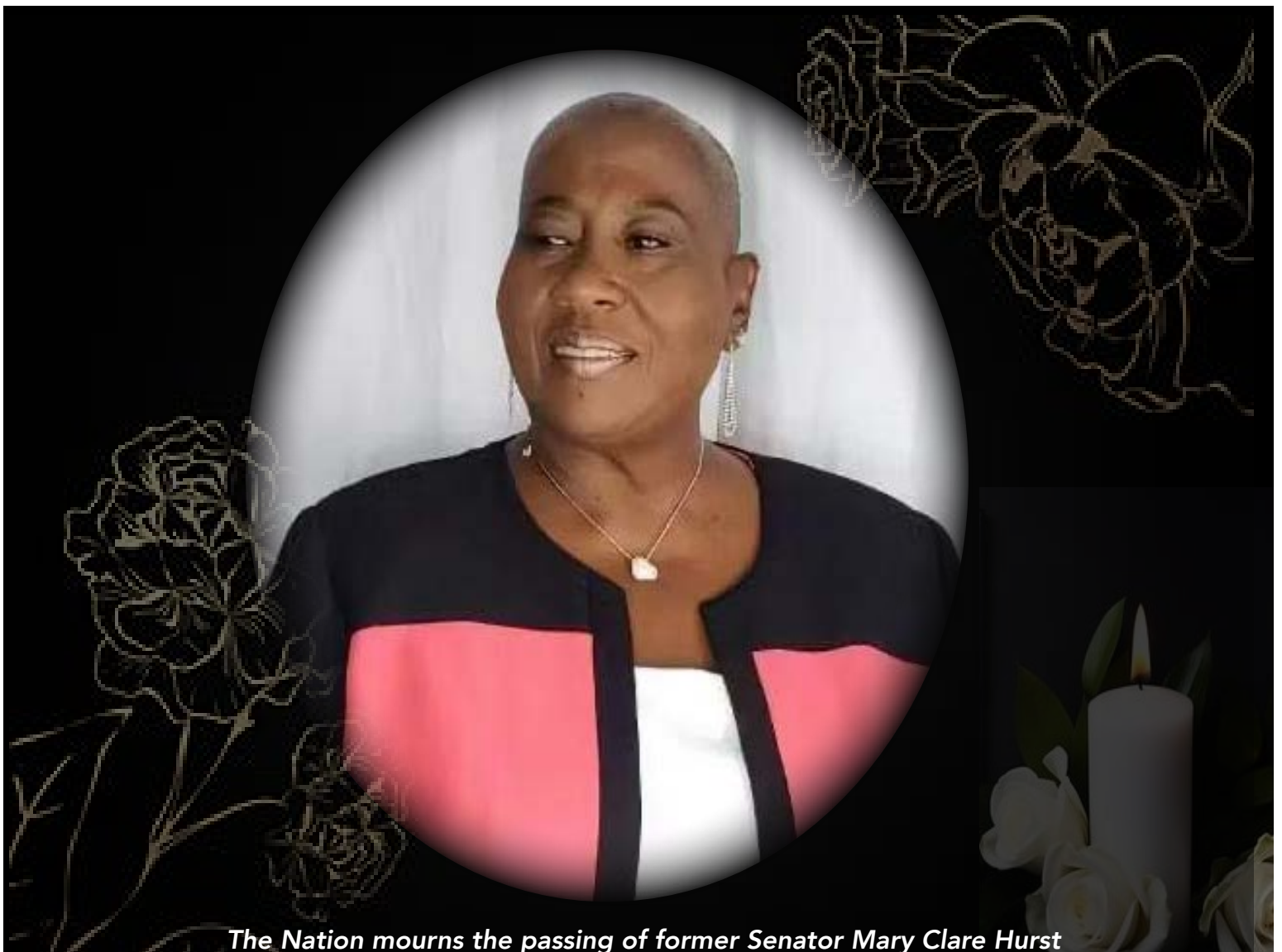


Former Senator and Leader of Government Business, Mary Clare Hurst passes

Story on page 2



The Nation mourns the passing of former Senator Mary Clare Hurst

Former Senator and Leader of Government Business, Mary Clare Hurst passes



She has been one of the most effective General Secretaries that the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has had; she played a key role in the ABLP's electoral victories since 2014; for many years she stood side-by-side Political Leader, Gaston Browne in the trenches; on May 5, 2026, Mary Clare Hurst died after a period of illness.

News of her passing came Tuesday afternoon while the new ABLP Cabinet was being sworn in at AUA Conference Centre. The news spread rapidly throughout the conference hall as the new ministers were taking their oath.

However, it was when Prime Minister Gaston Browne took to the podium to address the audience that he made the announcement to a hushed audience. An immediate cloud of sadness enveloped the room; many cried openly while others internalized the sad news in their own way.

Mary Clare Hurst served as Leader of Government Business in the Senate, she was also chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority and an effective steward of the affairs of the ABLP. One of her legacies is the cadre of young people she has prepared for the task of managing the internal affairs of the ABLP. It was these young people, led by newly appointed General Secretary, Shenella Govia, who managed the party's secretariat during the just-concluded general elections as she was forced to step away from the task because of illness.

New Cabinet Appointments Announced

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has named an eleven-member Cabinet that reflected an emphasis on continuity for the senior members of the Cabinet who served previously. The announcement of the new Cabinet was held at the American University of Antigua (AUA) conference room on Tuesday afternoon which attracted a large turnout of family members, friends and well-wishers of the new Members of Parliament and members and supporters of the ABLP.

The Prime Minister had disclosed earlier that there would be little changes in the Cabinet that he planned to name following the April 30 general elections. Nine of the Cabinet members who served in the previous administration largely retained their portfolios in the new Cabinet.

As in the previous government, PM Browne retains the finance, corporate governance and public/private collaboration.

The most notable changes were the Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, who held the Immigration portfolio as part of his ministry in the last government, is no longer responsible for that subject. Immigration now goes to Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene. This portfolio is no stranger to Greene who was the minister responsible before it was moved to Sir Steadroy.

While he is no longer responsible for Immigration, Sir Steadroy has had the Information portfolio attached to his Ministry. With immediate effect, he is now the Information Minister responsible for ABS Radio and Television and GIS along with Legal Affairs and Labour.

Minister Melford Nicholas retains the portfolio for Information Communication Technologies (ICT) along with APUA and Energy.

Minister Daryll Matthew retains the

core aspects of the ministry he held before with the exception of Sports and Creative Industries, which now move to newcomer in the government, Dwayne George.

One of the announcements that drew a thunderous applause was the announcement that Michael Joseph is the new Minister of Health, Environment, Wellness and Civil Service Affairs.

The other members of the Cabinet are;

- ▶ Charles Fernandez – Minister of Tourism, Aviation, Transportation and Investment
- ▶ Maria Browne – Minister of Housing and Works

▶ Rawdon Turner – Minister of Urban and Social Transformation

▶ Anthony Smith Jnr. – Minister of Agriculture and the Blue Economy

Three Ministers of State were also named. They are Randy Baltimore who has been assigned to the Ministry of Agriculture, Kiz Johnson who has been assigned to the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation and Michael Freeland who is assigned to the Ministry of Tourism.

Dr. Philmore Benjamin has been nominated to serve as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. In that position he cannot serve in the Cabinet.



Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS



\$17.99

- Leg and Thigh
- Biscuit
- Medium Drink



\$19.99

- Burger
- Medium Drink



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Local News



HONOURABLE GASTON
ALPHONSO BROWNE
PRIME MINISTER

MINISTER FOR FINANCE,
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



HONOURABLE STEADROY CUTIE
OLIVERO BENJAMIN

ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
MINISTER FOR LEGAL
AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SAFETY,
INFORMATION AND LABOUR





HONOURABLE EVERLY
PAUL CHET GREENE

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, TRADE AND
IMMIGRATION



HONOURABLE HENRY
CHARLES FERNANDEZ

MINISTER FOR TOURISM,
CIVIL AVIATION,
TRANSPORTATION AND
INVESTMENT




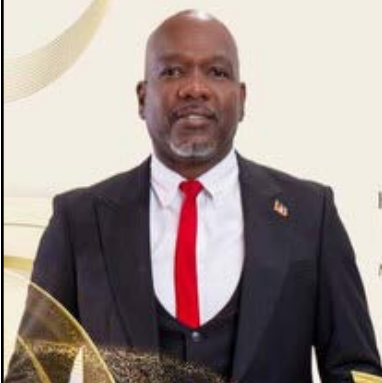
HONOURABLE MELFORD
WALTER NICHOLAS

MINISTER FOR
INFORMATION
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS),
UTILITIES AND ENERGY



HONOURABLE MARIA
VANESSA BROWNE

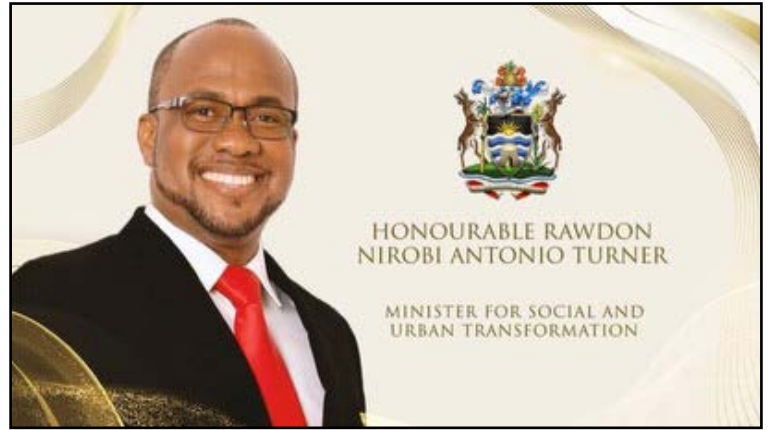
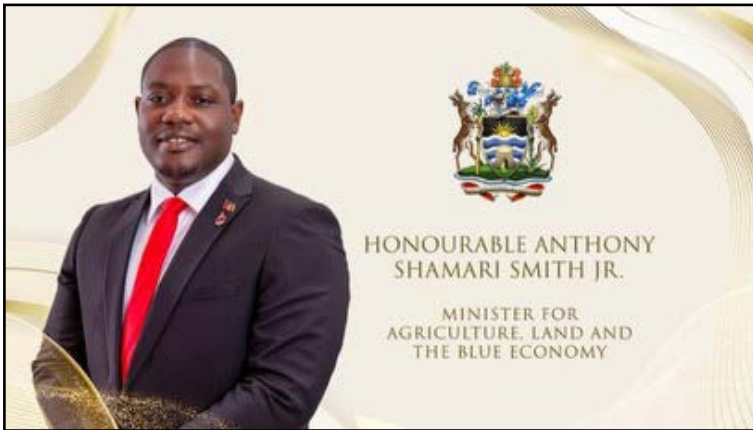
MINISTER FOR HOUSING
AND WORKS



HONOURABLE DARYLL
SYLVESTER MATTHEW

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

Local News



PM Browne: This Appointment Is Not A Reward, It's A Calling

As the members of the new Cabinet accepted their respective portfolios, Prime Minister Gaston Browne is urging them not to see the appointments as ‘rewards’ for their electoral victories; rather, it is a calling to shoulder the responsibility to effectively govern the country.

PM Browne spoke in a somber tone when he addressed the newly installed Cabinet members at the swearing-in ceremony at the AUA Conference Centre on Tuesday.

“Whereas your success at the polls has earned you the trust of the people; that confidence and trust collectively is not a gift to be enjoyed or, for that matter, a trust to be betrayed. It is a burden to be carried; a duty to be performed; a trust to be honoured every single day; not sometimes, but every single day,” PM Browne emphasized.

The prime minister recalled that following the massive election victo-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

ry last Thursday, he gave a pledge to the people of Antigua and Barbuda; a pledge to honour their trust. Now, he said that pledge is now shared by all the members of the Cabinet.

“Today, I stand before you my colleagues to say - that pledge is now ours.

“Not mine alone, Ours.

“We have the choice to rise together, while honoring our people’s trust, or fall individually, or collectively by betraying their trust. The only viable and sustaining option, is to always honour our people’s trust and to work unrelentingly to empower them. The mandate we have received is not ordinary. It is not routine. It is transformational,” the prime minister declared.

The overwhelming victory in the eyes of the prime minister is the voice of the people to the new Cabinet saying: “Take this country higher; move us forward; do not fail us; we must not fail them; failure is not an option. We cannot fail our people under any circumstances, no matter the myriad challenges we are sure to face.”

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99



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





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Caribana
2026



Classic HORSE RACING

SUN 24H MAY

1PM | CORONATION PARK

CIBC Caribbean Warns Against Increase in Phishing



NEWS

CIBC Caribbean issues fraud alert

CIBC Caribbean is warning clients and the general public of increased attempts by fraudsters to gain access to their personal information, especially by telephone.

The regional bank notes that in recent days, people have reported receiving calls which display the bank's logo, with the caller attempting to get people to reveal personal banking details.

Those calls are made via Google Meets and various other social media applications, and from an email address resembling cibccustomer***@gmail.com**.

In response to the latest

attempts by scammers, the bank is again advising that it does not reach out to clients in such a manner or ask them to provide personal banking details via such methods.

CIBC Caribbean is warning the general public not to engage with the imposters, and to report all suspected fraudulent activity immediately to the bank's Fraud Team – fraud@cibccaribbean.com – sharing a screenshot of the call. Clients who are approached can alternatively contact the bank via telephone using the contact number on the back of their ATM card, especially if they realise they have shared

any information with the imposters.

The bank stressed that its representatives will never contact customers via social media, text message, email, or telephone to instruct a client to download a remote desktop application, request them to click on a suspicious link, or request sensitive information, such as: One-Time Verification Codes (OTVC), Personal Identification Numbers (PIN), Card number, CVV, or

expiration date, email addresses and passwords or login credentials (Password and/or UserID).

CIBS Caribbean has assured the public that it is committed to protecting their personal information through robust client protection systems, but notes that clients must themselves continue to be vigilant in a joint effort with the bank to keep their account information safe.

4 WEEKS. 1 DESTINATION. UNLIMITED FLAVOUR.

ANTIGUA
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CULINARY MONTH
MAY 1-31 2026

SIGNATURE EVENTS

RESTAURANT WEEK | FOOD, ART & BEVERAGE FESTIVAL (FAB FEST)
CARIBBEAN FOOD FORUM | CURATED INTERNATIONAL CHEF EVENTS
EAT LIKE A LOCAL



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ABCAS Partners with UWI MONA and ABNTA to Host Electric Vehicle Batteries Technologies Workshop



The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), in collaboration with The University of the West Indies, Mona, and the Antigua and Barbuda National Training Agency (ABNTA), has officially commenced the Electric Vehicle Battery Technologies Workshop with an opening ceremony at the ABCAS Muriel O'Mard Campus.

The four-day workshop, taking place from 5th – 8th May, 2026, brings together regulators, fleet managers, energy and transport agencies, electric utilities, standards units and solid waste management stakeholders for focused training in emerging electric vehicle technologies.

Remarks were delivered by Dr. E. Jonah Greene, President of ABCAS, and Ms. Latoya Reynolds, Principal of the Harrison Centre. Representatives from The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Antigua and Barbuda National Training Agency also addressed participants, reinforcing the importance of regional collaboration in advancing sustainable energy and electric mobility.

Dwayne Edwards, Project Manager at the Department of Environment, also delivered remarks, emphasising the need to strengthen national capacity in this evolving sector.



The training is supported through funding from the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) via its International Climate Initiative (IKI), in cooperation with the German Agency for

International Cooperation (GIZ).

Participants who successfully complete the workshop and daily assessments will receive a Certificate of Completion.



