

ABST Reduction On School Supplies, Food Items Takes Effect This Weekend

Story on page 2



Group photo of the participants who are leaving for the UK for specialized training as well as officials of AB-CAS and the King's Foundation

The ABST Reduction On School Supplies, Food Items Takes Effect This Weekend

The decision by the government to reduce the ABST on school supplies and food items goes into effect this weekend.

A media release from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Ralph Warner, said the reduction will take effect from April 10 to 11.

The reduction in ABST, coming at this time of the year, is a first for Antigua and Barbuda and a statement from the Cabinet dated March 18, noted that it forms part of a series of measures approved by the Cabinet aimed at easing the cost of living and strengthening the economic well-being of citizens, in keeping with commitments made during the December 2025 Budget presentation.

These decisions come against the backdrop of ongoing global geopolitical developments—including rising fuel and food prices—which continue to impact small island developing states. The Government, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, has taken proactive steps to cushion the effects of these external pressures on households and workers.

Cabinet confirmed that the previously announced reduction of the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) to 0% on food items and school supplies will be implemented over April 10–11, 2026, the weekend preceding the reopening of schools following the Easter break.

This measure is intended to provide direct financial relief to families preparing for the new school term.

Please see attached schedule issued by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ministry of Finance
Inland Revenue Department
 Friars Hill Road, Woods Centre
 St. John's,
 Antigua, W.I.
 Telephone: 1(268) 468-9471/9473
 Facsimile: 1(268) 462-3175

Our Ref: AD 92

1st April 2026

To Whom It May Concern

ABST Reduced Rate on 10th and 11th April 2026

I write in respect of a **Cabinet Decision item No. 112 of 18th March 2026**, which indicates that on 10th and 11th April 2026, there will be a reduction of the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) to zero percent (0%) on food and school supplies.

ABST Reduction days list of items to be reduced are as follows:

1. All food items from tariff codes 1000 to 2501 and Bitters (2208901)
2. School Supplies

Pencils	• Crayons	School Bags
Markers	Colored Pencils	Art Supplies
Erasers	Sharpener	IT Supplies
Scissors	Glue Sticks	Home Economics Supplies
Glue	Ruler	
Pencil Case	Notebooks	
Construction Paper	Index Cards	
Folder	Binder Sheets	
Binders	Pens	
Calculator	Geometry Set	
Highlighters	Graph Paper	
Shoes	School Uniforms	

3. The items listed below under tariff codes should **not** be reduced to zero percent.

- 2203-2208 Beer and Alcohol
- 2400 Tobacco
- 1400-1300 Manufacturing extract
- 2300 Animal food
- 6000 Live plants

Kindly utilize the zero-rated supplies (sales) line on the ABST 03 form to account for these sales.

For further information and clarification, you may contact the department at 468-9496/530 or e-mail irdtaxpayerservices@ab.gov.ag.

Regards,


 Commissioner of Inland Revenue

PM Browne Defends Subsidies, Urges Voters to Choose Stability Ahead of General Election

Political Leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), Prime Minister Gaston Browne, has defended his administration's aggressive subsidy programme while urging voters to prioritise stability and experienced leadership in the upcoming general election.

Addressing supporters, Browne pointed to government interventions that have kept fuel, electricity rates, and LPG prices stable despite global increases in oil costs, arguing that citizens are directly benefiting from significant financial relief.

According to the Prime Minister, electricity rates could have risen by as much as 10 to 15 percent due to rising oil prices, but the government intervened to prevent any increase. He revealed that the state continues to absorb substantial costs to shield consumers.

"In fact, every single gallon of diesel that is purchased by Antiguan and Barbudans, the government pays \$1.67," Browne said, framing the measure as a direct benefit to citizens. "If you buy 10 gallons, you get a gift of \$16.70."

He further disclosed that, instead of collecting taxes on fuel as is customary, the government is effectively paying the West Indies Oil Company to maintain stable pump prices.

Browne said these measures reflect the ABLP's core philosophy of empowering citizens, which he argued is central to national development.

"If we empower the people, we empower the nation," he said, maintaining that his administration is guided by principles including poverty reduction, equitable wealth dis-



tribution, and equal opportunity.

Addressing thousands of ABLP supporters on Tuesday evening, Mr. Browne framed the election as a critical choice between stability and uncertainty, emphasising leadership as the defining issue.

"This election is about leadership. It is about stability. It is about the continued advancement of our country," he told supporters.

The Prime Minister also criticised the opposition, questioning its readiness to govern and suggesting internal divisions undermine its credibility. He challenged the United Progressive Party's leadership capacity, arguing that a divided organisation cannot effectively lead a country.

"If a party cannot run itself, how can it run a country?" Browne asked.

The ABLP leader also questioned the leadership credentials of oppo-

sition figure Jamale Pringle, suggesting that his representation of the country on the international stage would be inadequate.

Browne warned that the global environment—marked by conflict, inflation, and uncertainty—requires steady and experienced leadership at home. He urged voters to safeguard what he described as the country's ongoing "Renaissance" of development and progress.

"This is not a time for experimentation. This is a time for stability," he said. "The progress we are making must be protected and not handed over to divided and incompetent leadership."

With the election approaching, Browne called on electors to support the ABLP to ensure continuity in governance and to maintain the trajectory of economic and social gains achieved under his administration.

Maria Browne Confident of Electoral Victory as ABLP Touts “Renaissance” Agenda

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party candidate for St. John’s Rural East, Maria Browne, is confident that the ABLP will retain that seat in the 30th April general election, citing growing grassroots support and a record of constituency development as key pillars of her campaign.

Speaking Tuesday evening on the sidelines of the party’s candidate launch, Browne described the upcoming election as her “most significant” to date, pointing to what she believes is a surge in public enthusiasm.

“I feel the momentum of the people, I feel the passion and the thanks,” she said, adding that interactions on the campaign trail have left her optimistic about a positive outcome on election day.

Maria Browne highlighted years of social initiatives and ongoing infrastructural work across St. John’s Rural East, while acknowledging that challenges remain. She pointed to persistent drainage and flooding issues in communities such as Carnival Gardens, Sutherlands, Cassada Gardens, and along Mahico Drive, noting that plans are already in motion to address them.

“We’ve had some issues with infrastructure, but I’m assessing them and working quickly to fix them,” she said. “Once we are able to install new pipes, we’ll be able to properly address roads and drainage.”

The minister revealed that teams of hydrologists are expected to be engaged to conduct detailed as-



sessments, ensuring that drainage systems are properly designed and implemented in flood-prone areas. She described the work as part of a broader, ongoing effort to improve living conditions across the constituency.

Reflecting on her tenure, the Saint John’s Rural East MP expressed gratitude to constituents for their continued support, crediting them for her growth as a leader.

“The people of St. John’s Rural East invested in me, and that investment has not gone wasted,” she said. “I’ve grown in competence, governance and leadership.”

She also spoke highly of her experience within the ABLP, noting the influence of senior party figures, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne, as well as the blend of youth and experience within the

party’s ranks.

Addressing the upcoming election, MP Browne praised the slate of ABLP candidates, describing them as capable and committed individuals ready to serve.

“They come well equipped, with leadership experience and a genuine desire to serve,” she said. “We gel well as a team, and I am confident that all 17 candidates will be successful.”

She outlined the party’s evolving development vision, framing the next term under the banner of a “Renaissance” for Antigua and Barbuda, noting the concept builds on previous campaign themes—“Ready to Rebuild” in 2014, “Rebuilding” in 2018, and “Next Level” in 2023—by charting a new phase of national growth.

“A Renaissance means a new era of progress—people-centered, people-driven, and focused on delivery, not just promises,” she explained.

