

Pares Secondary welcomes Glanvilles students in merger

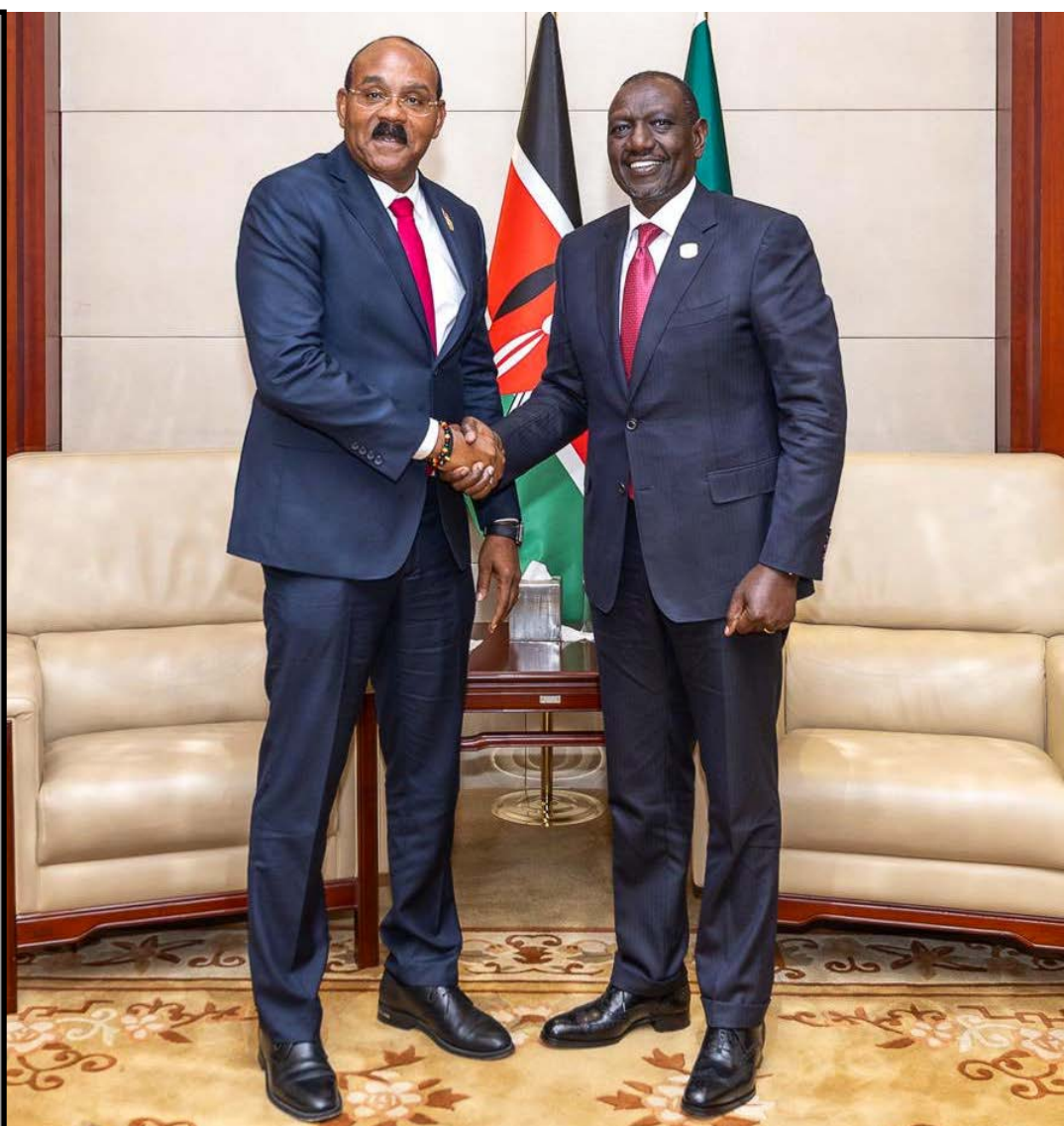
Page 2

"Held talks with Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Alphonso Browne on the sidelines of the Second Africa-CARICOM Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. "We reaffirmed the strong ties between our nations".

"Our bilateral relations are anchored on the pan-African solidarity championed by our founding fathers. We agreed to strengthen cooperation and open new partnerships that will deliver tangible benefits to our people".

Prime Minister Browne said he was committed to deepening our bilateral engagements and undertaking a State Visit to Kenya. This is a major step in advancing the enduring bonds between Africa and the Caribbean."

--President William Ruto of Kenya--



Deepening Bilateral Relations

Glanvilles and Pares Secondary Merger Complete



A section of the audience during Monday's welcome ceremony

The arrival of more than one hundred students from Glanvilles Secondary to Pares Secondary School yesterday marked the completion of an amalgamation of the two public institutions of learning.

The merger was undertaken earlier this year after education and government officials agreed there was an urgent and immediate need to develop the nation's capacity for food security. As such, a recommendation was made to merge the two schools using the Pares Secondary School plant and to convert Glanvilles Secondary School into a National School of Agriculture, which will form part of the recently established Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS).

Glanvilles Secondary School students were received and welcomed on Monday morning by Pares Secondary School Principal, Letitia Lawrence, with Director of Education, Clare Browne, also present. While stating that the merger is complete, Mr. Browne assured that work will continue to ensure the decision taken to bring the two public schools together works in the interest of everyone involved.

"We did everything we could to ensure that there was that smooth transition, but we must do everything that we can to maintain that kind of cohesion that kind of oneness at Pares Secondary School," the director added.

Approximately 140 students were transferred, with the new student pop-

ulation at Pares Secondary School now being approximately 350.

In preparation for the commencement of the new school year, the necessary repairs and modifications were carried out at the Pares Secondary School plant, with the director of education expressing confidence that both existing and new pupils will be comfortable in the environment prepared for them.

According to the director of education, the school is built to accommodate 550 students and while in previous years the student numbers were high, the construction and operationalisation of Sir Novelle Richards Academy in 2017 resulted in a decline in numbers.

While they will have to adapt to a new learning environment, the students of Glanvilles and Pares Secondary Schools are not strangers. For years, they have collaborated in several events.

"They teamed up on sports. The cricket team comprised of students from both institutions. When they did their graduations last year, they came together in a ball. Their field trips they pursued together. So, there was already a natural kind of connection between both schools. So, I think we are off to a great start there," Director Clare Browne concluded.



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Director of Education pleased with commencement of school year

The 2025/2026 academic year is off to a satisfactory start for Director of Education, Clare Browne.

Thousands of public school students returned to classrooms yesterday following the summer recess. As many went back to familiar places, others were exploring new environments where they will spend the upcoming years engrossed in primary or secondary education. In their midst on Monday, including on the sister isle Barbuda, were education officers, ensuring there were no hindrances that will retard the teaching and learning process.

From all indications, Mr. Browne said he is pleased that “the academic year 2025/2026 is off to a solid start”.

During the summer, repairs and new construction were carried out at several schools, thanks to the efforts of the Board of Education.

“The Board of Education has been very good to the Ministry of Education and has supported us through the years, in a way that has kept our school plants going,” Mr. Browne said.

Among the new construction is a new bathroom block at Ottos Comprehensive School, the replacement of wooden structures at Clare Hall Secondary School with a concrete one, while at Antigua Grammar School, the kitchen for the Home Economics department was expanded. At Villa Primary School, a concrete building has replaced the wooden structured, which housed the Early Childhood Centre.

