



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

POINT EXPRESS

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New 'paperless' border control to be operational by next month

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New 'paperless' border control to be operational by next month

The long-awaited transition to paperless entry as part of the country's border control system, will likely go into full operation sometime during the month of February.

Telecommunications Minister, Melford Nicholas is reporting that new system is currently in the pilot phase and full implementation will come in February, although he shies away from naming a precise date in the month.

Minister Nicholas recalled that back in 2020 with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the idea of having a system that would not involve too much physical contact, such as the handling of paper, became a real concern and it was then that the impetus came to make the move from the physical ED card, for both outbound and inbound passengers, took on a degree of urgency.

The first attempt to introduce a paperless system came from a platform developed by IMPASS, which forms part of the regional security apparatus. There were problems however, in having this system integrated with

the existing border control system developed by Canadian Bank Notes,

needs. While the developer is resident here, he has an IT company based



Telecommunications Minister, Melford Nicholas

CBN.

The government encountered a number of challenges in securing a system; one of which included having outstanding monies for CBN, which had built-up during to the pandemic when government's revenues were down.

Fortuitously, the Minister revealed that there was a developer who resided locally and who approached him with a proposal to develop a system specifically to meet Antigua and Barbuda's

in the United States that is involved in developing these systems.

"He had done some work with the CIP in crafting a platform for them and it was he who went out to engage officials at the Immigration Department, Customs Division and the Antigua and Barbuda and Barbuda Tourism Authority and prior to SIDS4, he came forward to indicate that he could build a sophisticated system that would satisfy the requirements of these agencies," Nicholas stated.

According the IT Minister...the system from the developer comes highly recommended by the border control agencies and it has since been tested, to include its ability to interface with the border control system now in place that was developed by CBN.

He said the initial plan was to have the system rolled out in November but this did not happen but he is confident that all the kinks have been worked out for it to be operationalized during February.

When the system goes into effect, passengers will fill out their ED cards at least 24 hours prior to travel using their smart devices and at the end of which they will get a QR Code sent to the device. That is what will be presented at border control when departing or entering the country. When the card is completed the Customs Division will get a copy, so when the passengers arrive at Custom, the officer will be able to process them much quicker. It is anticipated that this will also lead to increased revenues at Customs.



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

APUA Water Business Unit Provides Update on the Ivan Rodrigues Reverse Osmosis Plant

ST JOHNS ANTIGUA, 21st January 2025 - The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) Water Business Unit wishes to provide an update regarding the status of the Ivan Rodrigues Osmosis Plant (IRROP), which was temporarily taken offline on Saturday, 18 January 2025, to facilitate routine maintenance. Unfortunately, this process encountered unforeseen technical issues, extending the plant's downtime.

The IRROP is the primary production source for potable water, currently yielding an average of 750,000 imperial gallons (IG) daily from three of its four operational units. It supplies water to the Grays Hill and Scotts Hill Reservoirs, serving communities west of Pigotts Playing Field, Paynters West, Ovals, Michael Village, Lower Ottos, Grays Green to Five Islands, Nut Grove, and elevated areas of Grays Hill. While water was temporarily diverted from alternative sources to serve these areas, this measure may not have fully met the usual demand in the affected communities.

We are pleased to advise that the plant is expected to resume operations by the end of today, Tuesday, 21 January 2025. While production and distribution will recommence promptly, customers are advised that it may take up to 48 hours for the distribution lines to fully recharge and normalize water delivery to all affected areas.

The APUA sincerely apologises for the inconvenience caused and expresses our gratitude to our valued customers for their patience and understanding as we diligently work to resolve this issue.

-END-

Increased security to protect tourists



The police are putting into place tighter security measures to protect visitors to the country, especially those arriving aboard cruise ships.

This follows the latest incident of a reported crime against tourists that happened on Monday. The police say they are searching for two male suspects who allegedly robbed two cruise ship visitors at the Fort James Beach.

“It was reported that a couple were at the said beach when two armed suspects robbed them of a fanny pack containing a mobile phone and money. The assail-

ants were dressed in dark clothing and wearing masks. It was further reported that they sped away from the area in a small silver motor car with an unknown registration number. The alleged incident occurred around 9:30 am on Monday,” according to a STRATCOM media release.

The police are appealing to anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in the area to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the St. Johns Police Station at 462-0045.

Meanwhile, the Police Adminis-

tration has strongly condemned this type of behavior toward visitors and residents alike, and has put tighter security measures in place to ensure everyone’s safety.

In more developments, a Jennings man was taken into custody by police for questioning in connection with a report of robbery.

Police officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department were on mobile patrol and saw the suspect in St. Johns and took him into custody. Further investigations are ongoing.



VACANCY NOTICE

Position: Licenced Flight Operations Officer

Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd is seeking to recruit suitably qualified applicants for the position of Licenced Flight Operations Officer/Dispatcher.

An aircraft dispatcher coordinates flights, ensuring safety and efficiency from the ground. This includes checking the weather, creating flight plans, and communicating with pilots. The qualified applicant must be detail oriented, a self-starter with a positive attitude and able to remain calm and focused under pressure.

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- Excellent working knowledge of Microsoft Office suite.
- Previous experience with scheduling software would be an asset

Summary of Duties

- The Flight Operations Officer will be responsible for:
 - Completion of flight releases
 - Scheduling and dispatching of flights
 - Monitoring flights
 - Monitoring, analyzing and calculating flight factors such as weather reports, NOTAMS, runway performance, weight and balance, ATC preferred routes, distance and fuel needs

Applications, including a detailed resume, must be submitted by February 5, 2025 to:

Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd.
P O Box W214
St. John's
Antigua

Via email: recruitment@sunriseairways.net

Antigua and Barbuda's WISH Receives Prestigious UNESCO X SEVENTEEN Global Youth Grant



The Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) has been selected as one of 100 global grantees of the UNESCO x SEVENTEEN 'Going Together – For Youth Creativity and Well-Being' initiative. This prestigious grant recognizes the innovative and impactful work of WISH in advancing mental health and well-being in Antigua and Barbuda.

