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A multifaceted overhaul of the tourism industry in underway



The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has announced the return of its award-winning Unveiling Hospitality Professionals series, with Executive Chef Brian Joseph of Hawksbill Resort Antigua

Local News

A multifaceted overhaul of the tourism industry in underway



Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a presentation at the World Governments Summit

The government is undertaking a multi-faceted overhaul of the country's tourism industry designed to create greater visitor experiences while the local economy will benefit more.

Insights into the government's plans were presented by Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a presentation at the World Governments Summit that wraps up in Dubai today.

Prime Minister Browne told delegates at the Summit that his government has been intentional in its commitment to carry out the necessary changes to the industry.

"We are intentionally transforming our tourism product into a high-value offering with strong sectoral linkages. The objective is to expand domestic ownership and participation; deepen visitor spend, extend stays, and deliver distinctive, high-quality experiences.

"We are working with various stake-

holders to ensure that tourism is closely linked to construction, agriculture, creative industries, transportation, financial services, and small-business development," the prime minister revealed.

According to PM Browne the government has attracted several globally recognised luxury hotel brands, generating quality employment while strengthening domestic supply chains, at the same time, the cruise tourism strategy supports urban renewal and redevelopment, thereby creating new opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises within our communities.

"We have also attracted high-end culinary brands—such as Nobu, Le Petit Maison, The Hut, The Reef, Catherine's, Celia's, Sheer Rocks, and Rokuni—whose gastronomic excellence has differentiated Antigua and Barbuda's food and beverage offer-

ings," PM Browne reported.

The prime minister emphasized that a critical part of the government's policy is to ensure that as much benefit as possible is accrued into local hands.

"The inclusion of local inputs and domestic participants including those involved in the creative arts, and other sectors including agriculture and manufacturing, will be essential in determining future success. In addition, future success will be analyzed and determined through the development and ownership of Air B&B properties and hotel properties by locals; increased visitor spend, livable salaries and wages for employees in the sector, opportunities for entrepreneurship, foreign exchange earnings and equitable tax revenues for the government," he indicated.

The prime minister acknowledged that these additional benefits for the government and its people, evidently will not occur by osmosis.

"It requires a national reset and transformation of the tourism sector which has already begun. We have purposefully attracted a significant amount of luxury tourism investment properties, as we seek to reposition Antigua and Barbuda as the premier luxury tourism destination in the Caribbean," suggested.

He noted that even our existing all-inclusive properties, though with a lower yield than the ultra-luxury resort properties, are expected to increase their value offering, transforming themselves into all-inclusive luxury products.

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Four public schools are targeted for upgrades through a loan that the government is seeking from the CDB



Ministry of Education Daryll Matthew

The Ministry of Education now has the green light to pursue discussions with the Caribbean Development Bank for a loan to undertake critical improvements to four public schools.

The Ministry sought and received Cabinet's approval to negotiate with the CDB for the loan under the **Education Enhancement and Quality Improvement Project (EEQuIP)**, a major national initiative aimed at strengthening the quality, resilience, and inclusiveness of the education system.

The ministry said the approved loan, will support wide-ranging investments in education infrastructure, institutional strengthening, teacher training, and capacity building across the sector.

The decision builds on the successful implementation of the **Basic Educa-**

tion Project II (BEP II), which has delivered significant improvements to school infrastructure, teacher development, and policy reform. With BEP II nearing completion in June 2026, EEQuIP is designed to sustain and expand these gains while addressing emerging demands within the education system.

“Under the project, major **infrastructure expansion, rehabilitation, and repair works** will be undertaken at **Antigua Girls' High School, Ottos Comprehensive School, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, and Golden Grove Primary School**, providing more than **93,000 square feet of additional learning space** and improving the safety and quality of school environments,” the ministry explained.

A spokesman said the schools that have been identified all have one thing in common; large student populations and aging school plants in three of the schools.

The project also includes the **procurement of modern furniture and equipment**, ensuring that upgraded facilities are fully functional and fit for purpose. In addition, EEQuIP will strengthen governance and operational frameworks within the education sector through the development of national standards for educational facilities, the implementation of a **School Health and Safety Programme, School Improvement Grant initiatives**, and

a feasibility study for the repurposing of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres.

A strong emphasis will be placed on **capacity building and human resource development**, including specialized training for teachers and educators in **Special Education, Mathematics, Sciences, Modern Languages, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**. Professional development programmes will also focus on differentiated instruction, instructional leadership, formative assessment, literacy and numeracy, gender awareness, and inclusive education practices.

Cabinet also approved the engagement of **project management and procurement consultancy services** to ensure compliance with CDB guidelines and the timely and effective delivery of goods and services.

The Government reaffirmed its commitment to modernising the education system and equipping students and educators with the tools, infrastructure, and skills required to meet current and future national development needs. The EEQuIP initiative represents a strategic investment in human capital and underscores the Government's vision of building a high-performing, inclusive, and resilient education system for Antigua and Barbuda.



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APUA looks to automation to help resolve water challenges



General Manager of APUA, John Bradshaw



Mr. Jason Peters
Water Business Unit Manager (Acting)

Senior management of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority ((APUA)) has outlined a series of measures that it hopes to implement to will help it resolve some of the challenges it faces in providing a consistent supply of water to consumers.

General Manager of APUA, **John Bradshaw**, and **Acting Water Business Unit Manager, Jason Peters**, provided the Cabinet with a comprehensive review of the current status of the national water supply system and ongoing efforts to strengthen water distribution across the country.

During the presentation, Cabinet was informed of the challenges facing the country's water infrastructure, including limited storage capacity, aging pipelines, and the need for improved pressure and flow management, par-

ticularly during periods of high demand and dry weather conditions. The APUA team outlined the vulnerability of certain areas, especially central, eastern, and south-eastern communities, and explained how elevation and pressure limitations affect regular water delivery.

Bradshaw advised Cabinet that APUA is actively implementing measures to mitigate shortages, including the upgrading of pumps, the installation of booster stations, and improvements to pressure-management systems. These interventions are designed to ensure more consistent distribution and to better support weaker areas of the network.

The Acting Water Manager, Peters highlighted the importance of semi-automation and eventual full automation

of key components of the water distribution system. Cabinet was told that automation would significantly reduce service disruptions, minimize pipe ruptures caused by excessive pressure, and allow for real-time monitoring and control of water flow across the island. Cabinet immediately approved the allocation of financing for the procurement of an automation system.

Cabinet was further advised that APUA has already made progress in modernizing some facilities and is working to close existing gaps in the system by the end of the first quarter of this year. Plans are also underway to expand storage capacity and to integrate additional infrastructure to improve resilience in the event of plant outages or prolonged dry conditions.

Cabinet welcomed the detailed presentation and emphasized the need for a comprehensive, prioritized strategy to be submitted, outlining immediate, medium-term, and long-term solutions. Members reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting APUA's efforts to deliver a more reliable, efficient, and sustainable water supply for residents, businesses, and the tourism sector.

The public is assured that the Government and APUA will continue to keep citizens informed as these works progress and as further improvements to the national water system are rolled out.

