

MOH, CBH Take Mosquito Public Education To A Next Level

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Educating the nation's children on the importance of reducing mosquito breeding is being intensified during Mosquito Awareness Week

Local News



MOH, CBH Take Mosquito Public Education To A Next Level



CBH team working with students at Foundation Mix Primary School

In observance of Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week 2026, the Ministry of Health through the Central Board of Health (CBH), has intensified its public education efforts aimed at reducing mosquito breed-

ing and protecting public health across the nation.

As part of this year's activities, teams from the Central Board of Health have been visiting schools throughout not only An-



A youth in one of the nation's schools undertakes exercise with the mosquito activities and colouring book

tigua and also Barbuda to educate students on mosquito awareness, prevention, and environmental responsibility. During the sessions, students are being taught about the dangers associated with mosqui-

toes, including the various diseases that can be spread through mosquito bites, such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus.

The educational outreach also focuses on helping

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children identify common mosquito breeding sites found around homes and communities, including old tyres, drums, flower pots, blocked drains, and uncovered containers that collect standing water. Students are being encouraged to play an active role in keeping their surroundings clean and safe by assisting with the elimination of breeding sites both at school and at home.

To further reinforce the message in an engaging and child-friendly manner, the CBH has developed an interactive activity book that highlights mosquito prevention practices, environmental cleanliness, and personal responsibility. The activity book includes educational exercises, colouring pages, puzzles, and other interactive activities designed to make learning about mosquito control both informative and enjoyable for students.

Principal Public Health Inspector Julianne Mannix emphasized the importance of educating children at an early age so that preventative habits can become a normal part of daily life.

“We believe that children

are powerful agents of change within their homes and communities. By educating them about the dangers of mosquitoes and how to eliminate breeding sites, we are not only protecting them, but also empowering them to encourage positive behavioural changes within their households,” Mannix stated.

She further explained that community participation remains one of the most effective tools in reducing mosquito populations and preventing outbreaks of mosquito-borne illnesses.

“Mosquito control is not solely the responsibility of the Central Board of Health. It requires a collective national effort. Simple actions such as properly covering water containers, cleaning gutters, disposing of old containers, and keeping yards clean can significantly reduce mosquito breeding,” she added.

The initiative forms part of the broader regional observance of Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week, which seeks to raise awareness throughout the Caribbean about the impact of mosquitoes on public health and the importance

of prevention and environmental management.

The Central Board of Health is encouraging all residents to support the campaign by taking proac-

tive steps to reduce mosquito breeding around their homes and communities, while also reinforcing the lessons being shared with children during the school visits.

Observing Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week 2026

As Antigua and Barbuda joins the rest of the region in observance of Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week 2026, the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB), in collaboration with the Central Board of Health (CBH), continues its public education efforts across Antigua and Barbuda.

On Tuesday, the Registrar of Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals, Jonah Ormond, visited the Foundation Mixed School where he engaged Grade One students in interactive discussions on mosquito awareness, prevention, environmental responsibility, and the health risks associated with the unsafe use of pesticides.

Students were also educated on the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) restrictions regarding the importation, sale, and use of mosquito coils in Antigua and Barbuda.

Through these school visits, students are encouraged to become young ambassadors who can share these important health and safety messages within their homes and communities.

Partnering with the Central Board of Health for the activity were representatives from Dunbars Analytical Services and the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board. They educated the students on the dangers of using mosquito coils, which are prohibited for sale in Antigua due to their harmful health effects. We are truly grateful for these valuable partnerships and continued collaboration in



Jonah Ormond interacts with students at the Foundation Mix School

promoting public health awareness.

In addition to the focus on PTCCB matters, the CBH team worked closely with the Grade One students using the CBH Mosquito Coloring and Activity Book, specially created to educate children about mosquito prevention in a fun and engaging way.

The activity book highlights:

- ✔ Potential mosquito breeding sites
- ✔ Diseases associated with mosquitoes
- ✔ Coloring activities
- ✔ Word searches and other fun learning exercises

ing exercises

✔ Way to eliminate mosquito breeding sites

CBH reports that the session was highly interactive, and both the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the activities. “It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and participation from the students as they learned the importance of mosquito prevention and source reduction,” a team member stated.

CBH has as its sub-theme: *Together, we can make Antigua and Barbuda healthier and safer for present and future generations.*



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ABDF Warns Of 'Live' Shooting At Its Crabbes Facility Today

The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force is cautioning members of the public to be aware that it intends to conduct training using 'live' rounds at its Crabbes Facility outside of Parham.

In a media release, the ABDF said the training exercise will be conducted between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm today.

"Residents and individuals in neighbouring communities are advised not to panic if loud sounds or gunfire are heard during the scheduled period of the exercise, as these activities form part of routine military exercises.

"The ABDF is also advising all mariners to stay clear of the coastal waters near the Crabbes Training Area for the duration of the exercise to ensure the safety of all personnel and sea users," the statement warned.



The ABDF is reassuring the public that safety remains a top priority as it continues to conduct essential training sessions to maintain operational readiness and national security.

Congratulations to Aayana Evanson



Congratulations are in order for Aayana Evanson who has graduated with a Master's Degree in the field of Computer Science from New York University (NYU). This achievement reflects years of dedication, academic excellence and commitment to professional growth.

During the program, Evanson focused on software development and is proficient in Pascal, C++, Python, Pygame, Javascript and Unreal game engine just to name a few.

Evanson also holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from St John's University (cum laude) and an associate degree from Monroe College (summa cum laude). Evanson is an alumna of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) and the Sunnyside Tutorial School.

Evanson is the daughter of Director of Audit Dean Evanson and Gwendolyn Evanson, and her family and friends celebrate this significant accomplishment.

New Riddim Highlights Collaboration Between Producer Chippy G & T&T Counterpart

As the Carnival season approaches, a fresh sound is emerging to celebrate Caribbean culture, unity, and musical excellence with the release of the *Sugar Mill Riddim*, a vibrant fusion of Antiguan Benna and Trinidadian Calypso that captures the spirit and energy of Antigua Carnival.

The *Sugar Mill Riddim* is the result of a dynamic collaboration among acclaimed Antiguan producer Chippy G, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, DJ Quest, and Trinidadian music producer Kitwana Israel of Advokit Productions. Together, the team has crafted a polished, feel-good production that bridges Caribbean musical influences while paying tribute to Antigua and Barbuda's rich cultural identity.

Featuring an exciting lineup of talented artistes including Zafema, Patrice Roberts, Tian Winter, and Young Lyrics, the project delivers a blend of infectious melodies, powerful storytelling, and high-energy performances that embody celebration, pride, and regional unity.

Inspired by Antigua and Barbuda's history, resilience, and vibrant people, the *Sugar Mill Riddim* is more than music, it is an experience. A sound that transcends borders, connecting cultures and creating moments of joy throughout Carnival and beyond.

