

# ABEC Chairman Blasts Bruce Goodwin Over 'False' Election Claims

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*Governor General Sir Rodney Williams (blue suit) stands next to newly re-appointed Independent Senator Jamilla Kirwan who is surrounded by family and friends*

## ABEC Chairman Blasts Bruce Goodwin Over 'False' Election Claims

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), Arthur Thomas, has issued a strong rebuke of former Deputy Chairman Bruce Goodwin, rejecting what he described as “false, reckless, and wholly unsubstantiated” allegations concerning the integrity of the April 30, 2026 General Elections.

In a statement responding to comments made by Goodwin on the programme *Eye on the Issues* hosted by Louisa Tully on Progressive Radio, Thomas said the allegations sought to undermine both the independence of ABEC and public trust in the country's democratic institutions.

“Those statements, which seek to cast doubt on the independence of the Commission and the legitimacy of the General Election held on April 30, are categorically rejected in their entirety,” Thomas stated.

He described the accusations as serious claims made publicly “without proof, without restraint, and without any responsible regard for the damage they are capable of causing to public confidence in the country's democratic institutions.”

Thomas stressed that ABEC remains an independent constitutional institution that operates free from political control or government interference.

“ABEC is an independent, statutory, and constitutional institution,” he said. “Its policies, procedures, and systems are not captured by the state, are not directed by any political party, and are not linked in any improper way to any apparatus of government.”

According to the ABEC chairman, the Commission carries out its responsibilities in accordance with the law, established procedures, and accepted democratic standards.

“Any suggestion that the Commission has been suborned, manipulat-



**Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), Arthur Thomas,**

ed, or stripped of its independence is false, scandalous, and must be rejected outright,” Thomas declared.

He also expressed disappointment that the allegations came from a former deputy chairman of the Commission, noting that Goodwin should fully understand the constitutional role and operational responsibilities of ABEC.

Thomas warned that reckless allegations against electoral institutions can have damaging consequences for national stability and public trust.

“Public life imposes responsibilities,” he stated. “One of them is a duty not to recklessly undermine public institutions by repeating accusations that have not been proved and cannot be responsibly sustained.”

The chairman maintained that the Commission's work has always been transparent and open to scrutiny under the law, adding that local, regional, and international observer groups involved in the recent election process would have witnessed that firsthand.

“The Commission's record, processes, and conduct are transparent and

clean,” he said. “That reality would have been apparent to observer groups involved in the last elections at local, regional, and international levels.”

He further defended the integrity of election officials and ABEC staff, saying they should not be subjected to what he called “insinuation and political theatre.”

“These officers are not to be casually defamed,” he said. “They are entitled to the protection of the institution they serve, and to a firm public defense of their integrity.”

The ABEC chairman pointed out that any individual claiming to possess evidence of wrongdoing should present it to the appropriate legal authorities rather than make unsupported public accusations.

“The proper course where any person claims to possess evidence of wrongdoing is plain,” Thomas said. “That evidence must be produced and laid before competent lawful authority for examination and determination.”

Thomas accused Goodwin of attempting to “sow suspicion, diminish trust, and bring the electoral process into disrepute,” through his comments.

“Accordingly, the Commission rejects Goodwin's statements utterly,” he stated. “They are unfounded, inflammatory, and damaging.”

The ABEC chairman has warned that the Commission is prepared to defend its reputation and the integrity of the electoral system through all available legal means if necessary.

“The Commission reserves all of its legal rights and will not hesitate to employ the remedies available to it should that become necessary in order to vindicate its reputation and protect public confidence in the administration of elections,” Thomas said.

## The Four Social Media CHOGM Correspondents Are Excited At Their New Role



The four social media correspondents selected for CHOGM 2026 have expressed delight over the important role they will play when the international summit gets underway on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2026.

Janet Simon, Gabrielle Hamlet, Lutrell John and Joshua Edwards have all expressed that their roles will be to aid in imparting knowledge into the youth at home and globally on the workings of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Appearing on state television on Tuesday morning, the correspondents also stressed the importance of youth participation in CHOGM, particularly through the Commonwealth Youth Forum, which runs alongside the leaders' summit.

According to Janet Simon, young people across the Commonwealth have already been making meaningful contributions in their communities, and CHOGM offers them an important platform to connect,

exchange ideas, and discuss shared challenges.

“For me, my role is assisting and facilitating that process so that not just the youth who attend CHOGM can connect with each other, but also those who may not have the opportunity to attend can still stay connected.”

Simon noted that hosting CHOGM is not only a victory for Antigua and Barbuda but also for the wider Caribbean region, especially small island developing states that are often overlooked in international conversations.

“To see that CHOGM is being held in Antigua and Barbuda, it’s not just a win for our country, but it’s a win for the Caribbean on a whole,” she said.

She is hopeful that the summit inspires a new mindset among young people.

“I would like our young people to see that they’re not supposed to be sitting in the backseat, but instead view themselves as drivers of change,” she said. “For us to get further, we actually have to work together as a unit.”

Meantime, Lutrell John has highlighted people’s unfamiliarity with CHOGM and the Commonwealth itself, prompting him to focus on public education following the announcement of the correspondents.

“A lot of people don’t know that Antigua and Barbuda is one of the 56 Commonwealth countries,” he said. “I started from there, trying to ensure people have the necessary information to know what CHOGM is and what it’s about.”

He added that the summit presents opportunities for discussions on education, technology, and development that could directly benefit Antigua and Barbuda and future generations.

# Jamilla Kirwan Sworn-In as Independent Senator

Communications specialist, media personality, actress and former beauty queen Jamilla Kirwan was on Tuesday sworn-in as an independent senator in the Upper House of Parliament.

Kirwan is returning to the position she was first appointed to in November, 2025. Her tenure ended on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, when parliament was dissolved to make way for general elections on April 30, 2026.

Now, as it was then, Jamila Kirwan was selected by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams at his discretion, a provision enshrined in the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda.

At Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony at Government House, Sir Rodney Williams said Kirwan's re-appointment to the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda is a clear indication that she has much to offer in the area of public service.

"Senator-designate Kirwan returns to the Senate having first been appointed on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, and though her period of service has been, I would say, relatively short, it has evidently been sufficient to demonstrate that she still has much to contribute to national discourse, to legislative review, and the development of our country. Her reappointment reflects confidence in her ability, perspectives, and continued service," Sir Rodney said.

The Governor General paused to remember the support given to Jamilla Kirwan by her late mother Lucy Kirwan-Daley, who passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, noting, "We acknowledge



the emotional weight that accompanies a moment like this. Yet, even in grief, there are examples of strength that inspire us.

Sir Rodney Williams encouraged Senator Kirwan to press on with her aspirations, using the memories of her mother as sources of comfort, strength and guidance, as she prepares to make a meaningful contribution in her role as a legislator.

"The Senate plays a critical role within our constitutional framework. It is expected to provide careful review of legislation, balanced examination of national issues and thoughtful contributions that help strengthen the governance and public policy. At its best, the Senate reflects wisdom, maturity, fairness, and respect for differing perspectives. I therefore encourage Senator-designate Kirwan, as she re-commits herself to service within the upper House, to continue to approach



her responsibilities with integrity, humility, compassion, and courage," the Governor General stated.



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## Antigua and Barbuda Records Another Road Fatality

The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal traffic accident on All Saints Road on Tuesday, May 12, involving a motor bus and an employee of the National Solid Waste Management Authority.

The allegations are that the motor bus was travelling from west to east along All Saints Road at a high rate of speed when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle and veered off the road.

The vehicle collided with the worker, causing him to be pinned between the bus and a truck that was parked on the northern side of the road. He was pronounced dead at the scene by a medical doctor at approximately 10:56 am.

The deceased has been identified as 29-year-old Okeem Lightfoot of Swetes Village.

The driver of the bus was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre

for medical treatment.

exercise caution while using the na-



The Police Administration extends sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time.

Motorists are once again reminded to

tion's roads and to adhere to all traffic laws, particularly with respect to speed limits.

The investigation remains ongoing.

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## Minister Of Health Visits Scene Of Traffic Fatality

Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs, Michael Joseph on Tuesday morning visited the scene of a tragic road fatality along All Saints Road involving a beautification worker contracted by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

The Minister, under whose portfolio the NSWMA falls, met with and consoled grieving family members during this difficult time. He also extended sincere condolences to the relatives, friends, and colleagues of the deceased.

Minister Joseph is appealing to all road users to exercise greater caution and responsibility while traversing the nation's roads, emphasizing the importance of protecting lives and en-



suring the safety of both motorists and roadside workers.

