

Housing Minister Stands on Integrity in Vehicle Procurement Fallout

Page 2

Giving Back!



Golden Grove Primary is one of five schools that emerged as winners of Auntie Claudette and Soca Army's 'Baddest Side Primary Zonal Competition'. The schools, to include Villa, J.T Ambrose, Potters and Holy Trinity Primary, will all receive Alto Public Address Systems.

Minister Browne Defends Record Against Attacks from Political Foes

Minister of Works and Housing Maria Browne has spoken publicly for the first time amid growing public scrutiny over the government vehicle procurement controversy.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne had revealed that it is the Works and Housing Minister that brought the breaches of government's vehicle procurement procedures to light, after seeing two Bronco SUVs parked at the Langfords Police Station.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Minister Browne — who is also the wife of Prime Minister Gaston Browne — said she remains committed to serving the people of Antigua and Barbuda despite what she described as politically motivated attempts to discredit her.

"I'm not one to share a lot on social media because by nature, I'm a quiet person," Browne said. "Daily, it is enough for me that I find gratification in just knowing that I have made, and continue to make, positive impacts in the lives of others and in solving problems in my line of duty."

Addressing the recent controversy, Browne framed the issue as part of a broader effort by the government to strengthen systems and ensure fiscal responsibility.

"What I face today is no different — another decades-old loophole is being plugged in an effort to save our country money," she said.

The Minister suggested that her political opponents were exploiting the matter to score points ahead of future elections, despite the reform



Minister of Works and Housing Hon. Maria Browne

being, in her view, a necessary act of good governance.

"Those who crave power by whatever means want to spin this good deed to sully my name in hopes it will propel them to victory," Browne asserted. "Because on their own, they have no merit."

Browne emphasised that her work in government has always been guided by integrity and accountability, regardless of personal criticism or political pressure.

"Under the principles of good governance, and doing right by the people who put me here, I shall continue to serve our nation — regardless of who likes me or not," she said.

She added that her focus remains on fulfilling her duties in the Ministry of Works and Housing and continuing initiatives aimed at cost savings and improved efficiency across public infrastructure projects.

Maria Browne credited her faith for sustaining her through challenges since taking office.

"From the day I took office I've been met with many challenges, and through the grace of God I have been able to surmount each one," she said.

The Minister also expressed gratitude to those who have supported her, writing, "Huge heartfelt thanks to everyone who reached out to me. I love and appreciate you all so very much."

She ended with an appeal for integrity and humility in public and personal life.

"Work towards your goals with pure intentions, as murky ambition will block your blessings. Do good and good will follow you."

The Works and Housing Minister's comments come in the midst of a probe over unauthorised government vehicle purchases. While accusations swirl in some quarters of Minister Maria Browne's culpability in the scandal, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has insisted she is in no way involved, neither did she authorise the purchase of 200 vehicles.

In a show of confidence, Prime Minister Browne wrote yesterday on his social media profile, "You are loved, respected and appreciated by the super majority of Antiguan & Barbudans. You are a great example of integrity, competence and performance for all females, here and abroad. Continue to make our government and country proud with your superior performance".

Browne and Persad-Bissessar to Reopen Dialogue on Insurance Settlement

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is expected to lead a delegation to Trinidad and Tobago to pursue a final settlement on behalf of former policyholders of the Colonial Life Insurance Company (CLICO) and British American Insurance Company (BAICO).

However, a date is yet to be finalised.

It follows discussions held in New York in September between Prime Minister Browne and Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Government's Director General of Communications, Maurice Merchant, confirmed that both leaders agreed the long-standing issue should be settled and that preparations are now underway for a visit to Port-of-Spain.

"The Prime Minister is putting together a team of officials from various ministries to travel to Trinidad," Merchant said. "As soon as a date is set, he's ready to go. It was agreed during their discussions in New York that there will be a settlement."

The Antigua and Barbuda government has repeatedly called on Port-of-Spain to honour approximately US \$60 million still owed to policyholders in Antigua and Barbuda and across the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

(OECS).

The financial crisis surrounding CLICO and BAICO dates almost two decades. The collapse of both companies wiped out investments and life savings for thousands of people across the Eastern Caribbean.

During her previous term in office, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar's People's Partnership administration paid US \$40 million of the US \$100 million owed to affected policyholders. However, payments stalled after

the Keith Rowley administration took office in 2015.

With Persad-Bissessar now back at the helm of the government in Trinidad and Tobago, the Browne administration is hoping for a breakthrough.

"The Prime Minister believes that after so many years, the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS deserve closure," Merchant added.

An announcement will be made by the Office of the Prime Minister once the meeting date is finalised.



PAYING SCHOOL FEES? IT'S AS EASY AS ACB, AND HASSLE FREE!

Use the ACB Smart App and pay fees on the go.
With our instant ACB Merchant Payment
or EFT Options, **we've got you covered!**

follow us on   for the list of schools

Local News

PM Browne Endorses Benjamin-Quashie for Deputy Commissioner Post



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called on the Police Service Commission (PSC) to prioritise merit and competence in its promotion decisions within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, saying that political affiliations should not outweigh qualifications and leadership potential.

Speaking on his radio programme last Saturday, the head of government expressed his support for Superintendent Louisa Benjamin-Quashie, describing her as a *“young, qualified, and capable officer”* who deserves consideration for senior leadership positions.

Browne admonished the PSC for what he characterised as a recurring issue of *“putting square pegs in round holes”*—a reference to appointments



Superintendent Louisa Benjamin-Quashie

he believes are less about professional merit.

“When you have young people like Quashie—qualified and dedicated—how can you not have her in the senior management of the police?” Browne asked. *“Because she’s not seen to be a comrade? That’s not how a professional institution should operate.”*

The Prime Minister emphasised that political favouritism undermines institutional balance and accountability, saying, *“When everyone is chosen based on party lines, no one holds anyone accountable. We need balance, and I will ensure there is balance.”*

Browne went further, publicly declaring his support for Benjamin-Quashie to be appointed as a Deputy Commis-

sioner of Police, stating that he views her as *“a future commissioner in this country.”*

“I’ve already made it clear to the Police Service Commission,” he said. *“If they select anyone else for the deputy post, I will not sign off. I’m backing her because she has the ability and potential to grow into the role.”*

The Prime Minister acknowledged that this is the first time he has intervened in the affairs of the PSC but said the decision was based on principle. *“You can send anybody you wish,”* he noted, *“but if it’s not Quashie, I’m not signing.”*

Browne also highlighted the need to support and mentor younger officers, particularly women, to prepare them for leadership. *“Even if she has certain weaknesses because she’s a young officer,”* he said, *“you should put a programme in place to help her grow and develop.”*

Mr. Browne maintained that his intervention was exceptional and aimed solely at promoting fairness and competence in leadership selection. *“What I want to ensure,”* he said, *“is that this country is governed better.”*

Superintendent Louisa Benjamin-Quashie currently serves as Commandant of the Sir Wright F. George Police Academy.



