

Minister Greene Makes The Case For CARICOM To Address Urgent Issues Impacting Region

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Officials from both Antigua and Barbuda and Guadeloupe celebrate Liat Air's inaugural flight to the French Department.

Minister Greene Makes The Case For CARICOM To Address Urgent Issues Impacting Region



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene

Antigua and Barbuda’s Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene wants to see a stronger more united CARICOM to deal with what he describes as ‘head-winds’ that are already impacting the region and its people.

Speaking on the *Browne and Browne Show* on Saturday, Minister Greene identified two external issues – the rising costs of energy brought about by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, and the current United States policy where it is asking Caribbean states to accept third-country deportees into their countries.

“CARICOM is now at the crossroads; our regional leaders will have to really put their heads together to fashion responses to these headwinds. The issue of Trinidad and Tobago, for instance, not approving the renewal of the contract for the Secretary-General, that in itself is a problem. Because when you look at energy prices and the negotiating and staying in tune with the global movement of energy prices, the secretary general is important to you. If you don’t have some sort of common approaches where all our leaders are channeling their efforts and their voices through a common secretariat, then how will you deal with the problem?” he queried.

On the issue of the request by the US for CARICOM states to accept deport-

ees from third-countries, that too is an issue about which the foreign minister has some concerns.

“The issue of the US and their third-country programme, this too requires a common approach from CARICOM and by CARICOM. Al-

ready, we are seeing differences in this programme where the US is offering some countries variations to the same programme. Some countries have insisted that their sovereignties are not necessarily violated, while others have had their sovereignty placed under pressure. So CARICOM has its work cut out for it. It requires, perhaps, more frequent engagements of the leaders; certainly, a centralized approach or focus on the secretariat and the role of the secretariat in managing various responses to these international issues,” he stated.

FA Greene noted too that the OECS, while a smaller unit, faces the same head-winds that CARICOM faces. “I really look forward to that opportunity; that time when the leaders will embrace the matters before us and fashion common responses,” he declared.



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Major Changes Are Ahead At The SLBMC

A review of the current operations of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is now underway and its findings are expected to guide changes at the country's main health facility.

New Minister of Health Michael Joseph reported that one of his first tasks since his appointment last Tuesday was to meet with senior staff of the institution and to discuss ways to improve the operational efficiency of the hospital.

One of the main areas of focus is the emergency room area of the hospital and finding additional space to make that area less congestive and thereby improving overall efficiency. "We have to be realistic and accept that we have outgrown that space at the SLBMC and there has to be some innovation in how best we utilize the available space," he stated.

Minister Joseph indicated that the contractors working on the new renal centre at Holberton Hospital are scheduled to complete that structure by the end of June. He said the plan is to move the asthma bay to the area that now houses the dialysis unit that this is relocated at the renal clinic.

"Additionally, when we look at the quadrangle at the entrance of the hospital, all that is unused space. So if we can build out that space and use it for out-clinic services, for example, gastroenterology and gynecological services among others, so we can put several different clinics in that specific area," he indicated.

According to Minister Joseph consideration is being given to move some of the services offered at the SLBMC to the Holberton hospital where there is space to build out that area as part of the overall healthcare system.

"You will then have a decentralised system and not having all the services being offered at the SLBMC and that, in essence, would fast track the overall service delivery that we offer," he remarked.



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Hantavirus Infection Risk Remains Low in Antigua and Barbuda



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs wishes to reassure the public that the risk of hantavirus infection in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean region remains low.

This follows an advisory issued by the Caribbean Public Health Agency regarding a cluster of respiratory illnesses aboard a cruise ship in the Central Atlantic Ocean. According to information provided by the World Health Organization as of 7 May 2026, eight cases had been identified, including three confirmed cases, five suspected cases, and three deaths.

Hantaviruses are primarily transmitted through contact with infected rodents, particularly exposure to con-

taminated urine, droppings, or saliva.

Regional health authorities have advised that, within the Americas, hantavirus infections are more commonly linked to wild field rodents rather than urban rat populations, making the likelihood of widespread transmission within the Caribbean relatively low. Human-to-human transmission of hantavirus is also considered rare.

The Ministry notes that Antigua and Barbuda continues to work closely with regional and international public health partners to monitor developments and maintain appropriate surveillance and response measures.

Public health measures at ports of entry for cruise vessels and other vessels are also being reinforced as part

of ongoing preparedness efforts. The Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority continues to be kept informed by the Ministry of Health.

Members of the public are encouraged to continue practicing proper sanitation and rodent control measures, including maintaining clean surroundings, properly storing and disposing of garbage, and avoiding direct contact with

rodent droppings and urine.

The Ministry of Health wishes to assure the public that there is no cause for alarm at this time and that the situation continues to be closely monitored. Any further updates will be communicated as necessary.

Liat Air, Local Officials Buoyant About Re-Establishing Air-link with Guadeloupe



Liat Air celebrated its return to Guadeloupe last Friday when it took a group of airline and tourism officials, media representatives and other officials on its inaugural flight to Maryse Conde International Air-

port in Pointe-A-Pitre.

The ATR turbo-prop aircraft landed in Guadeloupe a mere twenty minutes after take-off just at 8:00 am on Friday. It was greeted by a water cannon salute and on the

group, a welcome party was assembled to greet the airline's passengers.

Among the passengers were the newly appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Michael



Freeland, Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, Chief Executive Officer of Liat Air, Hafsa Abdulsalam and Resident UK Representative, John Hamilton.

At the brief welcome ceremony, Minister Freeland, in his first engagement since his appointment,

expressed delight in being among the guests on the inaugural flight.

“Today’s inaugural flight is not simply about a rapidly growing airline adding yet another new route. This is a symbol of something far more profound: increasing the connections and bonds within our Caribbean family. For Antigua and

Barbuda, this route to Guadeloupe is also a statement of purpose. We are building our islands as a hub - a bridge between the islands, between cultures, between economies. When our planes fly, our hotels fill, our entrepreneurs earn, and our young people see opportunity,” he remarked.

He added that Liat has been for generations part of the Caribbean experience as so many persons throughout the island-chain have relied on the airline for employment and growth for many years in the past.

CEO James recalled that the air connectivity to Guadeloupe was lost through issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and other external issues. Citing the proximity between Antigua and Guadeloupe, he noted that many persons have been saddened that ‘we are so close, yet so far away’. He described air connectivity as ‘vital’ to the region as the economies depend heavily on tourism, but more importantly, it is critical for the connectivity of people.

The Liat Air CEO, Abdulsalam stated that re-connecting with Guadeloupe forms part of the airline’s overall strategy of providing connections between the countries of the region. “This connection offers us the opportunity to connect as one people, one Caribbean family. Additionally, passengers from Guadeloupe can now connect with the other English-speaking Caribbean as well as make connections through Antigua to the US and Canada,” she emphasized.

The new service is being offered on Fridays and Sundays through the summer peak season. A review of the performance of the service will be done later in the year to determine the next move.

ABFC and ABTA Combine To Drive Global Spotlight With Ishowspeed's Visit



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) proudly presents a comprehensive and impactful cultural showcase following the successful visit of global streaming sensation IShowSpeed to Antigua and Barbuda during his Caribbean tour.

The inclusion of Antigua and Barbuda in this high-profile regional initiative underscores the destination's growing influence as a premier hub for culture, entertainment, and live experiences. Through strategic execution by the ABFC and Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority, the visit showcased the country's unique ability to merge Carnival, music, sport, and heritage into a compelling, globally relevant narrative that resonates

with younger, digital-first audiences.

From immersive cultural activations to high-energy entertainment moments, the Commission curated an experience that authentically reflected the spirit of Antigua and Barbuda, showcasing not only the beauty of the islands and its beaches but also the vibrancy of its people and its world-class festival product.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul said, "This project was about more than visibility; it was about ownership of our narrative. By intentionally blending our culture, music, sports, culinary traditions, and people into a live, unscripted global moment, we demonstrated Antigua and

Barbuda's power as a dynamic, experience-driven destination. What was achieved here reflects the strength of collaboration, but more importantly, the leadership and vision required to deliver at a world-class level for a new generation of global consumers."

