



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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OAS team assessing preparations for GA

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Organisation of American States (OAS) is currently on-the-ground in St. John's for an update on preparations for the upcoming OAS General Assembly meeting slated for June this year.

OAS team is 'on the ground' assessing preparations for GA



An advanced team from the Organisation of American States (OAS) is currently on-the-ground in St. John's for an update on preparations for the upcoming OAS General Assembly meeting slated for June this year.

The team is led by Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Mendes accompanied by Ambassador Francisco Lainez, Fernando Sole, Clarita Hoyos, Alfredo Abal and Morgan Neil. Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ron Sanders is also accompanying the team. The purpose of the visit is to assist with the state of preparations for the General Assembly and to offer any guidance or suggestions on the way



Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim welcomes Ambassador Mendes of the OAS

forward. The team also took the opportunity to do 'walk-throughs' of two sites; the Sandals Grande Resort at Dickenson Bay as well as the convention centre on the campus of the American University of Antigua. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, welcomed the team to St. John's noting that the visit marks an important milestone in the country's preparations to host the 55th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, an event of immense significance for the nation and the hemi-

sphere.

"This gathering will be a platform to advance the pillars of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, equal opportunity for all, and sustainable development across the Americas. Antigua and Barbuda stands ready to embrace the opportunities that hosting this esteemed assembly brings, as we forge new pathways for leadership and progress in our hemisphere.

"I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Assistant Secretary-General Mendez and his team for their detailed walk-through of the programme and technical arrangements for the General Assembly. Their guidance and partnership are invaluable as our technical teams work collaboratively to ensure an extraordinary hosting of this landmark event," he observed. Ambassador Pilgrim said the ministry is committed to delivering an exceptional assembly that will not only reflect the vibrancy of the nation but also contribute meaningfully to the advancement of shared hemispheric goals.

"We eagerly anticipate June, when Antigua and Barbuda will showcase our warmth, world-class hospitality, and capability to the world as we host this pivotal gathering of the Americas," he remarked.

110 Antigua and Barbuda nationals on US list for deportation

It may be just a week and a half since President Donald Trump was sworn into office for a second time and already it is causing unease within the Caribbean communities across the United States, including the Antigua and Barbuda diaspora.

This as the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has published a list with the aggregate number of persons identified for deportation listed on a country-by-country basis.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the number is 110. As expected, the

names of these 110 individuals were not released nor was there any additional information that may be helpful to families or local officials.

In its statement, the agency said as of November 24, 2024, there are 1,445,549 noncitizens on ICE’s non-detained docket with final orders of removal.

Other English speaking Caribbean countries and their totals are;

1. Jamaica - 5,120
2. Guyana – 1,236
3. Trinidad & Tobago – 1,197
4. Belize - 899

5. The Bahamas – 426
6. St. Lucia – 202
7. Barbados – 151
8. Grenada - 149
9. St. Vincent and the Grenadines – 127
10. Dominica – 104
11. St Kitts Nevis – 68
12. Turks and Caicos - 25
13. Montserrat – 8
14. British Virgin Islands – 5

Non-English speaking

1. Cuba – 42,084
2. Haiti – 32,363
3. Dominican Republic – 12,699
4. Venezuela - 22,749

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Antigua and Barbuda Launches Updated National Risk Assessment (NRA) Initiative

Through the National Oversight Committee on Financial Action (NOCFCA), the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has officially launched the updated National Risk Assessment (NRA). This initiative aims to enhance the nation's defenses against money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing, while ensuring alignment with international standards to reinforce the integrity and resilience of its financial system. Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, reaffirmed the government's dedication: "Antigua and Barbuda has made significant strides, including achieving compliance with 36 of the 40 FATF recommendations. This NRA ensures we remain at the forefront of financial transparency and resilience." Lt. Col. Edward Croft, Chairman of NOCFCA, emphasized

the strategic importance of the NRA: "The NRA is more

held at the FSRC Conference Room, introduced stakehold-

non-profit organizations. By working together, stakeholders can enhance the nation's financial integrity and strengthen its global reputation.

The updated NRA reflects the Government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and resilience, aligning with the national motto, "Each Endeavouring, All Achieving." This initiative lays the foundation for a secure and prosperous future for all citizens.

About NOCFCA

Operating under the Prime Minister's Ministry, the National Oversight Committee on Financial Action (NOCFCA) provides strategic oversight and leadership to combat financial crimes and uphold international standards, ensuring the security and resilience of Antigua and Barbuda's financial system.



NATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL ACTION (NOCFCA)

than a compliance exercise; it is a proactive strategy to safeguard Antigua and Barbuda's financial system. Through collaboration and shared responsibility, we can build a framework that supports sustainable national growth and meets global standards." The inaugural workshop,

ers to risk assessment methodologies and fostered collaboration across sectors. This session marked a pivotal step in building a robust, data-driven national strategy. The success of the NRA depends on active participation from competent authorities, private sector partners, and



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UWI FIC hails successful ‘Open House’ event



Hundreds of secondary school students and others interested in pursuing high education attended the ‘Open House’ event organized by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus on Tuesday. The University’s Student Recruitment and Retention Manager, Adeola Matthew said the event was geared specifically at students from third form upwards in secondary schools, working adults seeking to upskill themselves, or other persons in the community wishing to attain tertiary level education. “We invited students, adult learners and others to come in and learn of our offerings



here at the UWI FIC. We know that the purpose of a university is to provide access so we want to ensure that anyone who wants to know anything about our programmes, has an oppor-

tunity to come in and hear from us,” She remarked. Several vendors used the opportunity to participate in the Open House and it provided a captive market to promote their individual

products. “We have vendors from the banks, insurance companies, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, and others. Some are here to share their financial offerings that may be of interest to the attendees. We want it to be a comprehensive experience for the attendees so that when they decide what they wish to pursue then they will also be able to determine financial options to pursue those goals,” she stated. Currently, there are approximately eleven hundred (1100) students attending the university and Matthew said the goal is to increase that number to 1600 shortly.

Christmas lighting competition winners receive prize monies

Winners in the 2024 Home and Business Christmas Lighting competition were presented with their prize monies at a presentation ceremony held on Tuesday.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Creative Industries, Senator Shenella Govia noted that while the competition ended just a few weeks ago, the ministry has been able to be in a position to pay out prize monies to winners.

She said this is a commitment made by the government through the ministry and she is happy to be associated with the efforts to ensure timely payments of prize monies.

Sen Govia described the competition as ‘a wonderful display of creativity’ noting that it helps to spread the spirit of Christmas within the community. “We recognize that the prize monies represent but a token of the efforts and time that the participants placed in their respective presentations. Accept this (the prize money) as a token of our appreciation of your contributions; it is in no way an attempt to diminish what it is that you bring to the competition,” she noted.

Govia also urged more residents and business places to enter the competition this year as the organisers seek to make the competi-



tion a much bigger event. During the ceremony... attendees observed a moment of silence for the late

Gerard Shoul who passed away recently while on an overseas trip. He had placed second in the North Zone. His wife accepted

the prize money on his behalf. His brother, Jean-Pierre Shoul won in that category.

CHI appeals for family members to claim bodies stored at local funeral home

Press Release from the Office of the Chief Health Inspector

The office of the Chief Health Inspector is posting for public knowledge the following names of deceased bodies and dates of their passing, who are currently kept in storage at Barnes Funeral Home.

Family member(s) can contact Ms. Jessica Barnes, Managing

Director of Barnes Funeral Home, Lower Newgate Street, at 462-1037 to arrange for private burial.

Names of the deceased:

1. Curtis Fenton – Date of death 28th December, 2023
2. Errol Gonsalves – Date of death 8th December, 2024
3. Yolanda Pigott – Date of death 28th December, 2023
4. Dale Lenworth Roach – Date of death 5th May, 2024

Failure to arrange a private burial within fourteen (14) days of the appearance of this advertisement, will result in the government taking the appropriate action to have the deceased bodies interred at a Public Cemetery without any further notice.

Legal action after burial would not be an option.

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Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua & Barbuda

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NEW YEAR'S GREETING 2025

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." **1 Kings 18:12**

The decisions and resolutions we make at the start of this new year precludes our attitudes, words and actions. Jesus said, "*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*" (Matthew 12:34). In other words, our attitudes and actions reflect the core of our being – who we really are. Every genuine believer desires to sacrificially follow God; but it is often our naiveté or lack of preparedness that pushes us to the sideline of mediocracy and despondency. Our hope is that the church in Antigua and Barbuda continues to fulfil its divine mandate through its varied denominational and organizational affiliations with an effort for national impact under the umbrella of the Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua and Barbuda. The Ecclesiastical Commission is that Cabinet-appointed body which works in concern with our major Christian groupings to include; the Antigua Christian Council, the Antigua and Barbuda Evangelical Alliance, the Association of Independent Churches, the Southern Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Baptists, all of which are equally represented on the Commission's Executive.

The Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission is governed by its TERMS OF REFERENCE, a concise set of guidelines which governs its structure and scope. The function of the Ecclesiastical Commission focuses on four particular areas on the moral and religious life of our nation:

- 1) National Independence Thanksgiving Church Service
- 2) National Family Month
- 3) National Day of Prayer
- 4) National Representation of the Church Relative to Government Services to advocate for morals and justice.

The Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua and Barbuda is neither the church nor a department of Government. The Commission represents the church to the government and informs the government on matters relevant to the wellbeing of the Christian community. The Ecclesiastical Commission is A-political.

NATIONAL PLANNED EVENTS FOR YEAR 2025

1. Annual National Day-of-Prayer

The call to national prayer spans two events. (1) Prayer at the start of the 2025 hurricane season (June 1st to November 30th), for which the Commission has nominated Thursday 5th June 2025 (first Thursday in June) to coincide with the Antigua Christian Council's prayer services for the protection of our nation. (2) The second Annual National Day of Prayer and March, tentatively scheduled for Thursday 11th September 2025.

