

# DCA REJECTS MEDIA REPORTS

*Story on Page 2*



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda delegation to COP29 take a group photo. *Story on page 2.*

# Local News



## DCA clears the air regarding demolition plans

The Development Control Authority wishes to clarify misleading information presented in a recent on-line news article regarding a scheduled demolition for November 14 at 9:00 am at Jennings New Extension, which has since been postponed until April 2025.

The news article published by Real News Antigua on Facebook suggests that twenty-one (21) homes are scheduled for demolition. This is inaccurate, as there are only eight (8) homes scheduled for demolition by the DCA. The owners of these 8 homes have received notice to vacate Crown Land

controlled by the Ministry of Lands for four years, with notice given as recent as July 31, 2024.

Additionally, the Compliance and Enforcement Unit within the DCA further alerted the owners with a final notice dated October 7. None of the mentioned homeowners came into the Ministry of Lands which is responsible for administering Crown Lands.

The DCA is not responsible for the sale of lands. The Central Housing and Planning Authority made separate arrangements with other home owners in the same flood-prone area. It must be restated that the homes scheduled for

demolition are on Crown Lands from Ministry of Lands only.

Section 34(8) of the Physical Planning Act lists the steps the Authority may require to be taken by a person on whom an enforcement notice has been served, to remedy the breach to which the enforcement notice relates, which includes the demolition or removal of a building whole or in part.

The Authority has extended the enforcement deadline until April 30, 2025. Failure to comply by removing the homes scheduled for demolition will result in damage and loss to property.

## PM Gaston Browne hosts delegation dinner at COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan

Ahead of his departure from COP29, Prime Minister Gaston Browne gathered with members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation and fellow Antiguan and Barbudans representing various international organizations to discuss strategies for the remainder of the climate conference.

Although set in a more relaxed atmosphere, this dinner served as an invaluable opportunity for the Prime Minister to connect with the delegation including Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Tumasie Blair, Climate Change Ambassador, Ruleta Camacho, Department of Environment staff including the Director



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with team members.

Diann Black-Layne, Arry Simon and other delegates and international organizations including Gita Gardner, Garth Simon, and other regional representatives.

*cont'd on pg 3*



## Garth Simon represents Antigua and Barbuda at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

Garth Simon, a representative of Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment, recently participated in an international event titled "Improving Climate Resilient Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lessons Learned from the Adaptation Fund Portfolio and New Financing Windows," held during the COP29 summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event brought together leaders and experts from across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to share key insights and experiences from the Adaptation Fund's portfolio, as well as introduce new financing windows under the Adaptation Fund's Medium Term Strategy (MTS2) for 2023-2027.

COP29, the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), serves as a platform for global leaders, policymakers, and advocates to collaborate on urgent climate issues, share best practices, and establish new strategies for adaptation, mitigation, and sustain-



Garth Simon among his peers at COP29

able development.

During the event, Simon showcased Antigua and Barbuda's innovative climate adaptation efforts, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, local partnerships, and integrating both physical and financial resilience measures. His presentation highlighted the country's "Integrated Approach to Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience in the Northwest McKinnons Watershed," also known as the McKinnons Project.

This project, funded by the Adaptation Fund, is designed to enhance the climate resilience of the McKinnons community by upgrading urban drainage systems and improving the McKinnons

Waterway to reduce flood risks and increase water management capabilities.

"Community engagement and local partnerships have been instrumental in ensuring that adaptation solutions are not only sustainable but also practical and context-specific," Simon stated. "Through the involvement of local organizations, we're fostering a sense of ownership within communities, making these measures more effective and resilient in the long term."

Simon also highlighted the SIRD Fund's Climate Change Technologies and Just Transition of the Workforce Program, which aims to equip vulnerable communities with essential climate resilience technologies

that would otherwise be financially inaccessible. This program provides support for technologies that help households and communities adapt to climate challenges, building readiness in the face of increasingly severe climate impacts.

"Through the support of the SIRD Fund, we are able to provide much-needed equipment and training to individuals who may not otherwise afford these resilience measures," Simon explained. "This funding makes a significant difference, helping us protect communities against extreme weather and climate risks."

The Adaptation Fund's efforts in the region reflect a commitment to transformative climate adaptation, with the addition of new financing windows set to further support resilience initiatives in vulnerable communities. As Antigua and Barbuda continues to advance its resilience agenda, the Department of Environment looks forward to further collaboration with the Adaptation Fund and other partners across Latin America and the Caribbean.



PR Gaston Browne (centre) Ambassador Diann Black-Layne (left) and Ambassador Ruleta Camacho-Thomas (right)

*cont'd from pg 2*

zations including Carlon Knight, Jeniece St. Romain and Esquire Henry.

Prime Minister Browne, who had been leading the charge in numerous high-level meetings earlier at the COP, emphasized the importance of a united and cohesive message in promoting Antigua and Barbuda's climate resilience and sustainable development

goals. As he passed on his leadership to the remaining team, he ensured that everyone was aligned with the objectives and priorities for the negotiations ahead.

This gathering underscored Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to climate action and showcased our nation's growing influence in international discussions on climate change

# LIAT 2020 to commence operations into Guyana

LIAT (2020) Ltd is adding Guyana to its ever expanding network to which it will operate regular flights.

An announcement from the airline said it is thrilled to announce the launch of its inaugural flight to Georgetown, Guyana (GEO), on November 19, 2024. This new route will offer increased connectivity across the region, strengthening ties between the Eastern Caribbean and South America.

The introduction of LIAT 2020's Georgetown route marks a significant milestone in the airline's expansion strategy, offering a crucial link between the Caribbean and Guyana's emerging markets. Georgetown, as Guyana's capital and economic hub, is a key destination for business and leisure travelers alike.

Travelers on this new route can immerse themselves in Guyana's vibrant ecotourism offerings, supporting sustainable local economies as they explore lush rainforests, pristine rivers, and breathtaking wildlife.

Hafsah Abdulsalam, Chief Executive Officer at LIAT (2020) Ltd, commented: "Georgetown is an exciting destination with immense potential for both tourism and business. By launching this new service, we are offering our passengers more options for exploring Guyana and its growing economy. At LIAT 2020, we are dedicated to delivering convenient and reliable air travel across the Caribbean and beyond."

