



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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Government moves to address squatting issue in Jennings

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Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Ambassador Concannon said while this was his first visit to the country

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Government moves to address squatting issue in Jennings



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, accompanied by members of his Cabinet, including the Parliamentary Representative for the St. Mary's North Constituency, Sir Molwyn Joseph, visited Jennings (Hermitage Road) on Monday to address concerns surrounding squatting on crown lands in the area.

Public Works Minister, Maria Browne, informed the Prime Minister that a significant issue was the construction of homes within a known watercourse and a flood-prone zone. She highlighted that the location is unsuitable for any type of development due to the risk of severe flooding.

Minister Molwyn Joseph emphasized the urgency of addressing the matter, noting that there is sig-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, accompanied by members of his Cabinet, significant danger posed to the homeowners and their families. He explained that a major watercourse, situated about 100 feet from the main road, causes extensive flooding in the area during heavy rains due to runoff from the surrounding hills.

After discussions, including contributions from Agriculture and Lands Minister Anthony Smith and Urban Transformation Minister Rawdon Turner, it was agreed that the immediate solution would involve relocating the squatters to another community.

Prime Minister Browne informed the homeowners of the government's decision, which they welcomed and appreciated. Minister Molwyn Joseph has been tasked with identifying suitable lands for the relocation of the approximately twelve affected households.

Chief Town and Country Planner, Frederick Southwell, the Chairman of the DCA and staff were also present.

Concerned citizens to mount search for missing man

The Concerned Citizens of Antigua and Barbuda will be mounting a search for Orden "Passo" David on Wednesday 29th January, 2025.

The 39-year-old reportedly has been missing since he left home sometime on Saturday, January 25.

He was wearing a red vest and a grey pair of short jeans pants. He was last seen driving a black Honda Fit motor car, registration number A60870.

Several calls to his mobile phone also went unanswered.

According to President of Concerned Citizens, Dr. Jacqui Quinn "a mobile search will be mounted. Volunteers are asked to



Orden "Passo" David meet at Caribbean Cinemas with at least two persons per vehicle. From there we will fan out across the city and other suburban areas."

Concerned Citizens has also enlisted the support of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and the Defense Force.

Vice President of Concerned Citizens Mary John appealed to the public: "We are encouraging civic groups, churches, individuals and community based organizations to get on board to assist in bringing Orden home safely."

The search party will meet at Caribbean Cinemas at 9am on Wednesday 29th January.

Meanwhile, the family of Orden "Passo" David of Bolans and the police are asking anyone with information that would lead to the safe return of Orden to contact the Bolans Police Station at 462-1080 or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.

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Handover of Sea Seas Reverse Osmosis plant set for Friday



Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas

The formal handing over of the first of two reverse osmosis plants that are being provided under an agreement signed between the water company, Seven Seas, and the government through APUA, will take place on Friday.

Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas who made the disclosure, said the 1-million-gallon daily facility has been installed at Ffryes Beach and its coming on line will great boost the water distribution to homes and businesses from Golden Grove to Old Road, commonly referred to as the Southern Corridor.

“We are expected to go into full operation by January 31 (Friday). This means

that from that date we will be looking to be able to provide an extra one million gallons of water daily from the plant. We are doing a number of projects at APUA that are all designed

to overcome the challenges we have had with water,” he stated.

The coming on stream of the Seven Seas plant will go a long way in meeting the water needs of people in the Southern Corridor. “I anticipate that we will be able to meet the demand for water in that area with the new plant as it will double the capacity of the current plant, donated by the Japanese government,” he indicated.

According to Minister Nicholas APUA is adding additional equipment to the current plant with the help of the Japanese government which is expected to boost the current plant’s production by 300-thousand gallons daily. Together with the Seven Seas Plant, production at the Ffryes Facility to reach close to 2-million-gallons daily

following this upgrade.

The second plant to be delivered by Seven Seas is already under construction. It will be located at Barnacle Point and it will have a capacity of 2-million gallons of water daily.

In related developments, APUA names Jason Peters as Acting Water Business Unit Manager, following the departure of Ian Lewis at the end of business day last Friday

In a statement, APUA said the decision to swiftly fill the vacancy in the department was aimed at ensuring continued leadership during this transition.

The release said Lewis was leaving the post after a 36-year career with the organisation, just a month shy of 37 years of dedicated service.



Its 'Open House' at UWI Five Islands Campus today

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is hosting another of its popular "Open House" today, Tuesday.

In a media release, the university said this comprehensive showcase will feature opportunities in a wide range of disciplines, from business and education to healthcare and technology. The event, which takes place at the UWI FIC Gymnasium from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM, will spotlight the university's degree programmes and professional development short courses. Attendees can also explore scholarships and other financing opportunities.

Prospective students will learn about entry requirements, career advancement pathways, and tuition financing options. The event promises direct interaction with faculty members and current students, providing valuable networking opportunities for attendees. Prospective students will also be able to complete applications on-site.

