

Governor General Calls for National Healing and Responsible Leadership

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Governor General Sir Rodney Williams (centre) with members of the new Cabinet and ministers of state on stage at the AUA conference centre

Governor General Calls for National Healing and Responsible Leadership at Ministerial Swearing-In

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has urged citizens and newly appointed ministers to move beyond political divisions and work collectively in the interest of Antigua and Barbuda.

Addressing the swearing-in ceremony of Ministers of Government on Tuesday evening, Sir Rodney reminded the nation that elections, while often divisive in the moment, must ultimately give way to reconciliation and shared purpose.

“Elections may divide us in choice, but they must never divide us as a people,” he stated, calling on citizens to embrace a spirit of togetherness once the democratic process has concluded.

He stressed that democracy thrives on a diversity of views, but added that unity remains the essential foundation upon which national progress is built. According to the Governor General, the advancement of Antigua and Barbuda hinges on the combined efforts of all its people, regardless of political affiliation.

In a direct appeal to the public, Sir Rodney Williams encouraged those



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

on both sides of the political spectrum to remain engaged in national life. He urged citizens to adopt a constructive approach, whether in celebration or disappointment, emphasising that meaningful progress requires ongoing participation and commitment.

Addressing the newly sworn-in ministers, the Governor General delivered

a firm reminder about the weight of public office, cautioning that leadership positions should not be viewed as personal achievements, but as serious obligations to the people.

“Public office is not a prize to be claimed, but a duty to be discharged,” he declared, urging ministers to carry out their responsibilities with humility, discipline, and integrity.

He stressed that their mandate extends beyond political supporters, noting that they now serve the entire nation. “You are ministers not of a party alone, but of Antigua and Barbuda as a whole,” Sir Rodney said, highlighting the need for inclusive governance.

The Governor General also underscored the importance of the oaths taken during the ceremony, describing them as binding commitments to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law. He said these pledges require leaders to act with fairness, sound judgment, and a deep awareness of their responsibility to future generations.

Sir Rodney Williams pointed to the



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challenges facing the country, noting that effective governance will require more than technical skill. He called for courage, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose among members of the administration.

“The strength of your administration will depend not solely on individual effort, but on collective purpose and shared responsibility,” he said, encouraging ministers to work together in advancing national development.

He also urged them to adhere to the principles of good governance and to remain constantly aware of the trust placed in them by the public.

Sir Rodney Williams described Tuesday’s ceremony as a pivotal moment for the nation — not only marking the installation of a new government, but also offering an opportunity to renew a broader commitment to unity and nation-building.

He expressed hope that the ministers’ tenure would be guided by wisdom and integrity, and that their leadership would result in tangible benefits for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

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The boxer on the ropes - an analysis of the Antigua and Barbuda 2026 General Elections | Part II



by Dr W. Aubrey Webson

Institutional Renewal, Not Just Electoral Victory

The true significance of this ABLP victory lies not only in totals or seat counts, but in what it reveals about institutional renewal. Ten new candidates were presented to the nation, many under the age of forty, representing a new generation of leadership. This is not cosmetic change; it is structural rebuilding.

This blend of experience and youthful energy is a sign of a party that understands time, legacy, and the future. It tells the country:

- The ABLP is not a relic of the past; it is a living institution reshaping itself for a new era.
- Leadership is being reframed as a relay, not a throne—passing the baton instead of clinging to it.
- Politics is shifting away from raw individualism and personality cults and back toward collective responsibility and institutional continuity.

Strong democracies rest on strong institutions. The ABLP's rebound is a reminder that parties survive not by worshipping personalities, but by renewing their values, refreshing their leadership, and staying anchored to the people they were created to serve.

A National Vision, not a Narrow One

In this election, the ABLP offered something more than constituency promises; it offered a national vision. It did not campaign on “me first” or “my corner only,” but on an idea of Antigua and Barbuda that is broad, inclusive, and forward-looking.

Where once the idea of a “broad tent” was the proud slogan of its opponents, that vision has now clearly shifted. The UPP, which once spoke of embracing many, drifted away from that founding ethos. The tent narrowed. The message tightened. The outreach shrank.

The ABLP, by contrast, returned to its roots as a movement of the working class. It opened and expanded the “House of Labour”, but with a modern understanding of what “working class” means in the 21st century. A teacher, a hotel worker, a young coder, a fisherman, a nurse, a technician, a small business owner—all are workers contributing to the nation's progress. The party's renewed push for a “living wage” is not just a policy slogan; it is a recognition that democracy must deliver not only ballots, but better lives.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

No discussion of the ABLP's present can ignore its past. The name of Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, father of the nation, still echoes with respect across the islands. His sacrifices, his unwavering commitment to workers, and his role in leading this country through the era of colonialism into political independence are etched into our national identity.

But history does not stop at independence. The new challenge is economic independence: narrowing inequality, expanding opportunity, and ensuring that free education, health care, and meaningful employment are not privileges but guarantees. That is the unfin-

ished work of transformation.

In this context, it is fair to ask: is Gaston Browne a modern-day nation-builder? Is he the 21st-century “Steward of the nation,” driven by the spirit of the ancestors, taking the nation into a new era of global competition, technological change, and social complexity? The answer will not be written in speeches alone, but in policies, institutions, and outcomes over time.

What is clear is that the empathy for the working class that defined VC Bird's leadership style lives on in the philosophy and practice of Prime Minister Gaston Browne. His manner of speaking directly to the people, of explaining the path forward in simple and honest language, mirrors the “fire-side chats” of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the United States—moments when leaders chose to speak with, not at, their people.

In this digital age, Browne's regular conversations with the nation through his “Browne and Browne” show—open, frequent, and direct—can be seen as a modern version of that tradition. Leadership in a democracy is not about distant authority but about accessible, accountable, visible presence.

Democracy Vindicated

The 2026 election was not only the ABLP's test; it was democracy's test. Antigua and Barbuda passed with distinction. A clean election, conducted with calm, without violence, and with full respect for the will of the people, is no small achievement in a world where democratic norms are under strain.

By turning out, by voting, by accepting the results, the people reaffirmed a basic democratic truth: power belongs to them. They evaluated the competing visions and chose the one they believed best reflects their hopes, their

needs, and their ambitions.

They signaled clearly that they are satisfied not with perfectio - no government is perfect - but with the direction of the journey, the willingness to adjust, and the seriousness of the leadership’s commitment to development and inclusion.

From Rope to Ring Center

So, what does this moment really mean?

It means that a party once pressed against the ropes refused to fall. It absorbed the blows of criticism and consequence, learned from them, and came back with renewed strength. It rebuilt its internal structures, elevated new faces, returned to its working-class roots, and offered a vision big enough for all.

It means that democracy in Antigua and Barbuda remains alive and well, with voters fully prepared to reprimand, to reward, and to reset the political landscape as they see fit.

Most of all, it means that ABLP members and leaders should not treat this victory as the end of a fight, but as the beginning of a new round. The ABLP has won the right to lead and must treat this mandate with a renewed responsibility to govern with humility, responsiveness, and courage.

The boxer has stepped off the ropes and back into the center of the ring.

The question now is what the ABLP will do with this, its fourth term.

Will it deepen democracy? Will it expand opportunity? Will it transform institutions so that no future generation is ever again forced to choose between dignity and survival?

The signs are that the answer is a positive yes—if the party remembers why it was nearly counted out, and why the people chose to bring it back. If this lesson is truly learned, then this election will be remembered as a turning point—a moment when a party, a peo-

ple, and a democracy chose transformation over complacency, and leadership over stagnation.

As the great democrats have always reminded us, the future is not inherited; it is built. In the words of John F. Kennedy, “Our problems are man-made; therefore, they can be solved by man.” The charge before the ABLP and the people of Antigua and Barbuda is clear: having stepped back into the center of the ring, they must now use this mandate not merely to win another round, but to continue the building of a more just, more inclusive, and more prosperous nation, together.

And the charge to the voters, to our people, is equally clear. As Antigua and Barbuda’s calypso icon Short Shirt urged, the task of nationbuilding demands that we “put our shoulder to the wheel” and accept that “work, not talk, is what we need - if we are to build this nation we must toil and toil.”

Midweek Deals

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Several Persons Arrested For Firearm and offences and ammunition



Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers

The police have arrested several individuals following a number of operations conducted in the Freetown and Collins areas during the early morning hours of Wednesday, May 6.

Around 4:05 a.m., officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force, along with officers from the K-9 Unit, executed a search warrant at a premises in Freetown.

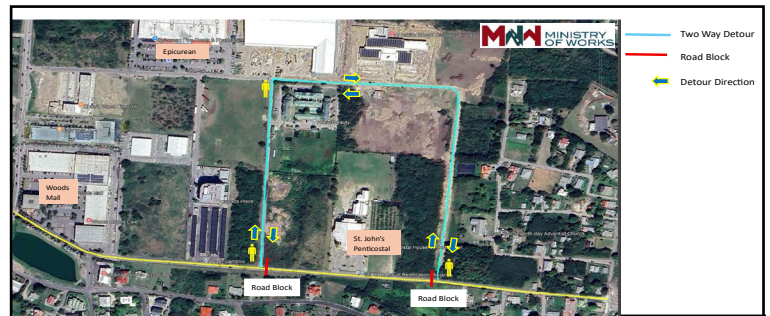
During the operation, one modified flare gun, several rounds of ammunition, and a camouflage shirt were discovered and seized. Two individuals were subsequently arrested on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition and taken into custody.