POINTE ON THE STREETZ
 HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
 POINTS BROADCASTING NETWORK

TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM
 CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991
 f **POINT FM99.1**



Early Closure Notice

Dear Valued Customers,

Please be advised that all ECAB branches and our Customer Support and Digital Banking Unit will close at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, to facilitate a staff function. **Regular banking hours will resume on Friday, 24th October, 2025.**

Customers are encouraged to plan their banking activities accordingly. During this time, you may continue to access your accounts through our ATM network or via MOREBanking Online and the Mobile App.

For card-related support, assistance remains available 24/7 by contacting the numbers listed on the back of your card:

- Direct: 1-869- 465- 3700
- Toll Free:
 - Caribbean: 1-800-744-2222, USA: 1- 800-300-1715
 - Canada: 1-800-893-3601



ATM LOCATIONS:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Woods Branches | ▪ 1st Choice Foods |
| ▪ Coolidge Branch | ▪ Perry Bay Supermarket |
| ▪ Dockyard Branch | ▪ Epicurean Supermarket |
| ▪ Redcliffe Street Branch | ▪ Jolly Harbour |

MANAGEMENT



Court Denies Warren Cassell's Bid to Resume Legal Practice in Montserrat

High Court Judge Justice M. E. Birnie Stephenson has denied attorney Warren Cassell's application for the reinstatement of his practising certificate, ruling that outstanding judgment debts and a lack of demonstrated accountability made him unfit at this time to resume legal practice in Montserrat.

The judgment was delivered on 3rd October, 2025.

Cassell, who represented himself in court, had applied under Section 24 of the Legal Profession Act for the Registrar to issue a practising certificate—an essential requirement for attorneys to operate in the territory. The Attorney General, Sheree Jemmotte-Rodney, appeared for the Registrar and opposed the application.

In her written decision, Justice Stephenson noted that the court's discretion to grant or refuse a practising certificate must be exercised "with reference to the public interest, the integrity of the profession, and the particular facts of the case."

The judge acknowledged that Cassell's 2022 criminal conviction for concealing the proceeds of crime had been quashed by the Court of Appeal in February 2025, but emphasized that the issue before the court was not his overturned conviction, but his failure to satisfy a court-ordered judgment debt that remained outstanding for several years.

"An attorney-at-law as an officer of the court is required to do what is necessary to uphold the integrity of the legal profession and must act with expediency to obey and satisfy an order of court made against him," the judge stated. "Failure to do so undermines public confidence in the legal profession."

The court found that Cassell had nei-



Warren Cassell

ther paid the judgment debt nor made adequate arrangements to do so, despite being at liberty and reportedly

employed in Antigua. The judge said Cassell's omission to disclose the debt in his application "was to be viewed somewhat negatively" and that his attempt to "sweep the issue under the rug" showed a lack of accountability.

Citing precedent from the landmark case *Bolton v. Law Society* (1994), the ruling stressed that maintaining public trust in the legal profession outweighs any personal hardship faced by an individual attorney.

Justice Stephenson ruled "This Court declines to exercise its discretion to order the Registrar to issue the practising certificate as sought by the applicant".

Cassell's application was dismissed with no order as to costs.

Motor Insurance
Get coverage and drive in a better **STATE** of mind.

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

(268) 481-7800/04
info@sicantigua.com
www.sicantigua.com



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 01st, 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, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st 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 5th 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 15th 2025 to January 15th 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.

Local News

Four More Law Enforcement Officers Complete University Studies

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is celebrating the remarkable academic accomplishments of four of its officers whose pursuit of higher education has elevated the Force's reputation for professional excellence.

Acting Sergeant Enzingar Jones, Corporal Kendel Shillingford, and Police Constables Paula Simon and Milton Jeremy have each completed advanced studies at internationally recognised institutions, earning top honours and distinctions.

Acting Sergeant Jones graduated from Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Human Resource Management — an achievement that underscores her determination and commitment to leadership within the Force.

Constable Paula Simon, attached to the St. John's Fire Station, emerged as one of Monroe University's most outstanding graduates. She earned both a Bachelor of Arts in Administration and a Master of Arts in Business Administration, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Simon was inducted into the Delta Mu Delta International Business Honor Society, which recognises academic excellence among business students worldwide. Her exceptional record also earned her the honour of carrying the main flag for master's degree graduates, a symbolic recognition of scholarly distinction.

Reflecting on her journey, Simon encouraged fellow officers to "have a willingness to learn, to understand, and to serve with wisdom," noting that "education shapes better officers,



Sergeant Enzingar Jones



Constable Milton Jeremy

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE

SOLID • STABLE • SOARING

**NATIONAL
DRESS DAY**

FRIDAY 31 OCT

Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS
COMMISSION

stronger teams, and a more just society.”

Corporal Kendel Shillingford completed his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management at Monroe University with a 3.905 GPA, while Constable Milton Jeremy earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology, achieving a 3.915 GPA. Both graduated Summa Cum Laude, reflecting exceptional academic dedication and discipline.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Everton Jeffers, extended high commendations to the graduates, describing their accomplishments as “worthy of the highest praise.”

“These officers exemplify the discipline, perseverance, and commitment to excellence that define the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda,” Jeffers said. “Their achievements strengthen the Force’s future and



Constable Paula Simon

demonstrate that continuous learning is essential to modern policing.”

He further emphasized the growing importance of education in shaping law enforcement professionals capable of addressing today’s complex societal and security challenges.

The Police Administration reaffirmed



Corporal Kendel Shillingford

its commitment to encouraging higher education and continuous professional training across all ranks.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
2025 NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS

MINISTRY OF SPORTS
 Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

28TH FEB 2026 | ROYALTON ANTIGUA

Commentary

THE END OF FREE-MARKET HYPOCRISY? WHAT AMERICA'S U-TURN MEANS FOR THE CARIBBEAN?



By Professor C. Justin Robinson
*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
The UWI Five Islands Campus*

For decades, the IMF and World Bank advised, some say forced, Caribbean nations to privatize essential services. Now Washington is doing the opposite—does that change everything? When the United States government took a 10% stake in Intel this August—followed by equity positions in four other strategic companies—it wasn't just another policy shift. It was the unmasking of one of international development's most enduring deceptions: that free-market fundamentalism was ever about sound economics rather than geopolitical power. Caribbean nations watching this transformation have every right to feel vindicated—and furious.

