

# TODAY IS THE THRONE SPEECH

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The winners of the annual art competition held as part of Art Week have been revealed as the focus on artists and artisans continues over the next nine days. Story on page



# Local News



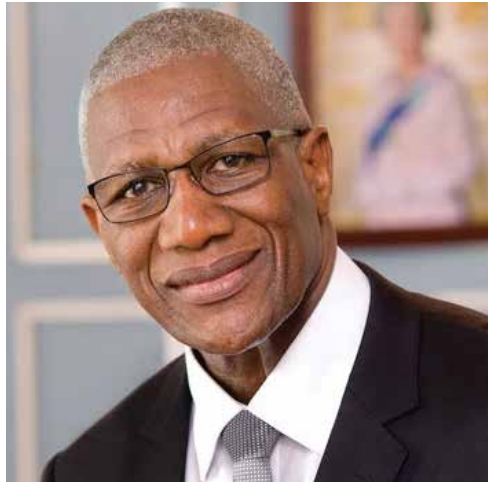
## It's Throne Speech Day

It's the start of the third session in the life of the current parliament; the ceremonial Throne Speech delivered by the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Throne Speech is presented before a joint sitting of parliament and it will highlight the government's fiscal and legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

This year, the Throne Speech is expected to focus on planned development and expansion in the country's hotel sector where several major hotel developments are set to commence in the new year.

Additionally, it will recognize the remarkable gains that have been achieved in the tourism sector with this year on target to set new records in terms of stay-over visitor arrivals as



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams well as increases in cruise ship calls as well as the number of passengers that they bring to the country's shores.

The upcoming year will be a busy one for the administration as it will provide insights into its comprehensive legislative agenda for the next

twelve months.

These include legislation dealing with issues of mental health as well as care for the elderly.

Prior to delivering the Throne Speech, the Governor General will inspect a guard of honor on the compound of the parliament.

It will be a parliament that reflects a number of changes. There will be a new Speaker of the House of Representatives, a New Majority Leader in the Senate and a new member of the Upper House.

In the House, one member who was elected as a member of the opposition now sits as an independent and the sole independent candidate ever to be elected in the country, Asot Michael, will not be there as he came to an untimely death earlier this month.

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## Preparations are underway to hold a national census

The Statistics Division is completing preparation to mount a national census in the country by the middle of next year.

Deputy Census Officer, Rohan Anthony has announced that training of field officers will end today ahead of the start of the Pilot Phase of the Population and Housing Census 2024/2025. The field officers will take to the field on Saturday for the start of the pilot phase, which runs until December 20, 2024.

According to Census Officials, this phase will facilitate the testing of innovative tools, methodologies, and technologies to aid in the preparation for Census 2025.

During the pilot phase, field officers will cover 10 Enumeration Districts (EDs) across Antigua and Barbuda. The areas to be covered are Matthew Street back of Perry Bay and part of Grays Farm, Golden



Grove School Area, Jennings, Liberta, Pares, Wilkies, Pigotts, Clare Hall, Factory Road Area, and Barbuda. Two hundred and three homes will be contacted on Antigua and twelve in Barbuda as part of the pilot project.

The Census Office is encouraging residents to co-operate fully with the Enumerators as they conduct this most important exercise and persons are assured that all the information collected

will be held in strict confidence.

Field Officers will be issued official picture IDs, and

all officers will be appropriately attired in T-shirts with the Division's logo at the  
*cont'd on pg 4*




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# Local News



## Government and UK authorities to host session on new travel requirements

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London is teaming up with the UK government to undertake an 'information session' specifically for residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

The session, to be held

via virtual means, will discuss the new Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) requirement for digital travel permission for entry into the UK that goes into effect from January next year.

The event takes place at 3:00 pm local time and it will be facilitated by the UK

Future Borders and Immigration System Programme Immigration and Borders Group.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cordially invites you to attend an important Zoom meeting jointly hosted by Antigua and Barbuda's High Commission in

the United Kingdom and UK Border Authority, focused on providing valuable information on the upcoming implementation of the UK's ETA Immigration system.

"Participants will obtain first-hand information pertaining to travel to the United Kingdom for non-citizens as of January 8, 2025. Do make a special effort to attend as you are able," said a circular from Senior Consular Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lance Browne.

Last month, the UK announced that it would introduce the new ETA's that will affect non-citizens wishing to enter the country effective January 8, 2025.

*cont'd from pg 3*

front and on the back the tag 'Census Pilot 2024 Population and Housing Census.'

The Population and Housing Census is conducted every ten years. Conducting a census of population and housing is the national statistical office's most comprehensive and expensive activity. The census provides a snapshot of a country and its population at a given point in time. In Antigua and Barbuda, this point in time is

called Census Night. Almost every country in the world regularly conducts a census to collect important social and economic information about its inhabitants.

Anthony said the last census was conducted in 2011. The planned 2021 census was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the actual census will likely begin in May of next year and will involve field work lasting for several months.