In a separate operation, officers attached to the Gang

and Guns Suppression Unit (GAGSU), Special Services Unit (SSU), and CID Task Force conducted a search on a farm in Collins Road. Two foreign nationals were taken into custody and transported to the St. John's Police Station, where they are assisting the police with ongoing investigations, including immigration-related inquiries.

Additionally, a search was conducted on a property at Collins, and during that operation, officers recovered one firearm along with two matching magazines and three rounds of ammunition. The items were seized, and one individual was arrested on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Investigation remains ongoing into the incidents.



NOTICE: WORKS ON LAUCHLAND BENJAMIN DRIVE

The Ministry of Works wishes to advise the general public that infrastructure works are scheduled for a section of **Lauchland Benjamin Drive (LBD)**.

To facilitate these works, a detour will be implemented at 7:00 pm on Thursday, 7th May 2026, until further notice.

Travelling on LBD away from Woods Mall:

Take the left turn before SJPC House of Restoration and follow as shown on the map.

Travelling on LBD towards Woods Mall:

Take the right turn before SJPC House of Restoration and follow as shown on the map.

Please exercise caution, as heavy-duty equipment will be in operation.

Road users are asked to adhere to the detours and follow all instructions provided by employees controlling traffic.

All businesses remain open.

Local access will be given to residents in the vicinity of the work site.

Stakeholders are asked to adjust their travel plans to allow for delays.

Telephone queries can be made by calling the Project Implementation Management Unit at 562-9173.

-ends-



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VACANCY

IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

The Systems Administrator is responsible for maintaining APUA's IT infrastructure, ensuring the reliable operation of network systems, and providing technical support across the organisation. This role includes monitoring and maintaining computer systems, installing and configuring hardware and software, and resolving technical issues to support efficient day-to-day operations.

Key duties include:

- Conducts hardware repair & maintenance functions.
- Provides technical support for APUA's server system.
- Performs network operating system installation and upkeep, software installation.
- Provides technical support and operating system installation for workstations, laptops and computer peripheral equipment to include printers, facsimile machines, photocopiers, small UPS equipment and handheld meter readers.
- Performs productivity & utility software installation and upkeep on workstations, to include MS Office products, CRM products, anti-virus and anti-spyware software.
- Develops and maintains software, performs computer systems gap analysis, defines new product specifications and conduct product procurement.
- Sets up accounts for new users and test new technology.

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- A Computer Science, Network, Computing or Engineering Degree;
- At least 4 years of experience working in IT or related field;
- Strong leadership qualities, project management, problem solving, network trouble shooting, debugging, and written and verbal communication skills;
- Proficiency in programming languages (Java, C++, C#, CSS, HTML);
- Sound knowledge of proxy servers, LAN, software and application development life-cycle, Frameworks and Libraries, Algorithm design, SQL Server, Python, and Database Administration;
- A high degree of flexibility, team oriented and a willingness to learn.

INVENTORY CONTROLLER

The Inventory Controller will have responsibility for all stores sites and stores functions throughout the Authority. The Controller will be responsible for safeguarding the inventory and ensuring strict adherence to internal control processes. The Controller will also report formally on all aspects of the operations on a monthly basis.

Key duties include:

- Forecasting supply and demand to prevent overstocking and running out-of-stock;
- Placing orders to replenish merchandise as needed;
- Tracking shipments and resolving challenges including delays;
- Ensuring adequate and appropriate storage and security of products;
- Keeping updated inventory records and maintaining documentation on Purchases;
- Liaising with Stores staff and other internal teams to test product quality (status upon delivery and storage conditions);
- Ensuring storerooms are maintained in accordance with health and safety standards;
- Ensuring that employee performance management policies are adhered to in all areas including, but not limited to, employee training and development, performance appraisals and recommends disciplinary action where appropriate.

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related field from a reputable tertiary institution.
- Stores/ Warehouse and Stock Management experience would be an asset.
- Good analytical, problem solving and organizational skills.
- Proven excellent customer service and management skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team environment.
- Demonstrated ability to motivate others to meet Department objectives.
- Good knowledge & understanding of supply chain procedures and a working knowledge of Great Plains Software.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Friday, 8th May, 2026

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **

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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

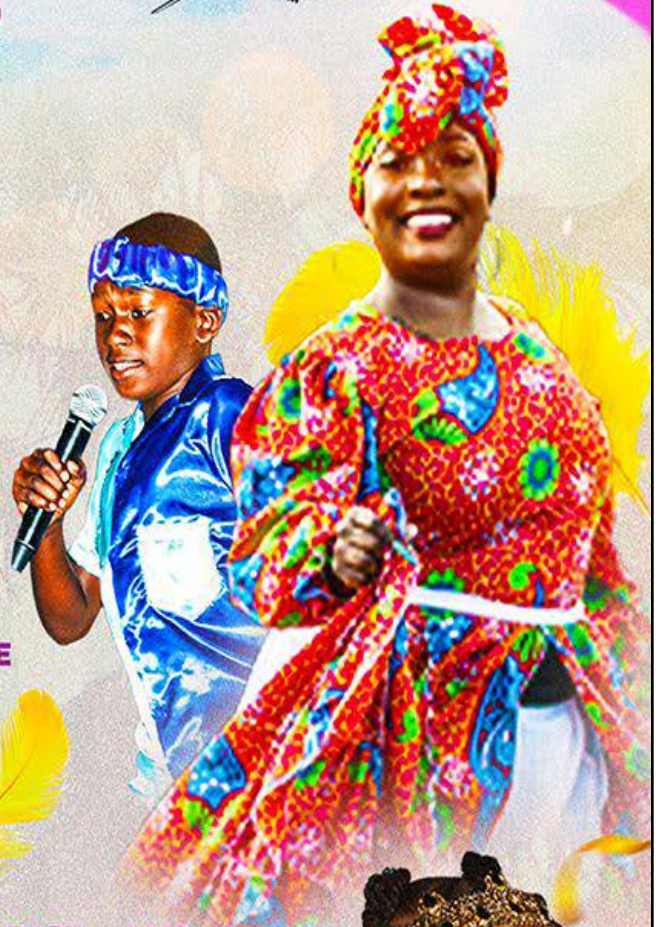
SUNDAY 24TH

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC
HORSE RACING

MONDAY 25TH

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

EVENT SCHEDULE



Local News



Antigua and Barbuda St John's Taxi Association elects new executive board for 2026-2028



The Antigua and Barbuda St John's Taxi Association Inc (SJTA) held it's bi-annual Elections for its Executive Board on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union Hall.

The following persons were elected

to serve on the Executive Board for a period of two (2) years (2026-2028)

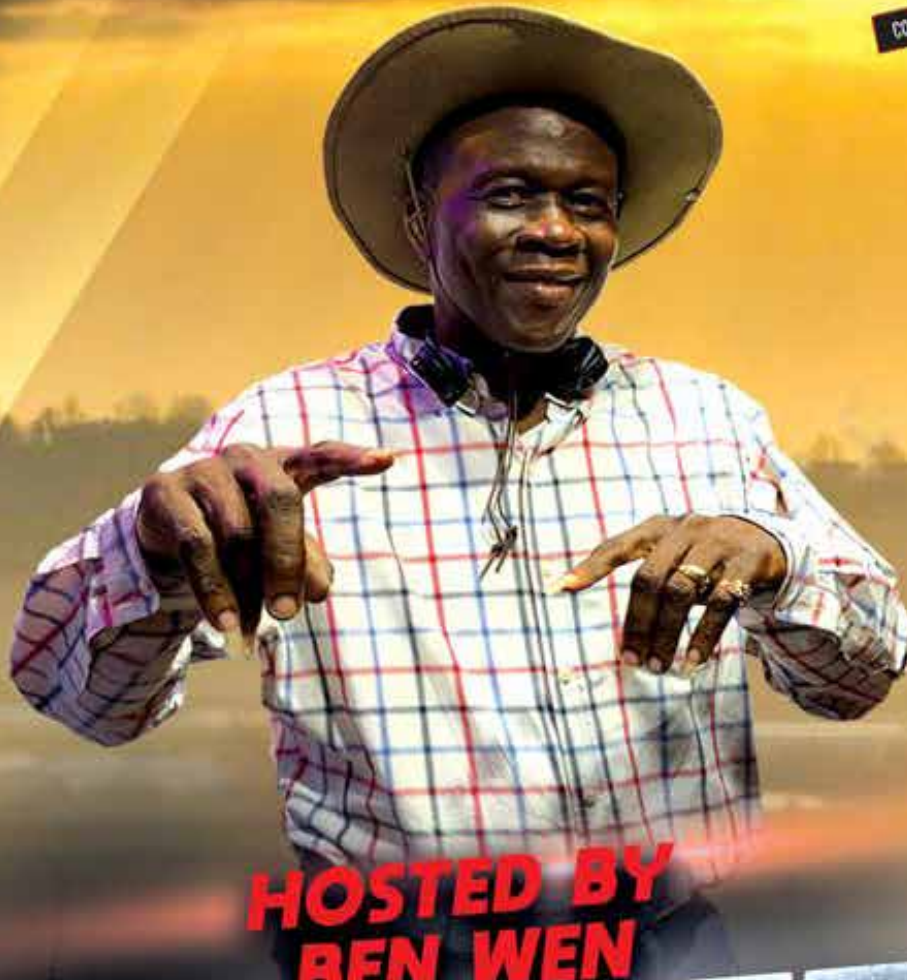
- Sean Beazer – President
- Andre Friday – Vice President
- Colin Friday – Treasurer
- Leroy John-Baptiste – Secretary

- Esquire Henry – Executive Member
- Dovell Thomas – Executive Member
- Elvis George – Executive Member
- Crafton Harris – Executive Member
- Wakeisha George – Executive Member

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Antigua Yacht Club: Teen Sailors' Big Wins Make Waves



Zoë Carlton

From weekend training to international success, Antigua and Barbuda's young sailors are proving that the sport offers far more than medals — it opens doors to opportunity, travel and lifelong careers.

