

WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 8 ISSUE 07 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

Audit Officer Sentenced to Prison for Cannabis in Refrigerators



The Minister of Education Award was presented to Jasmine S. Greenaway by the Honourable Daryll Matthew yesterday, during the CIBC Grade 6 National Assessment Awards.

Jasmine was named top student in the 2025 Grade Six National Assessment.

Local News



Man Sentenced to Prison for Drugs in Refrigerators

An Inland Revenue Department audit officer has been sentenced to two years and eight months in prison for importing 41 pounds of cannabis concealed inside refrigerators shipped from Canada.

Darien Anderson Isaac was convicted in May following a judge-alone trial before Justice Anne-Marie Smith, who handed down the sentence this week.

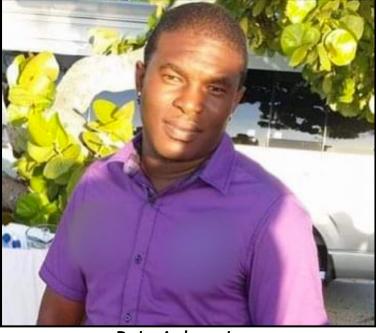
According to evidence presented in court, the drugs were discovered in June, 2020, at the Deep Water Harbour inside a shipment that Isaac had redirected into his own name. When Isaac went to collect the appliances, a police dog detected the concealed packages of cannabis.

Investigators further revealed that Isaac had transferred more than EC\$96,000 to individuals in Canada — transactions the court determined were likely connected to the drug operation.

Darien Isaac was charged with possession of cannabis, possession of cannabis with intent to transfer, being concerned in the supplying of cannabis, importation of cannabis and drug trafficking.

The illicit drug had an estimated street value of \$ 536,500.

In sentencing Isaac, Justice Smith described the offence as "premeditated and financially driven," citing the sophisticated method of concealment used to import the



Darien Anderson Isaac

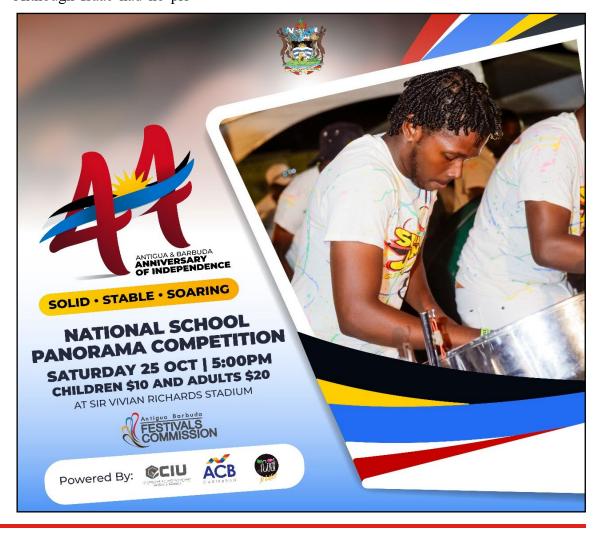
narcotics.
Although Isaac had no pri-

or convictions and was described in a probation report

as a quiet, hardworking individual with strong community ties, the judge said the seriousness of the offence warranted a custodial sentence. The probation report, however, was taken into account in reducing his time to serve.

"The Crown proved all elements of the offence, including that Mr. Isaac had constructive knowledge of the drugs," Justice Smith said in her ruling.

Isaac's sentence was reduced to two years and eight months after credit was applied for time already spent in custody.





Local News



Odour in Water Forces APUA to Halt Distribution from Delaps

Antigua Public Utilities Authority says it has paused water distribution from its Delaps Water Treatment Facility.

The reason according to the utilities company is to ensure quality and safety standards are maintained, as outlined by Timicha Richards-Allen, Chemist and Acting Water Business Manager. Water from APUA's Potworks Dam is treated at Delaps. But despite the process, complaints from consumers of a foul odour emanating from the water that was flowing through their faucets, forced APUA to halt distribution from the Delaps facility.

"The water department treats the water before distribution to the customers. We treat for suspended particles, as well as dissolved impurities in the water. So, we add water treatment agents to the water that would cause these impurities to settle out. Unfortunately, we had some water treatment challenges at the plant, which led to the water having a bad odour in the distribution system, but we're working on it right now feverishly to rectify the issue," Richards-Allen informed consumers.

She explained the multiple steps involved in the treatment and purification of water for consumption by consumers, which include the water passing through a filter bed, which contains a carbon-based media. This assists in "trapping any additional"



Potworks Dam

substances that may not have been removed in the settling tank and it also assists in trapping and removing odour and taste". It is also chlorinated to get rid of micro-organisms, Timicha Richards-Allen pointed out.

APUA is working to ensure residents are not inconvenienced in a major way.

"On behalf of the water business unit, I would like to apologise to the customers who were affected by the odour. Just to let you know that the plant has been taken offline to make adjustments to the treatment regimens employed at the plant. Once we manage to get the water treatment more effectively done, the plant will be put back online. So, I do anticipate anywhere from about 3 to

16 hours of treatment before the plant is brought back online. It just depends on how quickly the treatment response at the plant takes place. Once this is done, then we'll put the plant back online," the Acting Water Business Manager assured.

It was stated that the soil through which the water runs, along with fallen twigs and leaves contribute to the water's taste and odour, hence the need for treatment.

Twelve feet of water flowed into Potworks Dam as a result of recent rainfall, with APUA extracting one million imperial gallons daily for treatment and distribution.



Local News



Supermarkets Accused of Bypassing Meters to Avoid APUA Bills Warned of Criminal Action

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne has issued a blunt warning over reports that some large supermarkets are allegedly bypassing electricity meters to avoid paying the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA).

On his radio programme last Saturday, Mr. Browne said the claim — which the government is still verifying — was raised by Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas. "Minister Nicholas just reported to us that he has been told...and we don't know how reliable the information is, but we're going to check it out," the Prime Minister said.

He added if meter bypassing is confirmed, the government will move decisively. "If they don't fix them, we will fix them by taking them to court...We will probably



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

make it a criminal issue," he said. "If the prime minister of this country, the finance minister, come and warn you all and you all decide to

persist with this kind of behaviour, then you deserve to be in jail."

The Prime Minister argued

that recovered revenue is needed to fund services for the poor and vulnerable. "I'm asking for a reset. I'm asking for a new dispensation. It's not just the wealthy that's supposed to live comfortably in this country. We must have enough money that we can take care of the poor and the vulnerable, to provide better healthcare," he said.