Beyond the music itself, the project also highlights the remarkable growth and commitment of producer Chippy G, whose relentless pursuit of excellence continues to elevate Antigua and Barbuda's



creative landscape.

Minister of Sport and Creative, the Hon Dwayne George, also applauded Chippy G's commitment to growth and continuous development within the creative sector. *"Chippy G's journey demonstrates the value of dedication, persistence, and investing in one's craft. His willingness to embrace learning opportunities, build regional partnerships, and continuously sharpen his skills is exactly the kind of example we want to encourage within our creative industries."* The Minister went on to say, *"As we continue strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's cultural and entertainment sectors, I look forward to working alongside our creatives and continuing initiatives focused on capacity building, industry development, and creating opportunities that empower talent to thrive. Our*

artists and producers have tremendous potential, and I am excited to see more of our creatives make their mark on the regional and international musical landscape while proudly carrying the spirit and culture of Antigua and Barbuda to the world."

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, also commended Chippy G's dedication and commitment to growth: *"Chippy G represents the kind of determination, discipline, and resilience that builds lasting success. He has consistently embraced opportunities, invested in sharpening his craft, and remained committed to growth even when the work happened quietly behind the scenes"*

Reflecting on his journey, Devon "Chippy G" Joseph shared: *"The journey has been one of growth, learn-*

ing, and staying committed to the craft. Traveling back and forth to Trinidad, participating in workshops with KC Phillip, and learning not just music production techniques but also the business side of the industry have shaped me tremendously. I must give special thanks to Lisa, who has been one of my driving forces, opening doors, creating opportunities, and connecting me with incredible people within the industry. Chippy G went to say, "Even with Sugar Mill Riddim, bringing Kitwana Israel to Antigua created opportunities not just for myself but for other artistes as well. Kit wrote some of these songs, recorded, mixed, and mastered tracks without asking for anything in return. That level of support means everything. I have been quietly putting in the work over the years, and I am grateful to now see the results bearing fruit."

The *Sugar Mill Riddim* is now available across major streaming platforms and will be featured throughout Carnival events and promotional activities during the Antigua Carnival season.

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to celebrate another unforgettable Carnival season, the story behind *Sugar Mill Riddim* stands as a reminder that greatness is built quietly, through sacrifice, consistency, and the courage to keep showing up. Chippy G's journey is proof that when passion meets purpose and preparation meets opportunity, excellence becomes inevitable.

Study Finds Lost Classroom Time Affecting Math Performance in Primary Schools

A new study examining mathematics performance in public primary schools has found that protecting instructional time plays a critical role in student achievement, with interruptions, teacher absenteeism and lost classroom time contributing to weaker outcomes in lower-performing schools.

The findings were presented by Acting Education Officer, Mathematics — Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Shoya Hurst — during the 6th Ministry of Education Research Symposium held last week.

Titled *'Instructional Time and its Influence on Grade 3 Mathematics Achievement: A Comparative Study of Low and High Performing Public Schools'*, the research explored whether scheduled mathematics periods are being effectively protected and utilised to support student learning.

According to the research, there has been a persistent national concern over declining mathematics performance as students transition from Grade 2 into Grades 3 and 4. Hurst said the study was also motivated by a lack of empirical data explaining the trend.

The research involved six public primary schools — three classified as high-performing and three as low-performing — and included participation from teachers, students and school leaders. Quantitative data included national assessment scores, attendance records and timetables, while qualitative data was gathered through classroom observations, interviews and teacher surveys.

One of the major conclusions was that scheduled mathematics time does not necessarily translate into actual learning opportunities.

"A school may have mathematics timetabled, but interruptions such as teacher lateness, absenteeism, assemblies, meetings and ministry-led activities can significantly reduce actual learning time," Hurst said.

The study found that high-performing



Shoya Hurst

schools not only allocated more time to mathematics instruction, but also protected that time more effectively. In some low-performing schools, as much as 80 minutes of scheduled weekly mathematics instruction was lost.

While high-performing schools utilised an average of 246.7 minutes of weekly mathematics instruction, low-performing schools averaged 216.7 minutes. Hurst warned that although the gap may appear small initially, the losses become compounded over weeks, months and academic years.

The research also highlighted concerning differences in teacher attendance patterns. Teacher lateness in low-performing schools was recorded at 25.1 percent, compared to 10.8 percent in high-performing schools. Teacher absenteeism was also nearly double in low-performing schools.

"These interruptions significantly affect continuity, students' opportunities for practice, feedback and mastery," Hurst stated.

The study further identified a strong positive correlation between protected instructional time and mathematics achievement, with a correlation score of 0.70.

Performance data showed students in high-performing schools were far more likely to achieve mastery levels one and two, while only 39.9 percent of students in low-performing schools scored 50 percent or higher on the standardised assessment used in the study.

Shoya Hurst also pointed to differences in instructional practices. High-performing schools more frequently employed explicit modeling, think-aloud strategies and structured instructional methods aimed at maximising learning time.

Additionally, school leadership was also found to be an important factor. Principals in high-performing schools reported actively monitoring curriculum coverage, coordinating activities to minimise disruptions and intervening when instructional time was being lost too frequently.

However, principals across schools also acknowledged challenges stemming from heavy ministry activity calendars and difficulties securing qualified substitute teachers when staff members were absent.

Among the recommendations emerging from the study according to the Acting Education Officer, were stronger monitoring of the national instructional time policy, improved coordination of school and ministry activities, stronger measures to address teacher lateness and absenteeism, and expanded professional development for both teachers and school leaders.

Hurst stressed that the study will continue through a longitudinal approach, with researchers set to analyse Grade 4 national assessment results later this year to determine longer-term impacts.

"The conclusion is clear," Shoya Hurst said. "Scheduled time is not the same as actual learning time, and the impact it has on mathematics achievement can be seen across Grades 3 and 4. We have to be intentional about preserving instructional time."

Cabinet Awaiting Final Reports on Government Building Inspections

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is nearing completion of a comprehensive audit of government-occupied buildings aimed at assessing their safety and suitability for public sector workers, according to Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant.

Speaking during last week's post-Cabinet media briefing, Merchant said the majority of inspections have already been completed, with the Ministry of Works now preparing final reports to be submitted to Cabinet.

"It is still ongoing. The majority has been completed," Merchant said, noting that updates have already been provided on the ONDCP building and the Ministry of Tourism building, among others.

The nationwide assessment has revealed that a significant number of public servants have been forced to work under less-than-ideal conditions because of problems with government buildings. According to Merchant, some employees end the workday at noon, while others have been working remotely due to safety concerns and structural issues affecting various facilities.

