

Government Promises Busy Legislative Year

Story on page 2



Family photo: The members of both Houses of Parliament and staff of the Parliament pose with Governor General Sir Rodney Williams for the traditional family photo at the traditional opening of the new parliament, the reading of the Throne Speech. Seated: (Left to right) Prime Minister Gaston Browne, President of the Senate Alincia Williams-Grant, GG Sir Rodney Williams and Speaker of the House Osbert Frederick

Government Promises Busy Legislative Year

The re-elected Gaston Browne Administration is promising a packed legislative agenda as it outlines its plans and programmes for its first parliamentary year following the April 30, 2026, general elections.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, outlined the government's proposals in the Throne Speech delivered to a joint sitting of the parliament on Tuesday. The occasion marked the formal opening of the new parliament and an essential feature of the parliamentary processes practiced in the Westminster form of government.

"The Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin—the most sound of legal practitioners within this jurisdiction—has advocated a comprehensive slate of new and amended legislation that will vault Antigua and Barbuda above its O.E.C.S. and other counterparts. Reforms to the Police Services, the Fire and Rescue Services, forensic services and electronic crimes of every variety will be addressed in the several proposed new legislations," Sir Rodney outlined.

Additionally, he said given the reporting by several workers of harassment by superiors, laws that protect the vulnerable and ensure fairness in establishing truth, will be brought before the Parliament by the Government within a short time.

"Other laws that impact food safety, mental health, pharmacy regulation, and the operation of medical laboratories and nursing homes, will come before this Parliament in the interest of ensuring better treatment of the sick, and improved safety standards for all. In strengthening border security, proposed legislation will be brought forward that will improve on the advance passenger information system, for example. My Government wishes to ensure that the State adheres to all international standards as they evolve," he declared.

As the government begins its legislative journey following its triumphant return to office in the recent general elections, Sir Rodney observed that there is truth in the adage; leadership matters.



"My Government has long believed and has adhered to a fundamental principle that is captured in a pithy, two-word adage: "leadership matters". The success of governance during these past 12 years, or since 2014 to present, has been the result of superb leadership by a Prime Minister whose responsibilities include the Ministry of Finance," Sir

Rodney noted.

During the address, the Governor General singled out the elected members of the House of Representatives and their skillful management of their portfolios in the past and he encouraged them and the new members of the House to work assiduously for and on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

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PM Slams Opposition Senators for Walking Out of Parliament

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has launched a blistering attack on the Opposition following Tuesday's walkout from Parliament over the removal of Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle.

Ahead of the Governor General's delivery of the 2026 Throne Speech, Pringle was ordered out of the Chamber by Senate President Alincia Williams-Grant after it was determined that he had not taken the Oath of Allegiance before the Lower House, a constitutional requirement for participating in parliamentary proceedings.

Speaking after the end of the proceedings, Prime Minister Browne defended the ruling and accused Opposition members of deliberately creating unnecessary conflict despite understanding the constitutional provisions.

"You know, they need to learn to pick their fights," PM Browne said. "They have accepted that the constitutional provisions are such that each member who participates in these formal proceedings must have taken the oath."

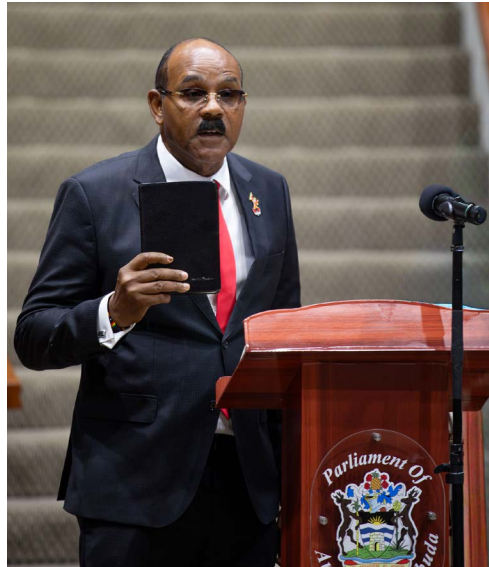
The Prime Minister argued that the issue would not have arisen if the sitting had been an ordinary parliamentary session.

"If it was an ordinary sitting and the Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to take the oath this morning, it would have been fine," PM Browne stated. "But he knew there was no opportunity to take the oath."

The prime minister also pointed to the absence of Barbuda People's Movement MP Trevor Walker, saying Walker understood the constitutional implications and chose not to attend.

The Prime Minister insisted that the Government and parliamentary officials were simply following the Constitution.

"It is a constitutional provision," he said. "You can't say on the one hand you understand that the Constitution precludes you from participating and



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

then say, 'but.' There is no but. The Constitution is the ultimate authority."

Following Pringle's removal, Opposition senators walked out of the Chamber in protest, with the City West MP and Head of Government describing their actions as irrational and politically immature.

"This lack of cooperation is just ridiculous," he said. "The senators themselves are like a bunch of eunuchs. It makes no sense."

He argued that the Opposition had no legitimate reason to protest because the ruling was based solely on constitutional procedure and not political discrimination.

The Prime Minister did not hold back in his criticisms of the opposition's handling of the matter, noting, "That is just dunce leadership. Dunce leadership coming from dunce elements".



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Opposition Leader Ejected from Joint Parliamentary Sitting Over Oath Dispute



Senate President Alincia Williams-Grant

Senate President Alincia Williams-Grant on Tuesday ordered Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle to remove himself from the Parliamentary Chamber, ruling that he had not fulfilled the constitutional requirement to take the Oath of Allegiance before participating in proceedings.

The situation began unfolding after the joint-sitting of Parliament was convened for Governor General Sir Rodney Williams' presentation of the 2026 Throne Speech.

According to the Senate President, although Jamale Pringle had taken his oaths at Government House, he had not taken the Oath of Allegiance in the Lower House as required under the Constitution.



Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle

"As such, I am asking the Honourable Gentleman to remove himself from the proceedings this morning," Williams-Grant declared, warning that she would have the Sergeant-at-Arms remove him if he refused to comply.

Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin supported the President's interpretation of the Constitution, arguing it is a requirement.

The Senate President referenced Section 48(1) of the Constitution, which states that no member of either House of Parliament shall take part in proceedings until he or she has "made and subscribed before the House the oath of allegiance," and went further by highlighting parliamentary practice from the United Kingdom, including provisions under the Parliamentary

Oaths Act of 1866, which imposes penalties on members who participate in proceedings without first taking the oath.

Reports are both the Speaker of the House of Representatives Osbert Frederick, Senate President Alincia Williams-Grant met privately with Jamale Pringle to inform him that his involvement in Tuesday's proceedings was impossible. However, it was stated that he allegedly rejected the advice and served notice of his participation.

"I tried to bring this quietly under control, and now we're taking up the people's time to deal with a matter that is clearly written in the Constitution," she stated.

Williams-Grant further emphasised that Parliament must operate with order and respect for procedure.

"You know, it's funny because we all profess to be members of the Christian community, and one of the foremost considerations is that God is a God of order," she said. "Order means you follow the rules and procedure."

Jamale Pringle subsequently departed from the Parliamentary Chamber, and so too did United Progressive Party Senators Chester Hughes, Jonathan Wehner, Ashworth Azille and Malaka Parker.