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## The winners of the 2024 Art Competition have been announced

The winners of the annual art competition held as part of Art Week have been revealed as the focus on artists and artisans continues over the next nine days.

The winners were announced at the VC Bird International Airport's arrival hall on Wednesday.

The winners and the school they represent are as follows;

### 7-9 years:

Brena Haughton, St. John's Lutheran Primary School (1st Place)

Kai Need, Divine Academy of Ex-

*cont'd on pg 6*





# Local News



*cont'd from pg 5*

cellence (2nd Place)

Genesis Clarke, St. John's Catholic Primary School (3rd Place)

Jordan Holborough, St. Nicholas Primary School (Honorable Mention)

**10-12 years:**

Liya Goodwin, Post Mil-

lennial Academy (1st Place)

Kelsey Cochrane, Pig-gotts Primary School (2nd Place)

Kalia Tittle, Antigua Seventh-day Adventist School (3rd Place)

Addis Howell Uzuki, Post Millennial Academy

*cont'd on pg 7*





*cont'd from pg 6*

(Honorable Mention)

**13-17 years:**

Summer Goodwin, Christ the King High School (1st Place)

Alycia Alie, Antigua Girls High School (2nd Place)

Shania Mckenzie, Christ the King High School (3rd Place)

Kiara Tittle, Antigua Seventh-day Adventist School (Honorable Mention)

Meanwhile, one of the events that is creating much interest is the Art and Culture Bus Tour which takes place today, Thursday. It starts at Redcliffe Quay and it is an exploration of art galleries and local bites with 5 stops and 8 venues. It runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.





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## Connecting for Change: SARC Open House encourages collaboration to combat VAWG

With support from UN Women Multi Country Office - (MCO) Caribbean, The Directorate of Gender Affairs hosted an impactful Open House of the Support and Referral Centre (SARC) on Tuesday, as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign. The event welcomed key stakeholders from the diplomatic corps, private sector and philanthropy to better understand the unique one stop centre, shining a spotlight on collaborative efforts to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG) and advance gender equity in Antigua and Barbuda.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign, observed annually from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10th (Human Rights Day), serves as a worldwide call to end gender-based violence and promote women's rights. This year's theme, "Towards Beijing +30: Unite To End Violence Against Women And Girls" underscores the urgency of addressing this pervasive issue, with a particular focus on strategic partnerships and sustainable funding.

Violence against wom-



SARC Open House - PhotoCred - UN Women Multi Country Office - (MCO) Caribbean

en and girls (VAWG) remains the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violation in the world. Globally, an estimated 736 million women — nearly one in three — have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their lives.

Closer to home in the Caribbean, VAWG is acknowledged as being extensive across the region. Sexual coercion and abuse are reportedly widespread and five of the top 20 recorded rape rates for 2019 were in the Caribbean. Prevalence surveys supported by UN Women MCO – Caribbean show alarming rates of lifetime intimate partner violence across several Caribbean countries, in-

cluding Grenada (39%), Guyana (55%), Jamaica (39%), Suriname (48%), and Trinidad and Tobago (44%). Additionally, the economic cost of VAWG is staggering, as seen in Jamaica, where it was estimated to cost 6.6% of the 2018 GDP, with the private sector alone bearing 2.3%. These figures underscore the far-reaching impact of GBV, not only on survivors but on households, businesses, and national economies.

Events like the SARC Open House aim to amplify awareness, foster partnerships, and mobilize resources to tackle these alarming figures.

Executive Director of the Directorate of Gender Affairs, Jamie Saunders, emphasized the critical role of collaboration during the

event: "The issue of Gender based violence is one that requires significant investment from all segments of society, in order to ensure that our response is robust and sustainable. The buy-in and support of various corporate entities towards the Directorate of Gender Affairs and towards the Support and Referral Centre (SARC), in particular, bodes well for survivors of Gender based violence and the quality of care they can expect to receive, through the centre."

The Open House provided attendees with an overview of SARC's comprehensive services, which include counselling, legal referrals, and community outreach. It also offered a platform to discuss opportunities for partnerships

*cont'd on pg 10*



# Local News



## FLOW names a new Country Manager for its operations in St. John's

C&W Communications, the operators of Flow, has announced the appointment of Wayne Hull as Country Manager of its operations in Antigua and Barbuda.

With over 20 years of executive experience in the telecommunications industry, Hull brings a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record of leadership to the position and most recently served as Country

Manager for Flow St. Vincent and the Grenadines since 2015.

A seasoned finance professional, Hull has also held senior positions within Cable & Wireless, including Finance Manager and Finance Operations Manager for the Southern Caribbean Cluster, and Director and Company Secretary roles in Grenada and St. Vincent.

"We are delighted to welcome Wayne to lead our

team in Antigua and Barbuda," said Susanna O'Sullivan, Vice President, North Caribbean, C&W Communications.

