

LAMIN TO BE A SENATOR

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Art Week 2024 continued on Thursday with the art galleries bus tour. *Photos on page 9.*

Local News



Incoming Senator Lamin Newton urged not to get too comfortable in the Senate



Lamin Newton

The Antigua and Barbuda Caretaker for the All Saints East and St. Luke constituency, Lamin Newton, will be sworn in as a senator at a ceremony at Government House today.

The ceremony will take place in the presence of family and friends as well as representatives from both the ABLP and the government.

However, in offering congratulations to the incoming senator, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the ABLP Political Leader, did not mince words when he told Newton that the appointment to the Senate should not be his ultimate goal.

“In the ABLP, we don’t have ‘senators for life’ it therefore means that your stay in the Upper House should never be the extent of your ambitions; your ambitions should always be to

get elected to the House of Representatives. Do not become too comfortable as there are others waiting in the wings ready to become the candidate,” he warned.

According to PM Browne, Newton has shown that he is prepared to do the work necessary to become the representative and he urged him not to relent until he achieves the ultimate goal of winning the constituency for the ABLP.

The prime minister was speaking Thursday night at a town-hall meeting organized by Newton for the residents to hear directly from leaders of the government on the efforts being made to address their concerns.

Issues related to water, roads, housing were among matters discussed at the meeting.



NOTICE OF THE 68TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TO: SHAREHOLDERS OF ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.
TRADING AS ACB CARIBBEAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **SIXTY - EIGHTH (68th) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)** of the Company will be held via hybrid format (both online and in-person) on **Thursday December 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm** at the **Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Convention Centre on Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua** and on the **Zoom Webinar Platform**.

Shareholders are asked to arrive at the AGM venue at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to allow for registration and other pre- Meeting matters to be addressed. Adequate parking will be available.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting has been distributed to Shareholders as at the record date, **Friday November 15, 2024**, by email and uploaded to the Company's website, www.acbonline.com in accordance with Article 12.4 of the Company's Bylaws.

Shareholders may access their **68th AGM Shareholders' Package (to include the Annual Report 2023; Proxy Form; Circular to Shareholders; 67th AGM Minutes; Meeting Etiquette Guidelines for Online Attendees)** under the **Investor Relations tab** on the Company's website and may request hard copies of all documents via email: ACBSecretariat@acbonline.com or call (268) 481-4330/1/4.

To attend the AGM online, Shareholders will be required to pre-register by latest, **Tuesday December 17, 2024**. The registration link will be emailed to Shareholders on record and can be found on our ACB

Caribbean Facebook page: ACB Caribbean or on the Company's website under the Investor Relations tab. Shareholders will be subject to due-diligence requirements. Help Desk Service and Support will be available via the email and telephone contacts above.

For Shareholders attending the Meeting in – person, we also encourage you to pre-register by reserving your seat via the above email or telephone contact **on or before Tuesday December 17, 2024**.

Proxies are to be deposited with the Legal/Secretariat Department at the ACB Caribbean Head Office on Thames & St. Mary's Streets, St. John's, Antigua, or emailed to ACBSecretariat@acbonline.com by latest **2:00 pm on Thursday December 12, 2024**.

The 68th Annual General Meeting will be hosted under the **Theme – INVESTED IN PEOPLE ... UNYIELDING IN PROGRESS**.

We look forward to engaging with our Shareholders at our upcoming AGM.

Shareholders are encouraged to submit your questions in advance via the email above. **Your Voice Matters!**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

RHODETTE PAIGE
LEGAL COUNSEL/CORPORATE SECRETARY



www.acbonline.com

Antigua and Barbuda economy records enormous growth since Independence

Antigua and Barbuda has seen its economy expand significantly over the past 43 years, growing from a GDP of \$336 million in Eastern Caribbean dollars at independence in 1981 to over \$5 billion today.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams highlighted this

transformation during his Throne Speech, crediting strategic investments and fiscal policies for the dramatic increase.

“On the 1st of November 1981, the new state of Antigua and Barbuda was declared sovereign, and our GDP stood at \$336 million. Today, our country’s GDP exceeds \$5 billion,”

Sir Rodney said, outlining the nation’s progress.

The Governor General noted that this growth reflects deliberate efforts to build a robust economy, including investments in tourism, infrastructure, and foreign direct investment.

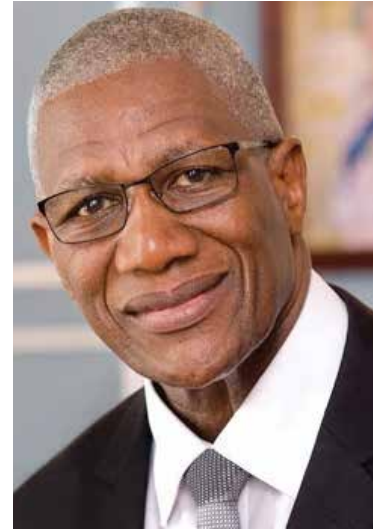
Projects such as the Peace, Love, and Happiness (PLH) development and the Rosewood Luxury Hotel in Barbuda were cited as key contributors to job creation and economic expansion.

The government has also focused on fiscal discipline, achieving a debt-to-GDP ratio of approximately 60%, a level deemed sustainable by international financial institutions.

Sir Rodney commended the Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet for their role in managing the country’s finances.

“My government set about to make Antigua and Barbuda’s economy produce sufficient jobs while lowering taxes and attracting significant investments,” he said, describing the administration’s approach to fostering economic growth.

Tourism remains a critical driver of Antigua and Barbuda’s economy, with ongoing investments in luxury resorts and improved connectivity.



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

The new airport terminal and the planned deep-water harbour in Barbuda are expected to enhance both tourism and trade, further strengthening the nation’s economic outlook.

However, challenges remain, including the country’s vulnerability to climate-related disasters and global economic fluctuations.

Despite these hurdles, the government has expressed optimism about its ability to sustain growth through diversification and investments in renewable energy, healthcare, and education.

Antigua and Barbuda’s economic journey underscores the progress made since independence, though questions about the inclusivity of this growth and its resilience to external shocks remain topics for ongoing discussion.

Candlelight Vigil FOR HON. ASOT A. MICHAEL



TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2024
PARHAM BASKETBALL COURT | 6PM

A light to honor a legacy

The family of the Hon. Asot Michael and Senator Rawdon Turner extend a heartfelt invitation to the nation of Antigua and Barbuda to join us for a Candlelight Vigil to celebrate the life and legacy of the Hon. Asot A. Michael.

🕒 Date: Tuesday, 17th December 2024

🕒 Time: 6:00 PM

📍 Location: Parham Basketball Court

Let us gather as one nation to reflect on his dedication to our people and his lasting contributions.

Local News



Ministry of Health signs two-year extension for ophthalmological services at SLBMC

The government through the Ministry of Health has cleared the way for continued high-level eye-care services for patients in Antigua and Barbuda.

