

PM Browne To Push Regional Energy and Trade Agenda

Story on page 2



Senate Chambers on Wednesday as members of the Upper House of Parliament met for their swearing in ceremony

PM Browne To Push Regional Energy and Trade Agenda

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says he intends to pursue deeper regional integration in energy, transportation, trade and logistics when he assumes chairmanship of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Authority next month.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show, the country's leader said closer cooperation among OECS member states could help reduce costs and strengthen economic resilience across the Eastern Caribbean.

"So what I'm going to try and do is certainly to see how I can help to accelerate greater collaboration cooperation within OECS, so that we can collaborate on issues of investment and trade, even energy, geothermal, for example, and to support each other," the Antigua and Barbuda leader stated.

The prime minister linked the regional agenda to ongoing discussions involving geothermal energy cooperation with Saint Kitts and Nevis and support from the European Union.

PM Browne said Antigua and Barbuda is in "advanced discussions" with St. Kitts and Nevis on plans to purchase geothermal power generated in Nevis through an undersea transmission link connecting the two countries.

"So we can run a line from Nevis to Antigua, and I guarantee it will be far cheaper to buy it from them than to be found in the fossil fuel," he said.

He revealed that the European Union is considering advancing hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars to help St.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show

Kitts and Nevis develop geothermal capacity, while Antigua and Barbuda has agreed to purchase the power to help make the project commercially viable.

PM Browne also said Antigua and Barbuda is advocating for the creation of an OECS airline to improve regional connectivity.

"We are pushing to have St. Kitts Nevis and other OECS countries support the creation of an OECS airline," he said.

The prime minister outlined broader proposals for regional cooperation, including using Antigua's expanded port facilities as a logistics hub for consolidated shipping across the OECS.

"We may be able to consolidate ship-

ments here and then fan out to other OECS countries and to drive down the cost," PM Browne noted, adding that discussions are underway with a major global shipping company and could conclude within 30 days.

He also advocated joint procurement arrangements and shared diplomatic representation among OECS member states to lower operating costs.

"We each don't have to have an embassy in every capital. Let us have a joint representation," Browne said.

PM Browne argued that greater regional integration could help lower energy and living costs across the OECS while improving economic sustainability and competitiveness for small island states.



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎸 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Senators Sworn in as Upper House Reconvenes



Sixteen senators officially took their seats in the Upper House of Parliament on Wednesday following the administration of the Oath of Allegiance during the first Senate sitting since the 30th April, 2026 General Election.

The Barbuda Council's representative is yet to be named.

During Wednesday's session, veteran legislator Alincia Williams-Grant was re-elected President of the Senate for a fourth term, while Phillip Shoul was appointed Vice-President.

Addressing the chamber following her re-election, Williams-Grant described the opportunity as both humbling and historic, reflecting on her journey from being one of the youngest people appointed to the role to now becoming the longest-serving Senate President.

Williams-Grant thanked Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Cabinet for their nomination of her, and acknowledged the public scrutiny senators face while serving in office.

"The people of Antigua and Barbuda are watching you. They expect you to continue to do good things for this country," she admonished senators.

Leader of Government Business Shenella Govia also congratulated Williams-Grant and welcomed the composition of the new Senate, high-



lighting the increased presence of women and younger representatives on the government benches.

"How refreshing it is, specifically to see five of us on this side as women," Govia stated, adding that the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party continues to build opportunities for young leaders.

She also welcomed the return of Independent Senator Jamilla Kirwan and expressed hope for greater female representation across the political landscape.

Govia noted that several former senators had recently transitioned into the House of Representatives following the general election, describing the Senate as an important training ground for political leadership.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Chester Hughes has pledged that the opposition would provide constructive and principled contributions in

the Upper House.

"We will criticise constructively. We will criticise with a sense of purpose and national pride and not for political reasons," Hughes said.

He emphasised that opposition senators would focus debates on policy and principle rather than partisan politics and promised that members would thoroughly research legislation before contributing to debates.

Hughes also congratulated fellow senators and singled out Senator Tiffany Strann-Peters for praise, citing her work within her community and describing her appointment as well deserved.

Senators, along with members of the House of Representatives will return to Parliament on 26th May, 2026, for the Speech from the Throne, which will be delivered by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

Senators Pause Proceedings to Remember Mary-Clare Hurst



The Senate on Wednesday paid tribute to former Senator Cheryl Mary-Clare Hurst, pausing its proceedings to honour her life and contributions following her passing on 5th May, 2026.

Hurst, a longtime public servant and political figure, will be accorded an official funeral on 2nd June, 2026.

Leading the tributes in the Upper House was Senate President Alincia Williams-Grant, who described Hurst as a stalwart of Antigua and Barbuda whose impact within the civil service and Parliament would long be remembered.

“Her contributions in this House are well documented and she has led the way for a lot of our women... to understand their role and function as leaders in this country,” Williams-Grant said.

The Senate then observed a moment of silence in honour of the late former senator, who once served as Leader of Government Business.

“We know we will miss her and we pay tribute to her today and honour her and we say thank you for all that she’s done for this institution and this country of Antigua and Barbuda,” the Senate President added.

Senate Minority Leader Chester Hughes also reflected on Hurst’s leadership and service, recalling their years of collaboration in youth development and sports administration.

“I served with her in the Basketball Association. She was an executive member of the Basketball Association,” Hughes said, adding that they had also worked together during his involvement with the National Youth Council.

Despite political differences, Hughes said Hurst always conducted herself with professionalism and respect.

“We would exchange very courteous words. Not hostile, but courteous

words and comments on each other’s political party,” he stated.

Hughes praised Hurst’s calm demeanor and steadfast convictions, describing her as a leader who played a significant role in helping return the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party to office in 2014 while serving as the party’s General Secretary.

“She has been one that has been calm in nature, but solid in her conviction,” Hughes remarked.

He also recalled his excitement when Hurst was appointed Leader of Government Business in the Senate and said her passing marked the loss of a respected national figure.

“Regardless of our political differences and ideologies, one must always pay respect to persons who would have contributed in this Honourable House,” Hughes said.

He urged senators to maintain unity and mutual respect within Parliament, stressing that the Senate should not be divided along partisan lines.

“We must not divide this House amongst red and blue,” he said.

A candlelight vigil will be held this Friday at the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party’s Headquarters, People’s Place, to honour and pay tribute to the life and contributions of Cheryl Mary-Clare Hurst.



ACB
CARIBBEAN

**Claim Your Keys.
Secure Your Land.**

Apply today.

Home Advantage

LOTS
Land Ownership Tomorrow Secured.

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn icons



**JULY 25
TO
AUG 04
2026**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Business Floats | Mas Band |
| Calypso Monarch | Monday Wear |
| Cheerleaders | Mr. & Miss Teenage Pageant |
| Individual Mas | Party Monarch |
| J'ouvert Tropes Band | Prince & Princess |
| Junior Calypso Monarch | Queen of Carnival |
| Junior Carnival Private Mas | Road March |
| Junior Carnival School Mas | T-Shirt Mas |
| Junior Party Monarch | Vendors |

Where to Collect Forms:

National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street
Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road (Upstairs KFC/INET Building)

Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Request forms via email at info.nof@ab.gov.ag or WhatsApp at (268) 727-9201. For inquiries, call (268) 462-4707.



Submission Details:

Completed registration forms must be returned to: NATIONAL FESTIVALS OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, CECIL GEORGE-JOHN BUILDING, CORN ALLEY & REDCLIFFE STREET

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial



Antigua and Barbuda and Japan Pledge To Deepen Relations



Antigua and Barbuda, and Japan have committed to strengthening the already close ties that exist between the two countries during bilateral discussions on the margins of the 29th Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) held in Paramaribo, Republic of Suriname.

Antigua and Barbuda Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene engaged in dialogue with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Eri Arfiya, on areas of cooperation. Vice-Minister Arfiya

congratulated Minister Greene on the re-election of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) at the recently held General Elections. She also thanked the Foreign Minister for his dedicated support to Japan, through his visit during Expo 2025 in Osaka, which serve to bolster solidarity between both countries.

In response, Minister Greene praised the outstanding relations that exist between the two island states, while thanking Japan for its continued support to CARICOM in areas of climate change, disaster risk manage-

ment, reform of the global financial structure, and sustainable development.


The Foreign Minister also took the opportunity to request from the Japanese delegation support in areas of transportation for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which was given favourable consideration by his counterpart. Consequently, both officials revisited the possibility of the Government

of Antigua and Barbuda establishing a Permanent diplomatic mission in Tokyo, once the necessary feasibility studies were concluded.

Both parties also recommitted their stance on the respect for democracy, sovereignty, respect for international law; while discussing the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and existing Japanese projects on Antigua and Barbuda.

FREE WEEKEND HPV TESTING

DOING YOUR HPV TEST PROTECTS YOU FROM CERVICAL CANCER!




SATURDAY & SUNDAY

MAY 9TH & 10TH 2026
MAY 30TH & 31ST 2026



9:00AM TO 1:00PM




VILLA POLYCLINIC

WHO CAN GET TESTED

- Women ages 30–65yrs
- Women who have never done an HPV test
- Women who have not done surgery to remove the entire uterus

EVEN IF YOU HAVE DONE YOUR PAP SMEAR, YOU STILL QUALIFY!



EMAIL OR CALL US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT
hpvtestingab@gmail.com / (268) 781-8256

Doing your HPV test may just save your life

Lady Williams Named Member of the International Confucian Association



Lady Williams has been inducted as a member of the International Confucian Association (ICA) following a formal nomination by the Director of the Confucius Association of Antigua and Barbuda (CIAB) at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (CIAB), Han Wen. This milestone highlights Caribbean engagement with Confucian scholarship and global dialogue on governance, culture, and peace.

