

Government on standby to evacuate A&B students from Jamaica

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Honouring the country's National Heroes

Government on standby to evacuate A&B students from Jamaica

The Antigua and Barbuda government is finalizing plans to evacuate Antigua and Barbuda students who are studying in Jamaica and who are likely to be impacted by the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

Latest reports overnight indicate that the hurricane was packing winds of up to 175 miles per hour and already at least one gust has been recorded at 241 miles per hour. In addition to the extremely powerful winds, Melissa is expected to dump as much as 30 to 40 inches of rain on the island before it is finished.

Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant, who oversees the Prime Minister's Scholarship Programme, spent Monday night reaching out to those students who had not moved to the Pegasus Hotel explaining the government's intention.

Merchant is urging the students to take every precaution for their personal safety as they await the passage of the storm.

Hurricane Melissa has been dubbed 'a super storm' with forecasters indicating that its threat to Jamaica for potential damage is expected to be greater than for Hurricane Gilbert, the last major storm to affect the island.

Last weekend, Prime Minister Gaston Browne gave instructions to have the Antigua and Barbuda students in Jamaica moved to the Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston for their overall safety and well-being. The initial word was that their stay there would be up to Monday, Oc-



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

tober 27. However, with the hurricane slowing down to 2 miles per hour up to Monday night, landfall has again been delayed.

At 8:00 pm Monday, the storm was said to be about 150 miles off the country's southern coast.

With this information, Merchant said the students' stay at the Pegasus has been extended until further notice. He revealed that the number of students there has now climbed to 53.

PM Browne has urged the entire nation to offer prayers for the people of Jamaica who are under threat of catastrophic damage to property and potential loss of life. Antigua and Barbuda, he indicated, stands ready to offer whatever assistance that it can following the passage of the storm.


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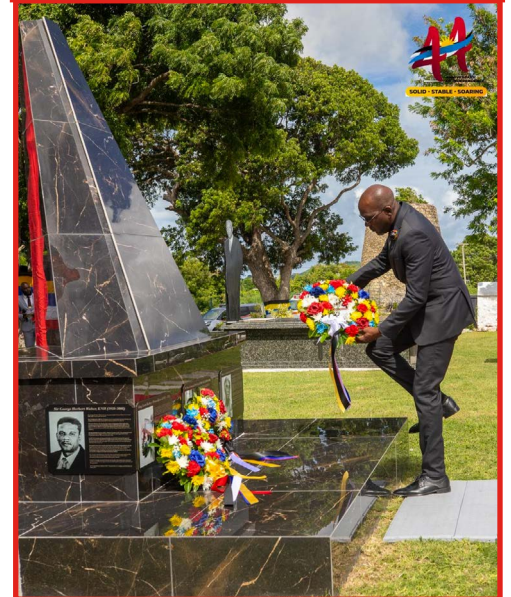
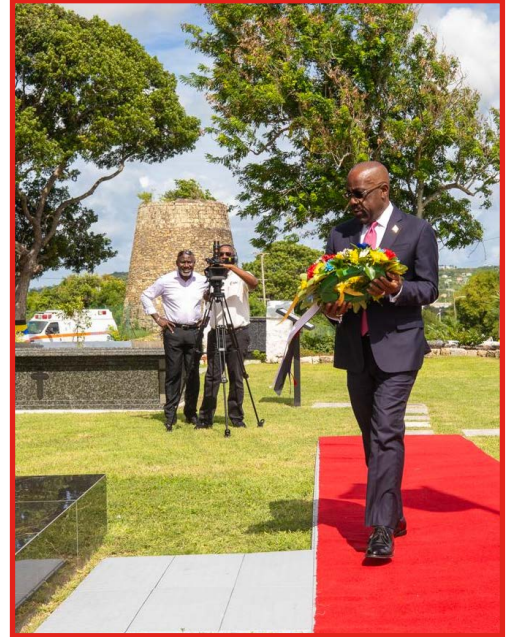
GG Sir Rodney Williams calls on nationals to emulate contributions of the National Heroes



The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams



Sir Vivian Richards



The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, wants nationals to follow the examples laid down by the country's National Heroes as Antigua and Barbuda honour and celebrate the contributions to nation building of the six persons elevated to the highest honour of the land.

Speaking at the wreath laying ceremony

at Heroes' Park at Tomlinson's on Monday, Sir Rodney noted that each of these heroes took a journey and while their paths were not identical, they shared a destination, the advancement of the people and the upliftment of Antigua and Barbuda.

"They faced adversity, disappointment, and doubt. Yet they walked for-

ward with conviction, grounded by faith and driven by purpose.

"Today, as citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, we too are on a journey, one that requires the same courage, honesty, and perseverance that our heroes embodied. The road to being **solid, stable, and soaring** is not paved only with celebration, but with introspection and responsibility," he observed.

Sir Rodney noted in every generation, there will be challenges that test the people's resolve and moments that call for renewal. "However, our heroes re-

Local News



mind us that true greatness lies not in avoiding trials, but in how we respond to them, with grace, with wisdom, and with a steadfast belief in the good that lies within our people," he remarked.

During the ceremony, wreaths were laid by Sir Rodney, Acting Prime Minister Sir Steadroy Benjamin, Festivals Minister, Darryll Matthew, representative of VC Bird family as well as the Sir George Walter and Sir Lester Bird families. A representative of the TOR Memorial School as well the Reparations Commission also laid wreath.

Members of the diplomatic corps were also invited to lay wreaths along with Brigadier Telbert Benjamin of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and Acting Police Commissioner, Everton Jeffers.

UK-based nationals celebrate 44th anniversary of Independence



The Antigua and Barbuda National Association (ABNA) UK hosted its Annual Independence Church Service on Sunday at the Moravian Church, Priory Road, London, marking the nation's 44th Anniversary of Independence under the fitting theme, "*Solid, Stable, and Soaring.*"

The service brought together generations of Antiguan and Barbudans – from the trailblazers who migrated to the United Kingdom in the 1950s and 1960s, to a new wave of young professionals proudly carrying the nation's legacy forward. The atmosphere was one of reflection, pride, and renewal, capturing the true Antiguan and Barbudan spirit through *steelpan performances, poetry, and song.*

In her first official address as President of ABNA UK, Lyndia Bowers expressed deep gratitude for the confidence placed in her leadership and out-



lined a renewed vision for the Association. "ABNA UK is more than just an association, it is the living heartbeat of the Antiguan and Barbudan diaspora in the United Kingdom," she said. "We are a family bound by heritage, culture, pride, and a deep love for our twin-island nation."

