



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

# POINT EXPRESS

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FRIDAY 01<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026 | VOLUME 9 ISSUE 41 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# ABLP Wins Decisively



# ABLP Wins Decisively



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

## 15-1-1

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has led the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) to an emphatic electoral victory in the April 30 general elections. The ABLP won 15 of the 17 seats in the House of Representatives with the two losing ABLP candidates- Kendra Beazer of Barbuda and Lamin Newton of All Saints East and St. Luke – performing creditably well even in defeat.

The ABLP's electoral victory marks the fourth consecutive victory for the party under the leadership of PM Browne. This takes the ABLP leader into rarified air. Only Sir V.C Bird, the Father of the Nation, has been able to record such an impressive record. Based on the trends throughout the Caribbean, this achievement is only eclipsed by the former Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

The ABLP picked up seats in St. Philip South, St Mary's South, St. George and St. John's Rural West, all of which

dent member of parliament when he broke from the UPP, he retained after becoming a member of the ABLP.

In doing so, Smith may have driven the final nails in the political coffin of the former UPP Political Leader, Harold Lovell, who switched constituencies from 2023 hoping to pick up the ASW seat.

Interestingly, the St. Mary's North seat that was held by former Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, was retained by the ABLP even after he retired from electoral politics and he was replaced by Dr. Philmore Benjamin, who pulled off a victory.

History was also created with two female members elected simultaneously to the House of Representatives. This as Maria Browne returned as the representative for the St. John's Rural East and who is now joined by Kiz



the United Progressive Party won in the January 2023 general elections. The All Saints West seat won by Anthony Smith Jr. as a UPP candidate in 2023 and who became and indepen-

Johnson, the new representative for St. Philip South when she defeated UPP Deputy Leader, Sherfield Bowen.

The ABLP not only won, but it increased the margins significantly. Pollster, Peter Wickham, suggested that the swing towards the ruling party may be in double digits.

In his victory speech, PM Browne called for national unity, noting that 'this was not a time to gloat'. He thanked the people of Antigua and Barbuda for the confidence they expressed not only in the ABLP but his leadership.

He noted that there has been a campaign to vilify him within the body politic of the country; that there has been a campaign of lies, mis-information aimed at creating distrust among the people.

He congratulated the electorate for having the sense to 'see through' the lies and mis-information and for continuing to support the ABLP and he as its leader. The prime minister is promising the nation that the developments will be more evenly spread out across constituencies in the new term; that no constituency will lack for development and for infrastructure.



He also expressed special thanks and appreciation to the people of the St. John's City West constituency for the lopsided victory they gave him on election day. Recognising that the constituency had not had sustained infrastructural development for some time, PM Browne said this will now change as the teams from the Ministry of Works will not move until all the

roads 'are fixed'.

At the end of the count, the ABLP won 15 seats, the UPP 1 and The Barbuda People's Movement 1.

Meanwhile, both PM Browne and Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin are to be sworn in this morning (Friday May 1) at Government House.

# Ballot Box



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

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## ABLP's Fourth-Term Victory Signals 'Breakdown' of Opposition, Says Pollster



political pollster Peter Wickham

Barbadian political pollster Peter Wickham has described Thursday's general election in Antigua and Barbuda as a historic moment, highlighting what he called a "total breakdown" of the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) alongside a commanding performance by the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

In his post-election analysis, Wickham pointed out that the UPP, which came close to forming the government in the previous general election, suffered a dramatic decline in support this time around. He attributed much of this shift to leadership issues within the party, noting that the transition from former leader Harold Lovell to current political leader Jamale Pringle did not resonate strongly with the electorate.

"This has been an electoral disaster quite frankly, and it's not surprising given the expectations going in," Wickham said, adding that concerns about the party's readiness and direction had been evident even before voters went to the polls.

Another major factor highlighted by Wickham was what appears to be low voter turnout, particularly among UPP supporters. While official figures from the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) are still

being finalised, Wickham said early indications suggest a lack of enthusiasm among opposition voters.

"I spent time on the ground in Antigua and got the distinct impression that many UPP supporters were already resigned to defeat," he explained. "When people believe their party is unlikely to win, it often leads to disengagement, and that seems to have translated into fewer people turning out to vote."

Wickham added that some supporters appeared to be looking beyond the current election cycle, focusing instead on rebuilding for the future rather than contesting the present outcome. This sentiment, he said, may have played a decisive role in suppressing voter turnout and weakening the party's overall performance.

He also referenced the St. John's City East constituency as a key indicator of the broader trend. According to Wickham, the performance of UPP candidates in that seat underscores the party's decline when compared to previous elections.

"In hindsight, Lovell's performance in the last election now appears stronger than it was perhaps given credit for at the time," he noted. "He brought the party very close to victory overall and mounted a competitive challenge

in key constituencies."

Despite acknowledging that Lovell was not without his shortcomings, Wickham suggested that his leadership yielded comparatively better results than those seen under the current administration of the UPP.

Meanwhile, the ruling ABLP, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, has strengthened its position with an increased parliamentary majority and a higher share of the popular vote.

"This is significant not just for Antigua and Barbuda, but for the region," Wickham said. "It is rare to see a government not only win multiple consecutive terms, but also expand its support over time."

He noted that Prime Minister Gaston Browne's administration had already achieved a similar increase in voter support in a previous election, making this latest result particularly noteworthy.

"To grow your vote share once is notable, but to do so again suggests a level of political resilience and effectiveness that is uncommon," Wickham added.

The outcome, he said, marks a defining moment in the country's political history. Antigua and Barbuda has now elected the same prime minister four consecutive times—an unprecedented achievement that signals strong voter confidence in the current administration.

Wickham concluded that while the ABLP celebrates a decisive victory, the UPP faces a period of introspection and rebuilding if it hopes to regain political relevance.

"What we are seeing is historic in many ways," he said. "But it also raises important questions about the future of opposition politics in Antigua and Barbuda and whether the current dynamics can shift before the next general election."

## Political Pollster Don Anderson Said 'Leadership' Was A Factor In ABLP Victory

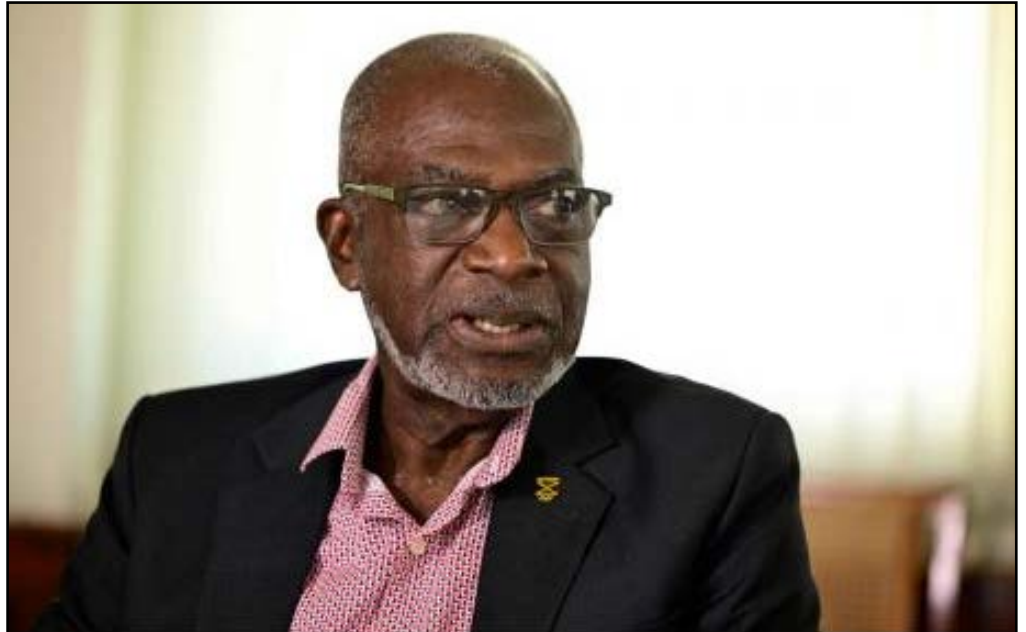
Highly respected regional pollster, Don Anderson of Jamaica, has identified a number of reasons for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's overwhelming victory in the April 30 general elections.

Anderson was among a panel that discussed the elections results as the results came in from the various constituencies on election night.

He revealed that his own polling in Antigua and Barbuda had predicted a victory for the ABLP with the party retaining its seats in the House of Representatives and with the likelihood of it picking up seats previously held by the United Progressive Party (UPP).

Anderson said the issue of 'leadership' was paramount in the minds of the electorate as they prepared to cast ballots in the general elections. The UPP has been plagued by a leadership crisis with the party torn between loyalties to current leader, Jamale Pringle, and former Political Leader, Harold Lovell.

Additionally, the pollster felt that the UPP's failure to mount a national



campaign also hampered its chances in the general elections as its strategy of trying to win on a constituency by constituency basis was not a winning strategy.

In contrast, he said the ruling ABLP mounted a national campaign, was more visible and made much more forceful argument to the electorate. In his mind, based on his polling and

the early results that came it, Anderson said there was an obvious swing towards the ruling party.

Coupled with that was the ABLP's Political Leader, Gaston Browne, who projects an image of confidence and competence which gave him a higher ranking as an effective leader among the electorate.



