

Clarevue Psychiatrist sent on administrative leave

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Ultimate Winners!



Coolidge Fire Station staved off competition to lift the trophy as winners of the 2025 Malcolm Nicholas Cup. The annual competition forms part of the schedule of activities in observance of Police Week. [Photo Credit: Wayne Mariette]

Psychiatrist sent on leave for defying instructions



Dr. Griffin Benjamin

Allegations of defiance on the part of the head of Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital have resulted in Dr. Griffin Benjamin being sent on administrative leave.

A source has confirmed that the Dominican psychiatrist has refused to comply with instructions given to him and as such, was sent home on paid leave.

According to reports, Dr.

Griffin Benjamin was instructed, allegedly by the Chief Medical Officer, to submit a report on a recent incident at Clarevue, involving an American medical student who was admitted briefly to the hospital and whose relatives are angry over the treatment that was meted out to her.

On 2nd September, 2025, the Ministry of Health announced the launch of an

investigation into explosive claims by a medical student of mistreatment at Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital.

The woman, a qualified nurse, is a student of American University of Antigua. She reportedly suffered a panic episode, which resulted in her confinement at Clarevue on 15th August, 2025. In a report submitted to the authorities, including the Ministry of Health and

the United States Embassy, the woman's husband claimed that though stabilised, she remained confined until 27th August, 2025, in what is being described as inhumane conditions.

The report allegedly detailed among other things, illegal detention, denial of food and water for extended periods and demand for payment before she left the island, with alleged threats to block her departure if payment was not made.

The report by the woman's husband allegedly called for an investigation into the matter and for those who are culpable to face disciplinary action.

It is unclear how long the administrative leave will last and what further actions, if any, will be taken against Dr. Griffin Benjamin.

The Dominican medical practitioner joined Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital sometime around mid-2024 and filled a vacancy that was created by the departure of Dr. James King.



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Gov't officially announces hosting of CHOGM



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs has officially announced its hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2026

in making the announcement, E.P. Chet Greene, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs said, *"The hosting of CHOGM 2026 is a profound honour for Antigua and Barbuda and a testament to the Commonwealth's confidence in our nation's ability to host this global gathering. CHOGM 2026 represents a proud moment for the Commonwealth family as a whole."*

In accordance with established practice, the Commonwealth Secretariat will, in due course, make the official announcement of the precise dates of the meeting.

CHOGM 2026 will represent one of the most significant and influential gatherings ever to be held in the Eastern Caribbean. Leaders from across the Commonwealth's 56 member states will assemble to deliberate on matters of global concern, with particular attention to issues of climate resilience, trade, sustainable development, and the special circumstances of small states.

The draft programme will include:

- The Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Small States;
- Youth, Women's, People's, and Business Forums;

- Leaders' Executive Sessions and Retreats;
- Cultural activities, including a CHOGM Concert.

As part of national preparations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will shortly launch a national competition for the design of the official emblem for CHOGM 2026. The selected design will serve as the internationally recognised logo of the meeting, and the successful entrant will be awarded a prize of EC\$5,000.00.

To ensure effective coordination, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has established a National Task Force, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim. The Task Force will report to Cabinet via the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



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Local News

PM Browne presses for political will in calls for reparations



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made a fresh appeal for reparations on behalf of the descendants of enslaved Africans.

Addressing the 2nd Africa-Caribbean Summit in the Ethiopian Capital, Addis Ababa, on Sunday, the Antiguan and Barbudan head of government said the sustained calls are being carried out in the name of justice.

“This is not about race, creed, or division it is about justice. The wealth of the Global North was built on the backs of enslaved Africans and their descendants.

“Reparations must there-

fore be rooted in acknowledgment and apology, but extend beyond words to include investments in education, health, technology, climate resilience, and cultural renewal. Reparations are not a plea for pity. They are a demand for fairness, for correcting historic imbalances in finance, trade, and governance. They are the foundation of justice upon which we must build our future.”

While the calls being made echo globally, Prime Minister Browne maintained that further action is necessary,

noting there must be political will, which he admits is an even greater challenge.

“Too often, we have allowed hesitation to paralyze action. Too often, eloquence in speeches has not been matched by courage in deeds. Let this Summit be remembered as the moment we turned the tide when Africa and the Caribbean chose unity over fragmentation, action over inertia, and courage over complacency,” the prime minister told the summit.

Mr. Browne highlighted the urgent need for strengthened relations between the Carib-

bean and the African Continent in the areas of Trade and Investment, Youth and Education and Connectivity. The latter he described as “Africa and the Caribbean’s most urgent priority”.

“Without air and sea bridges, our vision will remain little more than words. Connectivity is the glue that binds partnership into reality. Today, Africa has the strategic assets: Air Peace, Ghana Air and Ethiopian Airlines. The Caribbean has the will. Let us not delay further. Even one weekly flight can begin the process.”