The opposition party later issued a statement outlining that it viewed the matter as "collusion between the Senate President and the Government Members of the Lower House in an action designed to embarrass the Opposition Leader and humiliate the Party".



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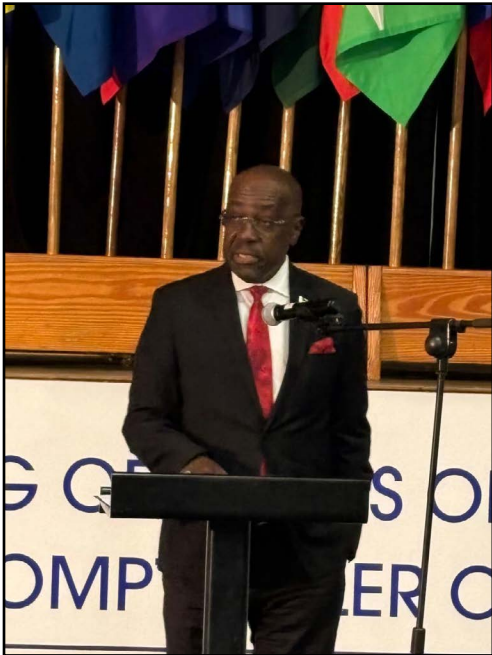
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Foreign Minister Greene Proposes 6-Point Plan For Better Caribbean Border Security



Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, E.P Chet Greene

Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, E.P Chet Greene is proposing a six-point plan of action to strengthen border security across the CARICOM states.

Minister Greene was speaking on Tuesday at the opening of the 29th Meeting of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs being held under the theme: *“Advancing Free Movement, Strengthening Security and Harmonizing Regional Border Governance”*. The meeting takes place at the Royalton Resort at Deep Bay.

The minister described his proposals as ‘a practical prescription for consideration by regional border control bosses’. “Distinguished leaders, I offer you a 6-point prescription which in my considered opinion is practical, phased and politically viable. This is not a lowly politician’s dream; it is an implementable roadmap. I ask each of you to first take note, then discuss with your respective country leadership back in your capitals, then subject it to





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a group review, take ownership, then champion it,” he declared.

The 6-point plan announced by the minister comprises;

1. **The Caribbean Movement Accord:** Beyond CARICOM’s current framework, propose a sub-regional agreement among willing states for seamless travel using a single-digital credential – a **CariPass** linked to biometric data. This credential would only be issued after background screening against regional and international watchlists.
2. **Regional Customs Window 2.0:** Move beyond Single Windows. Create a Caribbean Customs Interoperability Platform (CCIP) where pre-arrival cargo data is shared in real-time.
3. **Joint Border Intelligence Units (JBIUs):** At each major air and sea port of entry,

embed mixed teams of immigration, customs and police, rotating personnel from different islands These JBIUs would share a common case management system and report to regional fusion centre.

4. **Establish Passenger Information Units (PIUs) and a harmonized Regional Risk Framework:** CARICOM member states cannot effectively implement intelligence-led border security using fragmented screening approaches. Jurisdictions such as the UK utilize dedicated Passenger Information Units to analyse API and PNR data to identify high-risk travelers linked to terrorism, trafficking, migrant smuggling, firearms trafficking and other serious crimes before arrival.
5. **The Regional Border Governance Council:** Create a per-

manent, operational council of Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs that meets quarterly, not at summits, but via secure video link to review threat data, update procedures and certify member states’ compliance.

6. **Accelerate Enactment of the CARICOM Model API/PNR Legislation:** Modern border security requires modern legal frameworks. While four CARICOM member states have already enacted the CARICOM Model API/PNR Legislation, others are encouraged to do so as a matter of priority. This legislation provides the legal authority to collect, analyse, retain and securely share Advanced Passenger information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data.



Chiefs of Immigration, Comptrollers of Customs Meet in Antigua and Barbuda

Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs from across the Commonwealth Caribbean are meeting in Antigua and Barbuda for their 29th session where the issue of border security is expected to dominate their deliberations.

In his welcome remarks, Antigua and Barbuda's Comptroller of Customs, David Martin, underscored the importance of the gathering at this time. "In today's rapidly changing global environment, Customs and Immigration Administrations must continue to work together to address emerging challenges, while promoting safe, secure and efficient trade and travel," he observed.

In her remarks, Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood, said it is important that the meeting is taking place in Antigua and Barbuda as this country serves as a hub for many persons traversing to other parts of the region. "I am happy that we are meeting here as we are discussing a plethora of immigration and border security issues and Antigua and Barbuda is the leading Caribbean hub. You need to come to St. John's to get to at least 25 countries in the Caribbean," she revealed.

She added that Antigua and Barbuda is not just the main hub, it is also the shield.

Chair of the Customs Committee, Estella Bailey Leslie, the Comptroller of the Belize Customs and Excise Department, also addressed the opening exercises. She noted that over the three days of the meeting, delegates are tasked with rigorously analysing and resolving issues that affect the security, efficiency, and integrity of the respective administrations and, by extension, the safety and prosperity of all member states.

"The overarching theme before



us, "Advancing Free Movement, Strengthening Security and Harmonizing Border Governance"—is not aspirational. It is operational. It requires us to reconcile two non-negotiable mandates: facilitating the legitimate flow of people and trade, while maintaining uncompromising vigilance against transnational threats,"

she stated.

For his part, Chair of the Immigration Committee, Charles Thompson of Montserrat drew attention to the changing international environment within which CARICOM states must operate. "We recognize that the environment in which we are operating has changed and continues to change.

Local News



Much of the changes taking place remain out of our control or not of our making. Recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated that we are not isolated from nor immune to these external events. To the contrary, as small states we are vulnerable and susceptible to these events, and the economic, social and political repercussions,” he observed.

A representative of CARICOM IMPACS, Earl Harris also addressed the ceremony and he outlined the organisation’s strategy for strengthened border and other security throughout the region.

“Our strategic focus at CARICOM IMPACS is to be of service to our Member States in delivering a Caribbean Region that is safe, secure, and stable where our people can move freely, legitimate trade is hassle free, and our communities are protected from transnational organized criminal threats that constantly attempt to penetrate regional borders without concern or regard for sovereignty,” he noted.

According to Harris to successfully combat these elements requires collective responsibility and close collaboration as no single entity has the capacity to go it alone, hence IMPACS’ presence at this conference.



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Chickenpox Cluster at Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a cluster of varicella, commonly known as chickenpox, cases at the Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital, prompting the implementation of several infection control measures to contain the spread of the virus.

According to the Ministry, the cases have been identified in two male wards at the institution and, at this stage, remain confined to those areas.

In a statement issued Tuesday, health officials sought to reassure the public that immediate action was taken once the cases were detected.

“The situation remains confined to those wards, and appropriate public health measures have been implemented to limit further spread and protect both patients and staff,” the Ministry stated.

Authorities said infection prevention and control protocols were activated promptly, including quarantine and isolation procedures, active surveillance, enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures, restrictions on unnecessary movement within affected areas, and continuous monitoring of exposed patients and staff.

