

NATION MOURNS A BELOVED SON

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Asot A. Michael: 1969 - 2024

Local News



The nation mourns a beloved son

Tuesday November 5, 2024, is a day which many Antiguan and Barbudans will never forget as the news broke that Member of Parliament for St. Peter's, Asot Michael, was found dead in his home.

According to police reports, Michael's body was found at around 8:00 am in a pool of blood with multiple stab wounds about his body, including one to his chest which is suspected to have been the fatal wound.

It was his maid who found the body motionless in a corridor lying on his

back.

Many could not believe the news, assembling outside Michael's Dry Hill residence where police tapes and road-block cones prevented entry unto the compound. Many had hoped that what they heard was just another hoax but sadly, reality hit, as screams and tears could be heard and seen from outside the premises, many of whom were friends, constituents or just persons whom he may have helped over the years.

The scene represented a spontaneous outpouring

of emotions as government officials, constituents and well-wishers gathered to pay respect to a 'generous man who has helped so many in this country'.

It was Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney who confirmed the shocking news during an impromptu interview on Tuesday morning at the entry to the residence. He stated that "no stones will be left unturned in our efforts to find the perpetrator or perpetrators of this heinous crime.

"There are some injuries on his body which now

open a homicide investigation into the circumstances that led to those injuries. We do not know what happened, but we are going to use all the resources we have locally, regionally and internationally.

"I will be speaking to my regional partners. I will be speaking to my international partners and whatever resources we need; we will be using everything to address such a serious crime. It is a very heinous crime when you see the type of injuries, and somebody is lying in that condition.

"Our full team of investigators is on the scene and at this stage, we will just gather as much information as we can. Later today, we will be having a case conference to go over what we have, what we need and what is our next move and what sort of resources we may identify that we need at this early stage and locate these resources," Rodney explained.

He did not confirm or deny whether it was a robbery gone wrong, noting that it is still early in the investigation.

Later in the day, there were reports that a suspect is in police custody helping with the investigation.

Michael is now the 11th homicide for the year.

It is the first time in the nation's history that a sitting MP has died under these circumstances..

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FAMILY STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF HON. ASOT A. MICHAEL

It is with profound sadness and heartbreak that we, the family of Hon. Asot A. Michael, Member of Parliament for St. Peter's, announce his untimely and tragic passing.

Early this morning, Asot was found dead at his Dry Hill residence, the victim of a brutal and senseless act of violence. This shocking news has devastated our family, his friends, and the wider community who loved and respected him.

Asot dedicated his life to the service of Antigua and Barbuda. A passionate advocate for his constituents, he was known for his unwavering commitment, resilience, and dedication to the people of St. Peter's. His legacy of public service, compassion, generosity, and tireless work on behalf of his country will forever be remembered.

We are working closely with authorities to understand the circumstances of his passing and urge anyone with information to come forward. This is an incredibly difficult time in which we kindly ask for privacy as we grieve and begin to navigate the enormity of this loss.

We thank everyone for the outpouring of support, prayers, and condolences.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may justice be served.

Signed,

The Michael Family



Statement by the Prime Minister on the passing of Hon. Asot Michael

It is with deep shock and sadness that I learned earlier today of the untimely passing of Asot Michael, member of Parliament for St Peter.

The death of Asot Michael is a profound loss to his family, friends, and constituents. On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I extend my sincere condolences to his son, Nigel; his sisters, Teresa-Anne and Soraya; his extended fam-

ily; and the many friends who are grieving his loss.

Asot Michael began his service to our nation after returning from studying abroad nearly three decades ago. He served under the Honourable Lester Bird as Chief of Staff, later becoming Minister of Public Works. He was elected to Parliament in 2004 on the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) ticket. During the ABLP's ten years in Opposition in



Parliament, he worked diligently with me and others to return the ABLP to government in 2014.

After our victory in the 2014 general elections, I appointed him as a Minis-



ter in our administration. Although our relationship became strained for a period and his formal association with the party ended, he maintained his interest in the political life of the country, contesting the 2023 general elections as an independent candidate and was re-elected as the Independent Member of Parliament for St. Peter.

Earlier this year, we re-connected, and I welcomed

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Michael became the first ever Independent MP in Antigua and Barbuda after winning his seat for the St. Peter's constituency in the 2023 general elections.

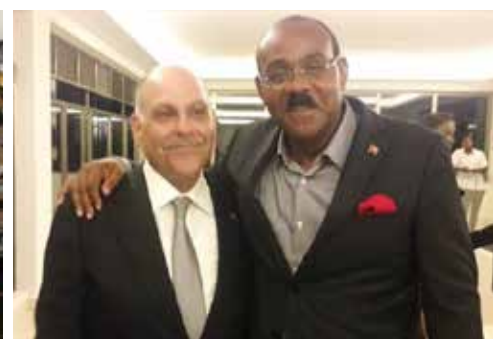
A seat he has held for almost two decades, first as a member for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) and

then as an independent candidate.

He was also a former Tourism and Energy Minister.

Rodney is calling on anyone with information about this matter to come forward.

He is also asking for residents to respect the family at this time.



Local News



Statement by the Leader of the Opposition on the passing of MP Asot Michael

On behalf of my colleague Members of Parliament, the Executive, and the Membership of the United Progressive Party, I extend sincere condolences to the family, friends and constituents of Asot Michael, late MP for St. Peter, on this sombre occasion.