In a week dominated by election headlines, a different kind of victory quietly made waves across Antigua — one that speaks to the island's future beyond politics.

Applause rang loudly for young sailors Emily Gaillard and Shanoy Malone at the Antigua Yacht Club (AYC) at an event celebrating their success at the 33rd National Sports Awards, where they proved that sailing can more than hold its own against any other sport.

Eighteen-year-old sailor Shanoy Malone has been named Junior Sportsman of the Year at the 33rd National Sports Awards, a landmark moment not just for the athlete, but for sailing in Antigua and Barbuda.

A product of the Antigua Yacht Club (AYC) since the age of six, Shanoy's rise from weekend sailor to international competitor highlights the strength of the island's youth sailing pathway — and the opportunities it can unlock.

"This isn't just a win for me — it's a win for sailing, for my family, my coaches and my club," he said. "You've watched me grow and been part of this journey."

His season has been nothing short of dominant. From multiple local regatta wins to an emphatic performance at the Caribbean Dinghy Championship — where he won 13 of 15 races and led Antigua and Barbuda to team gold — Shanoy has established himself as one of the region's standout athletes.

On the international stage, he claimed victory at the NYA Junior Race Week in the United States and secured second place at Mexico's Mayan Wind Fest, earning qualification for the Junior Pan American Games.

For AYC coach Karl James, MBE, himself one of Antigua's sailing Olympians, the achievement reflects years of quiet, consistent work — both on and off the water.

"This moment isn't just about winning the award. It's the culmination of years of discipline, countless hours on the water, and the belief that small daily improvements build into something extraordinary."

He also pointed to a wider miscon-

ception:

"Sailing is one of those sports that not many people fully understand — but it demands both physical strength and sharp mental skill. We train like any other athletes — we lift weights, we swim, we run."

Malone echoed that commitment, making clear this is only the beginning:

"This is just the beginning — I'm going to keep working and striving for more... I'm going to keep pushing and bring success back."

He also paid tribute to the community that shaped him:

"This [English Harbour] community means everything to me. It has shaped my life in so many ways, and it's an honour to represent it."

Fellow AYC sailors Jules Mitchell and Emily Gaillard were also recognised, with Gaillard finishing among the top three finalists for Sportswoman of the Year.

Joining the ceremony by phone from university in the United States, she shared a brief but heartfelt message:

"I really appreciate all the support, even though I can't be there tonight — it means a lot."



A statement on her behalf added that those supporting young sailors at the AYC had done something “truly extraordinary” in helping them pursue their ambitions.

Together, their stories underline a bigger picture — one that stretches beyond a single awards night.

The pathway to sailing - taking in two institutions, from having fun and learning to sail at the National Sailing Academy to developing skills for competitive sailing at the Antigua Yacht Club — continues to produce sailors capable of competing on the world stage.

AYC Vice Commodore Richard Fear underlined both accessibility and community spirit. “Every child in Antigua has the opportunity to learn to sail, either at the National Sailing Academy or here at the AYC,” he said, adding: “Events like this are what the club is all about.”

That accessibility is key. Sailing is not only a sport, but a gateway — to scholarships, international travel, and careers across the global maritime industry.

It is also, as James noted, a lifelong pursuit:

“One of the unique things about sailing is that you can start young and keep competing well into later life — it’s truly a sport for all ages.”

In a country known worldwide for

its sailing waters, the next generation is already rising.

And as Shanoy Malone’s victo-

ry shows, the journey from a small boat in Antigua Harbour to the international stage is not just possible — it is already happening.

NOTICE



Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association

P.O. Box 3322, email: diabetesassociation268@gmail.com.

Tel: 268-764-5096

St. John’s, Antigua

Notice is hereby given of the **Annual General Meeting** of the Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association to be held on **Wednesday, May 13th, 2026, 5:00 pm** at the **Auditorium of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center**.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayers
3. Welcome remarks
4. Apologies for absence
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Minutes of AGM 2025
Correction
Adoption
Matters Arising
7. Reports
Treasurer’s Report
 - Audited Financial Statements
 President’s Report
8. Questions and answers
9. Any Other Business
10. Adjournment

The Pope, The President, and Peter Tosh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

Why the Caribbean must choose justice over false peace

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

*Everyone is crying out for peace, yes,
None is crying out for justice.
Everybody want to go to heaven,
But nobody want to die.*

Peter Tosh, *Equal Rights* (1977)

That warning, from half a century ago, frames everything that follows.

When Pope Leo XIV warned that nations arming themselves *before negotiating* are preparing for a *greater war*, Washington called him *disgraceful*. The Pope spoke of justice, Washington spoke of strength. Between them stands the ghost of Peter Tosh, who understood, before either of them spoke, that dominance is not peace, surrender is not peace, both are war paused, waiting for the next generation to inherit the bill.

Washington offers domination, silence imposed by the stronger. The Pope, like Tosh, demands justice, the costly, disruptive, unglamorous work without which no ceasefire holds. The Caribbean has lived under both and we must choose.

Consider the Strait of Hormuz, thirty-three kilometres wide with twenty percent of the world's trad-

ed oil passing through it. A closure leads to a spike in energy prices that can break the most vulnerable econ-



omies first. The Caribbean imports nearly all its fuel; our tourism, our aviation, our food chains are acutely pricesensitive and structurally exposed.

Lloyd Best taught us to read this exposure as architecture, not accident,

when he said the plantation economy did not end, it adapted. Our vulnerability to a closure ten thousand kilometres away is the inheritance of an economy organized, from its origins, for someone else's account.

The U.S.–Israel confrontation with Iran, now in its seventh week with talks stalled, is not distant drama. We are not watching this war; we are inside it. Economic exposure does not automatically confer mor-

al authority. But silence in the face of structurally determined vulnerability is not neutrality, it is acquiescence. Our exposure is not incidental, as Lloyd Best taught us it is the design of an economy we did not

author. Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, these are not separate tragedies, they are the same tragedy recurring, and the recurrence has a structure.

The world is offered, again and again, not peace but two kinds of silence. The first is dominance where the stronger party takes enough that resistance becomes impossible. The bombed are not at peace, they are exhausted. The second is surrender where the weaker party signs unjust terms because it can no longer afford to refuse. Both are called peace, neither is.

The Treaty of Versailles punished Germany without addressing the war's causes, and twenty years later the world burned again. The Oslo Accords, as critics have long argued, tried to build a Palestinian state on paper while leaving the occupation intact; today, Gaza is rubble. The Taif Agreement ended Lebanon's civil war by redistributing power among the same factions that produced it and the country has lurched from crisis to collapse ever since.

This pattern is not coincidence, it is arithmetic. Injustice deferred is war with interest, and the interest compounds with each generation. Peace is what we say we want, but justice is what we keep refusing to pay for. The bill always comes due, and it is rarely paid by those who incurred it.

For the Caribbean, this is memory, not theory. The plantation was peaceful, in that sense. Colonial order was peaceful, in that sense. The silence of the dispossessed has been called peace in this region many times, and we know exactly what it cost. We, of all people, have no excuse for mistaking managed injustice for peace.

But Tosh understood something harder still. In that same song he offered another observation, sharp as a blade: "*Everyone wants to go to*

heaven, but nobody wants to die." We want the arrival without the passage; Easter Sunday without Good Friday. We want peace, most of us genuinely do, but we flinch from the hard, disruptive, costly work of justice on which lasting peace depends. Justice is Good Friday work. It demands discomfort, sacrifice, the willingness to disturb arrangements from which we quietly benefit. So, we settle, repeatedly, for the peace of dominance and the peace of surrender, because they are cheaper in the short run. We keep choosing the interval, and we keep inheriting the next war.