2. Family Month

In keeping with the tradition of May as Family Month, the Ecclesiastical Commission will host a Panel Discussion in its collaborative effort to address those family matters that continue to challenge our traditional biblical family values. During the month of May, all public schools (primary and secondary) will be assigned a pastor, minister or chaplain with a biblical message on the benefits of strong families. A schools' debate relevant to our present gender issues is highly anticipated. The Commission's intent is to engage the expertise from within the church; qualified and experienced Christian Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Family practitioners to form a panel that will help us identify our problems, and offer practical solutions for nation's family concerns.

3. National Independence Thanksgiving Church Service

Our national independence celebrations are a pivotal point of reflection and projection each year. This year, 2025 we celebrate forty-four years of political independence from Great Britain. A national independence thanksgiving church service is the highlight of our celebrations in which we thank God for past mercies and seek His guidance for the future. The Ecclesiastical Commission works with all Christian denominations and churches to make our gathering a meaningful time of worship. This year, we have pledged to work insidiously to encourage our government to mandate the curtailment of certain activities during those reflective hours, but also to foster a greater presence of pastors and their parishioners. One of our great ambitions for 2025 is the formulation of a one-hundred-member interdenominational choir. This will be an incentive to enhance greater attendance. It is also our goal that wherever the venue that it be filled to capacity.

4. Conclusion

January month has concluded even as we bring you this greeting. The Office of the Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua and Barbuda is focused in its work to develop a greater synergy between our denominations and churches. Our goal is to speak with one voice as we address and speak to those issues that impact us as a religious community. We covet your prayers for wisdom and godly decision-making as we serve you - the church in Antigua and Barbuda.

On behalf of the Executive:

Rev. Dr. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith, Antigua Christian Council ■ Rev. Michael Aubrey, Antigua and Barbuda Evangelical Alliance ■ Elder Joseph Williams, Association of Independent Churches ■ Dr. Carson L. Greene, South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventist ■ Rev. Dr. Carlston E. Christie, Member Emeritus ■ Ms. Jermaine P. Lewis, Secretary ■ Rev. Dr. Emanuel Elizée, Chairman, yours truly,

Accounting firm donates computers to Police Department



Auratus Consulting Ltd has announced the donation of five laptops and five desktop computers to the Professional Standards Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

This initiative, aimed at enhancing the department's technological capabilities, was strongly supported by Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney and his team, reflecting a shared commitment to improving efficiency and service within the force.

“When approached by the Professional Standards Department seeking assistance in upgrading their technology, we were honored to contribute. Our support underscores our dedication to fostering innovation and operational excellence across critical sectors in our country,” the company said in a media release.

Auratus Consulting Ltd, a leading HR and payroll



company, is committed to enhancing the nation's efficiency by providing updated technology to organizations in need. These contributions empower teams with tools for better case management, streamlined communication, and bolstered public safety efforts.

“We're honored to support our local police force with the tools they need to serve our community effectively,” said the General Manager of Auratus Con-

sulting Ltd, Nigel Pigott. “This donation reflects our ongoing dedication to making a positive impact where we live and work.

“At Auratus Consulting Ltd, we believe in the transformative power of technology to create safer, more connected communities. We look forward to continuing partnerships that make a meaningful difference for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.”

Meanwhile, Auratus Consulting has announced that it is also making a

donation to the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle Cell Association. It said the donation is testimony of its commitment to help those in need.

“We are proud to support the Sickle Cell Association, founded by Nurse B. Pigott, an organization dedicated to raising awareness, advancing research, and providing critical support to individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease.

“This contribution is more than just a financial gesture—it's a reflection of our commitment to standing alongside the sickle cell community in their journey toward better health and brighter futures. The funds will go toward programs that provide essential education, improve healthcare access, and offer emotional support to those navigating the challenges of this genetic blood disorder,” the company stated.

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Regional News



Vybz Kartel to know visa fate Friday



Dancehall superstar, Adidja "Vybz Kartel" Palmer

Dancehall superstar, Adidja "Vybz Kartel" Palmer will know by Friday, whether he will receive the green light to enter the United States of America (US) again for the first time in more than 20 years.

A well-placed source in Palmer's camp told Observer Online on Tuesday morning that the artiste, who is nominated for the Grammy's in the Reggae category, along with his team are keeping their fingers crossed that he will once again have physical access to the US. Vybz Kartel has high hopes of making an appearance at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards, which will take place on Sunday, February 2 at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California. The entertainer was nominated for Best Reggae Album for his EP Party With Me.

There was widespread speculation on Monday that the entertainer was granted a US visa after he was spotted at the US Embassy in Kingston. Subsequently, Palmer posted a video of

himself smiling from ear to ear on his social media pages on Monday, telling his followers and fans that God is the greatest and that faith can move mountains. Palmer also said that "team work make the dream work".

"Never forget that in all things, you have to put God first and do good. Believe weh mi a seh. Wah this under mi nose? A mouth," Palmer said, ending with his very popular slang. However, according to the Observer source, he is not yet in possession of a US visa.

"Everyone is speculating including him, because he doesn't have it in hand yet and they haven't told him point blank that he got it. We are hoping for the best though. When he submitted the documents yesterday they said he will know by Friday. They said he can collect his passport on Friday.

