

PM ADVOCATES FOR DEEPER CARICOM/INDIA RELATIONS

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THEN THERE WERE THREE!



Another E145 aircraft has joined LIAT 2020's growing fleet. (*Story on page 3*) Photo Credit: Eugene Silcott

Local News



Prime Minister Browne wants deeper ties between CARICOM and India

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the Hon. Gaston Browne has called for an increase in economic and commercial relations between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Republic of India. He was speaking at the 2nd CARICOM-India Summit which took place on Wednesday in Guyana.

During his presentation, Prime Minister Browne referred to India's long-standing relation with the region and expressed his sincere gratitude for the bonds of friendship that exist between CARICOM and India. Prime Minister Browne further thanked India for its tremendous act of goodwill in the provision of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Antiguan and Barbudan leader praised Prime

Minister Modi for his leadership in transforming the Indian economy, which is poised to become the third largest in the World by 2030. He remarked that with an enhancement in economic commercial cooperation, it is the desire of the region to see further investment and direct trade from India and called for a CARICOM-India investment forum to explore numerous trade and investment opportunities.

Prime Minister Browne also called for India's support for the SIDS Center of Excellence to assist in acquiring the necessary technologies to close the data gaps which would assist in effective planning and the optimal management of our natural assets. Moreover, the Prime Minister extended thanks on behalf of CARICOM to In-

dia for its provision of concessional climate funding through the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF).

The Antiguan and Barbudan leader along with his regional colleagues yesterday convened the Twenty-First Meeting of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket, while the Second Regional Symposium on Crime and Violence as a Public Health Issue will be held today and on Friday.

Prime Minister Browne said that the meetings come at a time when the region and the world are grappling with a number of major issues, particularly the multifaceted and protracted crisis in Haiti, the rising threat over the links between migration and the spread of international terrorism and organized crime, the post COVID-19 economic recovery, the on-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, and Prime Minister of India the Honourable Shri Narendra Modi

going Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Hamas war among others.

Prime Minister Browne is accompanied to the Georgetown meetings by Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to CARICOM Dr. Clarence Henry and Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt Williams. The delegation returns home on the weekend.



LIAT 2020 adds another aircraft to its fleet

LIAT 2020 has announced the arrival of its third Embraer E145 aircraft, registration 5N-BUV, as part of its growing fleet.

The announcement was made one day after the airline's inaugural flight to Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Guyana.

In a statement, LIAT 2020 outlined, "This latest addition underscores the airline's commitment to enhancing its service offerings, expanding its reach to new destinations, and providing reliable travel solutions for the Christmas season and beyond".

CEO Hafsa Abdul-salam commenting on the addition said, "We are thrilled to welcome this new aircraft, which will significantly boost our operational capacity.

"As we approach the busy Christmas season, this additional Embraer E145 will enable us to accommodate more passengers, reach new destinations, and continue providing the reliable, high-quality service our customers expect from us."

Embraer E145 is renowned for its sleek, efficient design, ideal for serving LIAT's regional routes with a combination of speed, comfort, and dependability.

With a seating capacity of up to 50 passengers, this jet offers a cozy yet spacious cabin arrangement, provid-

ing a smooth and comfortable journey for passengers traveling between Caribbean destinations. Its compact yet powerful configuration allows swift boarding and deplaning, ensuring efficient turnarounds on each flight leg.

With a range of approximately 1,550 nautical miles, the Embraer E145 is well-suited for LIAT's

needs, allowing it to connect more distant Caribbean islands and extend its network without compromising travel time or passenger convenience.

Its quieter engines and advanced technology not only appeal to environmentally conscious travelers but also ensure a more serene in-flight experience, enhancing the overall appeal

of LIAT's expanding fleet.

The arrival of the third Embraer E145ERJ takes the fleet count to three E145 ERJ and the total aircraft count to six (6).

LIAT 2020 Ltd said it is positioned to deliver greater connectivity and flexibility across the Caribbean, paving the way for enhanced travel opportunities now and well into the future.





Antigua and Barbuda makes significant strides on matters of human rights

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, says Antigua and Barbuda has made significant progress in advancing human rights domestically.

Speaking at a two-day capacity-building workshop on the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF), Greene noted that the progress is being made particularly by implementing key recommendations while remaining engaged internationally. Notably, the passing of the Disability and Equal Opportunities Act in 2017 and the National Social Protection Act in 2020 and the ratification of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights demonstrate the country's commitment.

Additionally, he noted that Antigua and Barbuda has consistently sent representatives from the Attorney General's Chambers to participate in the Human Rights Council's annual sessions.

"As Antigua and Barbuda prepares for the next cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), it is vital that stakeholders remain informed about the process requirements and work collaboratively to close existing gaps, thereby ensuring more effective implementation and follow-up. The National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRF) will be instrumental in translating these commitments into meaningful action, fostering efficient reporting, implementation, and sustained progress," he observed.

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Sir Molwyn pays tribute to Dr. Duncan's work in healthcare

Minister of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph has paid tribute to the late Medical Director of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, Dr. Albert Duncan, who died on Tuesday, describing him as one of the country's "most distinguished medical professionals".

Dr. Duncan passed away in a US hospital following a period of illness.

