



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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GOV'T MOVING TO INTRODUCE ELECTRONIC E/D CARDS

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Scores of nationals attended the Independence Thanksgiving ceremony held in New York City.

Local News



Government is moving to introduce Electronic E/D Cards by yearend

The Cabinet has held intense discussions on several options by which it will phase out the use of paper E/D cards that are used by passengers entering the country via the airports. The aim is to introduce Electronic E/D cards by yearend.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet invited the heads of the Customs and Excise Department, the Immigration Department, an official from the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Finance, and the principal of a private firm to address the implementation of Electronic E/D cards at the nation's airports.

"The Chief Immigration Officer and her team



reminded the Cabinet that paper E/D cards are ancient, outdated, inefficient, and pose a serious storage challenge. The need for the E/D

card is absolutely evident when 350,000 visitors enter through the portals of the airport annually, each submitting a paper E-D card;

moving to the electronic card that is tailor-made to fit Antigua and Barbuda's needs, is unquestionably essential. *cont'd on pg 3*

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Cabinet determined to re-open the Cancer Centre

The Cabinet on Wednesday held a discussion on the re-opening of the Cancer Center.

According to this week's Cabinet Notes the delay in readying the Center for use is caused by the continued presence of the old equipment that was once used for radiation treatment and chemotherapy.

"The former owners of the building are making a demand for the purchase of the equipment at a price that exceeds their reasonable value.

"The Cabinet was informed that the equipment must first be de-commissioned under the supervision of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), and that a reasonable time is to be given



to the owners to remove the same.

"The Cabinet was also advised that if the time given for removal is exceeded, by the owners, then a professional firm will be asked to discard the worthless equipment," the Notes revealed.

When the old equipment is removed, the Notes advised that modern equipment will then be installed, and the service previously offered by the Cancer Center can then be restored.

This process ought to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2025.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has learned that the consultant doctors who are contracted to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) to provide service to patients, spend too few hours at the hospital daily.

"A discussion is to begin to ensure that the doctors provide as many hours at the hospital that their contracts dictate.

"The object is to ensure that more doctors are present over more hours at the hospital, in order to improve services to the public," the Cabinet Notes added.

The Notes said every effort is being made to continuously improve the services which the SLBMC offers, and doctors are absolutely essential to maximizing these efforts

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sential," according to this week's Cabinet Notes.

The principal of the private firm which accompanied the Government officials is one of several that have made a pitch to transform the system from paper to electronic. Using several screens, the private firm's principal showed the ease with which the electronic form can be completed and submitted by the passenger, days in advance of his/her arrival.

However, it was recommended that there would also be a kiosk at the arrival terminals for those who might need help with the new technology. Handheld devices can also be utilized to complete and submit the form where WI-FI is available.

The electronic Customs Declaration captures all the information that now appears at the back of the E-D paper form. Its new format will reduce processing time. The Cabinet was persuaded that the approach to be taken will lead to great reliability, eliminate the need for container storage of hundreds of thousands of paper cards, and will enable those marketing Antigua and Barbuda to reach target audiences emanating from various geographical spaces.

According to the Cabinet Notes the cost of making this transition involves a one-time fee and an annual charge. The Cabinet will return to the subject in a week or two since December 2024 is the intended timeframe.

A&B moves resolution at the OAS calling for the eradication of poverty in the Americas

Antigua and Barbuda has moved a resolution at a meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) that calls for the eradication of poverty, as well as combating inequality, and social exclusion in the Americas.

The resolution was moved on Wednesday by Antigua and Barbuda’s permanent representative to the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders, who described poverty as one of the most persistent threats to stability and growth within the western hemisphere.

“Together, we are stepping up to address poverty, which not only impacts economic resilience and stability but threatens the dignity and well-being of people across the Americas. Poverty is not only a social issue; it is a foundational threat to the economic resilience of each of our nations and our collective progress.

“Exacerbated by climate change, poverty’s impact is deepening: as extreme weather events grow more frequent, communities are displaced, and livelihoods are destroyed,” Sir Ron explained.

He observed that in the ‘interconnected’ world, poverty knows no border.

He described poverty as a threat to society and that it breeds challenges to very corner of the Americas.

“As long as poverty exists, our region remains vulnerable to irregular migration, crime, and youth violence—issues that weaken the foundations of our states and compromise our shared goals.

“Addressing poverty is not only a

moral imperative but a strategic one that requires a united response,” Sir Ron stated.

The seasoned diplomat extended deepest gratitude to the co-sponsors—Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and the 14 member states of CARICOM—whose commitment and collaboration have made the resolution possible.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

The full resolution is attached.



Sir Ronald Sanders

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Draft resolution: Establishment of a joint working group on the eradication of poverty and combatting inequality and social exclusion in the Americas

(Presented by the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda with the co-sponsorship of the Permanent Missions of the 14 Member States of the CARICOM Group and of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia, with the results of the informal consultations, open to all delegations, held on October 24, 2024, and further consultations with Canada, El Salvador, and the United States)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI) OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

PP1. RECALLING previous resolutions and declarations of the Organization of American States (OAS) deploring the persistent challenge of poverty across the Americas, as well as the “Social Charter of the Americas”;

PP2. REAFFIRMING the firm commitment of the OAS and its Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, recognizing that extreme poverty and inequality are obstacles to human dignity, social inclusion, and the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention

on Human Rights, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Inter-American Social Charter, and other international human rights instruments;

PP3. RECALLING that Article 2(g) of the Charter of the Organization of American States identifies the eradication of extreme poverty as one of the essential purposes of the Organization, and mindful that Article 94 of the same Charter underscores the role of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in promoting integral development and helping to eliminate extreme poverty across the Americas;

PP4. ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contributions of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) and its ministerial process in the fight against poverty;

PP4 *bis*. NOTING that the Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) has embarked on a project: “Public Policies to Combat Poverty and Interamerican Standards to guarantee Human Rights in the Americas”, aimed at developing policies and best practices for the eradication of poverty;

PP5. DEEPLY CONCERNED that, according to economic indicators from international financial institutions, the Latin American and Caribbean region remains the most unequal in the world and that despite efforts to reduce poverty and all of its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, significant disparities persist on access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, particularly

among women, children, people with disabilities, older persons, people of African descent, and Indigenous Peoples, among others who face heightened vulnerability;