Saturday 7th February 2026, 05:30

ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2026 - Match 2

Eden Gardens, Kolkata



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SCOTLAND





**ICC MEN'S T20
WORLD CUP
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IMF Welcomes Launch of Regional Credit Bureau in Antigua and Barbuda

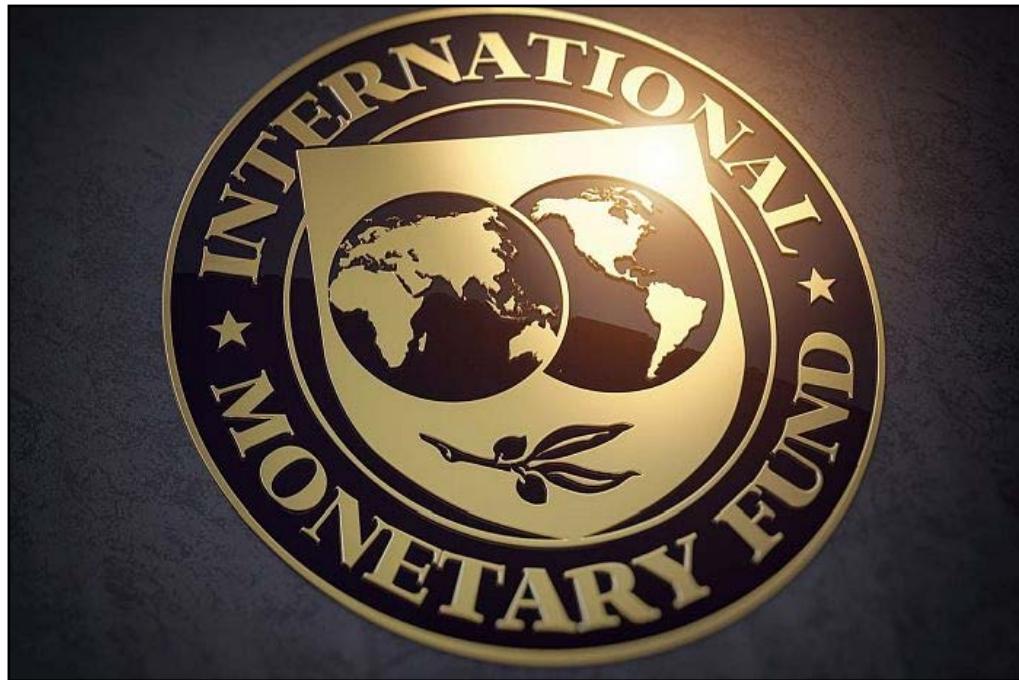
The International Monetary Fund has welcomed the launch of the regional credit bureau in Antigua and Barbuda, describing it as an important step toward improving access to finance and strengthening financial intermediation.

In a concluding statement following its Article IV consultation mission, IMF staff said the rollout of the credit bureau for commercial banks, with plans to expand coverage to credit unions, will help reduce information gaps between lenders and borrowers that have long constrained credit growth.

The Fund noted that limited access to finance continues to be cited by businesses as a key obstacle, while banks report a shortage of bankable projects and hold a significant share of assets abroad. By improving the availability and quality of credit information, the IMF said the credit bureau should support better risk assessment and broaden lending opportunities, particularly for underserved borrowers.

IMF staff welcomed the ongoing efforts to extend the bureau's coverage to credit unions, saying wider participation would further strengthen the financial system and improve consistency in credit assessment across institutions.

The IMF said enhanced credit information sharing, alongside stronger supervision and financial literacy initiatives, could help unlock private-sector lending while maintaining financial stability, supporting more inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Antigua and Barbuda.




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WHAT ARE MY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES?


 A cartoon illustration of a man with dark skin, wearing a yellow t-shirt and green pants, sitting cross-legged and holding a pencil and a small notepad. He is looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. A thought bubble above him contains the text "WHAT ARE MY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES?".
 
 Four yellow hexagonal icons are arranged around the man. The top-left icon shows a house and is labeled "MORTGAGE". The top-right icon shows a stack of books and is labeled "EDUCATION FEES". The bottom-left icon shows a grid and is labeled "BILLS". The bottom-right icon shows a document and is labeled "OUTSTANDING LOANS".

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Local News

Liat Air signs Interline Partnership with Surinam Airways



Liat Air and Surinam Airways have announced the commencement of discussions toward establishing an interline partnership, marking an important step in enhancing connectivity between the Caribbean and South America.

This strategic collaboration would enable passengers to travel seamlessly across both airlines' networks with a single ticket, coordinated baggage handling, and smoother connections. The initiative aims to make regional and international travel more convenient, flexible, and accessible.

The partnership would extend Liat Air's reach beyond its current route network, while allowing Surinam Airways to strengthen its presence in key Caribbean markets. This expanded network would create new opportunities for tourism, business travel, and broader regional mobility.

Most importantly, travelers will benefit from increased choice, improved connectivity, and a more streamlined end-to-end travel experience.

Liat Air and Surinam Airways look forward to advancing these discussions continuing their shared commitment to improving regional air travel.

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Local News

ABHTA Launches Season Three of Award-Winning "Unveiling Hospitality Professionals" Series



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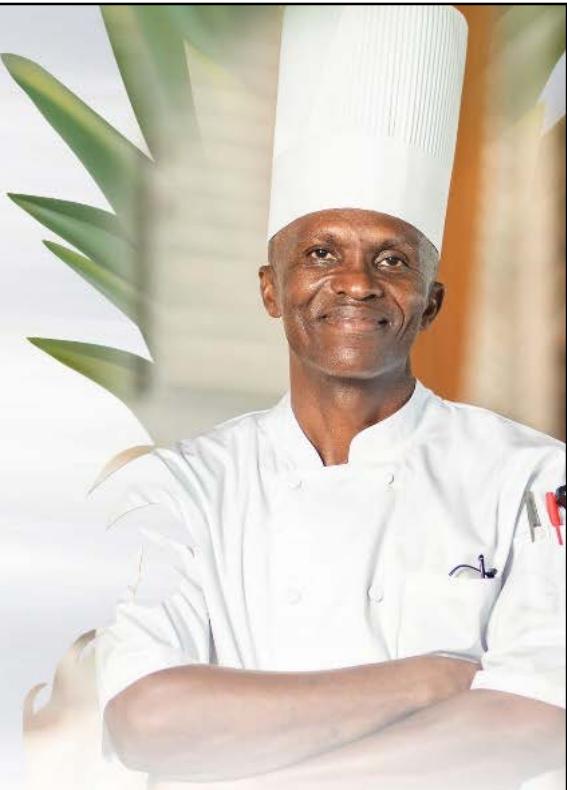
Chef Brian Joseph

Executive Chef
Hawksbill Resort Antigua

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PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT
AND SUPPORT

Presented by  ABHTA
THE ANTIQUA & BARBUDA HOTELS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION



The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has announced the return of its award-winning *Unveiling Hospitality Professionals* series, with Executive Chef Brian Joseph of Hawksbill Resort Antigua as the first professional feature of Season Three. Chef Brian's story is a truly inspiring journey of passion, perseverance, and purpose.

Chef Brian's love for cooking began at a very young age. As a child, he and his friends would cook at the Seawall by Greenbay, catching fresh seafood and collecting bananas and green figs that washed ashore from the Dominican boat. For young Brian, it wasn't just a pastime, it was survival. From these humble beginnings, his talent and passion for food grew into a remarkable culinary career spanning over 35 years.

He began his formal training in 1988 at the Devi Anchorage Hotel, before joining Hawksbill Beach Resort (Kuoni) in 1989. Young and eager, Chef Brian worked across various sections of the kitchen—from À la

Carte, Buffet, Breakfast, Lunch, to the Grill—gradually working his way up through dedication and skill.

