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Minister Greene calls for a partnership with hotels ahead of CHOGM

Story on page 2



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Local News



FA Minister Greene calls for closer cooperation from hotels ahead of next year's CHOGM



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene is calling on the owners and operators of local hotels to work closely with the government as planning for the hosting of next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) intensifies. Minister Greene was speaking Tuesday at a meeting of the National Task Force appointed by the government to plan and implement all aspects of the meeting.

Several of the sub-committee heads complained that their interactions with the hotels were problematic as some hotels were making what were seen as unreasonable requests, while in other cases, the hotels seemed to indicate that their prices for accommodation would increase, even above what they would charge for regular stay.

Greene said this behavior by the ho-





tels was unacceptable, as the government had made a conscious effort to attract major international meetings from which they all benefit.

"There needs to be a change in the manner in which the hotels interact with the government on this question of accommodation for the visitors attending these conferences. After all, it is the government that is attracting large numbers of visitors to fill their rooms. They then have a responsibility to cooperate with the government in this major undertaking. This is not an ABLP affair; it is a national event and it requires all of us, including the hotels sector, to

cooperate and to make it a success," the minister declared.

The Foreign Affairs Minister indicated that he anticipates that between five and seven thousand persons will be visiting Antigua and Barbuda for CHOGM which is slated for November 1 to 4, 2026.

He noted that CHOGM is the second largest gathering of world leaders in the world and the meeting will be the biggest event of its kind ever to be held in Antigua and Barbuda. Several monarchs, including the head of the Commonwealth, King Charles of the UK, are expected to attend the meeting.

Minister Greene is therefore appealing to all sectors of the local economy to cooperate and to make the hosting of this momentous event a success.

Additionally, the minister is urging the various sub-committees to carve out spaces for the benefits of hosting the conference to trickle down to the small locally-owned businesses as much as possible.

"Go local as much as possible, but do not compromise standards!" he urged.



Prime Minister Meets Global Call Finalists to Discuss Innovative Project Proposals



The Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday hosted a high-level meeting with the 10 finalists of the UN-Government of Antigua and Barbuda Global Call for Project Pitches, who are on the island attending a Proof-of-Concept Workshop. These finalists presented transformative proposals aimed at advancing sustainable development and resilience in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for the creativity and technical rigor demonstrated in the submissions. He commended the finalists for their commitment to addressing critical challenges such as food security, climate resilience, and economic diversification.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister stated:

"I am truly impressed by the caliber of ideas presented. These

projects reflect the innovation and forward-thinking that our region needs to thrive in a rapidly changing global environment. I wish all finalists the very best as they progress to the next phase of this important initiative."

The Prime Minister also highlighted several proposals of particular interest for national implementation, including:

- ► Scaling Mushroom Production to sustain livelihoods for women and youth.
- ► Improving waste management and energy security, a circular waste-to-energy model that promotes sustainability and resource efficiency.
- ► Sol Agri System, a hybrid hydroponic and aeroponic farm powered by solar energy and managed through advanced data

ecosystems.

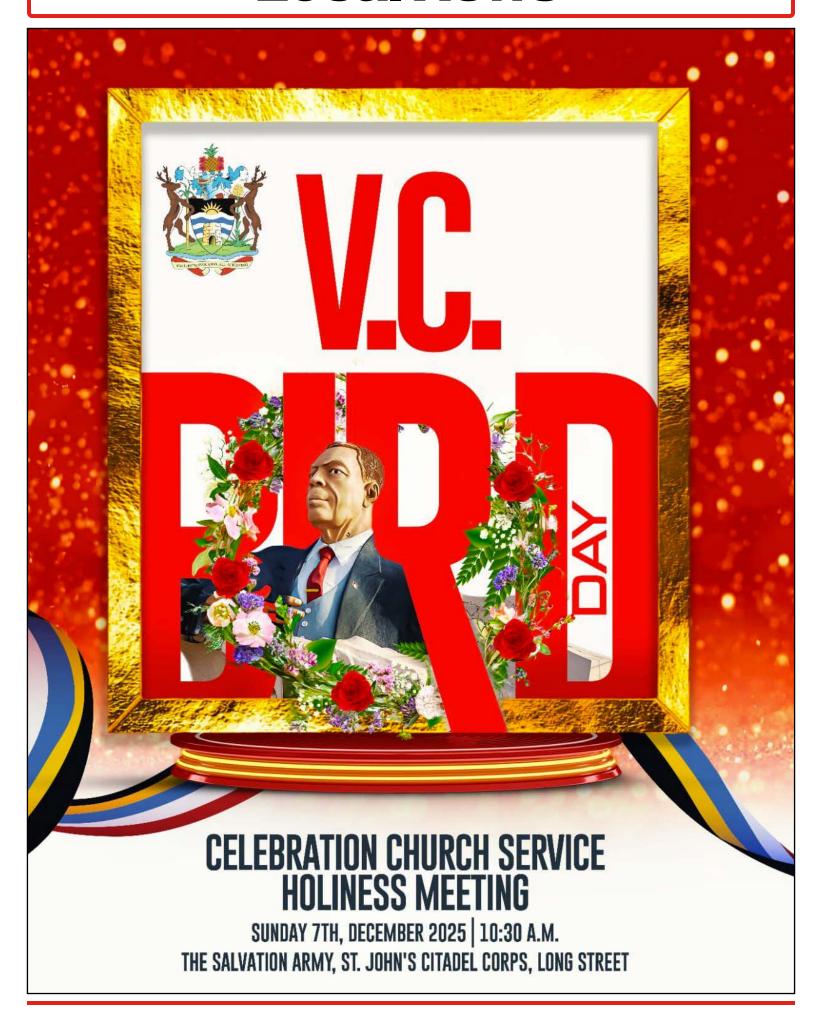
- Enhancing Fisheries and Sargassum Mitigation, using an innovative blend of fish food that supports marine ecosystems and reduces sargassum accumulation.
- ► BEACON project, using a state-of-the-art approach to deliver a solution to the Codrington Lagoon Barrier breach.