"Wayne's extensive industry expertise, commitment to excellence, and passion for community engagement will undoubtedly drive the continued growth and success of Flow Antigua and Barbuda as we strive to deliver innovative solutions and exceptional



Wayne Hull experiences to our customers."

Hull, an Accountant with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and a Chartered Manager with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), is committed to leveraging his expertise to advance Flow's mission in Antigua and Barbuda.

"I am honoured to join Flow Antigua and Barbuda and look forward to working with the talented team here to further strengthen our commitment to keeping Antigua and Barbuda connected to the things that matter most," he said.

### *cont'd from pg 9*

aimed at expanding support systems for survivors.

Ms. Je'nille Maraj, Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Multi Country Office - Caribbean, highlighted the regional significance of initiatives like the SARC: "Antigua and Barbuda's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) exemplifies a flagship model in the region, offering all essential services in one location to reduce steps and barriers for survivors.

This integrated, one-stop approach ensures timely, quality care while minimizing the risk of re-traumatisation. UN Women remains committed to advocat-

ing for the SARC's sustainable re-operationalisation and scale-up, recognising that investing in such comprehensive gender-based violence response systems is not only life-saving for survivors but also essential for advancing gender equality and societal progress.

With sponsors committing to advocacy campaigns, resource mobilization, and capacity-building programs, the event marked a pivotal step toward sustainable solutions; the SARC Open House exemplified the theme of the 16 Days of Activism, proving that investment, action, and advocacy are indispensable in the fight to end violence against women and girls.

## The man charged with attempt on the life of a church leader has been remanded to HMP

The man accused of attempt on the life of church leader, Apostle Dr. Stephen Andrews, has been remanded in His Majesty's Prison until early next year when he appeared before the a magistrate on Wednesday.

The man – 48-year old Kanassa Robinson of Villa – has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated robbery, for using a firearm in carrying

out a robbery.

He appeared before Chief Magistrate, Dexter Wason, but at the time of his appearance he was without counsel as his counsel, communicated to the court that he had another matter to attend.

The charges stem from an incident on Sunday, November 24, at the St John's Pentecostal Church (SJPC)

House of Restoration on Lauchland Benjamin Drive. Robinson is accused of attempting to shoot Apostle Andrews, the spiritual leader of the church and also robbing them of a vehicle valued at \$10,000.

He was further charged for unlawfully breaking into the said church.

The matter has been adjourned to March 18 of next year.



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## TCI: Over 3500 students receive oral health education

By Latrishka Thomas

The Sandals Foundation, Ministry of Health and Human Services Dental Unit, and Great Shape! Inc. recently conducted a comprehensive oral health education program that reached more than 3,500 students across 12 schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Heidi Clarke, executive director of the Sandals Foundation, emphasized the critical importance of the initiative. “Oral health is a very important part of overall proper health, and even more critical for children as they develop healthy habits,” she stated.

Clarke further highlighted their decade-long partnership with Great Shape! Inc., which has brought healthcare services to hundreds of thousands across the Caribbean.

The program went beyond traditional education, providing students with practical resources and hands-on learning. Each student received a toothbrush, fluoride toothpaste, and dental floss, along with comprehensive lessons on proper dental care.

Robin Cox-Foster, Principal of the Thelma Lightbourne Primary School, praised the program’s impact. “Every student was able to benefit in a tangible way from the information and materials being shared



Students from the Enid Capron Primary School in Five Cays share bright smiles and the gifts that they received from the Great Shape Inc! 1000 Smiles Dental volunteers. Photo: Sandals Foundation.

on improving their oral health,” she said. Cox-Foster noted that parents had expressed satisfaction with the new information their children received.

Ministry of Health dental nurse Kenesha Lewis highlighted the program’s educational depth. “The students were also taught how eating certain unhealthy foods, improper brushing and lack of flossing could damage their teeth and affect them in the future,” she explained. Lewis emphasized

their success in reaching all government primary schools in Providenciales.

Dr Susan Delpeche from the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Dental Clinic described the outreach as “phenomenal,” particularly considering the limited access to affordable dental care for many students. “The volunteers are all great individuals, and our hearts swell with appreciation for the work they have done,” she added.

Student perspectives

were equally positive. Jace Mullings, a grade 6 student at Richmond Hill Preparatory school, shared, “The presentation from these volunteers was very informative for the children at my school. They included us in their presentations and demonstrated to us how to take care of our oral health.”

Henri Johnson, a first-time volunteer, described his approach to engaging with students. “Before I begin a presentation in each

*cont’d on pg 13*



## Grenada Parliament to introduce the use of AI in 2025

The Grenada Parliament will introduce artificial intelligence (AI) tools next year and legislators will be encouraged to make full use of the technology, Speaker Leo Cato said Tuesday.

“I wish to inform this Parliament for the year 2025 we are encouraging the use of artificial intelligence among parliamentarians, and we will be procuring the tools that allow our parliamentarians to use artificial intelligence, and we will do some training with respect to AI,” Cato told Parliamentarians.

