

PM Browne Appeals for Diplomacy to Prevail as Tension Mounts in Region

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In Solidarity



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister Maria Browne joined a delegation yesterday in a post-hurricane tour of parts of Jamaica. Prime Ministers Mia Mottley and Dickon Mitchell, along with Guyanese President, Irfaan Ali, were also part of the visiting group.

PM Browne Appeals for US to Resolve Issues with Venezuela Diplomatically

As tensions continue to rise between the United States and Venezuela, Prime Minister Gaston Browne is appealing to the leader of the US to resolve their issues through diplomatic means.

Writing on his Facebook page, the Antigua and Barbudan head of government wrote, “We encourage President Trump to resolve the differences between the US and Venezuela, through diplomacy and dialogue”, adding, “Let’s continue to preserve our hemisphere as a zone of peace.”

His appeal comes as the largest US aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, arrived in the Caribbean Sea, joining other vessels previously deployed by the Donald Trump administration. This, along with US military drills being held in Trinidad and Tobago, continue to fuel speculation that the US may be planning an invasion of Venezuela.

Last month, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in a published statement, “reaffirmed the principle of maintaining the Caribbean Region as a Zone of Peace and the importance of dialogue and engagement towards the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflict. CARICOM remains willing to assist towards that objective”.

It outlined further, “CARICOM Heads of Government reiterated their continued commitment to fighting narcotrafficking and the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons which adversely affect the Region. They underscored that efforts to overcome these challenges should be through ongoing international cooperation and within international law. They reaffirmed unequivocal support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the Region and the safety and livelihoods of the people of the Region”.

The prime minister, while addressing



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

the official launch of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting earlier this month, emphasized the importance of the region remaining a zone of peace, especially for states within the sub-region.

“The reality is, if as a result of the mil-

itary buildup that we are seeing the southern Caribbean results in any form of conflict...the small island states, particularly the OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) countries that will suffer disproportionately and that is because we are so vulnerable”.


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Progress in Reopening of Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean



Minister for Health and Wellness, Sir Molwyn Joseph

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is moving steadily towards the reopening of the Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean, with significant progress reported in the removal of outdated equipment and preparation for the installation of modern radiation therapy technology.

Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, provided the update during the Browne and Browne Show last Saturday, noting that old equipment has already begun to be cleared from the facility. “When I passed the Cancer Centre yesterday [Friday], I saw some of the old equipment already out of the building,” he said. “That is

an extremely important development.”

Sir Molwyn assured the public that thorough safety checks were conducted during the process. “There are no radioactive materials there. We have checked that already,” he said, adding that there is no risk of radiation exposure to workers or the public.

The minister expects the full removal of outdated machinery to be completed within the next two weeks. Once the building is cleared, work will begin to prepare the site for the installation of new, state-of-the-art radiation therapy equipment — a key step toward restoring cancer treatment services to residents in Antigua and Barbuda and across the Eastern Caribbean.

Sir Molwyn reiterated his earlier projection that the Centre could be outfitted and ready to resume services by the first quarter of next year. “Conservatively, I anticipate that by March, we should have the equipment in and then declare that we

are open for services,” he said.

He also extended appreciation to Sir Joseph John for maintaining the project timeline. “He indicated a timeline to me, and he appears to be meeting it,” the minister noted.

The reopening of the Cancer Centre is considered a major development for health-care delivery in Antigua and Barbuda, reducing the need for cancer patients to travel abroad for radiation treatment.

Sir Molwyn also highlighted additional efforts to strengthen the country’s healthcare system, including upcoming plans for cardiology services and the recruitment of a neurosurgeon to support both Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS.

“We are making good progress,” he said, emphasizing the government’s commitment to expanding critical health services in the country.



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Public Consultation Planned for Price of Goods Bill



Hon. E. P. Chet Greene

In an effort to improve consumer rights and ensure a fair marketplace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs will host a public consultation next Monday on the proposed Price of Goods Bill, 2025.

The consultation will be held under the leadership of the Hon. E. P. Chet Greene at the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda on 24th November, 2025, commencing at 10AM and members of the general public, along with key stakeholders are encouraged to participate.

The Price of Goods Bill, 2025, is intended to repeal and replace the outdated Distribution and Price of Goods Act, Cap. 138, bringing Antigua and Barbuda's pricing and consumer protection framework in line with current economic realities and form part of the Government's comprehensive efforts to strengthen consumer rights, promote transparency, and ensure a

fair marketplace.