“Public health officials continue to closely monitor the situation in collaboration with the management and clinical teams at Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital,” the statement noted. “At this time, there is no indication of widespread transmission



beyond the affected wards.”

Varicella is a highly contagious viral illness caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Symptoms typically include fever, fatigue and an itchy blister-like rash. The virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets or direct contact with fluid from the skin lesions of an infected person.

The Ministry also explained that individuals with herpes zoster, commonly known as shingles, can in some cases transmit the virus to persons who are not immune, resulting in chickenpox infection.

Health officials noted that outbreaks of varicella can occur periodically, particularly in settings where people live in close proximity.

“Periodic clusters and outbreaks of varicella are not uncommon, particularly in congregate settings where close contact may facilitate transmission,” the Ministry said, adding that the illness is generally mild, especially among children.

The Ministry is urging residents to ensure vaccinations are up to date, stressing that immunization remains one of the most effective ways to prevent infection and reduce severe illness.

“The varicella vaccine is available for adults and children alike through public health clinics across Antigua and Barbuda,” the statement said.

Parents and guardians are being encouraged to ensure children are vaccinated according to the national immunization schedule, while adults uncertain about their vaccination status are advised to consult healthcare providers or visit the nearest

health centre.

Members of the general public are advised to continue practicing basic infection prevention measures, including frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding close contact with sick individuals, and keeping infected persons away from public settings until their lesions have crusted over.

Persons experiencing symptoms such as fever and rash have been urged to limit contact with others, especially vulnerable groups including elderly individuals, pregnant women, newborns and immunocompromised persons.

The Ministry said active surveillance remains ongoing and pledged to provide additional updates if further public health concerns arise.

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Indian Naval Vessel Begins 5-Day Visit



while it is in port at the St. John's Harbour.

The Honorary Consul General of India to Antigua and Barbuda, along with representatives of the High Commission of India to Guyana, with concurrent accreditation to Antigua and Barbuda, will be on hand Wednesday morning to welcome these individuals aboard and to experience India's massive naval modernization.

India is projecting its growing naval prowess with the arrival in Antigua and Barbuda today (Wednesday) a vessel from its naval services, INS Sudarshini.

Honorary Consul General of India to Antigua and Barbuda, Vijay Tewani explained that the vessel is an Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship (STS) which is making a five-day stop at St. John's as it makes courtesy calls in ports in Europe and the United States.

"The INS Sudarshini has been on sail to Europe and USA for participation in various tall ship race/events and International Naval Review/ SAIL 250 event in the USA. The ship will make a port call at Antigua from 27 - 31 May, 2026, as well as other foreign ports, before onward transit to USA," Tewani reported.

A number of persons here in Antigua and Barbuda, including senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, the Indian diaspora in Antigua and Barbuda and the media have been invited to visit the vessel




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Three Persons Charged With Firearm, Ammunition and Cannabis Offences



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

The charges stem from several search operations carried out during the early morning hours of Monday, May 18, by officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force, Gang and Guns Suppression Unit, Special Services Unit, and K-9 Unit. Embert St. Ange of Red Hill was charged with Unlawful Possession of Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis.

Police seized one black and silver Ruger .380 auto pistol, fourteen rounds of .380 ammunition, one round of 9mm ammunition, and approximately one pound of cannabis during the operation.

Meanwhile, 38-year-old Gael St. Ange of Red Hill was separately charged with Unlawful Possession of 113 grams of Cannabis. He was further jointly charged along with 28-year-old Tamisha Cyrille, also of Red Hill with Unlawful Possession of 3.8 pounds of Cannabis and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Transfer.

The accused are expected to appear

before the court at a later date. The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to intensify its

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Could Caribbean Airlines withdrawal from certain markets be a precursor to the demise of another Caribbean carrier?



The Caribbean Airlines (CAL) announcement about the withdrawal of flights to St. Kitts and Dominica, as well as Ogle Airport in Guyana, and the reduction in flights to the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique does not surprise me.

A couple of months ago, I suggested to a colleague that we could see a “Caribbean carrier fallout” by June; if that did not happen and the airlines survived through the summer, I believed a fallout would certainly come by October. Caribbean Airlines is not the only regional carrier losing money on certain routes. In my view, the new CAL Board of Directors should be applauded for taking early action to stem some of the losses rather than delaying a necessary decision that is in the airline’s best interest.

There are currently six Caribbean-based airlines operating inter-is-

land services—InterCaribbean Airways, Caribbean Airlines, LIAT Air, Winair, Sunrise, and SVG Air—alongside two international carriers, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, in a relatively small market. The irony is that connectivity between the islands still leaves much to be desired.

The inter-island air travel market has shrunk significantly over the years for several reasons. Travellers from North America and the UK flying to destinations such as St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada are no longer required to change carriers in Antigua or Barbados, so much of that inter-Caribbean traffic has been lost. Carnivals and jazz festivals no longer attract the same volume of visitors from neighbouring islands, and travel to Barbados for US visa purposes has dwindled to a trickle. With a smaller market and

increased competition among carriers, it has become almost impossible for some—if not all—Caribbean-based airlines to operate profitably.



Expansion can be dangerous because it drains cash reserves and creates operational inefficiencies by stretching resources too thin. It is therefore quite possible that, like Cal’s route cuts, Winair’s expansion into the Trinidad market will be short-lived. Thankfully, LIAT Air has abandoned its far-fetched idea of operating flights to Panama.

In addition to fierce competition among inter-island carriers, airlines must now contend with the effects of the fuel crisis. Carriers in poor financial health are unlikely to withstand those pressures. As we have seen that phenomenon has already brought down airlines in the US and Europe.

Consolidation is the only way for Caribbean carriers to survive. Codesharing and better alignment of schedules can reduce costs while improving connectivity. It may, however, be necessary to go beyond codesharing and pursue mergers to secure a stronger future for inter-Caribbean travel.



Lesroy Browne

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A Tribute to Sir Aziz Fares Hadeed: A Visionary Leader, Builder of Antigua and Barbuda, and Cherished Mentor

It is with a heavy heart but a profound sense of gratitude that I pay tribute to Sir Aziz Fares Hadeed—a truly great leader, a visionary patriot, and a man who left an indelible mark on Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean.

To the world, Sir Aziz was a titan of industry, a statesman, and a nation-builder. To me, he was an exemplary boss, a mentor, genuine friend, an elder brother and a guiding light for 23 years of my professional life, and someone I had the privilege of knowing for three decades.

A Master of Business and Negotiation

Sir Aziz's business acumen was legendary. His footprints could be found across almost every sector driving our economy — energy, real estate, automotive, financing, aviation, and manufacturing, to name a few.

I had the distinct honor of standing alongside him in countless negotiations with both local and international companies. He was always punctual and often said we must respect the other party's time. Watching Sir Aziz navigate a boardroom was a masterclass. He valued time above all else and was fiercely results-oriented. With his characteristic clarity and directness, he would look across the table and ask the defining question: "Who is the decision-maker on your side?" He had no time for stalling; he wanted to build, and he wanted to build now.