Hon. Oneidge Walrond, Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, expressed enthusiasm about the launch of LIAT (2020), emphasizing its significance for tourism and trade.

"The launch of LIAT (2020) is a pivotal moment for the tourism indus-



try," she stated. "It enhances connectivity and opens additional options for travel".

Minister Walrond highlighted that while LIAT (2020) provides direct connections between Guyana and Antigua, its extensive network offers even greater opportunities for travelers from regions such as Canada, Europe, and the Middle East to reach Guyana through the Caribbean.

"Every new airline operating here signals increased confidence in Guyana's growing tourism sector and our robust economy. I am delighted that LIAT (2020) recognizes the potential of the Guyana route, and I am confident this decision will prove mutually beneficial," she noted.

She also pointed to the large Guyanese diaspora residing in Antigua and Barbuda, many of whom are eager to reconnect with their homeland and witness Guyana's economic and social transformation.

Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, Minister of Public Works, underscored that, the people of Guyana stand to benefit immensely from the relaunch of LIAT (2020).

Sensitivity General He said, "This increased airlift will create jobs, stimulate the local economies, and provide more travel options for our citizens.

By making it easier to travel to and from Guyana, we are improving the quality of life for all Guyanese."

He explained the increased airlift, coupled with the Government's investments in airport infrastructure, will unlock new opportunities for economic growth and development.

"By enhancing connectivity to the Caribbean region, we are positioning Guyana as a regional hub, attracting more visitors, investors, and businesses. This will not only stimulate economic growth but also create jobs and generate revenue for our local communities," he noted.

Edghill also underscored that, "By providing more convenient and affordable travel options, we are empowering our citizens to explore new cultures and seize business opportunities across the Caribbean. This increased connectivity will enrich our lives, strengthen our communities, and contribute to the overall well-being of our nation."

Tickets for the new Antigua-Guyana route are available for booking through the LIAT20 website at [www.flyliat20.com](http://www.flyliat20.com), our Customer Experience Centre at +1 (268) 713-5428, [reservations@flyliat20.com](mailto:reservations@flyliat20.com), the ticketing kiosk at the VC Bird International Airport and travel agents.





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# Local News



## Antigua Port Authority rewards two staff members for academic excellence

Two young men who are part of the staff at the Antigua Port Authority and who have performed well in their academic pursuits...have been singled out for special recognition by the authority.

The two young men – Kyle Matthias and Savante Henry – recently completed separate study programmes but with similar outcomes of excellence in their academic performances.

Port Manager Darwin Telemaque said Kyle Matthias completed studies at the Caribbean Maritime Training Institute in Jamaica where he had done very well. Following his studies there, he then journeyed to



South Korea for additional training in safety and other related areas necessary for his training as a pilot. “While he was in South Korea, this young Antiguan, of

all the countries attending the training, was judged the ‘most outstanding’ technical student and the most outstanding academic student,” Telemaque reported.

For Savante Henry, Telemaque recalled that he encountered him during Carnival and the young man informed him of his studies at the University of the West Indies Lifelong Learning Unit. According to Telemaque, the encounter had an impact on him...so much so that he discussed the matter with Board Chairman, Senator Mary Clare Hurst, about doing something special for Henry on his graduation.

“Savante, we came up with a plan to recognize your initiative and your drive to enroll at UWI FIC and where you have

*cont'd on pg 7*



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*cont'd from pg 6*

emerged with a certificate in leadership. We are proud of you, congratulations," he stated.

The port manager said he was staging a public event with other staff members present to let them know that should they decide to pursue higher learning; the port will refund the cost of the training on completion.

The presentation was attended by a representative of the bargaining agent for the port workers, the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union, whose assistant general secretary, Chester Hughes, joined in congratulating the young men and voiced the union's support

for educational initiatives. According to Hughes the ABWU will encourage the staff to pursue their educational advancement, using himself as an example, stating that he is currently pursuing a law degree.

Representing the UWI FIC was Director of the Lifelong Learning Unit, Paula Lee, who recalled that The UWI was established in Jamaica, over 75 years ago. "The fourth landed campus was established in Antigua and Barbuda in 2019. The primary goal of The UWI is to improve the human capital of the region. The quality of our education and research has placed us among prestigious universities in global rankings," she

reported.

She said Savante Henry successfully completed the Leadership with Agility with High Performance course. He also received one of two SHINE Awards presented during this year's graduation ceremony to students described as 'inspiring'.

During the ceremony,

Telemaque announced that Savante will receive a refund for the cost of his programme...but that his next paycheck will reflect an increase as he has been promoted.

Board Commissioner, Troy Allen and Human Resources Manager, Jacqueline Swift, also participated in the exercise.



## WEST INDIES OIL COMPANY LIMITED TO CONDUCT PIPELINE REPAIRS AT SAND HAVEN BEACH

**ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda - October 30, 2024**

The West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC) wishes to inform the public that we will be conducting repairs on a pipeline at Sand Haven Beach, in proximity to our pump station.

The important maintenance work which was previously scheduled to be completed on Wednesday, November 13th will be extended until **Friday November 22, 2024**.

During this time, we kindly ask beachgoers to prioritize their safety by observing all caution signage and follow the guidance of our on-site work crew. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we undertake these essential repairs to ensure the continued safe and efficient operation of our facilities.

For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Charma John, our Health, Safety, and Environment Officer at 464-9504.

-END-





## Team Antigua and Barbuda leaves for Taste of the Caribbean competition tomorrow

Antigua and Barbuda is sending a strong contingent to the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association's Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Competition, where top culinary teams from the region showcase their skills and creativity.

From November 18-20, Team Antigua and Barbuda will proudly represent the country at the competition against Barbados, St. Lucia, Bonaire, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and Turks & Caicos. Additionally, the team is set to vie for individual awards and the coveted destination prize.

Representing Antigua and Barbuda are:

Senior Chef Ronald Wilson from Blue Waters Hotel

Pastry Chef Britanya McLaren of Hermitage Bay  
Junior Chef Azarie Crump, Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute

Mixologist Auslando Davis, Curtain Bluff

Supporting Chef Team: Adrian Browne, Sips and Tips, Junior Chef Support

Chef Jean Pierre-Tuitt, Jumby Bay Island

Guiding them are:

Team Manager: Chef Maurine Bowers, Executive Pastry Chef at Curtain Bluff  
Mentor: Chef Olvanah Richardson-Burnette, Executive Sous Chef at Blue Waters Hotel

Procurement Specialist: Jesse Thomas, Director of Agri-Tourism at the Ministry of Tourism.

