the State Department's by a factor of 15. It would mean strengthening international institutions rather than undermining them when convenient. It would require patience—accepting that some conflicts require generation-long engagement rather than election-cycle solutions. It would demand addressing root causes: poverty, injustice, and governance failures that create conditions for conflict.

Most importantly, it would require honest accounting. When interventions fail, we must acknowledge failure rather than rebranding it as success. When we create refugees, we must accept responsibility rather than treating the crisis as someone else's problem. When our actions radicalize populations, we must recognize our role rather than expressing surprise at the "inexplicable" hatred directed toward us.

The Eternal Choice

Calgacus lost his battle against Rome. His warning, preserved ironically by his conquerors, outlasted their empire. Today, as new crises emerge and familiar voices call for military solutions, his words pose an uncomfortable question: Will we keep creating deserts and calling them peace? The

pattern isn't inevitable. We choose it, crisis by crisis, intervention by intervention. We choose it when we accept false urgency over patient diplomacy, when we mistake destruction for resolution, when we prioritize the politically expedient over the morally necessary.

Two millennia after Mons Graupius, the fundamental challenge remains unchanged: Can we resist the seductive simplicity of force and embrace the complex work of genuine peace? Or will future historians, surveying the deserts we leave behind, wonder why we never learned? The powerful have always dressed up conquest as liberation, violence as order, domination as peace. The genius of the formulation is that it names both the act and the lie. Not just that Rome creates a desert, but that it calls it peace.

The answer lies not in ancient Scot-

land but in the choices we make today, tomorrow, and in every crisis to come. Each time we're told that bombs will bring peace, we face Calgacus's question anew. Each time, we can choose differently. An updated version of Calgacus' words might be, they create deserts with members only oases and call it development."

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, a Vincen-tian and UWI graduate, holds a BSc in Management Studies, MSc in Finance and Econometrics, and PhD in Finance. With over 20 years at UWI, he has served in various leadership roles, including Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies. A Professor of Corporate Finance with extensive research publications, he is actively involved in regional financial institutions and is currently the Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.



The poster features a large, stylized '44' logo in red and blue, with a sunburst at the top. Below the logo, it reads 'ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE'. A yellow banner with the text 'SOLID • STABLE • SOARING' is positioned below the logo. The main text 'NATIONAL DRESS DAY' is in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'FRIDAY 31 OCT' in smaller black letters. At the bottom, the 'Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION' logo is displayed. The background of the poster shows two children, a boy and a girl, standing in front of a building. The boy is wearing a white shirt and a colorful plaid vest, and the girl is wearing a white ruffled top and a colorful plaid skirt. The poster is framed by a diagonal band of the Antiguan flag's colors (red, white, blue, and yellow).

Regional News

Miami HEAT join in donating to Hurricane Melissa relief efforts

NBA team the Miami HEAT, the Micky & Madeleine Arison Family Foundation and Carnival Corporation & plc have partnered to make a US\$1 million donation to assist with expected recovery efforts in Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa.

The donation was to Direct Relief, a humanitarian aid organisation with a stated mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies—without regard to politics, religion, or ability to pay.

“Our hearts go out to the people of Jamaica,” said Eric Woolworth, President of The HEAT Group’s Business Operations. “In Florida, we are all too familiar with the widespread devastation caused by a Category 5 storm. Direct Relief provides life-saving and ongoing assistance, which is so



critical as residents begin the long road to rebuilding their communities.”

“We’re sending thoughts of comfort and strength to our friends in Jamaica, whose warmth and hospitality have created unforgettable experiences for so many of our guests and crew,” said Josh Weinstein, CEO of Carnival Corporation & plc. “Our

connection to Jamaica runs deep, and we need to support its communities now more than ever. Donating to Direct Relief will help fund vital assistance to individuals and families whose lives have been upended by this devastating storm.”

A statement from the donors said, at Jamaica’s request, Direct Relief has prepared

100 field medic packs for deployment. Each pack contains first-aid and triage supplies for front-line responders. Direct Relief has also shared its full medical inventory list with Jamaica’s Ministry of Health and stands ready to dispatch additional medicines and supplies as needs are identified.

Among the medical items prepared for delivery are antibiotics, field medic backpacks, over-the-counter products, personal protective equipment, and medications to manage chronic diseases, as well as other critical items.

