

# 55 Shell Beach Lots for Locals to Build Airbnb

*Story on page 2*



*An aerial view of the new Seven Seas Water Group's RO plant at Barnacle Point (inset) group photo of official party at Friday's formal commissioning ceremony*



## 55 Shell Beach Lots for Locals to Build Airbnb



**ACB Invest Programme/Unit launch**

The government of Antigua and Barbuda is following through on its commitment to provide opportunities for local to be able to take a bigger slice of the tourism pie.

It is with this in mind that Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced that the government will make 55 lots available to local citizens at Shell Beach, providing a new and targeted opportunity for Antiguan and Barbudans to invest directly in the growing tourism accommodation market through the construction of Airbnb-style investment properties. The announcement was made during his feature address at the launch of the ACB Invest Programme/Unit, hosted by Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB Caribbean).

The Prime Minister stated that the

initiative is scheduled to begin as early as next week, underscoring the Government's continued focus on expanding economic opportunities for locals through asset ownership and entrepreneurship. He urged members of the public to take advantage of the opportunity, describing Shell Beach as a prime location "either on the beach or close to the beach," suitable for the development of attractive tourism accommodation.

Prime Minister Browne further announced that the Government will provide tax and duty-free waivers on building materials, fixtures and fittings to support the construction of these properties. He explained that the policy support is part of a deliberate wealth-creation strategy, aimed at em-

powering citizens to build assets, generate income, and secure long-term financial stability.

In highlighting the commercial value of the initiative, Prime Minister Browne noted the significant increase in visitors being accommodated through Airbnb properties in recent years, estimating that such accommodation now accounts for approximately 35 percent of tourist stays in Antigua and Barbuda. He described the Shell Beach initiative as a practical avenue for locals to participate more meaningfully in the tourism sector, especially for those who may not have the capital required to invest in large-scale resort development.

The Prime Minister explained that while major hotel and resort projects remain critical to tourism growth, creating opportunities for individuals to build modest, well-appointed investment properties—complete with modern amenities such as small pools—offers a pathway to wealth generation for ordinary citizens. He said the Shell Beach development aligns with the Government's wider vision of ensuring that national growth is inclusive and that Antiguan and Barbudans can share more directly in the benefits of tourism expansion.

Prime Minister Browne reaffirmed that the Government's broader policy approach is grounded in building what he described as a "stakeholder society," where increased ownership and investment by citizens strengthen national resilience, improve social outcomes, and support intergenerational prosperity.



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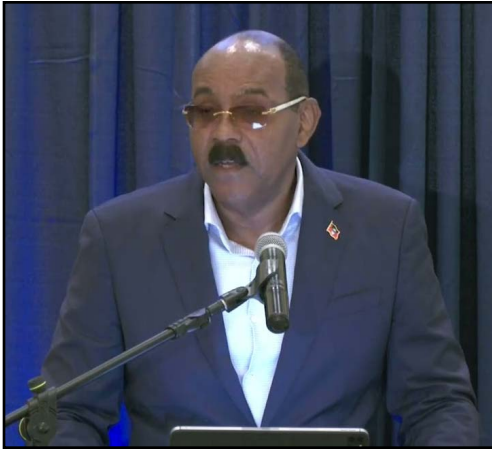
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## Prime Minister Browne Launches ACB Invest Programme/Unit, Calls for Inclusive Wealth Creation and Greater National Investment



Prime Minister Gaston Browne has described the launch of the ACB Invest Programme/Unit by ACB Caribbean as a major milestone for Antigua and Barbuda's financial future, signalling a new era of wealth-building opportunities and wider citizen participation in the investment economy.

Delivering the feature address at the launch, the Prime Minister congratulated the Directors, Management and Staff of ACB for establishing a dedicated wealth management unit, which he said will strengthen national investment infrastructure and provide customers with investment alternatives beyond traditional low-yield deposit accounts.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the ACB Invest Programme is more than a new banking service, but rather a national development tool designed to broaden wealth creation and expand economic mobility across society. He noted that wealth management is often misunderstood as being reserved for the affluent, but in reality it is about financial empowerment—helping ordinary citizens to make informed decisions to protect, invest, and grow what they earn, while strengthening their financial security and resilience.

Prime Minister Browne reaffirmed his long-standing advocacy for investment and entrepreneurship, stating that citizens must seize opportunities to use their resources, skills, creativity and innovation to build wealth and create

long-term stability for themselves and their families. He also underscored the importance of intergenerational prosperity, stressing that nation-building must be anchored in a deliberate commitment to ensuring that future generations inherit opportunities and security rather than hardship.

The Prime Minister pointed to the Government's policy approach over the last decade, which he said has intentionally focused on turning income into assets, increasing domestic ownership, and building a "stakeholder society." He explained that this strategy seeks to ensure that Antiguans and Barbudans gain greater control of the commanding heights of the economy, while reducing the risk of an extractive economic model in which profits are repatriated abroad rather than retained for national development.

Prime Minister Browne outlined key economic indicators which he said demonstrate that Antigua and Barbuda's development model is working. He reported that the country's debt-

to-GDP ratio has fallen dramatically over the past decade, inflation is now below three percent, and economic growth has averaged approximately six percent annually over the last five years—driven largely by investment and sustained expansion in tourism and construction. He noted as well that foreign direct investment inflows have financed transformative hotel and mixed-use developments, driving employment and strengthening productive capacity.

He further urged citizens to embrace financial planning, disciplined saving, and investment literacy as essential life skills in the modern era, while calling on financial institutions to partner more deeply with national development efforts. Prime Minister Browne expressed confidence that ACB Invest will contribute meaningfully to bridging the gap between savings and investment, mobilizing capital into productive use and helping to strengthen families, communities and the national economy.



  
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## Utilities Minister Nicholas gives commitment to take water to all communities



Utilities Minister, Melford Nicholas, is giving a commitment to improve the water distribution system in the country and to take the vital resource to communities that hitherto were either under-served or never had water.

The minister was at the time speaking at the formal commissioning of the second plant delivered by the Seven Seas Water Group under a contract with APUA.

Minister Nicholas noted that he is satisfied that the production of water has reached the point where it can meet the daily demand for the commodity, however, challenges faced by the distribution network make getting water to some areas difficult.

Recognising this challenge, the minister said he has placed fixing the distribution network, which is the replacement of the aging pipelines, to priority status for both himself and APUA. He recalled that two years ago the prime minister led a team to China where they negotiated a loan to fund the replacement of the old cast-iron pipes, many of which are several decades old.

Some re-piping has already commenced in some areas; these include the Point and the Burning Flames Highway where the work has been completed.

“The Cedar Valley area near the golf course is one community that has never had pipe-borne water and I can announce that they are on the

cut if receiving water from APUA. There are many other areas that are earmarked for water as part of our expansion. I have been invited by Senator Michael Joseph to visit communities in St. John’s Rural West that are under-served and where we hope to bring pipe-borne water shortly,” he announced.

Minister Nicholas noted that with Antigua being a relatively flat island, taking water to these under-served communities should not pose major challenges as some mountainous islands have encountered.

“My task as the minister is to see that APUA pushes itself to achieve these goals,” he stated.



## “Our work has not yet ended,” says APUA GM John Bradshaw



Water production by APUA is now sufficient to meet the daily demands on Antigua with the average estimated at 9.3 million imperial gallons per day, however, General Manager John Bradshaw says the work is not yet finished as there are other issues that remain unresolved.

Bradshaw was speaking on Friday as APUA and its partner, Seven Seas Water Group formally commissioned the second plant in 12 months following the signing of an agreement nearly twenty-four months ago.