Key objectives of the Bill include:

Preventing price gouging and ensuring fair pricing

Enhancing accountability and traceability throughout the supply chain

Improving transparency in price display and distribution

Introducing modern enforcement mechanisms and penalties

Safeguarding the public interest during emergencies and supply chain disruptions

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs has re-

affirmed the Government's commitment to creating a balanced economic environment that protects consumers, while supporting sustainable business development. Minister Greene stressed the importance of public participation, noting that stakeholder insights are vital to shaping legislation that effectively serves the needs of consumers, retailers, importers, and distributors.

Copies of the draft Price of Goods Bill, 2025 will be available at the consultation session and online at the Government's official laws website, www.laws.gov.ag under the "Bills" section.

Every contribution to the public discourse will be welcomed, the Ministry pointed out.

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Gambles Resident Slapped with Gun and Ammo Charges

28-year-old Sedeki Akelo Andre is expected before a Magistrate on gun and ammunition charges.

Andre, of Gambles, was arrested and charged on Sunday by law enforcement officers.

In a statement, STRATCOM, the Strategic Communications Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda detailed that at around 2:00 a.m on Sunday, 16th November, 2025, Narcotics Officers were conducting an operation on Perry Bay Main Road, when they saw the accused and carried out a search of his person.

Sedeki Andre was found in possession of a Taurus 9mm Pistol and seven (7) matching rounds of ammunition. He was arrested and taken into custody and was subsequently charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and



Sedeki Akelo Andre

Barbuda says it is continuing to crack down on illegal firearms and ammunition as part of its broader crime-fighting strategy.



Members of the public are encouraged to contact the police with any information regarding illegal weapons or suspicious activities.

Jesse Guthrie Charged with Attempted Murder

Police have arrested and charged 21-year-old Jesse Guthrie of Ottos with Attempted Murder. He is accused of wounding a

40-year-old man of Grays Farm on November 4 at Tinning Village.

The victim sustained multiple injuries to his right

hand and neck, and was discovered lying unconscious along the road.

The accused was later arrested and taken into cus-

tody and is now formally charged for the offence. He is expected to appear before the court shortly.



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Arry Simon Delivers Blunt Message at COP 30



Arry Simon Climate Assessment Officer at the Department of Environment

In a week where climate truth felt like it was fighting for oxygen, Arry Simon who is the Climate Assessment Officer at the Department of Environment and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)’s lead coordinator on Research and Systematic Observations (RSO)—stepped forward with a sharp, uncompromising message: the science must stay front and center, and small islands won’t sit quiet while timelines slip.

Speaking at the close of negotiations, Simon did not mince words. He flagged deep disappointment over the decision to defer the Periodic Review (PR)—a core process that benchmarks global progress against the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s best available science and the 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C) long-term global goal—to the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31). The delay, he underscored, undermines a critical accountability

mechanism that vulnerable nations depend on.

“This review is not just a technical tick-box exercise,” Simon emphasized. “It’s a lifeline. We fully expect the decision to continue the PR to be taken next year at COP31.”

But it wasn’t all gridlock. Simon welcomed the successful conclusion of the Research and Systematic Observation (RSO) agenda item, praising its reflection of the rapidly evolving climate science landscape. Key takeaways included acknowledgment of the worsening state of the global climate system, advances in attribution science, and the role of systematic observation in everything from mitigation to adaptation, early warning systems, and loss and damage response.

AOSIS also welcomed the spotlight on the Systematic Observations Fi-

nancing Facility (SOFF), which prioritizes the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)—countries that rely on better data to save lives and make long-term policy decisions.

Nevertheless, Simon raised a red flag: negotiators were unable to properly acknowledge the role of the IPCC—the world’s best source of scientific consensus—despite this being an uncontested foundation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Even more troubling, the process failed to explicitly recognize the “extremely alarming” indicators from recent climate assessments, including that the last decade was the warmest on record and sea-level rise is accelerating, even though long-term global warming has not yet exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C).

“The way fundamental truths—scientific truths and lived truths—were challenged in the room is concerning,” Simon said. “Especially at a COP being called the ‘COP of Truth.’ We expect better.”

The message landed with clarity: AOSIS is watching, AOSIS is engaged, and AOSIS refuses to let scientific integrity become a negotiation casualty.

As the world pivots toward COP31, Simon made it clear the bloc will be pushing even harder. Because for the islands on the frontline, every year of delay is another year borrowed from a future that’s running out of buffer.

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Zachary Phillips Participates in COP30 High-Level Dialogue on Africa's Climate Justice and Governance

Zachary Phillips, Crown Counsel in the Office of the Attorney General, participated in the event “Advisory Opinion on Climate Change: A Turning Point for Africa’s Climate Justice and Governance,” convened at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

The session brought together African government officials, legal experts, climate scientists, and civil society representatives to examine how the recent Advisory Opinion on Climate Change can strengthen Africa’s response to the accelerating climate crisis.