He added, “If it requires subsidies from a coalition of our states, let us boldly make that investment. The cost of inaction is far higher than the price of a subsidized route. That single flight will carry not only passengers but the promise of expanded trade, cultural exchange, tourism, and investment. It will link families divided by history and reconnect communities across the Atlantic. It will symbolize our determination to move beyond rhetoric to concrete action.

If a coalition of states must subsidize it, let us do so”.


 An advertisement for Curry House restaurant. It features a collage of various Indian dishes in bowls. The text "Curry House" is written in a large, stylized red font. Below it, "ANTIGUA" is written in a smaller red font. To the right, it says "Open Daily - 12:00pm - 10:30pm". At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, along with the phone number (268) 736-7165.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

School of Agriculture will begin with short courses



The former Glanvilles Secondary School Plant

While the overall aim for the proposed School of Agriculture is for it to become a degree-granting institution, it may be some time before that goal is achieved.

The former Glanvilles Secondary

School plant has been identified as the location where the school of agriculture will be domiciled.

Once operational, the institution will be part of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (AB-

CAS) and will offer subjects such as Animal Husbandry and Plant Science, with the aim of offering Associate Degrees in those areas of study. However, Director of Education, Clare Browne, said this will not be immediate, though students will receive certification for the short courses, which will be taught under the umbrella of ABCAS.

He predicts that by October, 2025, the institution will begin offering short courses. Already, some persons have been identified who will staff the school of agriculture.

“We have identified persons to be instructing there and so, they are working out exactly how we will proceed with those short courses,” Mr. Browne stated. “These are experts in agriculture within the education system and they will be able to identify areas where we need to focus on.”

Education officials believe the former Glanvilles Secondary School Plant will be adequate for its school of agriculture.

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For Immediate Release September 9, 2025

GENERAL NOTICE FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Subject: Public Holiday in observance of the National Day of Prayer

The General Public is hereby advised that the Governor General, via proclamation dated September 4, 2025, has appointed September 11, 2025 a public holiday in observance of the National Day of Prayer. All banks, shops, stores, and public offices are hereby affected.

Employers which cannot close their operation due to its continuous nature, are required to pay workers who are scheduled to work on the public holiday, their regular wage, in addition to at least an hourly rate of 150% of their basic rate per hour worked.

Workers who are no longer required to work as a result of the proclamation of September 11, 2025 as a public holiday will not suffer any loss of pay once they work their scheduled day before and after September 11, 2025.

Please be guided accordingly.



CIBC reboots Caribbean Unsung Heroes Programme

Professor C. Justin Robinson, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, is among a panel of five distinguished judges that will select regional winners of the relaunched CIBC Caribbean Unsung Heroes.

The panel is headed by Independent Senator in the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament, Senator Francis Lewis a former executive director of marketing and product development at the bank and the man who conceptualized and executed the original programme which ran from 2003 to 2013.

Former Barbados Minister of Health Lt. Col Jeffrey Bostic, Bishop, the Revd. Christine Gooden Benguche, President, Jamaica Methodist District, President of The Bahamas Red Cross, Edison Sumner and CIBC Caribbean's Shayon Anderson, Operations Supervisor (ag) based in Jamaica and known for her community outreach and other philanthropic endeavors are the other judges.



Professor C. Justin Robinson

Building on the strong legacy of the "decade-long", Unsung Heroes Programme which ran from 2003 to 2013, and which highlighted and rewarded scores of Caribbean men and women working quietly in their communities and making a difference in the lives of many, the Caribbean bank has rebooted the campaign to find those hidden heroes across its 10-member regional footprint, including

Antigua and Barbuda.

The bank has made a modification to the original programme. While the original campaign focused mainly on people from the region who worked over a number of years to better their communities, the 2025 version of CIBC Caribbean Unsung Heroes campaign is open to all persons aged ten and over who have been making a difference in their com-

munities and who have not been highlighted or rewarded in any significant way.

The new campaign offered two categories under which persons can be nominated – the original category of "outstanding work in the community" and a new category covering "an act of heroism/bravery/extraordinary act of kindness" within the 12 months preceding the start of the year's campaign.

Winners will be selected from among those nominated at the local level and will be announced in August. The winners from each country will then be eligible for the regional awards, the winners of which will be announced in September.

In October, the top three regional winners – the regional CIBC Caribbean Unsung Hero and two runners-up - and a guest each will be taken to Barbados for the presentation of prizes at a special awards dinner.