President Bowers called on members, both long-standing and newly joined, to bring their "*energy, talents, and ideas to the table,*" pledging to build an association that honours its roots while creating "*a legacy of excellence for*

the generations to come." She also expressed appreciation to Everton George, outgoing President, for his exemplary service and unwavering commitment to ABNA UK, noting that he "laid a strong foundation that will be built upon with integrity and purpose."

High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill delivered heartfelt greetings on behalf of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister for Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene.

In her remarks, High Com-

missioner Hill expressed gratitude to the Antiguan and Barbudan community for their continued unity and support and extended special thanks to Mr. George for his years of faithful leadership.

"We enjoyed many successful collaborations, and I know that he took great pride in executing his duties," she said. "I look forward to working with Lyndia and her executive as they chart the way forward, building on the foundation of those who have led in the past."

The High Commissioner also shared exciting updates about Antigua and Barbuda's preparation to host the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), describing it as "*an unparalleled opportunity to project the maturity and achievements of our 44-year-old nation to the world.*"

Over 100 Collect Prescription Glasses on Day 1 of distribution

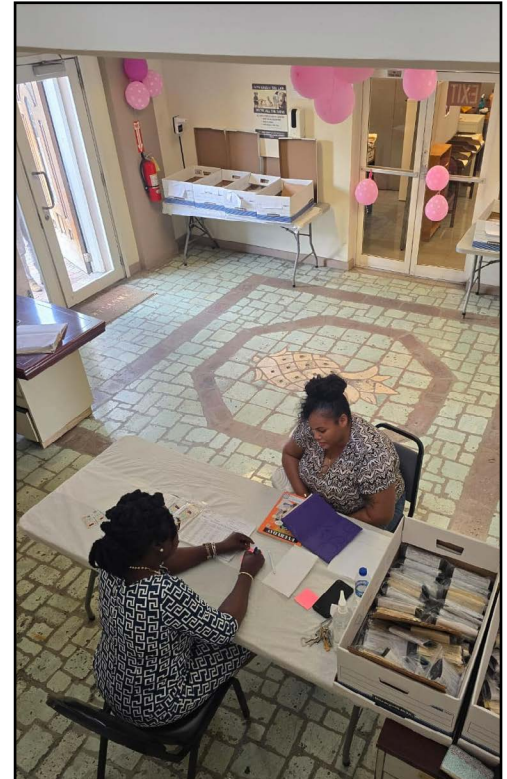
The Ministry of Health successfully commenced the distribution of prescription glasses on Monday at its Headquarters on High Street, where over one hundred individuals turned out to collect their eyewear.

The glasses were prescribed during the Ministry's recent Health Fair, held in June 2025 at the Multi-Purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre. The event, hosted in collaboration with United Hands Incorporated and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, attracted thousands of citizens seeking medical, dental, and eye care services.

During the Health Fair, individuals requiring vision correction were identified and later provided with either single-lens or bifocal glasses — free of cost — as the Government of Antigua and Barbuda fully covered the expense. Those who requested progressive lenses were asked to contribute a nominal fee of \$75, a significant reduction from the usual cost of approximately \$2,000.

The Ministry notes that over 500 pairs of glasses will be distributed in total upon completion of the exercise, reflecting its continued commitment to ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens.

Distribution continues today, Tuesday, at the Ministry of Health Headquarters between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 midday. All individuals who were prescribed glasses during the June health fair are encouraged to visit and collect their eyewear. You are asked to walk with a valid photo I.D.





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WEDNESDAY 29 OCT
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA
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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.

A pilot project to test for African Swine Fever is underway in Antigua and Barbuda



Participants at participating in the African Swine Fever Pilot session in Antigua and Barbuda



Craig Thomas - Welcoming all the participants



PDr. Christopher Hamilton - West - Consultant presenting epidemiological surveillance

A pilot project is now in progress to determine whether the deadly African Swine Fever virus is present among the pig population in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) is teaming up with the Unit-

ed States Department of Agriculture to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in conducting field tests of pig farms in the country.

IICA National Specialist for Antigua and Barbuda, Craig Thomas, said fifteen technicians from the Veterinary Division of the ministry are attending the

two-day workshop on the subject.

“As part of the pilot project, we will be surveying farms to see if there is any evidence of African Swine Fever virus among the herds. This virus has the potential of wiping out entire herds of pigs and our survey is seen as a

preventive step. The virus does not affect humans, but humans play a part in spreading it from farm to farm or from country to country,” Thomas explained.

He revealed that similar surveys have been conducted in approximately eight CARICOM Carib-

bean countries and the virus has not been detected in any of them. However, he noted that the virus has been found in pigs in the Dominican Republic. He explained that persons traveling to that country and who come into contact with infected pigs without observing the required safety protocols could potentially spread the virus to another country.

According to the IICA representative, there are some 25 vibrant pig farms with fifty or more pigs operating in Antigua and Barbuda that are helping to meet the growing de-



Gregory Bailey - Giving feature address

mand for pork. However, he noted that there still is a high rate of importation of pork, and that this is another area where the virus could enter the country.

On Tuesday, the team will visit four farms to conduct tests of their pigs and that the samples will be sent to an overseas lab for analysis.

Thomas emphasized that the project is an ongoing exercise with the expectation that the ministry of agriculture will secure the funding to continue the surveillance at the end of the pilot phase.



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Local News

Strong earthquake and an after shock rock Antigua and Barbuda Monday morning

A relatively strong earthquake rocked Antigua and Barbuda early Monday morning with an aftershock rocking the country within the space of half an hour later.

The Antigua and Barbuda Met Office, the local agency that provides information on these phenomena, reported that the first quake was registered at approximately 8:38 am registering 6.1 on the Richter Scale.

Seventeen minutes later, at 8:55 am, the second quake or after shock, shook the country measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale.

The first quake was said to be 16.5 degrees north and 59.6 degrees north and recorded at a depth of 10 kilometers or 6 miles. The second quake/aftershock was said to be in the general vicinity of the first.