Han added, “Lady Williams is a serious scholar of modern Chinese language and ancient Chinese culture. Members who are accepted into the ICA must demonstrate this type of commitment in public life and community leadership, and a proven record of peace-building and public service. As the President

of the Antigua and Barbuda China Friendship Association, Lady Williams has demonstrated what it takes: a global outlook, cultural respect, and endorsement from a recognized relevant cultural organization, along with transparent credentials and references.”

He noted that “Lady Williams acts as an Ambassador of Confucian scholarship and practical ethics, participating in outreach, cultural exchange, and policy discussions that promote welfare and peaceful coexistence.”

Lady Williams responded: “I am honoured to be accepted as a member of the International Confucian Association. This affiliation provides a platform to advance ethical leadership, educational excellence, and peaceful international cooperation for the

betterment of our communities.

“The recent national thrust towards the emphasis of our young people in pursuing a foreign language and the recognition of Spanish as the second language of Antigua and Barbuda is heading in the right direction.

“Even beyond Spanish, a growing number of our students in local schools speak Mandarin to an acceptable, or in some cases exceptional, degree. There is a total of some 1.5 billion English speakers worldwide, followed closely by 1.1 billion Mandarin Chinese speakers. The synergies for our mutual benefit are clear, providing greater understanding through more efficient linguistic communication, leaning towards opportunity for extended benevolence and harmony.”



PUBLIC ADVISORY

EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

West Indies Oil Company Ltd. wishes to advise the public of a scheduled Emergency Response Exercise taking place on **Thursday May 21st and Friday 22nd, 2026 between 9am and 12 noon.**

During this exercise, local emergency response agencies will be on site participating in the activities. Residents will notice the presence of emergency personnel, vehicles, alarms, smoke or increased activity in the area. **PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.**

Exercises such as these are vital to the Improvement of our emergency response capabilities and ensure the safety of our staff, neighboring communities, and the environment.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding



BARBUDA Caribana 2026

MAY 2026

THURSDAY 21ST

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

FRIDAY 22ND

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

SATURDAY 23RD

- 10AM-5PM | SPRITZ & SUN - SEAFOOD FEST - AND-
JOHNNY 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's Business Community Rallies Around Technology at CIBC Caribbean's Annual Business Banking Seminar

CIBC Caribbean's third annual Business Banking Seminar drew an engaged and enthusiastic audience of business owners, entrepreneurs and corporate decision-makers to Sandals Grande Antigua on Tuesday, 19 May 2026. Themed Tap Into Growth: Powering Business Through Technology, the event delivered on its promise of practical insights and real-world solutions, sparking lively conversation and renewed confidence among attendees about the role of technology in driving business growth.

A Keynote That Moved the Room

Technology entrepreneur and Managing Director of Indies Greens, Mr. Laurence Francis, delivered what many in attendance described as the highlight of the morning. Drawing on more than three decades of experience across telecommunications, IT services and agribusiness, Mr. Francis offered an unflinching account of his entrepreneurial journey — one defined by calculated risk, relentless adaptation, and a firm belief in the power of technology to solve real problems.

If Mr. Francis provided the inspiration, Fygaro's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ariel Rochwerger, provided the proof. The live demonstration of Tap on Phone — CIBC Caribbean's newest product offering — brought the morning's technology theme to life in a way that was immediate, tangible, and impossible to ignore.

Using nothing more than an Android NFC-enabled smartphone and the Fygaro app, Mr. Rochwerger demonstrated how any business owner in the room could, within minutes, begin accepting card payments directly to their account — no traditional point-of-sale terminal required, no hardware costs, and no technical expertise needed. The



CIBC Business Seminar Country Head Priscilla Leonce 19 May 2026

crowd leaned in. When the first tap-to-pay transaction registered on screen, the room broke into applause.

Ms. Jennifer Fuller, Director of Enterprise Payments, Cards and Merchant Services at CIBC Caribbean's Head Office in Barbados, grounded the morning's excitement in the bank's broader regional strategy. Addressing the audience on the digital payment transformation reshaping commerce across the Caribbean, Ms. Fuller made clear that Tap on Phone is not a stand-alone product — it is one piece of a deliberate and far-reaching effort to ensure that every business, regardless of size, has access to the financial infrastructure it needs to compete.

Conversation, Connection and Community

A Fireside Conversation, moderated by MC Mrs. Raynel Carroll, closed the formal programme. Panellists drawn from the bank's relationship management team and the morning's speak-

ers fielded questions from the floor on topics ranging from managing digital security risks to integrating e-commerce into existing business models. The session ran long — by audience demand.

The brunch and partner engagement segment that bookended the Fireside Conversation gave attendees the opportunity to continue conversations with the CIBC Caribbean team, access one-on-one consultations, and explore how the bank's full suite of digital tools — including online banking platforms, cash management systems, and e-commerce capabilities — could be applied to their specific business needs.

"We did not just want people to leave with a brochure. We wanted them to leave with a plan. And based on what I saw in that room today — the conversations, the questions, the enthusiasm around Tap on Phone — I believe that is exactly what happened." — Ms. Priscilla Leonce, Head of Country,



CIBC Business Seminar Keynote Speaker Laurence Francis 19 May 2026

CIBC Caribbean (Antigua)

Looking Ahead

Now in its third consecutive year, the CIBC Caribbean Business Banking Seminar has firmly established itself as one of the most anticipated business events on Antigua's annual calendar. The bank confirmed that planning for the 2027 edition is already underway, with a commitment to building on the momentum generated by this year's turnout and the community's response to the Tap on Phone launch.

Businesses interested in learning more about Tap on Phone, or any of CIBC Caribbean's digital banking products, are encouraged to contact their nearest CIBC Caribbean branch or reach out to the bank's business banking team directly.

About CIBC Caribbean

CIBC Caribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate Banking, Personal and Business Banking and Private Wealth segments. We are located in ten (10) countries around the Caribbean, providing banking services through approximately 2,700 employees in 41 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English-speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1.7 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund

administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world, and CIBC Caribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

Ongoing news releases and more information about CIBC Caribbean can be found at <https://www.cibccaribbean.com/about-us/media-centre>

CIBC is a leading North American financial institution with 14 million personal banking, business, public sector and institutional clients. Across Personal and Business Banking, Commercial Banking and Wealth Management, and Capital Markets, CIBC offers a full range of advice, solutions and services through its leading digital banking network, and locations across Canada, in the United States and around the world. Ongoing news releases and more information about CIBC can be found at www.cibc.com/ca/media-centre.

For more information about CIBC Caribbean, visit www.cibccaribbean.com, [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

Media contact:

Debra King, Director of Corporate Communications, CIBC Caribbean, Barbados Head Office, Email: debra.king@cibccaribbean.com

*Priscilla Leonce, Head of Country – Antigua CIBC Caribbean | P O Box 28, Old Parham Road, St. John's, Antigua | (268) 484-5105 | (268) 728-5115
priscilla.leonce@cibccaribbean.com
www.cibccaribbean.com*



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily -
12:00pm - 10:30pm

Facebook: [currytandoorhouseanu](#) Instagram: [curryhouseanu](#) Phone: (268) 736-7165

Amplify Summit Elevates Caribbean's Digital Vision



infrastructure, workforce development, cloud transformation, and the modernization of tourism and public services.

Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean, challenged regional leaders to move beyond discussion and toward coordinated execution.

“The Caribbean has never lacked talent, resilience, or ambition. What we require now is alignment, decisive action, and the courage to build for the future,” said Smidts.

“Digital transformation is no longer optional. It is fundamental to economic growth, national resilience, and regional competitiveness. Am-

Senior government officials, regulators, technology leaders, private sector executives, and regional stakeholders concluded the second annual Amplify Summit with a clear and unified message that the Caribbean must move decisively to accelerate digital transformation and strengthen the region's long-term resilience and competitiveness.

Hosted by leading telecommunications provider Liberty Caribbean, operators of Flow, Liberty Business, and BTC, the Summit convened influential regional and international voices under the theme ‘Elevating the Caribbean's Digital Future’.

Throughout the day, participants explored practical solutions and actionable strategies aimed at advancing connectivity, strengthening digital infrastructure, scaling innovation, developing local talent, and enabling sustainable economic growth across the Caribbean.

The Summit focused on critical issues shaping the future of the region, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital policy, resilient



plify was created to bring leaders together not simply to exchange ideas, but to accelerate practical solutions that deliver meaningful impact for our people and our economies.”

Balan Nair, President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Latin America, the parent company of Liberty Caribbean, emphasized the importance of collaboration between governments and the private sector in building a stronger digital future for the region.

“The Caribbean stands at a pivotal moment where technology can become a powerful driver of opportunity, inclusion, and innovation,” said Nair.

“Realizing the region’s potential will require partnership, long-term investment, and a shared commitment to building secure, resilient, and future-ready digital ecosystems. The conversations at Amplify reinforced that the region has both the capability and the leadership to move forward with confidence.”

Senator The Hon. Jonathan Reid, Minister of Innovation, Industry, Science, and Technology of the Government of Barbados, underscored the need for regional urgency and policy alignment.

“The pace of global transformation will not slow down for the Caribbean. We must therefore ensure that our policy frameworks, our education systems, and our digital infrastructure are aligned to prepare our people and economies for the future,” he said.

“What is required now is coordinated regional action that empowers innovation while ensuring no community is left behind in the digital era.”

Dr. Ernest Hilaire, Deputy Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, highlighted the importance of resilience and innovation in protecting and diver-

sifying Caribbean economies.

“For small island developing states, digital transformation is not simply about modernization; it is about resilience, sustainability, and economic opportunity,” he said.

