

# New Operations Manager named at VCBIA

Page 2



*The HAPI Programme spread early Christmas cheer by presenting a thoughtful gift to. Claudette Willock of Parham. She was overjoyed and deeply touched by the kind gesture*

Story on Page 12

# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority names new Operations Manager



**ABAA's Operations Manager, Rex Daly with PS Sean Cenac**

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) has named Rex Daly, as its new Operations Manager with immediate effect.

Daly has distinguished himself as the first Antigua and Barbuda national to successfully complete the Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP), earning the prestigious designation of International Airport Professional (IAP) in record time.

Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, H. Charles Fernandez, was among the first to extend heartfelt congratulations to Daly.

During a congratulatory meeting held on Monday, October 13, Minister Fernandez personally commended Daly on his remarkable achievement, noting that while the programme typically



**ABAA's Operations Manager, Rex Daly with Minister H. Charles Fernandez**

spans three years, Daly completed it in just nine months, an extraordinary feat that has made history.

Minister Fernandez underscored Daly's success as a reflection of unwavering dedication, discipline, and passion for aviation.

"The continuous development of our people is the cornerstone of progress and the most vital marker of true national development," said Minister Fernandez. "I congratulate Mr. Daly for his outstanding accomplishment, which not only enhances the brand of the V.C. Bird International Airport as a world-class facility, but also underscores the Airport Authority's commitment to investing in its human resources. There is no industry without its people."

In expressing his gratitude, Daly said:

"I am deeply grateful to the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority for affording me the opportunity to enroll in this programme and for their unwavering support throughout my journey. It is truly an honour to be the first Antiguan and Barbudan to achieve this prestigious certification. The journey was not without its challenges, balancing day-to-day operations while studying, but perseverance paid off. While participants are typically given three years to complete the programme, I am proud to have done so in just nine months."

He also extended appreciation to the Global ACI-ICAO Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP) and ACI World – Airports Council International for delivering an exceptional and transformative learning experience that continues to raise global standards in airport management.

Daly further shared that he is now preparing to complete his Airport Safety Professional (ASP) certification by 2026, which will make him the first Antiguan to achieve this distinction. The ACI-ICAO ASP designation is recognized globally as the premier certification for airport safety professionals and civil aviation regulators.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Investment, Sean Cenac, also joined Minister Fernandez in congratulating Daly, commending his achievement as a proud moment for Antigua and Barbuda's aviation sector.



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## Head of US Naval Southern Command visits St. John's

United States Navy Commander Admiral Alvin Holsey who is responsible for the US Southern Command, paid a working visit to Antigua and Barbuda on Tuesday.

During the visit, Admiral Holsey met with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and senior members of the Cabinet. There has not been any indication regarding what was discussed during the closed door session.

Prior to the meeting, PM Browne indicated that as far as he was aware, the visit by the US military official was 'a courtesy call'.

When queried about whether the US Naval official's visit was to 'negotiate' with Antigua and Barbuda, PM Browne reaffirmed that Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to maintaining the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and that this is non-negotiable. He however stated that the country had no appetite to be engaged in geopolitical spats as Antigua and Barbuda 'was too small' to be having enemies.

Admiral Holsey also met with Brigadier Telbert Benjamin and senior officials of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force. Those discussions centered around Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of Trade Winds military exercises next year.

Brig. Benjamin said this is the 6<sup>th</sup> time that Antigua and Barbuda will host the exercises which include members of the Regional Security Service as well as the United States. The ABDF head said the exercise slated for June next year will have special significance as it will serve as part of the preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) taking place in Antigua and Barbuda in the second half of 2026.



**United States Navy Commander Admiral Alvin Holsey**

"We want to involve all the security forces; ABDF, Coast Guard, Air

Wing, ONDCP and police in Trade Winds exercise next year," he reported.

Brig. Benjamin said the United States is a 'key partner' of Antigua and Barbuda in security arrangements such as Trade Winds and that while there has been much speculation regarding the visit, there is nothing unusual about it. "We fall within the US Southern Command and with our key role in hosting Trade Winds next year, the visit by Admiral Holsey is part of the process to look at what infrastructure is in place for the exercise. We have been dealing with the Admiral almost on a daily basis so he is no stranger to us," he declared.



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## Antigua and Barbuda plans to abstain at IMO's net-zero vote this month



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has hinted that Antigua and Barbuda will not vote in favour of the proposal before the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on the issue of a net-zero emissions for large ships, a key factor in world supply chain and trade.

In an interview with Theresa Goodwin of ABS on Monday, PM Browne said Antigua and Barbuda favours a deferral in the adoption of the proposal as it will likely affect cost of living for the people of this country.

He said on this particular issue, both Antigua and Barbuda and the United States are aligned.

“Like the United States, we are equally concerned about this transition and we think that there should be a deferral and if there is no deferral, then we clearly will abstain. We will not vote against it because at the end of the day, we are one of the most strident climate advocates as we have been advocating for net-zero, so we do not want to undermine our overall position on this transition to renewables and to achieve net-zero as soon as possible. But this particular initiative could result in significant shipping costs that would result in increasing cost-of-living and it’s from that stand-

point that we are likely to abstain,” he explained.

The prime minister was quick to explain further that on this issue, Antigua and Barbuda was not responding to any alleged threat from the United States. Instead, it was taking a position as a sovereign state looking after its own self-interest.

“We certainly cannot support the initiative at this time,” he declared.