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez gave the team a warm send-off by reminding the members that while they are representing themselves and their hotels, they should always bear in mind that they are first and foremost representatives

of Antigua and Barbuda as ambassadors.

"As ambassadors, attitude, is very important especially in a competitive environment. You should also be open to learn new things and to see how these can be incorporated into whatever you do when you return," he urged.

He also suggested to the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute that it needs to begin looking at ways to expand its facilities to accommodate more students. This will be necessary given that there will be groundbreaking ceremonies for at least four hotel properties next year.

Both chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, Craig Marshall and CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James were on hand to join in wishing the team 'best of luck' in the competition.

This year's competition is being held in Miami, Florida.





## Anthonyson King steps down as a commissioner at ABEC as his tenure ends

It's the end of an era as the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) on Wednesday bid farewell to long-standing Commissioner Anthonyson King, marking his last official working day before his tenure ends on Saturday, November 16, 2024, coinciding with his 75th birthday.

King, who first joined the Commission on August 7, 2010, served two consecutive terms, dedicating

14 years to supporting Antigua and Barbuda's electoral process.

Reflecting on his time with ABEC, King, a lifelong educator, expressed his pride in the Commission's progress over the years.

"This body works tirelessly to uphold democracy in Antigua and Barbuda. It's been a privilege to see how much the Commission has evolved since I joined. I'm confident that it is in good hands going forward," he stated.

King also spoke warmly of the many stalwarts and outstanding civil servants with whom he collaborated, noting that their shared commitment to advancing the nation's electoral integrity transcended any political divides. He expressed gratitude to his wife of nearly 50 years, Cicely King, for her unwavering support, and to his family and friends for their encouragement throughout his tenure.

During a special sitting held on Wednesday, November 13, ABEC's Chairman Ambassador Arthur G. B. Thomas praised King as an invaluable member of the Commission.





"Having worked with King over the years, I can attest to his deep knowledge of the electoral process, his dedication, and his genuine connection with our team. He has been a motivational presence, consistently offering guidance and support. He will be sorely missed," said Ambassador Thomas.

Deputy Chairman Eugene Francis described King as a "man of the people" who, despite any personal political views, approached his duties with impartiality and a welcoming demeanor, which fostered strong relationships within the Commission. Supervisor of Elections Ian S. Hughes commended King's contribution, calling him a source of knowledge and inspiration who leaves a lasting impact on the Commission.

In recognition of his service, the Commission presented King with a commemorative plaque, a token of their collective appreciation for his dedication and influence on Antigua and Barbuda's democratic process.



# Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission

## OFFICIAL REPORT

	August 2024					September 2024					October 2024					November 2024							
#	COUNSTITUENCY	12th - 16th	19th - 23rd	26th - 30th	TOTAL	2nd - 6th	9th - 13th	16th - 20th	23rd-27th	30th	TOTAL	1st - 4th	7th - 11th	14th - 18th	21st - 25th	28th - 31st	TOTAL	4th - 8th	11th - 15th	18th - 22nd	25th - 29th	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL
1	ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	95	84	54	233	38	40	26	12	5	121	6	25	18	17	16	82	9	0	0	0	9	436
2	ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	32	26	24	82	26	25	29	11	3	94	5	11	12	14	11	53	12	0	0	0	12	229
3	ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	40	24	34	98	30	17	17	13	1	78	3	20	10	10	13	56	9	0	0	0	9	232
4	ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	83	158	164	405	25	92	75	61	11	264	7	37	28	30	34	136	27	0	0	0	27	805
5	ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	89	82	87	258	68	36	38	29	2	173	15	29	25	30	19	118	26	0	0	0	26	549
6	ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST	145	111	94	350	61	46	64	30	8	209	19	49	32	38	30	168	17	0	0	0	17	727
7	ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	148	130	73	351	80	39	43	35	9	206	16	33	23	27	14	113	13	0	0	0	13	670
8	ST. MARY'S NORTH	81	137	85	303	92	54	68	34	5	253	28	35	42	34	14	153	26	0	0	0	26	709
9	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	85	76	64	225	27	64	42	35	10	178	19	20	33	22	20	114	15	0	0	0	15	517
10	ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	97	127	88	312	80	67	41	38	9	235	22	37	20	40	27	146	20	0	0	0	20	693
11	ALL SAINTS WEST	72	122	86	280	4	106	85	57	3	255	30	37	57	53	29	206	27	0	0	0	27	741
12	ST. GEORGE	131	162	129	422	99	78	67	49	9	302	23	32	40	37	23	155	34	0	0	0	34	879
13	ST. PETER	100	106	65	271	80	22	27	39	2	170	32	25	27	22	19	125	35	0	0	0	35	566
14	ST. PHILIP NORTH	75	61	44	180	32	27	35	28	3	125	28	20	16	23	15	102	19	0	0	0	19	407
15	ST. PHILIP SOUTH	7	57	29	93	29	24	17	12	3	85	10	15	8	7	4	44	10	0	0	0	10	222
16	ST. PAUL	85	93	72	250	80	50	64	38	5	237	12	28	30	30	30	130	25	0	0	0	25	617
17	BARBUDA	0	25	71	96	40	23	28	9	6	106	11	6	12	9	4	42	5	0	0	0	5	244
Monthly Replacement Application Count		1365	1581	1263		891	810	766	530	94		286	459	433	443	322		329	0	0	0		
MONTHLY TOTAL		4209					3091					1943					329						
																	9572						



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# Opinion



## The Death of Truth, Part II: Why lies risk tearing societies apart

By Sir Ronald Sanders

*(Editor's note: This article was written prior to the November 5 presidential election in the US.)*

On September 19, I published an article entitled "The Death of Truth," written from a deep sense of alarm at the spread of deliberate lies, misinformation, and disinformation about matters that are critical to the well-being of people everywhere. At stake are public health, democratic integrity, and social cohesion — all of which are undermined when lies prevail over facts.