Special prizes will also be offered to the persons nominating the winning heroes.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Regional News

Belize PM sends Police Commissioner on leave with immediate effect

Belize Prime Minister John Briceño says he has instructed Commissioner of Police, Dr Richard Rosado, to proceed on 45 days' leave "in the first instance" as the controversy over the "abduction" of a Belizean man and his surrender to Guatemalan authorities took yet another turn.

Last week, Briceño had asked his Home Affairs Minister, Kareem Musa, to provide an update on the controversial "abduction" of Ryan Joseph Budna.

On August 24, the Belize Police Department said it had officially launched an investigation into an incident involving Budna, which occurred on 22 August.

"The Policía Nacional Civil (PNC) of Guatemala has confirmed that Mr Ryan Joseph Budna is in their custody pursuant to an arrest warrant; however, they have not disclosed the details surrounding his apprehension," the police said, adding that its own investigation was initiated based on an official report filed by a witness to the event.

"The witness reported observing a confrontation involving several individuals, one of whom matched the description of Mr Budna, who was subsequently placed into a dark-coloured SUV bearing a Belize City licence plate," the police added.

But a government statement said that Briceño had received the police report from Musa and "found the

report to be incomplete and, therefore, unsatisfactory".

"In the circumstances, the Prime Minister has directed that Dr Richard Rosado, Commissioner of Police, proceed on a leave of absence for forty-five (45) days, in the first instance. This leave is to commence with immediate effect," the statement said.

It added that Rosado's leave, "in the context of the high level of public interest in this matter, as well as the grave allegations made against the Police Department and the incomplete investigative report, is proper and proportionate at this time".

The government said that Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bart Jones, will be appointed as Acting Commissioner of Police for the period of Commissioner Rosado's absence.

"Both Rosado and Jones have assured the Minister of Home Affairs... of their cooperation, ensuring that all Police Department operations flow seamlessly during this period," the statement added.

It said that Briceño has also confirmed that, as of 7 September, police officer Barrington Flowers "has been placed on interdiction, based upon information gathered in the preliminary investigative report".

The statement said that the Acting Commissioner of Police has recommended that Deputy Commissioner of Police, Suzette Anderson, be immediately assigned the



responsibility to complete the police investigation into the Budna matter, with the goal of submitting a complete report by the end of this month.

"Once the investigative report is properly prepared and submitted, the Prime Minister, along with the Cabinet, will act swiftly on its recommendations," it said.

Briceño said the decisions taken "are a result of public information and the preliminary report regarding the Budna matter".

"Commissioner Rosado is acknowledged for his readiness to commence on a leave of absence to allow the Budna investigation to be completed free from any suggestion of conflicts or influence," Prime Minister Briceño said, adding, "The rule of law and the reputation of the Police Department are of foremost consideration."

Several attorneys have now indicated a willingness to fight for Budna's constitutional rights, with attorney Arthur Saldivar telling reporters last week:

"We all have a right to liberty and freedom of movement. So, where Mr Budna was forcibly detained — in fact, prior to his detention, he was severely beaten and then spirited away — that is a crime. In fact, not a crime, but a series of crimes.

"We saw the video. Belize has seen the video that clearly shows that, in respect of the Police Department, there can be no ambiguity as to the involvement of the police.

"We saw one police officer who, by his omission to act, implicated the department in what occurred with Mr Budna. So, the Police Department is responsible for a Belizean citizen being spirited away in an illegal and extrajudicial manner to a country that claims us."

Saldivar said, adding that his colleagues have prepared legal documents to be filed before a court of law.

Attorney Richard 'Dickie' Bradley said that while he is no fan of Budna, there are questions regarding his removal from the country that need to be answered. (CMC)

Regional News

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Jamaican man pleads guilty to defrauding US woman in sweepstakes fraud



A Jamaican man has pleaded guilty in the US District Court for the District of South Dakota in connection with a long-running scheme to defraud a California woman.

Dwayne Anderson, 35, of Hanover, pleaded guilty to a federal US indictment and was extradited to the United States, where he has remained incarcerated pending trial.

As part of this plea agreement, Anderson admitted that, from as early as 2010 until September 2017, he participated in a scheme to defraud an American woman.

Using phony names, Anderson contacted the victim by telephone, text message, and email and falsely informed her that she had won millions of dollars in a sweepstakes.

He persuaded the victim, who believed his false representations, to send money to pay various purported fees and taxes associated

with the sweepstakes.

He also instructed her on how and to whom to send these payments.

Anderson repeatedly contacted the victim with additional requests to pay money and told her that her winnings would be forthcoming if she paid the requested money.

The victim paid the purported fees, losing more than US\$181,000, but never received any of the purported winnings.

“The Department of Justice is committed to protecting Americans from the threats posed by transnational criminals and will vigorously pursue them, wherever they are located,” said Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate of the Justice Department’s Civil Division.