This second plant, located at Barnacle Point adjacent to the Ivan Rodrigues facility, has the capacity to produce 2 million imperial gallons of water daily. When added to the Seven Seas plant at Friar’s Beach, it means that this agreement is providing 3 imperial gallons of water daily into the system.

Bradshaw recalled that during the worst drought in living memory – 1981-83 – the government was forced to import water from Dominica. “That will not happen again as we now have the technology to convert sea water to potable water and partners such as Seven Seas Water Group working along with us to achieve the goal of increasing water production to satisfy the consumer,” he explained.

The general manager outlined the challenges ahead before APUA can declare that the work has ended. Firstly, he said there is need to automate the system as the current system of manually closing and opening of valve is outdated and highly inefficient. He disclosed that discussions are underway with a Trinidad and Tobago company to undertake a project to implement such a system.

“We also have to change the distribution and transmission system as some of the pipes are very old and urgently need to be changed. This project is already underway but will take some time to complete,” he suggested.

Meanwhile, in his welcome address, Acting Water Business Unit Manager, Jason Peters noted that Antigua has suffered throughout its history with droughts. However, despite the challenges, APUA is committed to ensuring reliable, safe and sustainable water access for every citizen, today and for generations to come.

“Let me be clear, water security is national security. By investing wisely, managing responsibly and educating continuously, we are protecting our economy, strengthening our resilience and preserving our environment,” he emphasized.

Seven Seas Water Group’s Chief Executive Officer, Henry Charrabe, said his team is extremely pleased to work alongside APUA personnel to provide two reverse osmosis plants that are making a significant contribution to the water supply on Antigua. “It is no small feat, that less than 24 hours after we signed the agreement, we have provided what is most important for human life; fresh drinking water. Three million imperial gallons of water are now available to the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and that is because of the vision and foresight of the minister and senior management at APUA. Infrastructural projects tend to take a long time to negotiate and implement. They usually need a champion; we have been fortunate to have a champion in the person of Minister Nicholas,” he remarked.

Scores of people were in attendance at the launch ceremony, including the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and several members of the Cabinet, the Board of Directors of APUA, the staff as well as representatives of the financial institutions that helped to finance the project.





# Local News

## Ministry of Works announces a pause in resurfacing the West Indies Oil Road as APUA installs new pipelines



low APUA to complete the re-piping exercise along the roadway.

In a media release, the ministry said it recently began repairs on this secondary road that connects the Frair's Hill Road with the Marble Hill Road. However, it has reported that during this process, several water leaks were discovered and reported to APUA.

According to the ministry... APUA's inspection determined that the water lines were rusty and in poor condition, leading to the decision to replace them.

Public Works will resurface the carriageway after APUA's re-piping work is complete.

"We thank the public for their patience and cooperation as these critical works proceed," the release noted.

Last Friday, Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas, who had earlier announced plans for APUA to have its own internal road repair team, said he is determined to have to mechanism in place by the middle of the year.

He noted that he too, had been frustrated over the years to see ministry of works resurface a roadway only to have APUA dig it up months later to replace pipes and never returned the roadway to the condition in which they met it.

"This must come to an end," he declared.

The Ministry of Works has announced a pause in its project to resurface the West Indies Oil Road to al-



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## Demolition of Lower Newgate Street Building Signals Start of Major St. John's Clean-Up Effort



The long-standing issue of derelict buildings in St. John's is now being decisively addressed, as the government launches a sweeping urban renewal programme aimed at restoring safety and visual appeal to the capital.

The initiative got underway on Sunday with the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation demolishing an abandoned structure on Lower Newgate Street. The building, which had stood vacant for more than ten years, was once a Chinese-operated commercial establishment but had since fallen into severe disrepair.

Minister responsible for Urban Development, Rawdon Turner, said the structure posed a serious risk to public safety due to its deteriorating condition and its location along a busy city corridor. The weakened walls and rotting wooden framework brought the building down in under half an hour.

"The building had fallen into a state of disrepair. It

is termite-infested and rotten, and the family did not have the means to demolish it, which is why it remained abandoned for so long," he said.

According to the minister, the Lower Newgate Street demolition marks the first step in a much broader effort, with approximately 500 abandoned homes and buildings in and around St. John's identified for removal. The programme is designed not only to eliminate hazards but also to improve public health and enhance the city's overall appearance.

"It is time for us to take the necessary steps to start the work of rebuilding the city," he added.

Turner explained that enforcement notices were issued to property owners late last year, giving them an opportunity to repair, secure, or demolish their buildings before government intervention became necessary.

"Our approach is firm but fair," he said. "Where owners have responded and re-



quested assistance, the government is prepared to work with them. But where there is no response and the risk remains, we will take action."

The government intends to proceed with the demolition of abandoned properties across the capital and recover associated costs from property owners, while continuing to offer support in cases where owners formally engage with the process.

Minister Turner also revealed that about half of the affected property owners

have already contacted the government, and four have taken the initiative to demolish their own structures. He noted that the remaining non-responsive properties will be addressed as the programme advances.

Officials say the scale of abandonment and overgrowth within the city has reached a point where inaction is no longer an option, emphasizing that the urban renewal drive is a necessary step toward creating a safer, cleaner, and more orderly St. John's.



## Zeina Hechme gets warm 'send-off' to new posting in Toronto, Canada



**Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene**

Colleagues and friends of Senior Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zeina Hechme, gave her a warm send-off on Friday as she prepares to take up a new assignment as Vice Consul at the Antigua and Barbuda Consulate in Toronto, Canada.

Led by Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene and Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, the ministry's staff gathered to offer congratulations, words of advice and best wishes to Hechme.

"We are here today allowing you to ascend; to realise more of your ambitions and potentials in the foreign service. You leave for Toronto to join the recently appointed Consul General, Gail Christian, as her deputy. So on behalf of the prime minister, the Cabinet and all of us in the ministry as well as those who presided over your appointment, I wish to commend you,



**Newly appointed Vice Consul to Canada, Zeina Hechme**

congratulate you and encourage you to do what you have always done; give of your best," Minister Greene remarked.

He noted that Hechme's departure not only creates an opportunity for her, but also for those members of staff who remain. "One thing I would like all of those who remain is to take a page from your book. The degree of thoroughness with which you performed your duties, the commitment and dedication, I believe, is something from which we can all learn. As we give a commitment to maintain the standard of performance, I believe you have left a solid platform from which to do so," he observed.

PS, Dr. Pilgrim himself offered his own congratulations to Hechme on her new assignment. "We would like to take this opportunity as a team and as a ministry to wish Hechme all the best in her endeavours," he stated.



**Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim**



**Director General for Foreign Affairs, Ann-Marie Layne**

Joining in offering her own words of advice and sharing some of her experiences as a long-serving senior diplomat for Antigua and Barbuda, High Commissioner to the UK, Karen-Mae

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**Antigua and Barbuda, High Commissioner to the UK, Karen-Mae Hill,**

Hill, noted that it was ‘an incredible opportunity’ for those in the foreign service to serve their country abroad adding that its ‘every diplomat’s dream to have their first posting’.

HC Hill observed that many Antiguan and Barbudans often ask the question, why do we pay the diplomats who serve abroad? “You need to ensure that everything you do adds value to the people of Antigua and Barbuda; that’s why you are there. But how do you add value? Every opportunity that comes, you maximize and share with the ministry that’s involved. However, you also have to follow-through; don’t just send an email and leave it,” she advised.

Former Deputy Consul General in the Toronto Office and the current Director General for Foreign Affairs, Ann-Marie Layne, shared her perspective having served in the position previously.