There have not been any reports of damage to property or any injuries associated with the quakes.





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Tourism Ministry to donate food to local institutions

As part of the week of activities for Tourism Week 2025, being celebrated under the theme “Our People, Our Culture, Our Environment, in Full Thrive, Tourism Week 2025,” the Tourism Charity Day initiative will once again shine a light on compassion, community, and giving back to those most vulnerable across Antigua and Barbuda.

This year’s Charity Day will channel its efforts toward making meaningful contributions to four vital institutions that continue to provide essential care and support to some of the nation’s most vulnerable citizens; the Adele School, the Clareview Psychiatric Hospital, the Fiennes Institute, and the Care Project. Through this initiative, the Ministry of Tourism and our stakeholders reaffirm their commitment to social responsibility and to ensuring that the spirit of tourism extends beyond economic activity to touch the lives of those who need it most.

As plans move forward for this year’s event, the Ministry of Tourism is extending an open invitation to tourism stakeholders and corporate Antigua and Barbuda to join hands once again in this meaningful effort. Their contributions will ensure that the Tourism Charity Day continues to bring hope, relief, and tangible support to individuals and institutions that work tirelessly for the wellbeing of the community. In addition to contributing to a worthy



cause, participating partners and sponsors will also benefit from enhanced brand visibility through the Tourism Charity Day campaign. Their support will be acknowledged across various media platforms, event promotions, and official Tourism Week activities, showcasing their commitment to community development and corporate social responsibility within Antigua and Barbuda’s vibrant tourism sector.

Last year’s Tourism Charity Day was hailed as a tremendous success, thanks to the overwhelming support received from the tourism and corporate community and we wish to extend heartfelt appreciation to the major sponsors; West Indies Oil Company

Limited, Mega Distributors Limited, Chase Distributor’s Ltd, Little Canton, Go To Enterprise, Epicurean Fine Foods & Pharmacy, Garry’s Farm, Townhouse Mega Store, and Cool & Smooth, whose generosity and partnership were instrumental in making the initiative possible.

Corporate businesses, tourism stakeholders, and other interested partners who wish to take part in this year’s Tourism Charity Day are encouraged to contact Margo Ryan or Kessa Stevens-Lake at the Ministry of Tourism by calling 468-4082 or 468-4033 for more information.



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FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

TUESDAY 28 OCT | 8:00PM

AT ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY
SCHOOL



HANDS OF MARIE, GISELE – Part 2

Dear Editor,

This letter was intended to be a response to an article published by D. Gisele Isaacs under the heading, “Ask what your country can do for you”. However, in light of the fact that much of what I intended to say has already been dealt with in Part 1, in response to Harold Lovell’s piece, and while I intend to respond to Isaacs, the main thrust here will deal with the frenzied call by the UPP and its supporters for an Independent Inquiry, into what they refer to as “vehicle gate”.

Gisele Isaacs’ piece, as a whole, is based on hearsay. She admits that her source was, as she admits, a “so called un-letter-headed report, which is unsigned, unvalidated and intended only to fool the public into believing that the matter is being impartially investigated and justice is being served.” She relies on the fake document to support her unwarranted and dishonest attack on Minister Maria Browne.

The undeniable facts as they pertain to Minister Browne is that upon assuming the office of Minister of Works, she observed certain irregularities with regards to the purchase of government vehicles and certain illicit duty-free concessions. As a result, she brought the matter to the attention of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which resulted in a decision that only the Cabinet could approve any and all vehicles purchased for the government and approve waivers of duty on these transactions.

Recently and approximately 2 years after those decisions, the same Minister Browne observed a high-end, high-priced Ford Bronco and 2 other heavy-duty pieces of equipment parked in the yard at the Longford Police Station. She immediately reported her sightings to the Prime Minister which led to the actions currently being undertaken by the Executive and the Ministry of Finance.

In these circumstances it is beyond belief that the Chair of the UPP, Har-

old Lovell, the opposition leader and the party’s Facebook supporters, have sought to make the Minister, the villain of the piece, which makes no sense. But common sense is so lacking in the UPP. This would mean that the same Minister who raised the alarm and drew attention to corruption and perhaps criminality, would be doing so to implicate herself. Make this, make sense.

No person of sane and sober mind could possibly come to that conclusion. Then there are those who assert that the buck stops with the Minister. To those I say – Ministers deal with policy; administration is dealt with by civil servants. The idea that the Minister would be signing these documents or would give a Junior Minister instructions to sign, is beyond far-fetched.

The Call for an Independent Inquiry

There have been loud and vociferous calls for an Independent Inquiry but most persons have not indicated the type of Inquiry to which they refer. However, the Leader of the Opposition has clearly stated that his call is for “A Commission of Inquiry” and “the criminal charging, conviction and incarceration of those found to be guilty”.

First, there must be a formal request to the Governor General to establish the Inquiry. This must be done with the consent of the Executive. The government must determine whether a Commission of Inquiry is necessary or desirable, bearing in mind the tremendous expense involved. This consists but not limited to: the appointment of a highly qualified Commissioner and a highly qualified lawyer to advise the Commissioner, which is usually a very senior lawyer.

Then an administrative team of lawyers to prepare and issue Salmon letters (summons) to every person involved in the matter, in one way or the other. Each of those persons will then

retain lawyers. Each person will be examined and cross examined. Once established the Commission will sit for about 2 weeks, then adjourn and reconvene in a few weeks and so on. And this could last for about 6 months. The cost will be several millions of dollars.

Then there is the question of Raison d’être for the setting up of the Commission of Inquiry. Is it to seek evidence and facts on the matter at hand? At the conclusion of the Inquiry, the Commissions publishes its findings. It cannot pursue offenders or make orders for restitution. It can only publish its findings and name and shame.

I note that those persons who are calling for an Inquiry are also demanding that those found culpable be charged, tried and convicted. UNFORTUNATELY, this is a legal impossibility. As once the offenders are brought before a Commission of Inquiry and evidence taken, they CANNOT then be brought before and tried in a Court of Law. It is either a Commission of Inquiry or the Court. Make up your collective minds.