Reflecting on his contributions to Antigua and Barbuda's healthcare system, Sir Molwyn said the late General and Acute Care Surgeon was dedicated to his craft, adding his leadership in healthcare brought hope to thousands of people.

"Under his leadership, Dr. Duncan pioneered many advanced medical services at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, including kidney transplants, hip and knee replacements. His vision and dedication laid the groundwork for improved access to critical and life-saving procedures for the people of Antigua and Barbuda," the health minister stated.

"His extensive academic achievements included a BSc in Biology from Hunter College, an MD from the Med-



Sir Molwyn Joseph ical College of Ohio at Toledo, and a fellowship in Trauma Critical Care at SUNY and Kings County Medical Centre. Dr. Duncan was also a pioneering force in breast cancer research and care, dedicating much of his surgical practice to treating breast disease. He was a founding member of the Society of Breast Surgeons and played a vital role as Principal Investigator for Weill Cornell Medicine's International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes, focusing on understanding Triple Negative Disease among women in Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS region."

Before his tenure at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, the late medical professional worked in the United States as a Clinical Associate Professor and

Chief of General Surgery at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. He also served as Chairman of Surgery at the Brooklyn Hospital from 1997 to 2001 and was an educator, mentor and scholar, who

At the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was the late medical director who streamlined the operations of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, including the execution of a plan to treat those that were infected with the virus, while tending to patients with other illnesses.

"Dr. Albert Duncan was not just a medical director; he was a visionary who believed in the potential of healthcare to transform lives. His legacy of excellence, compassion, and unwavering commitment to patient care will forever remain a cornerstone of our health system. On behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Ministry of Health, I extend heartfelt condolences to Dr. Duncan's family, colleagues, and all who were touched by his extraordinary life and work. May his soul rest in eternal peace," Sir Molwyn Joseph concluded.



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According to the Foreign Affairs Minister, the Antigua and Barbuda government aims to ensure that its reporting processes are systematic and its follow-ups comprehensive.

"This will support our government in crafting socio-economic policies that reflect the aspirations and needs of our people. Such a mechanism will also help us align our efforts with regional and international standards, reinforcing our credibility on the global stage and our commitment to human

rights," he added.

A ministry brief said the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF) are essential components of the global human rights framework, enabling states to improve their human rights records and interact with various mechanisms of the international human rights architecture.

The workshop brought together representatives from both state and non-state actors in an atmosphere where the workshop was conducted through discussions, presentations, and practical exercises and sessions.



Members of the Senate launch reading initiative on World Children's Day

Several members of the Upper House of Parliament, the Senate, launched a reading initiative in several primary schools in the Saint John's area on Wednesday in recognition of World Children's Day

The initiative was spearheaded by President of the Senate Alincia Williams-Grant, who said the initiative forms part of their parliamentary outreach agenda.

"World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, marking the adoption of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20th.

"This international agreement on childhood has become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives around the world.



"This year we have chosen to acknowledge the importance of reading in youth development, particularly in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all",," she explained.

Senator Williams-Grant further explained that the Antigua and Barbuda par-

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liament has received from its partner, ParlAmericas, reading material and related activity, which the senators have selected to share with primary school students ages 8-10 at schools in the

St. John's environs of the Parliament. The visiting teams comprised of parliamentarians, youth parliamentarians and the staff of the parliament.

One team comprising Senators Michael Jo-

seph and Shenella Govia and former Senator Aziza Lake read to children at the Greenbay Primary School. A second team, comprising Senators Kiz Johnson and Alincia Williams-Grant were at T.N Kirnon Primary.

A third team – Senator Knacyntar Nedd-Charles and former senator, Samantha Marshall traveled to the Mary E. Pigott Primary, while Senator Colin Browne was at the Villa Primary School.



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Antiguan graduate completes Prestigious Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Fellowship, eyes Climate Finance Leadership

Antiguan national Carlon Knight proudly graduated from the distinguished Italy-AOSIS Fellowship on November 20, during a ceremony held alongside the COP29 Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Italy-AOSIS Fellowship, funded by the Italian Government, equips young professionals from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with skills in climate diplomacy and sustainable development governance. Now in its 11th edition, the 2024 cohort included ten fellows from ten island nations, selected through a rigorous global process. Knight was one of four Caribbean representatives in this year's programme.

Over 10 months, fellows gained



Carlon Knight (Centre) pictured with his certificate of completion along side colleagues from Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment

hands-on experience by working with their respective UN Missions in New York and attending weekly capaci-

ty-building workshops hosted by the Samoa Mission, current chairs of AOSIS.

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- Career Motivated: Driven by career growth and professional development.
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- Respectful and Conflict-Resilient: Shows respect to all team members and can handle customer conflicts effectively.

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- Punctual and Organized: Demonstrates reliability and strong organizational skills.
- Career Motivated: Driven to grow and succeed in a professional environment.
- Team Player: Works well in a team setting and enjoys helping others.
- Respectful and Conflict-Handling: Shows respect to all and can handle customer conflicts effectively.