The Double Standard Exposed

As of October 2025, the U.S. government now holds:

- 10% of Intel (\$8.9 billion)
- 15% of MP Materials (\$400 million)
- Dual 5% stakes in Lithium Americas
- 10% of Trilogy Metals (\$35.6 million)
- A “golden share” giving President Trump veto power over U.S. Steel's major decisions

Additionally, NVIDIA and AMD pay Washington 15% of their China chip

revenues—what Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick openly calls “rent.” National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett described this as “a down payment on a sovereign wealth fund,” promising “many more cases.” This is precisely the state capitalism model Washington condemned for decades when practiced by China. When Chinese state-owned enterprises received government support, U.S. officials called it “unfair advantages” and “predatory financing.” But when America does it? It's “industrial policy.” It's “national security.”

The Caribbean's Forced Experiment

The contrast with Caribbean experiences couldn't be starker. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the IMF and World Bank made privatization a prerequisite for development assistance. By 2001, over 80% of World Bank water loans required cost recovery measures; 40% explicitly mandated privatization. Jamaica's trajectory tells the story. After a 1990s financial crisis—partly caused by earlier IMF-mandated financial deregulation—debt reached 147% of GDP by 2013. Each rescue came with more demands: privatize airports, seaports, water systems. Sell state assets. Gut public services.

England's experience with Thames Water cruelly exposes the potential costs of privatization. The result? £78 billion paid to overseas shareholders, £60 billion in accumulated debt, record sewage dumping, and now a £3 billion bailout request. Scotland, which resisted privatization, invested 35% more per household with lower bills and better service.

What This Reveals

Three uncomfortable truths emerge:

First, economic prescriptions imposed on developing nations were never about optimal policy. They served market access for Western corporations and geopolitical advantage.

When U.S. strategic interests require state intervention—for semiconductors or steel—ideology bends instantly. But vulnerable island nations needing state capacity for water, healthcare, or disaster resilience were told such thinking was backwards.

Second, the double standard is structural, not accidental. The same institutions that forced Jamaica to privatize utilities remain silent as Washington takes equity stakes and exercises government control over private companies.

Third, free-market fundamentalism was always for export, not domestic consumption. As Wall Street Journal economics commentator Greg Ip observed: “Capitalism in America is starting to look like China.”

The Opportunity

This moment offers Caribbean nations and other developing countries crucial opportunities:

Recognize “technical advice” as power politics. When multilateral institutions controlled by wealthy nations prescribe policies they refuse to follow, it's not economics—it's colonialism with spreadsheets.

Embrace diverse models. Singapore's government controls 37% of its stock market. South Korea and Japan developed through state-guided capitalism. Scotland's public water outperforms England's privatized system. There is no single path, regardless of what Washington preaches.

Prioritize resilience over ideology. For disaster-prone small islands, the question isn't whether government should manage essential services—it's how to structure involvement for maximum accountability and effectiveness. Climate vulnerability demands robust state capacity, not dismantled public sectors.

Build regional solidarity. Caribbean collective voices through CARICOM

carry more weight than individual nations negotiating alone.

The fundamental issue isn't state capitalism versus free markets—both can succeed or fail. What matters is accountability: who controls decisions, in whose interest, and with what consequences for failure? Thames Water's offshore investors extracted billions while systems crumbled, facing no accountability. That's the real scandal, whether in privatization or state control.

Reclaiming Policy Space

Washington's pivot doesn't automatically change power realities. The institutions dispensing loans with conditions remain controlled by wealthy nations. But intellectual liberation is the first step. Caribbean economists and policymakers should feel freer to now examine what actually works—Singapore's state guidance, Nordic social welfare, Cuba's public health achievements despite sanctions—without apologizing. They can ask: What does climate resilience require? What protects against disaster-induced debt spirals? What gives vulnerable nations maximum policy flexibility? The answers won't fit tidy ideological boxes. That's precisely the point.

If America can take stakes in strategic companies when it suits national interests, why can't Caribbean nations maintain public ownership of essential services when it serves their populations. If Washington demands revenue shares from tech giants, why can't small island states can structure economies to capture more value from tourism and natural resources.

The End of an Era

For decades, the United States positioned itself as the global champion of free markets, transforming lectures into loan conditions through the IMF and World Bank. Caribbean nations privatized assets, liberalized markets, and gutted government capacity—not because evidence suggested these policies would work for small island

states facing unique challenges, but because refusing meant losing development finance.

Now the evangelist has abandoned the faith—while maintaining the pulpit. This isn't just hypocrisy. It's revelation: economic orthodoxy shifts with political convenience, proving it was never science but ideology serving power. The implications ripple beyond trade policy. When wealthy nations preach principles, they immediately abandon when convenient, developing nations owe it to their citizens to craft policies

serving local needs and conditions, not distant geopolitical interests. The era of independent Caribbean economic thinking must have a rebirth—not in defiance of multilateral institutions, but in recognition that their prescriptions were never designed for small island survival.

The choice between state capitalism and free markets is a false binary. What matters is building resilient, accountable systems that work for your people. Washington's U-turn finally makes that truth undeniable.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH MOSQUITO FOGGING SCHEDULE



Oct 20th to 24th 2025



The Central Board of Health wishes to advise the general public that as part of the Mosquito Control Program for the adult *Aedes aegypti* Mosquito, the Vector Control Unit will be conducting fogging operations in the following areas.

Time	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
4:30 AM	Upper Gambles Carnival Gardens Sutherlands	Clarehall Johnsons Village	Cassada Gardens	Cassada Gardens	Cassada Gardens Skerritts Pasture
4:30 PM	Gunthorpes	Bendals	Cashew Hill	Golden Grove	-----

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:



Motorists are kindly asked to take caution.



Persons with respiratory illnesses are kindly asked to take the necessary precautionary measures.



Residents are also encouraged to prevent the breeding of mosquitos on their premises and to protect themselves from mosquito bites.



In the even of increment weather, such as rain or high winds, fogging will not be performed. Fogging will then resume on the next available day until the areas are completed.



(268) 764-4327 – Vector Control Unit

Head of InterCaribbean Airways awarded honorary doctorate from UWI

Lyndon Gardiner, the Founder and Chairman of interCaribbean Airways, received an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree from The University of the West Indies (UWI) during the graduation ceremony held at the Cave Hill Campus on Saturday, October 18, 2025.

Gardiner was awarded in recognition of his “transformative contributions” to the aviation industry and his role in advancing regional development throughout the Caribbean, according to a press release. It added that the honor underscores his more than thirty years of pioneering leadership in establishing the Caribbean’s largest privately owned airline network, along with his steadfast dedication to fostering connectivity and community growth within the region.

“This recognition from The University of the West Indies is deeply humbling. My journey began with a simple dream of flying – to connect our Caribbean islands and make travel accessible to all our people. Today, that dream continues to take flight through the dedication of our entire interCaribbean family,” stated Dr. Gardiner after the award ceremony.