“I would say to you to step into the role as yourself. You are not there to fill anyone’s shoes, you are there to be of service to the diaspora as diplomacy is about connecting with the people, the diaspora and your colleagues. Everybody wants to know that you care and that you understand whatever they may be going through. In spite of everything, bring your charm, your wisdom and your resil-



**Executive Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Debbie Collins**

ience to this new opportunity,” she stated.

Other speakers included the Protocol Officer, Sherese George, Senior



**Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt Williams**

Foreign Service Officer, Kurt Williams, Senior Consular Officer, Lance Browne and Principal Assistant Secretary, Vineesha Charles.

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

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### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT (SECOND PUBLICATION)

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by EVERTON BARNES of Weirs Estate, St. Georges, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the Deceased, the Deceased having died intestate on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

DATED this     day of     , 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
 EVERTON BARNES  
 Applicant

Filed by Westlin Chambers, Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is Independence Drive, St. John’s, Antigua.

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 Email: westlinlaw@gmail.com



## Four Candidates Qualified Under St Philip's South Scholarship Programme to Attend UWI Five Islands Campus

Four candidates have qualified to attend the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) under the St Philip's South Scholarship Programme, an initiative spearheaded by Senator Hon. Kiz Johnson, ABLP Caretaker for the St Philip's South Constituency.

The scholarship programme, for which five (5) scholarships were announced, attracted an impressive response from residents across the constituency. Following a highly competitive and rigorous assessment process, four applicants met the required criteria and qualified for the programme, which is scheduled to commence shortly.

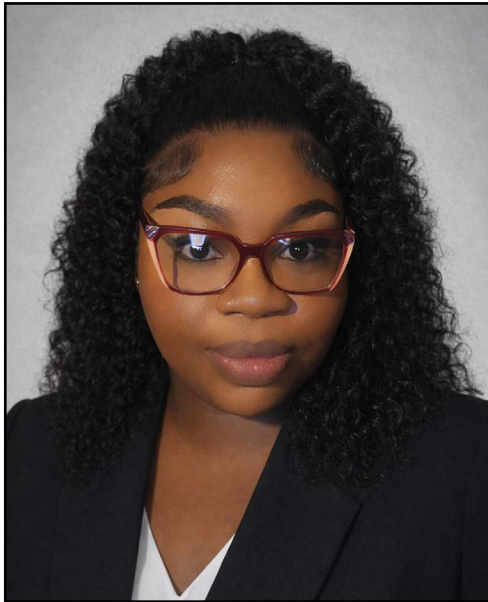
The initiative was first announced and officially launched on December 12, 2025, as part of Senator Johnson's ongoing commitment to strengthening educational opportunities and capacity-building within St Philip's South.

In outlining the vision behind the programme, Senator Johnson stated: "Education changes families, communities and futures, and St Philip's South deserves every opportunity to rise."

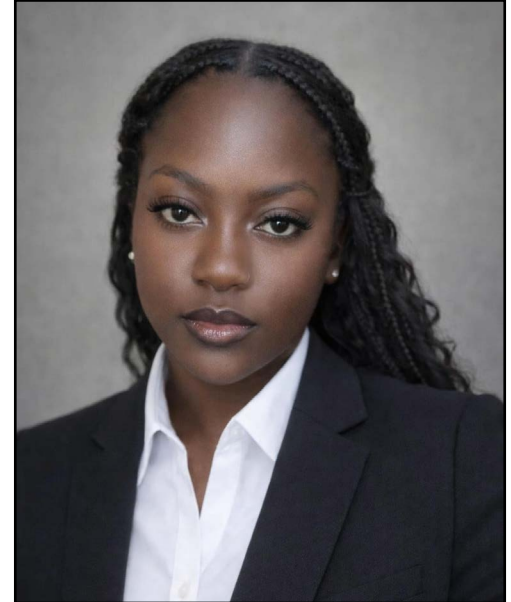
The candidates who qualified for the 10-week scholarship programme at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus are:

- Ruetoya Browne
- Egypt Emanuel
- Carlene Thoas
- D'Hijah Matthew

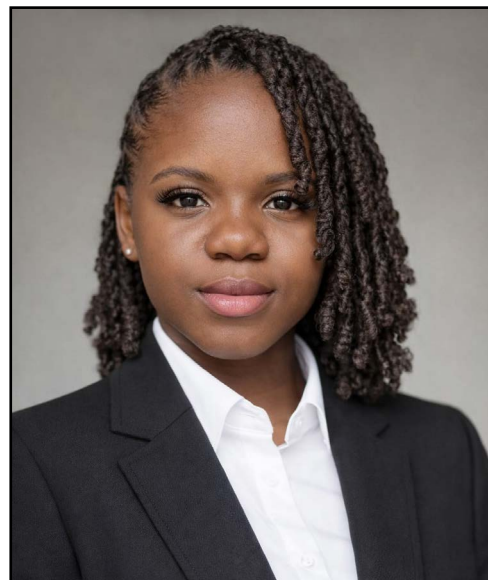
Senator Johnson congratulated the candidates on successfully meeting the qualification standards and encouraged them to approach the programme with focus, discipline, and confidence as pioneers of this constituency initiative.



**Ruetoya Browne**



**Egypt Emanuel**



**Carlene Thoas**



**D'Hijah Matthew**

She also expressed sincere thanks to all applicants who applied for the St Philip's South (SPS) Scholarship Programme, noting that the strong response reflected a clear desire for education, advancement, and personal development within the constituency.

Additionally, Senator Johnson expressed appreciation to Dr. Dave Ray, Diaspora Liaison, for his contribution toward the scholarship programme, and issued an open call to donors and partners to assist in ex-

panding the initiative. She has indicated her intention to grow the programme over the coming months, allowing additional beneficiaries to be supported in future cohorts.

"This response confirms the appetite for education and self-development within our constituency," Senator Johnson noted, "With continued partnership and support, this scholarship programme will become a strong and sustainable pathway for opportunity in St Philip's South."





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# Local News

## “I want to be a catalyst for our young people”



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show**

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who as his alter ego, **Gassy Dread**, is now a registered song writer and producer, said his decision to enter into the entertainment space so that he could serve as an example to the nation's youth.

Speaking on his weekend radio programme – **the Browne and Browne** show, the prime minister returned to a now familiar theme admonishing the creative artists to aim their music beyond the shows of Antigua and Barbuda or the Caribbean, to attract a global audience.

PM Browne reported that the collection of songs he produced in collaboration with producer, **Jus Bus**, is currently available on several media platforms – Spotify and I-Tunes etc. – and already he is earning money through royalties whenever the music is played.

But the prime minister has reiterated that his motivation was never about the money, but that he wanted to be the catalyst to spur young people into creative action to utilize the available technologies and to produce music of their own with a global appeal.

“Whereas the intent was never about money or even to be an artist, what I was trying to do at the time was to show our people how they can use the technology to enhance their skills set; enhance their writing skills, and enhance their music production skills,” he revealed.

PM Browne is also cautioning young people that their production must have significant human input and not all be AI-generated materials, noting that these will be refused by the music platforms over plagiarism and other concerns.

“The arrangement that I have with Jus Bus is that there is a significant amount of human input even though we may utilize an AI character to do the actual singing. So the writing and arrangements have much of that human input of which I speak,” he added.

He is advising those wishing to enter the space not to simply enter topics unto the AI software and ask to have a song written. “That would not sell,” he warned.

“What I am trying to do is to stimulate the creative arts for our people to broaden their horizons; to sing different genres, as I have said numerous times when you look at the successes of Rhianna and Bob Marley etc., it is clear that the talent is there, but the talent is latent. I feel also that the outlook is too narrow; that our artists are singing for a domestic calypso or soca competition. Generally speaking, that type of production seldom travels beyond Antigua and Barbuda or if it does, not beyond the Caribbean. We need to make music that is truly global. There is no reason why our people can't sing reggae like the Jamaicans and produce music with an international appeal,” he emphasized.