Pointing to the ABLP’s track record, Browne argued that the government has delivered tangible results across key sectors, including healthcare, education, housing, and infrastructure.

“Our government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, has performed impeccably. We have progressed in every area of the economy, and the Renaissance will take us even further—toward building a stronger economic powerhouse for Antigua and Barbuda.”

Eight Persons To Participate In Traditional Building Training In the UK



Eight persons have been selected to undergo specialized training in the UK as part of the 2026 Building Craft Programme, an initiative involving the King’s Foundation, the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The eight selected participants are Kyla Weaver, Glenroy Goodwin, Shannoy Spencer, Jesse Gilpin, Devon Thomas, Johnathan Joseph, Edmund Map, and Akeem Javin James.

The announcement follows an Opening Ceremony held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at the Muriel O’Mard Campus. The ceremony brought together representatives from The King’s Foundation, ABCAS leadership, government officials, and the selected participants.

Following a competitive application and interview process, the cohort represents a cross-section of the construction and design sector and will participate in this international training opportunity, fully funded by The King’s Foundation, His Majesty’s nature and sustainability charity, and its donor partners, including The King Charles III Charitable Fund, Kestrel Liner Agencies Ltd, and the Mill Reef

Fund.

Two ABCAS tutors will accompany the cohort for the UK training: Mr.

Jace Gore, Head of the Department of Industrial Technology, and Mr. Garry Southwell, CVQ Implementation Of-

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ficer, who will provide academic and technical support throughout the programme.

The cohort includes architects, engineers, skilled tradespersons, a past student, and a current ABCAS student, reflecting a strong mix of experience, passion, and commitment to heritage conservation and climate-resilient construction.

Participants have started a one-week orientation in Antigua, led by ABCAS with support from The King's Foundation, which includes classroom sessions and field exposure. They will depart Antigua on April 12, 2026, to commence four weeks of intensive training in the United Kingdom at The King's Foundation training sites, beginning at the charity's headquarters, Dumfries House in Ayrshire, Scotland.

During this period, participants will gain hands-on experience in traditional building techniques, including carpentry, masonry, working with lime, heritage restoration, and sustainable construction.

Upon completion, participants will return to Antigua and Barbuda to take part in a live build project, applying their newly acquired skills in a practical, community-focused setting.

Dr. Na-Ajele Buffonge, Vice President of ABCAS, noted, "At ABCAS, we remain committed to developing tal-



ent through meaningful partnerships. This programme provides participants with internationally recognised skills while supporting sustainable and heritage-focused development in Antigua and Barbuda."

Dr. Simon Sadinsky, Executive Director of Research, Impact and Learning at The King's Foundation, said, "We are delighted to welcome these talented individuals to The King's Foundation training sites, including Dumfries House in Ayrshire, Scotland, and Highgrove Gardens in Gloucestershire, England, to enhance their

skills in heritage building crafts and climate-resilient construction."

A Cocktail Reception will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at Galley Bay Resort and Spa, providing an opportunity for continued engagement as the programme progresses.

This programme represents a significant step in strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's capacity for heritage conservation and sustainable construction, equipping participants with internationally recognised skills while supporting national development priorities.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): DESIGN & SUPERVISORY SERVICES

for

New Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Limited Branch Friars Hill, St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) invites qualified design consultancy firms to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in a two stage design competition for a new multi-storey consolidated branch at Friars Hill, St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda.

Stage 1 (EOI) will shortlist 3 firms (Joint Ventures permitted) based on experience, team capability, financial capacity and references. Only shortlisted teams will receive a competition brief, site and geotechnical information, program, budget range and sustainability targets and will be asked to submit a standardized concept design package (site plan, concept plans, massing/visuals, sustainability concept, design narrative and preliminary cost strategy). All shortlisted firms will receive an honorarium; the winning team will be awarded the full design commission following evaluation by an expert panel.

Required Qualifications

- Proven design experience with regards to commercial/financial institution projects.
- Multi disciplinary team coordination and delivery capability.
- Relevant professional registrations and insurance.
- Local/Regional (CARICOM) operational presence.

EOI Submission

Submit by email to register interest in submitting and EOI to:

Sonya Roberts-Carter, Chief Operations Officer, ECAB
scarter@ecabank.com

Subject: "EOI: ECAB New Branch Design Services"

Copied:

Jerome Jenkins, Project Manager: jeromeijenkins@gmail.com
Colin John Jenkins, Project Manager: colinjenkins@gmail.com

Deadline for registration of Interest:
April 22, 2026, 17:00 AST

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any submission.



CARICOM Reparations Committee hits back after Reform UK propose visa ban on reparations-seeking countries

The plan by Britain's growing right-wing populist political party to block all new visas to nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and 18 other Caribbean countries, if those nations continue pursuing slavery reparations, has faced swift and immediate condemnation from the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC).

Nigel Farage's party Reform UK on Tuesday proposed a "Reparations Lock," which would halt the issuance of all new visas — including work, study, family, and visitor visas — to nationals of any country that formally demands reparations.

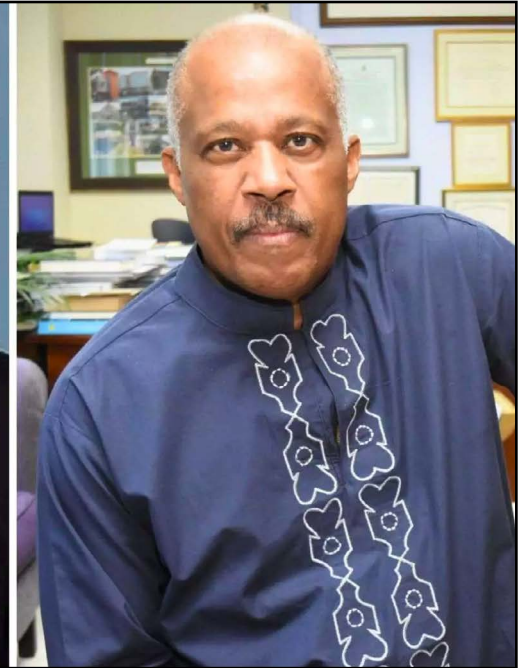
Antigua and Barbuda is among the nations explicitly targeted, alongside fellow Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Belize, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Haiti, Montserrat and Suriname, as well as Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

Reform UK's home affairs spokesperson, Zia Yusuf, made the declaration in an interview with the Daily Telegraph, framing the proposal as a firm response to what he described as "insulting" calls for reparations.

Yusuf said countries seeking reparations "ignore the fact that Britain made huge sacrifices to be the first major power to outlaw slavery and enforce this prohibition."

The announcement came roughly two weeks after the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring the transatlantic trafficking and chattel enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity. That resolution passed with 123 votes in favour, with the US opposing the resolution and UK among many European countries that abstained.

It was proposed by Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama and backed by



Nigel Farage and Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles

the African Union and CARICOM.

The CRC swiftly condemned the proposal with the CRC Chairman Professor Sir Hilary Beckles describing the move as consistent with the "legacy of toxic racism" that has characterised opposition to reparatory justice.

Beckles said, in a press conference, that the position reflected a pattern in which the victims of an enormous crime are punished for calling for justice.

"I would suggest that they rethink that notion about punishing people who are calling for justice," Professor Beckles said. "The idea that the victims of an enormous crime calling for justice are to be doubly punished is tragic."

Beckles drew a direct line between Reform UK's stance and the arguments made by those who opposed emancipation in 1833.

"There were people who did not want emancipation, who insisted that slavery was good, that it was in Britain's national interest, that Black people were not deserving of freedom," he said.

"Political leaders who take that view would realise that punishing the victim again is in fact consistent with those people at the time of emancipation."