The UWI Council high-



lighted Mr. Gardiner’s inspiring journey, from humble origins in Bottle Creek, North Caicos, to transforming interCaribbean Airways into the Caribbean’s leading regional airline, which now services 27 destinations across 17 countries and territories. They also reportedly praised his courageous leadership during the challenging times of the 2020 pandemic, “when he expanded operations into seven new countries while competitors retreated, demonstrating unwavering faith in Caribbean unity and growth.”

According to the release, in addition to his business accomplishments, Dr. Gardiner was commended for his philanthropic endeavors. Notably, he established the Manville Gardiner Memorial Scholarship at UWI in memory of his late brother, which annually supports five Caribbean students pursuing careers in aviation. His dedication to community welfare extends to medical transport collaborations with the World Pediatric Project, youth mentorship initiatives, and disaster relief efforts across the Caribbean.

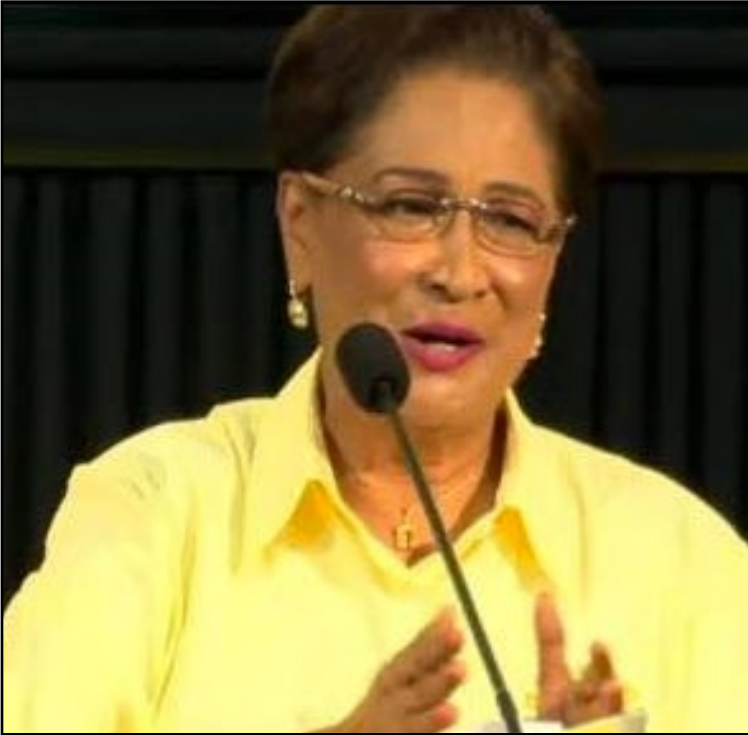
At the ceremony, Dr. Gardiner was accompanied by family members, representatives from the extended interCaribbean team, and close associates who have supported his vision of regional connectivity over the past three decades.

Trevor Sadler, CEO of interCaribbean Airways, remarked, “Lyndon’s story embodies the Caribbean spirit of determination, innovation, and community care. His leadership has not only built this airline but has strengthened bonds between our island communities and created opportunities for thousands of Caribbean people across the region.”

The 2025 graduation celebrations at UWI honored eleven distinguished individuals representing various fields including music, agriculture, science, and aviation. Dr. Gardiner was one of two honorees celebrated at the Cave Hill Campus ceremony.

Founded in 1992, interCaribbean Airways has evolved from a single-plane operation into the “most extensive air transport network” in the Caribbean, employing hundreds across the region and operating a modern fleet of over 20 aircraft. (Dominica News Online)

Trinidad doubles down on position regarding US military presence in the region



Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday reiterated its reason for standing apart from its CARICOM neighbours in declining to back a regional position on key security and regional stability issues, including the growing presence of the United States military in the region.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs said the Kamla Persad Bissessar-led government “wishes to once more, categorically express its strong support for the ongoing military intervention of the United States of America in the region.

“These operations aimed at combatting narco and human trafficking and other forms of transnational crime are ultimately aimed at allowing the region to be a true ‘Zone of Peace’ where all citizens can in reality,

live and work in a safe environment,” the statement said.

On Saturday, the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat said that CARICOM leaders had met to discuss several issues on the regional agenda, including the security build-up in parts of the Caribbean and its potential impact on member states.

It said that the position at that meeting was not endorsed by the government of the twin-island republic.

The meeting followed a series of deadly strikes by the Donald Trump administration targeting suspected drug-trafficking vessels off the Venezuelan coast, the latest of which reportedly claimed the lives of two Trinidad and Tobago nationals.

“Save in respect of Trinidad

and Tobago who reserved its position, Heads agreed on the following: They reaffirmed the principle of maintaining the Caribbean Region as a Zone of Peace and the importance of dialogue and engagement towards the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflict. “CARICOM remains willing to assist towards that objective,” the CARICOM statement read.

The regional leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to tackling narcotrafficking and the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, which continue to pose major threats to regional stability. They stressed that such challenges must be addressed through ongoing international cooperation and in keeping with international law.

Additionally, CARICOM leaders reiterated their continued commitment to fighting narcotrafficking and the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, which adversely affect the region. They further underscored that efforts to overcome these challenges should be through ongoing international cooperation and within international law.

On Sunday, the US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that his country had conducted a strike Friday on a boat that American intelligence officials believed was involved in illegal drug trafficking in the Caribbean.

Hegseth wrote in a post on

X that the vessel was affiliated with a Colombian terrorist organisation and had “substantial amounts of narcotics” on board. He said the three men on the boat were all killed and no US forces were harmed.

In its statement on Sunday, Port of Spain said that the Trinidad and Tobago government “affirms that these operations are not meant to target law abiding persons, specifically fisherfolk and other seafaring individuals seeking to earn an honest living.

“Alternatively, all persons who may seek to engage in, or indirectly support, any illegal activities in the region, are warned that should they be so inclined, they do so at their own peril.

“The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reiterates its commitment to the people of the Caribbean for the creation of a safer, stronger and more prosperous region,” the statement added.

Prime Minister Persad Bissessar has publicly praised the US campaign, saying she was happy that the US naval deployment “is having success in its mission.

“The slaughter of our people is fuelled by evil cartel traffickers. The pain and suffering the cartels have inflicted on our nation is immense. I have no sympathy for traffickers; the US military should kill them all violently,” she said in a statement last month. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News



Halima Haughton takes Miss Jamaica World Top Model prize



Four young ladies have now secured automatic top 10 placement in the 2025 Miss Jamaica World beauty pageant.

On Saturday, October 18, University of Technology freshman Halima Haughton became the latest fast-track winner, walking away with the Miss Jamaica World Top Model title.

Her runners-up are second-placed Kalea Roman, Miss Rituals Coffee House, and third-placed Nevaeh Allen, Miss Reggae Jamaica Village.

The previous fast-track winners are Asia Wright, Miss Jamaica World Fitness; Nevaeh Allen, Miss Jamaica World Beach Beauty; and Danece Jacas, Miss Jamaica World Talent.