"This Open House is designed to help individuals discover opportunities to advance their education and career prospects," says Adeola Matthew, the Students Recruitment and



Adeola Matthew, the Students Recruitment and Retention Manager at UWI Five Islands

Retention Manager at UWI Five Islands. She extends a special invitation to parents to come and get first-hand information about enrolling their children in the September 2025 academic year.

The UWI Five Islands Campus was established to provide access to world-class education, and the public is invited to visit and find out how they can upskill themselves.


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A picture tells a thousand words

Members of the Barbuda Council fully endorsing the Luis Hill Housing Development project just a few short years ago.



The Antigua and Barbuda Athletic Association launched its grassroots program for track and field.



Athletics Association’s team visiting Barbuda

The Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association has launched an initiative to train and develop athletes from the sister isle, Barbuda.

The first step in this undertaking took place in Barbuda on last Friday when a

group made its way over to Codrington with 30 students aged 8-15 years old boys and girls along with 8 officials. Forty students joined from Barbuda.

Among the officials who journeyed over to Barbuda were: Oswald Baptise, Kes-

swin Anthony, Timon Emmanuel, Winston Benjamin, Jamile Nelson, Shawnor Charles Joseph and Patricia Salmon. They were welcomed by Peter Cuffy and his team.

The program aims at catering to divers interests and

talents contributing positively to the overall school environment.

Sports plays a crucial role in the holistic development of the youths, promoting healthy lifestyle and enhancing essential life skill. Working together to make it all possible were General Secretary ABAA, Gillian Mathew and Liaison Officer for Barbuda Affairs, Darilyn Burton.

Special thanks and appreciation were extended to former MP Arthur Nibbs, Orlando Morris. Bonnietha John-Desouza, former councilor, Emock John and Mario Beazer.

“We look forward to continue working together strengthening our athletes throughout Antigua and Barbuda,” the association said in a statement.



ABNOC Strengthens Sports Safety with Successful Coaches CPR and First Aid Training



Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) hosted its highly anticipated Coaches CPR and First Aid Certification Course

Safety in sports took center stage as the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) hosted its highly anticipated Coaches CPR and First Aid Certification Course. The event, held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Mini Conference Room, Multipurpose Culture Centre, empowered national sports leaders with critical life-saving skills to enhance safety across Antigua and Barbuda's sports community.

Facilitated by the Anti-

gua and Barbuda Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the course provided participants with hands-on training in CPR, first aid techniques, and the proper use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The practical, engaging sessions ensured attendees gained the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively to emergencies during training and competitions.

President Greene Highlights ABNOC's Vision

In his opening remarks, ABNOC President Hon.

E.P. Chet Greene commended participants for their dedication to advancing sports safety and outlined ABNOC's strategic priorities for the coming years.

"By strengthening our federations' administrative structures, enhancing coaching education, and implementing athlete development programs, we aim to build a pipeline of elite athletes capable of achieving podium finishes at future international games," President Greene said.

Acknowledgements

ABNOC extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Antigua and Barbuda EMS Team for their outstanding facilitation, delivering a professional and highly engaging course. Thanks also to the St. John's Development Corporation for their invaluable support in providing the venue, which ensured the smooth execution of the event.

Most importantly, ABNOC thanks the dedicated participants who saw the value in this initiative and committed their time to enhancing their skills and knowledge.

Looking Ahead

ABNOC is dedicated to fostering a culture of safety, excellence, and success in sports. This course marks an important step in equipping sports leaders with the tools to support athletes and ensure a safer sports environment. The organization remains committed to empowering federations and athletes, laying the groundwork for Antigua and Barbuda to shine on the international stage.

For further information on ABNOC's programs and upcoming initiatives, please contact:

Cliff Williams, Secretary-General: Tel/WhatsApp: 268-725-8011

Charles Bellot, Technical Director: Tel/WhatsApp: 268-720-8302

Ireland to mount exhibition to tell ‘the Irish-Caribbean story’

The new Ambassador for Ireland to Antigua and Barbuda, John Concannon, has presented his credentials to senior government officials during a round of courtesy calls on Monday.

Speaking at Government House with the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Ambassador Concannon said while this was his first visit to the country, he was pleased to note the many Irish names that are still present in Antigua and



Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Ambassador Concannon

ancestral links between many Antigua and Barbuda and the people of Ireland and he expressed the hope that there could be efforts to stimulate more people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

The prime minister also thanked the ambassador for the support that Antigua and Barbuda received from Ireland for the hosting of SIDS4 conference last May, noting that Ireland was one of the biggest contributors.



Barbuda, not just for individuals, but also of places.

With this in mind, he revealed that two agencies of the Irish government have mounted an exhibition that chronicles the story of the Irish people in the Caribbean to include Antigua and Barbuda.

The ambassador said he would be happy to mount the exhibition at Government House upon completion of the renovation thus giving Antiguans

and Barbudans with Irish heritage an opportunity to interact and engage with ‘our shared history’.

“It is our hope that this exhibition will form the centre-piece of a wider Ireland Week where we can celebrate the breadth and depth of our Irish relationship,” he announced.