“No school in Antigua and Barbuda was left untouched. There were varying degrees of repair work, but



Director of Education, Clare Browne.

no school was left untouched and the work continues,” the director added.

Mr. Browne revealed that major work

is yet to be completed at Ottos Comprehensive School, Antigua Girls’ High School, Sir Novelle Richards Academy and Golden Grove Primary School. However, he pointed out that those will be executed under the Education Expansions and Quality Improvement Project (EEQUIP).

He has reiterated the commitment of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries in improving learning spaces, indicating there are eight strategic imperatives heading into 2030, one of which is the upgrading of educational facilities. He assured that once resources allow, the ministry will make all of its school plants spaces that are conducive for learning.



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PM Browne dialogues with Commonwealth SG



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (right) and Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchway (left)

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, paid a courtesy call on the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Honourable Shirley Botchway, at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London on Friday, 5th September 2025.

The visit took place as Prime Minister Browne made his way to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he is participating in the second Africa-CARICOM Summit. During their discussions, Prime Minister Browne and Secretary-General Botchway addressed preparations for Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2026.

They also exchanged views on the Secretary General's vision for the future of the Commonwealth and the im-

portance of supporting and strengthening the role of small states in shaping the global agenda.

Prime Minister Browne extended an invitation to the Secretary-General to visit Antigua and Barbuda in advance of CHOGM 2026, reaffirming his Government's commitment to ensuring a successful and impactful meeting.

The meeting underscored Antigua and Barbuda's continued commitment to the Commonwealth Charter and its principles of developing free and democratic societies and promoting peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all the people of the Commonwealth.

Both leaders expressed confidence that the upcoming Commonwealth Heads

of Government Meeting in 2026 will be a landmark occasion, strengthening unity and advancing the priorities of small states within the global community.

Secretary-General Botchway is the 7th Commonwealth Secretary-General and assumed the office of Secretary General on 1st April, 2025.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent and equal member states, 33 of which are small states.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom as well as staff from the High Commission.

Special Needs Teen Missing



The family of 13-year-old Shawn "Ezekiel" Chiddick of Falmouth is seeking the public's assistance in locating him.

"Ezekiel" left his Falmouth residence around 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 5th September, and was last spotted on Falmouth main road in the vi-

cinity of Sweet-T's, sometime on Saturday afternoon.

He was seen wearing a pair of brown plaid shorts, a black t-shirt, and a pair of blue rubber slippers.

Shawn is a special needs child, and both the police and his family are deeply

concerned for his safety and well-being.

Anyone with information regarding his whereabouts is urged to immediately contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913, the Liberta Police Station at 460-1002, or the nearest police station.

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.

Please call 462 0418 or 764 1256 for further information on registration

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RPFAB Activates Cold Case Unit



Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers

Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers has announced the establishment of a Cold Case Unit within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking on Sunday during a church service to launch Police Week 2025, Acting Commissioner Jeffers said the unit will be tasked with re-visiting murder investigations that have gone cold, along with missing persons' cases and other matters of a criminal nature.

The objective, the acting top cop said

is to bring closure to the outstanding matters, some of which are decades old and remain unsolved.

It is all part of the police force's transformation, Jeffers told the congregation at Precision Centre.

"Over the past few years, we have embarked upon a bold path of transformation, we have expanded our training initiatives, modernise investigative processes, embraced data-driven policing and advanced community-focused efforts, most notably our community policing programme".

Jeffers also spoke of the boost to the canine division with the addition of four dogs, capable of detecting, firearms, drugs and cadavers and the RPFAB's embrace of drone technology in its crime-fighting strategy.

"This unit comes with the latest and modern technology, along with highly skilled and well-trained pilots, capable of assisting with search exercises and other police operations."

The drones he said, have been utilised at major national and international events.



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Single-Lane Traffic to Facilitate Roadworks

The Ministry of Works' Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU) is advising the general public that single-lane traffic is in effect to facilitate ongoing infrastructure repairs to major roads.

On Sir Sydney Walling Highway, asphalt repairs, road markings, and bus lay-by completion will continue this week, from Willikies westwards, starting daily at approximately 8:00 a.m.

On Anchorage Road, single-lane traffic will continue to facilitate the installation of manhole covers at KFC Fort Road, starting daily at approximately 8:00 a.m.

On Valley Road North, single-lane traffic will be

implemented to allow for works on drains, pedestrian railings, headwalls and asphalt testing, starting daily

at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Flag persons will be employed, and motorists are encouraged to follow all

instructions to ensure a cautious and safe passageway, as heavy-duty equipment will be operating near the works.

All businesses remain open.

C.O. Williams Ltd. sincerely regrets the inconvenience. The road work is a part of the Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project being carried out by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Stakeholders are asked to adjust their travel plans to allow for delays.

Telephone queries can be made by calling the C.O. Williams Project office at 562-9573.



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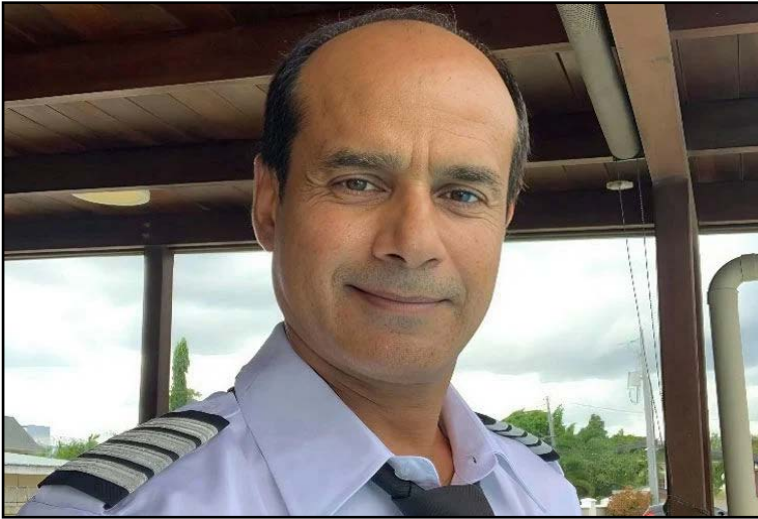
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Regional News

Kidnapper shot dead: Police raid Maraval hideout, rescue pilot



Pilot: Daniel Kawall

RESIDENTS of Third Street, off Saddle Road, Maraval, said they saw nothing strange in their community until a large team of armed officers descended on the area yesterday morning and carried out a successful, but bloody, rescue of kidnapped pilot Daniel Kawall. Kawall, 62, a Caribbean Airlines captain who was kidnapped last Wednesday, was rescued shortly before 11 a.m. from an apartment complex located at Cedar

Ridge, off Third Street, Maraval.

One man found guarding him was shot and killed by police.

He was later identified as Rahiem Felix, 33.

The apartment complex where Kawall was being kept contained eight units, and was occupied by other tenants at the time, and had a commanding view of Third Street, and appeared not to be well maintained.