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## Antigua and Barbuda Strengthens Its Human Resource Through Hosting Major Events Such As CHOGM

Antigua and Barbuda is building up its human resource in a number of key areas each time it hosts major international events such as the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

This is the assessment of the country's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill, who is the Focal Point for CHOGM 26 slated for November 1 to 4 this year.

In 2024, Antigua and Barbuda hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) and last year its hosted the 58<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Coming out of all this, according to HC Hill is the knowledge that yes, Antigua and Barbuda can do it.

"I think the first lesson we have learnt is that we can actually do this; that size is not a deterrent to hosting something bigger than ourselves, which is what CHOGM is. So we did it with SIDS4 and it was successful, we did it with OAS and now we will do it again with CHOGM. With each event, we are ramping up to a higher level. The second lesson is because we know we can do it we are building a team of persons who can do it," she emphasized.

The High Commissioner noted that many of the persons who form part of the National Task Force have worked across SIDS4 and the OAS who are able to advise on protocol, security, and transportation etc. and in the process Antigua and Barbuda is building up a cadre of people with the skills necessary to organize and host major international events such as CHOGM.

"We are seeing these lessons learnt because these same people are say-



High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill

ing to us; we know this works because we saw it in SIDS; we know it doesn't work because we tried it and it didn't work, so we refined the process. Interestingly, it is not just about the 'know-how', it's also about how you go about attracting these major events; how do you demonstrate to the world that you can do this. We know the government has said it wanted to attract more Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) business and we are seeing more of these organisations reposing their confidence in Antigua and Barbuda," she remarked.



# Midweek Deals

**TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS**



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- Leg and Thigh
- Biscuit
- Medium Drink



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- Burger
- Medium Drink

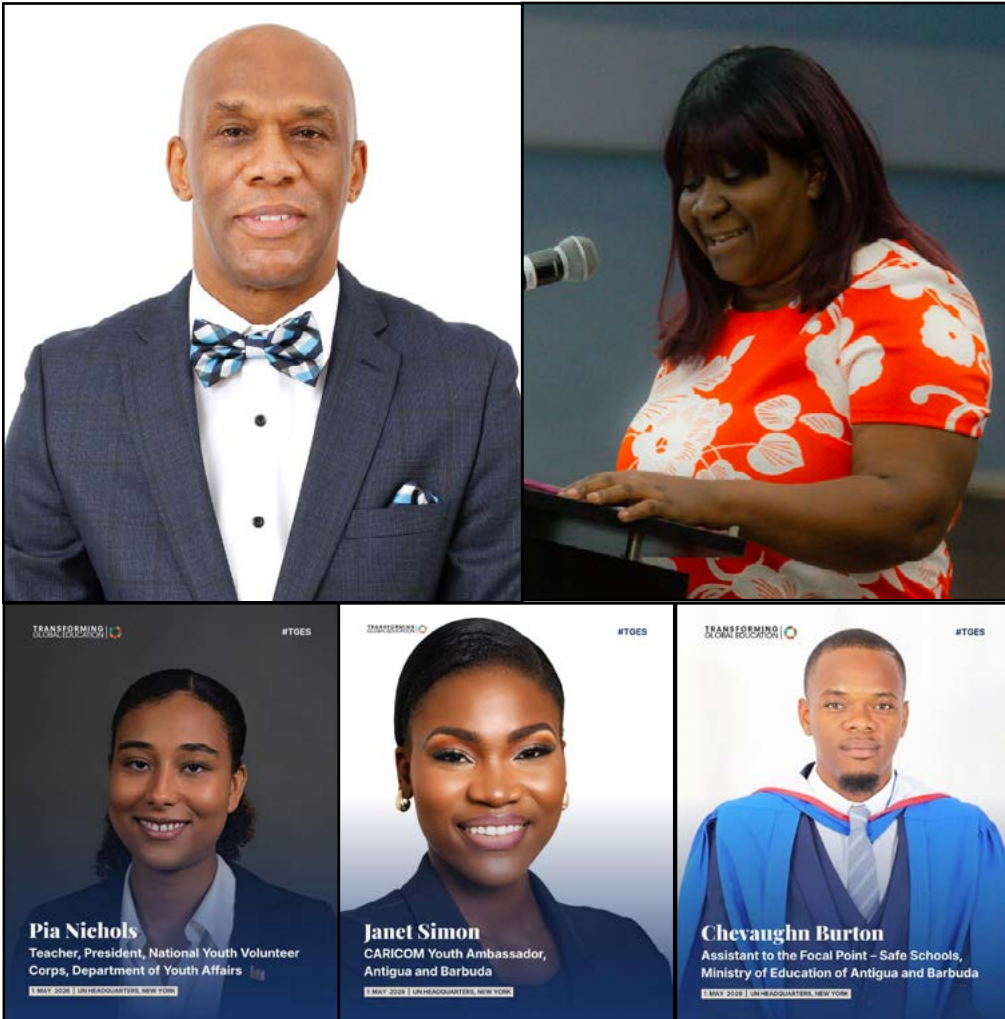


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## Antigua and Barbuda delegation participates in Transforming Global Education Summit at the United Nations



A five-member delegation from Antigua and Barbuda will join global leaders at United Nations Headquarters this week for the Transforming Global Education Summit, poised to be a ground breaking initiative for the modernization of education systems in small island states.

The one-day Summit, being today, Friday 1st May, is convened by the PVBLIC Foundation in collaboration with the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, the Kingdom of Tonga, and the Learning Economy Foundation. It will bring together heads of state, ministers, multilateral leaders, technologists, educators, private sector innovators, and youth leaders to discuss a range of matters under the theme Redefining Education as Global In-

frastructure.

The Summit is seeking to advance a new model for national education systems, designed to align policy, technology, funding and multilateral cooperation under a single forward-looking framework.

Leading Antigua and Barbuda's delegation will be Director of Education, Mr. Clare Browne, alongside Director of Youth, Dr. Jrucilla Samuel. They will be joined by three youth representatives – the President of the National Youth Volunteer Corps and former CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Pia Nicholas; current Caricom Youth Ambassador, Janet Simon and Assistant to the Safe Schools Focal Point, Chevaughn Burton.

The participation of both senior of-

ficials and youth leaders is testament to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to inclusive education reform and to ensuring that young people play an active role in shaping the future of learning.

Antigua and Barbuda is playing an active role in the summit, with the Permanent Mission to the United Nations coordinating the delegation's participation and ensuring the country's voice is heard in the discussions.

“For countries like ours, education is not simply a social service, it is a matter of national resilience and sovereignty,” said Ambassador Walton Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations. “Small Island Developing States understand that our ability to adapt, innovate, and compete globally depends on how we invest in the knowledge and skills of our people,” Ambassador Webson further noted.

Mr. Browne, as Director of Education, will deliver remarks on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda at the opening and will be featured on a panel discussion, Focus on Small Island Developing States. The Caricom Youth Ambassador Janet Simon is also down to speak during another panel discussion on the subject “Scaling the Model: From Youth to National Development.”

Another panel discussion, “Redefining Education Systems for the Future: Integrating Mental Health, Nutrition, and Holistic Youth Development as Global Priorities” will be moderated by Dr. Samuel. The youth members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation will be featured in this discussion.

The delegation is also scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with the PVBLIC Foundation and other partner countries of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

## UWI FIC Principal Questions ‘Not Feeling Growth’ Narrative in Sections of Society



Principal of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, C. Justin Robinson, has pointed to sustained economic growth and stable leadership as central factors behind the outcome of Thursday’s general election in Antigua and Barbuda.

Offering his assessment of the results, Professor Robinson pushed back against claims that citizens are not benefiting from the country’s economic expansion. He argued that key economic indicators suggest that growth is not only real, but also reaching households across the country.

“I’m always wary when people argue that people are not feeling the economic growth,” Robinson said. “The economy has shown tremendous growth since I’ve been here, and the data supports that.”

He pointed to measurable indicators such as increased employment reflected in Social Security registrations, higher levels of bank deposits, and growth in the money supply as evidence of widespread economic activity.

“The economy cannot grow at that rate—more jobs, more savings, more liquidity—without it reaching people,” he explained. “Those gains are translating into real impacts for households.”

Robinson also highlighted the role of tourism in driving economic expansion, noting record levels of stay-over visitors and cruise arrivals. According to him, these sectors have had a ripple effect throughout the wider economy, supporting jobs and business activity.

“Tourism flows through the entire economy,” he said. “When you see record arrivals, that is not isolated—it affects transportation, retail, hospitality, and a range of services.”

Beyond economic performance, Professor Robinson underscored what he described as the importance of experienced leadership, particularly that of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

“I think the economic management, infrastructure development, and the aura of experienced leadership have all contributed,” he stated. “Prime Minister Browne has established himself as a steady hand when it comes to managing the economy.”

Robinson suggested that this combination of economic stability and leadership confidence has created a challenging environment for political change. In his view, elections are often driven by a catalyst—such as economic hardship or public dissatisfaction—that motivates voters to shift support. However, he questioned whether such a catalyst currently exists in Antigua and Barbuda.

“What would be the catalyst for change?” he asked. “I’m not sure there is one. The economy is doing well, there is no major crisis, and the government appears stable.”

At the same time, the UWI FIC principal noted what appears to be a significant decline in support for the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP), describing it as a “national

swing” away from the party.

Drawing on constituency-level observations, he referenced St. Mary’s South, where UPP candidate Kelvin Simon had previously secured convincing victories but struggled this time around.