He did not elaborate on the type of AI initiative but said that the use of technology for parliamentarians was among the outcomes of the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) held in Australia earlier this month.

Cato attended the conference on behalf of the Grenada Parliament.

“There were some ma-



jor conclusions taken at that conference, I will just read a few of the conclusions,” he said as he proceeded to read three of the conclusions.

He said that participants concluded that Parliaments in the Commonwealth should proactively explore all the necessary measures and support systems to allow parliamentarians to undertake their term in office.

The second outcome as he read from a prepared

document was “Parliament should continue to adapt and innovate to strengthen their governance system while ensuring their efforts, respect and engage with tradition and local context.

The third outcome was that “the commonwealth parliaments should commit to integrate technological solutions to allow for inclusive participation in the electoral process and for all persons even those living with disabilities,” Cato told

the sitting.

The theme of the conference was: ‘Engage, Empower, Sustain: Charting The Course For Resilient Democracy.’

“The workshops provided a space for delegates to share their experiences as Parliamentarians and discuss issues including the use of Artificial Intelligence and technology; the security of MPs; ending human trafficking; combatting discrimination legislation; supporting LGBT+ and people with disabilities to participate in Parliaments and engaging with Indigenous peoples,” said the concluding statement.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy says that AI can be used by parliaments to transcribe and translate, manage records of debates, and subtitle video content.

### *cont'd from pg 12*

class I would explain why it is important to practice proper oral hygiene and how to prevent cavities,” he said. Johnson found the experience particularly rewarding, noting the “precious hugs and smiles” from the children.

Joseph Wright, Executive Director of Great Shape! Inc., explained the program’s broader mission. “Our project is a preventative one. Our mission is to go into the schools to reduce or prevent cavities, and

having educators and dentists sharing with the children is a proven and cost-effective way to do that.”

The two-week program involved 42 volunteers who shared oral health education across all school classes.

This initiative is part of a larger ongoing partnership between the Sandals Foundation and Great Shape! Inc., which has provided eye care and dental services to over 300,000 people in Jamaica, St Lucia, Grenada, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.



# Regional News



## Trinidadian charitable organisation donates 27 prefab homes to Grenada



Photo: Ministry of Carriaco FB/Sister Isles Media Services

Hands That Serve, a voluntary organization based in Trinidad and Tobago, has contributed 27 prefabricated homes to the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, speaking at the handover ceremony, highlighted the significance of the gesture, noting that the act of giving is a powerful reminder of the importance of serving others and embracing a spirit of selflessness.

For Dalvi Paladee,

founder of Hands That Serve, the donation of the homes was not just a charitable act, but a profound expression of love.

“We are truly grateful to God for allowing us the opportunity to serve. These homes, fully furnished with essentials like beds, stoves, and refrigerators, are a symbol of hope and care for the people of these islands,” Paladee shared.

The homes were distributed across two locations: ten of the prefabricated houses were built at the new housing site in Dumfries, while the remaining seventeen were placed on private lands.

The donation, which came at no cost to the Grenadian government, was warmly received by Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government, Hon. Tevin Andrews.

He expressed his deep gratitude for the contribution, noting that it was a major intervention that would significantly improve the lives of the recipients.

Minister Andrews also extended his thanks to several individuals who played crucial roles in bringing the project to fruition, including Ambassador Terrence Forrester, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring the success of the initiative.

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Photo: National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD).

## DR: Authorities ramp up drug interdiction efforts for holiday season

CMC - The National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) is deploying more than 100 Anti-Narcotics Agents and Canine Units to intensify drug trafficking prevention and crime interdiction at major air and sea ports across the country.

With the holiday season approaching and passenger and cargo traffic increasing, the DNCD has strategically expanded its operational capacity to enhance security at key

transportation hubs.

The operation will target critical terminals, including the International Airport of Punta Cana, Las Américas Airport, and terminals in La Romana, Cibao, and Puerto Plata, along with ports in Caucedo, Haina Oriental, and Monte Cristi.

DNCD President, Vice Admiral Jose M. Cabrera Ulloa, recently conducted an inspection tour of the operational areas, focusing on the performance of

canine agents and specialized units.

The deployment will see 140 agents and canine units positioned to prevent illicit drug trafficking while maintaining strict respect for individual rights.

As Christmas and New Year celebrations draw near, the agency anticipates a significant increase in its operational presence.

The strategic positioning of agents aims to provide comprehensive secu-

rity for both domestic and international travellers entering the country during this peak travel period.

The DNCD emphasized its commitment to thorough yet respectful interdiction, balancing rigorous security measures with protection of individual rights.

The increased presence is designed to deter potential criminal activities and ensure safe passage for travellers during the holiday season.





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The man is seen offering prayers on top of a shipping container, moments before soldiers approach him.