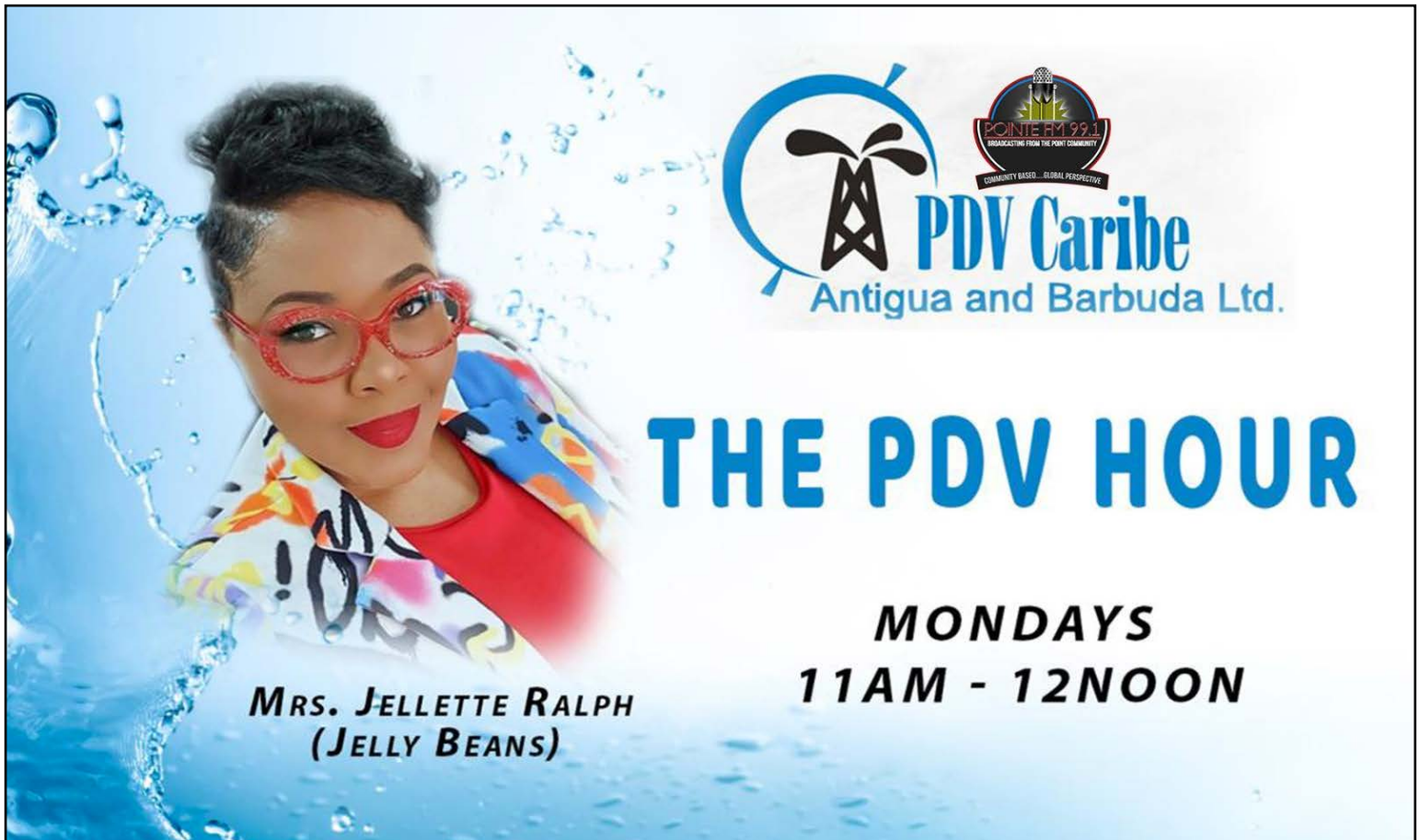
A ransom of \$1 million was reportedly demanded for the safe return of Kawall but Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro told the media yesterday when asked: "I cannot say that at this time."

The Express got to Maraval around noon, by which time a few residents were outside their homes, keeping an eye on passing marked and unmarked police vehicles.

One man said, "The only activity I saw here this week was the police today. For the entire week, we did not see anything strange at all."

Other residents reported likewise.

Guevarro, who had joined his officers on the scene yesterday, spoke to reporters, disclosing that, besides Felix, three other people were detained for the kidnapping, including two men who were attempting to use the victim's bankcard between



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Regional News

PAGE 11

Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The two men, ages 50 and 24, were held near the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) after they tried using Kawall's bankcard at a Republic Bank ATM on Park Street, Port of Spain.

Guevarro told reporters: "Today the police would have carried out a successful and precision rescue of the kidnap victim Mr Daniel Kawall in the building located in the background."

He said, around 11 o'clock yesterday morning, a team of officers on the rescue mission would have included members of the Port of Spain Task Force, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), Western Division Task Force and the Anti Kidnapping Unit (AKU) who carried out an operation spearheaded by Supt Parriman and ASP Singh.

He stated that, following the rescue, Kawall was taken to a medical facility where he was examined.

"Unfortunately, one of his hostage-takers/guards (Felix) would have engaged my officers this morning and in an exchange of gunfire he was wounded and taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead," said Guevarro.

He added: "I hope this would serve as a warning to other persons who wish to engage in that sort of illegality. The time has come to change and the time is now. Please turn away from crime

and look towards profitable and legal means of making a living."

When the Express left Maraval around 2 p.m. police said that they were looking for two other suspects believed to have fled during the rescue.

Asked how did the police know where Kawall was being held, Guevarro replied that if he answered he would be placing persons' lives in jeopardy.

How is Kawall, the media asked, to which Guevarro responded: "He is good. No physical injuries and he is being medically examined as per our protocol."

Was there a ransom demand?

Guevarro responded: "I cannot say that at this time."

Why would he have been targeted?

Guevarro: "That is some sensitive information that if I release to the public, we would have other problems to deal with after."

How many are in custody?

Guevarro: "We have three suspects in custody."

Guevarro was also asked about Kawall's Toyota Hilux being spotted at Hololo Road, Cascade, on Wednesday night. Residents reportedly told police but between Thursday night and Friday morning the van had been moved and when police arrived on Friday morning they found nothing.

He replied, "There is a lot of misinformation being ban-

died about by social media and by persons who utilise social media as a media house."

Homeland Security Minister Roger Alexander also heaped praises on the police.

Contacted yesterday for comment on the rescue, he said: "I want to publicly commend the Commissioner of Police (Allister Guevarro) and his team for another successful rescue of a kidnap victim. It shows that the police understand that this is not a fight against crime; it is a war," he said.

"In a war the persons who are responsible for torturing our citizens must be dealt with in such a way as to indicate or allow the message to be sent to others that if you intend to behave that way, you will be met with the same type of treatment

from law enforcement," warned Alexander.

"Young men and women in Trinidad and Tobago. This is an opportunity to change as there are opportunities coming your way. I suggest that you take it and move away from a life of crime," he said.

On July 21, police successfully rescued kidnap victim Jankie Satie Karim, 42, from a house on the Toco Main Road, Rampanalgas. She had been abducted from near her home at Bassie Street, Spring Village, Val-sayn, on July 13.

Two men were killed during the operation and one man was held.

Leandro Mohansingh, 22, was later charged with kidnapping for ransom; knowingly negotiating to obtain a ransom and false imprisonment. (Trinidad Express)



Regional News



BODY CAMS STOPPED...TTPS pulls plug on \$25m contract



THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) has rescinded its decision to honour a \$25 million payment to Diamond Systems and Supplies Ltd (DSSL) for 3,000 body cameras.