Yet, his sharpness was always balanced by an unwavering ethical compass. Sir Aziz operated on a beautiful principle: he believed that all contracts should be like a marriage, where both sides must benefit. He didn't believe in one-sided victories; he believed in mutual respect, sustainable partnerships, and shared success. And when Sir Aziz believed in a project or an idea, his determination was unmatched—he would truly move mountains to prove it and bring it to fruition. He would often say there is no half project, we either do it to the end or don't do it.

A Statesman and Champion for Education

Sir Aziz's love for Antigua and Barbuda extended far beyond the private sector. He dedicated his life to public service and the elevation of our people. As a Senator and a Government Minister, he brought his sharp intellect and elephant memory to governance.

But perhaps one of his most enduring legacies lies in his passion for education. He loved ambitious, driven people and made it his mission to pave the way for the next generation. He quietly and generously helped to educate countless children. On a national scale, his crowning achievement in this arena was serving as the Chairman of the first University of the West Indies (UWI) Council for the UWI Five Islands Campus. He understood that to fully develop Antigua, we had to educate our youth, and he fought to make higher education accessible right here at home.

A Man of Profound Kindness and Character

Despite his massive success and high-profile roles, what truly defined Sir Aziz was his heart. He was deeply kind, considerate, and compassionate. He possessed a rare ability to connect with people



from all walks of life, earning him immense affection and great respect across the region.

Above all his professional and political achievements, Sir Aziz loved his family fiercely. They were his anchor, and his desire to build a better world was rooted in his love for them and his country.

An Indelible Legacy

Antigua and Barbuda, and the Caribbean at large, has lost a great son. Sir Aziz Fares Hadeed was a rare force of nature—a man of immense strength who chose to lift others up, a visionary who saw the future and had the courage to build it.

I am incredibly proud and indeed a better person to have walked a 23-year professional journey with him. He touched my life, shaped my career, and inspired everyone who had the honor of working with him.

He has left a magnificent legacy, and though he is no longer with us, the indelible mark he left on our hearts, our economy, and our nation will endure for generations.

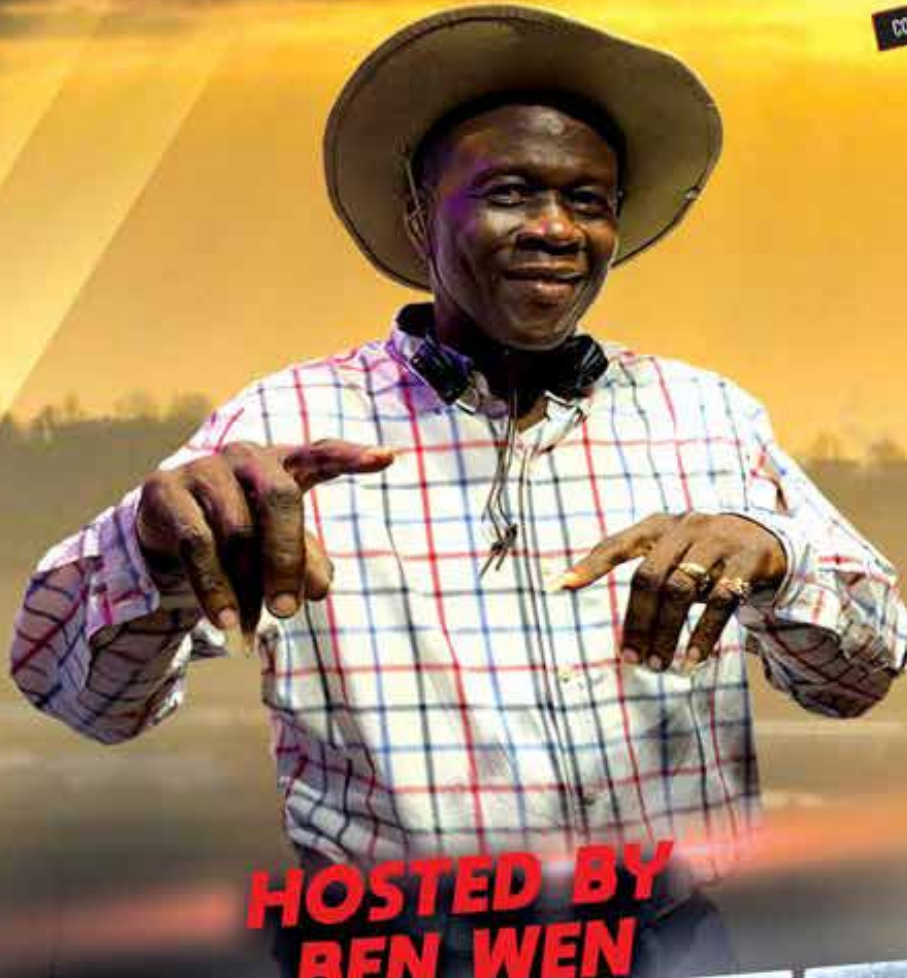
My sincere condolences to Lady Hadeed, and his loving family.

"What we have once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

Rest in peace boss and true friend, Sir Aziz. You will be forever loved, deeply missed, and never forgotten.

Calid Hassad

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‘Common nonsense’

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has pushed back against mounting criticism over more than \$1 billion in hurricane donations that remained largely unspent months after Hurricane Melissa, accusing critics of promoting what he described as “common nonsense” while ignoring the broader scale of the Government’s recovery effort.

“Sometimes you have things that are common sense and sometimes you have things that are common nonsense,” he said on Monday at the Lewis Town Early Childhood Institution in St Elizabeth, as one of two Labour Day national projects unfolded.

A real-time audit by the Auditor General’s Department had found that only \$26.2 million of the \$1.44 billion in cash donations in the wake of the Category 5 hurricane had been spent up to April. The report also noted that funds donated after Hurricane Beryl in July 2024 also remained unspent.

“Not everything that appears urgent is wise, and not everything that is wise appears immediately, so I want you to ruminate on that. The obvious can mislead, and wisdom requires deeper judgement,” the prime minister said on Monday.

He said the controversy had become one of the fiercest political attacks facing his administration, disclosing that even people who supported the Government were struggling to defend it.

“I started there because I received a note from an elderly lady from this constituency who said, ‘Prime Minister, you have to address this issue because I can’t explain it to the people in my community why the Government got \$1.4 billion and never spent it. It’s the hottest thing on the ground in terms of criticism of the Government.’”

Additional concerns raised in the audit included the absence of formal agreements governing the retention of donated funds and insufficient documentation for roofing supplies distributed under the Government’s ROOFS Programme.

But Holness insisted the criticism ignored the wider context of the Government’s hurricane response, which he



said would ultimately cost taxpayers roughly \$67 billion.

“The Government is projected to spend J\$67 billion on hurricane relief and recovery,” the prime minister said, while urging Jamaicans to think through the process.

According to Holness, one of the most strategic decisions involved providing financial support to the Jamaica Public Service Company to speed up the restoration of electricity.

“A large part of that would be the loan that we gave to the JPS, so that you could have gotten back electricity faster than ever before in the history of restoration after any disaster in Jamaica,” he said of the \$67 billion being spent directly for the country’s 2026-2027 fiscal Budget.