The Prime Minister described a graduated enforcement approach: first-time offenders would be offered restitution, while repeat violations could trigger police involvement and criminal charges.

"Again, I don't know it to be true. But we're going to check it out," Browne said, stressing the importance of establishing the facts before proceeding.





Local News



Schools' Panorama Draws Record Number of Participants; Returns to SVRCG



Sixteen schools will participate in this year's National Schools' Panorama, a highlight of the nation's 44th Anniversary of Independence celebrations, the National Festivals' Commission has announced.

In making the announcement, the ABFC extended heartfelt appreciation to its valued sponsors, The Citizenship by Investment Unit, ACB Caribbean, and ICool, for their continued partnership in support of the National Schools' Panorama.

"Continued investment in our youth and culture is crucial for the transference of our culture from generation to generation as we continue to produce Solid - Stable - Soaring young men and women for tomorrow's world," stated Honourable Daryll S. Matthew, Minister of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries.

He added, "Outlets such as Pan Yards provide our young people with safe spaces to thrive in a positive environment. I am a firm believer in these sorts of programs. Hence, the establishment of Pandemonium, a Pan group for my community, but this is not about me; it's about challenging others to create and support outlets like these for our youth."

Elizabeth Ambassador Makhoul, Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals' Commission, expressed enthusiasm and gratitude: "We are immensely grateful to all our exceptional corporate sponsors. Their dedication, investment, and support in developing our young people and preserving our cultural heritage are truly praiseworthy. I am especially excited to note the growing number of participating schools this year, so much so that we've outgrown the Antigua Port Authority parking lot and are returning to the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium due to overwhelming participation! I am delighted to welcome newcomers like Bendals Primary, Irene B. Williams Secondary, and Sir Novelle Richards Academy to this year's competition."

Last year's champions, Greenbay Primary and Antigua Grammar Schools, will return to defend their titles at the 2025 National Schools' Panorama. This year's competition promises to be dynamic, showcasing creativity and musical mastery from both students and arrangers.

The 44th Anniversary of Independence National

Local News



Schools' Panorama will take place on Saturday, 25th

tickets only. Adults will pay October, 2025, commencing \$25 to enter SVRCG, while

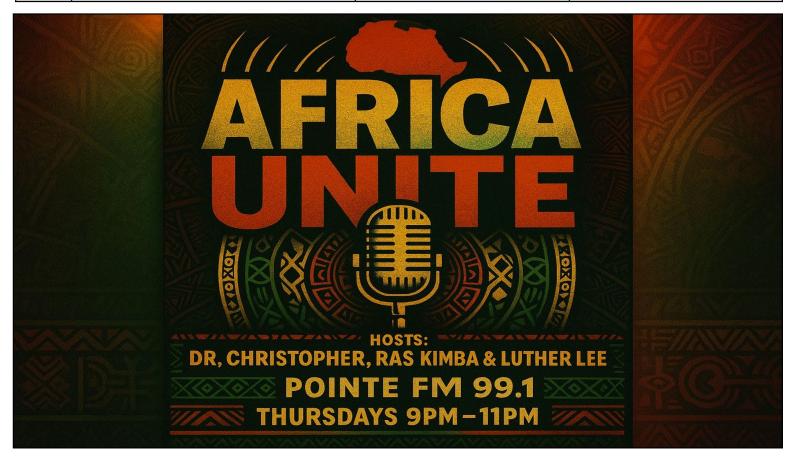
at 5:00 p.m. with gate sale tickets for children twelve years and older will cost

2025 Participating Schools Primary Schools:

Order	School	Tune of Choice	Arranger
1	Bendals Primary School	Swinging Engine	Derel Jarvis
2	T.N. Kirnon Primary School	Nice and Slow	Devonson David
3	Sunnyside Tutorial	Something Got a Hold on Me	Sahyen Smith
4	Villa Primary School	ID – Stamp Your Name	Jonathon Mills
5	Nelvie Gore Primary School (Willikies)	Daughter Come	Geeve "CC" Cochrane
6	Green Bay Primary School	Good Times	Orel Peters & Canaan Russell

Secondary Schools:

Order	School	Tune of Choice	Arranger
1	St. Anthony's Secondary School	A+ Wine	Lorenzo Hodge
2	St. Joseph's Academy	Mental Day	Jawan Henry
3	Ottos Comprehensive School	Time Ah We Life	Mikela Simmons
4	All Saints Secondary School	Out Deh	Kenwah James
5	Irene B. Williams Secondary	Dear Carnival	Calique Thomas
6	Princess Margaret School	Cape	Kareem King
7	Antigua Grammar School	ID – Stamp Yuh Name	Aubrey "Lacu" Samuel
8	Clare Hall Secondary School	Cape	Danny Hosier
9	Sir Novelle Richards Academy	Stampede	Robin Margetson
10	Christ the King High School	Out Deh	Maurisha Potter





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 20^{th} and 21^{st} 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^{th} 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, DutyFree 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



Police Hunt Mini Mart Robbers



Police are searching for two male suspects alleged to be involved in the robbery of a Mini Mart at Sea View Farm.

Reports indicate that around 8:00 p.m. on Monday, 20th October, 2025, two masked men, both dressed in black clothing with white stripes along their pants and wearing white ski masks, entered the business place and robbed the proprietors of an undisclosed sum of money, a mobile phone, and a lottery machine.

The suspects then fled the scene heading in an easterly direction on foot. The police carried out a search in the area, and were successful in recovering the mobile phone.