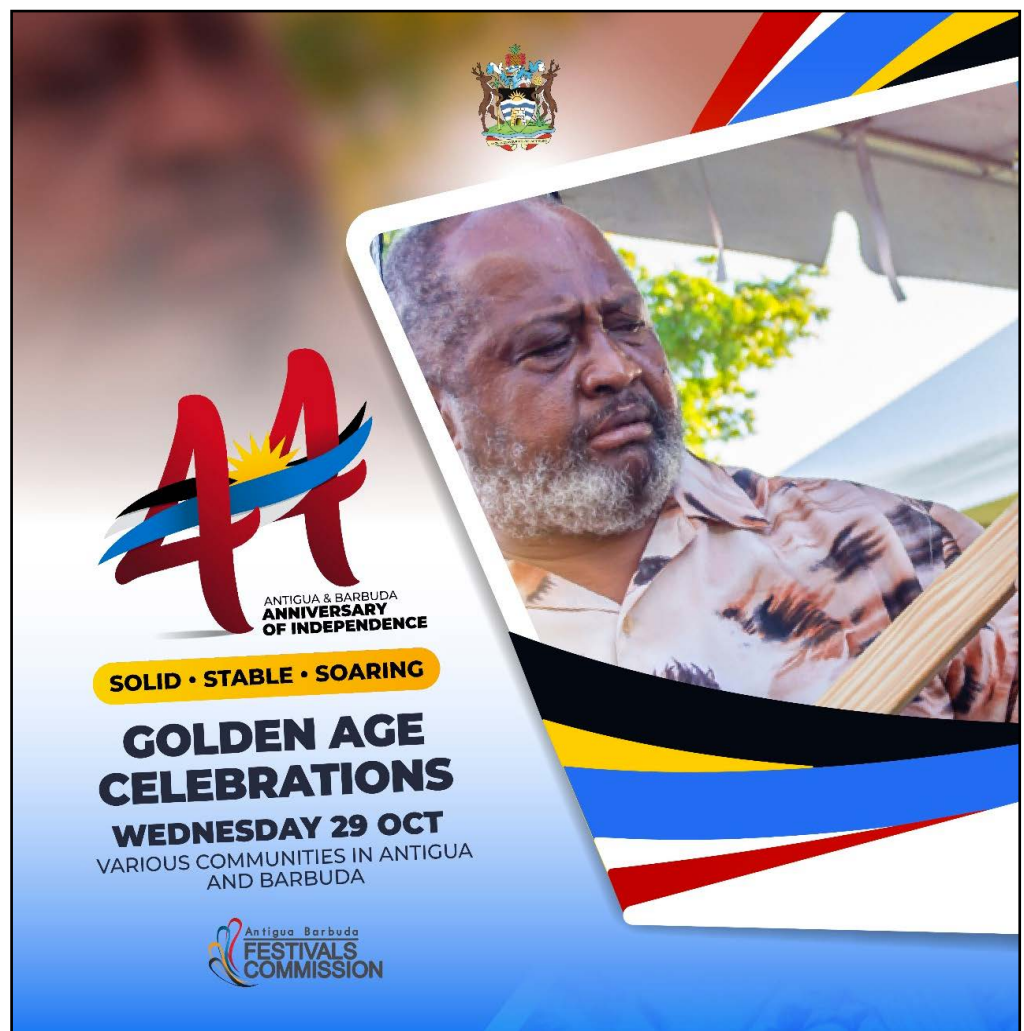
From its website, the IMO reported that it has achieved another important step towards establishing a legally binding framework to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships globally, aiming for net-zero emissions by or around, i.e close to

2050.

The IMO Net-zero Framework is the first in the world to combine mandatory emissions limits and GHG pricing across an entire industry sector.

Approved by the Marine Environment Protection Committee during its 83rd session (MEPC 83) from 7–11 April 2025, the measures include a new fuel standard for ships and a global pricing mechanism for emissions.

These measures, set to be formally adopted in October 2025 before entry into force in 2027, will become mandatory for large ocean-going ships over 5,000 gross tonnage, which emit 85% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international shipping.



**44**  
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CELEBRATIONS**

**WEDNESDAY 29 OCT**  
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA  
AND BARBUDA

Antigua Barbuda  
FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION

## Police Investigate Reports of Fraud

The Police are currently investigating several reports of fraudulent activities involving individuals impersonating representatives of local telecommunications companies and financial institutions to obtain personal banking information from unsuspecting residents.

In one report, an Old Road resident was contacted by a male caller claiming to be an employee of a telecommunications provider. During the call, the victim was asked to provide sensitive personal and banking information. The victim later discovered that her email had been compromised and over \$20,000 had been fraudulently transferred from her accounts.

In another incident, a resident of St. John's reported receiving a call from someone purporting to represent a telecommunications company, requesting her online account details. Shortly after, unauthorized withdrawals totaling \$400 were made from her bank account, and



attempts were made to place an order using a mobile app without her consent.

Separately, a man from All Saints reported the loss of his cheque book, which was later used to issue fraudulent cheques to a local business. The police are continuing inquiries into the matter.

Residents are strongly urged

to exercise caution when receiving unsolicited phone calls, text messages, or emails requesting personal, financial, or account information. Legitimate companies will not ask for passwords, banking details, or verification codes over the phone.

Anyone who suspects they have been targeted or fall-

en victim to such scams is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at 462-3913 or the nearest police station immediately.

The Police Administration continues to encourage the public to stay alert and remain vigilant against fraud and cyber-related crimes.

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## OECS Council of Ministers: Foreign Affairs Chart Unified Path to Safeguard Livelihoods



**Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene (centre) at the just concluded OECS Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting**



**OECS Director General, Dr. Didicus Jules (second from left) at the OECS Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting**

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) convened the 8th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (COM:FA) on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting, held against the backdrop of global geopolitical volatility, economic uncertainty, and climate crises, brought together OECS Foreign Ministers to chart a unified course on matters critical to the resilience and survival of small island developing states.

The meeting brought together Ministers of Foreign Affairs from OECS Member States, who convened to deliberate on shared priorities and advance a unified regional agenda, including E.P. Chet Greene - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Director General of the OECS, Dr. Didicus Jules, underscored the urgency of the Council's work, emphasizing that the challenges facing the region demand swift, coordinated, and sustained action. He highlighted that the Council's deliberations are not just procedural, but vital to shaping policies and programmes that directly impact the resilience, sustainability, and

prosperity of OECS Member States. He said:

"In the face of turbulence, our mandate is clear: to safeguard resilience, defend sovereignty, and chart a sustainable future for our people. The complexity of today's environment reinforces one central truth: our strength lies in solidarity and strategy. We cannot influence global outcomes alone, but together we can ensure our voices are heard and our interests are defended."

Ministers deliberated on a wide range of issues and agreed on decisive steps to safeguard and advance the OECS interests, including:

Reaffirmation of the region's commitment to safeguarding and transforming Citizenship by Investment programmes and strengthening the financial sustainability of the OECS.

- Agreement to enhance coordination and advocacy ahead of COP30 in Brazil, with a focus on climate finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.
- Progress on the Free Movement of Persons regime, with calls for harmonisation, retraining of border officials, and actuarial studies

to manage social impacts.

- Haiti's crisis, emphasising humanitarian assistance, diplomacy, and Haitian-led solutions.
- Updates on U.S. trade measures and their impact on OECS economies, with commitments to intensify diplomatic engagement and avert fisheries bans.
- Endorsement of the continued expansion of the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme, with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines confirmed as host of the Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service (ECLS) office in Canada.
- Support for the OECS Joint Embassies in Rabat as a cost-effective platform for advancing relations with Morocco and Africa.
- Updates from Antigua and Barbuda on the launch of the SIDS Centre of Excellence, the establishment of an Island Investment Forum, the introduction of a Debt Support Initiative, and their announcement to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2026.

## Antigua and Barbuda urges concrete financing reforms and quarterly accountability at OAS sustainable development meeting

Speaking at the 7th Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) at the Organization of American States, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders called for financing terms that match vulnerability, clear delivery timelines with partners, and a short quarterly public report to track results.

"Sustainable development, for small states, is practical: keeping electricity on after storms; ensuring there are schools for children to attend; rebuilding infrastructure to keep the economy running; and making sure debt payments leave fiscal space to provide medical services, keep people employed, and pay pensions," Sir Ronald said. "We cannot meet these needs with vague promises and slow money."

Sir Ronald outlined three immediate priorities:

- Financing terms that fit risk. Standardize 30-year maturities, five-year grace periods, and automatic payment pauses after disasters in loans to high-vulnerability states. Base



Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders

- access to grants and low-cost loans on vulnerability, not income averages. He noted the UN General Assembly's acceptance of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and urged lenders to embed it in their rules.