 A promotional graphic for the 'Africa Unite' radio show. It features a dark background with intricate African geometric patterns in gold and green. At the top, a silhouette of the African continent is shown with radiating lines. Below it, the words 'AFRICA' and 'UNITE' are written in large, bold, yellow and orange letters. In the center, there is a gold microphone icon. At the bottom, the text 'HOSTS: DR, CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE' is displayed in yellow, followed by 'POINTE FM 99.1' and 'THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM' in bold yellow letters.



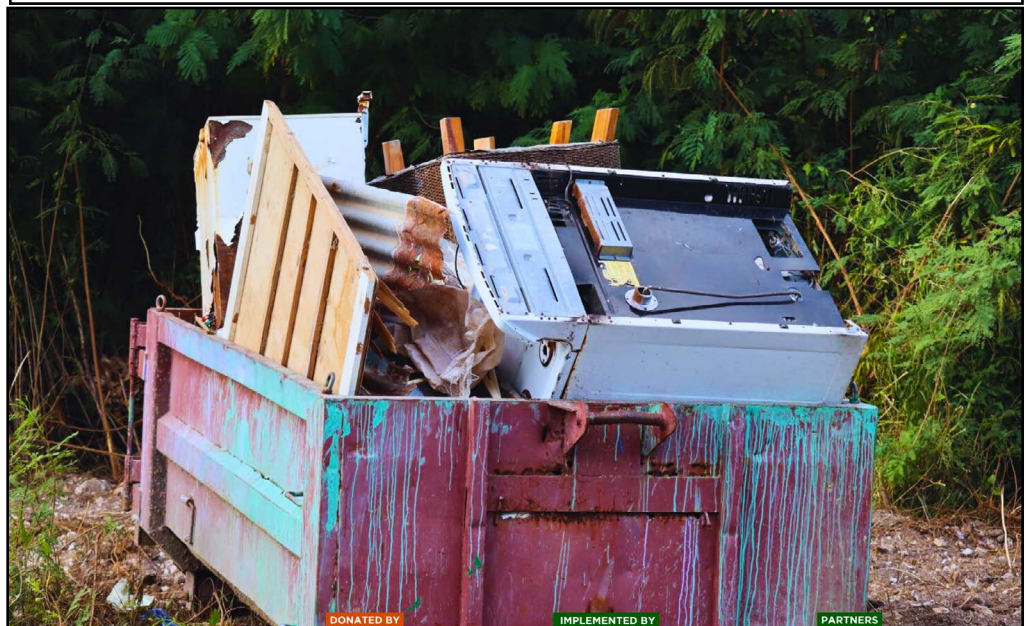
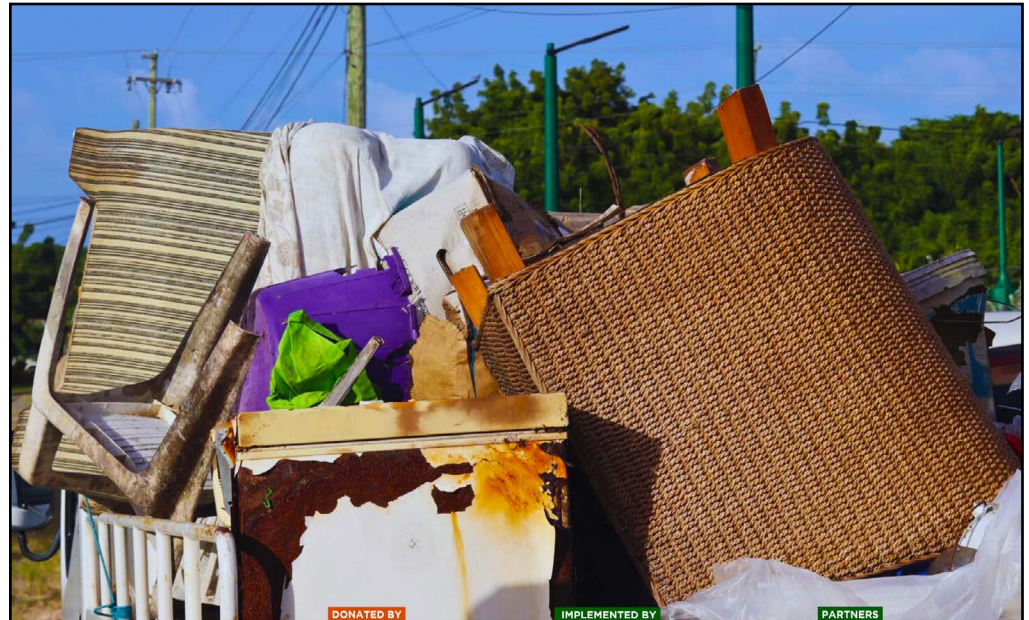
## ESFN and West Magic Bins Plus Team Up to Clean Up with FCRA

The EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN), in partnership with West Magic Bins Plus and the Fitches Creek Residents Association (FCRA) recently teamed up for a Bulk Waste Clean-up in the Fitches Creek Community. As part of this initiative, residents collectively removed three skips of bulk waste, including discarded materials and household items, significantly improving the cleanliness and environmental health of the community.

This effort represents a key milestone to support the Building a Community Constituency for Conservation project, now in its final stages. Throughout the life of the project, Fitches Creek residents have been provided with opportunities to actively engage in conservation action, environmental education, and shared responsibility for the spaces they inhabit.

Situated within the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA), the Fitches Creek community plays a critical role in safeguarding vital wetland ecosystems. As the community looks towards World Wetlands Day 2026, it acknowledges that these habitats support species such as the West Indian whistling duck, herons and other wetland-dependent birds. Community-led interventions, including the placement of water lilies, have contributed to improved wetland health, enhanced water quality, and safer habitats that allow biodiversity to flourish.

Project Manager, Britney McDonald underscored the broader impact of the initiative, stating, "This clean-up goes beyond waste



removal. It reflects a growing sense of pride, ownership, and environmental responsibility within the Fitches Creek community. When residents actively participate, biodiversity conservation becomes a shared value that delivers real, visible results."

The Bulk Waste Clean-Up serves as a supplementary effort to previous support received by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), reinforcing national waste management objectives through strong community participation.



## Its Martin Luther King holiday today!



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a civil rights leader with the ability to withstand, recover and even shine in the face of stressors and changing demands. Monday, Jan. 20, is the federal holiday honoring his life.**

*The people of the United States are today celebrating Martin Luther King Day, a federal holiday set aside to honour the remarkable civil rights leader, whose work has been recognized throughout the world for the impact it has had on civil rights, justice and equality.*

*Martin Luther King Day is celebrated across the United States on the third Monday of January in honour of the man whose advocacy and work led to the signing of the Civil Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964.*

*King has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with many other accolades and he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis Tennessee, where he had journeyed to support striking sanitation workers who were demanding better working conditions.*

*He was just 39 years old.*

*His 'I have a dream' speech in Washington is widely regarded as one of the most influential and one of the most listened to speeches of the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century.*



## A Statement from the Party Chairman



**ABLP Chairman E.P. Chet Green**

A Statement from the Party Chairman Hon. E.P. Chet Greene Chairman, Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party “On this significant anniversary, on behalf of the leadership and membership of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, I extend our deepest gratitude to the

people of our blessed nation.