Merchant said the Ministry of Works has been working "feverishly" within its capabilities to address the problems and restore safe working environments across the public sector.

One department particularly affected is the Department of Culture, where staff members have reportedly been operating from home for an extended period because of



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

building-related issues.

However, Merchant disclosed that the much-needed work required for the employees to return to work fulltime is being given priority. He said the government has instruct-

ed that a building be retrofitted to accommodate the staff, and the workers are expected to return to office operations within the coming weeks.

"With a new minister on board, they will be returning to work," Merchant said. "Government has given instructions for the retrofitting of a particular building, and so those 60-plus workers who have been at home for a while will be required to return to work within the government-provided facilities."

The audit forms part of wider efforts by the government to improve workplace conditions and ensure the safety and productivity of public sector employees across Antigua and Barbuda.




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- 8PM | JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH

FRIDAY 22ND

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

SATURDAY 23RD

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

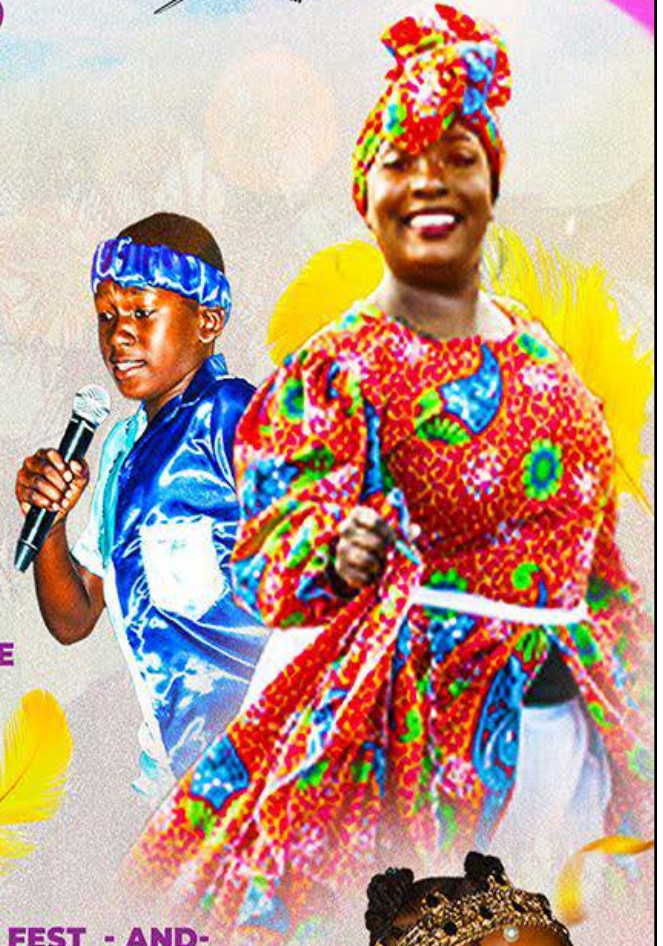
SUNDAY 24TH

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC
HORSE RACING

MONDAY 25TH

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

EVENT SCHEDULE



Antigua and Barbuda Education Official Attends UN FAO Youth Leadership Programme in Rome

By Shenequa Williams

Antigua and Barbuda continues to strengthen its presence on the global stage through youth leadership and international collaboration. Nicolette Francis, Education Officer within the Ministry of Education, represented the nation at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) Reflection and Advancement Convening, held in Rome, Italy from May 12–15, 2026.

The prestigious gathering brought together emerging youth leaders from around the world to reflect on progress in advancing sustainable food systems and to help shape the next phase of youth engagement in global food policy and action. The opportunity was highly competitive, with approximately 3,000 applicants worldwide and participants selected from 50 countries.

The Youth Leadership Programme is an initiative of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub designed to empower young professionals to play a more active role in transforming global food systems. The programme focuses on building leadership capacity, strengthening systems thinking, and creating opportunities for youth to meaningfully engage in national, regional, and global decision-making.

During the meeting, participants reviewed achievements from the programme’s first phase and contributed ideas and strategies for the future. Discussions centered on strengthening youth contributions, enhancing collaboration with institutional partners, and supporting the global follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit, particularly in preparation for the UNFSS+6 and the 2027 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

Reflecting on the experience, Francis shared, “I feel very blessed and honoured to be one of the fifty selected



Nicolette Francis, Education Officer within the Ministry of Education

from three thousand applications. This training organized by the FAO taught me a lot, and I will be incorporating and applying what I learned in my dai-

ly operations.”

The Rome forum provided a vibrant platform for structured dialogue, knowledge exchange, and partner-

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ship-building. Participants shared experiences from their respective countries, explored innovative approaches to food systems transformation, and engaged in sessions designed to enhance leadership skills and global co-

operation.

For Antigua and Barbuda, participation in the programme represents an important opportunity to bring Caribbean perspectives into international discussions while gaining valuable

insights to support local and regional food security, sustainability, and youth empowerment initiatives.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub covered travel and accommodation for participants, demonstrating its commitment to investing in youth leadership. By equipping young professionals with the tools, networks, and platforms to influence change, the programme ensures that youth voices remain central to shaping the future of global food systems.

Francis' participation highlights Antigua and Barbuda's ongoing commitment to youth development, international collaboration, and sustainable agriculture. The knowledge and experience gained through the Youth Leadership Programme will help inform continued work toward resilient and sustainable food systems both locally and globally, reinforcing the country's role in shaping a more sustainable future.

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Police Arrest Three People Following Recent Bank Fraud Incidents

Police have arrested three individuals in connection with ongoing investigations into a series of alleged fraudulent transactions discovered at a local bank.

The incidents were reported to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) on separate occasions between May 12 and May 18, 2026, after irregular and unauthorized transactions were detected at different branches of the bank.

Following investigations, three suspects were taken into police custody on suspicion of fraud. The arrests were made after officers visited the respective locations and obtained certain information in relation to the ongoing investigations.



The suspects remain in police custody pending further investigations.

Three People Charged In Connection With Firearm, Ammunition, and Cannabis Offences

Three individuals have been arrested and formally charged in connection with firearm, ammunition, and cannabis-related offences following a series of police operations conducted in the Red Hill community.

The charges stem from several search operations carried out during the early morning hours of Monday, May 18, by officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force, Gang and Guns Suppression Unit, Special Services Unit, and K-9 Unit.

Embert St. Ange of Red Hill was charged with Unlawful Possession of Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis.

Police seized one black and silver Ruger .380 auto pistol, fourteen rounds of .380



ammunition, one round of 9mm ammunition, and approximately one pound of cannabis during the operation.

Meanwhile, 38-year-old Gael St. Ange of Red Hill was separately charged with Unlawful Possession of 113 grams of Cannabis.