“Direct Relief is deeply grateful for the generosity of the Miami HEAT, the Micky & Madeleine Arison Family Foundation, and Carnival Corporation,” said Amy Weaver, CEO of Direct Relief. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Phased reopening of island’s airports anticipated following Melissa – AAJ

The Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ) says following a detailed assessment, a phased reopening of the island’s international airports and domestic aerodromes is anticipated amid the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

AAJ says all airports remain closed at this time.

The authority says more will be communicated to the public later today. (Jamaica Gleaner)



Jamaicans wake to devastation as hurricane causes floods, power cuts and splits city in two



The normal soundtrack that accompanies Jamaican life is silent this morning as many have woken to no electricity.

About three-quarters of the island is without power and many parts of its western side are under water, with homes destroyed by strong winds after Hurricane Melissa tore across the island with catastrophic force.

As wind and rain lashed through the night, one local official said the destruction resembled “the scene of an apocalypse movie.”

With communications crippled, the true scale of the disaster remains unknown. Prime Minister Andrew Holness declared the island a “disaster area” late Tuesday, warning of “devastating impacts” and “significant damage” to hospitals, homes and businesses.

Although no deaths have yet been confirmed, Montego Bay’s mayor Richard Vernon told the BBC his first task at daybreak would be “to check if everybody is alive.”

Hurricane Melissa, the strongest storm to strike Jamaica in modern history, barrelled across the country on Tuesday, leaving behind a trail of ruin.

At its peak, the hurricane sustained

winds of 298 km/h (185 mph) - stronger than Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans in 2005 and killed 1,392 people.

“It resembled the scene of an apocalypse movie”, an MP in western Jamaica told Kingston-based journalist Kimone Francis of The Jamaica Gleaner.

Francis described the night as “stressful” and “intense”, marked by relentless heavy wind and rain.

“You don’t have a connection. You can’t speak to the people you normally speak to,” she told the BBC World Service’s Newsday programme.

Across Jamaica’s central parishes, Francis said, floodwaters rose to the roofs of two-storey homes.

One anonymous woman told the BBC: “There is water coming in through the roof of my house. I am not okay.”

While no fatalities had been confirmed, Jamaica’s prime minister told CNN he feared “there would be some loss of life.” Damage, he said, was widespread - hitting hospitals, schools, homes and businesses.

Satellite image showing Hurricane Melissa approaching Jamaica in the Caribbean. The storm’s eye is clearly visible, surrounded by dense white

cloud bands. Jamaica is labelled near the centre, with Cuba to the northwest and Haiti to the northeast.

Local government minister Desmond McKenzie said on Tuesday afternoon that the southwestern parish of St Elizabeth was “under water”, with at least three families trapped in their homes in the community of Black River.

“Rescue teams are struggling to reach them because of the dangerous conditions”, he said at a news conference.

Verna Genus was sheltering from the storm at her four bedroom home in the village of Carlisle, St Elizabeth, when the hurricane ripped the zinc roof off her house.

The 73-year-old vegetable farmer was in the house with her sons and baby grandchild when the hurricane made landfall over the area.

Verna has lost communications due to the power lines being down. But her UK-based sister, June Powell, spoke to the BBC about what happened.

“She was crying on the phone,” June said, adding: “You are huddled up inside and then you look up then the roof is gone. I have never heard her like that - she was wailing ‘we are all finished.’”

She is anxiously waiting for the communications networks to be restored so she can talk to her sister.

St Elizabeth, known as Jamaica’s breadbasket, produces much of the island’s produce. With crops submerged and fields destroyed, many farmers will struggle to financially recover.

On the north coast, Montego Bay - the heart of Jamaica’s tourism industry and home to its main airport - will also take time to get back on its feet. This hurricane has put a hand around the neck of the Jamaican economy.

Montego city was split in two by floodwaters, Mayor Vernon said. He told BBC Breakfast: “Once the wind

Regional News



subsidied, we started to get a lot of heavy rain and that has led to massive floods right across the city. One side of the city is now cut off from the other due to roads being inundated by flood water."

His immediate concern, he added, was simple: "Check if everybody is alive."