His talent earned him the opportunity to train in the United Kingdom, including at the *Royal Lancaster Hotel* in Kensington, London, and under world-renowned chefs, including Rick Stein at *The Seafood Restaurant*, Jamie Oliver at *Fifteen Cornwall*, and Chef Tom at Watergate Bay Hotel and Extreme Academy. As one of the only Black chefs and one of the youngest in these kitchens, Chef Brian embraced the experience with great pride. Returning to Antigua, Chef Brian served as Executive Chef at Halcyon Cove Resort, before returning to Hawksbill Resort as Executive Chef, a role he has held with distinction since 2004.

Over the years, Chef Brian has received numerous accolades, including Chef of the Year (2006) from the *Antigua Hotel and Tourism Association*, Manager of the Year (2010) at *Halcyon Cove Resort*, and in 2024, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the *Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and*

Tourism Association (ABHTA).

Among his many memorable career highlights, Chef Brian was invited in 2009 to England as a guest chef at the **Eden Project Summer Night** in Cornwall, where he conducted a live culinary demonstration for an audience of over 300 guests.

For young people aspiring to become an Executive Chef, Chef Brian's journey demonstrates that anyone can achieve success regardless of their background. Coming from humble beginnings in Greenbay, he emphasizes that passion, hard work, and a positive mindset are essential to reaching one's goals in the culinary industry.

Season Three of ABHTA's *Unveiling Hospitality Professionals* celebrates the vital role of hospitality in Antigua and Barbuda, highlighting both seasoned professionals and emerging talent, and exploring how hospitality intersects with the environment, entertainment, education, sports, and agriculture.

Local News

FLOW supports student communication and digital engagement at ABCAS

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) has received a Samsung S25 cellular device from Flow as part of the company's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility and support for education.

The device will be utilized by the ABCAS Marketing Team to strengthen institutional communication, enhance digital engagement, and increase awareness of academic programmes, student activities, and campus initiatives across Antigua and Barbuda.

This contribution supports ABCAS's efforts to modernize its communication tools and ensure that timely, accessible information reaches current and prospective students, stakeholders, and the wider public.

Speaking on the initiative, Wayne Hull, Country Manager at Flow Antigua and Barbuda, said, *"We are pleased to support initiatives that advance education and strengthen student communication and awareness. This donation will assist ABCAS in enhancing its outreach and engagement across Antigua and Barbuda."*

ABCAS welcomed the support, noting that the Samsung S25 will enhance the Marketing Team's capacity to effectively execute its duties and expand the College's digital presence.

The College extends its sincere appreciation to Flow for its continued partnership and for demonstrating corporate social responsibility in a practical and meaningful way.





Reggae in the Park returns after one-year hiatus

One of Antigua and Barbuda's most eagerly awaited musical events is making a return. Reggae in the Park 15, organized by Climaxx, will be held on Tuesday, 21 April 2026, at 7:00 p.m. promptly at the Falmouth Rectory Grounds, offering an unforgettable evening of live acts, genuine reggae culture, and signature island vibes.

Now in its 15th edition, Reggae in the Park has firmly established itself as a key part of Antigua's entertainment scene, drawing reggae fans, locals, and visitors together for a premier outdoor celebration of Caribbean music and culture.

This year, we are excited to have Climaxx as the Executive Producers for Reggae in the Park 15. Renowned across the region for excellence in live performance and sound production, Climaxx is known for high standards, professionalism, and immersive musical experiences.

The Climaxx Band, led by powerhouse vocalist Samantha, is celebrated for its versatile and soulful fusion of reggae, soul, and Caribbean groove. The band is also known for seamlessly blending genres such

as pop, rock, and soca. Samantha's latest release, "Grateful," has further cemented the band's growing regional appeal. Complementing the live performances, the Climaxx Sound System is one of the region's leading systems and will deliver top-tier audio, elevating the event's energy and atmosphere.

Reggae in the Park 15 is further powered by an elite production team. **Theatric Lighting**, our premier event lighting company, will provide state-of-the-art screens, lighting, and power solutions, while **Azero Degrees Event Rentals** will supply staging, roofing, tents, trussing, and additional infrastructure. Together, these partners ensure an immersive, world-class production befitting this landmark edition.

Reggae in the Park 15 will feature a strong lineup of outstanding local and regional talent:

THE STRAYS – Known for their soulful fusion of reggae, soul, and Caribbean groove, blending pop, rock, and soca influences.

ZAMBAI & FRIENDS – Bringing smooth, irie, soft-rock reggae

energy to the stage.

- **BLESS EYE** – Delivering high-irie energy with powerful, conscious, and cultural lyrics.
- **THE CLIMAXX BAND** – Featuring lead vocalist Samantha, with their signature versatile reggae sound.
- **LUCIANO** – *Headliner.* The legendary "Reggae Messenger" is celebrated worldwide for his consciousness-driven music and timeless anthems.

Reggae in the Park 15 will be hosted by Ibis the Livest and Jessi Fyah, with continuous musical vibes powered by DJ Woodenfoot and DJ Nez, ensuring high energy from start to finish.

Organizers emphasize that Reggae in the Park 15 is about more than just music.

"Our goal is to create an experience patrons will never forget," organizers shared. *"From the performances and production to the overall atmosphere, everything is being designed to deliver high vibes and lasting memories."*

REGGAE IN THE PARK 15



TUE **21 APR**

EARLY BIRD

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GENERAL

\$120

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FALMOUTH RECTORY GROUNDS @ 7:00PM UNTIL
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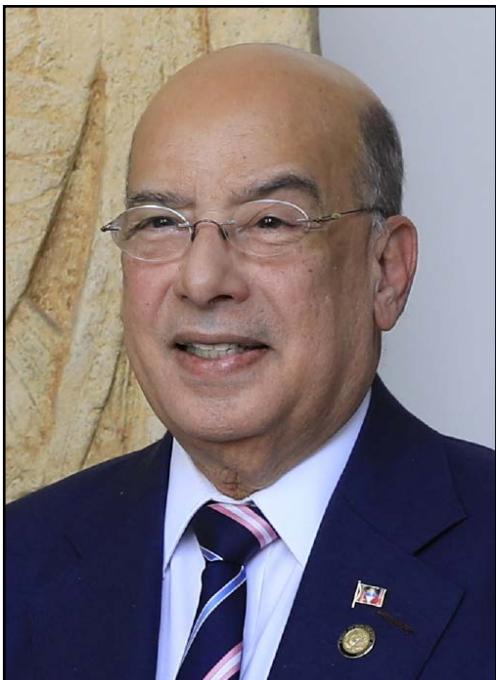


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The End of the Illusion in Haiti: What Next?



By Sir Ronald Sanders

February 7 matters in Haiti—not because it promises relief, but because it marks the end of an illusion. On that date, the mandate of Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council expires. From its inception, the Council was never embraced by the Haitian people. It was widely seen as a nine-headed contraption—unwieldy, inward-looking, and vulnerable to rivalry, corruption, and personal ambition. Haitians warned that it would fail. They were right.

The Council has failed on every element of its own mandate. Security has not been brought under effective control. Daily life for Haitians has not improved. Elections to restore constitutional governance are nowhere in sight.

There are, to be fair, limited signs of improvement on the security front. Haitian police operations, supported by international partners, have registered some tactical gains against gangs. But these tactical improvements do not redeem strategic failure. Security advances

cannot substitute for constitutional legitimacy or political coherence. They are necessary—but far from sufficient.

Political disunity—Haiti's most enduring affliction—reasserted itself even as the country slid deeper into violence and humanitarian despair. The result is now unmistakable: there is wide convergence—both inside Haiti and among international partners—that the Council's mandate ends on February 7 and must not be extended by manoeuvre or political improvisation.