For his part, Sir Rodney said he is ‘perfectly’ aware of the strong historical connections between the people of Antigua and

Barbuda and Ireland, noting that he would support the initiative.

In welcoming Ambassador Concannon, Prime Minister Gaston Browne expressed the hope that his appointment will signal a higher level of cooperation between Ireland and Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister noted that the two countries have a long history of relations dating back several centuries. He too spoke of

The ambassador also called on upon the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, who welcomed him to Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the ministry of foreign affairs.

Ambassador Pilgrim noted that Antigua and Barbuda and Ireland are marking twenty-five years of diplomatic relationship adding that both countries have had ‘a long rich history’.

Indians in Antigua and Barbuda celebrate



Indian Honorary Consul, Vijay Tewani

The Indian community in Antigua and Barbuda over the weekend, observed that country's 76th Republic Day, with a flag raising ceremony and other activities.

One highly successful event was the teaming up with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority

to host a free yoga session as part of the Wellness Month, which January has been designated by local authorities.

"This year's theme for Republic Day is India's Cultural Heritage, Unity in Diversity, Strength in Culture, which highlights India's progress in tech-

nology, infrastructure, and culture. Republic Day reminds us that sovereignty belongs to the people, and we must celebrate with respect.

"We are grateful for the strong friendship and support between India and Antigua and Barbuda," the honorary consul remarked.



Celebrating India Day



Attendees at yoga session planned as part of India Day

McDonald fined \$1500.00 for escaping lawful custody



Akido McDonald – of St Ann's, Jamaica

The Jamaican man who was recaptured on Saturday after escaping the lawful custody of the Immigration Department two days earlier, has been fined \$1,500.00 and has been remanded to HM Prison.

Senior Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel imposed the fine on the man - Akido McDonald – of St Ann's, Jamaica, when he appeared before her in District B of the Magistrate's Court on Monday.

McDonald pleaded guilty and he was fined \$1,500.00 to be paid within 48-hours.

The court noted that McDonald was

denied entry into the country and therefore ordered that he be remanded at HMP until the next flight to Jamaica on Thursday.

The court heard that McDonald, 26, arrived on a Caribbean Airlines flight last Thursday but when his travel documents were examined by border control personnel, he was denied entry.

He was therefore detained at the Immigration Detention Centre to await the next flight back to Jamaica when he escaped custody. He was recaptured in Swetes on Saturday.

Three in Custody on Suspicion of Robbery

Three people are held in police custody for questioning on suspicion of robbery.

On Sunday, members of the Criminal Investigations Department Task Force, K-9 Unit, and other departments executed several search warrants across the island and detained three people from the Nut Grove, Golden Grove, and Cashew Hill area. They are currently assisting the police with their ongoing investigations.

Meanwhile, three men were arrested and charged for cannabis on the weekend.

Derol Thomas of Villa and Kareem Gardner of St. Johnston Village were jointly charged with Unlawful Possession of 3.2lbs of Cannabis, Possession of Cannabis with

the Intent to Transfer, and Being Concerned with the Supplying of Cannabis. Also, Julian King of Liberta was jointly charged with Kareem Gardener with unlawful possession of 128 grams Cannabis.

On Friday, the police executed a search warrant on a property occupied by Kareem Gardener and found the controlled substance. He, along with those present were arrested and taken into custody. They were due in court on Monday



Police make arrest in their investigation of major fraud scheme in Roseau

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has launched a comprehensive inquiry into a series of major fraudulent activities targeting business entities in the city of Roseau. The investigations have revealed a total value of cash and properties involved, exceeding \$150,000.00 E.C., linked to the suspect's unlawful dealings.

A key development in the case is the arrest of Quincy Bruce, a male adult from the village of Soufriere, who has been charged



with attempted deception. This charge arises from his alleged involvement in a fraudulent transaction

concerning the purchase of a vehicle valued at \$97,000.00 E.C. Bruce's case is a significant part of

the broader investigation, which involves several other fraudulent transactions that are still under scrutiny by the police.

In a separate incident, a young man from a northeast community was arrested on suspicion of involvement in a shooting that took place on January 19, 2025, targeting Narin Murphy's vehicle in Jimmit. However, he has since been released pending further investigation into the matter. (*Dominica News Online*)