- Partner commitments on the record. By June 30, 2026, each partner should

publicly state how much funding they will provide for Caribbean projects, and how much of it will be grants versus low-cost loans. He again urged creation of a dedicated fund for Caribbean transport and basic services—ports, runways, inter-island ferries, water systems, and small local power systems.

- Quarterly public accountability. CIDS should publish a short quarterly report tracking: coastal-protection coverage; days to restore water and power after Category-5 events; renewables share, and diesel import spend relative to GDP; inter-island logistics costs; debt service vs. revenue and the concessional share; private capital mobilized per public dollar; independently verified mangrove/reef restoration; and days from disaster declaration to first insurance or support payment.

Ambassador Sanders also called for the creation of a small OAS project-preparation team on coastal defences and water security, as well as a public timeline Internet page listing who is responsible for each commitment and the deadline to be reviews at board meetings of the multilateral banks.

"Provide resilience financing up front. Make pausing loan repayments at times of disaster a condition of loans" Sir Ronald concluded.

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# 2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**25 OCT - 03 NOV**

## SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**  
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM  
5:00PM

## SUNDAY 26 OCT

- **INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE**  
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CREEKSIDE  
4:00PM

## MONDAY 27-29 OCT

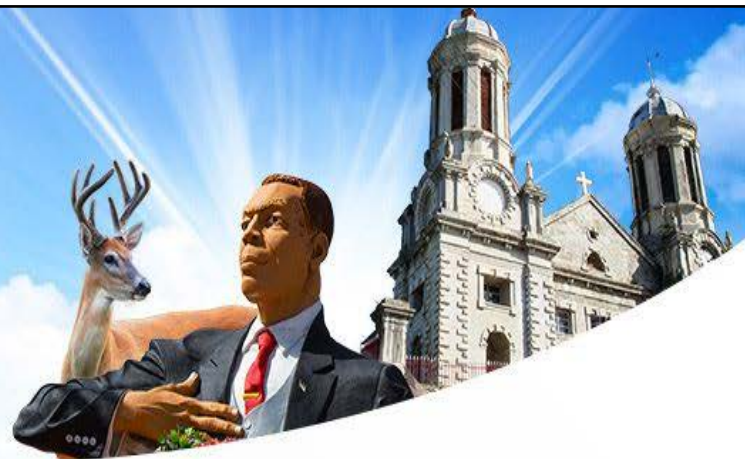
- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE  
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

## MONDAY 27 OCT

- **NATIONAL HEROES DAY  
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**  
HEROES PARK- SIR SYDNEY WALLINGS HIGHWAY  
10:00 AM

## TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**  
ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL  
8:00PM



## TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**

## WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

- **SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS**  
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE
- **GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS**  
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION  
"WADADLI ROOTS"**  
MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL CENTRE  
7:30PM

## THURSDAY 30 OCT

- **NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY** 8:30AM
- **CHEERLEADING COMPETITION** 11:30AM  
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
- **INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION**  
JACK IDLE  
8:00PM

## FRIDAY 31 OCT

- **NATIONAL DRESS DAY**
- **NATIONAL FLAG DAY**

## MONDAY 03 NOV

- **INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY**  
BARBUDA  
9:00AM
- **NATIONAL FOOD FAIR**  
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM  
10:00AM UNTIL
- **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL  
PARADE & NATIONAL AWARDS**  
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM  
5:30PM



## Sir Aziz Hadeed knighted in the UK by Royal Family



On October 8, Aziz Hadeed was knighted by Prince William at Windsor Castle, receiving the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. Simultaneously, his wife was bestowed with the title Mahasen, Lady Hadeed.

He was accompanied by close family and friends who were invited to share this touching and auspicious occasion.

Sir Aziz is well known for his charitable contributions to Community and National Welfare over a generous portion of time. He financially supported Team Antigua Island Girls, and funded Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the Atlantic rowing challenge which began in December 2018, donating 400,000 Eastern Caribbean Dollars. This assisted in the promotion of Antigua as a tourism destination, while raising awareness for charitable causes. He was also able



to make a significant contribution to their follow up event for charity, The 2023 World's Toughest Row Pacific Challenge across the Pacific.

He was appointed as the inaugural Chairman of the UWI Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) Board in 2019. Sir Aziz has been instrumental in transforming the campus. Under his leadership, student enrolment grew from 178 to over 1,100 in just five years. Due to the outstanding quality of his contributions, he was re-appointed as Chairman in 2024 for another five-year term, extending his leadership until 2029.

He played a pivotal role in securing \$80 million USD to support campus expansion, envisioning a facility capable of accommodating 5,000 students in five years. His strategic guidance includes plans for new classrooms, sports facilities, and dormitories

Sir Aziz's extensive contributions have had a transformative impact on Antigua and Barbuda, advancing education, community welfare, economic stability, and cultural development. His vision and dedication have positioned him as a key figure in national progress, making him a deserving candidate for this Knighthood.

## Antigua PM Rules Out Allowing Foreign Military Assets



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

By Denis Chabrol

(Bloomberg) -- Ahead of a visit by the Commander of the US Southern Command Alvin Hosley to the Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne ruled out the establishment of any foreign military installations in his twin-island nation.

"I can assure you that Antigua and Barbuda has absolutely no interest in hosting any form of military assets here in the country," he said in an interview. The US Embassy in Barbados said Hosley would be meeting with Browne and

Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell during his Oct. 14-15 visit. Antigua and Barbuda would not get involved in any military action, and the country is "happy" that it does not have military bases. Browne NOTE: Grenada said it was studying a US request to set up radar system at the country's Maurice Bishop International Airport. Holsey's visit underscores the unwavering US commitment to work with Eastern Caribbean partners like Grenada and Antigua, and Barbuda to advance regional security and stability, the US Embassy said in a statement.

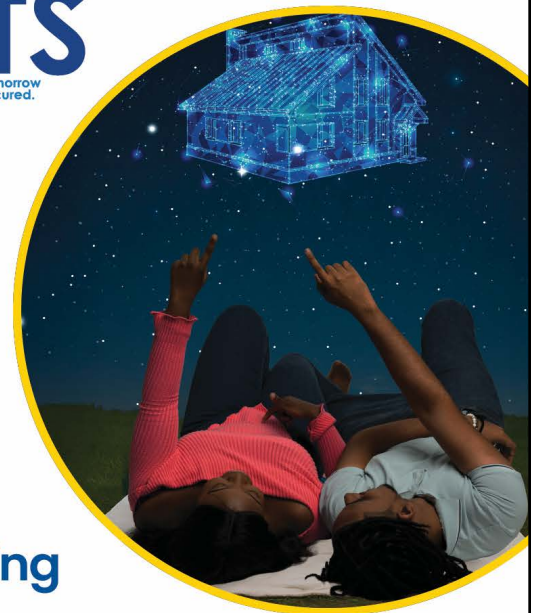


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

# Fire victim presented with new home



A Parham resident who lost her home in a fire almost three years ago, has been presented with a new home through the efforts of the Social Protection Board, the HAPI Programme and representative for the area, Rawdon Turner.

