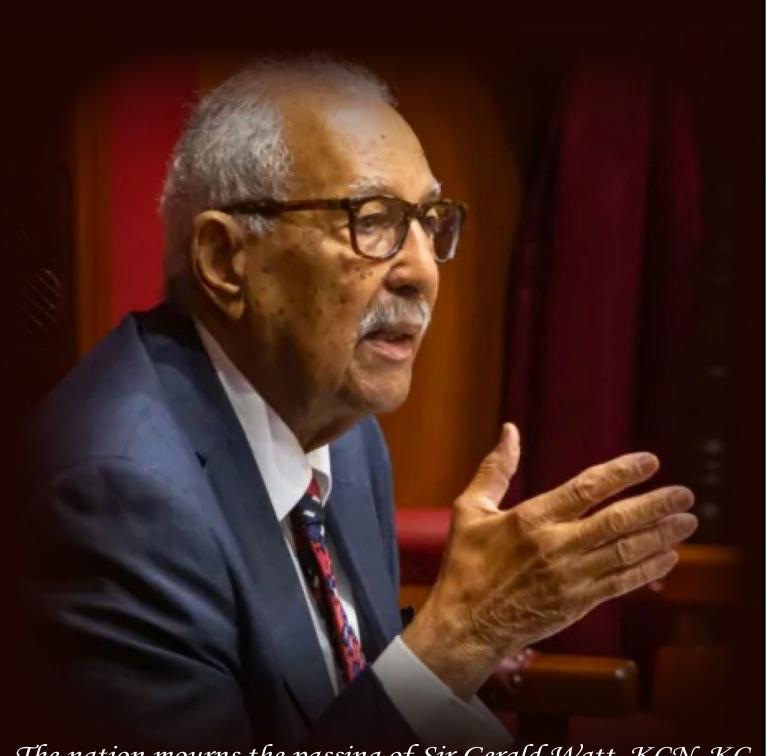


MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 8 ISSUE 45 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG



The nation mourns the passing of Sir Gerald Watt, KCN, KC 19^{th} December $1938 - 13^{th}$ December 2025

Local News



PM Browne says he will not allow the country to descend into chaos



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show

The prime minister has spent some time addressing the issue where the Development Control Authority forcibly removed a tent and other structures from Morris Bay beach which were erected and operated by the Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he took an oath to uphold the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and while he holds the position of prime minister he has a responsibility to ensure that law and order are maintained at all times.

PM Browne noted that while affirming himself as a man of peace, he made clear it that he would not hesitate to deploy law enforcement, riot police, or the Defence Force if necessary to maintain public order.

The Prime Minister warned that continued incitement and threats would force decisive action. He stressed that his constitutional duty is to uphold the law, protect the peace, and safeguard national stability. Any individual who resists law enforcement or instigates violence, he said, would bear full responsibility for the consequences.

Drawing parallels to previous protests at Carlisle Bay, he warned that such tactics would not be tolerated again. Declaring his resolve, he stated firmly that he would take whatever lawful measures were necessary to maintain order, emphasizing that economic growth and national development cannot coexist with chaos and confusion. He specifically cautioned residents of Old Road not to follow what he described as reckless leadership, asserting that the actions taken were not in defense of human rights or social justice, but rather an attempt to preserve illegality for political relevance.

"I am not (former Prime Minister) Lester Bird. I will not be afraid to take decisive action to preserve law and order," PM Browne declared.

He also made reference to a fire in the area noting that he has some suspicions about its origins.

The matter had to do with a letter that DCA sent to MP Pringle asking that he remove the illegal structure from Morris Bay beach. Rather than comply, the opposition leader, adopted an aggressive posture and public refused to remove the structure. After he failed to act by the deadline set by DCA, the authority mobilized heavy duty equipment and had them removed.

Threats, Public Order, and National Stability

The Prime Minister addressed threats allegedly made by Pringle, stating unequivocally that he would not allow Antigua and Barbuda to descend into chaos. He rejected false claims that Morris Bay had been transferred to NAMCO, stating clearly that the land remains Crown land and public property, with no private development planned. The only objective, he said, is to control illegal vendor expansion and protect public access.

Responsibility, Accountability, and Incitement

Fire Incident and Strong Warnings Referencing a subsequent fire incident, the Prime Minister stated that Pringle must accept responsibility, either directly or through incitement. He expressed surprise that Pringle had not yet been summoned by law enforcement, urging authorities to act decisively to prevent further unrest.





Local News



Government to create 'esthetically pleasing space' for vendors at Morris Bay

Government is committed to providing adequate space at Morris Bay beach to allow vendors to ply their trade in an environment that is aesthetically pleasing and which aligns with its stated policy of national beautification.

The announcement comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne in reference to recent developments in the area. The government's approach, he explained, is not to displace vendors but to regularize and legitimize their operations. Under the guidance of Minister Rawdon Turner, plans are underway to reorganize and properly site vendors along the beach, creating a structured layout with improved facilities, landscaping, and beautification.

He contrasted this with a small, Government tastefully designed fruit and vege-



table stand that had existed earlier at Morris Bay, noting that its neat appearance and integration into the environment had never posed an issue.

The Prime Minister suggested that the current disorder stems from unchecked expansion and a belief by some — particularly MP Jamale Pringle — that political office grants authority to override planning laws, a notion he strongly rejected as he delved further into governance and account-

ability issues.

The Prime Minister continued by clarifying that no individual, including a parliamentarian, has the authority to grant permission for construction on public beaches. Such authority rests solely with the government. To address widespread misuse and inappropriate development, the administration has centralized approval powers, making Cabinet the only body authorized to grant permission for any construction on beaches.

He explained that in the past, informal arrangements sometimes allowed approvals to slip through various ministries, such as Agriculture, leading to unregulated and unsuitable beach development. Recognizing the long-term damage this caused, the government moved decisively to halt the practice and restore order.

Addressing concerns from other beachfront vendors, the Prime Minister reassured them that their situation is different. The DCA, together with the responsible minister, will meet with them early in the new year to discuss redesigning the area, upgrading facilities, and ensuring that everyone has a legitimate and properly planned space.

The government's intention, he emphasized, is collaboration and improvement — not displacement.



Local News



UWI FIC Professor simplifies key points of the 2026 National Budget



Principal of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Professor C. Justin Robinson, has been examining the 2026 National Budget that was presented to parliament by Prime Minister Gaston Browne on December 4.

In an appearance on the *Browne* and *Browne* show on Saturday, Professor Robinson, whose training is in finance and economics, sought to simply the discussion on the budget so that as many people as possible would get a better understanding of the key points.

Turning to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth as it is always a key reference point for most budgets, Prof. Robinson explained GDP as the size of the economic pie, noting that when the pie grows, it becomes easier for individuals to gain more without depriving others. Conversely, he explained, when GDP remains constant or declines, this means that there is less to distribute in the society. Professor Robinson shared that when he moved to Antigua and Barbuda in 2023 and examined the economy closely, two things immediately stood out. First, the economy has a natural tenden-

cy to grow, with relatively few years of negative growth since independence. This, he said, is a positive structural feature.

He attributed part of this to Antigua and Barbuda's early investment in tourism and hospitality, which provided a long-term ad-





Local News



vantage. He also pointed to the entrepreneurial energy of Antiguans and Barbudans, describing a strong cultural willingness to hustle, invest, and create opportunity.

However, Professor Robinson also noted that much of the historical growth was fuelled by borrowing, which later became a drag on the economy. Major projects such as Royal Antiguan and Heritage Quay were financed through government borrowing, contributing to a debt-to-GDP ratio of around 148% at one point.

While these investments initially boosted growth, over time the accumulated debt constrained fiscal space, slowing progress

until periods like the Cricket World Cup, followed by downturns during global crises. He referenced the 25% contraction during the global financial crisis and the 17% decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Robinson explained that despite economic growth, fiscal management historically lagged, with Antigua and Barbuda running primary deficits for much of its post-independence history. In simple terms, this meant borrowing to service existing debt — likened to "digging a hole to fill a hole."

The turning point, he said, is the achievement of a primary surplus, where revenues exceed expenditures before debt servicing. He highlighted that Antigua and Barbuda has now recorded two consecutive years of growth with a primary surplus, and even an overall surplus.

Professor Robinson described this combination — sustained growth alongside strong fiscal balances — as transformative. Antigua and Barbuda, he noted, is no longer simply growing, but growing responsibly, with sound fiscal fundamentals underpinning development.

This, he concluded, represents a powerful platform for long-term stability, resilience, and inclusive national progress, setting the stage for deeper discussion on economic policy and the future direction of the country.



Local News



St. Paul's MP calls of 'level heads' in resolving the issue of noise pollution in the Nelson's Dockyard National Park

The parliamentary representative for the St. Paul constituency, E.P Chet Greene, is urging residents and commercial interests in the St. Paul Nelson's Dockyard National Park to find common ground as the issue of noise pollution has again become a concern especially for home owners in the area.