He said the legacy of white supremacy politics remained so intense that Black people continued to be deemed undeserving, adding that the British Parliament contained people who did not share that view and that it remained a place where these conversations could take place in a humane fashion.

Reform UK's central justification was that Britain deserved credit as the first major power to abolish slavery and was challenged directly at the conference.

Professor Beckles argued that the 1833 Emancipation Act was a property compensation measure, not a moral one.

"The compensation which the British government paid to the slave owners was for loss of property," he said. "If you're going to have property compensation, first of all, you have to assume that the 600,000 people were property."

Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra Hits a High Note with New Musical Equipment



Young musicians in the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) are set to take center stage with new percussion instruments and accessories following the provision of musical equipment valued at over \$35, 000 EC, made possible through

support from the Sandals Foundation's Caribbean Artisan Programme. The investment strengthens ABYSO's youth music programme, expanding opportunities for young performers while advancing music education and creative arts development across Anti-

gua and Barbuda.

"We are committed to nurturing Caribbean youth through the creative arts. Music is not only a powerful tool for personal development but also as a thriving cultural industry capable of generating livelihoods, expanding na-

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TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



tional economies and elevating the region's voice on the global stage," says Heidi Clarke, Executive Director at the Sandals Foundation.

"Today's students are tomorrow's composers, producers, educators and global performers carrying Caribbean culture onto the world stage." By investing in programmes like ABYSO, we are helping young musicians refine their talent, build confidence and see viable futures within the creative industries."

Through weekly lessons, rehearsals and performance opportunities, ABYSO provides young people with mentorship and structured training in orchestral music while fostering discipline, teamwork and creative expression.

"The sustainability of the ABYSO is dependent on the support of corporate partners and donors. This donation of instruments from the Sandals Foundation has not only impacted our musician's ability to continue their training, but it has provided us the opportunity to continue our outreach program in several schools in Antigua and on the sister isle of Barbuda. Being able to provide these opportunities directly link to our vision of maintaining a sustainable and inclusive programme where any young person with an interest in learning, the instruments can do so", Managing Director of ABYSO Claudine Benjamin shared.

With the new instruments now in hand, the programme will deepen its engagement with schools, introducing students at Pigotts Primary, Potters Primary and Holy Trinity School in Barbuda to introductory instrument instruction while creating pathways for emerging musicians to progress into ABYSO's junior and youth orchestra programmes. The initiative also includes a teacher training component aimed at strengthening the capacity of music instructors, ensuring that orchestral music education can continue to grow sustainably across the island. Together, these engagements expand the reach of music education while



cultivating a vibrant pipeline of future Caribbean musicians.

For McKuelan Morris, percussion coordinator within ABYSO he shared, "The percussion instruments we received were not only timely but greatly welcomed additions to our percussion section. As we continue to develop our young musicians the complexity of the music deepens. Having these instruments at our disposal now allows us to strengthen the depth of our sound with the rest of the orchestra while giving the opportunity to the percussionists to learn several percussion instruments simultaneously and for this we are immensely grateful."

The Sandals Foundation has long championed youth engagement through music across the Caribbean. In The Bahamas, its support has strengthened programs such as the Exuma Community Youth Band and the LN Coakley Music Programme in Exuma. In Jamaica, the Foundation has supported the Skyliner Marching Band, delivered specialized brass music education workshops with Sam Sharpe Teachers' College, and invested in the island's renowned Alpha School of Music—collectively nurturing the next generation of Caribbean musicians and preserving the region's rich musical heritage.



Another Winner Named By Flow



Alfred Rolle marks a big win after being named the final grand prize winner in Flow’s Riddim and Rewards prepaid promotion, walking away with \$1,000 in cash.



Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission

REPLACEMENT VOTER ID CARD OFFICIAL REPORT



#	COUNSTITUENCY	SUB-TOTAL	Balance from 2025			APRIL 2026					GRAND TOTAL	% Complete	
			JAN	FEB	MAR	1st-4th	5th-11th	12th-18th	19th-25th	26th-30th			TOTAL
1	ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	758	12	14	234	71	102	0	0	0	173	1191	51%
2	ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	486	9	13	162	47	80	0	0	0	127	797	50%
3	ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	475	7	10	149	42	71	0	0	0	113	754	52%
4	ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	1451	46	25	363	93	193	0	0	0	286	2171	48%
5	ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	961	24	27	248	62	110	0	0	0	172	1432	49%
6	ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST	1333	41	35	407	92	186	0	0	0	278	2094	50%
7	ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	1158	24	12	378	96	150	0	0	0	246	1818	53%
8	ST. MARY'S NORTH	1271	38	26	320	91	172	0	0	0	263	1918	46%
9	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	845	14	12	185	59	93	0	0	0	152	1208	57%
10	ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	1195	31	16	297	63	166	0	0	0	229	1768	53%
11	ALL SAINTS WEST	1493	35	34	408	113	203	0	0	0	316	2286	58%
12	ST. GEORGE	1755	22	30	362	103	177	0	0	0	280	2449	54%
13	ST. PETER	2219	7	6	78	33	56	0	0	0	89	2399	84%
14	ST. PHILIP NORTH	695	22	218	197	6	16	0	0	0	22	1154	73%
15	ST. PHILIP SOUTH	417	9	13	134	40	68	0	0	0	108	681	64%
16	ST. PAUL	1088	13	15	231	59	120	0	0	0	179	1526	56%
17	BARBUDA	720	1	2	15	7	9	0	0	0	16	754	74%
Total Weekly Application Count						1077	1972	0	0	0			
MONTHLY TOTAL		18320	355	508	4168					3049	26400		

The Wrong Reform: Why Term Limits and Fixed Election Dates Cannot Work in Antigua and Barbuda | A Constitutional Series in Four Parts

Part Three: Term Limits and the Wrong Transplant

By Gavin V. Emmanuel

Parts One and Two made the case against fixed election dates on two distinct grounds: that such a calendar is incompatible with the constitutional doctrine of responsible government embedded in the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution, and that the practical experience of Westminster jurisdictions (most vividly the United Kingdom) confirms that imposing a statutory timetable on a confidence-based system produces paralysis, not accountability. Part Three turns to the second major reform proposal: term limits for prime ministers. Here the constitutional incompatibility operates differently, but runs just as deep.

If fixed election dates represent a misunderstanding of how the Westminster system manages time, then term limits for prime ministers represent a more fundamental misunderstanding of how it manages power. Where fixed dates impose a calendar on a system built around confidence and flexibility, term limits impose an individual cap on a system built around parliamentary choice. Both reforms borrow from a presidential vocabulary and apply it to a parliamentary grammar. The results, in either case, are incoherent.

The proposition is familiar: no

prime minister should serve more than a fixed number of terms. Advocates frame this as democratic renewal, a check on the consolidation of personal power, a remedy for what critics of Caribbean governance sometimes call “hyper-executive dominance.” The framing is understandable. The solution is wrong.

Begin, again, with the constitutional text. Section 69 of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda provides that the Governor-General shall appoint as Prime Minister the member of the House of Representatives who, in the Governor-General’s judgement, is best able to command the support of the majority of members of that House. The provision does not ask how long that person has previously held office. It does not ask how many elections they have contested or won. It asks one question: does this individual command the confidence of the legislature now? That is the entirety of the Westminster qualification for executive office. A term limit does not supplement this provision. It contradicts it.

In a presidential republic, the logic of term limits is coherent because the president’s authority flows directly from the electorate. The voters give their power to a person, and they can be told, by constitutional design, that they

have given it enough times. But a prime minister’s authority does not flow from the electorate directly. It flows from the House of Representatives. The people elect members; the members choose a leader; the leader governs. A term limit imposed on the prime minister does not constrain executive power in this model. It constrains the House of Representatives itself; it tells elected members of parliament that they may not confer their confidence on a particular individual, regardless of their own democratic judgement. That is not a check on executive authority. It is a veto on the legislature’s sovereign discretion.

