



NEW AIRPORT ON BARBUDA SET TO OPEN ON OCTOBER 3

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From left: Lady Roberts, Governor General's Deputy Sir Clare Roberts, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin and Prime Minister Gaston Browne at the officers' dinner celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force. *(More photos on page 11)*

Local News



October 3 is the date for the opening of new airport on Barbuda

October 3 is the date for the opening of the new international airport on the sister island of Barbuda.

The announcement comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who also announced that arrangements are also being made to take as many Antiguans as possible over to the sister isle for the event.

He said LIAT 2020, Calvin Ayre Helicopters, and the two aircraft owned by the ABDF Air Wing, Air Force One and Air Force Two will be utilized to take people over to Barbuda for the



opening.

“We will have a number of assets on the ground and I will also add that the opening of the airport, the new Arthur Nibs International Airport will take place on October 3, 2024. That is a firm date,” he stated and in

the process revealing that the name of the airport, to honour the contributions of the former representative, Arthur Nibs, now awaits confirmation from the Cabinet.

Based on the number of persons who have so far indicated a desire to travel to

Barbuda for the opening exercises, it is anticipated that the ferry service between both islands will also be used to help transport people to Barbuda.

Meanwhile, the prime minister has announced that the government is negotiating to purchase a third aircraft for the ABDF Air Wing.

“This one will be used for executive charters that will take senior officials of government and the private sector to regional meetings and other such engagements,” he disclosed.



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Youth gang members and parents; the next engagement

The government has announced follow-up plans to make lasting peace between warring gangs in the country in a programme that will result in the rehabilitation of their members.

Following successful interventions by a team of concerned citizens led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, a truce has been reached between two of the notable gangs, the Grays Farm Killers and the 2Drilly gang of the Point/Villa area.

The prime minister and the team of individuals met separately with each group one week apart, which led to a meeting between both groups last Thursday at the People's Place. It was at that meeting where after some encouragement and cajoling by the team that included reformed activist, Mitchell Jeremiah and the ABLP caretaker for the St. John's Rural West constituency, Michael Joseph, eventually brought about an easing of the tension which finally led to both sides agreeing to an immediate truce and a cessation of hostilities.

Following on the agreements so far, Prime Minister Browne said the next step is a meeting with members of the two gangs along with their parents to ensure that the agreements reached are long-lasting and to help steer the young men into more productive pursuits.

"We are putting in place a programme for sustainable

engagement; I would say in a week or so we will have a forum with them and their parents.

In fact, this was a recommendation made to us by one of the parents who has two sons who are members of the gang, who she told not to attend for fear that the meeting last Thursday would have descended into chaos. She told Luther Lee (another member of the PM's interventionist team) that such a meeting would be critical to have the parents involved in efforts

to maintain the peace," the prime minister reported.

He revealed that the Ministry of Social Transformation has also been contacted to be part of the discussions at the next engagement. "A more comprehensive programme is being established to address the issues and to implement the strategies as agreed to on a sustainable basis," PM Browne announced.

The prime minister acknowledged that while progress has been made, it is too soon to be celebrating on the

belief that all the issues have been resolved. "We have an agreement for a truce, which we hope will last, but it is going to take continuous work to keep the peace. So, we are not under any illusion here; we are not telling the people of Antigua and Barbuda that we have solved the gang problem," he emphasized.

The date and venue for the meeting involving the ministry of social transformation with parents and gang members have not yet been determined.

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Michael Joseph: Gang intervention averted much bigger problems for society

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party’s caretaker for the St. John’s Rural West constituency, Michael Joseph, who is part of the team that has been mediating between gang members in an effort to end all hostilities between them, is commending the prime minister highly for his decision to get personally involved in the process.

This as there has been a backlash by some who have utilized social media to criticise the prime minister for engaging with what they saw as ‘criminal elements’.

“Many people have failed to give the prime minister the credit that he deserves; some are saying that he holds the highest office in the land and ought not to be meeting with gang members, that he should not stoop to

meet with criminals. But these aren’t criminals, these are young individuals who were lost or misguided and needed direction. If that intervention did not take place, we would have created such a negative environment for these young men that they would have turned into those who are now engaged in the armed robberies and other criminal acts taking place in the society,” he stated.

In response to the negative comments, Joseph asked rhetorically, if not the prime minister then who?

He noted that the fact that the prime minister, with all his other matters of state with which to contend, took time to meet with the gangs, sent a clear message that even the highest office in the land cared about the gang



Michael Joseph

members and wanted a more positive path for these young men.

Additionally, both Joseph and PM Browne stated that there is a distinction to be made between members of the gangs and those individuals who are engaged in the armed robberies.

“The only crime that these guys are guilty of is the chopping up of each other. They are not the ones involved in the other crimes as far as our information suggests,” Joseph noted.

The aspiring representative also brought attention to what he termed as the ‘numbing’ of feelings towards the gang members borne out of a feeling of indifference and a lack of empathy.

“It’s easy when you live in the east or other areas of the island when you don’t understand the challenges these youngsters face growing up in communities such as Grays Farm or the Point/Villa where you don’t understand what it means to live in a household with multiple siblings with a single parent and not enough food or attention which many others take for granted,” he observed.

It’s easy, he added, to stay far away and be critical but these are individuals like others in society who are in need of attention and perhaps most importantly, ‘love’.



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Materials, skilled labour shortages frustrate National Housing

The National Housing and Urban Renewal and Development Company, more commonly known as National Housing, has expressed frustration with its inability to deliver completed homes on time to customers because of the severe shortages of building materials and skilled labour in the country.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, Executive Chairman of the company, Senator Rawdon Turner, said this problem is so acute that National Housing has been forced to place a temporary halt on starting any new homes.

This has led to a serious backlog where individuals have received approval from their banks for houses through National Housing but who have had to wait for in excess of a year, in some cases, for their homes to start.

“The problem we have been facing is a shortage of materials and we also need more skilled labourers. We currently have about 112 houses under construction and because we cannot get materials fast enough to get these homes completed we have been forced to put a temporary pause on starting new projects because we don’t want to take anyone’s money and then because of



Senator Rawdon Turner

these issues we find ourselves logging behind of schedule, thus compounding our problem,” he stated.

According to Sen. Turner the plan now is to get the current projects to a stage where they are much more advanced before starting new projects.

One of the problems that the National Housing and other contractors are facing is the severe shortage of cement where when the product arrives, it is rationed to customers as the agents seek to satisfy as many persons as possible as there is often not enough to meet the demand.