Interested candidates submit cover letter and resume to hr@autoartanu.com with your name and the position you are applying for in the subject. Deadline for submission November 23rd, 2024. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

Pearl Quinn-Williams to replace Shawn Nicholas in Senate

Less than 24 hours after announcing her resignation as an opposition member in the Upper House of Parliament, the United Progressive Party has announced that Pearl Quinn-Williams will replace former Senator Shawn Nicholas.

In a statement, the UPP said Shawn Nicholas' resignation is effective Friday, 22nd November, 2024 and Pearl Quinn-Williams will be appointed next Monday.

Extending congratulations to Quinn-Williams,

the opposition party noted that its leader, Jamale Pringle, has extended "sincere appreciation for the professionalism, diligence, good citizenship, and party loyalty you have demonstrated as a Caretaker" and that his expectations are for "an even higher level of excellence in this new appointment".

Pearl Quinn-Williams is a former banker who unsuccessfully contested the Saint John's Rural North seat in the 2023 general

election.

Earlier this year, she threw her hat into the ring in her party's leadership race for the position of political leader but later exited.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle has commended Shawn Nicholas for her service as a senator, highlighting "The professionalism with which you have carried out your senatorial duties; the high standard of your discourse inside and out-



Pearl Quinn-Williams side the Chamber; and the loyalty you have demonstrated as a representative of the United Progressive Party".

The party has made clear that though Nicholas has resigned from the senate, she remains the UPP's general secretary.

Shawn Nicholas shocked the senate on Tuesday when she announced her departure after 11 and a half years.

"I feel blessed, I feel honoured and I was humbled so to do...I always say let it not be about you, it's about service to country and I repeat it here today, let us take our appointment in this senate seriously."

She said it was her hope that she helped to make a difference as a legislator, especially in matters related to women and girls.

At the time of her departure, Shawn Nicholas was the Senate Minority Leader. It is unclear whether Pearl Quinn-Williams will follow in her footsteps.

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Expert facilitators trained fellows in United Nations processes, climate diplomacy, and environmental governance. Fellows also supported their missions' bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements.

The programme's highlight was participation in COP29, the world's largest climate change conference, where fellows provided strategic support to AOSIS across thematic areas. Knight focused on climate finance, a field he is passionate about, particularly in mobilizing resources for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The graduation ceremony featured remarks from programme co-director Angeli-que Pouponneau, Alessandro Guerri Director General of Italy's Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, and AOSIS lead climate negotiator Anne Rasmussen. Certificates of participation were awarded, celebrating the fellows' accomplishments and the legacy of past alumni who have advanced global climate diplomacy.

Reflecting on the experience, Knight shared:

"The AOSIS Fellowship was life-changing. Working with a talented cohort of in-

dividuals from SIDS and learning from world-renowned experts has been invaluable. I feel I have grown substantially in my professional development these past few months. I am deeply grateful for the support from Ambassador Aubrey Webson and the team at the Antigua and Barbuda UN Mission, as well as the generosity of the Government of Italy and the Samoa AOSIS Chairs."

Knight aspires to a career in climate and sustainable finance, aiming to help Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS secure essential funding for sustainable development initiatives. "I find great fulfilment in working in areas where I can see tangible impact. I hope to be able to continue to develop a career in sustainable and climate finance where I can help Antigua and Barbuda and Small Island Developing States leverage the financial resources needed to fund critical sustainable development projects and programmes."

The fellowship concludes in December, with fellows submitting final reports to the AOSIS Chairs. Knight's journey marks a milestone in advancing Antigua and Barbuda's leadership in climate action and sustainable development.

Technology

Social media ban for under-16s 'on the table' in UK

A possible ban on social media for under-16s in the UK is "on the table", the technology secretary Peter Kyle has told the BBC.

Speaking on the Today programme, on BBC Radio 4, he said he would "do what it takes" to keep people and in particular children safe online.

He also announced further research into the impact tech such as smartphones and social media was having on young people, claiming there was currently "no firm, peer-reviewed evidence".

Kyle has spelt out his priorities in what he called a «letter of strategic intent» to the regulator Ofcom, which is assuming extra powers under the Online Safety Act (OSA).

Campaign group the Molly Rose Foundation welcomed what it called an "important marker for Ofcom to be bolder" but said that should not obscure the fact that the OSA needed to be strengthened.

"Our research is clear. The public and parents back an updated Act that embeds an overarching duty of care on tech firms, and the Prime Minister must act quickly and decisively to deliver this unfinished job," it said in a post on X.

Iona Silverman, from law firm Freeths, described a potential social media ban



as "a drop in an ocean-sized problem", saying teenagers would just find new ways to access problematic material online.

"The government needs to think bigger: this is a problem that requires a cultural shift, and also requires legislation to be one step ahead of, rather than behind, technology," she said.

The idea of legally restricting social media for young people has come into the spotlight after Australia's government said it would introduce legislation to ban children under 16 from social media.

Asked whether the UK would follow suit, Kyle said "everything is on the table with me", but said he wanted to see more evidence

first.

He said he was also focused on making sure the powers contained in the OSA, which is coming into effect next year, were used "assertively" by the regulator.

"I just want to make sure that Ofcom knows that government expects them to be used," he told the BBC.

The OSA demands tech firms take more responsibility for the content on their platforms to protect children from some legal but harmful material.