The grant program, made possible by a \$1 million USD donation from SEVENTEEN, UNESCO's first-ever Goodwill Ambassador for Youth, supports youth-led projects that address critical global challenges. With over 2300 applications from 140 countries, WISH's selection highlights its unique approach to fostering self-care and mental health awareness in the Caribbean.

WISH was founded by Chaneil Imhoff, an award-winning entrepreneur, communications specialist, and mental health advocate. Ms. Imhoff, who serves as the organization's Mental Health Advocate and Head of Strategic Partnerships, has been instrumental in

reshaping mental health narratives in Antigua and Barbuda. Her professional expertise in communications and her dedication to mental health advocacy have allowed WISH to reach diverse audiences and create meaningful impact.

"This grant is not just a win for WISH; it's a victory for Antigua and Barbuda," said Ms. Imhoff. "It reaffirms the importance of addressing mental health as a community and inspires us to continue breaking the silence and shattering stigmas around mental health in the region."

The WISH team brings together a multidisciplinary group of professionals dedicated to holistic mental health solutions:

- **Police Constable Blaire Cornwall** brings a crucial law enforcement perspective and crisis intervention expertise to our team. Her experience in handling community crises and understanding of emergency response protocols strengthens our ability to develop effective

crisis intervention strategies.

- **Raisa Charles**, our Gender and Communications Specialist, ensures our programs address the intersection of gender and mental health while maintaining effective communication with all stakeholders. Her expertise in gender-sensitive programming helps ensure our mental health support strategies are accessible and appropriate for all community members.

- **Makeida Antonio**, our Public Relations Professional, manages our external communications. Her expertise in public relations ensures consistent, professional communication with stakeholders while building public awareness of mental health issues. Ms. Antonio's work strengthens our community presence and helps maintain productive relationships with partners and supporters.

The UNESCO x SEVENTEEN grant will support WISH's ongoing programs, including mental health workshops, public awareness campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering individuals to prioritize self-care and healing. As part of the grant, WISH will also benefit from training sessions and mentorship to amplify its impact and sustainability.

This recognition follows a series of achievements by WISH, which was launched on October 10, 2024. Under Ms. Imhoff's leadership, WISH continues to revolutionize mental health care and foster a culture of well-being in Antigua and Barbuda.

Traffic Department reports a busy year, 2024

The Traffic Department reported that it had a busy year in 2024, with increases in most categories. However, there was a fifty percent decline in road fatalities in 2024 compared with 2023.

Statistics released by the department showed that there were 2,610 traffic accidents reported during the year compared with 2,448 in 2023.

Head of the Department Supt. Elson Quammie reported that the issue of road fatalities showed improved



numbers with 5 reported for 2024 compared with 10 fatalities in 2023, a fifty percent reduction in the numbers.

The number of persons sus-

taining injuries from traffic accidents also went up; from 337 in 2023 to 410 in 2024.

Males continue to lead the pack in terms of the amount

of serious and other injuries they suffer from traffic accidents. In 2023, 206 males suffered injuries from traffic accidents compared with 239 in 2024. Female injuries from traffic accident were 131 and 178.

The number of traffic tickets issued by the department in 2024 dropped significantly from the previous year. There were over 11-thousand tickets issued (11,976) in 2023 compared with 8,618 in 2024.

Police intercept man on bail trying to abscond from the country

A man who was out on bail and who failed to notify the court that he was the holder of a US passport, was intercepted at the VC Bird International Airport on Monday as he tried to 'jump bail' and return to the U.S.

25-year old practice manager at a veterinarian clinic, Beresford Francis of Vernon's appeared before Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel on December 5, 2024, on charges of

breaking and entering into a dwelling with intent to commit larceny.

Francis was granted bail with reporting conditions; these include reporting three times a week and to return to court on 11 February, 2025. His Antiguan passport was surrendered to the court as he indicated that he only had the Antigua and Barbuda passport. He failed to disclose that he had a US passport. Therefore, he kept same in his

possession.

The court also placed a travel ban at all ports of entry.

The court heard that Francis never signed in at Parham Police Station since bail was granted and was apprehended at VC Bird International Airport Monday trying to leave the country on his US passport without the court's consent.

He appeared before the Senior Magistrate on Tuesday

morning when his bail was revoked forthwith. He was remanded to His Majesty's Prison.

The court commended the investigator, # 72 Constable Mathew, of the police force and the immigration department for their fast action and detention.

The court stressed the importance of all law enforcement agencies working together so that alleged defendants are subjected to the full court process.

Two men committed to stand trial in the High Court on drug charges

Two men – Deshawn Lattibeaudaire and Denfield Roberts of Jennings - were committed to stand trial at the May Assizes when they appeared before a magistrate on Tuesday.

The police are alleging that Roberts and Lattideaudaire were intercepted in Jennings on May 12, 2024, when

it was discovered by they had 52.9 pounds of the controlled substance, hashish in their possession. The drug had a street value of an estimated \$600,415.00.

During the hearing before Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel, the prosecution submitted eight exhibits

to support their case and called seven witnesses.

Attorney Lawrence Daniel appeared for Roberts while Sherfield Bowen, is representing Lattibeaudaire.