Caribbean leaders have warned repeatedly against last-minute destabilization and the manufacture of fresh crises at the moment of expiry. The United Nations Security Council, in renewing its political mission in Haiti, has underscored the centrality of national dialogue, accountability, and elections.

A February 2 consultative meeting convened by Albert Ramdin, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, involving two CARICOM foreign ministers and representatives of the United Nations, Canada and the United States, produced a common position—despite reported differences of view. While participation in the consultation was limited, the expectation conveyed was broadly shared: predictable governance, credible security, timely elections, and—still hoped for—a Haitian-led solution.

This strips away a familiar alibi. The failure of the Transitional Council is not the product of foreign imposition. It is the consequence of internal conduct.

That reality was articulated with moral authority by Edmonde Suplice Beauzile, a former parliamentarian, party leader, and serious

contender for Haiti's presidency in 2016. Speaking not as a factional actor but as a committed citizen, she warned that Haiti suffers less from a lack of diagnosis than from a collective refusal to accept treatment. Her appeal was not for another council or political document, but for civic courage—for leaders willing, even briefly, to place the country above personal ambition.

As February 7 approached, fears arose that some Council members might resist departure, heightened by the appearance of U.S. warships offshore. Publicly, the deployment was framed within a broader counter-trafficking and regional security operation; politically, it carried deterrent symbolism. Yet informed voices inside Haiti—including former senior officials and civil-society leaders—are confident that no constituency will mobilize to preserve the Council or provoke U.S. intervention.

That assessment is reinforced by Pierre Esperance, Executive Director of Haiti's leading human-rights organization. Esperance expects all members of the Transitional Council to leave office on February 7. In the absence of an agreed replacement framework, he observes that the Prime Minister should remain in place solely to manage routine administration—an outcome that would amount to a third consecutive transition rather than a resolution of the crisis.

Crucially, Esperance is explicit that continuity must not slide into rule by decree. Any interim arrangement must be bounded by a defined road-map for governance, security, and elections, and constrained by independent oversight in the absence of a legislature. That oversight—drawn

from Haiti's own audit, financial-intelligence, and anti-corruption institutions—would review public expenditures, test legality, and publicly flag abuse. Its function would be supervisory, not executive: to constrain discretion, deter misuse, and preserve the temporary character of authority.

February 7 closes the Council's mandate. It also closes the benefit of the doubt. Transitions are judged by outcomes, not intentions. On security, governance, unity, and elections, the Transitional Presidential Council did not deliver. In law and in fact, its authority ends. It must go.

But it cannot reasonably be expected that all governing authority should rest in the Prime Minister alone. However able or committed he may be to Haiti's recovery, there must be a governing structure that aligns more closely with Haiti's constitutional order.

A more defensible course exists. Haiti's Constitution locates executive authority not in the Prime Minister acting alone, but in the Government acting collectively through the Cabinet, which the Prime Minister chairs (Articles 155–158). That structure—long understood within Haiti—serves as a constitutional check on rule by decree and provides the lawful basis for interim collective governance pending elections. It is an important consideration seldom acknowledged by external actors who influence Haiti's political arrangements.

Authority vested in the Cabinet, exercised for a strictly limited period, subject to oversight by civil society and the private sector, and anchored to an irreversible commitment to elections, would tie power to collective responsibility. Civil-society oversight would provide review of proposed decisions and prevent unchecked discretion. It is not ele-

gant—but neither was the Transitional Council, nor would governance by prime-ministerial decree be. Collective Cabinet authority, with independent review, is proportionate to this moment in Haiti's history.

Haitian actors must now govern with restraint and accountability. At the same time, the international community—led by the United Nations, working in concert with CARICOM and key bilateral partners—must match political expectations with operational support.

What next for Haiti must mean sustained action on security, and time-

ly resources to begin addressing the nation's long-neglected social and economic needs: basic services, livelihoods, food security, and institutional capacity. Without that parallel commitment, interim governance will be asked to carry burdens no transition can bear—and the cycle of failure will simply resume under a different name.

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



REGGAE IN THE PARK 15

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Regional News

PAHO issues alert as measles cases surge across the Americas



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued a new epidemiological alert following a surge of measles cases across the Americas, with Mexico reporting the highest numbers. It also called for urgent vaccination campaigns, highlighting that 78% of recent cases involved unvaccinated people.

The alert, announced on Wednesday, follows Canada's loss of measles-free status in November — a setback the United States and Mexico could soon mirror.

While both governments have requested a two-month extension to contain their respective outbreaks, the situation is complicated by the Trump administration's January withdrawal from the World Health Organization,

the parent agency of PAHO.

Current data is discouraging; the upward trend persists with only months remaining before the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicks off across the three North American host nations.

In the first three weeks of 2026, PAHO confirmed 1,031 new measles cases across seven countries — a staggering 43-fold increase compared to the same period last year.

While no deaths have been reported thus far, the concentration remains high: Mexico leads with 740 cases, followed by the United States with 171 and Canada with 67.

The state of Jalisco, in western Mexico, has recorded the country's highest incidence rate this year, following last year's major outbreaks in Chihuahua

and neighboring Texas.

In the United States, public health attention has shifted toward South Carolina, where cases are rising. In response, the Mexican government has spent weeks urging the public to receive the two-dose vaccine.

Authorities have even established mobile vaccination clinics in high-traffic hubs like airports and bus terminals, while in the capital, Mayor Clara Brugada launched 2,000 new vaccination modules this week.

“Everyone under 49 years of age, please get vaccinated,” Brugada urged on Tuesday, emphasizing that the vaccine is now accessible throughout the city. To maximize reach, the new modules are being stationed outside health centers and within major subway stations, bringing the campaign directly to the city's busiest transit corridors.

PAHO's alert follows a year of sustained growth in measles cases — the highest in five years — driven by a global resurgence and what the agency describes as “persistent immunization gaps.”

While adolescents and young adults account for the largest volume of cases, the highest incidence rates are striking children under the age of one. The disparity underscores a critical need to reinforce second-dose coverage.

Regional data is grim: only 33% of countries have reached the 95% threshold for the first vaccine dose, and a mere 20% have achieved it for the second. (AP)



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JMDA gives UHWI ultimatum

The Jamaica Medical Doctors' Association (JMDA) has issued an ultimatum for the management of the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) to take steps to resolve a number of long-standing issues. Failing this, the JMDA said it could not guarantee normal operations at the facility.

In a letter dated February 4, 2026 to Acting Chief Executive Officer Eric Hosin, a copy of which The Gleaner has seen, the JMDA set a February 11 deadline for the management of the hospital to meet with the association to discuss "questionable practices relating to doctors' compensation, staff inadequacies, and the negative impact it is having on patients".

The JMDA warned that "if the UHWI fails to take immediate and meaningful steps to resolve the issues by the stated deadline", it would have no alternative but to advise its membership. It said in such circumstances normality cannot be guaranteed.

The letter stated that the JMDA was



"extremely disappointed" with the manner in which the hospital has continued to engage with the doctors of the association.

According to the JMDA, since 2024, it has made numerous attempts to meaningfully engage the UHWI to address several concerns, including staff-

ing shortages, breaches of compensation arrangements, and serious patient safety concerns.

When The Gleaner contacted Hosin yesterday for comment on the issue, he indicated that the hospital would respond to queries through its communications personnel. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Regional News

CARICOM launches public info hub for 50th conference of heads meeting

The CARICOM Secretariat has introduced an online resource platform designed to provide vital information and updates ahead of the upcoming 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The event is scheduled to take place from February 24 to 27 in Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis.