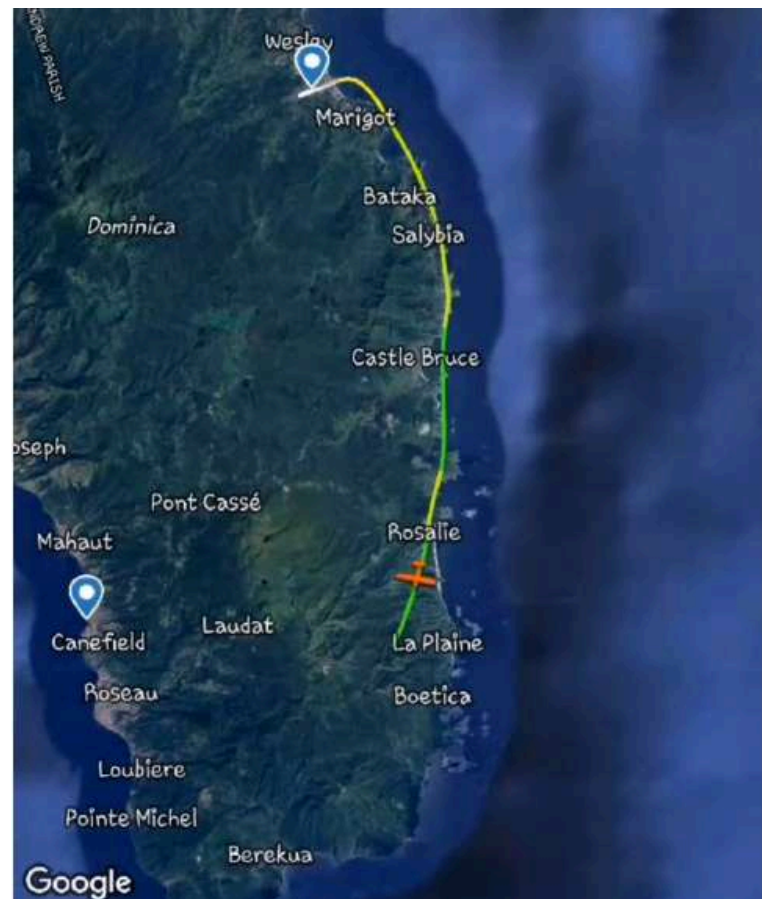
Search ongoing for missing Cessna 172 after losing contact in Dominica

A small aircraft that took off from the Douglas-Charles Airport on Sunday afternoon is feared missing after losing all communication shortly after departure. The Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority (DASPA) reported that at approximately 3:46 pm on Sunday, contact was lost with a four-seat Cessna 172, which was en route to the neighboring French island of Martinique.

Emergency response teams from both Dominica and Martinique were immediately mobilized, with search efforts focused around the south-

eastern community of La Plaine, where radar data indicated the aircraft's last known location. As of Monday, efforts to locate the aircraft remain ongoing. DASPA has emphasized that the safety of the passengers and crew is the top priority. "We are continuing our rescue operations and remain committed to ensuring the safety of everyone aboard," said DASPA in a statement.

Authorities have assured the public that updates on this developing situation will be provided as more information becomes available. (*Loop Caribbean*)



**TUES - FRIDAY
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Haiti's Voltaire meets with Pope Francis

The head of Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council (TPC), Leslie Voltaire, held a private audience with Pope Francis last weekend, according to an official statement issued.

It said that during the 20-minute audience on Saturday, Voltaire, on behalf of the Haitian population, thanked the Pope for his constant support and messages of encouragement, particularly through the Urbi et Orbi (Papal blessings given by the Pope on important occasions) declarations, which deeply comfort Haitian Catholic Christians around the world.

The statement said that during the meeting, topics of importance were discussed including the defence of human rights, the

fight against poverty and inequality, political instability, peace-making efforts in Haiti, as well as the climate challenges that aggravate Haiti's vulnerability.

The statement said Pope Francis renewed his call for social and political harmony in the Americas, with a focus on Haiti, and expressed his support for the Haitian people and affirmed his prayers for a peaceful and stable nation.

It said that Pope Francis presented Voltaire with a bronze bas-relief entitled "Dialogue between the Generations", this year's Message for Peace, the book on the *Statio Orbis* of March 27, 2020, and the volume on the papal audience apartment.

The statement said that Voltaire also met with Cardinal

Pietro Parolin, secretary of state of the Holy See, who was accompanied by Secretary for Relations with States, Monsignor Paul Richard Gallagher.

"During the cordial discussions at the Secretariat of State, satisfaction with the good relations between Haiti and the Holy See was expressed," the statement said, adding that emphasis was then placed on the valuable contribution that the church offers to the country, despite the difficulties caused by the current crisis.

Last week, the head of the United Nations Office in Haiti (BINUH), Maria Isabel Salvador, said the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country is showing signs of progress on the political

front despite serious setbacks in terms of security.

"At this crucial time, Haiti needs your continued support more than ever," she told the United Nations (UN) Security Council, speaking from the Haitian capital.

Armed gangs continue terrorising the Haitian population and the insecurity has impacted humanitarian operations.

Salvador said the Haitian National Police (HNP), supported by the Kenya-led UN Security Council-backed Multinational Security Support mission (MSS) and, in some cases, the Armed Forces of Haiti, has made efforts to respond to the surge in violence. (*Jamaica Observer*)

Soldier killed in Molynes Road attack identified

The Jamaica Defence Force soldier who was killed in an attack along Molynes Road in St Andrew early this morning has been identified.

He is 26-year-old Private Fernando Dixon.

The identities of his attackers, who were travelling on a motorcycle, are yet to be released by the police.

The police say both men were clad in black attire.

The police report that two men



travelling on a black Honda bike, without a plate, rode up on Dixon who was travelling in an Audi motor vehicle along

with four occupants and opened gunfire.

Dixon used the vehicle to hit the men from the black motorcycle, killing them on the spot.