He noted that incidents such as these

serve as a sobering reminder of the need for vigilance, patience, and respect for all persons who work along public roadways.

## New Health Minister Completes Visits To Clinics On Antigua

As part of activities marking Nurses Week 2026, Health Minister, Michael Joseph continued his island-wide clinic visits, making stops at the Bethesda, Freetown, Newfield, Swetes, Liberta, Cobbs Cross, Jennings, Boleans, Johnson's Point, and Old Road Clinics.

During these visits, the Minister personally presented gift baskets to the nursing staff as a token of appreciation for their unwavering commitment, compassion, and dedicated service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. The baskets were personally sponsored by Minister Joseph in recognition of the invaluable role nurses continue to play within the nation's healthcare system.

With Tuesday's visits, all 22 public clinics across An-



tigua have now received the gift baskets from the Minister with Barbuda next on the agenda.

Minister Joseph further reaffirmed his commitment to supporting healthcare workers and strengthening the country's primary health-

care services, noting that nurses remain at the heart of patient care and community wellness.



# CIBC CARIBBEAN ARRANGES OVER US\$3.5 BILLION IN TRANSACTIONS IN 2025

Against a backdrop of renewed market activity and constructive capital dynamics, CIBC Caribbean delivered an exceptional performance, arranging over US\$3.5 billion in transactions during the past year. We were honoured to receive global recognition for our work across multiple transactions. This achievement underscores our reputation as the region’s most trusted advisor, delivering innovative financing solutions amidst shifting macroeconomic currents.

We continue to champion the Caribbean’s potential, driving transformative projects with particular emphasis on next-generation infrastructure and sustainable economic diversification. Backed by the region’s largest and most experienced Corporate and Investment Banking teams, we offer the strategic agility and bespoke solutions necessary to meet the evolving ambitions of our clients. Showcased below are notable transactions that define a year of record-setting collaboration and growth.

 <b>FOCOL Holdings Limited</b> Bridge Facility B\$540 Million Sole Arranger & Lender January 2026 Energy	 <b>London &amp; Regional Group</b> Syndicated Term Facility US\$72.7 Million Lead Arranger & Lender November 2025 Hospitality	 <b>Public Hospitals Authority</b> Syndicated Term Facility B\$575 Million Lead Arranger & Lender November 2025 Healthcare	 <b>Health City Cayman Islands Ltd.</b> Senior Term Loan Facility US\$120 Million Lead Arranger & Lender October 2025 Healthcare	 <b>Integrated Utility Holding N.V.</b> Syndicated Term Facilities US\$327.2 Million Syndicate Lender September 2025 Utilities
 <b>Plenary</b> Plenary Airports IADP LP Senior Term Loan Facility US\$70 Million Lead Arranger & Lender July 2025 Airports	 <b>BELCO</b> Bermuda Electric Light Company Revolving Facility & Private Placement Notes US\$225 Million Placement Agent, Participant and Lender July 2025 Utilities	 <b>Trinidad Generation Unlimited</b> Senior Unsecured Notes US\$525 Million Co-manager & Participant June 2025 Energy	 <b>Government of The Bahamas</b> Eurobond Issuance US\$1.067 Billion Joint Bookrunner June 2025 Sovereign	 <b>Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V.</b> Syndicated Term Facilities US\$1.6 Billion Lead Arranger & Lender May 2025 Energy
 <b>Sandals</b> Sandals Resorts International Syndicated Term Facility Undisclosed Amount Lead Arranger & Lender April 2025 Hospitality	 <b>Cayman Islands Government</b> Senior Term Loan Facility US\$183 Million Lead Arranger & Lender March 2025 Sovereign	 <b>Government of Barbados</b> Sustainability-Linked Term Loan BD\$593 Million Sole Arranger, Lender and Sustainability Structuring Agent November 2024 Sovereign	<b>WINNER</b> Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025 Central America and the Caribbean’s Best ESG Deal  <b>WINNER</b> Global Banking & Markets Awards 2026 Sovereign Syndicated Loan Deal of the Year	 <b>GBM AWARDS</b> Latin America & Caribbean  <b>WINNER</b> Global Banking & Markets Awards 2026 Caribbean Deal of the Year Government of The Bahamas US\$1.067B Eurobond Issuance Natural Resources Deal of the Year Staatsolie Maatschappij US\$1.6B Term Facility Caribbean Bond House of the Year CIBC World Markets Corp. Caribbean Loan House of the Year CIBC Caribbean

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## Brian Murphy Named Incoming Chairman of ABHTA

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has announced the appointment of Brian Murphy, Director of Operations at Carlisle Bay Antigua, as its Incoming Chairman of the Association.

Murphy assumes the role following the resignation of Craig Marshall, who successfully chaired the Association following his election in 2023 and re-election in 2025. Marshall is vacating the position as he undertakes additional responsibilities outside of the membership of the ABHTA.

The Association expressed sincere appreciation to Marshall for his dedicated service and leadership during his tenure as Chairman. Marshall brought a people-centric approach to the mission of the ABHTA and served the Association with passion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism and hospitality industry. Murphy's appointment fol-



**Brian Murphy, Director of Operations at Carlisle Bay Antigua,**

lows a meeting of the Board of Directors convened on May 11, 2026, to activate Clause 29 of the By-Laws of the Association, which states:

“Should any directorship or executive position become vacant it can be filled at the discretion of the Board of Directors until the next Bi-annual general meeting or; ordinary or extra ordinary meeting is called for that purpose.”

Following deliberations, the Board of Directors unanimously confirmed Murphy's appointment as Chairman of the ABHTA.

Murphy takes up the role

at a particularly significant time for both the Association and the destination, as Antigua and Barbuda hosts the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) Marketplace 2026. The premier regional tourism event brings together tourism stakeholders, international buyers, sellers, and industry leaders from across the globe, placing Antigua and Barbuda firmly in the international spotlight.

The Association noted that the leadership transition ensures continuity and strong representation for the tourism sector during a critical period of regional engage-

ment and destination promotion.

Commenting on his appointment, Murphy stated:

“It is an honour to serve as Chairman of the ABHTA at such an important time for our tourism industry and our country. I look forward to fully contributing to the role and continuing the Association's collaborative relationships with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, our membership, valued tourism partners, and key stakeholders including the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union. Together, we can continue strengthening and advancing our industry for the benefit of all.”

The ABHTA reaffirmed its commitment to advocacy, partnership, and sustainable tourism growth, while emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration between the public and private sectors in maintaining Antigua and Barbuda's position as a leading Caribbean tourism destination.



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## Young Voices Engage Reparatory Justice as ABRSC Essay Competition Closes

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) is reporting that its annual essay competition has come to a close following submissions from some twenty persons.

Describing the competition as being successful, ABRSC said the competition attracted approximately submissions from diligent students at the secondary, college and university levels across Antigua and Barbuda.

Held under the theme “Reparatory Justice: Reflection and Projection,” the competition invited students to critically examine the meaning, relevance, and future of reparatory justice within Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean context. The initiative formed part of the Commission’s ongoing commitment to education, advocacy, and youth engagement on issues connected to reparations and historical justice.

The ABRSC is encouraged by the level of participation and the quality of interest shown by young people in this important area of national and regional significance. The Commission commends all students who took the time to research, reflect, and articulate their perspectives on a matter that continues to shape conversations around justice, development, identity, and repair.

Submissions are currently being assessed by a diverse panel of judges comprising academics, reparatory justice advocates, writers, and creatives. The Commission is confident that this broad-based and knowledgeable panel will ensure a fair and thoughtful evaluation process.

Winners of the competition will be announced by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, in



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- Original artwork
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observance of African Liberation Day (May 25<sup>th</sup>), with a prize-giving ceremony scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026,

The ABRSC extends sincere appreciation to all participating students, as well as to the educators and institutions that supported and

encouraged their involvement. The Commission remains steadfast in its mission to foster deeper awareness and wider public engagement around reparatory justice, while creating meaningful spaces for youth voices to be heard.