So here is Tosh's question, the one the song was really asking: Do we want peace because we believe in justice, or because war is inconvenient? Do we recoil from Gaza because our conscience is troubled, or because the oil price spike hurts our hotels? Are we crying out for peace, or for the return of our comforts?

Washington's answer is on the record, with surrender and dominance driven ceasefire resolutions and massive military buildups. The Pope has been dismissed as *disgraceful* for insisting that justice precedes peace. The Pope's answer is equally clear; *peace is the work of justice*. But Tosh's answer remains the fullest, *equal rights and justice for everyone*, not only for those whose suffering is convenient to notice.

And so, the Caribbean must speak, not through communiqués alone, but through the voice of its people. To say "the Caribbean" is not to pretend we are of one mind. It is to insist that our shared exposure demands a shared voice even where unity is hard. We have done this before. On climate justice, we refused the terms of those who caused the damage. We named the injustice before asking for the remedy. That same moral architecture is required now, applied

to war, occupation, and the selective enforcement of international law.

The Caribbean people must demand three things. First, that any ceasefire be judged not by the silence it produces, but by whether accountability is binding for all parties and not suspended the moment the violator is an ally. Second, that reconstruction never be used as leverage for silence: no rebuilding without rights. Third, that amnesty never come before truth. Justice deferred is the next war scheduled.

This voice will cost us. It will cost diplomatic capital and the comfortable neutrality some seek at this cruel and dangerous moment, the quiet approval of powers whose favour we have learned to cultivate, sometimes against our own interest. But the alternative, crying out for peace while endorsing the structures that guarantee its failure is precisely what gave us Gaza, Sudan, and a closed Strait.

It has never worked, it cannot work, it is not designed to. Might is not right, and peace built on it is always temporary and always someone else's burden when it breaks.


If the Strait stays closed, oil spikes further and air travel becomes unaffordable, no one will airlift us to safety. We will bear it, as we have borne every cost not of our making. So let us at least stand for something that outlasts the bearing.

"*I don't want no peace,*" Tosh sang. "*I need equal rights and justice.*" Washington calls the Pope disgraceful. Tosh, from his grave, calls them both to account. The Caribbean people have always known which voice echoes from the marrow of our history. The question is whether we will sing it again loud enough, in time, and not as petitioners, but as free people naming justice on our own terms.

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**

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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**

India puts development at heart of Jamaica ties

India and Jamaica have moved to deepen ties, signing three memoranda of understanding (MOUs) spanning health, renewable energy and media cooperation, even as both sides emphasise development as the relationship's anchor.

The agreements were signed at Jamaica House in Kingston on Monday, following talks between Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, several cabinet ministers, and S Jaishankar, India's external affairs minister.

Under the solarisation agreement, the Hugh Lawson Shearer Building, home to the foreign ministry, is to be fitted with solar power. A second accord on health has already delivered 10 BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri) cubes, which are state-of-the-art portable medical units designed for use in emergencies and disasters.

"We celebrate India's continued demonstration of a capacity to innovate and to deliver real, pragmatic and impactful solutions to the developing world and partners such as ourselves," Johnson Smith said, noting that one unit has already been deployed to the Darliston Health Centre in Westmoreland. The units have allowed medical teams to bring diagnostic services directly to communities hit by Hurricane Melissa.

Education and skills transfer remain long-standing features of the partnership. "Since 1964, hundreds of Jamaicans have benefited from training under the ITEC programme – the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme,"



the minister said. Agriculture, too, has featured prominently, with a recently completed US\$1 million project in Kitson Town delivering training, climate-smart systems and productive assets to more than 200 farmers.

For Jaishankar, the talks underscored both continuity and expansion. He described the discussions as "comprehensive and very substantive", adding that both sides had "reviewed the entire gamut of India-Jamaica relations".

"We identified new avenues for further strengthening of our partnership ... signed several important agreements, and we discussed effective implementations of MOUs, which have been recently concluded in the fields of digital transformation, cultural exchange, sports and digital payments to ensure tangible outcomes for the government," he said.

Development cooperation, he added, remains central. "We are currently discussing the feasibility of the establishment of an artisan empowerment hub for Jamaica, as part

of a commitment which was made by us under the India-CARICOM Development Partnership," he disclosed.

India's role in Jamaica's recovery from Hurricane Melissa also featured prominently. "This is in continuation of the earlier humanitarian assistance provided in the aftermath of the hurricane where over 20 tons of relief material was delivered," Jaishankar said, noting that, alongside the BHISHM cubes, India is supplying 30 dialysis units to bolster Jamaica's health infrastructure.

The scope for cooperation is broadening. "Today in our discussions, we agreed to further strengthen trade, business and investment linkages, explore cooperation for recruitment and mobility of skilled professionals, including nurses and care workers and teachers. India also recognised Jamaica's growing role as a logistics hub and gateway to the Caribbean for trade, business and investment," he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Critical condition – UHWI review committee lists finances, governance structure among slew of woes crippling hospital



Prolonged governance failures at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) have left the type A teaching institution in an “intensive care unit” state, the Institutional Review Committee tasked to assess its decades-long operations has concluded.

Chairman of the Dr Christopher Tufton-appointed review committee Howard Mitchell on Tuesday outlined a slew of challenges crippling the hospital, several of which concerned its finances and its governance structure.

“Financial governance issues because procurement systems, reporting systems, recording systems over the years have not been followed,” Mitchell told journalists at a press conference, where he presented a report on the findings of the review committee.

He said financial challenges have arisen because the operating and business structure of the hospital has not changed positively over the last 78 years.

Further, he said there was a lack of continuity and transmission of proper government practices. Strategic planning challenges were also identified by the committee.

The assessment follows the findings of an Auditor General special audit report which revealed that the UHWI awarded \$521 million in contracts despite failing to provide essential procurement documentation.

That report further highlighted systemic breaches of government guidelines, including unapproved contract variations and missing records.

The audit also exposed after-the-fact bidding and the misuse of tax exemptions for private entities.

Yesterday, Mitchell described the hospital as an “institutional orphan” caught between the Jamaican Government and The University of the West Indies (UWI).

The Government funds 70 per cent of UHWI’s budget and contributing regional governments nine per cent, while the rest is self-funded.

He said there has been confusion over whether UHWI is a public body.

“It’s clearly a public body and it has been defined as such. Legal opinion has been arrived at to that effect but there is still a culture of saying ‘because we’re not in the public health

system, we’re not a public body...’,” said Mitchell at the press conference held at the IDB Building in New Kingston.

“In addition to that and this is part of the duality of controls. When you have two masters you tend to playoff one against the other and not follow a straight track,” he added.

He pointed to the need for reform of the University Hospital Act of 1948.

It was one of five recommendations made in the report by the review committee which called for the elimination of an arrangement in which the chairman of UHWI’s medical committee sits on the institution’s board, while the CEO does not.

That structural inversion is a key recommendation in the report that identified “chronic and egregious” governance failures at the Caribbean’s oldest teaching hospital and called for sweeping legislative, financial and institutional reform.

The current CEO is Fitzgerald Mitchell, while the chairman of the medical committee is Dr Carl Bruce, also the medical chief of staff.

“There is no provision in the 1948 UHWI Act for the CEO to be a board member. The consequence of this anachronism is that while the chair of the Hospital Medical Committee is expected to report to the CEO under the PBMA (Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act), the (UHWI) Act requires the CEO to report to the chair as part of the CEO’s general reporting relationship to the board,” the report stated.

It added: “The anomaly must be eliminated and the scope of responsibility for both positions needs to be clearly articulated.”

Mitchell said the report is not about prosecuting anyone but how to improve the transparency, accountability and service delivery of the hospital.

Regional News

“This is an opportunity to turn the page on what has happened over ... many decades. And take it back to the standard of performance, and the reputation that the University Hospital of the West Indies had when people older than everybody, [used to] refer to it as UC.”

For his part, Tufton said the report was presented to Cabinet on Monday.

“I think it’s a good report. I support the recommendations of the report,” he said, adding that the discussion to follow should focus on how to make the recommendations work.

The report called for the strengthening of financial management, improving oversight by both the Government and UWI, and engaging an independent international body to support board operations.

It said the 1948 UHWI Act, amended once in 1962, served the hospital and Jamaica “reasonably well” but “needs to be revised.”

It also said the 18-member board is “too large and its composition is not well aligned to the institution’s financing reality”.

Mitchell noted that while some boards have performed effectively, most stakeholder representatives have failed to provide the active and robust oversight required.

His review committee raised further concerns about the overlapping roles of the CEO and the chairman of the

Hospital Medical Committee. It said the “chairman of the medical committee should not hold a seat on the board,” and recommended that the law be amended to ensure the CEO is a board member.

It noted that “Since the CEO does not serve on the board a reporting relationship from the person occupying a board position to the CEO creates obvious potential for conflict” and is “a highly unusual organisational scenario for an upward management reporting relationship to exist between a non-board member and a board member.”

It said the lack of clarity has allowed the chairman to assume responsibilities typically reserved for the CEO, including “driving the institution’s strategic vision, procuring equipment and hiring staff”.

The committee warned that this blurring of roles undermines accountability frameworks under the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act, which it said requires that public bodies have a CEO to whom all staff report directly or indirectly.