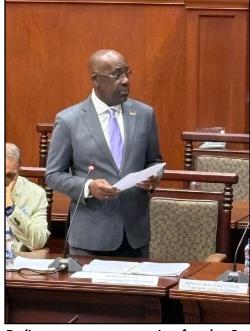
Speaking in parliament on Friday, MP Greene noted that the area is a 'shared space' with competing interests; the area being the yachting mecca for the entire Eastern Caribbean and related businesses as well as an area where many persons have built their homes and where they reside.

"My appeal today is for the interests in the area to peacefully and respectfully recognize and accept the fact that the interest of feters is supportive of the economy, but likewise, the rest that is required by the remainder of the population is also a factor to be considered. So I have proffered and I will continue to advocate for a 'quiet period' and quiet means just after midnight to 1:00 am on weekdays and Sundays and a 'peak period' for Fridays and Saturdays and licensed events," he suggested.

There will be exceptions such as during Sailing Week when throughout the week will be treated as Fridays and Saturdays as this event is a premier attraction, which each year draws hundreds of yachters from around the world who come to Antigua both for sailing and for the accompanying parties.

"It's a one-week event, and so we 'let it go' for everybody. The residents will be asked to be patient in order to accommodate this major activity with the understanding that the economy impacts all," he declared.

For the MP, his main recommendation is to create a zone in the area and to give permission for those in the entertainment business to construct purpose-built nightclubs that would elim-



Parliamentary representative for the St. Paul constituency, E.P Chet Greene

inate the noise pollution as the music

would be contained within those structures.

"That way, you can have your fetes from morning 'till night because the walls are insulated and no one would be affected. However, for this year, while we are still discussing the issue, I ask for patience and tolerance on the part of homeowners, but I also ask for discretion on the part of feters. You cannot expect to come to English Harbour on a Sunday night and expect to end a fete at 4:00 am on Monday; this is not reasonable!" he stated.

He explained that one DJ told him that his practice is to lower the volume of the music at about 1:00 in deference to the home owners in the area. "It's not about locking down the music, it's about controlling the music in respect for the other persons in the 'shared space'," he noted.





Local News



Antigua and Barbuda assumes chairmanship of prominent United Nations body

Antigua and Barbuda is now chairing the 31st session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) for the period 2026-2028, marking a pivotal moment for the nation as it now takes leadership in navigating some of the most pressing challenges facing the region.

The chairmanship was handed over to Antigua and Barbuda by Trinidad and Tobago during the 22nd meeting of the CDCC held in Trinidad last week. The CDCC was established in 1975 by way of resolution by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It was given the mandate to foster regional cooperation for economic and social development. Today it is championing the unique concerns of Caribbean small island developing states, including developing collective responses to chal-



Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson

lenges including climate change, disaster resilience, sustainable financing, as well as deepening South-South cooperation.

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson, who was in Trinidad for the formal hand over, welcomed the country's new leadership role at the forefront of another distinguished and

influential body as both opportune and timely.

"This leadership mandate could not have come at a better time, as it will help us to champion the ABAS decade as the regional implementation framework for SIDS resilience," Ambassador Webson noted.

"It strengthens our position as the major driver of the operational expansion of the SIDS Centre of Excellence while at the same time affords us the opportunity to deepen technical partnerships across Latin America and the Caribbean," he continued.

Ambassador Webson says other major priorities during Antigua and Barbuda's term as Chair will include establishing robust investment pipelines and pursuing climate financing reform for Caribbean SIDS.

"The CDCC, under Antigua and Barbuda's leadership, must continue to advocate for fairness, predictability, and resilience as pillars of a new financial architecture for island states," he affirmed.

Ambassador Webson further extended appreciation to Trinidad and Tobago, the outgoing chair, for its strong stewardship and commitment to Caribbean integration and development during its chairmanship.



Local News



Husband and wife team takes top honours at the annual Community Gardens and Beautification Festival, 2025



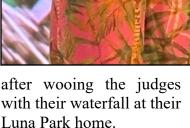




The team of Rhyves and Nia Knowles, who built what they described as 'a pondless waterfall' in their backyard, walked away with the top prize at the annual Community Gardens and Beautification Festi-

val, 2025.

At the prize-giving ceremony held Saturday night at the American University of Antigua conference room, Rhyves and Nia Knowles who top prize in their zone - East Zone-



"This particular display is something that we have never done before but one in which will put much effort and thought to execute. Overall, we invested approximately \$4,000.00 to acquire equipment such as a water pump that is used to recycle the water over our waterfall that my wife and I created,"



Local News











Rhyves stated.

While he had entered the competition twice before on his own, this year was the first time that he and his wife decided to make it a joint effort. "My wife and I are very happy that we emerged winners and we find it quite rewarding that after our hard work and efforts, the judges selected us as overall winner. It's a feeling of accomplishment!' he declared.

Rhyves clearly intends to hold unto the top prize tro-

phy for some time to come as he has hinted of much improvements to the waterfall for next year's competition.

There were 62 persons and institutions that participated in the festival and they were divided into five zones, East Zone, West Zone, North Zone, South Zone and Barbuda.

Director of the Community Development and Social Engagement Division, Dale O'Brien, said the festival is celebrating its 14th

year and it continues to embody a noble purpose. "It is rooted in the belief that beautification is not a superficial endeavour, but rather, a meaningful contribution to the health, wealth, and social well-being of Antigua and Barbuda," she remarked.

Festival Coordinator, Tanya Williams, provided details of what the judges looked for during the judging process. "The categories of this competition are Herb and Spice Garden, Fruits and+/or Vegetable Garden, Flower Garden, Water Garden which includes (Pools, Ponds, Aquaponics and Hydronics) and the Best Kept Community. The Best Kept Community aspect allows for residents to come together and beautify their community's encouraging camaraderie and civic pride," she explained.

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, was among the officials who assisted in distributing the prizes at the ceremony.



APUA Telecoms Business Unit Provides Update on Subsea Cable Preparatory Works at Morris Bay, Old Road

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – December 12, 2025 The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), Telecoms Business Unit, is providing an update following recent developments related to preparatory civil works for the subsea cable landing at Morris Bay, Old Road.

On October 14, 2025, APUA hosted a town hall meeting and engaged residents of Old Road in dialogue regarding the planned landing of the subsea cable at Morris Bay. These discussions formed part of APUA's commitment to transparency and community engagement, and community feedback received at that time was largely supportive of the project.

The preparatory phase requires APUA to undertake limited civil works in the area, including the construction of a beach manhole and the establishment of an equipment shelter located opposite Morris Bay. Earlier this month, APUA Telecoms' teams were mobilised to commence these activities.

To facilitate the works, it was necessary to cut the main road at Morris Bay to allow for the installation of conduits in preparation for the subsea cable. This required a temporary traffic diversion. Due to the interruption of works, the duration of the diversion has been extended, resulting in increased inconvenience to motorists and residents. APUA sincerely apologises for this inconvenience and assures the public that every effort will be made to complete the required works as efficiently as possible once it is safe to do so.

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025, while APUA personnel were on site, an unrelated situation involving residents and the Development Control Authority arose in the same vicinity. APUA teams returned to the site on Thursday, December 11, 2025, but were again required to withdraw in the interest of safety. As tensions escalated, work was suspended to protect personnel and the public.

When teams returned to the area on Friday, December 12, 2025, to resume operations, it was discovered that conduits and other project materials had been deliberately set on fire. Preliminary assessments indicate that the damage amounts to several thousand dollars.

APUA strongly condemns any actions that compromise the safety of its workers, as well as the destruction of property. The Authority remains deeply concerned about ensuring that its teams are able to operate in a safe and non-hostile environment while carrying out essential national infrastructure works.

Despite this setback, APUA reaffirms its commitment to the residents of Old Road and to continued engagement grounded in cooperation, dialogue, and mutual respect. The subsea cable project represents a critical national investment that will significantly enhance Antigua and Barbuda's digital resilience, supporting commerce, business continuity, education, and overall economic development.

All citizens stand to benefit from this project once it is commissioned, with full operational launch expected in 2027. APUA therefore appeals for calm and cooperation and respectfully calls on all parties to desist from further damage to project assets, as the Authority works to recover from this incident and continue the project in accordance with established timelines and in the national interest.