“Simon won the general election and subsequent by-election convincingly, and now he’s behind,” Robinson said. “That suggests something broader is happening beyond individual candidates.”

He added that similar patterns were evident across the country, with opposition figures including Jamale Pringle and Harold Lovell also facing difficulties, pointing to a wider erosion of support.

“Their own supporters are not coming out, and they are not convincing new voters,” Robinson observed. “That indicates a deeper issue within the party.”

While he acknowledged the natural advantage of incumbency, Robinson stressed that the ABLP’s appeal is being reinforced by tangible economic performance and public perception of stability.

“In some ways, I understand the appeal of the ABLP,” he said. “They are the incumbent, the economy is performing strongly, and there is confidence in leadership.”

He concluded that while the absence of a clear trigger for political change has worked in the government’s favour, the apparent “negativity” surrounding the opposition warrants closer examination.

“There may not be a catalyst for change,” Robinson said, “but there certainly seems to be a catalyst for declining support for the UPP, and that is something that needs to be carefully probed,” he declared.

# BARBUDA Caribana 2026

## MAY 2026

### THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

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

### 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
- 10PM-4AM | CARIBANA COLORS FETE

### SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC  
HORSE RACING

### MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

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

EVENT SCHEDULE





# CPL FIXTURES 2026

## HOME

## AWAY

 **AUG 9 SUN**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ST. VINCENT**

 **AUG 7 FRI**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ST. VINCENT**

 **AUG 20 THU**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ANTIGUA**

 **AUG 14 FRI**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ST. LUCIA**

 **AUG 22 SAT**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ANTIGUA**

 **AUG 30 SUN**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ST. KITTS**

 **AUG 23 SUN**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ANTIGUA**

 **SEP 2 WED**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**TRINIDAD**

 **AUG 25 TUE**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**ANTIGUA**

 **SEP 8 TUE**  
7:00 PM ECT / 4:30 AM IST (-1)  
**GUYANA**

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



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

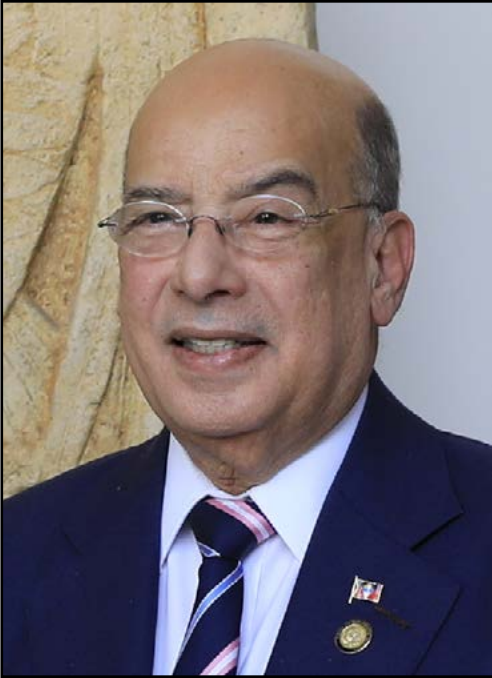
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## A Pin, a Principle, and the Integrity of the Caribbean

**-Territorial claims are decided in court, not worn on a lapel-**



*By Sir Ronald Sanders*

There are moments in international affairs when a seemingly small act reveals a much larger contest of principle. The recent controversy over the wearing, during official engagements in the Caribbean, of a brooch depicting Guyana's Essequibo region as part of Venezuela is one such moment.

It would be easy, and politically convenient, to dismiss the issue as trivial. Some have suggested that concern over the display amounts to little more than sensitivity to matters of personal attire. That characterisation is not merely dismissive; it is misleading.

The matter is not about dress. It is about conduct.

When a Head of Government displays, in official engagements with other states, a symbol that asserts a territorial claim against a neighbour, that act ceases to be personal expression. It becomes an instrument of state policy. It is intended to communicate, to reinforce, and to normalise a position that is very much in dispute.

That dispute is not abstract. It is currently before the International Court

of Justice, to which Guyana has turned for a final and binding determination of the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award that fixed the boundary between the two countries.

Venezuela now asserts that its position is grounded in international law and in the Geneva Agreement. That claim requires careful scrutiny. The Geneva Agreement did not determine sovereignty, nor did it invalidate the 1899 Award. It established a mechanism for the peaceful resolution of a controversy and, ultimately, the pathway that has led the matter to the Court. It is therefore incorrect to suggest that the Geneva Agreement justifies unilateral assertions of territorial entitlement while the very question it addresses is before judicial determination.

In that context, it is difficult to reconcile assertions of fidelity to international law with conduct that appears designed to shape perceptions of a matter that is sub judice. A state cannot credibly submit a controversy to judicial settlement while simultaneously seeking, through symbols, legislation, or administrative acts, to advance the outcome it desires outside the courtroom.

The wearing of a brooch, displaying Essequibo as part of a map of Venezuela, is part of a wider pattern. It accompanies legislative measures purporting to annex the territory, the appointment of officials for it, and a sustained narrative of sovereign entitlement. Taken together, these actions suggest not restraint pending adjudication, but a par-



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allel effort to consolidate a claim by political means.

In this connection, the response of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) assumes particular importance.

CARICOM's statement of 28 April 2026 was measured, but it was also clear. It reaffirmed the sovereign right of Member States to engage with external partners. But it placed that right within a framework of collective obligation under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Most significantly, it underscored that Community platforms must not be used, directly or indirectly, to advance or appear to legitimise claims that are before the Court.

That formulation is a quiet but firm assertion of regional discipline, even amid claims of disunity in the integration movement.

The CARICOM statement protects the integrity of the judicial process. It preserves the unity of the Community. And it signals that, while CARICOM will not interfere in the bilateral relations of its members, neither will it al-

low its forums to become instruments in the prosecution of a territorial claim against one of its own. That latter point must not be discounted.

President Irfaan Ali's response, in writing to the Chair of CARICOM, was therefore both justified and necessary. It was not an overreaction, nor an exercise in rhetoric. It was a defence of principle at a moment when ambiguity could easily have taken hold.

I worked with Delcy Rodríguez between 2015 and 2017 when I opposed efforts by some member states of the Organization of American States to impose measures against the Venezuelan government outside the established rules of the Organization. I did so out of respect for procedure, law, and fairness. I respected her as a formidable advocate for her government in a difficult and contested period.

But this matter is not about personalities, political alignment, or attire. It is about principle, process, and respect for a matter now before the Court.

The broader issue is whether all par-

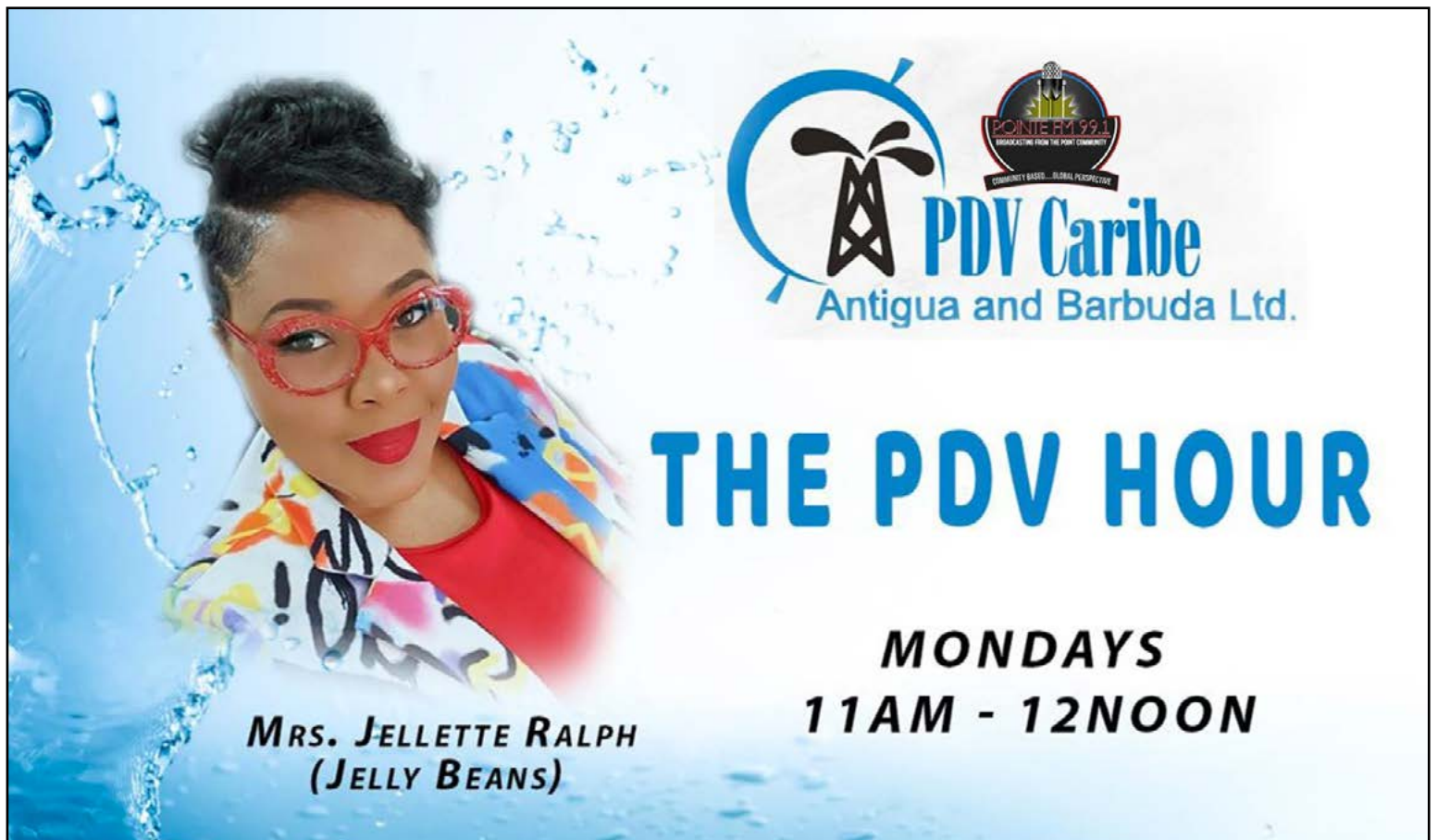
ties will match their stated commitment to international law with conduct consistent with it.