This comes following a contract renewal for two years for the provision of ophthalmology services signed between the Ministry of Health and Trinidad Eye Hospital.

The services will be provided at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

CEO and Chief Surgeon from Trinidad Eye Hospital, Dr. Ronnie Bhola, met with Medical Director Ag. Dr. Shiyon Belle-Jarvis, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Health, Ena Dalso and



SLBMC Board Secretary; Martin Camacho, to sign a two-year contract for the continued provision of ophthalmology services at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in Antigua.

Since 2019, Dr. Ronnie Bhola and his team have been doing cataract surgeries in partnership with the Ministry of Health with more than 800 cases being done to date.

This is a significant

milestone for the Ministry of Health and the eye-care teams at SLBMC and TEH who have displayed renewed commitment and focus on reducing blindness from cataract in Antigua and Barbuda.

Ministry of Health confirms reports of Impetigo cases in Antigua and Barbuda

The Ministry of Health confirms that a few children have been seen by medical practitioners for a rash identified as Impetigo.

While this condition is not rare in Antigua and Barbuda or globally, it is a highly contagious bacterial skin infection that requires immediate attention to prevent further spread. Impetigo is most often seen in young children but can affect individuals of all ages. The infection spreads through direct skin-to-skin contact with an infected person or through contact with contaminated items such as towels, clothing, or toys.

Parents and caregivers should be aware of the signs and symptoms of Impetigo. These include red sores that typically appear on the face, around the nose, mouth, or on the hands and

feet. The red sores often burst, leaving a yellowish-brown crust, and may cause itchy or irritated skin around the affected area. In some cases, impetigo can present as fluid-filled blisters that rupture easily. If left untreated, the condition can lead to complications such as deeper skin infections or, in rare cases, kidney inflammation.

To prevent the spread of impetigo, the Ministry advises the public to maintain good personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing with soap and water. It is essential to ensure children wash their hands regularly, especially after playing outdoors. Personal items such as towels, clothing, and bed linens should not be shared, as these can harbor bacteria.

Any cuts, scrapes, or insect bites

should be promptly cleaned and covered with clean bandages to reduce the risk of infection.

If you or your child develops symptoms of Impetigo, it is crucial to consult a healthcare provider promptly. Early treatment, often involving topical and oral antibiotics, can clear the infection and reduce its contagiousness. Children diagnosed with Impetigo should remain home from school or daycare until they have been treated with antibiotics for at least 24 to 48 hours to prevent spreading the infection to others.

The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the schools, public health facilities, and private practitioners to aid in managing and controlling the situation effectively.

Dollar barrel goes into effect from December 1st

The popular Dollar Barrel initiative goes into effect from December 1, 2025, to January 15, 2025.

According to a media release, the Customs Division said under this initiative, each household will be permitted to import the following items in either a standard-sized shipping barrel or an E-Container for personal use:

Clothing – limited to no more than seven (7) pieces of the same type

Foodstuff

Toiletries

Please note that a 10% Revenue Recovery Charge (RRC) along with a processing and handling fee of ten dollars (USD \$10.00) will apply.

Many residents look forward to this initiative each year as their family members in the United States, Canada or elsewhere use the opportunity to purchase foods in bulk to send back to Antigua and Barbuda to take advantage of the initiative.



CHRISTMAS BARREL INITIATIVE
 DECEMBER 1, 2024– JANUARY 15 2025

UNDER THIS INITIATIVE EACH HOUSEHOLD WILL BE ALLOWED TO IMPORT THE FOLLOWING IN A STANDARD SIZE SHIPPING BARREL OR AN E- CONTAINER FOR PERSONAL USE:

- ✓ CLOTHING "NOT MORE THAN 7 PCS OF THE SAME TYPE"
- ✓ GROCERIES
- ✓ TOILETRIES

THE 10% REVENUE RECOVERY CHARGE (RRC) AND A PROCESSING / HANDLING FEE OF TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) WILL BE CHARGED.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT: 268-468-6100



WIOC
 THE WEST INDIES OIL COMPANY LIMITED
 INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

PRESS RELEASE

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – November 28, 2024

Unauthorized Sale of Petroleum Products

The West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC) reminds the public that it is **the sole authorized supplier of petroleum fuels in Antigua and Barbuda**, except for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). WIOC ensures that all its petroleum products are rigorously tested and certified to meet the highest standards of quality and safety.

We have been made aware that an unauthorized entity is offering petroleum products for sale. We advise all individuals and businesses that purchasing or selling petroleum fuels (excluding LNG) from any entity other than WIOC is illegal and will be subject to prosecution under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

WIOC remains fully committed to meeting the fuel needs of the nation.

Issued by:
 The West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC)



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Local News

Mission accomplished!

The organisers of the inaugural Prematurity Week say they have accomplished one of the main goals of the event; to focus the national attention to an often overlooked issue that many in the society have been dealing with in their daily lives; the issue of having a premature child.

In a media release, The Tiny Hope Support Group said it proudly wrapped up a successful week of activities aimed at raising awareness for World Prematurity Week from November 17 to 24. The week was filled with educational, celebratory, and



community-driven events designed to shed light on the challenges faced by preterm infants and their families.

The highlights of the week include an insightful webinar titled "Beyond Survival," featuring esteemed

doctors and nurses who shared their expertise on the medical advancements and emotional support available for preterm babies and their families. This pivotal event offered invaluable information to caregivers and fostered a sense of community among participants.

Following the webinar, a Media Day was organized, where the Executive Team of Tiny Hope, along with mothers of preterm babies, engaged with various media

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US-based nationals celebrate Independence

Activities to celebrate Antigua and Barbuda's Independence throughout the diaspora came to its usually highly anticipated climax with the annual gala in New York, showcasing the national pride of its citizens in a dazzling all white affair.

The star studded and sophisticated event is now being hailed a phenomenal success, a tribute to some of the achievements that brought global attention to Antigua and Barbuda in the past year. The pivotal role the Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission played in executing the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

(SIDS4) was a featured highlight, embodying the event's theme of "Festival of Hope."

Antigua and Barbuda conquered the world's stage in more ways than one this year. Keisha Schahaff was celebrated during the Gala for the ambassadorial role she continues to play having experienced the outer limits of space and taking Antigua and Barbuda with her on the groundbreaking journey.

"As I stand here, I urge each of you to overcome the challenges in your path, to work diligently on self-improvement, beliefs, and to never shy away from pursuing your dreams," she

told an admiring audience, while expressing profound gratitude for being invited to the gala as a special guest of honor.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene, under whose Ministry the New York Office falls, was elated to see the turnout of so many Antiguan and Barbudans to celebrate the country's 43rd year of Independence. "When we come together to celebrate Independence it is time for reflection on our achievements and to reinforce the need for us to be of service to our country," Minister Greene charged in his message.

Meantime, Antigua and

Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson, who heads the Mission, expressed appreciation and acknowledged the generous support the gala attracted this year, especially from sponsors.