Over the last decade, Af-



Zachary Phillips(left), Crown Counsel in the Office of the Attorney General

frican countries have experienced increasingly severe climate impacts—including prolonged droughts, destructive flooding, coastal erosion, and rising food insecurity. These challenges continue to place stress on critical sectors and disproportionately affect communities with the



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least capacity to adapt. The event emphasized that the Advisory Opinion offers an important opportunity to support African states in developing more robust legal frameworks, enhancing policy coherence, and ensuring that the continent's most vulnerable populations are protected.

During the discussion, speakers outlined the role of the Advisory Opinion in guiding governments on issues such as climate accountability, the protection of human

rights, and the design of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. Participants further highlighted that the Opinion can serve as a reference point for securing climate finance, strengthening institutional governance, and reinforcing Africa's position in global climate negotiations.

In his remarks, Zachary Phillips underscored the importance of aligning scientific evidence with legal obligations to create more effective and equitable climate policies. While using com-

parisons between SIDS and African countries, he noted that the Advisory Opinion provides a critical foundation for strengthening climate governance, improving accountability, and amplifying the needs of communities most affected by climate impacts. Phillips also stressed the necessity of stronger regional cooperation, enhanced data systems, and meaningful inclusion of youth and frontline communities in shaping climate solutions.

The event conclud-

ed with an agreement among participants that the Advisory Opinion marks a pivotal moment for Africa and all states. By leveraging this guidance, African nations can continue advancing climate justice, strengthening national and regional governance systems, and building resilience across economies, ecosystems, and societies. The session reaffirmed the continent's commitment to using COP30 as a platform to drive long-term, justice-centered climate action.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, 17th November 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*
The Department of Creative Industries is reminding the public that registration for the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025 is still ongoing.

The competition aims to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative, dazzling lighting displays of our 2025 competitors. The Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition by 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 in INET, or at the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st, 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.

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Regional News

Venezuelan president says regional peace threatened by joint military drills between Trinidad and US

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is warning that Trinidad and Tobago's joint military drills with the United States could "threaten peace" in the Caribbean.

He made the statement in the aftermath of Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Foreign and Caricom Affairs Sean Sobers saying that the US Marine Corps' 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) will conduct training exercises with the T&T Defence Force from November 16–21.

"They say they're going to do it from Monday to Thursday... Well, the people of Trinidad and Tobago will see if they continue to tolerate the use of their waters and land to seriously threaten the peace of the Ca-



ibbean," Maduro declared.

Speaking on Saturday, Maduro accused the twin island republic of once again authorising "irresponsible military exercises" in waters off the Venezuelan state of Sucre, claiming the drills project a threatening posture toward Venezuela.

He urged citizens in the eastern states of Bolívar, Monagas, Sucre, Anzoátegui and Nueva Esparta to mobilise in a "popular, military and police effort" to maintain a permanent vigil and take to the streets with the national flag "in the face of new threats."

He also called for a national

mobilisation to send a clear message: "Out with imperialist ships, out with military threats! Venezuela demands respect."

Maduro further repeated his longstanding allegation that the US aims to seize Venezuela's natural resources. "They want to steal our oil. Are we going to let them? They want to steal our gas. Are we going to let them?"

The military drills come at a time of severe diplomatic strain between Port of Spain and Caracas.

Relations have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks, with Venezuela declaring Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister persona non grata and suspending all ongoing energy negotiations. (CMC)



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Regional News

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Hundreds of lineworkers in MoBay in a bid to restore power to the western city

Hundreds of lineworkers from Jamaica, the Caribbean and North America are currently in Montego Bay, St James, working to restore power to critical facilities and residential areas in the tourism capital.

The Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) says it is cognizant of the vital role that the city of Montego Bay plays in the national economy, and also as a major employer for residents in the neighbouring parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, Trelawny and St Ann.

Several essential services in the city have already received power supply, including some critical National Water Commission pumps, the Sangster International Airport and some commercial centres.

Up to Friday, the JPS had said 67 per cent of its customers across Jamaica had been reconnected to the power grid.



It has committed to maintaining the flow of information to customers, as the restoration process continues, on

the heels of the most devastating hurricane Jamaica has ever experienced. (Jamaica Gleaner)





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Regional News

11 leptospirosis, 2 tetanus cases confirmed in west Flooding fuelling spike in disease risk, say officials

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is reporting 11 cases of leptospirosis following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

According to Dr Karen Webster Kerr, principal medical officer and national epidemiologist, the cases are spread across St James, Hanover, St Elizabeth, and St Ann. Two cases were identified in Catherine Hall, St James, an area that experienced extensive flooding during the hurricane.