He was transported to the Kingston Public Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The police were called to the scene where two firearms – a radical 5.56 M16 rifle with a magazine and Taurus pistol - were recovered. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

**SUNDAYS
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At least 18 have died after tanker carrying gasoline exploded in Nigeria

At least 18 people died and 10 others were injured in southern Nigeria after a gasoline tanker exploded, officials said.

The accident happened along the Enugu-Onitsha expressway in the south-eastern state of Enugu after the tanker, laden with gasoline, lost control and rammed into 17 vehicles, and burst into flames, Nigeria's Federal Road Safety Corps said in a statement Saturday evening.

Those who died were "burnt beyond recognition," the spokesperson of the safety corps rescue teams, Olusegun Ogungbemide, said. Besides the 10 injured, rescuers extracted three others who were unharmed. With the absence of an efficient railway system to transport cargo, fatal truck accidents are common along most major roads in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country.

Earlier this month, 98 people were killed in a gasoline tanker blast in north-central Nigeria, near the Suleja area of Niger state, after individuals attempted to transfer gasoline from a crashed oil tanker into another truck using a generator. Some bystanders were at the scene to scoop gasoline. Authorities then began a nationwide campaign against the scooping of gasoline from fallen tankers and other practices that could lead to death. "Gasoline tanker accidents do not have to lead to the loss of lives," Lanre Is-



sa-Onilu, director-general of the National Orientation Agency, the body tasked

with communicating government policy, said at an event close to the Suleja

area on Saturday.

The prices of gasoline in Africa's most populous country have soared after President Bola Tinubu's government removed subsidies more than a year ago in an attempt to channel resources to more developmental purposes. However, the policy has caused hardship to locals.

Scooping gasoline from a fallen tanker is common in Nigeria as some either use or sell it for a profit. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

**IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(CIVIL DIVISION)**

CLAIM NO: ANUHCV2020/0324

BETWEEN:

DEVONTE JAMES

(BY HIS NEXT FRIEND SHERMA SHERVINGTON)

Claimant

And

SIMONETTE APRIL

DANIEL WESTEFORDE

(HIS MOTHER AND GUARDIAN AD LITEM)

Defendants

TO: Simonette April & Daniel Westeforde

**Pointe
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Antigua**

TAKE NOTICE that a legal proceeding for a claim of damages for personal injury has been commenced in the High Court of Justice by the Claimant, **Devonte James** by his next-friend **Sherma Shervington**.

You may obtain copies of the **Witness Statements, Submissions, Orders of 26th November, 2024 and 16th September, 2024, Notice of Hearing dated 29th November, 2024, (for the appearance at Court on 25th March, 2025)** at the High Court of Justice or at **Cumberbatch & Associates**, Upper Long Street, St. John's, Antigua.

These proceedings can be accessed through the Electronic Litigation Portal. You may contact the Electronic Litigation Portal through the Service Bureau at the High Court of Justice, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Fridays.

**Dated this 22nd day of January, 2025
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant**

Bird feathers found in engines of crashed Jeju Air jet



Investigators say they have found evidence of a bird strike on a passenger plane that crashed in South Korea in December, killing 179 people.

The feathers and blood stains on both engines of the Jeju Air plane were from the Baikal teal, a type of migratory duck that flies in large flocks, according to a preliminary investigation report published on Monday.

The inquiry into the crash - the deadliest on South Korean soil - will now focus on the role of the bird strike and a concrete structure at the end of the runway, which the plane crashed into.

The engines of the Boeing 737-800 will be torn down and the concrete structure will be examined further, the report said.

The Jeju Air plane took off from Bangkok in the

morning of 29 December and was flying to Muan International Airport in the country's south-west.

At about 08:57 local time, three minutes after pilots made contact with the airport, the control tower advised the crew to be cautious of "bird activity".

At 08:59, the pilot reported that the plane had struck a bird and declared a mayday signal.

The pilot then requested permission to land from the opposite direction, during which it belly-landed without its landing gear deployed. It overran the runway and exploded after slamming into the concrete structure, the report said.

Authorities earlier said that flight data and cockpit voice recorders from the plane stopped recording about four minutes before the disaster.

Experts who had flown the same type of aircraft involved in the crash have also questioned the presence of the concrete barriers at the end of the runway - with some suggesting that the casualty toll would have been lower if they had not been there.

The concrete structure holds a navigation system that assists aircraft landings, known as a localiser. South Korea's transport ministry had said this system could also be found in other airports

in the country and even overseas.

Last week, authorities announced that they will change the concrete barriers used for navigation at seven airports across the country. Seven airports will also have their runway safety areas adapted following a review.

The preliminary report has been submitted to the United Nations' aviation agency and to the authorities of the United States, France and Thailand.

(BBC News)



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Fear and uncertainty after Rwanda-backed rebels claim takeover of eastern Congo's largest city

Residents in eastern Congo's largest city, Goma, were fleeing on Monday after Rwanda-backed rebels claimed to have captured the regional hub from Congolese forces as fighting escalated despite calls from the U.N.