Meanwhile, the committee concluded that the UHWI had been operating “as if it is an institutional orphan,” saying it has “resisted the governance framework emanating from its public sector lineage, while not absorbing governance practices from its university heritage.”

“It’s seeming orphan status has been facilitated by the actions and omis-

sions of each of its parent entities, the GOJ (Government of Jamaica) and The University of the West Indies,” the report said.

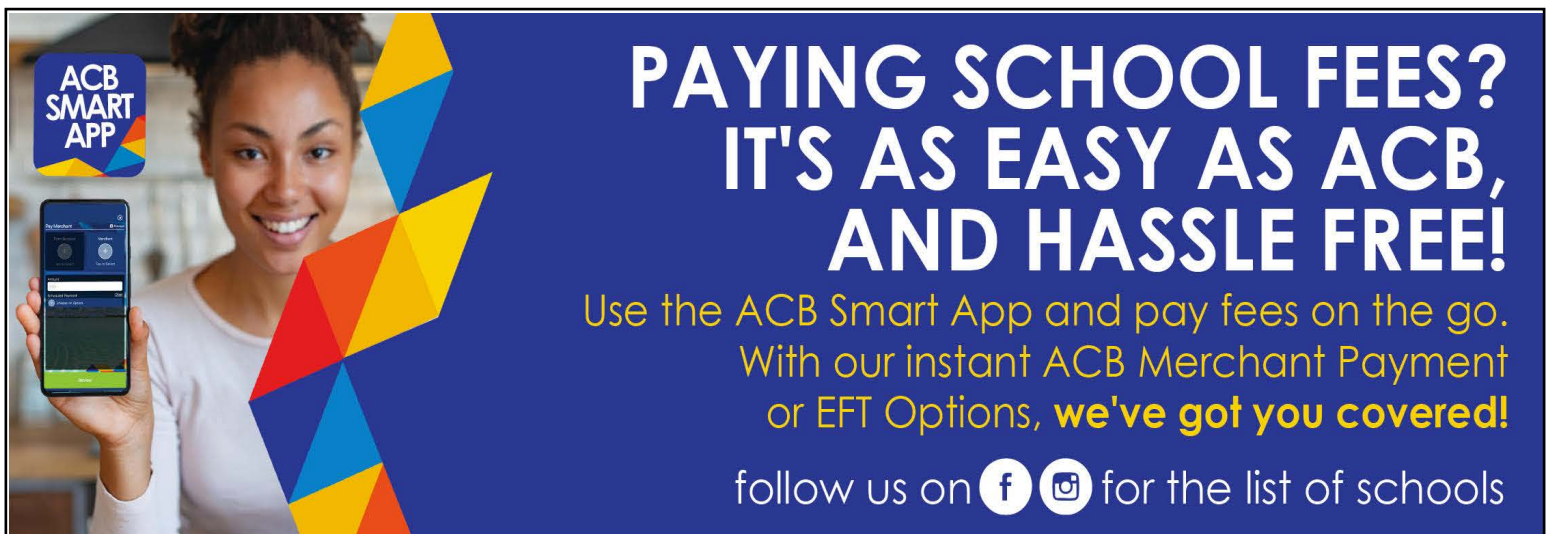
The committee found that both the Government and the UWI had faithfully appointed board representatives over the years but had “not engaged in active and robust oversight,” suggesting each may have assumed the other bore primary responsibility.

It also flagged UHWI’s tax debt to the Tax Administration of Jamaica of more than \$40 billion, comprising unpaid statutory deductions inclusive of penalties and interest. The hospital has also been running monthly deficits of up to \$300 million.

The report noted that the UHWI, unable to qualify for a Tax Compliance Certificate (TCC), had been using the TCC of its related private arm, the Tony Thwaites Wing, to clear imports, a practice discontinued only after the Auditor General’s findings.

It further identified serial delays in filing financial statements as a major issue obscuring the hospital’s financial position, noting that as recently as 2015, a health minister tabled 11 years of overdue annual reports.



“The mindset of both the board and staff will have to be receptive to the recommended changes,” the committee concluded, adding that only a deliberate cultural shift will ensure the recommendations are effective. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Cuban docs to stay

More than 40 Cuban doctors have opted to remain in Jamaica following the end of the decades-old contract between their government and Jamaica.

Health Minister Dr Christopher Tufton made the disclosure in response to queries from The Gleaner during a press briefing hosted by the University Hospital of the West Indies Institutional Review Committee at the IDB Building in New Kingston yesterday.

Jamaica formally ended its five-decade medical cooperation agreement with Cuba in early March, with the Jamaican Government citing failed negotiations regarding the terms of a new arrangement to replace the one that had expired.

While acknowledging that there is a void in the health system, Tufton said of the 278 doctors impacted by the end of the agreement, 42 have decided to continue working in Jamaica and have been offered individual contracts.

“Beyond that, all were offered a letter to say that they were interested and would be willing to re-engage based on, you know, their own interest but on the basis of individual contracts. And some have expressed an interest in so doing. So, yes, there is an open invitation, which we have said, for the record, and we have received some information that some are interested, and if they come, we would be prepared to engage them.”

The health minister also revealed that some of the doctors have decided to relocate to Jamaica.

“Yes, some of them that are here

on work permits, having been here for a period of time, have expressed their interest to have permanent status, which is allowable under the law once you live here for a particular period of time. And there are some that have been here five years, or even more in some cases, so we would certainly treat with that based on those that have applied and have expressed interest.”

In the meantime, Tufton acknowledged some of the challenges the healthcare system has faced since the country ended its partnership with Cuba.

“We experienced a slowdown in some of the programmes because of the departure of most of the Cubans. So the Cuban Eye Care programme at St Joseph’s [Hospital] had to be slowed down. Of the 18 that were manning St Joseph’s, six of them actually stayed back. And there are others that indicate that they want to. So while we’re still doing some screening, what we have had to do is to combine the operations of St Joseph’s with KPH because we have some of the Cubans that work both locations. So it is true that the wait time is a little longer now than what was the case before, and we’re going to try and ramp that up. There are some shortages in terms of radiology, so cancer treatment, because we had Cubans, both at St Josephs and in Montego Bay, and we’re actively trying to recruit. In the meantime, as I’ve said, we’re doing extended hours for those who are on staff. So people are working more sessions, and so on, which is not sustainable because double shifts, and so on, can be a problem. So we have to

address the issue. But I think the progress we (are) making in the other areas, with India, and so on, will address the problem over time.

Tufton pointed to India as one of the countries Jamaica is looking to, to tap into for healthcare support.

“Yesterday (Monday), the foreign minister for India (Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar) was here [on a] state visit. We signed an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with India officially with the minister of foreign affairs Senator Kamina Johnson Smith) and the foreign minister to, among other things, collaborate on HR (human resources). So it’s a function. It’s going to include the possibility of rotation of clinical personnel coming here, those that are short. It also involves exchanges and training. So I do hold out a lot of hope for that.”

Tufton will join health ministers worldwide at the 79th World Health (WHO) Assembly from May 18 to 23 at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and he also disclosed that he could use that trip to shore up an MOU with the African nation of Ghana.

“And there’s some conversation taking place with Nigeria. So the extent of this is that we’re looking broader. We have to solve the problem of healthcare worker shortage, and there are some areas where we are critically short, and that is going to require recruitment of labour externally. And the Cabinet had given us to go ahead for this, including the setting up of a recruitment unit within the Ministry of Health and Wellness,” Tufton said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Jazz 'n Creole continues to open economic doors in the north, says PM Skerrit



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has assessed the 15th Edition of Jazz 'n Creole as continuing to create economic opportunities for the north of Dominica.

During an interview with State-Owned Radio DBS at the event held on Sunday, May 3, at Cabrits National Park in Portsmouth, he said, "It's a huge economic opportunity, and what I like... it has been happening in the last few years. A number of fringe activities are taking place from Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and it's important for us to spread the economic impact for the town of Portsmouth..."

"The 15th Edition is looking very good; it's very colourful this year. More colourful than other years.

Good spirit, good vibes. I want to commend the Minister of Tourism and DFC [Dominica Festivals Committee] for putting this together and ensuring that the north of Dominica can have part of the program..." he added.

Furthermore, Skerrit said, "It is important to enjoy what the Lord has given to us, an open setting like this. It is a wonderful scenery, great ambience."

Meanwhile, Skerrit indicated the areas to be improved, outlining issues with the venue and also calling for enhanced opportunities for communication, "because people had to walk a distance from their vehicles to the venue."

"These are things we have to work on going forward; once you can address that, I think it's a perfect venue," he remarked.

This year's roster brought together a dynamic mix of regional, international, and local talent. Headliners include Tarrus Riley & The Blak Soil Band alongside Dean Fraser from Jamaica, as well as The Manhattans from the United States. Representing Dominica were Michele Henderson, Lili Octave, Khadija Joseph, Phael, Janea Jackson, the Riddim Knockarz Band, and the Swingin' Stars.