This is what constitutional scholars call the “presidentialization trap.” By treating the prime minister as an individual with a personal mandate and a fixed tenure, term limits gradually reshape the office to resemble an executive presidency, concentrating public attention on the person rather than the party, weakening the cabinet and the caucus, and encouraging voters to think in terms of individual leaders rather than parliamentary majorities. The irony is that critics of Caribbean governance who invoke “hyper-executive dominance” as the problem are proposing a reform that would accelerate precisely the dynamic they claim to oppose.



ELECTION DAY
Thursday,
30 April

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CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVE ON GLOBAL PEACE - Operationalising the Zone of Peace Doctrine Through Regional Consensus



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim

The Caribbean is not merely a collection of states defined by proximity. It is a region bound by a shared geographical, social, and economic relationship with the Caribbean Sea. This body of water is not a divider but a unifying space, facilitating trade, cultural exchange, and sustained interaction among its nations. It has shaped patterns of cooperation, interdependence, and mutual reliance that define the Caribbean experience.

Within this context, the Caribbean does not approach global peace as an abstract aspiration. It approaches it as a lived necessity. For small states, conflict is not an abstract geopolitical contest—it is a direct threat to livelihoods, stability, and national survival. The Caribbean has therefore historically pursued peace not as an ideal, but as a practical imperative.

Through decades of coordinated diplomacy, regional integration, and collective restraint, institutions such as Caribbean Community, established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973 and now comprising 15 Member States and 6 Associate Members, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, formed under the Treaty of Basseterre on 18 June 1981 and comprising 7

Member States and 5 Associate Members, and the Association of Caribbean States, established in 1994 and bringing together 25 Member States and 10 Associate Members, have consistently articulated a unified principle: that peace is not incidental—it must be structured, protected, and sustained.

This is not rhetorical positioning; it is policy. It is also aligned with global norms reflected in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirm the dignity of all persons and the obligation to resolve disputes peacefully. In a broader sense, it is consistent with the evolving global development consensus, including the Sustainable Development Goals, which recognise that peace, stability, and inclusive institutions are foundational to sustainable human progress.

CARICOM Heads of Government have repeatedly reaffirmed the Caribbean as a “Zone of Peace,” emphasising dialogue, cooperation, and adherence to international law as the primary mechanisms for resolving disputes. This commitment was most recently reinforced at the Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, held in Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis, from 24 to 27 February 2026. In contrast to larger geopolitical actors that often frame stability in terms of power balance, the Caribbean has advanced a different proposition: that stability emerges not from dominance, but from disciplined cooperation.

Recent outcomes from that Meeting, as reflected in official communiqués, demonstrate that this commitment is not static, but actively evolving. Heads of Government reaffirmed their coordinated engagement on Haiti through diplomatic and mediation support aligned with international stabilisation efforts. They strengthened coordination among regional security and law enforcement mechanisms to address

transnational threats. They also reaffirmed common regional positions in external engagements, including united support for shared regional interests in international fora. These actions collectively underscore a deliberate approach to preserving regional stability.

This pattern of coordinated action is not limited to CARICOM but is reinforced across the region’s institutional architecture. Within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, whose Heads of Government met in Saint Lucia on 13 January 2026, official outcomes reaffirmed commitments to peace, stability, and good neighbourly relations; strengthened coordination in responding to external geopolitical pressures; and advanced cooperation in border management and regional security. These measures contribute directly to maintaining order and preventing instability within a highly interconnected sub-region.

At the wider basin level, the Association of Caribbean States has reinforced this trajectory. The Tenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the ACS, convened in Colombia from 28 to 30 May 2025 and culminating in the Declaration of Montería, reaffirmed the Caribbean Sea as a shared space for cooperation, peace, and sustainable development. It further advanced coordination in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience—critical factors in preventing social and economic instability—and reaffirmed the role of dialogue and multilateral engagement as the primary instruments for resolving differences. These outcomes contribute to the conditions necessary for sustained peace and stability across the Greater Caribbean.

Taken together, these outcomes are not isolated administrative decisions. They reflect a consistent regional logic—one that is egalitarian in substance, seeking inclusion of all, and grounding in execution through practical, coordi-

nated action. They illustrate that peace in the Caribbean is not incidental, but deliberately structured and reinforced.

A careful reading of regional practice therefore reveals that this is not an aspirational construct, but a functioning framework. The commitment to peace is expressed not merely in declarations, but in a consistent preference for diplomacy over escalation and cooperation over confrontation. This reflects a deeper understanding that peace must be institutionalised rather than assumed, and that stability is sustained through deliberate and continuous engagement.

Naturally, such a system is not without its internal dynamics. From time to time within the Caribbean family of nations, there will be differences in perspective and approach. This is neither abnormal nor destabilising; it is an inevitable feature of sovereign states operating within a shared regional framework. What distinguishes the Caribbean model is not the absence of disagreement, but the manner in which it is managed—through measured, constructive discussion rather than outright dismissal.

At the same time, it would be unrealistic to suggest that this model operates without strain. I am not under any illusions that there are challenges that arise from time to time to threaten this success. There have been notable moments where differences have tested cohesion and required deliberate, patient diplomacy to restore alignment. There have also been instances where peace itself has been more fundamentally challenged. In such circumstances, while the Caribbean model priori-

tises dialogue and restraint, there are limited situations in which the use of force may be necessary to restore order and secure peace—though only within a clearly defined, lawful, and proportionate context.

The objective, however, is never the pursuit of force, but the preservation of peace. Where force is required, it must be anchored in legitimacy, guided by international law, and constrained by clearly established parameters. Even in such instances, the overarching commitment remains unchanged: the restoration and maintenance of peace through structured cooperation.

This balance between sovereignty and collective responsibility has yielded measurable outcomes. Caribbean states, on average, fall within the medium to high Human Development Index category, reflecting relatively strong performance in education, health, and social development when compared to many developing regions, though still below the highest global benchmarks. These outcomes are closely linked to sustained peace, effective governance, and regional cooperation.

What emerges, therefore, is a model that is both principled and practical—grounded in cooperation, reinforced by shared experience, and aligned with international norms. It is also increasingly relevant in a global environment where traditional approaches to conflict management continue to produce instability.

It is at this juncture that the Zone of Peace Doctrine becomes operational, not merely as a regional approach, but as a broader philosophical and policy

proposition—an approach that some have begun to refer to as the Pilgrim Doctrine, not as an assertion of authorship, but as a reflection of an evolving body of thought grounded in Caribbean practice.

Traditional approaches to international decision-making have often been influenced by utilitarian reasoning—seeking the greatest good for the greatest number. While such approaches may offer pragmatic solutions, they implicitly accept that some degree of exclusion or loss is inevitable.

In contrast, this approach advances a more demanding, but ultimately more equitable proposition: that the objective should not be the greatest good for the greatest number, but the greatest good for everyone. It is, in essence, egalitarian in substance—ensuring no stakeholder is excluded—and grounding in execution through deliberate, coordinated action.

Within this framework, the Caribbean model offers a practical pathway forward. Structured “Zones of Peace,” grounded in cooperation, restraint, and continuous dialogue, would operate through agreed frameworks of non-escalation, supported by regional guarantors, monitored compliance, and structured diplomatic intervention.

The Caribbean, therefore, is no longer merely an example of peaceful co-existence. It is an emerging blueprint.

The question is no longer whether peace can be organised. It is whether the international community is prepared to move beyond managing conflict and begin deliberately designing peace.



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Jolisa Cato proudly represents the constituency of St. John's City West with resilience, ambition, and grace. A dedicated athlete, she has represented Antigua internationally in track and field and earned titles while competing for Princess Margaret School.