Mr. Michael's passing – and especially the manner in which he was taken – has left us deeply saddened and shocked; and we urge the authorities

to diligently pursue justice for him and his loved ones.

We considered Mr. Michael a patriot; his love for his country was always evident; and we considered him a humanitarian, as his care and concern for the people of his constituency were never in doubt.

As colleagues on the Opposition Bench, we will miss his spirited and informed presentations and his fear-

lessness during debate, and as fellow citizens we mourn the loss of his future contributions to the building of our Nation.

May his legacy of service always be honoured; may his soul rest in peace; and may his family find comfort in his memory.

Hon. Jamale Pringle-Leader of the Opposition- MP- All Saints East & St. Luke

Statement by Senator the Hon. Rawdon Turner on the passing of MP Asot A. Michael



I am deeply saddened to hear of the tragic passing of the Honourable Asot Michael.

He was not only the Representative of St. Peter, but also a mentor and friend. His influence touched countless lives across Antigua and Barbuda and beyond.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Asot Michael's son Nigel; his sisters, Teresa-Anne and Soraya; his extended fam-

ily; friends, and loved ones, as well as to the entire constituency of St. Peter and the nation. He was beloved by his people, a personable representative with a genuine love for those he served. He truly cared.

On behalf of my family, I offer my sincerest condolences to Asot Michael's family. I know your hearts are heavy, but my prayers are with you all. May God bless and keep you.

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him as a friend and colleague.

We shared several occasions together in recent months, including the opening of the new Barbuda Airport.

His most recent visit to my office was just last week, where we discussed a number of issues with a shared commitment to the betterment of our nation.

Despite our differences, I regarded him as a brother. Therefore, I am especially saddened and disturbed by the tragic circumstances surrounding his passing.

I pledge that our government will provide all necessary resources to the Royal Police Force to ensure a thorough in-



vestigation to bring those responsible to justice.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Honourable Gaston Browne, M.P.
Prime Minister**



ABLP statement on the tragic passing of MP Asot Michael

It was with profound sadness and great alarm that I received the news of the tragic death of Asot Michael, the elected representative of St. Peter, possibly due to foul play.

Until the 2023 general elections, Mr. Michael had a long association with the Antigua and Barbuda La-

bour Party, to which he continued to express his commitment. His death is a significant loss for the party, made even more sorrowful by the circumstances surrounding it.

The party will honor Asot Michael's contributions to Antigua and Barbuda in due course. For now, we

express our deep sadness at his passing and extend our sincere condolences to his beloved family, friends, and all well-wishers, including members of the Labour Party at every level.

E. P. Chet Greene,
Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party

November is Child Month in Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda is observing Child Month during November...a period set aside to focus attending at the pre-school members of society, now dubbed Generation Alpha.

In remarks to launch Child Month 224, Education Minister Daryl Matthew recognizes that Generation Alpha processes information differently and that the ministry is developing programmes specifically geared towards this group.

"Generation Alpha members, born between 2010 and 2025, are growing up in a world vastly different from the one we knew. They are digital natives, surrounded by technology and global connectivity. As educators and parents, it is our responsibility to ensure that they are prepared to navigate this new landscape, while also preserving the values and traditions that make our nation strong.

During this Child Month, we will focus on several key areas to help prepare Generation Alpha



Education Minister Daryl Matthew

for success. Firstly, we will emphasize the importance of early childhood education, providing our youngest learners with a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills," he stated.

Education Officer Responsible for Early Childhood Education, Emblar Spencer, said the focus of the activities are children ages 0 to 4-plus as the law makes it mandatory for ed-

ucation from five years of age to enter the education system.

Spencer disclosed that the theme for the celebration this year is 'Preparing Generation Alpha'. She explained that because this generation was born in the digital age they process information differently and have a preferred way of learning, which is often more visual.

She observed that Gen-

eration Alpha has ready access to the internet and this has both good and bad outcomes. Firstly, information is now available at their finger-tips and these children can do their own interfacing with the devices. However, she cautioned that this also means that many times these children end up having access to information and materials that are not age-appropriate. She urged parents, guardians and teachers to be mindful of this possibility.

Spencer also has a word of advice for parents and guardians. She said Generation Alpha members have to be taught some emotions such as empathy, something the older generations take for granted. She noted that too much time spent with devices may lead to this situation.

Additionally, she is advising parents and guardians to read to the young ones as this has tremendous benefits, from speech, imagination and critical thinking development.

Local News

Nearly 350 persons graduate from University of the West Indies FIC Lifelong Learning Unit

The University of the West Indies FIC Lifelong Learning Unit has graduated another cohort of students who have completed a variety of for professional short-courses programmes.

Executive Director of the Unit, Paula Lee, said this latest graduation exercise is the third such event since the unit was opened to offer professional development courses across a range of subject areas.

“It is indeed a momentous occasion. The UWI FIC Lifelong Learning Unit is hosting its third graduation ceremony wherein 346 awardees received Certificates of Proficiency and Brittney Gomes was

presented with the Harvard Credential of Readiness.

Congratulations to the 2024 Valedictorian Kenisha Whyte who achieved top performance in Cyber Security, Strategic Human Resource Management and Cyber Security with an overall average of 94%,” she stated.