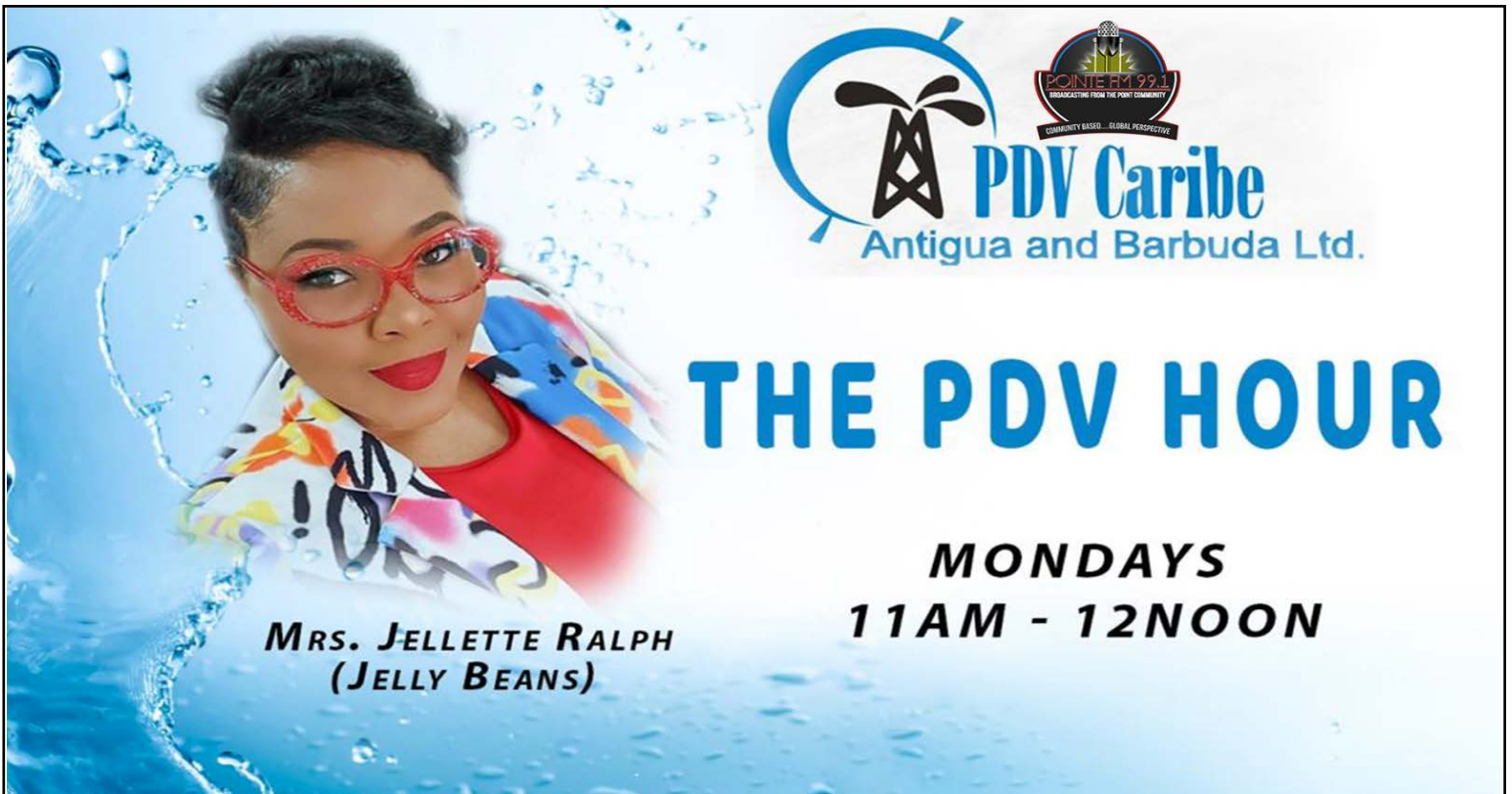
Your unwavering support, your steadfast prayers and your hard work have been the true engine of our national progress. We are profoundly humbled by the continued trust you have placed in our Party and in the leadership of

Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

The Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers and the entire ABLP family join me in expressing our sincere appreciation. We are acutely aware that the remarkable achievements of the past three years in education, health-care, infrastructure and economic empowerment are not ours alone but a shared victory born of national unity and purpose.

As we celebrate how far we have come, we do so with a renewed and solemn commitment. We pledge to continue serving you with dedication, integrity and an unrelenting focus on elevating every family, securing every future and building an Antigua and Barbuda where prosperity is both solid and soaring.

Guided by faith and united in purpose we, as servants of the people hereby give assurances, through continued diligence and committed service to the nation that the best for our nation is yet to come.”



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**(JELLY BEANS)**



# Regional News

## Dominica will not give up Cuban Healthcare Program, says PM



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has made it clear that Dominica will not move away from the Cuban Healthcare Program, as doing so will be disastrous for the country.

He made the remarks during a New Year's sit-down interview with journalists on Thursday night.

The Cuban medical program has been heavily criticized and has faced recent scrutiny and allegations of forced labor, which led to investigations from the Organization of the American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Presently, the United States has taken steps to end the program, imposing visa bans on officials tied to that program. However, despite the criticism,

Caribbean leaders have defended the program.

"If you move away from the Cuban Healthcare Program, it will be disastrous," he said. "I mean, 9 out of 11 medical and nursing practitioners at the ICU [Intensive Care Unit] are Cuban doctors."

The prime minister acknowledged that Cuba has been a very steadfast partner to Dominica and stated that the partnership will continue, albeit with adjustments.

"Obviously, the United States has certain challenges and concerns with regards to the Cuban program. We've discussed it with them. We are also in discussions with the Cuban government, as well, on how we believe that


we can better fashion the program to address whatever concerns anybody may have," Skerrit revealed. "But we will certainly see in the foreseeable future the presence of Cuban-trained doctors and Cuban doctors in Dominica to provide care to us."

He continued, "Obviously, quite possibly there might be a different configuration and structure, but in terms of having Cuban-trained doctors and Cuban doctors and nurses in Dominica, we just cannot do without it. And unless somebody can give us an alternative..."

Furthermore, Skerrit pointed out that historically, various countries provided Dominica with medical professionals, though things have changed over the recent decades.



"...So back in the eighties and the seventies and nineties, we got doctors from Nigeria..." he said. "But because you have the Nigerian doctors being recruited by the United Kingdom and the Middle Eastern countries, they are not really available to us anymore."

"We had doctors from India as well..." Skerrit explained. "And so we continue to discuss, but certainly we will continue to benefit from the vast knowledge of the Cubans and the Cuban Healthcare System and education system in the foreseeable future." (Dominica News Online)



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# Regional News

PAGE 17

## Definitive number of U.S. deportees to DA undecided, says PM Skerrit



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has said his government has not decided how many third-country refugees deported from the United States of America (USA) will be relocated to Dominica, citing various factors that may shape the process.

He made the statement during an interview with journalists on Thursday night.

This decision to accept third-country refugees followed the December 16, 2025, proclamation introducing partial visa restrictions on Dominica.

“We have not decided how many people we are going to be taking. And as a matter of fact, we may never end up having anybody to come,” he said. This is a contingency plan that the United States has asked [its] friends to assist.”

Skerrit continued, “It’s an issue the United States has

asked friends to assist it with. Because they have an immigration challenge, and they asked friends whether they were prepared to assist us in addressing this issue.”

He added, “We consider ourselves to be a friend to the United States [and] we believe that we are in a position, as small as we are, to assist the United States in addressing an issue it determines to be a national priority for it, but there is no details to say we will take 10 or we will take 25, or we will take 100 or we will take 5. We may never get to that point. Because they have not said to us, we have 5 names for you...”