In light of these facts, NOMAD’s advice is to ignore the strident calls for a Commission of Inquiry and continue with the wide-ranging Audit being undertaken by the Ministry of Finance and the policy of restitution which has been successful. This is nothing new. Between 2006 and 2009 This is how the same UPP government at the time dealt with the IHI matter.

P.S. For weeks Harold Lovell has been calling for an Independent Inquiry, NOMAD just happened to observe and note a political advertisement on Facebook by Lovell, now asking for an Independent Forensic Audit. Someone must have advised him that his call for an Independent Inquiry was inappropriate in the circumstances. Or maybe he is trying to upstage his Political Leader.



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

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

SUNDAY 26 OCT

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

MONDAY 27-29 OCT

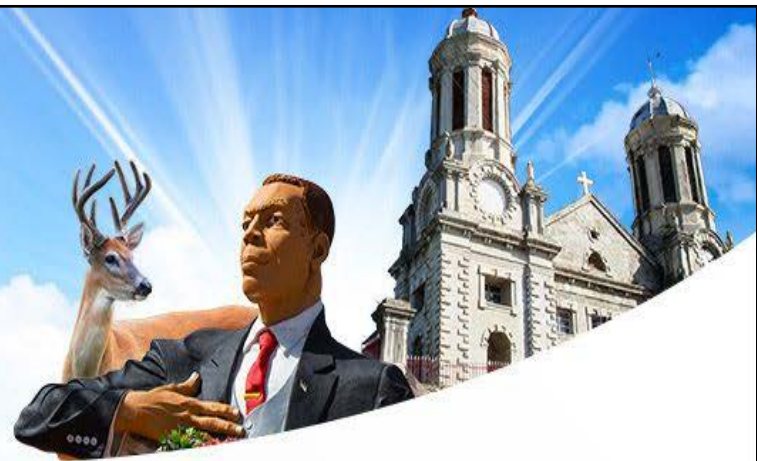
- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

MONDAY 27 OCT

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

TUESDAY 28 OCT

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



TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**

WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

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

THURSDAY 30 OCT

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

FRIDAY 31 OCT

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

MONDAY 03 NOV

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



US warship docks in Trinidad and Tobago, putting more pressure on Venezuela

A United States (US) warship docked in Trinidad and Tobago's capital on Sunday as the Trump administration boosts military pressure on neighbouring Venezuela and its President Nicolás Maduro.

The arrival of the USS Gravelly, a guided-missile destroyer, in the capital of the Caribbean nation is in addition to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, which is moving closer to Venezuela. Maduro criticised the movement of the carrier as an attempt by the US government to fabricate "a new eternal war" against his country.

US President Donald Trump has accused Maduro, without providing evidence, of being the leader of the organised crime gang Tren de Aragua.

Government officials from the twin-island nation and the US said the massive warship will remain in Trinidad until Thursday so both countries can carry out training exercises.

A senior military official in Trinidad and Tobago told The Associated Press that the move was only recently scheduled. The official spoke under condition of anonymity due to lack of authorisation to discuss the matter publicly.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, has been a vo-



cal supporter of the US military presence and the deadly strikes on suspected drug boats in waters off Venezuela.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Jenifer Neidhart de Ortiz said in a statement that the exercises seek to "address shared threats like transnational crime and build resilience through training, humanitarian missions, and security efforts".

The visit comes one week after the US Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago warned Americans to stay away from US government facilities there. Local authorities said a reported threat against Americans prompted the warning.

Many people in Trinidad and Tobago criticise the warship's docking in town.

At a recent demonstration outside the US Embassy, David Abdulah, the leader of the Movement for Social Justice political party, said Trinidad and Tobago should not have allowed the warship into its waters.

"This is a warship in Trinidad, which will be anchored here for several days just miles off Venezuela when there's a threat of war," said

Abdulah. "That's an abomination."

CARICOM, a regional trade bloc made up of 15 Caribbean countries, has called for dialogue. Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the group, but Persad-Bissessar has said the region is not a zone of peace, citing the number of murders and other violent crimes. (AP)

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Berisnete Tania Francisca of Alfred Peters Street, Villa, Antigua and Barbuda, is applying to the Minister of Naturalization, and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Regional News

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Haitians urged to remain vigilant as Melissa blamed for four deaths and injury of 15

Haitian authorities were on Monday urging people to remain vigilant as Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm, could bring life-threatening flash flooding and landslides in southwestern Haiti this week.

So far, the authorities say four people have been killed and 15 others injured since last Tuesday and the Haitian Hydrometeorological Unit (UHM), as well as the General Directorate of Civil Protection and the Permanent Secretariat for Risk Management, are maintaining a red alert for the South and Grand'Anse departments.

The South-East, Nippes, West, and central plateau departments are also on orange alert.

Hurricane Melissa is expected to bring an additional eight to 16 inches of rainfall to southern Hispaniola through Wednesday, with possible local maximum totals of 40 inches.

The Haitian authorities say catastrophic and life-threatening flash flooding and landslides are expected in southwestern Haiti and the southern parts of the Dominican Republic through midweek.

In Haiti, significant infrastructure damage and community isolation are likely with tropical storm conditions expected late Tuesday and Wednesday along Haiti's western coast.

The Departmental Directorate of Civil Protection is calling on the population to remain vigilant during this period, urging them not to cross any watercourses under any circumstances, not to tie up animals where the water could carry them away and not to stand on hills and bridges to observe flowing water.



"Store your important documents in a safe place to prevent them from getting wet. Remember to keep an eye on people in need of assistance so that they can move if necessary. Remain calm and listen to Civil Protection messages from reliable sources," the department said.

It said that the commune of Saut-d'Eau remains completely cut off from communications networks due to the control exercised by armed gangs, while Savanette has been isolated for more than three days following a telephone service outage.

In Thomassique, the power supply remains severely disrupted: several small and medium-sized businesses dependent on solar energy have been forced to suspend their operations, exacerbating the crisis in essential services.

Schools remain closed in the South-East, Sud, and Grand'Anse departments, as a precautionary measure.

The authorities said that 342 shelters have already been opened in the

Southeast, South, and Grand'Anse departments.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said that a tropical watch remains in effect for Haiti and Melissa is moving toward the west near three miles per hour (mph).

"A slow turn toward the northwest and north is expected today and tonight, followed by a northeastward acceleration beginning on Tuesday and continuing through at least Thursday. On the forecast track, the core of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica tonight and Tuesday, across southeastern Cuba Tuesday night, and across the southeastern Bahamas on Wednesday," it said.