In rural Jamaica, the storm has left people shaken. Tamisha Lee, president of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers, said: "Right now, what I'm seeing is heavy rain, powerful wind, a lot of things flying all over the place, and trees uprooted. There is no electricity. I am feeling anxious and tense. The damage will be enormous."

Meteorologists said Hurricane Melissa intensified at a speed rarely seen, its rapid strengthening fuelled by abnormally warm Caribbean waters - part of a broader trend linked to climate change.

By the time it struck Jamaica, the storm had reached Category 5 strength, with gusts fierce enough to tear roofs from concrete homes, uproot trees and snap power poles.

Health officials even issued a crocodile warning, cautioning that floodwaters could drive the reptiles into residential areas.

For thousands of tourists caught on the island, the storm brought terror and uncertainty.

Graphic explaining the Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane categories. Category one has peak sustained wind speeds of 74 miles per hour and can cause minor damage and potential power outages; category two above 96 miles per hour and can cause extensive damage to property; category three above 111 miles per hour and even well-built homes will sustain major damage; category four above 130 miles per hour and will cause severe damage to well-built homes; and category five has wind speeds above 157 miles per hour and will destroy many buildings as well as cutting off communities.

"I've never heard anything like it,"

said Pia Chevallier from Cambridge, who travelled to Jamaica with her 15-year-old son on Saturday.

Speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live from her darkened hotel room, she said: "The glass in the windows and patio doors was all vibrating. The doors sounded like they were slamming, even though they were closed. It was horrendous."

She added: "There's debris everywhere - palm trees, coconuts, branches, all over the place. The big palm trees with all the roots are up. That's how strong the winds have been."

On the north coast, Wayne Gibson, a British tourist from Kent holidaying in Ocho Rios with his wife and two teenage daughters, told BBC Radio 4's

Today programme that they were sheltering in a communal hall.

Kyle Holmes from Bolton, visiting Lucea in the north west, described the hotel as "a disaster zone" and said he had no idea when they will be able to get home.

Hurricane Melissa had moved on to make landfall in Cuba by early Wednesday morning, leaving Jamaica paralysed and silent. Though it has since weakened to a Category 3 hurricane, it remains powerful with wind speeds of over 200km/h (124mph).

Jamaica has a catastrophe bond - a type of insurance for the country - which will hopefully allow people to get back on their feet, but the issue is what's done in the interim. (BBC)

DEWS

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Regional News

PAGE 23

Cubans evacuate ahead of Hurricane Melissa, president urges citizens not to underestimate storm



Authorities in the eastern Cuban province of Holguín prepared to evacuate more than 200,000 people on Tuesday, in addition to a similar number moved to safety from the town of Banes ahead of the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

Reports on social media and state television showed blue-and-white buses ferrying evacuees to shelter.

Families clutched babies and belongings, and elderly people steadied themselves with canes as they disembarked.

“This phenomenon is very dangerous,” Deputy Prime Minister Eduardo Martínez said in a statement from Banes, where he was located in what appeared to be a shelter. “It is unprecedented,” he said of Hurricane Melissa.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said every effort will be made to protect residents despite the fragility of the island’s economy.

In a televised address to the nation and wearing an olive-green uniform, Díaz-Canel urged the population to not underestimate the

power of the storm, calling it “the strongest ever to hit national territory.”

He asked residents to avoid bathing in swollen rivers and urged them not to leave evacuation sites “until the order has been given.”

“There will be a lot of work to do. We know there will be a lot of damage.”

In the Sierra Maestra mountains in the province of Santiago de Cuba, people tell The Associated Press that they used all kinds of transportation to evacuate from the most isolated areas, including buses, trucks and even horse-drawn carts.

Some of those fleeing their residences in remote areas huddled into the home of 83-year-old Eduviges Figueroa at the foot of the Sierra Maestra mountains that was being used as a makeshift shelter.

“We’re helping as best we can,” she said. “Now I’m cooking for everyone.”