On Tuesday, Claudette Willock and her family became the proud recipients of a new 36 x 20 3-bedroom house. The house was delivered to Willock and family fully furnished.

Social Protection Minister, Turner, Operations Manager at the Social Protection Board, Mary Baltimore and head of the HAPI Programme, Inspector Veldon Ragguette participated in the handing over ceremony.

“The HAPI Programme spread early Christmas cheer by presenting a thoughtful

gift to. Claudette Willock of Parham. She was overjoyed and deeply touched by the kind gesture, expressing heartfelt appreciation for the generosity and warmth shared during in a timely manner,” Baltimore stated.

A breadfruit tree was also planted in Willock’s backyard along with fruit trees to encourage her to care them as a means of feeding herself and her children and to serve as an income-generating project.

Inspt. Ragguette who initiated the HAPI programme is extending appreciation to the Prison Superintendent, Trevor Pennifeather, for supporting the programme by making available inmates from the prison to undertake the construction of the house.



## More expressions of gratitude pour in for outgoing Chinese Ambassador Zhang



Operations Manager Mary Baltimore of the Social Protection Board

The Operations Manager Mary Baltimore of the Social Protection Board presented a plaque of appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Zhang Yanling, on behalf of the Honorable Minister Rawdon Turner and the staff at the Social Protection Office. "Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you complete

your assignment here in Antigua and Barbuda and we are expressing heartfelt thanks for your dedicated service, noting that you will be greatly missed for your hard work and invaluable contributions."

Meanwhile, the Indian Honorary Consul to Antigua and Barbuda also expressed



India's Honorary Consul Vijay Tewani (left) with outgoing Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling

warm greetings to Ambassador Zhang.

In a message he wrote; *Your Excellency Madam Ambassador, as you complete your tenure, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the friendship and cooperation we have shared during your time here. Your commitment to strengthening the relationship between China and Antigua and Barbuda has been truly commendable.*

*Antigua and Barbuda will always remember the warmth and dedication you brought to*

*your role. I hope the beauty and hospitality of our islands have left you with lasting memories, just as your presence has left a meaningful mark on our community.*

*As the Honorary Consul of India in Antigua and Barbuda, I thank you for your gracious partnership and wish you every success in your future endeavors.*

Warm regards,

Vijay Tewani

Honorary Consul of India

Antigua and Barbuda

## PAAWS battles to home final eight dogs

PAAWS has issued an urgent appeal for loving homes for its final eight dogs as it confirms it is heading for permanent closure.

The country's longest-running rescue shelter for dogs and cats announced in

August it was suspending operations after almost 30 years. The charity has rehomed more than 30 animals in the last two months but still has eight dogs left at its Parham-based facility.

"It's with a heavy heart that we confirm we will be closing our doors for good in a month's time. We had very much hoped we would be able to find a way to continue, but it is financially impossible," said PAAWS PRO Gemma Handy.

"We are currently staffed entirely by volunteers which was never a long-term plan. We remain deeply grateful to all of our supporters who have helped keep PAAWS going entirely on donations since 1996.

"We now have just four weeks to find homes for our remaining dogs. The good news is that, with so few left, we have had the luxury of being able to give them meaningful one-on-one care and attention, complemented by the efforts of dog trainer Amy Zukowski.

"That has really helped them come out of their shells; every single one would make an amazing pet."

Visitors can call into the shelter any day from 10am-2pm or make an appoint-



ment by calling 784-5151.

"We strongly recommend potential adopters come and spend a little time with the dogs and see which one they bond with. There is still time to do a trial adoption before the shelter closes down and we can also help with trans-

port," Handy said.

"A couple of the dogs may be shy to begin with, but once they get to know you, you will be rewarded with loyalty, love and companionship."

She added, "We are aware that our closure will dis-

appoint many of our supporters and fellow animal lovers. Rest assured that we will be doing our utmost to support other local animal charities – not least the Antigua Spay & Neuter Clinic which is tackling the roaming dog issue at its roots."

# Police Blotter

## Police Arrest Three on Suspicion of Breaking and Larceny

Police have arrested three individuals on suspicion of Breaking and Larceny.

Around 6:16 p.m. on Monday, 13th October, officers attached to the Special Services Unit (SSU) and the Criminal Investigations Department Task Force (CIDTF), responded to a report in Potters, where two males were seen removing several items from a home and placing them into a vehicle.

The vehicle was later intercepted on Valley Road near the Golden Grove Primary School.

A search of the vehicle uncovered several items, including a bolt cutter, a bunch of keys, and several other pieces of tools. The items and the vehicle were seized for investigation purposes.

The police also executed search war-



rants at their premises in Potters Village and Hatton, and seized several other suspected stolen items.

Three suspects were arrested and taken to St. John's Police Station for further investigation.

## Police Recover Stolen Vehicle Following High-Speed Chase in St. John's

A vehicle that was reportedly stolen on Sunday, October 12, was recovered by the police following a high-speed pursuit through the streets of St. John's on Monday afternoon.

At approximately 4:40 p.m., officers from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), the Gang and Guns Suppression Unit (G.A.G.S.U.), and the Traffic Department were on mobile patrol in the vicinity of the Ministry of Works when they observed a white Honda Fit motor car, which had been reported stolen.

The officers attempted to intercept the vehicle, however the driver reportedly sped off in a dangerous manner along St. John's Street.

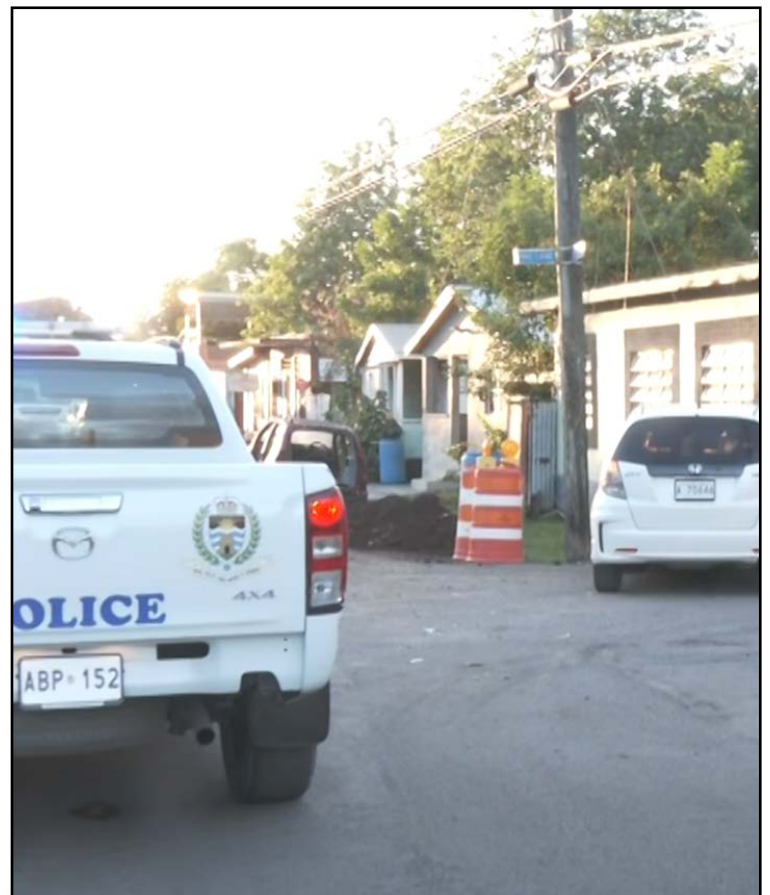
A chase ensued, and during the pursuit, the suspect vehicle struck several parked

cars before colliding into a culvert at the junction of St. John's Street and Whapping Lane, where it came to a stop.