Kyle said he wanted to see evidence that tech firms were delivering suitable age verification for users, and that the sector was moving towards having "safety baked in from the outset."

Social media and messaging platforms could face significant fines potentially measured in the billions if they do not comply with the OSA.

It has already led to a range of companies introducing significant changes to how they work - with Instagram creating new teen accounts in September, and Roblox banning young children from messaging others in November.

Nonetheless, critics have consistently said the government needs to do more.

In February, the mother of the murdered teenager Brianna Ghey told the BBC it did not go far enough.

As well as restricting so-

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US charges Indian billionaire with fraud

By Natalie Sherman

Indian billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged with fraud in the US, which has accused him of orchestrating a \$250m (£198m) bribery scheme and concealing it to raise money in the US.

The criminal charges, filed on Wednesday in New York, are the latest blow to 62-year-old Mr Adani, one of India's richest men, whose business empire extends from ports and airports to renewable energy.

In the indictment, prosecutors alleged the tycoon and other senior executives had agreed to the payments to Indian officials to win contracts for his renewable energy company expected to yield more than \$2bn in profits over 20 years.

The Adani Group did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The conglomerate has been operating under a cloud in the US since 2023, when a high-profile company published a report accusing it of fraud.



The claims, which Mr Adani denied, prompted a major market sell-off.

Reports of this bribery probe have been circling for months. Prosecutors said the US started investigating the company in 2022, and found the inquiry obstructed.

They allege that executives raised \$3bn in loans and bonds, including from US firms, on the backs of false and misleading statements related to the firm's anti-bribery practices and policies, as well as reports

of the bribery probe.

"As alleged, the defendants orchestrated an elaborate scheme to bribe Indian government officials to secure contracts worth billions of dollars and... lied about the bribery scheme as they sought to raise capital from U.S. and international investors," US Attorney Breon Peace said in a statement announcing the charges.

"My office is committed to rooting out corruption in the international marketplace and protecting inves-

tors from those who seek to enrich themselves at the expense of the integrity of our financial markets," he added.

On several occasions Mr Adani met personally with government officials to advance the bribery scheme, officials said.

Mr Adani is a close ally of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has long faced claims from opposition politicians alleging that he has benefited from his political ties, which he denies.

The US Attorney positions in the US are appointed by the president.

The filing comes just weeks after Donald Trump won election to the White House, pledging to overhaul the US Justice Department.

Last week on social media, Mr Adani congratulated Trump on his election win and pledged to invest \$10bn in the US.

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cial media for young people, some suggest their use of smartphones should also be more tightly controlled.

Parliament is considering a private members bill which examines how to make children's digital lives safer.

It will hear evidence from a body called Healthcare Professionals for Safer Screens, which wants curbs on smartphones.

"When I created this group, it was

very much pushing on an open door," said founder and GP Rebecca Foljambe.

"There's so many health professionals who are worried about this."

The government has stopped short of banning smartphones in schools but has issued guidance to ensure that all schools implement effective smartphone-free restrictions.

Peter Kyle told the BBC in October he believed the battle over phone use in schools had been won.

Regional News



Bahamas: Gov't cracking down on security firms hiring non-nationals

CMC - The Bahamas government is taking decisive action against private security firms illegally hiring non-nationals, planning a stakeholder seminar on Friday to address employment violations in the industry.

"We suspect that a number of non-Bahamians may be working in this area, and persons may be illegally employing them. As far as we know, it's an industry restricted for Bahamians," said the Chief Counsel in the Ministry of National Security, Paul Jones.

Companies hiring non-Bahamians or unlicensed personnel face fines ranging from US\$500 to US\$2,000.

Jones said the intention of the seminar is to emphasise compliance with the Inquiry Agents and Security Guards Act and Regulations and that it will also discuss allowing security guards to carry firearms while on duty.

"There is a possibility. This seminar would give us an opportunity to also hear from them, and so that we can put forward certain recommendations to cause certain things to come into being. They're the actual practitioners," Jones said, adding "the police rely on them to be able to report to them suspicious situations and activities around schools".

Currently, under the law

only Bahamian citizens are eligible for employment as security guards or inquiry agents and Jones said there may be exceptions for foreigners being granted spousal permits leading to citizenship.

Jones told reporters that firms might be hiring foreigners due to difficulties finding Bahamians to fill these roles. He noted some people have complained Bahamians don't want to work

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People carry belongings as they flee Port-au-Prince's neighbourhood of Nazon due to gang violence. Photo: 14 November 2024.

MSF halts work in Haitian capital over attacks

By Will Grant

The humanitarian medical organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has suspended its operations in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, following a violent attack on its staff and the alleged killing of two patients they were treating by Haitian police officers.

The incident took place last week as violence continued to worsen in the country.

An estimated 25 people

were killed in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday alone in what police say was a foiled attempt at a gang invasion of a wealthy neighbourhood.

Politically, the situation also remains critical with interim Prime Minister Garry Conille fired this month by the country's ruling council - less than six months after he took office.

MSF says that on 11 November one of its ambulances carrying three young men with gunshot wounds

was stopped by Haitian law enforcement officers.

Apparently supported by a paramilitary self-defence group, the men attacked the vehicle, removed two of the patients, took them outside hospital grounds and executed them.