Both defense attorneys have reserved their defense until the matter comes up at the High Court.

Halo Foundation Celebrates Youth Creativity for 10th Annual Christmas Art Competition Awards



The Halo Foundation hosted its 10th Annual Christmas Art Competition Awards Ceremony at Government House on Monday, marking a decade of fostering artistic expression among the nation’s youth.

This year’s competition continued its tradition of encouraging students to explore their creativity while illustrating the cultural aspects of Christmas in the Caribbean through art. Gabrielle Grant of Christ the King High School emerged as the overall winner, standing out among a talented pool of participants.

In his welcome remarks, Patron of the Foundation, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, lauded the students for their dedication to the arts. He also commended the teachers pres-



ent for their commitment to nurturing the creativity and minds of the next generation of leaders. He further stated that their dedication to the arts is commendable and inspiring.

PRO of the Foundation,

Cuthbert Forbes said, “As The Halo Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, we remain resolute in our commitment to supporting initiatives focused on youth development through educational and artistic advance-

ment. In addition to prizes and trophies for the overall winner and school, the winners will — as usual — also be given cash awards.”

The Christmas Art Competition continues to be a platform for young artists to showcase their talents and contribute to preserving Antigua and Barbuda’s cultural identity.

The Halo Foundation was founded by Lady Williams in 2014, and initiates and supports projects concerning arts and culture, community outreach, differently abled, education, the elderly, history and heritage, the environment, health, sports, uniformed bodies, women and girls, world peace and youth.

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Regional News



Dominica Calypso Association condemns violent attack on calypsonian Narrin ‘Trendsetter’ Murphy

In a statement following a shocking incident involving prominent calypsonian, Narrin Trendsetter Murphy, the President of the Dominica Calypso Association (DCA), David “Observer” Victor, has rallied the community to condemn acts of violence that tarnish the island’s reputation for peace and safety. The incident, which saw nine gunshots fired into Murphy’s vehicle, has sparked outrage among Dominicans both at home and abroad. The DCA president, Davidson expressed solidarity with Murphy, describing him as not only a talented artist but also a personal friend to many within the Calypso community. “On behalf of the Dominica Calypso Association and all Calypsonians, we join the thousands of Dominicans here and abroad who have condemned this violent act against one of our calypso brothers and a personal friend to me and to many,” Victor stated. “Any act of violence, whether against Narrin or any other individual, is unacceptable and must be condemned. We, as a people are better than that.”

Emphasizing the importance of unity in the face of violence, he urged all Dominicans to come together to demonstrate their collective disapproval of such actions. “We need to show the world that we in Dominica are still the most peaceful people on Earth,” he said. “Dominica remains one of the safest places to be, and we must continue to uphold that image.” Victor concluded with a message of hope and healing, praying for Murphy’s protec-



tion and urging for a change of heart in those responsible for the attack. “Narrin did not deserve this, and neither does anyone else. We must work together to ensure that acts of violence have no place in our society,” he urged. The Dominica Calypso Association’s condemnation of the incident underscores a broader, similar response from several Dominicans, many of whom have used the opportunity to voice their concerns about the alarming prevalence of illegal firearms in Dominica. *(Dominica News*



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Regional News

Slain brothers refused to join Matelot gang

A relative of two brothers shot and killed near their home in Matelot on Sunday said the two victims' refusal to join a gang in the area made them targets.

The woman, who spoke with the Express via telephone under the condition of anonymity, also claimed that several reports were made to the police, but nothing was ever done.

Police said that around 3.50 p.m., Akeil Isaac, 26, and his brother Arnott, 16, had left their home to go and pick mangoes with two other men at Santa Cruz Road when they were ambushed by gunmen.

Four people were shot and were taken to the Sangre Grande Hospital where the brothers were pronounced dead on arrival.

The woman described what happened that evening.

'I heard they were home with two other friends and they left to go and pick mangoes by their grandmother. On the way up to the house, some men come out from the bush and shots rang out. About 12 shots ring out,' she said.

'I was at home when I heard the shots, and one of the youth men who got shot in his arm came by me and I asked him what happened and he said he didn't see anything,' she added.

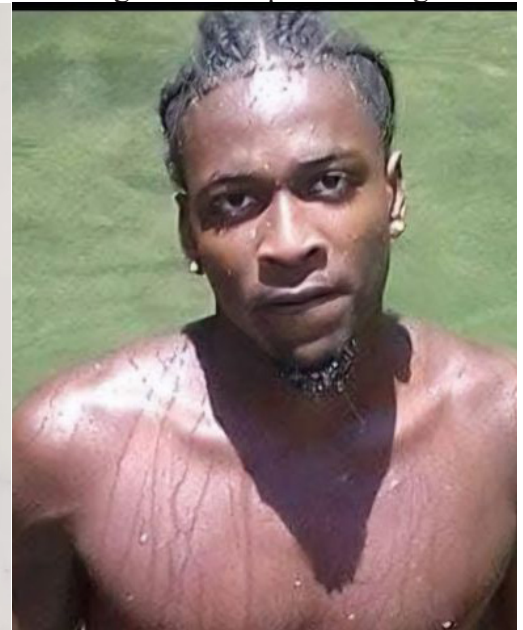
She said she told him to remain at her home with her nine-year-old daughter and she made her way to the scene.

'When I gone up I meet the two men on the ground. One with his head open out and the next one face down because I think he got shot in his chest,' she said.

Asked what could have been the possible motive, she explained that there

were a lot of gangs in the area who were attacking other Matelot residents for not condoning the actions of these gangs.