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BARBUDA Caribana 2026

MAY 2026

THURSDAY 21ST

- 2PM | OPENING PARADE
- 3PM | KIDS FEST
- 8PM | JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH

FRIDAY 22ND

- 11AM | WHEELS UNITED - PARK & LIME
- 8:30PM | CALYPSO / SOCA MONARCH

SATURDAY 23RD

- 10AM-5PM | SPRITZ & SUN - SEAFOOD FEST - AND-
JOHNNY DESOUZA FISHING TOURNAMENT
- 10PM-4AM | CARIBANA COLORS FETE

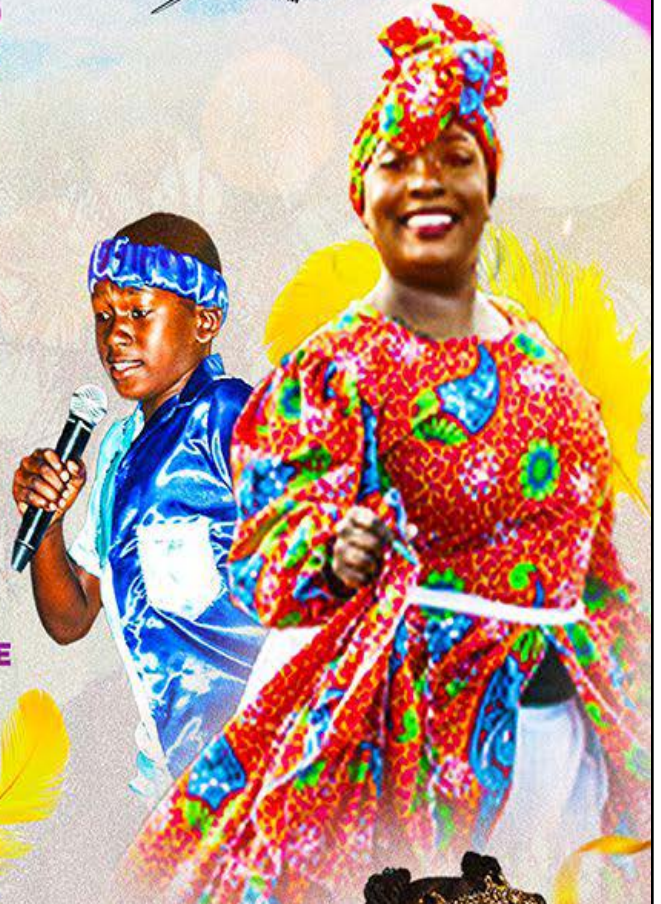
SUNDAY 24TH

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC
HORSE RACING

MONDAY 25TH

- 4AM-10AM | J'OUVERT
- 6PM-10PM | LAST LAP

EVENT SCHEDULE



Antigua and Barbuda Receives Global Attention with IShowSpeed Experience

Antigua and Barbuda commanded global attention over the weekend with a high-impact visit from international streaming sensation Darren Jason Watkins Jr., also known as IShowSpeed, reaching over 2.5 million viewers worldwide on YouTube alone.

IShowSpeed, who is currently on an in-real-life (IRL) streaming Caribbean Tour, visited Antigua and Barbuda on 3rd May, 2026 – where he discovered why the destination, famed for having a beach for every day of the year, also lays down the claim that ‘the beach is just the beginning’.

Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority said, “The reach and visibility generated through this streaming experience were truly phenomenal. It is the kind of global exposure traditional marketing cannot easily replicate. What this visit showed is that with the right concept, strong partnerships, and a committed team, Antigua and Barbuda can deliver major impact on a global stage.”

He also noted that, “this engagement allowed us to connect directly with a Gen Z, digital-driven audience that thrives on unscripted, live content. We’re tapping into a new audience, shaping future travel decisions and positioning ourselves for growth in the long run.”

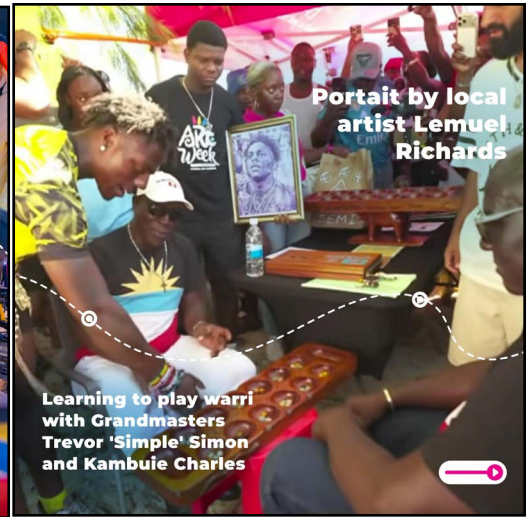
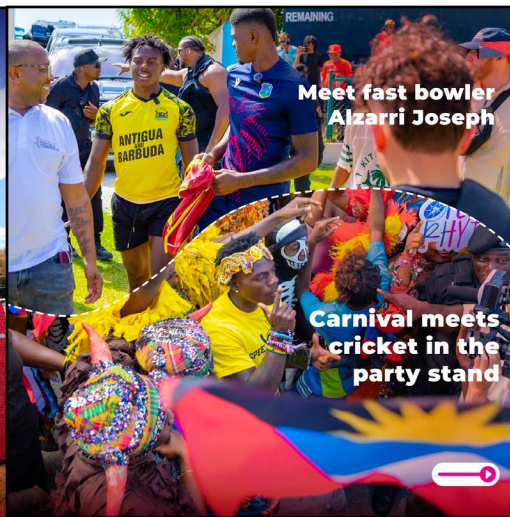


Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America Charmaine Spencer, who guided the experience for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority along with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, noted, “Antigua and Barbuda has so much to offer, and this was about allowing that to unfold naturally beyond the beach, and providing authentic experiences in real time to a global audience. In the space of one day, we were able to share from the beauty of our marine environment to our sporting legacy, our cuisine, the richness of our culture and the uniqueness of each island,

showing that what we offer, extends far beyond what is expected.”

IShowSpeed’s day in Antigua and Barbuda began with a traditional Antiguan breakfast enjoyed on the award-winning Dickenson Bay Beach. The journey then became fast-paced with a move to sea, which showcased amazing vistas and unique landmarks such as the Hellsgate rock formation. The experience unfolded with a swim with stingrays in their natural habitat, against the striking backdrop of the North-East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) with its marine and coastal





habitat inclusive of coral reefs and off-shore islands.

Back on land, the pace further intensified with a drag racing experience alongside Antigua's racing community, followed by a visit to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, where the game of cricket, merged with a carnival scene packed with masqueraders and soca artists, highlighting Antigua and Barbuda as the home of cricketing legends and the birthplace of party cricket. The energy continued with a live performance from legendary Antiguan band Burning Flames giving a taste of the island's music and Carnival vibes that take place during Antigua Carnival held annually in the summer months of July - August.

The experience extended beyond the expected, with ATV exploration into the island's interior, including engagement with the Nyabinghi community,

offering insight into traditional Rastafarian life and philosophy.

The visit to Antigua reached its climax on the stunning Ffryes Beach. The combined energy of the Point and Villa Iron Band and the Urlings Iron Band introduced the unique sounds of Antigua's iron band, while ole time masqueraders added to the festive setting. Steelpan rhythms from Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra - the oldest steel orchestra in Antigua also filled the air. Within this vibrant setting, IShowSpeed engaged in a series of authentic experiences, from donkey riding and learning the traditional game of Warri to engagement with local artists and sports personalities. He connected with local farmers, sampling the renowned Antigua Black Pineapple and further experienced the destination's cuisine through dishes including the national dish of ducana and saltfish.

His time in Antigua culminated with

a dramatic helicopter departure that offered stunning aerial views of Antigua's coastline. The journey then continued to Barbuda, where IShowSpeed viewed pink sand beaches and visited the Holy Trinity School, engaging with scores of children. While on Barbuda, he sampled local delicacies including deer burger, turtle meat and peas fungee, gaining insight into Barbuda's culinary traditions



Commentary



Governor General Celebrates with Boy's Brigade of Antigua and Barbuda

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams participated in the annual observance of Boys' Brigade Week, held from April 7 to 12, 2026 under the theme "Raising Leaders, Building Character."

The week-long programme featured a series of activities aimed at fostering leadership, discipline, and service among members. Activities included a media engagement, a community outreach initiative with a donation to the Care Project at Holberton Hospital, leadership training for young members, a March of Witness through the streets of St. John's, and a two-night camp and beach picnic at Pigeon Point.

The observance culminated with a Church Service at Baxter Methodist Church on Sunday, April 12, attended by His Excellency and also Her Excellency Lady Sandra Williams. In his remarks, the Governor General commended the Boys' Brigade for its enduring contribution to youth development in Antigua and Barbuda.

"As Patrons of the Boys' Brigade in Antigua and Barbuda, Lady Williams and I take particular pride in the role the Brigade continues to play in shaping the character, discipline, and spiritual foundation of our young men,"



His Excellency stated. He further described the organisation as "a beacon of faith, discipline, and service," providing guidance and mentorship to young men in an increasingly complex world.