## Pakistan security forces accused of pushing man off containers

Pakistan's security forces have been accused of pushing a man off a stack of cargo containers during Tuesday's protests in the capital Islamabad, where crowds demanded the release of former President Imran Khan.

Khan's party said the incident was one of several examples of police brutality at the demonstrations and has since called off the protests.

The man had been praying on top of a container when armed officers approached him and "brutally pushed him off from a height equivalent to three storeys", Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said.

The condition of the man is unknown.

BBC Verify has confirmed that the incident took place on Tuesday at the corner of Jinnah and Attaturk av-

enues in Islamabad, where protesters had gathered.

Video footage showed officers - carrying riot shields with markings indicating they were affiliated with the Pakistani Rangers, a paramilitary force - approaching a man kneeling on top of the containers before pushing him over the edge.

The video shows him trying to cling on to the containers before falling.

The footage was verified by matching a video of the fall posted on social media with images uploaded by Getty Images on Tuesday of the same scene.

BBC Verify has approached the Pakistani Rangers - whose officers were allegedly involved in the incident - for comment.

At least six people - four securi-

ty officers and two civilians - died in clashes during the protests which began on Sunday.

On Tuesday, thousands of Khan supporters marched on central Islamabad demanding that the former leader be released.

Protesters had said they would not leave the capital until Khan - who is in prison on several criminal charges including fraud - was freed.

But as they made their way to Democracy Square on Tuesday, they were pushed back by police firing tear gas.

PTI said in a statement on Wednesday that the protests had been "temporarily suspended" due to the "government's brutality".

It said Pakistan government forces had "launched a violent assault"

*cont'd on pg 18*



## 'No-one will win' - Canada, Mexico and China respond to Trump tariff threats

Officials from Canada, Mexico and China have warned US President-elect Donald Trump's pledge to impose sweeping tariffs on America's three largest trading partners could upend the economies of all four countries.

"To one tariff will follow another in response and so on, until we put our common businesses at risk," Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum said.

Trump vowed on Monday night to introduce 25% tariffs on goods coming from Mexico and Canada and an additional 10% on goods coming from Chi-

*cont'd on pg 19*



US President-elect Donald Trump, left, shares a few words with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

*cont'd from pg 17*

on peaceful protesters "firing live rounds with the intent to kill as many people as possible."

The party has claimed that several of their party workers were killed during the crackdown and appealed for an investigation.

The BBC has not yet independently verified reports of killings, although two sources at a nearby hospital confirmed to the BBC they had received four civilian bodies with gunshot wounds after Tuesday's protests.

Earlier on Tuesday, many Khan supporters had managed to reach the city centre but were dispersed by authorities by sunset.

Local media reported a govern-

ment source saying police had arrested more than 500 PTI supporters.

Islamabad had been put under lockdown, with a heavy security presence deployed in anticipation of clashes with convoys of PTI supporters.

The convoys were led by PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur and Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, who was released from prison in October and has since taken a more prominent role in trying to mobilise support for Khan.

Reports say Gandapur and Bushra Bibi have left Islamabad and returned to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where their convoy had come from.

Protesters were reported to have responded to a "final" call from Khan, asking them to "fight till the

end" until their demands are met.

Khan has been in prison for more than a year on charges he says are politically motivated.

Even from behind bars, the former cricket star has proved a powerful player in Pakistan politics.

During elections in February his party, which had been banned from standing and was forced to run candidates as independents, emerged as the single largest bloc in winning votes.

However, they fell short of a majority and their rivals united to form a new government.

The PTI has called for election results to be overturned because they say the vote was rigged, a claim disputed by the government.



*cont'd from pg 18*

na. He said the duties were a bid to clamp down on drugs and illegal immigration.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he spoke to Trump in the hours after the announcement and planned to hold a meeting with Canada's provincial leaders on Wednesday to discuss a response.

A spokesman for China's embassy in Washington DC told the BBC: "No one will win a trade war or a tariff war."

The international pushback came a day after Trump announced his plans for his first day in office, on 20 January, in a post on his social media website, Truth Social.

Trudeau said his country was prepared to work with the US in "constructive ways".

"This is a relationship that we know takes a certain amount of working on, and that's what we'll do," Trudeau told reporters.

In a phone call with Trump, Trudeau said the pair discussed trade and border security, with the prime minister pointing out that the number of migrants crossing the Canadian border was much smaller compared with the US-Mexico border.

Trump's team declined to confirm the phone call.

But Trump spokesman Steven Cheung added that world leaders had sought

to "develop stronger relationships" with Trump "because he represents global peace and stability".

Mexico's President Sheinbaum told reporters on Tuesday that neither threats nor tariffs would solve the "migration phenomenon" or drug consumption in the US.

Reading from a letter that she said she would send to Trump, Sheinbaum also warned that Mexico would retaliate by imposing its own taxes on US imports, which would "put common enterprises at risk".

She said Mexico had taken steps to tackle illegal migration into the US and that "caravans of migrants no longer reach the border".