Turner said the building boom now taking place in the country is largely responsible for this situation.

He is promising that by the start of the new year, National Housing will be in a position to resume the construction of new homes.

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Local News



Dr. Edmond Mansoor joins ABLP, marking significant departure from UPP

Antigua and Barbuda is witnessing a seismic shift in its political landscape as Dr. Edmond Mansoor, a long-standing member of the United Progressive Party (UPP), has officially joined the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party. This move comes as a significant loss for the UPP, with Dr. Mansoor having devoted over 30 years of service to the party.

Dr. Mansoor's departure follows the recent exit of another key member, the Hon. Anthony Smith, Member for All Saints West. The loss of these prominent figures raises concerns about the UPP's future and its ability to retain its influential lead-

ership. Having served as a minister in the Office of the Prime Minister in 2005, Dr. Mansoor was responsible for Broadcasting, Information, and Telecommunications. His dedication to enhancing communication infrastructure in Antigua and Barbuda played a crucial role in the nation's technological advancement. During his tenure, he spearheaded several key initiatives, including the GATE ICT program, which aimed to improve access to technology for students, and the introduction of the innovative Internet buses that traveled across the island, providing internet access to remote communities.



Dr. Edmond Mansoor

As a senator, Dr. Mansoor was instrumental in shaping UPP's strategies and innovations, contributing significantly to the party's policy development and overall direction. His expertise in telecommunications and public service positioned him as a leader and

visionary within the party. The UPP now faces an uphill battle to maintain its influence, with the departure of such prominent figures and the continuing exodus of key members. The political community and citizens alike are closely monitoring the evolving situation as the UPP rallies to address these challenges.

As Dr. Mansoor embarks on this new chapter with the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, the implications of his decision will undoubtedly resonate throughout the political arena, prompting questions about the future direction of the country's opposition, the UPP

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Mother and son held for violating immigration laws

A Jamaican woman and her adult son are currently being held by Immigration officials for violating provisions of the Passport and Immigration law of Antigua and Barbuda.

The son, Sanjaye Kumar Morgan, was in custody of immigration officials when he escaped lawful custody on Sunday around 6:00 am. He was apprehended on Saturday for being in the country illegally and was being held to be brought before a magistrate when he escaped from the immigration detention centre on the Sir George Walter Highway. However, his time at large was short-lived as he was recaptured



Susan Stephenson

several hours later.

During the search for Morgan, the immigration officials apprehended his mother, Susan Stephenson, who is now being held for failing to regularize her status in the country since 2020.

One immigration official said those who aided



Sanjaye Kumar Morgan

and abetted Morgan or any other person on the run from the immigration department will bear the full brunt of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Both mother and son are expected in court on Monday for a hearing prior to their deportation from the state.



Damian Crump

Wanted man surrenders to police

Damian Crump of Bathlodge whose name was posted in a Wanted Bulletin by the police, surrendered to the police on Sunday.

On Friday, the police posted the bulletin for Crump, noting that he was wanted for questioning in relation to several 'serious offences'. He was described as 5ft-6ins tall, has a fair complexion, and weighs approximately 167 pounds.

According to the police reports, he surrendered at St. John's Police Station on Sunday, September 8. He was accompanied by members of his family.

Police are continuing investigations into several offences in which he is suspected to be involved.

The police expressed thanks to the media and the general public for their continued support and assistance.

Deandre Britton is latest fatal accident victim

Police are continuing investigations into a fatal accident on Sir Sydney Walling's Highway that resulted in the death of 24-year-old DeAndre Britton of Skerritt's Pasture.

The allegations are he was travelling from West to East on the said road when he apparently lost control of the Silver Toyota Brevis motor car he was driving.

The vehicle collided with a tree on the Southern side of the road in the vicinity of Factory Cricket Grounds.

The Jaws-of-Life was used to extricate the driver from the wreckage. He was pronounced dead at 5:51 am. The incident occurred around 4 am on Saturday September 7.

Meanwhile, the police continue to appeal to drivers to be extremely cautious when driving on the roads, and to drive within the speed limits. The Police Administration is also expressing condolences to the family of the deceased.

TRAFFIC NOTICE

In an effort to ease the traffic congestion on Hilda Davis drive, the traffic commissioner has decided that the portion of road between Dickenson Bay Street and Rowan Henry Street will be made a one-way street, travelling in a southerly direction ONLY leading to the Princess Margaret School, Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 7:00 am – 4:00 pm ONLY.

We wish to inform parents of students attending the Princess Margaret School and the general public that as of Monday 9th September, 2024, NO ENTRY will be allowed on Hilda Davis drive from Dickenson Bay Street. Motorist are asked to be guided accordingly.

Africa-CARICOM Day



Statement by PM Gaston Browne on Africa-Caricom Day 2024

Fellow citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean Community and Africa, I bring greetings and best wishes for a productive future as we commemorate Africa-Caricom Day 2024.

It was the late Marcus Mosiah Garvey who once said, “If we as a people realized the greatness from which we came we would be less likely to disrespect ourselves.”

This statement is a powerful reminder to all of us that we are a special people with a magnificent ancestry that has contributed to human development and growth in ways that we cannot begin to imagine. Therefore, we need to be prouder and more respectful of our heritage, culture, family and nation.

As we come together as members of the Caribbean Community to celebrate our economic, political and social relationships with countries of the African continent on September 7th, I want to recommit Antigua and Barbuda to its pledge made in 2021, at the historic Caricom-Africa Summit, to strengthen collaboration,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

unity and to foster increased trade, investment and people-to-people engagement between our two regions.

The reorganisation of LIAT 20/20 and its current operations out of Antigua and Barbuda with flights to St. Lucia, Barbados, and Dominica is testimony of my government’s commitment not only to ensure the survival of LIAT, but to be bold and innovative in our efforts to partner with the Nigerian based airline ‘Air Peace’.

It remains my government vision that LIAT 2020 and the Air Peace alliance will serve to foster greater trade relations between the continent of Africa and the Caribbean Community.

As a signatory to the African Ex-

port-Import Bank (AfrieximBank) my government is committed to foster cooperation and engagement in trade, investment, technology transfer, innovation, tourism and culture.

Strengthening relations with the African continent should not only be viewed as a strategic economic or political initiative, but as a right for a people of African descent to reconnect, engage and reclaim our heritage.

It is for this reason that my government since 2014 took the bold step and made diplomatic appointments to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union Organisation, to enhance diplomatic relations.

I take this opportunity on this special occasion to reiterate Antigua and Barbuda call for the establishment of a Caricom – Africa Joint Commission and to further strengthen cooperation in mass media and information sharing between both regions.