Describing the graduates as champions of education, Lee said the graduation exercise is a celebration of their willingness to participate in studies despite multiple competing activities. “Ladies and gentlemen, your award ceremony is testimony that success is achievable through agility and resilience,” she de-



Valedictorian Kenisha Whyte

clared.

Executive Director Lee also launched the 2025 Professional Development Course Catalogue. “I invite especially working adults to register for courses to gain knowledge, improve skills and earn credentials,” she noted.

UWI FIC Dean and Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Curtis Charles, added

his voice to the many expressions of support and of congratulations to the graduating class.

“Today, you are in the arena.’ You’ve dared to take on new knowledge, face the unknown, and accomplish something meaningful. There will always be challenges, critics, and setbacks along the way, but remem-

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Two women-led organisations awarded \$50,000 USD for climate justice

The Caribbean Feminist Climate Justice Movement (CFCJM), in partnership with the Global Fund for Women, has awarded grants, totalling fifty thousand dollars (USD 50,000) in funding to locally based grassroots organisations: Antigua and Barbuda Network of Rural Women Producers and The Swetes Village Uncovered. These historic grants will finance grassroots initiatives in the twin island nation that address the critical intersection of climate action and gender justice.

The selected grantee partners are among twenty-two (22) grassroots organisations from ten countries across the Caribbean, working at the intersection of feminist organizing and climate justice. The women-led groups work on tackling the pressing challenges posed by climate change to marginalised groups, including women and

gender diverse people, Indigenous and rural communities and people of African and Indian descent. Twenty-two organisations from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago were successful in accessing grants for their innovative approaches to advancing climate resilience, gender equality, and social justice.

The Global Fund for Women is a key champion for the movement in the Caribbean, providing generous financial support while also building capacity and fostering connections to ensure the continued growth and success of the CFCJM.

Ayesha Constable, Technical Director for Climate Justice at the Global Fund for Women (GFW) said: “The

activists that are part of the movement, most of whom are women and girls, live in the communities besieged by climate change and best understand the needs of those most at risk. As women, historical and current drivers of gender inequality perpetuate the injustices they are subjected to -which are exacerbated by the climate crisis. This underscores the importance of their (women’s) leadership in responses which are rooted in justice, equity, and access for all; that challenges the systems that drive the climate crisis; and that engenders innovative approaches to knowledge building, adaptation, mitigation, and collective action.”

Each organisation received USD \$25,000 to support projects championing climate justice at the intersection of food security, economic justice and

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ber: true strength lies in the courage to try, to persist, and to grow. And most of all, know that He who began this good work in you will bring it to completion.

“As you move forward, carry this spirit with you. Dare to dream, dare to stumble, and most importantly, dare to make an IMPACT! Congratulations, graduates – today is yours, and you’ve earned every bit of it!” he emphasized.

Valedictorian, Kenisha Whyte, who is a resident of HMP, she never in her wildest dreams would she have imagined that she would be addressing a graduating class as its Valedictorian. “Given the circumstanc-

es that brought me to this continuous educational program, I never thought I would have the opportunity to address you in this capacity.

“But here I am, a symbol of transformation, resilience, and the power of education to change one’s path in life,” she remarked.

Whyte said the course has enabled her to go through a period of reform and rebirth and that she now stands as living proof that each persons has it within him/her to change the circumstances of his/her life. “I stand before you not as a perfect example of academic success, but as a testament to the potential that lies within each of us,

regardless of our past mistakes, struggles, or circumstances. This university has allowed us to redefine ourselves, to break free from the chains of our past, and to write a new chapter in our lives,” she stated.

Lee revealed that Whyte

participates each year in multiple courses through the Seeds of Hope Programme which was established by The UWI FIC in 2021. Residents of the prison receive scholarships to study in Lifelong Learning Unit courses.



Local News



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gender justice. This funding is part of CFCJM's broader goal to facilitate accessible, sustainable and flexible funding for Caribbean feminist organisations which traditionally experience financing challenges and promote feminist climate justice, ensuring that vulnerable communities across the Caribbean are equipped to combat the impacts of climate change.

Dr. Joyelle Clarke, Technical Advisor of the CFCJM, stated: "It is our intention to support the growth of a feminist climate justice movement in the region. One based on access to flexible financing. One premised on trust-based philanthropy and one which supports the efforts of grassroots organizations."

Ms. Constable further elaborated on the Global Fund for Women's rationale for supporting the Caribbean Feminist Climate Justice Movement through the provision of grant funding: "While GFW contributes to the fi-

nancial resources needed to build more resilient communities, it is grassroots organizations' labour, knowledge and; social and political capital that enables the transformation. This approach is at the core of our efforts towards intersectionality, trust-based partnerships, and power-sharing for more just climate action. We are privileged to work with and learn from these actors."

Sasha Middleton, Country Lead and Advisory Committee member of CFCJM also explained: "These grants empower local communities in Antigua and Barbuda and across the Caribbean, amplifying voices for climate justice and gender equality."

"As a member of the Resource Mobilization Subcommittee, I'm proud to support initiatives that ensure marginalized groups, particularly women, are central to decision-making. By funding grassroots efforts, we enhance resilience and strengthen the broader movement—addressing urgent climate challenges and fostering a

more equitable and sustainable future for all."