“Anderson is the latest example in the department’s ongoing efforts to combat these kinds of for-

eign-based schemes and hold those involved accountable.”

Attorney for the District of South Dakota, Alison Ramsdell, said Americans are increasingly falling victim to devastating fraud schemes perpetrated by transnational criminals.

“Whether it happens in a rural community or a metropolitan area, the Department of Justice will ensure these criminals are held to account for their shameless targeting of vulnerable individuals and their hard-earned savings,” Ramsdell said.

Inspector in Charge, Eric Shen, of the USPIS Criminal Investigations Group, said, “If you target vulnerable Americans with schemes designed to steal their hard-earned money, you will become our target. “The US Postal Inspection Service knows no boundaries when it comes to protecting our communities. We will find you, we will stop you, and we will hold you accountable.”

The US Postal Inspection Service investigated the case and the Justice Department’s Office of International Affairs worked with law enforcement partners in Jamaica to secure the arrest and August 2024 extradition of Anderson.

US officials say reporting can help the authorities identify those who commit fraud and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. (CMC)

Regional News

Princess Juliana International Airport resumes operations after WestJet incident



Following a recent WestJet runway incident at St Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA), operations have now fully resumed after a temporary closure.

The incident involved a WestJet Boeing 737-800 operating as flight WS2276 from Toronto, which made what was termed a "hard landing" on Sunday. Close to 165 passengers and crew were evacuated using slides and foam, said an article in The Star. It also stated that three were hospitalized as a precautionary measure.

The PJIA team, in a statement, clarified that local heavy equipment contractors were engaged to assist with the aircraft's removal, and civil aviation authorities from SXM were notified to conduct inspections before operations could recommence.

A recent update from PJIA announced that the runway was reopened following

the successful removal of the aircraft involved. They expressed gratitude to the emergency response teams, airport staff, and all partners whose swift and coordinated efforts ensured the safety of all and facilitated the rapid restoration of flight activities.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the emergency response teams, airport staff, aviation authorities, and all partners for their swift and professional handling of the situation. Their tireless efforts ensured the safe removal of the aircraft and the timely restoration of operations," said the PJIA team.

In the aftermath of the event, high-level officials, including the Minister of TEATT, Ms. Grisha Heyligier, and Prime Minister Dr. Luc Mercelina, visited the airport to support response efforts and commend the teamwork displayed. (Dominica News Online)

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UN issues emergency funding appeal to help survivors of devastating Afghan earthquake

The United Nations is issuing an emergency appeal for nearly \$140 million in desperately needed funding to help nearly a half-million people affected by the devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan.

Afghan authorities have said the 6.0 magnitude quake on Aug. 31 and ensuing aftershocks killed more than 2,200 people in the country's mountainous and rugged east.

Many of the most severely affected areas have been particularly difficult to get to, with some reachable only by helicopter.

The UN said in a statement Tuesday that the \$139.6 million, four-month emergency response plan would allow humanitarian organizations to help the 457,000 people who have been affected in the provinces of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar.

Rescue operations concluded on Tuesday, with the official death toll at 2,210 across all three provinces, said Naqib Rahemi, the health department spokesman from Nangarhar province.

More than 3,600 people have been injured, with stretched health facilities struggling to provide treatment, while more than 6,700 homes have been damaged or destroyed.

The UN has said it has so far been able to visit only 49 of the 411 villages affected due to damaged roads in the rugged terrain.

"This is a moment where the international community must dig deep and show solidarity with a population that has already endured so much suffering," the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, Indrika Ratwatte, said in a statement.

The approaching winter means assistance efforts are in a "race against time," Ratwatte added.

Local authorities and humanitarian organizations have been conducting relief operations to provide food, shelter and medical care.

The UN's earthquake response plan,



which will run to the end of the year, will allow aid organizations to increase operations particularly in high-ele-

vation areas ahead of winter, the UN statement said. (AP)

NOTICE

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Dated the 27th day of August, 2025

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Apple announces iPhone Air, new watches and price changes at live event



At a live event Monday that Apple dubbed “Awe Dropping,” the company announced its newest generation of iPhones, which included a new slimmer option called the iPhone Air.

Apple CEO Tim Cook called it the “biggest leap ever for iPhone,” with the iPhone Air marking the first substantial addition to its iPhone lineup since the full-screened iPhone X in 2017.

It’s the tech giant’s bid to keep its foothold in a rapidly changing smartphone market, where competitors Google and Samsung are chipping away at Apple’s

lead.

Aside from the new iPhone Air, Apple’s newest phones largely retain the same form factor as its predecessors, extending a strategy of staying the course on an iPhone that remains the dominant smartphone in the U.S.

Consumer comfort with the form and function of the iPhone has allowed Apple to command the U.S. smartphone market, with iPhones representing 49% of all smartphones shipped to the U.S. in the second quarter of 2025 according to Canalys data.