"The type of visa he applied for is not a

visitor's visa. It is a special visa given to entertainers that will allow him to work. After the Grammy's he would be able to perform at shows without issues. As a matter of fact, this type of visa is easier for him to get than the visitor's visa," the source shared.

The source explained that Palmer had problems returning to the US due to a belief that his marriage in 2006 to then New York bank manager, Stacy Elliot, was not legitimate but according to the source, the relationship was very much authentic.

"It has been more than 20 years since he has been in the US. The marriage he had was what caused the problem. There was a belief that it wasn't legitimate but it was very much real," the source said.

Palmer and Elliott later divorced. (*Jamaica Observer*)



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Caribbean Airlines plane makes emergency landing after suffering engine failure

A Caribbean Airlines (CAL) ATR 72-600 plane flying from Tobago to Trinidad was forced to make an emergency landing on Monday night after passengers were instructed to assume the crash position after the pilot had declared an emergency.

In a statement, CAL said that BW Flight 1451, which left the Crown Point Airport at Tobago at 9:31 p.m. (local time), had “declared an emergency landing” and arrived safely at the Piarco International Airport 34 minutes later.

“All the required operational procedures are being followed regarding passengers and crew,” the airline said.



There were 68 passengers and four crew members were on-board.

CAL said that the aircraft had been taken out of service “to facilitate inspection” amid reports that the emergency was due to an engine failure.

In a video captured by a passenger aboard the twin turboprop aircraft, the cabin

crew can be heard repeatedly calling on passengers to “brace” and to keep their heads down and hands overhead as the plane descended into Trinidad.

The cries of children could also be heard. No reason has been given for the emergency landing being declared, but media reports said that last Wednesday, a similar aircraft was being inspected by the crew at the ANR Robinson International Airport in Tobago when it was discovered that one of the wheels on the front landing gear was missing.

That plane was taken out of service. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

State of Public Emergency declared in St Catherine North Police Division

A State of Public Emergency (SOE) has been declared in the St Catherine North Police Division as tension continues to build in Spanish Town and surrounding communities due to last week’s fatal shooting of the reputed leader of the One Order Gang.

Othneil Lobban otherwise called ‘Thickman’ was reportedly shot and killed by members of the Joint Anti-Gang Task Force (JAGTF) at Six Miles in St Andrew about 10:30 pm last Wednesday.

His killing immediately triggered an uproar in sections of Spanish Town, with residents blocking roads with tyres and other debris and setting them

ablaze. A curfew was implemented in Ellerslie Pen and Tawes Meadows communities shortly after the incident.

However, security forces have since requested further intervention to address the escalating threat to public safety and prevent further destabilisation. As a result, the community is now being placed under a State of Public Emergency effective Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

The boundaries of the SOE are defined as follows:

EAST: Starting in the vicinity of Windsor Castle and Carron Hall and extending south-easterly along the common boundary for the parishes of St

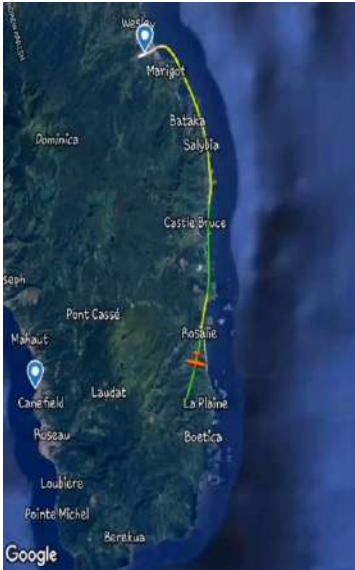
Catherine, St Mary, and then St Andrew to Rock Hall;

SOUTH: Thence generally in a south-westerly direction for approximately 33 kilometres at a bearing of approximately 219 degrees to where the communities of Cromarty, Bushy Park and Old Harbour Road meet. Continuing in a northerly direction for approximately five kilometres to the PJ Patterson Highway. Thence extending generally in a north-westerly direction for approximately 19 kilometres at a bearing of approximately 307 degrees to where the communities of Old Harbour, Rock River and Bellas Gate meet;

WEST: Continuing in a northerly direction along the common boundary between the parishes of St Catherine and Clarendon to where the parish boundaries of Clarendon, St Catherine and St Ann meet; and **NORTH:** Thence generally easterly along the shared boundary of the parishes of St Catherine, St Ann and then St Mary, back to the starting point.

The commissioner of police and the chief of defence staff are appealing to the public for their full cooperation as the security forces intensify their operations and protect the lives and livelihoods of all law-abiding residents. (*Jamaica Observer*)

Dominica: Wreckage of missing aircraft located, no sign of life



At 2:50pm today, a French civil security helicopter, deployed to assist Dominican authorities in the search for a missing aircraft, located the wreckage approximately 3 kilometers west of La Plaine.

The aircraft has been missing since Sunday. The wreckage was found in a steep, difficult-to-access area on the mountainside. Unfortunately, there were no signs of life near the crash site.

Dominican rescue operations commanders are currently coordinating with French teams on the ground to assess the situation and plan the next steps.

State services in Martinique are also on standby to provide additional reinforcements, working closely with Dominican authorities. The 4-seater Cessna 172 left Douglas-Charles airport just before 4pm on Sunday en route to Martinique when communication was lost with it in the vicinity of the south-

eastern community of La Plaine.