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission extends its sincere appreciation to its valued co-production partner, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, and to the many stakeholders whose collaboration ensured the success of this initiative, including Royalton Antigua Resort, Luxury Van Global, Eli Fuller, Siboney Beach Club, Stingray City, the Antigua Barbuda Racing Club,

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Local News



Sir Vivian Richards Stadium Management, KFC, Calvin Air Heliport, Myst Carnival, Burning Flames, the Rise Team, DJ Jime, DJ Quest, Hobby Lobby Tours, host

Ibis Livest, the Nyabinghi Rastafarians, Boundary Bites, Chef Beard, Young Vice, Dennis's, Gassy Dread, Menace XL, Refica, Island Girls, Hellsgate Steel Orchestra, Cricket West Indies, Chaso Media, the Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Flow, INET, Digicel as well as our cultural practitioners, community groups, tourism partners, and creatives across Antigua and Barbuda.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our greatest supporting cast, the people of Antigua and Barbuda, whose energy and spirit made this experience truly authentic and impactful.

This collective effort reflects the strength of national collaboration in delivering an authentic and unforgettable experience to a global audience.

With over 53 million viewer impressions generated across platforms, Antigua and Barbuda stood firmly in the international spotlight, reinforcing its position as a leading destination for culture, entertainment, and experiential tourism.

Antigua and Barbuda showed the world one thing loud and clear — 268 is a Vibe.

WESLEYAN HOLINESS CHURCH
Antigua District
PRESENTS
A Night of
CHOIRS
Sunday June 7, 2026
TIME : 6 PM
Venue: Swetes Wesleyan

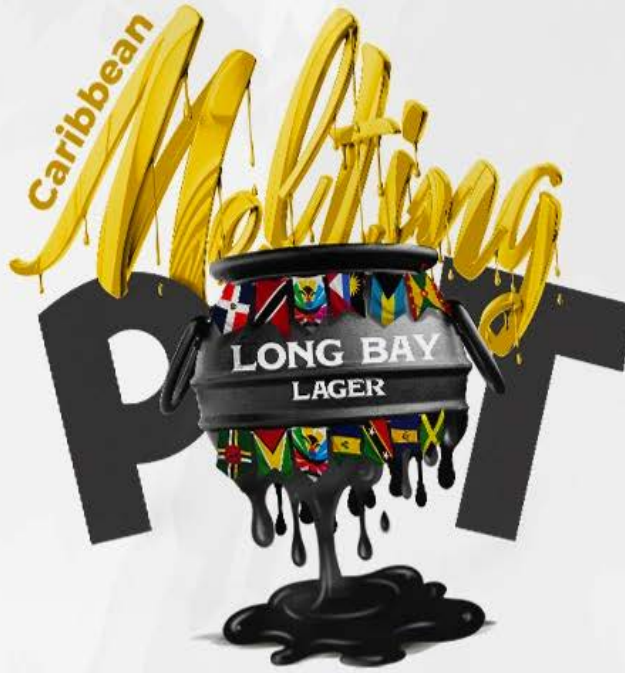
9 Choirs from across the district and beyond will sing to the glory and honour of Almighty God. Admission is free but please bring a special offering and a special friend.



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Carnival
2026

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PO BOX 990
Lower Factory Road
St. John's, Antigua
T 352.371.6925

GENERAL MANAGER OF OPERATIONS

TSG Water Resources (Antigua and Barbuda), Inc. is in search of a seasoned General Manager with expertise in the water treatment field. Ideal candidates should bring a wealth of experience, including a minimum of five years operating reverse osmosis plants and membrane bioreactor wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, candidates should have at least three years of management experience, demonstrating proficiency in developing and maintaining budgets, as well as leading staff. A proven track record of successfully working with multiple international businesses for a minimum of three years is also required.

As the General Manager, you will play a pivotal role in providing leadership and direction. Serving as a knowledgeable resource to the organization's management team, you will maintain quality service by enforcing standards in quality and customer service. Analyzing and resolving issues related to quality and customer service, identifying trends, and recommending system improvements will be part of your responsibilities. This position is required to perform water and wastewater treatment operator duties as required.

Leading and managing day-to-day operations, you will direct, plan, assign, coordinate, supervise, develop, and evaluate staff work. Successfully resolving employee concerns and problems, coaching, counseling, and disciplining staff, as well as conducting performance appraisals, are crucial aspects of this role. Additionally, you will represent the company to clients and potential clients, performing water and wastewater treatment operator duties as required.

The General Manager will also be responsible for developing and directing operating budgets, reviewing and approving expenditure. This role involves local and international travel to ensure the success and growth of the company. If you are a dynamic leader with a strong background in water treatment, we invite you to join our team and contribute to the success of TSG Water Resources (Antigua and Barbuda), Inc.

To apply please send your CV to Wrolle@tsgwater.com with the subject Application for GM of Operations.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MAY 25TH 2026

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

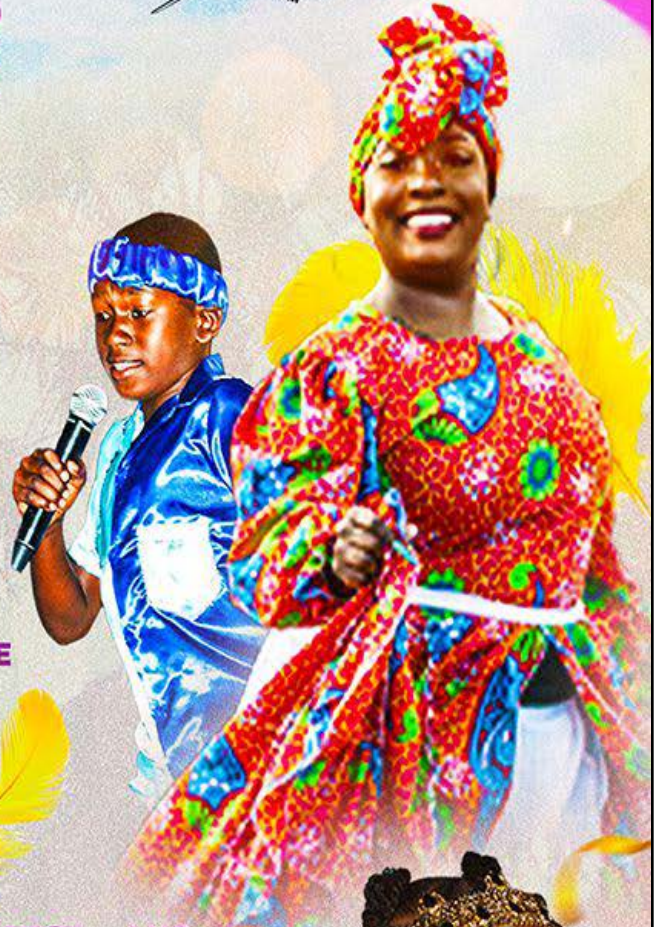
SUNDAY 24TH

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC
HORSE RACING

MONDAY 25TH

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

EVENT SCHEDULE



ESFN Hosts Ecological Field Trip for the Antigua Girls' High School

The EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN) hosted an ecological fieldtrip at Spencer's Bay, welcoming students and teachers from Antigua Girls' High School, along with a representative from the Board of Education. The trip highlighted the importance of wetlands and mangrove ecosystems while offering participants an immersive learning experience through both hiking and kayaking.

To begin the experience, the students participated in a safety briefing before setting off on a guided nature walk through the wetlands, where they learned to identify individual mangrove species and understand their unique roles in protecting coastlines, filtering water, and providing habitats for marine life.

Throughout the walk, students engaged in discussions on tidal movements and how changing tides affect the wetland ecosystem. The youths



ECOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP
ANTIGUA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



explored topics such as sediment buildup, sargassum blooms, and the impact of plastic pollution observed in the area, including bottles and other debris. These discussions helped stu-

dents connect their geography lessons to real-life environmental challenges and strengthened their understanding of how land and sea systems interact.

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Local News

During the kayaking portion of the trip, students observed biodiversity within the wetlands, including fish, birds, and the upside-down jellyfish (*Cassiopea*). Students asked thoughtful questions while onshore and in the water, showing curiosity about the species present, the surrounding environment, and the natural processes shaping the area. The participants went out in groups, which allowed them to encounter different sights and experiences while on the water, later sharing their observations with each other, creating an interactive learning exchange that deepened the overall experience.

Interviews and discussions conducted during the field trip revealed students' excitement as they shared how the knowledge gained would support their studies. Education representative Philip Lloyd attended the trip as students and teachers engaged in hands-on learning and explored the wetlands ecosystem firsthand. The experience highlighted the value of on-site observation and information gathering in strengthening long-term learning and future environmental engagements.

Students expressed interest in environmental careers, asking ESFN team members about their journeys into the field and what inspired their work in conservation and sustainability. ESFN encouraged students to explore pathways such as volunteering, internships, and future youth engagement initiatives, opening opportunities for continued collaboration and involvement beyond the field trip.