Health authorities warn that the widespread flooding in the hardest-hit parishes creates ideal conditions for an increase in infectious diseases.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie said current conditions heighten the risk of contamination and transmission of leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis is typically transmitted through exposure to urine or bodily fluids from infected animals. Individuals who work outdoors or come into contact with floodwaters face the highest risk. The bacteria can enter the body through cuts, bruises, or broken skin. Severe cases may require hospitalisation, especially when treatment is delayed.

Bisasor-McKenzie urged Jamaicans to seek medical care early if they develop symptoms. She said treat-



ment is available and most cases can be managed successfully. However, she cautioned that late presentations with severe symptoms can lead to poorer outcomes, including death.

Speaking on Sunday during an online forum by the health ministry on food and water-borne diseases, Webster Kerr said other diseases that could emerge following a disaster such as Hurricane Melissa include dengue, tetanus, and typhoid.

She reported that dengue activity currently remains low, though this could change in the coming weeks.

The ministry is also tracking two adult tetanus cases – one in Westmoreland and one in St Elizabeth. Tetanus

is a serious infection of the nervous system caused by toxin-producing bacteria. Webster Kerr added that there are no current outbreaks of gastroenteritis or fever-related illnesses.

Updating the country on healthcare conditions in the worst-affected parishes, the CMO said five hospitals have been severely impacted but continue to provide services despite difficult circumstances.

The Falmouth Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) was significantly affected, but a field hospital has been established and is already receiving patients.

At the Cornwall Regional Hospital, bed capacity has been sharply reduced, and

patients visiting the A&E Department may experience severe crowding. A field hospital is also being set up to ease pressure on the facility.

In St Elizabeth, the Black River Hospital has reduced services, but its A&E Department remains operational. A field hospital has been erected at Black River High to support the facility.

“While we say that persons need to seek care early because we do want an early intervention, we do understand that there are challenges at the hospital and so, therefore, persons must seek care; but they must understand that there are some challenging situations,” the CMO said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Trump calls on House Republicans to vote to release Epstein files

US President Donald Trump has urged lawmakers in his own party to vote to release files relating to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Trump wrote on Sunday night that Republicans in the House of Representatives should do so “because we have nothing to hide”.

The reversal of his recent position follows a slow drip feed of documents concerning the disgraced financier by House Democrats, some of which reference Trump, who has always denied any link to Epstein’s sex abuse and trafficking.

But details of his and other prominent figures’ past relationship with Epstein have fuelled speculation and led to a public spat with one of Trump’s staunchest supporters.

Potentially dozens of Republicans have now signalled they are willing to break ranks and vote in favour of a bill that would compel the US government to publish all the documents on Epstein and the criminal investigations into him that it holds.

Supporters of the bill appear to have



enough votes for it to pass the House this week, though it is unclear whether it would pass in the Senate, the other chamber of the US Congress.

Epstein, a financier, was found dead in his New York prison cell in 2019, in what a coroner later ruled a suicide. He was being held on charges of sex trafficking, having previously been convicted of soliciting prostitution from a minor in 2008.

The two criminal investigations into Epstein amassed a vast trove of documents including transcripts of interviews with victims and witnesses, and items confiscated from raids of his various properties. The material that has not yet been made public is

often referred to as the Epstein files.

Trump repeated White House dismissals of the attention over the files as a Democrat-led “hoax” to “deflect” attention away from his party’s work.

“The Department of Justice has already turned over tens of thousands of pages to the Public on ‘Epstein,’ are looking at various Democrat operatives (Bill Clinton, Reid Hoffman, Larry Summers, etc.) and their relationship to Epstein, and the House Oversight Committee can have whatever they are legally entitled to, I DON’T CARE!,” he wrote on his Truth social platform.

He added that he wanted Republicans to “get BACK ON POINT”.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson made a similar point on Sunday, saying calls to release the files were the “entire game plan” for opposition Democrats.

“Trump has clean hands,” Johnson told Fox News. “He’s not worried about it. I talk to him all the time. He has nothing to do with this. He’s frustrated that they’re turning it into a political issue.” (BBC)

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Teacher killed and 25 girls abducted in gunbattle at Nigerian school

Armed men have killed a teacher and abducted at least 25 students in an attack on a girls' secondary school in north-western Nigeria, police say.

The gang invaded the Government Girls Comprehensive Secondary School in Maga, Kebbi State, at around 04:00 local time (0300 GMT) on Monday, they said.

The attackers "engaged police personnel on duty in a gun duel" before scaling the perimeter fence and seizing the students from their hostel, a statement said.

One member of staff was killed while trying to protect the students. A second sus-



tained gunshot wounds and is now receiving treatment.

Eyewitnesses described a large group of attackers, known locally as bandits, who arrived firing sporadically to cause panic.