PP6. NOTING that poverty, fueled by persistent inequality, continues to drive social and economic exclusion, irregular migration, refugees, crime, insecurity, and environmental degradation across the Hemisphere, threatening democratic governance, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development; **Argentina in consultation**

PP7. RECOGNIZING that poverty, extreme poverty, and inequality constitute factors that prevent the full realization of human rights, especially for vulnerable populations;

PP8. CONSIDERING that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty for the first time in a decade;

PP9. GUIDED by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere,” and recognizing the necessity for a multidimensional approach that combines, *inter alia*, social protection systems, inclusive economic policies, investment in human capital, and measures to address inequality and build climate resilience; and further recognizing hunger and malnutrition as both a cause and a consequence of poverty and inequality/;

PP10. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of international cooperation in the academic and technical

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fields and by civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and international financial institutions and the multilateral development banks, playing a crucial role in innovation, investment in human capital, and sustainable development partnerships, while bearing in mind the importance of preventing conflict of interest; and

PP11. RECALLING the United Nations Pact for the Future, which stresses that poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and its eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development; emphasizes the importance of combating poverty in order to ensure a just and inclusive transition, particularly in the context of economic crises and climate change; reaffirms that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development; recognizes the importance of accelerating reform of the international financial architecture; and underscores the need to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in global economic decision making, to support indebted countries and enable them to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals, which include poverty eradication, as well as reform of the international economic system and giving developing countries a greater voice to overcome the structural inequalities that perpetuate poverty /, *Paraguay in consultations*

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on the Eradication of Poverty, Combatting Inequality and Social Exclusion in the Americas, open to all Member States,

and a representative of the Secretary General (in an ex-officio capacity), without duplicating efforts of existing OAS bodies, in particular the process of the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (REMDES), and seeking alignments and synergies with other global initiatives, and regional initiatives, such as the *Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty*, tasked with developing a comprehensive strategic plan for the eradication of poverty in the Americas, incorporating their recommendations for both immediate poverty relief measures and long-term strategies that address inequality, access to resources, social protection, and inclusive economic growth, taking account of relevant OAS documents, always respecting the right of Member States to implement the recommendations in accordance with their capabilities and circumstances.

2. To request the Joint Working Group to provide an assessment of the resources needed for the effective implementation of this resolution, and to work with the Permanent Council, and CIDI, Member States, and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), as necessary, to identify the resources that can be allocated within the rules for the governing and costing of mandates; and to request further that the General Secretariat provide all agreed support to the Joint Working Group, including the appointment by the Secretary General of a relevant department to serve as the secretariat of the Joint Working Group, without generating additional costs, to support the functioning of the Joint Working Group, channeling resources from the department appointed to act as the secretariat.

3. To instruct the Working Group to develop its work plan, timelines, and methodology upon commencement of its activities. Within 90 days the Joint Working Group shall present their

recommendations, for consideration by Member States in a joint session of the Permanent Council and the Council on Integral Development, a “*Plan of Action for Eradicating Poverty, Combatting Inequality and Social Exclusion in the Americas*” focused on the implementation of effective poverty reduction policies, programs, and measures in the region, taking into account recognized public policies with proven efficiency, including, but not limited to, those contained in the Policy Basket of the *Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty* and the *Global Partnership for Education*.

4. To invite relevant organs, entities, and agencies of the OAS and wider Inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) including the Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA), the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM), the Inter-American Children’s Institute, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN), the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as other regional institutions such as the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as well as relevant multilateral organs, entities and agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), UN-Habitat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-

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China is helping Antigua and Barbuda maximize the production of peppers



More than seventy local farmers have been undergoing specialised training in the production of peppers aimed at helping these farmers meet more of the demand for the crop.

Chief Extension Officer, Owolabi Elabanjo, said the initiative is a joint undertaking of the Ministry of Agriculture, Long Ping, the Chinese Company working with farmers to improve their vegetable productions, and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

“We requested the training because we believe that we can do better than we are doing at the moment regarding pepper production. It’s an area where we feel that we can create an industry. When you look at

the supermarket shelves and you see the variety of peppers, tis speaks to a demand as peppers have multiples uses in the kitchen. It would be to our advantage if we seek to improve and expand our pepper production and at the moment, we are not doing that,” he observed.

Elabanjo explained that this was why his department made the request to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce through the embassy here and that is why there is a team from Long Ping here conducting the training. The training started on October 15 and so far approximately seventy farmers have been attending the sessions.

The topics discussed cover a wide
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ECLAC), among others, to contribute to the efforts of the Joint Working Group by preparing, for consideration, timely inputs and recommendations aligned with their respective mandates, particularly those related to the realization of human rights, gender equality, social inclusion, sustainable development, and rural de-

velopment.

5. To request that, upon adoption of the “*Plan of Action for the Eradication of Poverty and combating Inequality and Social Exclusion in the Americas*”, the Secretary General convene a meeting with the participation of the senior leadership of the institutions of the Inter-American System and, in consultation with member states, invit-

ed relevant stakeholders in the academic community, philanthropic entities, civil society institutions, and the private sector, to present the Plan of Action; advise of proposals for its implementation; and seek funding commitments.

6. To further request the Secretary General to monitor and follow up on the implementation of this resolution with periodic

updates and assessments of progress on poverty eradication efforts, including a report to a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and CIDI and an updated report to the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

7. To instruct that the final report be presented within one year of the establishment of the Joint Working Group.

Regional experts to gather in St. John's for a special meeting looking at Expos

Antigua and Barbuda will from 4 to 6 November 2024, host a multilateral session of the Capacity Building Programme of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), the Intergovernmental organisation responsible for overseeing International Exhibitions including World Expos. This session will be the first ever organised in the Caribbean region.

This three-day training session in St John's will bring together representatives from across the Caribbean region, highlighting the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in enhancing participation in Expos.

The workshop aims to support and learn from Caribbean nations in showcasing their cultures and inno-

ventions at upcoming Expos, notably at the next World Expo, Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai, which opens its gates in less than six months, on 13 April 2025.

Participants will take part in thematic sessions led by the BIE, centred around the process of participating in Expos, the advantages of participation and the operational aspects of organising an Expo pavilion. Representatives of upcoming Expos, including World Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai, Specialised Expo 2027 Belgrade, and World Expo 2030 Riyadh, will also lead dedicated sessions. This will offer participants valuable insights into the technical specifications and opportunities provided by these international events, in which participating

countries craft immersive visitor experiences based on themes of global importance.

