

# PM BROWNE DELIVERS SOLUTIONS-PACKED ADDRESS TO UNGA

*Story on Page 2*



**Festivals  
commission  
unveils 43rd  
Independence  
celebration  
logo, more  
- Page 9**

**Antigua and Barbuda**  
FROM COMMUNITY COLLABORATION  
TO GLOBAL GAINS

# Local News



## PM Browne delivers solutions-packed address to UNGA

Prime Minister Gaston Browne delivered a wide ranging address to the United Nations General Assembly on Friday where he not only highlighted many of the problems that humanity faces, but he offered well-thought out solutions to these problems.

In a 20-minute address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where he delivered the country's National Statement, PM Browne did not mince his words as he drew attention to the stark realities that now confront the world from climate change, debt crisis, the plastic pollution, wars and conflicts, the failures to keep world temperature rise to agreed limits, to guns entering the countries of the region, and the continued, unjustified economic embargo against Cuba, and the need for reparatory justice among



others.

"Today, we all stand at the edge of a precipice. Never before has humanity been confronted with such stark choices: to end wars or condemn humanity to endless suffering; to eliminate poverty or watch millions starve; to act on climate change or doom future genera-

tions to a scorched planet.

"The choices we make today - here in this Assembly and in every institution of governance - will shape the survival of entire nations and the future of our world," he stated.

On the critical issue of climate change, PM Browne drew attention to the role the use of fossil fuel plays in this regard. He noted that while climate change is causing havoc for many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), oil producing countries are awash in extravagant profits.

"We must fight to end this madness, in protection of our planet and in the interest of humanity. We need a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, to halt the reckless destruction of our environment, to end fossil fuel subsidies and

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## Antigua and Barbuda proposes UN conference on small arms, and staging of music festival of peace

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is proposing two major events for the United Nations to undertake in the coming year; a special high-level meeting to discuss small arms and light weapons and an international music festival focusing on peace.

The issue of the importation of small arms and light weapons into countries of the Caribbean such as Antigua and Barbuda is a major cause of concern given the rise in gun-related crimes in the country. Just last week, the police reported that from January to September this year, they have confiscated 47 firearms, and over the week at least two more were seized.

"I wish now to address the grave issue of small arms and light weapons (SALW) that are routinely exported from wealthy nations to our shores, creating havoc and instability," the prime ministers remarked in his National Statement to the UN General



Assembly on Friday.

He continued, "I call on the United States and other small arms and light weapons producing countries, to put systems in place to curb the exportation of these lethal weapons to our shores. They are causing immense harm.

"This issue is now emerging as a public health epidemic among SIDS, to the extent, that I hereby make the call for a High-Level Meeting at the 80th UNGA, to debate the threats of these weapons to peace and security and to devise solutions."

He added that Antigua and Barbuda cannot remain silent as innocent lives are destroyed and generations are condemned to fear and hatred.

Turning to the increased tensions in the Middle East with the threat of a further escalation of the war between the Palestinians and the Israelis as well as the Russian-Ukrainian war, PM Browne reported that on September 17th, inspired by the Secretary-General's impassioned call for peace, he wrote to the Secretary General

al proposing an initiative that transcends borders, language, and conflict.

"With that letter, I transmitted a Concept Note, setting out a proposal for holding International Music Concerts for Peace, across every region of the world.

"This initiative is intended not only to raise our global voices in a unified chorus against the horrors of war and other conflicts, but also to raise critical funds to support displaced persons and those who continue to suffer," he explained.

He noted that music is a universal language as it speaks to the soul in ways that words cannot.

"In moments when words fall short, music carries our collective cries for peace and justice. This would be more than a performance. I call on all nations large and small, to support the concept of International Music Concerts for Peace," he emphasized.

*cont'd from pg 2*

to chart a course toward a sustainable future, with a negotiated and graduated transition.

"Let COP29 be the moment we draw a line in the sand. Let it be known – we can no longer afford the luxury of delay," he suggested.

Additionally, the prime minister said while it is recognized that fossil fuels still play a role in the energy security of many countries, and it is not expected that their production will

cease overnight; he has suggested a bold move for these countries to help pay for the damage caused by climate change.

"It is only fair and just that these companies pay a global levy to fund mitigation efforts and compensation for the damage they continue to inflict," PM Browne recommended.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader also made an urgent appeal for international action to end plastic pollution noting that mankind is 'drowning in a

sea of plastic pollution' that is choking the earth's oceans and devastating its biodiversity.

"It is no longer a question of if we act, but how swiftly we can mobilize against this threat. Our nations must commit to a binding treaty, as required by UNEA Resolution 5.14, to put an end to plastic pollution and safeguard our world's most fragile ecosystems.

"Let us not allow this tightening suffocation of our planet to continue," PM Browne urged.





## High-Ranking Indian official to visit St. John's next week

One of the highest-ranking Indian government officials to visit Antigua and Barbuda will pay a two-day visit to the country starting on October 6.

An announcement from the Indian capital, New Delhi, revealed that Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita (MoS) will pay an official visit to Mexico (30 September – 2 October 2024), Grenada (2-4 October 2024), Barbados (4-6 October 2024) and Antigua and Barbuda (6-8 October 2024).

In Mexico, MoS will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of H.E. Dr. Claudia Sheinbaum as the President of Mexico on 1st October 2024.

MoS' visit to Grenada would mark the first Ministerial-level visit from India since May 2018 and second

ever such visit to the country.

In Barbados, he would be visiting places of bilateral interest.

In the last leg of his visit, MoS will be in Antigua and Barbuda where he would hold bilateral meetings.

MoS' program during his four nation visit would include meetings with Foreign Ministers; interaction with key political, trade and industry leaders, ITEC alumni members and Indian diaspora; and visit to bilateral project sites.

The visit underscores the deepening of relationship between India and Latin America and the Caribbean. It is expected to bolster political, economic and cultural ties, and pave the way for greater collaboration with India's partners in the Global South.