According to a CARICOM press release, this digital platform serves as a comprehensive portal for various stakeholders, offering tailored content targeted at regional and international media, foreign policy and international relations experts, Caribbean youth leaders, policymakers, researchers, students, and members of the wider community.

Among the features available on the site are a media center with official press releases, speeches by high-level officials, image galleries, videos, and a news section that is regularly updated. The platform will also provide detailed information about the Meeting, including profiles of speakers and special guests, thematic areas of focus, and the full schedule of events.

Throughout the duration of the summit, CARICOM says that visitors will be able to watch live streams of key moments such as the Opening Ceremony, the Closing Media Conference, and other important sessions.

Media representatives and interested



parties are encouraged to bookmark the site and check it daily for the latest developments.

Once finalized, the official Meeting Communiqué will be accessible through the media center on the platform.

The online hub is available for access

here.

For real-time updates and to participate in the broader discussion surrounding the event, the public is invited to follow and engage using the hashtag #50HGC on CARICOM's social media channels. (Dominica News Online)



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'Not fair' – Fmr. Dominica UN Ambassador on U.S. demands to end Cuban medical training

Former Dominican Ambassador to the United Nations, Crispin Gregoire, has sharply criticized recent U.S. demands that Caribbean nations halt the practice of sending students to Cuba for medical training, calling the directive "deeply unfair" and harmful to the region's healthcare systems.

Speaking ahead of the upcoming CARICOM summit in St. Kitts, Gregoire argued that Washington's pressure campaign undermines decades of cooperation between Cuba and its Caribbean neighbors.

"If the Americans say we cannot train our students in Cuba, are they going to provide scholarships to U.S. universities instead? The answer is no," he said. "The U.S. doesn't even have enough places to train its own doctors, far less ours."

The demand to end Cuban medical programs is part of a broader set of measures imposed by Washington recently. These measures include the closure of USAID programs throughout the Caribbean, which has curtailed development assistance in the region. They also involve restrictions on tourist and immigrant visas, particularly impacting Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Vincent, thereby limiting mobility and opportunities for citizens of those nations. In addition, Washington has required CARICOM states to accept U.S. deportees, placing added social and economic strain on local governments. Finally, the United States has requested that Caribbean countries host



military radar installations, a move that raises concerns about sovereignty and regional security.

Gregoire noted that Dominica, already facing multiple sanctions, has little room to maneuver.

"They will have no choice. Zero choice," he warned, suggesting that governments risk further penalties if they resist U.S. directives.

For decades, Cuba has provided scholarships to Caribbean students, producing thousands of doctors and professionals. Cuban medical brigades have also been deployed across the region, filling critical gaps in healthcare delivery. Countries such as Jamaica, which hosts the largest contingent of Cuban medical personnel, rely heavily on this support.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Philip Pierre confirmed that Washington has asked his government to stop sending students to Cuba, a move he said poses a "major issue" for his country's healthcare sector.

"Many of our doctors got trained in Cuba, and now the great U.S. has said we cannot

do that any longer," Pierre stated.

Summit chair and St. Kitts Prime Minister Terrance Drew, himself a Cuban-trained physician, defended the contributions of Cuban professionals.

"The federation values its relations with both Cuba and the U.S. We are a friend to all and an enemy of none," Drew said, rejecting U.S. claims that Cuba's medical program exploits its workers.

Gregoire placed the dispute within the wider context of global power competition. With Venezuela's oil shipments to Cuba cut off and Mexico pressured to halt its own supplies, Cuba faces a deepening energy crisis. Russia and Iran have pledged assistance, but U.S. naval presence in the Caribbean could block deliveries.

"The whole global order is changing," Gregoire observed. "America is paying attention to its backyard because China and Russia are active here. They want to counter that. And Cuba is under fire."

Gregoire lamented the loss of Ross University in Domi-

nica, which once contributed significantly to the island's economy, and warned that dismantling Cuban medical cooperation would further impoverish the Dominican people.

"It took us 40 years to build that university sector, and now it's gone. The end of the medical brigade will mean poverty and hardship," he said.

While some governments, including the Bahamas, Guyana, and Antigua, have already yielded to U.S. pressure, others remain defiant. Dominica has long prided itself on its close association with Cuba, sending students there since 1979. Gregoire emphasized that this solidarity has been vital for human resource development across the Caribbean.

As CARICOM leaders prepare to meet on February 24, the issue is expected to dominate discussions. With Washington intensifying its demands and regional governments weighing the risks of compliance, the summit may prove to be one of the most consequential in recent years. (Dominica News Online)

'We are ready to talk': US news anchor Savannah Guthrie pleads for return of her abducted mother



US news anchor Savannah Guthrie has posted a video message tearfully pleading for the return of her abducted mother and seeking proof from her captors that the 84-year-old is still alive.

"We want to hear from you and we are ready to listen," the NBC host says, flanked by her siblings in the clip posted to Instagram. "Please reach out to us."

Nancy Guthrie went missing in the middle of the night from her home in the US state of Arizona over the weekend.

Authorities said they suspect she was kidnapped and they are working with the FBI to authenticate a possible ransom note.

"We are ready to talk," said the NBC host in the video posted on Wednesday night. "However, we live in a world where voices and images are easily manipulated.

"We need to know without a doubt that she is alive and that you have her."

It is standard procedure in hostage and kidnap cases for negotiators to demand proof of life from abductors. It is unclear if Nancy Guthrie's children were directed to do so by authorities.

Pima County Sheriff's Office said on Wednesday they were still speaking with anyone who had contact with Nancy Guthrie last weekend, and that no suspect or person of interest had so far been identified.

Savannah Guthrie, joined by her sister Annie and brother Cameron, said in the clip they were aware of an alleged ransom note, which was sent to at least one media outlet.

"Mommy, if you are hearing this, you are a strong woman," the Today show presenter said, her voice breaking.

"Everyone is looking for you, mom-

my. Everywhere. We will not rest. Your children will not rest until we are together again."

Officials have warned Nancy Guthrie could be in dire health without her medication, which Savannah Guthrie mentioned in the clip.

"Our mom is our heart and our home," she said. "Her health, her heart is fragile. She lives in constant pain."

"She is without any medicine. She needs it to survive. She needs it not to suffer."

Her sister, Annie, said the "light is missing from our lives".

"Momma," she said, "if you are listening we need you to come home. We miss you."

Shortly after the video was posted, US President Donald Trump commented on Truth Social about the case.

He said he was directing all federal law enforcement to help bring the investigation to a close and “get her mother home safely”.

“I spoke with Savannah Guthrie, and let her know that I am directing ALL Federal Law Enforcement to be at the family’s, and Local Law Enforcement’s, complete disposal, IMMEDIATELY,” he said, adding that the nation was praying for her family.

The BBC has contacted the FBI and local officials for comment.

Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos has described an all-hands-on-deck search with dogs, drones, helicopters and federal agents to find the missing woman.

Nancy Guthrie was last seen at her home in Catalina Foothills, an affluent neighbourhood roughly six miles (10km) north-east of Tucson, on Saturday evening, when family members dropped her off around 21:30 local time.

She did not attend church on Sunday morning, which prompted members of her congregation to notify family members.

When detectives searched her home, they found a scene that caused “grave concern”, Sheriff Nanos said. He refused to elaborate on what was found.

“We do believe that Nancy was taken from her home against her will. And that’s where we’re at,” he said.