I return to the subject today because of both the fear and the expectation that it is lies, not truth, that will dominate public discourse now, and in the future, unless there is a global determination to reverse the current trend. Currently, there is no indication of such a global resolve, particularly as lies are being propagated practically every second on social media platforms — sometimes with the apparent tolerance, if not encouragement, of major digital network owners.

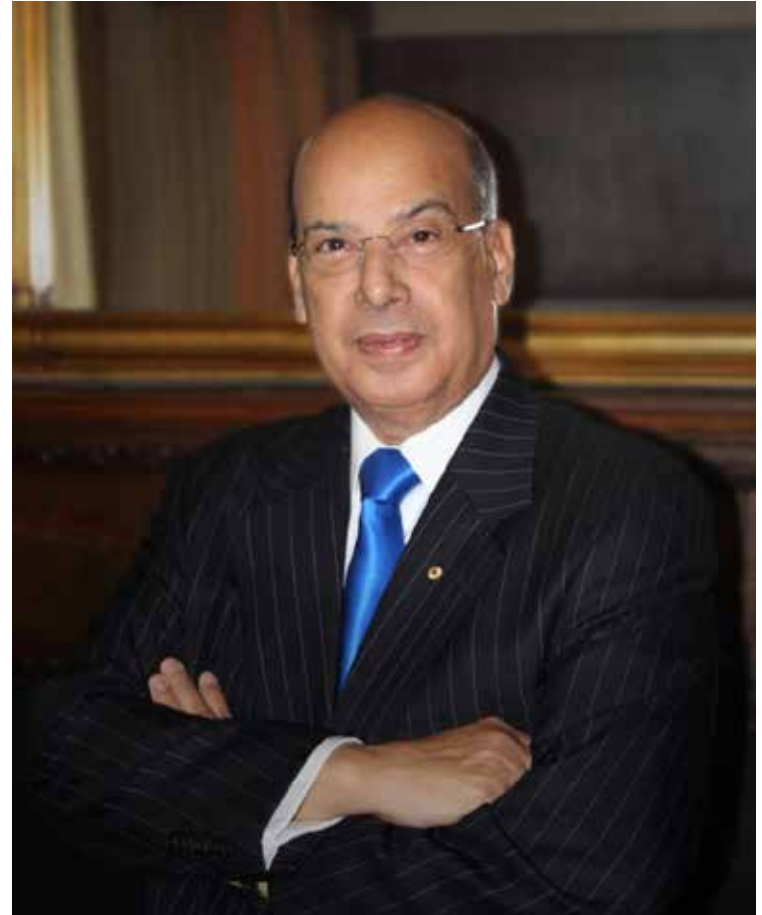
These lies are not adequately challenged, nor are they repudiated by the owners and operators of these platforms. Instead, the owner of one of the largest operations, X (formerly Twitter), has openly declared himself a strong supporter of one of

the candidates in the current US Presidential elections while advocating for greater deregulation and lower taxation on multinational companies like his own. Subsequently, lies prevail, shaping the opinions and convictions of those who are regularly targeted by them.

This troubling situation was glaringly evident in the US presidential campaign, where Artificial Intelligence (AI) was also used to create false impressions, even to the extent of putting words into the mouths of people — words they had never spoken.

Events in almost every section of US society, because of its dominance in mass media and the Internet, have had a profound effect on other countries, at times undermining their traditional cultural norms and values. Today, particularly because of easy access to digital platforms, young people are especially susceptible to behaviour patterns emerging from the US. Regrettably, this includes spreading misinformation and disinformation.

The techniques used to suppress truth and promote lies are also being adopted globally by individuals and organizations that are committed to their causes at any cost. Among these techniques are building fear and apprehension among voters,



Sir Ronald Sanders

distorting and twisting the truth.

In the US election, some of the lies that investigative agencies have identified include claims that the government dropped 32,000 illegal aliens into Springfield, Ohio — a town of around 50,000 people. This falsehood fed into the narrative that illegal migrants are overrunning US towns and displacing US nationals. Local officials have debunked this narrative, but its repetition on certain media outlets, including social media, has distorted public opinion and fostered resentment. Evidence, including statements

from Springfield's Mayor, has disproved this claim. In fact, the city of Springfield website reports that there are an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 legal immigrants in the county, which has a population of about 138,000.

Another false claim is that foreign leaders from "all over South America, all over the Middle East, all over Asia, all over Europe, all over Africa" have emptied their jails to allow their criminals to migrate to the US. This claim aims to stoke fears that foreigners are flooding the country — and that they are criminals,

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

with the cooperation of their governments and the US. But a study by the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research at Birkbeck College, University of London, which researches such figures, states it has seen “absolutely no evidence that any country is emptying its prisons and sending them all to the US.” Nevertheless, the falsehood persists.

There are many more lies and misinformation that have been part of the campaign. Unfortunately, some mainstream media outlets, which for decades declared themselves defenders of truth and objectivity, seldom challenge this disinformation.

At least one well-known and previously respected newspaper published an opinion with a claim that could have been easily fact-checked, yet they chose not to. Further, major newspapers are now owned by billionaires who operate in multiple industries and

seek government contracts, raising questions about how ownership might influence their editorial stance and journalistic independence.

While this situation is particularly pronounced in the US due to the global attention drawn by its presidential election, the trend of misinformation, disinformation, and lies is spreading worldwide, including in the Caribbean.

The world is now in a dangerous place where the public faces two unhealthy choices: to distrust every piece of information or to accept information without question.

Effective decision-making requires accurate information in which people can have confidence; without it, societies risk division and conflict. Public confidence depends on the collective responsibility of media leaders, digital platform owners, and the public alike to demand and uphold accuracy and integrity. The media can be a guardian of truth, but only if it commits to doing

so.

There has always been misinformation in political discourse, particularly around elections, but the current scale and depth of misinformation in US politics is unprecedented. Whatever the outcome of the election, the damage to the public’s trust in information will likely leave lasting scars.

In the Caribbean, political parties and the established media have a responsibility to uphold truth for the good of their societies. Sound policies, strong arguments, and persuasive evidence remain the best way to attract political support, foster unity, and build resilient nations. Societies require accurate information to thrive; without it, their nations risk abject failure.