In a keenly contested fast-track com-

petition, 19 ladies competed for Top Model inside the Alfred Sangster Auditorium at the University of Technology.

Fashion designer Bill Edwards, who served as chief judge for the panel, told Observer Online that it was difficult to select a winner.

“It was a bit challenging because we had about five girls in the Top 5 who were competing for the #1 spot. The criteria that we used to select the winner included poise, confidence, the x factor and the look. We were not looking for beauty,” said Edwards.

Haughton, who came into the national Miss Jamaica World pageant after winning the regional round for North-eastern Region, shared that she prepared physically and mentally.

“Preparation for me has always been holistic. I stay active, keep a balance diet and practice my stage confidence. Then I come out on the stage and deliver,” said Haughton, who studies environmental science.

“This win is such a pivotal moment for me, knowing that I am a professional model outside and putting in all that training and it’s fueled by passion and everything that I do here. So, I’m just over the moon. It just shows that hard work does pay off,” Haughton added.

Haughton, who wears the sash Bird-shack Fried Chicken, finished in second place in the Fitness fast-track

competition and third in the Beach Beauty competition.

It has been an amazing turnaround for Haughton who competed in last year’s Miss Jamaica World pageant and did not make it into any of the fast-track competition neither did she place in the Top 10.

“I’m returning from last year, but I’d say my main mandate for entering was to inspire others and to push forth my advocacy. The Miss Jamaica World pageant offers so much more than just a crown – it gives you a platform, it gives you a community, so I believe it was important for me as a person, to develop. It drives me and makes me want to deliver,” she disclosed.

The five feet, five inches tall beauty, who is originally from Falmouth in Trelawny, moved to St Ann where she attended Westwood High school. She earned an associate in environmental studies at Moneague College before transferring to the University of Technology and moving to Kingston three months ago.

“Being a part of the regional pageant has helped me tremendously and I have grown so much. The fast-track competitions also play a significant role in challenging my inner self and made me braver,” Haughton reasoned.

The Jamaica Observer is one of the sponsors of the 2025 Miss Jamaica World pageant. (Jamaica Observer)



DRIVE MORE
WORRY LESS

Payments as low as
\$850
Monthly

5 Years
Warranty

\$2,000
Insurance Voucher

CHANGAN
ALSVIN

FREE
GAS | PLATES | LICENSE & REGISTRATION

462-1062
f ChanganAntigua

Trump says Gaza ceasefire still in place after Israeli strikes



President Donald Trump insisted that the ceasefire in Gaza was still in place after Israel launched strikes in the enclave and traded accusations with Hamas that each side had violated the fragile truce he helped broker.

“We wanna make sure that it’s going to be very peaceful with Hamas,” Trump told reporters onboard Air Force One late Sunday after Israel carried out a wave of strikes in response to what it said were a series of Hamas attacks on Israeli forces in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

The Israel Defense Forces confirmed Sunday that it had begun “renewed enforcement of the ceasefire” after the first major test of the deal.

Trump said Washington believed that Hamas leadership may not have been involved in the alleged vi-

olation of the truce after Israel accused the militant group of killing two soldiers beyond the “yellow line,” referring to the boundary within Gaza that Israeli troops have withdrawn to under the first phase of the truce.

Asked whether the Israeli strikes that followed the incident were justified, Trump said, “I’d have to get back to you on that,” adding that the matter was “under review.” He said the situation was “going to be handled toughly, but properly.”

As fears grew in the region that the 10-day-old ceasefire agreement could collapse, Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law, landed in Israel, where they met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to a spokesperson for his government.



CoreConsult Inc.

P.O. Box 2118, St. John
Antigua and Barbuda

WE'RE HIRING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are seeking a detail-oriented and proactive Administrative Assistant to support the daily operations on behalf of our client. The ideal candidate will be organized, resourceful, and capable of handling a wide range of administrative and financial tasks in a dynamic environment.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform general office duties such as scheduling, filing, and responding to inquiries.
- Update and manage social media platforms and membership databases.
- Prepare reports, presentations, and promotional materials.
- Assist in event planning and coordination with staff and volunteers.
- Manage payroll, statutory payments, and banking transaction
- Maintain bookkeeping and financial records.

REQUIREMENTS

- Associate Degree in Accounting, Marketing, or Business Administration preferred.
- Must have a valid driver’s license and access to a reliable vehicle.
- Ability to work 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, with flexibility for overtime or weekend duties.
- Strong organizational, communication, and computer skills.

Send Your CV and cover letter
before October 31, 2025 To

jobs@coreconsultinc.com

International

AROUND THE WORLD



The spokesperson added that Vice President J.D. Vance and his wife, Second Lady Usha Vance, were also expected to make a trip to Israel.

Hamas' failure to return all of the bodies of deceased hostages held in Gaza had already put a strain on talks to advance to a second stage of the deal.

The difficulty of locating remains of deceased hostages amid the rubble of Gaza had been raised by both Hamas and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has helped facilitate the release of hostages held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by Israel.

Israeli barriers to more aid entering Gaza, another key tenet of the agreement, have also been a point of contention. An Israeli security official said Monday that aid would enter the famine-stricken territory through the Kerem Shalom crossing, while the Rafah crossing remained closed.

But after days of mounting tensions, Sunday's strikes posed a sudden and significant threat to the deal.

A spokesperson for the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza told NBC News on Sunday that at least 23 people had been killed in Israeli attacks that day.

Hamas denied any involvement in the incident in Rafah and emphasized its commitment to the truce, while a senior official accused Israel of working to "fabricate flimsy pretexts" for its own assault.

Hamas' government media office accused Israel of committing "80 violations" of the ceasefire since it began, which it said had killed dozens of people and wounded hundreds in just over a week.

In a post on X on Monday, Defense Minister Israel Katz said he had instructed the IDF to convey a "clear message" to Hamas leaders in Gaza through an "American oversight mechanism" warning that any militant found beyond the yellow line must evacuate the area immediately.

He said anyone who remained would be a "target for attack without any further warning" and that Hamas leaders would be considered responsible for any incident.

Israel has repeatedly been accused of opening fire on Palestinians, with the IDF confirming at least one incident in which it said it had opened fire on people who came near the "yellow line."

It was not clear exactly how aware Palestinians will have been of where that line sits. On Monday, a spokesperson for Katz shared video showing yellow blocks being placed along the boundary, saying efforts were underway to clearly mark the withdrawal line.

For families who have been hoping to finally bury the remains of their loved ones, the delays and confusion have left them devastated.

"Hamas hasn't been living up to their part of the deal," Orna Neutra, the mother of Omer Neutra, a 21-year-old IDF soldier from New York whose body has been held by Hamas in Gaza,

told NBC News in an interview Monday.