“That was a strategic decision, it was highly criticised. ‘Why is the Government lending money to JPS?’ But the recovery was quick, water and electricity came back very quickly. We thought deeply about it, we looked at the ramifications and we took some good decisions,” Holness noted.

Holness said the administration had already deployed approximately \$10 billion through the ROOFS Programme, benefiting close to 50,000 Jamaicans.

“Through the NHT, almost \$2 billion has been spent and that is not included in the \$67 billion,” he added.

The prime minister also pointed to re-

pairs being carried out at schools, hospitals, clinics and road networks, along with the unprecedented cost of debris removal following the Category 5 hurricane.

“We have never had to deal with that level of debris before in the history of Jamaica,” he said. “When you look at Independence Park here and what it was, and the Black River Market, the Government doesn’t get credit for that because it’s our jobs; that’s what we must do.”

“But we have to tackle this view that the Government isn’t doing anything or that nothing has been done, that is patently untrue.”

Holness also challenged arguments that the \$1.4 billion in donations should simply have been distributed directly to victims.

“You also have to consider that we assessed close to 100,000 as being in need and we are giving the maximum grant of \$500,000. If we have given the \$1.4 billion in grants, how many Jamaicans would get \$500,000? That’s about 2,500.”

“So let me again put some more context to the conversation,” he said.

The Opposition People’s National Party (PNP), however, has sharply criticised the pace of spending, arguing that thousands of vulnerable Jamaicans remained in distress months after the storm. (Jamaica Gleaner)

St Vincent and the Grenadines to lead OECS social protection committee



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is preparing to take on a leading regional role in social welfare development as governments across the Eastern Caribbean continue efforts to improve protection systems for vulnerable populations.

ANN reported that during the opening ceremony of the 10th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Human and Social Development, on May 20, 2026, St Vincent and the Grenadines Social Welfare Minister Shevern John announced that the country would become the new chair of the OECS Social Protection Technical Advisory Committee.

The gathering, hosted under the theme “Advancing Social Protection in the OECS: Policy, Practice and Learning”, brought together government representatives and regional policymakers to examine strategies for strengthening social welfare frameworks throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

The article said that Minister John further revealed that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is also scheduled to assume leadership later this year of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Council of Ministers on Human and Social Development. The country is expected to welcome ministers and delegates from across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States for

upcoming meetings.

According to the minister, the Technical Advisory Committee was created to assess social protection issues facing member states and to propose recommendations designed to improve the well-being of citizens throughout the OECS. He described the forum as a key component of ongoing regional reform efforts.

He noted that discussions during the two-day meeting would centre on identifying effective initiatives already operating within member states that could potentially be replicated across the sub-region.

“We are living in an era where we have grown as a people with a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be shared regionally to enhance the lives of others,” Minister John said.

The minister also referred to the committee as a “catalyst for social protection reform”, adding that its recommendations could influence the direction of future regional policies.

Reportedly, social protection has become a growing priority for Caribbean governments as countries contend with economic strain, climate-related disasters and increasing pressure on public assistance programmes.

Regional authorities have been pursuing reforms aimed at modernising welfare systems, improving collaboration among agencies and expanding support for households impacted by economic hardship and environmental crises.

Minister John also expressed appreciation to Saint Kitts and Nevis for its service as outgoing chair of the committee during the past two years and welcomed participants attending the meeting in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (Dominica News Online)

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Regional sargassum experts gather in Dominica for SARSEA meetings



More than 60 environmental professionals and regional stakeholders are gathering in Dominica this week for a series of high-level meetings and workshops focused on sargassum management, environmental sustainability, and regional cooperation across the Caribbean.

The activities, taking place from May 26 to 28 under the regional SARSEA programme, are being supported by Agence Française de Développement and are expected to help shape upcoming field activities in Martinique and Guadeloupe beginning June 1. Those missions will bring together regional institutions and technical partners working on environmental and marine issues affecting Caribbean territories.

A SARSEA press release indicated that the programme opens on Tuesday with a regional SARSEA workshop dedicated to the development of Na-

tional Strategic Plans on Sargassum.

The session assembles approximately 60 representatives from Ministries of Environment and Fisheries, private sector groups, and civil society organisations from across the region to discuss coordinated approaches to tackling the growing sargassum challenge.

On Tuesday evening, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States will host the opening of an exhibition linked to the Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability (COM-ES). The exhibition, co-financed through SARSEA, featured innovative responses to sargassum influxes and marine pollution while bringing together key regional stakeholders.

On Wednesday, ministers and environmental officials are scheduled to meet for the COM-ES conference under the theme “Innovative Solutions to Protect a High-Risk Caribbean Envi-

ronment.”

According to the release, during the meeting, SARSEA representatives are expected to present the programme’s flagship initiative along with strategic recommendations aimed at improving sargassum management and strengthening island resilience throughout the Caribbean.

An operational committee meeting is also planned for Wednesday afternoon to finalize priority projects and actions to be carried out in the coming months.

The regional activities will conclude on Thursday with a biodiversity-focused side event during COM-ES. At that session, Expertise France will present Caribbean environmental initiatives, highlighting scientific collaboration and knowledge-sharing efforts undertaken in Martinique and Guadeloupe. (Dominica News Online)



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- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
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Guyana participates in historic longest-distance robotic heart surgery



Guyana is set to make medical history on Tuesday with a groundbreaking robotic cardiac surgery that will be performed in the country by a specialist based in India.

Speaking at the Diamond Jubilee Flag Raising Ceremony on Monday night, President Irfaan Ali said that the procedure will symbolise how far the country has advanced since gaining independence in 1966.

“We will formally set our footprints in the history of healthcare. Our new surgeon, Mantra Freedom, 60, will perform a cardiac surgery from Guyana to India. The longest-distance surgery in the history of mankind will be performed from the shores of Guyana tomorrow,” President Ali said.

He told the ceremony that the event reflects the Government’s vision of building a modern and globally competitive nation that embraces innovation and technology.

“This is the country we’re building, not afraid to embrace any tool that is necessary to position us as not only a player in the global

economy but a competitive player looking to take its place in the front row of global stability, resilience and prosperity,” he added.

The SSI Mantra is a pioneering surgical robotic system designed to democratise minimally invasive care by making robotic surgeries highly accessible, precise and cost-effective.

Developed by SS Innovations, it is the first modular, multi-arm surgical robot system of its kind. (CMC)



LICS LIMITED

ALL SAINTS ROAD / OTTOS NEW TOWN

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FAX 268-463-3177

DATE: 22nd, May, 2025

TO: Point FM

ATTN: Sales Dept.

Re: Please run announcement on the following days:

Monday 25th May, 2026	two times
Tuesday 26 th May, 2026	two times
Wednesday 27th May, 2026	two times
Thursday 28 th May 2026	two times
Friday 29th May, 2026	one time

The Management of LICS Limited would like to inform their Valued Customers and the General Public that both, All Saints Road and Ottos New Town branches, **WILL BE CLOSED**, Friday 29th May, 2026 for their annual stocktaking.

Both stores will re-open for business on Saturday, 30th May 2026 at 8:00 am.

We regret any inconvenience caused.

Management

Ferrari unveils first fully electric car

Luxury sports car maker Ferrari has unveiled its first fully electric car - the \$640,000 (£474,320) Luce.