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### FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

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

### SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

- 10AM-5PM | SPRITZ & SUN - SEAFOOD FEST - AND-  
JOHNNY DESOUZA FISHING TOURNAMENT
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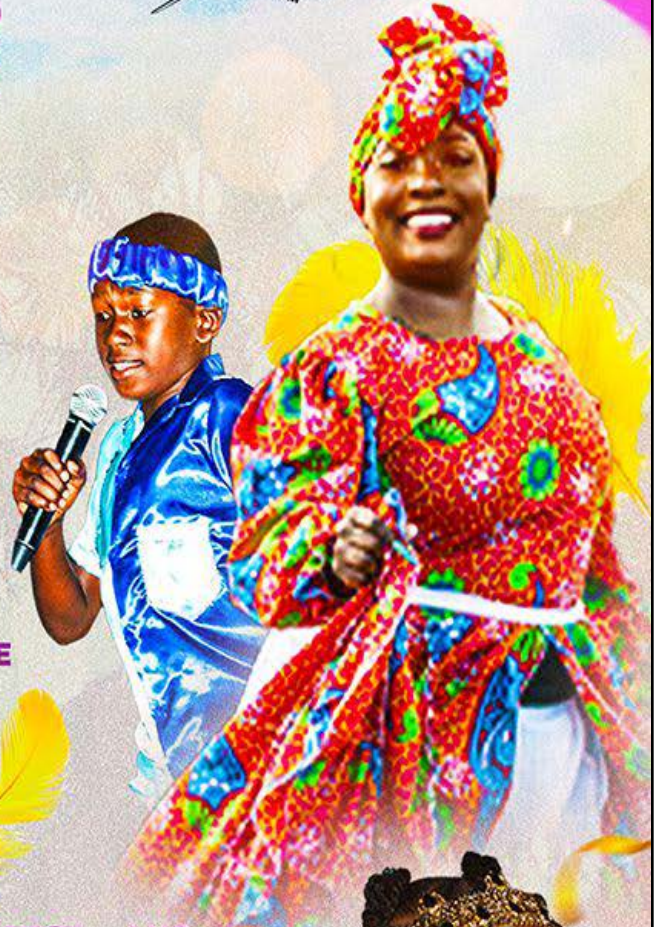
### SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC  
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### MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

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

EVENT SCHEDULE



## ABRSC Congratulates Angelica O'Donoghue on Senate Appointment



The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) is congratulating one of its own as member – Angelica O'Donoghue – has been appointed to the Senate, the Upper House of Parliament.

At the Commission's meeting held on Monday, Chairperson Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde and members of the Commission expressed their delight at Senator O'Donoghue's appointment and conveyed their confidence in her ability to serve with distinction in this important national role.

The Commission noted that Sen. O'Donoghue has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to addressing critical social and economic issues affecting Antigua and Barbuda. Her longstanding dedication to the advancement of Reparatory Justice for Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the wider Caribbean region, has been exemplary and impactful.

The ABRSC is confident that Senator O'Donoghue will bring her experience, passion, and advocacy to the Senate, contributing meaningfully to national development and progressive policy-making.

The Commission wishes Senator

O'Donoghue every success in the execution of her parliamentary responsibilities and looks forward to her continued

service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

## NOTICE



**Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association**  
 P.O. Box 3322, email: [diabetesassociation268@gmail.com](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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
7. Reports  
Adoption  
Matters Arising
7. Reports
  - Treasurer's Report
    - Audited Financial Statements
  - President's Report
8. Questions and answers
9. Any Other Business
10. Adjournment

## CIBC Caribbean To Host Banking Seminar

CIBC Caribbean will host its second annual Business Banking Seminar next Tuesday at Sandals Grande Antigua, under the theme: Tap into Growth: Powering Business Through Technology.

The event will bring together business owners, entrepreneurs, and corporate decision-makers for practical insights, live demonstrations, and expert-led discussion centred on how technology can be harnessed to grow and strengthen businesses in Antigua and Barbuda.

The seminar, which is free to attend and open to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), startups, existing business banking clients, and business professionals, builds on the success of last year's inaugural edition and reflects CIBC Caribbean's commitment to empowering clients beyond the traditional boundaries of banking.

"Technology is transforming the way businesses operate, and it is essential that business owners are equipped to take advantage of the opportunities it presents. At CIBC Caribbean, we are committed to providing our clients not just with financial products, but with the knowledge, tools and conversations that position them for long-term success in an increasingly digital economy", said Priscilla Leonce, Antigua



**Priscilla Leonce, Antigua and Barbuda Head of Country, CIBC Caribbean.**

and Barbuda Head of Country, CIBC Caribbean.

Among the highlights of this year's seminar will be the launch of Tap on Phone, a new product that allows businesses and vendors to accept card payments directly through an Android NFC-enabled smartphone, eliminating the need for traditional point-of-sale hardware. The product is delivered through the Fygaro app — an all-in-one e-commerce and business management platform designed for small and medium-sized enterprises — and



**Laurence Francis, Managing Director of Indies Greens and founder of Worldnet Concepts Limited,**

payments are deposited directly into the client's account.

The seminar programme will feature a keynote address by Laurence Francis, Managing Director of Indies Greens and founder of Worldnet Concepts Limited, who brings more than three decades of experience at the intersection of technology and business. Francis will share practical insights drawn from his own entrepreneurial journey, offering attendees a real-world perspective on the power of digital innovation.



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## APUA Ceases Extraction Of Water From Potworks Dam Because of The Severe Drought

The APUA Water Business Unit says it has decided to cease all water extraction from the Potworks Reservoir due to ongoing drought conditions and significantly reduced water levels within the reservoir.

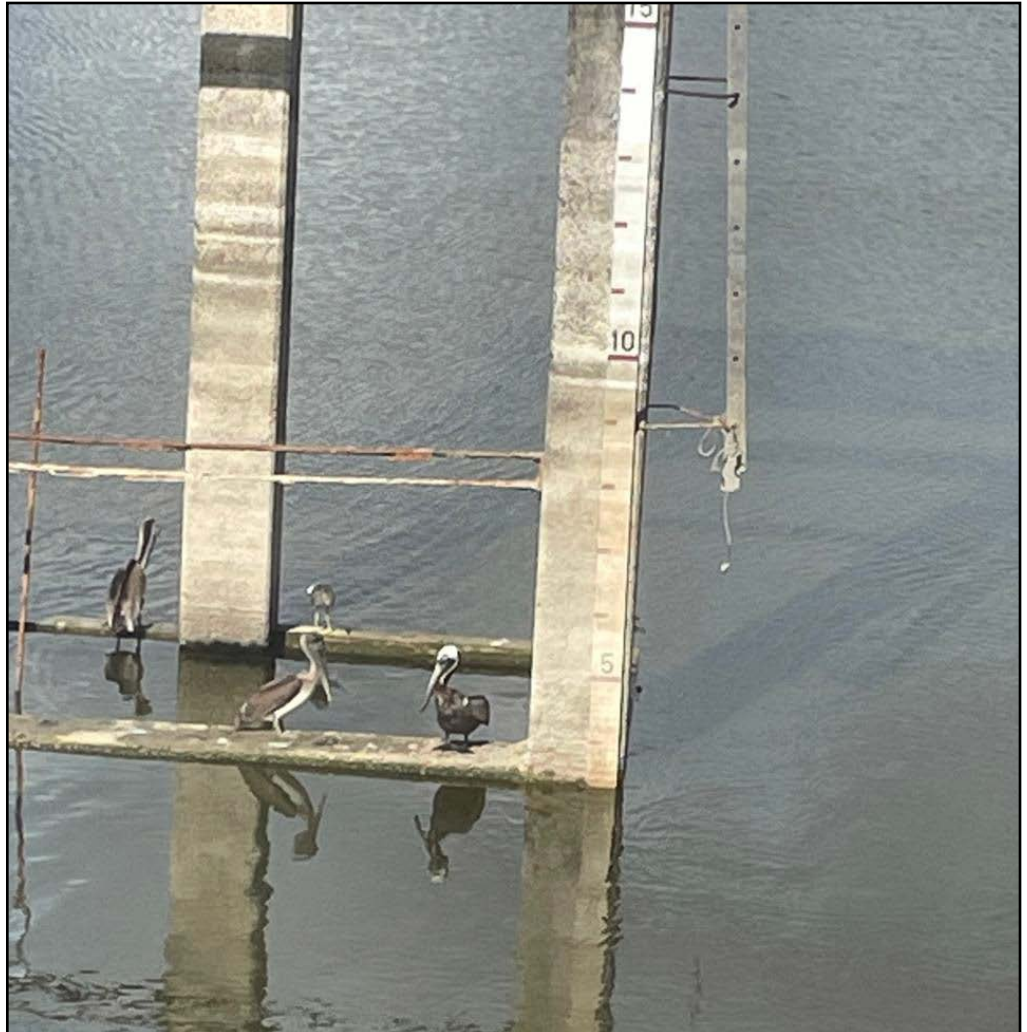
Potworks Reservoir, the island's largest surface water catchment, supports the Delaps Water Treatment Facility which distributes water primarily to communities across the south eastern sections of the island.

For several months, the reservoir consistently contributed an average daily production of approximately 1.2 million imperial gallons of water to the national distribution network. However, continued low rainfall and ongoing drought conditions have impacted reservoir levels to the point where extraction can no longer continue safely and sustainably.