The Capacity Building Programme is a BIE initiative aimed at supporting its 184 Member States and notably providing countries with additional knowledge and specific technical know-how regarding participation in Expos.

The aim of this programme is to support Member States' engagement in Expos and the workings of the BIE, therefore fostering the best possible conditions for Expos to serve as attractive and effective platforms for multilateral cooperation, public diplomacy and the education of the public.

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range of issues relating to pepper production and ac-

cording to Elabanjo, the farmers' response has been quite good. "I am hoping

that out of these discussions will come the understanding that it is now time

for us to really establish a pepper industry in Antigua so that we can satisfy local demand and to export as well," he stated.

According to Elabanjo there is a 'great market' for peppers...including several types of 'sweet peppers' as well as 'hot peppers' that are used in making pepper sauce and other products.

"If you look at the chilly or hot peppers, there is a great demand for these peppers on the international market; you can extract the oil, you can dry it or use it for hot sauce," he stated.

The Chief Extension Officer said the time is now to begin to put the new theories into action and to move ahead with the development of this in-demand crop.



Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the Ambassador from the State of Palestine

Ambassador of the State of Palestine for the Caribbean, Linda Sobeh, is currently in Antigua and Barbuda to present her credentials and to hold discussions with senior officials of the government.

On Wednesday, Ambassador Sobeh held discussions with Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, during which he expressed optimism that the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda, and the State of Palestine will flourish with the appointment of the Ambassador.

Noting that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Antigua and Barbuda, and the State of Palestine happened recently, Minister Greene called for greater collaboration between both countries within the international fora, i.e. UN.

Greene also reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's call for a ceasefire between Is-



rael and the Palestinians. He referenced Antigua and Barbuda's longstanding principles and commitment to peace and security, respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the non-interference in the internal affairs of another country.

He added that a ceasefire in Middle East will have an impact on the global community at large.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Sobeh paid a courtesy call on the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps resident in Antigua and Barbuda, Am-



bassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Antigua and Barbuda, Carmen Velásquez.

During their meeting, the Ambassadors discussed the bilateral relationship between both countries, and the need for peace for the Palestinian people.

Ambassador Velásquez took the opportunity to reaffirm to Ambassador Sobeh that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continues firmly to supporting

the Palestinian cause in 'the face of the genocidal aggression'.

She also met Wednesday with Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams when she presented her credentials and later the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle along with Minority Leader in the Senate, Senator Shawn Nicholas.

Today, Thursday, Ambassador Sobeh will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

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This upcoming session in Antigua and Barbuda is the second multilateral Capacity Building Programme organised in partnership with the BIE. Earlier this year, in February 2024, the programme held its first multilateral session in Gabon, following its initial launch in 2020, which was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary General of the BIE, Dimitri S. Kerkentzes, stated: "The Capacity Building Programme aims to give all BIE Member States the tools and

expertise to craft memorable and impactful Expo participations. We are delighted that Antigua and Barbuda will host this training session to share ideas and work together to maximise the impact and outreach of the multifaceted participation of Caribbean countries in Expos."

Honourable E.P Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, also asserted: "The Government of Antigua and Barbuda places great importance on regional cooperation and seizing the oppor-

tunity provided by Expos to engage in international public diplomacy. Hosting the BIE's Capacity Building Programme is a unique opportunity to strengthen our commitment to international dialogue and exchange in favour of progress for all."

Antigua and Barbuda participated for the first time in an International Exhibition at Specialised Expo 1986 in Vancouver, Canada. The country joined the BIE in 1997 and has regularly participated in World and Specialised Expos since then.

By Yasmin Rufo

The release of a new song by Liam Payne has been postponed after his collaborator said “it’s not the time yet” and he wants to let the singer’s family “mourn in peace”.

The One Direction star, who died two weeks ago, co-wrote and sang on the track Do No Wrong with North Carolina singer Sam Pounds.

Pounds had said the song would be released on Friday, 1 November, and he hoped it would “eclipse the negative echoes” surrounding Payne’s death.

But, in a statement on Tuesday, Pounds said he was “deciding to hold Do No Wrong and leave those liberties up to all family members”.

He added: “I want all proceeds go to a charity of their choosing (or however they desire).

“Even though we all love the song it’s not the time yet. We are all still mourning the passing of Liam and I want the family to mourn in peace and in prayer.

“We will all wait.”

Fans thanked Pounds for delaying the song’s full release, with one saying it was the “right decision” while another said “there will be a right time for it in the future but for now we



The track Do No Wrong was written by Sam Pounds, Liam Payne and Payne’s sister Ruth.

mourn”.

Last week, Pounds posted clips of the pair in the studio, filmed by Payne’s sister Ruth, who co-wrote the track.

He also posted artwork showing an angel below a broken black heart.

Talking about its planned official release, Pounds wrote on X: “I pray that this will be a blessing to the world like Liam has always dreamed.

“I pray angels will com-

fort you all every day while listening. I pray that this song will be a blessing to Ruth, Bear, and the entire family.”

Payne shared his seven-year-old son, Bear, with Girls Aloud star Cheryl, who he was in a relationship with from 2016 to 2018.

Following his death, all five One Direction albums have returned to the UK top 40.

After leaving the group, Payne had top 10 hits with

Rita Ora and Quavo. His last solo song, Teardrops, which was released earlier this year, reached number 85.

The 31-year-old singer, who grew up in Wolverhampton, died when he fell from the third-floor balcony of a hotel in Buenos Aires on 16 October.

The Public Prosecutor’s Office in Argentina is continuing to investigate the circumstances around his death.



US economy growing despite voter angst

By **Natalie Sherman**

The US economy grew solidly in the three months to September, expanding at an annual rate of 2.8%.

Despite there being a slight slowdown from the prior quarter's 3% rate, the figures released by the Commerce Department showed the US is on track for one of the strongest economic performances of any major economy this year.

Consumer spending was the biggest driver, picking up from earlier in the year.

The report arrives days before polls close in America's hotly contested presidential election, in which surveys have consistently indicated the economy is Americans' top concern.

It is not clear the latest figures will do much to assuage people's worries.

Economic sentiment, which darkened abruptly during the pandemic, has remained downbeat, as a roughly 21% jump in prices over the past four

years overshadows other economic news, no matter how positive.

This month, a solid 62% of Americans viewed the economy overall as "bad", according to a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

In a country where the mantra "it's the economy, stupid" - coined by strategist James Carville in 1992 - is often deployed to explain elections, one might expect the worries to be bad news for Kamala Harris and the Democrats, as the party in the White House.