He was further jointly charged along with 28-year-old Tamisha Cyrille, also of Red Hill with Unlawful Possession of 3.8 pounds of Cannabis and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Transfer.

The accused are expected to appear before the court at

a later date.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to intensify its operations aimed at removing illegal firearms, ammunition, and controlled drugs from the streets, while maintaining public safety.

Antigua Yacht Club Optimist Sailors Excel at BVI Dinghy Championship

The Antigua Yacht Club youth sailing program secured a sensational set of results at the annual BVI Dinghy Championship, hosted by the Royal BVI Yacht Club. Competing over two days on over the weekend, the Antigua and Barbuda team proved its mettle against a competitive regional fleet in Tortola.

Under the guidance of AYC Head Coach Karl James MBE, the young sailors delivered outstanding performances across a grueling 10-race series, showcasing exceptional tactical skill, speed, and consistency.

The Optimist fleet witnessed fierce competition, but Antigua and Barbuda's Lluç Agusti dominated the waters. Agusti's reading of the wind shifts, strong current and boat handling earned him 1st Place overall, capturing the championship title in emphatic



style with 6 first, 2 second, 1 fourth place.

Teammate Ruben Van Hest delivered an equally impres-

sive performance. Showing remarkable resilience and steady pace throughout the 10 races, Van Hest fought hard at the front of the fleet to secure a stellar 4th Place overall.

The team's success highlights the high caliber of training at the Antigua Yacht Club, led by two-time Olympian Karl James and Coaches. Coach James's strategic mentorship on the waters of Tortola was instrumental in helping the sailors navigate the tricky currents and varying breeze conditions typical of the BVI Sir Francis Drake channels.

“An incredible weekend of racing for our youth sailors. Lluç and Ruben showed immense focus and determination across all 10 races. To come away with a championship title is a testament to their hard work and dedication.”

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CTO to launch scholarship for emerging Caribbean women in tourism during Caribbean Week 2026

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) is set to introduce a new scholarship initiative aimed at supporting the development of future female leaders in the regional tourism sector.

The programme will be unveiled during the Caribbean Women in Tourism Leadership Dinner & Awards, scheduled for June 1, as per a CTO press release.

The scholarship, titled “From Her to Her: From Today’s Female Leaders to Tomorrow’s Tourism Stars,” is designed to provide annual financial assistance to a promising female student from the Caribbean who is pursuing studies and a career in tourism. Funds raised from the June 1 event will be directed to the CTO Foundation to support the scholarship’s ongoing implementation.

The dinner and awards ceremony will take place at the InterContinental New York Times Square as part of Caribbean Week in New York. The event will recognise distinguished women in Caribbean tourism, including tourism ministers, directors of tourism, recipients of the Secretary-General’s Distinguished Service Awards, and newly inducted members of a Hall of Fame established to honour exceptional leadership in the sector.

“As the first female secretary-general of CTO, fostering opportunities for women in tourism is both a professional priority and a personal passion,” said Dona Regis-Prosper, CTO secretary-general. “This scholarship embodies the spirit of mentorship, legacy and opportunity. We are investing in the talent that will shape the future of our region’s most vital industry.”

Jacqueline Johnson, Chairman of the CTO Foundation, added: “This initiative effectively captures the spirit of mentorship and the legacy we aim



to build. The CTO Foundation team looks forward to a successful launch and to supporting the next generation of Caribbean women leaders in tourism.”

The initiative has reportedly already secured support from partners including Virgin Voyages, Diamonds International, and TRÉFLE, while the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority will sponsor the dinner event. Organisers say the programme reflects a wider regional push toward gender equity and leadership development within the tourism industry.

Caribbean Week in New York will feature the Caribbean Women in Tourism Leadership Dinner & Awards as part of its 2026 programming.

According to CTO, Caribbean Week in New York is supported by a range of regional and international partners across multiple sponsorship tiers, including Platinum Elite support from the United States Virgin Islands; Gold Elite support from Antigua & Barbu-

da and the British Virgin Islands; Gold support from The Bahamas and St. Kitts; Silver sponsors such as Sandals, Global Ports Holding, and SITA; and additional Bronze and Contributing Sponsors including Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., Sojern, Travel & Adventure Show, Trove Tourism Development Advisors, Diamonds International, Expedia Group, Travel Unity, TRÉFLE (British Virgin Islands), and Virgin Voyages.

The Regional Nex-Gen Tourism Showcase is supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, Carnival Corporation, and Royal Caribbean.

Further details about the dinner and awards are available at <https://forms.gle/m5cmQBVaT5hir2sp7>, while information on Caribbean Week in New York can be found at caribbeanweek.onecaribbean.org. (Dominica News Online)

Agriculture ministry estimates \$2 million in damage to farmers following severe trough system



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, Ryan Anselm, has announced that the total damage and loss to farmers in the East and Northeast of the island following the passage of a trough system on Sunday, October 26, 2026, is estimated at \$2 million.

The system brought heavy rainfall, flooding, and landslides, particularly in the East and Northeast of the island.

“It is important to note that immediately after the trough system, our team of extension officers, led by the honourable minister, including the Ministry of Agriculture team, conducted an assessment of the affected areas,” he said during an interview. “...The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment captures the needs of the farmers from various communities that were impacted.”

Anselm continued, “Our assessment indicates that of 734 registered farmers, 276 farmers were directly impacted. Some were impacted moderately, severely, and some low.

This includes crop farmers, livestock farmers, aquaculture, farm infrastructure tools, equipment, and machinery, greenhouse and animal pens, feeder roads, and access to farms.

He added, “It is estimated that the total damage and loss is \$2 million. And that is excluding feeder roads and farm access.”

Meanwhile, Anselm announced that the Ministry of Agriculture is expected to introduce a cash grant assistance programme in the coming weeks for farmers affected by recent damage. The support initiative will target farmers who experienced losses to crops and livestock, assist with labour expenses, and provide relief for those impacted by damaged feeder roads and limited access to farms.

“We will also work with the Ministry of Public Works for the restoration of feeder roads to allow access to farmers,” he noted.

Furthermore, Anselm said it is important to note that the trough system brought forth 18 inches of intense rainfall which would have caused widespread flooding and landslide, “and so in a response to this the Ministry of Agriculture is aware that this rainfall would have caused erosion, land slippage and so we will implement in the medium term, mitigation measures to include land stabilization, restoration of nutrients and planting of the right tree crop.” (Dominica News Online)

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Caribbean nations move forward on regional joint investigation teams framework following Barbados forum

The creation of a regional framework for Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) is on the docket for Caribbean countries after the conclusion of a two-day legal forum held in Barbados, with the individual territories committing to take steps towards its fruition.

A press release shared that the meeting, organised by the Office of the Attorney General of Barbados with sponsorship from the Inter-American Development Bank and the Regional Security System (RSS), focused on improving regional cooperation in cross-border financial investigations and asset recovery efforts.