The Water Business Unit notes that additional reverse osmosis facilities commissioned over the past year have significantly strengthened the national water supply system and are helping to offset the loss of production from the Potworks/Delaps system.

Despite the reduction in surface water production, the Water Business Unit continues to maintain an average daily water production of approximately 8.5 million imperial gallons through its reverse osmosis and groundwater systems. As the country's population, tourism sector, housing developments, and overall economic activity continue to grow, national water demand has also steadily increased.

Customers previously supplied from the Potworks/Delaps system will now be served through the Crabbs Reverse Osmosis Plant and the Barnacle Point Reverse Osmosis Facility as the Water Business Unit continues to stabilize and balance distribution across the network. During this transition period, some customers may experience temporary service interruptions, reduced



pressure, or longer intervals between service periods, particularly in elevated areas.

Affected communities may include: American Road, All Saints Road, Belmont, Bethesda, Briggins, Buckleys, Folly Hill, Horsford Hill, John Hughes, Liberta, Ottos New Town, Patterson, Radio Range, St. Clair Heights, Swetes, Wallings, and parts of Falmouth.

The Water Business Unit is also finalizing new transmission lines in the Herbert's area to further support water transmission from the Crabbs and Barnacle Point facilities. Additionally, plans remain on schedule for the commissioning of a new 3.2 million imperial gallon Reverse Osmosis Facility later this year, while the Hydrology

Team continues exploring additional groundwater sources through well development initiatives.

APUA understands that the reliability of potable water is essential to daily life and wishes to assure the public that multiple projects aimed at strengthening and improving overall water operations remain actively underway.

Customers are encouraged to continue practicing water conservation and maintaining adequate water storage where possible.

APUA sincerely appreciates the public's patience and understanding as teams continue working to manage the ongoing effects of the drought and maintain service reliability across the island.

## Cuba Wants To Reduce Its Dependence On Imported Oil



**Cuban Ambassador Sergio Martinez**

After more than sixty years of an economic and financial embargo, in recent times the United States government has been tightening the screws on the government and people of Cuba in several ways, but nothing has been more impactful than the blockade of imported petroleum products into the country of 12-million people.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Cuban Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda Sergio Martinez, reported that the US has blocked all shipment of petroleum products to the island from Venezuela since it forcibly removed that country's President Nicolas Maduro in a military operation on January 1. Prior to the latest US action against the Spanish-speaking country, Venezuela provided Cuba with practically all its petroleum imports.

Ambassador Martinez revealed that since the US action, only one shipment of petroleum products had arrived in Cuba. The impact has been profound as practically all facets of life depend on energy to operate.

He provided grim statistics of the

severe impact the shortage of fuel is having on the country. Over 90 thousand people are waiting for surgeries in Cuba because of the shortage of fuel to power operating rooms. Of that amount, an estimated eleven thousand are children.

He explained that Cuban officials decided to give priority to adults in performing operations as they are seen as able-bodied who are needed to perform national tasks. Another impact surrounds the availability of vaccines needed to ward-off diseases. Cuba, he noted, produces much of the vaccines that it needs, unfortunately, getting the vaccines to areas where they are needed presents a problem because there is no fuel for the delivery vehicles.

"Today, almost thirty thousand (30,000) children have not been able to receive vaccines that they need to protect against influenza and many other diseases that are generally covered by vaccines because there is no transportation to distribute these vital medicines," he further explained.

Additionally, more than sixty thousand people who require radio-therapy are not able to get these procedures done because there is now electricity to power the machines.

This is also true for those requiring MRI services.

Despite the immense challenge, the people of Cuba are proving to be quite resilient. More and more the country is turning to alternative energy sources to power hospitals, schools and other public buildings.

According to Ambassador Martinez just a mere three years ago Cuba sourced some four percent of its energy needs from solar power. Today, that amount has jumped to some 30 percent. The country recently signed an agreement with Japan to assist with installing solar panels at public buildings.

The People's Republic of China has also made significant amounts of solar panels available for the people of Cuba.

The Cuban official said the country must reduce its reliance on imported fuel and it is working assiduously to achieve that goal.

He also revealed that Cuba produces a small amount of oil, but it is high in sulphur and cannot be used to produce fuel for motor vehicles. However, he said Cuban scientists are working around the clock to solve this issue.

## DOCUMENTARY

**The Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Antigua and Barbuda cordially invites you to the screening of the documentary "I went to Cuba and this is what I saw," a look through the eyes of young Americans at the inhumane impact of the economic, commercial, financial and energy blockade of the US Government against the people of Cuba.**

**Date: Friday, May 15th.**

**Time: 7:00 pm.**

**Location: Multipurpose Center, at Perry Bay Main Rd, St John's.**

## Beyond Awareness: Understanding and Accommodating Neurodivergent Individuals



By *Andrecia Lewis*

April is globally celebrated as Au-

tism Awareness and Acceptance Month, while October is dedicated to ADHD Awareness, highlighted by World Mental Health Day on October 10th. To mark these milestones, people often participate in spirited marches or wear specific colors and themed socks to foster visibility. These sensitization efforts remain vital tools in building a more informed and inclusive society.

Beyond these necessary activities, focus must also extend beyond awareness and acceptance to accommodation and understanding. As someone who deals with sensory processing disorder, making others aware of and accepting that I am different does not alter my daily realities. It does not change the pervasive presence of fluorescent light bulbs or air condi-

tioning that is uncomfortably cold in a large amount of spaces. It does not eliminate the sensory overload, exhaustion, and distress that arise from environments designed without neurodivergent individuals in mind. True inclusion requires not only acknowledgment of difference, but meaningful adjustments that allow people to function, participate, and exist with dignity.

Many persons may incorrectly categorize loud noises, bright lights, and intense physical sensations or smells as simply an inconvenience or slight discomfort. However, for neurodivergent individuals, this “discomfort” extends far beyond mild irritation. It can result in sensory overload, emotional distress, difficulty concentrating, physical pain, anxiety,

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exhaustion, and an inability to function effectively within a given environment. It disrupts nervous system function significantly and can place that individual in a state of total distress. What may seem insignificant to others can therefore become overwhelming and deeply disruptive to a neurodivergent person's daily life and well-being.

Although it may be impractical to expect all environments to be fully accommodating to those who live with "unseen disorders," it is important that individuals develop greater awareness, empathy, and understanding. Empathy is especially important for neurodivergent individuals who are often described as "high functioning." This label can be misleading, as it frequently causes others to overlook the very real challenges these individuals experience daily. Many neurodivergent persons struggle silently, finding ways to cope with overwhelming environments, sensory difficulties, social exhaustion, anxiety, and emotional dysregulation without drawing attention to themselves. Their coping strategies may appear as reserved behavior, avoidance of excessive social interaction, withdrawal, masking, over-preparation, emotional restraint, or a preference for solitude and routine. However, these behaviors are often misunderstood by others as disinterest, coldness, laziness, arrogance, or a lack of sociability.

As a result, neurodivergent individuals are frequently pressured to "speak more," "open up," "participate more," or behave in ways that appear more socially conventional, without others recognizing the internal effort already required simply to function within overwhelming environments. This is why empathy and understanding are essential. People must learn to look beyond their own expectations and recognize that not everyone experiences the world in the same way. A person's struggles are not always visible, and an individual who appears

calm, quiet, or composed externally may internally be navigating significant mental, emotional, or sensory distress. True empathy requires moving beyond surface-level assumptions and making an effort to understand others with patience, compassion, and humanity.

Going forward, it is important that society continues to promote awareness through symbolic acts. However, awareness alone is not enough. Equal emphasis must also be placed on the practical accommodation of neurodivergent individuals and the

cultivation of empathy within workplaces, schools, families, and society as a whole. True inclusion requires more than acknowledgment; it requires a willingness to understand the lived experiences of others, to make meaningful adjustments where possible, and to recognize that many individuals silently navigate challenges that are not immediately visible. By fostering both awareness and compassion, society can move toward creating environments in which neurodivergent individuals are not merely accepted, but genuinely supported and understood.

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**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

## Dominica among Eastern Caribbean nations set to benefit from EU-funded food security initiative



Dominica is among four Eastern Caribbean countries expected to benefit from a new regional food security programme being rolled out by the Zero Hunger Trust Fund in partnership with the European Union.

A press release from the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Zero Hunger Trust Fund (ZHTF-SVG) announced that it has officially launched implementation of the “Cultivating Futures – Empowering Youths for a Food Secure Region” project, an 18-month initiative focused on improving food security, encouraging youth participation, and promoting sustainable food systems throughout the region.