Two male occupants exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The police conducted an extensive search of the area, resulting in the arrest of a 19-year-old Villa resident on suspicion of robbery.

He was taken into custody at the St. John's Police Station for questioning, and the vehicle was transported to Police Headquarters for further processing.

The police are appealing to anyone with information surrounding this incident to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the anonymous Crimestoppers hotline number at 800-Tips (8477).



Investigations remain ongoing.

**TUES - FRIDAY  
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY  
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

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# Regional News

## Mayor Scott pleads not guilty to charges stemming from election day clash

Spanish Town Mayor, Norman Scott, pleaded not guilty to the charges of assault and destruction of property when he appeared in the St Elizabeth Parish Court on Monday.

The charges against the People's National Party representative arise from an election day incident in which he is accused of hitting Jamaica Labour Party election day supervisor, Julie Francis, in the face and destroying her glasses.

Scott denies the allegation.

Senior Parish Court Judge, Steve Walters has ordered him to return to court on November 27.

Scott's attorney Charles Ganga-Singh has stated that Scott was the victim of an unprovoked attack by a mob of Jamaica Labour Party supporters at the polling sta-



tion in St Elizabeth on September 3.

He expressed confidence that when all the evidence is

presented in court, including eyewitness accounts and the report of the attack made by Scott, his client will be

cleared.

According to reports from the Black River police, around midday Scott stayed inside the polling station longer than the time allowed. When an election agent attempted to point this out, tensions flared.

The situation escalated when another agent tried to intervene, and was reportedly struck in the face by the mayor. His security detail quickly whisked him away from the scene.

The incident was reported to the police, and following investigations, summonses were served on Scott on Friday, September 12.

Scott was defeated by over two thousand votes by the Jamaica Labour Party's Frank Witter in the South East St Elizabeth seat. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## Caribbean Court of Justice visits Guyana



From Tuesday, October 14, 2025, through Friday, October 17, 2025, the Honourable Mr. Justice Winston

Anderson, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), will be in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for a series of official engagements.

CCJ indicated in a statement that one of the key events during his visit will be the swearing-in ceremony of the Honourable Mr. Justice Arif Bulkan.

According to the release, Mr. Justice Bulkan, a Guyanese national, is set to take the oath as a Judge of the CCJ on Thursday, October 16, 2025. The ceremony will be officiated by His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, and will take place at the Office of the President.

In addition to the swearing-in, Pres-

ident Anderson's itinerary includes courtesy visits to several prominent officials and representatives.

These include discussions with His Excellency, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali; the Acting Chancellor of the Judiciary, Honourable Madame Justice Roxane George; Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Honourable Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC, MP; Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary-General Dr. Carla N. Barnett, OBE; and representatives from organizations such as We Invest in Nationhood (WIN), the APNU Parliamentary Group, and the Forward Guyana Movement (FGM). (Dominica News Online)

## CXC® promotes the ethical and responsible application of AI in educational evaluation

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC®) recently expanded its regional engagement efforts with a series of discussions held in Guyana from October 8 to 11. The event brought together more than 300 participants, including teachers, students, employers, and other key stakeholders, to explore the implementation of CXC® standards and policies concerning the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in educational assessments.

These sessions are designed to motivate stakeholders within the regional education framework to adopt AI responsibly and ethically, as explained by Dr. Wayne Wesley, the Registrar and CEO of CXC®, said a press release. During a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Minister of Education, the Hon Sonia Parag, along with her senior team, Dr. Wesley updated them on CXC's ongoing initiatives related to AI, as well as other innovative projects such as the Caribbean Targeted Education Certificate (CTEC). This certification program employs a modular learning approach aimed at expanding access to qualifications for out-of-school youth, part-time learners, and adults seeking certification.

According to the release, Minister Parag highlighted the Ministry's strategic focus on enhancing the performance of every student in Guyana, supported by a digital school initiative intended to foster an engaging and interactive learning environment. It also stated that she acknowledged that CXC's innovative efforts, including the development of CTEC and the integration of AI considerations, align well with the Ministry's policy objectives.

Dr. Wesley emphasized CXC's dedication to aligning its initiatives with the educational ambitions of its member states.



“As we design and present our array of knowledge products to the market, we are grateful for the support of our regional policymakers”, he noted.

He also reportedly underscored the organization's renewed focus on competency-based assessment and the application of its Product Innovation Model. The aim is to broaden opportunities across the Caribbean, equipping students with the relevant knowledge and skills necessary for higher education and employment opportunities.

The stakeholder sessions on the Standards and Guidelines for the Use of AI in Education Assessment, which started in mid-September in Barbados and continued in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the OECS, will conclude with an online webinar scheduled for October 17.

Dr. Nicole Manning, CXC's Director of Operations and the lead on this initiative, expressed gratitude for the overwhelmingly positive response from participants across the region.

“The turnout and participation in these engagement sessions have been exemplary,” she remarked.

She also shared that, in Guyana, stakeholders have reached an agreement that while AI content will not be permitted in students' SBA submissions for the May-June 2026 exams, they will be allowed to utilize AI tools for idea generation and enhancement, provided proper referencing is maintained.

Looking ahead, the Caribbean Examinations Council will host a Regional Education Conference from October 28 to 30 in Jamaica, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth, Skills, and Information. The conference, themed “Navigating the Digital Age: Rethinking Teaching, Learning, and Assessment”, will serve as a critical forum for leading Caribbean educators to deliberate and craft strategies for advancing the region's educational transformation agenda. (Dominica News Online)

# Regional News

## T&T finance minister says CAL spent millions of dollars on audits without submitting a 'single audited statement'



Trinidad's Finance Minister Davendranath Tancoo on Monday said that the state-owned Caribbean Airlines (CAL) had spent more than TT\$60 million on audits, but had failed to submit "a single audited financial statement to the Ministry of Finance in over nine years".

Tancoo, delivering the first budget of the Kamla Persad Bissessar coalition administration, told legislators that the money had been paid to Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"Shockingly, even in the absence of these audited accounts, the former Minister of Finance repeatedly approved financing for CAL in 2017, 2018, 2019 and as recently as March 2025 to cover operational shortfalls."

Tancoo accused the former

finance minister Colm Imbert of closing "his eyes as CAL descended into inefficiency, non-compliance and fiscal indiscipline, leaving behind not a national airline but a national liability.

"Worse yet, he actively fuelled this reckless behaviour by repeatedly approving billions in financing without demanding accountability," Tancoo said, adding that in so doing, the former government minister "facilitated mismanagement, normalised waste and corruption and abandoned his responsibility of fiduciary oversight.