As of Tuesday, there were already some 20 people in her home. (Jamaica Gleaner)

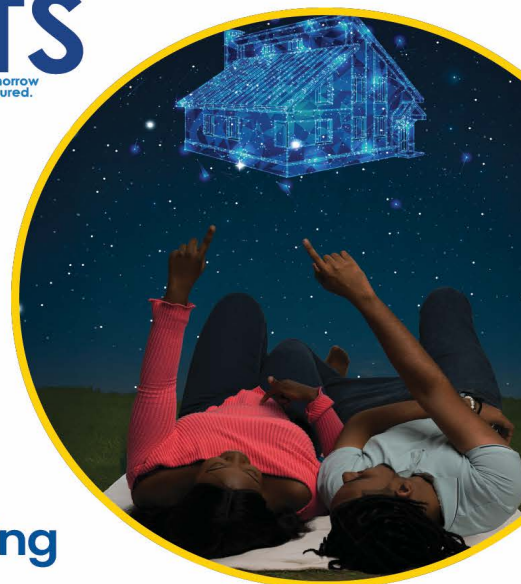


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Regional News

Hurricane Melissa makes landfall in Cuba after pummelling Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa was grinding across Cuba on Wednesday, weakening to a Category 2 storm, after pummelling Jamaica as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record, the US National Hurricane Center said.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Cuba had been evacuated to shelters.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo, Holguín and Las Tunas provinces as well as the southeastern and central Bahamas.

Melissa had top sustained winds of 105 mph (165 kph) and was moving north-northeast at 14 mph (22 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The hurricane was centred 45 miles (70 kilometres) northwest of Guantánamo, Cuba, and 205 miles (335 kilometres)



south of the central Bahamas.

The agency warned that preparations

for the storm in the Bahamas “should be rushed to completion.” (Jamaica Gleaner)



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	

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 104, health ministry says, after Hamas accused of killing soldier

At least 104 Palestinians were killed in a wave of Israeli strikes in Gaza on Tuesday night, the territory's Hamas-run health ministry says.

The Israeli military said it struck "dozens of terror targets and terrorists" in response to violations by Hamas of the US-brokered ceasefire deal.

Israel's defence minister accused Hamas of an attack in Gaza that killed an Israeli soldier, and of breaching the terms on returning deceased hostages' bodies. Hamas said it had "no connection" to the attack and that Israel was trying to undermine the deal.

US President Donald Trump maintained "nothing" would jeopardise the ceasefire, but added that Israel should "hit back" when its soldiers were targeted.

The Israeli strikes hit homes, schools and residential blocks in Gaza City and Beit Lahia in the north of Gaza, Bureij and Nuseirat in the centre, and Khan Younis in the south.

Witnesses in Gaza City described seeing "pillars of fire and smoke" rising into the air as explosions shook several residential areas.

Gaza's health ministry said a total of 104 people were killed, including 46 children and 20 women, and that more than 250 others were injured.

Three women and a man who were pulled from the rubble of the al-Banna family's home in the southern Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City, according to the Hamas-run Civil Defence agency.

In the urban Bureij refugee camp, five members of the Abu Sharar family were killed in a strike on their home in the Block 7 area, it said.

At Nasser hospital in Khan Younis, women gathered to mourn over the bodies of a mother, Bayan al-Shawaf, and her four children who were killed in a strike on a tent at a camp for displaced families in the al-Mawasi area.



"What kind of world is this? Is this the ceasefire?" asked Bayan's cousin, Umm Mohammed. "They [the children] were sleeping. They were wanting to learn."

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Wednesday morning that it had "begun the renewed enforcement of the ceasefire" after carrying out a series of strikes on what it described as "dozens of terror targets and terrorists", including at least 30 commanders of armed groups.

"The IDF will continue to uphold the ceasefire agreement and will respond firmly to any violation of it," it added.

A brief statement put out by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Tuesday evening said he had ordered the IDF to carry out "forceful strikes" on Gaza but did not specify his reasons.

However, his defence minister said Hamas had crossed "a bright red line" by launching an attack on Israeli soldiers in Gaza on Tuesday.

"Hamas will pay many times over for attacking the soldiers and for violating the agreement to return the fallen hostages," Israel Katz warned.

A map of Gaza showing the areas to which Israeli troops have withdrawn as set out in phase one of the cease-

fire plan. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops have pulled out of the cities of Khan Younis, Deir al-Balah and Gaza City and all the land between them and along the coast. The shaded area shows Israeli troops remain in control of all areas within one to two miles of the border in the north and east of Gaza, and in the south all of Rafah remains under Israeli control.

On Wednesday morning, the IDF announced that a reservist soldier, Master Sergeant Yona Efraim Feldbaum, was killed.