The owner of the aircraft who told French radio that the aircraft was “well equipped,” said he believed that adverse weather conditions in Dominica may have contributed to the crash.

Dominica experienced heavy rains and high winds over the week-

end.

More details about the four persons aboard the aircraft suggest that the pilot, a 20-year-old male was accompanied by a second pilot, his cousin, and a friend, all of them Martinicans. Search and rescue operations will continue into Tuesday. (*Loop Caribbean*)




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Nigerian extradited to US to face charges over nude photo that led to teen's death

A Nigerian man has been extradited to the US and charged with causing the death of a South Carolina teen who took his own life after the suspect posed as a woman and tried to extort the teen after he sent nude photos, prosecutors say.

The teenager was the son of South Carolina Representative Brandon Guffey, who pushed through a state law making sextortion a felony and has been a vocal critic of how social media companies fail to protect minors from sexual exploitation and attacks online.

In a courtroom in Columbia on Monday, Guffey got to face 24-year-old Hassanbun-hussein Abolore Lawal, who was brought to the US from Nigeria on Saturday.

Guffey held a picture of his son and wore a button for the foundation he created to stop both online sexual exploitation and help teens who are victimized to understand it's a mistake and not something to be condemned over.

"I can't save Gavin. But I can hope to save other kids and not let that light be extinguished," Guffey said at a news conference after Law-

al's initial court appearance.

Nigerian extradited to US to face charges over nude photo that led to teen's death

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condemned over.

"I can't save Gavin. But I can hope to save other kids and not let that light be extinguished," Guffey said at a news conference after Lawal's initial court appearance.

Lawal is charged with child exploitation resulting in death. He faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted. Nigeria would only extradite Lawal if the US didn't seek the death penalty.

He also is charged with the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material, coercion and enticement of a minor, cyberstalking resulting in death, and interstate threats with intent to extort.

Lawal was assigned a public defender who did not respond to an email Monday seeking comment.

Lawal's appearance in a US courtroom was the culmination of more than two years of investigation and negotiations after Guffey found his son dead after breaking down the door of a bathroom less than two hours after a scammer first reached out to him on Instagram, according to the FBI.

The FBI said in court papers that the scam-

mer, posing as a female college volleyball player, connected with the teen on Instagram and encouraged him to send risqué photos. He then demanded money and said the \$25 the teen sent online wasn't enough to stop him from posting the nude pictures online and they needed \$100, the court documents added.

The teen told the scammer he could get \$25 more in a few days, according to the court documents. Prosecutors said that as the threats to ruin his life continued, the teen said he'd rather die than deal with the extortion and that he had a gun in his lap. The threats didn't stop, an FBI agent said in a sworn statement.

Even after the teen's death, Lawal continued to message the family, authorities said. Guffey was running his successful campaign for a South Carolina House seat at the time and Lawal threatened to release his son's photos, the FBI said, adding a sting ultimately led to identifying Lawal in the case. The agency said an agent questioned him in Nigeria and an arrest warrant was issued in August 2023. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Trump White House orders federal aid freeze, triggering row



A radical White House freeze on potentially trillions of dollars in US government spending including on grants and loans was due to take effect Tuesday, sparking accusations that President Donald Trump is violating the constitution.

The order from the White House budget office, issued a week after Trump began his second term, threatens to disrupt hundreds of billions of dollars in funding for everything from local governments to education and small business loans.

It was not clear in the memo, issued Monday by acting director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Matthew Vaeth, how such a pause on disbursements of funding will work or for how long.

The extraordinary measure follows a similar announcement that US foreign aid is also frozen.

Trump won the presidency in part on promises to dismantle large sections of the US government and to slash spending. He has made clear he intends to review all federal programs — and many of the employees — to check that they meet his political

goals.

The budget office memo said “this temporary pause will provide the Administration time to review agency programs and determine the best uses of the funding for those programs consistent with the law and the President’s priorities.”

However, it remained unclear whether the president has authority to halt spending approved by Congress, which under the constitution holds power over the US budget.

Democrats immediately accused Trump of a power grab and of putting swaths of the country, which is reliant on federal funds, at risk. *(Jamaica Observer)*

**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
St. John’s
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**

Serbia's PM Milos Vucevic resigns as protests raise political pressure



Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucevic has announced his resignation amid large protests against corruption

and President Aleksandar Vucic.

Vucevic said at a news conference on Tuesday that he had decided to step down to reduce tensions. Student-led demonstrations have been taking place since the deadly collapse of a train station canopy in the northern city of Novi Sad in November.

The prime minister's announcement came as protesters ended a 24-hour blockade at a major intersection in the capital, Belgrade. The previous evening, with political pressure

rising, Vucic hinted that he was ready to drop his hard-line approach to the demonstrations and negotiate.

"To avoid further complicating things, so we do not further raise tensions in society, I made this decision," Vucevic said on Tuesday.

Vucevic, who was mayor of Novi Sad in 2022 when the reconstruction of the station was launched by a Chinese firm, added that the immediate cause for his resignation was an attack on a female student in Novi Sad early on Tuesday by assailants allegedly from Vucic's

ruling Serbian Progressive Party.