But there are signs that

the excitement of foldable phones are increasingly winning people over, as companies like Samsung push products like the Galaxy Z Flip7 and the Galaxy Z Fold7, boasting foldable screens and bolder artificial intelligence features.

Compared to last year, Samsung shipments to the U.S. grew from 23% to 31%, narrowing Apple’s lead.

The updated phones came alongside updates to its line of Apple Watches and AirPods. These are the biggest takeaways from the event.

Apple’s new lineup of iPhones includes the stan-

dard iPhone 17, the performance-focused iPhone 17 Pro, and the larger-screened Max options that are familiar to consumers. The updates include better batteries and faster performance, as well as cameras with enhanced zoom capabilities.

But the flashiest announcement was the iPhone 17 Air, which at 5.6 millimeters thick, is the thinnest iPhone ever made by Apple. Its smaller profile comes with some compromise, namely just one camera compared to three on the iPhone 17 Pro. It also has shorter advertised battery life, at 27 hours of

video playback compared to the standard iPhone 17's 30 hours.

But at 0.2 millimeters slimmer than the Galaxy S25 Edge, which Samsung began selling in May, the iPhone Air represents Apple's entry into the ultrathin smartphone market.

In addition to new phones, Apple unveiled its new line of Apple Watches, the Series 11. The watch, available September 19 for \$400, comes with a new feature that the company says can detect hypertension, which Apple says its working to clear with the US Food and Drug Administration.

On top of blood pressure sensing technology, the Series 11 will offer richer sleep measurements, assigning a sleep score to each night's sleep for users who wear the watch to bed.

Apple also announced a new generation of its AirPods Pro product, the AirPods Pro 3. By far, the most exciting feature of the earbuds is a new live translation capability, fueled by Apple's AI technology, Apple Intelligence. According to Apple, the device will allow users to listen to live audio and receive near-instantaneous playback in their preferred language. Apple also says the AirPods Pro 3 will be more durable and have lon-

ger batter life than previous generations.

Apple fans can pre-order the new AirPods, available September 19, for \$249.

Is the iPhone getting more expensive? Sort of.

The iPhone 17 starts at the same price point as the iPhone 16: \$799.

But the Pro models now start at \$100 more, now \$1,099. That baseline model, however, will have double the capacity of its predecessor, starting at 256 MB of storage compared to just 128 on last year's base model.

The word "tariff" was never mentioned in the Apple keynote Tuesday, but today's event was the first major hardware reveal since President Trump unleashed his steep tariffs around the world. Tariffs specifically on India and China raised concerns that the India-made iPhone and largely Chinese-made accessories would see price hikes.

Cook's lobbying to the White House, which included \$600 billion in domestic investment commitments and a 24-karat gold gift to President Donald Trump, appeared to help the company avoid the worst of the tariffs. In addition to a smartphone exemption from the tariffs on India, Apple also appeared to get a carve

out from incoming smartphone-industry-specific tariffs.

Still, existing tariffs, including those on China, led to an \$800 million hit to the company's financials in the last quarter.

Pricing on its accessories largely stayed the same, with the new AirPods Pro 3 costing the same as its predecessor, at \$249. An updated version of its Apple Watch SE, its cheapest model, also held its price point, beginning at \$249.

Apple unveiled its play on artificial intelligence, called Apple Intelligence, at a splashy software event last year. Over a year later, many of the features Apple promised have yet to arrive in full force on iPhone.

Apple Intelligence did get a few mentions in Tuesday's

keynote.

In addition to the live translation feature in its AirPods, Apple announced that its refreshed line of Apple Watches would include new Apple Intelligence-powered features, like a "workout buddy" that uses heart rate and calorie burn data to craft prompts designed to motivate users while exercising.

Those AI features are slightly less ambitious than Google's Pixel products, which allow users to flip a camera on and ask a chatbot open questions about what the phone is seeing.

As Bloomberg reported, several major staff on Apple's AI projects have left the company, as competitors like Meta poach top talent. (NBC)

NOTICE

The China Aid Programme in collaboration with **The Embassy of China Antigua and Barbuda**, **Yuan Long Ping High Tech Agriculture Co. Ltd.** **Ministry of Agriculture Lands Fisheries and the Blue Economy** presents, a **3-week training course on Agricultural Water Saving Irrigation for Antigua and Barbuda** from **16 th October to 5th November 2025** at the **Villa Poly Clinic ,Villa Area.**

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Macron appoints Defence Minister Lecornu as France's latest prime minister



French President Macron late Tuesday appointed Defence Minister Sébastien Lecornu as France's new prime minister and tasked him with immediately trying to get the country's fractious political parties to agree on a budget for one of the world's biggest economies.