Residents told the BBC that the gunmen subsequently marched a number of girls

into nearby bushland.

The police said they had deployed "additional police tactical units, alongside military personnel and vigilante groups" to the area.

A coordinated search and rescue operation is underway in surrounding forests and suspected escape routes.

Over the past decade, schools in northern Nigeria have become frequent targets for armed groups, who often carry out abductions to seek ransom payments or leverage deals with the government.

However, this is the first major school abduction since March 2024, when more than 200 pupils were seized from a school in Kuriga, Kaduna state.

The attack in Kebbi State highlights the persistent security crisis plaguing the region, leaving families in Maga in a state of fearful exhaustion as they wait and hope for their daughters' safe return. (BBC)

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US lifts restrictions on flights in time for Thanksgiving travel



The US transportation department has lifted its emergency order to cut flights across the country, saying enough air traffic controllers are now coming to work to alleviate safety concerns.

During the government shutdown that started in October, there was a rise in absences of air traffic controllers, who - as essential employees - were required to work without pay, which led airports to delay or ground flights.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) then ordered airlines from 7 November to cut scheduled takeoffs in order to prevent safety issues.

Since the shutdown ended last week, staffing levels "have continued to snap back", the department said, just in time for busy Thanksgiving travel.

More than 6 million people in the US are expected to fly during the Thanksgiving holiday - about 2% more than last year - according to the major travel group AAA, which notes that the period is the single busiest holiday for travel in the US.

"Controllers have returned to their posts and normal operations can resume," said Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy as he announced that the emergency order had been lifted. "Now we can refocus our efforts on surging controller hiring and building the brand new, state of the art air traffic control system the American people deserve."

Air traffic controller absences were some of the most visible ramifications of the 43-day shutdown, the longest in US history. Many controllers said they were forced to take second jobs in order to make up for missing paycheques, and many of those who came to work said they experienced stress and exhaustion.

Airports scrambled to keep flights on time, sometimes relying on control towers miles away to guide planes in. The problem was made worse by an already existing shortage of controllers.

The emergency order had called for up

to 10% of US domestic flights to be cut, and in the first week of November thousands of flights were cancelled and even more delayed.

According to the announcement ending the order, the FAA is "aware of reports of non-compliance by carriers over the course of the emergency order. The agency is reviewing and assessing enforcement options".

It did not elaborate on which airlines allegedly did not cut flights, and how they might be penalised.

Across last Saturday and Sunday, there were only nine alerts put out by airports for grounded, scrapped or late flights due to staffing shortages - a stark contrast to the previous Saturday, 8 November, when those alerts reached a record high of 81, according to the transportation department.

With the end of the shutdown, controllers are set to receive back pay, and no longer face threats from Duffy of being fired for absences. (BBC)

Bangladesh's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death

Bangladesh's former prime minister has been sentenced to death for crimes against humanity over her crackdown on student-led protests which led to her ousting.

Sheikh Hasina was found guilty of allowing lethal force to be used against protesters, 1,400 of whom died during the unrest last year.

Hasina was tried in absentia by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Bangladesh, having been exiled in India since she was forced from power in July 2024.

Prosecutors accused her of being behind hundreds of killings during the protests and families of those killed or injured called for tough penalties. Hasina has denied all charges, calling the trial "biased and politically motivated".

The months-long tribunal in Bangladesh's domestic war crimes court was widely expected to find her guilty.

But the verdict marks a pivotal moment for the nation, vindicating protests that found their roots in anger over years of repression under her rule.

Hasina had governed Bangladesh for 15 years, overseeing economic progress, but increasingly attempting to silence opposition, with politically-motivated arrests, disappearances and extra-judicial killings.

The protests saw Hasina forced to flee and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus installed as leader of an interim government.

Reacting to the verdict on Monday in a five-page statement, Hasina said the death penalty was the interim government's way of "nullifying [her party] the Awami League as a political



force" and that she was proud of her government's record on human rights.

"I am not afraid to face my accusers in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly."

The student-led uprising last year started with demands to abolish government job quotas but morphed into a wider anti-government movement.

UN human rights investigators said in a report in February that the approximately 1,400 deaths could amount to "crimes against humanity".

The report documented the shooting at point-blank range of some protesters, the deliberate maiming of others, arbitrary arrests and torture.

Leaked audio of one of Hasina's phone calls verified by BBC Eye earlier this year suggested she had authorised the use of "lethal weapons" in July 2024. The audio was played in court during the trial.

Ahead of the verdict, the capital, Dhaka, where the tribunal took place, was under tightened security, with many

of Hasina's critics staging a rally and cheering as the judgement was read.

The city has seen a recent spike in unrest, with dozens of bombs exploded and buses set on fire in the days leading up to the verdict.