Local News



IHO Offers 30 Scholarships for Soap & Candle Making, & Other Crafts to Empower Local Residents

Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), a nonprofit organisation, has announced the launch of a new 8-week Arts & Crafts Making for Business course supported by 30 scholarships. The application portal for the scholarships opened on December 12, 2025, and will close on January **15**, **2026**. The 30 successful applicants who are selected to participate in the course will acquire valuable new knowledge and skills in soapmaking, candlemaking, resin crafts, and flower pressing during in-person classes to be held twice weekly at the old BBC Relay Station the Lightfoot area starting February 2, 2026. The course is one of several ways in which IHO is working to foster climate resilience and promote sustainable livelihoods in Nelson's Dockyard National Park (NDNP). It is a part of the IHO-implemented CBF EbA Caribbean Project, which is made possible by the support of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). IHO encourages residents from Liberta, Falmouth, Cobbs Cross, English Harbour, Spring Hill, Patterson. Fishers, Doigs, Barters and Cherry Hill to apply now. These communities within Nelson's Dockyard National Park, which is the



geographical area of focus for the CBF EbA Caribbean Project.

On the application portal, applicants first answer basic questions about eligibility and are then given the chance, through a final question, to explain why they believe they are a good candidate to be awarded a placement. If space is available, residents from communities north and west of the NDNP may also be accepted and should also apply. These include Tyrells, Piccadilly, Table Hill Gordon, Blakes,

Sawcolts, Old Road, John Hughes, Swetes, Jennings, Wallings, Boggy Peak area, Crabbe Hill, Christian Valley, and Cades Bay. IHO Communications Officer, Kieron Murdoch, notes that applications are already picking up and encourages eligible candidates for the Arts & Crafts Making for Business course to make as strong a case as possible when answering the final question their application. "It's an excellent opportunity gain the skills needed to create marketable products. For existing entrepreneurs, it's something that can further empower you on your journey. For people seeking additional income for their family, it can make a real difference for them as well," he stated.

The Arts & Crafts Making for Business course is one of several initiatives which IHO has organised under the CBF EbA Caribbean Project. Other initiatives, such as IHO's Beekeepers Training, EcoTourism Course, and EcoTourism Workshop, have also been aimed at strengthening resilient livelihoods. IHO also launched two scholarships for aspiring volunteer divers to be trained and certified in scuba diving to support marine ecosystem management efforts by the National Parks Authority (NPA) and the ongoing activities of IHO. Those applications are now being considered.

Through the CBF EbA Caribbean Project, IHO has also been supporting the NPA's ongoing coral restoration programme, while working with the NPA to facilitate other activities such as wetland assessments and various area and management plans. Awareness raising and public consultation have been a major element of the CBF EbA Caribbean project as well.



Local News



SIR GERALD WATT PASSES AWAY AT 86



The nation is in mourning following the death of Sir Gerald Watt KC, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and former Attorney General. Sir Gerald passed away on Saturday at the age of 86, while receiving medical care.

Sir Gerald devoted decades of his life to public service, holding several key national roles. He served as Attorney General, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. He resigned as Speaker in 2024, after a decade of service in the role.

His passing has deeply impacted the legal fraternity, as Sir Gerald was widely regarded as one of Antigua and Barbuda's most distinguished and respected legal minds. He was Head of Chambers at Watt, Dorsett, Hewlett Law. Partner Dr. David Dorsett described him as "one of a kind."

Sir Gerald would have marked his 87th birthday on December 19.

Tribute



Governor-General and Lady Williams express condolences on the passing of Sir Gerald Watt, KCN, KC



His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, and Her Excellency Lady Williams have expressed profound sadness at the passing of Sir Gerald Owen Anderson Watt, KCN, KC, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and a distinguished figure in the legal and political life of the nation.

In extending condolences to the Watt family, Their Excellencies paid tribute to Sir Gerald's decades of exemplary public service, during which he served with distinction as Attorney General, Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association, and long-serving Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir Gerald was widely regarded as a formidable and well-studied legal mind, known for his feisty spirit, strong convictions, and readiness to engage in robust debate. His outspoken nature, combined with deep intellectual rigour, brought courage and clarity to national discussions on law, governance, and constitutional affairs, contributing significantly to the strengthening of Antigua and Barbuda's democratic institutions.

Whether in Parliament, the courtroom, or the public arena, Sir Gerald commanded respect for his principled stance and unwavering commitment to what he believed served the best interests of the nation. His tenure as Speaker of the House, spanning more than a decade, was marked by passion, rigour, and a deep respect for the responsibilities of the office.

The Governor-General and Lady Williams noted that Sir Gerald's legacy of public service, intellectual courage, and national dedication will long be remembered, and that his voice and presence will be greatly missed.

Their Excellencies extend heartfelt sympathies to the Watt family and assure them of their prayers and support during this time of bereavement.





Tribute





GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister Gaston Browne Pays tribute To Sir Gerald Watt K.C.N. K.C.

An extraordinary citizen of Antigua and Barbuda died today, and his death therefore made us a poorer people. Sir Gerald Owen Anderson Watt KCN KC, born December 19, 1938, died six days before his 87th birthday.

Sir Gerald was an independent thinker, a brave and courageous Antiguan man, a physically strong and intellectually-gifted lawyer, a great advocate for justice in the courts, and one who demonstrated his independence by placing himself in positions to deliver whatever he thought best for his country and its people.

Sir Gerald first came to the public's attention when he was sworn-in as a very youthful attorney-at-law. When in 1971, at age 33, the second premier of Antigua and Barbuda was authorized to choose an Attorney General, Gerald Watt was appointed to that post. Because that administration lasted only five years, Gerald Watt returned to private practice after February 1976.

Sir Gerald built a reputation as a fierce litigator and an efficient lawyer. His interest in the governance of Antigua and Barbuda never diminished. When therefore the third Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda appointed him as Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) in 2005, he brought that same fierce independence to his job function. He faced a tribunal of three judges when an attempt was made to blame him for electoral failures in the 2009 General Elections.

Sir Gerald prevailed. He would not allow his reputation as an efficient administrator to be diminished in order to cover the unmistakable errors of judgment made by those who failed to act, following his many pleas for resources to manage the ABEC and general elections. He would subsequently be denied entry to the ABEC building by a phalanx of law enforcement officers.

When, therefore, the heritage political party was returned to office in 2014, Sir Gerald was invited to be the Speaker of the Parliament. His rulings during the multiple sittings over ten years, showed him to be compassionate, well-informed, eager to modernize the rules governing parliamentary sessions, fair and firm in his decision-making whenever he was required to rule. He was an excellent Speaker of the House of Representatives. His training as a lawyer, his argumentation skills as a litigator, his judgment as a legal practitioner, all came together to make his display of the parliamentary rules professional.

Sir Gerald Watt K.C.N., K.C. was a remarkable citizen. He will be accorded an official funeral. The people and Government thank him for his public service especially, and express condolences to his son and his other relatives, his friends and colleagues. Our country has lost a gem.

-end-

Tribute







ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ELECTORAL COMMISSION
QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY
P.O. Box 664,
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, W.I.
Tel 268-562-4191/8
Fax 268-562-4331

ABEC pays tribute to the late Sir Gerald Watt KC, former Chairman of ABEC

St. John's, Antigua – Sunday 14th December, 2025.... The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sir Gerald Watt, KC, who passed away on Saturday, 13 December 2025.

Sir Gerald served with distinction as Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission from 2004 to 2009, a period during which he provided steady, principled, and visionary leadership. His tenure was marked by an unwavering commitment to democratic values and the strengthening of public confidence in the electoral process.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Ian S Hughes noted that "Sir Gerald was a man of distinction. His tenure was marked by principled leadership, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to integrity in the electoral process. He played a pivotal role in strengthening the Commission's governance framework and guiding key institutional reforms that contributed significantly to the overall development and modernization of the organisation. His vision and steady counsel

aid a strong foundation upon which the Commission continues to build. He leaves a legacy of excellence, professionalism, and dedication that will continue to inspire.

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, His Excellency Ambassador Arthur G.B Thomas expressed "Sir Gerald joined the Commission during a pivotal and formative stage, when many of the structures, norms, and operating processes of modern electoral administration were still being defined. He played a crucial role in establishing systems and procedures that not only functioned effectively in practice but also became the cornerstone of building public trust and confidence in the electoral process

This journey was not without its challenges. The work unfolded across challenging terrain, demanding careful negotiation and the deliberate cultivation of relationships with the public, political parties, and fellow Commissioners. These relationships were often forged in an environment of heightened political polarization

and competing expectations. Sir Gerald adeptly navigated these challenges in his unique style, characterized by frankness, forthrightness, and an unwavering commitment to ethical principles. These qualities were deeply ingrained in his legal training and his lifelong dedication to public service, enabling him to lay a robust institutional foundation upon which the Commission continues to build."

Sir Gerald is remembered as a towering figure in the Commission's history who led with integrity and transparency, truly embodying impartiality in every sense of the word. He approached the responsibilities of his office with fairness, independence, and a deep respect for the rule of law, setting a standard of excellence that continues to guide the work of the Commission today.