I extend best wishes for the continued economic development and social growth of the countries and people of CARICOM and Africa.

Happy Africa-Caricom Day, 2024

Statement by Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission on Africa-Caricom Day, 2024

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission recalls the 2021 inaugural Africa-Caricom Summit held under the theme ‘Unity across continents and oceans: opportunities for deepening integration’. Our prime minister Gaston Browne was then chairperson of CARICOM. The summit was staged with the objective ‘to reaf-

firm the bonds of ancestry and friendship between Africa and CARICOM and to build a foundation for lasting robust socio-economic and political engagements as well as partnerships between the two regions for a collective prosperous future’.

The Summit recalled the spirit and vision of Pan-Africanism championed by

African and Caribbean forefathers during the late 1800’s and throughout the nineteenth century – primarily led by West Indians such as Hon Marcus Garvey - that energized the independence movements on the continent and in the Caribbean. As early as the first Pan-African conference of 1900, our leaders affirmed the unity and common aspirations of

all African people - at home and on the continent – and demanded a fairer more inclusive global order.

That challenge to the developed world for a more equitable global order now includes the demands for both climate and reparatory justice. Our AU-CARICOM leaders have recognised ‘the need to foster increased trade, investment, air trav-

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Message from the Caricom Reparations Commission On Africa-Caricom Day

The CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) joins in celebrating Africa-CARICOM Day on 7 September 2024 and welcomes the opportunity to honour the shared history and strong bonds of culture and ancestry that bring Africa and the Caribbean Community together. The groundbreaking Inaugural Summit of African and CARICOM Heads of Government held in September 2021 agreed to recognize 7 September as Africa-CARICOM Day and also articulated a vision for the development of a united Global Africa, with emphasis on people to people connection, increased trade, investment and travel between the two regions.

The spirit of Pan-Africanism continues to shape, guide and inspire CARICOM-Africa relations and the work of the CRC. The Commission's Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice has inspired new initiatives to facilitate the reconnection and resettlement in Africa of African descended people from the historical diaspora. The Commission's initiatives have also brought new awareness of the reparatory justice agenda on the African continent, for the crimes perpetrated by European colonizers for over 300 years, of the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved Africans, chattel slavery and genocide of indigenous people in the Caribbean. There is an outstanding debt to be paid



CARICOM REPARATIONS COMMISSION

for systemic exploitation, extraction of wealth, pain and suffering.

The Commission recognizes education is a cornerstone of our shared future with Africa and encourages through the Ten Point Plan, academic exchanges, joint research initiatives, educational partnerships and scholarships, to help bridge the knowledge gap and promote a deeper understanding between Africa and her diaspora. Culture is another priority area for collaboration and repair. The development of cultural institutions and the return of cultural property to many countries and communities in Africa, such as the return of the sacred Ngadji of the Pokomo Royal Kingdom, Kenya which has been held in the British Museum for over 100 years, is an issue with which the Commission is in full support and solidarity.

We celebrate the richness and diversity of African and Caribbean heritage and creative industries and recognize the profound contribution and impact of African cultural expression on the common heritage of the global community in built heritage, classical and popular culture.

Through the platform of Africa-CARICOM Day, the Commission continues to champion the cause for reparatory justice and highlight the critical need for CARICOM and Africa to act in concert in advancing the compelling joint claim for reparatory justice. The Commission therefore welcomes the designation by the African Union of the theme for 2025 as "*Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.*" Reparations is a rallying cry and call to action globally to restore the dignity of the victims and their descendants, dismantle structural racism and provide redress for systemic injustices and inequality.

The Commission hereby issues a strong call for the observance by the United Nations of a Second International Decade for People of African Descent as the current Decade comes to an end this year and calls on Africa and her diaspora to come together with firm resolve to claim their right to reparatory justice.

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el, maritime shipping links with a view to realize greater economic integration and enhanced people to people contact between Africa and the Caribbean, and to this end committed to establish a multilateral air services agreement, to conclude an agreement to abolish double taxation, and to review the

requirement for travel visas, and establish regular weekly direct flights between African and Caribbean regions.

This is the journey we are on. This is the journey that regional and African organizations like CARICOM and the African Union and commissions like the ABRSC the network of non-governmental organi-

zations urge our leaders to complete – in the interest of providing better lives for the peoples they lead

ABRSC has declared September as Africa Caribbean month and invites all to join us in a host of activities we will stage during this month where we will share in celebration both the aspirations that the Af-

rica-CARICOM partnership maintain and the advances which it has yielded.

Our September events include a symposium on the 18th themed ...; the continuation of our 'get-to-know Africa/CARICOM' on the 27th and an AfricaCaribbean-dress dinner on the 28th. We seek public support for these events.

Photo Essay



Church service marking the opening of Police Week 2024



Photo Essay

ABDF 43rd anniversary celebrations



Cock-a-doodle-do

By Tony Deyal

One of my colleagues on Facebook posted, “Kakamega woman sent away after eating chicken part meant for husband”.

The story was that of a 32 year-old woman in Matungu which is (wait for this) in Kakamega County, Kenya. My first thought was asking, “Kenya believe this?” Unfortunately, the men in Kakamega don’t joke when it comes to their rights, and sometimes, when they are as angry, their fists as well.

Men in Kakamega have exclusive rights to eating drumsticks and gizzards and when the man’s wife ate his, he sent her packing. In other words, he preferred the chicken to the chick.

What made me even more interested is that, immediately after the Kakamega kicked out his wife from the marriage, the online group, Medium Daily Digest, came up with ‘ASAP Fables Online: Timely Parables Abbreviated for a Busy Age’ by Philip Heckman in Jane Austen’s Wastebasket. I took a look.

One was ‘The Gyre Down Under’ in which a flash flood created a raging vortex that sucked a platypus from her poorly built riverbank burrow into an irresistible death spiral.

The moral of the story was, “A clockwise path that does not always lead to clockwisdom. Try the other

way around.”

There were other “morals” about animals like the Grasshopper, Millipede, a Snake Who Stripped, a Dung Beetle who collected fine art, and ‘The Ass in the Window’. The Ass, after a drunken night of living up to his reputation, found himself locked out of his house.

Trying to enter through a window, he became stuck - head in and tail out. The next morning, his neighbours cheerfully declined to free him, preferring to face his stink rather than his stupidity.

I thought of going further with the Ass as a jack of all trades, but it was not my trip. I am not so assiduous that I would spend time on an asteroid or an ass-to-ride, for that matter. I decided to haul my ass for another story I liked more – a Cock and His Comb.