"This is nothing short of criminal negligence. We have now installed a strong board of directors who are making the hard decisions required to fix our national airline," he told legislators.

Earlier, CAL confirmed the immediate resignation of its chief executive officer Garvin Medera and that to ensure continuity and stability, chief operating officer, Nirmala Ramai, has been appointed acting chief executive officer "until further notice".

It said that under the "guidance" of the board of directors she "will work closely with the senior leadership team to support the airline through this transition".

The statement gave no reasons for the "immediate resignation" but thanked Medera for his years of service.

CAL said that it would "continue to operate its full schedule, with no disruption to customers or partners".

The statement by CAL on Monday said that as part of

the new transition, the board and senior leadership team will be focusing on five key initiatives, namely supporting employees and stakeholders with open communication and care, reviewing operations to increase efficiency and modernisation, enhancing the customer experience with improved services, developing a long-term, financially responsible and sustainable growth plan and conducting full and thorough audits of all departments and processes, to strengthen governance, safety, and accountability.

"The airline also reaffirmed its commitment to developing and promoting talent from within the organisation, before seeking external candidates, to provide employees with clear opportunities for growth and career advancement. (CMC)

## Mali retaliates against US \$10,000 visa bond requirement with identical measure

Mali 's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it will require US visa applicants to post a bond of up to \$10,000 in response to an identical measure enacted by America last week that takes effect October 23.

The ministry statement Sunday followed a statement Friday posted by the US Embassy in Mali's capital Bamako.

It cited high overstay rates, screening and vetting deficiencies, and foreign policy considerations as potential reasons behind the US decision.

"In accordance with the principle of reciprocity, Mali has decided to introduce an identical visa program, imposing the same conditions and requirements on US nationals as those applied to Malian citizens," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Mali's military leadership, which came to power in a 2021 coup, has overseen a dramatic shift in domestic policy, from being a major counterterrorism partner of France to expelling French troops and instead turning to Russia for security assistance.

But the security situation remains precarious, and attacks from extremist groups linked with al-Qaida have intensified in recent months.

Mali, along with neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger, has long battled an insurgency by armed militants, including some allied with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

In early September, the group Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, an al-Qaida affiliate, announced a ban on fuel imports from neighbouring countries in what analysts say poses huge risks for the fragile local economy and is a significant setback for Mali's military junta. (AP)



## Bus crash in South Africa kills at least 42 people



A bus veered off a road and plunged down an embankment on a steep mountain pass in northern South Africa, killing at least 42 people and leaving another 49 passengers injured, authorities said Monday.

The crash happened around 6 p.m. Sunday on the N1 highway near the town of Louis Trichardt, around 400 kilometres (248 miles) north of the capital, Pretoria.

The Transport Ministry said in a statement that the victims included seven children, 17 men and 18 women.

It said six people were critically injured and another 31 had serious injuries and had been taken to several hospitals. One critically injured child was airlifted to a hospital, the ministry said.

Images released by authorities showed the blue bus lying upside down in the embankment with rescuers working underneath it to search for victims. The Limpopo provincial government said rescue operations continued late into Sunday night.

The bus was travelling to Zimbabwe and was carrying Zimbabwean and

Malawian nationals who were on their way to their home countries, the Transport Ministry said.

It said the cause of the crash was not yet known.

In a statement, South African Pres-

ident Cyril Ramaphosa offered “his deep condolences to the nations of Zimbabwe and Malawi who have lost compatriots.”

“This sadness is compounded by the fact that this incident has taken place during our annual transport month, where we place a special focus on the importance of safety on our roads,” Ramaphosa said.

Last year, 45 people were killed in a bus crash in the same Limpopo province when their vehicle veered off a bridge and into a ravine. An 8-year-old girl was the only survivor of that crash.

That bus was carrying mainly Botswana nationals who were travelling to an Easter church gathering in South Africa. (AP)



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Antigua Barbuda  
FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION

## Instagram says it's overhauling how teens experience the app, making it more 'PG-13'

Instagram said Tuesday that it would overhaul its approach to teenagers' accounts and try to crack down on their access to objectionable content after a firestorm of bad publicity over how teens use the social media app.

Instagram, which is owned by Meta, announced a series of changes that it said were aimed at making teens' experience on Instagram similar to viewing PG-13 movies, with equivalent restrictions on sexualized content and other adult material.

One new restriction that Instagram said it would adopt is called age-gating: If an Instagram account regularly shares content that is age-inappropriate — for example, content related to alcohol or links to pornographic websites — then, the company said, it will block all teen accounts from being able to see or chat with that account.

The age-gating could apply even to celebrities or other widely followed adult accounts, Instagram said. But it did not say precisely where it would draw the line for adult accounts that do not want to be age-gated. A company representative said sharing one piece of age-inappropriate content would not be enough for an adult-run account to



lose access to the teen audience.

Other apps, such as YouTube, also use age-gating to restrict access to certain types of content.

A second new restriction on Instagram will block teens' search results for a wider range of adult search terms, going beyond its current list of restricted terms, it says.

The changes apply only to teen-specific accounts, which are accounts that teens have created using their truthful birth dates or accounts that Instagram has determined through its own investigation are likely to be those of people under 18 years old.

It is common for teens to lie about their ages online to avoid certain restrictions. A

2024 survey of U.K. teens by the media regulator Ofcom found that 22% of 17-year-olds said they lied on social media that they were 18 or older.

A representative for Instagram said it tries to catch teens who lie about their ages but declined to say how often it finds them doing so.

In announcing the latest changes, Instagram said it was borrowing the thinking behind the PG-13 movie rating, which suggests "parental guidance" because of "some material parents might not like for their young children." The film industry voluntarily released the modern film rating system in the 1960s when it, too, was facing the

threat of government regulation.

"Just like you might see some suggestive content or hear some strong language in a PG-13 movie, teens may occasionally see something like that on Instagram — but we're going to keep doing all we can to keep those instances as rare as possible," Instagram said in a statement.

The company said that for teen accounts, it would hide or not recommend posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, sexually suggestive poses or marijuana paraphernalia. It also said artificial intelligence experiences for teens would be "guided by PG-13 ratings by default," with limits on the types of responses given.

It said the same content restrictions would apply until account holders become adults, providing the same experience to 17-year-olds as to 13-year-olds.

Some parents have complained for years that Instagram, TikTok and other social media apps do not do enough to protect teens' well-being. Last year, during a Senate hearing, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg apologized to parents in the gallery who said Instagram contributed to their children's deaths or exploitation.

# International

AROUND THE WORLD



Instagram does not verify self-reported ages at sign-up in the United States, and Meta is a member of two trade associations, NetChoice and the Computer & Communications Industry Association, that have sued to block state laws that would require age verification. In June, the trade groups won injunctions against state-mandated age checks in Florida and Georgia.

Instagram allows kids as young as 13 years old to create accounts. Last year, it introduced teen-specific accounts, saying all minors would be routed into such accounts automatically with limits on messaging

and tagging.