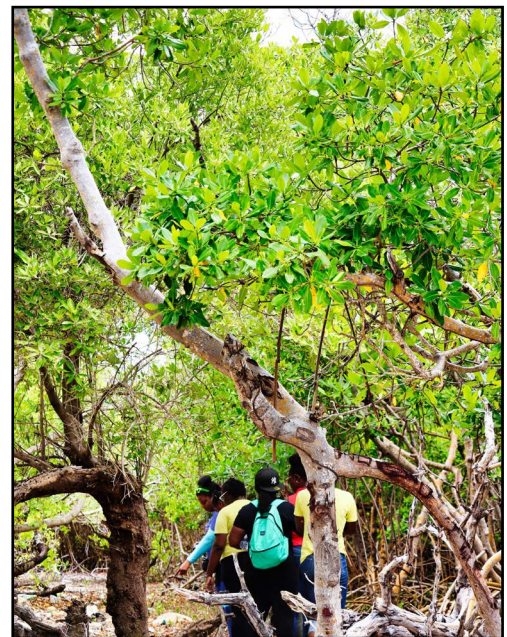


ECOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP
ANTIGUA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



Britney McDonald, ESFN's portfolio manager, reflected on the day: "Educating youths, students, and communities about key biodiversity areas is essential. When young people engage directly with these environments, they gain both knowledge and empowerment, which are necessary for shaping future conservation efforts."

The ecological field trip reflects ESFN's commitment to education, engagement, experience, environment, and empowerment, encouraging young people, especially women and girls, to see themselves as leaders in protecting natural resources. Through this wetlands and coastal field trip initiative, ESFN continues strengthening the connection between biodiversity learning and conservation, inspiring youths and communities to carry for-



ward the values of care and resilience.

FLOW Announces Mother's Day Promotion Winner



Yeskia Yong, winner of Flow's Mother's Day live radio competition, is pictured after receiving a coffee maker awarded for her heartfelt onair tribute to her mother. The competition invited listeners to call in and share moving messages in celebration of Mother's Day.

Congratulations to Brent Kirby, the first Chromebook winner in Flow's Riddim and Rewards weekly promotion. The promotion gives customers a chance to win one Chromebook every week, with a grand prize draw at the end of the promotion for a weekend for two at the Galley Bay Resort and Spa.

Building a Lifestyle Superpower

The Philosophical Underpinning Of This Goal



By Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne

We are not merely building roads, hotels, ports and buildings.

We are building a civilization of opportunity and shared progress.

We are shaping a modern Caribbean nation, where development is not measured exclusively by economic statistics, but by the quality of life enjoyed by its people.

By the dignity of work; access to opportunity; the strength of families; public safety; vibrant culture; health & wellness; good quality housing and by the confidence of a people who believe deeply in their country and in themselves.

That is my vision of a Lifestyle Superpower.

A nation of skilled, educated, disciplined and highly cultured citizens — empowered not simply to survive, but to excel in a globally competitive world.

A country where every child, regardless of background, has access to quality education, modern technology, scholarships, skills training and pathways to prosperity.

A society that nurtures innovators, entrepreneurs, artists, professionals, athletes and creators.

A nation where ownership is expanded — where more citizens own homes, businesses, land and investments; where wealth creation is democratized; and where economic advancement reaches into every community.

A country supported by world-class healthcare systems, modern hospitals, expanded specialty care, wellness services and compassionate public health infrastructure — ensuring that our people can live longer, healthier and more productive lives.

A nation with modern housing developments, upgraded communities, reliable utilities, improved water infrastructure and resilient public spaces that uplift human dignity and national pride.

A Lifestyle Superpower is also a green and beautiful nation.

A pristine, nature-based environment filled with parks, fruit trees, ornamental gardens, clean communities and protected coastlines.

A country where development coexists harmoniously with nature.

Where sustainability is not a slogan, but a way of life.

Where citizens and visitors alike can breathe clean air, enjoy clean beaches, walk safe streets and experience the beauty and tranquility of island living at its finest.

But beyond infrastructure and economics, the true strength of a Lifestyle Superpower lies within its people.

An empathetic population that values community, family and national solidarity.

A responsible people who respect law and order, embrace discipline, pursue excellence and contribute positively to national development.

A highly competitive population equipped to thrive in the global economy while remaining proudly rooted in its culture and identity.

A society rich with opportunities for recreation, entertainment, sports, music, festivals, wellness and the creative arts — because development must feed not only the economy, but also the human spirit.

We envision Antigua and Barbuda as a nation of happy people where people feel safe.

Safe in their homes.

Safe in their communities.

Safe in their future.

A nation where peace, stability and security create the foundation for investment, innovation and happiness.

And above all, we envision a confident nation.

A people rising with pride.

A people believing in themselves again. A people no longer defined by limitation, but by ambition, creativity and achievement.

This is bigger than politics.

This is nation-building.

This is the Renaissance.

The blossoming of Antigua and Barbuda into a modern Lifestyle Superpower — a beacon of prosperity, culture, sustainability, innovation and human development for the Caribbean and the wider world.

And together, with unity, discipline, vision and faith in our people, we shall build it.

Scrub Life Cares Launches Month-Long Menstrual Health Awareness Campaign

In recognition of May as Menstrual Health Awareness Month, Scrub Life Cares, a public health non-profit organization dedicated to advancing menstrual equity, reproductive and sexual health education, maternal and child health, and overall community wellness, has officially launched its month-long Menstrual Health Awareness Campaign under the theme of working toward a more period-friendly Antigua and Barbuda.

Throughout the month of May, Scrub Life Cares will lead a series of community-centered activities, partnerships, public education efforts, workplace conversations, school and youth engagement, media outreach, and advocacy initiatives designed to reduce menstrual stigma, expand access to accurate menstrual health education, and encourage national conversations around periods as a public health, education, gender equity, and community wellness issue.

Founded by Tanya Ambrose, MPH, a public health practitioner specializing in maternal, child, and reproductive health, Scrub Life Cares has spent the past several years working across Antigua and Barbuda, the wider Caribbean, and underserved communities in South Carolina to address period poverty, reproductive health education gaps, and barriers that impact the health, dignity, and well-being of women, girls, youth, and families.



“Menstrual health is health. Period,” said Tanya Ambrose, Founder and CEO of Scrub Life Cares. “For too long, conversations around menstruation have been treated as private, uncomfortable, or shameful. But periods affect school attendance, workplace participation, mental health, physical health, access to care, dignity, and overall quality of life. This campaign is about bringing menstrual health into the open and helping Antigua and Barbuda move toward becoming a truly period-friendly nation.”

As part of the campaign, Scrub Life Cares will collaborate with key national and community partners, including the Antigua and Barbuda Directorate of Gender Affairs, the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, schools, businesses, community organizations, athletes, advocates, and healthcare professionals to help amplify the message that menstrual

health matters across every space — homes, schools, workplaces, sports environments, healthcare systems, and communities.

The campaign will also highlight the importance of period-positive workplaces and supportive environments that understand, respect, and accommodate menstruation. Scrub Life Cares has been engaging with businesses and organizations to raise awareness about the importance of access to menstrual products, clean and private facilities, supportive policies, and stigma-free conversations. These efforts are part of a wider push to help employers understand how menstrual health intersects with productivity, employee well-being, gender equity, and psychosocial health.

A major component of the month will be Scrub Life Cares’ 5th Annual Grow with the Flo Women & Girls Health Expo, scheduled for

Saturday, May 23, 2026, at the Cana Moravian Church Grounds in Swetes Village. The expo has grown into one of the organization’s flagship community health events, bringing together women, girls, families, schools, health professionals, businesses, and community organizations for a day of education, empowerment, resources, screenings, interactive activities, and meaningful conversations around menstrual health, reproductive health, maternal and child health, mental wellness, disability inclusion, nutrition, and whole-person care.

This year’s expo is especially significant as Scrub Life Cares continues to expand the conversation beyond menstrual products to reflect a broader, whole-person approach to health and well-being. New and expanded components will include a stronger focus on maternal health, perinatal and family wellness, and a more intentional neurodivergent and disability-inclusive aspect to ensure that women, girls, families, and individuals of varying abilities are represented, supported, and included in the conversation. The organization anticipates hundreds of attendees and will continue its tradition of creating a safe, inclusive, interactive, and educational space that connects menstrual health to reproductive health, maternal and child health, mental wellness, accessibility, and community care.