The event carried the theme: "Afro Elegance". (Dominica News Online)

Massive Alaska megatsunami was second largest ever recorded

A massive ‘megatsunami’ wave created when part of an Alaskan mountain crumbled into the sea is the second tallest ever recorded – and a reminder of the risks posed by melting glaciers, say scientists.

Last summer a giant wave swept through a remote fjord in southeast Alaska leaving destruction in its wake.

The event went largely unreported at the time, but a new scientific analysis shows it was caused by a massive landslide.

An incredible 64 million cubic metres of rock – the equivalent of 24 Great Pyramids - splashed into the water below. The sheer power of that amount of rock plunging into the fjord in under a minute created a gigantic wave almost 500 metres tall.

Only the time it happened – in the early hours of the morning – prevented tourist cruise ships being caught up in the devastation, say the researchers.

Dr Bretwood Higman, an Alaskan geologist, who saw for himself the damage at Tracy Arm Fjord, said it was “a close call”.

“We know that there were people that were very nearly in the wrong place,” he said. ‘I’m quite terrified that we’re not going to be so lucky in the future.’”

These huge waves, labelled megatsunamis, happen when a landslide caused by either an earthquake or loose rock hit water below. They are usually localised and dissipate quickly.

The other type of tsunamis happen in the open ocean and are directly triggered by earthquakes, or occasionally other powerful events such as underwater volcanoes.

They, like the 2011 Japan tsunami, can travel for thousands of miles, hitting populated areas and causing widespread devastation and loss of life.

The biggest megatsunami was in the 1950s and was over 500 metres. This latest megatsunami was the second largest.



Dr Higman arrived on the scene a few weeks after the tsunami hit at the Tracy Arm Fjord – a destination popular with cruise ships exploring the natural wonders of Alaska.

He found broken trees littering the mountainside and hurled into the water, and vast swathes of scarred rock stripped of soil and vegetation.

Alaska is especially vulnerable to megatsunamis because of its steep mountains, narrow fjords and frequent earthquakes.

Now new research published in Science suggests glacier melt driven by climate change is making such collapses far worse.

The image above shows an island covered in green vegetation and trees within a fjord. It is nestled between two mountains. Behind is a huge icy blue glacier. The image below shows the glacier has melted and the island has been stripped of vegetation save one tree.

The team combined field work, seismic and satellite data to reconstruct a domino chain of events and trace the height of the wave.

Dr Stephen Hicks of University College London said the glacier was previously “helping to hold up this piece of rock”, and so when the ice retreat-

ed, it exposed the bottom of the cliff face, “allowing that rock material to suddenly collapse into the fjord”.

He and his colleagues have studied tsunamis for decades and are worried.

“More people are now going to remote areas - often these tourist cruises are going to see the natural beauty of the area to actually learn more about climate change - but they are also dangerous places to be.”

Ground-level view of tsunami damage near the mouth of the fjord showing uprooted trees and vegetation stripped from the shoreline.

Dr Higman said there is little doubt that the risks of megatsunamis are increasing.

“At this point, I’m pretty confident that these are increasing not just a little bit, but increasing a lot,” he said.

“Maybe in the order of 10 times as frequent as they were just a few decades ago.”

The scientists are calling for wider monitoring of hazards in parts of Alaska that might be vulnerable to megatsunamis.

Some cruise companies have announced they are to stop sending ships into Tracy Arm amid safety fears. (BBC)

Oil prices drop and stock markets rise after reports of deal to end Iran war

Oil prices have dropped and global stock markets have risen following reports that the US and Iran are close to a deal to end the war.

Brent crude futures, the global benchmark oil price, fell to \$97 (£73) a barrel after the reports before rebounding. The price was over \$108 earlier in the day.

The FTSE 100 index of London's largest public firms and the equivalent German Dax had risen over 2% midway through the trading day while the French Cac 40 was up 3%. Asian stock markets closed up.

The market movements come after news outlet Axios reported that the US believes it is getting close to a one-page document which will end the war and set up more detailed nuclear negotiations.

Oil prices are still much higher than the \$70 a barrel they were hovering around before the start of the US-Israel war with Iran, which has caused caused production and transportation of oil in the region to slump.

Central to the conflict is Iran's threat to attack oil ships crossing the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway south of the country, in response to US-Israeli strikes since 28 February.

About a fifth of global oil and gas shipments usually cross the strait, which has been effectively closed for weeks. Global gas prices have also soared since the conflict began.

As for stock markets, the big European bourses are lower than they were at the end of February, while the S&P 500 is higher.

The main Asian markets all rose on Wednesday, with the South Korean Kospi closing up 6.45%, the Hong Kong Hang Seng ending the day up 1.22%, and the Japanese Nikkei finishing 0.38% higher.

The Hang Seng is down since the start of war, but the other two are up.



On 8 April, the US and Iran agreed a ceasefire, which caused oil prices to slump and stock markets to jump.

However, on Sunday, US President Donald Trump said the US military would guide ships through the Strait of Hormuz, dubbing it "Project Freedom", leading to a rise in attacks in the strait from both Iran and the US.

Trump then said on social media on Tuesday he would pause the operation "for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized and signed".

He added that "Great Progress has been made toward a Complete and Final Agreement with Representatives of Iran". Trump said the US would continue to block ships transiting to and from Iranian ports, a move designed to put pressure on Iran's economy.

On Wednesday, Axios reported that the US believes it is getting close to a one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war, citing two U.S. officials and two other sources briefed on the issue.

That would, it is claimed, declare an end to the war in the region and start a 30-day period of negotiations on a deal to re-open the strait, limit Iran's nuclear programme, and lift US sanc-

tions.

The reports suggest this is the nearest to agreement that both sides have been since the conflict got under way.

The US is believed to be awaiting response from Iran on several key points within the next 48 hours.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also told reporters on Tuesday the initial US-Israeli offensive in Iran was over, as Washington's objectives had been met.

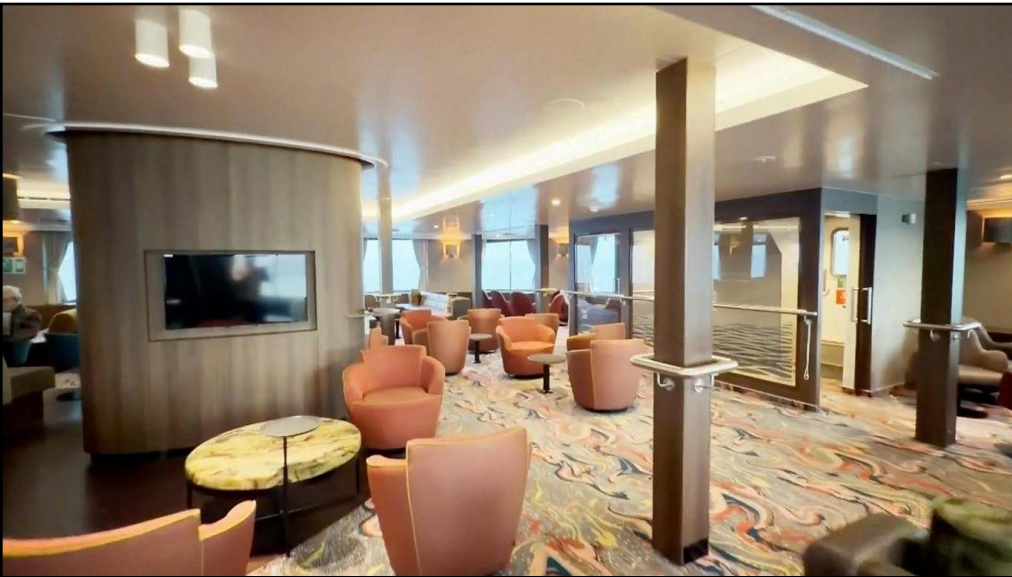
"We would prefer the path of peace. What the president would prefer is a deal," Rubio said.

Iran has not responded to Rubio's remarks. The country's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf said earlier: "We know well that the continuation of the status quo is intolerable for America, while we are just getting started."

Project Freedom, which Trump said was meant to ease the flow of energy through the channel, had tested the ceasefire between the sides.

The US said it struck several Iranian "fast boats" in the channel, while the United Arab Emirates also accused Iran of launching strikes on one of its oil ports - a claim Tehran has denied. (BBC)

Cruise passengers tell of life on board stranded ship after hantavirus outbreak



We're not just a story. We're not just headlines, we're people with families, with lives, with people waiting for us at home," said a tearful Jake Rosmarin.

For the American travel vlogger on board the luxury cruise liner MV Hondius in the Atlantic Ocean, a dream voyage has taken a deadly turn.

He is among around 150 people from 23 countries on the vessel stranded near Cape Verde, off the west coast of Africa.

Three confirmed and five suspected cases of hantavirus - a rare but severe disease usually spread by rodents - have since been identified.

Three passengers on the ship have died and several more are either ill or displaying symptoms after the MV Hondius set sail from Argentina around a month ago.

Health authorities are now racing to test samples from passengers and the World Health Organization (WHO) said it has possibly spread among those on board.

Spain had said the ship could sail to the islands, where those on board

would be treated and repatriated after Cape Verdean officials declined to grant clearance earlier this week, leaving the vessel anchored nearby.