His Excellency highlighted the importance of organisations such as the Boys' Brigade in instilling values of integrity, leadership, and service, noting that their work remains critical to national development. He also commended the chaplains, officers, volunteers, parents, and supporters, whose dedication continues to positively impact the lives of young men.

The Governor General further acknowledged the Brigade's valued partnership with the Office of the Governor General, including its

contribution to national observances such as Commonwealth Day activities and its involvement in planning initiatives that strengthen civic engagement among youth.

Following the service, His Excellency took the salute at the parade, observing a disciplined and spirited display by members of the Boys' Brigade. The parade marked a fitting conclusion to a week of activities that emphasized faith, fellowship, and character-building.

The Boys' Brigade Antigua and Barbuda continues to serve as a cornerstone of youth development, nurturing generations of young men grounded in Christian values, discipline, and service to the nation.

Congratulatory Messages Continue to Pour in Following ABLP's Electoral Victory

Since last Thursday's general election which was won convincingly by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), there has been a steady flow of congratulatory messages from friendly nations and organisations.

The latest message of congratulations comes from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, which extends warm congratulations to leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Gaston Browne, on his re-election to a fourth consecutive term as Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

"This milestone reflects continued confidence in his leadership during an increasingly volatile global environment. His tenure has been marked by efforts to strengthen fiscal stability, sustain tourism recovery, and actively engage in international economic diplomacy, demonstrating the pragmatic governance required of small island states.

"Prime Minister Browne's renewed mandate holds significance beyond national borders, particularly as Antigua



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

and Barbuda prepares to assume the Chairmanship of the OECS Authority. His leadership will be instrumental as the OECS advances deeper regional integration, greater self-reliance, and more strategic global engagement," the Note from the OECS Commission outlined.

Additionally, the OECS Commission reaffirms its commitment to working closely with Prime Minister Browne and his Government to address shared challenges, strengthen cooperation among Member States, and promote a unified regional voice.

DAILY PROGRAMMING

EARLY VIBRATIONS	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
THE RUSH HOUR SHOW	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
TOUCHLINE	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
JAH WADADLI	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

Dockyard Day: Music, Mayhem and Togetherness



Zoë Carlto

With the serious business of the newly formatted Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) wrapped up, Nelson's Dockyard quickly swapped stopwatches for sun hats, racing shouts for laughter, transforming into a playground for the annual Dockyard Day. "This year felt different—in a good way," one sailor smiled, "more space to enjoy it all." The ASW 2026 revamp—splitting the event into the Antigua Racing Cup and a more leisurely, four-day cruising-style ASW—proved a hit, drawing an impressive 21 racing boats and 30 cruisers. From Green Island to Little Jumby and Ffrye's Beach, the island buzzed with celebration—a success that should only grow as the format settles.



Yet success does come with a cost. With the action centred in the Dockyard, Falmouth Harbour—usually humming at this time of year—felt unusually quiet, leaving some businesses missing their biggest week. "It's been noticeably slower," one restaurant owner admitted, "a bit like the season ended early for us."

And perhaps that's exactly what it is. As the fleet begins its annual migration—many boats nudged north and east as much by hurricane-season insurance as by Mediterranean daydreams—the island shifts gears. The pace softens, the crowds thin, and what remains feels a little more like Antigua for Antiguans.



Dockyard Day is one of the year's purest pleasures—ASW and the Classics notwithstanding. With yachts easing out and pressure lifting, the focus turns ashore and, more importantly, together. Sportsman of the Year Shanoy Malone showed



his range, powering to victory in the kayaking, while Demari Davis stole the show on the greasy pole, snatching the flag in mid-flight as he slid in style off the end and into the water! “I just held on and went for it,” he laughed afterwards. Leon claimed the bun-eating crown. In the tug-o-war the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda defended their crown in a hard-fought battle, but relinquished it in a 2-0 victory to the Defence Force!



Finally, one of the most moving scenes of the year—the true highlight isn’t a contest at all. As the ABP marching band and guard beat the retreat, the dockyard falls into step, music carrying across the harbour and drawing everyone in. “When the band starts, everything else just stops,” said one onlooker. Recently returned MP Chet Greene took the general salute on behalf of the Governor General, as cannon and volley marked the moment, before the ceremonial sunset when the Antigua and Barbuda flag was slowly lowered.

As the final notes of the Antigua National Anthem faded, people from every corner of the island lingered—not for results, but simply to be there, together—closing the sailing season in the way Antigua does best.



Commentary

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc



What if waste could whisper, what if it could rhyme,
What if what we throw away could stand the test of time?
At the race track in Antigua and Barbuda, a vision came alive,
Twenty-eight thousand bottle caps helped a nation thrive.

A flag rose from the fragments, from pieces once ignored,
A symbol of a people from what we once outpoured.
No longer just discarded, no longer cast aside,
But lifted into purpose, with unity and pride.

Each cap a quiet witness, each color bold and bright,
Coming together to form something powerful in sight.
Not waste, but wonder, not garbage, but grace,
A masterpiece reminding us to rethink our place.

To be climate conscious is to open up our eyes,
To see beyond convenience, to question and be wise.
It's knowing every action, no matter big or small,
Has power to protect—or to threaten—all.

Commentary

And so the caps now speak of a future we can shape,
Of choices made daily, of chances we can take.
Because change begins with voices, with words we dare to say,
With courage to challenge the “normal” way.

Why do we still ignore it? Why wait for others first?
Why act like waste is distant, when the problem’s only worse?
Why separate at big events, then forget when we’re at home?
Why pretend sustainability stands outside our zone?

These are the conscious conversations we must begin to hold,
The truths that must be spoken, the stories that unfold.
They shape how we move forward, they guide the paths we take,
They remind us that change is ours to make.

From these conversations, conscious communities rise,
Not flawless, but intentional, determined and wise.
Communities that separate, that educate, that lead,
That understand sustainability is more than just a need.

With Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting ahead, the vision grows,
Ninety-eight thousand bottle caps will help the story show.
Fifty-five flags will rise from what we choose to reclaim,
A powerful reminder that waste can be reframed.

So what will you choose when that moment arrives?
When you hold something small that could change countless lives?
Because waste is not wasted when we choose to see,
The power it holds for our shared destiny.



WE'RE BACK... STILL DANCING THE LINE

*The rhythm never stopped.
The passion never faded.
And now... we're back.*

Join us for an unforgettable evening of **movement, music, and magic** as we return to the stage – stronger, sharper, and still dancing the line between grace and power.

 **Date: Saturday 16th May 2026**

 **Time: 7:00 PM**

 **Venue: St Anthony's Secondary School, Langfords**

 **Admission: \$50**

**Come celebrate the comeback.
Feel the energy. Witness the return.**

Secure your tickets now from any LDC Antigua member—
and let's dance the line together! ✨



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



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

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Caribbean advances regional framework to strengthen disaster displacement data and response

Severe natural hazards—including hurricanes, floods, wildfires and volcanic eruptions—have displaced millions of people across the Caribbean in recent years, underscoring the growing urgency for stronger, more reliable data systems to guide emergency response and recovery.

The increasing frequency and intensity of these events have exposed gaps in how displacement is tracked, limiting the effectiveness of efforts to protect lives and property.

In response, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) brought together National Disaster Offices and regional partners for a two-and-a-half-day workshop in Barbados from April 23–24. A press release from the organization indicated that the meeting focused on improving the collection, analysis and application of displacement data across the region.

A key outcome of the workshop was progress toward establishing a harmonised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for displacement data, a framework that is being aligned with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) system.

Once completed, the SOP is expected to enhance coordination and speed of response across 13 participating countries, while also supporting long-term recovery planning.

“For Barbados, the guiding principle is simple. Families first,” said Barbados' Minister of Home Affairs and Information, Gregory Nicholls. “Good data helps responders locate families faster, match assistance with real needs, and protects dignity, especially when systems are under stress. Displacement data must always serve people and not processes.”

According to IOM Caribbean, during the sessions, participants engaged directly with a range of tools designed to



strengthen data management. These included IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the IOM Shelter Portal and KoboToolbox for rapid field data collection. Advanced mapping and analytical tools, such as the Copernicus Emergency Management Service and MapAction, were also demonstrated to improve spatial analysis and planning capabilities.