Entrepreneurial and driven, she is building her own beauty business specializing in cosmetics, hair, nails, and lashes. Jolisa is also passionate about creating spaces that inspire artistic expression, athletic growth, and leadership. Guided by faith and strengthened by humble beginnings, she remains committed to rising above every challenge.

She aspires to build a life of purpose, excellence, and impact while inspiring others to believe in themselves and never give up.

Jolisa Cato
ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST



Echoes of the Past

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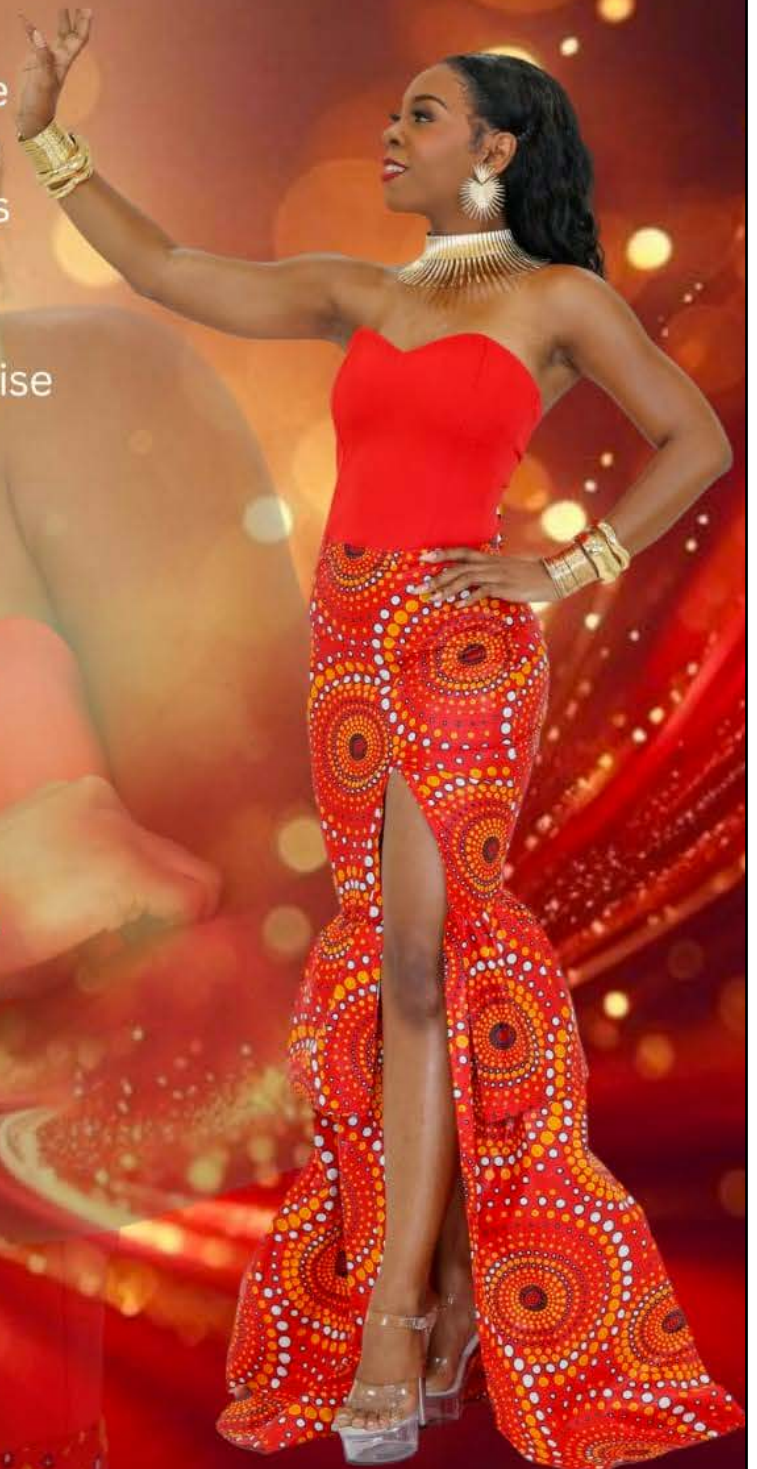


Maydoria Smith proudly represents St. John's Rural West, a community that has shaped her character, ambition, and strong sense of purpose.

A distinguished graduate of Antigua State College and holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance from The University of the West Indies, she embodies academic excellence and determination. Professionally, she serves as an Executive Assistant and continues to build her expertise in finance and strategic management.

Beyond her career, Maydoria is passionate about dance and youth mentorship as an Instructor's Assistant at Elite Dancers Antigua. She stands as a proud, graceful, and driven ambassador for St. John's Rural West.

Maydoria Smith
ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Jonelly Encarnacion proudly represents All Saints East and St. Luke as a vibrant, confident, and service-driven young woman with a passion for leadership and dance.

From the age of five, she has used dance as a tool for expression, mentorship, and empowerment, training her church dance team, her constituency's cheerleading team, and leading through her own Moves Dance Academy. A natural leader, Jonelly has served as Head Girl, Student Council President, and national netball captain.

Academically driven and community minded, she is pursuing studies in Business Management while aspiring to become a lawyer. Jonelly embodies resilience, purpose, faith, and the proud spirit of her constituency.

Jonelly Encarnacion
ALL SAINTS EAST & ST. LUKE



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Nakierra Sanaa-Amerie Martin proudly represents the constituency of St. George.

A graduate of the All Saints Secondary School, she earned honours in Family Resource Management and has gained valuable experience in the aviation industry as a Passenger Service Agent at the V.C. Bird International Airport, serving airlines such as British Airways, Condor, WestJet, and Sunwing.

A dedicated member of Dreamcatchers Modelling Agency since 2019, Nakierra also cherishes her love for piano. Through her pageant journey, she advocates for confidence, self-belief, and social anxiety awareness, while aspiring to become a regional aviation leader and entrepreneur.

Nakierra Martin
ST. GEORGE





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Israel strikes central Beirut without warning after saying Iran ceasefire doesn't apply there



Israeli strikes hit several dense commercial and residential areas in central Beirut Wednesday afternoon without warning, hours after a ceasefire was announced in the US-Israeli war with Iran.

Lebanon's health ministry said dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in an early estimate.

Israel had said the agreement does not extend to its war with the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon, although mediator Pakistan said it does.

Israel's military called it the largest coordinated strike in the current war, striking more than 100 Hezbollah targets within 10 minutes in Beirut, southern Lebanon and the eastern

Bekaa valley.

Black smoke towered over several parts of the seaside capital. Explosions interrupted the honking of traffic on what had been a bustling, blue-sky afternoon. Ambulances raced toward open flames.

Apartment buildings were struck. Emergency responders searched charred vehicles.

Several strikes were in busy commercial locations, causing panic in the streets. Lebanon's National News Agency reported that the airstrikes hit at least five different neighbourhoods in Beirut's central and coastal areas.

Lebanon's Minister of Social Affairs, Haneed Sayed, in an interview with

The Associated Press condemned Israel's wide range of strikes, calling it a "very dangerous turning point."

"These hits are now at the heart of Beirut ... Half of the sheltered (internally displaced persons) are in Beirut in this area," she said, adding that she had just driven by the areas hit.

She said Lebanon's government is ready to enter into negotiations with Israel for an end to hostilities, an offer that the president previously made. Israel has not responded.

"There are calls and efforts being made as we speak," Sayed said.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam in a statement accused Israel of escalating at a moment when Lebanese officials were seeking to negotiate a solution, and of hitting civilian areas in "utter disregard for the principles of international law and international humanitarian law — principles it has, in any case, never respected."