A military source said the attack took place in the southern city of Rafah on the Israeli side of the so-called "Yellow Line", which demarcates IDF-controlled territory inside Gaza under the ceasefire deal.

Sgt Feldbaum was killed when one of the vehicles of an IDF engineering team that was dismantling an underground tunnel route in Rafah was hit by fire from "terrorists in the area", according to the source.

"A few minutes later, several anti-tank missiles were fired at another armoured vehicle belonging to the troops in the area. No injuries were reported," they added.

Hamas insisted on Tuesday that it had "no connection to the shooting inci-

dent in Rafah”.

On Wednesday, the group stressed that it remained committed to the cease-fire agreement and accused the Israel of seeking to undermine it with the strikes.

The US played down concerns that all-out hostilities could resume.

On board Air Force One, President Trump told reporters: “As I understand it, they took out, they killed an Israeli soldier. So the Israelis hit back and they should hit back.”

“Nothing is going to jeopardise” the ceasefire, he said. “You have to understand Hamas is a very small part of peace in the Middle East, and they have to behave.”

On Tuesday afternoon, Israel's prime minister had pledged to take unspecified "steps" against Hamas after the group handed over the previous day a coffin containing human remains that did not belong to one of the 13 deceased hostages still in Gaza.

Netanyahu's office said forensic tests showed they belonged to Ofir Tzarfati, an Israeli hostage whose body was recovered by Israeli forces in Gaza in late 2023, and that this constituted a "clear violation" of the ceasefire deal.

The IDF also released footage from a drone that it said showed Hamas operatives “removing body remains from a structure that had been prepared in advance and burying them nearby” in eastern Gaza City on Monday.

“Shortly afterwards,” it added, the operatives “summoned representatives of the Red Cross and staged a false

display of discovering a deceased hostage's body."

Hamas rejected what it called the “baseless allegations” and accused Israel of “seeking to fabricate false pretexts in preparation for taking new aggressive steps”.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) later condemned what it called the “fake recovery”, saying it had attended the scene “at the request of Hamas” and “in good faith”.

It went on: “The ICRC team at this location were not aware that a deceased person had been placed there prior to their arrival, as seen in the footage – in general, our role as neutral intermediary does not include unearthing of the bodies of the deceased.

“Our team only observed what appeared to be the recovery of remains without prior knowledge of the circumstances leading up to it.

"It is unacceptable that a fake recovery was staged, when so much depends on this agreement being upheld and when so many families are still anxiously awaiting news of their loved ones."

The ceasefire agreement brokered by the US, Egypt, Qatar and Turkey is supposed to implement the first stage of Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan.

It said Hamas would return its 48 living and deceased hostages within 72 hours of the ceasefire taking effect on 10 October.

All 20 living Israeli hostages were released on 13 October in exchange for 250 Palestinian prisoners and 1,718 detainees from Gaza.

Israel has also handed over the bodies of 195 Palestinians in exchange for the bodies of the 13 Israeli hostages so far returned by Hamas, along with those of two foreign hostages - one of them Thai and the other Nepalese.

Eleven of the dead hostages still in Gaza are Israelis, one is Tanzanian, and one is Thai.

On Saturday, Hamas's chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya said the group was facing challenges because Israeli forces had "altered the terrain of Gaza". He also said that "some of those who buried the bodies have been martyred or no longer remember where they buried them".

However, the Israeli government insists Hamas knows the locations of all the bodies.

Although the ceasefire deal appeared to acknowledge that Hamas might not be able to return all the deceased hostages within the original timeframe, Trump warned the group on Saturday that it had to hand over those remaining “quickly, or the other countries involved in this great peace will take action”.

All but one of the dead hostages still in Gaza were among the 251 people abducted during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, during which about 1,200 other people were killed.

Israel responded by launching a military campaign in Gaza, during which more than 68,600 people have been killed, including more than 200 since the ceasefire took effect, according to the territory's health ministry. (BBC)

A banner for Curry House Antigua. The background is dark green with a faint, light green geometric pattern. On the left, the text "Curry House" is written in a large, elegant, light green script font. Below it, "ANTIGUA" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of "ANTIGUA" are three social media icons: Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, each followed by the handle "currytandoorihouseanu". Further right is the phone number "(268) 736-7165" in white. On the far right, there is a collage of various Indian dishes, including a bowl of yellow rice, a bowl of red curry, a bowl of green chutney, and a bowl of brown curry, all arranged in a circular pattern.