However, WHO said on Wednesday that three suspected hantavirus patients were evacuated from the MV Hondius and are on their way to the Netherlands for medical care.

Also on Wednesday, Canary Islands president Fernando Clavijo pushed back against the Spanish government's decision to allow the Dutch MV Hondius vessel to dock in the islands.

"There's a lot of uncertainty and that is the hardest part. All we want right now is to feel safe, to have clarity and to get home," Rosmarin told his followers on TikTok on Monday.

Unlike Rosmarin's emotional recount, another passenger on the ship, Kasem Hato, said "the whole situation has been blown out of proportion".

He said this was "partly because of one person panicking on the ship whose video has been circulating [in] the media," an apparent reference to Rosmarin's video.

"While his reaction is valid, it doesn't represent the situation on board, everyone else (148 out of 149) has been calm, the situation is under control and we just wish those who are sick a speedy recovery", Hato, also a travel influencer, posted on social media.

He told the BBC passengers were keeping themselves busy by reading, watching movies and having hot drinks.

In a series of follow-up posts, Rosmarin said it had taken "some time to settle my emotions" and "everyone on board is doing okay".

He added: "I'm feeling well, getting some fresh air and continue to be well fed and taken care of by the crew... just trying to focus on the positive".

The operator of the cruise, Oceanwide Expeditions, said the atmosphere "remains calm, with passengers generally composed".

"Oceanwide Expeditions is working to provide clarity and reassurance to guests and expedite their disembarkation and medical screening," the company said in a statement.

A passenger, who wished to remain anonymous, told the BBC they were preparing for at least another three to four days at sea.

"At this point we don't know when we will leave," they said.

Almost one month since the first death, footage taken on board offers a glimpse into daily life.

Health officials covered in protective gear are seen disembarking the ship and plush lounges, usually a place for relaxation or late-night revelry, sit deserted.

Another passenger said the cruise staff had asked those on board to maintain social distancing, wear

masks inside and sanitise hands frequently.

It was a voyage that promised passengers the trip of a lifetime traversing some of the Atlantic's most rugged and untouched landscapes.

The MV Hondius set off from Ushuaia in Argentina, the most southern city in the world, on 1 April.

"Fresh snow on the mountains, autumn colours along the shoreline and even some amazing wildlife," Rosmarin, his voice brimming with excitement, told followers in a video posted several weeks ago.

From Argentina it was onto the British territory of South Georgia, a world-renowned wildlife destination famous for its penguin colonies, and then Tristan da Cunha, the remotest inhabited island in the world.

Rosmarin's social media videos offer a highlights reel of his month at sea - from birdwatching and penguin spotting to sipping iced lattes on board.

"Moments like this are hard to ex-

plain, but they're the ones that stay with you the most," he said of Tristan da Cunha.

As the Hondius headed for the remote island of St Helena, the cruise operator was alerted to a worrying development.

On 11 April, a Dutch man died on board, his cause of death unknown. Almost two weeks later his body was taken off the boat in St Helena accompanied by his wife.

She was evacuated to South Africa, where authorities said she died in a Johannesburg hospital. The WHO has since confirmed the woman, aged 69, had hantavirus.

On 27 April a British passenger became unwell and was evacuated to South Africa where they are in a critical but stable condition with hantavirus.

Then on 2 May, a German national also died, bringing the total number of fatalities to three. It remains unclear if they were infected.

On Wednesday, South Africa's health

ministry said the Andes strain of the virus, known to spread between people in close contact, was identified in two people who had been evacuated from the ship to the country.

In an update on Wednesday, Hondius operator Oceanwide Expeditions said two infectious disease physicians were on their way from the Netherlands and would embark the vessel "after its anticipated departure from Cape Verde, provided the three individuals are successfully transferred".

The operator said two of the evacuees have acute symptoms and will be taken to medical and screening facilities once aboard the aircraft.

The third "is closely associated with the guest who passed away on board" on 2 May 2026, Oceanwide added in a statement.

The operator said the plan remains for the vessel to head to the Canary Islands, after the evacuation in Cape Verde. (BBC)

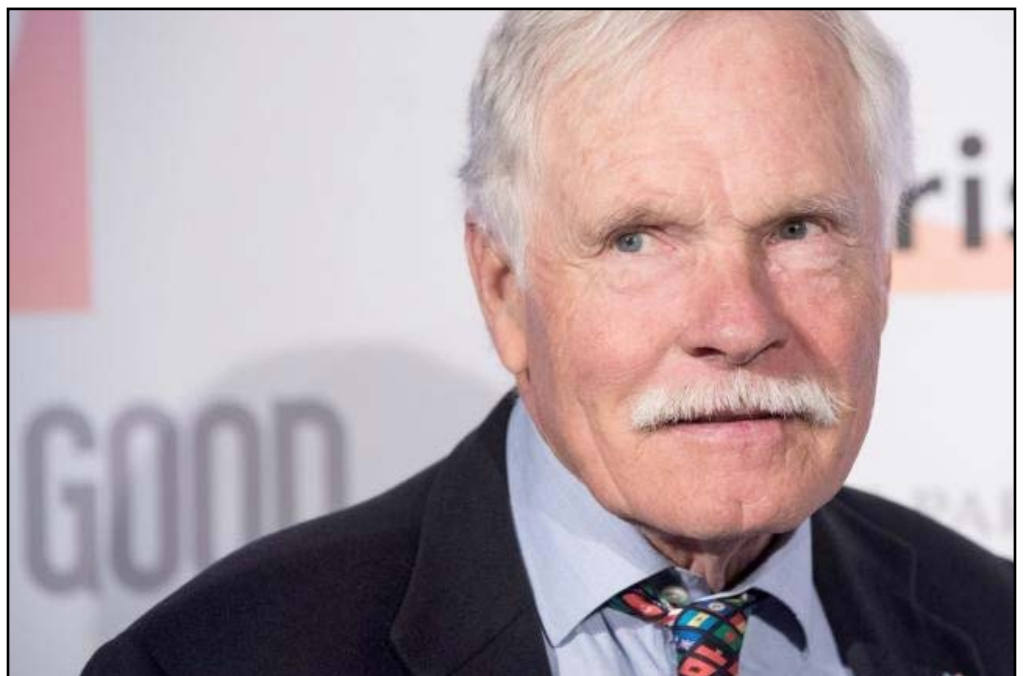
CNN founder Ted Turner, a brash and outspoken television pioneer, has died at age 87

CNN is reporting that its founder Ted Turner, the outspoken and often outrageous television pioneer, has died at age 87.

The network says Turner died Wednesday, citing a news release from Turner Enterprises.

Turner transformed an obscure Atlanta television station into the first satellite-based "superstation" and founded Cable News Network, the first 24-hour, all news TV network.

The brash southerner owned sports teams, was a champion yacht racer and was married to actress Jane Fonda for 10 years. The onetime "Mouth of the South" once quipped: "If only I had a little humility, I'd be perfect." (AP)



Antigua and Barbuda Delivers Standout Performance in Dominican Republic



and capped off a dominant showing that places her firmly among the Caribbean's elite. The dynamic duo of Kashyap and Mekhi Simmons then combined to secure a bronze medal in U19 Mixed Doubles, further highlighting Antigua and Barbuda's growing presence on the regional stage.

These performances have secured Stuti's qualification for three major international events in 2026 — the CAC Games (July), the ITTF Americas Championships (October), and the ITTF Youth Pan American Championships (August) — marking a significant milestone for both the athlete and the country.

This campaign reflects more than results — it signals momentum. With emerging talent, growing confidence, and tangible success on the regional stage,

Antigua and Barbuda table tennis is not just participating — it is progressing.

Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA)



St. John's, Antigua — Antigua and Barbuda has delivered an outstanding performance across three major regional table tennis events in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with

Stuti Kashyap and Mekhi Simmons leading a breakthrough campaign that signals the nation's rising presence in Caribbean table tennis.

The journey began at the CAC Qualifier, where Stuti secured a spot among the region's best, while Mekhi narrowly missed a top-four spot but earned a first alternate position, underlining his growing competitiveness at the highest level.

Competing next in the Senior Central American

& Caribbean Championships, both athletes held their own against experienced opposition, gaining valuable exposure and demonstrating Antigua and Barbuda's ability to compete with confidence on the regional stage.

The highlight came at the Caribbean Youth Championships, where the team surged onto the podium. Stuti Kashyap captured the coveted U19 Girls Singles title, added U19 Girls Doubles gold alongside St. Lucia's Shatal Charles,

ECVA to host two major tournaments this summer

The Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) has announced the staging of two more competitions this summer.

Following the successful staging of its recent Senior Men and Women Beach Championships in St. Lucia, the ECVA will be staging another beach and indoor volleyball tournament during the summer.

The ECVA will host its Under-20 Men and Women Beach Championships in St. Kitts from July 10 to 12.

The Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association also recently announced that registration is now open for the FIVB Beach Volleyball Coaches Course, which will be held in St. Kitts from July 6 to 10 July.