At least one bomb explosion was reported in Dhaka on Monday morning, with no casualties reported, local police official Jisanul Haque told the BBC.

Family members of those killed during the protests earlier told the BBC they wanted Hasina to be punished severely.

Ramjan Ali, whose brother was shot dead in July 2024, said he wanted "exemplary punishment" for Hasina and others who have "committed acts of vengeance and abused their power".

Lucky Akther, whose husband was killed near Dhaka in August 2024, said she wanted Hasina's sentence to be "carried out before the election".

"Only then the families of those killed

[in the protests] will find peace in their hearts.”

Since Hasina’s ousting, an interim government led by economist Muhammad Yunus has taken charge. A parliamentary election is scheduled for February 2026.

However, the Awami League, Hasina’s political party, was banned by Bangladesh’s interim government in May.

Hasina warned last month that if the party’s candidates were banned from standing in the upcoming election, millions would boycott the vote.

The verdict now poses a diplomatic challenge for India and Bangladesh. Dhaka has formally requested her extradition but so far India has shown no willingness to comply so her death sentence is unlikely to be carried out.

Hasina’s state-appointed lawyer Mohammad Amir Hossain said he was “sad [and wishes] the verdict had been different”.

“I even cannot appeal because my clients are absent; that’s why I am sad,” he added.

Last week, Hasina’s lawyers said they had filed an urgent appeal to the UN, raising serious fair trial and due process issues at the ICT. She says she has “repeatedly challenged” the interim government to bring its charges to the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Hasina was tried alongside her former home minister and police chief.

While the sentence offers some closure to families of killed in the protests, it may do little to soothe the country’s political divisions.

“The anger against Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League has not subsided,” Shireen Huq, a Dhaka-based rights activists told the BBC. “Neither she nor the party has apologised or shown any remorse for the killings of hun-

dreds of people.”

She said “it makes it difficult for the party to be accepted by a majority of people in this country”.

Ms Huq added that the punishment was not closure for the families of those killed and injured.

“We work with several people who lost their limbs forever, they are amputees now, due to the crackdown. They will never be able to forgive

her.”

David Bergman, a journalist and a long-time Bangladesh watcher, said the “very nature of the conviction could make it even more difficult” for Awami League to become a normal feature of Bangladeshi politics again.

This may change if “there is some kind of apology and a distancing from Sheikh Hasina and the old leadership”, he said. (BBC)



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PMS continues to lead Schools' U-14 Boys Division League

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) extended their unbeaten run and maintained their position at the top of the Under-14 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Caribbean Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Saturday.

Colin Wright struck twice as Princess Margaret School, which finished third last year, notched up their eighth win in as many games with a 4-1 victory against Jennings Secondary School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Wright had conversions in the sixth and 16th minutes. The other goals were scored by Allan Henry in the fifth minute and Marcus Thomas. Elreekk Francois scored a consolation goal in the 20th minute for Jennings Secondary.

The result allows Princess Margaret School to advance to 24 points, while Jennings Secondary School remains in third place with 13 points after suffering their second loss in seven games.

Defending champions Antigua Grammar School remained in second place with 21 points after extending their unbeaten run with their seventh win in as many games via a 2-1 victory



Allan Henry of PMS

against St. Joseph's Academy.

Johnathan Duberry scored in the first minute, and Tamarey Henry had a 40th-minute conversion for Antigua Grammar School.

Jariq Roberts scored in the fourth minute for St. Joseph's Academy, which remains in fourth place with 12 points after slumping to their third defeat in

seven matches.

Tevon Henderson scored both goals as last year's second-place finishers, Clare Hall Secondary School, recorded their second win in six matches with a 2-0 victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Henderson scored in the 24th and 40th minutes for Clare Hall Secondary, which advanced to six points. The Sir Novelle Richards Academy remains on six points after suffering their fourth loss in six matches.

All Saints Secondary notched up their third win in eight matches after being awarded a 3-0 victory via default after St. Mary's Secondary School failed to show up for their encounter.

The result carries All Saints Secondary to nine points, while St. Mary's Secondary School remains on four points after suffering their fifth loss in seven matches.

Pares Secondary claimed their third win in six matches to advance to nine points after being awarded a 3-0 victory via default against Ottos Comprehensive School.

The result ensures Ottos Comprehensive School remains at the bottom of the standings without any points after crashing to their seventh loss in as many games.

Young Windies beat England in Youth ODI series opener



West Indies Under-19 captain Joshua Dorne

Half-centuries by captain Joshua Dorne and Jonathan van Lange ensured West Indies Under-19s drew first blood against their England counterparts, as they won the opening Youth One Day International (ODI) by four wickets in an exciting encounter in Grenada on Sunday.