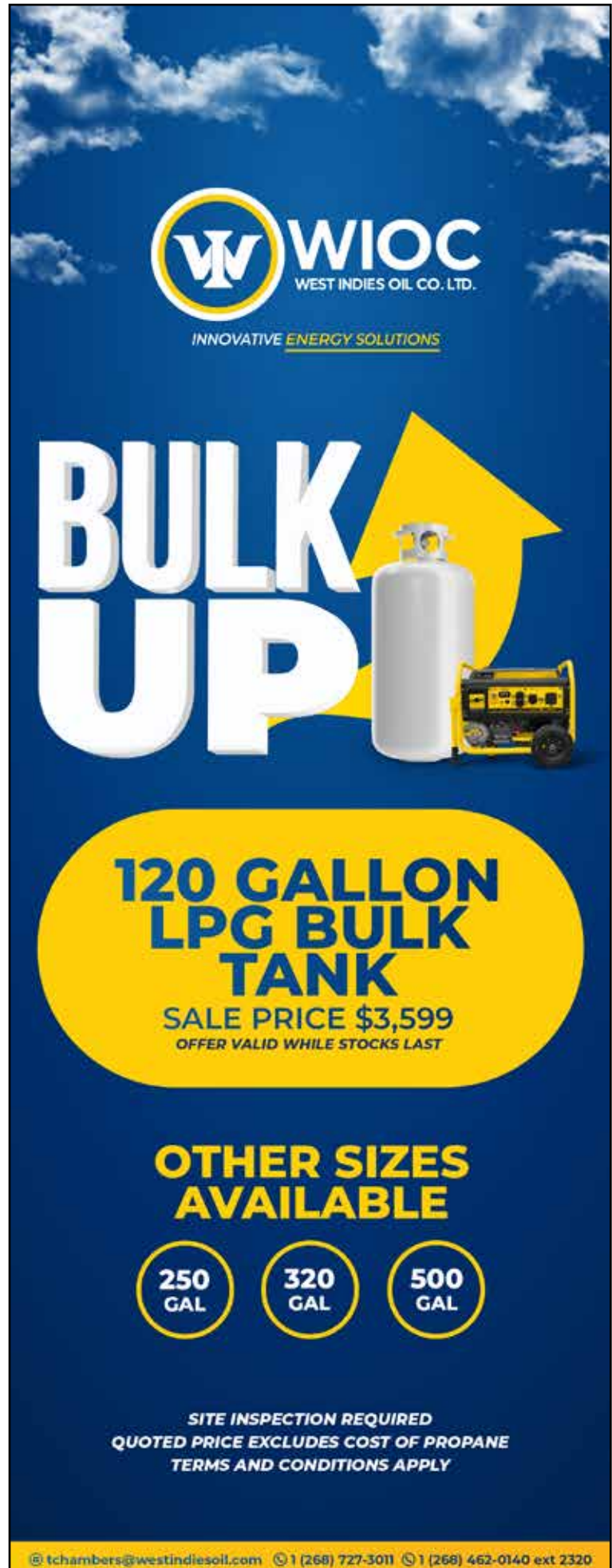
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the police. We will not leave any stones unturned in our determination to make our schools safe places for those who want to learn and who teach there," he declared.

Among the measures that will go into immediate effect are; additional security guards at the school to include the monitoring of the rear of the school, and the use of metal detectors which are already in possession of the school.

"Up with this we will not put!" the director stated emphatically.

He said the school will resume regular operations as both the ministry and the faculty work hand in hand to bring some measure of normality to the institution despite the experiences of last Friday.



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## Sir Richie Richardson immortalized with publication of his biography

Antigua and Barbuda cricketing icon, Sir Richie Richardson's life and achievement are the subject of a new publication written by former Principal of the UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor Densil Williams.

The book – Richie Richardson by Densil Williams – is the latest publication in the Caribbean Biography Series, produced by the UWI Press.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams who participated in the official launch of the book last Friday, said the book brings together the strengths of two incredible Caribbean sons:

Sir Richie, whose legacy in cricket has inspired millions and Professor Williams, whose academic prowess has helped to document and preserve this legacy for generations to come.

Sir Rodney described Sir Richie as one, who like Sir Vivian Richards, carried the expectations of a region on his shoulders "Yet, while Sir Viv was known for his explosive style, Sir Richie embraced a calm, composed and measured approach. His wide-brimmed maroon hat became iconic, symbolizing his resistance to wearing a helmet, and his resistance to fear." Sir Rodney observed.

Author of the book, Prof. Williams noted that



he recognized that the UWI Press's Caribbean Biography Series had focused on academics, activists and others but had left out sports icons. Recognising too, that sports play a critical role in the lives of Caribbean people, he drew this omission to the attention of the Prof. Funso Aiyejina (the late editor of the series) and together they decided on the selection of Sir Richie to be a part of this important series.

"The text of this publication really does justice to



Sir Richie, in the sense that it starts a process of documentation, not only of the life and work of Sir Richie Richardson, but the lessons

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*cont'd from pg 6*

to be learnt from this humble giant who loves country, loves family, but more importantly, loves humanity,” he stated.

Prof. Williams described the process of producing the book that included several interviews with Sir Richie over a two-month period which generated over ten thousand pages of materials. This created a problem as he was given a strict guideline of not more than 25-thousand words as the length of the book. He then had to ‘collapse’ all this material to fit the word limit that he was given.

The author said he was however pleased to sit down with Sir Richie in the production of the book as the cricket icon was eager to tell his story.

“Today, what we have is a product, of what I think is a marvelous story. It is a story that is not only inspirational, but inspiring; it’s a story worth reading. I’m saying that because it’s a genuine story; a story



of someone who has gone through what we often describe as ‘from rags to riches’. Richie’s journey was one that he was willing to document and tell, but not for fame, he had that already, or anything like that, but because he wanted to leave some lessons for those left behind,” he remarked.

Also speaking at the launch were the current principal of UWI Five Islands, Prof. C Justin Robinson and Education Minister, Daryll Matthew.

Minister Matthew penned a poem as a tribute to Sir Richie which is attached here.



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# Local News



## TRIBUTE TO SIR. RICHIE RICHARDSON

BY

HON. DARYLL S. MATTHEW

MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPORTS, AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

### “A Tribute to Sir Richie Richardson”

To Sir Richie Richardson, a name so grand,  
A titan who graced both sea and land,  
Bat in hand, head held high,  
With every stroke, he touched the sky.

From the pitches of Antigua to cricket's grand stage,  
Your presence, Sir Richie, transcended age,  
You led with calm, with style, with grace,  
In cricket's book, you etched your place.

Under that broad-brimmed hat, so cool, so true,  
You faced the fire, the world watching you,  
When fast balls came, you stood your ground,  
A warrior's heart in every pound.

Captain, mentor, legend, and friend,  
Your leadership made the game transcend,  
You took the West Indies to higher height,  
A beacon of hope, a Caribbean light.

But more than runs, and centuries grand,  
You were a humble, noble man,  
Respected on field, adored off too,  
A gentleman in all you'd do.

The youth today still chant your name,  
Inspired by your passion, your love for the game,  
For Richie, you showed us what could be,  
With hard work, heart, and dignity.

So as we pay tribute, we stand and say,  
You gave us pride in every way,  
Sir Richie Richardson, forever a star,  
In cricket's heaven, you shine afar.

The boundaries you broke, the dreams you grew,  
We thank you, Sir Richie, for all you do,  
Your legacy lives, it will never fall,  
For you, Sir Richie, gave it all.





## Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission unveils schedule, logo, and theme for 43rd Independence celebrations

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC), under the auspices of the Ministry of Creative Industries, is pleased to announce the official schedule of events, along with the logo and theme for this year's 43rd Anniversary of Independence.

The logo, designed by the Visual Echo team, captures our nation's unified spirit. The ABFC Commissioners, after extensive collaboration in developing various theme options, ultimately chose and finalized "Antigua and Barbuda: From Community Collaboration to Global Gains".

The Honourable Darryll S. Matthew, Minister of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, emphasized the theme's significance, stating, "Community collaboration is key to overcoming the challenges we face as a nation.

"We must look out for one another. United efforts will yield extensive benefits and set the stage for Global Gains."