The humanitarian group denounced the violence in a strongly worded statement last week, saying their personnel had been tear-gassed and held against their will for several hours.

While that incident appears to have been the final straw for MSF in Port-au-Prince, at least for the time being, it was not the only recent example of extreme aggression against their staff.

The announcement comes amid a worsening climate of violence in Haiti with some 25 suspected gang members killed in the capital on Tuesday.

The police say that residents helped officers to fight off an attempted attack on the upscale suburb of Pétiion-Ville.

The neighbourhood was cordoned off after residents barricaded streets, some armed with machetes and makeshift weapons, in an apparent effort to prevent a gang invasion.

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or have an issue with the working hours for the job. But he said the ministry is monitoring companies violating the law regardless of their reasons.

All security guards and inquiry agents must hold licences issued by the Ministry of National Security.

Licences are granted based on the person's character and history. In addition, security companies are required to have proper licences.

Companies are also required to have indemnity insurance to protect security guards in case of incidents happening while on duty.



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Deadly bomb cyclone cuts power for thousands in US north-west

A storm off the coast of the US north-west and western Canada is pummelling the region - bringing high winds, flooding and snow to over seven million residents living in states along the Pacific Ocean.

The storm has caused widespread power outages and knocked down trees into buildings and roadways.

At least two people in the Seattle, Washington, region have died after trees fell on them in separate incidents, police say. One woman was killed while showering at home, and another was killed in a homeless encampment.

The “bomb cyclone” - as forecasters call it - has been caused by air pressure quickly dropping off the coast, which has rapidly intensified the weather system.

One woman died when a tree fell on a homeless encampment in Lynwood, north of Seattle, according to a social media post from South County Fire Department.

Another woman was killed in Kirkland when a tree fell into her home while she showered, according to the Bellevue Fire Department.

Officials say that upon arriving and confirming that the woman had died, “weather conditions were so dangerous in the vicinity” that they were forced to transport the victim’s husband to a safer location.

Two other people were injured in Maple Valley, south of Seattle, after a tree fell on their trailer home.

“It’s severe out there. Trees are coming down all over the city, with multiple falling onto homes,” Washington’s Bellevue Fire Department wrote in a social media post during the storm.

“If you are able, head to the lowest floor you can and stay away from



Rescue crews freed two people trapped in a trailer home after a tree fell on them.

windows. Do not go outside if you can avoid it.”

On Wednesday morning, more than 700,000 homes and businesses in Washington were without power, according to Poweroutage.us. The number shrank to around 500,000 later in the day. Around 15,000 customers were experiencing outages in California.

Pine needles, leaves and other storm debris covered the streets as the sound of chainsaws rang out in Issaquah, a city famous for salmon hatchery in the foothills of the Cascade mountains.

One man trying to reach his sister’s home in Issaquah, outside of Seattle, told BBC News on Wednesday that it looked like a bomb had hit a nearby residential courtyard, which was scattered with felled trees.

In northern California, the US Weather Prediction Center (WPC) said there was a high risk of excessive rainfall and warned of flash flooding and mudslides. The San Francisco Bay is expected to see up to 8in (20cm) of rain.

The storm has also stretched up

to Canada, where wind is the primary concern and gusts of up to 100mph (160km/h) have been reported off the coast of Vancouver Island. Around 140,000 customers were without power in British Columbia, according to the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority.

BBC Weather presenter Stav Da-naos said damaging gusts would continue to ease on Wednesday, although conditions are expected to remain blustery along the Pacific coast from San Francisco up to Vancouver Island.

And incessant heavy rain is expected throughout Thursday and Friday along much of the coast, as a renewed “atmospheric river” of moisture from the Pacific is driven onshore.

Beyond wind, rain and snow, the storm could also bring flash flooding, rock slides and debris flows, as well as heavy mountain snow, in areas of high elevation. The storm has already led to blizzard conditions through the Cascade range of mountains, which runs through both the US and Canada.

The heavy, wet snow that has fallen on the Cascades and North Rockies

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Texas offers Trump land for migrant 'deportation facilities'

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

Texas authorities say they are prepared to offer President-elect Donald Trump 1,400-acres (567 hectares) of land along the US-Mexico border to build detention facilities for undocumented migrants.

In a letter, the Texas General Land Office said the plot could be used to build facilities for "processing, detention, and co-ordination of the largest deportation of violent criminals in the nation's history".

Trump has repeatedly pledged to deport millions of undocumented migrants and mobilise the National Guard to help carry this out.

His plan, however, is likely to face enormous financial and logistics hurdles, as well as immediate legal challenges from rights groups.

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The letter, published online and sent to Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Flori-

da, notes that the owner of the recently purchased land had refused to allow a border wall to be built there and "actively blocked law enforcement" from accessing it.

"Now it's essentially farmland, so it's flat, it's easy to build on. We can very easily put a detention centre on there," Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham said in an interview with Fox News, which first reported the offer.

The state government in Texas, which launched its own unilateral border security operation after Trump left office, has been broadly supportive of Trump's promises to strengthen the US-Mexico border.

Buckingham said she was "100% on board with the Trump administration's pledge to get these criminals out of our country".