The project officially got underway on March 27, 2026, and is being financed by the European Union through its EU Caribbean Fund for Nutrition (EU-CaN) programme. The EU-CaN initiative is a four-year regional food security programme targeting six member states of the Organisation of Eastern

Caribbean States.

Apart from Dominica, the initiative will be implemented in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Grenada. Its primary goal is to strengthen and expand sustainable school feeding systems by creating and improving ecological school gardens within vulnerable communities.

Organisers say the project is intended to increase access to healthy, locally produced foods in schools while also giving students and teachers hands-on learning opportunities connected to climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, environmental responsibility, and food systems education.

Over the next 18 months, ten primary schools across the participating countries are expected to either establish or upgrade ecological school gardens. Approximately 1,600 students between the ages of five and 11 are projected to benefit from the programme.

Training and technical support will also be provided to teachers, school cooks, administrators, and other stakeholders in areas such as sustainable farming practices, garden maintenance, nutrition, and menu planning.

Beyond improving school meal programmes, the project will include student-focused activities, public education discussions, awareness campaigns, and a regional “Garden-to-Lunch” School Garden Competition designed to encourage creativity, participation, and excellence among schools involved in the initiative.

Director and CEO of the Zero Hunger Trust Fund, Safiya Horne-Bique, described the programme as an important step toward strengthening the region’s future food systems while investing in young people.

“Cultivating Futures is a transformative initiative that places children and communities at the centre of sustain-



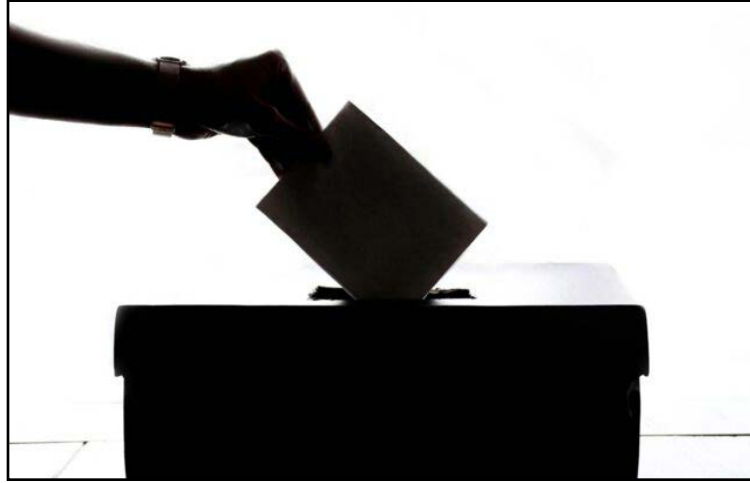
## Government turns to regional bodies for electoral reform assistance

Dominica's government has approached several regional and international institutions for expert support to address efficacy in several areas regarding the ongoing national electoral reform initiative.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM Dominica) stated that requests for technical guidance were submitted to the Commonwealth Secretariat, Organization of American States, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, and Caribbean Community after concerns emerged over the pace and execution of two major election-related processes.

Addressing reporters on Wednesday, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said the reforms are intended to modernize the voting process through the verification of voter registrations and the rollout of national voter identification cards. He noted that the measures are designed to improve the reliability of the electoral list while strengthening safeguards against voter fraud.

"In terms of the confirmation process under the new Registration of Electors Act, the Electoral Office has received 16,573 applications from October 15th, 2025, to April 30th, 2026. 13,146 of those applications for confirmation were received between October 15th, 2025 and November 30th, 2025 – the first six weeks of the 12-month confirmation period," the Prime Minister explained.



"Yet, by April 30th, 2026 – six and a half months later – only 6,592 or 40% of the applications for confirmation have been approved. This means that 9,981 voters who have applied for confirmation of their registration have not been confirmed.

"None of the confirmed registered voters have received their voter identification cards and we understand that the Electoral Office will only commence the issuance of these ID cards in six to eight weeks," he added.

According to Skerrit, the move to seek outside expertise underscores the scale and technical demands of the reform programme, particularly the effort to update the voters' register and establish a dependable voter ID system.

The OPM also indicated that among the areas where assistance has been requested are a detailed review of the voter confirmation exercise and how efficiently applications are being processed. The Government is also looking for recommen-

dations on the operation and security of the voter ID card programme, including how the cards will connect with the existing electoral database and remain accessible to eligible voters.

Reportedly, authorities

are additionally seeking guidance based on internationally accepted electoral standards to improve transparency, participation, and administrative effectiveness. Plans also include training for election officials and broader public awareness campaigns intended to encourage confidence in the new systems and promote voter involvement.

According to the Prime Minister, the government is willing to coordinate closely with all participating organizations and provide the support needed to facilitate any joint assessment or technical mission connected to the reforms. (Dominica News Online)



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## CXC delivers message reaffirming fair and human-centred approach to AI use in school-based assessments



The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC®) has delivered a clear and empathetic message to students, educators, and parents throughout the region, stressing that its policies on artificial intelligence (AI) in School-Based Assessments (SBAs) are rooted in fairness, professional judgement, and trust in students' commitment to demonstrating their abilities honestly.

In a recorded video statement published on the organisation's website and across its social media platforms, Dr Nicole Manning, Director of Operations at CXC®, addressed both the benefits and challenges that AI tools bring to academic work and SBA preparation.

Her remarks were intended to reassure stakeholders as they adapt to the evolving digital learning environment, as per a press release from the Council.

Responding to concerns about the use and accuracy of AI detection systems within assessment processes—outlined in the CXC® Standards and Guidelines for the Use of AI in Assessments—Dr Manning made it clear that such tools will not be relied upon as the sole factor in determining academic decisions.

“The teacher-student relationship built over months of observation, drafts, conversations, and guidance remains central to how SBAs are moderated and assessed,” stated Dr Manning. “AI checkers are one input. They are not the verdict. There will be human interventions right through the process to ensure fairness”, she added.

CXC® has also reportedly provided guidance on acceptable uses of AI in schools, noting that it may be used to support learning by helping students understand concepts, brainstorm ideas, clarify complex terminology, or assist with structuring their work. However, where AI tools are used in any capacity, students are required to properly acknowledge their use when submitting SBAs, including the completion of a Disclosure Form and an Originality Report.

The Council shared that when no AI assistance is used, neither a Disclosure Form nor an Originality Report is required. It also warned that submitting work that is fully or substantially generated by AI is considered academic misconduct and is dealt with through established irregularity procedures, involving the student, teacher, and

school principal.

Dr Manning also recognised the responsibility placed on teachers across the Caribbean and reaffirmed CXC®'s commitment to supporting them with training and resources to confidently manage the integration of AI in education.

“You are not alone in this,” she remarked. “Engage your students in honest conversations about how they use these AI tools. Guide them on what they can do, what they cannot, and why academic integrity matters beyond the examination room.”

Turning her attention to students, she encouraged them to make responsible choices in their academic journey. “Integrity is not about whether a machine can detect what you did. It is about who you choose to be.”

Dr Manning's full video address, “Who You Choose to Be,” is available on CXC's official YouTube channel.

The Council's Standards and Guidelines on Generative AI Use in School-Based Assessments are accessible at [www.cxc.org](http://www.cxc.org). (Dominica News Online)

## Tufton promises health sector relief as nurse recruitment drive continues

Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton said Jamaicans should begin seeing improvements in the health sector in the coming months as the Government makes progress in addressing the shortage of specialist nurses in the sector, which worsened when the country ended its medical cooperation with Cuba.

“I can see over the next few months where we will actually see some persons coming in that are not here locally, whether through the diaspora, through India, through Apollo or otherwise,” he said. “So certainly, for the rest of this year, the dynamics should change.”

The minister, who will be making his contribution to the Sectoral Debate in Parliament today, told *The Gleaner* last week that the island’s health system is hampered by a deficit of approximately 400 specialist nurses, but the Government has been exploring numerous avenues to fill the gap.

These efforts include engaging Jamaican specialist nurses in the diaspora; signing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with India, Ghana and Nigeria for recruitment and training; and exploring partnerships with India-based medical technology company Apollo Health System.

The minister said interviews are ongoing for 70 Jamaican diaspora nurses who were shortlisted for possible employment.

“I do expect that some of them will be offered jobs based on preliminary feedback. A step beyond that would be the Nursing Council. They have to grant a permit, and we’re going to be trying to fast-track that to get them into the system,” he said.

He also referenced a recently signed MOU between Jamaica and India aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in health and medicine, which he said will establish a working group



to map out implementation plans.

“And hopefully, that will lead to some sort of training, exchange, recruitment,” he said.