The campaign will cul-

minate around Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28, a global day of action recognized by advocates, organizations, and communities around the world to raise awareness about menstrual health and hygiene. In recognition of the day, Scrub Life Cares is inviting the general public, schools, businesses, healthcare workers, community groups, athletes, and families across Antigua and Barbuda to wear red or pink, take photos, and share messages of support using Scrub Life Cares' campaign messaging and social media tags.

By encouraging the public to wear red or pink on May 28, Scrub Life Cares hopes to spark visible community participation and help normalize conversations about menstrual health.

"This is not just a campaign for women and girls. This is a national public health conversation," Ambrose shared. "Men, boys, parents, teachers, employers, healthcare workers, policymakers, faith leaders, and community members all have a role to play in creating environments where people can manage their periods with dignity and without shame."

Scrub Life Cares' work is anchored in public health practice, research, education, and community engagement. The organization has led school and community sessions on menstrual health, puberty, consent, body literacy, reproductive health, maternal health, and wellness; distributed menstrual and hygiene products to underserved communities; conducted original menstrual health research



in Antigua and Barbuda; collaborated with regional and international partners; and advocated for stronger policies and programs that support adolescent health, menstrual equity, and reproductive health education.

The organization's menstrual health research has also been accepted for presentation at major public health and adolescent health platforms, further strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's presence in global conversations around menstrual health and health equity. In addition, Scrub Life Cares has contributed to global advocacy around the integration of menstrual health and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education into adolescent health policies and programs.

Through this campaign, Scrub Life Cares is also em-

phasizing the critical role that national institutions can play. The Ministries of Health, Education, Gender Affairs, Youth, Sports, and Social Transformation all stand to benefit from a stronger, coordinated menstrual health approach. Menstrual health education can support school attendance, improve adolescent health outcomes, reduce stigma, encourage early care-seeking for menstrual concerns, support gender equity, and strengthen public health prevention efforts across the life course.

A period-friendly Antigua and Barbuda means more than access to pads. It means children and adolescents receive accurate, age-appropriate education. It means schools are equipped with supportive environments. It means workplaces under-

stand menstruation as part of employee wellness. It means healthcare systems take menstrual pain, heavy bleeding, irregular cycles, endometriosis, fibroids, perimenopause, and other concerns seriously. It means communities no longer treat periods as shameful, but as a normal and important part of health.

Scrub Life Cares believes this month-long campaign is an opportunity to shift culture, strengthen partnerships, and position Antigua and Barbuda as a regional leader in menstrual health education, period equity, and community-based public health action.

"We are working toward a future where no girl misses school because of her period, no woman feels ashamed to speak about her body, no employee feels unsupported at work, and no community treats menstrual health as an afterthought," said Ambrose. "This is about dignity, health, education, equity, and national progress."

Scrub Life Cares invites the public, schools, businesses, media houses, community organizations, government ministries, and national leaders to support the campaign, attend the Grow with the Flo Women & Girls Health Expo on May 23, and participate in Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28 by wearing red or pink and helping to amplify the message that menstrual health is health.

For more information, partnership opportunities, media interviews, or to support the campaign, please contact:



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BARBUDA
Caribana
2026



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SUN 24H MAY

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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! ✨



Speed sells Jamaica - Island taps into Gen Z tourism boom through Youtuber's visit

With close to 54 million YouTube subscribers, Internet sensation IShowSpeed has turned his visit to Jamaica into a global spectacle, giving the island major visibility among younger travellers.

The American content creator, whose Caribbean tour has generated enormous online engagement, was welcomed by the Jamaica Tourist Board before streaming live from sections of Kingston, including Payne Land, where hundreds gathered as millions watched online.

Speed also went to Port Royal for scuba diving, the National Stadium where he met with students from Excelsior and Jamaica College, the Bob Marley Museum, and to Devon House where he cooked ackee and saltfish with Shenseea.

Earlier in the stream, he was 'surprised' by father at KFC in New Kingston and faced off against the acrobatic Jamaican Spiderman at Tastee.

Director of Tourism Donovan White said while exact viewership figures were still evolving across multiple platforms, Speed's visit had already reached millions globally and continued gaining traction through highlights, reaction videos and social sharing.

"This extends Jamaica's visibility well beyond the original broadcast, especially among younger travel-focused audiences," White told The Gleaner.

He said the livestream showcased Jamaica in an "authentic, energetic and culturally rich way" to a generation increasingly influenced by digital creators rather than traditional tourism advertising.

"Organic exposure of this kind tends to build destination awareness in ways that traditional campaigns can't easily match," White said.



The tourism director revealed that the JTB facilitated Speed's arrival through a VIP airport welcome featuring live entertainment, Jamaican cuisine and cultural gifts, while also providing logistical support to his team during the visit.

However, White noted that the JTB was not directly involved in planning the influencer's itinerary across the island.

Still, clips emerging from the livestream, including scenes from Payne Land and interactions with residents and local entertainers such as Jamaican music artistes Beenie Man, Sean Paul, Gyptian and Naomi Cowan have generated widespread online engagement.

White said Jamaica's growing popularity among international influencers stems from the island's unique mix of culture, music, food, sports, entertainment and natural beauty.

"Creators are drawn to places that produce authentic, memorable content, and Jamaica delivers that almost effortlessly," he said.

He added that while it was difficult

to place a precise dollar value on the publicity generated by Speed's visit, the impact extends far beyond the original livestream because the content continues circulating online long after the broadcast ends.

The visit also highlights the growing influence of what tourism observers increasingly describe as "livestream tourism", where audiences experience destinations in real time through online creators rather than polished advertisements or travel brochures.

Unlike traditional influencer content, livestreaming allows viewers to experience spontaneous interactions, street culture, humour, music and cuisine as events unfold, creating a stronger sense of authenticity and emotional connection.

For destinations like Jamaica, that shift could prove especially valuable among Gen Z travellers, many of whom now rely heavily on YouTube, TikTok, Twitch and Instagram creators when deciding where to travel.

"The livestream itself is just the starting point," White said. "The content keeps generating value long after the broadcast ends." (Jamaica Gleaner)

Fuel price increase hits Dominica amidst US-Iran conflict



Dominicans now have to dig a little deeper into their pockets to pay for fuel, following an announcement by Director of Trade, Matthan Walter, of a price increase, effective from May 5, 2026.

He said the increased prices are due to the ongoing war between the United States and Israel against Iran.

“On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the prices of petroleum products, that is gasoline, High Sulfur Diesel or HSD, Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel or ULSD, and kerosene were regulated and announced as follows: Gasoline \$17.98, HSD \$19.23, kerosene \$18.21, ULSD \$20.53,” he revealed.

According to him, these prices have increased by 26.7 percent, 33.87 percent, 23.33 percent, and 38.7 percent, respectively, since the last price change.

“The increased prices are not unique to Dominica; it’s a global reality, and here in our region we have CARICOM member states with similar prices for those very same products,” Walter emphasized.

He continued, “The public is urged to be patient as we navigate the fall-outs of this war together.”

Furthermore, Walter stated that there are actions that can be taken to limit the impact of these prices.

“We can carpool, we can also be a

little more prudent with our movements, we can also limit the use of electricity in our homes to that which is absolutely needed,” he noted. “All these will support our economic efforts, which are beneficial to our pockets.”

Meanwhile, he pointed out that regarding the increase in bus fares, drivers are reminded that fare increases must begin with a formal letter to the transport board, which decides on issuing revised bus or taxi fares.

“Together with the requisite patience and wise personal choices, we can, of course, overcome this,” Walter stated. (Dominica News Online)

Forced regime change not on table in Cuba, says ambassador



As Cuba and the United States (US) continue delicate and discreet diplomatic discussions aimed at easing the humanitarian crisis facing the island's 11 million people, the country's ambassador to Jamaica, Tania Lopez Larroque, has indicated that while she is not privy to the agenda items, regime change is not an option.

Larroque's comments come amid new and more punitive sanctions on countries providing assistance to Cuba.

While there are "no recent updates" on the government-to-government discussions, Larroque told a media briefing on Friday, at the embassy's headquarters in Kingston, that the Cuban people reserve the right to choose their

leaders and make the constitutional changes they require.

"The Cuban people are determined to protect their democracy, their sovereignty, and their rights. We have the information you have already, probably seen by our government, that is the one that's been leading the public information on that, that we consider a really sensitive topic, and we have always been really discreet on that," said the ambassador when asked to provide the most recent update.