The new model departs from the look of typical Ferraris as the Italian brand's first ever five-seater, created in collaboration with the Love-From agency founded by former Apple design chief Sir Jony Ive.

Responses on social media to the launch have ranged from describing it as "straight to the junkyard trash" to an "absolute masterclass in design".

Supercar rivals like Lamborghini and Porsche have scaled back on their EV plans due to poor demand and intense competition from Chinese brands.

Ferrari chief executive Benedetto Vigna said in Rome that the Luce, Italian for "light", has taken half a decade to develop.

Ferrari plans to roll out the electric vehicle (EV) after previously ruling out such a move, opting instead to make hybrid cars that are powered by both petrol and electricity.

The Luce runs with a Ferrari-made electric motor on each wheel, helping the car to hit 60mph (96km/h) in around 2.5 seconds.

The firm said that all of the components are made in-house, so that the car can be repaired by the company well into the future, protecting the Luce's resale value.

The shift by motor industry giants to EVs has faced major obstacles in recent years.

Carmakers including Ford and Volkswagen have doubled down on petrol cars, especially in the US, due to poor demand and regulatory changes under President Donald



Trump, who has cut incentives for EV buyers.

The launch of Jaguar's electric concept car was heavily criticised for abandoning the British brand's classic styling.

One account on X said: "Ferrari just killed their brand just like Jaguar did. This is straight to the junkyard trash."

"What is going on with European Luxury car manufacturers? First Jaguar and now Ferrari", another account posted.

But not all commentators were felt negatively about the new car, with one post saying: "Absolute masterclass in design. Ferrari just unveiled the breathtaking LUCE concept, and it is a total game changer."

Ferrari's chief design officer Flavio Manzoni said in an interview with YouTuber Cleo Abram that critics are part of the innovation process.

He acknowledged the concept of an electric Ferrari with a new design is "polarising" but believes people will appreciate it in months to come.

Ferrari has also said it will con-

tinue offer petrol and hybrid cars along with its all-electric vehicle.

Meanwhile, Ferrari's direct competitors have rolled back their EV ambitions.

Lamborghini abandoned its plans to launch all-electric cars, pivoting to hybrid models instead, citing low demand for high-end luxury EVs.

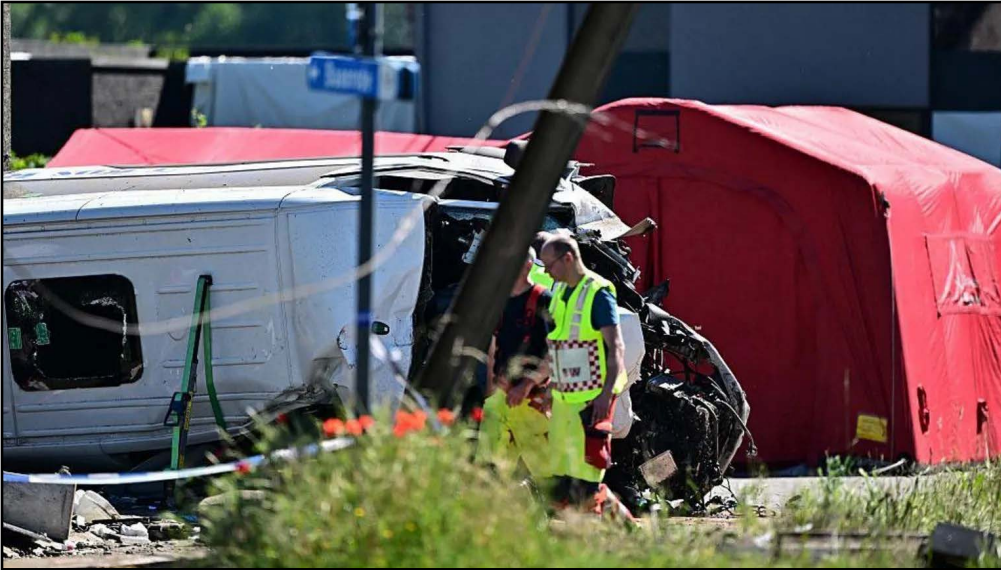
Germany's Porsche has scaled back its EV plans due to weak demand, caught between poor sales in China and tariffs in the US.

Western carmakers have also faced intense competition from Chinese carmakers, which are able to produce vehicles faster and more cheaply.

Ferrari is Europe's most valuable carmaker. It relies on selling highly exclusive cars - a strategy that has helped to shield Ferrari from much of the pressure faced by rivals.

Yet Ferrari's shares have dropped by more than 25% over the past year, mirroring a wider slump across luxury brands as inflation around the world has shaken demand for high-end goods. (BBC)

Four killed as school minibus collides with train in Belgium



Two children, aged 12 and 15, and two adults have been killed in a collision between a train and a school minibus in Buggenhout, northern Belgium.

The bus was carrying seven children, a driver, 49, and a chaperone, 27, at the time of the collision, which took place shortly after 08:00 local time (06:00 GMT).

Federal police spokeswoman An Berger said it had been on its way to a special education school.

Belgian mobility minister Jean-Luc Crucke confirmed reports that the barriers on a level crossing had been down when the crash happened.

The other five children who were on the bus are in a critical but stable condition in hospital, the public prosecutor's spokeswoman said.

She added that an investigation has been launched into the incident.

Berger said the minibus had been travelling on a street parallel to the railway and then the driver turned left on to the level crossing while the barrier was already down. At that point, a train was heading through the small town of Buggenhout and ran into the minibus.

The impact of the crash was extremely violent, as the train was travelling at about 90km/h (55mph). The minibus collided with a pole before being thrown some distance into the driveway of a nearby house.

Nobody on the train was hurt, although one person was being treated for shock, according to Berger.

Aerial satellite view of Buggenhout, Belgium, showing a railway line running through a residential area with houses, roads, and surrounding fields. A white dot marks a level crossing on the tracks, highlighted by a red label

reading "Location of collision." An inset map in the top right shows Belgium with a red dot marking the town's position.

"What heartbreaking news," Flemish education minister Zuhair Demir posted on social media. "My thoughts are with all the victims, their families and everyone closely involved."

"Today, Europe grieves with Belgium," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The train was slowing down at the time of the collision on its approach to Buggenhout station, Thomas Baeken, a spokesman for Belgian rail network Infrabel, told public broadcaster VRT.

He added that first indications from CCTV footage confirmed that the lights on the level crossing were red and the barrier was down.

"How this accident could have happened, we don't know. That is for the police and the public prosecutor's office to investigate," Baeken said.

Another Flemish minister, Annick De Ridder, told Belgian TV it was terrible news and too early to talk of responsibility at this stage.

King Philippe has expressed his gratitude to the emergency services, and wished everyone involved "a lot of strength and support in the face of this dramatic event".

The mayor of Buggenhout, Geert Hermans, concluded a press conference by calling for a minute of silence to honour the victims. (BBC)



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Internet starts coming back in Iran after months-long blackout



Internet access has started to be restored in Iran after being cut off almost three months ago, the country's first vice-president has said.