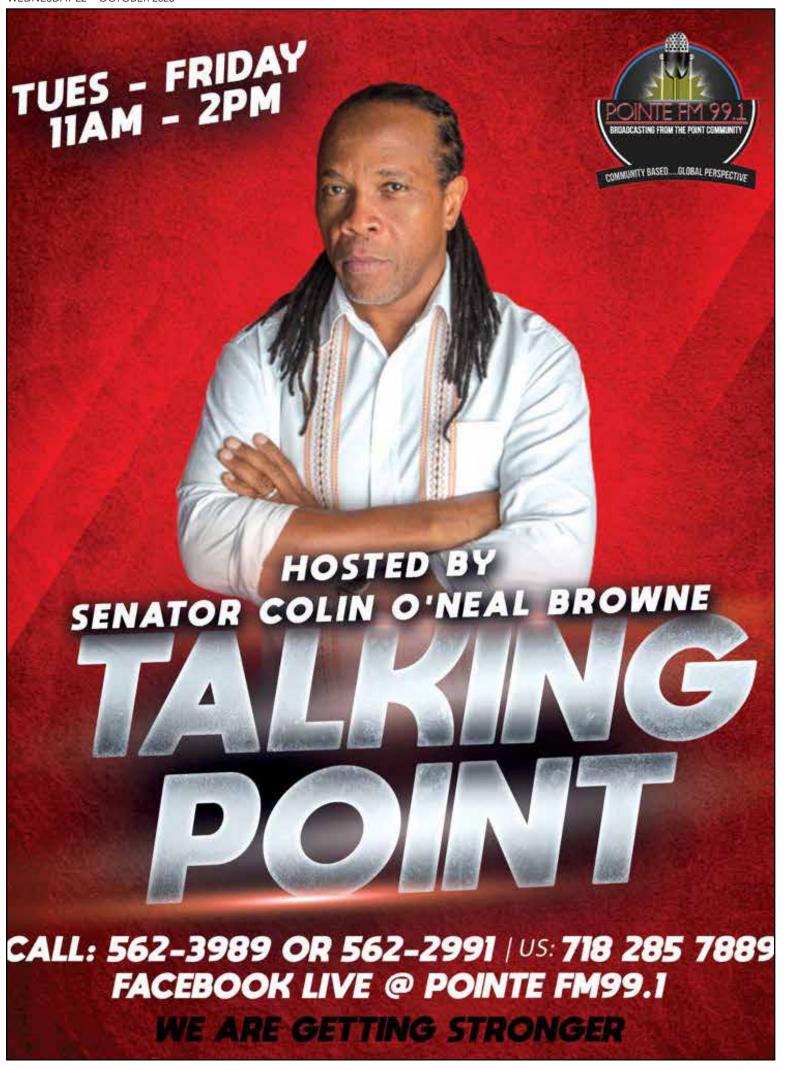
Law enforcement officials are appealing to anyone with information that can assist in identifying or locating the suspects to contact the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at 462-3913, the All Saints Police Station at 460-1000, or call Crime Stoppers at

800-TIPS (8477).

All information the police maintain,

will be handled with the strictest confidence.





Commentary



UPP's Politically Motivated Memo Aimed at Undermining Anti-Corruption Reforms Unmasked



By Hon. E.P. Chet Greene

A memorandum making its rounds in social media and addressed to the Director of Public Prosecutions is not a sober legal analysis but a transparently political document designed to sabotage a genuine and courageous effort by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to root out deep seated corruption. It deliberately misrepresents a bold act of accountability as a "confession," ignoring the fundamental difference between uncovering a crime and committing one.

What we have before us is leadership, not complicity: A Prime Minister taking unprecedented action, giving life to the mantra, leadership matters.

The memorandum's core fallacy is its claim that Prime Minister Gaston Browne's parliamentary statement was a "confession." This is a wilful misreading. The Prime Minister did not confess to a crime; he exposed one. He stood before the nation and detailed a corrupt network that had

festered for years, perhaps decades, across multiple administrations.

Unlike previous governments that swept such scandals under the rug, Prime Minister Browne demonstrated exceptional leadership by:

- 1. Confronting the issue frontally. He did not wait for a leak or an opposition attack. He initiated a transparent, internal review and presented the findings publicly.
- 2. Naming the Problem. He openly discussed "systematic collusion" and "special relationships," proving a commitment to transparency that is unprecedented in the region.
- 3. Taking immediate action. Officials

have been transferred, forced to resign or sidelined. The architects of the entire scandal have been publicly named.

This is not the behavior of a conspirator; it is the decisive action of a reformer.

Who would deny that the Prime Minister's intervention represents a pragmatic and just approach of restitution over endless litigation?

The memorandum savages the government's policy of "negotiating discounts" with suppliers who submitted inflated invoices. This criticism is short-sighted and ignores the practical realities of governance and





Commentary

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justice.

The demand for full financial restitution is a masterstroke of pragmatic justice. It ensures that every dollar stolen from the people of Antigua and Barbuda; money meant for roads, water, education and healthcare is returned to the treasury. This approach is superior to the alternative demanded by the memorandum, which would cost millions in legal fees with drawn out court cases for "hundreds of vehicles" and would consume millions of dollars in legal costs, further depleting the public purse. Furthe, it would criminalize a significant portion of society. The memorandum itself admits that the network spans the private and public sectors. A wholesale prosecution would criminalize a wide swath of business people and civil servants, creating social and economic chaos.

It would invariably achieve slower results while a restitution agreement returns money to the state immediately. A prosecution could take years, with no guarantee of conviction or recovery of funds.

This is not "obstruction of justice." This is justice tempered with mercy and common sense. It focuses on the primary goal: making the state whole again. The guilty parties have been unmasked and shamed and they are being forced to disgorge their ill-gotten gains. This is a powerful and tangible consequence.

The memorandum's claim of a "cover-up" is utterly demolished by the very public nature of the Prime Minister's statement. By exposing this criminal network "in a very frontal and public way," the government has, among other things;

· publicly shamed the corrupt individuals and companies involved in the

court of public opinion.

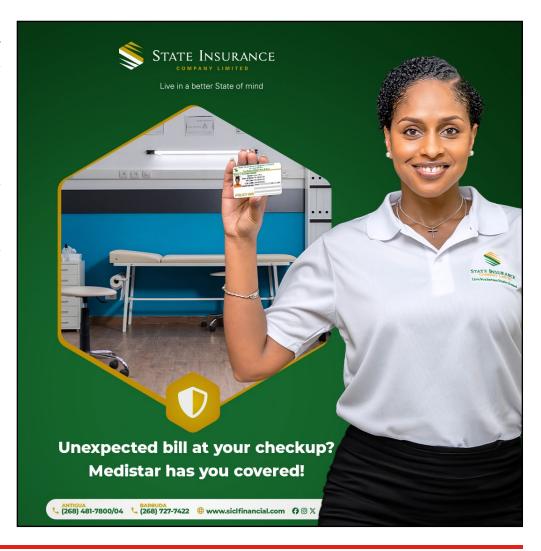
Served a Deterrent Notice. The entire public and private sector have been put on notice. The rules have changed. The old ways of "special relationships" and collusion will no longer be tolerated.

· Depoliticized a National Crisis. The government has taken ownership of the problem instead of blaming others. This mature approach prevents the issue from becoming a political football and allows for genuine national healing and institutional reform.