Reportedly, insights drawn from CDEMA's After Action Reviews following Hurricane Beryl and Hurricane Melissa, alongside country-level experiences, highlighted several shared priorities. These include the need for stronger baseline data before disasters occur, consistent definitions of displacement and shelter categories, and more efficient information-sharing between shelters, emergency operations centres and national systems.

“Preparedness is about learning from experience,” said Patrice Quesada, IOM Coordination Officer for the Caribbean and Chief of Mission for Barbados. “It is really about anticipating the next storm, not just responding to the last one. For that, we need to share experience with teams of experts who can trust and support each other when

the time comes.”

Regional representatives stressed the practical advantages of adopting a unified approach to displacement data.

“We are very prone to various hazards, and we have a lot of vulnerable people,” said Sashagaye Vassell, Planning Analyst, The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Jamaica. “With this SOP, Caribbean states can better coordinate among ourselves to support the vulnerable and find targeted solutions to respond efficiently and effectively.”

The workshop also addressed persistent challenges in identifying displaced individuals, particularly those who go unregistered.

“Sometimes displaced persons are not registered, making it very difficult to reach out to them,” said Livingston Pemberton, National Disaster Coordinator, National Emergency Management Agency, Saint Kitts and Nevis. “If you are not able to capture them within the system, it is very difficult to render the assistance that they need.”

He added: “The workshop clearly defines terms, gives us a methodology for capturing and analysing data,

and allows us to provide the necessary information to national and regional mechanisms, so we can support displaced persons and bring them back to some semblance of normalcy as quickly as possible.”

As per the release, speakers also underscored the importance of ethical, people-focused data collection that reflects the diverse experiences of affected communities.

“Data collectors must understand the sensitivity of the situation,” said Yemi Knight Founder, AnchorBridge Environmental Inc. “A person has just gone through a disaster, and you may meet different types of people, so you have to have the cultural sensitivity to interact with them.”

Beyond immediate shelter needs, participants pointed to the wider societal implications of displacement.

“There are a lot of regional examples of people being displaced,” said Simon Alleyne. “It is more than just giving a person back a home. It is also ensuring that they can be reintegrated into society, including access to employment and their rights as citizens.”

It is reported that between 2012 and 2021, disasters led to an estimated 5.14 million new cases of internal displacement across the Caribbean. Over the past five years alone, approximately 2.6 million people have been impacted by hazards such as storms, flooding, wildfires and volcanic activity, reflecting the increasing complexity of disaster response in the region.

Supported by EU Humanitarian Aid through the Resilient Caribbean project, IOM Caribbean says that the workshop represents a major step toward strengthening data-driven disaster management systems.

Upcoming efforts will focus on enhancing the capacity of National Disaster Offices through training in data collection and analysis, vulnerability assessments, simulation exercises, and specialised instruction in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

Together, these initiatives aim to build a more coordinated, prepared and resilient Caribbean capable of responding effectively to future disasters. (Dominica News Online)

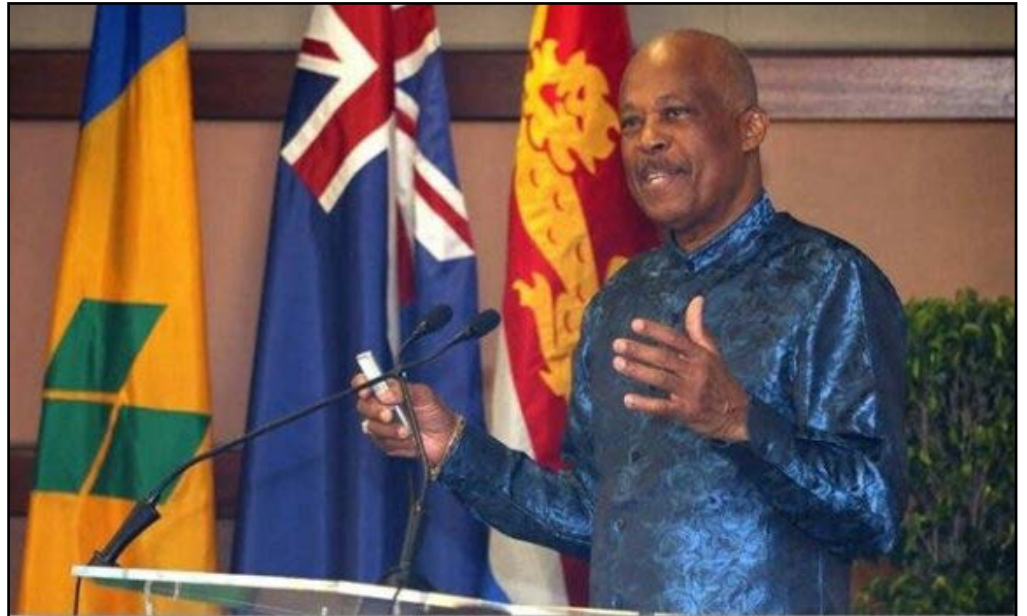
UWI Vice-Chancellor's report broadcast set for May 8

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles will deliver his official report to the University Council, covering the 2024/2025 academic year.

The University of the West Indies governance calendar event is set for Friday, May 8, 2026, when audiences are invited to tune in to UWItv for a live broadcast.

The presentation is expected to outline key developments, institutional performance, and the strategic direction of the regional university, said a UWI release.

The report highlights the university's ongoing efforts to advance its strategic priorities, including building institutional resilience, preparing for future challenges, and strengthening its influence both regionally and internationally.



Recognized as the highest governing authority within the UWI system, the University Council is responsible for overseeing the institution's administrative and business affairs, as well as appointing senior leadership. The Council is chaired by Chancellor Dodridge Miller, who presides over its deliberations and deci-

sion-making processes.

The broadcast is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM Eastern Caribbean time (AST) and 9:00 AM Jamaica time (EST). Viewers can watch the proceedings live via www.uwitv.global or on UWItv through FLOW EVO cable channels. (Dominica News Online)

Regional News

Thomas blasts CARICOM's Inadequate response to Cuba



Prominent lawyer and commentator Jomo Thomas has issued a blistering critique of CARICOM's response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Cuba, labelling the collective regional aid pledges as "a damn shame" and an "abdication of the responsibility of leadership".

Speaking on his radio program "Plain Talk," Thomas argued that the Caribbean region is failing a "sister people" who are currently being "choked into submission" by a tightened United States embargo.

Thomas highlighted the disparity between the scale of Cuba's suffering and the financial commitments made by regional governments following the CARICOM summit in St. Kitts earlier this year. He noted that while St. Vincent and the Grenadines pledged \$100,000 USD, other nations like Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis have committed only \$50,000 USD each.

"It means all of CARICOM combined is prepared to give Cuba less than a million US dollars in humanitarian assistance," Thomas said, pointing out that Cuba is a nation of 11 million people. He further alleged that even these modest sums have yet to be delivered, noting that "none of them have said

that the money has been given".

A central theme of Thomas's address was the historical "debt" the Caribbean owes to the Cuban revolutionary government. He reminded listeners that the region has benefited from "hundreds of millions of dollars" in Cuban assistance over decades, ranging from medical scholarships to emergency disaster relief.

Thomas specifically recalled the 1979 volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, noting that despite the island not yet being independent, a Cuban vessel arrived with aid within a single week. He also cited Cuba's immense sacrifice in Southern Africa, where 22,000 Cubans died fighting to end apartheid in Namibia and Angola—an effort Nelson Mandela once said saved his life.

In contrast to this history of generosity, Thomas criticized the local "middle class" professionals who received free Cuban scholarships but have failed to contribute significantly to relief efforts. He noted that the St. Vincent Cuba Friendship Society has raised less than \$20,000 EC to date.

The situation in Cuba is "grave," according to Thomas, with the economy in a "go slow" since last October due to a lack of fuel and foreign exchange.

He described a dire scene where children are at risk due to lack of electricity for medical operations and food is increasingly scarce.

Thomas proposed that each of the 14 CARICOM nations should commit at least \$1 million USD, totaling a \$14 million relief package. He urged governments to bypass collective CARICOM bureaucratic delays and deliver aid directly to Havana.