Former commissioner of police Erla Harewood-Christopher had granted a letter of award to the company last August. Instead, the TTPS has completely cancelled the deal.

A brief one-page letter written by the TTPS head of legal services to DSSL's director Hashim Mohammed on August 11, 2025, which referenced correspondence between DSSL's attorney Roger Kawalsingh over the last few months, stated, "Further reference is made to your latest missive dated 31st July 2025 seeking payment for the body-worn cameras and rental fees in the sum of USD\$3,682,199.12 and USD\$440,000, respectively, and seeking an update on the supply and delivery of one emergency communications vehicle. Please be informed that we have received instructions not to proceed with these matters. In the circumstances, our client is not inclined to pay the requisite sums demanded."

Only two weeks before, in late July, the TTPS head of legal services had written to DSSL's attorney, Kawalsingh, giving assurances that the outstanding

monies would be paid and asking them to hold off on any legal action.

That letter said, "We are instructed that approval has been granted for the payment regarding the supply of the body-worn cameras, and upon receipt of further instructions, we endeavour to communicate same to you. As it relates to the outstanding issues and the delivery and supply of the emergency communications vehicle, we await instructions regarding the same. Nevertheless, please be advised that these matters are still engaging our attention. We once again ask that you hold your hands in commencing litigation and permit us some further time until 15th August to provide a further update and response in an attempt to have these matters amicably resolved."

Commissioner of Police Allister Guevarro could not be reached for comment on the body camera issue.

A senior police source however told the Express that it is likely the contract for the body cameras will go back out for tender.

The Sunday Express had reported exclusively in May this year that DSSL had written to the TTPS threatening legal action. DSSL claimed that the TTPS had failed to honour the agree-

ment approved by then-commissioner Harewood-Christopher.

In a February 26, 2025, pre-action protocol letter, the company's attorney, Jamie Maharaj, under instructions by Kawalsingh, had notified the TTPS of their intended legal action to seek some \$30 million in damages for breach of contract.

The letter to DSSL stated then that its quotation of July 18, 2024, for the supply and delivery of 3,000 EC310 Smart 4K body-worn cameras, accessories, and services for the TTPS had been evaluated and assessed, and that the CoP had accepted the offer in accordance with the terms and conditions of the quotation submission at a cost of \$24,965,310.

Sources familiar with the contract at that time said DSSL had partnered with international telecoms giant Huawei to bring in the body-worn cameras from China.

However, the process stalled following the initial contract award in late August 2024.

The Sunday Express reported in January 2025 that DSSL's request for a 70% downpayment—as specified in the contract—had not been met, despite multiple letters sent to the TTPS hierarchy, which included Harewood-Christopher, then-acting commissioner of police Junior Benjamin, and DCP Natasha George.

That failure to honour the agreement triggered the February 2025 letter to the TTPS. DSSL said they had honoured the contract by providing a performance bond. Their attorney said, "Having satisfied this prerequisite as the intended claimant executed and provided the said performance bond to the Commissioner of Police, it had a legitimate expectation that a binding contract was formed and that the signing thereto was a formality." (Trinidad Express)

Regional News

PAGE 13

Guyana pledges to seek peace with 'all our neighbours'



United States aircraft were involved in a low-pass fly-over of Georgetown, the capital, as President Irfaan Ali was being sworn into office on Sunday for a second consecutive five-year term.

The US Embassy in Guyana, in a short statement, said the fly pass was done in collaboration with the Guyana Defence Force (DGF) and "reflects the strength of US air power, our partnership with Guyana, and our continued support for Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Washington also stated that it was looking "forward to continuing to work with the government of Guyana to further strengthen the bilateral ties between our two countries.

"Our commitment to Guyana's continued growth and development remains strong and unwavering. We commend the Organization of American States (OAS) and other international observers for their impartial monitoring and thorough analysis, which have been instrumental in promoting transparency and accountability in this election," the US said.

The US has increased its military presence near Venezuela in recent days saying that the move is part of Washington's crackdown on narc--trafficking.

Guyana and Venezuela have a long-standing border dispute over the Essequibo region, which is controlled by Guyana as part of its six

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Regional News



regions. Venezuela's claim to the Essequibo region is based on the 1899 Arbitral Award, which it describes as being void.

In March 2024, Venezuela passed a law that designates Essequibo as a new state of Venezuela, governed from the city of Tumeremo.

The Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela said that the two countries agreed that "any controversies" between them will be resolved in accordance with international law, including the Geneva Agreement dated February 17, 1966.

The joint declaration issued following talks in Kingstown, St Vincent in December 2023 between Ali and President Nicolas Maduro over the disputed Essequibo region, also indicated that the two countries agreed that "any controversies" between them will be resolved in accordance with international law, including the Geneva Agreement dated February 17, 1966.

The border dispute is before the International Court of Justice.

During his address after taking his oath of office on the lawn of the official

presidential residence, Ali, though not making mention of Venezuela during the 33-minute address, said, "We seek peace with all our neighbours and defend our sovereignty with a quiet confidence in the law and a steady strength of unity."

"Just as efficiency, integrity, and service must define how government works at home, so must collaboration and cooperation define how we engage abroad."

"I remain committed to engaging our international partners in ways that safeguard Guyana's sovereignty and advance our national interests. We will strengthen cooperation where it brings tangible benefits to our people, while ensuring that our resources and opportunities are managed to secure prosperity for this and future generations."

He said his administration would work towards keeping the Caribbean Community country that "is situated on the shoulder of South America ... safe", adding "that means building the strongest and most modern defence ecosystem in our history, one that shields us from every threat to our sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"At the same time, we will

deepen partnerships with friendly nations, strengthen ties of security cooperation, and continue to repose our faith in the rule of international law, including the peaceful settlement of disputes."

Ali said improving national security also means modernising and strengthening the police, prison, and fire services by giving them the tools, training, and resources to serve with greater efficiency, professionalism, and trust.

"In this way, Guyana will stand strong, stable, and secure," he said, adding that the country's commitment to the regional integration process "is steady, practical, and visionary."

"We'll deepen the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, advancing full free movement, mutual recognition of skills and qualifications, a truly single investment space, and a seamless payment system across our region."

"In CARICOM, our purpose is practical and people-centred: to make this single market work for ordinary families with cheaper energy, faster payment and roaming, recognisable skills across borders, and scholarship and apprenticeships

that open doors for youth.

"We will champion regional energy security and competitiveness, leveraging Guyana's resources and know-how, partnering with our neighbours to lower cost, expand manufacturing, and build resilient, cleaner energy systems that power jobs and industry across the Caribbean."

Ali is also promising to accelerate food security and logistics, modernising agriculture and agro-processing, opening new shipping and air links, and driving down the region's import bill, so Caribbean tables are fed by Caribbean farms.

"We'll strengthen collective resilience through disaster risk financing, shared emergency response, and joint action on climate adaptation, because, when the sea rises or the winds rage, we stand or fall together," he told the ceremony.

"We will deepen economic ties with our neighbours, expanding trade, investment, infrastructure, and knowledge exchange, so growth at home strengthens the wider Latin American and Caribbean community, and prosperity across the region creates new opportunities for every Guyanese." (CMC)



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Regional News

PAGE 15

WestJet plane suffers landing gear collapse in St Maarten, passengers safe



foam to prevent flames while passengers evacuated through emergency slides.