Messages in a bottle from WWI soldiers found on Australian coast

Messages in a bottle written by two Australian soldiers in 1916 have been found more than a century later on the country's south-western coast.

The cheerful notes were penned just a few days into their voyage to join the battlefields of France during World War One.

One of the soldiers, Pte Malcolm Neville, told his mother that the food on board was "real good" and that they were "as happy as Larry". Months later, he was killed in action at the age of 28. The other soldier, 37-year-old Pte William Harley, survived the war and returned home.

The letters have been passed on to their descendants, who have been stunned by the discovery.

The bottle was found earlier this month on the remote Wharton Beach, near Esperance in Western Australia, by local resident Deb Brown and her family.

She was visiting the beach with her husband and daughter on one of their regular quad bike trips to clear up litter, when they spotted a thick glass bottle in the sand, she said on Tuesday.

"We do a lot of cleaning up on our beaches and



so would never go past a piece of rubbish. So this little bottle was lying there waiting to be picked up," Ms Brown told the Associated Press news agency.

Though the paper was wet, both letters were still legible, so Ms Brown began tracking down the soldiers' families in order to pass them on.

Ms Brown located Pte Neville's great-nephew, Herbie Neville, by search-

ing for the soldier's name and the town he was from online, as his mother's address was included in the note.

Mr Neville told ABC News the experience had been "unbelievable" for his family, especially for Marian Davies - Pte Neville's niece - who remembers her uncle leaving to go to war and never returning.

The second letter, written

by Pte William Harley, was addressed simply to whoever found the bottle. His mother had died years earlier.

Pte Harley's granddaughter, Ann Turner, told ABC she and the soldier's four other surviving grandchildren were "absolutely stunned" by the message.

"It really does feel like a miracle and we do very much feel like our grandfather has reached out for us from the grave," she said.

"I feel very emotional when I see that the other young man had a mother to write to, and that message in the bottle was to his mother, whereas our grandfather long ago had lost his mother so he just writes it to the finder of the bottle."

The bottle was thrown overboard "somewhere in the Bight", Pte Harley's letter said, referring to the Great Australian Bight off the country's southern coast.

An oceanography professor told ABC it may only have been in the water for a few weeks before it landed at Wharton Beach, where it may have remained buried for 100 years. (BBC)

S Korea announces lowering of tariffs as part of new US trade deal



The US and South Korea have reached a broad trade deal, both countries have said following talks between their leaders.

South Korea's presidential aide, Kim Yong-beom, said the two sides will reduce reciprocal tariffs from 25% to 15%, as was agreed earlier this year.

South Korea will also invest \$350bn in the US, including \$200bn in cash investment and \$150bn in shipbuilding, Kim said.

US President Donald Trump, who is currently on a week-long trip in Asia, said the deal was "pretty much finalised" at a dinner following the discussions, which lasted almost two hours. He did not give further details.

"We had a tremendous meeting today with South Korea", Trump said of his discussions with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, adding that "a lot was determined".

"We discussed some other things to do with national security et cetera. And I think we came to a conclusion on a lot of very important items."

Both sides had played down the prospect of a breakthrough ahead of Wednesday's talks - disappointing many in South Korea's electronics,

chip and auto industries, which had been hoping for some clarity amidst the tariff chaos.

Trump had slapped a tariff rate on Seoul of 25% earlier this year - which Lee managed to negotiate down to 15%, after Seoul said it would invest \$350bn in the US and buy \$100bn worth of liquified natural gas.

But the White House later increase its demands as part of the trade talks, with Trump pushing for cash investments in the US.

Both countries have historically been key allies - but tensions spiked after hundreds of South Koreans were detained in an immigration raid in the US last month.

Trump will next meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in on Thursday on the sidelines of a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) which is taking place in Gyeo-

ngju.

China's foreign ministry has confirmed the meeting, which will take place in the city of Busan on Thursday, a short flight away from Gyeongju.

The US president said on Wednesday that he was "looking forward" to the meeting.