“The Caribbean has an opportunity to position itself as a globally competitive region powered by innovation, creativity, and collaboration. But achieving that future will require bold leadership and meaningful partnerships across every sector.”

Throughout the Summit, speakers and panelists repeatedly emphasized that connectivity alone is no longer sufficient. Instead, the region must focus on building digital ecosystems capable of supporting entrepreneur-

ship, improving public services, driving business innovation, and strengthening national resilience during times of crisis.

The event also reinforced the importance of investing in local talent and ensuring Caribbean people are equipped with the digital skills required to participate fully in the rapidly evolving global economy.

The 2026 Amplify Summit featured contributions from regional governments, IDB Invest, Guardian Holdings Limited, Sagicor Bank, Amazon Web Services, SpaceX, Sierra AI, Amdocs, academic leaders, and senior executives of Liberty Caribbean.

KFC

SAUCY WINGS

\$29.99 Combo
 - 5 Wings
 - Fries
 - Medium Dink

\$15.99 - 5 Wings ONLY

Citrus Chipotle BBQ

Sweet Red Chili

KFC

#KEEPIT1000

@KFCANU

AllMart

Antigua and Barbuda reports strong 1st Quarter performance - Caribbean Travel Marketplace



For the second consecutive year, Antigua and Barbuda proudly served as the host destination for the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's (CHTA) Caribbean Travel Marketplace (CTM) 2026, welcoming travel trade professionals, tour operators, and media from across the globe during Antigua and Barbuda Culinary Month in May. The event provided an immersive showcase of the destination's world-class tourism offering, bringing together industry leaders against the backdrop of one of the Caribbean's most naturally beautiful and culturally energetic nations.

CHTA is the region's leading private sector tourism organization, representing national hotel and tourism associations and their members across more than 30 Caribbean destinations. Its flagship annual trade event, the Caribbean Travel Marketplace, connects international tour operators, travel agents, and airline partners with Caribbean tourism stakeholders for business appointments, networking, and destination discovery.

Speaking at the press conference held during CTM 2026, Minister of

Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, The Honourable

Charles H. Fernández and Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) Chief Executive Officer Colin C. James highlighted a powerful start to the year. Antigua and Barbuda recorded 110,832 stay-over arrivals in Q1 2026, compared to 103,843 in the same period in 2025, representing a 6.7% year-over-year increase. The growth was consistent across all three months. January arrivals rose 5% to 36,052; February climbed 6% to 36,133; and March posted the strongest gain at 8%, reaching 38,097 visitors.

The United Kingdom led source market growth for the first quarter of 2026, posting a 14% increase over the prior year for the same reporting period. For the quarter, the USA remains the single largest source market at 46% of stayover arrivals, followed by Europe (34%), Canada (12%), the Carib-

 STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

Is your business protected against unexpected risks?

Don't leave your future to chance!
At State Insurance, we specialize in commercial insurance solutions tailored to your unique needs.



Call Us!
481-7800/1/2/3/4

bean (5%), LATAM (1%), and other markets (2%). The destination is also actively pursuing diversification into Latin America and Africa as emerging growth corridors, in response to a global trend toward visitors seeking more authentic and immersive travel experiences.

The strong stayover performance is mirrored in the cruise sector, where Antigua and Barbuda is forecasting a 21.9% increase in arrivals for 2026, with projected cruise visitors reaching 894,469, up from 733,526 in 2019. Cruise ship calls are expected to grow from 388 to 483 over this same period, driven in part by increased home-porting activity. Supporting this growth, a new USD \$30 million cruise terminal opened on January 24, 2026, as part of the broader Upland Development Project, designed to modernize the visitor arrival experience and expand cruise capacity. Full project completion is expected by July 2026.

New air routes are further opening up the destination to the world. Sunrise Airways launched twice-weekly service between Antigua and the Dominican Republic on May 1; Liat Air began twice-weekly flights to Guadeloupe on May 8; and Air Peace is set to launch an Antigua to Lagos via Barbados route on May 25, operating twice monthly. On the infrastructure side, the V.C. Bird International Airport runway rehabilitation and expansion is underway, and the newly opened Burton-Nibbs International Airport on sister island Barbuda has been purpose-built to support Barbuda's growing eco-luxury tourism segment.

Investment in the destination's accommodation offerings continues apace. Moon Gate Hotel & Spa is scheduled to open in 2026, offering 71 suites across nine buildings plus seven two-bedroom villas. On Barbuda, the Nobu Beach Inn is under construction with completion expected in late 2026. Looking further ahead, the Nikki Beach Resort and Spa, comprising 84 hotel rooms and 127 luxury residences, is targeting a 2029 launch, while

the Rosewood Hotel Barbuda, with 50 resort suites and 35 residences, is slated for 2028. A Marriott Leisure World Hotel with 114 keys and eight overwater villas is also in development.

Recently named the 'Caribbean's Best Meetings and Conference Destination' by the World Travel Awards, the destination's proven capability as a host nation will reach a landmark moment later this year with the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), scheduled November 1-4, under the theme "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth." Between 3,000 and 5,000 delegates, participants, and media are expected, and Antigua and Barbuda will make history as the first CHOGM host to incorporate a concert and cricket tournament into the official program. Underpinning all of this is a firm government commitment to sustainable, high-value tourism, with conservation measures including the

Redonda island restoration project, reef protection initiatives, anti-overfishing oversight, and a strategic focus on greater local community participation in the tourism product.

As global uncertainty continues to shape travel decision-making, Antigua and Barbuda is well-positioned to benefit from a growing shift toward safe, stable, and welcoming destinations. The dual-island nation's reputation for calm, ease of access, and genuine hospitality places it at the heart of the Caribbean's identity as a globally recognized zone of peace.

Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, The Hon. H. Charles Fernandez (center), with Antigua and Barbuda Tourism officials and industry partners welcomes delegates to Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2026 at the American University of Antigua. (Photo courtesy the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

Apua inet

MAY YOU Save
MAY YOU Win

Having trouble keeping up with your bills?
Catch up on your past-due balance this May and save.
Pay your past-due balance in full and benefit from special discounts.

Residential Discount	Commercial Discount
10% OFF	5% OFF
Past Due Balances	Past Due Balances

The existing Early Payment 10% Discount remains applicable to current residential Electricity accounts.

Get up to date and save

Terms & Conditions apply. Offer ends June 1st, 2026.

Are You Just Staying Busy—Or Are You Truly Moving Forward With Intention?



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

The Trap of Being Busy

Across Antigua and Barbuda, there is no shortage of hard work. Entrepreneurs open their doors early and close late. Managers juggle staff, customers, and constant demands. Families stretch every dollar and make daily decisions just to keep things moving.

We are, without question, a busy people.

But here is the uncomfortable truth—**being busy is not the same as moving forward.**

Too often, individuals and small businesses find themselves caught in a cycle: solving problems, responding to emergencies, paying bills, and repeating the same routines day after day. At the end of the month, the question quietly lingers: *“After all that effort, what has really changed?”*

It is in this space—between effort and progress—that strategic planning becomes not just useful, but essential.

A Simple Turning Point

Consider Marcia, a small business owner running a retail shop in St. John’s. For years, she did everything right—or so it seemed. She worked long hours, kept her shelves stocked,

and stayed committed to her customers. Yet her profits remained flat, and growth felt out of reach.

One day, not out of theory but out of necessity, she paused long enough to reflect. She asked herself three simple questions: *Where am I now? Where do I want to go? What needs to change?*

The answers were revealing. While her sales were steady, her costs were quietly eroding her profits. Her product mix, once popular, no longer appealed to younger customers. She wasn’t failing—but she also wasn’t progressing.

Instead of trying to fix everything at once, she made a few deliberate choices. She adjusted her inventory, focused on better-selling items, began using social media to reach new customers, and cut unnecessary expenses.

The change was not dramatic overnight. But within months, her business began to shift.

What changed for Marcia was not how hard she worked—it was how clearly she thought about where she was going.

What Strategic Planning Really Means

For many, the phrase “strategic planning” feels distant—something reserved for large corporations, consultants, or government agencies. In reality, it is far more accessible than that.

At its heart, strategic planning is simply about **being intentional.**

It is the discipline of stepping back from the daily rush and asking: *What am I really trying to achieve?* And just as importantly: *Am I doing things that actually move me in that direction?*

It does not require thick reports or complicated language. It requires honesty, focus, and a willingness to make choices.

Putting Strategy into Everyday

Practice

In truth, strategic planning often begins quietly—with a moment of reflection.

It starts by facing reality. That means looking honestly at your business, your finances, your customers, and your challenges. Not what you hope is happening, but what is actually happening. Clarity, after all, begins with truth.

From there, direction must follow. Goals give purpose to effort. Without them, energy is scattered. A simple, clear target—such as increasing sales by a certain percentage or expanding a service—can transform how decisions are made each day.

But perhaps the most difficult step is choosing what to focus on. Because strategy is not about doing more—it is about doing **what matters most.** It requires discipline to set aside distractions and concentrate on a few priorities that can truly make a difference.

And then comes the part many overlook—execution. Plans do not create results; actions do. Progress must be reviewed, adjusted, and sustained over time.

Even then, no plan is perfect. Markets change. Costs rise. New opportunities appear. The most effective approach is not rigid planning, but **flexible thinking grounded in clear direction.**

The Real Benefits of Strategic Thinking

When individuals and businesses begin to operate with intention rather than reaction, the results often speak for themselves.

There is first a sense of clarity. Decisions become less confusing because there is a clear understanding of what matters. Not every opportunity feels urgent, and not every problem feels overwhelming.

Over time, decision-making improves. When faced with choices, it becomes easier to ask: *Does this move me closer to my goal, or further away?*

Resources—always limited—are used more wisely. Time is no longer wasted on activities that do not contribute to progress. Money is invested more carefully. Energy is directed with purpose.