Witnesses described the response as swift and well-coordinated, with passengers — including children — escorted by bus directly to the terminal.

PJIAE said local contractors have been contacted to assist with the removal of the aircraft.

The runway will remain closed until it is cleared and inspected by the SXM Civil Aviation Authority.

All relevant aviation authorities and stakeholders have been notified, and passengers were advised to check directly with WestJet for further updates. (CMC)

The Princess Juliana International Airport Operating Company (PJIAE) in St Maarten on Sunday reported that all passengers were safely evacuated after a WestJet Boeing 737-800 aircraft experienced a landing gear collapse while landing that afternoon, forcing the airport to temporarily shut down operations.

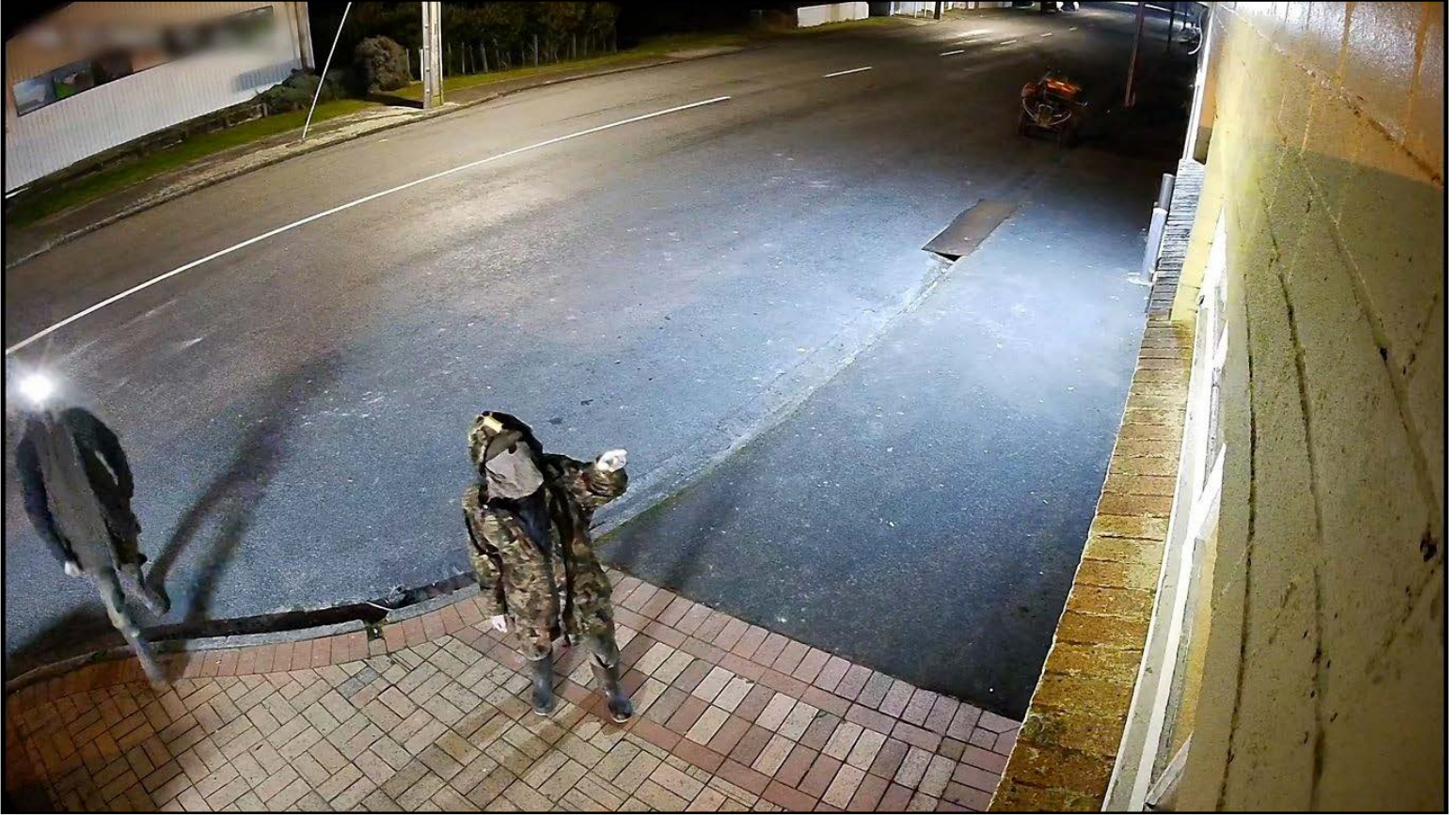
In a statement, PJIAE said WestJet flight WS2276 from Toronto touched down at 1:31 p.m. (local time) when the aircraft's right landing gear failed, causing it to skid along the runway.

"We are relieved to report that there were no injuries. Out of an abundance of caution, three individuals were taken for medical evaluation. There was no fire; however, contact with the runway caused damage to the aircraft's right wing," the statement noted.

Emergency crews responded immediately, covering the runway with



New Zealand dad shot dead by police after years on the run with children



A father who had been on the run with his three children in New Zealand's wilderness for nearly four years has been shot dead by police.

Tom Phillips, who disappeared with his children in late 2021, had evaded capture despite a nationwide search and multiple sightings over the years.

The case had gripped the country and remains one of New Zealand's most enduring mysteries.

Phillips was killed in a shoot-out around 02:30 (14:30 GMT Sunday) on Monday, in which a police officer was seriously injured, authorities said.

Officers were responding to a reported robbery at a commercial property in Piopio, a small town in northern New Zealand, when Phillips and one of his children were spotted riding a quad bike.

Police officers then gave chase before laying road spikes to stop them. The

bike hit the spikes and went off road.

When police reached the vehicle they were met with gunfire, Deputy Police Commissioner Jill Rogers told reporters.

The first attending officer at the scene was shot in the head, and remains in a serious condition, police said.

A second patrol unit then engaged Phillips, who was shot and died at the scene. While the body had not been formally identified at the time of the announcement, police were confident it was Phillips.

The other two children were found later in the day at a remote campsite in dense bush. All three children are unharmed, Rogers said.

The child he was with, who has not been identified, had provided "crucial" information that helped them locate Phillips' two other children later in the day.

It was unclear whether the children had been informed of their father's death.

Police have notified their mother and Phillips' parents that the children are safe, though they declined to comment on who will provide ongoing care.

The children's mother, known only as Cat, told local media outlet RNZ she was "deeply relieved" that "this ordeal has come to an end" after missing her children dearly "every day for nearly four years." But, she continued: "We are saddened by how events unfolded today."

Authorities said Phillips had been evading capture since failing to appear in court in 2022.

Before they disappeared, Phillips and his children were living in Marokopa, a small rural town in the region of Waikato. Phillips, believed to be in his late-30s this year, had been described as an experienced hunter and bush-

man.

Police believe he took his children after losing legal custody of them.

Marokopa is an area surrounded by a very harsh landscape, a sweeping and rough coastline, dense bush and forested terrain with a network of caves spanning many kilometres.

Locals know Phillips as a bushman with survival skills that would have set him up for building shelters and foraging for food in the wilderness.

Still, there were signs that he got desperate for resources. Since 2023, there have been sightings of Phillips and his children at numerous break-ins at hardware and grocery shops.

Last October, a group of teenagers spotted them trekking through the bush and filmed the encounter. In the video, Phillips and the children were wearing camouflaged clothing and each was carrying their own packs.