*(The author is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*



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## Amazon launches Temu and Shein rival with 'crazy low' prices

By Liv McMahon

Amazon has launched a new outlet called Haul which caps the price of products on sale at \$20 (£15.79), in an effort to take on low-cost retailers Temu and Shein.

The online shopping giant unveiled Haul as a mobile-only experience available in its Shopping app for US customers on Wednesday.

It says shoppers can expect "crazy low prices" on Haul products that are "worth the wait" of up to two weeks for delivery.

Amazon's Chinese e-commerce rivals have enjoyed rapid growth in recent years but also faced criticism over the environmental impact of making and shipping ever more cheap products.

"Temu and Shein have faced backlash both for taking advantage of import loopholes and for being wasteful and environmentally irresponsible," Forrester retail analyst Sucharita Kodali told BBC News.

"This effort seems to have the same challenges," she said of Amazon Haul.

Haul marks the platform's long-awaited foray into the sale cheaper goods with lengthier shipping times - a business model which has spurred the rise of Temu and Shein.

But regulators around the world are showing growing wariness about the rise of platforms selling mass produced goods for very low cost prices.

The European Commission also launched action against Temu in October over concerns that it is failing to stop the sale of illegal products.

Amazon has made low prices central to its offer with Haul.

As well as a maximum price of \$20, it said most would cost less than \$10 (£7.90).

It cited examples such as a three-piece razor set and an "elegant necklace, bracelet, and earring set" available at just under three dollars each in a press release about the launch.

Free delivery will also be available for orders of \$25 or over with one to two week delivery.

"Finding great products at very low prices is important to customers, and we continue to explore ways that

we can work with our selling partners so they can offer products at ultra-low prices," said Dharmesh Mehta, Amazon's vice president of worldwide selling partner services.

The company says the "beta" Haul shopping experience will see all products sold backed by its product guarantees and provide confidence about their safety.

Mr Mehta said it was still "early days" for its new shopping vertical, and customer feedback would be listened to in order to "refine and expand it in the weeks and months to come".

The BBC has asked Amazon if, and when, the service will be launched in the UK.

Ms Kodali added the project was not without risk for Amazon.

She told the BBC there was evidence consumers were "growing tired of poor quality goods and slow shipping."

She said if the products were underwhelming for shoppers and unprofitable for Amazon "I don't expect Haul to be long for the world."



## World Bank expands lifeline to Small States hit by disasters

The World Bank Group has expanded its lifeline to countries struggling to rebuild from disasters, allowing small, vulnerable states to postpone loan and interest repayments after a catastrophic event, so governments can focus on recovery rather than paying off debt.

A statement said that in response to feedback from countries, the World Bank's Climate Resilient Debt Clause (CRDC) now covers all natural disasters, including droughts, floods and health emergencies like pandemics.

Previously, two types of



natural disasters, tropical cyclones and earthquakes, were eligible under the CRDC, which allows el-

igible countries to defer principal and/or interest repayments on IBRD and IDA loans for up to two

years.

“By significantly expanding the scope to cover

*cont'd on pg 16*



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# Regional News



## Dominica to honour Indian PM with national award

Dominica is set to honour Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with its highest national accolade, the Dominica Award of Honour for his outstanding contributions to the country.

The award will be presented at the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit, set to take place from November 19 to 21, 2024, in Georgetown, Guyana, a news release from the office of the prime minister indicated.

President of Dominica, Sylvanie Burton will preside over the ceremony.

The award acknowledges Modi's significant support to Dominica, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, India provided 70,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Dominica in February 2021.

This timely gesture

played a crucial role in the nation's vaccination efforts and enabled Dominica to assist neighbouring Caribbean countries in their own fight against the virus.

The award also highlights India's broader contributions to Dominica, including support in education, information technology, and initiatives aimed at strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development.

The recognition underscores the strengthening of bilateral ties between India and Dominica, and reflects the broader collaboration between India and the Caribbean region.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit expressed his gratitude, stating that the award represents the nation's deep appreciation for Prime Minister Modi's steadfast support during a



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Photo: PMO India

challenging global health crisis.

"Prime Minister Modi has been a true partner to Dominica, particularly during our time of need amid a global health crisis. It is an honour to present him with Dominica's highest national accolade as a symbol of our gratitude for his support and as a reflection of the strong

ties between our countries," Skerrit said.

"We look forward to building on this partnership and advancing our shared vision of progress and resilience."

Prime Minister Modi, in accepting the gesture, reiterated the importance of global cooperation in addressing critical challenges such as climate change and geopolitical conflicts.

He reaffirmed India's commitment to working with Dominica and other Caribbean nations to confront these pressing issues.

Both President Sylvanie Burton and PM Skerrit are expected to attend the India-CARICOM Summit, which will focus on advancing shared priorities and exploring new avenues of cooperation between India and the CARICOM member states.

### *cont'd from pg 15*

all catastrophes, we are helping vulnerable countries to access more meaningful support quickly. In times of crisis, leaders need a reliable partner that has their back. The World Bank wants to be that partner," said World Bank Group President Ajay Banga, who made the announcement during COP29 in Baku.

So far, 14 countries out of 45 that are eligible for CRDCs, have included this clause in their loan agreements.

One country, St Vincent and the Grenadines, exercised the deferral option after Hurricane Beryl. There is no cost to borrowers and any fees associated with

offering the CRDC are recovered from concessional resources.

Aside from making the clause more relevant for countries that face a multitude of natural hazards, the World Bank said it has also simplified the process for clients to apply to delay repayments in the event of a catastrophe.

The CRDC is part of a broader suite of tools in the World Bank's Crisis Preparedness Response Toolkit available to countries coping with the devastation wrought by natural disasters.

This toolkit also includes measures to redirect financing for emergency operations.





Aerial view of illegal migrants hiding in bushes. Photo: Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF)

## Police intercept vessel, apprehend migrants in Turks and Caicos

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) Maritime Operations Unit intercepted a suspicious vessel carrying illegal migrants off Bird Rock, Long Bay, Providenciales yesterday.

Maritime officers discovered the vessel in shallow waters near the shore, where multiple individuals were observed jumping overboard.

Nine individuals were apprehended, including four males (two minors) and five females (one minor). The vessel later sank, but officers confirmed there were no casualties.