"Whenever it seems there is hope to return to social dialogue, to talk, ... it's like an invisible hand creates a new incident, and tensions mount again."

He also said the present mayor of Novi Sad, Serbia's second largest city, will also resign.

The 50-year-old became prime minister in April after the Serbian Progressive Party won the most votes in elections marred by tensions. (*Al Jazeera English*)

Passenger plane catches fire at South Korean airport. All 176 people on board are evacuated

A passenger plane caught fire before takeoff at an airport in South Korea late Tuesday, but all 176 people on board were safely evacuated, authorities said.

The Airbus plane operated by South Korean airline Air Busan was preparing to leave for Hong Kong when its rear parts caught fire at Gimhae International Airport in the southeast, the Transport Ministry said in a statement.

All of the plane's 169 passengers, six crewmembers and one engineer were evacuated using an escape slide, the ministry statement said.

The National Fire Agency said in a release that three people suffered minor injuries during the evacuation. The fire agency said the fire was completely put out at 11:31 p.m., about one hour after it deployed firefighters and fire trucks at the scene.



The cause of the fire wasn't immediately known. The Transport Ministry said the plane is an A321 model.

Tuesday's incident came a month after a Jeju Air passenger plane

crashed at Muan International Airport in southern South Korea, killing all but two of the 181 people on board. It was one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history. (*Associated Press*)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Sir McChesney George Secondary among winners in school basketball



The Sir McChesney George Secondary team that is contesting the junior boys division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

The Sir McChesney George Secondary on the sister isle, Barbuda, was among the winners in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Monday.

Sir McChesney George Secondary launched their campaign in the Junior Boys Division with an impressive 42-27 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School at the JSC Sports Complex.

Eli Harris produced 17 points and Kye Gordon

sank 12 points for Sir McChesney George Secondary, while Yohan Nicholas converted 17 points for St. Mary's Secondary School.

Clare Hall Secondary also made a successful start to their campaign in the Miniboy's Secondary Division.

Rahique Richardson and Jajuan Lee each scored four points to allow Clare Hall Secondary to snatch a narrow 13-10 victory against All Saints Secondary.

Princess Margaret School won their opening match in the Senior Girls category. Princess Margaret School prevailed 30-21 against Christ the King High School in a keenly contested senior girls encounter.

Lena Mills shot a game-high 14 points, and Kayla Elvin converted 12 points for Princess Margaret School, while Jodaliah Constant scored 13 points for Christ the King High School.

The biggest margin of victory on Monday was achieved by the Antigua Grammar School in the senior boys' division.

Antigua Grammar School opened their campaign with a commanding 62-16 victory against Island Academy.

Raheem Sawyer sank 16 points for Antigua Grammar School and Alexander Fuller scored nine points for Island Academy.

Success for AGHS in schools' netball championship

The Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) had multiple successes in the Ministry of Sports, Cool & Smooth Schools' Netball Competition on Monday.

The two teams of the Antigua Girls High School both recorded wins in the opening round of matches in the 13 and Under Secondary Division at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The AGHS-1 coasted to a 6-0 victory against the All Saints Secondary School, while the AGHS-2 notched up a 7-0 victory against the Clare Hall Secondary School.

The Princess Margaret School also launched their

campaign with a 3-1 victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

The Antigua Girls High School, which also has two teams contesting the 16 and Under Division, also enjoyed success in the opening round of matches in that competition on Monday.

The AGHS-1 pulled off a 6-2 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary in their opening encounter.

Princess Margaret School claimed an 8-2 victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy, and Clare Hall Secondary prevailed 6-4 against Jennings Secondary School.

The opening round of matches in the Under-13 Primary Division and the Under-13 Primary Development Division also got underway.

In the Under-13 Primary Division, St. Andrew's Primary won 3-0 against Buckley's Primary-1, Sunnydale Primary romped to a 5-0 victory against Jennings Primary, and JT Ambrose Primary won by default against Pares Primary School.

In the Under-13 Primary Development Division, Greenbay Primary snatched a 5-2 victory against Golden Grove Primary, Potters Primary defeated Freeman's Ville Primary 5-0, and Buck-

ley's Primary-2 prevailed 2-0 against Sea View Farm Primary School.

The 2025 Ministry of Sports, Cool & Smooth Schools' Netball Competition commenced with an opening ceremony at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday, January 22.

The schools came out in their numbers despite the rainy weather for a successful opening and March Past.

Matches will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Windies Women win first T20I against Bangladesh

Deandra Dottin and captain Hayley Matthews delivered dazzling performances to power West Indies women to a dominant eight-wicket victory over Bangladesh Women in the opening T20I at Warner Park on Monday evening.

Dottin showcased her trademark power-hitting as she blasted an unbeaten 51 off just 22 balls, including seven towering sixes.

Matthews, steady and composed, anchored the innings with an unbeaten 60 off 54 deliveries as the home side chased down Bangladesh's 144 for three in emphatic style. They finished on 145 for two in 16.5 overs.