"What I could say on that is to reiterate that Cuba has always been open to discussions with the US government on the same basis, on a fair basis, and it's been clear what will be the items

that are not in discussions, and all the ones related to sovereignty. It's been stated that there is a dialogue in the process, but we don't have any further details on that..." she said in response to a question from The Gleaner.



However, she was clear that regime change was not up for discussion.

"Absolutely. That's not up for discussion. The political system of our country is up to our people, is up to our population. It's only for us to decide. That's not something that, not Cuba, not any other country would negotiate that with third parties..." she stated.

The ambassador also reiterated the Cuban government's rejection of executive orders signed by the US president on January 29 and, more recently, on May 1, which she said "intensifies to extreme and unprecedented levels the economic, financial and commercial blockade against Cuba".



"This act is an act of economic aggravation that amplifies the extraterritorial effects of the blockade and further hinders the functioning of our national economy, which has already been facing devastating effects of the oil blockade imposed on January 29th," she said.

The action, she argued, continues to be a blatant violation of international law and the fundamental principles of free trade in goods and services, "that attempts to force the international community through blackmail and

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intimidation to submit, and to comply with the blockade. No country is exempt from this threat of extending genocide against the Cuban people”.

According to Larroque, the measures imposed on the Cuban state present a clear and present danger to other sovereign states and could achieve their intended destructive effect if independent nations allow themselves to be intimidated and coerced by the US government.

She called on the international community to reject what she described as illegal regulations that could force countries to relinquish their sovereignty.

“We hope that the world will never accept illegal regulations and will not relinquish sovereign equality, nor will leave its citizens, business, corporations and financial institutions unprotected. We denounce the criminal nature of these aggressive measures that attempt to generate social, economic and political catastrophe on a national scale...” she also stated.

She said Cuba also rejected what it sees as an attempt by the US to create a humanitarian crisis that could justify more dangerous actions, including military aggression against the island.

Larroque said Cuba has been facing a national and humanitarian crisis as a result of systematic economic pressure for more than six decades.

“All these economic measures imply constant persecution of Cuban exports and imports and the executive order on January 29th particularly imposes tariffs on imports from countries that supply oil to Cuba. So only one tanker has reached Cuba in approximately five months.”

The ambassador said Cuba cannot be called a failed state, given the economic persecution it has faced over the past six decades and the brigades it has been able to develop and send across the world.

However, Cubans have remained resilient, long-suffering and determined to survive, said Osvaldo Cardenas, a

Cuban living in Jamaica.

According to him, all aspects of Cuban life have been affected.

“This is a crime. This is what Adolf Hitler used to do in the Second World War against the European countries that they attacked, some of which today support those policies of the United States,” Cardenas said.

He noted, however, that a majority of the international community has consistently condemned the US’s blockade against Cuba at the United Nations, which he described as the highest representative of the international community.

Cuba-Jamaica Friendship Society representative Paul Burke said the US is desperately seeking a success as the blowback from the ongoing war with Iran is not going well and it is searching for a victory.

“By now they would have thought the Cuban people would have been protesting, there would have been mass protests, particularly after successful-

ly having Venezuela close oil shipments to Cuba and Mexico close oil shipments to Cuba. Any other country going four months without oil, there would have been mass revolts. That would probably have been what the United States wants, regime change, and they expected that,” Burke said.

According to him, with its objectives not being achieved in Iran, and after having thrown everything at Cuba for more than 60 years, “having failed with their economic blockade for decades, what is happening has proved two things; one, what they are doing is very destructive, painful, and hurtful to the Cuban people, but more importantly and secondly, the Cuban people are determined to protect their democracy, sovereignty, and their rights”.

Meanwhile, with assistance from China, Cuba has been diversifying its electricity solutions, expanding solar usage in public spaces and developing a solar plant in Matanzas. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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SVG Placed Under Official Drought Watch



The Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) has officially placed St. Vincent and the Grenadines under a “Drought Watch” as severe dry conditions continue to severely impact the nation’s water supplies.

In a news release issued on May 8, 2026, the CWSA confirmed that ongoing weather monitoring, alongside updated reports from the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CARICOF), indicate that drought conditions are expected to persist across the country until at least the end of May 2026.

This official watch follows a previous advisory issued on January 14, 2026, which warned the public of an impending short-term drought and the potential need for water rationing. In response to these escalating dry con-

ditions, the CWSA has already been implementing active water rationing schedules over the past several months for customers relying on the Mamoon and Montreal systems.

Currently, decreased rainfall in the upper watershed has caused a reduction in river flows, placing the Dalaway, Montreal, and Mamoon water sources under “significant stress”. This ecological strain has led to a noticeable shortfall in the local water supply.

Consequently, numerous domestic and commercial customers are currently experiencing intermittent disruptions to their daily water supply, a situation the CWSA states will continue until overall climate conditions improve. The primary areas affected

by these ongoing disruptions include:

The Vermont Valley extending to Calliaqua.

Largo Height, Green Hill, and Lodge Village.

The Marriaqua Valley and its surrounding communities.

The CWSA is strongly encouraging residents in all affected areas to stay informed about daily rationing schedules by following the CWSA’s Facebook page and tuning into local radio stations for the latest updates. The Authority emphasized that it remains committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable water services, and will continue to closely monitor the situation while keeping the St. Vincent public fully informed. (St Vincent Times)

Trump administration releases long-secret UFO files, revealing decades of military encounters

Donald Trump's administration has released the first batch of previously classified government files related to unidentified flying objects, now officially referred to as unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAPs), reigniting public fascination with the possibility of extraterrestrial life and long-standing questions surrounding military sightings.

The release, made public by the Pentagon on Friday, follows a February directive from Trump ordering federal agencies to identify, declassify, and publish records connected to UFO investigations and unexplained aerial encounters. Officials said the material includes written reports, military footage, photographs, and source documents collected across several decades.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth claims that the disclosure is a move toward greater transparency.

"These files, hidden behind classifications, have long fueled justified speculation – and it's time the American people see it for themselves," Hegseth said in a statement posted on X.

Among the most notable revelations is testimony from Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon.

The Guardian reports that during a 1969 debrief following the Apollo 11 Moon Landing mission, Aldrin reportedly described seeing a "sizeable" object near the lunar surface as well as a "fairly bright light source" that crew members believed could have been a laser.

The newly released materials also contain military surveillance footage showing unusual objects captured in different regions of the world. One video reportedly shows a football-shaped object flying over the East China Sea in 2022, while others recorded in recent years depict fast-moving lights



and dots maneuvering erratically above Iraq, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates.

According to ABC News, the documents contain many reported sightings that were concentrated around military operations and areas where the United States deploys advanced surveillance systems. A large number of incidents date back to the 1950s and 1960s during the Cold War, particularly in Germany and the former Soviet Union.

More recent encounters have largely occurred in the Middle East, including near the Strait of Hormuz. Most sightings were reported by military pilots and personnel, though officials noted that none of the incidents appeared to

pose an immediate threat.

One particularly unusual case from 2023 involved federal law enforcement officers in the western United States independently describing glowing orbs, with one witness claiming to have seen "orbs launching other orbs," as per the ABC News article.

The Pentagon described the case as "among the most compelling" in its archives.

"The American people can now access the federal government's declassified UAP files instantly," the Pentagon said, adding that the public can "ultimately make up their own minds about the information contained in these files." (Dominica News Online)

Army parachutes onto remote island to help Briton with suspected hantavirus



British Army medics have parachuted onto the remote Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha to help a British national with suspected hantavirus.

The man left MV *Hondius*, the cruise ship hit by a deadly outbreak of the virus, in mid-April at Britain's most remote inhabited overseas territory, where he lives.

He first reported symptoms two weeks after leaving the vessel and is said to be in a stable condition while isolating. Six cases of the virus have now been confirmed, including of two other Britons currently being treated off the ship.

Oxygen was also dropped from an RAF A400M on Saturday, with supplies at a "critical level" on the island,

the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said.

Almost a month after the first death onboard the MV *Hondius*, the vessel has now arrived in Tenerife, where authorities are helping more than 100 people disembark to be repatriated.

Three people have died in the outbreak, including two who were confirmed to have had hantavirus.

Hantavirus is a group of viruses carried by rodents. Most hantaviruses do not pass from person to person, but the Andes strain, identified in a number of people who had been on the Dutch cruise ship, does.

The British man who lives on Tristan da Cunha disembarked on 14 April, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

He reported having diarrhoea on 28 April and fever two days later. He is currently in a stable condition and in isolation.

A team of six paratroopers and two medical clinicians from 16 Air Assault Brigade parachuted on to Tristan da Cunha - an archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean considered to be one of the world's most remote inhabited islands.