He would not comment on reports about blood found at the property.

Sheriff’s officials have asked people to stop sharing misinformation about the case.

Savannah Guthrie is one of the most famous faces in US media and her video garnered support from across the media landscape and Hollywood.

The broadcast journalist, who joined NBC in 2007, was named co-anchor of NBC’s Today show in 2012.

She also serves as NBC News’ chief

legal correspondent, and presents during the network’s Thanksgiving Day programming and from the Olympics.

Savannah Guthrie had been due to co-host NBC’s coverage of the Opening Ceremony for the Winter Olympics in Milan on Friday.

But she withdrew because of her mother’s disappearance. Presenter Mary Carillo will take her place, NBC said.

“Our hearts go out to Savannah and the entire Guthrie family,” Molly Solomon, the executive producer and president of NBC Olympics Production, said in a statement. “They continue to have our full support.”

According to the Arizona Republic newspaper, a historic church in Tucson invited the community to gather on Wednesday to pray for Nancy Guthrie’s safe return. (BBC)



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US and Iran agree to hold nuclear talks in Oman on Friday



The US and Iran have agreed to hold nuclear talks in Oman on Friday, as President Donald Trump issued a blunt warning to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the meeting would start at 10:00 (06:00 GMT) in Muscat. US officials also confirmed it would happen there.

The talks had appeared to be in jeopardy, with the two countries at odds over the location and parameters.

Trump has built up US forces in the region and threatened military action if Iran does not agree a deal on its nuclear programme and stop killing protesters. Asked whether Khamenei should be worried, he told NBC News on Wednesday: "I would say he should be very worried."

"He should be. As you know, they're negotiating with us," he added.

Khamenei warned the US on Sunday that any attack on Iran would spark a

"regional war".

An Arab diplomat told the BBC's US partner, CBS News, that the negotiations between Tehran and Washington were never officially called off but had been in flux on Wednesday morning.

Three US officials also confirmed the accuracy of an Axios report, which said the talks were put back on track in the afternoon after several Arab and Muslim leaders urged the Trump administration not to follow through on its threats to walk away.

Axios said the administration agreed to the request "to be respectful" to its allies but that it was "very sceptical" about the prospects of success.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier told a news conference that special envoy Steve Witkoff had been preparing to meet Iranian officials in Turkey along with representatives of other regional powers, when they received "conflicting reports" about Iran's participation.

Rubio also insisted that for the talks to "lead to something meaningful" they could not focus solely on the Iranian nuclear programme, as Iranian officials have demanded.

"They will have to include certain things, and that includes the range of their ballistic missiles, that includes their sponsorship of terrorist organisations across the region, that includes their nuclear programme, and that includes the treatment of their own people," he said.

On Sunday, his Iranian counterpart was asked in an interview with CNN whether Iran was prepared to discuss reported US demands. These were to curb its ballistic missile development and halt support for proxy militias, as well as end the production of enriched uranium, which is used to make reactor fuel but can also potentially be used for nuclear weapons.

"President Trump said, 'no nuclear weapons,' and we fully agree with

that. That could be a very good deal. Of course, in return we expect sanction lifting. So that deal is possible. Let's not talk about impossible things," Araghchi replied.

Iran has insisted its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful and denied that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

However, Trump said in the NBC interview that Iran was "going to have a nuclear weapon within one month" before he ordered US air and missile strikes on three key Iranian nuclear facilities during a 12-day war between Israel and Iran last June.

The Israeli military also targeted Iran's nuclear facilities and nuclear scientists during the war, as well as its military commanders and missile arse-

nal.

Trump said the strikes "obliterated" Iran's uranium enrichment capacity, but that Iranian officials "were thinking about starting a new site in a different part of the country".

"We found out about it. I said, 'You do that, we're going to do... very bad things to you.'"

Trump also told Iranian protesters that "we've had their back", following the brutal crackdown by Iranian security forces on the anti-government unrest last month.

The protests were sparked by anger over the collapse of the Iranian currency and soaring cost of living, but they quickly widened into demands for political change.

The full scale of the bloodshed re-

sulting from the crackdown is still not known because of an internet shutdown imposed by the government since it escalated on 8 January.

However, the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRA-NA) has said it has confirmed the killing of 6,445 protesters, 164 children, 214 people associated with the government, and 60 bystanders. It is also investigating reports of another 11,280 deaths.

Iranian authorities have acknowledged that at least 3,117 people were killed, but said the majority were members of the security forces or bystanders killed by "rioters".

Khamenei described the unrest as "sedition" orchestrated by the US and Israel. (BBC)

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55,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed in war with Russia, Zelensky says

The number of Ukrainian soldiers killed on the battlefield in the four years of war with Russia is 55,000, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said.

Zelensky announced the figure in an interview with France 2 TV on Wednesday. Additionally, a large number of people are considered officially missing, he said.

While both Kyiv and Moscow have regularly published estimates of the other side's losses, they have been reluctant to detail their own. However, the BBC has confirmed the names of almost 160,000 people killed fighting on Russia's side in Ukraine.

US President Donald Trump has been leading efforts to end the war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour on 22 February 2022.

Special US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, held talks with Russian and Ukrainian negotiators in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, for a second day on Thursday in an effort to try and thrash out the details of the US-proposed peace deal.

It was the second such trilateral meeting and the talks had been "detailed and productive", Steve Witkoff wrote on X, but "significant work remains".

The most difficult issue is territory, with Russia demanding that Ukraine cedes the rest of the eastern industrial region of Donbas that Moscow does not currently control.

Zelensky said the talks had not been easy, and Ukraine would remain "as constructive as possible", but wanted "faster results".

Trump often says thousands of Ukrainians and Russians die unnecessarily every week. Western intelligence agencies also publish estimates, which are impossible to verify.



The last time Zelensky gave an update on Ukraine's casualties was in December 2024, when he put deaths at

43,000.

In his interview with French televi-



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sion, he said: "In Ukraine, officially the number of soldiers killed on the battlefield - either professionals or those conscripted - is 55,000."

The official number of dead cited by Zelensky is considerably lower than Ukraine's total losses. As he said himself, "a large number of people" are registered as missing.

As of six months ago, Ukraine's interior ministry had recorded more than 70,000 people as officially missing - both soldiers and civilians - but the breakdown is never given.

The true figure may be higher - information about the number of dead is highly sensitive and affects morale.

Across Ukraine, military graves are prominent in all cemeteries - marked with blue and yellow national flags. They often have an image of the soldier in uniform engraved on the headstones.

We have also met mothers still searching for their sons, who never returned from battle.

Often, they cling to hope that the men are prisoners of war, captured and held in Russia somewhere but not on any official lists.

Access to Russian prisons for organisations like the Red Cross is highly restricted.

The alternative is that the missing men have been killed and their bodies not recovered from territory now controlled by Russia, or that their remains have not yet been identified using DNA testing.

Every so often, the two countries arrange an exchange of

bodies - in addition to swapping prisoners of war - but there has been nothing at all since last August.

Another agreement on swapping prisoners was reached in the Abu Dhabi talks, Witkoff announced. It involved the exchange of 314 prisoners - "the first such exchange in five months", he said.

"While significant work remains, steps like this demonstrate that sustained diplomatic engagement is delivering tangible results and advancing efforts to end the war in Ukraine," Witkoff added.