A cock was so proud of his brightly coloured comb that he strutted around the barnyard all day showing it off. When the other animals’ responses failed to satisfy him, the Cock crowed all night, demanding their round-the-clock adulation.

In the morning, the angry, sleepless farmer beat the noisy Cock soundly, then delivered his lifeless body to the cook. Even though the Cock was behaving like Donald Trump, and I expected the moral of the story to follow suit, I was



Tony Deyal

wrong. I even assumed that the response would be like the ancient bald man who still carried his old comb in his pocket wherever he went.

He just couldn’t part with it. In this story, the moral was “Coq au vin is the sincerest form of flattery. Coq au vin (rooster/cock with wine) is a French dish of chicken braised with wine, lardons, mushrooms, and optionally garlic.”

I was so surprised that I decided to go online to see what the original ‘Cock’ story was. As we say in some of the Caribbean countries, “Who tell me to do that?”

I found a page with “My first ... And favourite cock”, then “Seeking a cock for the first time” followed by “My favourite cock” and even, “My Best Friend’s Cock”.

When I looked closer, I was stunned and embarrassed. I found myself in ‘Literotica’ which is a free erotic fiction website with 2.5 million people.

I definitely did not make it 2.51 and, after clearing my head, I headed back to where the air was clear, crisp and rarefied.

In the process, I found that the language was very context dependent. If you say, “That a beautiful looking cock” versus “The cock crows” or “The cock fight was bloody and vicious”, in the first one, most people would probably laugh and think of sex.

The others (for the most part) would know that you were talking about the animal. However, you can’t always be sure.

A truck driver was speeding down a country road and ran over a rooster. Being an honest man, he walked to the farmhouse and knocked on the door. An old man opened the door. “Sir”, the trucker said, “I would like to replace your rooster.” “Suit yourself,” the old man said. “The chickens are out back.”

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In fact, it could be worse. One friend, having asked me what was my topic for this week, immediately responded when I told him it was about cocks: “What’s the difference between a joke and three cocks? My sister can’t take a joke.”

At this point, I walked away, crossed the street to get away from him, and yet he shouted at me laughing at my behaviour, “Why did the rooster cross the road?” He answered himself, “So Tony could prove he isn’t a chicken!”

A few other people stopped to listen and my friend was happy like pappy, “Answer me, why did the rooster cross the road for the second time?” My friend gave us the answer, “Tony leave me and went across because he saw a sign that says, ‘Chicken strips for a dollar’.”

Then he added loudly, “And you know that Tony went back again. He heard there were some pretty hot chicks

at KFC!” I shouted back, “Don’t lie. I crossed the road because I wanted to see a chicken strip!”

Then I added, “But I bet you don’t know why the rooster went back across the road?”

My friend had turned his back and was leaving quickly. As he started running, I let him have it, “Which day of the week do chickens hate most?” Then I shouted, “A Fry-day! And you are like the real rooster who ran away. He was chicken and you are worse than one!”

Had my friend actually spoken to me about roosters and treated both me and the animals with the respect we both deserved, I would have told him why I found them worth having.

Sports medical physicians recommend rooster-comb injections as an affordable alternative to costly, risky knee surgery.

The total average cost for a knee replacement in the United States is somewhere between \$15,000 and

\$75,000. The average cost of a complete rooster comb injection is just over \$1,000.

Of course, this is not my only reason for putting roosters ahead of the other animals. Cats are catastrophic and they stay far from religion because they’re scared of dogma.

Dogs chase their own tail and not just for trying to make both ends meet. It is true that the term “cuck” is a slang for “cuckold”, which refers to a man whose wife is unfaithful and has a “horner” man.

But still, they are so important that instead of ‘chip off the old block’ I prefer ‘Chip of the old Cock]. Instead of ‘Rock and roll’, I go for ‘Cock and roll’. More, if you find yourself ‘between a rock and a hard place’, you should strongly consider putting yourself ‘between a Cock and a hard place’.

Tony Deyal was last seen asking, “How do you stop a rooster from crowing on Sunday morning?” Eat him Saturday night.

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Opposition presidential candidate flees Venezuela for asylum in Spain

Former Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González has fled into exile after being granted asylum in Spain, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his upstart campaign to end two decades of single-party rule.

The surprise departure of the man considered by Venezuela's opposition and several foreign governments to be the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced late Saturday night by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez.

She said the government decided to grant González safe passage out of the country, just days after ordering his arrest, to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility."

Neither González nor opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has commented. But Spain's centre-left government said the decision to leave Venezuela was González's alone and he departed on a plane sent by the country's air force.

Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares told Spanish national broadcaster RTVE that his government will grant González political asylum as he has requested. Albares spoke while en route to China with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on a state visit.

"I have been able to speak to (González) and once



Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González waves to supporters during a political event at a square in the Hatillo municipality of Caracas, Venezuela, June 19, 2024. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos, File)

he was aboard the airplane he expressed his gratitude toward the Spanish government and Spain," Albares said. "Of course I told him we were pleased that he is well and on his way to Spain, and I reiterated the commitment of our government to the political rights of all Venezuelans."

Sánchez said in a speech Friday, before González's departure was announced, that the opposition leader was "a hero whom Spain is not going to abandon."

The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell, in a statement Sunday described it as "a sad day for democracy in Venezuela," and also disclosed that the Dutch had been involved in helping González.

"Faced with repression, political persecution and direct threats to his safety and freedom, after being given hospitality at the residence of the Netherlands in Caracas

until September 5, political leader and presidential candidate Edmundo González has had to request political asylum and accept the protection offered by Spain," he said.

Borrell added that González "appears to be the winner of the presidential elections" and that the EU will maintain its support of the Venezuelan people "in their democratic aspirations."

González, a 75-year-old former diplomat, was a last-minute stand-in when Machado was banned from running. Previously unknown to most Venezuelans, his campaign nonetheless rapidly ignited the hopes of millions of Venezuelans desperate for change after a decade-long economic freefall.

While President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner of the July vote, most Western governments have yet to recognize his victory and are instead demand-

ing that authorities publish a breakdown of votes. Meanwhile, tally sheets collected by opposition volunteers from over two-thirds of the electronic voting machines indicate that González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

The tally sheets have long been considered the ultimate proof of election results in Venezuela. In previous presidential elections, the National Electoral Council published online the results of each of the more than 30,000 voting machines but the Maduro-controlled panel did not release any data this time, blaming an alleged cyberattack mounted by its opponents from North Macedonia.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab, a staunch Maduro ally, sought González's arrest after he failed to appear three times in connection with a criminal investigation into what it considers an act of electoral sabotage.