He said once his government receives that information, it will be shared with the public.

Reiterating that the U.S. arrangement is on a contingency basis, Skerrit explained, “So, if they are

unable to address their issue in the manner in which and the time frame, they would like to address it, then they can say to Dominica, can you take five people? These are the five people. They give you the background of these people, their criminal history, their medical history.”

Furthermore, he explained that based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries, Dominica is in a position to say to the Unit-

ed States, “No we don’t want those people.”

“It’s not a situation where they are going to force people on us,” he explained. “They are going to indicate to us who the people are, give us all the information about the people, and then we make our own assessment on the potential security impact, if at all, on our country, and if we believe it is going to be a security impact, we will say no.” (Dominica News Online)





# Regional News

## Two senior gov't employees arrested in cocaine bust at Sangster airport

The Jamaica Constabulary Force is reporting that two senior government employees, a man and a woman, were arrested on Friday at the Sangster International Airport in St James after cocaine valued at more than \$5 million was allegedly found in secret compartments in their luggage.

Further, the police say that the man reportedly told cops that he also ingested more than 70 pellets of cocaine.

Additionally, the police report that a subsequent search of both the houses of the persons was conducted and that the operation yielded a Glock 19 pistol, 13 rounds of ammunition, and an ounce of cocaine.

Their identities are being withheld by the police pending further investigations.

According to the police, around midday on Friday, both individuals were intercepted by Port Security and the Firearms and Narcotics Investigation Division (FNID) at a security checkpoint while attempting to board a flight bound for New York.

During a search of their luggage, officers discovered several false compartments containing rectangular packages of cocaine weighing 9.25 kilograms, police said.

The illicit drug has an estimated street value of \$5.4 million.

A search of a handbag also yielded a sum of cash in US currency, police added.

Following the airport arrests, FNID officers conducted secondary operations at the residences of both suspects, where a Glock 19 pistol, 13 rounds of ammunition, and an ounce of cocaine were found.

The police also said one of the suspects revealed that he had ingested more than 70 pellets of cocaine.

He has since been admitted to a medical facility under police guard.

FNID Director Superintendent Patrae Rowe said the police have intensified operations to nab perpetrators involved in the illegal firearms and narcotics trade.

"This operation underscores the intensified investigations by the Jamaica Constabulary Force to maintain

the integrity of our borders and hold all individuals accountable, regardless of their professional standing or social status. We are continuing our mission to further dismantle the networks that facilitate the trafficking of illicit drugs and firearms," Rowe said in a statement on Saturday.

Investigations into the seizure are ongoing. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY







# U.S. refugee deal risks turning Region into Six Other Haiti's



Opposition Leader Ralph Gonsalves confirms that his administration engaged with the United States government regarding the acceptance of third-country refugees and deportees but argued against the proposal, asserting it was not in the interest of the United States or the region.

Gonsalves on Wednesday spoke to several specific arguments he presented to US officials explaining why St. Vincent and the Grenadines would not accept third-country nationals.

He warned that introducing even a small number of foreign deportees could have catastrophic effects on small island nations and that out of a dozen deportees, even four or five “vagabonds” could connect with local criminal enterprises and become “professors of crime”. He said he bluntly told American officials that this policy could result in “six other Haiti[s]” in the Caribbean rather than just one.

Gonsalves argued that the number of refugees the OECS countries could ab-

sorb (estimated at perhaps 10 to 12 annually per country) is negligible compared to the total number the US needs to manage. “I told them it is not in your interest for us to accept because the instability created would outweigh the minor relief provided to the US immigration system”.


He expressed concern that once an agreement is signed, the receiving country loses control over who arrives and noted that the US controls the information and the transport; once individuals are put on a plane and arrive at Argyle International Airport, the local government cannot effectively refuse specific individuals.

Regarding the deportation of actual Vincentian citizens, he states that the country accepts them “in accordance with international law”. However, he notes that his administra-


tion consistently demanded the “whole history” of the persons being deported information he claims the US often fails to provide.

The former prime minister observes that other countries in the region are “lining up to sign on” to these agreements. He attributes their compliance to vulnerability caused by Economic Citizenship programs (CBI).


He stated that these nations are accepting refugees because they are “selling passports and selling citizenship” and fear losing US favor or visa access and views this compliance as a form of “rolling over and playing dead,” which he said will lead to further demands and a loss of sovereignty, eventually turning parliaments into “local government assemblies.” (St Vincent Times)




## Apua WATER



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## Six killed in Pakistan shopping mall fire



A fire at a shopping centre in the Pakistan city of Karachi has killed six people as firefighters continue to battle the blaze.

Parts of the Gul Plaza, containing 1,200 stores and spanning 8,000 sq m (86,111 sq ft), have collapsed which officers said was hampering rescue efforts.

One firefighter is among the dead, more than 20 people have been injured and there are fears some are still trapped inside the multi-storey mall.

Local emergency services said that when helpers arrived at the site on Saturday "the fire from the ground floor had spread to the upper floors, and almost the entire building was already engulfed in flames".

A senior police official told the BBC that the authorities had been unable to search the building for bodies as the fire has continued to burn.

More than 30 people have been reported missing by their families, who have gathered outside what remains of the centre, waiting anxiously for news of their loved ones. Administrators

for the city have set up a desk to register the names and details of the missing.

Smoke was still billowing from what remains of the Gul Plaza building on Sunday morning. Much of it has collapsed and there are concerns it could collapse further.

Hassan Khan, a spokesperson for Rescue 1122 in Karachi, told BBC Urdu the shopping centre contains flammable materials such as plastic foam, cloth, carpets and perfume.

Summaiya Syed, Karachi's police surgeon, said six bodies had been transferred to the city's Civil Hospital as well as some of the injured.

She added that the police were "invoking mass disaster protocols".

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his condolences and told the government of Sindh province, where Karachi is based, to conduct a comprehensive review of safety arrangements in commercial and residential buildings across the area. (BBC)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



## YouTube relaxes monetisation policy on videos with controversial content

YouTube is updating its guidelines for videos containing content that advertisers define as controversial, allowing more creators to earn full ad revenue when they tackle sensitive issues in a non-graphic way.

With the update that went into effect Tuesday, YouTube videos that dramatize or cover issues including domestic abuse, self-harm, suicide, adult sexual abuse, abortion and sexual harassment without graphic descriptions or imagery are now eligible for full monetisation.

Ads will remain restricted on videos that include content on child abuse, child sex trafficking and eating disorders.

The changes were outlined in a video posted to the Creator Insider YouTube channel on Tuesday, and the advertiser-friendly content guidelines were also updated with specific definitions and examples.

“We want to ensure the creators who are telling sensitive stories or producing dramatized content have the opportunity to earn ad revenue while respecting advertiser choice and industry sentiment,” said Conor Kavanaugh, YouTube’s head of monetization policy experience, in the video announcing the changes. “We took a closer look and found our guidelines in this area had become too restrictive



and ended up demonetizing uploads like dramatized content.”

The update also makes personal accounts of these sensitive issues, as well as preventative content and journalistic coverage on these subjects, eligible for full monetization.

The Google-owned company said the degree of graphic or descriptive detail in videos wasn’t previously considered when determining advertiser friendliness.

Some creators would attempt to by-

pass these policies on YouTube and other platforms by using workaround language or substituting symbols and numbers for letters in written text — the most prevalent example across social platforms has been the use of the term “unalive.”

YouTube has updated its policies in response to creator feedback before. In July, the company eased its monetization policy regarding profanity, making videos that use strong profanity in the first seven seconds eligible for full ad revenue. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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## Avalanches kill eight skiers in Austrian Alps



Eight people were killed in a series of avalanches in the Austrian Alps on Saturday, following heavy snowfall and dangerous conditions in the region.