Lecornu, 39, was the youngest defence minister in French history and architect of a major military buildup through 2030, spurred by Russia's war in Ukraine.

A long-time Macron loyalist, Lecornu is now France's fourth prime minister in barely a year.

A former conservative who joined Macron's centrist movement in 2017, Lecornu has held posts in local governments, overseas territories and during

Macron's yellow vest "great debate," when he helped manage mass anger with dialogue.

He also offered talks on autonomy during unrest in Guadeloupe in 2021.

His rise reflects Macron's instinct to reward loyalty, but also the need for continuity as repeated budget show-downs have toppled his predecessors and left France in drift.

Macron's quick decision to name Lecornu comes ahead of a day of mass disruption planned Wednesday by a protest movement called "Block Everything" that prompted the government to deploy an exceptional 80,000 police to keep order.

Legislators toppled Lecornu's predecessor Francois Bayrou and his

government in a confidence vote on Monday, a new crisis for Europe's second-largest economy.

Bayrou gambled that lawmakers would back his view that France must slash public spending to rein in its huge debts. Instead, they seized on the vote to gang up against the 74-year-old centrist who was appointed by Macron last December.

The demise of Bayrou's short-lived minority government heralds renewed uncertainty and a risk of prolonged legislative deadlock for France as it wrestles with pressing challenges, including budget difficulties and, internationally, wars in Ukraine and Gaza and the shifting priorities of US President Donald Trump. (AP)

Afghanistan beat Hong Kong in Asia Cup opening game

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — All-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai's record-breaking T20 half-century highlighted Afghanistan's confident start to the Asia Cup in a 94-run win over Hong Kong in Group B on Tuesday.

Omarzai (53) smacked five sixes to register Afghanistan's fastest T20 half-century — off 20 balls — and opening batter Sediqullah Atal cashed in on three dropped catches to score unbeaten 73 off 52 balls in Afghanistan's total of 188 for six.

An inexperienced Hong Kong team got squeezed against both pace and the three Afghan spinners as they struggled to reach 94 for nine, with Babar Hayat (39) and captain Yasim Murtaza (16) the only two batters to breach the double-figure mark.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are the other teams in Group B from which two teams qualify for the Super Four stage of the tournament.

Afghanistan had the game closed out inside the eventful batting powerplay that saw a bizarre caught behind of Anshy Rath, two run-outs and also two dropped catches.

Rath surprisingly didn't go for a television referral when replays showed there was a huge gap between bat and ball as he tried to drive Fazalhaq Farooqi's (2-16) first ball he faced.

Rashid Khan had Nizakat Khan run-out with a direct throw, and Omarzai hit the stumps in his follow through to run-out Kalhan Challu as Hong Kong couldn't recover after crashing to 22 for four inside the first five overs.

In between a flurry of wickets both Challu and Hayat got reprieves when Afghanistan's fielders dropped two sitters. However, the three spinners — Khan, Noor Ahmad and AM Ghazanfar — choked Hong Kong further by conceding just 44 runs in 10 overs between them, with Khan and Ahmad grabbing one wicket each.

Hayat showed a brief spark by



Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai, left, celebrates after scoring fifty runs during the Asia Cup Cricket match between Afghanistan and Hong Kong at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

smacking three sixes in his 43-ball knock but his vigil ended in the 13th over when he spliced a catch of fast bowler Gulbadin Naib, who captured two for eight.

Hong Kong spinners were tidy on the slow wicket before Omarzai teed off with a blistering fifth-wicket partnership of 82 runs with Atal off just 35 balls.

Atal hit his third half-century in his last four T20s and profited from Hong Kong's lapses in the field. Murtaza featured in all the three chances to Atal as he twice dropped the batter.

Afghanistan reached 119 for four in 16 overs before Omarzai's onslaught against pace fetched his team 69 runs off the final four overs. Fast bowler Ayush Sukla captured two for 54.

Rain disrupts IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic



Rain severely disrupted the 10th Annual LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Softball Club (IBSC) Tape Ball T20 Classic on Sunday.

All scheduled matches at Powells and Antigua Grammar School (AGS) were abandoned due to wet pitches and outfield.

At Powells, defending champions PEL Dredgers were slated to face TG Weld-

ing and Fabrication Underdogs, while Koconut Car Rental Buckley's 3Js were scheduled to tackle PMS.

At AGS, VIP Squad was slated to meet Hanse-On Security Tech, while Easy Pickings Mix-Up was scheduled to take on Bryson's Bullets.

All teams received one point for the abandoned matches, which are classified as no results.

VIP Squad, Bryson's Bullets, Buckley's 3Js and PEL Dredgers all have three points from two matches.

Sunday's abandoned matches allow the other four teams to pick up their first point in the eight-team round-robin competition.