Melissa has maximum sustained winds of near 160 mph with higher gusts and some additional strengthening is forecast today, with fluctuations in intensity likely before Melissa makes landfall on Jamaica early Tuesday. (CMC)

Regional News

Mandatory evacuations ordered for seven flood-prone communities as Hurricane Melissa nears



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness on Sunday ordered the immediate evacuation of several vulnerable communities across Jamaica as Hurricane Melissa bears down on the island with life-threatening rain and winds. The order was issued under the Disaster Risk Management Act.

The order covers the following areas:

1. Port Royal, Kingston
2. Portland Cottage, Clarendon
3. Rocky Point, Clarendon
4. Old Harbour Bay, St. Catherine
5. Taylor Land, Bull Bay, St Andrew
6. New Haven, St Andrew
7. Riverton City, St Andrew

“The Order takes effect immediately and requires all persons in the specified areas to evacuate to ensure their safety,” a state-

ment said. Holness acted on advice from the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

The mandatory evacuation follows the October 24 declaration of the entire island as a threatened area under the Disaster Risk Management Act.

That declaration empowers the Government to implement precautionary and protective measures to safeguard lives, property, and critical infrastructure.

The evacuation order remains in force for as long as the Declaration of Threatened Area Order remains in force.

According to the Meteorological Service, Hurricane Melissa is expected to pass directly over Jamaica on Monday night or Tuesday morning, bringing sustained winds of 145 mph (230 km/h) and

up to 30 inches (760 mm) of rainfall in some areas.

Life-threatening storm surges of 9 to 13 feet are anticipated along the south coast, particularly near Port Royal, Old Harbour Bay, and Rocky Point. Authorities warn that widespread flooding and landslides are likely, especially in low-lying and flood-prone areas.

Earlier Sunday, Minister of Local Government Desmond McKenzie urged residents in low-lying and flood-prone areas to evacuate immediately.

Speaking ahead of the storm, he warned that many communities may not survive the expected flooding. “It is going to be impossible for us, after all the attempts that we have been making...for us to say to our first responders ‘go out and risk your life,’” McKenzie said.

He noted that all 881

shelters across the country have been activated to provide safe relocation options.

Transport Minister Daryl Vaz said the state-owned bus company received four evacuation calls since Saturday. But he lamented that there has been a low makeup in some vulnerable communities.

He said residents in Flagaman in coastal St Elizabeth have “refused” to board the buses. He said only 10 persons left on a bus that was sent to Old Harbour Bay in St Catherine.

He said it’s a similar low take up in Port Royal and Rae Town fishing communities in Kingston. “We have deployed our resources and are awaiting board. We actually have buses on spot, now parked, waiting to evacuate and the response is not there,” he said at the news conference.

Vaz said the Jamaica Urban Transit Company state bus company has indicated that it is running limited operations but “and will likely cease operations mid afternoon due to rising water levels, low visibility and of course the weather coming closer”. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Category 5 Hurricane Melissa now closer to Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa, now a Category 5 storm with winds in excess of 160 miles per hour, is inching towards Jamaica on Monday and is expected to move near or over the Caribbean island on Tuesday.

The latest bulletin from the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said that at 8:00 a.m. the distinct eye of Hurricane Melissa was located near latitude 16.4 North, longitude 78.0 West.

Melissa is moving toward the west near 3 mph (6 km/h).

A slow turn toward the northwest and north is expected today and tonight, followed by a northeastward acceleration beginning on Tuesday and continuing through at least Thursday.

On the forecast track, the core of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica tonight and Tuesday, across southeastern Cuba Tuesday night, and across the southeastern Bahamas on Wednesday.

Reports from NOAA and Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds are near 160 mph (260 km/h) with



higher gusts.

Melissa is a category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

Some additional strengthening is forecast today, with fluctuations in intensity likely before Melissa makes landfall on Jamaica early Tuesday.

Melissa is expected to reach Jamaica and southeastern Cuba as a powerful

major hurricane and will still be at hurricane strength when it moves across the southeastern Bahamas.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 30 miles (45 km) from the centre and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 195 miles (315 km).

The minimum central pressure from the Hurricane Hunter aircraft data is 913 mb (26.96 inches). (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Logos for the Ministry of Sports and the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission are visible on the left side of the poster.

Clashes with security forces in Cameroon kill 4 protesters ahead of election results



Clashes with security forces in Cameroon left at least four protesters dead as opposition supporters rallied to demand credible results from the African country's recent presidential election, local officials said.

More than 100 protesters were arrested in one region. The violence came as Cameroon's top court, the constitutional council, was expected to announce final election results on Monday, though the opposition and their supporters have accused authorities of seeking to rig the vote.

Hundreds stormed the streets in several cities on Sunday following days of unrest and in response to protest calls by opposition candidate Issa Tchiroma Bakary, who claims to have defeated President Paul Biya in the Oct. 12 election.

According to Samuel Dieudonne Ivaha Diboua, governor of the Littoral Region that includes the economic hub of Douala, four protesters were killed and sev-

eral members of the security forces were injured in Douala after security forces and police stations were attacked by the protesters.

At least 105 protesters were also arrested and are in custody following the unrest in Douala, the governor added.

The African Movement for New Independence and Democracy opposition party and local media earlier reported that at least two protesters were shot and killed by security forces as they sought to disperse the protests.

Videos online showed protesters clashing with security forces, who fired tear gas and tried to disperse the protesters barricading major roads in Douala and other cities, including Garoua and Maroua in the north.

Dozens of opposition supporters, activists and leaders have already been arrested in recent days as the protests continued. Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration Paul Atanga Nji told reporters on Sat-

urday that the government arrested several people plotting violent attacks.

One protester, Oumarou Bouba, a 27-year-old trader in the northern city of Ma-

roua, said, "I am ready to stake my life to defend my vote. I voted for Tchiroma because I want change."

Tensions were building up ahead of the election in Cameroon, a country of nearly 30 million people. The decision by the 92-year-old Biya, the world's oldest leader who has been in power for nearly half his life, to seek reelection angered the country's youth and the opposition.