If the controversy is to be resolved peacefully, finally, and in accordance with international law, then the process before the Court must be allowed to proceed free from actions that risk prejudging or politicising its outcome. That requires restraint, not symbolism; discipline, not theatre.

A lapel pin cannot alter a boundary. But the conduct it represents can either support or undermine the principles by which that boundary is to be determined.

In this instance, the Caribbean has chosen, quietly but firmly, to stand on the side of law.

*(The Author is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organization of American States, and Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The Chancellorship is not a paid position. The views expressed are entirely his own.)*





  
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## THE PDV HOUR

**MONDAYS**  
**11AM - 12NOON**

**MRS. JELLETTE RALPH**  
**(JELLY BEANS)**

THE ANTIGUA &  
BARBUDA TRADES  
AND LABOUR UNION  
(AT&LU) PRESENTS



FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026

# THE ULTIMATE DJ COMPETITION DE-LABOUR MIX 8 PM - 12 AM



HOSTED BY: JESSE FYAH & DJ KAVITY

PARTICIPANTS (LEFT TO RIGHT)

DJ ACE (BARNES HILL & NEW WINTHROPES SECTION) | DJ SHADY (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ KYLE (CMC) | DJ TREBLEBEATZ (APUA) | DJ STRANGER (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ SPARK (CLARE HALL & CASSADA GARDENS SECTION) | DJ STUEY (LIBERTA SECTION)

PRIZES: 1<sup>ST</sup> \$1000.00  
2<sup>ND</sup> \$ 750.00 - 3<sup>RD</sup> \$ 500.00



AT&LU HEADQUARTERS  
46 NORTH STREET

BINGO WILL BE PLAYED  
BETWEEN THE ROUNDS



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**Caribana**  
2026



# Classic HORSE RACING

**SUN 24H MAY**

**1PM | CORONATION PARK**

THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRADES AND LABOUR UNION (AT&LU) PRESENTS

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026



# THE ULTIMATE DJ COMPETITION DE-LABOUR MIX

8 PM - 12 AM



REPRESENTING:  
BARNES HILL AND  
NEW WINTHROPES  
SECTION



HOSTED BY: JESSE FYAH & DJ KAVITY

### PARTICIPANTS

DJ ACE (BARNES HILL & NEW WINTHROPES SECTION) | DJ SHADY (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ KYLE (CMC) | DJ TREBLEBEATZ (APUA) | DJ STRANGER (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ SPARK (CLARE HALL & CASSADA GARDENS SECTION) | DJ STUEY (LIBERTA SECTION)

PRIZES: 1<sup>ST</sup> \$1000.00  
2<sup>ND</sup> \$750.00 - 3<sup>RD</sup> \$500.00



AT&LU HEADQUARTERS  
46 NORTH STREET

BINGO WILL BE PLAYED  
BETWEEN THE ROUNDS

**SUNDAYS  
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY  
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 **Date: Saturday 16th May 2026**

 **Time: 7:00 PM**

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

 **Admission: \$50**

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Feel the energy. Witness the return.**

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



# Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Jessica Serena Tracey proudly represents St. John's Rural North, carrying with her the vibrant spirit of McKinnons Village and the resilience that defines her journey.

A dynamic entrepreneur, dancer, and youth advocate, Jessica has used every chapter of her life to grow in purpose, leadership, and service. From excelling as a student leader to building businesses and mentoring through dance, she embodies determination, creativity, and faith.

Her passion for youth development, entrepreneurship, and community upliftment continues to inspire those around her. Grounded in service and guided by purpose, Jessica stands as a confident, compassionate, and empowered ambassador for the proud people of St. John's Rural North.



*Jessica Tracey*  
**ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH**

# *Echoes of the Past*

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Julissa Stoute proudly represents St. Paul as a vibrant 20-year-old university student whose poise, passion, and purpose set her apart.

She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management at The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, specializing in Tourism and Hospitality Management. A past student of Old Road Primary School and Antigua Girls' High School, Julissa built a strong foundation in leadership, discipline, and creativity.

Her love for the performing arts earned her a Grade One in dramatic presentation. Ambitious and driven, she aspires to make a meaningful impact in tourism and hospitality while proudly showcasing Caribbean culture on the global stage.

*Julissa Stoute*  
**ST. PAUL**



# Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT



Aliyah Andrew, a proud resident of St. John's Rural East and first-year Law student at the University of London, is driven by a passion for justice and national development.

As a Junior Paralegal and active member of JCI Antigua, she is committed to advocacy, youth empowerment, and nation-building. Representing her constituency and the Honourable Maria Browne in the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen Pageant 2026, Aliyah returns to the stage with confidence and purpose.

Her platform addresses absentee fatherhood and its impact on child development, as she champions stronger families and brighter futures for every child.

✦ A voice for change. A vision for impact.

*Aliyah Andrew*  
**ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST**



# Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT

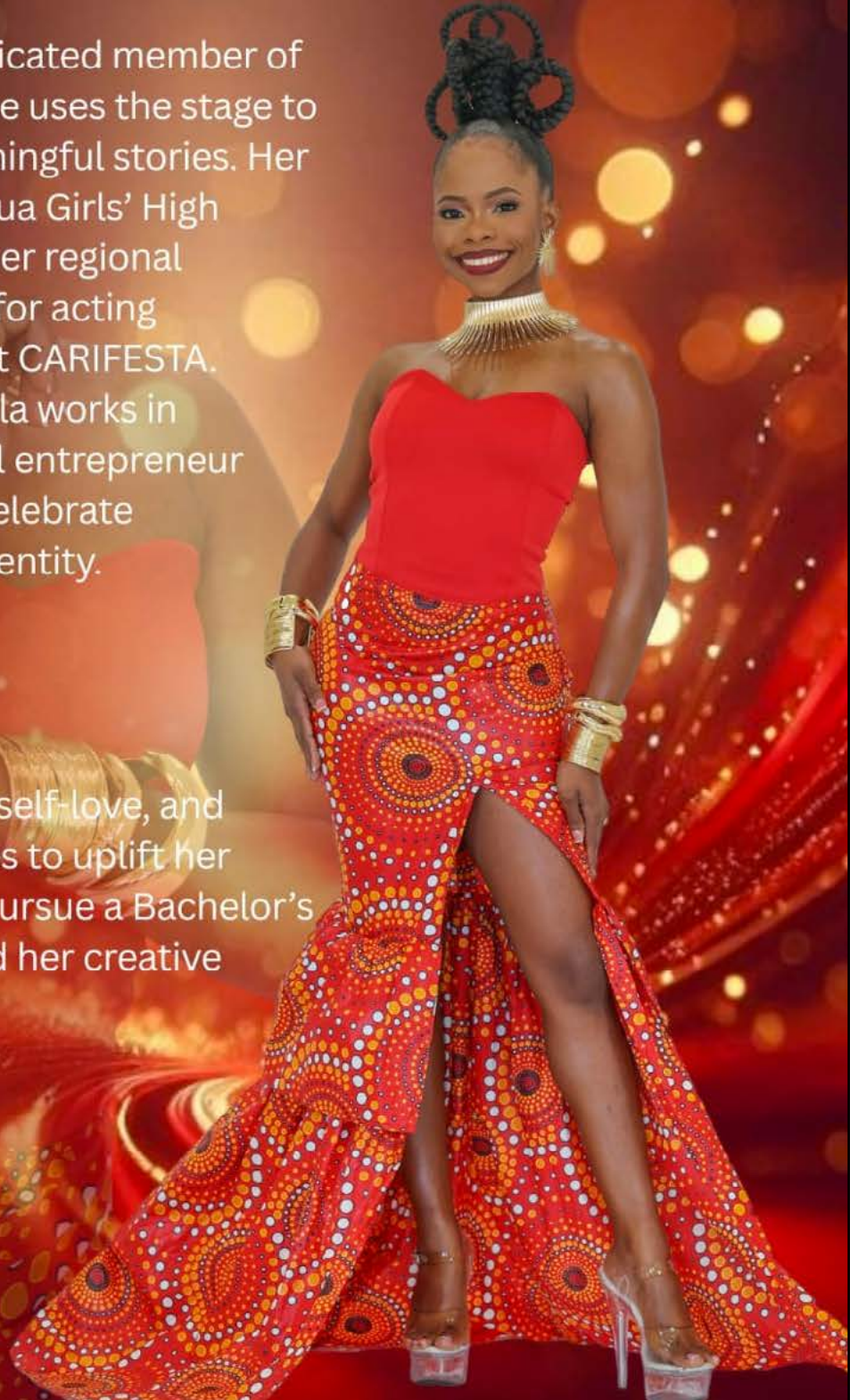


Queenela Williams proudly represents St. Mary's South with creativity, confidence, and cultural pride.