Champions of Climate Action in Antigua and Barbuda

The funded projects spearheaded by Antigua and Barbuda Network of Rural Women Producers and The Swetes Village Uncovered underscore the critical work being undertaken by women-led organizations in Antigua and Barbuda. Speaking on the impact of this funding:

Saran P King, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Network of Rural Women Producers/Processors (ANBNROP) said: "The main objective of the chapters (of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers/Processors) is to empower women in agriculture. This funding will help our group jump start our plans to establish a multifunctional green agro-processing factory that is environmentally efficient and safe for the production of agricultural food products and non-food items within Antigua/Barbuda."

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Gabrielle Hamlet trains intensely for Caribbean teen pageant

The reigning miss Teen Pageant, Gabrielle Hamlet, has been selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 42nd edition of the Haynes Smith Miss Caribbean Talented Teen Pageant slated for Sunday December 29th, 2024, at the Multi Sports Complex in Tortola, BVI.

Hamlet and her team of trainers have been working assiduously for over a month in preparation for her participation in the pageant. Contestants in the pageant will compete in three categories; performing talent, a theatrical presentation which includes an interview and evening wear.

“We spent more than a month, excluding the Independence activities, practicing my walk, my talent and speech. This is to better prepare me for the pageant in December,” she told Point Express.

Hamlet has been working with a team of experienced trainers; Ayan-na Dorsett, Brucilla March-Sutton and James Reyes. Reyes is the dance instructor at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy where Hamlet was a student.

Antigua and Barbuda has a storied history in this prestigious pageant, having won the crown at least twice in its early years. Known as St. Kitts’ arch-rival, Antigua and Barbuda has consistently been a strong competitor. One of their most notable past contestants is the renowned soca superstar, Claudette Peters, who made a significant impact in the early 1990s.

Seventeen-year-old Gabrielle Nia Hamlet, born on October 2, 2007, embraces the motto “If not now, then when.”

She is now pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Marketing at the Uni-

versity of the West Indies Five Islands.

A creative spirit, Gabrielle expresses her passion for the arts through fashion, sewing, makeup artistry, dance, painting, and lifestyle content creation.

She enjoys engaging in fun, interesting, and inspirational conversations with others.

Throughout her academic journey, Gabrielle has consistently excelled, earning numerous awards and maintaining her status as a top student. She served as a prefect for two years and was an active member of her school’s student council, representing her institution in various educational programs.



Gabrielle Hamlet



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Boeing workers end 7-week strike on 38% pay rise deal

By João da Silva

Boeing workers in the US have voted to accept the aviation giant's latest pay offer, ending a damaging seven-week-long walkout.

Under the new contract, they will get a 38% pay rise over the next four years.

Striking workers can start returning to their jobs as early as Wednesday, or as late as 12 November, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) union says.

The walkout by around 30,000 Boeing workers started on 13 September, leading to a dramatic slowdown at the plane maker's factories and deepening a crisis at the company.

IAM said 59% of striking workers voted in favour of the new deal, which also includes a one-off \$12,000 (£9,300) bonus, as well as changes to workers' retirement plans.

"Through this victory and the strike

that made it possible, IAM members have taken a stand for respect and fair wages in the workplace," union leader Jon Holden said.

The union had previously called for a 40% pay increase and workers had rejected two previous offers from the company.

"While the past few months have been difficult for all of us, we are all part of the same team," said Boeing's chief executive Kelly Ortberg.

"There is much work ahead to return to the excellence that made Boeing an iconic company."

In a sign of how seriously the White House took the strike at one of the country's most important companies, acting US Labor Secretary Julie Su flew to Seattle last month to help with negotiations.

Boeing has been trying to shore up its finances and end the strike, which has now cost it nearly \$10bn, according

to consulting firm Anderson Economic Group.

In October, its commercial aircraft business reported operating losses of \$4bn for the three months to the end of September.

Last week, the firm launched a share sale to raise more than \$20bn.

It came after warnings that a prolonged strike could lead to downgrades of Boeing's credit rating, which would make it more expensive for it to borrow money.

Last month, the firm said it would lay off around 17,000 workers, with the first redundancy notices expected to be issued in mid-November.

The latest crisis at Boeing erupted in January with a dramatic mid-air blowout of a piece of one of its passenger planes.

Its space business also suffered a reputational hit after its Starliner vessel was forced to return to Earth without carrying astronauts.

Quincy Jones, legendary music producer, dies at 91

Quincy Jones, the multi-talented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and leaving behind a vast musical catalogue that includes some of the richest moments of American song and rhythm. Over the past half-century, it was hard to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with Jones' name on it or someone in the music, television or movie industries who did not have some connection



President Barack Obama presents a 2010 National Medal of Arts to musician and record producer Quincy Jones, Wednesday, March 2, 2011, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Quincy Jones has died at age 91. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World."

In a career that began when records were still played on vinyl at 78 rpm, singling out any work seems unfair. But honours likely go to his productions with Jackson on

"Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad," albums universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination fit perfectly with the bursting talents of Jackson as he sensationally transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," Jones and Jackson drew upon disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and African chants. For "Thriller," some of the most memorable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-defying "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track.

"Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone, helped Jackson become the first major Black artist to have a video played on MTV and influenced countless performers.