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chair of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, highlighted the theme's importance, remarking, "This year's em-

phasis on collaboration signifies our evolution beyond being just a small island state. We can attain global achievements through part-

nerships with our partners and stakeholders. Ambassador Makhoul went on to say, "As we mark our 43rd year of political independence,

I urge everyone to support and participate in the Independence celebration from October 23rd to November 1st."



The poster features the national coat of arms at the top left, followed by the text "ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA" and the theme "FROM COMMUNITY COLLABORATION TO GLOBAL GAINS". Below this is a large graphic of the number "43" with a sunburst, and the text "YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE". The main title "SCHEDULE OF EVENTS" is prominently displayed. At the bottom left is the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission logo. The right side of the poster lists the events for each day from October 23rd to November 1st, with dates and days of the week in large numbers and colors, and event details in smaller text.

Date	Day	Event	Location	Time
23	WED	BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES	Barbuda	ALL DAY
23-24	WED - THU	BUSINESS DECORATIONS COMPETITION		
24	THU	NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY	Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium	8:30 AM
		CHEERLEADING, SPECIAL DRILLS, AND DJ COMPETITIONS	Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium	11:30 AM
25	FRI	NATIONAL DRESS DAY	Nation Wide	ALL DAY
		WREATH LAYING CEREMONY	Heroes Park, Sir Sydney Walling Highway	10:00 AM
		INDEPENDENCE STREET FAIR & DANDAN SHOW	Redcliffe Street (between Corn Alley & Market Street)	12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
26	SAT	NATIONAL HEROES DAY		
		NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA	Antigua Port Authority Parking Lot	6:00 PM
		TICKETS: CHILDREN \$10   ADULTS \$20		
27	SUN	INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE	Spring Gardens Moravian Church	4:00 PM
28	MON	GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS	Various Communities throughout Antigua and Barbuda	ALL DAY
29	TUE	NATIONAL FLAG DAY	Nation Wide	ALL DAY
		FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS	St. Anthony's Secondary School Auditorium	8:00 PM
30	WED	SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMMES	All Schools	8:00 AM
31	THU	EVENING OF THE ARTS	Multipurpose Cultural Centre	8:00 PM
1	FRI	INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY - BARBUDA	Barbuda	8:00 AM
		INDEPENDENCE FOOD FAIR	Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium	7:30 AM - 10:00 PM
		INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL PARADE	Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium	5:30 PM





## ABRSC stage successful evening of entertainment

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission successfully staged an African-themed dinner and evening of entertainment on Saturday night as it sought to provide a social setting for Africans living in the country with nationals where they could ‘break bread’ together.

The event was held at the Atlantic View restaurant of the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute and it was well supported by an audience highly appreciative of an occasion that

provided good food, entertainment, including a fashion show by Miranda Askie Designs in an atmosphere of fun and relaxation.

“The ABRSC is extremely grateful to the many persons who came out in support of its Gala Dinner in recognition of Africa-Caricom Day 2024. It was a night of flavor, flare and enjoyment. The large turn out by citizens of several African countries who are resident in Antigua and Barbuda, made the evening a true celebration of the strong links between Africa and the Caribbean. The ABRSC will endeavor to make

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this event an annual celebration of our African ancestry and heritage,” ABRSC secretary Ambassador Anthony ‘Mamba’ Liverpool stated.

Music was provided by Antigua Dance Theatre Drummers and Harmonites Steel Orchestra.

During the evening a number of door prizes were drawn, but the night be-

longed to the best-dressed male and female award winners. The best dress male was Samuel Angmor and the best dressed female was Barbara Hesse-Merchant.

Patrons expressed their delight with the enter evening and there have been several requests made to the ABRSC to hold a similar event in the not too distant future.







## Over 600 job-seekers attend ABHTA's Hospitality Job Fair

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) says more than 600 job seekers attended its Hospitality Job Fair, held on World Tourism Day 2024 (September 27), celebrated under the theme of fostering peace and prosperity through tourism.

In a statement, the ABHTA said the event provided a significant platform for the job seekers to connect with 28 leading employers in the hospitality industry.

"World Tourism Day underscores the critical role that tourism plays in global economic development, serving as a cornerstone for peace through employment creation. For Antigua and Barbuda, where tourism is the main economic driver, the ABHTA remains



committed to providing opportunities for job seekers to enter the hospitality sector. The job fair, which ran from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, created an ener-

getic environment of hope and growth for both employers and participants," the statement noted.

Craig Marshall, Chairman of the ABHTA, shared his excitement over the impressive turnout and the professionalism displayed by young job seekers. "I was particularly pleased to see a large number of young people, some as young as 19, who came well-prepared, eager to engage in meaningful conversations about their future in the hospitality industry. It's heartening to witness their enthusiasm, and we are proud to provide this platform for them to start their careers," he stated.

*cont'd on pg 13*





## Belmont woman charged with fraud

Police have arrested and charged 21-year-old Keithesha Edwards of Belmont for fraud.

She is accused of fraudulently converting the sum of \$4,800 entrusted to her for box money to her own use. The offence reportedly occurred between November 1, 2023 and June 9, 2024 at St Mary's Street. She is expected in court sometime this week.

Last Friday, the police announced that they had taken into custody two women following reports that they had separately defrauded several individuals for whom they held 'box

money' and failed to pay when the time for payments was due.

The fate of the second person, a woman from Pottery, is not immediately

known as the police continue their investigations in the two incidents.

Meanwhile, the police are advising members of the public to ensure they carry

out their due diligence and background checks on persons who are holders "Box Hands", before getting involved in these types of financial transactions.

### Four charged with possession of illegal firearms, drugs, ammunition

Police arrested and jointly charged 41-yr-old Jowato Gino Athill of Clark's Hill and 33-yr-old Adiva Collins of Clare Hall with unlawful possession of eleven .32mm rounds of ammunition, possession of five 9mm rounds ammunition, and possession of one hundred and two .22mm rounds of ammunition.

Meanwhile, 28-yr-old Jeson Cedeno of Liberta and 24-yr-old Kamiyah Daniel of Villa for were jointly charged with unlaw-

ful possession of one Glock 9mm Pistol, possession of four 9mm rounds of ammunition, possession of 183 grams of Cannabis, and possession with intent to sell. Both men were further charged with possession of 83 grams of cannabis, and possession with intent to sell.

The police executed search warrants on their properties last Friday and seized the illegal items. They are due in court Monday.

*cont'd from pg 12*

In addition to exploring job opportunities, job seekers had the chance to discuss educational paths in hospitality. Representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands

Campus were present to engage in discussions about educational programs and training opportunities. These interactions offered participants insight into how furthering their education could complement their career aspirations and enhance their potential in the industry.



"Employers were equally impressed by the level of preparedness and the positive energy brought to the fair by attendees. Many highlighted how this generation of job seekers is poised to make a meaningful impact on the industry. The ABHTA is grateful to its members, financial and educational institutions for supporting this initiative and looks forward to working with its members to embrace young talent and harness their skills and creativity to drive the future of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry," according to the ABHTI.