The opposition has accused Biya of having a hand in the disqualification of his strongest rival and of using "state machinery" to manipulate the election in his favor. (AP)



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Two arrested over theft of jewels at Louvre museum in Paris

Two suspects have been arrested over the theft of precious crown jewels from Paris's Louvre museum, French media say.

The Paris prosecutor's office said one of the men had been taken into custody as he was preparing to take a flight from Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Items worth €88m (£76m; \$102m) were taken from the world's most-visited museum last Sunday, when four thieves wielding power tools broke into the building in broad daylight.

France's justice minister has conceded security protocols "failed", leaving the country with a "terrible image".

The Paris prosecutor's office said in a statement that the arrests had been made on Saturday evening, without specifying how many people had been taken into custody.

One of the suspects was preparing to travel to Algeria, police sources have told French media, while it is understood the other was going to Mali.

Specialist police can detain and question them for up to 96 hours.

According to reports in French media on Sunday, DNA found at the scene of the robbery led to the identification of one of the suspects.

The gang left behind a number of items, including gloves and a high-vis jacket.

It has previously been reported that they dropped a crown that once belonged to Empress Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III.

The Paris prosecutor criticised the "premature disclosure" of information related to the case, adding that it hindered efforts to recover the jewels and find the thieves.

The thieves reportedly arrived at 09:30 (08:30 GMT), shortly after the museum opened to visitors.

The suspects arrived with a vehi-

cle-mounted mechanical lift to gain access to the Galerie d'Apollon (Gallery of Apollo) via a balcony close to the River Seine.

Pictures from the scene showed the ladder leading up to a first-floor window.

Two of the thieves entered by cutting through the window with power tools.

They then threatened the guards, who evacuated the premises, and cut through the glass of two display cases containing jewels.

A preliminary report has revealed that one in three rooms in the area of the museum raided had no CCTV cameras, according to French media.

French police say the thieves were inside for four minutes and made their escape on two scooters waiting outside at 09:38.

The museum's director told French senators this week that the only camera monitoring the exterior wall of the

Louvre where they broke in was pointing away from the first-floor balcony that led to Gallery of Apollo.

CCTV around the perimeter was also weak and "ageing", Laurence des Cars said, meaning that staff failed to spot the gang early enough to stop the theft.

Experts have also expressed concern that the jewels may have already been broken up into hundreds of pieces.

Gold and silver can be melted down and the gems can be cut up into smaller stones that will be virtually impossible to track back to the robbery, Dutch art detective Arthur Brand told the BBC.

Security measures have since been tightened around France's cultural institutions.

The Louvre has transferred some of its most precious jewels to the Bank of France following the heist. They will now be stored in the Bank's most secure vault, 26m (85ft) below the ground floor of its elegant headquarters in central Paris. (BBC)



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The poster features a collage of images: a man in a hat and vest, a woman in a patterned dress, and a group of people. It is decorated with the colors of the Antiguan flag (red, white, blue, and yellow) and the coat of arms of Antigua and Barbuda.

Hunt on for remaining Louvre thieves after first arrests made

The hunt was on Monday for the thieves still on the run after the first suspects in the Louvre heist were arrested by French police.

Two suspects with a history of jewel thefts had been tracked for days after their DNA was recovered from the museum and were arrested Saturday shortly before one of them was set to board a flight out of the country, a police official told NBC News.

The breakthrough came a week after the robbers broke into the Galerie d'Apollon, threatening guards and drilling into display cases before escaping on scooters with eight of France's crown jewels worth an estimated \$102 million.

A major police operation has been underway to track down the thieves, who were captured on camera fleeing the scene. But there was still no sign of the jewels themselves.

Police said DNA samples discovered at the crime scene helped identify the suspects.

"They left gloves, a walkie-talkie, a vest, and a can of gasoline," Axel Ronde, spokesman for the French police union CFTC, said in an interview Monday.

"And that allowed my colleagues from the forensic team to find these DNA traces," he said.

Ronde added that the two arrested suspects were both men in their 30s, who had prior convictions and were known to police having previously targeted jewelry stores.

They were both from Aubervilliers, a suburb in northeast Paris, Ronde said. He said that police decided to move in on Saturday when it became clear that one suspect was planning to flee to Algeria. He was arrested at Charles de Gaulle airport 40 minutes before the flight was due to take off.

While police can hold suspects for up to 48 hours without charge, in organized crime investigations like this one, the suspects' detention can be extended to 96 hours.

"I think there is going to be more arrests quickly," said Robert Wittman, a former FBI art crime investigator.

He added that the arrest of the first suspects would allow police to gather more evidence through searches of their homes and cell phone data.

While investigators worry that the thieves may melt

down or dismantle the jewels to sell them off as soon as possible, there remains hope that the stolen artefacts can be recovered intact.

According to Wittman, the thieves may have good reason to keep the jewels preserved rather than destroy them right away.

"In places like France, and Europe, they can use those to get out of jail free," he said, adding that destroying the jewels would leave the thieves with no "bargaining tools" if arrested.

Prosecutor Laure Beccau said investigators were continuing their search for the stolen jewels and the remaining suspects, but that it was "too early" to provide the public with any more detail.

"I will release additional information at the end of this period of police custody," she said, adding that she did not want to hinder the investigation.

Raf Sanchez, Carlo Angerer and Zacharie Petit reported from Paris, and Elmira Aliieva from London.(NBC)

DEWS

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U.S. and China agree to a trade deal 'framework,' treasury secretary says

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to reach a deal to avert a new 100% U.S. tariff on Chinese goods and are likely to meet in person soon, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said following talks with Beijing's top trade negotiator.

Bessent told NBC News' "Meet the Press" moderator Kristen Welker in an interview Sunday that China was ready to make a deal "after two days of negotiations."

A "framework" is ready for a meeting this week between Trump and Xi that is intended to avoid the harsher tariffs threatened by Trump starting Nov. 1 should Beijing move forward with plans to put restrictions on rare earth minerals, he said.

The development could mark a potentially pivotal moment in global trade relations as the world's two largest economies edge toward easing tensions that have unsettled markets and strained diplomatic ties since Trump's tariff threats began.

"I'm also anticipating that we will get some kind of a deferral on the rare earth export controls that the Chinese had discussed," Bessent said.