"Our son, he's still there," she said, sitting alongside her husband, Ronen Neutra. She added that she hoped Witkoff and Kushner would be working during their visit to the Middle East to ensure the remains of hostages still held in Gaza are located and released.

Meanwhile, families in Gaza have been trying to identify their loved ones among the bodies returned by Israel under the deal, with some traveling to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis to see if they could find their relatives.

"We wanted to go there to see if our son was among them as he has been missing for two years," Mohammad Al-Masri said Saturday of his 18-year-old son, Haitham, who he said he feared had been detained by Israeli forces nearly two years ago.

"We don't know his fate — whether he is alive or dead," his wife, Samar Al-Masri, added. (NBC)

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE

SOLID • STABLE • SOARING

**GOLDEN AGE
CELEBRATIONS**

WEDNESDAY 29 OCT
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA

Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS
COMMISSION

Life-changing eye implant helps blind patients read again

A group of blind patients can now read again after being fitted with a life-changing implant at the back of the eye.

A surgeon who inserted the microchips in five patients at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London says the results of the international trial are “astounding”.

Sheila Irvine, 70, who is registered blind, told the BBC it was “out of this world” to be able to read and do cross-words again. “It’s beautiful, wonderful. It gives me such pleasure.”

The technology offers hope to people with an advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD), called geographic atrophy (GA), which affects more than 250,000 people in the UK and five million worldwide.

In those with the condition - which is more common in older people - cells in a tiny area of the retina at the back of the eye gradually become damaged and die, resulting in blurred or distorted central vision. Colour and fine detail are often lost.

The new procedure involves inserting a tiny 2mm-square photovoltaic microchip, with the thickness of a human hair, under the retina.

Patients then put on glasses with a built-in video camera. The camera sends an infrared beam of video images to the implant at the back of



the eye, which sends them on to a small pocket processor to be enhanced and made clearer.

The images are then sent back to the patient’s brain, via the implant and optic nerve, giving them some vision again.

The patients spent months learning how to interpret the images.

Mahi Muqit, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, who led the UK arm of the trial, told the BBC it was “pioneering and life-changing technology”.

“This is the first implant that’s been demonstrated to give patients meaningful vision that they can use in their daily life, such as reading, writing.

“I think this is a major advance,” he said.

The graphic shows how the technology works. There is an illustration of a patient with the implant wearing glasses with a built-in video camera and holding a pro-

cessor connected by wire to the glasses.

Below, another graphic shows how the camera sends images to the implant at the back of the eye, via infrared beam. A close-up of the eye shows the implant receiving those infrared images and then sending them on to a black hand-held processor. Red arrows highlight that the images are sent to the processor, enhanced and then sent back to the implant and on to the brain.

A third graphic illustrates the way the images are enhanced. On the left is an image from the camera showing part of a word. The letters ‘ernoon’ are coloured black on a white background and appear slightly blurred. On the right is an enhanced image seen by the patient where the letters (now white) are bold and stand out against a black background.

For the research, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, 38 patients with geographic atrophy

in five European countries took part in the trial of the Prima implant, which is made by California biotech Science Corporation.

Of 32 patients given the implant, 27 were able to read again using their central vision. After a year, this equated to an improvement of 25 letters, or five lines, on an eye chart.

For Sheila, from Wiltshire, the improvement is even more dramatic. Without the implant, she is completely unable to read.

But when we filmed Sheila reading an eye chart at Moorfields Hospital, she did not make a single error. After completing it, she punched the air and cheered.

Sheila Irvine faces the camera standing next to a blue sign with white writing saying Welcome to Moorfields, the London hospital where she had the procedure. She is smiling and is wearing a checked shirt and red headscarf.

Sheila says she rushes her chores every day in order to sit down and put on the special glasses

The task took huge concentration. Sheila had to put a pillow under her chin in order to steady the feed from the camera, which can focus on just one or two letters at a time. At some points she needed the device switched to magnification mode, especially to distinguish be-

tween the letters C and O.

Sheila began losing her central vision more than 30 years ago, due to loss of cells in the retina. She describes her vision as like having two black discs in each eye.

Sheila gets around using a white cane because her very limited peripheral vision is completely blurred. She is unable to read even the largest street signs when outdoors.

When she had to give up her driving licence, she says she cried.

But after having an implant fitted around three years ago, she is delighted by her progress, as is the medical team at Moorfields.

"I am able to read my post, books, and do crosswords and Sudoku," she says.

When asked if she ever thought she'd read again, Sheila replied: "Not on your nelly!"

"It is amazing. I am one happy bunny," she adds.

"Technology is moving so fast, it's amazing that I am part of it."

Sheila is wearing the special glasses, reading from a tablet a few centimetres from her face - she is side-on, holding one hand to the side of her face and concentrating hard. Watching behind her, slightly blurred, is consultant ophthalmic surgeon Mahi Muqit, from Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Sheila doesn't wear the device when outdoors. In part,

this is because it requires great concentration - her head has to be held very still in order to read. She also does not want to become over-reliant on the device.

Instead, she says she "rushes her chores" at home each day before sitting down and putting on the special glasses.

The Prima implant is not yet licensed so is not available outside of clinical trials, and it's unclear how much it may eventually cost.

Nonetheless, Mahi Muqit said he hoped it would be available to some NHS patients "within a few years."

It's possible the technology could be used to help people with other eye conditions in the future.

Dr Peter Bloomfield, director of research at Macular Society, says the results are "encouraging" and "fantastic news" for those who currently have no treatment options.

"Artificial vision may offer a lot of hope to many, particularly after previous disappointments in the world of dry AMD treatment.

"We are now watching closely to see if the Prima implant will be approved for use here in the UK, and crucially whether it could be made available on the NHS."

The implant would not help restore sight in people born blind, because they don't have a functioning optic nerve to pass signals to the brain. (BBC)

CoreConsult Inc.

P.O. Box 2118, St. John
Antigua and Barbuda



JOB OPPORTUNITY

PROJECT OFFICER

We are seeking a Project Officer to support the coordination and management of a regional project on behalf of our client. This position offers a unique opportunity to work on regional and cross-border cooperation initiatives in a dynamic, multicultural setting.

KEY DUTIES

- *coordinating project activities*
- *preparing reports*
- *managing budgets*
- *collaborating with regional partners*
- *organizing meetings and events*

QUALIFICATIONS

- Degree in Project Management, Political Science, International Relations, or a related field.
- Experience managing international or regional projects (European project experience is an asset).
- Strong communication, budgeting, and analytical skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office.

APPLY NOW



Send Your CV and cover letter
before October 31, 2025 To
jobs@coreconsultinc.com

Scrutiny of Prince Andrew continues despite giving up titles



Prince Andrew's decision to give up his titles and honours shows no sign of stopping the scrutiny of his links to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, with royal sources expecting "more days of pain ahead" in the scandal.