Instagram says teens have created millions of teen-specific accounts, although it has declined to say how many of those accounts remain active after they are created.

Instagram is rolling out the overhaul after a withering year in the public spotlight. In August, Reuters reported that an internal Meta document permitted children to engage in “romantic or sensual” AI chats, including on an Instagram chatbot.

In September, two former employees of Meta testified before Congress that the company blocked their research into teen safety in

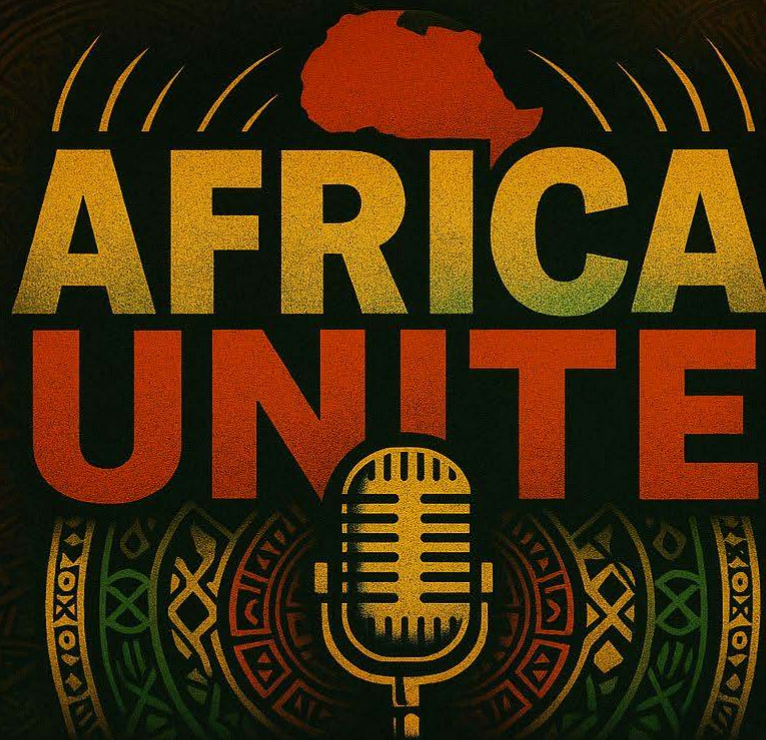
virtual reality and avoided adopting certain safety measures if those measures would mean fewer teens use the company’s apps, including Instagram and Facebook.

“Children drive profits,” one of the former employees, Jason Sattizahn, said in an interview last month. “If Meta invests more in safety to get kids off of them, engagement goes down, monetization goes down, ad revenue goes down. They need them.”

Meta at the time criticized Sattizahn’s testimony and the testimony of another former employee, Cayce Savage, saying that their claims were “nonsense”

and they were “based on selectively leaked internal documents that were picked specifically to craft a false narrative.” It said it had no “blanket prohibition on conducting research with young people.”

A report last month from several child safety groups, including Fairplay, criticized Instagram’s teen account features as failing to deliver substantial safety benefits. The report also urged that “recommendations made to a 13-year-old Teen Account should be reasonably PG rated.” Meta said that the report was misleading and that it misrepresented the company’s efforts. (NBC)



HOSTS:

**DR, CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE**

**POINTE FM 99.1**

**THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM**



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES THE CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup>, October 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....***  
The Department of Creative Industries is pleased to announce the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025.

We aim to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative and dazzling lighting display of our 2025 competitors, the Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition on or before Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs INET or the National Festivals Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service for December 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 to January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

**Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.**

**END.**

## More success for PMS in defense of U-16 Division title

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) notched up their second win in defense of their Under-16 Boys Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Monday.

After launching their campaign for a third consecutive title with a 3-0 victory via default against St. Anthony's Secondary School, Princess Margaret School romped to a 5-2 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School in their second encounter at the Antigua Grammar School.

Mario Lewis and Shumba Thomas each scored twice for Princess Margaret School. Lewis scored in the 37th and 39th minutes, and Thomas had conversions in the 43rd and 51st minutes. Jaheedi Charles scored the other goal for Princess Margaret School in the 39th minute.

Last year's second-place finishers, Ottos Comprehensive School, also made it two wins in a row with a 4-0 drubbing of St. Anthony's Secondary School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

After scoring twice in his team's 2-0 win over Clare Hall Secondary in their opening encounter, Robert Jeffrey once again found the back of the net on two occasions for the Ottos Comprehensive School.

Mickyle Samuel and Kas-



**Ajabe Rae of St. Joseph's Academy**

sim Pennyfeather scored the other goals for Ottos Comprehensive School as St. Anthony's Secondary School crashed to their second loss in as many games.

Ajabe Rae scored another two goals to lead St. Joseph's Academy to their second win in as many games with a 2-1 victory against All Saints Secondary at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Rae, who scored twice in St. Joseph's Academy's 2-0 victory against Jennings Secondary in their opening encounter, had a double conversion against All Saints

Secondary with goals in the 12th and 36th minutes.

Asante Warner scored in the 33rd minute for All Saints Secondary, who suffered their first loss after snatching a 3-2 victory against All Saints Secondary in their opening encounter.

A second win in as many games as well for Antigua Grammar School, which pulled off a 2-0 victory against Pares Secondary School at Antigua Grammar School.

Caleb Paul, who scored in Antigua Grammar School's one-nil victory over Sir No-

velle Richards Academy in their opening game, played a key role in their win against Pares Secondary.

Paul sealed the win with a 38th-minute conversion after team-mate Omen James' 33rd-minute strike gave Antigua Grammar School the lead.

The Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition will continue with the second round of matches in the Under-14 Boys' Division on Wednesday.

Defending champions Antigua Grammar School will face Pares Secondary School in the second game of a double-header at Antigua Grammar School at 3:15 pm.

All Saints Secondary will meet Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the first encounter at 2:15 pm.

Last year's second-place finishers, Clare Hall Secondary, will tackle Jennings Secondary School in the second game of a double-header at the Jennings playing field at 3:15 pm.

Last year's third-place finishers, Princess Margaret School, will clash with St. Mary's Secondary School in the first encounter at 2:15 pm.

Ottos Comprehensive School and St. Joseph's Academy will clash in another second-round encounter at Radio Range in Ottos at 2:15 pm.

## Anjo Wholesale returns to winning form in Business Basketball League

Anjo Wholesale returned to winning form in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League championships on Monday night.

After suffering their second loss in a 57-97 defeat to unbeaten leaders Board of Education in their previous outing, Anjo Wholesale rebounded to notch up their seventh win in nine encounters with a 68-61 victory against Police in the third game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Steven Matthew sank 22 points, Derrick Perez converted 18 points, and Webster Baptista chipped in with 14 points and five steals for Anjo Wholesale.

Joshua Salmon shot a game-high 33 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Julian Henry scored 12 points and snatched 10 rebounds for the Police, who remain in the cellar after suffer-

ing their ninth loss in as many games.

The Sledge O Ballers recorded their fourth win in eight encounters by snatching a narrow 57-56 victory against last year's third-place finishers, Richie's Shooterz, in the second game of Monday's triple-header.