The teenagers had briefly spoken to one of the children, asking if anyone knew they were there. The child had replied “only you” and kept walking, New Zealand’s 1News reported.

Last year, a warrant was issued for the arrest of Phillips over his suspected involvement in a bank robbery in Te Kuiti, a small town on the North Island.

Police said he had had an accomplice during the alleged incident.

In fact, over the years, many have wondered if Phillips got any help from the tight-knit community in Marokopa, a town where fewer than 100 people lived, and the question remains unanswered.

Phillips’s death comes less than a month after his family directly appealed to him to come home.

In an interview with local news website Stuff, his sister Rozzi said the family had been “ready to help [Phillips]

walk through what you need to walk through”.

“I really want to see you and the kids and be part of your lives again,” she said then.

New Zealand’s Prime Minister Chris Luxon has described the turn of events as “sad and absolutely tragic”.

“This is not what anybody wanted to happen today. I think that is a consistent feeling from everybody across New Zealand,” he said in a weekly briefing on Monday.

Other New Zealanders are also concerned about how Phillips’s death would affect his children’s wellbeing.

Marlene McIsaac, a resident in the Waitomo district, says she wished there had been “a happier ending”. “For the kids, you know? The kids will be devastated,” she told 1News. (BBC)



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2 wedding crashers stole \$60,000 from newlyweds in California reception heist, police say



Police tracked down and arrested a pair of unsentimental wedding crashers who allegedly swiped \$60,000 from newlyweds who'd been toasting their union at a Southern California reception last week, authorities said.

Armean Shirehjini, 41, and Andranik Avetisyan, 37, were both still housed at Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles on Monday morning, arrest records showed.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 31, a man dressed in black grabbed a box from inside the Renaissance Banquet Hall in Glendale, about 7 miles north of downtown L.A., and sprinted outside where he escaped

in a waiting SUV, police said.

That box had about \$60,000 in cash, checks and gifts intended for the happy couple, authorities said.

Shirehjini was called the "prime suspect" and Avetisyan the getaway driver, according to a Glendale police statement.

Police said video surveillance footage played a key role in identifying and locating the suspects. Detectives "recovered a large amount of cash and dozens of checks made out to the victims from the wedding," Glendale police said.

Shirehjini "was found to be in possession of a handgun" and "several firearms and various narcotics were

seized from both residences," police said.

It wasn't clear on Monday morning if the men had hired or been assigned attorneys to speak on their behalf.

"It's really upsetting and I get really emotional thinking about it," bride Nadeem Farahat told NBC Los Angeles, days after the theft. "We keep reminding ourselves about the positives things that came out of the day. Of course, us getting married is top of the list."

Newlywed husband George Farahat added: "But ultimately I think we're thankful that everyone was safe." (NBC)

Trial of man accused of Trump assassination attempt at Florida golf course gets underway



The trial of a man accused of attempting to gun down Donald Trump on his golf course is scheduled to begin Monday, nearly a year after a Secret Service agent roused the suspect from a hiding place at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach.

Ryan Wesley Routh, a 59-year-old Hawaii resident and former Trump supporter, will be representing himself when jury selection gets underway at the federal court in Fort Pierce, which is part of the Southern District of Florida.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, called Routh's bid to serve as his own lawyer a "bad idea" when he first requested it in July.

But Routh insisted he and his attorneys were "a million miles apart," and his court-appointed public defenders agreed, stating the relationship with Routh was "irreconcilably

broken."

So Cannon has ordered that the defenders remain in the courtroom on standby as the prosecutors and Routh himself begin choosing potential jurors out of a pool of 180 people from the surrounding area.

The panel of 12 jurors and four alternates is expected to be selected over three days, and opening statements are scheduled to begin Thursday.

At a hearing last week, Routh said he wanted to subpoena Trump. And, in addition to the four character witnesses Cannon has already approved, Routh asked that several other witnesses be allowed to testify on his behalf, including a former paramour who would attest to his gentleness.

"That is clearly absurd," Cannon said in denying the request.

Cannon is the same judge who dis-

missed the charges against the president after he was accused of mishandling classified documents at his home at Mar-a-Lago.

Prosecutors said they do not plan to call Trump as a witness, and the president is not expected to attend the trial. NBC News has reached out to the White House for comment on the upcoming trial.

Routh has pleaded not guilty to charges of attempting to assassinate a major presidential candidate and assaulting a federal officer, plus several firearm violations. He faces a sentence of life in prison if convicted of the most serious charge. And he is currently being held without bail at the federal jail in Fort Pierce.

Routh, who was arrested Sept. 15 of last year, has been shackled at the waist, hands and feet and dressed in prison scrubs during his court appearances.

For the duration of what is expected to be a three-week trial, Cannon has ordered that Routh be allowed to wear professional business attire.

Cannon is also allowing Routh to question witnesses from the podium in the well of the courtroom, but he will not be allowed to wander from that spot.

"If you make any sudden movements, marshals will take decisive and quick action to respond," Cannon said at the hearing last week.

Prosecutors say Routh methodically plotted to kill then-candidate Trump for weeks before he hid himself in the shrubbery at the golf course and waited for his target. But before Trump came into his sight, a Secret

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Service agent spotted Routh, they say.

Routh, prosecutors say, allegedly aimed his rifle at the agent, who then opened fire. The suspect dropped his weapon and fled without firing a shot. He was caught a short time later.

Prosecutors also say Routh left behind a note describing his intentions.

During the court hearings and in motions, Routh has repeatedly disparaged Trump as a “fragile victim,” an “insecure ego idiot-mad fool” and a “baboon,” and even challenged the president to a golfing duel.

“A round of golf with the racist pig, he wins he can execute me, I win I get his job. (sorry hillbilly Vance),” Routh said in a recent motion, referring to Vice President JD Vance.

The judge has warned Routh multiple times that she will not allow any outbursts or inappropriate behavior from him during the trial. If he does not comply, she said, she would reinstate his standby counsel.

Led by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Shipley, prosecutors have released a 46-person potential witness list that includes both FBI and Secret Service agents.

Their possible evidence includes Routh’s text messages, his internet search history and security footage from the scene.

Prosecutors also plan to introduce a portion of Routh’s “Dear World” letter, which stated, among other things, “This was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump but I am so sorry I failed you.”

Cannon has not yet ruled on which portions of that letter will be al-

lowed at trial.

Routh said on social media that he supported Trump in 2016. But by 2020, he had soured on him, he said, writing in June of that year, “I will be glad when you gone.”

He also weighed in on international conflicts, vowing support for Ukraine and at one point requesting Cannon make a “prisoner swap,” stating, “I had wished for a prisoner swap with Hamas, Iran.... A Ukrainian soldier so I could die

being of some use and save all this court mess — but no one acts; perhaps you have the power to trade me away.”

Cannon rebuffed that request in July, telling Routh there would be no talk of “prisoner swaps” during the trial.

In addition to the federal charges, Routh has also pleaded not guilty to state charges of terrorism and attempted murder. (NBC)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

French parliament set to fire second PM in less than a year, fueling instability



The French government was set to be thrown into fresh turmoil Monday as lawmakers prepared to fire the prime minister, the latest leader tossed out by a deeply divided legislature. Parliamentarians on the left and right have pledged to vote against François Bayrou in a motion of no confidence. They are unhappy about his proposal to make drastic cuts of around 44 billion euros (\$51 billion) to next year's budget, an unpopular attempt to resolve France's economic woes.