China has a near-monopoly on the production and processing of rare earth minerals, which are critical components of electronic devices and defense technologies, and has alarmed the Trump administration with what it views as threats to disrupt their supply.



"President Trump gave me a great deal of negotiating leverage with the threat of the 100% tariffs, and I believe we've reached a very substantial framework that will avoid that and allow us to discuss many other things with the Chinese," Bessent said.

Trump arrived in Malaysia on Sunday for a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, his first stop in a five-day Asia tour that is expected to culminate in a face-to-face with Xi in South Korea on Thursday.

Bessent later told NBC News that Trump would most likely visit Xi in Beijing early next year, just ahead of the Lunar New Year, which is Feb. 17. He said a meeting in Washington would most likely happen ahead of Xi's planned trip to the U.S. next fall for the Group of 20 summit.

Trump has said that the first issue he plans to raise with Xi at their meeting in South Korea is fentanyl. The U.S. accuses China of fail-

ing to curb the international flow of precursor chemicals for the deadly opioid, which Trump has cited as one of his justifications for imposing tariffs.

China has defended its efforts and says the U.S. fentanyl crisis stems from American demand for the drug.

"I think we will be able to discuss them helping us get this terrible fentanyl crisis under control," Bessent said. "I think we are going to be able to discuss substantial soybean and [agriculture] purchases for our American farmers."

China's top trade negotiator, Li Chenggang, said Sunday that China and the U.S. had reached a preliminary consensus after discussions on a range of issues, including the extension of their trade truce, fentanyl and export controls.

Li and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng held talks in Malaysia over the weekend with a U.S. trade delegation that included Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamie-Greer.

Trump struck a positive tone after the talks.

"I think we're going to have a deal with China," he said, hinting at possible meetings with Xi in China and the United States.

"We've agreed to meet. We're going to meet them later in China, and we're going to meet in the U.S., in either Washington or at Mar-a-Lago," he added. (NBC)

Sports News

More success for Antiguanans in LICB tournament

Antigua and Barbuda notched up their second win in the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) Mixed Format Tournament in St. Kitts on Sunday.

After launching their campaign in the one-day format with a seven-wicket win against St. Maarten on Saturday, Antigua and Barbuda claimed a four-wicket victory against Nevis at the Conaree Cricket Center.

Antiguan teenager and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie grabbed seven for 17 as the Nevisians were dismissed for 132 in 32.3 overs after being sent in to bat. Shelton Forbes hit 42, and opener Ross Powell made 30.

In reply, the Antiguanans achieved victory by scoring 133 for six in 18.4 overs. Kofi James slammed 47 off 32 balls, and vice-captain Karima Gore struck 37 not out off 27 balls.

Pacer Colin Archibald, left-arm spinner Onaje Amory, and Jaden Carmichael each picked up two wickets for the Nevisians.

After clinching a three-wicket triumph against Montserrat, St. Kitts secured their second win with a crushing 103-run victory against St. Maarten



at the St. Paul's Sporting Complex.

Opener Mikyle Louis, who hit 109 not out against Montserrat, achieved his second successive century to propel St. Kitts to 252 for eight off their 50 overs after being asked to bat first.

Louis slammed 115 off 129 balls, including six sixes and five fours. His brother Jeremiah Louis struck 45 not out off 29 balls, including four sixes and one four.

In reply, St. Maarten crashed to their second loss in as many games after being dismissed for

159 in 46.2 overs. Captain Daniel Doram cracked 29, and Damien Williams hit 24. Cameron Pennyfeather bagged three for 30.

Montserrat rebounded from their opening match loss to record their first win with an 84-run victory against Anguilla at Warner Park Stadium.

Montserrat made 262 for nine off their 50 overs after being asked to bat first. Hayden Walsh Jr. cracked 70 not out off 52 balls, including eight fours and two sixes.

Opener Joshua Grant also

hit 70 off 118 balls, Shawn Tuitt struck 46 off 40 balls, with five fours and two sixes, and Kriston Yearwood made 44 off 40 balls. Pacer Chamiqueko Landerfort picked up four for 51.

Anguilla suffered their second loss in as many games after being dismissed for 178 in 41.5 overs. Masimba Bowens struck 54 off 53 balls, including five sixes and three fours, and Dimitri Adams made 45. Hayden Walsh Jr. grabbed three for 25, and Jemol Williams claimed three for 26.



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Winning starts for All Saints United, Garden Stars, and Grenades

Back-to-back defending champions All Saints United, Garden Stars, and Jennings Grenades all got off to winning starts in their opening-round matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division League on Sunday.

Tiquan Isaac scored twice as All Saints United launched their Premier League title defense with a commanding 4-0 drubbing of the Attacking Saints in the second game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Isaac struck in the seventh and 41st minutes, Dwight Preudhomme converted an own goal in the 21st minute, and Raheem Deterville sealed United's win with an 89th-minute conversion.

Garden Stars survived a second-half surge by Green City FC to snatch a 3-2 opening-round victory in Sunday's opening game.

Goals by Nadre Thomas in the eighth minute, Courtney Clarke in the 27th, and Jahred Williams in the 37th minute gave the Garden Stars a three-nil lead at halftime.

But Green City stormed back in the second half to score twice, with goals from Audwin Joseph in the 50th minute and Samuel Semper in the 77th minute.

Jennings Grenades scored two late goals to cap off a hard-fought 3-0 victory against newly promoted Jennings United in Sunday's feature match, which was the last encounter in the opening round of this season's Premier Division.

D'Jarie Sheppard scored in the 23rd minute to give the Grenades a one-nil halftime lead. But Jennings United put up strong resistance until added time, when the Premier League newcomers conceded two late goals.



A player of Wadadli United, left, tries to evade a challenge from an Empire Trendsetter player during their encounter in the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Women's Premier League at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, October 26, 2025.

Lawshawn Roberts scored in the first minute of added time, and Barrington Blake wrapped up the win for Jennings Grenades with a conversion in the fourth minute of added time.

Meanwhile, unbeaten leaders Wadadli United dropped points for the first time in the 2025 Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's Premier League on Sunday.

After winning their first two matches, Wadadli United were held to a

goalless draw by Empire Trendsetter during their encounters, which preceded the men's premier league's triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

The result ensures that Wadadli United remains at the top of the five-team round-robin Women's Premier League with seven points from three matches.