Israel's military said it had targeted missile launchers, command centres and intelligence infrastructure and accused Hezbollah of using civilians as human shields.

"The State of Lebanon and its civilians must refuse Hezbollah's entrenchment in civilian areas and its weapons build-up capabilities," the military said in a statement.

Residents and local officials denied



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AROUND THE WORLD



that the buildings hit were military sites.

“Look at these crimes,” said Mohamed Balouza, a member of Beirut’s municipal council, at the scene of a strike in the central Corniche al Mazraa neighbourhood, a mixed commercial and residential area.

An apartment building behind a popular shop selling nuts and dried fruit had been hit. “This is a residential area. There is nothing (military) here.”

Israel had rarely struck central Beirut since the outbreak of the latest Israel-Hezbollah war on March 2 but has regularly struck southern and eastern Lebanon and Beirut’s southern suburbs.

Before the wave of new strikes, a Hezbollah official told the AP that the group was giving a chance for mediators to secure a ceasefire in Lebanon, but “we have not announced our adherence to the ceasefire since the Israelis are not adhering to it.” He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to comment publicly.

The Hezbollah official said the group will not accept a return to the pre-March 2 status quo, when Israel carried out near-daily strikes in Lebanon despite a ceasefire being nominally in place since the last full-blown Israel-Hezbollah war ended in November 2024.

“We will not accept for the Israelis to continue behaving as they did before this war with regards to attacks,” he said. “We do not want this phase to continue.”

Hezbollah had fired missiles across the border days after the US and Israel attacked Iran, sparking a regional war. Israel responded with widespread bombardment of Lebanon and a ground invasion.

The Israeli military chief of staff on Wednesday said they will continue to “utilise every operational opportunity” to strike Hezbollah. Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir said it’s to protect Israel’s northern residents, who have

come under heavy fire.

Israeli airstrikes have killed more than 1,530 people in Lebanon, including more than 100 women and 130 children. The Israeli military has said it has killed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters. More than one million people have been displaced in Lebanon.

Early Wednesday, after the ceasefire in Iran was announced, many displaced people sleeping in tents on the streets of Beirut and the coastal city of Sidon began packing their belongings in preparation to return to their homes.

That was before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed the

military would press on in Lebanon.

At a sprawling displacement camp on Beirut’s waterfront, families whipped by the conflicting statements expressed confusion and despair.

“We can’t take this anymore, sleeping in a tent, not showering, the uncertainty,” said Fadi Zaydan, 35. He and his parents had prepared to head back to the southern city of Nabatieh before Netanyahu’s comments stopped them in their tracks.

“But we’ll be targeted if we go home,” Zaydan said. His family decided to wait things out for now in Sidon, a bit closer to home. (AP)

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JAN 15 2026
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TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 15th day of January, 2026 by **DENISE HURST**, Villa Area, in the Parish of St. John, in the Island of Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda for the replacement of a Land Certificate No. 5350/1995 dated the 19th day of December, 1995 and issued to the said **DENISE HURST** the applicant herein and being the registered Proprietor of the above-mentioned piece or parcel of Land, which Land Certificate has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated this *8th* day of *March* 2026

[Signature]
Registrar of Lands

LAND REGISTRY
Antigua & Barbuda

Greece to ban social media for under-15s from next year

Greece has announced plans to ban access to social media for under-15s, becoming the latest European country to restrict children's exposure to online platforms.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the move was aimed at tackling rising anxiety and sleep problems among young people, as well as what he described as the "addictive design" of social media.

The restriction will come into force from January of next year.

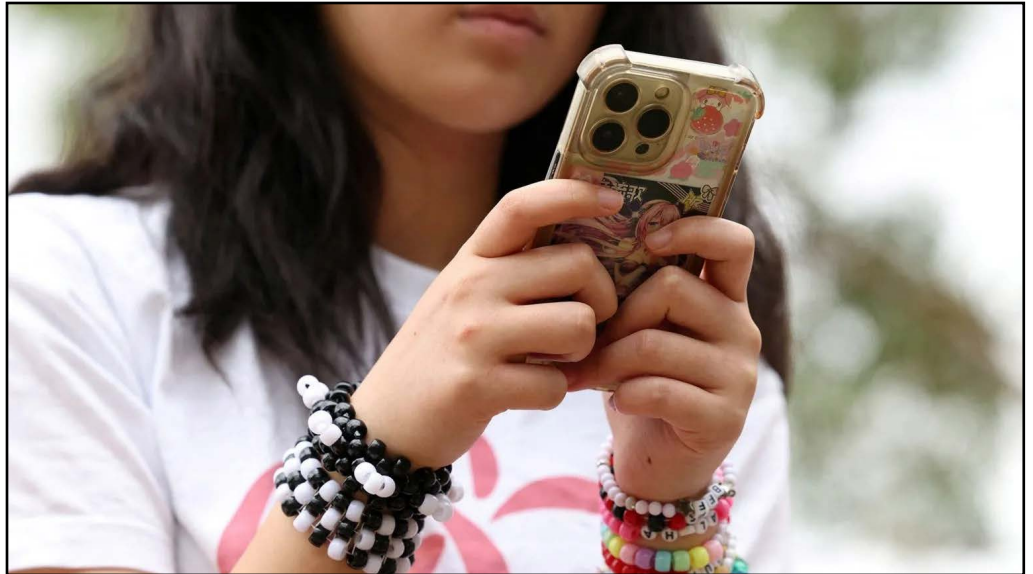
In December Australia became the first country in the world to require TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and other top sites to remove accounts held by under-16s, or face heavy fines. France, Austria and Spain are among a growing number of nations pursuing similar curbs.

The UK government has launched a consultation on whether to implement a ban for under-16s, while Ireland and Denmark are considering similar measures.

Social media companies argue that blanket bans will be ineffective, difficult to enforce and could isolate vulnerable teenagers. Reddit is challenging Australia's law in court.

In a video message posted on TikTok on Wednesday, Mitsotakis said: "Many young people tell me they feel exhausted from comparisons, from comments, from the pressure to always be online."

He said he had spoken with parents who said their children do not sleep well, are anxious and



are always on their phones.

Calling the planned restriction "difficult but necessary", he said the government's goal was not to distance young people from technology which "can be a source of inspiration, knowledge and creativity".

"But the addictive design of certain applications, and a business model based on capturing your attention - on how long you stay in front of a screen - takes away your innocence and your freedom. That has to stop somewhere."

Further details of the regulatory framework to enforce the ban will be outlined later on Wednesday.

Mitsotakis also said Greece would push for action at a European level. In a letter addressed to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, he called for a common EU framework to "complement and reinforce the necessary national initiatives for the protection of minors".

His proposals include mandato-

ry age verification for under-15s across all platforms, a pan-European ban for that age group, and a requirement for platforms to re-check users' ages every six months.

The debate over children's use of social media has intensified in recent months, triggered by increasing evidence of the damaging effect it can have on mental health.

In March, Meta and YouTube were found liable in a landmark US trial over a woman's childhood addiction to social media.

Jurors concluded that Meta, which owns Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp, and Google, the parent company of YouTube, had intentionally built addictive social media platforms that harmed her mental health.

Meta and Google said they disagreed with the verdict and intended to appeal.

Meta said: "Teen mental health is profoundly complex and cannot be linked to a single app." (BBC)

Oil prices plunge and shares jump on US-Iran ceasefire plan

Global oil prices have fallen sharply and stock markets soared after the US and Iran agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire deal that includes the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz waterway.

The price of benchmark Brent tumbled more than 15% to less than \$92 (£68.4) a barrel, while US-traded oil fell similarly to just under \$94.

But oil prices remain higher than before the conflict started on 28 February. At the time, it was trading at around \$70 a barrel.