Listed among the sponsors that helped to make the night a meaningful and unforgettable affair are the American University of Antigua College of Medicine, Arton Capital, the Citizenship by Investment Unit, World Insurance Associates, PVBLC Foundation and Premier Beverages.

Heading the list of media sponsorship was ABS Radio and Television with meaningful support also coming from Pointe Express Antigua and WTP Radio.

What would the New York Independence Gala be without the Burning Flames, a staple in the annual event and the pride of Antiguan and Barbudan music. With songs from their lengthy catalogue of hits, the band produced a night that all who attended will not soon forget. Joining them was the City South Steel Orchestra, adding the sweet flavor of pan to a healthy array of food, culture and togetherness.

The New York Independence Gala once again distinguished itself as the stand-out diaspora activity to celebrate the country's anniversary of nationhood.

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outlets to share personal stories and advocate for awareness on the issues surrounding prematurity.

In a gesture of gratitude, Appreciation Day celebrated the unwavering dedication of NICU staff, parents currently navigating their journeys, and volunteers. Gifts were generously sponsored by local businesses, highlighting the community's support for families in need.

T-Shirt Day saw participants donning purple shirts to symbolize support and solidarity for premature infants, cultivating a sense of unity across the island.

The week culminated in a delightful Tea Party Fashion Show, where brave preterm individuals showcased their evening wear, radiating joy and resilience. This heartwarming event reminded attendees of the importance of celebration, even amidst challenges.

To close out the week, families came together for the "Shades of Purple Funday," which saw children, parents, and supporters enjoying a day filled with games, activities,



and a vibrant outpouring of support.

Jhavline Patrick, President of Tiny Hope Support Group, stated, "This week of activities has been transformative not only for our families but for the entire community. By raising awareness and sharing stories, we foster a deeper understanding of the journey of preterm infants. Our heartfelt thanks to every sponsor and participant for their unwavering support!"

Local News



The Centenarian Club adds another member

Another national has joined the Centenarian Club as Thursday marks the entry of Lillian Delores Richards-Barton, a proud Antiguan and Barbudan, who exemplifies strength, faith, and kindness.

Born on November 28th, 1924, Mrs. Barton hails from the community of Liberta and has lived a life grounded in faith, kindness, and service to others.

She was married to the late Selvyn Barton, and together they built a family and a legacy of love. Mrs. Barton is known for her friendly and approachable nature, and she is always ready to lend a helping hand.

A God-fearing woman, she embraces life's simple joys, with a special love for food.

Her positive, grateful attitude has



Lillian Delores Richards-Barton

been a defining feature throughout her life. Despite any challenges she has faced, she maintains a joyful outlook and rarely complains.

Her wisdom shines through in her favourite quotes: "A little is much

whilst God is in it" and "It's better to say 'here it is,' than 'where it is.'" These words reflect her humble, faith-driven perspective on life.

Her 100th birthday brings to 14 the number of centenarian in Antigua and Barbuda, highlighting not only her achievement but also the resilience and enduring spirit of the nation's people.

The Community Development and Citizens Engagement division continues its focus on community development and empowerment, honouring those like Barton who have shaped the nation with love and dedication.

As Barton celebrates this incredible milestone, her life serves as a testament to the strength, wisdom, and unwavering faith that continue to inspire her community and the people of Antigua and Barbuda

One of the nation's oldest citizens has died

The Ministry of Social Transformation has announced the passing of one of the nation's oldest citizens, Victoria Salma Rhodes, who passed away on Thursday November 28, 2024, at the



age of 104.

The Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division, under the Ministry of Social Transformation, offers its deepest condolences to the family and friends of the departed.

Rhodes, who had been residing in Liberta, was a beloved and esteemed member of the community. Her passing marks the loss of a remarkable life, one that spanned over a century, leaving behind a legacy of wisdom and resilience.

"At present, Antigua and Barbuda is home to 14 living centenarians, both locally and abroad, highlighting the



strength and vitality of our elder citizens. The Ministry of Social Transformation remains dedicated to honouring the contributions of our seniors, whose experiences continue to shape our society.

"We stand with Mrs. Rhodes' family and all those who mourn her passing, and we offer our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May she rest in peace," a statement from the ministry said.

Photo Essay

Art week 2024 - Art galleries bus tour



Commentary



Mental health for a sustainable future: How WISH aligns with global goals

By Chaneil Imhoff, Founder of WISH – the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing

In Antigua and Barbuda, mental health has long been a silent struggle – the challenge we don't talk about, the pain we carry behind closed doors. Too often, our communities have viewed mental health as a foreign concept, something to be ignored, whispered about, or shrouded in shame. But the reality is far from foreign. Mental health is our reality. It's our story. And it's time we rewrite it.

That's why I created WISH – the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing. It's more than just a platform; it's a movement, a lifeline, and a beacon of hope for our people. Born from the heart of our island, WISH is a testament to what can happen when we decide to break the silence and shatter the stigmas surrounding mental health.

When I envisioned WISH, I imagined a space where people could find understanding, compassion, and tools for healing. A space that said, "Your





Chaneil Imhoff
mental health matters, and so do you." But more than that, I wanted it to become a catalyst for cultural change. Because in Antigua and Barbuda, caring for our mental health should not feel like an act of rebellion—it should be a natural, celebrated part of life.

Revolutionizing Mental Health Care with Global Impact

WISH is on a mission to revolutionize how Antigua and Barbuda thinks about, talks about, and cares for mental health. Our work not only

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Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission

OFFICIAL REPORT

#	COUNSTITUENCY	August 2024				September 2024						October 2024						November 2024						GRAND TOTAL
		12th - 16th	19th - 23rd	26th - 30th	TOTAL	2nd - 6th	9th - 13th	16th - 20th	23rd-27th	30th	TOTAL	1st - 4th	7th - 11th	14th - 18th	21st - 25th	28th - 31st	TOTAL	4th - 8th	11th - 15th	18th - 22nd	25th - 29th	TOTAL		
1	ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	95	84	54	233	38	40	26	12	5	121	6	25	18	17	16	82	9	17	10	0	36	472	
2	ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	32	26	24	82	26	25	29	11	3	94	5	11	12	14	11	53	12	13	5	0	30	259	
3	ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	40	24	34	98	30	17	17	13	1	78	3	20	10	10	13	56	9	10	5	0	24	256	
4	ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	83	158	164	405	25	92	75	61	11	264	7	37	28	30	34	136	27	33	33	0	93	898	
5	ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	89	82	87	258	68	36	38	29	2	173	15	29	25	30	19	118	26	23	20	0	69	618	
6	ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST	145	111	94	350	61	46	64	30	8	209	19	49	32	38	30	168	17	23	27	0	67	794	
7	ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	148	130	73	351	80	39	43	35	9	206	16	33	23	27	14	113	13	15	11	0	39	709	
8	ST. MARY'S NORTH	81	137	85	303	92	54	68	34	5	253	28	35	42	34	14	153	26	25	19	0	70	779	
9	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	85	76	64	225	27	64	42	35	10	178	19	20	33	22	20	114	15	14	10	0	39	556	
10	ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	97	127	88	312	80	67	41	38	9	235	22	37	20	40	27	146	20	23	19	0	62	755	
11	ALL SAINTS WEST	72	122	86	280	4	106	85	57	3	255	30	37	57	53	29	206	27	36	27	0	90	831	
12	ST. GEORGE	131	162	129	422	99	78	67	49	9	302	23	32	40	37	23	155	34	24	18	0	76	955	
13	ST. PETER	100	106	65	271	80	22	27	39	2	170	32	25	27	22	19	125	35	33	42	0	110	676	
14	ST. PHILIP NORTH	75	61	44	180	32	27	35	28	3	125	28	20	16	23	15	102	19	10	10	0	39	446	
15	ST. PHILIP SOUTH	7	57	29	93	29	24	17	12	3	85	10	15	8	7	4	44	10	4	8	0	22	244	
16	ST. PAUL	85	93	72	250	80	50	64	38	5	237	12	28	30	30	30	130	25	20	14	0	59	676	
17	BARBUDA	0	25	71	96	40	23	28	9	6	106	11	6	12	9	4	42	5	11	8	0	24	268	
Monthly Replacement Application Count		1365	1581	1263		891	810	766	530	94		286	459	433	443	322		329	334	286	0			
MONTHLY TOTAL		4209				3091					1943					949					10192			

Commentary

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serves our local community but also supports global progress by aligning with key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

At the core of WISH is a commitment to promoting mental health as an essential aspect of overall well-being. Mental health care is health care, and by addressing it, we contribute to creating healthier individuals and communities.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Mental health challenges often intersect with issues of gender inequality, particularly for women and girls who face unique societal pressures. WISH advocates for gender-sensitive mental health approaches, ensuring equity and inclusivity in the healing journey.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Inequalities in access to mental health resources exist within our

communities. WISH is dedicated to bridging that gap, ensuring that mental health care is available to everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
 Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Whether through partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, or international allies, WISH amplifies its efforts by building bridges that foster collective impact.

These global goals remind us that mental health is not just a personal issue—it's a societal and global responsibility. Through WISH, we're contributing to a broader vision of development, one where no one is left behind.

At WISH, we believe in the power of the collective. Mental health isn't just about individual well-being; it's about the well-being of our entire community. When one of us struggles, we all feel the impact. And when one of us heals, it creates a ripple effect of

hope and resilience.

That's why we're calling on everyone to join this revolution. Because together, we can build a culture of self-care and healing. Together, we can ensure that mental health is no longer sidelined but embraced as a priority for all.

WISH is not just a name. It's a declaration. A promise. A belief that change is possible. When you support WISH, you're not just following a page or joining an organization. You're becoming part of a family—a family that believes in the power of "we" in wellness.

This is about more than just awareness; it's about action. It's about making mental health care accessible, equitable, and sustainable for everyone in Antigua and Barbuda.

So, let's not just wish for change. Let's make it happen. Let's break the silence, shatter the stigmas, and create a brighter future for our people—and our planet.



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Opinion



Haiti: Tragically descending into deeper crisis

By Sir Ronald Sanders

As gang violence spirals out of control in Haiti, the limitations of international efforts to restore order, including a Kenyan-led security mission, have laid bare the depth of the crisis. A nation already on its knees now faces an even darker abyss. Haiti's tragedy serves as a stark reminder that no matter how dire circumstances may seem, they can always deteriorate further.

Centuries of Injustice

Haiti's revolution (1791-1804) —the first successful uprising by enslaved people—should have been a beacon of hope. Instead, it marked the beginning of relentless punishment by a global order which was infused with racism and avarice. Forced to pay France reparations for its own freedom, Haiti was crippled by debt and subjected to invasions, occupations, and economic exploitation. This financial and political stranglehold laid the groundwork for centuries of poverty and instability.

Corrupt leadership, often propped up by external powers, exacerbated the country's struggles for decades, while natural disasters—earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods—repeatedly decimated its fragile infrastructure. By the time President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in 2021, Haiti's constitutional institutions had disintegrated.

The nation was left adrift, ruled by unpopular decrees without any form of public participation, amid surging gang violence, widespread hunger, and political paralysis.

A Nation on the Brink

Today, Haiti teeters on the edge of collapse. Nearly half of its population—5.41 million people—are acutely food insecure, and one in six children faces famine. Over 700,000 people have been forcibly displaced, while more than 900 schools remain closed, depriving hundreds of thousands of children of education.

Criminal gangs dominate nearly 80% of Port-au-Prince and its surrounding areas, holding 2.7 million people hostage to violence, extortion, and kidnappings. Even more alarmingly, thousands of children are now counted among their ranks, coerced into roles ranging from looters to murderers. These gangs, emboldened by weak governance, maintain their firepower and expand their reach even in the face of international interventions.

Haiti's police force, outgunned and underfunded, struggles to maintain order. The Kenyan-led multinational security mission, a contingent of just 430 personnel, has proven woefully inadequate against entrenched criminal networks. Frustrated communities have taken matters into



Sir Ronald Sanders

their own hands, forming vigilante groups to deliver brutal justice. In one chilling scene, gang members' bodies were dismembered in front of a silent and seemingly complicit police force.

The Transitional Council: Losing Its Opportunity to Lead

As basic services collapse and desperation deepens, the Transitional Council has squandered its chance to provide leadership. In April 2024, under pressure from the United States and with the backing of CARICOM, Haiti established the Council to stabilize the country, restore constitutional legitimacy, and pave the way for elections. The Council appointed Garry Conille, a former UNICEF official,

as interim prime minister, alongside a technocratic cabinet. While this initiative offered hope, it was fraught with danger from the start and destined to fail. The mix of ambitious politicians and technocrats—many of whom were not selected by the Council—set up disquiet and quickly led to dysfunction.

By November, the Council's fractious relationship with Conille and his cabinet culminated in his dismissal. In just five months, little progress had been made toward stabilizing the country or addressing the root causes of its crisis. This failure further eroded international confidence and left Haiti's plight unresolved.

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UN Peacekeeping Initiative Stalled – Despite Humanitarian Disaster

Haiti's plight is more than a humanitarian disaster - it is a test of the United Nations effectiveness. The Haitian government, supported by CARICOM and the United States, has called for a full-scale UN peacekeeping operation.

Such an initiative could provide the resources and personnel needed to restore order, with its costs distributed among all UN member states. However, China and Russia - two of the five veto powers in the Security Council - have opposed the idea, arguing that peacekeepers are meant to maintain peace, not combat urban crime or rescue dysfunctional states. This effort, therefore, remains stalled.