According to Director of Strategic Services and International Affairs at the RSS, Rhea Reid-Bowen, participating states agreed on several important steps to advance the initiative.

“At the conclusion of the Legal Forum, there was a firm commitment from countries to advance the concept of Joint Investigation Teams in the Caribbean. It was agreed that the Model Framework agreement would be completed and forwarded to Attorneys General for review. Recommendations suggested that Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) would significantly benefit the Caribbean region and should be adapted from the Eurojust model to suit regional legal systems and operational realities. Furthermore, it was recommended that a pilot JIT involving at least two jurisdictions be established in the coming months,” Mrs. Reid-Bowen stated.

Reportedly, discussions during the forum also addressed some of the legal and operational obstacles that could arise when implementing the framework. Reid-Bowen noted that variations in legislation among Caribbean countries may create challenges for cross-border investigations and asset recovery, but said these issues can be managed through collaboration and clear agreements.



“The operationalisation of a JITs mechanism requires participating countries to agree on criteria for evidence admissibility, disclosure of information and the terms and conditions under which foreign LEAs participating in the JIT, will be deployed in the respective territories throughout the Caribbean. The model framework agreement must therefore incorporate standards that are flexible or broad enough to guide competent authorities in crafting a suitable agreement governing their specific JITs that would be established in the future,” Mrs. Reid-Bowen explained.

The release said that she further highlighted that a regional JIT structure could greatly strengthen the efficiency and coordination of criminal investigations throughout the Caribbean. Participants at the forum agreed that the Concept Paper on JITs should be taken to national Cabinets for approval and also shared with regional bodies, including the CARICOM Council for

National Security and Law Enforcement, in an effort to build wider political backing across the region.

“A regional JIT framework would improve cooperation by allowing competent authorities to gather and exchange evidence directly without relying on traditional mutual legal assistance processes. It would also enhance intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and collaboration among prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions. Additionally, the framework would provide standardised procedures and agreements tailored to Caribbean legal systems, thereby reducing conflicts between parallel investigations,” the RSS official opined.

Looking ahead, Reid-Bowen said the RSS intends to pursue possible partnerships with Eurojust and EL PAC-TO to further support investigations involving Caribbean, European, and Latin American territories. (Dominica News Online)

Govt pushes stalled Italian-funded Bequia desal plant

The island of Bequia is currently grappling with a critical water emergency, prompting government officials to urgently prioritize the reactivation of a long-delayed desalination project.

With severe water shortages currently affecting multiple islands in the Grenadines, the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) is shifting its focus to secure vital relief for residents.

The push for a desalination plant on the island has been in the works for several years. In June 2020, CWSA Chief Executive Officer Garth Saunders announced that engineers had completed designs for a new facility in Port Elizabeth, though the project was awaiting funding for implementation at the time.

By 2021, the construction of the Bequia desalination plant was highlighted as one of 25 transformative investment projects initiated in the national budget. These infrastructure projects were designed to stimulate short-term economic activity, create jobs, and address the Grenadines' economic and health vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these early plans, the project has faced significant setbacks. During a recent live radio broadcast, Minister of Health and Wellness Daniel Cum-



mings expressed deep frustration over the prolonged delay of an Italian-funded desalination plant. According to Cummings, the Italian government offered the comprehensive initiative to the nation more than seven years ago.

The stalled project was designed to treat seawater and make it readily available to the people of Bequia, complete with the construction of vital storage facilities and distribution lines. "For whatever reason that project has not taken off the ground, and it is a crying shame," Cummings stated, emphasizing that the plant could have

been successfully producing water for the island for several years by now.

Now, facing a severe emergency, immediate action is being taken. Minister Cummings confirmed that the CWSA is actively pursuing the stalled Italian-funded project as a short-term priority. This urgent reactivation effort is part of a broader emergency strategy to quickly establish functioning desalination plants across most of the islands, aiming to "get some water going" and provide immediate, life-saving relief to the residents of Bequia. (St Vincent Times)



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US drops fraud charges against Indian tycoon Adani

The US Department of Justice has dropped criminal fraud charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani and some officials of his firm, days after he agreed to settle a separate civil case.

Adani Enterprises, his group's flagship firm, also agreed to pay \$275m (£205m) to the US Treasury to settle a separate investigation into alleged violations of sanctions on Iran.

Sources told the BBC that the Adani Group has now resolved all three legal cases against it in the US. This will pave the way for Adani to travel to the US without risk of legal proceedings.

Media reports say the dropped charges reflect a broader move away from prosecuting foreign bribery cases under Donald Trump's administration.

Adani, 63, is one of the world's richest people, worth \$82bn according to Forbes. His Adani Group is one of India's largest business conglomerates with interests in sectors including energy, ports and airports.

The cases against him had generated a lot of attention in the US and India.

In 2024, the US justice department registered criminal fraud charges against Adani and various officials from his company for allegedly paying bribes to Indian officials for high-profile renewable energy projects and misleading US investors about it. He and his company strongly denied the allegations.

Adani Green Energy said in a filing to regulators on Monday that the US justice department had "filed a motion seeking dismissal with prejudice of the charges" against Adani, his nephew Sagar and other group



officials. The BBC has seen a copy of an order issued by the US District Court in the Eastern District of New York ordering the case to be dismissed.

The move to drop the charges reportedly came after Adani hired a new team of lawyers led by Robert J Giuffra Jr, head of one of the most powerful law firms in the US and one of President Trump's personal legal advisers.

Giuffra reportedly met last month with justice department officials to lay out concerns about the case.

The New York Times reported, citing sources, that the lawyers said Adani would invest \$10bn in the US and create 15,000 jobs if prosecutors dropped the charges against him, repeating a pledge the billionaire made to Trump shortly after he won the 2024 presidential election.

The BBC has sought a response from the US Department of Justice and the Adani Group.

Last week, the US Securities and Exchange Commission moved to drop fraud charges against Adani and his nephew Sagar in a separate

civil case after they agreed to pay a combined settlement of \$18m.

The agreement, which did not include any admission or denial of the allegations, barred the Adanis from future violations of key US anti-fraud laws covering investor deception, securities fraud and market manipulation.

Separately, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced on Monday that Adani Enterprises had agreed to settle a civil case against the firm for allegedly violating sanctions placed by the US on Iran.

In a press release, the treasury department said that from November 2023 to June 2025, Adani Enterprises purchased shipments of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) from a Dubai-based trader purporting to supply Omani and Iraqi gas which actually originated from Iran.