Teams will be hoping for more favourable weather and improved playing conditions to facilitate the third round of matches on Sunday, September

14.

In a double-header at AGS, Hanse-On Security Tech will oppose Koconut Car Rental Buckley's 3Js at 10 am, and PEL Dredgers will clash with Easy Picking Mix-Up at 2 pm.

In a double-header at Powells, VIP Squad will challenge Bryson's Bullets at 10 am, and TG Welding and Fabrication Underdogs will tackle PMS at 2 pm.

Registration opens for invitational draughts tournament



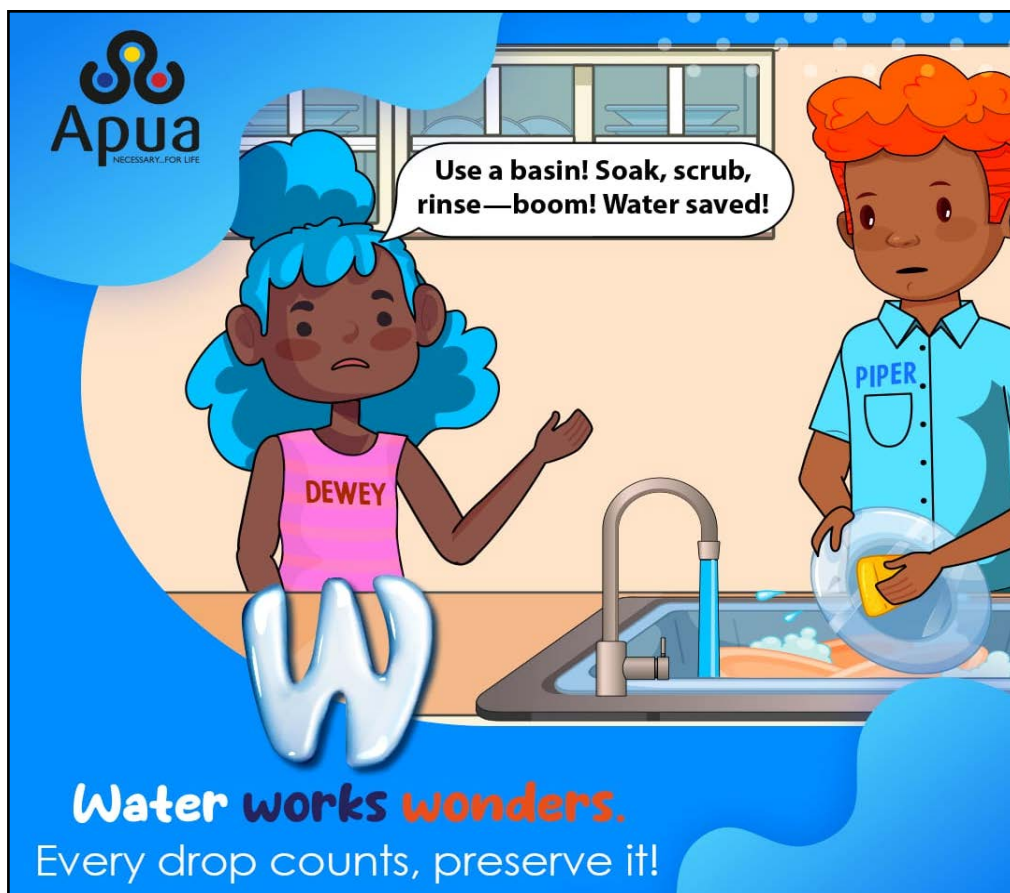
The Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association (ABDA) is now accepting registration for its annual Big-Big-Big Cool and Smooth Invitational Tournament this month.

The event will take place at the Gray's Green Community Basketball Court (Knuckle Block) from September 22 to 25. Matches will be played daily from 6pm to 10 pm.

The registration fee for members of the ABDA is EC\$20 per player. Players who are not members of the ABDA will be required to pay a registration fee of EC\$25.

All persons who are interested in participating in the upcoming tournament are asked to contact a member of the ABDA to register.

Persons can contact president Trevor Cranstan (723-4857); vice-president Julian "Mucho" Roberts (782-8331); treasurer Elvis Cordice (764-2089); and public relations officer Eustace "Zocio" Samuel (784-0344).



Forest sack manager Espirito Santo



Nuno Espirito Santo

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (Reuters) - Nottingham Forest have sacked manager Nuno Espirito Santo, the Premier League club confirmed on Tuesday, after the Portuguese admitted last month that his relationship with the club's owner Evangelos Marinakis had broken down.

"Nottingham Forest Football Club confirms that, following recent circumstances, Nuno Espirito Santo has today been relieved of his duties as Head Coach," the club said in a statement.