Five people were killed in two avalanches in the Pongau area near Salzburg, local mountain rescue officials said.

Later that day, three Czech skiers died after being bur-

ied by an avalanche in Pusterwald, about 70 miles (110km) away, police confirmed.

Poor conditions have led to the deaths of a number of people in the Alps over the past week in neighbouring Switzerland and also in France.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to the families," said Gerhard Kremser, district

head of the Pongau mountain rescue service.

"This tragedy painfully demonstrates how serious the current avalanche situation is."

The incidents in Pongau saw seven ski tourers hit near Finsterkopf mountain, killing four and seriously injuring another.

In the same area, a female ski tourer was also buried and killed in open alpine terrain.

Further avalanches were recorded in the region on Saturday, but no-one was injured.

Following the avalanche that killed three skiers in Pusterwald, four others in the same group rescued by emergency crews.

"Emergency respond-

ers were able to locate and partially dig out the buried victims. Despite immediate rescue efforts, the three individuals were found dead," a police statement said.

The fatalities follow a deadly week in the alps.

Last weekend in France, six skiers died after being caught in avalanches in various Alpine resorts and in western Austria, a 58-year-old skier died in the Tyrolean resort of Weerberg.

On Tuesday, an avalanche killed a 13-year-old Czech boy skiing in Austria's Bad Gastein resort.

And in neighbouring Switzerland, a German man was killed in an avalanche, and four other people were injured, as they were cross-country skiing on Friday. (BBC)

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## Syrian army seizes country's largest oil field from Kurdish forces

Syrian troops fighting Kurdish forces in north-eastern Syria have seized the country's largest oilfield.

The Omar facility and nearby gas fields are under army control after the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) pulled back, officials and monitors say. Earlier the army captured the strategic Tabqa dam on the Euphrates river.

The push came after the SDF announced it would redeploy east of the Euphrates, following deadly clashes last week. That withdrawal followed talks with US officials.

Ongoing fighting in the area stems from the breakdown of an agreement between SDF and the government of President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who is seeking to integrate Kurdish bodies into Syrian institutions.

On Friday, in an apparent goodwill gesture, al-Sharaa said he would make Kurdish a national language and make the Kurdish new year an official holiday. The decree is the first formal recognition of Kurdish national rights since Syria's independence in 1946.

The US-backed SDF then announced its pullout east of the Euphrates river.

Kurdish forces have been controlling swathes of Syria's oil-rich north and north-east, much of it gained during the fight against the Islamic State group over the past decade.

Over the weekend, Syrian troops continued their eastward push. They



entered the town of Tabqa on the south-western bank of the Euphrates and nearby dam on Saturday.

On Sunday, Syrian officials announced they had seized Omar, Syria's largest oil field, on the eastern side of the river. The facility has been a major source of revenue for the SDF.

This claim was supported by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group. It said the SDF had withdrawn from "entire villages and towns of the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor [province]" as well as the Omar and Tanak oil fields early on Sunday.

Meanwhile Syrian authorities accused the SDF of blowing up two bridges on the Euphrates River, including the new al-Rashid bridge in the city of Raqqa.

Last week at least 12 people were reported killed in clashes between the two sides in the northern city of Aleppo.

The latest fighting comes despite attempts by the US to broker a ceasefire. Washington has long backed the SDF, but it also supports the Syrian government.

Following the ousting of longtime strongman Bashar al-Assad in late 2024, President al-Sharaa has been seeking to integrate Kurdish military and civilian bodies into Syria's national institutions.

In March 2025, the SDF signed a deal with the government to that effect. Almost a year on, the agreement is still not implemented, with each side blaming the other. (BBC)



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## Guydadli Jets remain unbeaten in Second Division League

The Guydadli Jets maintained their unbeaten run in their campaign during their latest outing in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Saturday.

Joshua James scored twice as the Guydadli Jets notched up their sixth win in seven matches by cruising to a 3-0 victory against Blackburn Palace at the Fort Road playing field.

James had conversions in the 29th and 34th minutes, while teammate Imani Joyce scored in the 18th minute. The result carries Guydadli Jets to second place with 19 points, while Blackburn Palace FC remains on 10 points after suffering their third loss in seven matches.

Stefan Smith scored both goals to lead the Young Lions of Old Road to their fifth win in seven matches with a 2-0 victory against TAMO FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Smith had conversions in the 21st and the 30th minute as the unbeaten Young Lions advanced to 17 points. The result allows TAMO FC to remain on three points after losing for the sixth time in seven matches.

Police maintained their unbeaten run, salvaging their third draw in six matches with a 3-3 stalemate with Belmont FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

The goals for Police were scored by Jamary Galloway in the 11th minute, Nijah Hope in the 40th minute, and Ramar Perry in the 80th minute.

The goal scorers for Belmont FC are Brendon Sutherland in the 41st minute, Michael Woode in the 77th minute, and Urel Mitchell in the 84th minute.

The result carries Police to 12 points, while Belmont FC moved on to four points after securing their first draw in five matches.



*The Guydadli Jets football team*

The match between Bethesda and Point West Ham was postponed.



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# Sports News

## Scorpions stay unbeaten and remain as First Division leaders

The Freemans Village Scorpions dropped points for the second time but maintained their unbeaten run to remain as leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League during the latest round of matches.

Shafeeq Joseph scored twice as the Scorpions recorded their second draw in nine matches in a 3-3 stalemate with the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the Freemans Village playing field.

Joseph had conversions in the 28th and 77th minutes, while Darius Hector scored the opening goal of the match for the Scorpions in the fifth minute.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays overcame a two-nil halftime deficit to salvage the draw with second-half goals from Ti-Zone Matthew in the 54th minute, Kadar Clarke in the 63rd minute, and Kishorn Hamilton in the 84th minute.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to remain at the top of the standings with 23 points, while the Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain at the bottom of the standings with seven points after salvaging their first draw in 10 matches.

Empire FC moved into joint-third place with Golden Grove FC by claiming their sixth win in 11 matches with a 4-2 victory against FC Master Ballerz at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The goals for Empire FC were scored by Nickado Lindsay in the sixth minute, Kamali Looby in the 14th minute, Maykele Culzac in the 53rd minute, and Marckens Dorisca in the 90th minute.



**The Freemans Village Scorpions**

Clive Sansculotte scored in the 26th minute, and teammate Shumba Thomas converted a penalty kick in the 48th minute for FC Master Ballerz.

The result allows Empire FC to move on to 20 points, the same as Golden Grove FC. FC Master Ballerz remain on nine points after succumbing to their sixth defeat in 11 matches.

The Swetes Vipers FC notched up their fourth win in 11 matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against English Harbour at the English Harbour playing field.

The Swetes Vipers snatched victory via a Jahwan Harvey own goal in the 90th minute. Goals by Kimoi Alexander in the 19th minute and Jondale Jno-Lewis in the 23rd minute gave the Swetes Vipers a two-nil lead.

Oshane Blackwood scored in the 26th minute, and teammate Clarence Marsh converted a penalty kick in the 40th minute for English Harbour to draw level as both teams reached halftime

deadlocked at 2-2.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers FC to move on to 16 points, while English Harbour FC remains on 12 points after crashing to their eighth defeat in 12 matches.

However, there were no winners in the First Division encounter between Bolans FC and Bendals FC, as both teams fought to a 2-2 draw at the ABFA Technical Center.

Jaric Richards converted a penalty kick in the 11th minute, and David Joseph scored in the 50th minute for Bolans FC. Daiquan Martin had a 20th-minute conversion, and Zakeba McDougal scored an equalizer in the fifth minute of added time to salvage a draw for Bendals FC.