"Michael had the look and the voice, and I had every sound you can think of," Jones would explain.

The list of his honours and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q": 28 Grammys (out of 80 nominations), an honorary Academy Award and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur and the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy. In 2001, Jones was named a Kennedy Centre Honoree for his contributions to American culture. He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones," and his memoir made him a best-selling author.

"Despite all the Grammys and the special awards and testimonials that maturity bestows, it will always be the values you carry within yourself — of work, love, and integrity — that carry the greatest worth, because these are what get you through with your dreams intact, your heart held firm and your spirit ready for another day," he wrote in his book.

Born in Chicago in 1933,
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Regional News



Dominica's human rights record to be examined by UN

CMC - The human rights record of Dominica will be examined by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group for the fourth time on Thursday during a meeting here.

Dominica is one of 14 states to be reviewed by the UPR Working Group during its upcoming session that ends on November 15. The first, second and third UPR reviews of Dominica took place in December 2009, May 2014, and May 2019, respectively.

The Dominica delegation will be led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy, Dr Vince Henderson.

The three country representatives serving as rappor-



teur for the review of Dominica are Brazil, Kuwait, and Somalia.

The UPR Working Group is comprised of the 47 Member States of the Human Rights Council. However, each of the 193 UN Member States can participate in a country review.

The documents on which the reviews are based are the national report in which information provided by the State under review, the informa-

tion contained in the reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the special procedures, human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities as well as information provided by other stakeholders including national human rights institutions, regional organisations, and civil society groups.

The UPR said that the three reports will serve as the basis for the review of Dominica.

The UPR is a peer review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. Since its first meeting was held in April 2008, all 193 UN Member States have been reviewed thrice. During the fourth UPR cycle, States are again expected to spell out steps they have taken to implement recommendations posed during their previous reviews which they committed to follow up on and highlight recent human rights developments in the country.

The UPR Working Group is scheduled to adopt the recommendations made to Dominica on Wednesday November 13 and it adds that Dominica may wish to express its positions on recommendations posed to it during its review.

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Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember. But he looked back sadly on his childhood, telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing parents or caretakers, and those who don't. Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. He spent much of his time in Chicago on the streets, with gangs, stealing and fighting.

Music was his passion, and, almost literally, his salvation. As a boy, he learned that a Chicago neighbour owned a piano and he soon played it constantly himself. His father moved to Washing-

ton state when Quincy was 10 and his world changed at a neighbourhood recreation centre. Jones and some friends had broken into the kitchen and helped themselves to lemon meringue pie when Jones noticed a small room nearby with a stage. On the stage was a piano.

"I went up there, paused, stared, and then tinkled on it for a moment," he wrote in his autobiography. "That's where I began to find peace. I was 11. I knew this was it for me. Forever."

Within a few years he was playing trumpet and befriending a young blind musician named Ray Charles, who became a lifelong friend.

He was gifted enough to win a scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, but dropped out when Hampton invited him to tour with his band. Jones

went on to work as a freelance composer, conductor, arranger and producer. As a teen, he backed Billie Holiday. By his mid-20s, he was touring with his own band.

"We had the best jazz band on the planet, and yet we were literally starving," Jones later told *Musician* magazine. "That's when I discovered that there was music, and there was the music business. If I were to survive, I would have to learn the difference between the two."

His survivors include actor Rashida Jones and five other daughters: Jolie Jones Levine, Rachel Jones, Martina Jones, Kidada Jones and Kenya Kinski-Jones; son Quincy Jones III; brother Richard Jones and sisters Theresa Frank and Margie Jay.

Carriacou: Gov't condemns unlawful act at site for hurricane debris

The Government of Grenada has condemned the actions taken in the burning of debris and attempts to block access to the site at the Harvey Vale playing field on Carriacou.

The field, which is being used for the collection of hurricane debris from Beryl, was found on fire Sunday night.

The government said as a result, the fire department was forced to use several gallons of water to contain the blaze. Given the water challenges already being experienced in Carriacou and Petite Martinique, the government said the island cannot af-

ford such behaviour.

It warned such acts not only endanger lives, but also undermine the community resources meant to benefit everyone.

The government stated: "The intentions of the perpetrators seek to create panic and chaos on the Sister Isle in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. This type of disorder is prohibited and will be thoroughly investigated by the Royal Grenada Police Force.

Public property belongs to all of us and is maintained through the hard work and contributions of the community.

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Harvey Vale playing field (Photo via: Carriacou Vybz)

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'Merchants of death' people-smuggling gang jailed

Eighteen members of a people-smuggling gang accused of arranging thousands of small boat English Channel crossings have been jailed in France.

The group - which prosecutors described as "merchants of death" - comprised mostly of Iraqi Kurds and were prosecuted after a Europe-wide operation in 2022 which led to arrests in Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Mirkhan Rasoul, the gang's ringleader, was jailed for 15 years - the longest sentence among those convicted at a court in Lille on Tuesday.

The other defendants included one woman, and an Iranian man who was arrested in the UK and subsequently extradited to France.

For several years, the gang controlled most of the small boat crossings from northern France.

The UK's National



Crime Agency (NCA) said the gang - thought to be behind as many as 10,000 Channel crossings - was "among the most prolific" they had come across.

More than 100 boats, 1,000 life jackets, engines and cash were seized as part of the international operation.