The issue of drugs, she added, "is a problem of public health and consumption in your country's society".

Sheinbaum, who took office last month, noted that US car manufacturers produce some of their parts in Mexico and Canada.

"If tariffs go up, who will it hurt? General Motors," she said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for China's embassy in Washington, Liu Pengyu, told the BBC that "China-US economic and trade co-operation is mutually beneficial in nature".

He denied that China allows chemicals used in the manufacture of illegal drugs - including fentanyl

- to be smuggled to the US.

"China has responded to US request for verifying clues on certain cases and taken action," Liu said.

"All these prove that the idea of China knowingly allowing fentanyl precursors to flow into the United States runs completely counter to facts and reality."

President Joe Biden has left in place the tariffs on China that Trump introduced in his first term, and added a few more of his own.

Currently, a majority of what the two countries sell to each other is subject to tariffs - 66.4% of US imports from China and 58.3% of Chinese imports from the US.

Speaking in the House of Commons in Ottawa, Trudeau told lawmakers that "the idea of going to war with the United States isn't what anyone wants".

He called on them to not "panic", and to work together.

"That is the work we will do seriously, methodically. But without freaking out," he said.

The leaders of Canadian provinces suggested that they would impose their own tariffs on the US.

"The things we sell to the United States are the things they really need," Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said on Tuesday.

"We sell them oil, we sell them electricity, we

sell them critical minerals and metals."

America's northern neighbour accounted for some \$437bn (£347bn) of US imports in 2022, and was the largest market for US exports in the same year, according to US data.

Canada sends about 75% of its total exports to the US.

Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, Canada's most populous province, said on Monday the proposed tariff would be "devastating to workers and jobs in both Canada and the US".

"To compare us to Mexico is the most insulting thing I've ever heard," said Ford.

Ford was echoed by the premiers of Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, while a post on the X account of Alberta Premier Danielle Smith acknowledged that Trump had "valid concerns related to illegal activities at our shared border".

The Canadian dollar, the Loonie, has plunged in value since Trump vowed to impose tariffs on Canadian imports come January.

The Canadian dollar dipped below 71 US cents, the lowest level the Loonie has fallen to since May 2020, when Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Canadian goods during his first stint as US president. The Mexican peso fell to its lowest value this year, around 4.8 cents.



# Sports News



## OCS ends PMS unbeaten run in Under-14 Boys school league

Defending champions Princess Margaret School's (PMS) unbeaten run was ended by Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) in the Under-14 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup football league on Tuesday.

Elisha McDonald scored the only goal of the match in the fifth minute to give Ottos Comprehensive School a 1-0 victory against Princess Margaret School at the PMS playing field.

Their fifth win in eight matches allows Ottos Comprehensive School to remain in fourth place on goal difference but join Princess Margaret School on 16 points.

Princess Margaret School slipped from second to third place on goal difference after suffering their first defeat in seven matches. The result also meant that leaders Clare Hall Secondary School remain the only unbeaten side in the 10-team round-robin competition.

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) snatched a 1-0 victory against All Saints Secondary School at the AGS playing field to leapfrog Princess Margaret School into second place on goal difference.

Tafari Parker scored the only goal of the match in the 23rd minute to give Antigua Grammar School their sixth win in eight matches.

The result allows Antigua Grammar School to advance to 19 points, the same as leaders Clare Hall Secondary School, which remains at the top of the standings by virtue of a superior goal difference and also with a game in hand.

All Saints Secondary School will remain on seven points after suffering their fifth defeat in eight matches.

Clare Hall Secondary School's match against Sir Novelle Richards Academy was not played due to the referees' failure to show up for the encounter at the Clare Hall playing field.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy will remain second from the bottom of the standings on three points from seven matches.

St. Joseph's Academy maintained their position in fifth place after being awarded victory by default against Pares Secondary School, which failed to show up for their encounter.



Tafari Parker of AGS counter at the PMS playing field.

St. Joseph's Academy advanced to 14 points after securing their fourth win in eight matches, while Pares Secondary School will remain in the cellar without any points after losing for the eighth time in as many encounters.

*cont'd on pg 21*



Elisha McDonald of OCS

## Brathwaite says West Indies used England lessons in Bangladesh victory

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite praised his teammates for putting the lessons of their series whitewash by England into action, as they earned a rare home win versus Bangladesh on the last day of the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Tuesday.

The Windies earned their first home Test victory in over two years on Tuesday, with two wickets from Antiguan pacer Alzarri Joseph helping them wrap up a 201-run triumph.

The best Bangladesh can now hope for from the two-match series is a draw, with West Indies snapping a miserable run of red-ball results.

The West Indies were beaten 3-0 by England on their most recent foreign tour in July, before going down 1-0 over two home matches against South Africa in August.

Speaking after the win in Antigua, Brathwaite said, "A lot of learning has taken place from the England tour. Test cricket is all about learning and that's

what I tell our guys.