Tufton disclosed that a team from Apollo was in Jamaica last week, and an agreement was signed with them. He said the private entity will also be helping in training and recruitment of specialist nurses for the island.

The minister also highlighted previous MOUs signed with Nigeria and Ghana, and said the next step is to identify prospects and bring them in.

In January this year, Ghana’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa had expressed hope that the first batch of nurses from the West African country would arrive in Jamaica this year.

“I believe it is in our power to make that possible,” Ablakwa said during a media briefing.

Tufton previously explained that the collaboration would involve health exchanges, with Ghanaian specialist nurses coming to Jamaica for two to three years to help fill shortages in the local health system.

“The standards are similar. They have

a supply that is larger than ours, and we think the Ghanaians would be a good addition to our current team and certainly fill some of the critical gaps that we have, because we can’t recruit locally to fill those gaps,” he said at the time.

In the meantime, Tufton noted that an international recruitment unit has been established within the Corporate Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

He also noted that more than 40 Cuban doctors have chosen to remain in Jamaica, adding that some Cuban nurses have expressed interest in returning.

Jamaica ended its 50-year-old medical cooperation with its Spanish speaking neighbour in March due to what it said were unresolved issues in renegotiating the agreement, which expired in February 2023.

However, its decision has been criticised as it came amid increasing pressure from the United States over Cuba’s overseas medical missions, which Washington has alleged amount to forced labour and human trafficking. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## UK's Starmer defiant as calls for his resignation grow and 2 ministers quit



United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer told members of his Cabinet on Tuesday that he has no intention of resigning as calls within his Labour Party for him to step down grew louder.

Starmer is trying to shore up support within his Cabinet following a febrile few days in the wake of hefty losses for the Labour Party in local elections last week, which if repeated in a national election would see it overwhelmingly ejected from power.

Two junior ministers resigned from the government on Tuesday and called for a change in leadership, but no candidate has yet come forward to challenge Starmer directly.

Around 80 Labour backbenchers have now said Starmer should stand down or at least set out a timetable for his departure, but that's not enough to trigger a leadership contest. Under Labour party rules, a fifth of its lawmakers in the House of Commons, or 81 members, must publicly give their backing to a single candidate, and that hasn't happened yet.

Despite winning a landslide election victory in July 2024, Labour's popularity has sunk and Starmer is getting much of the blame.

The reasons are varied, including a series of policy missteps, a perceived lack of vision, a struggling British economy and questions over his judgment — especially over his appointment of Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to Washington despite the envoy's ties to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

At the start of the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Starmer said he took responsibility for the losses in last week's local elections across the UK but that he would fight on. Labour was squeezed from right and left, losing votes to both the anti-immigrant Reform UK and the "eco-populist" Green Party, as well as nationalist parties in Scotland and Wales. The result reflects the increasing fragmentation of UK politics, long dominated by Labour and the Conservatives.

That cost was evident in financial

markets on Tuesday, with the interest rate charged on British government bonds up by more than those of comparable nations — that shows that investors are putting a higher price on taking on government debt.

As Cabinet ministers left 10 Downing Street, some voiced their support for the embattled prime minister.

Works and Pensions Secretary Pat McFadden said nobody publicly challenged Starmer at the meeting, while Business Secretary Peter Kyle said the prime minister was showing "really steadfast leadership."

Health Secretary Wes Streeting, long believed to be preparing for a leadership challenge against Starmer, did not comment as he left the meeting.

"Wes Streeting, do you want the job, or not?" one person yelled from across the street. "Are you measuring the curtains?"

He was among senior ministers who dodged a barrage of shouted questions from a gaggle of reporters outside.

Though no one in his Cabinet has challenged Starmer, he will be aware that someone else within the parliamentary party could trigger the leadership process.

The next UK national election doesn't have to be held until 2029, but British politics allows parties to change leader midterm without the need for a general election.

Starmer had hoped to regain momentum with a speech on Monday intended to kickstart his fightback, and an ambitious set of legislative plans to be set out by King Charles III at the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday. (AP)

## Texas accuses Netflix of spying on users, including children



Netflix has been sued in Texas over claims it collects data belonging to children and adults in the US state without their consent, and uses “addictive” design to keep them hooked.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton accused the streaming giant of “spying” on citizens saying it “records and monetises billions” of pieces of information about how users behave on the platform, despite suggesting otherwise.

“Every interaction on the platform became a data point revealing information about the user,” his office said.

Netflix has rejected the claims and says it will challenge them in court, according to a statement shared with Reuters.

“Respectfully to the great state of Texas and Attorney General Paxton, this lawsuit lacks merit and is based on inaccurate and distorted information,” a Netflix spokesperson told the news agency.

“Netflix takes our members’ privacy seriously and complies with privacy and data protection laws everywhere

we operate.”

The BBC has approached Netflix for comment.

“When you watch Netflix, Netflix watches you,” says the complaint filed on Monday by Texas’ top prosecutor.

According to the filing, the streaming company championed itself as unlike other big tech firms in how it processed data and advertised to users.

It quotes the company’s former boss Reed Hastings as having said in 2019 and 2020 that it did not and would not collect or monetise user data, such as to sell ads.

But the filing says Netflix used a combination of “addictive” design features, like auto-playing content, and extensive “logging” of user activity to keep people on the site.

Among billions of technical events it recorded were what users would click and linger on, and for how long, the filing adds.

In 2022, it says, the company also began “leveraging the mountains of data it quietly extracted from the children and families it kept fixated on their

screen” - sharing this with commercial data brokers to help raise billions of dollars in revenue.

“In short, Netflix sold subscriptions to its programming as an escape from Big Tech surveillance: pay monthly, avoid tracking,” the lawsuit states.

“Texans trusted that bargain. Netflix broke it - constructing the very data-collection system subscribers paid to escape.”

Attorney General Paxton’s office said it believed the company had violated the state’s laws, namely the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act which forbids “false, deceptive, or misleading acts and practices in the course of trade and commerce”.

The attorney general can pursue action including penalties against those found to have engaged in such activity.

In this case, it wants the court to order Netflix to delete any data “deceptively collected from Texans”, cease processing their data for targeted advertising and to turn auto-play off by default for children’s profiles.

It comes as platforms face calls to disable features like auto-play and infinite scroll, over concerns they keep users unhealthily hooked on endless streams of content.

Experts have said the recent success of a California lawsuit arguing Meta and YouTube could be held liable for the addictive design of their platforms could open the door to a slew of similar complaints. (BBC)

## Snack giant switches to black and white packaging as Iran war hits ink supplies

Japanese snack giant Calbee says it will temporarily switch to black and white packaging for some of its best-known products as supplies of an ingredient used in ink have been disrupted by the Iran war.

The firm says new-style packets for 14 of its products, including crisps and prawn crackers, will start to appear in shops in Japan from 25 May.

It marks the latest example of how everyday goods are being impacted after Iran effectively closed the key Strait of Hormuz waterway in retaliation for US and Israeli strikes on the country.

In recent weeks, companies around the world have warned that supply disruptions to things like fuel, plastics and helium are pushing up costs for their businesses.

Calbee said in a statement that the design change is a response to “supply instability affecting raw materials amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East.”

“This measure is intended to help maintain a stable supply of products,” said Calbee.

Oil and gas prices have surged since the conflict started on 28 February as shipments through the Strait of Hormuz halted.

Supplies of naphtha, a byproduct of oil refining used in ink and plastics, have also been hit hard.

Naphtha prices in Asia have almost



doubled since the conflict started, pushing up costs for businesses in the region.

Before the war, around 40% of Japan’s naphtha was imported from the Middle East, Japan’s deputy chief cabinet secretary Kei Sato told reporters on Tuesday.

The government was working to “stabilise and resolve any supply imbalances and bottlenecks”, he added.

In April, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said the country was broadening its supply of naphtha to include more sources outside the Middle East, such as the US.

Asian countries have been hit particularly hard by disruptions to shipping through the Gulf as they are heavily reliant on the Middle East for energy

and other oil-related products.

On 1 May, Japanese foodmaker Mizkan, which makes a popular fermented soybean snack, suspended sales of some of its products and raised prices for others due to a shortage of polystyrene containers.

Meanwhile, car makers like Toyota and Hyundai have said their profits have been hit due to higher costs of materials and lower sales.

Around the world, many airlines have paused flights and grounded some planes after jet fuel prices surged due to the war.

Last week, UK-based fashion chain Next raised its prices by up to 8% in some countries outside Europe due to higher fuel prices and disruption to global supply chains. (BBC)



## No sign of larger hantavirus outbreak, says UN health agency



There is “no sign” of a larger hantavirus outbreak after the evacuation of the last passengers from a disease-stricken cruise ship, the head of the UN health agency has said.