Saab told reporters the voting records the opposition shared online were forged and an attempt to undermine the National Electoral Council.

Experts from the United Nations and the Carter Centre, which at the invitation of Maduro's government observed the election, determined the results announced by electoral authorities lacked credibility. In a statement critical of the election, the UN experts stopped short

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CARICOM recommits to increasing ties with African continent

CMC - Chairman of the Guyana based Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, says the regional body remains committed to building stronger ties between the Caribbean Community and the African continent.

In a message to mark CARICOM-Africa Day, he said this day, observed annually on September 7, serves to “concretise our joint dedication to ever-increasing cooperation and partnership. Since then, we have worked together to deepen this special relationship founded on our ancestral bonds and common aspirations.”

“Our joint efforts have focused on cooperation on health, climate change mitigation and adaptation, financing for development, and reparatory justice for the crimes of the transatlantic slave trade that impacted our Regions. We recognise that with even greater collaboration, much more can be done to address the significant challenges that remain,

including on the impact of climate change.”

He noted that the economic partnership between CARICOM and Africa continues to grow, as demonstrated by the hosting of the Thirty-First Annual Afreximbank Meetings and the Third AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Nassau, The Bahamas in June 2024.

This marked the first time that the Annual Afreximbank Meetings have been held in the Caribbean, underscoring the significant growth of economic opportunities fueled by this valued partnership.

“This collaboration has begun to provide crucial financing to the Community and play a pivotal role in enhancing trade and investment between CARICOM and Africa,” he noted.

The CARICOM chairman pointed to the Health Development Partnership for Africa and the Caribbean (HeDPAC), saying this demonstrates “the remarkable potential and is a highlight of CARICOM-Africa cooperation. As we



continue to navigate the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and seek to build on the critical lessons learned, strengthened cooperation between CARICOM and HeDPAC will be instrumental in bolstering our Region’s health capacities. It will enhance primary health care and improve pharmaceutical equity through local production of medical products, thus contributing to improved health outcomes for the people of CARICOM and Africa.”

He noted that CARICOM remains committed to continued engagement and strengthened relations with Africa, including at the Ministerial level, building on

the foundation laid during the 2021 CARICOM-Africa Summit.

“Our partnership is set to become a beacon of South-South cooperation, benefiting both our societies amid an increasingly complex and challenging global environment. Building on the notable progress made in recent years, let us continue to work together towards a future of even greater interregional collaboration between CARICOM and Africa.”

“I extend warmest regards and best wishes for increased prosperity to the People and Governments of Africa, as we partner to fortify the fraternal ties that bind our Regions.”

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of validating the opposition’s claim to victory, but they said the voting records it published online appear to exhibit all of the original security features.

Exiled opposition politician Franco Casella told RTVE that González would continue to campaign against the regime from abroad in what he called a dual leadership role with Machado, who Casella said remains in hiding in Vene-

zuela.

He said he understood that some people who opposed Maduro might feel “orphaned” by González’s departure but, he said, “this is going to be capitalized positively and my message is that this is not the time for tears, it is time for us to remain united against the dictatorship.”

Spain has been a major point of exodus for Venezuelans, particularly of

those leading opposition to Maduro’s regime.

They include Leopoldo López, who fled to Spain to reunite with his family in 2020, and Antonio Ledezma, who left in 2017.

Some 44,000 Venezuelans immigrated to Spain in the first six months of this year. The last government statistics from 2022 said that some 212,000 Venezuelans were then residing in Spain.

Three Israelis shot dead at West Bank-Jordan crossing

By Megan Fisher

Three Israeli men have been shot dead at a border point between Jordan and the occupied West Bank, Israeli officials say.

The gunman - identified by the Israeli military as Jordanian Maher Jazi - approached the Allenby Bridge crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck then got out and opened fire, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said.

Security personnel “eliminated” the gunman and the IDF checked the truck over for signs of explosives, a statement said.

Jordan says it is investigating the incident, which happened in an Israeli-controlled area where Jordanian vehicles offload goods entering the West Bank. The border point has now been closed from both sides.

Israeli media reported the victims were named Yohanan Shchori, 61, Yuri Birnbaum, 65, and Adrian Marcelo Podzameczer, whose age was not given.

The three men were said to be guards working at the border crossing, but were not military or police.

Kan News, Israel’s state broadcaster, reported that Jazi was a 39-year-old who had worked as a truck driver.

Video footage showed the attacker walking to



The Allenby Bridge, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, lies about halfway between Amman and Jerusalem.

the terminal and firing his weapon three times before he was shot dead.

A Jordanian border official told Reuters that at least two dozen Jordanian truck drivers in the offloading area had been detained by Israel’s military for interrogation.

All of Israel’s land crossings with Jordan have been closed after the incident, the Israel Airports Authority said.

The Allenby Bridge crossing, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, lies about halfway between Amman and Jerusalem and is the only official crossing point between the West Bank and Jordan. It is also the only entry point to the West Bank that does not go through Israel.

Jordan and Israel maintain security, trade and diplomatic ties - though Jordan is critical of Israel’s actions towards Palestinians.

Dozens of trucks cross from Jordan daily to supply goods for markets in both the West Bank and Israel.

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was a “hard day” and sent his condolences to the victims’ families at the start of a cabinet meeting.

He added: “A loathsome terrorist murdered three of our citizens in cold blood at the Allenby Bridge.”

Hamas officials did not claim responsibility for the attack, but described it as a “natural response” to the war in Gaza.

The Palestinian health ministry says more than

600 Palestinians have been killed in West Bank violence since Hamas’s 7 October attack on Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza.

During the same period, at least 18 Israelis were killed in West Bank violence, according to United Nations (UN) figures, which do not include deaths since 11 August.

Last week, Israeli forces withdrew from Jenin city and its refugee camp - an area in the West Bank - after a major nine-day operation there. The area is a stronghold of militants and has a civilian population of about 60,000.

Israel says it is trying to stem deadly Palestinian attacks on Israelis in the West Bank and Israel, and acting against terrorism.



Thousands protest in France over Macron's choice of PM

By Hafsa Khalil

More than 100,000 people protested across France on Saturday against the appointment of the centre-right politician Michel Barnier as the new prime minister.

His appointment follows an inconclusive election in which the left-wing bloc - the New Popular Front (NPF) - won the largest number of seats.