"We have seen a hundred here (from Justin Greaves) and that was a positive. It's good to get a Test win and we continue working hard."

While Joseph finished with figures of three for 69, Jayden Seales and Greaves also dismissed two apiece in Bangladesh's second innings, leading Brathwaite to praise his pace attack.

"It all depends on the surface, but these guys have different skill sets," he said.

"We have to stay hungry, that's one. Some guys got big fifties, it was good to see but this Test is over. We need to keep at it. The fans' support means a lot. I have seen the guys supporting us not just here, but also in the first-class cricket."

Bangladesh captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz also praised his bowlers, in particular six-wicket star Taskin Ahmed, but conceded they did not do enough with the bat.

"I Think we bowled really well. Taskin got six wickets but they had a



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite

got partnership after they were down seven wickets," Miraz said.

"Then the match was lost there. We didn't bat well in this match. I think we made a few mistakes

but that can happen. We hope to come back strongly in the next match.

We know what mistakes we made and we need to come back stronger. We will have a chat among ourselves. We have got a pace attack who bowled really well in the first innings. I am really happy with their performance."

The two teams will clash again in the second and final Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica, starting on Saturday.

### cont'd from pg 20

St. Mary's Secondary School recorded their second win in seven matches with a 4-0 victory against St. Anthony's Secondary School at the AGS playing field.

Peterson Phoenix scored twice with conversions in the 34th and 43rd minutes, and the other goals were converted

by Dequan Samuel in the eighth minute and Raheem Grimmond in the 25th minute.

The result allows St. Mary's Secondary School to advance to seven points from seven matches, while St. Anthony's Secondary School will remain on nine points after suffering their fourth loss in seven encounters.





Shai Hope hits 45 from 43 balls for the Guyana Amazon Warriors against the Lahore Qalandars in the opening match of the inaugural Global Super League at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

## Amazon Warriors get dominant victory over Qalandars in GSL opener

The Guyana Amazon Warriors kicked off the inaugural Global Super League with an emphatic six-wicket victory over the Lahore Qalandars on Tuesday, thrilling their home fans with a clinical all-round performance at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana.

The win, sealed with 12 balls to spare, showcased the Warriors' depth and intent to make a strong statement in this groundbreaking competition.

After winning the toss, the Amazon Warriors captain Imran Tahir elected to field first. The decision paid immediate dividends as Tanzim Hasan Sakib claimed the tournament's first wicket in the second over, trapping Mirza Baig lbw.

However, Baig's opening partner, Adam Rossington, counterattacked with a quick-fire 32, striking two sixes and three boundaries before being caught by Dwaine Pretorius.

Despite Rossington's early aggres-

sion, the Qalandars struggled to maintain momentum as Tahir, Gudakesh Motie, and USA spinner Hassan Khan stifled the scoring with disciplined spells. Tom Abell anchored the innings, but with regular wickets falling, Lahore's progress remained muted.

The game-changing moment came in the penultimate over when Pretorius, already influential in the field with two catches, delivered a stunning display of death bowling.

The South African all-rounder ripped through the Qalandars' lower order, picking up four wickets in the over, including Abell, Carlos Brathwaite, Asif Afridi, and Faheem Ashraf. Pretorius ended with stellar figures of four for 21, leaving the Qalandars reeling at 121 for nine. The collapse was completed in the next over as Salman Mirza was dismissed to end the Qalandars' innings at 124 all out.

Chasing 125 to win, the Warriors'

innings mirrored the match's earlier stages—steady but with moments of brilliance. Shai Hope, in his typically assured style, anchored the innings with an unbeaten 45 off 43 balls, ensuring the team remained on track despite a few hiccups along the way.

With 17 runs needed from 18 balls, the match hung in the balance until Mirza's final over. However, Keemo Paul provided the fireworks, smashing 20 runs in the over, including a towering six to finish on 27 not out from just 13 balls. The Warriors cruised home, sending the Providence crowd into jubilation.

Pretorius' all-round heroics were instrumental in the Warriors' victory. His four wickets in one over, coupled with two key catches, earned him the Player of the Match award.

The Amazon Warriors' commanding victory sets the tone for the Global Super League, establishing them as early favourites to win the competition.

## Bendals upset Empire to get first win in First Division League

Bendals claimed their first win in five matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division league on Tuesday.