The chase began with Matthews and opener Qiana Joseph putting on a 63-run first-wicket stand. Joseph contributed a brisk 29 from 21 balls before she went caught by Sharmin Akter off Fahima Khatun in the eighth over.



West Indies women's team captain Hayley Matthews bats against Bangladesh women during the first T20 International at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Monday, January 27, 2025. (CWI Media)

Shemaine Campbelle (three) followed soon after, as she became Khatun's second scalp to leave West Indies at 73 for two in the 11th over.

However, Bangladesh's hope for a collapse would not materialise as Dottin entered the fray and transformed the match into a spectacle. She unleashed her fireworks in the 13th over when she hammered Rabeya Khan for three massive sixes

in an over that yielded 20 runs.

The carnage continued as Dottin slog-swept Shorna Akter for another six, after which she dispatched Khatun and Fariha Islam for more towering blows. Her final two sixes off Islam brought up her half-century in just 21 balls with West Indies on the brink of victory.

Matthews fittingly sealed the win in the 17th over when she drove Sultana

Khatun to deep midwicket for a single. Her 16th T20I half-century, which featured seven boundaries, provided the perfect foil to Dottin's blitz.

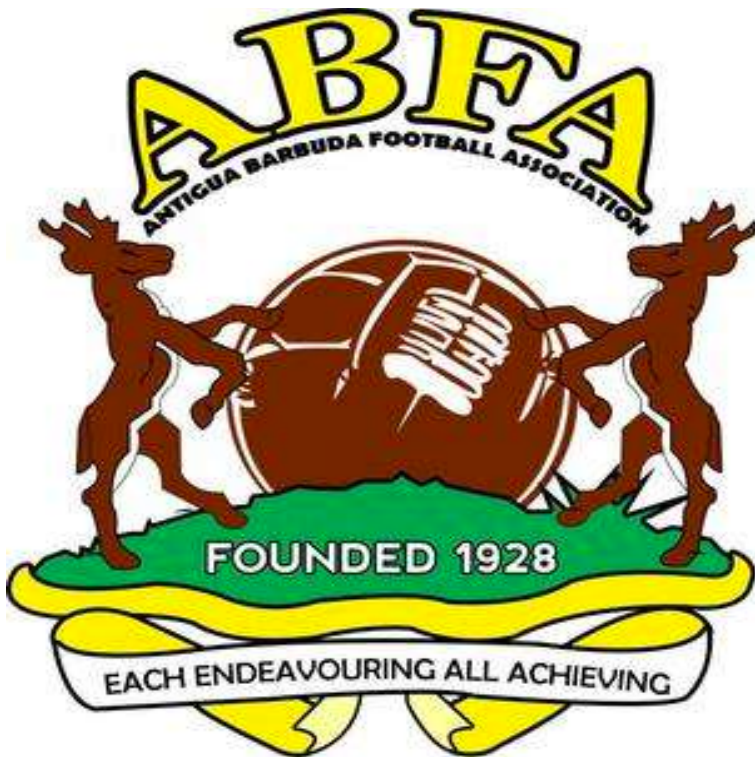
Earlier, disciplined bowling by the West Indies restricted Bangladesh to 144 for three, despite a late surge that saw the visitors add 52 runs in the final five overs.

Captain Nigar Sultana Joty led the charge with an unbeaten 53 off 40 balls, laced with five fours and two sixes. She received support from Sharmin Akter, who scored 37 off 41 balls, and Sobhana Mostary, who chipped in with 22 off 21 balls.

The victory gives West Indies Women a 1-0 lead in the series and sets the tone for the remaining matches, scheduled for Wednesday (today) and Friday at the same venue.

Sports News

Rangers go three points clear atop First Division League



The Ottos Rangers have opened up a three-point gap over second place SAP FC during the latest round of matches to consolidate their position at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Ottos Rangers snatched a 2-1 victory against the Freeman's Village Scorpions at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos on Monday.

Josue "Naymar" Arias scored in the first minute to put Rangers ahead, and Millique London equalized for

the Scorpions with a 27th-minute conversion as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

Manuel Emilo Arias snatched the winner for the Ottos Rangers with a conversion in the 87th minute.

Their eighth win in 11 matches allows the Ottos Rangers to strengthen their position at the top of the First Division by advancing to 24 points, three ahead of SAP FC, who remain in second place after playing 12 games.

The Freeman's

Village Scorpions remain in third place on 23 points after suffering their third defeat in 12 matches.

Both goals came in the first half as Swetes FC and Bolans FC fought to a 1-1 draw at the Bolans playing field.

Joel Martin's 19th-minute conversion gave Bolans the lead, but Swetes equalized when his teammate Kerry Aaron scored an own goal in the 29th minute.

Their third draw in 10 matches allows Swetes FC to join Jennings United in fourth place with 21 points. However, Jennings United has played nine matches.

Bolans will remain in seventh place by advancing to 16 points after securing their fourth draw in 12 matches.

Lion Hill FC and Tryum FC also played to a 1-1 draw at the Golden Grove playing field.

Silence Manyaka scored in the 37th

minute to give Tryum a one-nil halftime lead. Oniel Browne scored a late equalizer in the 83rd minute for Lion Hill to salvage a draw.