While the prince will no longer use his titles, including the Duke of York, there are still calls for them to be formally removed.

Rachael Maskell, who is the MP for York and says many of her constituents no longer want the city to be associated with the royal, wants the government to change the law to allow this process.

The Metropolitan Police are looking into claims the prince asked a protection officer for personal information about Virginia Giuffre, who said she had been forced to have sex with the prince, a claim he has consistently denied.

Her memoir, published posthumously this week, adds to pressure on him.

A royal source said the focus of the Royal Family's thoughts were on Epstein's victims and the "whole network of girls and young women who were abused and treated appallingly".

It should not be seen as a reputational or PR battle, they suggested, saying they were treating the ongoing claims with "very great concern".

The posthumous memoir by Ms Giuffre repeats claims she was trafficked for sex by Epstein to his powerful circle of friends, including Prince Andrew - an allegation that the prince has strongly denied.

On Friday the prince announced he would no longer use his titles and honours, which include the Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Killyleagh. He also gave up his membership of the prestigious Order of the Garter.

He remains a prince, a title assigned from birth as the son of a monarch. But constitutional expert Craig Prescott says Andrew's title of "prince" could

also be theoretically removed by a legal document issued by monarchs, called Letters Patent. If he ceased to be a prince and as he is no longer Duke of York, he would become Andrew Windsor.

Andrew could also be expelled from his place in the line of succession to the throne, where he is currently eighth in line. Parliament could remove him, according to the House of Commons Library, but it would require the consent of all the Commonwealth countries which has the King as head of state.

Removing his other titles could also be carried out by legislation in Parliament.

Although Palace pressure might have been exerted, the handing back of his titles was a voluntary move. They were not taken away, but Andrew's offer to stop using them can be enacted immediately and avoids using parliamentary time that would be necessary to remove those titles.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



But Maskell wants the government to amend current laws to make it possible for the King to directly take away his other titles and honours - and she says a poll in her York Central constituency showed overwhelming support for forcing Andrew to lose his titles.

“There are opportunities here to address the wrongs of history and ensure the voices of victims and survivors are heard and acted upon,” she told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme.

Maskell, who lost the Labour whip in a rebellion over welfare reforms, said she “didn’t come into Parliament to discuss princes and princesses” but that such a change could be quickly passed allowing the monarch to remove titles and honours.

“It’s a simple single clause, it could be added to constitutional bill or a private member’s bill,” she said.

Flynn, the SNP’s Westminster leader, has also called for a better mechanism to remove titles.

He said the public was “angry and aghast and they deserve to know that

some MPs share their outrage”.

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson, speaking on BBC Breakfast, said that with regards the debate about taking away the prince’s titles: “Any further decisions are not something we as a government would be involved in.”

Prince Andrew also faces pressure from inquiries in the US into Epstein’s contacts with influential people, with more documents being trawled.

At the weekend, there were reports of emails showing Epstein’s connections with Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, who has also lost her title and is no longer the Duchess of York.

The emails suggested that Prince Andrew in 2011 had sought personal information about his accuser Virginia Giuffre from his police protection officers and that he had already had her social security number.

This was in contrast to his claims in his BBC Newsnight interview - when he said: “I have no recollection of ever meeting this lady, none whatsoever.”

The Metropolitan Police has said it is actively looking into the claims about Andrew seeking information about her.

The documents emerging from the US, published by the Mail on Sunday, also showed Epstein claiming to have financially supported Sarah Ferguson for 15 years.

Sources close to Sarah Ferguson denied that this was correct.

The announcement that Prince Andrew would lose his remaining titles had been intended to draw a line under what a royal source had called the “constant parade of headlines” about him, which had taken attention away from other royals.

Royal sources highlighted that also included the work by Queen Camilla and the Duchess of Edinburgh to challenge violence against women.

The Palace will not want the scandal surrounding Andrew to overshadow a historic state visit to the Vatican this week, during which King Charles will meet Pope Leo. (BBC)

**AFRICA
UNITE**

HOSTS:
DR, CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1

THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

Bullets and VIP Squad advance to final of IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic



Bryson's Bullets all-rounder Essan Warner

Bryson's Bullets and Pelican Safari VIP Squad have advanced to the final of the 10th Annual LL Supply Limited, Total Imports, and Harney Motors Island Boys' Softball Club (IBSC) Tape Ball T20 Classic.

Both teams booked their spots in the final after recording wins in the semi-finals of the 20-overs-per-side competition at Powells on Sunday.

Bullets prevailed by nine wickets against PMS in the first semi-final. PMS was dismissed for 118 in 19.4 overs, with Morton Browne and Denzil Roach each getting 20 runs.

Player of the game Essan Warner snapped up three for 18, Kimani George claimed two for 25, and Andra Samuel picked up two for 26.

Warner slammed a whirlwind half-century to propel Bullets to victory at 121 for one in just 6.3 overs.

Warner, who opened the innings, hammered 77 off 29 balls, including nine sixes and four fours. Fellow

opener Jahiem Norde struck 24 not out off nine balls, including three sixes and a four, and captain Deran Benta made 12 not out off two balls, which he dispatched for two sixes.

Terrence Thompson claimed the only wicket to fall for 19 runs.

The VIP Squad crushed last year's champions, PEL Dredgers, by 158 runs in the second semi-final, which was reduced to 10 overs due to rain.

After being sent in to bat, the VIP Squad made 178 for two off their 10 overs. Opener and captain Elroy Francis Jr. cracked 76 not out off 29 balls, including nine sixes and five fours.

Kofi James hit 51 off 16 balls, including eight sixes, and Jewel Andrew scored 43 off 16 balls, with five sixes and two fours.

Tanez Francis claimed one for 24, and J'Quan Athanaze captured one for 27.

In reply, Dredgers were 20 for one off 2.2 overs when the match ended. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. made 11 off six balls.

The match was awarded to VIP Squad after Dredgers batsmen J'Quan Athanaze (1 off 4 balls) and Glenton Williams (4 off 4 balls) walked off the field of play. Elroy Francis Jr. picked up one for 10.

VIP Squad and Bullets will clash in the final at Powells on Sunday, October 26, at 1:30 pm.

The final will be preceded by a clash between PEL Dredgers and PMS in a playoff for third place at 10 am.

Monday 20th October 2025

CBH PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER

DID YOU KNOW?

After rainfall, remember to inspect your surroundings for mosquito breeding sites!

-  Empty water from buckets, flower pots saucers, and any containers around your home.
-  Keep drains clear and cover water storage containers tightly.

A few minutes of checking can help disrupt the mosquito cycle and protect your family's health!



#StopTheBite #VectorControl #PublicHealth

Office of the Chief Health Inspector
(268) 462-2936

Complaints Line
(268) 562-9300

Vector Control Unit
(268) 764-4327

 Upper Church Street,
St. John's

 chi_cbheh@yahoo.com

 
Join Our WhatsApp Group

Sports News

More success for H. Wright Promotion in Business Basketball League

H. Wright Promotion continued their winning form in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Championships on Sunday night.