Donald Trump has tried to seize on the opportunity, making his economic record as president, which is remembered as a rosier time, a key part of his pitch to voters.

But as opinions have grown increasingly coloured by a person's political views over the last few decades, analysts said it is not clear how big a role the economy will actually play in

shaping the election outcome this year.

"Even though the economy is based on numbers, a lot of people's views are partisan," said Marjorie Connelly, senior fellow at the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs. "The economy will be a factor, but ... I think partisanship will be the biggest factor."

The AP-NORC poll found that 61% of Democrats thought the economy was good, compared with just 13% of Republicans and 28% of independents.

The same poll found that voters were split, along party lines, as to whether they trusted Trump or Harris more on issues such as the cost of groceries and gas or jobs and unemployment.

Despite the economy ranking as a top election issue, other matters may prove more decisive, Ms Connelly added.

"I don't know how much people

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Regional News



SVG: Legislation passes for public servants to contest elections



CMC - The St Vincent and the Grenadines parliament has given the nod to legislation allowing public servants to contest national or local elections and suffer no loss of employment or benefits if they are unsuccessful at the polls,

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves, who piloted the amendment to the Representation of the People Act (RPA) that received bi-partisan support, said that the principle behind it “has had a gestation period since independence” in 1979.

Gonsalves said that at the time of independence, many people contended that people up to a certain level in the teaching, police and the public service as well as the medical and nursing professions should be allowed to contest elections without having to resign their posts and lose all accrued benefits, whether they win or lose.

Gonsalves, who is also the Minister of National Security, said

it was clear that no one “who is clothed with authority in respect of security” should be allowed to contest elections.

Among these, he mentioned police officers, Maritime Administration staff or offices “where you can use your authority to do something with an individual’s liberty or with their property”.

He told legislators that the “narrow group” of public servants to be barred from contesting elections also includes legal officers and people in senior positions in the government, such as permanent secretaries and heads of departments.

Despite the change in the law, magistrates, registrars, legal officers, the deputy director of audits, deputy accountant general, deputy controller of customs and exercise, the deputy comptroller of inland revenue, the deputy supervisor of

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are going to vote on the economy,” she said. “There are other issues.”

One reason the economy often emerges at the top of voter concerns in polls is simply because it’s one of the few areas that large shares of both Democrats and Republicans agree is relatively important.

Meanwhile, much of the hard data has been solid or moving in the right direction.

Petrol prices are down, grocery prices are stabilising and wages, for at least the past year, have been ris-

ing faster than prices, which for many families is helping to offset the jump in living costs.

In September, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates for the first time in four years, saying it was increasingly confident that the inflation problem was easing.

A sharp rebound in jobs growth in September also quieted the worries of many economic forecasters, who have spent much of the last few years predicting a downturn that has not materialised.

On Tuesday, the Confer-

ence Board reported that its monthly index of consumer sentiment jumped in October, as confidence in job availability and optimism about future business prospects and income rose.

The share of people worried about an economic recession also fell to the lowest level since the organisation started asking the question in July 2022.

Samuel Tombs, chief US economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said he thought the improvement in sentiment was likely due to rising optimism among Republicans, as they grow

more confident that Trump can win the election.

But Dana Peterson, chief economist for The Conference Board, said she thought it reflected growing realisation of the economic reality.

“The data are the data. What we’re seeing is that third quarter GDP was strong, the job market is healthy and inflation is slowing,” she said.

“After several years of volatility, consumers are saying we think inflation is not as intense, we’re not where we were... and we’re not as worried.”

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elections and the director of Maritime Administration are barred from contesting national elections without resigning their posts.

Diplomats, assistant directors of public prosecution, the chief agricultural officer, the chief engineer, the chief education officer and other senior positions “all the way down to Supervisor of Elections” also cannot contest national elections without resigning their posts.

A public servant who wishes to contest an election must be absent on leave during the election. To do so, they can take accrued leave or leave without pay.

Gonsalves said that with the change in the law, a qualifying public sector worker who takes leave to contest a general election and is elected to office would be taken to have retired from the public office.

He said the pension laws will be amended to take account of the years of service that the person had provided before being elected to Parliament.

“So the law itself is saying you’ll get the benefits,” Gonsalves said, adding “If you’re not elected, you go back to your job if you want to go back.”

But he said some people might decide not to return to the public service post, depending on the number of years they had served.

The bill had been sent to a select committee of Parliament and Gonsalves said lawmakers had tried “to give the widest and most purposive legal clothing to the principles which were just outlined”.

He noted that none of the previous governments had changed the law to allow public servants to contest elections.

“So, we are breaking new ground in St Vincent and Grenadines, and we are enlarging the pool of persons from whom to be drawn as possible candidates,” Gonsalves said, adding

that lawmakers may have to amend the law in the future, depending on the circumstances.

“We may have to come back here at some time in the future to see whether the categories we have are too large, as experience teaches, or too narrow,” he said, noting that Cabinet cannot make such changes by executive action.

“And I believe that most persons would say we have had a balance in this legislation.”

Prime Minister Gonsalves said he was disappointed that neither the Public Service Union nor the St Vincent the Grenadines Teachers Union had commented on the legislation, adding that it had been published in the newspapers and online.

He said the unions did not even ask to attend the select committee.

“It may well be because they agreed with it, they said, ‘Well, there’s no need.’ I assume that’s a default situation. But a matter of this importance, it would have been pleasing to have a memo saying, ‘We agree with this principle or the principles behind the bill, and they may have some differences, here and there, and they would like to come.’”

“But that didn’t come to the select committee. But that did not happen. But here we are,” Gonsalves said, listing public servants dating back to 1972, when Alfonso Dennie, then a principal, lost all his benefits after contesting national elections.

He said Girlyn Miguel, a former educator quit her job as a principal and became deputy prime minister after being elected to Parliament, and the current deputy prime minister, Montgomery Daniel under his Unity Labour Party (ULP) administration.

“... Fortuitously, in each of these cases, they served long enough time in Parliament to get a parliamentarians pension,” he said.

The prime minister noted that former educators, Terrance Ollivierre,

the MP for the Southern Grenadines and Roland “Patel” Matthews, a former MP for North Leeward, both of the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), also lost all their benefits when they quit their jobs and became election candidates.