Empire Trendsetter also remain unbeaten and in second place with five points after recording their second draw in three matches.

Sandals soar to top of Business Basketball League



The Sandals basketball team. (Photo courtesy of the ABBA)

Defending champs Sandals have remained on course for a successful defense of their title in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League championships.

Sandals became sole leaders of the 14-team round-robin business league, extending their unbeaten run by surging to their 11th win in as many games with a 70-55 victory against Anjo Wholesale at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

T-Shaw Lewis sank 25

points, Keroi Lee converted 19 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, and Lopez Adams scored 10 points and snatched 16 rebounds for Sandals.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 28 points for Anjo Wholesale, who suffered their fifth loss in 12 games.

Richie's Shooterz notched up their seventh win in 10 games with a 67-52 victory against H. Wright Promotions.

Jaheem James sank 23 points and claimed nine steals, Tajahron Davis converted 13 points, and Co-

hen Desouza produced 11 points, 23 rebounds, and four assists for Richie's Shooterz.

Javonte Daley scored 17 points, and Donte Tringham sank 10 points for H. Wright Promotions, who finished their league campaign with a record of nine wins and four losses.

J&J Company Landscaping Services claimed their second win in 11 games via default against Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, who failed to show up for their encounter.

It means the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre fin-

ished their league campaign with a record of four wins and nine losses.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre also failed to qualify for the playoffs, which will comprise the top eight finishers in the business league.

The league competition will continue with a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday. Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance will face Richie's Shooterz at 6:45 pm, and Antigua Computer Technology will meet the Sledge O Ballers at 7:45 pm.

West Indies beat Bangladesh to take 1-0 lead in T20I series



Players of the West Indies celebrate after beating Bangladesh in the first T20 International at Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, Bangladesh, on Monday, October 27, 2025. (CWI Media)

The West Indies began their three-match T20I series against Bangladesh with a 16-run win at Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Monday.

Skipper Shai Hope and Rovman Powell guided the visitors to a solid total before the bowlers sealed victory. Opting to bat first, the West Indies scored 165 for three in their 20 overs.

Hope remained unbeaten on 46 of 28 balls, including four sixes and a four, while Rovman Powell scored 44 not out, also smashing four sixes and a four off 28 balls. Their 83-run unbroken fourth-wickets partnership lifted the team after a brief middle-order collapse.

The openers Alick Athanaze and Brandon King added 59 runs for the

first wicket. Athanaze was bowled by Rishad Hossain for 34 off 27 balls, while Taskin Ahmed struck twice in one over to dismiss King for 33 off 36 balls, and Sherfane Rutherford for a first-ball duck.

Hope then took charge with back-to-back sixes off Rishad. Powell later punished Bangladesh's bowlers, smashing his four sixes in the final over to push the total past 160. Taskin Ahmed claimed two for 36.

In reply, Bangladesh were bowled out for 149 in 19.4 overs. Tanzid Hasan hit a few early boundaries but Jayden Seales removed him for 15 in the second over. The hosts slipped to 42 for four inside the powerplay and never recovered.

Towhid Hridoy showed some fight

with 28 runs before Seales dismissed him. Tanzim Hasan Sakib hit 33 and Nasum Ahmed struck 20 as the pair added 40 runs for the seventh wicket. But pacer Jason Holder ended the stand by dismissing Sakib.

Bangladesh's innings ended in a bizarre way when Taskin Ahmed was dismissed hit-wicket for 10 after hitting a six. Holder took three for 31, Seales claimed three for 32, and left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein captured two for 22.

Both teams will clash in the second T20 International at the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Cricket Stadium in Chattogram on Wednesday.

Sports

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2025

POINT EXPRESS
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Bullets win IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic



Bryson's Bullets, the 2025 champions of the IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic.

Bryson's Bullets has captured the title in the 10th Annual LL Supply Limited, Total Imports, and Harney Motors Island Boys Softball Club (IBSC) Tape Ball T20 Classic.

Bullets secured the title in the 20-overs-per-side competition with a commanding 56-run victory against Pelican Safari VIP Squad in the final at Powells on Sunday.

Bullets made 233 for six off their allotted 20 overs. George Elvin slammed 65 not out, Roniel Jeffrey hit 35 not out, Jahiem Norde struck 31, and Brent Joseph made 30.

Akeem Blackman claimed two for 33, and Michael Dover captured two for 55.

In reply, the VIP Squad was dismissed for 177 in 16.2 overs. Michael Haynes cracked 57, Demetri Lucas

hit 29, Elijah Peters scored 24, and Shamar Pereira made 23.

Deran Benta snapped up five for 20 to claim the player of the final award, and Shaquan Reifer picked up two for 34.

Last year's champions, PEL Dredgers, claimed the bronze medals after romping to an emphatic 96-run victory against PMS in the playoff for third place.

The Dredgers won the toss and batted, scoring 210 for four off their 20 overs. JQuan Athanaze smashed 57, his father Justin Athanaze hit 38 not out, Jeddiah Martin Jr. struck 38, and Tanez Francis scored 33.

In reply, PMS tumbled to 114 all out in 18 overs. Clarence Francis hit 22. Loy Weste took two for 16, Ja-



Elroy Francis of Pelican Safari VIP Squad was named the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament.

vaughn James claimed two for 19, and Mike France captured two for 24.

Pelican Safari VIP Squad all-rounder Elroy Francis Jr. claimed the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Tournament Award.

Elroy Francis Jr., who missed Sunday's final due to commitments with the senior Antigua and Barbuda cricket team at the current 2025 LICB Tournament in St. Kitts, also claimed the award for the most runs.

Elroy Francis Jr. scored a total of 345 runs at an average of 69 and a strike rate of 267.44. He also picked up six wickets.

Essan Warner of Bul-

lets produced the highest individual score. Warner slammed 108 not out of 43 balls, including 11 sixes and eight fours, in a preliminary round match against Coconut Car Rental Buckley's 3Js.

Shaquan Reifer of Bullets and Glenton Williams of PEL Dredgers shared the award for the most wickets with 12 scalps apiece.

Dhari Francis of PEL Dredgers captured the award for the best bowling figures. Dhari Francis snapped up seven wickets, including a hat trick, for seven runs in three overs in a preliminary round match against Easy Pickings Mix Up.