This will be the second time in nine months that lawmakers in France's National Assembly oust a prime minister after Michel Barnier was deposed

in a vote of no confidence in December. Before that, the last successful vote of no confidence was in 1962. It means French President Emmanuel Macron will be looking for his fifth prime minister in just 20 months. Though Macron remains a big presence internationally — leading European efforts to support Ukraine and provide a counterweight to President Donald Trump — at home he is dogged by a divided electorate and long-term uncertainty.

Macron, in his second term, is barred by term limits from running in the next presidential election in 2027. The far-right National Rally is currently leading the polls, even

though its leader, Marine Le Pen, is barred from office because of an embezzlement conviction, which she is appealing.

As in the rest of Europe, the far right is surging in France, capitalizing on widespread discontent over a cost-of-living crisis that has fueled a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment. And on Wednesday, large anti-government protests are expected throughout France.

France's troubles took root last year when Le Pen's National Rally performed well in Europe-wide elections and Macron stunned the Continent by calling snap parliamentary elections. Parties on the left and right were able to

work together to block a victory for Le Pen, but the resulting parliament was divided, with no group holding enough power to govern with stability.

Macron cobbled together a minority government, but as Bayrou and Barnier have found, it is extremely vulnerable to attack by its leftist and hard-right opponents. Many French political experts say the current crisis will persist until 2027 when the country elects a new leader, who will inevitably seek to cement their mandate by calling fresh parliamentary elections.

This will do little to resolve France's short-term economic woes. Both Bayrou and Barnier were ousted while trying to resolve what they and many others see as a national debt crisis.

France's budget deficit — how much more it spends than it earns — last year reached 5.8% of its gross domestic product. That's far higher than the European Union average of 3.1% and the E.U.'s target of 3%, worrying investors about rising interest rates, lower credit ratings and less money for public services in the future. (NBC)

Hermitage make slow start in defence of Business League Title

Defending champions Hermitage Hotel were unable to make a winning start in defence of their title in the 2025 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship over the weekend.

Hermitage Hotel launched their title defence with a goalless draw against Cocos Hotel in their opening Group 4 clash at the Jennings playing field.

Meantime, 2023 champions APUA Telecoms made a winning start to their campaign in Group 4 by snatching a 2-1 victory against Antigua Power Company at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Swayne Thomas scored in the ninth minute and Dorgis Lara had a 40th-minute conversion for APUA Telecoms, while Omri Simpson scored in the 42nd minute for Antigua Power Company.

Last year's losing finalist and second-place finishers, the Ministry of Agriculture, opened their campaign with a 2-1 victory against Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) in a Group 2 affair at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

A winning start in Group 2 as well for the Ministry of Tourism, who pulled off a 3-1 win against Fresh Acres Enterprise at the St. Johnston's Village Stadium. The other opening day Group 2 matches ended in



Players of the Hermitage Hotel football team after winning the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship at Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Saturday, December 14. (File photo)

draws. The University of the West Indies Frigate Bird FC and the Jolly Harbour Stingers fought to a 1-1 draw at Jennings, while Macky Enterprise and Sir Vivian Richards Stadium played to a goalless draw at Golden Grove.

Last year's third-place finishers, Sandals Resort, launched their campaign in Group 1 with a 7-0 victory against newcomers Automotive Art at Golden Grove.

Blue Waters Hotel, Royalton Strikers and Galley Bay Ballers all recorded wins in the other three opening-round matches in Group 1.

Blue Waters notched up a 3-1 victory against the National Housing Department Demolition Squad at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Royalton Strikers came

from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against Public Works Asphalt at the Radio Range playing field. Jazward Vigilante scored twice with goals in the 35th and 45th minutes for Royalton Strikers after Shafeeq Joseph gave Public Works Asphalt the lead with a third-minute conversion.

The Galley Bay Ballers prevailed 3-2 against APUA Head at the St. Johnston's Village Stadium.

His Majesty's Prison (HMP) Oasis United and newcomers SkyTiger Services made winning starts to their campaigns in Group 3.

HMP Oasis United romped to a 3-1 victory against Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority at Radio Range. Maximillian Roberts had a conversion in the ninth minute, Errol Barnes scored in the 11th minute and Jermaine Thomas had an 18th-minute conversion

for HMP Oasis United.

Marken Dorisca scored the only goal for Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority in the 21st minute.

SkyTiger Services coasted to a 3-0 victory against fellow newcomers ACE Trucking FC at the St. Johnston's Village Stadium.

Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors and Postal Services battled to a 1-1 draw in their opening Group 3 encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Two matches were postponed due to a power outage on Saturday evening. The affected matches are the Group 4 clash between A.S. Bryden Green Acres and the Department of Immigration at Golden Grove and the Group 3 encounter between Keyonna Beach Hotel and Royalton Chic Hotel at the Jennings playing field.

Royals get off the mark with dominant win over the Kings



Barbados Royals skipper Rovman Powell, right, celebrates with fast bowler Ramon Simmonds after beating the St. Lucia Kings in their CPL match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Sunday, September 7, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The Barbados Royals skipper Rovman Powell and Chris Green produced clinical performances to finally end their side's drought in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) with a comprehensive 27-run victory over defending champs and table leaders St. Lucia Kings in Barbados on Sunday.

With his side floundering on 120 for five in the 16th over, Powell blasted an unbeaten 41 from just 17 balls, and together with Green, who scored 25 not out off 14 balls, got the home side up to 191 for five off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

In reply, the Kings never recovered after losing three wickets in the Power Play and sauntered to 164 for nine at the end of their allotted 20 overs.

It was the Royals' first win in seven games and left them with a mathematical chance of making the playoffs, while the Kings remained in first position on 12 points due to a better net run rate than the Trinbago Knight Riders, who have the same number of points.

The Royals' opener Quinton de Kock's nightmares continued when he was out after scoring just one run, but Brandon King and Kadeem Alleyne struck some hefty blows during a 53-run partnership for the second wicket that carried them to 68 for one in the ninth over.

Once spinner Tabrain Shamsi had King caught for 42 and then bowled Alleyne for 39, Rassie van der Dussen (20) and Sherfane Rutherford (16) followed in quick succession to leave the Royals 120 for five.

The dynamic duo of Powell and Green then came together to pummel 71 runs off the last five overs, including 61 from the last three, to propel the Royals to their highest total of this year's competition.

They smashed 20 runs from the 18th over, bowled by David Wiese, 21 runs from the penultimate over delivered by Alzarri Joseph, and 20 runs off Delano Potgieter's last over.

In all, Powell hit four fours and three sixes, while Green slammed two fours and one six. Shamsi was the Kings' best bowler with three for 26 from his four overs.

The Kings' run chase was over almost as soon as it began. Johnson Charles was caught by King off Green's bowling for one, Ramon Simmonds accounted for Ackeem Auguste, also for one, and Green also dismissed Roston Chase to leave them 26 for three in the fourth over.

Tim Seifert made 24 off 13 balls before he was bowled by Jomel Warrican and Daniel Sams sent Aaron Jones packing for two, to essentially end the contest, as the Kings crumbled to 61 for five in the 10th over.

Tim David tried his best in smashing 44 off 28 balls, Alzarri Joseph made 23 and Potgieter added 22, but it could not prevent the Kings from sliding to their second loss of the competition.