The Collapse of Basic Services

As violence intensifies, basic services have crumbled. The United Nations recently evacuated its staff from Port-au-Prince, citing escalating dangers. Humanitarian organizations, like Doctors Without Borders, have suspended operations due to threats against staff and patients. Food for the Poor, a nonprofit organization that manages feeding programs, can no longer deliver aid reliably because of gang blockades, road hazards, and airport closures.

The Transitional Council's inability to form an Electoral Council or ad-

vance constitutional reforms has only compounded the crisis. Without these critical steps, Haiti remains stuck in a cycle of instability. A new prime minister, Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, has taken office, but his government faces the daunting task of rebuilding trust, addressing gang violence, and navigating a Transitional Council prone to micromanagement. Time is not on his side.

The Way Forward

Ultimately, the responsibility for Haiti's recovery lies with its leadership. The Transitional Council must demonstrate unity,

stability, competence, and urgency in its efforts to stabilize the country. Without decisive action to rebuild constitutional institutions and restore governance, the Council risks isolating Haiti further, plunging the country deeper into chaos as the gangs grow stronger, more strident, and more determined.

Haiti's history is one of resilience against unimaginable odds, but the resilience of its beleaguered people alone cannot rebuild a nation. It is time for its leaders to rise above petty divisions and forge an agreed plan to achieve sta-

bility and peace. Only then can Haiti's neighbours and international partners step forward with confidence to help pull the nation from the brink.

This is the task to which all involved — both domestically and internationally — must commit, setting aside perceived strategic interests, whether personal or national.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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Environment



Extreme heat, beach erosion projected for C'bean in new report

A new World Bank report warns that climate change poses significant risks to the economic growth and sustainability of Eastern Caribbean states, while also offering a road-map for building resilience and achieving development goals.

The report, covering Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, highlights stark projections of climate impacts. By 2100, Saint Lucia could lose 34% of its sandy beaches, poten-

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GECOM refutes allegations of election fraud cover up

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has strongly rebutted claims of electoral misconduct, emphasizing that only the High Court possesses the constitutional authority to determine the lawfulness of an election.

The statement comes in response to recent allegations by Dr David Hinds of the Working People's Alliance (WPA), who accused GECOM Chairman Justice Claudette Singh of "declaring an election with knowledge of the potential breach of the law" during a November 25 talk show.

GECOM shared that according to Article 163 (1) (b) (i) of Guyana's Constitution, the High Court holds exclusive ju-



risdiction to investigate any potential irregularities in election proceedings. GECOM explicitly stated that the commission cannot independently validate election results or conduct comprehensive investigations into electoral allega-

tions.

A press statement indicated that Dr Hinds specifically referenced alleged voter impersonation incidents from the 2020 National Recount exercise.

However, GECOM stressed that such mat-

ters can only be legally addressed through a formal election petition, not through administrative investigation.

Despite receiving documents related to the alleged voter impersonation, the commission lacks the constitutional mandate to conduct an independent investigation into these claims.

The release serves as a robust defence against accusations of a fraud cover-up, urging political stakeholders and public commentators to conduct thorough legal research before making statements that could potentially undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

GECOM warned that spreading misinformation can erode trust in electoral institutions and potentially harm the reputation of election officials.

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tially affecting up to 57% of hotel revenue.

All four countries are expected to experience 22 additional days per year with temperatures exceeding 30° Celsius.

"These four countries can strengthen resilience and reduce economic vulnerabilities by combining strategic investments with more efficient resource use," said Benoit Bosquet, World Bank Regional Director for Planet.

He emphasized the critical importance of investing in nature-based solutions and transitioning away from fossil fuels, particularly in energy, transport, and waste sectors.

The report recommends developing a "resilient core" of investments that would allow countries to meet Sustainable Development Goals while minimizing infra-

structure damage and service disruptions during climate events. Grenada's Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Kerryne James, called the report "a blueprint for addressing vulnerabilities and charting a path to sustainable growth." She stressed that addressing these challenges is not optional but essential for the country's future.

OECS Commission Director General Dr Didacus Jules advocated for expanding the report's scope to additional countries, recognizing its value in bridging climate and development planning.

The report serves as a call to action, urging collaboration between governments, the private sector, and the international community to address the mounting challenges posed by climate change in the Eastern Caribbean.

Regional News



Bahamas: National security minister denies cocaine trafficking involvement

CMC - National Security Minister, Wayne Munroe, has dismissed suggestions that he is the “high-ranking politician” being referred to by United States law enforcement authorities to facilitate a cocaine trafficking scheme.

Munroe told The Tribune newspaper that he had not received any money nor had he been asked to accommodate any wrongdoing.

“I have not offered to accommodate any wrongdoing, and I state that categorically,” he told the newspaper. Prime Minister Phillip Davis told Parliament on Wednesday that the revelations by the United States authorities linking members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) strike at the “core of who we are as a nation”.

“Madam Speaker, this House and the Bahamian people deserve answers,” he said, adding that the government of The Bahamas will act decisively to ensure that those responsible for these breaches, regardless of rank or position, are held accountable.

“This betrayal will not go unanswered,” he vowed.

The United States attorney for the Southern District of New York, Damian Williams, Wednesday said that as alleged, for years, drug traffickers have smuggled



Wayne Munroe

tons of cocaine through The Bahamas with the support and protection of corrupt Bahamian government officials who control airports throughout the country and provide sensitive information about US Coast Guard movements to drug traffickers.

“This Indictment is the latest in a series of charges that this office and the DEA’s Special Operations Division have brought against corrupt government officials around the globe, who partner with dangerous cocaine traffickers,” he added.

Williams, along with Anne Milgram, the administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced on Wednesday afternoon the unsealing of the indictment charging 13 defendants with cocaine importation and related weapons offenses in connection with their participation in a massive cocaine importation conspiracy en-

abled by “corrupt Bahamian government officials”.

The indictment states that in or about September 2024, one of the men arrested explained that, in exchange for a two-million-dollar bribe, a high-ranking Bahamian politician, whom the man named, would authorize the assistance and involvement of armed RBPF officials to facilitate incoming cocaine shipments.

But Munroe, who is currently attending a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) ministers of national security meeting in St Kitts, told the newspaper whether the politician’s identity is disclosed will depend on whether the US communicates the matter confidentially or not.

“The prime minister is dealing directly with that aspect of it and I would prefer to defer to him for that. But I know that in some of these law enforcement matters, information is given to you

on the basis that you do not disclose it,” Monroe said.

Munroe also commented on statements posted on social media, questioning the future of Police Commissioner, Clayton Fernander, as a result of the arrests of members of the RBPF.

“I think the simple answer to it is, as put by the prime minister, we’re going to be holding everyone accountable. This is a very serious matter. It is said, if you read the indictment, that it began in May of 2021 and that preceded the time that this present administration came in before Mr Fernander took the chair.

“All I would say is, you judge the head of an organisation by how they react to things like this, and so you may have bad apples in every organisation and you judge the leadership by how they react to it, and so he will be judged by how he reacts to it, just as no doubt the public will judge us by how we react to it.”