'It is like you are their enemy,' she



said.

She added, 'The reason I am saying this is because the two victims never used to deal with them and never used to talk to them or anything like that.'

She said that, on two occasions, gang members attacked her home by firing shots at it and they also attempted to burn it down.

'That was on April 7 last year and also December 4 last year, I reported the matter to the Matelot Police Station and I told them about the person who shot at my house and nothing had taken place,' she said.

The relative said, prior to the first attack, Arnott had saved a boy from a gang member who had been choking him. She said that, after that, the gang members began viewing him as a target.

She said when a report was made,

one officer from the Matelot Police Station arrived and did not do anything. She said the next day when she went to the station to give a statement she was told that it would be Sangre Grande police doing the

investigations.

'Sangre Grande police never came. So the system has failed us inside of here and also these youth men doing these things has injected fear into people so people are afraid of coming out and saying certain things,' she added.

Asked if she was in fear, she replied: 'I am not feeling fear. I am not leaving my hometown, I am not leaving my home but all I need is for the authorities to come and for them to lock up and do what they need to do. Get these fellas and them. They have warrant so they could find their place,' she said.

'Find where they are because I have their nine-year-old sister who have to live with seeing her brothers on the ground. This is something she will have to live with,' said the relative. (Trinidad Express)

Belize takes steps to expand sugar exports within CARICOM

The Government of Belize initiated new efforts to strengthen its sugar export capabilities to CARICOM markets during a key meeting held recently in Belmopan between government officials and industry representatives.

Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Osmond Martinez, met with representatives from Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) and the Directorate General for Foreign Trade (DGFT) to develop strategies for expanding the country's presence in regional sugar markets.

"We are determined to work collaboratively with BSI and other stakeholders to capitalize on export opportunities and ensure that



Belize remains a key player in the regional sugar trade," Martinez said during the discussions.

The meeting addressed several critical areas within the regional trade framework, including the optimization of the Common External Tariff suspension regime and improved com-

pliance with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Officials also examined ways to enhance Belize's competitive position within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The DGFT emphasized the significance of Belize's participation in CARICOM's Monitoring Mech-

anism for Sugar and the Technical Working Group, which focuses on technical standards in the Common External Tariff Suspension process. These mechanisms are designed to promote transparency and fairness in regional trade.

Representatives from BSI expressed their support for the initiative, confirming their commitment to collaborate with the government in addressing challenges and pursuing opportunities in the CARICOM market.

The effort forms part of Belize's broader strategy to enhance regional trade relationships and promote economic development within CARICOM member states. *(Loop Caribbean)*

Kenya to send an all-female SWAT to Haiti

NAIROBI, Kenya, (CMC) — Kenya says it will send an all-female Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to reinforce security efforts in Haiti where criminal gangs are seeking to overthrow the government of the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country.

In a brief statement, the Ministry of the Interior said that "as part of the unwavering commitment to the people of Haiti, Kenya will continue to deploy additional officers from various specialised units".

It said this would include members of the General Service Unit (GSU), the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) and "an all-female Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

team to reinforce security efforts and ensure sustained progress in restoring order". The female SWAT team comprises women who have undergone rigorous training and are designed to handle high-risk situations that require specialised skills. Additionally, the SWAT team is also trained to handle counter-terrorism operations, hostage rescues and armed confrontations.

The SWAT team was first deployed in 2012, and observers say its deployment to Haiti is expected to mark a significant milestone in Kenya's international peacekeeping efforts, as the country aims to strengthen its reputation as a trusted and reliable global peacekeeping partner. Haiti's Prime Minister, Alix

Didier Fils-Aimé, said the arrival of 218 Kenyan police and military personnel last weekend illustrates the determination of his government and the international community to eradicate armed gangs and restore peace and security.

"The arrival of these reinforcements marks a crucial step in freeing our country from the grip of criminal networks and restoring peace there," he said.

The arrival of the Kenyans over the last weekend brings the total strength of the United Nations Security Council-sanctioned Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti to 807 military and police officers including 617 Kenyans, 150 Guatemalans, eight Salvadorans, six

Bahamians, 24 Jamaicans and two Belizeans. The MSS is expected to reach a total of 2,500 and last weekend's reinforcement comes amid growing concerns over escalating gang violence in Haiti, where armed groups that control more than 80 per cent of the capital have forced more than a million people across the country to flee their homes. The United Nations Human Rights Office reported earlier this month that at least 5,601 people were killed in Haiti last year as a result of gang violence, an increase of over 1,000 on the total killings for 2023. It said a further 2,212 people were injured and 1,494 kidnapped. *(Jamaica Observer)*

Colombia's president to declare 'state of emergency' as violence in the country's north escalates

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian president Gustavo Petro said on Monday that he will declare a state of emergency, following a spate of guerrilla attacks in the country's northeast that has killed dozens of people and forced thousands to flee their homes.

In a message on X Petro said that he will “declare a state of internal commotion,” a measure that enables the executive branch to pass certain kinds of legislation without congressional approval for three months. The measure will go into effect after a decree is signed by the President and his Cabinet, but it can also be invalidated by Colombia's constitutional court.

Internal commotion decrees were used in the early 2000s by the administration of then-President Álvaro Uribe to increase financing for the military through a special war tax. According to Colombia's constitution, this emergency measure cannot be used to suspend congress or eliminate civil rights. “I hope the judicial system supports us,” Petro wrote on X.

Earlier on Monday Petro had warned that his nation's military will take offensive actions against the National Liberation Army after the rebels, known as the ELN, unleashed a wave of attacks in Colombia's Catatumbo region, in which at least 80 people have been killed.