While securing the area, officers discovered several individuals hiding in bushes along a nearby trail.

The police established a perimeter, controlling all access points from the beach to the main road throughout the night.

In a related development, at approximately 6 am on November 14, officers apprehended a 48-year-old male resident of Five Cays in the area.

The individual, who lacks legal status on the island, was found carrying tools and a large quantity of packaged food.

He was unable to provide a valid reason for his presence and was transferred to Immigration authorities.

“The swift and coordinated response of all units involved, includ-

ing the Maritime Operations Unit, Drone Unit, TCI Regiment, Border Force, and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, demonstrates our commitment to securing our borders,” said Acting Commissioner of Police Kendall Grant.

He emphasized the RT&CIPF’s dedication to ensuring the safety of TCI residents.

The operation involved multiple agencies, with the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment and Border Force joining other RT&CIPF units in the coordinated response.

All apprehended migrants were safely transported to the Marine Base and transferred to the Immigration Department for processing.



## Delhi shuts all primary schools as hazardous smog worsens

By Aleks Phillips

All primary schools in Delhi will close due to worsening air pollution, officials have announced.

In a post on X, the Indian capital's chief minister, Atishi Marlena Singh, said classes will move online until further notice due to a thick smog that has enveloped the city.

Delhi and nearby cities are experiencing pollution levels that are deemed hazardous to people's health. On Thursday, fine particulate matter in the air was more than 50 times what is considered safe by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Delhi and northern states annually face smog during the winter due to a confluence of dropping temperatures, smoke, dust, low wind speeds, vehicle emissions and crop stubble burning.

According to IQAir, a Swiss-based Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring group, Delhi had on average

254 pieces of fine particulate matter - or PM 2.5 - per cubic metre of air on Thursday. The WHO considers no more than 15 in a 24-hour period safe.

This is because fine particles can penetrate through lungs and affect organs. It can cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, while research shows it can also delay development in young children.

Levels of larger particulate matter - PM 10 - reached an average of 495, more than 10 times the daily amount considered safe by the WHO.

At the same time, monitoring by IQAir suggests the neighbouring cities of Gurugram and Noida had hazardous air pollution, as did the northern Indian city of Chandigarh.

Residents in Delhi have reported eye irritations and breathing issues, according to local media.

A study published in The Lancet in July found that 7.2% of daily

deaths in the city could be attributed to fine particulate pollution.

Air pollution is expected to decrease in the coming days, but will remain at unhealthy levels.

Authorities in Delhi - which has an estimated population of more than 33 million - have already enacted measures aimed at tackling the pollution, including spraying roads with water containing dust suppressants.

Non-essential construction has also been banned, and citizens told to avoid burning coal.

But critics argue these measures have proven ineffective.

The smog is extensive enough to be visible from space. Recently, Nasa shared satellite imagery showing it stretching across northern India and into Pakistan.

Earlier in the month, air pollution in the Pakistani city of Lahore forced officials to temporarily close its primary schools.



# One dead after attack on Brazil's Supreme Court

A man who tried to attack Brazil's Supreme Court in the capital Brasilia on Wednesday evening has died after apparently detonating the explosives he was carrying.

Police have named the man as Francisco Wanderley Luiz, who stood unsuccessfully in council elections for ex-President Jair Bolsonaro's Liberal Party (PL).

Bystanders said they heard two explosions at around 19:30 local time (22:30 GMT), the second of which is believed to have killed Luiz.

Nobody else was hurt in the incident, officials said.

The explosions caused particular alarm because of where they occurred, on Praça dos Três Poderes - the square in the capital where the Supreme Court, the presidential palace and Congress are located.

The Praça dos Três Poderes was the scene of mass disorder in January 2023, when supporters of Jair Bolsonaro ransacked the buildings days after President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva had been sworn into office.

Brazil's solicitor general, Jorge Messias, described Wednesday's incident as a deliberate attack.

Police said the first blast came from a car which be-



longed to Luiz.

Shortly afterwards, a security guard saw a man carrying a rucksack throw a cloth over a statue representing the Lady of Justice, which is located in front of the building housing the Supreme Court.

The guard said that when he approached him, the man opened his shirt to reveal what looked like explosives strapped to the man's body.

According to the security guard, the man lobbed something at the building, lay down on the floor and appeared to set off an explosive device he had placed underneath his neck.

Military police officers who secured the scene said the man "had apparently taken his own life with explosives".

Sniffer dogs and bomb disposal robots were used to secure the area and the Supreme Court building was quickly evacuated.

Local media reported that President Lula had left the area shortly before the blasts occurred.

Justice Minister Ricardo Lewandowski said police were investigating the possible motive behind the attack which came just days before Brazil is due to host the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro and a scheduled visit to Brasilia by the Chinese president, Xi Jinping.

Police have since revealed that Luiz was 59 years old and originally from Rio do Sul, in southern Santa Catarina state, where he had stood as a councillor for Liberal Party in 2020 but received just 98

votes.

The attack was widely condemned, including by members of the Liberal Party.

Jair Bolsonaro's adviser, Fabio Wajngarten, wrote on X: "There are crazy people everywhere, across all political spectrums, supporters of all teams, of all beliefs and religions."

Bolsonaro himself called for an "environment of unity," saying that Brazil needed to "once again cultivate an environment suitable for different ideas to confront each other peacefully".

Brasilia's Deputy Governor Celina Leão said Luiz "could have been a lone wolf, like others we've seen around the world" but that police would carry out a thorough investigation.

# Sports News



## Action continues in ABFA's Second Division

Action in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division will continue with four fourth-round matches on Friday (today) at 4:20 pm.

Real Blizzard FC will entertain the Young Lions of Old Road at the New Winthorpes playing field, and Guydadli FC will face Blackburn Palace FC at the PMS playing field.