Perhaps most importantly, confidence begins to grow. Not because uncertainty disappears, but because there is a plan—a sense of direction in the midst of change.

And with consistency, even modest improvements accumulate into meaningful progress.

Where Many People Go Wrong

Yet for all its benefits, strategic planning is not without its challenges.

One of the most common mistakes is overcomplication. In trying to be thorough, some create plans so detailed that they become unusable. In the end, simplicity is often far more powerful than perfection.

Others fall into the trap of planning without action. A well-written plan that is never implemented is no different from having no plan at all.

There is also the danger of unrealistic expectations. While ambition drives growth, setting goals too far beyond reach can lead to frustration rather than progress. The most sustainable

success is often built step by step.

And then there is the reality of change. Conditions shift, sometimes quickly. Those who fail to adapt their plans often find themselves outpaced by circumstances.

But perhaps the greatest challenge is consistency. Strategic thinking is not a one-time exercise—it is a habit. Without commitment and follow-through, even the best ideas fade.

A Lesson for Our Nation

While strategic planning is often discussed in the context of business, its importance extends far beyond it.

Households make financial decisions. Young people make career choices. Communities face development challenges. As a nation, we confront questions about growth, opportunity, and sustainability.

In each of these areas, the same principle applies: **progress rarely happens by accident.**

It is shaped by clear thinking, deliberate choices, and sustained effort over time.

From Activity to Achievement

In the end, the difference between those who struggle and those who steadily advance is not always talent, resources, or even opportunity.

Often, it is direction.

Strategic planning does not remove obstacles. It does not guarantee suc-

cess. But it does provide something invaluable—a sense of purpose and a way forward.

And in a world filled with uncertainty, that may be the greatest advantage of all.

The question we must each ask ourselves is a simple one:

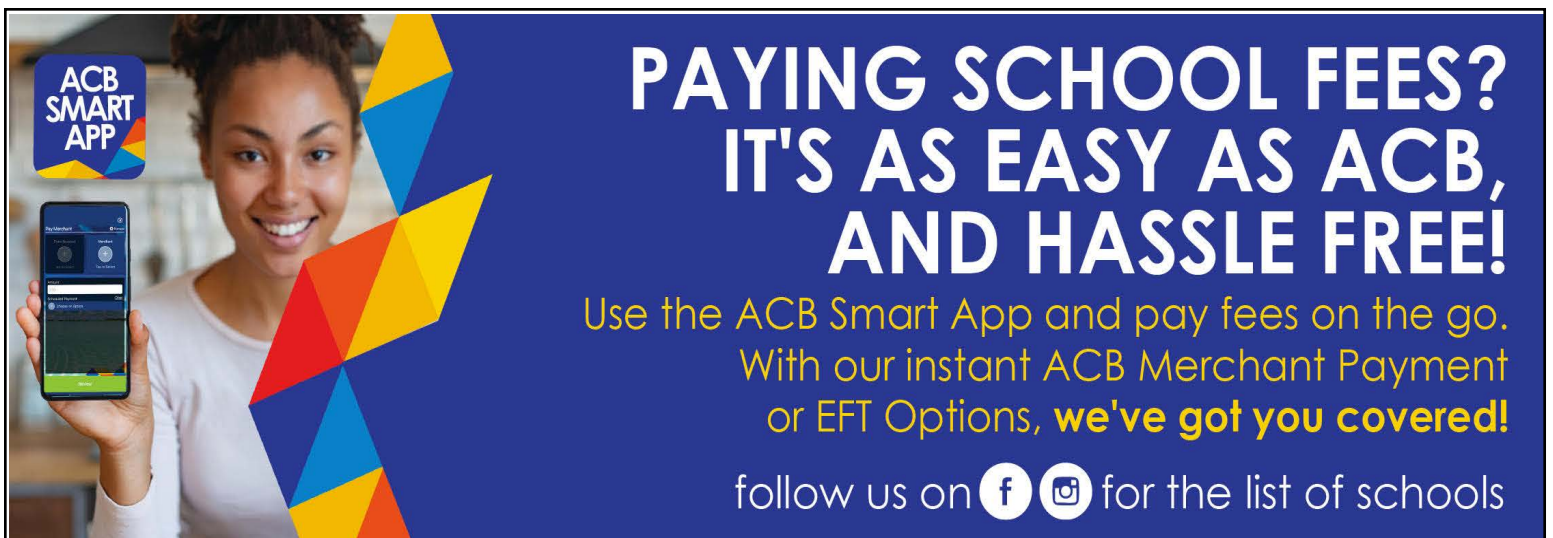
Are you just staying busy—or are you truly moving forward with intention?

About the Author

Garfield Joseph is the Executive Director of a public sector organization in Antigua and Barbuda, where he serves as the senior operational leader responsible for translating government policy, strategy, and national objectives into day-to-day action. His work spans strategic planning, execution, financial oversight, stakeholder engagement, and advising senior decision-makers on economic and development matters.

He has also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, teaching capstone courses in Business Strategy and Policy, and Business, Government and Society.



With experience across both the public and private sectors, he writes frequently on investment, entrepreneurship, and long-term decision-making, with a particular interest in helping ordinary people understand complex issues in practical, accessible ways



ACB SMART APP

PAYING SCHOOL FEES? IT'S AS EASY AS ACB, AND HASSLE FREE!

Use the ACB Smart App and pay fees on the go. With our instant ACB Merchant Payment or EFT Options, **we've got you covered!**

follow us on   for the list of schools

STATEMENT BY THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT

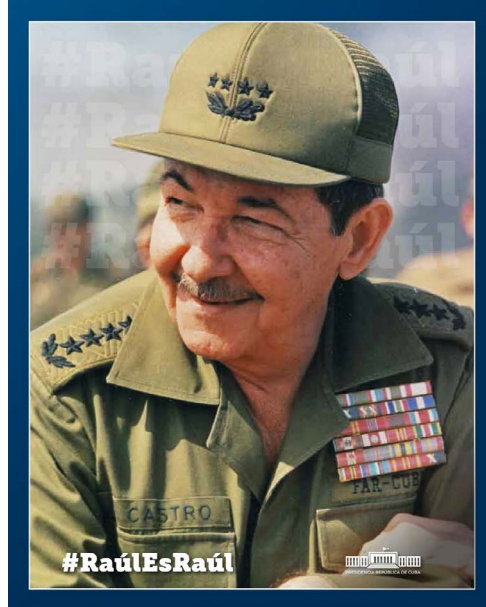
Cuba condemns the despicable accusation against the Leader of the Revolution

The Revolutionary Government condemns in the strongest terms the despicable accusation by the United States Department of Justice announced on May 20 and proclaimed for several weeks against Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, leader of the Cuban Revolution.

The United States government lacks the legitimacy and jurisdiction to carry out this action. It is a despicable and infamous act of political provocation, based on the dishonest manipulation of the incident that led to the downing, in February 1996, of two aircraft operated by the Miami-based terrorist organization Brothers to the Rescue over Cuban airspace, which repeated violations of Cuban airspace for hostile purposes were of common knowledge.

Furthermore, the U.S. government distorts other historical truths about the event it uses as a pretext. It omits, among other details, the numerous formal complaints filed by Cuba during that period with the State Department, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regarding more than 25 serious and deliberate violations of Cuban airspace committed by the cited organization between 1994 and 1996, in blatant transgression of international law and U.S. legislation itself.

It also ignores public and official warnings issued by Cuban authorities about the inadmissibility of such violations of its airspace and alert messages conveyed directly to the President of the United States about the seriousness and possible consequences of such transgressions.



Cuba's response to the violation of its airspace constituted an act of legitimate self-defense, protected by the Charter of the United Nations, the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, and the principles of air sovereignty and proportionality.

The United States, which has been a victim of the use of civil aviation for terrorist purposes, does not and would not permit the hostile and provocative violation of foreign aircraft over its territory and would act, as it has demonstrated, with the use of force.

The inaction of the US government in the face of the warnings issued by Cuba at the time, revealed its complicity in the planning and execution from its territory of violent, illegal and terrorist actions against the Cuban government and people, a recurring and systematic practice since the triumph of the Revolution to present day.

It is highly cynical that this accusation is made by the same government that has murdered nearly 200

people and destroyed 57 vessels in international waters of the Caribbean and the Pacific, far from the territory of the United States, with the disproportionate use of military force, for alleged links to drug trafficking operations that were never proven, which qualify as extrajudicial executions, in accordance with International Law, and murders, according to US laws themselves.

This spurious accusation against the Leader of the Cuban Revolution adds to the desperate attempts by anti-Cuban elements to construct a fraudulent narrative in an effort to justify the collective and ruthless punishment against the noble Cuban people, through the strengthening of unilateral coercive measures, including the unjust and genocidal energy blockade and threats of armed aggression.

Cuba reaffirms its commitment to peace and its firm determination to exercise the inalienable right to self-defense, recognized by the Charter of the United Nations.

The Cuban people reaffirm their unwavering decision to defend the Homeland and its Socialist Revolution and, with the greatest strength and firmness, their unrestricted and unchanging support for Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, Leader of the Cuban Revolution.

Homeland or Death, We Will Prevail.

Havana, May 20, 2026.

“Year of the Centenary of Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.”

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



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

TALKING POINT

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

BARBUDA
Caribana
2026



Classic HORSE RACING

SUN 24H MAY

1PM | CORONATION PARK



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

Skinnys
FABULOUS



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350





ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MACHEL MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD GENERAL \$100 RHYTHM ROOM \$350





ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

JUL 25TH - AUG 4TH

FEEL THE
RHYTHM



Regional News

Caribbean security officials strengthen cross-border crime fighting through JITs training workshop

Security and law enforcement officials from across the Caribbean are engaged in a five-day training programme designed to improve the region's response to organised criminal networks, cross-border financial crimes, and illicit money movements.

The Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) workshop is taking place at the Courtyard by Marriott in Bridgetown, Barbados, and is being organised by the Inter-American Development Bank alongside the Regional Security System Headquarters. According to an RSS press release, the event has assembled prosecutors, investigators, customs representatives, intelligence personnel, and technical specialists from several Caribbean territories.

Speaking during the workshop, RSS Programme Officer Elizabeth Bynoe said the JITs approach represents a significant advancement in how countries cooperate on international investigations. She explained that the model allows authorities in different jurisdictions to quickly exchange intelligence, coordinate operations, and gather evidence while preserving the independence and legal authority of each participating country.

Bynoe noted that the training comes at a crucial time as criminal organisations continue to adopt more sophisticated methods across the region.

"This second in-person Joint Investigation Teams workshop is a comprehensive, high-calibre training initiative designed to sharpen our collective edge against complex transnational crime. Over the next five days, this programme will transition you from foundational theory to high-stakes, real-world application, equipping you with the specialised tools required to effectively dismantle modern criminal networks," Mrs. Bynoe stated.

She added that one of the key features of the workshop is its emphasis on practical experience rather than theory alone.



"Theory alone does not catch criminals. The practical aspects of this training come to the forefront in its final three days with immersive case simulations. This simulation will challenge you to operate within a dynamic, cross-border team, navigating different country requirements, various agency cultures, and complex intelligence streams, to help you seamlessly apply the JIT framework in the field," the RSS official said.

Participants were also encouraged to use the workshop as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and improve coordination among regional agencies responsible for tackling serious crime.

Over the course of the programme, attendees will explore the structure and operations of Joint Investigation Teams, including case management procedures, intelligence analysis, the role played by Financial Intelligence Units, and the application of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) in modern investigations.

Sessions will also address emerging criminal trends tied to illegal financial activity, including the use of virtual assets, gold smuggling, human trafficking, and other developing forms of financial crime. (Dominica News Online)

CARIBBEAN
FOOD FORUM
MAY 21 2026

PRESENTED BY
QUALITY SINCE 1923
Grace

ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA
The bench is just the beginning...



THE FUTURE IS LOCAL
CARIBBEAN FOOD AT THE CROSSROADS
OF GLOBAL IMPACT

Transforming Caribbean footways into global models for sustainability and inclusion.
Experience: **Inspiring keynote + Expert-led panels.**
Culinary experiences and Curated marketplace.
Real conversations on sustainability, tourism, and growth.

8:30AM - 3:45 PM AST.
Format: Hybrid (In Person + Virtual)
Dress: Business Attire

Cost: (incl. lunch) EC \$100 • (no lunch) EC \$25 • Virtual - FREE
(lunch + marketplace only experience) EC \$35

Register NOW! antiguabarbudaculinarymonth.com

ENDORSED BY 

CXC introduces 'bite-sized' math certification

Dinthill Technical High is among a handful of regional schools piloting a new Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) qualification.

The Caribbean Targeted Education Certificate (CTEC) breaks subjects into smaller, modular units, allowing pupils to progress at their own pace.

At Dinthill, the pilot has begun with CTEC Mathematics Module One, recently observed by CXC officials at the St Catherine campus.

Dr Eduardo Ali, CXC's pro-registrar and deputy chief executive officer, said the scheme is designed to lift performance by offering a more flexible route to certification.

"People want flexibility, they want options. They want to be able to have pathways to cater to their needs," he said.

Ali explained that the mathematics syllabus has been divided into three "bite-sized" qualifications, allowing students to complete sections in stages rather than sit a single comprehensive examination.

He said the three-module structure enables students to tackle smaller portions of the examination at different points, increasing their chances of improving overall performance.

Ali added that the pilot is intended to provide CXC with direct feedback from schools on implementation



and student preparedness.

Teams from the council are simultaneously engaging schools in Jamaica and Barbados to gather data on teaching and assessment processes.

"We have decided that, given that we are piloting the project, we will meet with random schools to interview and get a sense from them as to how the exam has been prepared for and what is actually happening in the context of the examination," he stated.

The CXC official pointed to years of declining performance in mathematics and English language as key reasons for introducing the modular approach.

He said the decline worsened after the COVID-19 pandemic, when many students experienced learning loss during the shift to online instruction.

Ali noted that gaps in learning, reduced classroom interaction, and challenges adapting to virtual education affected students'

ability to acquire essential skills.

He expressed hope that students who previously failed the traditional CSEC mathematics examination could now achieve passing or acceptable grades through the modular format.

The pilot is being offered at no cost through a collaboration with regional ministries of education. While fees are attached to the modules, Ali said the total cost of completing all three is equivalent to sitting the traditional CSEC mathematics examination.

He noted that feedback from students at Dinthill Technical High has been encouraging, with many expressing enthusiasm for the flexible structure and the prospect of improved outcomes.

Ali added that CXC is engaging employers across the region to ensure the CTEC qualification is recognised for employment.

Principal Anthony Garwood welcomed the initia-

tive, describing it as a positive step towards improving student success in mathematics.

He said the subject has long posed challenges for students and educators, and the modular approach could help shift negative perceptions and improve outcomes.

"If you do it the same way, you get the same result. Therefore, this change and this bite-sized chunking of the math curriculum should see improvement in our math grades," Garwood said.

He added that students appear enthusiastic about the new system, with parents also expressing support.

Head of the Mathematics Department, Petrona Hemans-Mighty, said teachers readily embraced the modular concept when it was introduced.

She noted that the approach allows educators to better align students with the level of assessment they are ready to handle.

"We believe that you're ready for module one, so you can do module one. You can do module one and two, you can do the entire paper," she pointed out.

Hemans-Mighty added that some students have struggled to complete the full examination within the allotted time, but the modular option provides a more manageable, confidence-building pathway to success. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Family of missing British man offers \$500,000 reward

Nearly three years after British citizen Cedric Mitchell disappeared in Jamaica, his family is offering a \$500,000 reward for information that could finally bring them desperately needed answers and closure.

“We’re willing to accept that he has passed away., Hhe would have contacted his family, his friends. We just want closure, and we want to find out the truth,” his sister, Maxine Mitchell, told The Gleaner.

She also voiced frustration over what she described as the authorities’ lacklustre response in the search for her 56-year-old brother.

“Cedric was last seen under circumstances that remain deeply concerning to his family. Since his disappearance, we believe there are several critical areas of evidence that may not yet have been fully examined or clearly addressed in the official investigation,” Maxine said.

She identified several key areas of concern, including banking activity and financial records that could help trace his movements, contacts, or transactions before his disappearance; WhatsApp messages, call logs, and other digital communications; as well as missing personal documents such as his passport and vehicle registration papers.

She also appealed for witness accounts that could shed light on the circumstances surrounding Mitchell’s disappearance.

“We are not making accusations against any individual. This appeal is made solely in the interest of clarity, transparency, and a full understanding of what happened to Cedric,” she said.

In January last year when The Gleaner highlighted the family’s plight, Assistant Superintendent of



Police Jamar Stoner, who oversees the charge portfolio in the St Elizabeth Police Division, said the cops had exhausted all channels in trying to find Mitchell, and were seeking any information from the public that could help in finding him.

“After a certain amount of time passes, the information is harder to obtain, and that’s the problem that they (relatives) are facing; no new leads to follow,” he said at the time.

On Monday, investigator officer Garnett Smith told The Gleaner that no new leads had been established since.

Maxine said that her brother, who had divided his time between Jamaica and England for 22 years, went missing from his home on Nation Road in Pepper district, St Elizabeth, on July 29, 2023.

She said she was alerted to his disappearance when Mitchell, who was

usually very active on his phone, failed to respond to her messages and calls.

Maxine said a friend of her brother’s made a report to the Santa Cruz Police Station, but the police required a relative of the missing man to corroborate the story.

As a result, she travelled to Jamaica from England on September 29, 2023, and made the report. She remained in Jamaica for 11 months, desperate to find her brother and to provide any assistance she could.

When those efforts proved fruitless, she returned home to the United Kingdom.

In April of this year, she travelled to Jamaica again in hopes of getting some answers.

“But nothing has come to fruition, again. I’m going to go away, but I’m coming back next year if nothing comes of this,” she said.

Maxine said her brother has six children; three adults who live in England, and three teenagers from his marriage to a Jamaican woman.

He reportedly divorced his Jamaican wife in 2015.

Maxine added that Mitchell worked as a truck driver in England and sold art. He was in the process of setting up a tour business before his disappearance.

She said her brother’s disappearance has taken a toll on her family, especially his 87-year-old mother.

“She has deteriorated from all of this. She looks older, but she’s still in hope and in prayer. She is hoping and praying, but at the same time, she is saying, ‘This can’t be happening. My son must have passed away now.’ It’s hard., Iit’s very hard,” she said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Govt accelerates post-hurricane Beryl recovery

Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Beryl in 2024, the Ministry of Housing, Land Management, Urban Development, and Informal Settlement Upgrading is spearheading a comprehensive recovery strategy aimed at not just rebuilding but enhancing the nation’s climate resilience.

Honorable Andrew John, the sector’s minister, recently outlined a roadmap that prioritizes Union Island, institutionalizes a new national housing policy, and ensures strict accountability for reconstruction materials.

A central pillar of the recovery effort is the transition toward climate-friendly and resilient architecture. Minister John emphasized that the 2024 disaster served as a wake-up call to the reality of unpredictable weather patterns. To address this, the Ministry is finalizing a formal housing policy an initiative dormant since 2020—to define where and how future homes are built to withstand similar shocks.