Gonsalves, however, noted the case of the ‘Three NDP Teachers’ — the late Elvis Daniel, Kenroy Johnson and Addison “Bash” Thomas, who were forced to resign to contest the 2010 general elections for the opposition party.

The teachers had sought to rely on a collective bargaining agreement that Gonsalves’ ULP administration, which the prime minister had witnessed, had signed with the Teachers’ Union in 2005.

The agreement provided for teachers to take six months’ unpaid election leave and to resume their positions if they lost the election.

However, when they sought election leave under that agreement, the Public Service Commission pointed them to the section of the Constitution that bars public officers from contesting general elections unless exempted by Parliament.

Gonsalves then said that the election leave provision was “aspirational” and the union knew that when it signed it. However, the union took the government to court and won.

“So, early in our administration, there was an aspirational clause in an agreement with the teachers union and that aspirational clause was not affected in law, because the Constitution provides that what we are doing today could have been done,” Gonsalves told legislators.

“Well, we have come to it now. And I believe that everyone in this house supports the propositions behind this legislation. There may be cribbles here and there, as to whether this position should have been included or excluded,” he added.

CCA appeals US court ruling in Bahamas Baha Mar case

China Construction America (CCA) has filed an appeal against a New York court ruling that the original developer of Baha Mar, Sarkis Izmirlan, had proven his fraud claim against CCA “beyond doubt”.

Baha Mar is a 1,000-acre resort complex on the island of New Providence in The Bahamas that was opened in April 2017.

It includes three hotels with a total of 2,200 rooms, 284 private residences, a 100,000-square-foot casino, a 30,000-square-foot spa, and a Tournament Players Club golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Earlier this month, Judge Andrew Borrok, sitting in the New York State Supreme Court, ruled in favour of Izmirlan awarding more than US\$1.6 billion in damages over the fraud and breach of contract claim against the project’s main contractor.

The judge said that in “falsely” telling Izmirlan they would achieve Baha Mar’s substantial completion by the March 27, 2015, target date, he found that CCA representatives triggered the events that led to the project’s “liquidity” crisis and ultimately the original developer’s ouster.

In a statement sent to the Caribbean Meridia Corporation (CMC), a CCA spokesman said the compa-



Baha Mar (Photo credit: Baha Mar/Facebook)

ny along with its affiliates CSCEC Bahamas and CCA Construction Inc filed a notice of appeal of the New York State Supreme Court decision of October 18, 2024.

In the statement, the companies said the court’s decision “is by no means the last word in this matter, and the action we have taken to begin the appeal process is the first step towards correcting a ruling that misapplies basic principles of New York law, misconstrues core facts, and completely overlooks the consistently tireless construction work done by CCA Bahamas that ultimately completed the Baha Mar Resort”.

The companies claim that through its own irresponsible actions, BML Properties caused BML to overborrow, overspend and overextend itself and

then brought about its own losses by unilaterally and secretly putting the project into a wrongful bankruptcy behind the backs of its partners and the Bahamian government.

“BML Properties’ ploy to keep control of the project, which was rejected by independent courts in the United States and The Bahamas, harmed not only CCA Bahamas and CSCEC Bahamas, but also the Bahamian economy. We look forward to presenting our arguments to the appellate court,” the statement said.

Earlier The Bahamas government said it was awaiting the advice of the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, before making any comment on the US court ruling.

In a brief statement, the Office of the Prime Minister stated that Prime

Minister Phillip Davis had directed Attorney General Ryan Pinder “to conduct a review” of the ruling issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the case of BML Properties Ltd. v. China Construction America, Inc.

The statement quoted Prime Minister Davis as saying that the “Government will await the advice of the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs before making any further comments or decisions regarding the findings of the ruling.”

Following the US court ruling Izmirlan said he was “grateful to have finally had our day in the US judicial system,” adding “I first conceived of Baha Mar more than 20 years ago only to see it ripped out of my hands at the brink of opening by CCA.”

Israel strikes historic Lebanese city of Baalbek after ordering evacuation

Israeli strikes have killed 19 people, including eight women, around Lebanon's eastern city of Baalbek, the country's health ministry has said.

It came hours after tens of thousands of residents fled in response to evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military that covered the entire city and two neighbouring towns.

Mayor Mustafa al-Shell told the BBC more than 20 strikes were reported on Wednesday afternoon in the Baalbek area, with five inside the city itself, where there is a Unesco-listed ancient Roman temple complex.

The Israeli military said it had struck Hezbollah command-and-control centres and infrastructure in Baalbek and Nabatiyeh, in southern Lebanon.

The military also said it had targeted Hezbollah fuel depots in the Bekaa Valley, where Baalbek is located. It gave no details, but Lebanon's state news agency said diesel tanks were hit in the town of Douris, where Mr Shell said pictures showed a huge column of black smoke rising into the air.

The attacks came as Hezbollah's new secretary-general said the group would continue its war plan against Israel under his leadership and that it would not "cry out" for a ceasefire.

Speaking a day after his appointment was announced, Naim Qassem said he would follow the agenda of his predecessor, Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli air strike in Beirut last month.

Qassem made the speech from an undisclosed location amid reports suggesting he had fled to Iran, which is Hezbollah's main supporter.

After weeks of an air offensive that has brought devastation to large parts of southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs, the Israeli military



Israeli strikes earlier this week levelled several buildings around the Gouraud Barracks area of Baalbek, near the city's Roman ruins seen in the background.

appears to be expanding its campaign against Hezbollah in the east of the country - another area where the group has a strong presence and support.

Baalbek is a key population centre in the Bekaa Valley, near the border with Syria. It is a largely rural area and one of Lebanon's poorest regions.

Hezbollah has established part of its infrastructure and recruited fighters from there.

The area is also strategically important for Hezbollah, as it is part of a route linking the group to its allies in Syria and Iraq and, ultimately, to Iran.

On Wednesday morning, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for the whole of Baalbek and the neighbouring towns of Ain Bourday and Douris, warning that it would "act forcefully against Hezbollah interests".

Roula Zeaiter, programme manager for the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL), said the orders sparked panic among residents, including displaced families from other parts of the country.

"Minutes after the order to leave came, the streets were filled with peo-

ple grabbing their things, locking their homes and closing their shops," she told the charity ActionAid.

"We're scrambling like scared mice, moving from place to place. Lebanon is becoming like Gaza, with Israeli forces using the same tactics."

Videos posted online showed huge traffic jams on the main roads out of the city.