Munroe said that while RBPF has shown a willingness to hold officers accountable, “what would be reprehensible is if police officers were doing things that were wrong and the police force was covering up for them

“What is being demonstrated is the police force isn’t covering up for persons,” he told the Tribune newspaper.

Romania orders election recount after TikTok bias claims

By Nick Thorpe

A recount of the votes cast in Sunday's first round of presidential elections in Romania has been ordered by the country's top court following allegations that social media platform TikTok gave "preferential treatment" to the surprise winner, Calin Georgescu.

The Constitutional Court also rejected claims filed by two of the losing candidates who accused Georgescu of illegal campaign financing.

Georgescu, a radical with no party of his own, campaigned mainly on TikTok.

The platform has categorically denied it favoured the far-right, pro-Russia candidate.

Georgescu won 23% of the vote, with 19% for the runner up, Elena Lasconi, of the opposition Save Romania Union.

Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu of the governing Social Democrats came third.

The Central Election Bureau must now decide how to carry out the recount, with what personnel, and by what deadline.

A full recount is unprecedented in Romanian post-Communist history.

As things stand, Georgescu is due to face Lasconi in a run-off on 8 December.

"Extremism is fought by voting, not backstage games," Lasconi said.

"I call on the Central Election Bureau to handle the vote recount wisely. The law must be the same for all, not interpreted differently for some."

TikTok also faced accusations that it did not respect electoral rules by Romania's top security body, the Supreme Council of National Defence.

Outgoing President Klaus Iohannis, who convened the council, said



Georgescu says state institutions are trying to deny the people's choice.

the platform "did not mark him as a political candidate".

But TikTok has vehemently denies the allegations.

"It is categorically false to claim his account was treated differently to any other candidate," it said in a statement.

"When Romanian authorities contacted us to flag a number of videos that lacked identifiers... we took action on those videos within 24 hours."

Georgescu, himself, has pushed back against criticism that he used the social media platform illegally to gain an electoral advantage.

The 62-year-old has more than 330,000 followers - up from 30,000 just over a fortnight ago - and more than 4m likes.

"The budget of this campaign was zero... I had a very small team - a maximum of 10 people, no more. But we had millions of people behind [us]," he told the BBC.

"I'm not different - the Romanian people are different. Romanian people need freedom. Real democracy means spirituality. God. Our land. Our property. Our soul. Our family."

He added that state institutions were trying to deny the people's

choice.

Anti-Georgescu protesters have already taken to the streets in Bucharest and several provincial cities, while Georgescu has appealed to his supporters to "stay home with friends and family" and not respond to provocations.

Romania's Telecoms regulator Ancom has called for TikTok to be suspended pending an investigation by prosecutors into suspicions of manipulation of the electoral process.

Romania's National Audiovisual Council has also asked the European Commission to investigate the way TikTok, which bans formal political advertising, was used in the election.

Romania will hold a parliamentary election this weekend, with the far-right parties AUR and SOS Romania hoping for a surge in popularity in the wake of the presidential vote.

The parties of the governing coalition, Social Democrats and National Liberals, are in disarray - humiliated by the failure of their candidates in the presidential election.

Across Romania, and in the large Romanian diaspora abroad, there's a mood of elation, despair, or simply confusion.

Syria rebels launch major offensive in north-west and gain territory

By David Gritten

Rebel forces have launched a major offensive in north-western Syria, capturing territory from President Bashar al-Assad's forces for the first time in years.

The Islamist militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and allied factions said they had seized control of a number of towns and villages in Aleppo and Idlib provinces since Wednesday.

The Syrian military said its forces were confronting a "large-scale" attack by "terrorists" and inflicting heavy losses on them.

A UK-based monitoring group said more than 180 combatants on both sides had been killed in the fighting. At least 19 civilians had also been killed in Syrian and Russian air strikes on opposition-held areas, it added.

More than half a million people have been killed in the civil war that erupted after the government cracked down violently on peaceful pro-democracy protests in 2011.

Idlib is the last remaining opposition stronghold and is home to more than 4 million people, many of whom have been displaced during the conflict and are living in dire conditions.

The enclave is most-



The Syrian rebels said they launched the offensive to "deter aggression" by the government.

ly controlled by HTS, but Turkish-backed rebel factions operating under the banner of the Syrian National Army (SNA) and Turkish forces are also based there.

In 2020, Turkey and Russia - a staunch ally of Assad - brokered a ceasefire to halt a push by the Syrian government to retake Idlib.

That led to an extended lull in violence, but sporadic clashes, air strikes and shelling continued.

Last month, the UN special envoy for Syria warned that the wars in Gaza and Lebanon appeared to be "catalysing conflict in north-west Syria in a dangerous manner".

Geir Pedersen said HTS had carried out a significant raid into government-held areas, Russia had resumed air strikes for the first time in months, and pro-government forces had significantly accelerated drone strikes and shelling.

On Wednesday, HTS and its allies said they had launched their offensive to "deter aggression" and "thwart the enemy's plans", accusing the government and allied Iran-backed militias of escalation and aggression in north-west.

But it came as the Syrian government and its allies were preoccupied with other conflicts.

In neighbouring Lebanon, an Israeli military campaign has devastated the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, whose fighters helped turned the tide of the Syrian civil war.

Israel has also stepped up its air strikes inside Syria on targets linked to Iran, Hezbollah and other Iran-backed militia groups, while Russian forces are focused on the war in Ukraine.

By the end of the first day of the offensive, the rebels had advanced into the western Aleppo countryside, taking them within 10km (6 miles) from the outskirts of Aleppo city, according to the UK-based

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Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR).

It reported that they had seized the Syrian army 46th Regiment's base and at least eight villages.

On Thursday, the monitoring group said the rebels had cut the M5 highway between Aleppo and the capital Damascus near Zarbah, 15km south-west of Aleppo city, and taken control of the interchange between the M5 and the M4 highway further south, near Saraqeb.

The SOHR said 121 rebels, most of them members of HTS, and 40 government troops and 21 militiamen had been killed over the past two days.

The rebels said in a Telegram statement that they had seized the town of Khan al-Assal, which is 5km west of Aleppo city, and had killed more than 200 members of pro-government forces.

A Syrian military statement put out on Thursday said its forces had "confronted the terrorist attack that is still ongoing with various weapons and in co-operation with friendly forces, leaving heavy losses in equipment and casualties among terrorists".

It did mention any losses among its forces, but Iranian news agencies said a senior commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guards serving as a "mili-

tary adviser" in Syria, Brig Gen Kioumars Pourhashemi, had been killed in Aleppo province.

Meanwhile, the Syria Civil Defence, whose first responders are known as the White Helmets, said on Thursday that Syrian and Russian warplanes had struck residential neighbourhoods and shops in the opposition-controlled town of Atareb, 20km west of Aleppo, killing 14 civilians, including three children and two women.

It also reported that four civilians had been killed Darat Izza, north of Atareb.