The statement noted that with tourism serving as the engine of Antigua and Barbuda's economy, events like this showcase the potential for young people to contribute to peace and prosperity by engaging in meaningful work. The ABHTA says it remains committed to supporting the next generation of hospitality professionals and creating a robust workforce that will propel the industry forward.

# PM UN message



## Statement by The Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Corporate Governance and Public Private Partnerships of Antigua and Barbuda at the General Debate of the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of The United Nations General Assembly

Mr. President  
Secretary-General  
Distinguished Delegates

Today, we all stand at the edge of a precipice.

Never before has humanity been confronted with such stark choices: to end wars or condemn humanity to endless suffering; to eliminate poverty or watch millions starve; to act on climate change or doom future generations to a scorched planet.

The choices we make today - here in this Assembly and in every institution of governance - will shape the survival of entire nations and the future of our world.

For small states like Antigua and Barbuda, these are not distant realities. They are existential threats.

Our islands are on the frontlines of a climate catastrophe we did not cause; a debt crisis we did not create, and conflicts in which we have no part.

And yet, we suffer the heaviest toll. The world is at a pivotal point, and inaction is no longer an option for any of us.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are the first to suffer, but we will not be the last. All will be consumed, if we continue to dither and delay.

SIDS have learned to fight for our survival against the rising seas and violent storms.

But today, we must also fight for something greater: the survival of justice, of equity, peace and human dignity itself.

The time for games and lofty rheto-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

ric has passed. We demand committed, concrete action and we demand it now! We do so not only for ourselves, but for all of humanity.

The Fourth United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), is the pinnacle of monumental achievement, a milestone that marks not only our collective progress as SIDS, but also our unrelenting resolve. SIDS4 gave birth to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, the (ABAS) - a renewed declaration for resilient prosperity.

This Agenda is not just a roadmap for the future; it is a lifeline for now.

For SIDS, the ABAS represents the difference between thriving and perishing; it's our road map to a prosperous future.

At its core is the SIDS Centre of Excellence, built by SIDS, for SIDS. This center is intended to be more than just an institution; it is an instrument for

meaningful change; a center for ground breaking technologies, revolutionary processes and pioneering solutions.

With its Global Data Hub, Innovation and Technology Mechanism, Island Investment Forum and Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS); the Centre of Excellence can transform how we adapt to our vulnerabilities, and set a path for resilient prosperity.

However, this vision cannot succeed in isolation. We need the cooperation and support of the global community to ensure its success.

Without global cooperation, our hope of a secure future within our own countries will crumble under the weight of inaction.

That is why, today, I call for the unwavering commitment of the international community to the Centre's success. Our survival depends on it.

Mr. President,

*cont'd on pg 15*



*cont'd from pg 14*

Climate change is not an abstract, or academic threat. For my people, and the people of SIDS, it is a persistent and destructive reality.

Intense hurricanes are now an annual terror. Coastal erosion is wiping away our productive areas for tourism and agriculture.

The climate crisis is not on the horizon. It is here, now, burning through our ecosystems, flooding our villages, and leaving us with fewer tomorrows.

And yet, we find ourselves at an absurd situation: continuing to subsidize the very industries that are accelerating our destruction.

Fossil fuel companies have become the architects of our demise, while generating ostentatious profits for their owners.

We must fight to end this madness, in protection of our planet and in the interest of humanity.

We need a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, to halt the reckless destruction of our environment, to end fossil fuel subsidies and to chart a course toward a sustainable future, with a negotiated and graduated transition.

Let COP29 be the moment we draw a line in the sand. Let it be known – we can no longer afford the luxury of delay.

While we recognize that fossil fuels still play a role in the energy security of many countries, and we do not expect their production to cease overnight; we should



not support companies extracting oil and gas to continue generating extravagant profits at the expense of our planet. It is only fair and just that these companies pay a global levy to fund mitigation efforts and compensation for the damage they continue to inflict.

This is not a punishment. It's climate justice. It is a moral and legal responsibility in which the polluter pays. And the time for action is now.

While we face the climate emergency, we are also drowning in a sea of plastic pollution, that is choking our oceans and devastating our biodiversity.

It is no longer a question of if we act, but how swiftly we can mobilize against this threat.

Our nations must commit to a binding treaty, as required by UNEA Resolution 5.14, to put an end to plastic pollution and safeguard our world's most fragile ecosystems.

Let us not allow this tightening suffocation of our planet to continue.

Distinguished Delegates,

Antigua and Barbuda, in concert with other Small Island Developing States, has played a leading role in the pursuit of climate justice.

At COP26 in 2021, together with Tuvalu, we established the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law.

Today, an expanded membership from the Caribbean and the Pacific, stands united in our demand for accountability.

In 2022, the Commission sought the first-ever advisory opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, on the obligations of states to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

In May of this year, the Tribunal rendered a historic opinion, affirming that major polluters are under a legally binding obligation to protect the oceans - and by extension, Small Island States - from catastrophic harm.

This precedent sets the stage for the advisory proceedings now before the International Court of Justice, initiated under the leadership of Vanuatu, with the

co-sponsorship of Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS.

It is remarkable that the smallest nations, are those driving this global response to the greatest threat to human survival. Yet, despite our efforts, the COP process continues to fail us.

Instead of limiting global warming to 1.5°C - an essential threshold for survival - the world is hurtling towards a disastrous 2.8°C rise.

This is nothing less than a death sentence for Small Island States, but it is also a harbinger of grief for the rest of our planet.

We must demand that major polluters not only respect their obligations under international law, but also compensate us, for the loss and damages we have suffered.

Those who preach about a rule-based international order must now lead by example.

Rules must apply equally to all, including the mighty; not just to the poor and powerless.

At COP29, we expect no further delay in the capitalization and operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, for which we have struggled so long and so hard. Equity and fairness demand it.

Mr. President,

The fight for survival is not just about climate - it is also about financial justice, reparatory justice, other injustices and equity.

The international financial system is skewed, out-

*cont'd on pg 16*

# PM UN message



*cont'd from pg 15*

dated, and unjust - punishing the most vulnerable while rewarding the already rich and prosperous with favorable terms for their financial instruments.

For too long, small states like mine have been shackled by debt we did not cause; debt that arose from recovery spending on recurring disasters that are beyond our control.

We cannot achieve climate justice without addressing the structural inequities in the International Financial Architecture.

It is time to lift the burdens that keep us bound to the past and unable to invest in our future.

The SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service is a critical mechanism that can provide tailored solutions, utilizing debt for climate swaps, debt relief, repurposing of SDRs and carbon pricing funding to help us escape the cycle of unsustainable debt.

This is not charity - it is the justice of financial inclusion.

And in the end, by remedying past injustices, it will establish a world, that is fairer, more just and more at peace with itself.

Excellencies,

The adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which Antigua and Barbuda was honoured to help advance in this organization, offers a path towards correcting the imbalance of unjust treatment accorded to small and vul-



nerable nations.

It is a vital tool, designed to acknowledge the complexities we face - not just in terms of limited economic capacity and other structural vulnerabilities and a lack of resilience, but also in our exposure to myriad external shocks.