Rasoul, 26, had already been convicted on prior smuggling charges and was

serving a separate eight-year sentence for attempted murder

He was accused of running the "tentacle-like" criminal smuggling operation from his French prison cell.

The court followed the prosecutor's recommendation, imposing the longest sentence on Rasoul, French media reported.

He was also hand-

ed a fine of €200,000 (£167,745), according to local reports.

Lille's public prosecutor, Carole Etienne, wrote on X that a total of €1.445m (£1.2m) in fines had been imposed by the court.

The court heard how the gang overloaded the small boats, sometimes cramming up to 15 times more people on board than they were designed to carry.

In a statement, NCA deputy director Craig Turner said the gang's "sole motive was profit, and they didn't care about the fate of migrants they were putting to sea in wholly inappropriate and dangerous boats".

The complex trial involved multiple European nations and police forces, and generated 67 tonnes of paperwork.

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The safety and wellbeing of the communities remain our top priority."

With containment and monitoring continuing at Harvey Vale, the State has advised citizens of Carriacou and Petite Martinique to refrain from such lawless acts as it continues to focus on the restoration and recovery of the Sister Isles.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Carriacou and Petite Martinique, Tevin Andrews, in a message to his constituents

said the matter is currently under investigation, and officials are receiving some interesting information as the situation develops.

He stated the fire is under control for now, and efforts are focused on containing it within the playing field rather than extinguishing it completely. Andrews reassured the public that there is no immediate danger to the structures in the vicinity.

It was also noted that a water truck is on standby to assist if needed.

Protests erupt in Israel after Netanyahu fires defence minister

Protests have erupted in Israel after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired the country's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

Netanyahu said a "crisis of trust" between the two leaders led to his decision, adding that his trust in Gallant had "eroded" in recent months and Foreign Minister Israel Katz would step in to replace him.

Following the news, Gallant posted on social media that the "security of the state of Israel was and will always remain the mission of my life".

Netanyahu and Gallant have long had a divisive working relationship, and over the past year there have been reports of shouting matches between the two men over Israel's war strategy.

Gallant has said a hostage release deal with Hamas should be prioritised ahead of continuing the war in Gaza, a position rejected by the PM.

The former defence minister has also been unhappy at plans to continue to allow Israel's Ultra Orthodox citizens to be exempt from serving in the military.

Months before the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023, Netanyahu had fired Gallant over political differences, before reinstating him following major public outcry.



Hundreds took to the Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night protesting against Gallant's dismissal.

But on Tuesday Netanyahu said: "In the midst of a war, more than ever, full trust is required between the prime minister and the minister of defence".

He said although there had been trust and "fruitful work" in the first months of the war, "during the last months this trust cracked".

Netanyahu added that "significant gaps were discovered between me and Gallant in the management of the campaign".

These were "accompanied by statements and actions that contradict the decisions of the government," he added.

Gallant later released a full statement on Tuesday night saying his removal from office had been "the result of disagreement on three issues".

He believed there should be no exceptions for military service, that a national inquiry was needed to learn lessons, and the hostages should be brought back as soon as possible.

In reference to the hostages, he said: "I determine that it is possible to achieve this goal. It requires painful concessions, which the state of Israel can carry and the IDF can bear."

His replacement Katz is seen as even more hawkish in terms of military strategy.

Another Netanyahu ally, Gideon Sa'ar - who previously held no cabinet portfolio - will become the new foreign minister.

Gallant's removal will come into effect in 48 hours. The appointment of the new ministers requires the approval of the government

and then the Knesset.

Netanyahu first fired Gallant in March 2023 following their disagreement over controversial plans to overhaul the justice system.

But he was forced to retract the sacking following massive public protests in several cities in Israel - an event that became known as "Gallant Night."

In May this year, Gallant voiced open frustration at the government's failure to address the question of a post-war plan for Gaza. Gallant wanted Netanyahu to declare publicly that Israel has no plans to take over civilian and military rule in Gaza.

It was a rare public sign of divisions within Israel's war cabinet over the direc-

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Sports News



Agriculture extends unbeaten run in Business Football League

The Ministry of Agriculture has continued its unbeaten run in the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

The Ministry of Agriculture surged to their sixth win in seven matches with a 7-1 drubbing of the Immigration Department at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park in the latest round of matches.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to lead Group

2 by advancing to 19 points from seven matches.

The General Post Office remains in second place in Group 2 by advancing to 15 points, four adrift of leaders the Ministry of Agriculture, with a 4-2 victory against Galley Bay Resort at the Jennings playing field.

But the Royalton Strikers perfect run in the competition ended in a 1-1 draw with Antigua Rain Forest at the same venue.

The Royalton Strikers

continue to lead Group 1 on goal difference ahead of APUA Head Office, which was also held to a 1-1 draw by Hermitage Hotel at the Jennings playing field.

Both teams are tied on 13 points, but the Royalton Strikers have played five matches, one less than APUA Head Office.

Sandals joined the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royalton Strikers as the only unbeaten teams in the competition.

Sandals claimed their fourth win in five matches with a 5-2 victory against His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Sandals advanced to second place in Group 3 with 13 points, three behind leaders Antigua Port Authority, which claimed their fifth win in seven matches with a 7-0 drubbing of Blue Waters Hotel at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

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tion of the military campaign.