During this time period, this caused US financial institutions to process 32 US dollar-denominated payments totalling approximately \$192m for the shipments, the statement added. (BBC)

Ebola outbreak may be spreading faster than first thought, WHO doctor warns



People living close to the epicentre of a deadly Ebola outbreak have told the BBC of their fear, as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned cases may be spreading faster than originally thought.

One man in the Democratic Republic of Congo's north-eastern Ituri province, the epicentre of the outbreak, said infected people were dying "very fast", and added: "Ebola has tortured us."

The virus has killed 131 people in the DR Congo, and officials say more than 513 cases are now suspected in the country. One person has died in neigh-

bouring Uganda.

The WHO's Dr Anne Anicia told the BBC that the more the UN agency investigates the outbreak, the clearer it becomes cases have spread to other areas.

Modelling by the London-based MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis released on Monday suggested there had been "substantial" under-detection, and that it could not rule out there had already been more than 1,000 cases.

The study suggested that the current outbreak is "larger than currently ascertained" and that its "true magnitude

remains uncertain".

A man who spoke to BBC News and identified himself as Bigboy said people are "really scared" and doing what they can to protect themselves.

He said locals are taking precautions such as washing hands with clean water, but added that he wished they could get access to other protective supplies such as face masks.

Another Ituri local, Alfred Giza, said people in the community are aware of the threat and waiting to receive face masks to protect themselves, but that he would not know what to do if a family member or friend contracted the disease.

The Red Cross warned that Ebola can escalate quickly if cases are not identified early, communities lack information and health systems are overwhelmed, adding "we are seeing all those conditions" in the current outbreak.

On Tuesday, DR Congo President Félix Tshisekedi called for "calm" and urged Congolese citizens to remain vigilant, after holding a crisis meeting on Monday evening.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who declared the outbreak an international emergency last week,



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said he was “deeply concerned about the scale and speed of the epidemic”.

It is feared the outbreak may have been ongoing for several weeks before it was first detected on 24 April.

There is no vaccine for the strain of Ebola virus fuelling the latest rise in cases, but the WHO is evaluating whether other drugs may provide protection.

Speaking to BBC Newsday, Anicia said DR Congo’s Ituri province was a “very unsecured area with lots of movement of population”, making it difficult for the agency to investigate and help control the disease.

She continued: “The more we are investigating this outbreak, the more we realise that it has already disseminated at least a little bit across border and also in other provinces.”

The outbreak has spread to the province of South Kivu, where the population has been affected by a humanitarian crisis for many years, she added.

There has also been a case in eastern DR Congo’s biggest city, Goma, which has a population of around 850,000 people and is under the control of Rwandan-backed rebels.

High levels of insecurity in several provinces mean people move around often, increasing the risk and spread of the virus, she said.

Several African countries are taking precautions by tightening border screenings and preparing health facilities. Neighbouring Rwanda has also closed its borders with the DR Congo. Uganda has told people to avoid hugging and shaking hands.

An American citizen, believed to be missionary group doctor Peter Stafford, is being evacuated from the DR Congo after developing symptoms over the weekend.

Germany’s health ministry told the BBC a US citizen was being taken to the country for treatment.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said it was working to evacuate at least six other

Americans who were exposed.

The WHO and other agencies are working with governments and communities to try to stop the spread of the virus, urging residents to follow preventative measures and report to the nearest health facility if they experience any symptoms.

Ebola is caused by a virus and initially causes symptoms similar to the flu, with fever, headache and tiredness.

As the disease progresses, vomiting and diarrhoea develop and it can lead to organ failure. Some, but not all, patients develop internal and external bleeding.

The virus spreads from one person to

another by contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood or vomit.

The Bundibugyo strain fuelling this rise in cases is rare, and has previously only caused two outbreaks, when it killed about a third of those infected.

Between 2014 and 2016, more than 28,600 people were infected by Ebola in West Africa, the largest outbreak of the virus since its discovery in 1976.

It was caused by the Zaire strain, for which there is an approved vaccine.

The disease spread to a number of countries in West Africa and beyond, including Guinea, Sierra Leone, the US, UK and Italy, killing 11,325 people. (BBC)



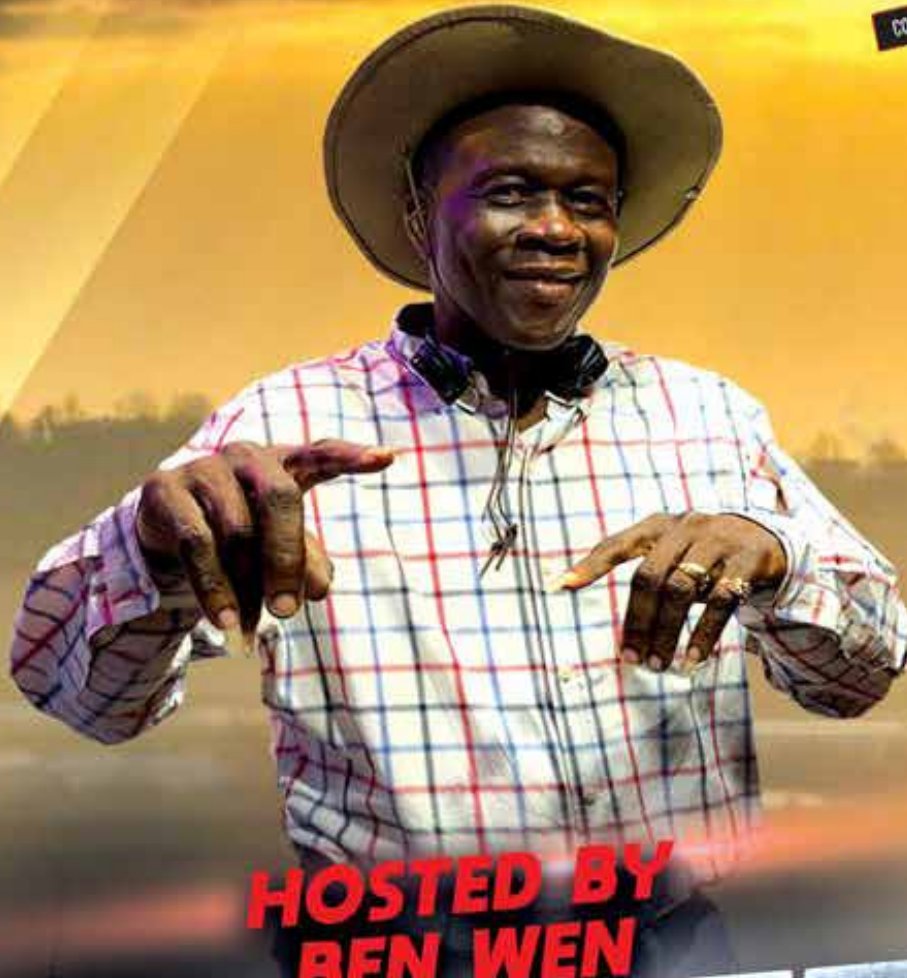
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Gunners and Ovals Ojays to battle for Division 2 playoff title

Top-seed and league champions Cedar Grove Gunners and second-seed Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 will battle for the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 2 Playoff Championship.