“We have to start thinking about building more resilient homes... homes that are more climate-friendly,” John stated, noting that the policy will involve inter-ministerial cooperation to ensure land use and infrastructure align with disaster mitigation.

The recovery of Union Island remains a top priority, as many residents continue to live in rented accommodations on the mainland. The Minister recently met



with contractors on the island to mobilize rebuilding efforts and revitalize local commerce.

Key to this phase is a major donation of over 1,000 high-quality windows from an NGO linked to the Church of the Latter-day Saints. These windows are currently being transported to Union Island to secure approximately 100 homes that have had roofs replaced but remain open to the elements. “Our first initiative is getting these people back to Union Island,” John explained, highlighting that returning residents are essential for the local business economy to rebound.

On the mainland, the government has launched a “self-help” material program for homeowners in various constituencies. However, unlike previous distributions, this initiative includes a strict follow-up process. A team of assessors is tasked with verifying that provided materials, such as

cement and sand, are used specifically for the intended repairs.

The Minister warned against the misuse of resources, noting that materi-

als are expensive and must be utilized to put citizens in a better position before the next hurricane season. (St Vincent Times)

The Medical Benefits Scheme Prevention Unit in collaboration with the Ministry of Health present:

Pop-Up MARKET DAY

COME SHOP, TASTE, LEARN AND SUPPORT LOCAL!
FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE. HERBAL TEAS. WELLNESS DRINKS. LOCALLY MADE PRODUCTS.

1 JUNE 2026

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

MBS Parking Lot

FREE ENTRY | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Come for the market, leave inspired to live well!

EAT LOCAL
Shop fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, legumes and root crops while supporting local farmers.

EXPLORE FOOD AS MEDICINE
Learn how Caribbean foods can support better nutrition, heart health, blood sugar control, and overall wellness.

MOVE MORE
Enjoy simple outdoor activities that support a healthier lifestyle.

In observance of **Caribbean Nutrition Day**
Theme: “Healthy Eating, Active Living, Promoting Caribbean Foods as Medicine – Our Food, Our Health, Our Caribbean.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 481- 6352 | 6266 | 6361 Follow us:

Empty rooms and Fifa cancellations - US hotels fear World Cup washout

The World Cup was supposed to provide a tourism boom for the US, but now the fear is it may never materialise.

A report, external produced by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) has found that bookings are well below expectations in almost every host city.

The AHLA said this does not align with Fifa's statement that more than five million tickets have been sold external and it creates a risk that "the anticipated economic lift may fall short".

The AHLA is the largest hotel association in the US, representing more than 32,000 properties and over 80% of all franchised hotels.

Its report partially puts the blame at the door of Fifa, accusing world football's governing body of block-booking far too many rooms for its own use and creating false demand.

This, the AHLA said, led to artificially high pricing which, after Fifa cancelled a large number of rooms, has been replaced by a vacuum of availability.

Fifa said it does not recognise this accusation.

Hotels said high match ticket pricing, local transport and tax costs, and the political backdrop have put visitors off.

For the hotels, this World Cup could fall flat.

The AHLA said hotels spent years preparing and have made "significant investments" based upon official projections.

A study commissioned by



Fifa, external released last year, predicted that in the US the World Cup could create 185,000 jobs, adding \$17.2bn (£12.7bn) in gross domestic product.

The hotels were planning for an influx of international travellers, who book longer stays with a higher spend.

But the AHLA said fewer overseas fans "threatens the broader economic impact" with just over three weeks until the opening game on 11 June.

The AHLA said the large-scale bookings made by Fifa in all cities "shaped revenue forecasts, staffing plans and preparations".

It said this booking policy "manufactured artificial demand" and masked the fact that tourist flow is going to be lower than predicted.

Up to 70% of rooms reserved by Fifa in Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Seattle have been cancelled, the AHLA said.

In a statement Fifa rejected the AHLA's claims and said it had followed agreements made with hotel chains.

"All room releases were conducted in line with contrac-

tually agreed timelines with hotel partners - a standard practice for an event of this scale," a Fifa spokesperson said.

"In many cases, room releases were made ahead of established deadlines to further accommodate requests from hotels.

"Throughout the planning process, Fifa's accommodations team maintained consistent discussions with hotel stakeholders, including room block adjustments, agreeing to rates, confirming room types and regular reporting, supported by townhall and ongoing communication."

Prices spiked after the draw was made, as soon as fans knew which cities their teams would be in.

There has been a gradual fall since then, reportedly by a further 20% in recent weeks.

But this could be too late to entice fans back.

Hotel prices in cities like Boston are still more than \$300 (£224) a night, and most fans are working to a lower budget.

Chris Hancock, an England fan who has been to four World Cups, told BBC Sport

that his group of five are travelling on an accommodation budget of \$75 (£56) per person per night.

They will hire a car in each city and book a mix of hotels and Airbnb accommodation between 45 minutes to an hour away.

"We always tend to stay out of town a little bit and cut the cost that way, so we're not in the middle of Dallas, Boston or New York," Hancock said.

"If you're out of the city centres where everything's happening, you can get some cheaper deals.

"We're working within that budget. And at the minute we should be well under that."

The AHLA told BBC Sport it "expects occupancy to strengthen in June and July".

"We know that many fans are still waiting on tickets and schedules to become clearer before finalising plans," a spokesperson said.

"We believe bookings will pick up in the weeks ahead. Hotels are ready to welcome guests and ensure that they have the best possible experience."

Airbnb says the World Cup is on course to be the "biggest hosting event in Airbnb's history", overtaking the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris.

Hotels might need to rely on making gains in the knockout rounds, when fans have to make bookings at short notice.

But the World Cup seems unlikely to bring in the revenue that was being predicted. (BBC)

More die of suspected Ebola as WHO warns that numbers will rise further



The World Health Organization (WHO) says there have now been 600 suspected cases of Ebola and 139 suspected deaths, with numbers expected to rise further given the time taken to detect the virus.

Fifty-one cases have now been confirmed in the Democratic Republic of Congo - where the first case was reported - and two in neighbouring Uganda, WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Wednesday.

Speaking to journalists in Geneva, he said the outbreak of the Bundibugyo species of Ebola was likely to have started "a couple of months ago".

On Sunday, the WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern, but said it was not at pandemic level.

Ghebreyesus said that after meeting on Tuesday, the health organisation's emergency committee agreed the situation was "not a pandemic emergency".

"WHO assesses the risk of the epidemic as high at the national and regional levels and low at the global level," he explained.

The 51 cases confirmed in DR Congo are in its eastern Ituri province - the epicentre of the outbreak - and the North Kivu province. Of the two confirmed in Uganda's capital, Kampala, both had travelled from DR Congo, one of whom has died.

"We know the scale of the epidemic in

DRC is much larger," the WHO chief said, adding that healthcare workers were among those who had died, which was a particular concern.

Local health workers say some facilities are being overwhelmed. Although personal protective equipment has started to arrive, they say they are still working without adequate protection.

A WHO official said investigations were under way to find out how long the virus had been spreading for, but that their priority was to curb transmission.

The first known case was a nurse who developed symptoms and died on 24 April, in Ituri's provincial capital Bunia.

The body was repatriated to Mongwalu, one of two gold-mining towns where the majority of cases have been reported.

Four areas in Ituri have been affected by the outbreak: Mongwalu, Bunia, Rwampara and Nyakunde.

In North Kivu, rebel-controlled Goma, eastern DR Congo's biggest city and Butembo have reported cases.

Araali Bagamba, a lecturer who lives in Bunia, said people understand how dangerous the situation is.

"For the last three days I haven't shaken anyone's hand and I observe that within the general population," she told the BBC World Service Newsday programme. "It's our habit to shake hands all the time... [but] the habit has changed."

Ebola is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids and through broken skin, causing severe bleeding and organ failure.

Bagamba said people "believe it will get worse before it gets better", because people did not initially realise it was Ebola.

Ebola was first discovered in 1976 in what is now DR Congo, and is thought to have spread from bats.

There are four species of Ebola known to cause disease in humans, including Zaire, which DR Congo has dealt with on numerous occasions and is most familiar with.

The country is facing its 17th outbreak of Ebola, but the Bundibugyo species - which has not been seen for more than a decade - brings its own difficulties.

Bundibugyo has only caused two previous outbreaks - in Uganda in 2007 and DR Congo in 2012 - when it killed about a third of those infected.

Although less deadly than other Ebola species, the rarity of Bundibugyo means there are fewer tools to stop it.

There is no approved vaccine for Bundibugyo, but experimental ones are in development. It is possible that a vaccine for Zaire may offer some protection.

There are also no drugs that target Bundibugyo, making it harder to treat.

Following criticism from the US on Tuesday that the WHO was "a little late" in identifying the outbreak, Ghebreyesus said these comments might have been caused by a lack of understanding.

"We should appreciate what was done so fast in a highly complex setting," the WHO said.

Initial symptoms of Ebola mirror illnesses such as malaria and typhoid, which are common in DR Congo.

Eastern DR Congo is also badly hit by years of conflict, bringing additional difficulties in dealing with the virus. (BBC)

Xi basks in spotlight as he hosts Putin days after Trump



Cheering children - check. Military honour guard - check. Cannon fire and marching band - check.

Vladimir Putin's welcome outside the Great Hall of the People was a near mirror image of the reception for Donald Trump last week.

Two high-stakes presidential visits, just days apart, is exactly the image Xi Jinping wants to project to the world: talking to everyone, tied to no-one.

For China, these visits are proof that because of its massive economy and new-found diplomatic clout all roads now lead to Beijing.

"The new era of world affairs is less centered around the West," says Samir Puri from Kings College London.

"There is a lot of latent power that China has on the world stage, it's not necessarily using it in its most direct form to settle conflicts, instead China's style is to try to utilise its stature in a more gradual sense."