The result allows Bolans FC to advance to 12 points after securing their sixth draw in 11 matches. Bendals moved on to nine points after salvaging their third draw in 12 games.



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## More success for Leeward Islands Stormers in regional T20 Blaze



*Players of the Leeward Islands Stormers*

The Leeward Islands Stormers continued their successful start to their campaign in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's T20 Blaze, winning their third consecutive match with a four-wicket victory against Trinidad and Tobago at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent on Saturday.

The Leeward Islands achieved their latest win by reaching the required victory target of 75 for six with 23 balls to spare after restricting Trinidad and Tobago to 74 for nine off their 20 overs.

Amelia Khan top-scored for Trinidad and Tobago with 17, while Britney Cooper and Nadia Mohammed each made 12. Off-spinner Davronique claimed two for 12, and Antiguan captain Amanda Edwards bagged two for 20.

For the Leewards, Reniece Boyce hit 28 off 31 balls, Amanda Edwards struck 27 off 31 balls, and Jahzarah Claxton made 12 not out. Off-spinner Karishma Ramharack grabbed three for 13.

After securing a nine-wicket triumph against Jamaica in their tournament opener, the Leeward Islands Stormers made it two wins in a row by snatching a seven-run victory against defending champions Guyana in their second encounter.

Reniece Boyce struck a half century as the Leewards made 106 for nine off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat and restricted Guyana to 99 for nine.

Boyce hit a top score of 51 off 54 balls, including seven fours. She shared a 49-run third-wicket partnership with Amanda Edwards, who was the only other Leeward Islands player to reach double figures.

Edwards cracked 31 off 29 balls, including two sixes and two fours. Off-spinner Ashmini Munisar grabbed four for 15, and fellow off-break bowler Plaffiana Millington snapped up three for 11.

The Guyanese reply was led by Mandy Mangru with 24 off 22 balls

and opener Sheneta Grimmond with 23 off 40 balls. Captain Shemaine Campbelle chipped in with 11.

Edwards, who bowls off-spin, picked up three for 18, slow left-arm spinner Qiana Joseph claimed two for 10, and off-spinner Davronique Maynard captured two for 13.

Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago recorded wins in the other two second-round matches. Barbados claimed their second win with a six-wicket victory against Jamaica.

Jamaica made 110 for six off their 20 overs, and Barbados achieved victory at 111 for four with 18 balls to spare.

Trinidad and Tobago notched up their first win by pulling off a 16-run victory against the Windward Islands.

Trinidad and Tobago made 95 for seven off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat and then dismissed the Windwards for 89 in 19.3 overs.

In the other third-round matches, Barbados notched up their third win in as many games with a victory against the Windward Islands.

The Windwards, who suffered their third loss in as many games, were restricted to 86 for eight off their 20 overs, and the Barbados women completed victory by scoring 87 for seven with 23 balls to spare.

Guyana recorded their second win in three matches with a four-wicket victory against Jamaica, who lost for the third time in as many games.

The Jamaicans were restricted to 87 for nine off their 20 overs, and Guyana achieved their victory by scoring 88 for six with 27 balls to spare.



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## Windies lose to Afghanistan at ICC Under-19 Men's World Cup

Antiguan Jewel Andrew struck a half century, but the West Indies crashed to a 138-run defeat against Afghanistan in their second Group D match of the 2026 ICC Under-19 Men's World Cup at the High Performance Oval in Windhoek, Namibia, on Sunday.

After Afghanistan won the toss and made 262 for six off their 50 overs, Andrew was the only bright spark for the West Indies, who tumbled to 124 all out in 33.2 overs.

Andrew struck 57 off 70 balls, including four fours and three sixes. Jakeem Pollard, who made 11 not out, was the only other young West Indies batsman to reach double figures.

Right-arm medium pacer Nooristani Omarzai snapped up four for 16, fellow pacer Khatir Stanikzai grabbed three for 20, and off-spinner Wahidullah Zadran captured three for 36.

Opener Osman Sadat and captain Mahboob Khan both hit half centuries during the Afghanistan innings. Sadat scored 88 off 131 balls, with nine fours. Khan slammed 86 off 69 balls, including 10 fours and two sixes.

Khalid Ahmadzi struck 34, and Azizullah Miakhil made 21. Left-arm pacer Jakeem Pollard claimed three for 39, and left-arm wrist-spinner Vitel Lawes picked up three for 48.

The West Indies recorded a five-wicket victory against debutant Tanzania in their opening match at the same venue last Thursday.

The West Indies are contesting Group D alongside South Africa, Afghanistan, and Tanzania.

The Young West Indies will face South Africa in their last Group D encounter on Thursday, January 22.



**Jewel Andrew**

The 16-team tournament is being held over 23 days and will comprise a total of 41 matches across five venues in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The 16 teams are split into four groups of four teams each in the group stage, which includes 24 matches. The top three teams from each group will advance to the Super Sixes phase of the tournament.

The 12 teams in the Super Sixes will be divided into two groups of six each, with the top three teams from Groups A and D placed together, while the top three sides from Groups B and C will be in the other

group.

Each team will play two matches in the Super Sixes stage of the tournament, against teams that finished in different positions in the other group.

Moreover, teams will carry the points, wins, and net run rate they earned against the sides that progressed in the Super Sixes from their group.

The semifinals will take place on February 3 and 4, before the title clash (final), which is scheduled for February 6. Australia, which defeated India in the final of the 2024 edition, is the defending champion.



# Sports

MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

**POINT EXPRESS**  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## Secondary Schools' Football Competition ends with more titles for PMS



**The Princess Margaret School team with their medals and trophy after winning the Under-14 Boys Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Friday, January 16, 2026. (Photos courtesy of the Ministry of Sports)**



**The Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education with their medals and trophy after winning the Under-20 Boys Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Friday, January 16, 2026.**

The 2025 Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition climaxed at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Friday, with the Princess Margaret School capturing two more divisions to finish with four titles like the previous year.

After retaining the Under-16 Boys and Under-16 Girls Division championships, Princess Margaret School added two more titles to their collection by regaining the Under-14 Boys Division title and retaining the Under-20 Girls Division crown.

Princess Margaret defeated defending champions Antigua Grammar School 4-2 in a penalty shootout in the final of the Under-14 Boys Division League.

The game was decided via



**The Princess Margaret School team with their medals and trophy after winning the Under-20 Girls Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Friday, January 16, 2026.**

the penalty shootout after both teams finished deadlocked at 2-2 at the end of regulation play.

Allan Henry scored both goals for PMS. T'andre James converted a penalty kick, and Shayan Stewart scored the equalizer for Antigua Grammar School.

Princess Margaret trounced Antigua Girls High School 5-0 in the final of the Under-20 Girls Division

League. Player of the game Rolesha Humphreys scored twice, while Matarnie Scott, Jakayla Bellot, and Iressia Allen each converted once.

The Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) captured the Under-20 Boys Division league title by prevailing 4-2 in a penalty shootout with the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced

Studies (ABCAS) in the final.

The game was decided via the penalty shootout after both teams finished deadlocked at 2-2 at the end of regulation play.

Omario Christian scored in the 21st minute, and teammate Amanra Peters had a 37th-minute conversion to give HCABSCE a two-nil lead at halftime.

However, ABCAS scored twice in the second half to draw level and send the match to be decided in the penalty shootout. Ralique Browne converted a penalty kick in the 50th minute, and Kevaughn Young scored in the fourth minute of added time.

HCABSCE captain Adonijah Dyett claimed the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award and the Player of the Year accolade.