For the Royals, Simmonds grabbed three for 28, Daniel Sams claimed three for 31, and Player-of-the-Match Green captured two for 11.

Patriots beat Warriors in CPL thriller



St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots Muhammad Rizwan, right, celebrates with Naseem Shah as Guyana Amazon Warriors batsman Quentin Sampson walks off the pitch at the end of their CPL match at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Sunday, September 7, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots snatched a five-run win against the Guyana Amazon Warriors in their Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) match that went right down to the wire at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Sunday night.

Player of the match Muhammad Rizwan hit a half-century to guide the Patriots to 149 for six off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat. The Patriots then produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict the Warriors to 144 for eight off their allotted 20 overs.

Pacer Naseem Shah delivered an ice-veined final

over that got the Patriots a much-needed victory off the final ball. With the Warriors needing 11 runs off the last over, Shah nailed his yorkers to dismiss Keemo Paul for nine and conceded just five runs to stun the packed stadium.

The Warriors' captain Imran Tahir won the toss and elected to field first; his side took regular wickets, but the Patriots were able to post a competitive total thanks to a brilliant 85 from 62 deliveries from opener Mohammad Rizwan, who was dismissed in the final over.

Rizwan hit eight fours and three sixes before a mix-up in the middle saw him

run out with two deliveries to go in the innings. Navin Bidaisee cracked 22 not out off 21 balls, and Rilee Rossouw chipped in with 14 off 15 balls.

Slow left-arm spinner Hassan Khan took two for 21, and fellow left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie captured two for 44.

Guyana stayed in contention during their reply with the bat, but without a decisive innings, the Warriors ultimately fell short in the final over.

Shai Hope top scored with 31 off 27 balls, Ben McDermott hit 21 off 18 balls, Moeen Ali made 19 off 19 balls, and Quentin

Sampson cracked 14 not out off seven balls.

An all-round tight bowling performance from the Patriots saw wickets shared across the board to secure a well-deserved victory. Left-arm spinner Waqar Salamkheil claimed two for 28, and fast bowler Naseem Shah captured two for 29.

The victory sees the Patriots keep their playoff hopes alive. The Patriots remain in fifth position in the table with six points from nine games, while the Warriors also stay in fourth spot with eight points from seven matches.

India favourites to defend geopolitically-charged Asia Cup



Indian Men's T20 Captain Suryakumar Yadav, left, and Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar poses during the press conference to announce the team for the 2025 Cricket Asia Cup at the BCCI Headquarters in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025. (AP)

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Reigning 20-overs world champions India look overwhelming favourites to retain their Asia Cup title with Suryakumar Yadav leading a crack squad that can sweep aside rivals and any geopolitical distraction in the tournament beginning on Tuesday.

The September 9-28 tournament had looked in limbo after four days of military conflict between tournament hosts India and bitter neighbours Pakistan in May this year.

The eight-team competition was subsequently moved to the United Arab Emirates but the geopolitical undercurrents were palpable with several former India cricketers demanding a boycott of matches against Pakistan.

With New Delhi backing the Indian cricket board's stance of playing Pakistan in multi-team events only,

the Asian Cricket Council, which organises the Asia Cup, is confident its flagship tournament would prove a success.

With an eye on the T20 World Cup next year, India gave an indication of how seriously they view the tournament when they picked pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

The 31-year-old is played sparingly to manage his all-format workload and India will hope to benefit from the wily seamer's craft both in the powerplay and the death overs.

Test captain Shubman Gill has been recalled to reinforce a batting lineup teeming with serious power-hitters like Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma, currently the top-two T20 batters in official rankings, as well as skipper Suryakumar.

Arch-rivals Pakistan will enter the tournament low on experience but

high on confidence after winning a tri-series, also involving Afghanistan and hosts UAE, on Sunday.

"We wanted to prepare in a way that helps us for the Asia Cup and we've done that," Pakistan captain Salman Agha said.

"We've been doing really well since the Bangladesh home series. Finally, we're in very good shape and fully prepared for the Asia Cup."

Having ignored former captains Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, Pakistan will need sustained contribution from their batters against tougher opposition.

Afghanistan lost to Pakistan in Sunday's final in Sharjah but skipper Rashid Khan counts their familiarity with conditions as a major gain.

"It's important for us to learn from these conditions ahead of the Asia Cup," Rashid, who will lead Afghanistan's spin-heavy attack, said.

"Over the last eight-nine months, we haven't played much T20 cricket together and a series like this gives us positive energy.

"I think it's going to be a great and exciting Asia Cup for us."

Under Litton Das, a new-look Bangladesh will be itching to prove their mettle having lost the likes of stalwarts Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal to retirement.

Afghanistan play Hong Kong in the tournament opener in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

West Indies youths level ODI series with Sri Lanka



West Indies Under-19s captain Joshua Dorne

Captain Joshua Dorne, aided by Shaquan Belle and Brendan Boodoo, guided the West Indies Under-19 cricket team to a series-levelling two-wicket victory over their Sri Lankan counterparts in the fourth match of their Youth One-Day International (ODI) series in Antigua on Sunday.

The victory at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua was achieved under the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern (DLS) method.

Asked to chase 182 runs for victory, the West Indies Under-19s reached 167 for eight in 34.4 overs. Belle

guided his side to the target with an unbeaten 41 off 31 balls.

Earlier, skipper Dorne and Boodoo had laid a platform for the win with a 76-run fifth-wicket partnership. Boodoo was stumped off the bowling of Kugathas Mathulan for 34 to leave the West Indians on 98 for five.

Dorne was dismissed two runs later for an even 50, which included six fours and a six. Belle's brisk knock then ensured the West Indies team achieved their DLS victory target.

In the first half of the

match, the Sri Lankans, who lost the toss and were sent in to bat, were dismissed for 182 with 10.3 of their allotted overs remaining.

Openers Dimantha Mahavithana (34) and Viran Chamuditha (24) gave the Sri Lankans a sedate start, putting on 48 for the first wicket in 10.4 overs before they were dismissed by Isra-el Morton and Belle, respectively.

By the time Mahavithana left, Sri Lanka had got up to 78 for two, the opener having added a further 30 runs with Senuja Wekunagoda, who scored

17.

But despite Captain Vimath Dinsara (22) and Chamika Heenatigala (21) getting into the 20s, the Sri Lanka innings went into decline.

Belle finished with the best figures of four for 35, Boodoo picked up two wickets for one run, and Zachary Carter captured two for 34.

Belle then completed his excellent match by utilizing his batting to steer the West Indies over the line to level the seven-match series at 2-2.

The fifth game is scheduled to take place at the Coolidge Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

Summarised scores: SRI LANKA Under-19s 182 off 39.3 overs (Dimantha Mahavithana 34, Viran Chamuditha 24, Vimath Vinsara 22, Chamika Heenatigala 21, Senuja Wekunagoda 17, Adam Hilmy 16, Kavija Gamage 15; Shaquan Belle 4/35, Brendan Boodoo 2/1, Zachary Carter 2/34) vs WEST INDIES Under-19s 167 for eight in 34.4 overs (Joshua Dorne 50, Shaquan Belle 41 n.o., Brendan Boodoo 34, Jonathan Van Lange 23; Sethmika Seneviratne 2/22, Kugathas Mathulan 2/45).