A dynamic performer and dedicated member of the National Youth Theatre, she uses the stage to connect, inspire, and tell meaningful stories. Her artistic journey began at Antigua Girls' High School and has since earned her regional recognition, including awards for acting excellence and appearances at CARIFESTA. Beyond performance, Queenela works in customer service and is a local entrepreneur whose handcrafted earrings celebrate individuality and Caribbean identity.

Deeply committed to service, self-love, and personal growth, she continues to uplift her community while aspiring to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and expand her creative impact.

*Queenela Williams*  
**ST. MARY'S SOUTH**



# Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT

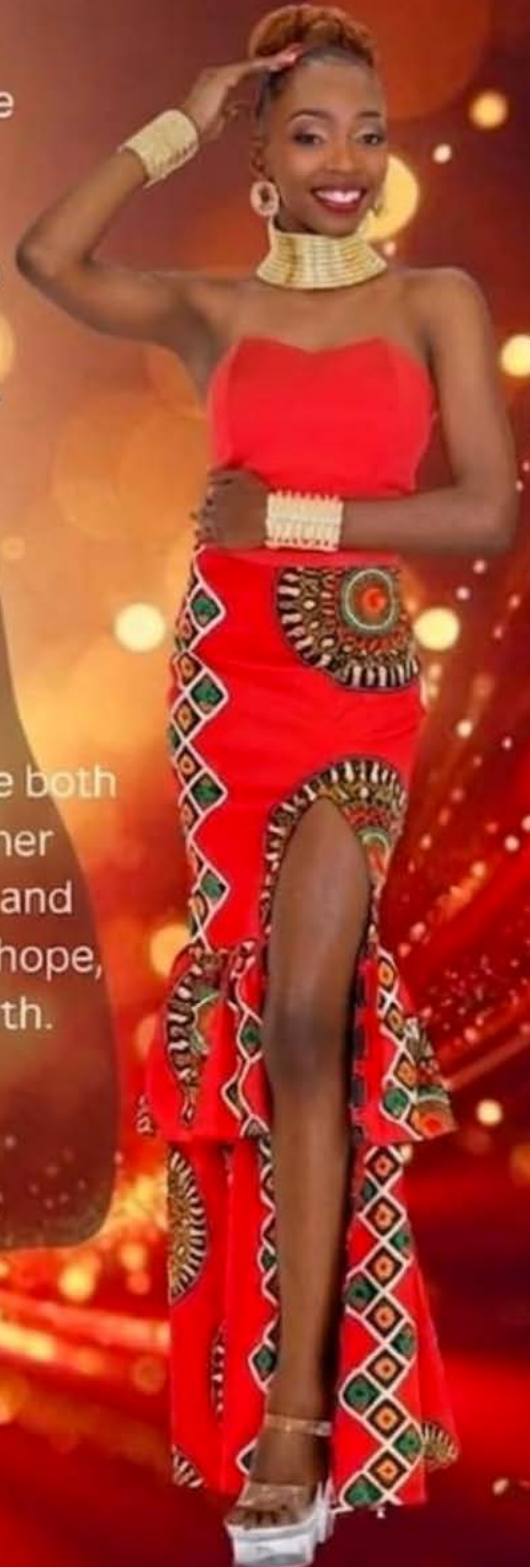


Iszarea Lloyd proudly represents St. Phillip's North as a young woman of purpose, resilience, and quiet strength.

Born on August 30, 2005, she is a proud graduate of Glanvilles Secondary School, where she emerged as Valedictorian, and is currently pursuing Social Sciences at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. Though naturally quiet and observant, Iszarea possesses a vibrant spirit and a heart deeply committed to service.

Passionate about cooking, singing, sports, photography, and reading, she aspires to become both an interior designer and photographer. Through her platform, she advocates for youth development and mental health awareness, determined to inspire hope, healing, and a stronger future for St. Phillip's North.

*Iszarea Lloyd*  
**ST. PHILLIPS NORTH**



# Regional News



## Over 900 candidates to sit Caribbean Examinations Council exams this year says CXC Registrar



The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) exam season is officially underway, with Local Registrar Magalie Celestine announcing that more than 900 candidates will sit the exams this year.

“This year, our exam season began on April 13 with music practicals, which have already been completed,” Celestine said. She noted that Physical Education and Sports practicals, along with French and Spanish oral exams, are currently ongoing and will conclude on April 30.

Written exams are scheduled to begin on May 4—May Day, a public holiday—and will run until June 9 for CSEC students. CAPE and CCSLC candidates will continue until June 16.

“We have a long six-week period of

exams, and I must say that I am very satisfied with our progress thus far,” Celestine stated. “All our invigilators have been trained, and we have 70 of them this year.”

Exams will be administered across 17 centres islandwide. This year, 965 candidates are registered for CSEC, including 222 private candidates and 743 school candidates. In addition, 119 CAPE candidates and 641 CCSLC candidates are registered. Celestine also confirmed that the centres will host GCE A-Level Cambridge Exams.

She highlighted the introduction of a new pilot program—the Caribbean Targeted Education Certificate (CTEC). While not a new exam, CTEC offers a modular approach compared to the traditional linear CSEC model.

“For example, in Mathematics, the syllabus is broken down into three modules,” Celestine explained. “Candidates will sit Paper 1 alongside CSEC students, but instead of 60 multiple-choice questions in 90 minutes, they will answer 20 questions in 30 minutes. Paper 2 is also shorter, with four structured questions in 50 minutes.”

Fifty private candidates are registered for the CTEC exams, marking the first time the program is being piloted in the region.

“It is the very first in the Caribbean,” Celestine stated. “Eventually, all 33 CSEC subjects will be modularized, giving students the option to choose between the linear version or the modularized version.” (Dominica News Online)



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- 🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
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## Bruce Golding to head Commonwealth observation mission for Bahamas polls

Former prime minister of Jamaica, Bruce Golding, has been appointed to lead a Commonwealth observer group for The Bahamas' general election scheduled for May 12, 2026.

The appointment was made by Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey, following an invitation from Prime Minister Philip Davis.

The full composition of the Commonwealth observer group includes Golding as chairperson; Josephine Tamaï, chief elections officer of Belize; Orin Gordon, a Guyanese journalist; and Estelle Thadea Alaine George, legal and electoral expert, Saint Lucia.

Announcing the appointment, the secretary-general expressed her appreciation to Golding for accepting the role and acknowledged the commitment of members of the observer group.

“Credible and transparent elections



are fundamental to democratic governance. The Commonwealth observer group plays an important role in reinforcing public confidence in elector-

al processes and supporting member countries in upholding their democratic commitments,” Botchwey said in a release on Thursday.

The observer group will be supported by a team from the Commonwealth Secretariat, led by Professor Michelle Scobie, head and adviser for Good Offices and the Caribbean and Americas Section.

During their time in-country, the observer group will observe all aspects of the electoral process and assess whether the elections are conducted in line with the democratic standards and commitments upheld by the Commonwealth of Nations, the release said.

The group is expected to arrive on May 4 and will issue an arrival statement shortly after, outlining its mandate and methodology for the observation mission. (Jamaica Observer)



**DAILY PROGRAMMING**




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

## Messing with the mace

When Member of Parliament for St Andrew South Western Dr Angela Brown Burke hoisted the mace from “under the table” while the committee of the whole House examined the controversial National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NaRRA) bill on Tuesday, there was a predictable outcome – chaos ensued.

The parliamentary Opposition had made their position clear from early in the debate that they did not intend to support the NaRRA bill in its current form and demanded meaningful changes to insert effective oversight in the proposed law. The NaRRA bill gives sweeping powers to the chief executive officer of the authority to spend billions of dollars towards reconstruction efforts post-Hurricane Melissa without a strong oversight framework.

As the committee conducted its deliberations into late Tuesday, a video shared with The Gleaner showed that Brown-Burke left her seat and advanced towards the mace, the symbol of authority by which Parliament meets to pass laws, amend legislation or repeal them.

At the start of each day’s sitting, the presiding officer is preceded by the Marshal bearing the mace, and the mace is placed on the table of the House. When the House resolves into a committee of the whole and the presiding officer functions as chairman, the mace is placed under the table.

Notably, Brown Burke, in a seeming jest, took up the mace, put it down and repeated her action, then turned to engage members on the government side.

The Opposition MP’s action drew a sharp and swift response from chairman of the committee, Juliet Holness, who demanded that Brown



Burke leave the chambers. “Marshal, please, Angela Brown Burke, I name you. Marshal go for her,” she declared.

A motion was subsequently moved by Leader of Government Business Floyd Green for Brown Burke to

be suspended for the rest of the sitting. However, when the Marshal, Captain Wayne Blake, approached Brown Burke to usher her out of the Chamber, Opposition members encircled her and broke out into a popular Gospel chorus singing, “I shall

not, I shall not be moved”.

After a short break, Opposition members left the chamber, and Brown Burke did not return with them when the House resumed.

Former Leader of Government Business Derrick Smith said Brown Burke was “completely out of order” and that the action of House Speaker Holness was appropriate for the infringement.

“I am wondering if she was ignorant of the Standing Orders or she was ignorant of the repercussions of removing the mace,” he said, while speaking with *The Gleaner* yesterday.