Another civilian was by a rocket attack on a camp for displaced people near

the Bab al-Hawa crossing on the Turkish border on Wednesday, it said.

The UN's Deputy Regional Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Syria, David Carden, said he was deeply alarmed by the impact of the escalating hostilities on civilians.

The International Rescue Committee said almost 7,000 families had been displaced and that some health facilities and schools had been forced to suspend services.

It appealed for an "immediate de-escalation" and called on all parties to ensure the protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian operations.



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CWI launches innovative development programme in Tasmania

In a groundbreaking initiative to develop the next generation of West Indies women's cricket stars, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has launched a new player development programme in Tasmania, Australia.

Four promising Under-25 players — Jannillea Glasgow, Cherry-Ann Fraser, Shawnisha Hector of Antigua and Barbuda, and Kate Wilmott — are currently honing their skills in the region's premier cricket competition, marking a significant step forward in women's cricket development.

The programme, conceived by West Indies Women's Head Coach Shane Deitz and Assistant Coach Damien Wright, has been integrating young talents into Tasmania's premier first-grade cricket competition.

Glasgow and Wilmott represent New Town Cricket Club, while Fraser and Hector represent Clarence Cricket Club. Fraser also appeared for Clarence in the men's third-grade competition, while Wilmott took a wicket for New Town in a match against North Hobart.

In New Town's seven-run win over Clarence in a women's T20 game, Glasgow scored an unbeaten 70, while Hector remained not out on 66 for Clarence.

The initiative also provides an opportunity for



West Indies Women's Assistant Head Coach Damien Wright with players, from left, Cherry-Ann Fraser, Jannillea Glasgow, Antiguan Shawnisha Hector, and Kate Wilmott. (CWI Media)

these emerging cricketers to train alongside professional athletes, including members of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) Hobart Hurricanes team.

"This is a wonderful initiative that combines high-performance training with valuable match experience. Our players are getting extensive batting time and taking on leadership roles, which is crucial for their development.

"They're training four to five times a week, using world-class facilities and gaining exposure to different playing conditions," said Assistant coach Wright, who is accompanying the

players in Hobart.

"It's been a great opportunity for the girls to open the batting and play in the high to middle order. They are being called upon to score runs, face the new ball, and perform with the ball as well. There are a lot of positives, and hopefully, it can continue," he added.

The comprehensive program includes bi-weekly training sessions with the WBBL Hobart Hurricanes, regular gym work at premier facilities, including Ninja Stadium, formerly known as Bellerive Oval, and participation in both T20 and 50-over formats of the game.

This initiative is strate-

gically timed, with players preparing for international commitments in India next month (December) and a home series against Bangladesh in January.

Cricket Tasmania has played a pivotal role in facilitating the initiative, further demonstrating Cricket West Indies' commitment to innovative player development and strengthening international cricket relationships.

This initiative could pave the way for future development and expand opportunities for more Caribbean players to gain valuable experience in Australian conditions.



The Island Academy volleyball team. (Photo courtesy the ABAVA)

More success for the Media and Island Academy in business volleyball league

The Media and newcomers Island Academy recorded their third win in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship on Wednesday evening.

The Media's third win in five matches by snatching a 2-0 victory against the Police at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Media took just 40 minutes to wrap up their 25-10, 25-14 victory against the Police, who remain at the bottom of the standings in Group B after suffering their fourth defeat in five matches.

The Island Academy also secured their third win in five matches by snatching a hard-fought 2-1 victory against Sandals in a keenly contested affair.

The Island Academy had to come from behind to claim their victory after Sandals took the early advantage by narrowly clinching the opening set 26-24.

But Island Academy showed great resolve by rebounding to secure the next two sets, 25-20 and 15-10, to win the encounter in 54 minutes against Sandals, who lost for the third time in four matches in Group A.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank continued their perfect start to their campaign and remain at the top of Group B in the business volleyball league championship.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank, which finished in the runners-up position for the past two seasons, notched up their fourth win in as many games with a straightfor-

ward 2-0 victory against the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT).

The ECAB utilized their experience and guile to cruise to their 25-22, 25-16 victory in 45 minutes against ABIIT, which lost for the second time in four encounters.

The ECAB will return to action when the business volleyball league continues with a triple header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday.

The ECAB will take on the Media in the opening game at 6:30 pm. The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology will tackle ICONS at 7:30 pm, and newcomers, the University of the West Indies and the EZ Fit Flyers, will clash at 8:30 pm.

Sports News



PMS continues to lead Under-20 Boys Division in school league

Princess Margaret School continues to lead the Under-20 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup football league.

Princess Margaret School recorded their seventh win in eight matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park on Wednesday.

Following a goalless first half, Johnathan Shoy scored the only goal of the match in the 44th minute for Princess Margaret School, which maintained their lead in the 10-team round-robin competition by advancing to 21 points from eight matches.

Ottos Comprehensive School will remain on 12 points after suffering their fourth defeat in eight matches.

The All Saints Secondary School notched up their sixth win in eight matches to remain in second place with a 5-1 drubbing of St. Anthony's Secondary School at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Jevaughn Jarvis had a double conversion with strikes in the 25th and 27th minutes, Kamarlie Benjamin scored in the 23rd minute, Jaden Joseph had a 53rd-minute conversion, and Amunra Peters scored



The Princess Margaret School's Under-20 Boys football team.

in the 56th minute for All Saints Secondary, which advanced to 18 points from eight matches.

Andrew Canoville scored the only goal in the 16th minute for St. Anthony's Secondary School, which slipped to second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference with four points after suffering their fifth defeat in seven matches.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) and defending champions Antigua State College both recorded wins to move into joint third place with Antigua Grammar School (AGS) by advancing to 16 points each.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education claimed their

fifth win in eight matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Karique Knight scored the only goal of the match in the 23rd minute for ABICE. The result ensures that Irene B. Williams Secondary remains winless and without any points in the cellar of the Under-20 Boys league after suffering their eighth defeat in as many games.

The Antigua State College claimed their fifth win in seven matches with a 2-0 victory against Clare Hall Secondary at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Tafari Peters scored both goals for Antigua State College with conversions in the 20th and 33rd minutes. Clare Hall Secondary will

remain on seven points after suffering their fifth defeat in eight matches.

The Antigua Grammar School was held to a 2-2 draw by Jennings Secondary School at the AGS playing field.

Sadique Adams scored in the 11th minute, and Samuel Brazier had a 33rd-minute conversion for Antigua Grammar School.

Naheem Donaldson scored in the first minute, and Denny Livingstone had a 35th-minute conversion for Jennings Secondary.

It was the first draw in eight matches for the Antigua Grammar School, while the Jennings Secondary moved up to third from the bottom of the standings on goal difference with four points from seven matches.

Blackburn Palace enjoys goal fest against Herberts in Second Division

Blackburn Palace had a feast of goals in recording their second win in four matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

Diondre Harrigan scored four times, Sanje Carr struck a hat trick, and Shannoy Spencer had a double conversion to propel Blackburn Palace to an emphatic 13-0 drubbing of Herberts FC at the PMS playing field.