All participants must be formally nominated by their national federation. Completion of the online registration form is required before submission of the official FIVB enrollment form.

National federations are kindly asked to submit their nominations at their earliest convenience to facilitate timely processing and confirmation of participation in this important coaching development opportunity.

The other major event this summer is the staging of the ECVA Senior Men and Women Indoor Championships in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, from August 12 to 16.

Last weekend, St. Kitts and Grenada



Antiguan players Cairon Davis, right, and George Freeland compete at the ECVA Senior Men's Beach Championship in St. Lucia on May 1, 2026. (Photo courtesy the ABAVA)

secured titles at the ECVA Senior Men and Women Beach Championships at the Cul-de-Sac sand courts in St. Lucia.

St. Kitts and Nevis captured the men's gold medal at the 2026 ECVA Senior Beach Volleyball Championships. St.

Maarten came second and Dominica finished third.

Grenada struck gold and won the women's title, while hosts St. Lucia came second and Dominica finished third.



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Antigua drawn in Group A as FIBA Men's Caribbean Championship returns to Guyana

After a seven-year absence, the FIBA Men's Caribbean Championship is set to return with a splash, as Guyana prepares to host the regional showcase from July 8-12 at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall.

The host nation learned its path forward following the official draw on Monday, landing in Group A alongside Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Bermuda.

Group B completes the 10-team lineup with Haiti, Grenada, the Cayman Islands, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The tournament, organised under FIBA regulations, will adopt a round-robin format, with each side facing every opponent in its group once.

But the stakes climb significantly beyond group bragging rights, as only the top team from each group will advance to the next stage of the FIBA AmeriCup 2029 Pre-Qualifiers.

For Guyana, simply hosting marks a historic milestone. The championship returns to Guyanese soil for the first time since 1994, while also evoking memories of 1981, when Guyana staged the tournament's inaugural edition.

"Preparations are well advanced," said Guyana Basketball Federation (GBF) President Michael Singh, expressing confidence in the federation's readiness to deliver a smooth, professionally executed event.

Singh called the draw favourable for the home side but made clear that expectations go far beyond mere participation.

"Our ambition is to secure a top-two finish to progress in the AmeriCup pathway, while simultaneously contending for the championship title on home soil," Singh stated. (CMC)



Antigua and Barbuda drawn in Group A for FIBA Men's Caribbean Championship

India lights up Sabina Park with LED scoreboard gift

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Sabina Park, the hallowed turf of West Indian cricket, has received a major technological upgrade.

A state-of-the-art LED electronic scoreboard, a gift from the Government of India, was officially unveiled at the historic venue on Sunday.

India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, who is on an official visit to the island, pulled back the curtain on the scoreboard during a ceremony at the ground.

Dr. Jaishankar also revealed the newly minted India-Jamaica friendship logo, symbolising the deepening ties between the two nations.

Prime Minister Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness led the chorus of gratitude, expressing deepest appreciation to the government and people of India for their “generous contribution and steadfast commitment to the development of cricket on Jamaican shores.

“The scoreboard itself is a timely addition to Sabina Park, particularly as Jamaica prepares to return to the Caribbean Premier League this summer with our own new local franchise, the Jamaica Kingsmen,” Dr. Holness said.

The Prime Minister also reminded the audience that India's support for Jamaican cricket is not new. In January 2024, the Indian government donated more than 90 cricket kits, valued at approximately US\$50,000, to the Jamaica Cricket Association, which were distributed among primary and secondary schools across the island.

“In 2014, India provided grant assistance of US\$2.1 million for the installation of floodlights at this very ground. India has been a consistent and generous partner in building the infrastructure of Jamaican sports, and we are most grateful,” Dr. Holness added.

Beyond the hardware, the Prime Minister emphasised the cultural bond be-



Jamaica's Prime Minister, Dr. Andrew Holness (second row, fifth left), shares a photo opportunity with guests at Sabina Park in Kingston on Sunday for the unveiling of a plaque to mark India's gift of an LED electronic scoreboard and the unveiling of the India-Jamaica friendship logo.

tween the two cricketing nations. He noted that the new friendship logo speaks to the “warmth, longevity and creativity” of the relationship, one forged not in diplomatic halls but through a shared love of cricket.

“Nowhere is this more beautifully demonstrated than in the mutual admiration our two nations hold for each other's great players. Indian cricket fans share Jamaica's deep affection for the universe boss, Chris Gayle. Jamaican fans, in turn, have long revered the little master, Sachin Tendulkar, and Sabina Park has its own history with him,” Dr. Holness said.

In his remarks, Dr Jaishankar echoed those sentiments, stating that the scoreboard will enhance the love for the game and the comfort with which people watch it. He pointed out that Jamaican cricketers are cheered by Indian crowds as if they are their own.

“The last time India played at Sabina Park was in 2017. I hope today's ceremony plants the seeds for the return of Indian cricketers to walk into this

ground again and to add new chapters to our cricketing history,” Dr. Jaishankar shared.

Meanwhile, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to keeping Sabina Park at the forefront of modern cricket.

“We have expended significant resources to Sabina Park, fit for modern cricket. We installed new lights last year that enabled Sabina Park to, for the first time, host day and night Test and T20 matches,” she said.

Minister Grange added that Jamaica is grateful to receive the scoreboard, which will further modernise the venue.

“Working with all the stakeholders, we will enable and inspire more great moments right here at Sabina Park. We are committed to the success of our sports development plan, which aims to develop all sports from the grassroots to the high-performance level,” she said. (CMC)

Thunder lead Lakers in Western Conference semifinals



Oklahoma City Thunder center Chet Holmgren (7) shoots over Los Angeles Lakers center Deandre Ayton (5) as Ajay Mitchell (25) looks on in the first half of Game 1 in a second-round NBA basketball playoffs series in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. (AP)

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Chet Holmgren had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder routed the Los Angeles Lakers 108-90 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Ajay Mitchell each added 18 points for the Thunder. The defending champions improved to 5-0 in the playoffs, despite missing 2025 All-Star Jalen Williams with an injured left hamstring for the third straight game.

The Thunder shot 49.4% from the field and made 13 of 30 3-pointers. Oklahoma City will host Game 2 on Thursday.

Los Angeles struggled to find offense without scoring champion Luka Don-

cic, who has missed the past month with an injured left hamstring.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Rui Hachimura added 18 for the Lakers. Austin Reaves, who averaged 23.3 points in the regular season, was held to eight on 3-for-16 shooting.

Oklahoma City won all four regular-season matchups by an average of 29.3 points, and this one was only slightly closer. The Thunder held the Lakers to 41.7% shooting and forced 17 turnovers.

The Lakers ran out to a 7-0 lead, with James scoring five of the points. Eventually, the Thunder shook off the rust from an eight-day break and went up 31-26 at the end of the first quarter, despite 12 points from James.

Holmgren's two-handed alley-oop dunk on a lob from Isaiah Hartenstein put the Thunder up 48-39. Lakers forward Jarred Vanderbilt injured the pinkie finger on his right hand on the play, left the game and did not return. Oklahoma City led 61-53 at halftime, despite 16 points from James.

Mitchell, who started in Williams' place, made a corner 3-pointer and was fouled by Marcus Smart in the final minute of the third quarter. His free throw put the Thunder up 84-72, a score that held up until the end of the period.

Alex Caruso's fast-break dunk early in the fourth put Oklahoma City up 88-73, and the Thunder maintained control from there.

Cedar Grove Gunners make winning start to D-2 playoff campaign



2026 ABBA Division 2 league champions Cedar Grove Gunners

League champions and top seed, the Cedar Grove Gunners, have made a successful start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 2 Playoff Championship.

The Gunners took a one-nil lead in their best-of-three first-round series by shooting their way to a commanding 78-46 victory over eighth-seed Navigators 2 when the Division 2 playoff series got underway with a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday evening.

Scotty Nelson came off the bench to produce 15 points, six rebounds, and five steals to lead the Gunners' assault over the Navigators in their series opener, which was the second game of

Tuesday's double-header.

In support, Keady Martin sank 13 points and snatched six rebounds; Sergio Symister converted 11 points and claimed six rebounds; and Iornie Joseph scored 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Gunners.

Raheem Sawyer shot a game-high 16 points and claimed six rebounds, and Ricky Willock chipped in with 13 points, 10 rebounds, and six steals for Navigators 2. Both teams will meet again in Game Two on Monday, May 11, at 6:45 pm.

The fourth-seeded Michael Joseph Phoenix also got off to a winning start in the Division 2 playoffs in their best-of-three first-round series.

The Phoenix took a one-nil lead with

a 79-57 drubbing of fifth-seed Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in their opening game, which was the first encounter in Tuesday's Division 2 playoff championship.

Adrian Carnegie produced a game-high 28 points, eight rebounds, and eight assists, and Shalom Bloodman converted 27 points and claimed seven rebounds for the Phoenix.

Jesus Lopez sank 23 points and snatched 10 steals; Joshua Morrison converted 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Emeke Emujuru-Oupe scored 12 points and claimed 10 rebounds for the Fearless Crew.

Both teams will meet again in Game Two on Monday, May 11, at 8:30 pm.