Smith also chided members of the Opposition who seemingly sided with Brown Burke after she committed the breach.

“Speaker Holness was completely correct in her actions to have her removed from the House,” he said.

Asked if further action should be taken against Brown Burke, the former veteran parliamentarian and House leader said he would not recommend any further disciplinary measure, as it was a one-off action from the Opposition lawmaker.

Brown Burke has been a member of parliament for about two terms.

One former senior member of the People’s National Party, who asked not to be named, said he believed the issue was being blown out of proportion as the member may have lifted the mace without ill will and was just creating a little drama.

The removal of the mace in Jamaica’s parliamentary sittings might be rare but not new. In December 2003, then Opposition MP Edmund Bartlett, in an uncharacteristic move, lifted the mace and sprinted with it to bar the front door of Parliament. In its story of the incident, *The Gleaner* headline screamed: ‘Pandemonium in the House’.

But what triggered the incident? Bartlett wanted to move a suspension of the Standing Order to allow for a motion moved by the then leader of Opposition business to be debated.

However, the then deputy speaker, the late O.T. Williams, had adjourned the House amid a loud chorus of “No, no, no” from the opposition benches.

As Williams descended from the Speaker’s chair to make the 15-metres walk along the centre aisle to the bar of the House (front door), Bartlett got hold of the mace and rushed towards the door, using the parliamentary symbol to block the exit of the Speaker from the Chamber.

Bartlett was assisted by members of the Opposition, while government members, on the other hand, tried to force the door open. The government members ultimately succeeded in opening the door and the Speaker exited the chambers.

The following week, then Speaker of the House Michael Peart said the “seizing of the mace by Mr Bartlett is a grave violation by all accounts. No one is permitted to touch the mace other than the marshal, once he accepts it from my office, brings it into this Parliament, and returns it to my office”.

Bartlett then offered his unreserved apology for what he said was “a critical departure” from the accepted practice and principle of the House.

“To the extent that my own action, Mr Speaker, did in fact contravene those rules and those principles, I offer to this chamber, to you, Mr Speaker, and to the country at large my personal apology.”

A search through Hansard – the official records of Parliament – has revealed that on October 17, 1968, Hugh Lawson Shearer, then prime minister, rose to give a ministerial statement and was cut short in

his tracks by Opposition lawmaker Maxwell Carey, who left his seat and removed the mace from the table of the House.

While removing the mace, Carey said: “I am protesting because I think this is intellectual murder.” The member then walked away bearing the mace to the opposition benches.

When asked by the then Speaker, Eugene Parkinson, to give a reason for his conduct, Carey said he wanted to register his protest against the barring of Pan-African socialist and University of the West Indies lecturer Walter Rodney from Jamaica, noting that the then prime minister, Shearer, “did not even give an opportunity to the gentleman to reach his yard and to see his wife and child”.

Carey then left the chambers without further comment. Speaker Parkinson said he deplored the conduct of the opposition MP, calling it “unparliamentary”.

“It is unprecedented and I hope there will be no recurrence of acts like this,” Parkinson declared.

However, messy mace debacles are not confined to the local jurisdiction. In December 2018, Labour MP in Britain, Lloyd Russell-Moyle, in the House of Commons, seized the mace in protest against a decision by then British Prime Minister Theresa May to call off her Brexit vote.

When the government declared it would not continue with the withdrawal debate, Russell-Moyle grabbed the mace, held it up in the centre of the chambers to a chorus of outrage from the Tory benches.

Conservative MPs called for his expulsion, saying he was a disgrace as the Labour MP raised the mace aloft.

He eventually handed the mace back to Commons officials and was suspended by the Speaker for the rest of the sitting. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

## SVG rural carnivals gear up for 2026 mas

As St. Vincent and the Grenadines prepares for Vincy Mas 2026, the spotlight is shifting toward the heart of the country's cultural identity: its rural communities.

Newly appointed Rural Carnival Co-ordinator Codrian Simmons, popularly known as "DJ Flip," recently outlined the highly anticipated rural carnival season, which aims to decentralise the festivities and highlight the unique cultural heritage of each district.

Rural carnivals are about more than just street parties; their core purpose is to showcase the distinct cultural strengths of non-centralised areas. For instance, North Leeward will highlight its traditional "old mass," while other communities will celebrate their own unique customs. The Carnival Development Corporation (CDC) is emphasising the need for these local events to feature all the core components of Vincy Mas including pan, mas, calypso, and pageantry rather than limiting the festivities strictly to "wet fetes" and street jams.

Currently, seven rural communities have been officially sanctioned by the CDC: North Leeward, South Leeward, Central Leeward, Bequia, Canouan, East St. George, and a newly formed "All Windward" entity, which merged the festivities of Georgetown, Park Hill, South Rivers, and Sandy Bay.

The season officially kicks off in Central Leeward with the Barrouallie (Bagga) launch on Friday, May 1st. Starting at 7:00 p.m. at Morgan Square, the launch will be creatively integrated with the community's famous Fish Fest (Blackfish festival). Organizers promise a full Vincy Mas experience, complete with artists, DJs, mas, and pan. Other notable upcoming launches include North Leeward and East St. George, with the latter reviving its beloved "Culture Pot" festival.

Despite the excitement, local committees face significant challenges,



particularly regarding sponsorship. Flip noted that these rural committees sacrifice their personal time to offer affordable—and sometimes free—entertainment during difficult economic times, bridging the gap for those who cannot afford expensive all-inclusive events or travel to Kingstown.

He issued a strong plea to local businesses and the diaspora to support these grassroots initiatives, emphasizing that financial and material assistance goes directly toward community building. Furthermore, there is a strong push for youth involvement to ensure cultural succession. North Leeward, for example, is planning a kiddies carnival centered around a "play mass a yard" theme, utilizing local environments and materials to build costumes and pass down cultural traditions.

Improved Communication, Streaming, and Safety To make keeping track of the various events easier, a centralised social media page representing all rural carnivals will be created. This platform will help inform the public about event schedules, potential noise in residential areas, and necessary traffic diversions, such as those expected along the South Leeward route.

For members of the diaspora eager

to be involved, major streaming platforms like Soca Nation, VC3, and API have partnered with the organizers to broadcast the events globally.

On the ground, safety remains a top priority. A strict "no bottle policy" will be enforced for security reasons, requiring vendors and patrons to pour drinks into cups. The Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force is working closely with the CDC, and even holds representation on the board of directors, to ensure peace and security are maintained throughout the events.

Rural carnivals offer a vital, affordable avenue for locals and early-arriving tourists to experience authentic Vincy culture outside of the peak July season. As DJ Flip stated, these festivals do more than just entertain; they bring communities together, support local businesses, and help combat societal issues like violence. With the season about to start, organizers are calling on everyone to rally behind the local committees, practice good behaviour, and enjoy the start of the "hottest carnival in the Caribbean". (St Vincent Times)

## Oil price hits highest since 2022 after report Trump to be briefed on new Iran options



wholesale costs shows petrol is now more expensive for retailers to buy than at any time since the war began”.

“However, diesel, which has come down by 3p a litre, is currently well below its highest wholesale price since the start of the conflict, so should fall further.”

But the potential impact is wider than just petrol and diesel prices. The UK government has warned people could face higher energy, food and flight ticket prices as a result of the war.

Some airlines have already started to raise fares or reduce flights. Fertiliser prices have also started to increase, which could have a knock-on effect on food prices.

Brent crude touched \$126.31 a barrel

Oil prices jumped to their highest since 2022 after a report that the US military is set to brief President Donald Trump on new plans for potential action in the Iran war.

Brent crude rose by almost 7% to more than \$126 (£94) a barrel at one point, before falling back.

US Central Command has prepared a plan for a wave of “short and powerful” strikes on Iran to try to break the deadlock in negotiations with Tehran, news site Axios reported. The BBC has contacted US Central Command and the White House for comment.

Energy prices have been rising this week as peace talks appear to have stalled, with the key Strait of Hormuz waterway still effectively closed.

About 20% of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) usually passes through the strait and the conflict has sent global energy prices soaring.

Crude oil is a key ingredient in petrol and diesel, and the jump in costs since the start of the Iran war has pushed up pump prices for motorists.

In the UK, petrol currently costs an average of 157p a litre, according to motoring group RAC, which is 24p higher than before the start of the war. Diesel is at 188.5p a litre, up 46p compared with its pre-war price.

RAC head of policy Simon Williams said that while the price of petrol at the pumps has fallen, “our analysis of



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# International

AROUND THE WORLD



earlier on Thursday, the highest since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. However, the price then fell back sharply later in the day to around \$114.

The current Brent futures contract for June delivery is due to expire on Thursday. The more active July contract was trading at around \$109 a barrel. Futures contracts are agreements to buy or sell an asset at a set date.

The Axios report cited anonymous sources, saying the proposed wave of strikes would be likely to include infrastructure targets.

Another plan focused on taking over part of the Strait of Hormuz so that it can be reopened for commercial shipping, Axios reported, adding that doing so could involve troops on the ground.

Meanwhile, a statement attributed to Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said that Tehran would secure the Strait of Hormuz and eliminate "the enemy's abuses of the waterway".

Khamenei's statement on Thursday also said a "new chapter" for the region had been taking shape since the start of the US-Israeli war with Iran on 28 February. The US said it would blockade Iranian ports for as long as Tehran continues to threaten vessels that try to use the Strait

of Hormuz, severely disrupting global energy shipments.