Under his stewardship, ABEC benefited from his vast legal knowledge, sound judgment, and calm authority. His contributions to electoral administration and democratic governance in Antigua and Barbuda have left a lasting legacy. — END —

Tribute





GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA Office of the Prime Minister

TRIBUTE TO KING OSAGyefo

Prime Minister Gaston Browne M.P.

12 December 2025 King George V Grounds

Jah Rastafari, Selassi I.

I GREET YOU IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HIGH!

I. have known Osagyefo as a youth. We lived on the same Street in Grays Farm, known to all as Parliament Street. I and I was socialized as a Rastafari Youth. It was the Rastafari love and care from the late King Franki and Ras Lumba -- who operated an Ital Shop on lower Bishopgate Street -- that provided I and I, as an impoverished youth, with a little scatta, sauce and a piece of dread bread, to provide sustenance, when my mentally ill, single-parent mother could no longer provide for her children.

EXPOSITION

- 2. I acknowledge King Osagyefo as a Rasta King with whom I worked, alongside the late Andrew Moody Stuart, Selah and others, in order to facilitate the decriminalization of Cannabis and the establishment of Grow Antigua. My Government did succeed in allowing 15 grams of the substance for personal use to be lawful, and for growing four trees on one's real property to be lawful also. Our government waived the licensing fees and empowered the Rastafari movement with 25 percent shares in Grow Antigua; it is a form of reparatory justice in acknowledgement of the atrocities, the castigating, and the victimization of Rastafari.
- 3. This reparatory justice continued with the gifting of the first Niabingi Rastafari School at Creek Side by our government. Government also leased them land and provided this community with equipment, including an excavator to assist with land preparation for growing food crops, and for pond maintenance to store water in order to facilitate their crop production.
- 4. I and I also owe a debt of gratitude to Rastafari for saving I and I from death. At age 9, Ras Kenya, Osagyefo's brother-in-law, saved the I from death by electrocution. My friend cut a live electric wire that had entrapped me and was biting through my flesh. He risked his own life by chopping a live wire that could have done him harm. Once again, I give thanks to Ras Kenya and the Most High.
- 5. This life-saving moment has inspired me to become your Prime Minister, with a commitment to elevate Rastafari and to serve all the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Though seemingly bald, the I was embraced as a member of the Rastafari Community by the Rastafari. It was King Osagyefo who asked that the appellation "Gassy Dread" become I and I new name, a symbol of my unapologetic



Tribute



embrace of Rastafari. I and I, as a multi-ghettoist and fellow revolutionist, will continue to fight for justice, peace, love and unity. Gassy Dread is for real! Seen!

6. The crowning moment for King Osagyefo was when, as Prime Minister, I issued a formal apology to the Rastafarian nation all across Antigua and Barbuda for the acts of discrimination and violence committed against this population by the State.

King Osagyefo was very happy when I nominated the late King Franki Tafari to address the OAS, to represent the interests and to promote the values of Rastafari.

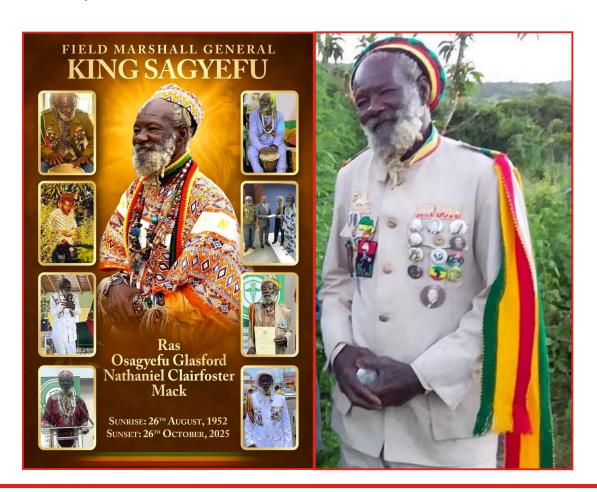
It was a few weeks ago that we learned that he had fallen in St Lucia. He was airlifted to the Sir Lester Bird/Mt St John Medical Center. Everyone prayed for his recovery. Sadly, the King succumbed to his illness. Long live the King!

- 7. I and I had the pleasure to visit him at the Sir Lester Bird Medical/Mount St. John Center where I shared with him several Gassy Dread's songs. He was especially pleased with Reparations and even more so with Soldier On. I and I was astonished that despite the grim diagnosis of his mortality, the King remained in good spirits. Evidently, his mind was conditioned to meet his Maker.
- 8. King Osagyefo was my dear friend and Comrade. He was one of my most ardent supporters, who was not afraid to oppose me. This was seen with his vigorous opposition to the vaccine mandate during Covid-19. At the end of the day, he always spoke in the superlative about his good friend and Comrade Gassy Dread.

Let me take this opportunity, once again, to extend my sincerest condolences to his bereaved family and the Rastafari community on the passing of the King. Just as I said to him before his passing, I say to the family - Soldier on. May the memories bring comfort and assuage the pain you feel at this time. May his soul rest in peace and rise in heaven. Jah Rastafari!

(PRINO

P.M. Gaston Browne Gassy Dread.



Feature



Redefining Student Success Through Education and Wellness in St. John's Rural West





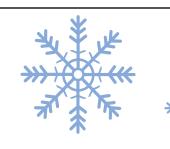
An integrated education and wellness initiative is now underway at Five Islands Primary School and Greenbay Primary School, aimed at improving student performance while addressing the broader needs that affect learning and development. The initiative recognizes that academic achievement and student wellness are closely connected. By strengthening both instructional support and health outcomes, the programme seeks to create a more supportive environment in which students can perform at their best. The initiative is being supported by Senator Michael Joseph, ABLP Caretaker for St. John's Rural West, the Junior Minister in the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs. Strengthening Academic Support: As part of the initiative, Grade Six students at both schools are receiving structured after school instruction in Mathematics and English Language. Two dedicated teachers, one specializing in Mathematics and the other in English, are providing focused academic support four days per week. Students are organized into rotating groups to ensure consistent contact

time in both subject areas. The additional instructional hours are designed to reinforce classroom learning, recover time lost due to interruptions during the school day, and better prepare students for national assessments. While the schools are responsible for the academic framework, the programme is augmented with financial assistance, vitamins and other resources through the senator to ensure its successful implementation. Prioritizing Student Wellness: A key component of the initiative is its focus on student health and nutrition. All participating students are receiving daily nutritional supplements to support immune function, brain development, and overall well-being. The supplementation includes multivitamins, DHA, vitamin C, and elderberry, complementing existing school meal programmes. This approach is intended to reduce absenteeism related to illness and support sustained engagement in learning. Each participating student will receive a three month supply of supplements to be administered under parental supervision, with continued support assessed based on observed outcomes. Community and School Engagement:

School administrators have welcomed the initiative as a timely intervention. Principal Alden James of Five Islands Primary School noted that the extended learning hours provide a structured and supervised environment during the after school period. Acting Principal Cleopatra Henry of Greenbay Primary School highlighted the importance of addressing both academic gaps and nutritional challenges faced by many students. More than 95 Grade Six students across both schools are currently participating in the initiative. Monitoring and Future Expansion: The programme will be monitored throughout the academic year, with student performance data used to evaluate its effectiveness. Based on results, consideration will be given to expanding the approach for more expanded results in the upcoming school academic years. This initiative reflects a broader commitment to youth development in St. John's Rural West. By aligning education support with wellness interventions, the programme aims not only to improve examination outcomes, but to strengthen long term student success and resilience.









ANNUAL WINTER CHESS TOURNAMENT



28

DECEMBER 2025

CATAMARAN HOTEL

FALMOUTH HARBOUR

9AM TO 5PM



SCAN TO REGISTER

or

REGISTRATION FORM



Adults: \$50

Children:\$25



antiguachess



Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation



Sections

Under 16

Unrated

Rated Players









Feature



Brick by Brick, Hope by Hope: A Christmas Call to the Nation





Christmas is often measured by what we give, but this year, Antigua and Barbuda is being invited to measure it by what we build. Through the HAPI – Home Advancement Programme for the Indigent, two families are on the brink of receiving something priceless: a safe home and a renewed future.

In Swetes, a family of 15 is watching transformation happen in real time as a deteriorating structure is replaced with a four-bedroom home built for dignity and stability. In Gray's Farm, a family of 10 awaits the same gift. The deadline is ambitious — before Christmas — but the resolve is unwavering.

Is there a better reflection of the Christmas spirit than neighbours building hope together? And what does it say about us as a nation when we choose action over apathy?

This initiative aligns powerfully with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11, which calls for inclusive and safe human settlements, and

SDG 10, which urges societies to close inequality gaps. Housing, after all, is not charity — it is infrastructure for opportunity.