"We've been talking a lot over the last month and I think we're going to have something that's gonna be very, very satisfactory to China and to us."

This will be the two leaders' first face to face meeting since Trump assumed office in 2025 and imposed tariffs on every country in the world.

Addressing a group of CEOs in Gyeongju on Wednesday, Trump said that he believes the US is "going to have a deal" with China and it will be "a good deal for both".

He also praised the Apec countries for making the global trading system, which he said had been "broken" and "in urgent need of reform", fairer.

"Economic security is national security," Trump says. "That's for South Korea, that's for any country."

Ahead of Wednesday's talks with President Lee, Trump had been greet-

ed by an honour guard and gifts that included a golden crown.

"I'd like to wear it right now," Trump had said of the crown.

He also received the Grand Order of Mugunghwa, South Korea's highest decoration.

He's the first US president to receive the award, which was given "in recognition of his contribution to peace on the Korean Peninsula", the South Korean presidential office said.

Both leaders took part in a working lunch - which was followed by a private meeting in the afternoon.

Trump's arrival in South Korea had been preceded by North Korea test-firing surface-to-air cruise missiles.

The US president had expressed interest in meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un but noted on Wednesday that his team had been unable to arrange this during his trip.

Noting the long-standing tensions between North and South Korea, Trump said "we will see what we can do to get that all straightened out".

And outside the summit venue where both leaders were meeting, a small anti-Trump group of protesters gathered

on Wednesday afternoon, with some shouting anti-Trump slogans. Police could be seen forcibly dispersing the crowd and arresting some people.

However, hundreds more attended a pro-Trump rally - including those who shouted anti-Chinese rhetoric - that also took place close to the summit venue.

Anti-Chinese sentiment in South Korea has also grown steadily in recent years. Chinese interference became a common trope in conspiracy theories about former South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol.

During his trip to Japan on Tuesday, the US president signed an agreement on rare earth minerals with Tokyo, as well as a document heralding a new "golden age" of US-Japan relations. This reiterated the commitment of the two countries to implement deals struck earlier, including the 15% tariff deal negotiated earlier this year.

Prior to that, he attended a gathering of South East Asian leaders, known as Asean, in Malaysia. There he presided over a "peace deal" between Thailand and Cambodia, whose longstanding border dispute erupted into open conflict in July. (BBC)



Sports News

NBA to place salary of Heat's Terry Rozier in escrow, with lien surfacing; attorney calls gambling arrest 'absurd'

Less than a week after Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier was arrested as part of an FBI gambling probe, developments continue to emerge from the ongoing case.

On Wednesday, the South Florida Sun Sentinel confirmed through multiple NBA sources that Rozier's \$26.6 million salary for the coming season, the final season on his contract, will be placed in escrow by the NBA.

The first of 24 installments of Rozier's salary is due this week, at \$1.1 million.

An NBA source told the Sun Sentinel that the move with Rozier's salary does not include, at the moment, commensurate salary-cap or luxury-tax relief for the Heat.

Without such relief, the Heat remain without the necessary space below the punitive NBA luxury tax to sign a replacement player.

Word of the NBA's move with Rozier's salary came in the wake of comments by Rozier's attorney that the arrest was a sham.

In addition, Rozier has been linked to an IRS lien on his Broward property that his attorney said now has been resolved.

On Tuesday, Jim Trusty, the attorney for Rozier, lashed out at federal prosecutors about his client's arrest.

In an interview on Fox News Channel's The Will Cain



Show, Trusty prefaced his responses by saying, "Well, look, I don't want to try every little nugget in front of the TV set."

But Rozier's attorney then drew a line when asked about Rozier pulling himself from a Charlotte Hornets game in 2023, with wagers on "under" totals on Rozier from that game leading to Rozier's friend De'Niro Laster purportedly taking proceeds from the disclosure to Rozier's home to be counted.

"Let me just tell you," Trusty said, "Terry Rozier had a \$100 million contract and a big shoe endorsement. This indictment actually suggests that he faked the

injury, which is absurd. People knew about it. Medical people knew about it. Staff knew about it. Friends knew about it. This was a guy who was banged up after a long 82-game season. The Hornets are out of the playoffs. So he and others were telling the Hornets coaching staff, time to sit him, man. It's a waste.