Both teams advanced to the finals after completing 2-0 wins with victories in Game 2 of their respective best-of-three Division 2 playoff semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday night.

The Cedar Grove Gunners, who have already captured the league title, remain on course to complete the Division 2 double by prevailing 62-58 over fourth-seed Michael Joseph Phoenix in a keenly contested affair.

Tyras Grayman sank 16 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Sergio Symister also converted 16 points; Shawn Thomas had seven points and nine rebounds; and Keaddy Martin chipped in with seven points and eight rebounds for the Cedar Grove Gunners, who snatched a narrow 72-71 victory over the Phoenix in their keenly contested

series opener.

Adrian Carnegie shot a game-high 17 points; Shamar Joseph produced 16 points, seven assists, and six rebounds; Roshane Hewlette sank eight points and snatched 13 rebounds; and Shalom Bloodman scored six points and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Phoenix.

The Ovals Ojays 2, who prevailed 77-73 over the third-seeded Old Road Dagers in their series opener, booked their spot in the finals by snatching a narrow 62-61 victory over their opponents in Game 2 on Monday.

Orion Seraphine sank 17 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Tajahron Davis converted 13 points and snatched five rebounds; Yohhan Nicholas produced 12 points and seven rebounds; and Theo Blair provided eight points and six rebounds for Ovals Ojays 2.

Rafiki "Ras-I" Harris produced 18 points, seven rebounds, and six assists; Kelvin Simon sank 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Gary Harrison converted eight points and claimed 11

rebounds; and Ryan Shepherd scored eight points and snatched seven rebounds for the Old Road Dagers.

It means the Cedar Grove Gunners and Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 will clash in Game 1 of their best-of-five Division 2 playoff finals in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday at 6:45 pm.

Reigning three-peat champions and top seed EZ Fit Flyers and second seed Da Project will clash in Game 1 of their best-of-five First Division playoff finals in Thursday's second encounter at 8:30 pm.

The Flyers, who won the league title for the third consecutive year last month, ousted fourth seed Daryll Matthew Ottos 2-0 in their best-of-three semi-final series to advance to the Division 1 playoff finals.

Da Project also dispatched third-seed Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz 2-0 in the other semi-final series to set up the Division 1 playoff championship decider with the Flyers.



The Cedar Grove Gunners

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



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

Reigning champions Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js maintained their perfect run in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) Men's 30-Over contest.

The Buckley's 3Js won for the third time in as many matches by pulling off an eight-wicket victory over the Mix-Up Stars at the Rising Sun playing field.

The Mix-Up Stars were dismissed for 115 in 24.2 overs. Isiah Viville hit 30, Amoye Webster struck 23, and Renick Esprit made 19. Rodney Williams bagged three for 20, Gregson Merrick took two for 23, and Richie Thomas claimed two for 31.

The Buckley's 3Js achieved victory by scoring 116 for two in 10.3 overs. Player of the match Kenrick Scott smashed an unbeaten 67, including nine sixes, while Steve Martin cracked 25 not out.

Karl Simon and Isiah Viville each

picked up a wicket for the Mix Up Stars, who suffered their fourth defeat in as many matches.

The Dredgers recorded their second win in four matches by securing a seven-wicket victory over PMS at the Dredgers' playing field.

The PMS was restricted to 164 for seven off their allotted 30 overs. Charles James slammed 64, Nicholas Thomas hit 16, Kenny Benjamin scored 14, and Julian Charles made 12.

Tyrone Williams Jr. bagged three for 23, and Vaughn Charles claimed two for 45.

The Dredgers secured victory by scoring 166 for three in 12.3 overs. Dhari Francis slammed 52, Tanez Francis hit 37, Shaquan Artenez cracked 37, and player of the match Tyrone Williams Jr. struck 25 not out as PMS crashed to their third defeat in four matches.

The Potters Uprising Cricket Team recorded their first win in two matches

in the ABSCA St. John's Cooperative Credit Union Women's 15-over contest.

The Potters Uprising Cricket Team notched up a five-wicket victory over Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Jennings Rockets at Dredgers.

The Rockets were restricted to 91 for six off their allotted 15 overs. Kushana David hit 31, Rhea Bobb struck 18, and Anmarie Parker made 15 not out.

Carla Weatherhead took two for 16, while Maria Abraham and Ann Anthony each picked up a wicket.

Potters Uprising achieved victory by scoring 92 for five in 14 overs. Player of the match Jemma Joseph hit 22, and Nolià Elvin scored 18.

Shemique Benjamin bagged two for 20, while Valarie Isaac, Anmarie Parker, and Pauline Shaw each picked up a wicket for the Jennings Rockets, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Wembanyama powers Spurs past Thunder in double overtime

OKLAHOMA CITY (Reuters) - Before Game 1 of the Western Conference Finals, Oklahoma City Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was presented with the NBA Most Valuable Player award.

Then San Antonio Spurs star Victor Wembanyama went out and put on an MVP-level performance. Wembanyama had 41 points, 24 rebounds and three blocks to help lift the Spurs to a 122-115 double-overtime road win to open the series on Monday night.

Asked whether watching Gilgeous-Alexander win the award served as motivation, Wembanyama said, "Yeah, for sure."

The Frenchman, at 22 years, 134 days old became the youngest player in NBA history with 40-plus points and 20-plus rebounds in a postseason game, beating the record set by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The then-Milwaukee Bucks star was 22 years, 352 days old when he had a 46-25 game against the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round of the 1970 playoffs.

Wembanyama became the second Spurs player with a 40-point, 20-rebound playoff game, joining David Robinson, who did it in the first round in 1996. He joined Wilt Chamberlain (in 1960) as the only players in league history with 40-plus points and 20-plus rebounds in a conference finals debut.

Wembanyama came through repeatedly in clutch situations. "He has a rare desire to step into every moment that's in front of him," Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said.

With just more than a minute remaining in double overtime, Wembanyama delivered a dunk over Chet Holmgren for a three-point play moments after the Thunder closed the deficit to one with a Jalen Williams 3-pointer.

Then with 22 seconds remaining,



San Antonio Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama (1) celebrates after a dunk during the second overtime of Game 1 in a third-round NBA basketball playoffs series against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Oklahoma City, Monday, May 18, 2026. (AP)

he finished a back-to-the-basket alley-oop dunk from Stephon Castle to put San Antonio up by six and start to put the game away.

With 27 seconds left in the first overtime, Wembanyama pulled up for a 28-foot 3-pointer in transition to tie the game after a 7-0 Oklahoma City run put the Thunder ahead by three.