Dorne scored 90, while van Lange made 52 to guide the home side to 246 for six in 49.2 overs in pursuit of England's total of 242 at the National Cricket Stadium.

The pair shared a match-winning partnership of 117 runs that helped the Windies recover from a tricky position of 105 for four in the 29th over.

They were actually 49 for three after England captain Farhan Ahmed snared the early wickets of Tyriek Bryan for 18 and Zachary Carter for 10, and pacer Seb Morgan bowled Earsinho Fontaine.

Dorne and Kunal Tilokani, who made 20, then added 56 runs for the fourth wicket

before the latter became the first of Jack Nelson's three wickets.

But Dorne and van Lange tilted the momentum in their side's favour during a partnership that carried them within sight of victory.

However, Nelson returned to dismiss van Lange after he had faced 50 balls and struck four fours and one six, and then bowled Dorne, who faced 119 balls and hit six fours and one six, in the space of two balls to leave the Windies on 223 for six

in the 47th over.

Shaquan Belle's quick-fire, unbeaten 19 off just nine balls, proved decisive, as the Windies got over the line with four balls to spare. Nelson was the pick of England's bowlers with three for 50, while Ahmed claimed two for 41.

Earlier, a well-rounded bowling display by the West Indies kept England's innings in check after they won the toss and elected to bat first.

The visitors got off to a solid start with openers Ben Dawkins and Issac Mohammed sharing a partnership of 50 runs in nine overs.

They then lost the wickets of Mohammed for 22, Dawkins for 19 and Ben Mayes for six, in quick succession, to slip to 58 for three.

Joe Moores, who scored a counterattacking 59 off 45 balls with five fours and four sixes and Caleb Falconer, who made 44, added 81 runs for the fourth wicket to revive the innings.

Once they were dismissed, Nelson hit 31 off 27 balls and Ralphie Albert, who made 23, helped England up to their eventual total before being bowled out with 22 balls remaining.

For the West Indies, Belle (2-26), Jakeem Pollard (2-27), Carter (2-50) and Tilokani (2-58), each took two wickets. The second Youth ODI will be played at the same venue on Wednesday.

Nigeria coach claims 'voodoo' by Congo staff during loss



Congo national team members pose for a photo as they celebrate with their coach Sebastien Desabre after being qualified for the FIFA 2026 soccer World Cup in the African qualifier final match against Nigeria, in Rabat, Morocco, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025. (AP)

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — A Congo team staff member used voodoo during the penalty shootout, Nigeria coach Éric Chelle claimed after the African soccer power was eliminated from qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

Congo won the African playoff final late Sunday in a penalty shootout — getting two saves from a substitute goalkeeper sent on late in extra time of a 1-1 draw — and advanced to the intercontinental playoffs in March.

Chelle was filmed during the shootout getting agitated with the Congo coaching staff and moving aggressively toward the rival technical area.

“The guy of Congo did some voodoo,” former Mali international Chelle told reporters in the postgame media mixed zone. “Every time, every time, every time, so this is why I was a little

nervous (of) him.”

Asked to explain what happened, Chelle did a gesture of shaking a water bottle. Nigeria has now failed to qualify for back-to-back World Cups despite star strikers Victor Osimhen, and Ademola Lookman being in their career prime years.

Osimhen was injured in the first half Sunday and replaced at half time with the score 1-1, and Lookman also was removed in the second half.

Congo coach Sebastien Desabre swapped his goalkeepers in the 119th minute of the game with the shootout in mind, sending on Timothy Fayulu to replace Lionel Mpasi.

Fayulu saved two of Nigeria’s six spot-kicks, the second from Moses Simon and the sixth by Semi Ajayi, before Congo’s Chancel Mbemba sealed the win.

Fayulu’s feat echoed the most famous substitute goalkeeper in a World Cup shootout, at the 2014 tournament in Brazil.

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal famously took off Jasper Cillessen and sent on Tim Krul to make two key saves against Costa Rica and sent the Dutch to the semifinals.

Geneva-born Fayulu is currently playing on loan from Swiss club Sion with Armenian champion Noah. He has been a regular in the UEFA Conference League this season.

FIFA makes the six-team draw on Thursday for the intercontinental playoffs. Congo is joined by Bolivia, New Caledonia, either Iraq or the United Arab Emirates, and two teams from the north American region CONCACAF who finish their qualifying programme on Tuesday.

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Curacao determined to secure World Cup place for absent coach Advocaat



Dick Advocaat, second right, took charge of the Curacao national team in January 2024. (Getty Images)

KINGSTON (Reuters) - Curacao's national team are intent on realising their World Cup dream for the country and for veteran coach Dick Advocaat, who has had to abandon their decisive qualifier against Jamaica and return home to the Netherlands for family reasons.