Goma, 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) east of capital Kinshasa, but stopped short of saying they were in control of the city. In a statement on X, government spokesman Patrick Muyaya asked Goma residents to stay at home

one of the escapees who estimated that more than 2,000 fled the facility. The M23 rebels are one of about 100 armed groups vying for a foothold in the mineral-rich region in the decades-long conflict,

which it described as a "Congolese rebel group fighting to protect their community." That failure, it said, has prolonged the fighting that continues to present "a serious threat to Rwanda's security and territorial integrity, and necessitates Rwanda's sustained defensive posture."

The advance into Goma is the culmination of a prolonged battle between the rebels and the Congolese security forces that saw several towns along the Rwandan border falling to the insurgents. Analysts have warned the latest escalation could further destabilize the region, which is already home to one of the world's largest humanitarian crises with more than 6 million people displaced, including more than a third of North Kivu's population.

A regional hub for trade, security and humanitarian efforts, Goma's airport, which is key for transporting supplies, has been shut following the fighting.

Rwanda's state television also showed several Congolese soldiers surrendering in the Rwandan town of Rubavu after crossing the border from Goma. (*Associated Press*)



Residents in eastern Congo's largest city, Goma, were fleeing on Monday

Security Council for the insurgents to withdraw. Gunshots rang out across Goma overnight before dozens of rebels in military uniform early Monday morning marched into the capital of North Kivu province, which sits on the border with Rwanda in the volatile region rich in minerals critical to much of the world's technology. The Congolese government confirmed the presence of M23 rebels in

and also urged Congolese nationals around the world to mobilize in support of the country. "No centimeter will be given up!!!" Muyaya wrote. As the rebels entered Goma, a fire at the city's Munzenze prison on Monday morning resulted in the escape of thousands of inmates. "All the prisoners who were detained came out, whether women, men or minors, everyone came out," said Mwamisy Ndungo,

one of Africa's largest. The rebels temporarily took over Goma in 2012, before they were forced to pull out under international pressure, and resurfaced in late 2021, with increasing support from Rwanda, according to Congo's government and United Nations experts. Rwanda has denied such support. Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused Congo of failing to enter a dialogue with M23,

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians return to a shattered northern Gaza

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians streamed into Gaza's most heavily destroyed area on Monday after Israel opened the north for the first time since the early weeks of the war with Hamas, a dramatic reversal of their exodus 15 months ago.

As the fragile ceasefire held into a second week, Israel was informed by Hamas that eight of the hostages to be freed during the deal's first phase are dead.

Joyous crowds of Palestinians, some holding babies or pushing wheelchairs, walked along a seaside road all day and into the night, carrying bedrolls, bottles of water and other belongings. A few armed, masked Hamas fighters flashed a victory sign. The crowd was watched over by Israeli tanks on a nearby hill.

The United Nations said over 200,000 people were observed moving north in Gaza on Monday morning alone.

Palestinians who have been sheltering in squalid tent camps and former schools are eager to return to their homes — even though they are likely damaged or destroyed. Many had feared that Israel would make their displacement permanent.

Yasmin Abu Amshah, a mother of three, said she walked 6 kilometers (nearly 4 miles) to reach her damaged but habitable Gaza

City home. She saw her younger sister for the first time in over a year.

"It was a long trip, but a happy one," she said.

Many saw their return as

an act of steadfastness after Israel's military campaign, launched in response to the Hamas militant group's Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel. The return was also seen as a repu-

diation of U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that many Palestinians be resettled in Egypt and Jordan, which those countries have rejected. (*Associated Press*)



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Grenades beat Old Road to stay top of Premier League

Barrington Blake scored a stoppage time winner, which allowed the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades to snatch a 2-1 win against Old Road and finish at the top of the standings at the end of the first round of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

Blake snatched the winner in the fifth minute of added-on time in the encounter that brought the 14-team round-robin first phase of the Premier League to a close. It was the last match of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Blake's winner followed teammate Quinton Griffith's 63rd-minute equalizing goal for the Grenades after forward Joshua Ferdinand scored in the 38th minute to give Old Road a one-nil lead at halftime.

The 11th win in 13 matches preserved the Grenades unbeaten record and ensured the 2022/23 Premier League title winners finished the first stage at the top of the standings with 35 points, one more than defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United.

Old Road finished



Players of the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades football team

the first stage in third place with 28 points after suffering their third loss in their quota of 13 matches.

The Potters Tigers wrapped up their first-round campaign by recording their fifth win in 13 matches with a 4-1 victory against Five Islands in Sunday's opening encounter.

Javorn Benjamin converted two of three goals scored in the second half by the Potters Tigers. Benjamin scored in the 51st and 88th minutes after Bryan Daniel's 49th-minute conversion gave the Tigers a two-nil lead.

Keon Greene opened the scoring with

a conversion in the 30th minute to give the Potters Tigers a one-nil advantage at halftime.

Juan Melenciano Jr. scored a consolation goal for Five Islands in the 71st minute. The result ensured the Potters Tigers finished the first stage in seventh place with 17 points from their 13 matches.