Nottingham Forest have appointed former Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou as head coach after Nuno Espirito Santo was sacked.

Espirito Santo, appointed in December 2023, guided Forest through a relegation battle in his first season, before exceeding expectations in the 2024-25 campaign.

Forest spent several weeks in the top

three last term and finished seventh after their best top-flight campaign in three decades. They qualified for this season's Europa League, their first participation in a European competition in 29 years.

"As someone who played a pivotal role in our success last season, he will always hold a special place in our journey," the club added.

British media reported the sacking earlier on Monday. The 51-year-old former Wolverhampton Wanderers and Tottenham Hotspur manager was given a contract extension until 2028 in June, but cracks in his relationship with the club's ownership had begun to show despite the promising results.

At a press conference last month, he addressed speculation over his future at the club, saying there was "no smoke without fire" and that he and Marinakis rarely speak.

Following a 2-2 Premier League

draw with Leicester City in May, Greek shipping magnate Marinakis stormed onto the pitch and exchanged words with Espirito Santo.

Forest subsequently dismissed reports of a heated confrontation between the two as "fake news".

Espirito Santo was also vocal in recent weeks about his dissatisfaction with Forest's transfer business, stating that his squad needed strengthening as it was "unbalanced" and required players in key areas.

The club have signed James McAtee, Omari Hutchinson, Arnaud Kalimuendo and Douglas Luiz in recent months, while also managing to keep hold of midfielder Morgan Gibbs-White amid reported interest from Tottenham.

Forest suffered a 3-0 home defeat against West Ham last month and are 10th in the standings. They travel to face Arsenal on Saturday.

Female athletes complete sex testing ahead of world championships



A general view of Japan's national stadium during an athletics test event for Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games at National Stadium in Tokyo, May 9, 2021. (AP)

TOKYO (AP) — Nearly all female athletes have completed sex testing ahead of the athletics world championships, which will take place in Japan later this month.

On Tuesday, World Athletics said more than 95% percent of tests — a genetic screening to determine the athlete's sex at birth — have been completed in the lead up the world championships that will take place in Tokyo, beginning this weekend.

The governing body for track and field said the remainder of the tests — for the French and Norwegian teams and some athletes based in France,

both being countries where genetic testing for non-medical reasons is banned — will be done in Tokyo before the start of the competition.

“This has been a whole sport response to a principle that we all fundamentally believe in, which is to protect the female category,” World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said.

World Athletics was the first Olympic sport to reintroduce chromosome testing — previously discontinued in the 1990s — which requires athletes who compete in the women's events to submit to the test once in their careers.

It announced in March that it approved the introduction of cheek swabs and dry blood-spot tests for female athletes in order to maintain “the integrity of competition.”

World Athletics had set a deadline of Sept. 1 for athletes to submit to the gene tests in advance of the world championships.

Last month, the governing body for Olympic-style boxing announced it would require sex testing for all fighters wishing to compete in the women's division at its world championships this month in Liverpool, England.

Sports

WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

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Six-member bodybuilding team to represent Antigua at CAC Championships



Tariq Kienesberger, left, and Jameel Knight are members of the Antigua and Barbuda six-member team to contest the 52nd Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships in St. Lucia from September 24 to 28. (Photos courtesy of the ABAB&WF)

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation (ABAB&WF) has named a six-member team to represent the nation at the 52nd Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships in St. Lucia later this month.

Recently crowned national champion Tariq Kienesberger will spearhead the Antiguan team at the 2025 CAC Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships, which will take place at The Pavilion in Rodney Bay, Gros Islet, from September 24 to 28.

The other members of the Antigua and Barbuda team

are Jameel Knight, Tony Phillip, Jon Ferris, Yvette Butler, and Tiffany Gordon.

Kienesberger, who was crowned the overall senior bodybuilding national champion after winning several individual categories at the 2025 ABAB&WF's National Bodybuilding Championships on August 30, will compete in two divisions at the CAC event.

Kienesberger will contest the Senior Men's Classic Physique and Classic Bodybuilding (up to 175 cm).

Knight will compete in Senior Men's Bodybuilding (80 kg) and Senior Men's Classic Physique (up to 175 cm).



Yvette Butler

Phillip will be vying for supremacy in Senior Men's Bodybuilding (90 kg) and Masters Bodybuilding (50 years and over).

Ferris will be seeking top honours in Senior Men's Physique (up to 170 cm).

Butler will compete in the Senior Women's Bikini (over 169 cm), Senior Women's Bikini Masters (35 years and over), and the

Women's Fit Model Open categories.

Gordon will contest the Women's Bikini (over 169 cm) event.

Over 250 athletes and delegates from Central American and Caribbean countries are expected to attend the CAC championships, which will feature the main competitions on September 26 and 27.