“The ELN has chosen the path of war, and that's what they will get,” Petro wrote in a message on X,

in which he accused the rebels of turning into a drug trafficking group and compared their methods to those of Pablo Escobar, the infamous cartel leader who bombed government



buildings and murdered his enemies by hiring hundreds of hitmen.

Petro, who was a member of a guerrilla group during his youth, initiated peace talks with the ELN in 2022, after promising in his presidential campaign that he could get the rebels to demobilise within three months of taking office.

But talks have stalled over multiple disagreements about how the rebels would disarm and the kinds of economic reforms that the government would implement in exchange for their disarmament. The ELN has also criticised the government for staging separate negotiations with a break-out group in the country's southwest and angered officials by continuing to

kidnap civilians and extort businesses.

On Friday Petro suspended negotiations with the rebels after violence escalated in Catatumbo, a mountainous

region that produces around 15 per cent of Colombia's coca crop and is located along the border with Venezuela.

The ELN, which has an estimated 6,000 fighters, reportedly attacked civilians it accused of being collaborators of a rival group, the FARC-EMC, taking people from their homes and shooting them in the streets, while in rural areas firefights broke out between members of both groups.

In a statement issued on Monday ELN leader Antonio García said that his organisation does not intend to target civilians, but has been going after former rebel fighters who are now collaborating with the FARC-EMC.

Over the weekend, howev-

er, thousands of people fled towns in the Catatumbo region, fearing for their lives, including community leaders who had been threatened by the ELN. Among those fleeing were former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, who demobilised in a 2016 peace deal with the government, and have now been targeted by the ELN.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Colombia said Monday that the new wave of violence in Catatumbo has displaced 18,300 people, who are staying in shelters and hotels in the cities of Tibu, Ocaña and Cúcuta, where officials have warned of a looming humanitarian crisis.

Sandra Tijaro, a farmer in northeastern Colombia, said in an interview she fled her village on Friday after armed men showed up and told everyone to evacuate. She is now staying with her children at a shelter in Tibu.

“We want the armed groups to think about the welfare of rural folks,” she said. “We are hard-working people who end up carrying the burden of this conflict.”

The 2016 peace deal between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia led to the demobilisation of 11,000 fighters.

However, it left a power vacuum in some rural areas that smaller rebel groups have tried to fill, with the government struggling to reduce violence against civilians. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Trump declares border emergency and seeks to end US birthright citizenship

From behind his desk in the Oval Office, President Donald Trump signed a flurry of executive orders and decrees aimed at cracking down on immigration.

From one order tackling the definition of birthright citizenship, to another declaring illegal immigration at the border a national emergency, Trump swiftly made moves on his promises to tighten the US-Mexico border.

But some of his plans - particularly around changing the definition of birthright citizenship - are likely to face significant hurdles.

He is already facing legal challenges from immi-

gration advocacy groups, which have reacted furiously to his announcements.

One organisation said his plans “do not uphold American values”, and another said Trump’s administration was “actively trying to destroy our lives”.

In his inaugural address earlier in the day, Trump vowed that “all illegal entry will be halted” and that millions of “criminal aliens” would be deported.

He also signed an order declaring Mexican drug cartels terrorist organisations. “I have no higher responsibility than to defend our country from threats and invasions,” he explained.

At another event at Washington’s Capital One Arena, Trump formally revoked nearly 80 executive actions of his predecessor Joe Biden. He had previously vowed to scrap Biden’s policies “within five minutes”.

Following his inauguration, he also signed a proclamation that gave officials the authority to “repel, repatriate, or remove” migrants until he was satisfied that “the invasion at the southern border has ceased”.

Although the details of the order are not yet known, officials have said that Trump plans to end birthright citizenship.

That refers to an approach

of the US government whereby anyone born on American soil is considered a citizen at birth, regardless of their parents’ immigration status.

Trump appears to be seeking to change the rules so that the children of undocumented migrants living in the US will no longer automatically be considered US citizens. It would not apply retrospectively.

Exactly how he intends to achieve this is unclear, however, because birthright citizenship is enshrined in the constitution and would require a two-thirds vote in both chambers of Congress to change. *(BBC News)*

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WHO 'regrets' Trump's move to withdraw US membership

The World Health Organization (WHO) says it "regrets" the announcement that the United States of America intends to withdraw from the Organization.

US President Donald Trump used one of the flurry of executive actions that he issued on

his first day back in the White House to begin the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the WHO for the second time in less than five years — a move many scientists fear could roll back decades long gains made in fighting infectious diseases like AIDS, malaria and tuber-

culosis, AP reported.

In response the WHO issued the following release:

"The World Health Organization regrets the announcement that the United States of America intends to withdraw from the Organization.

WHO plays a crucial role in protecting the health and security of the world's people, including Americans, by addressing the root causes of disease, building stronger health systems, and detecting, preventing and responding to health emergencies, including disease outbreaks, often in dangerous places where others cannot go.

The United States was a founding member of WHO in 1948 and has participated in shaping and governing WHO's work ever since, alongside 193 other Member States, including through its active participation in the World Health Assembly and Executive Board. For over seven decades, WHO and the USA have saved countless lives and protected Americans and all people from health threats. Together, we ended smallpox, and together we have brought polio to the brink of eradication. American institutions have contributed to and benefited from membership of WHO.

With the participation of the United States and other Member States, WHO has over the past 7 years implemented the largest set of reforms in its history, to transform our accountability, cost-effectiveness, and impact in countries. This work continues.