"Go to the bank, get the money, send one of our officials... it doesn't have to be a top-level official," Thomas suggested, arguing that the fear of U.S. repercussions—what he termed "toying up to the American administration"—is compromising regional sovereignty.

Thomas warned that regional silence and inaction make CARICOM "complicit" in what he described as a "fascistic" attempt by the U.S. to destroy the Cuban revolution.

"Revolutionary experiments don't fail," Thomas asserted. "They are smeared. They are assaulted. They are strangled. And then they are defeated. We should not allow that to happen to Cuba". He called on Caribbean citizens to "draw the line" and demand their leaders "let Cuba breathe". (St Vincent Times)

Fuel surcharge could hit record 80¢ per kwh by June



Opposition Leader Ralph Gonsalves has issued a stark warning to Vincentians regarding a looming spike in electricity bills, projecting that the fuel surcharge will hit an unprecedented 80 cents per kilowatt-hour by June.

Speaking on the economic challenges currently facing the country, Gonsalves outlined the alarming trajectory of utility costs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

He revealed that the surcharge has already spiked by approximately 12 cents in the last billing cycle, reaching 67 cents per unit. According to his estimates, consumers will see the rate climb into the “early 70s” in May, before breaching the 80-cent mark for the very first time in June.

Gonsalves sharply criti-

cised the current New Democratic Party (NDP) administration over its handling of the crisis. He accused the government of committing a “fraud” against the public, pointing out that the NDP had campaigned on promises to put a cap on the electricity surcharge and bring costs down.

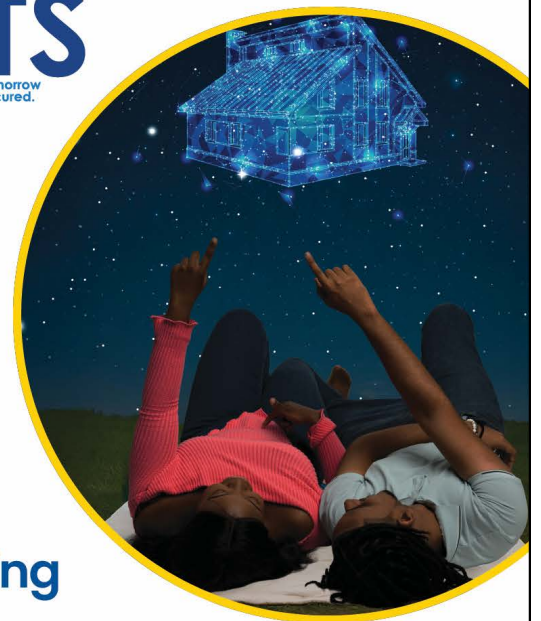
While acknowledging that international factors specifically the war in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz are driving up fuel costs globally, Gonsalves condemned the local government’s lethargic response.

He warned that the financial pain will not stop at electricity, noting that the soaring global prices will also soon impact liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), essential for household cooking. (St Vincent Times)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



WHO says two hantavirus cases confirmed, five suspected on cruise ship

Two hantavirus cases have been confirmed and five others are suspected among people on a cruise ship stuck off Cape Verde, including three who have died, the WHO said Tuesday.

The World Health Organization said it was trying to contact passengers on an April 25 flight between Saint Helena and Johannesburg, taken by one of the sickened cruise ship passengers, who died the next day.

“As of 4 May 2026, seven cases (two laboratory confirmed cases of hantavirus and five suspected cases) have been identified, including three deaths, one critically ill patient and three individuals reporting mild symptoms,” the United Nations health agency said in a statement.

During the cruise, which was travelling from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde off west Africa, “illness onset occurred between 6 and 28 April 2026,” WHO said.

It was “characterised by fever, gastrointestinal symp-



toms, rapid progression to pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome and shock,” it said, adding that “further investigations are ongoing”.

WHO stressed that it assessed the risk to the global population from outbreak as “low”, adding that it would continue to monitor the situation.

Passengers from Britain, Spain and the United States, as well as crew from the Philippines, were among 23 nationalities aboard the MV Hondius, which WHO said was currently carrying 147

people.

A British passenger was in intensive care in Johannesburg and two crew — one British and the other Dutch — required “urgent medical care”, the ship’s operator Oceanwide Expeditions said in a statement.

Three of the identified cases were no longer on the ship and four remained on board, including a German who died on Saturday.

The first deaths among the passengers were a Dutch couple — a husband who died on board on April 11 and his wife who died after

she disembarked the boat in St Helena to accompany his body, the operator said.

WHO said that the wife who left the ship with her dead husband on April 24, had been suffering from “gastrointestinal symptoms”.

“She subsequently deteriorated during a flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, on 25 April,” it said, adding that “she later died upon arrival at the emergency department on 26 April”.

“On 4 May, the case was subsequently confirmed by PCR with hantavirus infection,” it said, stressing that “contact tracing for passengers on the flight has been initiated”.

Human hantavirus infection is a rare but severe and potentially deadly disease that is primarily acquired through contact with the urine, faeces, or saliva of infected rodents, WHO said.

However, human-to-human transmission has also been reported in previous outbreaks. (AFP)

Spain says no decision taken on hantavirus cruise ship

Spain said on Tuesday it will not decide where to let a cruise ship with hantavirus cases dock until epidemiological data had been analysed.

The health ministry statement in a social media post came shortly after World Health Organization epidemic and pandemic preparedness director Maria Van Kerkhove said in Geneva that the ship would head for the Canary Islands.

“Based on the epidemiological data collected from the ship during its stop-over in Cape Verde, it will be decided which port of call is most appropriate. Until then, the Ministry of Health will not take any decision, as we have informed the World Health Organization,” the ministry said.

Earlier, the vice president of the islands’ regional government, Manuel Dominguez, said he preferred that the

ship go straight to mainland Spain because it had greater resources to handle the stricken vessel.

“If it does not have to be in the Canary Islands, then that would be better, because there may be other resources on the mainland,” he said in a radio interview, adding that any decision should be taken “with all possible guarantees”. (AFP)

Prosecutors say arson suspect in Los Angeles' Palisades Fire was angry 'at the world'



The man accused of sparking the deadly Palisades Fire in Los Angeles was upset that he didn't have plans for New Year's Eve and ranted about being angry at the world before the initial blaze was sparked, according to court documents filed by prosecutors.

Jonathan Rinderknecht, 29, has pleaded not guilty to starting what became one of the most destructive wildfires in California history. It began Jan. 7, 2025, in hillside neighborhoods of Pacific Palisades and Malibu and killed 12 people. Prosecutors say Rinderknecht started a fire on Jan. 1 that burned undetected deep in root systems before flaring back up a week later.

Rinderknecht's trial is set to begin June 8. His attorneys say he is being used as a scapegoat for the Los Angeles Fire Department's failure to fully extinguish the earlier blaze.

An outline of the prosecutors' strategy — with details about the defendant's alleged state of mind on the night be-

fore the first fire began — appears in an April 29 pretrial memo filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Witnesses reported that Rinderknecht had been driving erratically while on Uber routes around the Palisades on New Year's Eve, said prosecutors. His passengers described him as "angry, intense, driving erratically, and ranting about being 'pissed off at the world,'" the memo said.

According to court filings, Rinderknecht ranted to passengers about accused UnitedHealthcare CEO shooter Luigi Mangione, capitalism and vigilantism. In an interview with investigators on Jan. 24, when asked why someone might commit arson in the Palisades, Rinderknecht "responded that it would be out of resentment of the rich enjoying their money as 'we're basically being enslaved by them,'" and again referenced Mangione's alleged crime, the documents said.

In addition, prosecutors said Rinderknecht was distraught over a failed

relationship and upset about thwarted plans for New Year's Eve.

"My client maintains his innocence as he has from the beginning and we look forward to clearing his name at trial," Rinderknecht's attorney Steve Haney said in an email Sunday. "The offered motive that my client started a fire on NY's Eve because he did not have a date speaks for itself."

Haney held a news conference in March to call for Rinderknecht's release from jail in light of evidence he said shows he is not responsible

for the blaze. Haney pointed to a deposition in which a firefighter testified that he noticed the ground was still smoldering from the fire on Jan. 2 and alerted a supervisor that there were hot spots. That testimony was gathered as part of a lawsuit filed by fire victims against the city.

A battalion chief had testified that he walked the perimeter of the burn area four times throughout the day and ensured all hot spots were out.