The protests were called by trade unions and members of the NPF, who are furious that their own candidate for prime minister was rejected by President Emmanuel Macron.

Mr Barnier, the EU's former Brexit negotiator, said he is open to forming a government with politicians across the political spectrum, including the left.

The interior ministry said 110,000 protested nationwide on Saturday, including 26,000 in Paris, though one protest leader claimed the figure was 300,000.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a veteran firebrand from the radical France Unbowed party, called for the "most powerful mobilisation possible" in national marches.

Around 130 protests were scheduled, with the biggest setting out from central Paris on Saturday afternoon.

Mr Mélenchon joined the Paris protest, giving a speech on the back of a float emblazoned with the slogan: "For democracy, stop Macron's coup".

The demonstrators are also using slogans such as "denial of democracy" and "stolen election".

Parties on the left are angry that their own candidate for prime minister, Lucie Castets, was rejected by Mr Macron, who said she had no chance of surviving a vote of confidence in the National Assembly.

Mr Barnier may be able to survive a confidence vote because the far right, which also won a large number of seats, has said it won't automatically vote against him.

That has led to criticism that his government will be dependent on the far right.

"We have a prime minister completely dependent on National Rally," Ms Castets said.

Mr Barnier spent Saturday afternoon

visiting a children's hospital in Paris, where he highlighted the importance of public services, but told healthcare workers his government "is not going to perform miracles", local broadcaster BFMTV reported.

Against the backdrop of the protests, the new PM is focussed on forming a new government.

After talks with the leaders of the right-wing Republicans and the president's centrist Ensemble group, he said discussions were going very well and were "full of energy".

Some on the left have blamed themselves for ending up with Mr Barnier as prime minister.

Socialist Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo pointed out that the president had considered former Socialist prime minister, Bernard Cazeneuve, for the job but that he had been turned down by his own party.

Another Socialist Mayor, Karim Bouamrane, blamed intransigence from other parts of the left alliance: "The path they chose was 100% or nothing - and here we are with nothing."



Vacancy Notice

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission invites eligible suitable applicants to apply for the position of Regulatory Team Leader

Pre-requisites:- As a pre-requisite the successful candidate will be required to have the following:-

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. A Bachelors or Post Graduate degree in Banking, Finance, Economics or Accounting from a recognized institution.
2. Supplementary related Professional/Technical Training would be an asset. That includes the designations CFE, CPA, CFA and ACCA.
3. Ability to speak and understand Spanish would be an asset.

Experience:

1. Such as may have been gained through employment at the level of a financial institution.
2. Examiner (**with a minimum of 5 years**) conducting off-site supervision and on-site examinations of financial institutions in a responsible supervisory capacity in accounting or auditing work.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

A Regulatory Team Leader is the leader of a support team comprising of several members who provide support to the Regulatory Directors on the onsite and off-site examinations of a portfolio of financial institutions. He/She is required to coordinate the work flow within the team in such a way that the team achieves the required work standards and adhere to the set timelines for the Regulatory Department.

ESSENTIAL ROLES AND FUNCTIONS:

Job specifications can be accessed from the Commission's website, at the following link

[https://www.fsrc.gov.ag/images/pdf/vacancy/Regulatory Team Leader Position%20 - September18 2024.pdf](https://www.fsrc.gov.ag/images/pdf/vacancy/Regulatory%20Team%20Leader%20Position%20-%20September18%202024.pdf)

- The completed application along with supporting documents must be sent no later than September 18, 2024 to The Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 2674, St. John's, Antigua OR Via email to Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag.
- Only candidates who are shortlisted for the selection process will be contacted.
- Shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake a written assessment.

Benna Boys lose to Dominica in CONCACAF Nations League

The Antigua and Barbuda senior men's national team, the Benna Boys, made a losing start to their campaign in the 2024/25 CONCACAF National League (CNL) at home on Saturday.

The Benna Boys lost 2-1 against Dominica in the second game of an opening round double in Group D of League B at the ABFA Technical Center in Paynters.

Following a goalless first half, Chad Bertrand broke the deadlock in the 46th minute with a rocket from midfield that took a curve into the inside of the crossbar and crashed into the back of the net.

Javorn Stevens equalized for Antigua and Barbuda with a conversion inside the box in the 53rd minute.

But Travist Joseph restored the lead for Dominica when he scored the winner in the 57th minute with a touch at the far post after meeting a cross from the left side of the box by Troy Jules.

The Dominican Republic came from behind to snatch a 3-2 victory against Bermuda in the opening game of the Group D double header.

Kane Crichlow opened the scoring in the 17th minute with a left-footed strike in the box to place Bermuda in front.

Dorny Romero scored



Dominica's Travist Joseph celebrates after scoring the winner against Antigua and Barbuda in their Group D of League B encounter in the CONCACAF Nations League at the ABFA Technical Center in Antigua on Saturday, September 7, 2024. (Concacaf)

the equalizer for the Dominican Republic in the 35th minute with a lob over the goalkeeper from inside the box.

Reggie Lambe regained the lead for Bermuda in the 51st minute with a powerful strike from the left side of the box.

Heinz Mörschel put the match back on level terms in the 62nd minute, scoring the second equalizer for the Dominican Republic with a strike from the edge of the penalty area.

Ronaldo Vásquez struck the match-winner for the Dominican Republic in the 84th minute after connecting inside the box with a

pass from Dorny Romero.

The four nations in Group D will step back onto the field with their second encounters at the ABFA Technical Center on Tuesday.

The Dominican Republic will face Dominica in the first game of a double header at 11 am, and Antigua and Barbuda will face Bermuda in the second encounter at 4 pm.

Grenada and St. Lucia recorded opening wins in Group B of League B action at the Kirani James Athletics Stadium in St. George's, Grenada. Grenada earned a 2-nil win against French St. Martin, and St. Lucia won

2-1 against Curaçao in the first-ever Nations League encounter between the two nations.

Haiti and Dutch St. Maarten made statements with their victories in Group C of League B at the Estadio Centroamericano in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

Haiti's return to League B began with a 4-1 win over Puerto Rico, and Dutch St. Maarten earned a 2-nil win against Aruba.

In Group A of League B, El Salvador beat Montserrat 4-1, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines fought to a 1-1 draw with host Bonaire at Stadion Antonio Trenidat in Rincon, Bonaire.

Falcons beat Knight Riders to claim first win in CPL

The Antigua & Barbuda Falcons claimed a dramatic final ball victory over the Trinbago Knight Riders to record their first victory in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) on Thursday night.