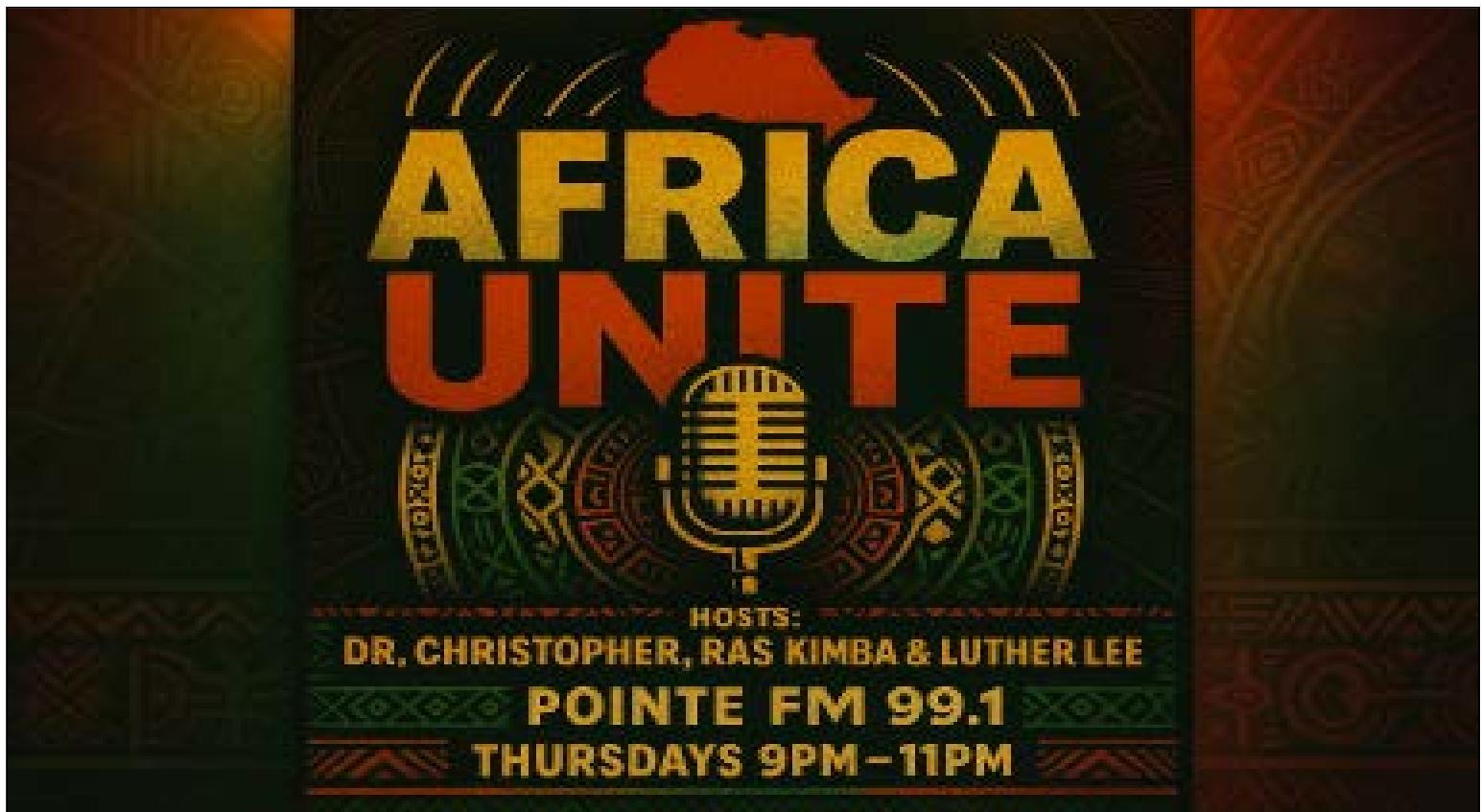
Zelensky confirmed 157 Ukrainians were released, and vowed to continue work so everyone was returned home. Russia's ministry of defence also showed pictures of its soldiers after they had been released by the Ukrainians.

At the end of the talks, the US European Command issued a statement saying the US and Russia had agreed to re-establish high-level military-to-military dialogue, which was suspended in the autumn of 2021.

"This channel will provide a consistent military-to-military contact as the parties continue to work towards a lasting peace," the statement said.

The Abu Dhabi talks began as Russia renewed attacks on Ukraine after a week-long pause that Trump had asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to observe as a fierce cold swept Ukraine.

It has been targeting the country's energy sector, leaving thousands without power and heating as temperatures dropped to -20C (-4F)". (BBC)



Sports News

A&B runners to contest CAF Marathon in Venezuela

Two of Antigua and Barbuda's long-distance runners will be participating in this year's CAF Marathon in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela this weekend.

Veteran runner Arthur "Mozi" Mussington and Kamar Thomas of the Hurricane Power Athletic Club will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the event, which will take place in Caracas on Sunday, February 8.

The event, which comprised a half marathon of 21.1 kilometers and a marathon of 42.2 kilometers, is organized by the Latin American Development Bank (CAF).

It promotes sports, social



Antiguan long distance runners Arthur "Mozi" Mussington, left, and Kamar Thomas will participate in the 2026 CAF Marathon in Caracas, Venezuela, on Sunday, February 8.

inclusion, and regional integration, typically featuring both a full marathon and a 21 km half-marathon, often

attracting thousands of elite and amateur runners.

The race takes place in Ca-

racas, featuring a route that starts and ends in Los Caobos Park and passes through several municipalities.

It is certified by the international governing body World Athletics and the Association of International Marathon and Distance Races (AIMS).

It has served as the Venezuelan National Marathon Championship and the South American Marathon Championship.

Initiated by the CAF bank to celebrate its anniversary and promote health and regional integration, it serves as a major athletic event in Latin America.

Wins for Gunners and Daggers in ABBA's Second Division



Cedar Grove Gunners and Old Road Daggers got off to a successful start to their campaigns in this season's Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Second Division on Wednesday night.

Both teams notched up wins in

their season openers during a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Cedar Grove Gunners launched their campaign by snatching a narrow one-point 64-63 victory against Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 in the opening encounter.

Tyras Grayman sank 16 points and grabbed 26 rebounds, Iornie Joseph converted nine points and snatched six rebounds, and Shawn Thomas scored eight points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Gunners.

Yohan Nicholas shot a game-high 21 points and snapped up 22 rebounds, Orion Seraphine converted 19 points, and Theo Blair chipped in with eight points for the Ovals Ojays.

The Old Road Daggers launched their Division Two campaign by grabbing a narrow 63-60 victory over the EZ Fit Flyers 2, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Kelvin Simon produced 18 points, 19 rebounds, and seven blocks; Kedar Clarke contributed 17 points, eight steals, and seven rebounds; and Wester Batista-Perez chipped in with 12 points and eight assists for the Old Road Daggers.

Tyrese White shot a game-high 25 points and snatched nine rebounds, Noah Massiah sank nine points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Delroy Christopher converted eight points and claimed 12 rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers 2.

Sports News

Winning start for AGS in Secondary Schools Cricket Championship



JQuan Athanaze

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) has made a successful start to their campaign in the Under-19 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Cricket Championship.

The Antigua Grammar School crushed Sir Novelle Richards Academy by an innings and 144 runs in their opening-round encounter at the Antigua Grammar School playing field.

Hosea Roberts slammed an unbeaten century as Antigua Grammar School made 299 for two off 35 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Roberts hammered 114 not out off 111 balls, including 19 boundaries. Shane Walsh cracked 75 off 63 balls, which included 14 fours and one six. Isiah Harris hit 52 not out off 34 balls, including nine fours and a six.

The overall total was also boosted by the contribution of 50 extras, which included 26 wides and 14 byes.