We hope the United States will reconsider and we look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue to maintain the partnership between the USA and WHO, for the benefit of the health and well-being of millions of people around the globe." (Trinidad Express)

VACANCY

Position Description: Assistant Auto-Parts Manager

Position Summary:

The Assistant Automotive Parts Manager strives to assist the Parts Manager in returning a satisfactory profit on dealer capital invested in parts inventory. Accomplishes objectives using proper purchasing procedures, inventory control, staff utilization, security and pricing.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities include:

- Assist the Parts Manager with forecast goals and objectives for the department and strives to meet them.
- Monitors the performance of all parts department staff.
- Assist with the preparation of the annual operating budget for the parts department.
- Ensure adherence to established individual parts inventory levels and balances for maximum turnover.
- Ensures that parts inventory turns at least four times per year.
- Monitors and adjusts inventory to minimize obsolescence.
- Supervises stock order procedures.
- Enforce the policy on the special ordering of parts.
- Analyzes inventory, sales and expenses monthly to maintain profit goals.
- Analyzes departmental operations and storage layout and make recommendations as needed for maximum effectiveness.
- Coordinates a prompt, efficient and timely flow of paperwork.
- Supervise shipping and receiving efforts to ensure timely processing.
- Monitors daily reports such as sales productivity.
- Understands, keeps abreast of, and complies with local regulations that may affect parts sales.
- Maintains professional conduct with staff and customers.
- Assist with organizing the physical annual stock taking with the auditors
- Ensures that all stock received is adequately processed and entered into the inventory.
- Assist with the quarterly reconciliation of physical stock levels to computerized stock levels for selected stock items.

Skills

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations.
- Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals.
- Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers and the public.
- Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies or members of the business community.
- Ability to apply concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios and proportions to practical situations.

Desired Qualifications & Experience:

- A university graduate
- Three (3) to five (10) years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience in inventory management preferably auto-inventory.
- Knowledge of automotive dealership software (especially CDK) would be an assets
- Sound knowledge of the automotive industry

The successful candidate should email applications to accting.officer@gmail.com on or before **January 22,2025**.

India police volunteer gets life sentence for rape, murder of junior doctor

An Indian court has awarded the life sentence to a police volunteer convicted of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the hospital she worked at in the eastern city of Kolkata.

Judge Anirban Das on Monday rejected demands for the death penalty for Sanjay Roy, saying it was not “the rarest of the rare cases”, and ordered that the 33-year-old convict must spend his life behind bars.

Roy has consistently maintained his innocence, alleging he had been framed. He can appeal the judgement in a higher court.

The 31-year-old trainee doctor’s bloodied body was found in a classroom at the state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9. An autopsy found she had been strangled and sexually assaulted.

Her parents broke into tears inside the court on Monday, saying they were “shocked” at the sentence and had hoped her murderer would be hanged, for a case that highlighted the chronic issue of violence against women in the world’s most populous country.

“We are shocked by the verdict,” the victim’s father



told the AFP news agency, tears running down his face. “We will continue our fight, and won’t let investigations stop... Come what may, we will fight for justice.”

Family members cannot be identified in keeping with Indian law on the reporting of sexual violence cases.

The federal police who investigated the case had argued the crime belonged to the “rarest-of-rare” category and demanded the death penalty for Roy. The state’s ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) party had also demanded death for him.

Roy was arrested a day after the crime, and arguments in the case began in November. The assault prompted India’s Supreme Court to set up a national task force to suggest ways to enhance safety in government hospitals.

After the assault, doctors and medical students across

India held protests and rallies demanding better security. Thousands of women also protested in the streets, demanding speedy trial in the country’s slow-moving justice system.

India imposes the death penalty, although it is rarely carried out in practice. The last executions carried out were in March 2020 – of four men convicted of the 2012 gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old woman on a bus in capital New Delhi.

The doctor’s killing drew comparisons with the 2012 incident and led to demands by doctors at government hospitals for better security.

Activists say new sentencing requirements have not deterred rape and the number of recorded rape cases has increased. In 2022, police recorded 31,516 reports of rape – a 20 percent jump from 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. (*Al Jazeera English*)

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
A.D. 2025

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary’s Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned wooden residential dwelling registered in the name of Shemecca Colbourne of Golden Grove Ext. St. John’s, Antigua.

The Chattel Dwelling House is located in Golden Grove Extension, St. John’s Antigua, and comprises of a 700 sq. ft. duplex situated on 0.10 acre of leasehold land owned by William D. Martin. Each of the duplex units consists of an open living/ dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, and 1 bathroom. The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The leasehold land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows: -

REGISTRATION SECTION: Five Islands
BLOCK: 54 1489A
PARCEL: 1729

Leasehold Parcel No. 1729 of Block No. 54 1489A is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 1728;
- On the South by: Access Road;
- On the East by: Parcel 1152;
- On the West by: Parcel 1726 & 1728

Sgd. Trevor ‘Teddy’ Santos
Auctioneer
Trevor Teddy Santos Inc.

Website:
www.tbsrealitiesinc.com
www.go-going-gone.com

Email Address
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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Shallow urges BCA, GCB to voice concerns on governance reform at CWI meeting



Cricket West Indies president Dr. Kishore Shallow

Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Dr. Kishore Shallow has emphasized that a special meeting scheduled for next month represents a critical opportunity for the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) and the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) to present their views on governance reform.

However, Shallow has made it clear that the regional body intends to move forward with or without their input.

“This time, I can state with a measure of certainty that we are going to proceed and progress with governance reform at that special meeting,” Shallow said during an appearance on WESN TV in Trinidad.