Antigua and Barbuda is better off today because of the government's handling of this crisis. The Prime Minister has shown the moral courage to tear down a corrupt system that was inherited. The approach of demanding restitution, reassigning culpable officials and implementing new controls is a mature, responsible and ultimately more effective path to justice.

It avoids the societal and financial costs of a prosecutorial frenzy while achieving the key objectives of recovering stolen funds, dismantling the corrupt network and establishing a new culture of accountability. This is not a confession; it is a declaration that the era of impunity is over and for that, on the eve of our 44th anniversary of political independence, we can all take the message of a stronger, more accountable country, into our collective future.

For courageously holding the fabric of our country together, I declare Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Man of the Year.



Feature



Building Boats and Breaking Barriers: Antiguan Advocates Inspire Regional Change

Listen closely to the voices rising across the Caribbean this October because Antigua and Barbuda has joined in full voice. At the 2nd Annual Caribbean Disability Network Conference (October 17–22, 2025) in Barbados, delegates wore their national colours with pride and purpose. With the theme "Breaking Barriers: Advancing Inclusive Education for All Abilities", the gathering was more than talk — it was action, story, connection. Representing Antigua and Barbuda were two key figures: Joshuanette Francis of Good Humans 268 Inc. and Ronald Greenaway of the Disability Unit, Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Together they brought the Antiguan narrative into a Caribbean conversation — bold, open, purposeful.

On Day One, Francis took the youth-voices panel by storm, weaving together her story and a challenge: "The world isn't designed for you ... so you have to go out there and you have to be bold enough to create the boat, build the plane and you're going to become the captain of your own ship." These aren't mere words — they are a call to arms for young people with disabilities across the region, underscoring that the system may not be ready for them, but they must be ready for themselves. In her closing remarks on the panel, Francis issued a challenge to educators and policymakers alike: " I'm challenging you to reach out to one of your primary schools and encourage students to write articles what it is, what it's like being disabled, daily in the life, a letter to a policy maker, because children are really the future. For International Day of Disabilities,



I'm encouraging you. Call a school. Get them to write an article. And then after the articles are written, publish them in your local newspaper. Send them to Mr. Sharp so we can publish them regionally. Let's get thousands of voices on board to ensure people understand what it's like living with a disability, being an advocate, so the onus cannot be on policy makers. It's on all of us in this room. S'o I'm encouraging every person in this room, for International Day of Disabilities, coming in December."

The conference itself aligned with United Nations's SDG 4 objective — to ensure inclusive, equitable quality education and lifelong learning op-



Feature

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portunities for all. In the Caribbean context, that means that if a student cannot access Braille, cannot find the ramp, cannot secure the support — then "inclusive education" is no longer aspirational, it is incomplete. Francis didn't shy away from naming the gap: "You're going to let them know ... the ramp isn't in, we need braille, we need the technology and you have to become an advocate for you." That phrase echoed across the hall in Barbados — and it will echo in schools, colleges and policymaker offices in Antigua and Barbuda.

Good Humans 268 stamped its presence at the opening-ceremony poster exhibition, showcasing local programmes and innovations from Antigua and Barbuda. The story doesn't end at Barbados. In Antigua and Barbuda, we have to be powerful and call for change in systemic barriers.



Students, teachers, parents, and community members must begin writing their realities, journalists must be

challenged to publish the truth, and the community must listen. From the heart of the island to the hall of the regional conference, the message is consistent: do not wait for inclusion — insist on it, build it, own it. Put in the ramps, ask for your Braille, and all the tools matter. Mindsets must change.

Antigua and Barbuda stepping up in Barbados, the rest of the region is watching. The boat is being built. The plane is being built. And the captain? We are called to action to be the change that we want to see. Become the voice of change.

Joshuanette Francis

Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.

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Regional News PORTEXPRESS



Caribbean Development Bank fosters new agreement with **OPEC Fund to cement sustainable goals in region**

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has formalized a strategic alliance with the OPEC Fund for International Development through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This partnership aims to foster collaborative efforts to unlock new financial avenues and promote sustainable progress throughout the Caribbean region, according to the CDB.

The Bank wrote in a media release that this agreement paves the way for joint financing and co-financing initiatives across vital sectors, including climate resilience, renewable energy projects, resilient infrastructure, food security, trade financing, and youth development. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of knowledge exchange, technical support, and capacity-building activities to ensure Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) gain access to innovative solutions and broader resource pools.

During the signing event held last week on the side-



lines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington D.C., Mr. Daniel Best, President of CDB, emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships.

"Strategic partnerships between multilateral development banks are fundamental to achieving meaningful progress and driving transformational impact. working as a cohesive system – combining expertise, resources, and aligned priorities – we can fast-track solutions to global challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

This MOU is a significant step forward, showing that cooperation among development institutions is not just beneficial but vital to delivering real and lasting improvements in people's lives," he remarked.

The scope of the MOU includes joint initiatives such as project development, technical assistance programs, and regional dialogues aimed at fostering inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth. Focus areas encompass climate-smart agriculture, water security, digital connectivity, and private sector

expansion, all aligned with CDB's core mission to build resilience and reduce pover-

Mr. Best also highlighted the promising prospects this partnership offers: "This partnership opens unparalleled opportunities for our Borrowing Member Countries. By leveraging the OPEC Fund's global reach and CDB's deep regional expertise, we can accelerate investments in infrastructure, climate adaptation, and human development - creating a future that is sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous for the people of the Caribbean."

Furthermore, the **CDB** projects that the alliance will bolster youth empowerment efforts, vocational training, and innovative financial instruments such debt-for-sustainability swaps and blue economy initiatives. These efforts will reinforce the Caribbean's leadership role in climate resilience and sustainable development. (Dominica News Online)



Regional News



Severe Weather Alert issued for Jamaica



The Meteorological Service has issued a Severe Weather Alert for Jamaica, effective until 6 a.m. Wednesday, while warning that tropical storm conditions could pose a possible threat to the island later this week.

It says a tropical wave over the central Caribbean Sea has developed into a broad area of low pressure, and has becomes better organised while moving closer to the island.

The Met Service says this system has the potential to develop into a tropical cyclone near Jamaica.