In reply, Sir Novelle Richards Academy was all out in their first innings for 68 in 13.3 overs. Irvin Smith grabbed three wickets for six runs, and Shane Walsh took three for 12.

Asked to follow on 231 runs behind, Sir Novelle Richards Academy crashed to 86 all out in 17.5 overs in their second innings. Donte Odlum grabbed three wickets for four runs, Isiah Harris took three for 20, and Dejaunte Spencer claimed two for 17.

JQuan Athanaze hit a double century for Princess Margaret School in their drawn opening-round encounter with All Saints Secondary School at the Factory Grounds.

Athanaze smashed 207 as Princess Margaret School made 389 for three declared in their first innings. Kerique Mentore struck 60, and Ondre Peters scored 44. Dequan Cochrane captured two for 85.

All Saints Secondary School was bundled out for 17 runs. Ondre Peters snapped up three wickets for two runs, Kerique Mentore grabbed three wickets for eight runs, and Akez Francis claimed two wickets for one run.

Princess Margaret School reached 25 for one in their second innings when the match ended. Tyran Francis was not out on 15, while Dequan Cochrane picked up one for 15.





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PMS outlasts Clare Hall in School Basketball League

The senior boys of Princess Margaret School (PMS) outlast their opponents from Clare Hall Secondary School by three points in overtime in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Gabriel De Suza of Princess Margaret School and Tajahron Davis of Clare Hall Secondary produced a fascinating shootout contest as both teams finished deadlocked at 63-63 at the end of regulation in their keenly contested Senior Boys Division affair.

However, it was Princess Margaret School that prevailed in the end by snatching a 77-74 victory in overtime, with De Suza shooting a game-high 47 points. Teammate Noah Massiah chipped in with 20 points for PMS.

Tajahron Davis led Clare Hall Secondary with 46 points and received good support from Jahziel Santana, who sank 15 points.

The Antigua Grammar School coasted to a 75-33 victory against Jennings Secondary in another Senior Boys Division affair.

Joshua Joseph produced 13 points; Derick Perez, Raheem Sawyer, and Dajon George each converted 12 points; and Jordan Andrew scored 10 points for Antigua Grammar School. Jahmoy Jeremy sank 10 points for Jennings Secondary School.

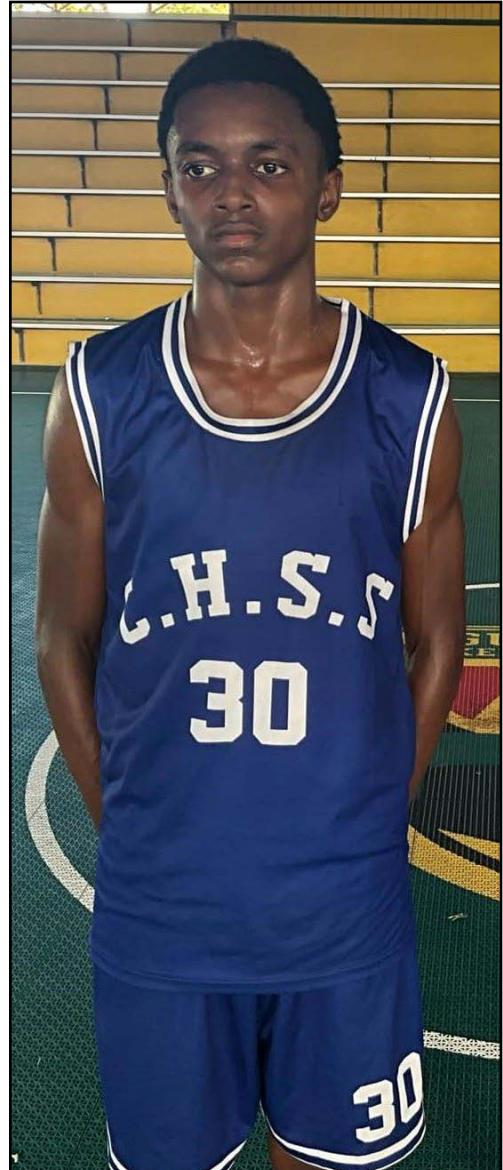
There were wins as well for Princess Margaret School and Antigua Grammar School in the Junior Boys Division.

Elijah Charles shot a game-high 22 points as Princess Margaret School recorded a 44-13 victory over Sir Novelle Richards Academy. Jaden Foster and Latrell Ramsey each converted four points for Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

The Antigua Grammar School prevailed 69-20 over Island Academy.



Gabriel De Suza



Tajahron Davis

Jovan Gordon produced 18 points, Joshua Joseph sank 16 points, and Derick Perez converted 15 points for Antigua Grammar School. Tristan Thibou scored 11 points for Island Academy.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Sports Inter-Schools' Netball League continued with matches in the 16 and Under Secondary and 18 and Under Secondary divisions on Wednesday.

In the 16 and Under Secondary Division, Princess Margaret School claimed a 20-10 victory over Ottos Comprehensive School.

The first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS 1) romped to a 12-0 victory against Princess Margaret School.

Irene B. Williams Secondary notched up a 21-10 victory against Clare Hall Secondary School, while the second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS 2) inflicted a 20-0 drubbing on All Saints Secondary School.

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) prevailed 13-8 against Clare Hall Secondary in the only encounter in the 18 and Under Secondary Division.

Antiguan Orson James continues to serve on NORCECA Commission



Orson James

Antiguan Orson James will continue to serve on the Volleyball Confederation Commissions of the hemispheric governing body for North, Central America, and the Caribbean region, NORCECA, for the 2024 to 2028 term.

James, who is a representative of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA), will continue to serve on the NORCECA Commission as a member of the Technical, Statistics, and Visualization Committee.

The Technical, Statistics, and Visualization (VIS) role focuses on transforming raw data into actionable, strategic, and easily understandable insights for decision-making.

These professionals serve as the

“bridge” between complex data and non-technical stakeholders, utilizing mathematical, programming, and design skills to identify patterns, correlations, and trends.

James is one of six officials that have been retained by the ECVA to continue their service on their respective NORCECA commissions.

Shayne Felicien of St. Lucia will continue to serve as a member of the Beach Volleyball Commission. Reginald Willensburg of St. Maarten will continue to serve as a member of the Refereeing Commission.

St. Clair Hodge of St. Kitts will continue in his role as a member of the Athlete Commission.

Shane Roachford of St. Lucia will

continue to fulfill his appointment as a member of the Technical, Statistics, and Visualization Commission, and Shawn Seabrookes of St. Kitts will continue in his role as a member of the NORCECA Press Commission.

Their continued contributions have paved the way for growth, collaboration, and greater visibility of Eastern Caribbean volleyball talent and leadership within the NORCECA family.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association has appointed two new representatives to serve on the NORCECA Volleyball Confederation Commissions for the term 2024–2028.

Albert Ogarro of St. Martin has been selected to serve as a member of the Technical, Statistics, and Visualization Commission, and Judy Larocque of Dominica has been appointed to serve as a member of the NORCECA Press Commission.

These appointments signify ECVA’s growing influence and commitment to advancing volleyball across the region and internationally.

NORCECA commissions are specialized, expert-driven bodies under the Board of Administration that manage, develop, and promote volleyball and beach volleyball across North and Central America and the Caribbean.

Comprised of representatives from member nations, these commissions enhance governance, operational efficiency, and event organization.

They operate under the Board of Administration to implement strategic goals, ensure compliance with FIVB rules, and foster technical advancements in the region.