Five Islands finished the first stage in 11th place with 10 points after suffering their ninth defeat in their 13 matches.

At the completion of the first phase, the 14 teams in the Premier League will be divided into two groups of seven to compete in a second

and final round. Each team will play a total of six games within their respective groups.

Points achieved in the first phase will be brought forward and added to the points gained in the group stage.

The team with the highest amount of points at the end of the group stage or second round will be declared champions of the 2024/25 ABFA's Premier Division League.

The teams that finished in the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th positions will be automatically demoted to the First Division next season.

Flyers soar to great start in new ABBA Division 1 domestic season



Players of the EZ Fit Flyers basketball team (File photo)

Reigning Division 1 league and playoff champions, the EZ Fit Flyers, made an impressive start to their campaign in the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Sunday evening.

The Flyers began the defense of their league title with a 24-point victory against the Northside Stingerz in the second game of an opening night double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

In a rematch of last season's Division 1 playoff finals, reigning champions EZ Fit Flyers romped to an emphatic and lopsided 88-64 victory against the Northside Stingerz.

Adonis Humphreys produced a game-high

22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and T-Shawn Lewis came off the bench to score 15 points and claimed five rebounds for the Flyers.

They were supported by Selassie Brathwaite with 12 points and seven rebounds and Xavier "X-Man" Meade with 10 points and seven assists.

The Stingerz were led by Jevonte Valerie, who sank 17 points and snatched 10 rebounds. Donte Tringham chipped in 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Michael Jeffers came off the bench to score 15 points and claim five rebounds for the Stingerz.

Following the March Past and official opening ceremony, last year's losing semi-finalists

in the Division 1 playoffs, Total Imports Potters Steelers and Spanish Heat, met in the first game of the new season.

The Potters Steelers prevailed 81-79 against Spanish Heat in the keenly contested Division 1 affair.

Kareem Edwards sank 17 points and claimed nine rebounds, and Darnell Azille produced 14 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for the Potters Steelers.

In support, Marlon "Buju" Charles had 11 points and nine rebounds, Lindsay McDonald scored 10 points, and Keroi Lee chipped in with nine points and 14 rebounds for the Steelers.

The Spanish Heat was led by Steven Mathew with a game-high 22

points, and Kelvyn Pimental contributed 12 points. In support, Damian Floyd converted 11 points and snatched seven rebounds, and Daniel Perez produced 10 points, eight steals, and six rebounds.

Spanish Heat captured successive Division Two playoff championships last season, while Lava Smoke Shop Ottos Warriors won the round-robin league title.

Sunday's official opening was preceded by the ABBA Awards Ceremony, where the outstanding teams and individuals during the 2024 season were recognized.

The ceremony took place in the Presidential Suite at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound on Saturday evening.

India's Bumrah named ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year



Jasprit Bumrah

DUBAI (Reuters) - Jasprit Bumrah was named the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024 after the India pace spearhead produced his best annual haul in the red-ball format, the sport's governing body said on Monday.

The 31-year-old seam-bowling genius topped the wicket-taking charts in Test

cricket last year with 71 from 13 matches, 19 more than second-placed Gus Atkinson of England (in 11 games), having returned from a back injury in late 2023.

Despite being on the losing side in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, Bumrah finished the five-match Test series, which concluded earlier in January, with

32 wickets at an average of 13.06 and was the obvious choice for the Player of the Series award.

"His (Bumrah) average across the year was a ridiculous 14.92, and he ended 2024 with an annual strike rate of just 30.1," ICC said in a statement.

"Across Test history, none of the 17 bowlers to have taken 70+ wickets in a calendar year did so at an average as low as Bumrah's."

Bumrah beat England duo Harry Brook and Joe Root as well as Kamindu Mendis of Sri Lanka to win the prestigious award. The last Indian cricketer to win it was batter Virat Kohli in 2018.

"I am deeply honoured to receive the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award. Test cricket has always been a format I hold close to my heart, and to be recognised on this platform is truly special," Bumrah said.

"This award is not just a reflection of my individual efforts but also of the unwavering support of my teammates, coaches, and fans who continue to believe and inspire me every day.

"Representing India is a privilege I deeply cherish, and knowing my efforts bring smiles to people around the world makes this journey even more special."

Hobart Hurricanes win first BBL title



Hobart Hurricanes celebrate after winning Australia's first BBL title in Hobart, Tasmania, Monday, January 27, 2025. (Getty Images)

TAZMANIA (Reuters) - Mitch Owen blasted the Big Bash League's equal-fastest hundred on Monday to deliver Hobart Hurricanes their first T20 title, securing a seven-wicket victory against the Sydney Thunder in the 14th tournament final at the Bellerive Oval.

Thunder posted a competitive 182 for seven from 20 overs after being sent in, but Owen's 108-run knock off 42 balls ensured the hosts quickly assumed a commanding position in their reply, cruising to 185 for three with 35 balls remaining.

"We played some bloody brilliant cricket this year and we deserve to be here tonight," said Hurricanes skipper Nathan Ellis.