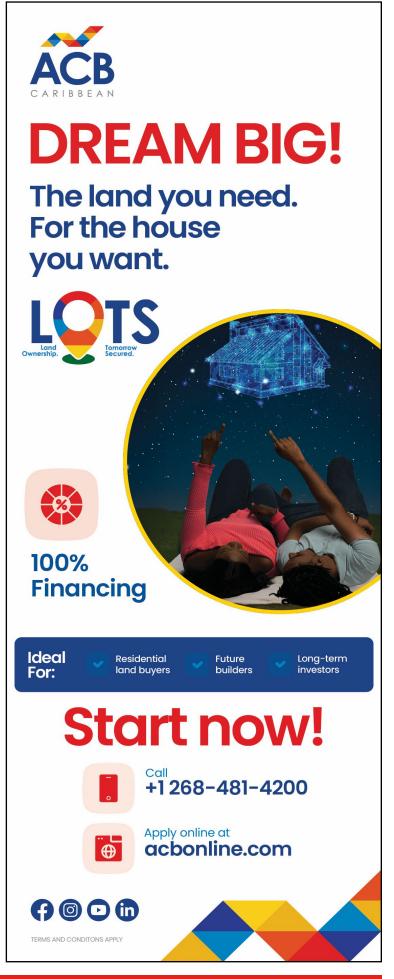
Satellite, radar, and surface observations indicate that the broad area of low pressure over the central Caribbean Sea continues to become better defined, with winds near 72 kilometres per hour, though it still lacks a well-defined centre.

The Met Service notes that environmental conditions are forecast to become more conducive for development, and a tropical storm is expected to form later today while the system moves slowly over the central Caribbean Sea.

It adds that when the system is in the vicinity of Jamaica, it is expected to produce heavy rainfall and strong, gusty winds locally, primarily over eastern and southern parishes late Wednesday and Thursday. The rainfall could continue into the weekend.

For the marine areas, the forecast is for widespread showers and thunderstorms, which may be heavy at times, with strong gusty winds to affect all marine zones on Wednesday and Thursday, especially inshore and offshore the south coast. Fishers on the cays and banks are further urged to complete their preparations and be on the alert to evacuate.

The Meteorological Service says it continues to closely monitor the progress of this area of low pressure, and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further releases. (Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News



Global Water Partnership-Caribbean teams up with sustainable land initiative to support land and water management in region



The Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) and the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) have formalized their collaborative efforts through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This agreement aims to bolster joint initiatives focused on sustainable land and water management within Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS).

The signing took place on Thursday, October 16, 2025, in St. George's, Grenada. A GWP-C media release outlined that the primary objective of the MOU is to reinforce regional strategies to combat issues such as land degradation, drought, and water scarcity, all while promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing climate resilience.

Highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental challenges, Dr. Roxanne Graham, Regional Coordinator for GWP-C, emphasized that addressing these issues cannot be done in isolation.

"One that recognizes the intrinsic connection between land and water, and the need to manage both in harmony for the benefit of our people and our planet," she stated.

This partnership formalizes a shared commitment to collaborate across multiple domains—ranging from exchanging information and executing joint projects to capacity building, research, and advocacy for policy change.

Dr. Graham underscored that partnerships are crucial for progress, adding, "Combining our expertise, networks, and shared vision, GWP-C and PISLM are better equipped to address the complex challenges of water and land management in our region—and to translate knowledge into action."

According to the GWP-C, the organizations plan to focus on several strategic areas, including management of soil and water resources, drought and flood mitigation, ca-

pacity development in water quality monitoring, and research into integrated land and water resource management tailored for SIDS. Additionally, they will explore innovative solutions to water scarcity, promote youth engagement in natural resource management, and strengthen community resilience.

A key joint initiative identified is the implementation of the Caribbean Drought Initiative. Dr. Ronen C.A. Francis, Executive Director of PIS-LM, explained that this initiative, approved at the UNCCD Conference of the Parties in Saudi Arabia last year, involves assessing drought conditions across the region and developing sustainable, innovative practices. "It aims to help our countries cope with drought challenges and promote resilience through the formulation of solutions that can build resilience in Caribbean communities facing drought," he said.

GWP-C stated that it is eager to move forward with this strategic partnership, emphasizing the importance of information exchange and coordinated efforts to support sustainable land and water resource management within the Caribbean SIDS context.

"On behalf of the GWP-C Chair, Professor Paulette Bynoe, the Steering Committee, and the staff of the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean, the GWP-C expresses its gratitude to PISLM for their partnership and support. We look forward to working together as we advance sustainable development and climate resilience for our Caribbean region," concluded the statement. (Dominica News Online)



International

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AROUND THE WORLD

Plans for Trump-Putin meeting shelved days after Budapest talks proposed

There are "no plans" for US President Donald Trump to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin "in the immediate future", a White House official has stated.

Last Thursday Trump said he and the Russian president would hold talks in Budapest within two weeks to discuss the war in Ukraine.

A preparatory meeting between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov was due to be held this week - but the White House said the two had had a "productive" call and that a meeting was no longer "necessary".

The White House did not share any more details on why the talks had been put on hold.

Trump had discussed a Budapest summit over the phone with Putin, a day before meeting Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky in the White House.



Some reports suggested his talks with Zelensky had been a "shouting match", with sources suggesting Trump had pushed him to give up large areas of territory in eastern Ukraine as part of a deal with Russia.

However, on Monday Trump embraced a ceasefire proposal backed by Kyiv and European leaders to freeze the conflict on the current front line.

"Let it be cut the way it is," he said.

Russia has repeatedly pushed back against freez-

ing the current line of contact.

Moscow was only interested in "long-term, sustainable peace", Lavrov said on Tuesday, implying that freezing the front line would only amount to a temporary ceasefire.

The "root causes of the conflict" needed to be addressed, Lavrov said, using Kremlin shorthand for a series of maximalist demands that include the recognition of full Russian sovereignty over the Donbas as well as the demilitarisation of

Ukraine – a non-starter for Kyiv and its European partners

Zelensky said discussions about the front line were the "beginning of diplomacy" but that Russia was "doing everything to avoid diplomacy".

He also said the only topic that could make Moscow "pay attention" was that of the supply of long-range weapons to Ukraine.

Putin's unscheduled call with Trump last Thursday came ahead of speculation that the US was preparing to send long-range Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine that could potentially strike deep into Russia.

Zelensky said it was the Tomahawks issue that had forced Russia to engage in discussion. The talk about the missiles had turned out to be a "strong investment in diplomacy", he added. (BBC)



International



Tropical storm causes seven deaths in the Philippines

A tropical storm lashed the northern and central Philippines over the weekend, killing seven people after forcing more than 22,000 people to evacuate from flood- and landslide-prone villages.