But the World Health Organization’s chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned “the situation could change” and there could still be more confirmed virus cases.

The MV Hondius left Spain’s Tenerife island on Monday and is sailing to the Dutch port of Rotterdam. Two flights with the final group of 28 passengers landed in nearby Eindhoven on Tuesday.

Three people have died after travelling on the ship. An American and a French national who previously returned home have tested positive. Overall, seven cases have been confirmed.

Twelve employees at a Dutch hospital are now in quarantine over possible exposure to the virus after treating one of the evacuated passengers.

The hospital in the city of Nijmegen said on Monday this was a precautionary measure, as the workers did not follow strict protocols while handling the patient’s blood and urine samples.

At Tuesday’s press conference in Madrid, Ghebreyesus said: “At the mo-

ment, there is no sign that we are seeing the start of a larger outbreak.

“But of course the situation could change and, given the long incubation period of the virus, it’s possible we might see more cases in the coming weeks.”

And he stressed that “our work is not over” to contain the outbreak from the cruise ship.

Hantaviruses are usually carried by rodents, but human transmission of the Andes strain - which the World Health Organization (WHO) believes some of the ship’s passengers contracted in



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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

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South America - is possible.

Symptoms can include fever, extreme fatigue, muscle aches, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and shortness of breath.

WHO officials previously said the risk of a major outbreak is very low.

The Dutch-flagged vessel is expected to take six days to sail to Rotterdam and provisionally arrive on the evening of 17 May. Exact procedures upon arrival remain under discussion, the ship's operator Oceanwide Expedition said, but the vessel will undergo sanitation.

The final six passengers - four Australians, one Briton and one New Zealander - and some crew members left the ship on Monday.

Overall, 122 passengers and crew of the MV Hondius have been repatriated to the Netherlands and their home countries on government-chartered flights over the past few days.

As of Monday evening, Oceanwide Expeditions said 27 people remained on board the ship - 25 crew members and two medical staff.

These included 17 people from the Philippines, four from the Netherlands (including the two medical staff), four from Ukraine, one from Russia and one from Poland.

Ukraine's foreign ministry said the Ukrainians on board would help with the ship's transfer to the Netherlands and would quarantine at a medical facility on arrival. It added that they had shown no signs of illness.

Seventeen Filipino crew members arrived in the Netherlands on Tuesday morning, according to the Philippine Embassy.

Spain's health ministry earlier said one Spaniard who is quarantining in Madrid after being evacuated from the vessel had also provisionally tested positive for hantavirus on Monday.

French Health Minister Stéphanie Rist said a woman was isolating in Paris and that her health was deteriorating, with 22 contacts being traced.

In a separate development, the US health department said a second American national on Sunday's repatriation flight had also shown mild symptoms, adding that both passengers had travelled back in "biocontainment units out of an abundance of caution".

Two British nationals with confirmed cases are currently being treated in the Netherlands and South Africa.

An elderly Dutch man was the first passenger who died on board the MV Hondius on 11 April. He had earlier developed symptoms and is believed

to have been the first infected in the outbreak, but died before he could be tested.

His wife left the ship on 24 April on the island of St Helena and flew to South Africa. She died two days later in a clinic in Johannesburg.

A German woman died on board the cruise ship on 2 May.

Both women were confirmed cases.

The MV Hondius had been carrying 147 passengers and crew from 23 countries after departing from Ushuaia in Argentina on 1 April. (BBC)



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## Financial Services Regulatory Commission

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

#### Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited

Pursuant to section 44(b) of the Co-operative Societies Act 2010, as amended (“Act”) the Supervisor of Co-operatives will convene an Annual General Meeting of the Antigua & Barbuda Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited (“Society”) on Sunday May 31, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Fisheries Conference Room at Point Wharf St John’s, Antigua.

The Annual General meeting is being convened to elect members to the Board of Directors and the Supervisory and Compliance Committee, pursuant to sections 53(1)(2) and 65(1) of the Act as well as part 32(i) and 44(i) of the Bye-Laws governing the Society.

Any member wishing to serve on the Board of Directors or the Supervisory and Compliance Committee are asked to liaise accordingly with the Society so the necessary forms can be completed to facilitate a due diligence review by the Supervisor. Members are reminded that part 61(ii) of the Bye-Laws provides for nomination on the day of the meeting.

By Order

April 30, 2026

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# **WE'RE BACK... STILL DANCING THE LINE**

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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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## Success for Buckley's 3Js and Strictly Business in men's 30-over contest

Reigning champions Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js and Rackaman Construction Strictly Business have achieved more success in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) Men's 30-Over contest.

The Buckley's 3Js won for the second time in as many matches by pulling off a six-wicket victory over the Dredgers at the Dredgers' playing field.

The Dredgers made 92 for seven off 20.1 overs. Dervol Phillip hit 30 not out; Vaughn Charles made 13; and Javaghn James scored 11. Player of the match Steve Martin claimed three for 17.

The Buckley's 3Js surged to victory by scoring 93 for four in 7.3 overs. Steve Martin slammed 58 not out, which included seven sixes. It was the second loss in three matches for the Dredgers.

Strictly Business recorded their third win in as many games, romping to a crushing 145-run victory via default against PMS at the Rising Sun playing field.

Strictly Business powered their way to 261 for seven off 26 overs. Player of the match Kim George hammered 72, including eight sixes.

Owen Graham slammed an unbeaten 53, Shaquan Reifer hit 43 not out, Jevon Howel cracked 31, and Ashfield Weatherhead struck 20.

Terence Thompson captured three for



**Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3J's softball cricket team**

57, Nicholas Thomas bagged two for 44, and Charles James claimed two for 47.

In reply, PMS was restricted to 116 for seven in 26 overs. Clarence Francis hit 43, while Walter Carr and Vincye Bowen each made 13. Ashfield Weatherhead took three for 15, and Alwin Colbourne claimed two for 16 for PMS, who lost for the second time in three matches.

Goody's Advent 300 claimed their second win in four games with a commanding 166-run victory against the Mix Up Stars in All Saints.


The 300 made 236 for eight off their 30 overs. Molvin James smashed 56, which included five sixes, and the total was boosted by a contribution of 51

extras.

Blain Thomas hit 41, Kennedy Tonge struck 30, Sonil Govia made 21, Dorian Grant cracked 14 not out, and Vanroy Gardner scored 12 not out. Karl Simon bagged two for 17, Bryan Bailey took two for 65, and John Hope captured two for 69.


In reply, the Mix Up Stars were restricted to 70 for eight off 16.4 overs. Bryan Bailey struck 26, and Karl Simon scored 12.

Jared Roberts snapped up five for 14 to claim the player of the match award, while Andra Samuel grabbed two wickets for three runs for the Mix Up Stars, who suffered their third defeat in as many matches.



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## Phoenix advance to semi-finals in ABBA's Division 2 Playoffs



The fourth-seeded Michael Joseph Phoenix has advanced to the semi-finals in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division Playoff Championship.

The Phoenix booked their spot in the semis by securing a 2-0 win over the fifth-seeded Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in their best-of-three first-round series with an 88-81 victory in double overtime in Game 2 at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday evening.

The Fearless Crew outscored the Phoenix 32-10 in the fourth quarter, sending the game into overtime as both teams finished regulation tied at 62-62.

Both teams were still inseparable as they remained tied 71-71 at the end of the first overtime period. But the Phoenix outscored the Fearless Crew 17-10 in the second overtime to claim their series-clinching victory.

Adrian Carnegie shot a game-high 24 points; Shalom Bloodman produced 22 points, 22 rebounds, seven steals, and five blocks; and Dimetre Leitch sank 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Phoenix.

Emeke Emujuru-Oupe sank 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds; Joshua Morrison converted 16 points and snatched 12 rebounds; Tyler Ja-

cobs scored 16 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Romel Diggs had 14 points and seven rebounds, and Julian Henry chipped in with 13 rebounds, 13 assists, and four points for the Fearless Crew.

Meanwhile, sixth seed Da Project 2 snatched a narrow 84-83 victory over third seed Old Road Daggers in Game Two to level their best-of-three first-round series at 1-1 and force a deciding Game 3.

Former national small forward Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew scored a game-winning buzzer-beating basket to give Da Project 2 their one-point victory over the Daggers, who prevailed 77-63 in the opening game of the series.

Kevin Pimentel produced 20 points, six rebounds, and six steals; Nathan Matthew provided 18 points and nine assists; Donte Trimmingham sank 17 points and claimed seven rebounds; and Bryan Matthew finished with 11 points for Da Project 2.