Bethesda will host CPTSA Wings FC at the Bethesda playing field, and Golden Grove FC will clash with English Harbour FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

In recent matches, Cedar Grove Blue Jays FC romped to their third win in as many games in the ABFA's Second Division with a 2-0 victory against TAMO FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

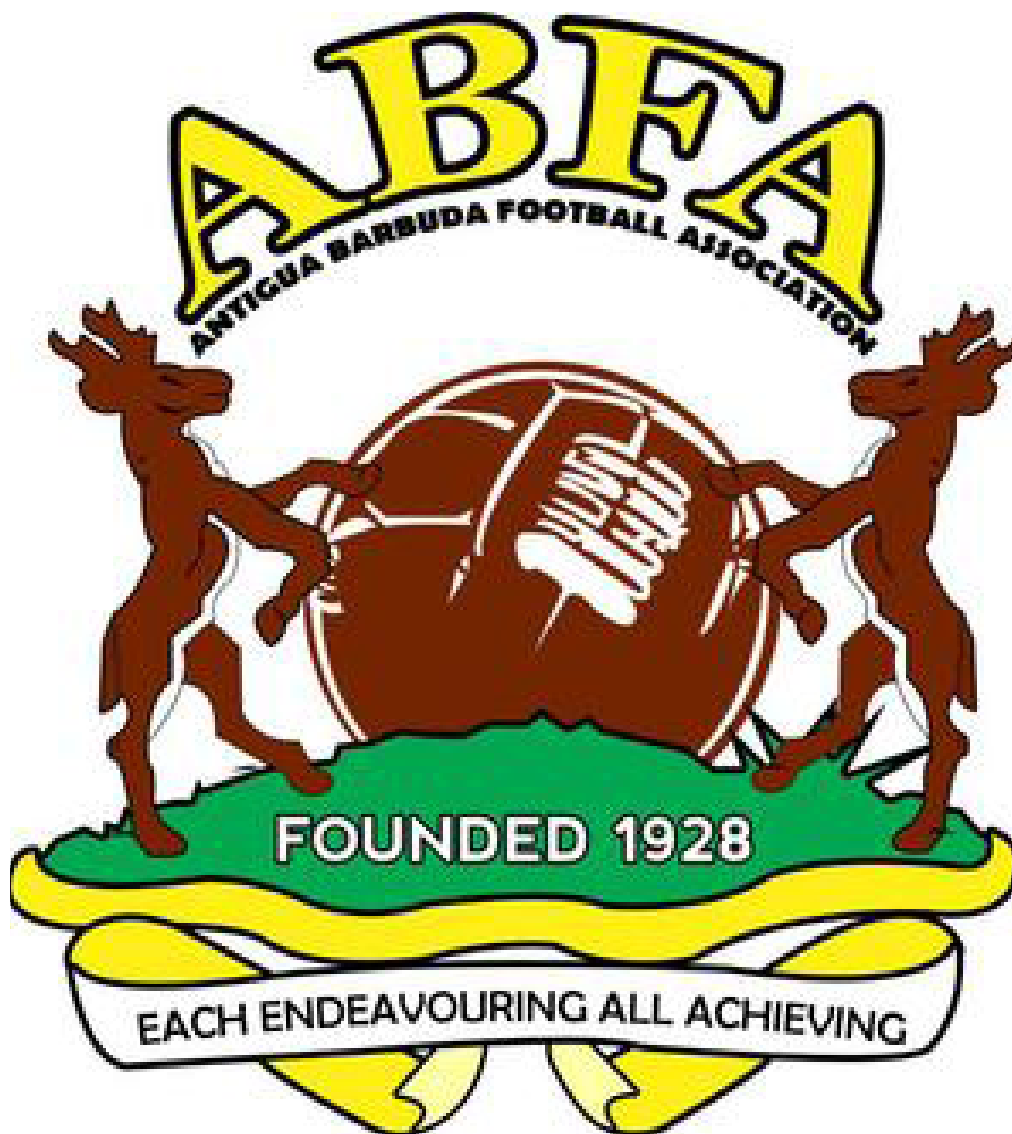
Marlene Francis scored in the 30th minute, and Kishorn Hamilton had a 55th-minute conversion for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays. TAMO FC lost for the fourth time in as many encounters.

Meanwhile, the Ottos Rangers have continued their successful start to their campaign during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division.

The Ottos Rangers made it four wins in as many games with a 2-0 victory over Urlings FC at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Kylano Isaac scored in the 20th minute, and Jazaire Whyte had a 23rd-minute conversion for the Ottos Rangers. Urlings FC lost for the third time in four matches.

After losing their first two matches upon their return to the First Division, Tryum FC claimed their first win



with a 4-3 victory against Bendals at the playing field in Cashew Hill.

Romain Gordon had a double conversion with goals in the 8th and 75th minutes. The other goals for Tryum FC were scored by Ahdonis Henry in the 21st minute and Leon Moses Jr. in the 55th minute.

Jevon Francis scored in the 12th minute, Daiquan Martin had a 28th-minute conversion, and Mitchell Edwards scored in the 78th minute for Bendals, which lost for the third time in as many matches.

After losing to Jennings United

FC in their previous outing, Empire FC returned to winning form, claiming their third win in four matches with a 2-0 victory against Freeman's Village Scorpions at the Freeman's Village playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Nyque Watkins scored in the 46th minute, and Dayron Michel Mesa had an 88th-minute conversion for Empire FC.

It was the first defeat for the Freeman's Village Scorpions after winning their first two matches upon their return to the First Division this season.





The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology volleyball team. (ABAVA)

## Second wins for ABIIT and Nate's Photography in business volleyball league

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) and Nate's Photography recorded their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship on Wednesday evening.

ABIIT snatched a 2-1 victory against The Media in the first game of a double-header at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Media started strongly but ultimately fell short, losing 22-25 in the opening set to ABIIT, who displayed good teamwork.

The Media regrouped and fought

back, winning the second set 25-23, showcasing their resilience and determination.

However, ABIIT came back with a vengeance and produced a dominating display to win the final set and the match 15-7 as the Media suffered their first loss after winning their opening match of the competition.

Nate's Photography won for the second time in as many games by snatching a hard-fought 2-1 victory against Sandals, who were playing their first match in this year's competition.

Nate's Photography took control

early, winning the first set 25-18. But Sandals fought hard and brought the pressure to their opponents by winning the second set 25-23.

The decisive third and final set was a nail-biter, but Nate's Photography eventually prevailed 16-14 to narrowly clinch victory.

The business volleyball league will continue with a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday.

The Police will take on the EZ Fit Flyers in the opening game at 7 pm, and the Royalton will meet Sandals in the second encounter at 8 pm.