The tiny island nation, a self-governing part of the Netherlands with a population of little more than 150,000, are on the brink of becoming the smallest country to qualify for the World Cup if they avoid defeat in their last Group B qualifier against Jamaica in Kingston on Tuesday.

Otherwise, Jamaica, with former England manager Steve McClaren in charge, will finish top and advance to next year's finals, which will be co-hosted in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The 78-year-old Advocaat, who has coached seven other national

teams in a long career, arrived with the team in Kingston at the weekend but then had to leave almost immediately for what the Curacao federation said were "family reasons."

A statement from Advocaat said, "It's a very difficult decision to have to leave the boys here. I had to make this decision with a heavy heart, but family is more important than football. From the Netherlands, I will stay in close contact with the staff and I have complete confidence in this group of players."

"It's bad news for us, but we understand that family is always a priority," goalkeeper Eloy Room, who is among 22 Dutch-born footballers in the Curacao squad, told Dutch NOS television. "But it has changed nothing for us and our goal."

"We started this all together and now we want to finish it together,"

added captain Leandro Bacuna in an interview with Dutch daily *Algemeen Dagblad* on Monday.

"The coach doesn't have to worry, we will give everything against Jamaica," he added.

Curacao have a one-point lead at the top of the group standings after a 7-0 away win over Bermuda last Thursday, while Jamaica were held to a 1-1 draw in Trinidad and Tobago.

"We have come a long way. I remember being at an airport when no flight was arranged for us. Then I thought 'how do we get home from a national team match?' But now everything is arranged properly and we have a strong selection," said Bacuna, who played in the 2015 FA Cup final with Aston Villa.

"This is a lot bigger. Then we were playing for a club, now it's for our country. You cannot compare it. We are going to do it here for the country and for our coach Dick Advocaat."

Although Curacao only need a draw, Jamaica will be favourites to get the home win they need to win the group and qualify for the World Cup for only the second time after appearing at France 1998.

Whoever loses will still have a second chance to qualify for the World Cup, although they will have to go through the intercontinental play-offs in March, where only two of the six nations will be successful.

Antiguans claim runners-up spot at ECVA U-23 Men's Championship

Host Antigua and Barbuda claimed the runners-up spot at the Third Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Under-23 Men's Championship at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Sunday night.

Antigua and Barbuda missed out on winning the title after succumbing to a 3-1 defeat against unbeaten Dominica in the final.

The Dominicans capped a brilliant overall performance with their 25-15, 20-25, 25-17, and 25-19 victory over the Antiguan team in the championship decider to capture the title in the six-team tournament.

From the outset, Dominica showcased their dominance on the court, holding a significant advantage in attacks (45-29) and blocks (9-6). Their impressive serving game was highlighted by a 10-4 lead in aces, while committing fewer errors than Antigua (31 to 37).

Three standout players for Dominica each delivered stellar performances. Kurt Jimmal Peltier led all scorers with 18 points, comprising 12 kills, 5 blocks, and 1 ace. Peter Sherron Vidal followed closely with 17 points, and Larian Tulloch contributed 12 points to the team's overall success.

Antigua's top player, Im-



Players of the Dominica team celebrate after beating Antigua and Barbuda in the final at the ECVA Under-23 Men's Championship at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's, Antigua, on Sunday, November 16, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the ECVA)

manuel Asaf Donovan, managed nine points in the effort.

Dominica's coach, Ithoma James, praised his team's commitment and strategy.

"We came to win this tournament. The team stuck to their game plan, kept their focus, and studied the game thoroughly. We are very happy with our results."

This gold medal victory not only marks a significant achievement for Dominica but also sets a strong foundation for the future of volleyball in the nation.

The team's remarkable performance at the U23 Men's Championship reflects their dedication and potential for continued suc-

cess on the international stage.

Both teams qualified for the championship decider after finishing as the top two sides at the end of the six-team round-robin preliminary stage of the competition, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association from November 12 to 16.

Dominica finished the tournament unbeaten by winning all six matches. Antigua and Barbuda finished in second place with four wins and two defeats, which all came against the Dominicans.

Grenada claimed the bronze medals, pulling off

a hard-fought 3-2 victory against St. Lucia in the play-off for third place.

The Grenadians took over two hours to prevail 21-25, 25-16, 23-25, 25-14, and 15-12 over the St. Lucians.

Defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines finished fifth in the tournament. The Vincentians recorded a 3-1 victory over Anguilla in the playoff for fifth place, winning 24-26, 25-17, 25-19, and 25-21.

The Dominica team not only walked away with the gold medals and a prestigious team trophy but also qualified for the NORCECA 2026 Pan American Cup, which will be held in Canada in August.