An RAF A400M transport aircraft, supported by an RAF Voyager, flew from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire to Ascension Island, in the South Atlantic Ocean, before heading to Tristan da Cunha.

Two of the paratroopers jumped in tandem with an intensive care nurse and intensive care doctor, who will provide help to the island, which usually has a two-person medical team.

Tristan da Cunha has a population of 221 British citizens and no airstrip, meaning it can only be reached by boat. That was not an option in this case as the man was running out of oxygen supplies, according to Brig Ed Cartwright, who commands the 16 Air Assault Brigade and coordinated the parachute operation.

He told the BBC the parachutists faced a "really challenging, technical jump" due to high winds and the island being small. Average wind speeds over the island are often over 25mph (40km/h), the MoD said.

Brig Cartwright said the parachutists were dispatched from an aircraft about 5km (3.1 miles) over the South Atlantic Ocean, before turning in the wind and blowing backwards over the island and then carrying out a landing on its edge.

"The consequence of getting that wrong is that you end up in the Atlantic," he added.

It is the first time the UK military has parachuted in medical personnel to provide humanitarian support, according to the MoD.

They landed on the island's golf course, according to a local government website, with residents thanked for having "pulled out all the stops at short notice" to welcome the visitors.

Officials added that 3.3 tonnes (3,300 kg) of medical supplies were delivered for their hospital.

Brig Cartwright said the operation was not just about the man suspected of having hantavirus but also supporting the other people on the island, especially those who may have had contact with him.

Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said: "This extraordinary operation reflects our unwavering commitment to the people of our overseas territories and to British nationals, wherever they are."

"The safety and well-being of all members of the British family is our number one priority."

Minister for the Armed Forces Al Carns said there had been "incredibly challenging circumstances".

"I want to pay a huge tribute to our brave personnel for carrying out their task with the utmost professionalism and composure under pressure," he added.

Brig Cartwright said the parachuters would be taken off the island by ship. This is being carefully planned "in light of the medical situation", he said.

Ministry of Defence A paratrooper taking part in a parachute jump - they are seen having just left the plane and with the parachute pack on their back, with blue skies and clouds below them Ministry of Defence

The WHO has confirmed that as well as the six confirmed cases, there are two with suspected hantavirus, which includes the British man on Tristan da Cunha.

The two British nationals with confirmed cases of the virus are being treated in the Netherlands and South Africa.

No other British nationals who remained on board the Hondius had reported symptoms but are being monitored, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said.

Meanwhile two Britons are voluntarily self-isolating at home in the UK, having disembarked the vessel at St Helena on 24 April before the first

case of hantavirus was confirmed.

The remaining 22 British passengers are due to fly home from Tenerife on a charter flight.

They will be taken to Arrowe Park Hospital in Wirral, Merseyside, to isolate for 45 days. They will be monitored by the UKHSA and tested as needed.

The risk to the general public remains very low, the MoD said. (BBC)

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Iran responds to ceasefire proposal as drones target Gulf nations



Iran has sent its response to the latest United States ceasefire proposal via Pakistani mediators and wants negotiations to focus on permanently ending the war, Iran's state-run media said Sunday. Pakistan confirmed receiving it.

Iran seeks to end the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon, where Israel fights the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group, and to ensure the security of shipping, its state TV said.

Washington's latest proposal addressed a deal to end the war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and roll back Iran's nuclear program, an issue that Tehran would rather discuss later

The White House had no immediate comment about Iran's reply. President Donald Trump is giving diplomacy "every chance we possibly can before going back to hostilities," the US ambassador to the United Nations, Mike Waltz, told ABC.


Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen or heard publicly since the war began, "issued new and decisive directives for the continuation of operations and the powerful confrontation with the enemies" while meeting with the head of the joint military command, the state broadcaster reported, with no details.

Meanwhile, the fragile ceasefire was tested when a drone ignited a small fire on a ship off Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait reported drones entering their airspace. The UAE blamed Iran. No casualties were reported, and no one immediately claimed responsibility.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry called it a "dangerous and unacceptable escalation that threatens the security and safety of maritime trade routes and vital supplies in the region."

Iran and armed allied groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon have used drones to carry out hundreds of strikes since the war began with US and Israeli attacks on February. 28.

Trump has reiterated threats to resume full-scale bombing if Iran does not accept an agreement to reopen the strait and roll back its nuclear program.



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Iran has largely blocked the strategic waterway that's key to the global flow of oil, natural gas and fertilizer since the war began, rattling world markets.

The US in turn has blockaded Iranian ports and on Friday struck two Iranian oil tankers it said were trying to breach the blockade. Iran's Revolutionary Guard navy says any attack on Iranian oil tankers or commercial vessels would be met with a "heavy assault" on one of the US bases in the region and enemy ships.

The American military said Sunday that it has turned back 61 commercial vessels and disabled four since the blockade began April 13.

Another sticking point in negotiations is Iran's highly enriched uranium. The United Nations nuclear agency says Iran has more than 440 kilograms (970 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels.

In an interview with state media posted late Saturday, an Iranian military spokesperson said its forces were on "full readiness" to protect nuclear sites where uranium is stored.

"We considered it possible that they might intend to steal it through infiltration operations or heli-borne operations," Brig. Gen. Akrami Nia told the IRNA news agency.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an excerpt of an interview with CBS scheduled to air later Sunday said the war isn't over because the enriched uranium needs to be taken out of Iran. "Trump has said to me, 'I want to go in there,' and I think it can be done physically," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that Moscow's proposal to take enriched uranium from Iran to help negotiate a settlement remains on the table.

The majority of Iran's highly enriched uranium is likely at its Isfahan nuclear complex, the International Atomic Energy Agency director-general told The Associated Press last month. The facility was bombarded by US-Israeli

airstrikes in the 12-day war last year and faced less intense attacks this year.

Pakistan oversaw face-to-face talks between the US and Iran last month and continues to pursue mediation. In rare public comments, army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir said Islamabad remains committed to helping end the conflict. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke by phone with his Qatari counterpart.

The UAE's Defense Ministry said it shot down two drones and blamed Iran.

In Kuwait, Defense Ministry spokesperson Brig. Gen. Saud Abdulaziz Al Otaibi said hostile drones entered Kuwait's airspace and forces responded "in accordance with established procedures." The ministry did not say where the drones came from.

Qatar's Defense Ministry said a drone targeted a commercial ship coming

from Abu Dhabi, setting a small fire that was extinguished. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center said the attack happened 23 nautical miles (43 kilometres) north-east of the capital, Doha. It gave no details about the ship's owner or origin, and there was no claim of responsibility.

Several attacks against ships in the Persian Gulf have occurred over the past week, and a US effort to "guide" ships through the strait was soon paused.

South Korea announced initial findings from a investigation that said two unidentified airborne objects struck the South Korean-operated vessel HMM NAMU about one minute apart while it was anchored in the Strait of Hormuz last week, causing an explosion and fire. A foreign ministry spokesperson said officials have yet to determine who was responsible. (AP)



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Countries airlift nationals evacuated from virus-hit cruise ship



The first passengers evacuated from a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship docked near Spain's Canary Islands have arrived in Madrid.

Fourteen Spanish nationals on the chartered flight from Tenerife face mandatory quarantine at a military hospital in the capital, Madrid. They were followed by French nationals taken to Paris as other countries, including the UK, also prepared to fly their citizens home.

Staff involved in the operation in Tenerife pulled white hazmat suits over the evacuees' clothes and hosed them down on the airport tarmac.

Three people have died in the outbreak on the Dutch vessel MV Hondius, including two who were confirmed to have had hantavirus.

Flights for Turkish, Irish and US citizens are also planned for Sunday.

Health Minister Mónica García said

the operation was "proceeding normally" and that all passengers on board the MS Hondius were asymptomatic.

The MV Hondius pulled into the port of Granadilla before dawn on Sunday, a month after the first passenger died on board.

The sun rose to reveal it anchored offshore, with military police boats on patrol and a major operation unfolding on land to help more than 100 passengers and crew disembark.

At about 07:00 (06:00 GMT), medical teams went on board to check everyone for signs of the virus.

With a long camera lens, passengers could be seen on Sunday morning wandering around on the deck of the ship, or at the windows, all in white medical face masks, as the first evacuations took place.

Several sat socially distanced on the first evacuation boat, filming and tak-

ing photos as they approached land, where they were met by officials in white protective suits.

They were then taken by bus to the local airport.