Government support, corporate assistance, and skilled labour from Her Majesty's Prison have combined with volunteer power to make rapid progress possible. When electricity disruptions threatened to slow the work, swift leadership ensured continuity. The project did not stall — it surged forward.

Youth participation has been one of the most inspiring outcomes. Teenagers and children showed up, rainsoaked but determined, learning that service is not seasonal — it is lived.

The United Nations has stated that "housing stability is one of the strongest predictors of long-term social and economic wellbeing." UNESCO echoes this, noting that "communities that invest in inclusive development build resilience for generations to come."

As the final stretch approaches,

support is still required. Appliances, furniture, kitchenware, linens, clothing, and volunteers remain critical needs.

Good Humans 268, working in support of HAPI and the Social Protection Board, is assisting with mobilisation and coordination — ensuring community goodwill turns into meaningful impact.

To help, contact the Social Protection Board at 562-7508 or 562-7513, or Good Humans 268 at 789-GOOD (4663) or info@goodhumans268.org

This Christmas, hope is under construction — and everyone has a role to play.

Joshuanette Francis

Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.

Mobile: +1 (268) 789 GOOD (4663)

Website: https://goodhumans268.

Tel 268 727 2120 or 268 463 5674



Regional News



Bail denied for St Catherine mother and man accused of sexually exploiting woman's teen daughter



A 45-year-old St Cathfor allegedly taking her 14-year-old daughter to the home of a 60-yearold, where she was allegedly sexually molested, was refused bail on Friday in the parish court.

The man was also denied bail.

The woman and the man are charged with grooming of a child, trafficking, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, sexual touching, and misprision of a felony.

They were further remanded to return to court on February 10, 2026.

Allegations are that beerine mother charged tween June 1 and November 22, 2025, the woman conspired with the man and took her daughter to his dwelling, where he touched her inappropriately.

> It is further being alleged that the man gave the teen girl \$34,000, which she then allegedly gave to her mother.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Spanish Town police, which launched an investigation.

The girl's mother and the man were subsequently arrested later charged. (Jamaica Gleaner)

NOTICE

TO: **HER HONOUR** The Licensing Magistrate **District "A" Magistrate's Court High Street** St. John's **Antigua**

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE Police Headquarters American Road St. John's **Antigua**

I, Dwayne Pascal, of English Harbour, St. Paul, Antigua DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday 5th, January, 2026 for a Tavern License for the premises known as "Pascalito Bar & Pizzeria' situated at English Harbour, in the Parish of St. Paul in the Island of Antigua pursuant to Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicated Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 12th, December, 2025 **Cumberbatch & Associates** Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant





Regional News



Two arrested in Trinidad over multimillion-dollar drug seizure

The United States Embassy in Trinidad on Friday said two Trinidad and Tobago nationals have been arrested on charges of conspiracy to import cocaine into America.

It said that Daveanan Deonarine and Michael Samsondar were arrested on provisional arrest warrants on December 10 after they were both charged in the Eastern District of Louisiana for conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States stemming from a 2023 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigation that yielded a seizure of 168 kilograms of cocaine in Trinidad.

"By volume of the narcotics, the May 18, 2023, operation was the largest seizure of drugs during an on-land operation in Trinbagonian history. The drugs are valued at over TT\$234 million," the US Embassy said, adding that the suspects are in custody pending extradition proceedings to the United States.

The arrests were carried out by personnel from the DEA Vetted Unit, supported by the Special Investigative Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

"The US Embassy's DEA personnel and TOCU have been working side by side for over two decades. The close working relationship they have fostered, the mutual trust, and their excellent law enforcement work show results in these arrests," said Chargé d'Affaires Dr.Jenifer Neidhart de Ortiz.

"Together, the United States and Trinidad and Tobago are making the region safer and more secure for all of our citizens. I am proud of the work we do with our Trinbagonian counterparts day in and day out," she added. (CMC)





Regional News



NHT receives 667 applications for post-hurricane disaster relief grant

The National Housing Trust (NHT) has, to date, received 667 applications from persons affected by Hurricane Melissa for the Disaster Relief Grant.

This was disclosed by Managing Director, Martin Miller, during Wednesday's sitting of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC) of Parliament.

The Disaster Relief Grant provides direct financial assistance to contributors and other groups who suffered property damage as a result of Hurricane Melissa. The maximum grant available is \$500,000 per collateral.

"The [applications for] grants are slow coming in. So what we have done is that we have split into several teams, and they are out there in the communities. So we expect that we will see a significant increase over the next week or so," Miller said.

Regarding the Hurricane Relief Loan, Miller noted that the Trust has, to date, received only seven applications, which are currently being processed.

"Most of the customers that we're seeing... their indication is that they



have no interest in a loan. Their preference is for a grant. [While] assessing the applications for grants, based on income and individual circumstances. there are 11 applications that we thought could access and service a loan," he stated.

"[The loan] is open to all contributors, and it goes beyond just contributors. What we have done is that we have put in place provision for immediate family members to apply for the loans on behalf of their parents or other relatives," the Managing Director added.

Miller further noted that,

NHT had received 1,567 notifications from persons their intenindicating tion to submit insurance claims.

"In terms of those who would have completed their claims, returned the claims with all the relevant documents to include estimates, evidence of damages, and so forth, we received a total of 357, with a preliminary estimate of about \$823 million. We are going through the process now, jointly with the external assessors appointed by the brokers... the insurance company," he stated.

"Plus, we have entered as of December 9, the into an arrangement to allow for the brokers... for NHT project officers, to assist in the process of doing the assessment and also conducting the review. We commence payment in terms of insurance settlement. As you know, our insurance arrangement is one where a portion of the portfolio is self-insured, so those will be moving at a fast pace," the Managing Director added.

Miller further stated that "we would have submitted a few for payment... and we expect that by the next two weeks or so, we will see a large portion of the 357 coming through". (Jamaica Gleaner)



We are pleased to announce that accommodation providers across Antigua and Barbuda can now register to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, taking place 1- 4 November 2026.

With an anticipated 5,000 delegates expected to attend this historic event, it is vital that all accommodation providers register through the CHOGM Accommodation Team.

Registration ensures your property is included in the official accommodation listings and positioned to benefit from the significant opportunities this groundbreaking conference will bring to our destination.

Registration will close on Friday 12 December 2025.

We encourage all providers not to delay and to be part of showcasing the very best of Antiguan and Barbudan hospitality.

REGISTER TODAY:

To register your property, SignUp here: https://bit.ly/chogmhotels

Let's work together to welcome the Commonwealth to our shores!

International



AROUND THE WORLD

'Person of interest' detained over Brown University shooting, police say

A person of interest has been detained in connection with a US shooting at Brown University that left two people dead, police said.

Nine others were injured when a gunman opened fire at the university in Providence, Rhode Island, on Saturday.

Police confirmed on Sunday a person had been detained, and an earlier order for people on the Brown campus and surrounding areas to shelter had been lifted.

Providence Mayor Brett Smiley said seven people remained in stable condition, one of them was in critical but stable condition, and another was discharged.

The gunman opened fire in a classroom at around 16:00 local time (21:00 GMT) on Saturday at the Holley engineering building at the eastern end of Brown's campus, according to officials.

The identities of those



killed or injured have not yet been released, but Brown University President Christina Paxson told reporters in a press briefing on Saturday that all the victims, including those killed and wounded, were students.

In a statement released by the university on Sunday, Paxson said that some areas of campus were still restricted as police continued their investigations.

Around 2,000 students were relocated to safe locations overnight, she said, adding that she was "deeply moved" by students and locals who opened up their homes, Paxson said.

She added that the families of the two students killed were being supported.

"There are not enough words of comfort for families who lose a child, but we will do all we can," she said.

Police had earlier released CCTV footage of a male suspect walking away from the scene wearing all black clothing. Officers said a firearm was not found in a sweep of the building.

The suspect was arrested at a hotel overnight and taken to custody, a law enforcement source told the BBC's US partner, CBS News. They added that he is not currently enrolled as a student at Brown.

Police Chief Col. Oscar Perez said the suspect was in his 30's but did not provide further details.

Perez confirmed on

Sunday that officers were not looking for anyone else and were working with prosecutors to collect evidence. Smiley said the city should be able to "breathe a little easier" after the shelter order was lifted.

"We have trained for this moment, but this is not something that any community should have to train for," he added.

Hundreds of police officers and federal agents were sent to Providence on Saturday to find the suspect.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Saturday, President Donald Trump said the shooting was a "terrible thing".

The attack on the Ivy League university brings the number of mass shootings to 389 in the US for this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

It defines mass shootings as having four or more victims killed or injured, not including the attacker. (BBC)



International

PAGE 29

Bolivian court orders ex-president jailed for five months on corruption charges



A Bolivian court on Friday ordered the country's former President Luis Arce to remain detained for five months while he awaits trial on corruption charges, the latest development in a case that threatens to exacerbate Bolivia's political tensions.