The cost of energy has jumped as oil and gas supplies from the Middle East have been severely disrupted after Iran threatened to attack ships trying to use the strait in retaliation to US and Israeli airstrikes.

Stock markets in the US opened higher, following sharp rises in Europe and Asia.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 jumped more than 2.5% while the Nasdaq traded up 3.3%.

In London, the FTSE 100 share index gained 3% in mid-afternoon trade. In France, the CAC 40 added 4.9% while Germany's Dax rose by more than 5%.

Japan's Nikkei 225 closed up nearly 5.4% while South Korea's Kospi jumped more than 6.8%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended 3% higher, while the ASX 200 in Australia gained 2.5%.

In a social media post on Tuesday evening, Trump said: "I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks... subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz".

He had set a deadline for 20:00 EDT on Tuesday (00:00 GMT on Wednesday), threatening that "a whole civilisation will die tonight" if no deal was reached.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on social media that Tehran will agree to a ceasefire "if attacks against Iran are halted", adding that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz "will be possible".

Despite his threats, Trump was likely to be wary about letting energy prices "skyrocket" by escalating the conflict,



said Xavier Smith from market research firm AlphaSense.

That could have led to a "self-inflicted economic wound" that few would risk, especially given the looming pressure of approval ratings on Trump's leadership, said Smith, a research director.

More oil tankers stranded near the strait may be able to pass through the waterway during the ceasefire, providing some relief for markets in the coming weeks, said analyst Saul Kavonic from financial services firm MST Marquee.

Despite the conflict, some ships have passed through the Strait of Hormuz, although far fewer than usual.

Asian countries - including India, Malaysia and the Philippines - have negotiated safe passage for their vessels in recent weeks.

China has also acknowledged that several of its ships have crossed the strait since the war began.

Meanwhile, a Malta-flagged container vessel owned by French company CMA CGM crossed the shipping route, media organisation BFM TV - which is owned by the shipping firm - confirmed on Friday.

And a Japanese ship carrying natural gas also made it out of the strait, shipping giant MOL confirmed.

Kavonic said that while a ceasefire is in place, it is still unlikely that energy production in the Middle East will fully resume until there is confidence of a lasting peace deal.

It could also take months for produc-

tion to restart due to damage done to energy infrastructure in the region, he said.

Iran has targeted energy and industrial infrastructure across the oil-rich region in retaliation to the US-Israeli strikes.

It could take years to fix the damage and cost more than \$25bn, according to research firm Rystad Energy.

Energy prices jumped in mid-March after strikes on Qatar's Ras Laffan industrial hub, which produces about a fifth of the world's liquefied natural gas.

The hub's owners said the attacks have reduced the country's export capacity by 17% and that it will take up to five years to repair the damage.

Asia has been hit particularly hard by the economic fallout of the Iran war as many countries are heavily reliant on energy from the Gulf.

Governments and companies across the region have announced measures in recent weeks to deal with high energy prices and fuel shortages.

Many airlines in the region have raised fares and cut flights in response to surging jet fuel prices.


Developing countries in Asia have been especially affected by the conflict as many do not have their own refineries or sufficient oil reserves, said Ichiro Kutani from Japan's Institute of Energy Economics.

"The ceasefire is good news for Asian countries. If it holds, oil prices will return to normal states, though this will take time." (BBC)

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Sports News

More success for Cedar Grove Gunners in Division 2 basketball



The Cedar Grove Gunners extended their unbeaten run to remain leaders in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Tuesday evening.

The Gunners notched up their 12th win in as many matches by shooting their way to a commanding 79-55 victory against Navigators 2 in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Olivee Morris shot a game-high 18 points; Shawn Thomas provided 15 points, 22 rebounds, and six block shots; Kim Casey had 11 points and five steals; and Keady Martin scored nine points for the Gunners.

Ricky Willock scored 10 points and claimed seven rebounds; Molefi Joseph sank 10 points; Raheem Sawyer converted nine points and snatched six rebounds; and Henry Dorsette chipped in with seven points, 12 rebounds, and six steals for Navigators 2, who suffered their eighth loss in 10 games.

Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew claimed their sixth win in 11 matches by snatching a narrow 66-64 victory over Da Project 2 in the second

game of Tuesday's double-header.

Emeka Emujuru-Oupe sank 18 points and claimed six rebounds; Tyler Jacobs produced 12 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; and Joshua Morrison sank 11 points and grabbed 20 rebounds as the main performers for the Fearless Crew.

In support, Julian Henry converted 11 points and snatched eight rebounds, and Jesus Lopez chipped in with eight points, 10 steals, and

eight rebounds for the Fearless Crew.

Kevin Pimentel produced a game-high 20 points, eight rebounds, and five assists; Nathan Matthew provided 15 points, seven rebounds, and five steals; Bryan Matthew converted 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; and Erije Joseph scored 11 points and claimed five rebounds for Da Project 2, who slumped to their eighth defeat in 12 games.

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ABNOC offers support to national track and field athletes



Antigua and Barbuda medal winners at the 2026 CARIFTA Games in Grenada. From left to right, Zonique Charles, Maliek Francis, and Tyra Fenton on arrival at V.C. Bird International Airport on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Sports)

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has expressed congratulations and pledged to support the national team of athletes that claimed a sixth-place finish with five medals from a field of 22 countries at the 53rd CARIFTA Games, which took place at the Kirani James Athletics Stadium in St. George's from April 4 to 6.

The Antigua and Barbuda athletes returned home from Grenada to a warm welcome from officials of the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries on Tuesday.

The ABNOC expressed congratulations to the three

medal winners, including 16-year-old Tyra Fenton, who completed the sprint double by winning the Under-17 Girls' 100 and 200-meter finals, as well as Maliek Francis and Zonique Charles for winning bronze medals in the boys' and girls' javelin, respectively.

A release from the National Olympic Committee states, "The ABNOC congratulates Tyra Fenton on winning double gold in the women's 100m and 200m and bronze in the women's 400m at the 2026 CARIFTA Track and Field Championships held over the Easter weekend.

"We also congratulate



Maliek Francis and Zonique Charles on winning bronze medals in the men's and women's javelin, respectively.

"Congratulations to the entire team for a superb performance and for securing a remarkable 6th place on the overall medal table."

The release also stated that ABNOC Secretary General Cliff Williams believes that CARIFTA medalists represent the country's best prospects for future regional, continental, and global success. As such, these athletes will receive targeted support to transition along the professional pathway.

The ABNOC said this support will include mentorship and sport-specific guidance on and off the field; academic and life-skills support to ensure balanced development and preparedness for higher-level competition; and structured preparation tailored for multi-sport events (regional championships,

continental games, world championships, Commonwealth Games, and the Olympic Games), including mindset and competition-readiness training.

To strengthen this pathway, the ABNOC pledges to sponsor an international methodologist to work with Antigua and Barbuda's coaching and development teams.

The methodologist will help plot long-term athlete development plans, advise on best practices, and assist in preparing these medalists for the next stages of their careers.

The ABNOC said this commitment also extends to the high achievers from this year's CARIFTA swimming championships in Martinique and other cutting-edge athletes across all sports.

The ABNOC said it is proud of the nation's athletes' achievements and remains dedicated to providing the resources and guidance they need to excel on the world stage.

Sports News



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Windwards, T&T, and Guyana secure series wins in U-15 tournament

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-15 tournament wrapped up on Monday, with strong performances over the week-long series of encounters.

The Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana each secured series victories in the revised bilateral format, highlighting the depth of emerging young cricket talent in the Caribbean.

The Windward Islands were most dominant in their series against the Leeward Islands by sweeping the series five games 5-0 in Antigua.