"Since October, I have been raising this issue consistently in the cabinet," Gallant said, "and have received no response".

Netanyahu responded by saying that he was "not ready to exchange Hamastan for Fatahstan," in reference to rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah. Responding to Gallant's removal on Tuesday night, members of Israel's political opposition parties called for protests from the public.

A group representing the families of people taken hostage by Hamas in its 7 October attack also condemned Netanyahu's dismissal of Gallant, calling it a continuation of efforts to "torpedo" a release deal.

Over 100 hostages out of 251 taken by Hamas on 7 October 2023 remain unaccounted for more than a year into the war.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum called on the incoming minister Katz to "express an explicit commitment to the end of the war and to carry out a comprehensive deal for the immediate return of all the abduct-



A photo from October last year shows Netanyahu, left, next to Gallant during a press conference.

ees".

Gallant's dismissal also takes place on the day of the presidential election in the US- Israel's key backer in its war in Gaza - a timing noted by several Israeli media outlets.

Gallant was viewed as having a much better relationship with the White House than Netanyahu.

A representative for the White House's National Security Council said on Tuesday: "Minister Gallant has been an important partner on all

matters related to the defence of Israel. As close partners, we will continue to work collaboratively with Israel's next minister of defence."

Observers note that Gallant's removal also comes at a time where Netanyahu is under pressure by far-right politicians to pass a bill which would have continued to allow Israel's Ultra Orthodox citizens to be exempt from serving in the military. Gallant had been a high-profile opponent of the bill.

Kevin replaced by Junior Sinclair in Harpy Eagles Super50 squad

All-rounder Kevin Sinclair will take no further part in the Guyana Harpy Eagles CG United Super50 Cup campaign in Trinidad and Tobago.

The decision made by the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) followed the submission of an internal report by the Harpy Eagles' management team that it was necessary to replace the player.

The GCB, in making the revelation, also announced that Kevin Sinclair will be replaced by Junior Sinclair in the squad at the tournament.

Though the GCB's statement did not clarify if sub-standard performance is the reason behind Kevin Sinclair's ejection from the squad, it pointed out that it was a "necessary squad adjustment."

"Following an internal report from the Guyana Harpy Eagles management, it has been decided that Kevin Sinclair will no longer be participating in this year's competition," the statement



Junior Sinclair, left, and Kevin Sinclair of the Guyana Harpy Eagles.

In the three matches played in the Super50 Cup, Kevin Sinclair tallied 14 runs and snared three wickets. He made 14 from 16 balls against Windward Volcanoes and took two for 66 from 10 overs in the same match.

However, he did not bat in the rained-out contest against Combined Campuses and Colleges Marooners and was dismissed without scoring against Barbados Pride and took one for 26 in 10

overs in that same match.

The Guyana Harpy Eagles are winless after three matches. A similar situation arose last year during the 2024 Caribbean Premier League (CPL) T20 tournament when organisers announced Kevin Sinclair left the Guyana Amazon Warriors squad for "personal reasons."

Kevin Sinclair's departure opens the door for Junior Sinclair to take up a spot in the Harpy Eagles squad

ahead of Tuesday's contest against Leeward Islands Hurricanes at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Guyana Harpy Eagles Squad: Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Matthew Nandu, Tevin Imlach (captain), Kevlon Anderson, Kemol Savory, Junior Sinclair, Keemo Paul (vice-captain), Ronaldo Aismohamed, Veerasammy Permaul, Isai Thorne, Ashmead Nedd, Nial Smith, Syllus Tyndall, and Rampertab Ramnauth.

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Blue Waters Hotel remain winless and in the cellar of Group 3 without a point after suffering their fifth defeat in as many games.

Fresh Acres Enterprise and the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) both recorded their third wins in six matches.

Fresh Acres Enterprise romped to a 5-0 victory against the Ministry of Tourism at the Jennings playing field.

The Ministry of Tourism remains

winless and second from the bottom of Group 3 on goal difference without a point after suffering their fifth defeat in as many games.

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) secured a 3-0 victory against Antigua Plumbing and Hardware Center at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The West Indies Oil Company claimed their third win in six matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against St. John's Development Corporation at

the Golden Grove playing field.

DEWS Pro Builders recorded their fourth win in six matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against the Central Housing and Planning Authority at the same venue. Macky Enterprise picked up their second win in six matches with a 7-3 victory against Royalton Chic at the same venue.

Cocos/Keyonna secured their third win in six matches with a 5-3 victory against Public Works Asphalt at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Sports News



OCS takes sole leadership of U-16 boys schools' football league

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) has taken over as sole leader of the Under-16 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, Joma, and Patrick C. Whyte Cup competition.

Ottos Comprehensive School is leading the Under-16 boys football league with a perfect 12 points after recording their fourth win in as many games in the latest round of matches on Monday.

Ottos Comprehensive School beat host Antigua Grammar School 3-0, with the goals being scored by Demarre Swift, Tafari Loo-by, and Nazeek Williamson.

The Antigua Grammar School remain on three points after suffering their second loss in three matches.

All Saints Secondary ended Clare Hall Secondary's perfect start to the competition by snatching a 2-1 victory at Clare Hall to move into second place with 10 points after recording their third win in five matches.