Harrigan found the back of the net in the 7th, 12th, 32nd, and 48th minutes; Carr had conversions in the 65th, 75th, and 82nd minutes; and Spencer scored in the 19th and 23rd minutes.

The other goals for Blackburn Palace were scored by Jamal Tavenier in the 16th minute; Sowandae

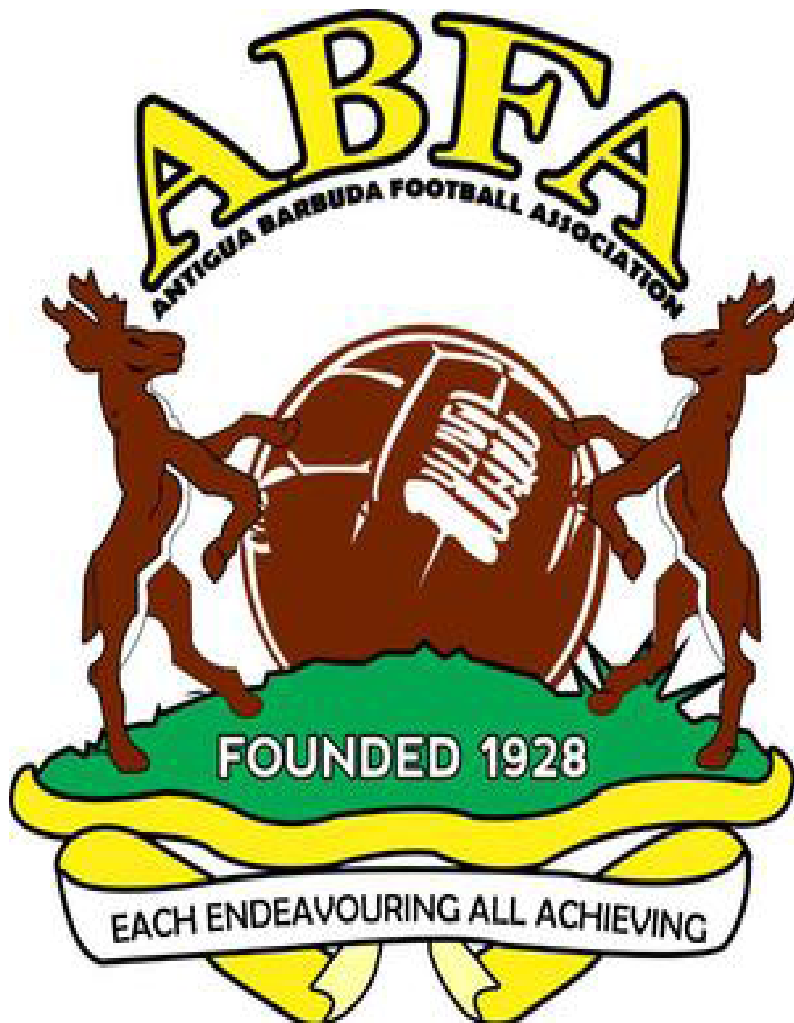
Farrell in the 28th minute; Chesley Simon in the 56th minute; and Jayvin Ambrose in the 63rd minute.

The result allows Blackburn Palace FC to advance to six points from four matches, and Herberts will remain on one point after suffering their fourth defeat in five matches.

The ABFA's Second Division league will resume with four matches on Friday (today) at 4:20 pm.

Guydadli FC will tackle Bethesda at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium, and the Cedar Grove Blue Jays will face the CPTSA Wings in Cedar Grove.

Sea View Farm FC will clash with English Harbour FC in English Harbour, and Golden Grove FC will meet the Young Lions FC in Old Road.



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The programme will feature a mix of technical training, including specific focus on spin, and match practice, with participants competing in a two-day game and three white-ball fixtures against local teams.

CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe expressed the importance of the initiative, highlighting its value for the players and the broader West Indies cricket community.

"CWI is committed to providing opportunities for our emerging players in overseas conditions. In this case, the Chennai Academy will host these seven batsmen and aim to equip them with skills and experience in navigating spinning conditions," Bascombe

said.

"Our coaches will be on hand to ensure that the learnings in the period can be consolidated and extended to other players in the region through the academy."

The programme offers a comprehensive approach to player development, incorporating input from renowned coaches, including Academy Director Sriram Krishnamurthy and his expert team.

Beyond honing technical skills, the camp emphasizes mental resilience and cultural adaptation, preparing players for the demands of international cricket.

The initiative reflects a commitment by CWI to modernize its devel-

opment pathways, drawing inspiration from successful programmes like those undertaken by the New Zealand Test team.

The players will also serve as ambassadors upon their return, sharing their experiences and insights with territorial coaches and peers across the Caribbean. This marks the first time CWI has deployed contracted academy players for such specialized overseas training, signaling a strategic shift towards holistic development.

With plans to make this an annual feature of the cricket calendar, CWI continues to invest in the next generation of West Indies stars, ensuring the region remains competitive on the global stage.

Andrew among selectees as CWI launches innovative India training camp

Antiguan teenager Jewel Andrew is among seven of the region's most promising young cricketers to attend a specialized training camp for emerging talent in India next month.

The groundbreaking player development initiative, which is being undertaken by Cricket West Indies (CWI), will take place at the prestigious Chennai Super Kings Academy in India.

The two-week programme, running from December 1 to 14, represents a significant investment in the future of West Indies cricket and aims to equip the players with vital skills to excel in challenging overseas conditions.

The selected players include three contracted franchise talents — Kirk McKenzie, Matthew Nandu, and Kevin Wickham — alongside current and former West Indies Academy players Teddy Bishop and Jewel Andrew, and ex-West Indies Under-19 standouts Jordan Johnson and Ackeem Augustine.

All selectees have showcased impressive potential



Jewel Andrew

in regional cricket, earning this opportunity to refine their abilities against spin bowling, a critical area for success in subcontinental conditions.

On Saturday, October 26, Antiguan wicketkeeper-batsman Jewel Andrew was included in the West Indies' playing XI for the third ODI in Sri Lanka, making him the first 17-year-old to play for West Indies' men's team since Sir Garry Sobers.

He was rewarded with

a call-up to the West Indies team for the ODI leg of the tour, and became the first player aged 17 or under to represent the West Indies' men's team for 70 years.

The 17-year-old Andrew has had a meteoric rise since his stellar performance in the 2024 Under-19 World Cup in South Africa, with the highlight of his tournament being a superb century against the tournament hosts.

He became the young-

est-ever player in the Caribbean Premier League earlier this year, and scored a half-century against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots on debut in the competition for Antigua and Barbuda Falcons.

Accompanied by West Indies Academy head coach Ramesh Subasinghe and assistant coach Rohan Nurse, the group departs for India on Friday, November 29 (today).

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