"The first step toward free and regulated access to cyberspace has been taken," Mohammad Reza Aref wrote on X on Tuesday.

Internet monitoring groups Netblocks and Kentik reported "partial" restoration around 13:00 GMT, though the latter warned most networks were still down.

The Iranian government cut internet access following the launch of US and Israeli attacks on 28 February. Officials suggested the aim was to prevent surveillance, espionage and cyber-attacks. It is one of the longest-running national internet shutdowns ever recorded worldwide.

A content creator from Tehran told the BBC that he had been able to connect to the internet using his home WiFi on Tuesday.

"The main point is, some of my income will come back," he said.

Netblocks, a global internet monitor, said it was "unclear" whether the internet restoration would be "sustained".

"From past digital blackouts in Iran, we've seen that the restoration process can take some hours and isn't as streamlined as the shutdown proce-

sure," the group's research director Isik Mater earlier told BBC Verify, cautioning it had on occasion taken "weeks" to reach some regions.

She added: "Historically, each time internet access has been restored after an internet shutdown in Iran it has come back with heavier restrictions and tighter controls."

When the US and Iranian attacks started and internet access was cut off, Iran had only enjoyed full access to the outside world for only about a month following a previous shutdown imposed during January's deadly regime crackdown on anti-government

protests.

Some Iranians have sought to get around the restrictions using methods like expensive virtual private networks and smuggling satellite technology into the country.

The network started to come back online as Iran condemned fresh US strikes against it earlier this week, branding them a "gross violation" of the ceasefire agreed on 8 April.

The US said Iranian missile sites and boats attempting to place mines had been targeted with what it called "self-defence strikes" in southern Iran on Monday. (BBC)



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2026

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Interested companies should include the following in their quotation submission:

- Company name
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- Delivery, setup, and breakdown timelines

For detailed technical specifications, please email us to request the complete RFQ documentation. All quotations must be submitted electronically to info.nof@ab.gov.ag by the deadline of **Friday, June 12, 2026**.

Please note that late submissions may not be considered.



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| Cheerleaders | Mr. & Miss Teenage Pageant |
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| Junior Carnival Private Mas | Road March |
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Sports News

Strictly Business claim top spot in ABSCA men's 30-over contest

Last year's losing finalists, Rackaman Construction Strictly Business, have clinched the top spot in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) Men's 30-Over contest at the end of the preliminary stage.

The Strictly Business team played unbeaten to end the round-robin preliminary stage at the top of the standings by securing their fourth win in as many games with a commanding 43-run victory over defending champions Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js at Rising Sun.

Player of the match Melvin Charles smashed a half-century to propel Strictly Business to 187 for six off 25 overs. Charles slammed 79, including six sixes and five fours.

Javon Howell struck 33, Ashfield Weatherhead cracked 24, and Shaquan Reifer scored 15. Charanlall Ramjohn bagged two for 17, Steve Martin took two for 40, and Elroy Francis Jr. picked up one for 29.

In reply, the Buckley's 3Js were dismissed for 144 in 16.5 overs. Steve Martin top-scored with 29. Richie Thomas hit 18 not out, Charanlall Ramjohn scored 17, Kenrick Scott struck 12, and Elroy Francis Jr. made



Rackaman Construction Strictly Business softball cricket team

12.

Owen Graham snapped up five for 35, Shaquan Reifer captured three for 56, and Ashfield Weatherhead picked up one for 22.

It means the Buckley's 3Js finished second in the standings by suffering their first defeat after winning their other three matches in the preliminary stage.

Both teams as well as the third and fourth place teams in the standings advanced to the semi-finals.

Goody's Advent 300 clinch third place and Dredgers finished in fourth place, with both teams ending the preliminary stage with identical records of two wins and two losses from their four round-robin matches.

The other competing teams, Mix-Up Stars and PMS, were eliminated from contesting the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, Strictly Business will face the Dredgers, while the Buckley's 3Js will meet Goody's Advent 300.



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Mendis, De Silva to lead Sri Lanka teams on Caribbean tour



Kusal Mendis

COLOMBO – Experienced wicket-keeper-batter Kusal Mendis and Dhananjaya de Silva have been appointed Sri Lankan captains for the upcoming all-format tour of the West Indies that commences next month.

Mendis has been appointed captain for both the ODI and T20I squads, while de Silva will lead the Test side. All-rounder Kamindu Mendis will serve as vice-captain in all formats.

Kusal Mendis takes over the ODI captaincy from Charith Asalanka, who had earlier been elbowed out of the T20I job ahead of the T20 World Cup, and has now been replaced as ODI captain as well.

Asalanka is named in the 16-man ODI squad, though he has lost his spot in the T20I outfit.

In T20Is, it is Dasun Shanaka who Kusal Mendis takes over the leadership from. Shanaka led the side between December and February as a stop-gap captain for the World Cup, after Asalanka's ousting. He was unable to have significant impact in the role but retains his place in the T20I squad.

Sri Lanka will be boosted by the return of Wanindu Hasaranga, who is set

to return to action in the ODI and T20I formats. Hasaranga has recovered from a hamstring which he sustained during the T20 World Cup.

Unavailable, however, is Matheesha Pathirana, who injured a hamstring while playing a solitary match for Kolkata Knight Riders in mid-May.

Between Dushmantha Chameera, Dilshan Madushanka, and Eshan Malinga – who appear in both white-ball squads – Sri Lanka have three quicks who can exceed 140 kph.

The newcomers are largely batters. The 27-year-old opening batter Lasith Croospulle gets into the T20I squad on the back of some good recent performances, while on the Test side of things uncapped batter Pasindu Sooriyabandara gets his first major tour as well, having impressed in the most-recent domestic season.

Also in the squad is uncapped 29-year-

old bowling allrounder Isitha Wijesundara.

Sri Lanka ODI Squad: Kusal Mendis (captain), Pathum Nissanka, Kamil Mishara, Pavan Rathnayake, Janith Liyanage, Charith Asalanka, Kamindu Mendis, Milan Rathnayake, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Dilshan Madushanka, Eshan Malinga, Asitha Fernando, and Pramod Madushan.

Sri Lanka T20I Squad: Kusal Mendis (captain), Pathum Nissanka, Kamil Mishara, Lasith Croospulle, Pavan Rathnayake, Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka, Milan Rathnayake, Dunith Wellalage, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Dilshan Madushanka, Eshan Malinga, Binura Fernando, and Nuwan Thushara.



Sabalenka, Osaka, and Gauff bring style to French Open

PARIS (Reuters) - World number one Aryna Sabalenka sealed a stylish win to make the second round of the French Open, while Naomi Osaka brought runway flair to Roland Garros, but sixth seed Daniil Medvedev unravelled on a searing Tuesday in Paris.

Reigning Paris champion Coco Gauff recovered from a sluggish start to outclass Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-0 with several Americans also progressing despite a heatwave in the French capital making conditions challenging for players and fans.

Dressed in a black-and-red mesh outfit and wearing a diamond necklace, Sabalenka dismissed Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 6-4, 6-2 win before brushing off concerns about the added flourish by saying she was completely at ease.

"I like to challenge myself," the Belarusian told reporters. "But at the same time, the dress is super light ... I don't feel the dress on me. I was thinking it's going to be super hot wearing black, but it doesn't feel like black colour on me, I feel really comfortable."