The BCA and GCB’s absence from a December 6, 2024, meet-

ing to vote on the Wehby Report—recommendations made by Jamaican business mogul Don Wehby—resulted in the meeting being adjourned due to a lack of quorum.

Despite this, Shallow remains committed to advancing the reform process.

“Governance reform has been on the table for well over two years, and we have had meetings with shareholders and other stakeholders. So, there have been opportunities to discuss this matter,” Shallow shared.

“However, this special meeting gives them another platform where they can come and present their case and convince the other shareholders to understand and appreciate their positions. I urge them—and

I have done so directly, and now I want to urge them publicly—to come and attend the meeting and discuss the matters,” he added.

The BCA and GCB have called for discussions to review how the CWI president and vice-president are selected, including proposing a rotational policy for the presidency. But Shallow dismissed the idea as “nonsensical” and unlikely to reduce the “politics in cricket.”

“It (the rotation proposal) hasn’t been in any way processed properly and ventilated. In fact, when the suggestion was discussed at the Governance Committee level, it was rejected. And we discussed it also at the CWI level, and there too it was rejected, because there is no meaningful way of how this thing will work,” Shallow argued.

That said, he questioned the practicality of implementing such a system, particularly how a rotational presidency would function without introducing additional layers of political maneuvering.

“One of the excuses given for proposing this approach is to reduce the politics in cricket. How are you going to reduce it when, nationally, you are going to be electing a candidate to be president?” Shallow asked.

Using the BCA as an example, Shallow pointed out the politics inherent in recent elections where three members of the board, including the incumbent president, contested for the top position along with his vice-president and secretary.

“What politics are you trying to get around? And that is why I said it is an excuse,” he noted.

Still, Shallow reiterated his commitment to inclusivity and urged the BCA and GCB to seize the opportunity provided by next month’s meeting.

“The special meeting will provide the perfect platform for you to come and lay out your case... come to the meeting and discuss. One thing that is certain under my leadership is an inclusive approach. Everyone gets a voice and an opportunity to voice their opinion,” Shallow declared.

Winning start for AGS in 2025 school basketball league

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) made an impressive start to their campaign in the Junior Boys Division of the 2025 Inter-School Basketball League, which is organized by the Ministry of Sports and sponsored by Cool and Smooth, on Monday.

The Antigua Grammar School romped to an emphatic 48-23 victory against Island Academy in the opening match of this year's Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex.

Raheem Sawyer sank 11 points for Antigua Grammar School, while Alexander Fuller scored eight points for Island Academy.

The junior boys' division encounter took place following the official opening of the 2025 Inter-School Basketball League.

The annual league, which provides competitive sporting engagement for both school boys and girls, commenced with the parade of teams.

Like the previous two years, the league, which facilitates competitive basketball contests in six categories in primary and secondary schools' divisions, will culminate with the 'Night of Champions' in March.

Back-to-back champions St. Joseph's Academy (SJA) will be defending their playoff title

in the Miniboys Secondary Division.

Sea View Farm Primary will be defending two playoff titles. Sea View Farm will be aiming to retain the league title and the playoff championship in the Minigirls Primary Division.

Sea View Farm Primary will also be defending the Miniboys Primary Division championship. Princess Margaret School will be seeking to retain the league and playoff titles in the junior boys' division.

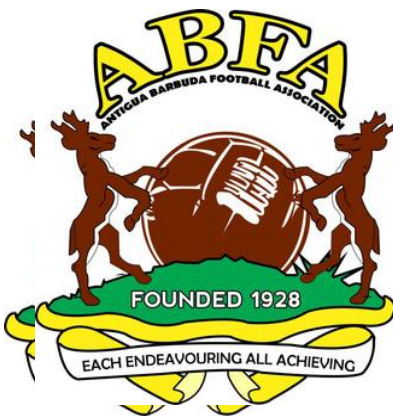
The Antigua Girls High School won last year's playoff championship, while St. Anthony's Secondary captured the league title in the senior girls' division.

St. Anthony's Secondary School also won last year's playoff championship, while Clare Hall Second took the league title in the senior boys' division.

Jenah Andrew of St. Anthony's Secondary School was named 2024 Female Player of the Year, while Craig Massiah Jr. of Princess Margaret School won the 2024 Male Player of the Year award for the second successive year.

Edward Shaw of Clare Hall Secondary and Tyea Ladoo of Antigua Girls High School were named joint winners of the 2024 Coach of the Year award.

English Harbour go joint-top of Second Division



National Parks

English Harbour won their latest match to go joint-level with Sea View Farm FC at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Monday.

English Harbour notched up their ninth win in 11 matches with a 4-1

victory against Bethesda at the English Harbour playing field.

Akeem Weekes scored the opening goal in the 40th minute to give English Harbour a one-nil lead at halftime. Bethesda equalized shortly after the interval when O'Shale Simon scored his team's only goal in the 55th minute.

English Harbour took control and secured victory by scoring three more goals. Delroy Simpson struck home in the 71st minute, Vernon Jeffers scored an own goal in the 75th minute, and Oshane Blackwood had an 88th-minute conversion.

Bethesda FC will

remain on 10 points after suffering their sixth loss in 10 matches. The result allows English to advance to 28 points, the same as joint Second Division leaders Sea View Farm FC.

The top two finishers at the end of the Second Division League will gain automatic promotion to compete in the ABFA's First Division next season.

Meanwhile, Guydadli FC also won their latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Second Division League on Monday.

Guydadli claimed their sixth win in 10 matches with a 3-0 victory against CPTSA Wings at

the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Taijah Christian converted a penalty kick in the 19th minute, Michael Peters scored in the 28th minute, and Kamari Hewlett had a 42nd-minute conversion for Guydadli FC.