Fire Department Chief Jaime Moore, who was appointed in October, has said he is concerned about the differences in the firefighters' testimonies and commissioned an independent report on how the Jan. 1 fire was handled.

Haney has said this evidence was not available to the defense when Rinderknecht was indicted. (AP)

Russia and Ukraine announce rival ceasefires as deadly strikes continue

Russia and Ukraine have declared unilateral ceasefires starting this week, ahead of commemorations held by Russia to mark the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany on Saturday.

Russia said it would hold a ceasefire on 8 and 9 May and threatened a "massive missile strike" on central Kyiv if Ukraine violated the truce.

But Kyiv announced it would observe an open-ended ceasefire from midnight on 6 May, and that Ukraine would act "symmetrically" from that point on.

Volodymyr Zelensky's chief of staff Kyrylo Budanov said that if the ceasefire announced by the Ukrainian president was reciprocated, "we will continue to observe it... The next move is Russia's".

Shortly after the warring sides announced the moves, five people were killed and dozens injured in combined missile and drone strikes across Ukraine overnight.

In Russia, authorities in the Chuvash Republic said two people were killed and 32 injured in a drone attack on Tuesday morning.

The two ceasefires appear to be unilateral - meaning the two sides have not agreed on their terms, length or monitoring.

"We have made our proposal," Zelensky said, urging Russia to lay down arms "and move to real diplomacy".

"It's utter cynicism to ask for silence to hold propaganda celebrations and to launch such missile-drone attacks every day beforehand," he added.

Ukraine's earlier, open-ended truce is likely a way for Zelensky to show that his country is willing to start an immediate and lasting ceasefire and that any violations will be pinned on Russia.

"We believe that human life is of incomparably greater value than the 'celebration' of any anniversary," he



wrote on Telegram.

Ahead of its own midnight ceasefire on Wednesday (Tuesday 22:00 GMT), Ukraine also launched a series of aerial attacks on Russia, hitting an industrial area in Kirishi in the Leningrad region and a factory that produces military components in Cheboksary, in the Chuvash Republic.

Zelensky said domestically-produced Flamingo cruise missiles were used to strike the Cheboksary factory, some 1,500km (930 miles) away from the front line. An unverified nighttime video showed a fast-moving object and large explosion.

The Russian defence ministry later confirmed it had downed six Ukrainian Flamingos as well as 601 drones.

On Tuesday morning, several airports across Russia were temporarily shut. Later, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin announced that a number of drones had been downed near the capital.

The Kremlin has betrayed signs of nervousness ahead of Victory Day.

The 9 May celebrations, which mark the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany, have grown in scale and pomp since the start of Vladimir Putin's rule in the early 2000s.

But the Kremlin said that this year the centrepiece event - a grand military parade on Red Square - would be scaled down due to the "terrorist threat" from Ukraine, and that no heavy military hardware would be on display.

Muscovites were also warned that mobile internet access would be disrupted or cut off for several days in the lead-up to 9 May.

Zelensky said the fact Russia felt it couldn't "hold a parade in Moscow without the goodwill of Ukraine" to observe a ceasefire meant that it was time for Russian leaders to "take steps to end their war".

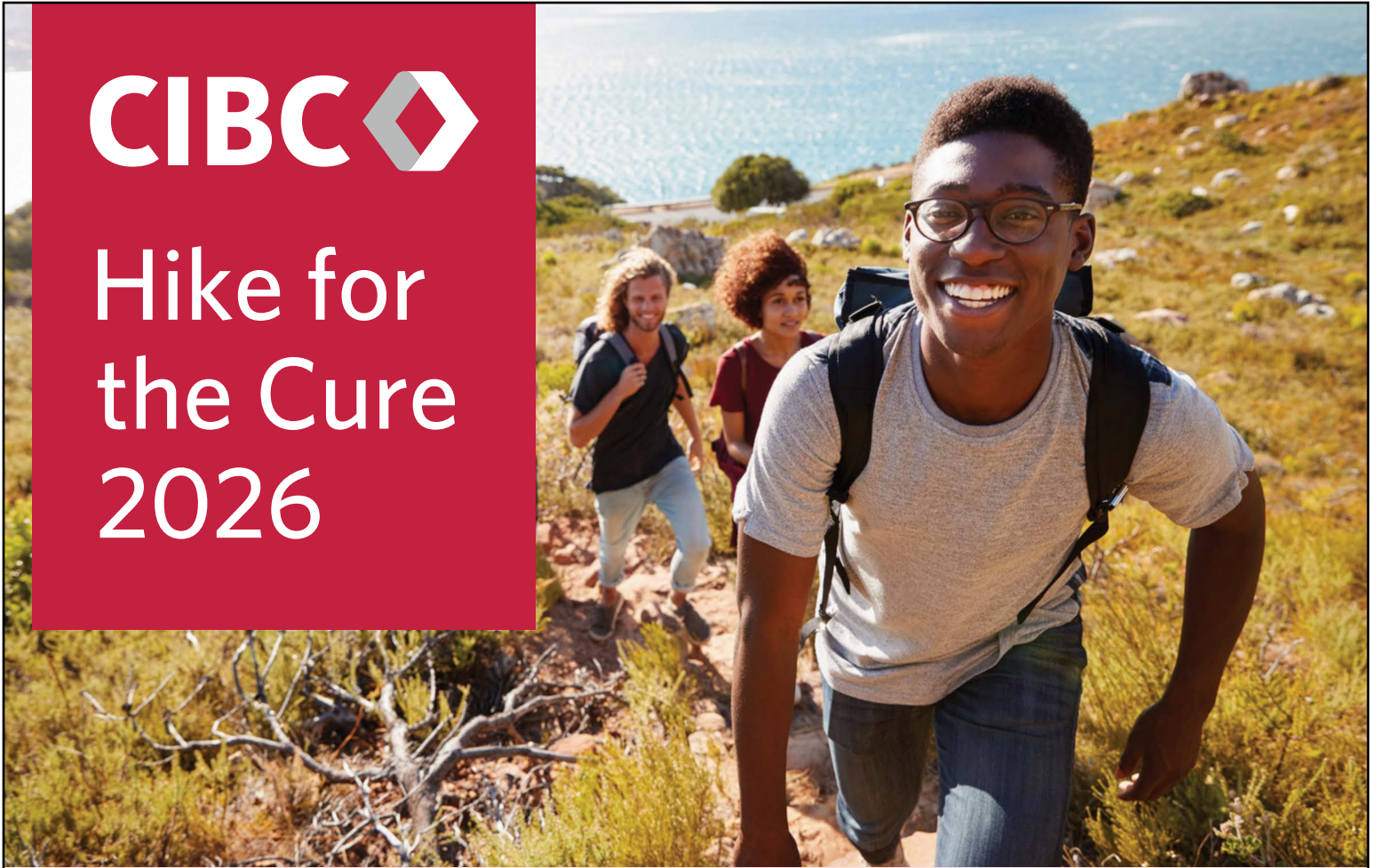
Ukraine has in recent weeks stepped up deep-strike drone attacks on Russia, successfully targeting energy facilities and oil refineries and disrupting the Russian oil trade.

Its drones can now fly deep into Russia, often eschewing air defences, and on Monday morning one hit a high-rise in central Moscow.

Meanwhile, Moscow's strikes on Ukrainian cities continue to kill and maim civilians across the country. Thousands have died since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022. (BBC)



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MEDICAL CENTRE

More success for Storming Lions in national volleyball club league



Da Storming Lions men's volleyball team

Cool and Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Da Storming Lions have enjoyed more success in their latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) Men's Division 1 Championship.

Da Storming Lions consolidated their second-place position in the men's top league by claiming their fourth win in five games with a 3-1 victory over Gwava and N18 Construction Invaders in their latest outing at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

It took Da Storming Lions an hour and nine minutes to prevail 25-14, 25-22, 25-27, and 25-21 against the Invaders, who suffered their third defeat in five encounters.

Falcons and Chargers Momentum also enjoyed success in the ABAVA Division 2 leagues.

The Falcons extended their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the five-team standings in the Women's Division 2 League by recording their third win in as many games with a 2-0 victory over Dynasty Queens.

The Falcons soared to a commanding 25-7, 25-22 victory against the Dynasty Queens, who lost for the second time in three games.