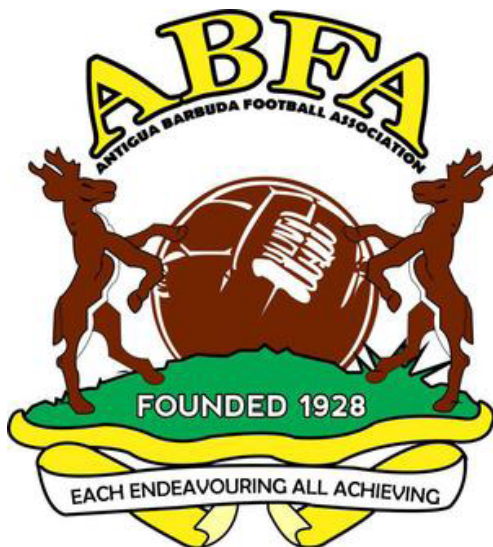
Bendals, which entered Tuesday's match with one point after salvaging a draw and three losses in their previous four matches, pulled off a surprising 1-0 victory against Empire at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Following a goalless first half, Mitcheo Edwards scored the only goal of the match in the 80th minute to snatch victory for Bendals, which will advance to four points from five matches.

Empire FC will remain on 12 points after suffering their second defeat in six matches.

After crashing to their first defeat in a 5-0 loss to Freeman's Village Scorpions in their previous outing, SAP FC returned to winning form with a 2-0 victory against Tryum FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Following a goalless first half, SAP FC secured their fourth win in six matches with two late second half goals that were scored by Devonta Geran in the 77th minute and Beajay Williams in the 87th minute.



The result allows SAP FC to advance to 13 points from six matches, and Tryum FC will remain on three points after suffering their fourth defeat in five matches.

Swetes FC claimed their third win in five matches with a 3-0 victory against Urlings FC at the Urlings playing field.

Shalon Knight scored twice with conversions in the 35th and 83rd minutes, and Railique Browne scored the other goal for Swetes FC in the 27th minute.

The result allows Swetes FC to advance to 10 points from five matches. Urlings FC will remain on

one point from six matches after losing four matches and having their opening encounter with Bolans FC end prematurely.

Meanwhile, Real Blizzard FC picked up their second win in the ABFA's Second Division with a 3-1 victory against the Young Warriors FC at the Buckley's playing field.

Nathan Fenton scored twice with goals in the 21st and 24th minutes, and Allan Matthew had an eighth-minute conversion for Real Blizzard FC, which advanced to seven points from five matches.

Andrace Haddad scored in the 33rd minute for the Young Warriors, who will remain on three points after crashing to their fourth defeat in five matches.

The ABFA's First Division league will resume with four matches on Thursday (today) at 4:30 pm.

The Liberta Blackhawks will tackle the Ottos Rangers in Liberta; Freeman's Village Scorpions will host Bolans FC in Freeman's Village; FC Master Ballerz will face Lion Hill FC at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos; and Jennings United FC will take on Police FC in Jennings.

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against the top teams which was pleasing."

Deitz further added, "Since I've taken over, I've seen improvements in all areas, but we still have a long way to go. The consistency of high-level performance is what we need to keep working towards and this is a good opportunity to play six matches against one of the best teams in the world.

"We want to get more girls involved with franchise cricket moving forward and looking toward India, it's always good to play in front of the Indian IPL teams. It is good for our ladies to start getting their names in front of those people, to hopefully open some opportunities in the future."

The West Indies Women will begin their series on December 15, preceded by a

10-day acclimatization camp in India.

West Indies Women's Squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbell (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Nerissa Crafton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Shabika Gajani, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, and Rashada Wil-

liams.

Team Management Unit:  
 Head Coach: Shane Deitz;  
 Manager: Sheena Gooding;  
 Assistant Coach: Ryan Austin;  
 Assistant Coach: Damien Wright;  
 Team Analyst: Gary Belle;  
 Physiotherapist: Angelica Holder;  
 Strength & Conditioning Coach: Antonia Burton;  
 Performance Coach: Dr. Nadine Sammy;  
 and Media & Content Officer: Nicholas Maitland.



## CWI names women's squad for series in India

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the squad for the West Indies Senior Women's tour of India for a multi-format series next month.

The tour comprises three T20 Internationals (T20I) and three One-Day Internationals (ODI), providing a significant opportunity for the team to compete against one of cricket's leading nations.

The T20I series will commence at the Dr. DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai on December 15, followed by the ODI series at the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium in Vadodara from December 22. This ODI segment carries crucial points for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Championship.

Currently ranked 6th in both T20Is and ODIs, the West Indies Women will face third-ranked India in what promises to be a compelling series. The teams' last white-ball encounter in India in 2016 saw the West Indies triumph 3-0 in the T20Is before India claimed the ODI series 3-0.

Following their semifinal appearance at the ICC



Players of the senior West Indies women's team. (CWI Media)

Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai, the West Indies Women will face an Indian side that recently secured a 2-1 ODI series victory against reigning ICC Women's T20 World Cup Champions New Zealand.

The squad, under the leadership of captain Hayley Matthews, presents a balanced combination of established players and emerging talent. Stafanie Taylor is currently rehabilitating from an injury sustained and will be absent from this tour.



West Indies women's team skipper Hayley Matthews

Head Coach Shane Deitz expressed his confidence in the squad, stating, "We want to take the good momentum

we gained at the T20 World Cup into this series. We showed that we can compete  
*cont'd on pg 23*