But the Democratic governors of three other southern border states - Cal-



The land is in Texas' Starr County in the Rio Grande Valley, on the border with the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.

ifornia, Arizona, and New Mexico - have said they will not aid mass deportations.

What any new detention facilities would look like is unclear, although the incoming "border czar" Tom Homan has suggested they could be "soft-sided".

Facilities currently in use range from soft-sided, camp-like facilities used by Customs and Border Patrol to house undocumented migrants for short periods of time, as well as brick-and-mortar buildings used by

Enforcement, or ICE.

County and state jails are also used, for which local jurisdictions receive compensation from immigration authorities.

Stephen Miller, the top Trump adviser on immigration who has been picked as deputy chief of staff for policy, has previously said the Trump administration would build vast holding facilities to serve as staging centres for mass deportations.

In a late 2023 interview with the New York Times, Miller said that the facilities would likely be built on open land near Texas' border with Mexico.

A 2024 spending bill signed by President Joe Biden allocated \$3.4m (£2.69m) for ICE to house as many as 41,500 on any given day.

"If Trump conducts mass deportations, ICE would blow past that number very quickly," Adam Isacson, a

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will start to thaw towards the end of the week as milder air is ushered in.

This snow melt, combined with further heavy rain, is likely to lead to severe flooding in places from Northern California to Oregon, with a significant risk of landslides as the week ends.

Bomb cyclone is a term given by meteorologists to a storm that appears to intensify rapidly, with its central air pressure dropping to at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.

They are referred to as bomb cyclones

due to the explosive power of these storms caused by the rapid fall in pressure.

The storm brings with it an array of weather, ranging from blizzards to severe thunderstorms to heavy precipitation.

These weather events are not unusual for this time of year. Similar so-called atmospheric river events - when small regions of moisture travel outside tropical regions - have occurred throughout North America over the last few weeks.

But the conditions of an atmospheric river combined with a bomb cyclone can create a major weather event.

Another win for ICONS in business volleyball league

Last year's fourth-place finishers, ICONS, notched up their second win in as many games in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship on Tuesday evening.

ICONS, a development team for Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad and Storming Lions in the national club championships, snatched a 2-1 victory against the Media in the first game of a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

They took 49 minutes to beat the Media after easily winning the opening set 25-14. But the Media hit back to level the match 1-1 by taking the second set 25-17.

However, ICONS showed their superiority by easily winning the third and deciding set 15-2 to wrap up the match as the Media suffered their second loss in three encounters.

Nate's Photography won for the third time in as many games by securing a 2-0 victory against newcomers Island Academy in the second game on Tuesday.

Nate's Photography took 44 min-



ICONS won their second game in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League Championship at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. (File photo)

utes to win the encounter, prevailing 25-17, 27-25, as Island Academy slipped to their second loss in three matches.

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

Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) will take on newcomers University of the West Indies (UWI) in the opening game at 7 pm.

Nate's Photography will meet 77 Bus Service in the second encounter at 8 pm.

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migration and border expert from the Washington Office on Latin America told the BBC.

ICE data compiled by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University found that there were 38,863 immigrant detainees being held as of 2 November.

The largest number - just over 12,000 - are held

at facilities located in Texas.

News of Texas' offer to the president-elect comes as Democratic-run cities and states have vowed to not co-operate with Trump's promises of mass deportations. On Tuesday, for example, Los Angeles' city council passed a "sanctuary city" ordinance to bar using local resources to help federal immigration authorities.

Kathleen Bush-Joseph,

a policy analyst at the Washington-based Migration Policy Institute, said that the fact that Republican-led states are more likely to co-operate with the Trump administration's immigration goals could create a "patchwork of protections" that differ widely across the country.

"We might see the divide between red and blue states widen," she said.

Ms Bush-Joseph added that additional facilities in Texas could also mean that undocumented migrants detained in the US interior could ultimately be moved and processed there.

"If you're picking up people in blue states, and they don't have detention facilities available, then do you try to move them to red states?" she asked. "That's the question."

Hope, Powell move up ICC T20I batting rankings

Despite a 3-1 loss to England in their recent five-match series, West Indies Captain Rovman Powell and Shai Hope were both successful in making moves up the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20I Rankings.

Hope, who was brought in for the last three games in St Lucia, moved 16 spots up to 21st on 599 rating points, following his half-century in the penultimate contest and he also looked steady in the last contest before rain had the final say.

Powell, who had three tidy knocks of 43, 54, and 38 in the series, inched one place up to 33 on 575 rating points.

Though slipping three places, Nicholas Pooran remains the best-ranked West Indies batsman (624 rating points) at 12, a position he now shares with Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis and Australia's Josh Inglis.

Brandon King is the next best Caribbean batsman on the list, though he too slipped three places to 16th on 613 rating points. Johnson Charles (587 rating points), who slipped seven spots to 26th, is the only other West Indies batsman in the top 50.

Meanwhile, India's Hardik Pandya returned to the top of the T20I All-rounders Rankings after making significant contributions to his team's successful 3-1 series triumph over South Africa.

It is his second time at the top of this list this year, the first time following India's ICC Men's T20 World Cup victory in the USA and the West Indies.