# Sports News



## All Saints Secondary go clear at the top of Under-20 Boys Division

All Saints Secondary School has opened up a three-point gap at the top of the Under-20 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup football league.

All Saints Secondary School took sole leadership of the keenly contested competition after claiming their fifth win in six matches with a 3-1 victory over the bottom team,

Irene B. Williams Secondary, in Buckley's on Wednesday.

Jevaughn Jarvis scored twice with conversions in the fifth and ninth minutes, and Adonijah Dyett scored the other goal for All Saints Secondary.

Kadame Tonge scored the lone goal for Irene B. Williams Secondary, which remains winless and without a point in the cellar of the 10-team round-robin

competition after suffering their fifth loss in as many games.

The result also allowed All Saints Secondary School to take sole leadership of the competition by advancing to 15 points from six matches.

All Saints Secondary School moved three points ahead of defending champions Antigua State College, Princess Margaret School, and Antigua

Grammar School, who all have 12 points and a game in hand.

Ottos Comprehensive School recorded their third win in six matches with a 4-0 drubbing of Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

Demarre Swift scored twice with conversions in the fifth and 17th minutes, and the other goals were scored by Najah Monford in the 19th minute and Te Andre Elliott in the 24th minute.

The win carries Ottos Comprehensive School to nine points from six matches, and Jennings Secondary remains second from the bottom of the standings with three points after suffering their fifth defeat in six matches.

The Under-20 Boys Division will continue with the other three sixth-round matches on Friday (today) at 2:30 pm.

Clare Hall Secondary will take on Princess Margaret School at the PMS playing field.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) will tackle St. Anthony's Secondary School at St. Anthony's playing field, and defending champions Antigua State College will clash with Antigua Grammar School at the AGS playing field.

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## Volcanoes secure second win in Super50 Cup

The Windward Islands Volcanoes got their second positive result in this year's CG United Super50 Cup alive with a 98-run DLS method win over the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Wednesday.

In a match reduced to 44 overs per side, the Windwards produced an excellent batting effort after being inserted by the CCC.

The 2018 champions produced a score of 307 for seven off their allotted 44 overs, thanks to half centuries from Alick Athanaze, captain Sunil Ambris, and Kavem Hodge.

Athanaze led the way with 77 off 75 balls, including 12 fours and a six. Ambris made a 63-ball 70, including eight fours, while Hodge made an even 50 off 47 balls, including five fours.

West Indies Under-19



Alick Athanaze, right, bats against the Combined Campuses and Colleges in their CG United Super50 Cup match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. (CWI Media)

captain Stephan Pascal also chipped in with 41, as Amari Goodridge and Romario Greaves each took two wickets.

Set a revised target of 312 off their 44 overs, the CCC were dismissed for 213 in 36.3 overs.

Jonathan Drakes led the way with 55 off 68 balls.

Medium pacer Shadrack Descarte captured four for 43 in 6.3 overs.

Darius Martin and Kenneth Dember provided good support with two wickets, each.

Full Scores: Windward Islands Volcanoes 307-7 off 44 overs (Alick Athanaze 77, Sunil Am-

bris 70, Kavem Hodge 50, Stephan Pascal 44; Amari Goodridge 2-43, Romario Greaves 2-68. Combined Campuses and Colleges 213 off 36.3 overs (Jonathan Drakes 55, Johann Jeremiah 29; Shadrack Descarte 4-43, Darius Martin 2-33, Kenneth Dember 2-33.

### cont'd from pg 24

snatching a 1-0 victory against Galley Bay Resort at the Golden Grove playing field.

The Antigua Rainforest moved into fourth place in Group 1 with 11 points after securing their third win in six matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIF-IC) at the Golden Grove playing field.

In other results, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recorded their first win in seven matches with a 3-0 victory against the Antigua

Plumbing and Hardware Center at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The Antigua Plumbing and Hardware Center remain winless and in the cellar of Group 1 without any points after crashing to their sixth defeat in as many games.

The Department of Immigration claimed their second win in seven matches with a 3-0 victory against APUA Water at the Jennings playing field.

APUA Water remains winless and in the cellar of Group 2 without any points after crashing to their seventh

defeat in as many games.

The Ministry of Tourism secured their first win in six matches with a 4-2 victory against Blue Waters Hotel at the Jennings playing field.

Blue Waters Hotel remains winless and in the cellar of Group 3 without any points after crashing to their sixth defeat in as many games.

The St. John's Development Corporation claimed their second win in six matches with a 4-2 victory against His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

## APUA Telecoms end Sandals unbeaten run

In a repeat of last year's final, defending champions APUA Telecoms ended the unbeaten run of Sandals during the latest round of matches in the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

APUA Telecoms claimed their fifth win in six matches by prevailing 2-0 against Sandals at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The result allows APUA Telecoms to move into second place in Group 3 by advancing to 15 points, one adrift of leaders Antigua Port Authority, which has played seven matches.

The first defeat in six matches sees Sandals slip into fourth place in Group 3 on goal difference behind Fresh Acres Enterprise, as both teams are tied with 13 points.

Fresh Acres moved into third place via goal difference in Group 3 by recording their fourth win in seven matches with a 4-2 victory against the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) at the Golden Grove playing field.



The St. John's Development Corporation claimed their second win during the latest round of matches in the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

Cocos/Keyonna jumped to the top of Group 1 with 14 points by ending the unbeaten run of former leaders Royalton Strikers. Cocos/Keyonna claimed their fourth win in seven matches with a 2-0 victory against the Royalton Strikers at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The first defeat in six matches ensures that Royalton Strikers slip into second place on goal difference ahead of APUA Head

Office, with both teams tied on 13 points.

The APUA Head Office suffered their second loss in seven matches, crashing to a 5-1 defeat against Public Works Asphalt at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The General Post Office remains in second place in Group 2 by advancing to 18 points, one adrift of leaders the Ministry of Agriculture, with a 3-1 victory against Royalton Chic at the Radio

Range playing field in Ottos.

DEWS Pro builders remain in third place on goal difference ahead of the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) in Group 2 after battling to a 2-2 draw with Macky Enterprise at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

CHAPA joined DEWS Pro Builders on 13 points from seven matches by

*cont'd on pg 23*