In the closing seconds of regulation, Wembanyama nailed a turnaround shot near the basket over Williams to put San Antonio up 101-99 before Gilgeous-Alexander tied it with a driving layup to force overtime. Wembanyama finished 14 of 25 from the field and 12 of 13 from the free-throw line.

While Wembanyama was the headliner for the Spurs, Dylan Harper had a monster game as well, finishing with 24 points, 11 rebounds, seven steals and six assists.

Magic Johnson is the only other rookie to log 20-plus points, 10-plus rebounds, five-plus assists and five-plus steals in a conference finals game.

Harper's 24 points were the most by

a rookie in his first conference finals game since Andrew Toney had 26 in 1981. Harper was starting in place of De'Aaron Fox, who was out due to right ankle soreness.

Gilgeous-Alexander struggled for long stretches of the game, finishing with 24 points, 12 assists and five steals but going just 7 of 23 from the field.

The Thunder stayed in the game thanks in large part to their defense, which helped generate 28 points off 23 San Antonio turnovers, and big plays from Alex Caruso.

Caruso scored Oklahoma City's first seven points, despite coming off the bench. He finished with a career-playoff-high 31 points, hitting eight 3-pointers. He also had two steals and two blocks.

Williams, playing for the first time since April 22, had 26 points. He returned from a hamstring injury. Game 2 is Wednesday in Oklahoma City.

Neymar included in Brazil's World Cup squad after injury struggles

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Neymar has been named in Brazil's squad for next month's World Cup, manager Carlo Ancelotti said on Monday, handing the forward a chance to return to international soccer's biggest stage after an injury-disrupted cycle.

The 34-year-old, Brazil's all-time leading scorer, comes back following a prolonged absence due to a series of injuries that kept him out for much of the qualifying campaign, as the five-time champions pursue a record-extending sixth title.

As dozens of journalists gathered at Rio de Janeiro's Museum of Tomorrow for a ceremony featuring music acts and celebrity guests, all eyes were on Ancelotti's decision on whether to include Neymar in the squad.

The 66-year-old Italian, who took charge of Brazil's men's national team last year, had not previously called-up the former Barcelona and Paris St Germain player. He told Reuters earlier this month that Neymar's inclusion would be based on fitness and form, not sentiment.

"We evaluated Neymar throughout the year and noticed that recently he has been playing consistently and has improved his physical condition," Ancelotti said at a press conference on Monday.

"He has the same role and responsibilities as everyone else, but he is an experienced player. It's true that in some positions we prioritized experience."

Neymar, who has 79 international goals but has not featured for Brazil since 2023, has faced questions about his fitness and form follow-



ing an injury-marred spell at Al Hilal and an underwhelming return to his boyhood club Santos last year.

The forward said on Sunday he was satisfied he had done all he could to prove he was fully fit and deserved a place in the squad.

"Physically, I feel great. I've been improving with every game," he told reporters after Santos' 3-0 defeat to Coritiba.

The rest of Brazil's squad was largely retained from the qualifying campaign and recent friendlies, with the likes of Vinicius Junior, Raphinha, Matheus Cunha and Endrick shouldering attacking duties alongside Neymar.

Real Madrid striker Rodrygo, defender Eder Militao and Chelsea winger Estevao were left out due to injuries. Chelsea's forward Joao Pedro, midfielder Andrey Santos — who had been called up on previous occasions — also surprisingly missed the final squad.

Brazil will open their World Cup campaign against Morocco on June 13 in New Jersey. They also face Haiti and Scotland in Group C.

Brazil squad: Goalkeepers: Alisson (Liverpool), Ederson (Fenerbahçe), Weverton (Gremio); Defenders: Alex Sandro (Flamengo), Bremer (Juventus), Danilo (Flamengo), Douglas Santos (Zenit), Gabriel Magalhaes (Arsenal), Ibanez (Al Ahli), Leo Pereira (Flamengo), Marquinhos (PSG), Wesley (Roma); Midfielders: Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle), Casemiro (Manchester United), Danilo Santos (Botafogo), Fabinho (Al Ittihad), Lucas Paqueta (Flamengo); Forwards: Endrick (Lyon), Gabriel Martinelli (Arsenal), Igor Thiago (Brentford), Luiz Henrique (Zenit), Matheus Cunha (Manchester United), Neymar (Santos), Raphinha (Barcelona), Rayan (Bournemouth), Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid).

Stoneville ends Da Squad's perfect run in Women's D-1 League

Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville have ended the unbeaten run of defending champions Cool and Smooth/JOMA Da Squad in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Women's Division 1 League.

Stoneville moved from third to second place by recording their fifth win in six matches with a 3-2 victory over leaders Da Squad in their latest outing at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Stoneville women prevailed 18-25, 27-25, 18-25, 25-20, and 15-8 against Da Squad, who remain at the top of the seven-team round-robin league standings after suffering their first defeat in six matches.

Meanwhile, defending champions Zamine Shipping and ABI Insurance Pytonz have leapfrogged Cool and Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Da Storming Lions to return as leaders of the ABAVA Men's Division 1 Championship.

The Pytonz took over as leaders of the men's top league by claiming their sixth win in seven games with a 3-0 victory over former perennial champions Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville.

The Pytonz prevailed 25-23, 25-20, and 25-23 against the Stoneville men's team, who slipped to sixth place in the eight-team round-robin league after suffering their third loss in six games.

Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz moved into third place in the Men's Division 1 Championship by securing their fourth win in seven matches with a 3-0 victory over TOA Media and



Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville women's volleyball team

MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity in their latest encounter.

It took the High Flyerz an hour and 25 minutes to prevail 25-17, 28-26, and 25-12 against the Chargers Velocity, who remain winless and in the cellar of the eight-team round-robin league after suffering their seventh defeat in as many games.

The Dynasty Queens also moved into third place in the five-team Women's Division 2 Development League by recording their second win in four games with a 2-0 victory over TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles 2.

The Dynasty Queens took 53 minutes to prevail 25-15, 25-21 over Chargers Eagles 2, who remain in second place after losing for the second time in four matches.

Schools moved out of the cellar by recording their first win in the Wom-

en's Division 2 Development League by snatching a 2-0 victory over Hidow Caribbean Starz 2 in a bottom-of-the-table clash.

Schools secured their first win in four matches with a 25-21, 25-22 victory against Starz 2, who dropped into the cellar of the five-team round-robin league after suffering their third defeat in four games.

However, the Chargers Momentum maintained their unbeaten run to remain leaders of the five-team Men's Division 2 League by recording their fourth win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against Schools.

The Chargers Momentum proved their superiority by securing their 25-19, 25-16 victory over Schools, who remain winless and in the cellar after losing for the fourth time in as many matches.