Player of the Match Jaden Joseph scored in the second minute, and Kymani Francis converted the winner for All Saints Secondary in the 19th minute.

Leon Cort scored in the 26th minute for Clare Hall Secondary, which remained on nine points after suffer-



The goal scorers for Ottos Comprehensive School against Antigua Grammar School. From left to right: Demarre Swift, Tafari Looby, and Nazeek Williamson.

ing their first defeat in four matches.

St. Joseph's Academy recorded their third win in four matches with a 3-0 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Clare Hall playing field.

Player of the Match Joshua James converted twice with goals in the 11th and 20th minutes, and Itz-jaire Sebastian scored in the 38th minute for St. Joseph's Academy.

The result allowed St. *cont'd on pg 19*



Joshua James scored twice for St. Joseph's Academy against Irene B. Williams Secondary.

West Indies Academy secures first win in Super50 Cup

The West Indies Academy recorded their first win of the 2024 CG United Super50 Cup with a 22-run victory via the DLS method over the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Monday.

The CCC, who were also seeking their first win of the competition, were first dismissed for 174 in 39.5 overs after winning the toss and batting first.

Experienced opener Kieran Powell top scored with 46 off 42 balls, including eight fours, while Shaqkere Parris made 40, and Johann Jeremiah hit 33.

Jediah Blades continued his good form with the ball by taking three for 23 in six overs and was well supported by Zishan Motara, who took three for 31 in his 10 overs. Joshua Bishop also bowled well and picked up two for 25 in 6.5 overs.



Zishan Motara took 3-31 for the West Indies Academy against CCC in Super50 Cup. (CWI Media)

In reply, the Academy were 167 for seven off 40.5 overs, 22 runs ahead of the DLS par score, when rain came and brought an end to proceedings.

Andrew Rambaran and Johann Layne put together a

crucial eighth wicket partnership, helping the West Indies Academy recover from 118 for seven in the 29th over.

Rambaran finished on 37 not out, while Layne hit an unbeaten 25 off 28 balls, including two fours and two

sixes.

Earlier, Rivaldo Clarke top scored with 38. Romario Greaves was excellent with the ball for the CCC, capturing five for 45 in his 10 overs, while the other two wickets were split between Akeem Jordan and Abhijai Mansingh.

Full Scores: Combined Campuses and Colleges 174 off 39.5 overs (Kieran Powell 46, Shaqkere Parris 40, Johann Jeremiah 33; Jediah Blades 3-23, Zishan Motara 3-31, Joshua Bishop 2-25). West Indies Academy 167-7 off 40.5 overs (Rivaldo Clarke 38, Andrew Rambaran 37 not out, Johann Layne 25 not out; Romario Greaves 5-45).

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Joseph's Academy to move into joint third place with Clare Hall Secondary and defending champions Princess Margaret School with nine points apiece.

Irene B. Williams Secondary remains second from the bottom of the standings on one point after suffering their fourth defeat in five matches.

St. Mary's Secondary School gained their second win in four matches to advance to six points after securing victory by default against Glanville's Secondary School, which failed to show up for their

encounter at the Golden Grove playing field.

Glanville's Secondary remain in the cellar of the 11-team round-robin contest without a point after suffering their fourth loss in as many encounters.

After losing all three previous matches, Jennings Secondary picked up their first point by salvaging a 0-0 draw against Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Golden Grove playing field.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy advanced to four points after drawing for the first time in five matches.

Garden Stars continue perfect start to Premier League

Garden Stars continued their perfect start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday.

The Garden Stars joined Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades and Old Road at the top of the league with a perfect three wins from as many games after prevailing 3-1 against Aston Villa Lions at the ABFA Technical Center in the last fixture in the third week of matches.

Jahred Williams scored in the 31st minute to give the Garden Stars a one-nil lead at halftime.

Second-half goals by Gerique George in the 84th minute and Sadique Adams, who converted a penalty kick in the sixth minute of added time (90+6 minutes), ensured victory for the Garden Stars.

Tyrik Hughes also converted a penalty kick in the 89th minute for the Villa Lions, who slumped to their first defeat in three matches.

Meanwhile, English Harbour continued their perfect start to their campaign in the ABFA's Second Division on Monday.



The starting XI for the Garden Stars FC. (ABFA Media)

Akeem Weekes scored twice as English Harbour surged to their third win in as many games with a 5-1 victory against the CPTSA Wings Sports Club at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Weekes had conversions in the 34th and 48th minutes, while the other two goals were scored by Delroy Simpson in the seventh minute, Clarence Marsh in the 15th minute, and Oshane Blackwood in the 57th minute.

It was the second defeat in as many games for the

CPTSA Wings.

Glanville's FC and Herbert's FC both picked up their first point in two matches in the Second Division League after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw at the Glanvilles playing field.

Jeante Browne scored in the eighth minute to give Herbert's FC a one-nil halftime lead, and Allex Bailey scored the equalizer for Glanville's FC with a 53rd-minute conversion.

The ABFA's Second Division will continue on Wednesday (today) when

Sea View Farm hosts Earthquake FC at 4:20 pm.

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

Police FC will meet Swetes FC at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium, and FC Master Ballerz FC will tackle Urlings FC at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Lion Hill FC will take on SAP FC at the Golden Grove playing field, and Bolans FC will face the Liberta Blackhawks at the Bolans playing field.