The result allows Tryum FC to move on to 13 points after recording their first draw in 10 matches, while Lion Hill remains third from the bottom of the standings by advancing to seven points after securing their fourth draw in 11 encounters.

Alva Guishard scored both goals as Bendals claimed their third win in 12 matches with a 2-0 victory against the Liberta Blackhawks at the Bendals playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Guishard scored in the 47th and 49th minutes to secure victory for Bendals, who advanced to 13 points from 12 matches.

The Liberta Blackhawks remain second from the bottom of the standings on three points after suffering their 10th loss in 11 encounters.

Windies crash out of ICC U/19 Women's T20 World Cup



Bangladesh Nishita Akter Nishi, left celebrates with teammates after bowling Jahzara Claxton of the West Indies during their match in the Super Six stage of the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. (ICC/Getty Images)

The West Indies closed out their International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup campaign just as they began it—with a loss—as they suffered a 10-wicket defeat to Bangladesh in their final Super Six encounter in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Rain delayed the start of the match, which was reduced to 13 overs per side, but Bangladesh's disciplined bowling display restricted the West Indies batting line up to a meagre 54 for six and set the stage for a straightforward run chase.

Bangladesh openers Fahomida Choya and Juairiya

Ferdous ensured there were no hiccups, as they comfortably overhauled the modest target of 55 in just under nine overs.

Despite the convincing victory, Bangladesh finished third in Super Six Group One, missing out on a semi-final berth, as India and Australia advanced instead.

The West Indies batters were stifled from the outset as Bangladesh's bowlers only allowed a mere 12 runs in the four-over powerplay. Nishita Akter Nishi was the chief architect of the collapse, with three wickets for 11 runs.

She removed captain Samara Ramnath for a

duck, Asabi Callendar for 11, and Jahzara Claxton, also for a duck, in quick succession.

Anisa Akter Soba also played a key role, with two wickets for eight runs, including the vital wicket of Brianna Harricharan (three.)

Jannatul Maoua chipped in with a wicket as well, as she dismissed Najjanni Cumberbatch, who made 13.

Amrita Ramtahal offered some resistance at the backend of the innings with an unbeaten 16.

Bangladesh's openers Fahomida Choya and Juairiya Ferdous exploited some sloppy West Indies

fielding early on to take 11 runs from the opening over and from there, made light work of the target. Both batters found the boundary with ease and maintained control throughout the chase.

Despite some tighter bowling midway through the innings, the West Indies could not find a breakthrough, as Ferdous and Choya were unbeaten on 25 and 14, respectively. The other 16 runs were extras.

The defeat caps a disappointing campaign for the West Indies, who struggled for consistency throughout the tournament, while Bangladesh departs with their heads held high.

LI Hurricanes name squad to start West Indies Four-Day Championship

The Leeward Islands (LI) Hurricanes have named a 13-man squad for their opening match in the West Indies Four-Day Championship.

The Leeward Islands will clash with the West Indies Academy at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua in one of four opening round matches that will take place across the region from Wednesday (today) to Saturday, February 1.

All-rounder Rahkeem “Jimbo” Cornwall will skipper the Hurricanes, with fellow Antiguan leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. serving as his vice-captain.

The squad features an exciting blend of experience and youth, including Antiguan and young West Indies batting sensation Jewel Andrew and Anguillan wicketkeeper/batsman Jahmar Hamilton.

Antiguan all-rounders Kadeem Henry and Karima Gore are also included in the squad.

The LI Hurricanes meeting with the West Indies Academy on Wednesday comes after both sides met in a practice match at Ball Beef in Liberta last week.



Rahkeem ‘Jimbo’ Cornwall

Both sides, who are based in Antigua, used the recent practice match to finalize their preparations for the regional four-day competition that will once again involve eight teams like last year.

In the other opening round matches, starting on Wednesday, defending champions Guyana Harpy Eagles will host the Barbados Pride at Providence in Guyana.

The Trinidad & Tobago Red Force and the Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC) will clash in a day/night pink ball encounter at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad, and the Windward Islands Volcanoes will face the Jamai-



Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr.

ca Scorpions at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent.

Both the West Indies Academy and the Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC) have retained their places as permanent fixtures in the championship following their impressive debut season last year.

The Guyana Harpy Eagles won last year’s competition to earn their seventh crown in nine years after heading into the final round with three other teams within touching distance of the title.

There will be several innovations in the upcoming edition of the West Indies Four-Day Championship, including the return of first

innings points in drawn matches, the use of Kookaburra balls for two rounds, and at least one pink ball day/night fixture per team.

Teams will be battling for the prestigious Headley Weekes Trophy and an attractive prize purse of US\$250,000 for the champions and US\$100,000 for the runners-up.

Full Leeward Islands Hurricane Squad: Rahkeem Cornwall (captain), Hayden Walsh Jr. (vice-captain), Kadeem Henry, Joshua Grant, Shelton Forbes, Karima Gore, Jewel Andrew, Jahmar Hamilton, Jeremiah Louis, Colin Archibald, Chamiqueko Landefort, Daniel Doram, and Cameron Pennyfeather.