Pandya moved two places to reach the top with 244 rating points, swapping places with England's Liam Livingstone, who slipped to third place with 230 points, just one point shy of



Shai Hope

Nepal's Dipendra Airee, who holds second place with 231 points.

Tilak Varma's sensational exploits with the bat for India saw him leap 69 slots to the top 10 of the batters list for the first time, taking over third place with 806 points from his skipper, Suryakumar Yadav, who fell one spot to take fourth.

Sanju Samson also made significant gains after his remarkable back-to-back centuries, jumping 17 spaces to 22nd place among the batters.

South Africa's Marco Jansen shot up 65 spots to reach a career-best 14th position among the all-rounders, with his captain, Aiden Markram, moving up one place to number nine.

Their teammate, Tristan Stubbs,

continued his rise among the batters, rising three places to 23rd.

The bowlers list saw a lot of movement as well, with Australia's Adam Zampa and Nathan Ellis making significant gains following their three-match series sweep against Pakistan.

Zampa rose five slots to third place with 693 points, while Ellis mounted 15 slots to 11th on 628 points.

India's Arshdeep Singh went up three places to ninth position (656 points), with teammate Axar Patel sailing 10 spots to 13th (632 points), while Pakistan's Haris Rauf went from 24th to 20th with 601 points.

Marco Jansen also featured with a 20-slot jump to 25th place among the bowlers with 576 points.



Rovman Powell

Powell takes mixed bag from England series

West Indies Captain Rovman Powell was candid in his assessment of his team's shortcomings following their 3-1 series loss to England in the recently concluded five-match T20 International series.

Powell acknowledged the challenges the team faced in adapting to conditions early in the series but remained optimistic about their upcoming clashes with Bangladesh.

This, as he believes, the Caribbean side once again showed glimpses of its potential throughout the series but was unable to consistently produce a complete performance.

In fact, England's decision to bowl first in the opening three matches—two at Kensington Oval in Barbados and one at the Darren Sammy Stadium in St. Lucia—exposed the West Indies' struggles to navigate challenging conditions.

They lost key wickets in quick succession during the powerplay in all three games, where they posted scores of 182 for nine, 158 for eight

and 145 for eight and lost by eight wickets, seven wickets, and three wickets in that order.

As such, Powell admitted the team's inability to adapt cost them dearly.

"I think we always, as a batting group, have a template that we try to work with; unfortunately, the template didn't work in our first few games.

"It took us about two or three games to really wonder what's really happening to us as a batting group and we also need to sharpen up on a few areas as a bowling group," Powell said after the rain-affected final game at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground on Sunday, November 17.

While he views their victory in the fourth T20I when they pulled off a historic chase of England's 218 for five, scoring 221 for five to secure a five-wicket win as light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, that win was merely to salvage some pride.

It is with that in mind that Powell

highlighted the importance of quicker assessment and adaptability as key takeaways from the series.

"As a team, we need to assess a little bit faster. We didn't play good cricket for long enough periods, and that made it a tough series.

"I think a lot of credit has to be given to Jos (Buttler) and his team; they really came in our conditions and dominated," the Jamaican stated.

Despite the loss, Powell, who was among the standout performers, finishing as the series' second-highest run scorer with 153 runs, is determined to build on the positives from the England series as they shift focus to the upcoming three-match T20I series against Bangladesh next month.

"The way we played the last (fourth game) showed that we can play really good cricket.

"If we had just assessed the conditions a little bit earlier in the series, it possibly would have been a different outcome. These are lessons to be learned," Powell noted.

Sports News



AGS trounce St. Anthony's Secondary in Under-14 Boys Division Football

Antigua Grammar School enjoyed a goal fest in the Under-14 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Football League on Tuesday.

AGS claimed their fifth win in seven matches with a 15-0 drubbing of St. Anthony's Secondary School at the AGS playing field.

Kissaire Joseph scored five goals; Tafari Parker got a hat trick; Nayan Edwards and Shaquan Gilgeours both had double conversions and Lamar Samuel, Adryl Lewis, and Aiden Isaac each converted once for Antigua Grammar School.

The result allows AGS to advance to 16 points from seven matches, while St. Anthony's Secondary School remains on nine points after suffering their third loss in six encounters.

Clare Hall Secondary School continues to lead the Under-14 Boys Division.

Clare Hall Secondary and defending champion Princess Margaret School were among the winners in the latest round of matches to remain the only two unbeaten teams in the Under-14 school boys football league.

Clare Hall Secondary notched up their sixth win in seven matches after being awarded victory by default against Pares Secondary School, which failed to show up for their encounter at the Clare Hall Playing Field.

The result allows Clare Hall Secondary to continue leading the Under-14 Boys Division by advancing to 19 points from seven matches.

Pares Secondary School remains winless and firmly rooted in the cellar without any points after losing all



Erije Joseph of SJA

seven matches.

Alan Henry scored twice as Princess Margaret School claimed their fifth win in six matches with a 3-1 victory over Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the PMS playing field.

Henry had conversions in the 40th and 45th minutes and Jaheedi Charles scored in the 49th minute for Princess Margaret School, which advances to 16 points from six matches.