The Chargers Momentum also maintained their unbeaten run to stay of the five-team Men's Division 2 League by recording their third win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against the ASCSC Stingers in a top-of-the-table

clash.

The Chargers Momentum proved their superiority by securing their 25-17, 25-20 victory over the Stingers, who remain in second place despite suffering their first defeat after winning their previous two matches.

Gwava and N18 Construction Invaders 2 also notched up a 2-0 victory over the bottom team, Sharks, in their men's Division 2 affair.

It took the Invaders 2 just 46 minutes to surge to their 25-23, 25-13 victory against the Sharks, who remain in the cellar after losing for the third time in as many games.

Sabalenka calls for boycott if players don't get bigger cut of prize money

ROME (Reuters) - Players would boycott the French Open if their prize money at the claycourt Grand Slam is not increased, women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka said on Tuesday, with Coco Gauff also voicing support for the drastic step.

The threat deepens a dispute between players and Roland Garros organisers over prize money distribution, even though this year's tournament offers a 9.5% increase to 61.7 million euros (US\$72.19 million).

Several top players released a statement on Monday saying they were set to receive prize money that would likely still be less than 15% of tournament revenue, well short of the 22% they demanded to match ATP and WTA combined 1000 events.

When asked how far players might push their demands, Sabalenka told reporters at the Italian Open: "I think at some point we will boycott it (the tournament), yeah. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights."

"Let's see how far we can get, if it's going to take players for boycott... Some of the things, I feel like it's really unfair to the players. I think at some point it's going to get to this."

However, the world number one struck a hopeful note about ongoing negotiations.

"I just really hope that all of the negotiation that we are having, we at some point are going to get to the right decision, to the conclusion that everyone will be happy with," she added.

Reuters has contacted the French Tennis Federation for comment. The prize money boost of 5.4 million euros compared to 2025 still leaves



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus celebrates a point during her match against Hailey Baptiste of the USA during the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Tuesday, April 28, 2026. (AP)

Roland Garros trailing its Grand Slam rivals.

The US Open offered \$90 million last year while Wimbledon paid out 53.5 million pounds (US\$72.51 million) and the Australian Open a record A\$111.5 million (US\$80.06 million) this year.

World number four Gauff said she could "100% see" players boycotting a Grand Slam if they took the decision together as one.

"It's not about me. It's about the future of our sport and also the current players who aren't getting as much benefits, maybe, as even some of the top players are getting when it comes to sponsorship and things like that," Gauff said.

"We're making money off court. When you look at the (players ranked) 50 to 100, 50 to 200, how much money each Slam makes, it's kind of unfortunate where the 200 best tennis players are living paycheck to paycheck."

Gauff also suggested the players must form a union, highlighting how the WNBA basketball players' union reached a tentative agreement on a collective bargaining deal earlier this year after nearly 17 months of negotiations.

"Just taking what the WNBA accomplished. They also have a union, so I think that helps," she added.

"From the things I've seen with other sports, usually to make massive progress and things like this, it takes a union."

Sabalenka said the players deserved more prize money.

"When you see the number and you see the amount the players are receiving... I feel like the show is on us. I feel like without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that entertainment," Sabalenka added. "I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage. What can I say?"

Sports News



Arsenal reach first Champions League final in 20 years

LONDON (AP) — Arsenal is back in the Champions League final for the first time in 20 years thanks to a late first-half goal from Bukayo Saka that secured a 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Saka was on hand to slot in the rebound after Leandro Trossard's shot was saved by Jan Oblak in the 45th minute to put Arsenal up 2-1 on aggregate in the second leg of their semifinal.

The Gunners' stingy defense did the rest as Arsenal has now kept a clean sheet at home in all three knockout rounds.

The team also conceded a competition-low four goals in winning all eight of their matches in the league phase.

It will be only Arsenal's second final in Europe's premier competition, having lost the 2006 title match to Barcelona.

This time Arsenal will face either



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, center left, celebrates after scoring the opening goal during a Champions League semifinal, second leg, soccer match between Arsenal FC and Atletico Madrid in London, Tuesday, May 5, 2026. (AP)

defending champion Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) or Bayern Munich in Budapest, Hungary, on May 30.

PSG won the pulsating first leg of their semifinal 5-4, and the second leg is in Munich, Germany, on Wednesday.

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Edwards returns to lead Timberwolves past Wembanyama and the Spurs



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) handles the ball as San Antonio Spurs guard Dylan Harper (2) defends during the first half in Game 1 of a second-round NBA playoffs basketball series in San Antonio, Monday, May 4, 2026. (AP)

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Anthony Edwards scored 18 points in his unexpected return from injury and the Minnesota Timberwolves overcame a huge game by Victor Wembanyama and held on to beat the San Antonio Spurs 104-102 in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals on Monday night.

Edwards was expected to miss at least the first two games of the series after suffering a bone bruise and hyperextending his left knee on April 25 during Game 4 of Minnesota's open-

ing-round series against Denver.

But he had 11 points in the fourth quarter as Minnesota held on to hand San Antonio only its second loss in its last 17 series openers at home.

"Nobody expected him to play," Timberwolves veteran Mike Conley said. "It was just his level of commitment to the game. Not just to the game, but to his teammates. It showed a lot."

Wembanyama had 11 points and 15 rebounds and set an NBA postseason record with 12 blocks. He's the third player to get a triple-double in the

playoffs including blocks since the league began tracking blocks in 1973-74.

San Antonio cut the deficit to 104-102 on a steal by Devin Vassell and layup by Dylan Harper with 31 seconds remaining. Following a miss by Minnesota's Julius Randle, Julian Champagnie couldn't connect on a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"We have to be better," Wembanyama said. "It shows up on the stat sheet. We need to figure out before 48 hours what we can do better and I've got no doubt that we will. I trust us."

Randle finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves. Harper scored 18 points and Champagnie and Stephon Castle had 17 each for the Spurs.

Edwards worked diligently to return for Minnesota with guards Donte DiVincenzo (torn right Achilles tendon) and Ayo Dosunmu (right calf soreness) out with injuries.

"I know for a fact, just me being out there, it calms everybody down," Edwards said.

"Not saying there's any pressure on any of my teammates, but it takes pressure off of everybody just knowing that I'm out there, I'm available to play, yeah. And just doing what I do best, just trying to put the ball in the hoop."



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Lions book spot in semi-finals of Super40 Championship

Defending champions Caribbean Motor Works (CMW) New Winthropes Lions have booked their spot in the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Championship.

The Lions achieved the feat by maintaining their unbeaten run in defense of their title to remain at the top of the standings in the 10-team round-robin competition with a perfect 32 points from eight matches.

The Lions confirmed their spot in the semis by recording their eighth win in as many matches with an eight-wicket victory over the Pigotts Crushers in New Winthropes on Sunday.

The Crushers were restricted to 74 for eight off 11 overs, with captain and opener Uri Smith hitting 34 off 29 balls, including four sixes and two

fours. Fast bowler Jedidiah Martin bagged five for 35.

The Lions secured victory by scoring 75 for two in 8.3 overs. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. smashed 31 off 26 balls, including four fours and two sixes.

Despite suffering their second defeat in eight matches, the Pigotts Crushers are one of five teams that remain in contention for the other three semi-final spots, with two rounds of matches left to play in the preliminary stage.

The Crushers are currently occupying fourth place in the standings with 20 points. Also battling for the remaining semi-final spots are second-place Empire Nation with 26 points, the third-placed PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks with 22 points, and the fifth-placed WES Rising Sun Spartans with 18 points.

Already eliminated from the semi-finals are the Jennings Tigers, the All Saints Pythons, the Bethesda Golden Eagles, the Bolans Blasters, and the Tertiary Institutions and Schools.

In other eighth-round matches, Empire Nation prevailed by seven wickets against the All Saints Pythons at Mock Pond in All Saints, while the Liberta Blackhawks crushed the Jennings Tigers by 66 runs at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Rising Sun Spartans secured a seven-wicket win over the Bolans Blasters at Pigotts, while the Bethesda Golden Eagles crushed Tertiary Institutions and Schools by 178 runs at the Factory Grounds.

The final two rounds of matches in the preliminary stage will take place across several venues in Antigua this weekend.



Reigning ABCA Super40 champs CMW New Winthropes Lions