A plane bound for the Netherlands is expected to take 27 people, including Belgian, Greek, German and Argentine citizens.

Other flights are poised to depart after that, including to the UK and US. The last evacuation flight is expected to leave for Australia on Monday.

The cruise passengers face having to self-isolate after leaving Tenerife, a gruelling prospect as the virus has an incubation period of up to nine weeks.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended a 42-day quarantine period for the cruise passengers from their last exposure.

Passengers from the UK will be taken to an isolation facility where they will

be kept for up to 72 hours. Medics will then assess whether they can isolate at home or at another suitable location based on their living arrangements.

There had been meticulous preparations to receive the ship, which is not permitted to reach shore: a security perimeter of one nautical mile was enforced around it as it approached the island.

Dozens of intensive care specialists were on stand-by at the Candelaria hospital in Tenerife in case anyone from the Hondius becomes seriously ill during the transfer. A strict isolation facility has one bed fully equipped to deal with infectious diseases, complete with testing kit and a ventilator.

“We are absolutely ready,” chief intensive care doctor Mar Martin told me on the unit, where large numbers of protective suits, masks and gloves are already piled up for staff.

“We’ve never seen [hantavirus] before – but it’s a virus, with some complications, just like we manage every day. We are fully trained for that.”

A doctor with white glasses and long brown hair smiles. She stands in a medical facility with a hospital bed next to her and two screens with several wires around them behind her.

The complex operation to prevent the rare Andes strain of this virus spreading was described by health minister Mónica García as “unprecedented”.

On Saturday, she stressed that the risk of contagion for the general population was low. “We believe that alarmism, misinformation and confusion are contrary to the basic principles of preserving public health.”

The WHO’s head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is in Tenerife to oversee the disembarking, said the operation was “going very well”.

The outbreak has been linked to a landfill site in the southernmost tip of Argentina, popular with birdwatchers. The virus is carried there by rodents, and it’s rare for it to pass between people.

The WHO boss has urged nervous Spaniards to trust those in charge of the evacuation.

“Your concern is legitimate, because of the experience of Covid: that trauma is still in our minds,” he acknowledged. But he added that the risk of wider contagion now was low “because of how the virus works, and because of how the Spanish government has prepared to avoid any problem”.

There was some anger here when people learned the Hondius was being diverted to their island.

On Friday, a group of port workers gathered outside the local parliament in noisy protest, concerned that safety measures were not strong enough.

Then very late last night, all the carefully laid plans were briefly thrown into chaos when the president of the Canary Islands, Fernando Clavijo, said he would refuse to permit the ship into port as the disembarkation could not be done in a day. The central government in Madrid had to intervene.

Clavijo then claimed on TV that a rat carrying the hantavirus might “get off the ship in the middle of the night and endanger the people of the Canary Islands”. The health secretary had to come out and insist that such a scenario was “not a risk”.

In general, people on the island seem reassured that the risk is low.

“The virus is dangerous, of course. But they say you need to have very close contact to get it,” a woman named Jennifer told me, out walking with her child in Tenerife’s capital Santa Cruz.

“If we’re careful, we hope it’s not too serious.”

Not everyone will disembark in Tenerife from the Hondius: some 30 crew members will stay on board to take the cruise ship back to the Netherlands. But for most, there is at last an end in sight to weeks of fear and uncertainty at sea.

Now come the long weeks of quarantine. (BBC)

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

Winning start for Ovals Ojays 2 and Daggers in Division 1 playoffs



The Old Road Daggers basketball team

Second-seed Cuties Ovals Ojays and third-seed Old Road Daggers got off to winning starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division Playoffs on Saturday evening.

The Ovals Ojays took a one-nil lead over the seventh-seeded EZ Fit Flyers 2 in their best-of-three first-round series by securing a commanding 71-58 victory in their opening game at the JSC Sports Complex.

Dajon George sank six of his 12 three-pointers to lead the Ojays with 18 points. Orion Seraphine converted 16 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Tajahron Davis produced 14 points and five steals; and Jaleyle Joseph scored six points and grabbed 15 rebounds for Ovals Ojays 2.

Gabriel Desouza sank 17 points; Noah Massiah converted 12 points and snatched seven rebounds; Elijah Charles scored 11 points; Delroy Christopher provided eight points and 13 rebounds; and Hansel Piper chipped in with six points

and 11 rebounds for Flyers 2.

The Old Road Daggers surged to a one-nil lead over the sixth-seeded Da Project 2 in their best-of-three first-round series by cruising to a 77-63 victory in their opening encounter.

Kedar Clarke sank 21 points and snatched 14 rebounds; Kelvin Simon converted 19 points and grabbed 24 rebounds; and Rafiki "Ras-I" Harris contributed 13 points, nine rebounds, eight steals, and six assists for the Old Road Daggers.

Donte Trimmingham sank 20 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Erije Joseph converted 14 points and claimed nine rebounds; Nathan Matthew scored 10 points and snatched five steals; and Israel Clarke provided nine points and eight rebounds for Da Project 2.

Meanwhile, third-seed Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz also got off to a winning start in their ABBA First Division playoff series.

The Stingerz took a one-nil lead

over the sixth-seeded JSC Red Hawks in their best-of-three first-round series by securing a commanding 110-78 victory in their opening game.

Joshua Minner produced 25 points, seven rebounds, seven assists, and five steals; Steven Matthew sank 25 points and claimed nine rebounds; and Brycen Thomas scored 15 points and provided seven assists as the main performers for the Stingerz.

In support, Dequan Williams converted 14 points and snatched seven rebounds, and Keroi Lee scored 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Stingerz.

Cohen Desouza sank 22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Andre Burnet produced 19 points, eight rebounds, and five assists; and Nikon McGregor converted 11 points for the Red Hawks.

Both teams will clash again in Game Two on Tuesday at 6:45 pm.

Meanwhile, second seed Da Project has advanced to the semi-finals of the Division 1 playoffs.

Da Project, who finished second in the round-robin league, gained a bye into the playoffs semi-finals after the seventh-seeded All Saints Slam forfeited their best-of-three first-round series 2-0.

The All Saints Slam finished second from the bottom of the eight-team round-robin Division 1 League with a record of two wins and 12 losses during their quota of 14 games.

Arsenal survive huge scare to edge towards title

LONDON (Reuters) - Arsenal edged a step closer to the Premier League title with Leandro Trossard's late goal and a slice of fortune in stoppage time securing a precious 1-0 victory at relegation-threatened West Ham United to put them five points clear on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side looked like dropping points to keep the door ajar for chasing Manchester City but Trossard's 83rd-minute goal means that victories over Burnley and Crystal Palace will guarantee their first English crown since 2004.

An off-key Arsenal were living on their nerves and survived a huge scare in stoppage time as West Ham's Callum Wilson fired home in a goalmouth scramble but his effort was ruled out for a foul on Arsenal keeper David Raya after a lengthy VAR check.

It completed a stunning week for Arsenal who reached the Champions League final for the first time since 2006 by beating Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Victory left them on 79 points from 36 games with City, who have a game in hand against Crystal Palace on Wednesday, on 74 from 35. West Ham stay third from bottom on 36 points from 36 games and will be desperately hoping that Leeds United can take points off 17th-placed Tottenham Hotspur on Monday.



Arsenal players celebrate after scoring during the Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Arsenal in London, Sunday, May 10, 2026. (AP)

"It has been a hell of a week, a rollercoaster of a week, with everything we have had to play for and all of the emotions in those games," Arteta said.

West Ham's bitter defeat means Leeds and Nottingham Forest are safe from relegation. Forest drew 1-1 at home against Newcastle United with a late equaliser by Elliot Anderson taking them to 43 points.

Aston Villa suffered a European hangover in a 2-2 draw with already-relegated Burnley that stalled their hopes of sealing a place in the Champions League.

Three days after reaching the Europa League final, Villa found themselves trailing to an early goal by Jaidon Anthony but Ross Barkley levelled before halftime and Ollie Watkins fired Villa ahead after the break.

Burnley's Zian Flemming equalised though to leave Villa in fifth place with 59

points, behind Liverpool on goal difference. Villa play Liverpool next week.

Rarely has a capital derby had more riding on it than the clash between West Ham and Arsenal at the London Stadium.

Both sides were desperate for a victory for contrasting reasons and Arsenal were breathing a huge sigh of relief after a dramatic conclusion to the contest.

With Manchester City beating Brentford 3-0 on Saturday to close the gap to two points, the pressure was on Arsenal in what always looked like a treacherous fixture.