Tropical Storm Fengshen blew away from the main northern Philippine region of Luzon into the South China Sea late Sunday.

It currently has sustained winds of up to 65 kph (40 mph) and gusts of up to 80 kph (50 mph), government forecasters said.

The government's disaster-mitigation agency said seven deaths were reported.

Nearly 14,000 people who evacuated remained displaced from their homes by Monday, the agency said.

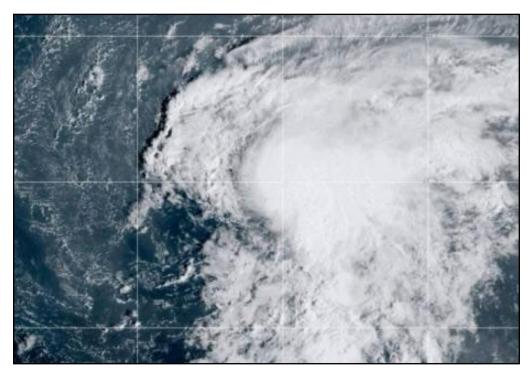
One person drowned Saturday in Roxas City in the central province of Capiz, where high tide worsened flooding in many villages, officials said.

Five people, including two children, died while they were sleeping when their hut was hit early Sunday by a huge palm tree that they had burned before to try to topple it for safety reasons in Pitogo town in the eastern province of Quezon, provincial police chief Romulo Albacea and other officials said.

Fengshen, locally called Ramil, was forecast to blow across the South China Sea on a course toward Vietnam, state forecaster Glaiza Escullar said.

The storm, the 18th tropical cyclone to batter the Philippine archipelago this year, hit as central and southern provinces were still recovering from recent earthquakes that left more than 80 people dead, displaced thousands of people and damaged more than 134,000 houses in central Cebu province alone, the country's disaster-mitigation agency said.

The Philippines, which lies between the Pacific Ocean and the South China



Seas, is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. It's often hit by earthquakes and has about two dozen

active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. (AP)





International

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AROUND THE WORLD

France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy will begin serving 5-year prison sentence Tuesday

Nicolas Sarkozy will become the first former French president in living memory to be imprisoned when he is expected to begin a five-year sentence Tuesday in Paris' La Santé prison.

Convicted of criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his 2007 election campaign with funds from Libya, Sarkozy maintains his innocence. Regardless, he will be admitted to serve his time in a prison that has held some of the most high-profile inmates since the 19th century.

They include Captain Alfred Dreyfus, wrongly convicted of treason because he was Jewish, and the Venezuelan militant known as Carlos the Jackal, who carried out several attacks on French soil.

Sarkozy told Le Figaro newspaper that he expects to be held in solitary confinement, where he would be kept away from all other prisoners for security reasons. Another possibility is that he is held in the prison's section for "vulnerable" inmates, colloquially known as the VIP section.

Former La Santé inmates described their experiences and what the former president might expect to face. The prison, which was inaugurated in 1867, has been fully renovated in recent years.

"It's not Nicolas Sarkozy, president of the Republic, that's coming ... It's a man and he will live exactly the same thing that everyone" does, Pierre Botton, a former businessman-turned-author who was imprisoned in La Santé's vulnerable section between 2020 and 2022 for misappropriation of funds from a charitable organization, told The Associated Press.

In an unprecedented judgment, the Paris judge ruled that Sarkozy would start to serve prison time without waiting for his appeal to be heard, due to "the seriousness of the disruption to public order caused by the offence."

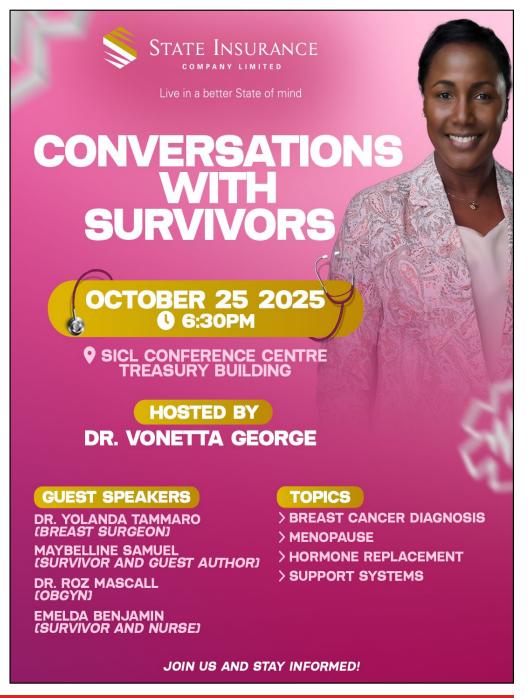
The former president has denied any wrongdoing and protested the decision that he should be imprisoned pending appeal.

"I'm not afraid of prison. I'll hold my head high, including in front of the doors of La Santé," Sarkozy told La Tribune Dimanche newspaper. "I'll fight till the end."

La Tribune Dimanche reports Sarkozy has his prison bag ready with clothes

and 10 family photos he is allowed to bring.

Sarkozy also told Le Figaro newspaper he would bring three books — the maximum allowed — including "The Count of Monte Cristo" in two volumes and a biography of Jesus Christ. The hero of "The Count of Monte Cristo," by French author Alexandre Dumas, escapes from an island prison where he spent 14 years before seeking revenge. (AP)



International



Man who planned to shoot up Atlanta's airport arrested in a terminal following a tip, police say

Police arrested a man at Atlanta's bustling airport on Monday after getting a tip from his family that he was planning to shoot up the place, and found an assault rifle and ammunition in his truck outside, the city's police chief said.

Billy Joe Cagle, of Cartersville, Georgia, had described his plan to shoot up the world's busiest airport on a social media livestream, Chief Darin Schierbaum said during a news conference.

"The Cartersville Police Department was alerted by the family of Mr. Cagle that he was streaming on social media that he was headed to the Atlanta airport, in their words, to 'shoot it up,' and the family stated that he was in possession of an assault rifle," Schierbaum said, describing Cagle as a "convicted felon."

Cagle, 49, arrived at Harts-field-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in a Chevrolet pickup truck that was parked right outside the doors to the airport terminal. When police went to the vehicle, they found an AR-15 with 27 rounds of ammunition, Schierbaum said.