An undulating eighth match of the competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, saw the Falcons finally take flight at the fifth time of asking, snatching a six-run victory and securing their first win in five home matches to keep their tournament hopes alive.

Having been put into bat, the Falcons managed to post a competitive total of 176 for six, with Fakhar Zaman, who struck 38 off 26 balls, and Justin Greaves with 37 off 19 balls, putting on 65 for the first wicket.

Imad Wasim, who hit a top score of 46 off 29 balls, and Fabian Allen with a quick-fire 25 not out off 11 balls, gave the Falcons' innings some momentum to achieve their competitive total. Waqar Salamkheil claimed two for 27 and Sunil Narine captured two for 32.

After suffering narrow losses on the final ball of their first two matches, the Falcons showed great composure in the field to stay in control and claimed their debut win by restricting the powerful Trinbago Knight



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons' team-mates celebrate with Fabian Allen, right, after one of his wickets against the Trinbago Knight Riders in their CPL match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Thursday, September 5, 2024. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

Riders to 170 for nine off their 20 overs.

After impressing with the ball in hand, Sunil Narine struggled with the bat, falling for a four-ball duck at the beginning of the Knight Riders' chase.

Player of the Match Fabian Allen added vital wickets to go with his handy hitting. A match turning 10th over saw him trap Shaqkere Parris LBW for 31 and then pull off a lighting-reflex return catch to dismiss Nicholas Pooran for a first-ball duck with his very next ball.

Opener Andries Gous hit a topscore of 39 off 33 balls, Keacy Carty struck 34 off 22 balls, and captain

Kieron Pollard made 30 off 15 balls. Allen grabbed three for 23, and Roshon Primus claimed two for 40.

The Knight Riders managed to take the game into the final over and had the chance to make it two wins in two games, with an attainable 14 runs needed off the final six deliveries.

Roshon Primus held his nerve for the Falcons after getting flicked for four through midwicket by Akeal Hosein off the first ball of the final over.

Terrance Hinds chopped Primus onto his stumps, and Hosein was run out off the penultimate delivery of the match despite Sam Billings' fumble with the

gloves when breaking the stumps.

A nail-biting match thus brought the game down to the last ball, with Waqar Salamkheil needing to strike a six to tie the game and send it to a Super Over. It wasn't to be. Salamkheil failed to make contact with an attempted lap, the Falcons players swooping around Primus to celebrate an inaugural win.

"We were searching for that win and grateful we got it tonight," said Fabian Allen in the moments after the Falcons six-run victory.

"We were searching for 180, but 170-odd was good on this wicket; we defended

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West departs Cricket West Indies after 12 years of service

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the departure of Graeme West, who will step down from his role as High Performance Manager on September 30 after 12 years of distinguished service.

West joined CWI on June 1, 2012, as the Head Coach of the High Performance Centre at Cave Hill, Barbados, and leaves behind a lasting legacy of development and success within West Indies cricket.

During his tenure, West oversaw several critical initiatives aimed at building the future of West Indies cricket.

As head coach, West guided the West Indies Under-19 men's team to World Cup glory in 2016 and was instrumental in creating the Men's and Women's Academy programmes at Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua, where he has been a key figure in nurturing emerging talent.

He also played a pivotal role in launching the 12-month Under-19 Pathway Programmes, which are vital in the continuous development of the region's



Graeme West

youth players.

CWI Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, expressed his gratitude for West's years of service.

"I sincerely thank Graeme for his 12 years of service to West Indies cricket.

"He has contributed significantly to the development of our high-performance system and has overseen many initiatives that we will continue to grow after he departs.

"We are grateful for his years of commitment and wish him the best as

he turns the page to a new chapter in his career."

Reflecting on his time with CWI, West spoke about the impact the organization and the region have had on him and his family.

"I would like to thank CWI for the opportunities provided to me and my family over the last twelve years. I leave the organization as a more experienced coach, a more rounded leader, and a World Cup winner," he said.

"Equally important to me are the relationships I

have developed with players, coaches, and the staff that have supported me throughout my time at CWI and I am sure will continue to do so in the future.

"My time spent in the Caribbean will forever hold a special place in my heart. My wife and I have raised our children on the beaches of Barbados and Antigua, and we have thoroughly enjoyed and embraced the many cultures and diversity across the region."

West's 12 years of service saw him based for five years at the High Performance Centre in Barbados and another seven years at CWI's headquarters in Antigua.

Beyond his success with the Under-19 Men's team, West also served as the Head Coach of the West Indies 'A' Team from 2016 to 2018, where he led the team to series victories against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

As High Performance Manager, West has been instrumental in the creation of new pathways for young cricketers, both male and female, laying a foundation for future success in West Indies cricket.

His departure marks the end of an era, but his influence will continue to shape the development of talent within the Caribbean for years to come.

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well. We're grateful for the crowd; they supported us right through."

Falcons captain Chris Green was mightily pleased with his side's ability to show character and defend their total.

"We have had a tough time here at

home; we were not at our best in the last couple of games. I'm really happy for the fans and for my team. We still have to carry on playing this positive, aggressive brand of cricket. I think we showed ourselves what we can do. Nothing needs to change."

Royals condemn Patriots to fourth defeat in CPL

Nyeem Young kept his composure as Barbados Royals broke the hearts of St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots with a thrilling two-wicket victory in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Warner Park on Friday night.

The Royals appeared set for a crushing win when the Patriots lost their first three wickets before scoring a run before recovering to post 153 for eight off their 20 overs.

Wanindu Hasaranga, who struck 40 off 27 balls, and Mikyle Louis with 30 off 20 balls, repaired the early damage by coming to the rescue of the Patriots with an 82-run fourth-wicket partnership.

Barbados lost Rahkeem Cornwall and Quinton de Kock early and the match was at a knife's edge throughout a nerve-jangling chase before Young struck the second to last delivery of the match for six and snatched victory for the Royals at 157 for eight with one ball to spare.

Needing eight runs off the last over bowled by Ryan John, the Royals' nerves heightened when Jason Holder fell for 17 off the first ball.

But Young, who finished on 17 not out off seven balls, luckily inside edged to the boundary off the third ball before smashing the penultimate delivery for six as the Royals won for the second time in as many games.

It was their fifth straight victory against the Patriots, who are at the foot of the table with just one win.

The Patriots made a poor start after being sent in to bat when their top three batters were dismissed for ducks, the first time that has occurred in CPL history.