Following a 51-run victory to start the series, the Windwards then propelled their way to a narrow 30-run triumph in the second encounter at the Coolidge Cricket Ground.

Derwin Lewis stood out with the innings of the tournament, cracking an impressive 102 from 128 balls to power the Windwards to a comfortable 61-run victory, and an unassailable lead in the series.

Lewis, the rangy left hander stroked eight fours and four sixes in his innings which took the Windwards to the highest total of the tournament of 217. Dylan John was another standout performer from the visiting team, spearheading their bowling and finishing the series with ten wickets.

Over in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago battled their way to a 3-1 series victory, with one match being abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain. The series began with a nail-biting two-wicket win via the Duckworth–Lewis Method at Melbourne Oval.

After restricting the hosts to 96 for 9 in a match reduced to 34 overs, Trinidad & Tobago chased down the



Players of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica (yellow and black) compete during the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 tournament in Jamaica. (CWI Media)

target, reaching 102 for 8 in the 29th over.

They then followed up with a dominant 39-run victory in the second match, highlighted by a magnificent bowling performance from Arnaldo Premchand, who claimed seven wickets for just six runs to dismiss Jamaica for 47 while defending a modest total of 86.

The visitors secured the series with an impressive 39-run victory in the fourth match at Boys Town Playing Field. After posting 183 for nine from their allotted overs, Trinidad & Tobago bowled out Jamaica for 144 inside 47 overs.

Premchand and Samir Boodoo each claimed three wickets, reinforcing their team's dominance over the hosts.

Jamaica, however, managed a consolation win in the final match of the series, claiming a five-wicket victory at Melbourne Oval. The hosts were led by Hugh Turner's outstanding five-wicket haul, which helped to dismiss the visitors for just 74. Jamaica then comfortably

reached 75 for five with 142 balls remaining.

Premchand ended the series as the leading wicket-taker with 13 wickets, while Turner finished with nine wickets from three matches.

In the third series, hosts Guyana completed a 2-0 series win over Barbados in a contest disrupted by severe weather conditions affecting the country.

In the second match, which was rescheduled to the Police Cricket Ground, Guyana posted 137 for eight in a game reduced to 31 overs per side.

In response, Barbados were bowled out for 61 in just 21 overs, giving Guyana a commanding 76-run victory. Leon Reddy starred with the ball, taking four for eight.

In Monday's final match, Lomar Seecharan delivered another standout performance, claiming four wickets for just five runs to restrict Barbados to 79 for nine in their 20 overs, as they chased Guyana's target of 116.

CWI announces appointment of Ottis Gibson as fast-bowling consultant



Ottis Gibson

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the appointment of former West Indies fast bowler and Head Coach, Ottis Gibson, as the new Fast Bowling Consultant for the regional outfit on an initial one-year assignment.

One of the most sought-after coaching minds across the international game, Gibson's appointment comes at a critical juncture, as CWI intensifies its focus on strengthening and managing one of its most important competitive assets, its fast-bowling unit.

With a demanding international calendar ahead, the role is expected to be instrumental in ensuring that the region's fast bowlers maintain peak performance, fitness, and consistency across formats.

Gibson has remained closely connected to West Indies cricket over the years, most recently serving as Fast Bowling Consultant during the West

Indies' historic series against Nepal in September last year.

He will begin his assignment in the lead-up to this year's international home series season, which bowls off in June against Sri Lanka and is eager to work with the region's bowling assets.

"I'm looking forward to working with the various coaches and the very talented group of bowlers in the Caribbean, to assist in their development across all formats of the game," said Gibson, after the confirmation of his appointment.

Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, emphasised the strategic importance of the appointment within the broader approach to player management, and its alignment with the strategic engagement of specialist support for players as discussed during the Emergency Strategy & Committee Meeting in August of last year.

"Fast bowling has always been central to West Indies cricket and remains one of our greatest competitive advantages on the global stage. As we prepare for an extended and demanding period of international cricket, it is critical that we invest in the strength, depth, and durability of this group.

"Ottis brings a wealth of experience, insight, and proven success at the highest level of the game, and his presence will be invaluable in guiding and supporting our fast bowlers to perform consistently at an elite level."

The West Indies team will navigate a packed schedule for the remainder of 2026, including preparatory camps ahead of the home series, followed by the Caribbean Premier League, and subsequent away tours to India and Bangladesh.

Across this period, the fast-bowling group is expected to carry a significant workload, reinforcing the need for expert oversight and strategic management.

This sustained focus on building and maintaining a world-class fast-bowling unit is also central to CWI's short to long-term ambitions, as the team seeks automatic qualification for the ICC Men's 50-over World Cup in 2027, along with early preparations for the 2028 ICC T20 World Cup.

With a clear emphasis on performance, player readiness and longevity, CWI is confident that Gibson's appointment will play a pivotal role in positioning the West Indies for success on the global stage during this critical cycle.



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- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

LI Hurricanes name squad for West Indies Four-Day Championship

The Leeward Islands (LI) Hurricanes have made several notable changes to their 13-man squad for their opening matches in the 2026 West Indies Four-Day Championship, which will be played on a revised bilateral format due to financial constraints.

West Indies batsman Justin Greaves, who will lead the team for the first time, has replaced all-rounder Rahkeem “Jimbo” Cornwall as captain, while last year’s vice-captain Hayden Walsh Jr. has not been selected.

While Cornwall has retained his place in the squad, Joshua Grant, Shelton Forbes, Colin Archibald, Chamiqueko Landefort, and Cameron Pennyfeather have been omitted.

Notably, attacking batsman and off-spinner Kofi James and teenage leg-spinner Micah McKenzie have not been selected in the squad.

However, West Indies Academy players left-arm pacer Nathan Edwards of St. Maarten and fast bowler Kelvin Pitman of Antigua have been included in the LI Hurricanes squad.

Also included is fast bowler Oshane Thomas, who has been predominantly used by the LI Hurricanes in the limited overs format.

Retaining their places in the squad are Keacy Carty, Kadeem Henry, Karima Gore, Jewel Andrew, Jahmar Hamilton, Jeremiah Louis, Daniel Doram, and Mikyle Louis.

Under the new structure, the four-day first-class tournament will feature three concurrent, three-match bilateral series played across the region, with the traditional West Indies Championship points system being utilized.



Justin Greaves will lead the Leeward Islands Hurricane

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes will face the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force in Antigua; the Jamaica Scorpions

will host Barbados Pride in Jamaica; and defending champions Guyana Harpy Eagles will take on the Windward Islands Volcanoes in Antigua.

The first round of bilateral series matches will take place from April 12 to 15, the second will be held from April 19 to 22, and the teams will clash in the third round of matches from April 26 to 29.

The six regional franchises will be seeded 1 to 6 based on their final standings at the end of the 2025 edition of the tournament.

The winners of each bilateral contest will be ranked 1st through 3rd based on total points accumulated, with the top-ranked team advancing directly to the grand finals.

During the playoff round, the 1st placed team will take on the West Indies Academy to maintain match readiness and ensure fairness of preparation ahead of the final. The second and third-ranked teams will meet in a Playoff match to determine the second finalist.

Full Leeward Islands Hurricane Squad: Justin Greaves (captain), Mikyle Louis, Rahkeem Cornwall, Keacy Carty, Oshane Thomas, Kadeem Henry, Karima Gore, Jewel Andrew, Jahmar Hamilton, Jeremiah Louis, Nathan Edward, Kelvin Pittman, and Daniel Doram.

Support staff: Head Coach Steve Liburd, Assistant Coach Wilden Cornwall, Mentor Sir Curtly Ambrose, Manager Darc Browne, Physiotherapist Toni Greene, and Strength and Conditioning Coach Larry Joseph.