Arce, 62, a leader from Bolivia's Movement Toward Socialism party, was elected in 2020 and left office a month ago following the election of Bolivia's first right-wing leader in nearly two decades.

He strongly denies the charges of breach of duty and financial misconduct. He faces up to six years in prison if convicted.

Two days after Arce's sudden arrest on the streets of Bolivia's capital of La Paz, a judge ordered his detention in a virtual hearing Friday.

Arce was transferred to one of Bolivia's largest prisons in La Paz at night. No trial date was announced.

The accusations concern the alleged diversion of millions of dollars from a state fund into private accounts and date back to when Arce served as economy minister under former President Evo Morales from 2006 until 2017.

Although the scandal first broke in 2017, investigations into the alleged graft stalled during Morales' presidency as Bolivia's courts proved submissive to the political power of the day. The case was reopened when conser-

vative President Rodrigo Paztook office last month, ending almost two decades of dominance by the Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS, party.

Paz campaigned on a promise to clean up the government and seek justice for corruption as he rode to power on a wave of outrage over Bolivia's worst economic crisis in four decades.

Arce criticized the charges as political persecution.

"I'm a scapegoat," he told the judge, insisting that he had no personal involvement in the government fund under scrutiny, which supported the Indigenous people and peasant farmers who formed the backbone of MAS support.

"The accusations are politically motivated."

Officials involved in the previous iteration of the investigation say Arce is accused of siphoning off money from rural development projects to secure loyalty from MAS-allied union and Indigenous leaders during election campaigns. (AP)



International



Trump pledges retaliation after three Americans killed in Syria attack that the US blames on IS

President Donald Trump said Saturday that "there will be very serious retaliation" after two US service members and one American civilian were killed in an attack in Syria that the United States blames on the Islamic State group.

"This was an ISIS attack against the US, and Syria, in a very dangerous part of Syria, that is not fully controlled by them," he said in a social media post.

The American president told reporters at the White House that Syria's president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, was "devastated by what happened" and stressed that Syria was fighting alongside US troops.

Trump, in his post, said al-Sharaa was "extremely angry and disturbed by this attack."

US Central Command said three service members were wounded in an ambush Saturday by a lone IS



member in central Syria. Trump said the three "seem to be doing pretty well." The US military said the gunman was killed.

The attack on US troops in Syria was the first with fatalities since the fall of President Bashar Assad a year ago.

"There will be very serious retaliation," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

The Pentagon's chief spokesman, Sean Parnell, said the civilian killed was a US interpreter. Parnell said the attack targeted soldiers involved in the ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the region and is under active investigation.

The shooting took place near historic Palmyra, according to the state-run SANA news agency, which earlier said two members of Syria's security force and several US service members had been wounded. The casualties were taken by helicopter to the al-Tanf garrison near the border with Iraq and Jordan.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights said the attacker was a member of the Syrian security force.

Syria's Interior Ministry spokesman Nour al-Din al-Baba said a gunman linked to IS opened fire at the gate of a military post. He added that Syrian authorities are looking into whether the gunman was an IS member or only carried its extreme ideology.

He denied reports that suggested that the attacker was a security member.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth posted on X: "Let it be known, if you target Americans — anywhere in the world — you will spend the rest of your brief, anxious life knowing the United States will hunt you, find you, and ruthlessly kill you."

The US has hundreds of troops deployed in eastern Syria as part of a coalition fighting IS. (AP)





International



Gunmen kill at least 11 people in attack on Jewish holiday event in Australia

Two gunmen attacked a Jewish celebration on a Sydney beach Sunday, killing at least 11 people in what Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called an act of antisemitism and terrorism.

The massacre at one of Australia's most popular and iconic beaches followed a wave of antisemitic attacks that have roiled the country over the past year, although the authorities didn't suggest those episodes and Sunday's shooting were connected.

It is the deadliest shooting for almost three decades in a country with strict gun control laws.

One gunman was fatally shot by police and the second, who was arrested, was in critical condition, authorities said. Police said one of the gunmen was known to the security services, but that there had been no specific threat.

At least 29 people were confirmed wounded, including two police officers, said Mal Lanyon, the police commissioner for New South Wales state, where Sydney is located.

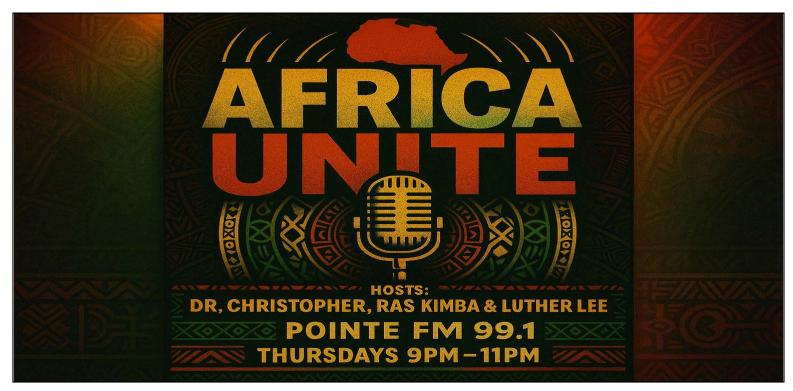
Police said officers were examining a



number of suspicious items, including several improvised explosive devices found in one of the suspect's cars.

"This attack was designed to target Sydney's Jewish community," the state's premier, Chris Minns, said. The massacre was declared a terrorist attack due to the event targeted and weapons used, Lanyon said. Hundreds had gathered for the Chanukah by the Sea event celebrating the start of the eight-day Hanukkah festival.

Chabad, an Orthodox Jewish movement that runs scores of centers around the world that are popular with Jewish travelers and sponsors large public events during major Jewish holidays,



International

AROUND THE WORLD

PAGE 33

identified one of the dead as Rabbi Eli Schlanger, assistant rabbi at Chabad of Bondi and a key organizer of the event.

Video footage filmed by onlookers appeared to show two gunmen with long guns firing from a footbridge leading to the beach. One dramatic clip broadcast on Australian television showed a man appearing to tackle and disarm one of the gunmen, before pointing the man's weapon at him, then setting the gun on the ground.

Minns called the man a "genuine hero."

Police said emergency services were called to Campbell Parade in Bondi about 6.45 p.m. responding to reports of shots being fired.

Lachlan Moran, 32, from Melbourne, told The Associated Press he was waiting for his family nearby when he heard shots. He dropped the beer he was carrying for his brother and ran.

"You heard a few pops, and I freaked out and ran away. ... I started sprinting. I just had that intuition. I sprinted as quickly as I could," Moran said. He said he heard shooting off and on for about five minutes.

"Everyone just dropped all their possessions and everything and were running and people were crying and it was just horrible," Moran said.

The violence erupted at the end of a hot summer day when thousands had flocked to the beach.

"It was the most perfect day and then this happened," said local resident Catherine Merchant.

"Everyone was just running and there were bullets and there were so many of them and we were really scared," she told Australia's ABC News.

Prime Minister Albanese told reporters in the Australian capital, Canberra, that he was "devastated" by the massacre.

"This is a targeted attack on Jewish Australians on the first day of Hanukkah, which should be a day of joy, a celebration of faith. An act of evil, antisemitism, terrorism that has struck the heart of our nation," Albanese said.

"Amidst this vile act of violence and hate will emerge a moment of national unity where Australians across the board will embrace their fellow Australians of Jewish faith," he said.

World leaders expressed condolences. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the "ghastly terrorist attack" and offered his condolences to the families who lost their loved ones.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was being updated on the "appalling attack." Police in London said they would step up security at Jewish sites.

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a post on X that "The United States strongly condemns the terrorist attack in Australia targeting a Jewish celebration. Antisemitism has no place in this world."

Australia, a country of 28 million people, is home to about 117,000 Jews, according to official figures.

Antisemitic incidents, including assaults, vandalism, threats and intimidation, surged more than threefold in the country during the year after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, and Israel launched a war on Hamas in Gaza in response, the gov-

ernment's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism Jillian Segal reported in July.

Throughout last summer, the country was rocked by spate of antisemitic attacks in Sydney and Melbourne. Synagogues and cars were torched, businesses and homes graffitied and Jews attacked in those cities, where 85% of the nation's Jewish population live.

Albanese in August blamed Iran for two of the attacks and cut diplomatic ties to Tehran. The authorities didn't make such claims about Sunday's massacre.

Israel urged Australia's government to address crimes targeting Jews.