Mustafa al-Shell estimated that about 50,000 people fled within two hours, but he added that many others decided to stay behind "for various reasons".

He said the initial wave of Israeli strikes on Wednesday afternoon hit villas and other residential buildings in Baalbek's city centre and its outskirts.

"It's not clear what the Israelis have targeted," he added. "But I can tell you that there are no ammunition dumps or weapons caches in Baalbek."

The state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported that the Ras al-Ain Hills, Amshki, al-Asira, al-Kayyal Road areas were hit, and the northern and southern entrances to Baalbek. The strikes also targeted Ain Bourday

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and Douris, including diesel tanks in its vicinity, it said.

Later, the Lebanese health ministry said 11 people, including three women, were killed in a strike on Salibi Farm in the Baalbek area. Eight others, including five women, were killed in another strike in Bednayet, it added.

The ministry separately said another 11 people were killed in Israeli strikes in the town of Sohmor, in the southern Bekaa Valley.

Following the strikes on Baalbek, the Israeli military said it had conducted “intelligence-based strikes on fuel depots located inside military compounds belonging to Hezbollah’s Logistical Reinforcement Unit 4400 in the Bekaa Valley”. The unit was responsible for transferring weapons from Iran, it added.

A second statement said aircraft had “struck command-and-control centres and terrorist infrastructure” in the Baalbek area.

It also accused Hezbollah of systematically using civilian infrastructure and areas for military activities, which the group has previously denied.

Mr Shell said none of the strikes hit Baalbek’s Unesco World Heritage site, which comprises the ruins of Roman temples which date back to the 1st Century AD and are among the largest and best-preserved in the world.

However, he warned of what he called “Israeli



More than 1.2 million people have been displaced across Lebanon.

treachery” and said Lebanese authorities were “pleading... for international bodies to stand fast in defence of Baalbek’s Roman ruins”.

Unesco warned in a post on X on Wednesday that featured a photo of the Temple of Jupiter at Baalbek, that World Heritage sites across the Middle East, particularly those in Lebanon, were under threat.

“Unesco recalls to all parties their obligation to respect and protect the integrity of these sites. They are the heritage of all humanity and should never be targeted,” it said.

On Monday night, several buildings were levelled around the Gouraud Barracks area of Baalbek, near the Roman ruins, during Israeli strikes that killed more than 60 people across the Bekaa Valley.

When asked by reporters in Washington about the Baalbek strikes, US state department spokesman Matthew Miller called on Israel

not to threaten the lives of civilians or damage critical civilian infrastructure and cultural heritage.

He also confirmed that US Middle East envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk were “traveling to Israel to engage on issues including a diplomatic resolution in Lebanon, as well as how we get to an end to the conflict in Gaza”.

Lebanon’s Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, expressed optimism that a ceasefire might be possible in “the coming hours or days”.

Two sources told Reuters news agency that US mediators were working on a proposal for a 60-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah which would be used to finalise the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1701.

The resolution ended the last war they fought in 2006 and included a call for southern Lebanon to be free of any armed personnel or weapons other than those of the Lebanese state and a UN peacekeeping force.

Israel went on the offensive against Hezbollah - which it proscribes as a terrorist organisation - after almost a year of cross-border fighting sparked by the war in Gaza.

It says it wants to ensure the safe return of tens of thousands of residents of northern Israeli border areas displaced by rocket attacks, which Hezbollah launched in support of Palestinians the day after its ally Hamas’s deadly attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.

The Israeli military said about 60 projectiles fired by Hezbollah crossed from Lebanon into Israel on Wednesday. No injuries were reported.

More than 2,800 people have been killed in Lebanon since then, including 2,100 in the past five weeks, and 1.2 million others displaced, according to Lebanese authorities.

Israeli authorities say more than 60 people have been killed in northern Israel and the occupied Golan Heights.

Spain battles deadliest flood disaster in decades as death toll rises to 95

Spain is enduring its worst flooding disaster in decades, with at least 95 people dead and dozens more missing, after huge rains swept the eastern province of Valencia and beyond.

Torrential rain on Tuesday triggered flash floods which swept away bridges and buildings and forced people to climb on to roofs or cling to trees to survive.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has declared three days of national mourning as the extreme conditions continue, restricting some rescue efforts.

The death toll is feared to climb as “there are many missing people”, the government says.

At least 92 deaths were recorded in Valencia, with another two in Castilla-La Mancha to Valencia’s west and one in Málaga - a 71-year-old British man who died in hospital after being rescued from his home.

The flooding death toll is the country’s worst since 1973, when at least 150 people were estimated to have died in the nation’s worst-ever floods in the south-east.

In his national address on Wednesday, Sánchez urged citizens to remain vigilant and pledged a full recovery, telling victims: “The whole of Spain weeps with you... we won’t aban-



The churning floodwaters swept away hundreds of cars in Valencia.

don you.”

One of the first towns affected near Valencia, Chiva, reported one year’s worth of rainfall on Tuesday in just a period of eight hours, according to national weather agency Aemet.

As Spanish army and emergency crews rushed to carry out rescues on Wednesday morning - including winching people to safety from balconies and car rooftops - survivors in Valencia recounted the horror of the floods on Tuesday night.

Sudden surges turned streets and roads into rivers, catching many motorists unaware.

Guillermo Serrano Pérez, 21, from Paiporta near Valencia, said the water had rushed down a highway “like a tsunami”, forcing him and his parents to

abandon their car and climb on to a bridge to survive.

Another witness recounted a scene when motorway drivers realised a torrent of water was heading towards them and formed a human chain to escape along a raised central reservation.

“Thank goodness no one slipped because if anyone had fallen, the current would have dragged them away,” Patricia Rodriguez, 45, told El País newspaper.

One resident of La Torre told the BBC some of his friends had lost their homes, and on Tuesday night he “saw cars floating in the water” and the tides “breaking through some walls.”

Meanwhile, the mayor of Horno de Alcedo, a town just outside Valencia, told BBC Newshour how the water levels rose by more than a metre in just a matter

of minutes.

“The currents were so quick – and we called the emergency services who started rescuing some people who had water up to their necks”, Consuelo Tarazon said.

There are widespread accusations in Spain that in many cases, disaster relief authorities were too slow to act with warnings, meaning people could not get off roads or seek higher ground.

The civil protection agency, deployed during national disasters, did not issue an alert until 20:15 on Tuesday evening local time – but by then, Chiva and several other towns had already been flooded for at least two hours.