"And so when he sat that game and the next five or six games to end the season, he actually lost money. I mean, it's so contradictory to this kind of sexy gambling story. He lost money on his shoe contract because he didn't play enough games because, like a lot of NBA starters, by game 70, he's got all sorts of issues.

"In this case, it was his foot. It was a chronic injury. It was just going to get worse if he played for no reason. So he took himself out. And I'm not here to defend De'Niro or anybody else in the indictment. There's a bunch of people Terry doesn't even know if he could pick him out of a lineup."

Adding to questions about Rozier's financial state is an ESPN report that the IRS filed the \$8,218,211 federal income tax lien in Broward County where Rozier has a residence, against Rozier in November 2023. The Associated Press reported Wednesday that issue has been resolved.

Wolvaardt and Kapp power South Africa into the World Cup Final

CC Women's World Cup, Guwahati

South Africa 319-7 (50 overs): Wolvaardt 169 (143); Ecclestone 4-44

England 194 (42.3 overs): Sciver-Brunt 64 (76); Kapp 5-20

South Africa won by 125 runs

Scorecard

Dismal England were knocked out of the Women's World Cup after a thumping 125-run defeat by South Africa in the semi-final.

Laura Wolvaardt played one of the great one-day innings with 169 from 143 balls at the top of the order as the Proteas, who lost to England in the previous two World Cup semis, posted an imposing 319-7 in Guwahati.

Faced with a record chase in a knockout game, England suffered a horror start as they slumped to 1-3 with Amy Jones, Tammy Beaumont and Heather Knight all falling for ducks.

Jones and Knight were both bowled by a fired-up Marizanne Kapp and Beaumont was caught behind off Ayabonga Khaka, but Nat Sciver-Brunt and Alice Capsey steadied the innings with a composed stand of 105.

The pressure of the chase mounted and Capsey fell shortly after reaching her first ODI fifty before Kapp delivered again, all-but confirming South Africa's win with the wicket of England's captain for 64.



The star all-rounder then added Sophia Dunkley and Charlie Dean to her tally to finish with a sensational 5-20 as England finished 194 all out.

England batted poorly but they did little wrong in the field; they were at the mercy of Wolvaardt's majestic and chanceless innings.

She timed her knock and South Africa's total to perfection. After 40 overs, they were 202-5 with Wolvaardt on 101, before an astonishing acceleration saw 117 runs pumelled from the last 10.

Sophie Ecclestone was the pick of

England's bowlers with 4-44 despite her shoulder injury - she took two wickets in one over when South Africa slipped from 116-0 to 119-3.

But England struggled to keep hold of the momentum as Kapp scored a counter-attacking 42, and despite another three quick wickets falling, Wolvaardt started her onslaught with crucial support from Chloe Tryon's 33 not out.

South Africa will face either India or Australia in their first World Cup final on Sunday, with those two teams playing in Navi Mumbai on Thursday.

Sports

THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2025



Simmons Captures a Double at Pre-Independence Table Tennis Open

The Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA) staged its Pre-Independence Table Tennis Open on Saturday, October 25, at the Multi-purpose Cultural & Exhibition Centre. The event served as a tune-up for the upcoming ANOCES Table Tennis Championships to be held in Grenada from November 7–9.

Emerging as the standout performer of the evening was Mekhi Simmons, who dominated both the U19 and Open categories, displaying exceptional control and composure in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

In the U19 Final, Simmons defeated Emmanuel Stout in straight sets, 11–7, 11–4, 11–4. He returned to the table later in the night to claim the Open title, overcoming Sandra Joseph 11–8, 11–9, 9–11, 11–2, in a thrilling final that showcased power, patience, and precision.

The event attracted a competitive field of young and senior players alike, reinforcing ABTTA's commitment to pro-



viding regular match-play opportunities for all levels of players under its Nex-Gen Ping Pong Development Program.

Speaking after the tournament, ABTTA President commended the players for their spirit and determination:

“This event highlights the growing enthusiasm for table tennis across Antigua and Barbuda. Our goal is to ensure that every player—from school beginners to national athletes—has the opportunity to compete, improve, and enjoy the sport.”

The Association now turns its attention to preparing the national team for the ANOCES Championships, where Antigua and Barbuda will aim to build on the positive momentum gained from recent domestic and regional competitions.