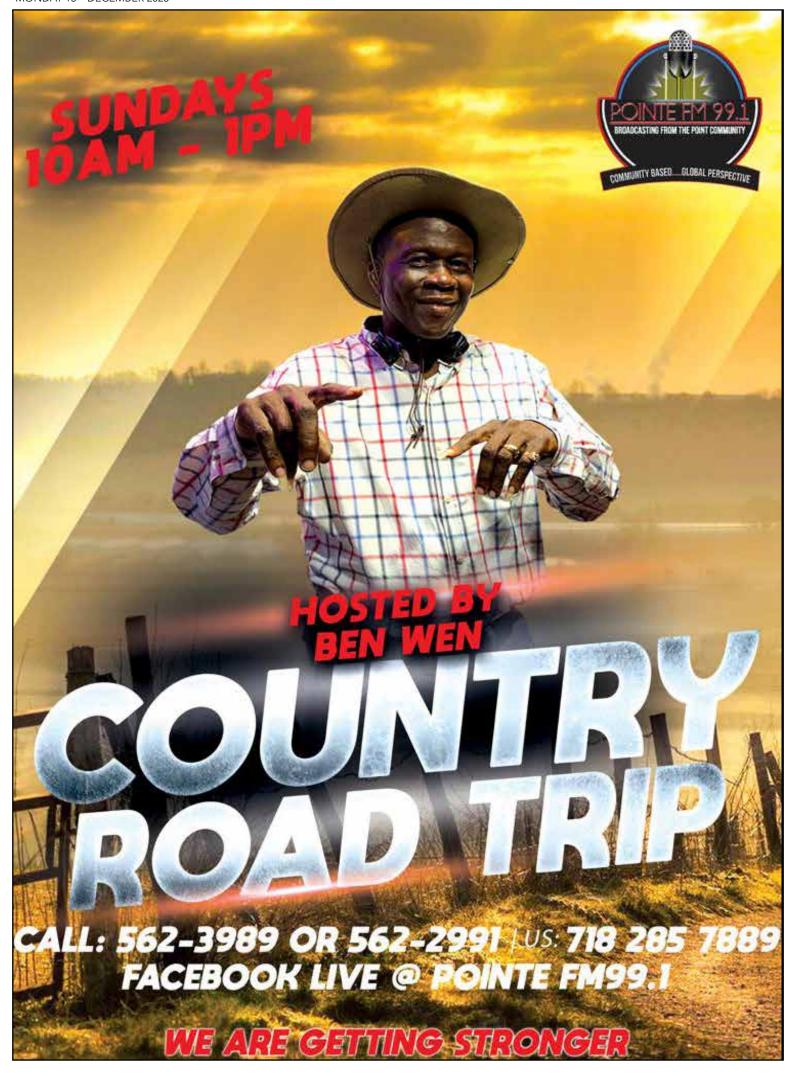
"The heart of the entire nation of Israel misses a beat at this very moment," Israeli President Isaac Herzog said. "We repeat our alerts time and time again to the Australian government to seek action and fight against the enormous wave of antisemitism which is plaguing Australian society."

Mass shootings in Australia are extremely rare. A 1996 massacre in the Tasmanian town of Port Arthur, where a lone gunman killed 35 people, prompted the government to drastically tighten gun laws and made it much more difficult for Australians to acquire firearms.

Significant mass shootings this century included two murder-suicides with death tolls of five people in 2014, and seven in 2018, in which gunmen killed their own families and themselves.

In 2022, six people were killed in a shootout between police and Christian extremists at a rural property in Queensland state. (Jamaica Gleaner)







Antigua Benna Girls advance to final in Turks and Caicos Islands



A starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda senior women's national football team. (ABFA)

The Antigua and Barbuda national women's senior team (Benna Girls) qualified for the final after recording commanding wins in both preliminary round-robin matches in the triangular Turks & Caicos Women's Football Festival over the weekend.

The three-team event, which is hosted by the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) from December 11 to 14, features the Turks and Caicos Islands senior women's national team, Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Girls, and Renegades FC of the Bahamas.

The Antigua and Barbu-

da Benna Girls notched up a 6-1 victory against Renegades FC in their second encounter on Saturday. Gabrielle DeSuza struck a hat trick, while the other goals for the Antiguans were scored by Kai Jacobs, Keitonya Skepple, and Nafisa Quashie.

The Antiguans launched their campaign with a 10-3 victory against the Turks and Caicos Islands on Friday.

Gabrielle DeSuza scored five of the goals. The Antiguans benefitted from an own goal, while the other goals came via the boots of Keitonya Skepple, Kai Jacobs, Zolique Samuel, and Nicelle Drew.

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Girls are using the tournament to aid in their continued preparation and participation in the qualifying round of the 2026 **CONCACAF** Women's Championship, which will also serve as the Confederation's qualifier for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

The Antigua and Barbuda senior team made a losing start to their campaign in the qualifying round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Championship in a 4-0 defeat to Nicaragua at home in their first

qualifier in Group B of the tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Thursday, November 27, 2025.

The Antigua and Barbuda women's team is competing in five-team Group B alongside Jamaica, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda are among 29 CONCACAF member associations excluding the region's two highest-ranked nations (USA and Canada) that will be competing in six groups in the preliminary stage of the competition, which will be played during the FIFA Women's International Match Windows in November 2025 and February and April 2026.

Antigua and Barbuda will play Guyana at home in their second qualifier at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on March 5, 2026.

The Antiguans will travel to Kingston to face Jamaica's Reggae Girls on April 10, 2026, and will tackle Dominica on April 14, 2026.

The group winners will qualify for the CONCA-CAF Women's Championship, which will be played in November 2026.



Hoppers and Golden Grove stay atop First Division League

The Greenbay Hoppers and Golden Grove FC notched up wins in their latest matches to remain at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division.

The Greenbay Hoppers claimed their fifth win in six matches with a 4-1 drubbing of English Harbour FC at the English Harbour playing field.

The goals for the Greenbay Hoppers were scored by Yakira Hughes in the 11th minute, Jomo Andrew in the 14th, Roan Harris Jr. in the 54th, and Javorn Stevens in the 63rd minute.

Akeem Weekes scored a consolation goal in the 82nd minute for English Harbour FC.

The result allows the Greenbay Hoppers to remain joint leaders with Golden Grove FC at the top of the standings with 15 points. English Harbour FC remains on six points after



Players of the Greenbay Hoppers FC

suffering their fifth loss in seven matches.

After suffering their first loss in a 5-1 defeat to the Greenbay Hoppers in their previous outing, Golden Grove FC rebounded to record their fifth win in six matches with a 2-1 victory against Parham FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Stephen Hughes scored in the 10th minute to give Golden Grove FC a one-nil lead at halftime. Yowzan Morris doubled his team's advantage with a strike in the 79th minute. Andy Daniel reduced the deficit by scoring a goal for Parham FC in the 90th minute.

The result carries Golden Grove to 15 points, while Parham FC remains on eight points after suffering their second loss in six matches.

There were wins as well for SAP FC and the Cedar Grove Blue Jays. SAP FC remains unbeaten, recording their second win in four matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against FC Master Ballerz at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

SAP FC advanced to eight points, while FC Master Ballerz remains on six points after succumbing to their second loss in six matches.

Ja-Rohn Thomas scored twice as the Cedar Grove Blue Jays notched up their second win in six matches with a 3-0 victory against Willikies FC at the Willikies playing field.

Thomas had conversions in the 40th and 56th minutes, while Kishorn Hamilton scored the other goal in the 50th minute for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays.

The result allows the Cedar Grove Blue Jays to move on to six points, while Willikies FC remains on three points after slumping to their fourth loss in five games.





Corporate citizens support MDBA Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp



CEO of Graphic Impact Prints Duane Christian, right, and Coach Mahijah Davis confirm their agreement.

Two more corporate citizens have offered their support to the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) 9th Annual Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp that will be taking place this week.

Kennedy's Club Limited and Graphic Impact Prints are the latest corporate citizens that have come forward to provide support to the basketball camp, which will be held at the JSC Sports Complex from December 15 to 19.

Kennedy's Club Limited has shown its support by donating a supply of drinks to help keep participants refreshed as they work hard to improve their skills.

The company expressed its enthusiasm for being part of youth



Representative of Kennedy's Club Limited, Jahkaydah Isaac, left, presents some drinks to Mahijah Davis, founder of the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA).

basketball development and stated that it remains ready and willing to support any initiative that uplifts the young people of the twin-island nation.

Duane Christian, CEO of Graphic Impact Prints, has generously donated his printing services for the camp. Christian noted that because basketball is his passion, he is always willing to support the sport, especially when it involves youth development.

He shared that his son was once a participant in the MDBA programme, where he developed both strong discipline and valuable basketball skills, qualities that continue to benefit him today.

Christian praised Mahijah

"Della" Davis for his dedication to guiding young people and wished the academy continued success in maintaining a safe, positive environment for aspiring players.