"We're here today briefing you on a success and not a tragedy because a family saw something and said something," the chief said.



Cartersville police Captain Greg Sparacio, whose department received the initial tip from family members, said Cagle "had the intention to inflict harm to as many people as he could."

During the news conference, police showed surveillance video that shows Cagle arriving at the airport and body-camera video of his arrest.

A Chevrolet flatbed pickup truck is seen arriving curbside at the airport terminal around 9:30 a.m. and then a man police identified as Cagle is seen entering the airport a few minutes later. He walks over to the TSA security checkpoint and had "high interest in that area," Schierbaum said.

Body-camera footage shows Atlanta police officers, who had a photo of Cagle provided by his family on their phones, approach him and start asking him questions before taking him into custody. As they take him to the ground and put handcuffs on him, Cagle can be heard yelling.

Cagle has been charged with making terroristic threats, criminal attempt to commit aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and possession of a firearm by a felon, Schierbaum said.

Cagle was in custody Monday, and attempts to reach his family and co-workers through multiple phone numbers and emails were unsuccessful. It wasn't im-

mediately clear whether he had a lawyer who could comment on the charges.

Atlanta police will work with federal authorities to determine how he obtained the gun, "which he was not able to legally possess," Schierbaum said.

Mayor Andre Dickens said "we're thankful to God" that a tragedy was averted.

"We're thankful to God and to good information, and good intel, and good people for this crisis being averted," the mayor said.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a post on the social platform X, "I am thankful this individual was taken into custody by law enforcement before harming anyone." (AP)



Sports News



Another Win for PMS in Defense of U-16 Division Title

Princess Margaret School (PMS) continued their successful start 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 wins against St. Anthony's Secondary and St. Mary's Secondary Schools, Princess Margaret School notched up their third win in as many games with a 6-0 drubbing of Pares Secondary School at the PMS playing field.

Shumba Thomas and Roshan Samuel each scored twice for Princess Margaret School. Thomas scored in the 11th and 34th minutes, and Samuel had conversions in the seventh and 38th minutes.

The other goals for Princess Margaret School were scored by Mario Lewis in the 24th minute and Delonte Phoenix in the 48th minute.

Last year's second-place finishers, Ottos Comprehensive School, and Antigua Grammar School also maintained their perfect starts with their third wins in as many games.

Robert Jeffrey scored twice with goals in the 22nd and 41st minutes to propel Ottos Comprehensive School to a 4-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Sec-



Mario Lewis of PMS

ondary School at the Golden Grove playing field.

Lijthaddeus Christian opened the scoring with a third-minute conversion, and Dekari Harris sealed the win by scoring the fourth and final goal in the 88th minute.

Antigua Grammar School snatched a 2-1 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary School at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints. Tafari Parker scored in the 13th minute, and Caleb Paul gave Antigua Grammar School a two-nil lead with a conversion in the

21st minute.

Leonard Francis reduced the deficit by scoring a goal for Irene B. Williams Secondary in the 30th minute.

St. Joseph's Academy's perfect start to the competition was ended in a 4-2 loss to Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Princess Margaret School's playing field.

Ajay Barthley struck a hat trick to lead Sir Novelle Richards Academy to their first win after losing their opening game. Barthley had conversions in the third, eighth, and 15th minutes, while team-mate Alanni Dawkins scored the other goal in the ninth minute.

Iczjaire Sebastian and Joshua James each scored once for St. Joseph's Academy, who suffered their first defeat after winning their first two matches.

All Saints Secondary School recorded their second win in three matches with a 3-0 victory against Clare Hall Secondary School at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Ashavin Pelle scored twice with conversions in the 24th and 30th minutes, and Kemari Brodie scored in the second minute for All Saints Secondary School as Clare Hall Secondary School slumped to their second loss in as many games.



Sports News



LICB Releases Fixtures for Senior Men's Tournament in St. Kitts

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) has released the fixtures for this year's senior men's tournament, which will be played in a dual format in St. Kitts from Saturday, October 25, to Saturday, November 1.

The eight-day tournament will be contested by six teams, including current one-day champions Antigua and Barbuda and T20 winners Anguilla. The other participants are hosts St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and St. Maarten.

Each team will contest three one-day encounters and two two-day matches, which will be played at the St. Paul's Sporting Complex, the Conaree Cricket Ground, and the Warner Park Stadium.

The tournament will commence with the three opening-round matches in the one-day competition on Saturday, October 25.

Antigua and Barbuda will face St. Maarten at St. Paul's Sporting Complex, St. Kitts will meet Montserrat at Warner Park Stadium, and Nevis and Anguilla will clash at the Conaree Cricket Ground.

The teams will each play their other two one-day matches on Sunday and Monday. Antigua and Barbuda will take on Nevis and Anguilla; St. Kitts will face St. Maarten and Nevis; and Montserrat will meet Anguilla and St. Maarten.

All teams will enjoy a rest day on Tuesday, October 28, then begin their quest in the first of their two-day matches on Wednesday, October 29.

Antigua and Barbuda will oppose Montserrat at the

Conaree Cricket Ground, St. Kitts will battle with Anguilla at St. Paul's Sporting Complex, and Nevis will challenge St. Maarten at Warner Park Stadium.

The tournament will conclude with the second twoday matches on Friday, October 31.

Antigua and Barbuda will tackle St. Kitts at Warner Park Stadium, St. Maarten will face Anguilla at the Conaree Cricket Ground, and Nevis will clash with Montserrat at St. Paul's Sporting Complex.





Sports News



Sandals Extend Unbeaten Run in Business Basketball League

Defending champions Sandals continued their unbeaten run in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Championships on Monday night.

Sandals notched up their ninth win with a 93-41 victory against Antigua Computer Technology at the JSC Sports Complex.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 25 points and grabbed 23 rebounds, and T-Shawn Lewis scored 20 points and snatched eight rebounds for Sandals.

Henry Dorsette sank 15 points for Antigua Computer Technology, who suffered their seventh loss in nine games.

The Board of Education maintained their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the standings, recording their 10th win in as many games with a 106-52 drubbing of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Xavier "X-Man" Meade produced a game-high 43 points and four assists, and Daniel Perez chipped in with 14 points, 20 rebounds, six assists, and six steals for the Board of Education.

Demeitre Leitch converted 19 points and snatched 16 rebounds for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, who suffered their seventh loss in 11 games.

Richie's Shooterz claimed their fifth win in eight games with a commanding 133-71 victory against Anjo Wholesale.