The optics were strikingly similar - Xi confident in the spotlight as he played host. But the politics driving the two visits were very different.

Putin, who has been to China more than 20 times, appears to have a close personal relationship with Xi. But the war in Ukraine and Western sanctions have left him leaning heavily on Beijing, which is now Russia's top trad-

ing partner and its biggest customer for oil and gas.

It has been an unequal partnership for some time now, and that was reinforced today. Talks ended with 20-plus agreements on trade and tech, but no approval yet for the stalled Russian gas pipeline that Putin has been pushing for years. A lengthy joint statement also yielded no major breakthroughs.

"Both China and Russia need each other, but Russia clearly needs China more than before at the global stage," says Dr Zheng Runyu, from the Centre for Russian Studies at the East China Normal University in Shanghai.

"Given today's international environment, deep co-operation with China is extremely important for Russia in dealing with many of its current challenges."

The Chinese leader seemed to have a strong hand as he negotiated with the US president too. Stronger trade relationships with the rest of the world and China's dominance in rare earth minerals and advanced manufacturing have given him leverage. Beijing has found itself on an equal footing with Washington in the wake of Trump's unpredictability.

And in talks with both Trump and Putin, Xi faced leaders mired in costly wars that have dragged on for longer

than they anticipated. For Trump, the war in the Middle East has turned into a global crisis that has plunged his approval ratings back home. For Putin, the invasion of Ukraine, now into its fifth year, has isolated Russia and taken a brutal toll even on its own people.

In both cases, it also seemed apparent that now China has the power to set the tone and the terms of how it wants to engage on the global stage.

This is a remarkable turnaround for a country that, just five years ago, appeared to be on the verge of diplomatic isolation.

Its borders were closed due to a pandemic that then president Trump had labelled a "Chinese virus". Relations with the West had deteriorated sharply amid the rise of so-called "wolf warrior" diplomacy, where Chinese diplomats and state media used aggressive rhetoric to quieten Western critics.

There was also growing international criticism over grave human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and Beijing's increasing control over Hong Kong, and Western governments imposed sanctions and export controls on Chinese goods. China responded with counter measures.

And yet, five years on, China has repositioned itself as an indispensable centre of global diplomacy and trade.

Rather than being treated as a problem to contain, China has become a power to engage.

Beijing has moderated its diplomatic style as it likely recognised uncomfortable realities. Its economic slowdown means that it needs more foreign investment and trade, which require stable ties. Its excessive confrontation was also driving important trading partners in the region, such as South Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam, closer to Washington.

But the timing is also key. Ever since the US elected Donald Trump, China has repaired ties with Australia, Canada and the UK - all key US al-

lies. World leaders, including those from Canada, the UK and Germany, have walked Beijing's red carpet to do deals with the world's second largest economy.

For the last decade Xi has promised his people he would work towards "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" and this last week has been an incredible piece of domestic propaganda: the Chinese leader looked like the man everyone wants to meet.

But this visit also highlights the limits of China's diplomatic power.

Xi only mentioned one war - and that was the conflict in the Middle East.

He told Putin that a complete end to the war in Iran was of "utmost urgency", while making no reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Getty Images US President Donald Trump reviews an honor guard with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People on May 14, 2026 in Beijing, Getty Images

Trump also got a grand welcome in Beijing last week

Xi and Putin both called out "treacherous military strikes against other countries, the hypocritical use of negotiations as cover for preparing such strikes, the assassination of leaders of sovereign states, the destabilisation of the domestic political situation in these states and the provocation of regime change, and the brazen kidnapping of national leaders for trial".

This was jarring and may have consequences beyond the Great Hall of the People.

As China calls for an end to conflicts elsewhere, and takes aim at US actions, its silence on Ukraine, where hundreds of thousand have died, will raise questions in Europe about how far Beijing is willing, or able, to act as a genuinely even-handed global player.

Beijing has tried to maintain a neutral stance in the war in Ukraine, although both the US and Europe have urged China to cut the economic lifeline it is offering Moscow.

But it fears losing a key ally if Pu-

tin loses the war. And it will be concerned about any instability in such a big neighbour.

"Obviously, Xi Jinping could take the easier way out and say nothing about it," said Samir Puri. "Of course, tacitly this means - Russia carry on with your invasion.

"If there's any discussion about what a ceasefire or post-war future might look like, I would be surprised. I think it's still a very ambiguous issue as to whether China wants to use its influence with regards to Russia's war in Ukraine."

In contrast, the war in Iran hurts Chinese interests. Beijing has stockpiles of oil, but there's no end in sight to the

crisis which has blocked the Strait of Hormuz.

Calling for an end to one war and not the other affects Xi's credibility as China tries to take a more central role on the world stage. It also puts relations with Europe at risk at a time when Beijing is seeking to strengthen those ties to shore up its export-reliant economy.

However striking the last week of high-level diplomacy looks, Xi still has a tall task ahead of him because China's authoritarian leadership, which has only grown stronger under Xi, remains controversial and mistrusted by many. (BBC)



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

FABFEST
FOOD ART & BEVERAGE FESTIVAL

SAT 23 MAY 2026
2PM-8PM
CEDAR VALLEY GOLF COURSE

*Come Hungry,
Leave Inspired.*

The poster features a vibrant, colorful background with abstract brushstrokes in shades of blue, yellow, and pink. In the foreground, there is a glass of yellow smoothie with a pineapple slice and mint leaves, a plate of shrimp skewers, a bowl of green soup, and a corn on the cob. A pineapple is visible on the left side of the image.

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



FEEL THE RHYTHM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<p>FRI 24TH JULY</p> <p>FACE OFF CARNIVAL CITY</p>	<p>SAT 25TH JULY</p> <p>OPENING OF CARNIVAL CITY & T-SHIRT MAS CARNIVAL CITY & ST. JOHN'S</p>	<p>SUN 26TH JULY</p> <p>JUNIOR CARNIVAL (PARADE, PRINCE & PRINCESS) ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE</p>
<p>MON 27TH JULY</p> <p>RHYTHM COURT CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>BAND-MEET-BAND (JUNIOR) CARNIVAL CITY</p>	<p>TUE 28TH JULY</p> <p>PATRICE ROBERTS I AM WOMAN ALWAYS US CARNIVAL CITY</p>	<p>THU 30TH JULY</p> <p>MELTING POT CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>DRINK TILL YA WEAK</p>
<p>FRI 31ST JULY</p> <p>CALYPSO MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>WATCH NIGHT</p>	<p>SAT 1ST AUG</p> <p>PANORAMA CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>RISE CARNIVAL DREAMZ</p>	<p>SUN 2ND AUG</p> <p>PARTY MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>D BREAKFAST FETE WHY NOT ESCAPE</p>
<p>MON 3RD AUG</p> <p>J'OUVERT ST. JOHN'S</p> <p>MONDAY MAS ST. JOHN'S</p>		<p>TUE 4TH AUG</p> <p>PARADE OF BANDS ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY</p> <p>LAST LAP ST. JOHN'S</p>



ARG to host ABCA Super40 final



The New Winthorpes Lions team, the 2025 ABCA Super40 Cup Champions.

The final of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Championship has been rescheduled to take place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Saturday.

The final of the 40-over one-day contest between defending champions Caribbean Motor Works (CMW) New Winthorpes Lions and Empire Nation will commence at 11 am.

The championship decider was initially slated to take place on Saturday, May 17, at the Jennings playing field.

However, the match did not take place due to patches of wetness on the pitch, which the groundsmen were unable to repair in sufficient time to allow the match to be played last Saturday.

Rain had fallen in the Jennings community, and the rainwater that fell onto the covers had seeped onto the pitch. The Jennings Cricket Club, which was responsible for preparing the pitch, declared it was unable to produce a

playing surface that would allow the match to take place on the reserve day, Sunday, May 18.

The development at Jennings forced the ABCA to reschedule the match and arrange for the Super40 final to take place at the ARG this weekend.

It will be a repeat of last season's final when the Lions claimed their maiden Super40 title with an eight-wicket win against Empire Nation in the championship decider at New Winthorpes.

Both teams advanced to this year's Super40 final by recording wins in their respective semi-finals on Sunday, May 10.

The Lions maintained their unbeaten run in the 40-over contest by snatching a two-wicket victory against PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks at New Winthorpes.

The Blackhawks were dismissed for 145 in 29.2 overs after being sent in to bat, and the Lions achieved victory by scoring 149 for eight in 30.5 overs.

Empire Nation cruised to an eight-wicket victory over the Pigotts Crushers at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park. The Crushers were bundled out for 120 in 25.1 overs.

Dhari Francis hit an unbeaten half-century to guide Empire Nation to victory at 123 for two in 13.4 overs.

The top four teams at the end of nine round-robin matches in the preliminary stage advanced to the semi-finals. The New Winthorpes Lions topped the standings with a perfect 36 points by winning all nine matches.

Empire Nation finished second in the 10-team standings with 30 points after recording six wins in their nine matches.

The Pigotts Crushers beat Tertiary Institutions and Schools by eight wickets at Pigotts in their last outing in the preliminary stage to clinch third place over the Liberta Blackhawks after both teams finished with 22 points each.

ABFA congratulates Hoppers on winning First Division title

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has congratulated the Greenbay Hoppers FC after the Gray's Green club captured the 2025–2026 First Division title to regain promotion to compete in the Premier Division next season.

In a media release, the ABFA praised the players, coaches, management, and supporters of Greenbay Hoppers for what it described as an outstanding campaign.

The ABFA also expressed congratulations to the Freemans Village Scorpions, who finished second in the First Division and also gained automatic promotion to return to compete in the Premier League next season.

The ABFA will focus its attention on the playoffs to complete its

2025-2026 domestic season.