The kind gesture by Kennedy's Club Limited and Graphic Impact Prints came after Bridget Supermarket, KFC Antigua and Barbuda, and Hot Deals Outlets made generous donations to this year's MDBA Christmas Camp.

The MDBA Christmas Fiesta Camp remains a key platform for nurturing basketball talent, building discipline, and inspiring the next generation of players in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy will be utilizing the services of American coach TJ Cox at this year's Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp.

Cox, who is also a sports agent and player development specialist, will be the main facilitator at the event.

Former national forward Mahijah Davis, who is the creator of the MDBA, will be hosting the five-day camp for boys and girls aged 12 to 25 years in his continuing drive to develop young basketball talent in Antigua and Barbuda.

Registration for the camp remains open until December 15th, the first day of the event.

Sports News



Spurs halt Thunder's record streak, make NBA Cup final



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, center, tangles with San Antonio Spurs' Keldon Johnson (3) and Stephon Castle (5) under the net in the first half of an NBA Cup semifinals basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, in Las Vegas. (AP)

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) - Victor Wembanyama delivered 15 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter in his return from a calf injury and the San Antonio Spurs earned a spot in the NBA Cup final with a 111-109 upset of the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday night in Las Vegas.

Devin Vassell scored 23 points and De'Aaron Fox and Stephon Castle added 22 apiece as San Antonio handed the Thunder just their second loss in 26 games this season.

The Spurs will play the New York Knicks in Tuesday night's NBA Cup final. The Knicks beat the Orlando Magic 132-120 earlier Saturday in the other semifinal.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 29 points for the Thunder, who had their franchise-record 16-game

winning streak halted. Oklahoma City had not lost since Nov. 5 at Portland.

Wembanyama returned after a 12-game absence and was limited to 20 minutes. He collected nine rebounds and San Antonio outscored the Thunder by 21 when Wembanyama was on the floor.

Jalen Williams had 17 points, seven rebounds and four steals and Chet Holmgren added 17 points for Oklahoma City. Alex Caruso had 11 points, eight rebounds and three steals off the bench and Isaiah Hartenstein contributed 10 points and nine rebounds.

The Thunder pulled within 106-105 on a dunk by Gilgeous-Alexander with 14.9 seconds left. Castle made two free throws with 9.8 seconds remaining to give San Antonio a threepoint lead. After the Thunder again pulled within one, Vassell made two free throws with 3.3 seconds left to give the Spurs a 111-108 lead.

Williams was fouled and made the first free throw with 1.5 seconds left. He missed the second on purpose but Caruso's follow sailed behind the basket.

The Spurs made 41.1% of their field-goal attempts, including 13 of 42 from behind the arc, while winning for the 18th time in 25 games this season. Oklahoma City shot 41.3% from the field and was just 9 of 37 from 3-point range.

The Spurs took their first lead at 57-56 on a basket by Fox with 8:45 left in the third quarter. That was part of a 10-0 run that ended with Vassell's trey to put San Antonio up six with 7:58 remaining.

Fox made two free throws with 0.1 seconds to go as San Antonio took a 78-77 lead into the final stanza. The Spurs were up five in the fourth quarter before the Thunder used a 11-3 push to take a 93-90 edge on Caruso's basket with 6:47 remaining.

At the outset, Oklahoma City jumped out to a 14-4 lead and ended up with a 31-20 advantage after the opening period.

Wembanyama entered for the first time at the start of the second quarter and the Spurs immediately went on a 9-2 run.

Later in the quarter, the Thunder went on a 14-2 burst and took a 47-31 lead on Caruso's basket with 3:53 left in the first half. San Antonio finished the half with 11 straight points to trail 49-46 at the break.





Antigua Yacht Club Sailors Lead the Way at World Sailing Youth Championships 2025

With the Antiguan team proudly leading the procession, the national flag held high as a banner before them, more than 500 sailors from 67 countries, joined by over 200 supporters, marched in the opening ceremony of the World Sailing Youth Championships in Portugal.

The Antigua Yacht Club (AYC) is proud to announce that Emily Gaillard and Shanoy Malone, both competing in the ILCA 6 class, are representing Antigua and Barbuda at the World Sailing Youth Championships 2025, taking place at Marina de Vilamoura, Loulé, Portugal, from 12–20 December 2025. The team is accompanied and coached by Karl James.

Widely regarded as the pinnacle of youth sailing, the World Sailing Youth Championships brings together more than 400 of the world's top young sailors, aged 12 to 18, from up to 70 countries, competing across 11 Olympic-pathway events in male, female, and mixed categories. The championship mirrors the Olympic sailing format and features classes including ILCA 6, 420, 29er, Nacra 15, iQFOiL Youth, and Formula Kite, making it one of the largest and most diverse youth sporting events globally.

Antigua and Barbuda's participation at this prestigious event reflects the strength and growing international recognition of the AYC youth sailing programme. Competing among the world's best, the Antiguan sailors represent both national pride and the expanding presence of Caribbean talent on the global sailing stage.

David Graham, CEO of World Sailing, highlighted the importance of the event, stating:

"For more than half a century, the Youth Worlds has been the pinnacle of



youth sailing, serving as the ultimate proving ground and a vital stepping stone for future Olympic and professional sailing. This event represents the future of our sport, and we are incredibly excited to welcome the next generation of champions to Vilamoura."

The championships are hosted by Vilamoura Sailing, with support from Marina de Vilamoura, the City of Loulé, and the Portuguese Sailing Federation. The venue is renowned for its world-class facilities and consistent conditions, tested through a series of Youth Portugal Grand Prix regattas that have established Vilamoura as a leading high-performance sailing hub. Sailors can expect racing that demands adaptability, tactical skill, and resilience across a range of conditions.

The event also reflects a strong commitment to sustainability. Vilamoura Sailing operates on solar

energy, and organisers have implemented initiatives to reduce environmental impact, including the elimination of single-use plastics.

For the Antigua Yacht Club sailors, participation at the Youth Worlds represents the culmination of years of dedication—early mornings, long days on the water, and countless training hours. Beyond medals and results, the experience builds lifelong skills, friendships, and memories that will endure long after the final race.

AYC Commodore Dr Clarence Pilgrim expressed his pride, saying:

"I am immensely proud of our young sailors. Seeing them represent Antigua and Barbuda on this world stage is a powerful reminder of what the Antigua Yacht Club stands for—youth development, opportunità, and excellence."

He extended his sincere thanks on behalf of the AYC to the sailors' families, coach Karl James, and the wider AYC commu'nity, whose commitment, encouragement and belief have made this achievement possible. Their support — through early mornings, long training days, and countless hours on and off the water — forms the foundation upon which these young athletes continue to grow."

During the opening ceremony, sailors from around the world poured water from their home seas into a shared aquarium — a powerful symbol that, no matter our flags, languages, or distances, we all sail the same waters. In that moment, Antigua and Barbuda's colours stood proudly among the world's finest, carried forward by a new generation ready to shape the future of the sport.





All Saints United and Grenades stay unbeaten in Premier Division



A starting XI of the All Saints United football team

Back-to-back defending champions All Saints United, along with the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades, maintained their unbeaten runs in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

Winger Raheem Deterville struck a hat trick as All Saints United cruised to a 4-1 victory against Pigotts Bullets FC in the last game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Deterville opened their

scoring by converting a penalty kick in the 28th minute and completed his hat trick with two more conversions in the 74th minute and the third minute of added time.

Kenduka Challenger converted the other goal in the 39th minute for All Saints United, while Kimon Harrigan scored a consolation goal in the 61st minute for the Pigotts Bullets, who remain on nine points after slumping to their third loss in six matches.

All Saints United re-

mains at the top of the Premier Division standings by advancing to 21 points after recording their seventh win in as many games.

Barrington Blake scored twice to lead the Jennings Grenades to their sixth win in seven matches with a 5-2 victory against the Ottos Rangers in the opening match of Saturday's triple-header.

Blake converted a penalty kick in the sixth minute and scored his second in the third minute of added time. The Jennings Grenades also benefitted from an own goal, which was converted by Jevaughn Adams in the 65th minute.

The other goals were scored by Stanley Province in the 13th minute and Troy Jules in the 20th minute, as the result carries the Jennings Grenades to 19 points.

Josue Arias had a 48th-minute conversion, and Junior Benjamin scored in the 61st minute for the Ottos Rangers, who remain on one point after crashing to their sixth defeat in seven matches.

The Aston Villa Lions notched up their fifth win in six matches by surging to a 3-0 victory against John Hughes FC in Saturday's second encounter.

The goals for the Villa Lions were scored by captain Kwame "Munchie" Kirby in the 29th minute, Jahlanie Barzey in the 61st minute, and Eroy Gonsalves in the 78th minute.

The result allows the Villa Lions to move on to 15 points, while John Hughes FC remains on three points after suffering their sixth defeat in seven matches.

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes55@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.