International Financial Institutions must act on this, integrating the MVI into their policies to ensure that support is targeted where it is needed most.

The work has been done; the case has been made; the arguments are irrefutable.

There can be no just and sustaining reform of the World Bank, other IFI's and multilateral banks without their effective implementation and use of the MVI.

There can be no legitimate excuse for failing to utilize the MVI. As I said before, the arguments for its use are irrefutable and just.

Mr. President,

These initiatives, which SIDS have taken, are a small component of the wider and more fundamental necessity for reform of the International Financial Architecture, to provide greater funding ac-

cessibility and better terms to include lower interest rates and longer maturity transformations.

They are part of the wider need for change, to effectively address the historic imbalances against SIDS, including financial exclusion.

The international financial institutions, and the nations that sit on their controlling boards, must develop bespoke funding instruments that meet the needs of small vulnerable states and other developing countries, taking into consideration their vulnerabilities and lack of resilience.

Mr. President,

We must also recognize that the principles of justice and equity we champion here, apply equally to all nations and are conditions precedent for a peaceful world.

In this spirit, Antigua and Barbuda calls for the end of the designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism and for the lifting of the long-standing, senseless embargo that has restricted its economic development.

The time has come to cast off the chains of this

outdated measure, which no longer serves the interests of our modern, interconnected world.

Let us work together toward a future built on mutual respect and cooperation, where Cuba, like all nations, can fully participate in the global community.

This is not a matter of politics; it is a matter of fairness and human dignity.

The delegitimization of governments based on ideological differences, utilizing mis-information and disinformation including atrocity propaganda, serves no useful purpose, but creates unnecessary tensions and conflicts.

Let's embrace and respect our differences, standing in solidarity with each other in defense of global peace and prosperity.

Excellencies,

I wish now to address the grave issue of small arms and light weapons (SALW) that are routinely exported from wealthy nations to our shores, creating havoc and instability.

I call on the United States and other small arms and light weapons producing countries, to put systems in place to curb the exportation of these lethal weapons to our shores. They are causing immense harm.

This issue is now emerging as a public health epidemic among SIDS, to the extent, that I hereby make the call for a High-Level Meeting at the 80th UNGA, to debate the threats of these weapons to peace and secu-

*cont'd on pg 17*



## Math intervention needed urgently

By Derrick Nicholas

It is rather disturbing to encounter students, especially at the secondary school level who are still struggling with foundational concepts in mathematics. What is even more disturbing is that some of these concepts should have been mastered well before secondary school.

It is therefore not difficult to understand why Antigua and Barbuda continue to underperform in Math at the Caribbean Secondary Examinations Certificate level. The vast majority of students – in particular those in the public schools – are either under prepared or ill-equipped to write these exams.

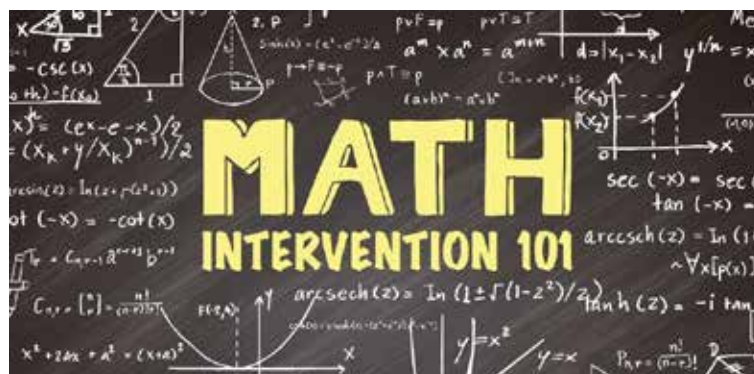
How else would you describe the situation when concepts such as arithmetic and problem solving are lacking or not yet mastered? On what basis is a student 'promoted' to secondary school and not being able to solve basic arithmetic prob-

lems? Or not yet versed on their multiplication tables?

There is an urgent need for a complete overhaul of how math is taught, if we are to expect better outcomes in the future. Firstly, there needs to be a recognition that there is a crisis in mathematics.

Secondly, the Ministry of Education needs to implement measures aimed at strengthening how math is taught at the early stages of a student's academic journey. This has to be buttressed with continuous assessment, with the requisite intervention at the time.

The goal must be to ensure that students are ready for the challenges of secondary school, and mathematically literate. At the same time, there needs to be an overhaul of the secondary schools' program with ongoing assessment and appropriate interventions. These interventions should also include the integration of available technology in



the classroom.

Another key aspect of this overhaul is the meaningful engagement of parents. It is parents who have to provide assistance with math homework. We have to recognize that some parents are themselves unable to provide the kind of support that is necessary for their child. Additionally, establishing community learning hubs with access to resources and tutoring would help students who lack support at home.

Additionally, math teacher development has to be prioritized and seen as part of this overhaul in the delivery of mathematics instruction. The Ministry of

Education should therefore devise ways to provide incentives for math teachers, such as scholarships for advanced degrees or recognition for excellence. These could go a long way to help in retaining and motivating those dedicated to improving math outcomes in Antigua and Barbuda.

Of course, this recommendation would be incomplete if it did not seek to hold teachers and schools accountable for their performance. Finally, the Ministry of Education may want to consider hiring some (private) Math tutors on a temporary basis while they seek to implement all of the above recommendations.

*cont'd from pg 16*

rity and to devise solutions.

Antigua and Barbuda cannot remain silent as innocent lives are destroyed and generations are condemned to fear and hatred.

The events unfolding in the Middle East, particularly the conflict between Israel, Hamas, and Hezbollah, are deeply troubling.

The violence is destabilizing the entire region and reverberating across the world. Every missile fired, every life lost, deepens wounds already too

many to bear. The violations of international humanitarian law are alarming.

We call on all parties to end the suffering, by sitting down at a table of peace, where sincere negotiations can lead to a lasting solution.

We believe that the only sustainable resolution is the creation of two sovereign states, with borders respected and rights upheld.

It is time for the people of this region - and all conflict zones, to end these conflicts and to give peace a chance.

From Gaza to Sudan, Ukraine to Yemen, the scars of conflict run deep, leaving devastation in their wake. The anguish of families torn apart by war reverberates across the globe, and it is our collective humanity that bleeds.

Conflict kills the victims of bullets and bombs, but it also diminishes all mankind.

On September 17th, inspired by the Secretary-General's impassioned call for peace, I wrote to him proposing an initiative that transcends borders, lan-

*cont'd on pg 18*

# Regional News



## CARICOM reaffirms support for Albert Ramdin to post of OAS Sec General

CMC - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has reaffirmed its unwavering support for the candidature of Albert Ramdin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname, for the post of Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States (OAS) for the period 2025-2030, at elections to be held in March 2025.

During a sitting of the Twentieth Special Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), the regional body said it recognises the Organisation of American States as a vital institution for promoting peace, security, democracy, development, and human rights in the Americas.

"The Organisation has played a crucial role in advancing regional co-operation, addressing common challenges, and fostering a shared vision for the Western Hemisphere," the Guyana-based secretariat said in a



Minister of Foreign Affairs Albert Ramdin. press release.