Apart from a dominant opening 25 minutes they struggled against a battling West Ham side and needed two great saves from Raya to keep the hosts at bay.

When Trossard fired home after being picked out by Martin Odegaard in the 83rd minute it sparked delirium behind the goal

where the Arsenal fans were massed.

But deep in stoppage time, Wilson drove a shot through a forest of legs to seemingly earn West Ham a priceless point in their battle to extend their 14-season stay in the top flight.

Silence descended around the stadium as VAR checked for a foul on Raya by West Ham's Pablo and there was a stomach-churning wait as referee Chris Kavanagh watched replay after replay on the monitor before deciding to disallow the goal.

Sky Sports pundit Gary Neville described it as the "biggest VAR call in the history of the Premier League" and it certainly had huge ramifications at the top and bottom of the table.

Everton's dreams of qualifying for Europe suffered a setback as substitute Jean-Philippe Mateta rescued Crystal Palace with a late equaliser in a 2-2 draw.

Palace, fresh from booking their place in the Conference League final on Thursday, twice came from behind. James Tarkowski put Everton ahead early before Ismaila Sarr levelled in the 34th minute. Beto restored Everton's lead with a brilliant solo effort but Mateta struck in the 76th minute.

Everton are 10th on 49 points, six points back of a top-six finish and a place in Europe. Palace are 14th on 44 points.

Thunder charge past Lakers to take 3-0 lead in NBA playoffs



Oklahoma City Thunder center Chet Holmgren, center, dunks as Los Angeles Lakers center Deandre Ayton, left, and guard Marcus Smart defend during the first half of Game 3 in a second-round NBA basketball playoffs series Saturday, May 9, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Ajay Mitchell had career playoff highs of 24 points and 10 assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder extended their unbeaten playoff run to the brink of another Western Conference finals with a 131-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 3 of the second round on Saturday night.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 23 points and nine assists for the Thunder, who coolly improved to 7-0, both in these playoffs overall, and in their seven games this season against LeBron James and the Lakers.

Oklahoma City is the

NBA's sixth defending champion to start 7-0 in the following postseason after three wins over short-handed Los Angeles by a combined 59 points.

Game 3 was remarkably similar to Game 2 in many respects: The Lakers again had to fight desperately just to keep up with the champs into the third quarter, only for the Thunder to run away with their usual merciless efficiency when LA finally faltered.

Chet Holmgren had 18 points and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City, which outscored the Lakers 33-20 in the third quarter and

wasn't threatened at all down the stretch.

"I think (the first half) wasn't our best half, and in the locker room we just talked about it and knew that we had to adjust and be better," said Mitchell, who continued his postseason emergence by scoring at least 14 points for the sixth consecutive game.

Game 4 is Monday night in Los Angeles. James had 19 points, eight assists and six rebounds, while Austin Reaves had 17 points and nine assists. But both stars struggled from the field to a combined 12 for 32, and 21 points from Rui Ha-

chimura weren't enough to keep LA in contention with the champs.

"We had moments in the first half that were really good for us," James said. "In the third quarter, we didn't knock down shots, we didn't defend or get stops and allowed them to take us out of the game."

Gilgeous-Alexander had his highest-scoring game of the series despite missing nine of his first 11 shots amid another concerted defensive effort by the Lakers on the NBA MVP, albeit with fewer double-teams than in the series' first two games.

Luke Kennard added 18 points for the Lakers, who have lost five of their last six games since midway through the first round against Houston.

NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic missed his 14th consecutive game for the Lakers since straining his hamstring April 2 in Oklahoma City. He is not thought to be close to returning from an injury that often requires two months of recovery.

Third-leading scorer Jalen Williams missed his fifth straight game for the Thunder with a strained hamstring.

Hoppers gain promotion to contest Premier Division next season

The Greenbay Hoppers FC has officially gained automatic promotion from the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division and will return to compete in the Premier Division League for the 2026–2027 season.

The Hoppers ensured they will finish as one of the top two sides that will gain automatic promotion to the Premier Division at the end of the season by coasting to a 7-1 victory against Willikies FC in their penultimate match of the current 2025-2026 First Division at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

Seven different players scored for Greenbay, while Phil Nicholas converted a consolation goal for Willikies FC with a strike in the 44th minute that allowed the Hoppers to take a 2-1 lead at halftime.

The Hoppers sealed their win by scoring five more goals in the second half to clinch their automatic promotion spot by opening up a three-point lead at the top of the current First Division league.

It means Willikies FC wrapped up their First Division campaign in eighth place with 37 points after crashing to their 11th defeat during their quota of 26 matches.

With one game remaining, their 18th win in 25 matches lifted the Greenbay Hoppers to 56 points to stay as leaders of the First Division.

The Freemans Village Scorpions, who have two games left, remain in second place with 53 points from 24 matches. The Greenbay Hoppers will return to the Premier Division after spending one season in the First Division.

The Greenbay Hoppers, who finished in the cellar of the 14-team league with 11 points from their quota of 19 matches, were one of four teams that were automatically relegated from the Premier Division in the 2024-25 domestic season.

The other three relegated teams during that season were Five Islands FC, the



Players of the Greenbay Hoppers starting XI

Willikies Warriors, and Parham FC.

Meanwhile, the Freemans Village Scorpions can clinch the other automatic promotion spot with a victory over Parham when both teams meet in a rescheduled First Division affair at Freemans Village on Wednesday at 4:15 pm.

The Swetes Vipers, who are currently in third place with 51 points from 25 matches, will wrap up their campaign against fourth-placed SAP FC in both teams' final outing at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday at 5 pm.

The third and fourth place finishers in the First Division will meet in a play-off with Green City FC in a three-team round-robin playoff. The winner of the playoffs will compete in the Premier Division next season.

Tenth-place finishers English Harbour will compete in a three-team round-robin playoff with the third and fourth-place finishers in the Second Division. The winners of the playoffs will compete in the First Division next season.

Kelton Dalso Real Blizzard and Police FC finished in third and fourth places, respectively, in the Second Division, which was won by Guydadli Jets, and the Young Lions of Old Road claimed the runners-up spot.

The Guydadli Jets and the Young Lions gained automatic promotion to compete in the First Division next season.

The four teams that finish at the bottom of the 14-team standings in the current First Division have been automatically relegated to compete in the Second Division next season.

They are Bendals FC, the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, Bolans FC, and FC Masters Ballers. Bendals FC ended their campaign in 11th place with 21 points from their quota of 26 matches.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays concluded their season third from the bottom of the standings with 18 points from their 26 matches.

Bolans FC finished second from the bottom of the standings with 17 points from their 26 matches, while FC Master Ballers finished in the cellar with nine points from the same number of games.

The First Division will conclude with a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, May 17. The Freemans Village Scorpions will face Five Islands FC at 6 pm, while the Greenbay Hoppers will clash with Empire FC in a Gray's Green derby at 8 pm.

Grenades recapture Antigua Premier League crown



Players of the Jennings Grenades FC

The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades have reclaimed the title as champions of the top domestic football league in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Grenades, who won their inaugural title in the 2022-23 season, recaptured the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League crown by dethroning back-to-back winners All Saints United in the 2025-26 championship decider on Saturday night.

The Grenades FC was crowned the 2025-2026 Antigua Premier League (APL) champions by pulling off a 3-1 victory against All Saints United in the final match of the season at the ABFA Technical Centre.

Barrington Blake scored twice with conversions in the fourth and 18th minutes to give the Grenades an early

two-nil advantage. Raheem Deterville scored for All Saints United with a strike in the 37th minute as the Grenades took a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Quinton Griffith sealed Grenades' title-clinching win by scoring his team's third and final goal with an 86th-minute conversion.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to secure the league title with a total of 59 points from their quota of 22 matches.

All Saints United finished in the runners-up position with 56 points after suffering only their second defeat during their quota of 22 matches.

The Aston Villa Lions finished in third place with 44 points, while the Pigotts Bullets claimed fourth place with 39 points.

Green City FC clinched eighth place on goal difference above the Attacking Saints, with both teams finishing their campaign with 23 points apiece.

It means Green City FC will compete in a three-team round-robin playoff with the third and fourth-place finishers in this year's first division, with the winners qualifying to compete in the premier league next season.

The last four teams at the bottom of the 14-team Premier League standings have been automatically relegated to compete in the first division next season.

They are Attacking Saints FC (9th place), John Hughes FC (10th place with 16 points), Ottos Rangers FC (11th place with 11 points), and Jennings United FC, who finished in the cellar (12th place) with six points.