Valencia’s regional government has also been forced to defend its decision

cont’d on pg 18

Sports News



Rangers continue good start to First Division campaign

Ottos Rangers continued their successful start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division on Tuesday.

After snatching a 5-4 victory over Police in their first outing after being relegated from last season's Premier Division, the Ottos Rangers made it two wins in a row with a 2-1 triumph over FC Master Ballerz at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Tequaine Teague and

Jahzaire Whyte scored for Rangers, while Dwayne Morrissey scored for FC Master Ballerz, who lost their first match in the First Division after gaining promotion from the ABFA's Second Division last season.

Jennings United and newly promoted Freeman's Village recorded their first win in the First Division.

After drawing 1-1 with Freeman's Village in their opening encounter, Shaquille Watkins scored

twice as Jennings United snatched a 3-2 victory against Tryum at the Jennings playing field.

Watkins had conversions in the 32nd and 42nd minutes, and Tassim James scored in the 17th minutes for Jennings United.

Jolanshoy scored in the 33rd minute, and Silence Manyaka had a 47th-minute conversion for Tryum, who were playing their first match of the season after being relegated from last season's Premier Division.

Malek Charles scored twice to lead Freeman's Village to a 4-1 victory against Bendals at the Bendals playing field.

Charles had conversions in the 18th and 31st minutes, Kahlisque Kellman scored in the 40th-minute, and Darius Hector converted the last goal for Freeman's Village in the 57th minute.

Kajiah Matthew scored a consolation goal in the 55th minute for Bendals, who were playing their first match in this season's First Division.

Meanwhile, Zavier Joseph achieved a hat trick and Demarcus Douglas scored twice as the Young Lions of Old Road romped to their second win in as many games in the ABFA's Second Division with an 8-1 drubbing of West Ham at the Old Road playing field.

Joseph had conversions in the 34th, 57th, and 67th minutes; Douglas scored in the 38th and 70th minutes; Kajahry Browne had a 33rd-minute conversion; La'Trell Lewis scored in the 72nd minute; and Emery Horsford scored the last goal for the Young Lions in the 76th minute.

Vughn Roberts converted a penalty kick in the 28th minute for West Ham FC in their first match of the new season.

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to scrap the Valencia Emergency Unit, which had been set up by the previous government to tackle natural disasters such as flooding and wildfires.

Spain deployed more than 1,000 troops to help with rescue efforts on Wednesday, but many crews remain cut off from towns by flooded roads and downed communication and power lines.

The European Union's chief, Ursula von der Leyen, said it had activated its Copernicus satellite system to help co-ordinate Spanish rescue teams. Other European neighbours have also offered to send reinforcements.

Spain's Defence Minister Margarita Robles had said earlier on Wednesday the flooding across the region was "an unprecedented phenomenon".

The downpour eased in the country's central-east on Wednesday, but weather officials warned the rains were moving north-east to the Catalonia region. Weather warnings have also been issued across several other parts of the country, urging people to brace for floods and take shelter.

Many factors contribute to flooding,

but a warming atmosphere caused by climate change makes extreme rainfall more likely.

Weather researchers have identified the likely main cause of the intense rainfall as a "gota fria" – a natural weather event that hits Spain in autumn and winter when cold air descends on warmer waters over the Mediterranean.

However, the increase in global temperatures had led to the clouds carrying more rain, scientists told the BBC.

"With every fraction of a degree of fossil fuel warming, the atmosphere can hold more moisture, leading to heavier bursts of rainfall," said Dr Friederike Otto, from Imperial College London, who leads an international group of scientists who try to understand the role that warming plays in these type of events.

"No doubt about it, these explosive downpours were intensified by climate change."

The world has already warmed by about 1.1C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.

All Saints Secondary's unbeaten run comes to an end at the hands of St. Anthony's Secondary

The St. Anthony's Secondary School ended All Saints Secondary's unbeaten start in the Under-14 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup on Tuesday.

St. Anthony's recorded their second win in three matches by surging to a 6-2 victory against All Saints Secondary at the Clare Hall playing field.

Player of the match Elijah Cenac, Chance Degannes, and Emery Lindsay each scored twice for St. Anthony's Secondary.

Cenac had conversions in the 5th and 21st minutes; Degannes scored in the 15th and 31st minutes; and Lindsay converted his goals in the 20th and 40th minutes.

Lakome Francis scored in the 34th minute, and Zian Chandler had a 47th minute conversion for All Saints Secondary, which lost for the first time in four matches after winning two and



Tevon Henderson of Clare Hall Secondary School

drawing one of their previous three encounters.

But Clare Hall Secondary and defending champion Princess Margaret School both recorded wins in their latest matches to remain the only two unbeaten teams in the Under-14 Boys Division League.

Tevon Henderson and Glenford Ambrose both achieved hat-tricks as leaders Clare Hall Secondary notched up their third win in four matches with a 7-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School at the Clare Hall playing field.

Michael Moses scored the other goal for Clare Hall Secondary, which took sole leadership of the Under-14 Boys Division by advancing to 10 points from four matches.

Princess Margaret School claimed their second win in three matches with a 3-1 victory against St. Joseph's Academy at the PMS playing field.

Tequan Samuel scored in the first minute, Alan Henry had a 38th-minute conversion, and Johnathan Francis scored the final goal for Princess Margaret in the 50th minute.

Erije Joseph had a 34th-minute conversion for St. Joseph's Academy, which suffered their second loss in four matches.

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) recorded their second win in three matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the PMS playing field.

Theondre Scotland had a 27th-minute conversion, Tafari Parker scored in the 30th minute, and Jahviere Davis of Sir Novelle Richards Academy conceded an own goal in the 34th minute, which allowed Antigua Grammar



Elijah Cenac of St. Anthony Secondary School

School to secure their victory.

Jordan Cuffy scored both goals with conversions in the second and 18th minutes for Sir Novelle Richards Academy, which suffered their second loss in four matches.

Elisha McDonald scored twice as Ottos Comprehensive School secured their second win in four matches with a 4-0 victory against bottom team Pares Secondary School at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

McDonald had conversions in the 6th and 12th minutes, Jevoi Grey scored in the 43rd minute, and Lijthaddeus Christian scored in the 50th minute for Ottos Comprehensive School.

Pares Secondary School remain winless and firmly rooted in the cellar without a point after losing all four matches.