The body said Ramdin's distinguished regional and international leadership roles, "coupled with his diplomatic acumen, demonstrated competence, and unwavering dedication to the OAS, where he served two terms as Assistant Secretary-General, renders him the ideal choice to guide

the Organization towards a future characterised by strengthened collaboration and enhanced dialogue among Member States."

"We are confident that his firm commitment to the principles and purposes of the OAS Charter and to working collectively, will build a more united and prosperous Hemisphere."

*cont'd from pg 17*  
guage, and conflict.

With that letter, I transmitted a Concept Note, setting out a proposal for holding International Music Concerts for Peace, across every region of the world.

This initiative is intended not only to raise our global voices in a unified chorus against the horrors of war and other conflicts, but also to raise critical funds to support displaced persons and those who continue to suffer.

Music is a universal language. It speaks to the soul in ways that words cannot.

In moments when words fall short, music carries our collective cries for peace and justice. This would be more than a performance.

It would be a global appeal, a powerful demonstration that peace is not just an ideal - it is an absolute necessity; a survival imperative for this and future generations.

I call on all nations large and small, to support the concept of International Music Concerts for Peace.

Mr. President,

The world is crumbling under the weight of crises - poverty, wars, pandemic and

the climate devastation. We are at a defining moment, and the choices we make now will determine the fate of every nation, large and small.

We can end these grave challenges, but it requires more than words. It demands decisive, concrete, unified action.

Antigua and Barbuda, like all small states, does not stand on the sidelines.

We stand on the principles of peace and love for our common humanity and in the path of struggle against these global predicaments we did

not create.

Yet we fight not just for ourselves, but for a world where justice reigns, where peace endures, and where future generations inherit not a planet in peril; but one that prospers.

The world must act now, for the choices we make today will resonate through history.

Let us choose peace. Let us choose justice.

And let us choose the survival of our one human race, in our one homeland - the planet Earth.

Thank you.



## CARICOM Chair addresses UN on resilience and cooperation

Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell's address to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, positioned small island nations as leaders in climate resilience and calling for stronger international partnerships to combat global challenges.

Speaking as both the leader of Grenada and the Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Mitchell emphasized the urgent need for action on climate change, a crisis that small island nations like Grenada are experiencing firsthand. "We in the Caribbean have for those who are looking to adapt to climate change is simple: Learn from us," Mitchell urged, inviting the international community to partner with Caribbean nations and learn from their experiences on the front lines of climate change.

The Prime Minister highlighted innovative approaches to disaster preparedness and recovery that Grenada and other Caribbean nations have developed, including financial tools like the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility. These initiatives, born out of necessity, offer valuable lessons for global climate adaptation efforts.

Mitchell's speech was deeply rooted in the concept of resilience, which he



Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell delivers his address to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. (Photo: Office of the Prime Minister)

described as "not merely a buzzword – it is the definition of daily life" for the 16 million people in the Caribbean Community. Drawing from his personal journey from a small village in Grenada to the UN podium, Mitchell illustrated how resilience has shaped not only his path but that of the entire region.

Education emerged as a key theme in Mitchell's vision for building resilience. He emphasized Grenada's commitment to providing free education up to age 18 and stressed the importance of digital education in preparing youth for the global economy. "Digital education — and digitisation more broadly — is a

priority for our government because we know that if we want to build future resilience in the next generation of young people, we need to prepare them with the relevant training now," Mitchell explained.

The Prime Minister also addressed pressing regional issues, calling for the removal of Cuba from the US list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and an end to the decades-long economic blockade. Regarding Haiti, Mitchell stressed the need for international support to address the country's acute food insecurity and security challenges.

In a powerful call to action, Mitchell urged developed nations to fulfill their

promise of \$100 billion in climate adaptation and mitigation support. He emphasized that this partnership requires concrete financial backing to help rebuild with greater resilience. "We are asking for more than just financial aid. We are looking for partnerships where we can work together on climate adaptation," Mitchell stated.

The Grenadian leader concluded his address with a vision of resilience that goes beyond mere survival. "Resilience is not just about surviving a storm—it is about ensuring that, together, we emerge from it stronger, more united, and more understanding of each other than ever," he said.

## Thirty killed in one county after hurricane swamps North Carolina

At least 30 people have died and scores more are unaccounted for in just one county in North Carolina, after Hurricane Helene tore across the state and caused catastrophic flooding.

A clearer image of the damage the storm inflicted after barrelling through Florida and Georgia emerged throughout Sunday, with Buncombe County appearing to be the hardest hit area.

"We have biblical devastation," said Ryan Cole, an emergency official in the county, which contains the mountain city of Asheville. "This is the most significant natural disaster that any one of us has ever seen."

At least 105 people have died nationwide since the hurricane made landfall in Florida on Thursday, according to the BBC's US partner CBS, and that figure is expected to rise as officials reach more areas.

Helene began as a hurricane - the most powerful on record to hit Florida's Big Bend, and moved north into Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. The majority of deaths have been confirmed in North and South Carolina where Helene landed as a tropical storm.

On Sunday evening, officials in North Carolina said 30 people had died in Buncombe County alone. Crews across the state are battling power and mobile



Hundreds of roads remain closed across North Carolina, with some open only to the emergency services.

service outages, downed trees and hundreds of closed roads.

Some residents returned to find their homes entirely destroyed on Sunday. And with some 1,000 people still unaccounted for in Buncombe County, relatives are working to locate family members with limited mobile service.

"This storm has brought catastrophic devastation... of historic proportions," North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said.

The American Red Cross has opened more than 140 shelters for those in south-eastern states who evacuated their homes. More than 2,000 people are currently using the shelters, the organisation said on Sunday.

Erin Quevedo, the owner of a flooded salon in Buncombe County, spoke to The Asheville Citizen Times while ankle-deep in mud.

"The salon was completely destroyed. It looks

like the water came up to about five feet inside," she said. "Right now, all we're doing is we're trying to salvage what we can."

Rescue operations are ongoing in North Carolina and supplies, including food and water, are being delivered by air to affected areas that cannot be reached due to closed roads.

"People are desperate for help and we are pushing to get it to them - [it is] a massive effort," Governor Cooper said.

The North Carolina National Guard has rescued more than 119 people - including one infant, according to Major General Todd Hunt. He said the largest rescue was of 41 people north of Asheville.

Many petrol stations are closed throughout North Carolina with long queues of cars at those that are still open. Meanwhile, the few open supermarkets have been crowded by customers attempting to buy bottled water.

The damage from the storm is estimated at between \$95bn and \$110bn (£71bn-£82bn) nationwide. The scale of the destruction will become clearer in the coming days.

The search for survivors is ongoing and federal emergencies have been declared in six states, including Florida and Georgia.

"The devastation we're witnessing in Hurricane Helene's wake has been overwhelming," President Joe Biden said on Saturday.

He was briefed by Deanne Criswell, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), who he directed to speed up support to storm survivors, including deployment of extra teams to North Carolina.