Rafiki "Ras-I" Harris sank 18 points; Gary Harrison converted 14 points and claimed seven rebounds; and Kedar Clarke produced 13 points, seven rebounds, and five steals as the main performers for the Daggers.

In support, Devea Aaron provided 12 points, eight rebounds, and seven steals; Craig Thomas scored 11 points and snatched eight rebounds; and Kelvin Simon chipped in with nine points, 13 rebounds, and five assists for the Old Road Daggers.



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## Champion Thunder beat Lakers for another playoff series sweep

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Chet Holmgren made a tie-breaking dunk with 32.8 seconds to play, and the Oklahoma City Thunder swept the Los Angeles Lakers out of the second round of the NBA playoffs with a 115-110 victory in Game 4 on Monday night.

Ajay Mitchell scored 10 of his 28 points in the frantic final period as the Thunder overcame the Lakers' tenacious effort and improved to 8-0 in the playoffs with their toughest victory of the postseason.

"We've done our job so far, that's all it really means," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "We've gone out there, we've executed, we've played at a high level and we've been able to win eight tough games against really good opponents. That's all it means. Nothing is guaranteed."

LeBron James had 24 points and 14 rebounds in the final game of the unprecedented 23rd season for the top scorer in NBA history, but he missed a driving bank shot with 20 seconds left that would have put the Lakers ahead.

The 41-year-old James has repeatedly said he hasn't decided whether to play next season, so there was no ceremony or momentousness around this game. Instead, the Lakers desperately tried to extend their year, only to lose to Oklahoma City for the eighth time this season.

"I don't know what the future holds for me, obviously, as it stands right now, tonight," James said. "I've got a lot of time. I'll go back and recalibrate with my family and talk with them, and when the time goes, obviously you guys will know what I decide to do."



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, right, takes a pass while under pressure from Los Angeles Lakers forward Rui Hachimura during the first half of Game 4 in a second-round NBA basketball playoffs series in Los Angeles, Monday, May 11, 2026. (AP)

Austin Reaves scored 27 points before missing a tying 3-point attempt with eight seconds left for the Lakers, who advanced one round farther than almost anybody expected after losing NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic and Reaves to significant injuries a month ago.

Los Angeles still lost six of its final seven playoff games and fell well short of the conference finals for the third straight season.

"I didn't want our season to end," Lakers coach JJ Redick said. "I wanted to keep this thing going. I enjoyed every bit of this year."

Oklahoma City faced its first fourth-quarter deficits of the entire playoffs in Game 4 as the Lakers repeatedly refused to fold. The Thunder still got it done, and they've earned at least the rest of the week off before they open the conference finals against the winner of San Antonio's second-round series with Minnesota.

Oklahoma City went 8-0 against the Lakers this season, winning all four regular-season matchups as well — but this one was the toughest. The Lakers took the lead and kept it close down the stretch with big buckets from Reaves and Rui Hachimura, who scored nine of his 25 points in the fourth quarter.

Holmgren's dunk with 2:03 left put the Thunder up 109-103, but Hachimura coolly converted a four-point play. Marcus Smart then drove the lane and hit a layup while being fouled in the final minute, converting a three-point play for a 110-109 Lakers lead.

But Holmgren got the ball inside and triple-pumped for a dunk with 32.8 seconds left, and James missed on his drive. After Gilgeous-Alexander hit two free throws, Reaves missed again, and the Thunder hung on to secure their sixth berth in the Western Conference finals in the last 16 seasons.

## Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 104 runs in first Test



**Bangladesh's Najmul Hossain Shanto takes a run during the second One-Day International cricket match between Bangladesh and New Zealand in Mirpur, Bangladesh, Monday, April 20, 2026. (AP, File Photo)**

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Fast bowler Nahid Rana claimed a five for 40 as Bangladesh secured a 104-run victory in the first cricket Test against Pakistan on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 268, Pakistan was bowled out for 163 with Nahid registering career-best 5-40 in a stellar display of fast bowling.

In a three-over burst after tea, he dismissed Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan and Noman Ali in 18 balls, conceding just five runs.

“They are struggling against Nahid. It was definitely nice to see,” Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said. “I have confidence in our bowling attack and that’s why I declared

early to press for a result.”

Fellow fast bowler Taskin Ahmed, who took two for 40, gave Bangladesh the first breakthrough when Imam-ul-Haq edged behind for two.

Two debutants — Azan Awaiss and Abdullah Fazal — stood firm in a repeat of their first innings resistance, sharing 54 runs. Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan, however, produced an arm-ball to baffle Awaiss, who made 15 following his 103 in the first innings.

Nahid was a bit erratic in his first spell but got into the act with the wicket of captain Shan Masood, leaving Pakistan on 68 for three.

Fazal steadied the innings with Salman Agha, but Bangladesh bounced

back after the tea break with two wickets in quick succession.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam broke through with the wicket of Fazal who made 66, ending the 51-run partnership before Taskin claimed Salman (21) with a back-of-length delivery with Pakistan at 121 for five.

Shakeel and Rizwan gave Pakistan hope again but Nahid returned for his fiery spell with three wickets in three overs. He then wrapped up the Pakistan innings and completed his second five-for by dismissing Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Earlier, Shanto hit 87 as Bangladesh set Pakistan 268 for victory on Day 5. Bangladesh declared its second innings at 240 for nine after resuming the day at 152 for three and with an overall lead of 179 runs.

The hosts showed an aggressive intent to set a challenging target with Shanto leading from the front. After losing Mushfiqur Rahim early to the bowling of Hasan Ali, Shanto struck seven boundaries in his knock before being trapped lbw by left-arm spinner Noman Ali (3-76).

Mehidy Hasan scored 24 at almost a run-a-ball to take the lead past 250. Hasan Ali (3-52) had Taskin caught by Imam before Bangladesh declared the innings with 76 overs remaining.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 413 in their first innings, before taking a 27-run lead, dismissing Pakistan for 386 with off-spinner Mehidy Hasan taking five wickets. The second Test is in Sylte, starting on Saturday.


 An advertisement for Curry House restaurant. The background features a variety of colorful Indian dishes in small bowls, including curries, dals, and rice. The text "Curry House" is written in a large, stylized red font. Below it, the text "Open Daily - 12:00pm - 10:30pm" is displayed. At the bottom, the location "ANTIGUA" is listed, along with social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and a phone number: (268) 736-7165.

## Antigua to defend Leeward Islands Masters title in Nevis



Antigua Masters celebrate after winning the 2025 Leeward Islands Masters Cricket Tournament at the Caribe Lumber Ball Park in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, on Sunday, June 8.

Antigua and Barbuda will be defending their title in the annual Leeward Islands Masters Cricket Tournament in Nevis later this month.

Antigua and Barbuda will be among seven teams that will compete for this year's title during the T20 tournament that is slated to take place during the weekend of Friday, May 22, to Sunday, May 24.

The Antiguanians will compete in Zone A alongside St. Croix, St. Kitts, and Anguilla, while St. Thomas, St. Maarten, and last year's runner-up Nevis will contest in Zone B during the preliminary stage.

The matches will take place at the Elquemedo T. Willett (ETW) Park in Charlestown, the Violet O.J. Nicholls Primary School (VOJN Grounds), and Brown Hill.

Each team will play two matches in the preliminary stage. The Antigua

Masters will launch their title defense against St. Croix at ETW Park on Friday, May 22.

The Antiguanians will play their second Group A match against St. Kitts at the same venue on Saturday, May 23.

The top two teams in each zone at the end of the preliminary stage will advance to the semi-finals, which will take place on Sunday, May 24. The two semi-final winners will clash in the final at the ETW Park later that same day.

Antigua and Barbuda captured the Leeward Islands Masters T20 Championship in St. Maarten on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

The Antiguanians secured their title with a crushing 71-run victory over Nevis in the final at the Caribe Lumber Ball Park in Phillipsburg.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Kerry Mentore slammed an unbeaten

century to propel Antigua Masters to an imposing 225 for one off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Mentore hammered 134 not out off 65 balls, including 15 fours and seven sixes. Mentore shared in a 207-run opening stand with Rolston Tris Phillip, who cracked 86 off 52 balls, including six sixes and five fours.

In reply, Nevis Masters were restricted to 154 for four off their 20 overs. Stuart Williams hit 37 off 30 balls, fellow opener Collin Walwyn struck 30 off 33 balls, and Junior Mills made 27 off 18 balls. There was a contribution of 29 extras, including 13 byes.

Both teams advanced to the final after topping their respective groups in the seven-team preliminary stage in which each team played two matches.