Iran retaliated against US-Israeli airstrikes by threatening to attack ships in the waterway, through which about a fifth of the world's energy usually passes.

Oil prices had surged by 6% on Wednesday following reports that Washington was preparing for an "extended" blockade of Iran.

"It does seem as though escalation in the war is back on the table, be it in the guise of the US continuing its blockade in Iran, but also reports and rumours that in order to get out of this bind, Iran may start to strike again," said Naveen Das, senior oil analyst at Kpler.

He told the BBC's Today programme an oil price approaching \$125 is the point where businesses and politicians "start to get a bit more jittery".

"We might start seeing maybe more headlines of trying to de-escalate again," he added, because the increase in prices "has a knock-on effect not only on oil, but oil-related products, inflation and basically every factor of our day-to-day lives".

Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club, said costs

could remain high into next year.

"Urea shipments, used for fertiliser, are blocked and costs have rocketed for farmers around the world, who didn't buy stocks in advance.

"The worry is that all these costs will be passed on through supply chains, pushing up the price of everyday goods, later in the year and into next year."

The BBC understands that energy executives met Trump on Tuesday to discuss ways to limit the impact of the war on US consumers, fuelling concerns in the market about an extended disruption to energy supplies.

"The big question in my mind is how long the Trump administration can stand the economic heat," Will Walker-Arnott, investment manager at Raymond James, told the Today programme.

"People are really beginning to worry about the inflationary impact coming through from the rise in the oil price", he added.

Stock markets in Asia closed lower, with Japan's Nikkei down 1.1% and South Korea's Kospi closing 1.4% lower.

But markets in Europe were higher. London's FTSE 100 rose 1.6%, Germany's Dax climbed 1% and France's Cac 40 edged up 0.1%. (BBC)

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## Inquiry into antisemitic attack that left 15 dead in Sydney recommends gun reform

A government inquiry into a rise in antisemitism across Australia before a mass shooting killed 15 people at a Hannukah celebration late last year recommended on Thursday that authorities prioritize gun reform.

The government established the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion after father and son Sajid and Naveed Akram allegedly opened fire with legally-owned guns at the celebration at Bondi Beach on Dec. 14., 2025. Authorities say their attack was inspired by the Islamic State group.

Royal Commissioner Virginia Bell made 14 recommendations on Thursday in her first interim report, five of which were not made public because they were classified as confidential for national security reasons.

The report also noted there had been a sharp rise in antisemitic incidents in Australia since the war between Israel and Hamas began on Oct. 7, 2023.

The United States and Israel's attack on Iran in February was "likely to have increased the risk of attacks directed at the Australian Jewish community," it said.

Report proposes new limits on gun ownership and follow-up on gun licenses.

The recommendations included that the federal and state governments prioritize implementing nationally consistent gun laws and a gun buyback.

Sajid Naveed was shot dead by police at the crime scene. He was a licensed shooter who legally owned the guns used.

Under new restrictions proposed by the federal government, the Indian-born Australian permanent resident would have been banned from holding a gun license because he was not an Australian citizen.

His son was wounded but survived. Naveed Akram has been charged with committing a terrorist act, 15 counts of murder and 40 counts of attempted murder. He has entered no pleas.



The government has also proposed limiting the number of guns someone can own to as few as four and implementing periodic reviews of existing gun licenses.

The new restrictions would be accompanied with a gun buyback scheme to compensate gun owners who must hand in weapons. The government has proposed sharing the cost of the buyback with the six states and two territories. But some states have said they won't pay.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government had agreed to implement all the recommendations that were relevant to federal authorities.

"I certainly hope that that occurs and would continue to engage constructively with state and territory governments to say that this is reform which is necessary," Albanese told reporters.

Albanese noted that Australia commemorated on Tuesday the 30th anniversary of Australia's deadliest mass shooting in modern times.

A landmark national firearms agreement virtually banned rapid-fire rifles after a gunman killed 35 people in Tasmania state on April 28, 1996.

"The nation is safer because of that," Albanese said.

Albanese noted that despite concluding that risks to Australian Jews were rising, the report found that no urgent

changes were required to keep Australians safe.

"There has been a rise in antisemitism. That is a global phenomenon," Albanese said.

"That is something that has happened right around the world. Governments need to respond to it. We are responding to it," he added.

The report noted that the government had allocated 102 million Australian dollars (\$73 million) to increase security at Jewish sites including synagogues and schools.

The money is administered by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the community's peak organization.

The council's co-chief executive Alex Ryvchin said the report was an important part in the process of making Jewish Australians feel safe again.

"We need to get to a point where Jewish Australians at Hanukkah this year ... feel safe, that we can gather again, that we won't be targeted," Ryvchin told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"It's going to be a long process to get us to that point. There's a deep sense of trauma in the community and ... a lot of unanswered questions, but this is an important step in the process," he added.

Public hearings in the inquiry begin on Monday next week. (AP)

## 287 nominations for Nobel Peace Prize — institute



The Norwegian Nobel Institute on Thursday announced that 287 nominations had been submitted for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

The list comprised 208 individuals and 79 organisations, it said, without identifying them.

While fewer than the record 376 registered in 2016, the institute said the number remained “consistently high”.

“In an increasingly conflictual world, there is no lack of candidates whose principled commitment and innovative action points towards a brighter future,” the institute said in a statement.

In line with Nobel statutes, the identity of the nominees is kept confidential for 50 years.

But those eligible to nominate — including former laureates,

lawmakers and cabinet ministers from any country in the world, and some university professors — are free to reveal the name of the person or organisation they have proposed.

Some of the names disclosed for this year's prize, to be announced on October 9, are Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and international institutions like the International Criminal Court.

Several people have also stated that they have nominated United States President Donald Trump, who had campaigned hard to win last year's peace prize for what he said were his efforts to stop eight wars.

Trump was not shy about vent-

ing his frustration about being passed over, as the prize committee instead chose to honour Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado.

But Machado did dedicate her award to Trump, and in an unusual move gave him her prize medal in January.

The Nobel Peace Prize committee however stressed that the medal itself was not the prize, and the honour is inseparable from the person who won it.

Nominations have to be submitted by January 31 each year, but committee members can add names to the list of candidates during their first meeting after the deadline, which was held on February 26, the institute said. (AFP)

## Suspect in White House Correspondents' Association dinner shooting to appear in court



The gunman accused of opening fire at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner this past weekend is expected to appear in court Thursday for a detention hearing, as his attorneys push for his release.

Cole Tomas Allen, a 31-year-old teacher and engineer from California, was charged Monday with attempting to assassinate the president and related crimes after he allegedly began shooting outside the packed Washington Hilton ballroom, where President Donald Trump and other White House officials had gathered with journalists for the annual dinner.

Allen was arrested after a U.S. Secret Service Officer fired at him multiple times. A criminal complaint states that Allen fell to the ground and sustained minor injuries, but was not struck by gunfire.

In a court filing Wednesday in support of Allen's pre-trial release, his public defenders argued that he has no past criminal history and was "gainfully employed

as a tutor" in California. The attorneys said that he "has support from family and friends" who would make sure he did not violate the conditions of his release.

"As previously stated, Mr. Allen's history and characteristics counsel in favor of release in this case," the public defenders wrote, calling him a "loved and respected teacher and colleague who has always demonstrated kindness, empathy and compassion and never violence."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jocelyn Ballantine argued for Allen to be held in pre-trial detention. She alleged that he traveled to Washington with a pump-action shotgun, a semi-automatic pistol, three knives and "other dangerous paraphernalia."

A criminal complaint alleged that Allen approached a security checkpoint on the terrace level of the hotel around 8:40 p.m. Saturday. Allen had been a guest at the hotel.

He then ran through a magnetom-

eter with a long gun, and as he did so, secret service personnel heard "a loud gunshot," according to the complaint. Federal investigators said a U.S. Secret Service Officer, who was wearing a ballistic vest, was shot once in the chest. That officer fired "multiple times" at Allen, who was not shot.

Trump and top members of his Cabinet and Congress were evacuated from the room. The officer who was shot was taken to the hospital for treatment and later released.

Just moments before the attack, Allen sent his family members a note apologizing and criticizing Trump without mentioning the President by name, according to a transcript of some of his writings provided to NBC News by a senior administration official. He also wrote that "administration officials (not including Mr. Patel)" were "targets."

The charge of attempting to assassinate the president of the United States carries a sentence of up to life in prison if convicted.

Allen was also charged with transportation of a firearm and ammunition through interstate commerce with intent to commit a felony, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years if convicted.

The third count he was charged with was discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence, which can carry a sentence of an additional term of a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison. (NBC)

## Success for both UWI teams in national volleyball club league



*The University of the West Indies men's volleyball team*

The University of the West Indies (UWI) enjoyed double success in their latest matches in their respective divisions in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) national club championship league on Wednesday evening.

After losing their previous four matches, the University of the West Indies recorded their first win in the Women's Division 1 league by pulling off a 3-2 victory over the Royal Cruisers in the opening game of a double-header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The UWI women needed two hours to prevail 19-25, 25-19, 25-23, 24-26, and 15-8 over the Royal Cruisers, who remain second from

the bottom of the seven-team standings with a record of one win and four losses in five matches.

Despite their victory, the UWI women remain in the cellar with a similar record of one win and four losses.

The University of the West Indies moved into fourth place in the Men's Division 1 League by securing a 3-1 victory against TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity in Wednesday's second encounter.