Although Helene has weakened significantly, forecasters warn that high winds, flooding and the threat of tornadoes could continue.

There could be as many as 25 named storms in 2024, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warned earlier this year.

Between eight and 13 of those storms could develop into hurricanes and a handful already have including Helene. More storms could be on the horizon, officials warned, as the official end of hurricane season is not until 30 November.



## People 'jump from roof to roof' as floods kill 148 in Nepal

Major floods and landslides in Nepal have killed at least 148 people and injured more than 100 across the Himalayan nation, police have reported.

They say more than 50 people were still missing on Sunday, after two days of intense rainfall which inundated the valley around the capital, Kathmandu. About 3,600 people have been rescued so far.

Residents say they "jumped from one roof to another" to escape rising waters, which have flooded thousands of homes. Meanwhile, crews continue to carry out rescues on helicopters and inflatable rafts.

Despite rain being forecast to continue through to Tuesday, there were signs of some easing on Sunday.

Some residents were able to return to their mud-caked homes, while others are still cut off with major roads between towns and villages still blocked.

But flash floods and landslides have caused a growing number of deaths.

At least 35 bodies have been recovered from vehicles buried under landslide in Prithvi Highway, near Kathmandu, police officials say.

Most major motorways connecting Kathmandu with the rest of the country remain blocked in multiple places by landslides.

Five people, including a pregnant woman and a four-year-old girl, died when a house collapsed under a landslide in the city Bhaktapur, to the east of Kathmandu, state media reported on Saturday.

Two bodies were removed from a bus buried by a landslide in Dhading, west of Kathmandu. Twelve people, including the driver, were said to be onboard.

Six football players were also



Police rescue stranded people using a zipline in Lalitpur, Nepal.

killed by a landslide at a training centre operated by the All Nepal Football Association in Makwanpur, to the south-west of the capital.

Others have been swept up in the floodwaters. In one dramatic scene, four people were washed away by the Nakkhu River in the southern Kathmandu valley.

"For hours, they kept on pleading for help," Jitendra Bhandari, an eyewitness, told the BBC. "We could do nothing."

Hari Om Malla lost his truck after it was submerged by water in Kathmandu.

He told the BBC that water had "gushed" into the cabin as the rain intensified on Friday night.

"We jumped out, swam, and got away from it - but my purse, bag and mobile have been swept away by the river. I have nothing now. We stayed the whole night in the cold."

Another person, Bishnu Maya Shretha, said the scale of flooding was more extreme this season.

"We had run away the last time, but nothing happened. But this time all the houses were flooded.

"As the water levels rose, we had to cut the roof and get out. We jumped from one roof to another and finally reached a concrete house."

Government spokesman Prithvi Subba Gurung told the state-run Nepal Television Corporation the flooding had also broken waterpipes, and affected telephone and power lines.

According to state media, 10,000 police officers, as well as volunteers and members of the army, have been mobilised as part of search and rescue efforts.

The Nepalese government urged people to avoid unnecessary travel, and banned driving at night in the Kathmandu valley.

Air travel was also affected on Friday and Saturday, with many domestic flights delayed or cancelled.

Monsoon season brings floods and landslides every year in Nepal.

Scientists say, though, that rainfall events are becoming more intense due to climate change.

A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, while warmer ocean waters can energise storm systems, making them more erratic.

# Sports News



## Sandals extend unbeaten run in Business Basketball League

Sandals have ended the unbeaten run of H. Wright Promotions in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League.

Sandals maintained their perfect record by recording their sixth win with a 67-61 victory against H. Wright Promotions in a top-of-the-table clash during a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

T-Shawn Lewis had 18

points and seven rebounds, Kim Casey sank 13 points, and Selassie Brathwaite scored 12 points for Sandals.

Jevonte Valerie had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Humroy Wright got 18 points and five rebounds for H. Wright Promotions, who suffered their first loss after winning all previous five games.

The Board of Education and Richie's Shooters won the other two games on Saturday. The Board of Educa-

tion secured their third win in four outings after snatching a 68-65 victory against Eye Mobile Vision Care.

Xavier Meade produced 22 points and seven rebounds, and David Hernandez had 18 points and seven rebounds for the Board of Education.

Tehran Zachariah sank 16 points, and Dominick Anthony converted 10 points for Eye Mobile Vision Care, which suffered their fourth loss in five matches.


Richie's Shooterz claimed their second win in three games with a commanding 84-63 victory against defending champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Cohen Desouza produced 22 points, 12 rebounds, four assists, and four blocks; Sean Nicholas scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; Tavarus Benta had 13 points and nine assists; Kwame Brathwaite contributed 10 points, nine rebounds, and seven steals; and Ariel Quallis chipped in with 10 points, seven assists, and five steals for Richie's Shooterz.

Marlon "Buju" Charles produced 18 points, nine rebounds, five assists, and five steals; Devorn Benjamin converted 14 points, and Ishaan Peets scored 13 points for the Transport Board, which lost for the third time in five encounters.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday (today).

Lava Smoke Shop will take on Richie's Shooterz at 6:30 pm, Christos Supermarket United will face Sledge O'Ballers at 7:30 pm, and the Antigua and the Barbuda Transport Board will meet the Antigua Power Company at 8:30 pm.




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The Antigua and Barbuda senior national women's netball team at the 2024 ECCB International Netball Series at the Beausejour Indoor Facility in Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

## Antiguans claim third win at International Netball Series

Antigua and Barbuda's senior female team recorded their third win in six matches at the Fourth Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series in St. Lucia on Saturday.

Antigua and Barbuda trounced Montserrat 63-17 at the Beausejour Indoor Facility in Gros Islet.

Goal shooter Reyana Regis sank 43 of her 55 attempts, goal attack Amey Lake converted 14 of her 18 shots, and goal shooter Kizzy Hughes scored six of her nine attempts for Antigua and Barbuda.

Goal shooter Juana Osborne sank 14 of her 23 shots for Montserrat, which suffered their sixth loss in as many games.

Antigua and Barbuda had suffered their third loss in their previ-

ous encounter, a 31-56 defeat against guess-team, the Cayman Islands.

Goal shooter Kay Copeland converted 26 of her 34 shots, goal attack Meleshia Josephs sank 22 of her 27 attempts, and goal attack Rose Wilson scored eight of her 10 shots for the Cayman Islands, which notched up their fourth win in six matches.

Amey Lake sank 15 of her 21 attempts, goal attack Tashana Bloomfield converted 10 of her 11 shots, and Kizzy Hughes scored five of her six shots for Antigua and Barbuda.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines notched up two more wins to extend their unbeaten run to six wins in as many matches.

The Vincentians beat the Cayman Islands 56-41 and romped to an emphatic 101-15 victory against

Montserrat.

Defending champions Grenada also secured two more victories to boast a record of five wins in six matches. The Grenadians prevailed 56-46 against hosts St. Lucia, which lost for the second time in six outings.

Grenada also claimed an emphatic 95-11 victory against Anguilla.

The Commonwealth of Dominica recorded their second win in six matches with a convincing 77-28 victory against Anguilla, which suffered their sixth loss in as many games.