Dnic Haloway scored in the first minute for Sir Novelle Richards Academy, which remains second from the bottom of the standings on three points after tumbling to their sixth loss in seven matches.

Ottos Comprehensive School recorded their fourth win in seven matches after being awarded victory by default against All Saints

Secondary School, which failed to show up for their encounter at the PMS playing field.

OCS advances to 13 points from seven matches and All Saints Secondary School remains on seven points from seven matches after suffering consecutive losses in their last four encounters.

St. Joseph's Academy claimed their third win in seven matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School at AGS playing field.

Erije Joseph scored the only goal of the match in the 25th minute for St. Joseph's Academy, which advanced to 11 points from seven matches.

St. Mary's Secondary School remains on four points after suffering their fifth defeat in seven matches.



Tafari Parker of AGS



Belmont FC recorded their fourth win in the ABFA's Second Division on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

Scorpions end SAP's unbeaten run in First Division

Freeman's Village Scorpions have ended SAP FC's unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

After securing three wins and a draw in their previous four matches, SAP's unbeaten run was ended in a 5-0 drubbing by the Freeman's Village Scorpions at the Bolans Playing Field on Tuesday.

The goals for the Scorpions were scored by Joshua Mason in the 10th minute, Tahari James in the 34th minute, Malik Charles in the 49th minute, Adrian Benjamin in the 66th minute and Khalen Ferris in the 70th minute.

The result allows Freeman's Village Scorpions to join SAP FC on 10 points after securing their third win in five matches.

Ottos Rangers dropped their first points in the first division after snatching a 2-2 draw with Swetes FC at the Radio Range Playing Field.

Shalon Knight scored both goals for Swetes by converting two penalty

kicks, while Kelly Roberts and Junior Benjamin each converted once for the Ottos Rangers.

The result allows Ottos Rangers to remain unbeaten leaders of the first division by advancing to 13 points from five matches and Swetes FC to move to seven points from four encounters.

After losing their previous three matches, Bendals FC picked up their first point by salvaging a 1-1 draw with Urlings FC at the Urlings Playing Field.

Daiquan Martin scored in the 31st minute to give Bendals a one-nil half-time lead and Daniel Joseph snatched the equalizer for Urlings FC with a 67th-minute conversion.

The result allows Urlings FC to also claim their first point in five matches.

Urlings FC lost three matches and had their opening encounter with Bolans FC ending prematurely.

Meanwhile, Joshua Blenman hit a hat trick and Jahvier Joseph scored

twice as Belmont FC won for the fourth time in five matches in the second division league with a 6-1 victory against Herberts FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Blenman had conversions in the third, 51st and 52nd minutes; Joseph scored in the 35th and 84th minutes, and Zamaal Greene had a 23rd-minute conversion for Belmont FC.

Andrew Vantull scored a consolation goal in the 39th minute for Herberts FC, which remains on one point after suffering its third defeat in four matches.

The ABFA's First Division League will resume with four matches on today at 4:30 pm. Police FC will tackle Lion Hill FC at St. Johnston's Village Stadium and FC Master Ballerz will face Liberta Blackhawks at the Radio Range Playing Field.

Jennings United will meet Bolans FC at the Bolans Playing Field and Empire FC will clash with Tryum FC at Cashew Hill Playing Field.

Benna Boys get relegated in CNL

Antigua and Barbuda's senior national team, the Benna Boys, have been relegated to League C to compete in the CONCACAF Nations League (CNL) next season after failing to beat Dominica in their final match in Group D of League B in the Dominican Republic on Tuesday.

Antigua and Barbuda finished in the cellar of the four-team Group D after battling to a goalless draw with third-placed Dominica at the Estadio Cibao FC in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic.

Dominica goalkeeper and captain Glenison Prince was subbed out in the 55th minute due to injury, but backup Jerome Burkard was able to preserve the clean sheet.

Dominica wraps up their tournament with four points, holding onto third place to remain in League B next season.

Antigua and Barbuda earned their only point in this edition but were relegated to League C for the first time in the nation's history.



The Antigua and Barbuda starting XI for their CONCACAF Nations League Group D match against Dominica at the Estadio Cibao FC in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. (ABFA Media)

Meanwhile, the Dominican Republic put a bow on their first-place finish in winning Group D, which includes promotion and a spot in the 2025 Gold Cup, with a 6-1 victory over Bermuda at the same venue on Tuesday.

Dorny Romero stole the show with four goals in stunning fashion as the Dominican Republic concluded the tournament with a perfect record, winning all six matches in Group D.

The first half ended 1-1 with Romero scoring his first in the 33rd minute for the Dominican Republic and Djair Parfitt scoring an equalizing goal for Bermuda in the second minute of added time (45+2 minutes).

Romero got his second of the night in the 69th minute as he rose for a header off a corner kick. Jean López penned his name on the score sheet in the 75th minute when he buried a volley in the back of the net.

Heinz Mörschel scored to make it 4-1 after capping off a brilliant passing sequence with a decisive strike in the 87th minute.

Romero earned another pair of goals in the 90th minute and the fourth minute of added time (90+4 minutes) to put a stamp on the result.

Bermuda ended the tournament with 12 points and secured a spot in the preliminary round of the Gold Cup as the second-best runner-up from League B.