H. Wright Promotions notched up their seventh win in 10 encounters with a 78-57 victory against Anjo Wholesale in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Donte Trimingham sank 23 points, Javonte Daley produced 16 points and seven assists, and Iornie Joseph converted 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for H. Wright Promotions.

Webster Baptista shot a game-high 31 points, and Steven Matthew produced 11 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists, and five steals for Anjo Wholesale, who suffered their third defeat in 10 encounters.

Former champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, notched up their seventh win in 10 outings with a 62-56 victory against the Antigua Power Company in Sunday's second encounter.

Ishaan Peets sank 18 points, and Elijah Charles scored 16 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board. Tyrus Graham converted 14

points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Antigua Power Company, who suffered their third loss in eight matches.

The business basket-

ball league will continue with one game at the JSC Sports Complex today. H. Wright Promotions will meet Antigua Power Company at 7 pm.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

CONVERSATIONS WITH SURVIVORS

OCTOBER 25 2025
🕒 **6:30PM**

📍 **SICL CONFERENCE CENTRE**
TREASURY BUILDING

HOSTED BY
DR. VONETTA GEORGE

GUEST SPEAKERS

DR. YOLANDA TAMMARO
(BREAST SURGEON)

MAYBELLINE SAMUEL
(SURVIVOR AND GUEST AUTHOR)

DR. ROZ MASCALL
(OBGYN)

EMELDA BENJAMIN
(SURVIVOR AND NURSE)

TOPICS

➤ BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS

➤ MENOPAUSE

➤ HORMONE REPLACEMENT

➤ SUPPORT SYSTEMS

JOIN US AND STAY INFORMED!

Hosein and Simmonds join Windies squad in Bangladesh

Akeal Hosein and Ramon Simmonds have been drafted into the One-Day International (ODI) squad for the remaining matches against Bangladesh.

The pair will replace fast bowlers Shamar Joseph and Jediah Blades respectively. Blades has been ruled out of the upcoming matches and the tour of New Zealand with a stress fracture to the lower back and will return home to undergo rehabilitation.

Joseph reported some discomfort in his shoulder during the first training session ahead of the opening ODI against Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Following a subsequent scan, Joseph has been recommended for consultation with a specialist in England to start the rehabilitation process.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will face the West Indies in the second ODI at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Dhaka, on Tuesday.

The hosts lead the three-match series 1-0, having secured a commanding 74-run win in the opening encounter. Rishad Hossain's career-best six-wicket haul dismantled the West Indies batting line-up on a testing Mirpur pitch on Saturday.

Bangladesh's bowlers delivered their plans effectively in the first match, and the hosts will aim to build on this performance. The spin-friendly conditions at Mirpur will aid their bowling skills, but disciplined batting partnerships also hold significance.

Bangladesh's top order has appeared vulnerable on this surface. Middle-order batsmen must step up, with Najmul Hossain Shanto and Saif Hassan as key players.

The hosts also possess considerable bowling depth. Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed is in contention, joining Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Hossain Hosain, bolstering their spinning strength.

The West Indies, meanwhile, need an effective response in this second



Akeal Hosein



Ramon Simmonds

match, or their series hopes will fade. Their pace attack showed moments of rhythm, but the middle overs proved challenging.

A composed batting display and neutralising Bangladesh's spin pressure will be essential for the tourists to secure a series-levelling victory on Tuesday.

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
 Magistrate Court
 High street
 St. John's
 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
 Police Headquarter
 American Road
 St. John's
 Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS
"BAR STOX 2"

I, Yuzhi Yhap of Guang Dong Limited, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor Licence court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday 5th January, 2026 next ensuing for Tavern Licence in respect or premises known as "Bar Stox2" situated on Market Street, In the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 17th day of October, 2025

Your Truly

.....
 Yuzhi Yhap
 268-780-0868

Sports News

Morocco beat Argentina to win first U-20 World Cup title

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Striker Yassir Zabrini scored twice as Morocco won its first Under-20 World Cup title with a 2-0 victory over Argentina on Sunday.

Zabrini scored in the 12th and 29th minutes of the final to help Morocco become the first African nation to win the under-20 title since Ghana in 2009.

Morocco topped their group against Spain, Brazil, and Mexico and then advanced over South Korea, the United States, and France in the knockout stages.

It was the first loss in the tournament for Argentina, who were aiming for their seventh title.

Argentina reached the final despite missing their two best players in this age group, Bayer Leverkusen's Claudio Echeverri and Real Madrid's Franco Mastantuono.



 A promotional poster for the Antigua & Barbuda National Food Fair. The poster features the Antigua & Barbuda coat of arms at the top. Below it is a large, stylized logo of the number '44' in red and blue, with the text 'ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE' and 'SOLID • STABLE • SOARING' in a yellow banner. The main text reads 'NATIONAL FOOD FAIR' in large, bold letters, followed by 'MONDAY 03 NOV | 10:00AM' and 'AT SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM'. At the bottom is the 'Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION' logo. The background of the poster shows a large outdoor event with many colorful tents and people.



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
**ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE**

SOLID • STABLE • SOARING

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



Fort Road FC gets first win in ABFA's Women's Premier League



The starting XI of the Fort Road FC

Fort Road FC recorded their first win in three matches in the 2025 Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's Premier League on Sunday evening.

After losing their previous two matches, Fort Road FC notched up their first win in their campaign in the women's football

league with a 3-2 victory against Lady Masters FC in the opening game of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

Fort Road FC had to come from behind twice to secure their victory. J'Kayla Bellot, who scored both goals for Lady Masters FC, produced her first with a sixth-minute conversion to give her team the lead.

Khadijah Morris snatched the equalizer for Fort Road FC with a 15th-minute conversion. Bellot scored her second goal of the match by converting a penalty kick in the second minute of added time (42nd minute) to give Lady Masters FC a 2-1 lead at halftime.

National player Kai Jacobs scored twice in the second half to snatch vic-

tory for Fort Road FC.

Jacobs scored her team's equalizer with a 44th-minute conversion and snatched the winner with a strike in the fifth minute of added time (85th minute).

The result allows Lady Masters FC to remain in the cellar of the five-team women's league without any points after crashing to their third defeat in as many games.

Fort Road FC remain second from the bottom of the standings after advancing to three points from three matches.

Cutting Edge FA and Trendsetter FA fought to a goalless draw in Sunday's second game.

The result allows Trendsetter FA to remain unbeaten in second place on goal difference by advancing to four points from two matches. Cutting Edge also remains unbeaten and in third place by advancing to four points from two encounters.

Unbeaten Wadadli United FC currently lead the women's league standings with six points after winning their first two matches.