St. Lucia claimed their fourth win in six games with a 63-37 victory against the Commonwealth of Dominica, which lost for the fourth time in six matches.

# Sports News



## Warriors beat Kings to reclaim top spot in CPL

The top two sides in this year's Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) clashed in Providence on Saturday, with the reigning champions the Guyana Amazon Warriors clinching a 35 run victory against their nearest rivals at the top-of-the-table, the St. Lucia Kings.

The Warriors captain Imran Tahir won the toss and elected to bat on home turf in Guyana. The daytime match wicket was thought to be a tricky one for free scoring, but the Warriors put on a confident display, breaching the 200 mark to finish on 207 for seven from their 20 overs.

Shai Hope, with 56 off 31 balls, including five sixes and two fours, and Player of the Match Shimron Hetmyer, who top-scored with a 30-ball 58 that had nine fours and a solitary maximum, led the way for the Warriors.

David Wiese captured three for 43, Noor Ahmen took two for 26, and Antiguan pacer Alzarri Joseph claimed two for 39.

Faf du Plessis, with an unbeaten 92 off 59 balls batted through the entire



Shimron Hetmyer, left, and Shai Hope added 85 off 51 for the third wicket for the Guyana Amazon Warriors in their CPL match against the St. Lucia Kings in Providence, Guyana, on Saturday, Sep 28, 2024. (CPL T20/Getty Images)

inning, and at various stages he looked to be suffering from cramps as the Kings failed to chase down the target to finish on 172 for seven off their 20 overs.

It was a true captain's knock from the South African, who smashed seven fours and four sixes in over an hour and a half at the crease. Sadly for him, no other King's bats-

man could stick around long enough to give a better fight.

Only Alzarri Joseph, who hit 25 not out off 21 balls, allowed du Plessis to have some solidity at the other end, and he set about hauling his side to a more respectable total and making sure that their net run rate was not too badly damaged.

Finishing on 172 and

batting out all of their overs in the end, the 35-run loss marked an achievement of sorts for the Kings after it earlier looked like they would lose by a much larger margin. Imran Tahir had two for 20, Moeen Ali took two for 21, and Gudakesh Motie claimed two for 27. With the win, the Warriors reclaimed the top spot in the standings on 14 points.

# 2024

## MATCH SCHEDULE

TUE 1 OCT
ELIMINATOR - 3<sup>RD</sup> v 4<sup>TH</sup>
7:00 PM GUYANA



## Pooran breaks Rizwan's T20 record

Trinidadian wicketkeeper-batter Nicholas Pooran has etched his name in T20 cricket history by surpassing Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan for the most runs scored in a calendar year in T20 cricket.

Pooran achieved this milestone on Friday, September 27, during the 2024 Caribbean Premier League (CPL), where he scored 27 off 15 balls for Trinbago Knight Riders in a match against Barbados Royals at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

Pooran, 28, has accumulated 2,059 runs in T20 cricket in 2024, eclipsing Rizwan's previous record of 2,036 runs set in 2021.

While Rizwan reached his total in 45 innings at an average of 56.66 with one century and 18 fifties, Pooran has achieved his record-breaking tally with a faster strike rate of 160.63 compared to Rizwan's 132.03.

Pooran's runs have come from across the globe, representing several franchises such as Durban Super Giants, Lucknow Super Giants, MI Emirates, MI New York, Northern Superchargers, Rangpur Riders, Trinbago Knight Riders,



Nicholas Pooran

and the West Indies.

Despite his prolific run-scoring, Pooran is yet to notch a century in 2024, though he has come close with multiple scores in the 90s. He has, however, managed to rack up 14 fifties, underlining his consistency and ability to score quickly across formats.

His overall average for the year stands above 42, solidifying his place as one of the most dangerous batsmen in T20 cricket today.

Pooran's remarkable feat comes as no surprise, considering his explosive form in recent months. In the 2024 CPL alone, he has already amassed 312 runs from nine innings at an av-

erage of 39, with two fifties and an impressive strike rate of 175.28.

His aggressive style of play and ability to take apart bowling attacks has been a standout feature, making him a key player in all his teams. This is the third time Pooran has crossed the 1,000-run mark in T20 cricket in a calendar year, having previously achieved the milestone in 2019 and 2023.

His consistency in the shortest format of the game has solidified his reputation as one of the world's top T20 batsmen.

In comparison, Rizwan's record-breaking year in 2021 saw him playing for

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Multan Sultans, and Pakistan, while Pooran's 2024 exploits have spanned various leagues and teams. The two players' contrasting styles are evident, with Pooran's superior strike rate emphasizing his power-hitting abilities.

Pooran currently leads the T20 run charts for 2024 by a significant margin, with South Africa's Reeza Hendricks in second place with 1,555 runs from 47 innings, followed by Pakistan's Babar Azam with 1,480 runs from 35 innings, and Australian opener Travis Head with 1,442 runs from 39 innings.

Pooran's record-breaking achievement was capped off with Trinbago Knight Riders securing a 30-run victory over Barbados Royals, further cementing his role as one of the most influential players in the ongoing CPL season.

**cont'd from pg 26**

challenge for supremacy in the super seniors' category.

After winning the overall title at the 2022 event in St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda were unable to make a successful defense of their crown last year, as they

were dethroned by St. Lucia, who captured the overall team title.

Host St. Kitts and Nevis captured the runners-up position at the 2023 Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship, which was held at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Course at Frigate Bay.

## ABGA names Antigua and Barbuda squad for ECGA championship

The Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association (ABGA) has selected an 11-member squad in its quest to regain the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship this weekend.

Antigua and Barbuda will be seeking to improve on its third-place finish at last year's event in St. Kitts when the ABGA hosts the Eastern Caribbean Golf Association (ECGA) tournament at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on October 5 and 6.

Tedson Weatherill and Marquise George are the only two returning players of Antigua and Barbuda's men's team that was first in net at last year's tournament in St. Kitts. Weatherill will also be defending the men's individual net title this weekend.

The other two players in the 2023 men's team, Siyolo Joseph and Wilston Charles, have been replaced by Marlon George and Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph.

Only two players of the Antigua and Barbuda three-member ladies team that was first in net last year will be carrying the nation's flag at this weekend's event.

Alexandria "Lexi" Hunte and Akevia Warner will represent the ladies team. However, Katherine Woodhouse, who was the other player on last year's team, is not a mem-



The Antigua and Barbuda ladies team that finished first in net at the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championships at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Course at Frigate Bay in St. Kitts on October 7-8, 2023. From left: Akevia Warner, Lexi Hunte, and Kathrine Woodhouse. (File Photo)

ber this time around.

Two players of the three-member Antigua and Barbuda Seniors Team that claimed a second-place finish in Gross last year will also be returning.

Marcus Franker and Eldine "Soca" Baptiste have been retained, but Algernon Anderson Wynter has

been replaced by Wilston Charles on the seniors' team.

Antigua and Barbuda has also retained its two-member Super Seniors team that was first in net last year.

Wesley Dyer and Vere Ambrose will once again carry the nation's

*cont'd on pg 25*