The result allows Guydadli FC to advance to 18 points from 10 encounters, while the CPTSA Wings will remain on 14 points after suffering their fourth loss in 10 matches.

The Second Division league will continue when Sea View Farm FC hosts Real Blizzard FC at the Sea View Farm playing field on Wednesday (today) at 4:20 pm.

TG Welding retains title in MPL

TG Welding has retained their title in the Mandy Premier League (MPL), Cool and Smooth, Joma, and Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League.

TG Welding made a successful defense of their crown by snatching a 12-run victory against Zamine Shipping in the final of the T10 competition at the Potters playing field on Sunday.

TG Welding made 78 for nine off their allotted 10 overs. Player of the game Essan Warner hit 21, and Malique Jacob got 13. Dorian Grant grabbed three for 12, Cheston Scotland claimed two for 12, and Sacha Michael captured two for 13.

In reply, Zamine Shipping was restricted to 66 for five off their 10 overs. Kim George struck 20, Dorian Grant scored 17, and Zack Thomas made 15.

Richie Thomas picked up two wickets for eight runs, and Deran Benta captured two for 16.

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) claimed the bronze medal by surging to a 35-run victory against Buck and Sons Landscaping Services in the playoff for third place.

The ABDF made 99 for eight off their 10 overs. Player of the game, Tron Payne, cracked 29; Kevin Pitman scored 19, and Malik Marcellin got 17. Rodney Williams took two for 14, and Kimani George claimed two for 15.

In reply, Buck and Sons Landscaping Services could only manage to score 64 for nine off their 10 overs. Kenrick Scott and Rodney Williams each made 12.



Debra George of TG Welding poses with the women's Most Valuable Player trophy at the Potters playing field on Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Kerry Burton bagged three for 22, Vaughn Charles picked up two wickets for seven runs, and Troy Lake captured two wickets for nine runs.

Several prizes were given to teams and individuals for outstanding performances during a presentation and awards ceremony after Sunday's matches to wrap up the 2024-25 MPL.

Tyrone Williams Jr. of Zamine Shipping won the men's Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Most Runs awards.

Debra George TG Welding won the women's Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Most Wickets awards.

Shaquan Reifer of Grill Box AGSPT won the award for the most wickets in the men's division.



Zamine Shipping's Tyrone Williams Jr., left, accepts the Most Valuable Player award from a representative of the MPL at the Potters playing field on Sunday, January 19, 2025. (Photos courtesy of the MPL)

Clarence Francis of Construction Solutions claims the award for the Highest Individual Score in the men's category, while Daena Bird of ABDF captured the awards for the most runs and highest score in the female division.

Robin Balgobin of Buck and Sons Landscaping Services took home the award for the Best Catch. Thagpaul Gaimchand of TG Welding won the Best Manager Award.

Awards were presented to Kenrick Scott and Elroy Francis Jr. for displaying good spirit of the game.

Zamine Shipping claimed the award for the Best Uniform, while Authur Crogman won the award for being the Most Consistent Umpire.

Windies Under-19 women suffer second loss at ICC T20 World Cup

The West Indies Under-19 women endured another tough outing at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup, as they fell to Sri Lanka by 81 runs at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

A dismal performance with both bat and ball left the Caribbean side unable to contain a rampant Sri Lanka, who amassed 166 for five off 20 overs in their innings. The West Indies were then bowled out for 85 in 19.4 overs, their second defeat in the tournament.

Despite the setback, the young West Indies women still have a shot at progressing to the Super-Six League stage if they can secure a win in their final group match against hosts Malaysia on Thursday. Defending champions India and Sri Lanka currently lead Group A with four points each.

After electing to bat, Sri Lanka took full advantage of a lackluster West Indies bowling attack, as openers Sanjana Kavindi and Sumudu Nisansala laid the foundation with a tidy 54-run partnership.

Kavindi top-scored with 38 off 36 balls, striking six boundaries, while Nisansala chipped in with 19, including two fours and a six, before falling to Kenika Cassar.

At 93 for one at the halfway stage, Sri



Selena Ross of the West Indies celebrates after dismissing Sri Lanka's Manudi Nanayakkara during their match at the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Lanka were in control, and although Kavindi was stumped by Kristen Sutherland off Najanni Cumberbatch, the momentum never shifted.

This, as Captain Manudi Nanayakkara and Dahami Sanetha added crucial runs in the latter stages.

Nanayakkara struck

four boundaries and a six in her 31-ball 37, while Sanetha was left unbeaten on 31 off 25 balls, hitting three fours as their efforts propelled Sri Lanka to their highest-ever team total at the tournament.

Selana Ross was

Ramnath offered a glimmer of hope with a 23-ball 24, including three boundaries, but lacked support from her teammates.

Jahzara Claxton (15), Amrita Ramtahal (11), and Kenika Cassar (12) were the only other batters



Left-arm spinner Chamudi Praboda, center, celebrates with her Sri Lankan teammates after capturing a wicket against the West Indies at the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. (Getty Images)

the standout bowler for the West Indies, finishing with figures of two for 25, while Jahzara Claxton and Cumberbatch chipped in with a wicket each.

Set 167 for victory, the West Indies' top order again crumbled under pressure. Three wickets fell for just 36 runs during the powerplay, and the team never recovered from there.

Captain Samara

to reach double figures in what was another uninspiring batting display.

Sri Lanka's bowlers, led by left-arm spinner Chamudi Praboda, with three for 16, were relentless in their efforts. Aseni Thalagune (two for 16) and Limansa Thilakaratne (two for seven) also delivered decisive blows to seal the victory.