Eighth place finishers in the Premier Division, Green City FC, will contest a playoff with the Swetes Vipers FC and SAP FC, who secured third and fourth places, respectively, in the First Division this season.

The winner of the three-team Premier/First Division round-robin playoffs will earn the right to compete in the Premier Division next season.

Tenth-place finishers in the First Division, English Harbour FC, will also contest a playoff with Real Blizzard FC and Police FC, who secured third and fourth places, respectively, in the Second Division this season.

The winner of the three-team

round-robin First/Second Division playoffs will earn the right to compete in the First Division next season.

The ABFA also acknowledged the efforts of the four teams that were relegated from the First Division to compete in the Second Division next season.

The relegated teams, Cedar Grove Blue Jays FC, Bendals FC, Bolans FC, and FC Master Ballers, were commended by the ABFA for their contribution and commitment throughout the season.

The ABFA also expressed its gratitude to clubs, players, coaches, referees, sponsors, and supporters for their role in the continued growth and development of football in Antigua and Barbuda.



Champions of the ABFA First Division for the 2025-2026 domestic season, the Greenbay Hoppers

More success for Browne in Robert Peters 2-Stage Race



Champion Tahje Browne, center, is flanked by Newell Mack, left, and Abbiel Fleming, right, on the podium of winners for the ABCF Robert Peters 2-Stage Race on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Teenager Tahje Browne has continued to dominate the 2026 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) domestic season.

Browne secured the title for the fourth time in as many races this season by winning the Robert Peters 2-Stage Race on Sunday.

Browne took the overall title in the race, which involved an Individual Time Trial (Prologue) of 3.38 miles and an 11-mile circuit race.

With participants required to complete both races to win the title, Browne clocked a total time of one hour, 40 minutes, and 09.51 seconds to win the Elite Male Division and the overall title.

Newell Mack and Abbiel Fleming claimed second and third places, respectively, behind Browne in the Elite

Male category.

Mack completed the race in an hour, 42 minutes, and 23.89 seconds, while Fleming clocked an hour, 46 minutes, and 01.77 seconds.

Jason Adams won the title in the Masters Division by clocking an hour, 59 minutes, and 10.79 seconds. Paul Smith took second place, while Vaughn Gomes finished in third place.

Unfortunately, Dexter Simmons, the lone competitor in Sports Class, suffered a major mechanical failure early in the first lap of the second stage and had to abort the rest of the race.

The race event was contested by 14 cyclists, competing in three categories: Elite Male, Masters, and Sports Class.

The Individual Time Trial started in

the morning at Jabber Grabber near Jabberwock Beach, going south past the American University of Antigua (AUA), then right towards Barnes Hill. The cyclists turn around near the sugar mill and return to the start/finish line.

The circuit race took place in the afternoon, starting on Old Parham Road near the KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) business premises.

The cyclists rode east towards the Sir George Walter Highway, left towards the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), and turned left onto Jabberwock Road.

They continued into Hodges Bay, through Cedar Grove, left onto Friars Hill Road, through to Cross Street, left onto Old Parham Road, and back to the start/finish line.

Brunson leads Knicks to victory over Cavs in OT



New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson (11) moves around the Cleveland Cavaliers defense during the first half of Game 1 in the Eastern Conference finals NBA basketball playoffs series in New York, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) -- Jalen Brunson sparked one of the NBA's greatest post-season comebacks, a rally from a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter, and finished with 38 points as New York beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 115-104 in overtime on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

After a record-setting run through the first two rounds, the Knicks were going nowhere for 40 minutes against the Cavs, trailing 93-71 with 7:52 to play. But Brunson relentlessly attacked James Harden to spark an 18-1 run that made it a ballgame, and he tied it at 101-all on a basket with 19 seconds remaining in regulation.

Before that, Brunson said the message for the Knicks was just to finish strong so they would have momentum for Game 2, even if they lost the opener.

"Just keep fighting," he said. "Keep chipping away. We're not going to get it back in one possession."

The Knicks then opened overtime with a 9-0 run as a delirious crowd in Madison Square Garden danced and screamed in the aisles. The Knicks moved within three wins of their first NBA Finals appearance since 1999.

Mikal Bridges added 18 points and three Knicks scored 13, including OG Anunoby, who came on

late after struggling most of the way in his return after missing two games with a strained right hamstring.

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points for the Cavaliers, who seemed well on their way to a third straight road win before their late collapse. The Knicks outscored them 44-11 after their 93-71 lead.

"We played great basketball tonight for three quarters. Unfortunately, the fourth quarter — they dominated us in the fourth quarter," Cavs coach Kenny Atkinson said. The Knicks won their eighth straight game and will host Game 2 on Thursday.

The Knicks had outscored

Atlanta and Philadelphia by a combined 194 points, the largest margin ever through a team's first 10 postseason games. But after not playing since May 10, when they finished their second-round sweep of the 76ers, the Knicks misfired most of the night, looking like the rust hurt more than the rest helped.

They were 4 for 23 on 3-pointers through three quarters and then had a horrible start to the fourth. But a year after coughing up a 14-point lead in the final minutes of regulation and losing to Indiana in OT in Game 1 of the conference finals on their home court, the Knicks found their offense just in time.

The only bigger fourth-quarter playoff comeback in the last 30 years was when the Clippers rallied from 24 down to beat Memphis in Game 1 in 2012.

The Knicks came from 20 points behind three times last year in the postseason. Those were their largest comebacks on record since 1969-70, when they won their first of two NBA titles.

Evan Mobley had 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Cavs. Harden also scored 15 points, but was just 1 for 8 on 3-pointers and had more turnovers (six) than field goals (five).

T&T Red Force crush Harpy Eagles to claim regional four-day title

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Force are the new title winners of the West Indies Four-Day Championship, dethroning defending champions Guyana Harpy Eagles in the final in Antigua on Wednesday.

The T&T Red Force secured the title in this year's abbreviated competition by surging to a commanding 141-run victory over the Harpy Eagles just after lunch on the last day of the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound.

Set 281 to win, the Guyana Harpy Eagles were bundled out in their second innings for 139 in 35 overs. The four Trinidadian pacers did the damage, claiming all 10 Harpy Eagles' wickets in just over a session of batting.

Medium pacer Terrance Hinds grabbed three for 20, spearhead fast bowler Jayden Seales bagged three for 39, Joshua James claimed two for 12, and Anderson Phillip captured two for 63.

Several Harpy Eagles batsmen got starts but failed to capitalize and produce big scores. Middle-order batsman Kevlon Anderson top-scored with 41 off 68 balls, and Kemoi Savory chipped in with 24.

The foundation for the Red Force's success was laid by a brilliant century by opener Evin Lewis on the penultimate day of the match.

Lewis, who failed to add to his overnight score of 122 on the final day, was key to



Players of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force celebrate after beating Guyana Harpy Eagles in the final to win the West Indies Four-Day Championship at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Trinidad and Tobago getting to 267 all out in their second innings.

The Trinidadians, who resumed on their overnight total of 265 for eight, only managed to add two more runs before being eventually dismissed in 85 overs.

Slow left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul finished with four for 14, pacer Kemo Paul took three for 47, and fast bowler Shamar Joseph claimed two for 86.

Led by Lewis' stabilizing knock of 122 not out off 246 balls, the Red Force looked on track to end the day in the ascendancy until Permaul struck three times in the space of five overs to reduce them to 265 for eight – an overall lead of 278 runs – heading into Wednesday's final day of play at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Coincidentally, it was the Harpy Eagles who took control of the match early on the penultimate day, with pacers Keemo Paul and Shamar Jo-

seph accounting for the wickets of Cephas Cooper and Jyd Goolie for three and one, respectively, to leave T&T 12 for two.

While both Lewis and Jason Mohammed have been short of runs in this year's tournament, their 101-run partnership for the third wicket brought the match back on level terms.

However, Paul got the breakthrough when he trapped Mohammed lbw for 37. Lewis is then added a further 73 runs with Amir Jangoo, who made a fluent 48 off 66 balls, to see T&T accelerate to 186 for three.

Joseph returned to snare Jangoo's wicket two runs short of a merited half-century, and when Paul had Captain Joshua Da Silva caught behind for 11, T&T slipped to 205 for five.

But once again, Lewis found a worthy partner, this time in the reliable Terrance Hinds, with their partnership adding 54 invaluable runs to push

their overall lead over 250.

During their stand, Lewis reached his second first-class century and first in 10 years, by driving Nial Smith to mid-wicket for two runs off his 194th delivery, much to the delight of his teammates.

The pair looked set to carry T&T through to the end of play until Permaul's late strikes turned the match on its heels.

The left-arm spinner first had Hinds caught for 23 and followed up by dismissing Khary Pierre for five to make the score 265 for seven.

Four balls later and without a run added, Permaul bowled first-innings hero Jayden Seales for a duck with what turned out to be the last ball of the day.

Summarised Scores: T&T RED FORCE 260 & 267 in 85 overs (Evin Lewis 122, Amir Jangoo 48, Jason Mohammed 37, Terrance Hinds 23, Joshua Da Silva 11; Veerasammy Permaul 4-14, Keemo Paul 3-47, Shamar Joseph 2-86) vs HARPY EAGLES 245 in 69.4 overs (Keemo Paul 51, Jonathan van Lange 46, Tagenarine Chanderpaul 33, Tevin Imlach 17, Kemol Savory 17, Shamar Joseph 16 not out, Veerasammy Permaul 10; Jayden Seales 4-55, Terrance Hinds 3-46, Anderson Phillip 2-90) and 139 in 35 over (Kevlon Anderson 41, Kemoi Savory 24; Terrance Hinds 3-20, Jayden Seales 3-39, Joshua James 2-12, Anderson Phillip 2-63.