Owen, whose 452

runs at a strike rate of 204 in a breakout season is sure to attract overseas attention, lashed out at the Thunder seamers who conceded 74 runs in the opening power-play.

The 23-year-old's fifty, the fastest in a BBL final, came off 16 balls.

The Hobart local smashed 11 sixes and six fours as he watched opening partner Caleb Jewell (13) and Nikhil Chaudhary (1) depart in quick succession to leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha, who finished with two for 43.

Undeterred, Owen continued to attack and a scurried two to bring up a 39-ball hundred, matching Craig Simmons' 2014 effort for the Perth Scorchers, brought the jubilant crowd to their feet.

"I was just doing what I've been trying to do the whole competition, get us off to a good start so we can take it easy through the middle," said Owen.

The dazzling knock ended when he holed out in the deep, leaving it to Matthew Wade (32 not out) and Ben McDermott (18 not out) to score the winning runs.

Earlier, Thunder openers David Warner and Jason Sangha bludgeoned 97 runs off the first 10 overs to stun the Hobart crowd.

The breakthrough came when skipper Warner, who had his Cricket Australia leadership ban for his role in the 2018 ball-tampering incident in South Africa lifted three months ago, was caught-behind for 48 off seamer Ellis, who

finished with three for 23.

Ellis then had Matthew Gilkes chopping on for a duck to spur momentum for the ladder-topping Hurricanes, who accounted for Sam Billings (20) when speedster Riley Meredith, who claimed three for 27, rattled the stumps.

Sangha, who top-scored with 67, was caught off Ellis trying to up the ante as the hosts tightened the screws in the death overs.

The Australian domestic focus now returns to the red-ball Sheffield Shield on Feb. 8, while the national team embarks on a short tour of Sri Lanka ahead of their first Champions Trophy engagement against England in Lahore on Feb. 22.

Sports

TUESDAY 28RD JANUARY 2025

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Windies beat Pakistan to draw Test series

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) — The West Indies spun out Pakistan for 133 on a rank turning pitch to record a series-leveling 120-run win inside three days of the second and final Test on Monday.

Pakistan, who needed a further 178 runs for an improbable win on their own engineered spinning wicket, fell quickly to Jomel Warrican's left-arm spin on Day 3, as the West Indies gained their first Test win in Pakistan in over 34 years.

"We haven't won here in a while so to come here and do it as a young group is incredible," West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said, referring to the tourists' last win in Pakistan by seven wickets at Faisalabad in Nov. 1990.

"On this pitch, there's a ball with your name on it around the corner... it was a good experience. When you get on better pitches, you can have a similar mindset and it will help you in the long run."

Warrican claimed five for 27 to finish the series with a series-leading 19 wickets and also pushed Pakistan to the bottom of the World Test Championship table as both teams ended their two-year campaigns.

Resuming at 76 for four in their second in-



West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican, third from left, celebrates with teammates during the third day of the second Test against Pakistan in Multan, Pakistan, Monday, January 27, 2025. (AP)

nings on Monday, Pakistan lost both overnight batters without adding to the total, as Kevin Sinclair, who captured three for 61, had Saud Shakeel caught in the slips off the third ball of the morning, and Warrican clean bowled night-watchman Kashif Ali in the next over.

Mohammad Rizwan (25) and Salman Ali Agha (15) added 39 runs while trying to use their feet against the spinners before both fell to the left-arm spin of Warrican.

Salman had already survived a close stumping chance off Warrican but was finally deceived by a looping delivery and was out lbw, while Rizwan couldn't read Warrican's brilliant delivery that spun back into him and knocked

back the stumps.

The spinner then wrapped up West Indies' famous win with more than an hour to go until lunch on Day 3 by clean bowling Sajid Khan.

It was a remarkable turnaround for the West Indies, who lost the first Test by 127 runs at the same venue, and were struggling on 38 for seven on Day 1 of the second Test before their tail-enders lifted them to 163 all out for a slender first innings lead of nine runs.

Captain Kraigg Brathwaite's half century in the second innings then led West Indies to post 244 for an overall lead of 253 runs before Pakistan's batters fell into their own trap of a turning pitch against the tourists' spinners.

Pakistan captain Shan Masood believed his bowlers allowed the opposition's tail-enders too many runs in the first innings and that pushed his team behind in the game.

"Yes, they batted well, but we have to learn too," Masood said. "It's been a habit, it happened in South Africa as well."

The West Indies finished eighth on the WTC table and Pakistan was at No. 9 with Australia and South Africa already qualifying for the final at Lord's in June.

Masood defended Pakistan's ploy of making spin pitches, which saw them using industrial-sized fans and patio heaters against both England and West Indies, which earned them three successive home wins before Monday's defeat.

"We've won three out of four tests, but even in the game we've lost, on the first day we were in the position we wanted," he said.

"One bad performance can't have a domino effect. We still have to be brave and replicate conditions.

"Even when we fail, there are a lot of learnings. Now we realize as a team that one extra wicket, one extra partnership, can have a huge effect on the game."