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana



Barbados Royals' Dunith Wellalage celebrates after claiming one of his three wickets and also hit 39 runs with the bat against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Friday, September 6, 2024. (CPL T20/Getty Images)

started the carnage on the second ball of the innings when he trapped Evin Lewis LBW. Two balls later, Theekshana produced a cracking delivery that spun sharply and bowled Kyle Mayers, who trudged off in disbelief.

The Patriots lost their third wicket when Andre Fletcher was lbw to Dunith Wellalage before the match suddenly flipped through a counterattack from Hasaranga and Louis as the Royals suddenly struggled for control amid an onslaught.

Naveen-ul-Haq was on the receiving end and leaked 16 runs to cap a madcap PowerPlay. But Louis holed out in the ninth over leading to another collapse where the Patriots also lost Sherfane Rutherford for a duck and Hasaranga in the space of six balls.

It could have been worse for the Patriots when Clarkson was given out lbw to Theekshana before he successfully reviewed. Clarkson struggled

to get going, but batted through to the end to hit 24 not out off 32 balls, and received support from John, who smacked 29 off 14 balls.

Wellalage claimed three for 35, Theekshana had two for 16, and left-arm pacer Obed McCoy captured two for 23.

Just like the Patriots, the Royals lost a wicket on the second ball after Mayers knocked over Cornwall for a duck. Speedster Anrich Nortje had compatriot de Kock wincing in pain after a blow to the body before the batter hit back with a six over fine leg.

De Kock was cleaned bowled for 19 in the fifth over by Mayers, who had finished with two for 17. Kadeem Alleyne cracked 30 off 18 balls, and Wellalage, who struck 39 off 32 balls, battled calmly through the middle overs before Young's late heroics sealed a thrilling triumph for the Royals.

Guyana Amazon Warriors get six-wicket victory over St. Lucia Kings

Guyana Amazon Warriors, defending champions of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), put in a swaggering performance on Saturday to claim three wins in three games to sit at the head of the standings in this year's tournament.

Their opponents, the St. Lucia Kings, suffered their first loss of the 2024 tournament, as the Amazon Warriors romped to an emphatic six-wicket win at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet.

Imran Tahir won the toss and elected to insert the Kings, who were dismissed for 100 in 14.3 overs. The Amazon Warriors put in another impressive performance with the ball, Tahir claiming three for 29 and Player of the Match Gudakesh Motie taking three for 13, as the Kings failed to recover from a PowerPlay that



The Guyana Amazon Warriors' Gudakesh Motie, left, and Junior Sinclair celebrate after taking a wicket against the St. Lucia Kings in their CPL match at the Darren Sammy Stadium in St. Lucia on Saturday, September 7, 2024. (CPL via Getty Image)

saw them reduced to 43 for four.

Some lower order striking from Matthew Forde, who hit a top score of 31 off 21 balls, managed to haul the Kings to three figures.

Opener Johnson Charles contributed 19 off 13 balls.

But the Warriors made extremely short work of the target, achieving victory at 101 for four in 10 overs. Opener Rahmanullah

Gurbaz lit up the St. Lucia sky with seven sixes in his knock of 47 off 19 balls.

Gurbaz eventually fell with just nine more runs needed for victory, trapped LBW by Noor Ahmad attempting a reverse-sweep that would have brought him a rapid fifty.

Noor, who finished with three for 22, also bowled Tim Robinson, but not before the Warrior's debutant opener had got the chase off to a breezy start with 33 off 20 balls.

A fired up Alzarri Joseph had Azam Khan caught for a duck. Joseph then greeted Shimron Hetmyer with a short delivery.

But Hetmyer, who was not out on eight off three balls, launched the next ball high and long over mid-on for six and then scampered the winning runs off the next over to complete the victory.

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was the main architect of the damage with the ball for the visitors, the Sri Lankan all-rounder's leg-breaks and assorted varieties posing a constant threat.

Opener Justin Greaves, who made 30 off 16 balls, Sam Billings for 18, young Jewel Andrew for three, and Shamar Springer for a first-ball duck, were all pocketed by Hasaranga in a devastating period of top-quality spin bowling.

At 110 for seven, when Billings departed the scene, it looked as if the Falcons' wings had been clipped and

that the duel was going the way of the Patriots.

But Roshon Primus, who made 15 off 11 balls, and Imad Wasim with 17 not out off 13 balls, combined effectively to hit the gaps in the field and take every single run on offer in order to eke their way closer to the target. With three overs to go, the Falcons required 22 runs to win with three wickets in hand.

Dominic Drakes was summoned into the attack and bowled a frugal over that was hit for just six runs to leave the equation as 15 runs needed from 12 balls. Primus was then caught

off backward point off Nortje as the pendulum swung towards the Patriots in the penultimate over.

With 11 runs needed from the final over, Fabian Allen, who was not out on 13 off seven balls, stole the game at the last for the Falcons, smiting consecutive Drakes short balls for a six and a four into the leg side and scampering the single needed for victory at 154 for eight with two balls remaining.

Imad Wasim was named Player of the Match as the victory took the Falcons to third in the table and left the Patriots bottom of the table after suffering their fifth defeat on the bounce.

Sports

MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
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Falcons snatch win against Patriots in CPL

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons pulled off a stunning two-wicket victory over the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots with just two balls to spare in a tense match of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday.

After winning the toss and inserting the opposition, the Falcons restricted the Patriots to 153 for eight off their 20 overs. Mohammad Amir picked up three wickets for 27 runs for the Falcons, and Mikyle Louis struck a half century for the Patriots.

Louis' lusty lower order hitting ensured thirty-three runs were scored off the last few overs as he cruised to 63 runs off just 36 balls, including seven sixes. A target of 153 was a success of sorts for the home side after they were earlier reeling at 60 for four in the ninth over.

Wanindu Hasaranga made 23, Kyle Mayers got 22, and Rilee Rossouw chipped in with 20. Imad Wasim claimed two for 24, and Fabian Allen captured two for 44.

In response, the Falcons seemed to be hauling in the



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons fast bowler Mohammad Amir, second left, celebrates with teammate after taking early wickets against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in their CPL match at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday, September 8, 2024. (CPL T20/Getty Images)

target without too many alarms, Brandon King and Justin Greaves striking their way to 55 before King fell for 29 off 16 balls in the fifth over – trapped in front of the stumps by the pace of Anrich Nortje, who finished with three for 35.

From then on, the plain sailing was over as the Falcons lost regular wickets and the match remained too close to call.

Wanindu Hasaranga, who grabbed four for 16,
cont'd on pg 23



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons captain Brandon King bats against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in their CPL match at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday, September 8, 2024.