While Sabalenka set the tone, former world number one Osaka added a touch of Parisian flair as she walked onto Court Suzanne Lenglen in a se-



Naomi Osaka of Japan returns to Laura Siegemund of Germany during their first round women's singles tennis match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris, Tuesday, May 26, 2026. (AP)

quined blouse and a black mesh floor-length train before unveiling a layered yellow-brown and gold match dress.

The tennis was equally sparkling as the 16th seed overcame tricky German Laura Siegemund 6-3, 7-6(3) before hinting at the inspiration behind her match outfit.

"I feel like ... you know the Eiffel Tower at night when it's sparkly? I think I look like that a bit," Osaka said.

Daniil Medvedev has never been comfortable in the Roland Garros spotlight and the Russian crashed out 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to Australian wildcard Adam Walton for his seventh opening-round defeat

in 10 appearances at the Grand Slam.

Walton said hailing from Queensland and being comfortable in furnace-like conditions helped him prevail.

Walton was joined in the next round by compatriot Alex de Minaur, who advanced after rising Belgian Alexander Blockx was forced to withdraw with a right ankle sprain, while Alexandre Muller retired injured trailing Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 3-0.

Briton Cameron Norrie pulled out injured from a major for the first time as a rib issue meant he was unable to continue after going down 7-6 (7), 2-0.

American Learner Tien

dished out the bagels during his 6-0, 2-6, 6-0, 6-2 win over Cristian Garin, while compatriots Zachary Svajda, Emma Navarro, Iva Jovic, Claire Liu, Ann Li all went through with little trouble.

A day after French favourite Gael Monfils went out of his home Grand Slam for the final time, Parisian fans were given a glimpse of the future as teenager Moise Kouame downed 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-1.

Victory meant the 17-year-old wildcard became the youngest man to win a Grand Slam main draw match in 17 years.

Knicks finish sweep of Cavs, make first NBA Finals since 1999

CLEVELAND (Reuters) - As the clock wound down, few Cleveland Cavaliers fans could be found. The New York Knicks left them with no reason to stick around.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Knicks advanced to the NBA Finals for the first time since 1999, routing the Cavaliers 130-93 in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals on Monday night.

The Knicks extended their franchise playoff-record winning streak to 11 games -- matching the third-longest run in a single postseason in league history -- and their long-suffering supporters took over Cleveland's arena.

"Growing up in the (New York) area, I feel like the word hope has been gone for a long while, so to restore that is special," Towns said. "There is nowhere better in the world than when (Madison Square) Garden has hope."

OG Anunoby contributed 17 points and Landry Shamet scored 16 off the bench

on 4-for-4 3-point shooting for New York, which built a 29-point lead in the second quarter and went up 123-78 in the fourth.

Jalen Brunson and Mikal Bridges finished with 15 points apiece, and Josh Hart added six points, 11 rebounds and six assists. The former Villanova championship teammates relished the opportunity to win the East together.

"It's something that is surreal," Hart said. "We already share a bond and a brotherhood for life, and we're going to keep adding memories for that."

Brunson was named the series MVP for averaging 25.5 points and 7.8 assists. The Knicks have outscored their opponents by 262 points during their win streak, the most dominant span in league history, playoffs or regular season.

Donovan Mitchell logged 31 points and Evan Mobley posted 15 points and seven rebounds for Cleveland, which reached the East finals for the first time since 2018. James Harden had 12 points

and five turnovers while missing all six of his 3-point tries.

"Sometimes you've got to ultimately give the other team credit," Cavaliers coach Kenny Atkinson said. "They played great basketball and they're on a heater."

The Knicks' Mike Brown is off to the NBA Finals for the second time as a head coach, having led the Cavaliers to their first East crown in 2007. The 37-point defeat was the Cavaliers' largest ever in a playoff home game.

New York dominated the rebounding battle 60-33 with backup center Mitchell Robinson grabbing 10 boards in 18 minutes. Cleveland backup point guard Dennis Schroder was a late scratch with an illness.

Among the Knicks' celebrity fans seated courtside were comedian Tracy Morgan, filmmaker Spike Lee and actor Timothee Chalamet.



New York Knicks guard Jalen Brunson, center, holds the Eastern Conference Championship trophy after Game 4 in the Eastern Conference finals NBA basketball playoffs series against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Cleveland, Monday, May 25, 2026. (AP)

Sports

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY 2026



Jets clinch second spot in Women's D-1 volleyball league



The Jets have clinched second place in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Women's Division 1 League.

The Jets jumped from third to second place by recording their fifth win in six matches with a 3-1 victory over Hidow Caribbean Starz in their last outing at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Jets prevailed 25-15, 25-19, 22-25, and 25-20 against the Starz, who finished second from the bottom of the seven-team standings in the round-robin league after plummeting to their fifth defeat in six matches.

Cool and Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Da Squad retained the women's league title for the fifth consecutive year with a record of five wins and one loss in six matches. Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville secured third place with a similar record of five wins and one defeat in their quota of matches.

Former perennial champions Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville moved from sixth to clinch third place in the men's Division 1 league.

The Stoneville men moved up the standings by securing their fourth win

in seven games with a 3-0 victory over the Renegades in their last outing.

The Stoneville men prevailed 25-15, 26-24, and 25-12 against the Renegades, who finished second from the bottom of the eight-team standings after suffering their sixth loss in seven games.

Defending champions Zamine Shipping and ABI Insurance Pytonz retained the men's Division 1 league with six wins in seven games.

Cool and Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Da Storming Lions secured their runners-up spot with a similar record of six wins and one defeat.

The ASCSC Stingers leapfrogged GWAVA/N18 Construction Invaders 2 to clinch second place in the five-team Men's Division 2 Development League. The Stingers claimed their third win in four games by snatching a 2-1 victory over Invaders 2 in their latest encounter. The Stinger prevailed 21-25, 25-14, and 16-14 over Invaders 2, who dropped from second to finish in third place after losing for the second time in four matches.

Chargers Momentum won the title in the five-team men's Division 2 league

with an unbeaten record of four wins in as many games.

Chargers Falcon captured the title in the five-team women's Division 2 league with a perfect record of four wins in as many matches.

Chargers Eagles 2 claimed second place ahead of the Dynasty Queens, who took third place, after both teams finished their campaigns with identical records of two wins and two losses

in their quota of four matches.

The top four teams in both men's and women's Division 1 leagues will compete for the President's Cup championships, which will commence at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, June 1.

Defending Women's Division 1 champions and top seed Da Squad will face off against fourth-seed Chargers Eagles 1 at 7 pm. Defending Men's Division 1 champions and top seed Pytonz will meet fourth-seed Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz at 8 pm.

The other opening-round President's Cup matches will take place during another double-header at the YMCA on Tuesday, June 2.

The second-seeded Jets will tackle third-seed Stoneville in the women's President's Cup at 7 pm. The second-seeded Da Storming Lions will clash with third-seed Stoneville in the men's President Cup at 8 pm.

The winners of all first-round ties will advance to their best-of-three finals in both divisions to determine this year's President's Cup champions.