TT Red Force begin Super50 defence with win over CCC

Khary Pierre and Yannic Cariah shared seven wickets to lead the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force to a 60-run win in the opening match of the 2024 CG United Super50 Cup.

Chasing 194 for victory, the Combined Campuses and Colleges were handily placed at 102 for three before Cariah removed top-scorer Shaqkere Parris for 57.

Cariah and Pierre combined to take four wickets for 19 runs as the CCC slid dangerously to 121 for six.

The visitors progressed to 133 for six before Pierre took three wickets in four balls to fire out the CCC for 134 and earn a 60-run win.

Left-arm orthodox spinner Pierre took 4 for 8 in 9.1 overs, while Cariah snared three for 31 in eight overs.

Earlier, Kjorn Ottley hit 45 and shared partnerships with Tion Webster (26) and Amir Jangoo (29) to take the Red Force to 113 for two.

However, the Red Force suffered the first of two batting collapses to fall to 194 all out in their 50 overs.

First, the defending champions lost four wickets for nine runs to fall to 122 for five before Jyd Goolie (37) and Cariah (28) put on a decisive 68-run stand for the sixth wicket.

T&T then collapsed in a heap after that with the last five wickets falling for four runs in the space of nine balls as the innings came to a chaotic end.

However, Pierre's miserly brilliance and Cariah's all-round talents took the Red Force to a winning start in their hunt for a record-extending 15th regional 50-over title.

Trinidad and Tobago take on the Windward Islands in their next game on Friday at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Meanwhile, the Windward Islands



Kjorn Ottley top-scored for T&T Red Force in their opening match of the Super50 Cup against the CCC at St Augustine, Trinidad, on Tuesday, October 29, 2024. (CWI Media)

Volcanoes opened up their 2024 CG United Super50 Cup campaign with a one-wicket win over the Guyana Harpy Eagles at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Tuesday.

The Harpy Eagles, after winning the toss and choosing to bat first, posted a respectable 274 for five from their 50 overs thanks to half centuries from captain Tevin Imlach and Keemo Paul.

Imlach led the way with an unbeaten 67-ball 65, including five fours and a six, while Paul batted through to the end alongside his skipper to finish

on 54 not out off just 25 balls, hitting one four and six sixes.

Tagenarine Chanderpaul and Kevlon Anderson also provided excellent contributions with 49 and 42, respectively, while Shadrack Descarte claimed two for 53.

The Windwards, who were struggling at 58-5 in the 12th over, pulled off an improbable chase, reaching 277 for nine with three balls to spare. The major catalysts for the successful chase were Descarte and wicketkeeper Dillon Douglas, playing only his

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League champions Sandals remain on course to capture the double in the 2024 Business Basketball Championship. (File photo)

Sandals on course to complete double in Business Basketball League

Sandals enhanced their chances of capturing the double in the 2024 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League on Tuesday night.

After capturing the round-robin league title, the top-seeded Sandals made another significant step to-

wards winning the business league playoff championship at the JSC Sports Complex.

Sandals and former champions Richie's Shooterz won their opening games to take one-nil leads in their respective best-of-three business league playoff semi-final series.

Sandals romped to a

53-40 victory against the fifth-seeded Antigua Power Company in the second game of Tuesday's double header.

T-Shawn Lewis sank 21 points, and Keroi Lee scored 11 points for Sandals, while Judah Ferris converted 13 points and Ezekiel Francois scored 10 points for Antigua Power Company.

The third-seeded Richie's Shooterz surged to an emphatic 59-37 win against the second-seeded Anjo Wholesale in Tuesday's opening game.

Cohen Desouza shot a game-high 15 points, Kwame Braithwaite sank 14 points, Darnell Azille had 12 points, and Tavarus Benta scored 11 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Rolando Hamilton and Gabriel Perez each scored eight points for Anjo Wholesale. The four teams were slated to clash in Game 2 of their respective semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday.

If necessary, the deciding Game Three of the best-of-three series will take place at the same venue on Saturday.

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second List A game.

The pair added a crucial 81 runs for the sixth wicket before Descarte fell in the 26th over for a well-played 60 off 62 balls, including seven fours and a six.

Douglas eventually fell for a top score of 90 from 100 balls in the 43rd over with the score on 223. Douglas hit eight fours and two sixes in his excellent knock.

Darel Cyrus, batting at nine, contributed a crucial 29 alongside Douglas, but fell with just over four overs left with the

Volcanoes needing a further 30 runs for victory.

Those runs proved no problem for final pair Kenneth Dember and Gilon Tyson, who batted brilliantly to lead the Volcanoes to victory.

Dember finished on 20 not out off 18 balls, while Tyson made 17 not out off 13 balls. Pacer Nial Smith took three for 46, while Kevin Sinclair claimed two for 66.

The Harpy Eagles will next face CCC at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground on Thursday.

West Indies players get chance to shine in ODI series

Shai Hope will lead the West Indies, while young Antiguan Jewel Andrew gets another chance to impress against England in the three-match CG United One-Day International (ODI) Series, which will bowl off in Antigua on Thursday (today).

Shimron Hetmyer has won a recall against England as West Indies announce the 15-man squad for the three-match series, that begins with two ODIs at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on October 31 and November 2, before the final showdown

at Kensington Oval in Barbados on November 6.

Hetmyer's addition in place of Alick Athanaze is the only change from the squad that toured Sri Lanka earlier this month. Hetmyer hasn't played an ODI for the West Indies since he featured against England at the end of last year.

Shai Hope will lead the West Indies during the series, while young gun Jewel Andrew gets another chance to impress after the 17-year-old recently made his debut against Sri Lanka.

Head Coach Daren Sammy expressed his ex-



Jewel Andrew

citement about returning to action against England.

"Playing against England always provides a new challenge and reignites a rivalry that the players and the people of the Caribbean are eager for. Somehow, we West Indies always find a way to raise our game when we face England.

"This rivalry goes back for decades, and after defeating them last year at home for the first time in a long time in an ODI series, we're ready to face the challenge of a strong England squad again.

"It's always special to play at home, where the lo-

cal support brings energy and passion to every match.

"With our sights set on qualifying for the ICC Men's World Cup in 2027, we've selected a balanced squad that will no doubt push and compete with one of the best teams in the world," he added.

West Indies squad: Shai Hope (c), Jewel Andrew, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Hayden Walsh Jr.



Shimron Hetmyer