Kareem Edwards sank 22 points and claimed 11 rebounds, and Deon Harry Jules scored 10 points for the Sledge O Ballers.

Kwame Brathwaite converted 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Cohen Desouza produced 11 points, 12 rebounds, and four blocks; and Tajahron Davis chipped in with 11 points, six rebounds, and four assists for Richie's Shooterz, who suffered their third loss in seven games.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre recorded their second win in seven matches by pulling off a 63-61 victory in overtime against Cornerstone

Builders and Maintenance in Monday's opening game.

Point guard Nigel Joseph produced 20 points and four assists for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Takeem Martin sank 18 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, Yohan Nicholas converted 17 points and snatched 18 rebounds, and Raheem Sawyer chipped in with 11 points, five rebounds, and four assists for Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance, who suffered their second loss in six games.

The Business Basketball League will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday.

The Board of Education will face Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance at 7 pm, and defending champs Sandals will take on Sledge O Ballers at 8 pm.



## DAILY PROGRAMMING




<b>EARLY VIBRATIONS</b>	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
<b>THE RUSH HOUR SHOW</b>	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
<b>TOUCHLINE</b>	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
<b>BAD COMPANY</b>	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
<b>REGGAE INSPIRATION</b>	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
<b>JAH WADADLI</b>	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

# India beat West Indies by seven wickets to sweep series



India's wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel and KL Rahul congratulate each other after winning the second cricket Test match between India and West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025. (AP)

NEW DELHI (AP) — K.L. Rahul scored an unbeaten 58 to pace India to a seven-wicket win over West Indies on the fifth day of the second Test on Tuesday and complete a sweep of the two-Test cricket series.

India resumed Day 5 on the overnight total of 63 for one, needing just 58 further runs to clinch the second Test after winning the first test at Ahmedabad by an innings and 40 runs.

Rahul's half-century set up India's win as the home side reached 124 for three in 35.2 overs. Dhruv Jurel was unbeaten on six at the end.

Sai Sudharsan (39) and Shubman Gill (13) were the

only wickets to fall on the last day, both caught from the bowling of captain and off-spinner Roston Chase, who finished with two for 36.

It was Gill's first Test series victory as India captain, a position he said he's still getting used to.

The West Indies had been forced to follow on after being dismissed for 248 in reply to India's first-innings total of 518 for five declared, a 270-run deficit.

Shai Hope struck his first Test century in eight years and John Campbell posted 115, his first Test century, to help West Indies reach 390 in the second innings

and ensure India had to bat twice to win the match.

"Campbell and Hope played very well for us. They fought for us, we batted 100 overs after a long time — taking the game to the fifth day was a positive," Chase, the West Indies skipper, said.

"The guys we have here are the best players in the Caribbean. So we have to use this test as a stepping stone for the next series."

It was only the fourth time since 1961 that India was forced to bat again in a test after enforcing the follow-on.

West Indies has not beaten India in their last 27 Tests

— home or away — dating to 2002.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, with 175, and Gill, with an unbeaten 129, guided India's big first-innings total that set up the win.

Kuldeep Yadav picked eight wickets for 186 runs across the two innings, and was named player of the match.

"It was a totally different wicket to Ahmedabad. Bowling a lot of overs was challenging here — there wasn't any drift and the wicket was too dry. So it was a very different challenge," he said.

## Qatar qualifies for 2026 World Cup with 2-1 win over UAE



**Qatar players celebrate they win against United Arab Emirates after the end of the 2026 World Cup qualifying soccer match between Qatar and United Arab Emirates at the Hamad Bin Jassim Stadium in Doha, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025. (AP)**

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Qatar qualified for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over the United Arab Emirates, thanks to second-half headers from Boualem Khoukhi and Pedro Miguel.

It marks the first time that Qatar, who lost all three group-stage games when the nation hosted the 2022 tournament, have advanced through qualification.

The victory put Qatar atop Group A in the fourth round of Asian qualification, ahead of second-place UAE, who now moves on to the fifth round and playoffs. Oman was eliminated after finishing third in the group.

Qatar's best first-half chance came in the 30th minute, when Mohammed Al-Mannai's header bounced just wide of the UAE goal.

Two minutes into the second half, Khoukhi opened the scoring by heading in a free kick from Akram Afif past goalkeeper Khalid Essa.

With 17 minutes remaining, Afif provided another assist, crossing from the left for Pedro Miguel to head home at the far post.

Qatar was reduced to 10 men when Tarek Salman was shown a straight red card in the 87th minute. After eight of the 15 minutes added on,

UAE pulled a goal back through Sultan Adil's shot from inside the area to ensure a tense finish. UAE would have advanced with a draw.

Japan and South Korea, which have already secured a spot at next year's World Cup, both won friendlies against South American teams on Tuesday.

Japan beat Brazil for the first time, fighting from two goals down to win 3-2 in Tokyo. Ayase Ueda grabbed the winning goal with a header in the 71st minute. South Korea beat Paraguay 2-0 in Seoul.

## Disappointment for Antiguans at Caribbean Elite Road Cycling Championship

Antigua and Barbuda's two-member team of Newell Mack and Alexander Whittaker produced disappointing performances at the 2025 Caribbean Elite Road and Under-23 Cycling Championships in Belize from October 9 to 13.

Mack and Whittaker were among a group of 17 cyclists who failed to finish the road race in the Elite Men's category, which was contested by 46 riders.

Whittaker ended in the 37th position, while Mack finished in 42nd place.

The overall elite title was captured by Rudy Alexander Gormoso Gomez of the Dominican Republic, who claimed the gold medal after three grueling circuits.

Oscar Quiroz of Belize placed second in the Elite category behind Gomez, and Guadeloupe's Benjamin Leny claimed third place. All of the top three finishers clocked identical times of three hours, 49 minutes, and 58 seconds.

The elite men's individual time trial was captured by Bermuda's Nicholas Narraway in 39 minutes and 25 seconds. Conor White of Bermuda finished second, and Christopher Morales Fontan of Puerto Rico came third.

Derrick Chavarria of Belize captured gold in the Under-23 category of the road race, Cuba's José Dominguez took silver, and Trinidad and Tobago's Jadian Neaves claimed bronze.

Teniel Campbell of Trinidad and Tobago won both titles in the women's road race and individual time trial. Campbell left the pack trailing to win the women's road race in three hours, six minutes, and 20 seconds.



**Newell Mack, right, and Alexander Whittaker at the 2025 Caribbean Elite Road and Under-23 Cycling Championships in Belize.**

Gabriella Arnold of Bermuda finished in second place, and Evelyn Matos Diaz claimed third place.

Campbell captured gold in the individual time trial in 28 minutes and 39.4 seconds. Llori Sharpe of Jamaica took silver, and Gabriella Arnold of Bermuda claimed bronze.

The overall title in the under-23 women's individual time trial was captured by Liannis Mesa Silveira of Cuba in 32 minutes and 15.6 seconds.

Kami Roach of the Bahamas clinched second place ahead of compatriot Sieanna Mackey, who captured third place.