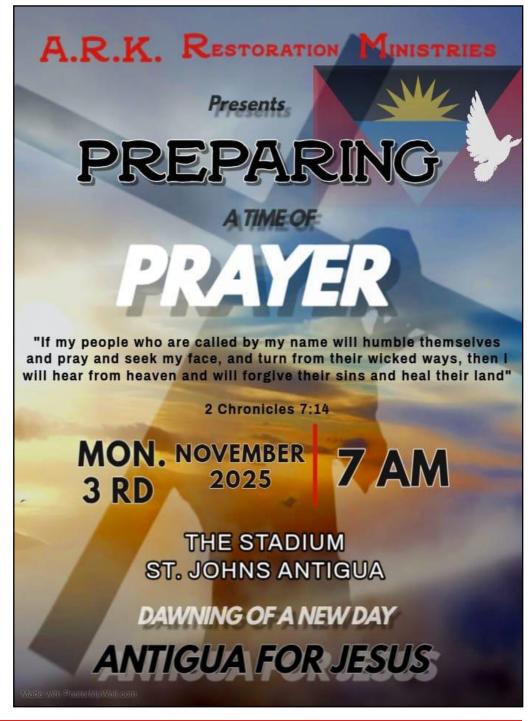
Nickon McGregor had 27 points and five assists, and Cohen Desouza produced 24 points, 23 rebounds, eight assists, and five steals for Richie's Shooterz.

In support, Tajahron Davis contributed 22 points, six rebounds, and four assists; Jaheem James sank 18 points; and Devorn Benjamin chipped in with 13 points and four assists for Richie's Shooterz.

Webster Baptista converted 23 points, Steven Matthew produced 18 points and six assists, and Orion Seraphine scored 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Anjo Wholesale, who suffered their fourth defeat in 11 encounters.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex today.

Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance will take on the Sledge O Ballers at 6:45 pm, Richie's Shooterz will meet J&J Company Landscaping Services at 7:45 pm, and Police and Fearless Security Services will meet in a bottom-of-the-table clash at 8:45 pm.



Sports News



Forest Hire Ex-Everton Boss Dyche to Replace Postecoglou

LONDON (Reuters) - Nottingham Forest have appointed former Everton boss Sean Dyche as their new manager, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday, following the sacking of Ange Postecoglou.

"The former Forest youth player joins the club on a contract running until the summer of 2027 and will take charge of his first match on Thursday night as the Reds take on FC Porto in the Europa League," Forest said in a statement.

Forest sacked Postecoglou barely 20 minutes after the final whistle blew in their 3-0 home defeat by Chelsea on Saturday, a loss that left the Midlands side 18th in the league standings with five points from eight matches.

Postecoglou's Forest reign of just 39 days makes the Australian the short-est-serving permanent Premier League manager to be sacked mid-season.

"A respected and experienced Premier League manager, Dyche brings the perfect blend of character, tactical acumen and proven achievement to guide the club through its next chapter," Forest said.

"As a former Forest youth player who lives locally, Dyche also has a deep understanding of the values and pride of Forest and its supporters."

Dyche, 54, has been out of work since January when he was sacked by Everton after a poor run of results.

The Englishman's most notable



Everton's head coach Sean Dyche gestures during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Everton at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, Dec. 26, 2024. (AP)

managerial achievements came during his decade-long tenure at Burnley from 2012 to 2022.

During that period, he guided them to promotion twice from the Championship, secured two top-half league finishes, and led the club to European qualification for the first time in 51 years. His other managerial spell came at Watford.

Known for his pragmatic approach and defensive organisation, Dyche will be tasked with steadying the ship at Forest, who have struggled since the September sacking of Nuno Espirito Santo, now manager of West Ham United.

"Dyche will be joined by his experienced coaching team of Ian Woan and Steve Stone, both former Nottingham Forest players who together made more than 400 appearances for the Reds during the 1990s," Forest added.

Former midfielder Tony Loughlan, who was part of Dyche's coaching team at Watford and Burnley, has also joined the club.

Forest host Porto in the Europa League on Thursday before taking a trip to high-flying Bournemouth in the Premier League on Sunday.





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

→ 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



S OOTS WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2025



Windies Beat Bangladesh in Super Over to Level ODI series



West Indies skipper Shai Hope bats against Bangladesh during the second One-Day International in Mirpur, Bangladesh, on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. (Getty Images)

MIRPUR, Bangladesh (AP) — West Indies came out on top in the Super Over against Bangladesh on Tuesday to level their three-match ODI series at 1-1.

Both sides ended on 213 for nine after a spin-fest that saw spinners bowl 92 of the 100 overs, the highest in the ODI history.

The West Indies used spinners for the full 50 overs, setting a new record. Mustafizur Rahman was the only pacer to bowl eight overs for Bangladesh.

It was the first time Bangladesh was part of tied game, after playing 813 matches across formats.

But Bangladesh failed to

deliver in the Super Over while chasing 11 for a victory. The hosts couldn't take advantage of wayward bowling by left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, who gave away four runs before he bowled his first legal delivery.

Akeal removed Soumya Sarkar in the Super Over and eventually defended the total, keeping his side alive in the three-match series.

Captain Shai Hope hit a key boundary in the Super Over for West Indies, having earlier played a huge part in securing the tie by hitting an unbeaten 53 with four boundaries.

Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain, fresh from his



Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, second left, won the game in the Super Over for the West Indies during the second One-Day International in Mirpur, Bangladesh, on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

six for 35 in the first ODI, tormented the West Indies batters again by claiming three for 42.

Nasum Ahmed removed Brandon King in the first over for duck before Rishad stalled West Indies' progress, dismissing Alick Athanaze (28) and Keacy Carty (35) in quick succession.

Tanvir Islam then wrecked West Indies in the middle overs, along-side Rishad and Nasum, leaving the Caribbean side reeling on 133 for seven.

Hope and Justin Greaves added 44 runs for the eighth wicket but the run out dismissal of Greaves for 26 put Bangladesh back in a dominant position.

Hope, with the support from Akeal Hosein, denied Bangladesh any further breakthrough to leave his side needing five runs for the victory.

Saif Hassan then removed Akeal Hosein with the penultimate delivery as West Indies needed three runs from the last ball to get the win.

Khary Pierre managed to score two runs after wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan put down an easy catch, taking the game to a Super Over, which was won by the West Indies.

Both teams will clash again in the series-deciding game is on Thursday.

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