It took the UWI men an hour and 36 minutes to prevail 25-20, 22-25, 28-26, and 25-16 against the Chargers Velocity, who remain in the cellar of the eight-team standings after crashing to their fifth defeat in

as many games.

The UWI men moved into fourth place by recording their third win in five matches.

The national club volleyball league will continue with a triple-header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday.

Dynasty will take on the Falcons in a Women's Division 2 affair at 5:30 pm. It will be followed by a men's Division 2 encounter between Chargers Momentum and the ASCSC Stingers at 7 pm.

Gwava and N18 Construction Invaders will face the Cool and Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Da Storming Lions in a men's Division 1 matchup at 8:30 pm.

## Hoppers return to top of First Division League



**Players of the Greenbay Hoppers FC**

The Greenbay Hoppers have returned to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division league.

The Greenbay Hoppers opened up a two-point gap on second-placed Swetes Vipers FC by recording their 17th win in 24 matches with a 2-1 victory against Five Islands FC at the ABFA Technical Center on Wednesday evening.

Khimani Cox, who scored both goals for the Greenbay Hoppers, struck the winner with a strike in the 85th minute. Cox ensured both teams reached half-time level at 1-1 when he scored the equalizer by converting a penalty kick in the 35th minute.

Jaheim Jeremy gave Five Islands the early lead with a conversion in the seventh minute.

The result allows the Greenbay Hoppers to take over the lead of the First Division by advancing to 53 points. It caused the Swetes Vipers FC to drop from first to second place with 51 points from 25 matches.

The Freemans Village Scorpions remain in third place with 50 points from 23 matches.

Five Islands FC remains in fifth place with 43 points from 25 matches. Five Islands are awaiting the result of their

22nd match against Willikies FC, which ended prematurely after a brawl between players of both teams in Willikies on Tuesday, April 7.

SAP FC lost ground on the front-runners after crashing to a 1-0 defeat against Willikies FC at the St. Johnstone Village Stadium.

Following a goalless first half, Jason Harris broke the deadlock when he scored the only goal of the match in the 61st minute to snatch victory for the Willikies FC.

The result allows SAP FC to remain in fourth place with 48 points from 25 matches. It also allows Willikies FC to leapfrog Golden Grove FC from ninth to eighth place on goal difference.

Willikies FC advanced to 31 points from 24 matches. Golden Grove FC, which dropped from eighth to ninth place, also has 31 points from 25 matches.

Bendals FC consolidated their position in 11th place by being awarded a 3-0 victory via default over FC Masterballers, who failed to show up for their encounter at the Radio Range playing field.

The result allows Bendals FC to advance to 21 points from 25 matches, while FC Masterballers remain in the

cellar of the 14-team standings with nine points after losing for the 20th time in 25 matches.

Pares Secondary among winners in Under-15 schools' cricket contest

Pares Secondary School (PSS) was among the winners in the latest round of matches in the Ministry of Sports Inter-School Under-15 Competition.

Pares Secondary School snatched an eight-run victory over All Saints Secondary School at the Factory Grounds in a keenly contested low-scoring affair.

Pares Secondary School made 62 for nine off 17 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Their total benefited from a contribution of 19 extras. Martin snapped up four wickets, and Nasri Brooks claimed two wickets.

In reply, All Saints Secondary tumbled to 55 all out. Brooks top-scored with 24. Freeland captured three wickets, while Jarvis, Tonge, and John each picked up two wickets for Pares Secondary School.

There was success as well for Sir Novelle Richards Academy, which recorded a nine-wicket run against Jennings Secondary at Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy made 95 for eight off 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Sherwin Martin hit 22 off 20 balls, Clayton Joseph struck 15 off 20 balls, and Rohan John scored 12 off 16 balls.

Estan Hill snapped up three wickets for five runs, Tyler Martin claimed three for 27, and Orane Morrison captured one for 12.

In reply, Jennings Secondary School was dismissed for 86 in 19.1 overs. Captain Jariék Francis hit 45 off 52 balls. Kevon Charles bagged two for 14, Sherwin Martin took two for 19, and Ayden Bazil had two for 23.

The Ottos Comprehensive School was awarded victory via default against Irene B. Williams Secondary, who was unable to field a team for their encounter at Swetes Village.



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# 2026 MATCH SCHEDULE

FRI 7 AUG	JKM		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
SAT 8 AUG	SKNP		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
SUN 9 AUG	ABF		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
TUE 11 AUG	JKM		v		BR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 12 AUG	SLK		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 13 AUG	JKM		v		GAW	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
FRI 14 AUG	SLK		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 15 AUG	JKM		v		TKR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
SUN 16 AUG	SLK		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
TUE 18 AUG	JKM		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 19 AUG	SLK		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 20 AUG	ABF		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
FRI 21 AUG	SLK		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 22 AUG	ABF		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SUN 23 AUG	ABF		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
TUE 25 AUG	ABF		v		BR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
WED 26 AUG	TKR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 27 AUG	SKNP		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 28 AUG	TKR		v		BR	8:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SAT 29 AUG	TKR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SUN 30 AUG	SKNP		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
MON 31 AUG	TKR		v		JKM	5:00 PM	TRINIDAD
TUE 1 SEP	SKNP		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
WED 2 SEP	TKR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 3 SEP	SKNP		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 4 SEP	GAW		v		JKM	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 5 SEP	BR		v		TKR	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 6 SEP	GAW		v		SKNP	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 6 SEP	BR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
TUE 8 SEP	GAW		v		ABF	7:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 9 SEP	GAW		v		SLK	7:00 PM	GUYANA
THU 10 SEP	BR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 11 SEP	GAW		v		TKR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 12 SEP	BR		v		JKM	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 13 SEP	BR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
WED 16 SEP	ELIMINATOR - 3 <sup>RD</sup> v 4 <sup>TH</sup>					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
THU 17 SEP	QUALIFIER - 1 <sup>ST</sup> v 2 <sup>ND</sup>					8:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 18 SEP	QUALIFIER 2 - WINNER ELIMINATOR v LOSER QUALIFIER 1					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 20 SEP	FINAL					7:00 PM	BARBADOS

## Carty, Greaves hit hundreds as Hurricanes keep Red Force at bay



Justin Greaves

Keacy Carty and captain Justin Greaves both scored crucial centuries to earn the Leeward Islands Hurricanes a share of the spoils in their third-round West Indies Four-Day Championship match against the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force, at the Antigua Recreation Ground, on Wednesday.

The two batters led a Herculean effort by the Hurricanes, who despite starting the final day on 160 for four, got up to 467 for seven before both teams agreed to a draw.

While the writing seemed to be on the wall for an easy Red Force victory, Carty and Greaves had other plans.

With their backs against the walls, the pair added 174 runs for the fifth wicket to breathe life back into the LI Hurricanes' innings.

The pair carried the score to 271 before the Red Force finally got the breakthrough when left-arm spinner Khary Pierre held on to a return catch offered by Carty.

In all, Carty faced 212 balls and struck

16 fours and two sixes in his four-hour and 45-minute stay at the crease.

The Red Force continued to push for victory and were rewarded with the wickets of Cameron Pennyfeather for 20 and the key wicket of Greaves, who scored 122 off 178 balls, counting 14 fours and one six, to leave the score 355 for seven.

But any hope that the T&T Red Force had of bowling out their opponents was brought to a screeching halt by Rahkeem Cornwall and Jahmar Hamilton.

Cornwall scored an unbeaten 66 off 100 balls, while Hamilton finished on 50 not out off 111 balls, to frustrate the Red Force's bowling attack in an unbroken partnership of 112 runs that sealed the outcome.

Pacer Anderson Phillip took four for 89 for the Red Force, who finished second in the standings and will now take on Barbados Pride for a place in the final to face the Guyana Harpy Eagles.

In the other third-round matches in the bilateral series, the Guyana Harpy Eagles trounced the Windward Islands Volcanoes by 93 runs at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds in Antigua.

The Harpy Eagles made 242 and 299, while the Windwards were dismissed for 223 and 225.

The Barbados Pride crushed the Jamaica Scorpions by an innings and 11 runs at Sabina Park in Jamaica. The Barbados Pride amassed 439, while the Jamaica Scorpions fell for 142 and 286.

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## Grenades go level on points with United in Premier League

The Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades have cut the gap on defending champions and current leaders All Saints United in the Premier Division League.

The Grenades moved level on points with leaders and reigning back-to-back champions, All Saints United, by recording their 17th win in 20 matches via being awarded a 3-0 victory by default against Old Road FC, which failed to show up for their encounter at the ABFA Technical Center on Wednesday evening.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to remain in second place on

goal difference by advancing to 53 points, the same as leaders All Saints United, who have also played 20 matches.

The Grenades and All Saints United will still have to meet on Saturday, May 9, in a rescheduled second-round affair that is expected to determine the Premier League champions this season.

Old Road FC finished their Premier League campaign in fifth-place with 36 points from their quota of 22 round-robin matches in the 12-team competition.

The Premier Division will resume with a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, May 3.

The Potters Tigers will wrap up their Premier League campaign with their final encounter against All Saints United at 5 pm, while the Pigotts Bullets will also play their final match when they tackle the Jennings Grenades at 7 pm.

The Pigotts Bullets currently occupy the fourth-place position with 39 points from 21 matches. The Potters Tigers are in sixth place with 33 points from 21 matches.



Players of the Jennings Grenades starting XI