These projects represent strategic opportunities, leverage public and private financing to strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's resilience, create green jobs, and advance the country's leadership in sustainable development.

The Government remains committed to supporting initiatives that align with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.







Local News



NODS advances District Command Centres for Community Level Disaster Coordination



serves as a hub for meeting and planning activities.

"Having a dedicated command centre allows NODS to have a wider scope of getting directly to those persons affected, conduct targeted training and have a permanent place of operations, said NODS Director Sherrod James. Support for the project came through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Country Directed Fund. NODS is working with the Ministry of Works, the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and other critical entities to have these command centres completed and operational.

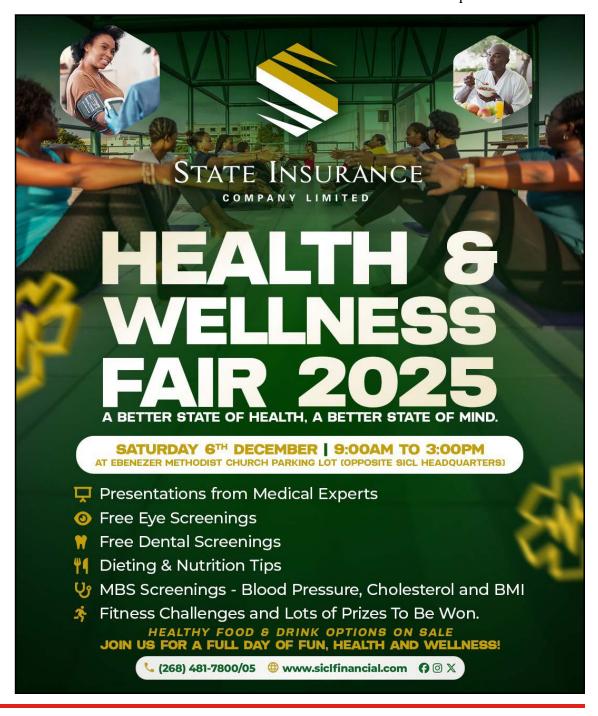
The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is expanding the number of District Disaster Command Centres across the country to decentralize coordination and communication capabilities at the community level.

The command centres will be constructed using 20-foot storage containers affixed to concrete columns and then outfitted.

To date, nine containers have been acquired which are now being placed in various communities. The goal is to have a centre in each of the 17 disaster districts including Barbuda.

Ultimately, this project seeks to strengthen resilience at the community level by improving their capabilities to plan with critical stakeholders and implement community level activities and response.

A case for this is the recently constructed command centre for the St. John's Rural East District, located on Hawkins Drive in Cassada Gardens, that was opened on 22nd June 2023. It now provides a home base for the function of the District Disaster Committee and





Local News



Public Warned Against Purchasing Stolen Items

The police are warning residents to desist from purchasing suspected stolen items, as the practice continues to fuel incidents of break-ins and larcenies across the islands.

In recent weeks, the police have received several reports where household appliances, electronics, and other valuable items have been stolen from homes and other properties. It is suspected that these items are being resold within local communities.

The Police Administration is reminding the public that it is a criminal offence under the Larceny Act, Cap. 241 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, for anyone to knowingly receive or purchase property that has been stolen or unlawfully obtained. Persons found guilty of this offence may face a prison sentence of up to ten (10) years.

The police are strongly urging anyone involved in this illegal activity to immediately desist.

Members of the public are also encouraged to be vigilant and to report any suspicious sales or persons attempting to dispose of items under questionable circumstances.

Anyone with information that can assist with ongoing investigations is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the anonymous Crimestoppers hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).









PDV Caribe donates to Care Project



PDV Caribe has made a donation of 6-thousand dollars to the Care Project to assist the facility to purchase much needed supplies for its operations.

PDV Caribe General Manager Jellette Ralph presented the cheque to representatives of the Care Project at a brief ceremony on Tuesday at the former Pediatric Ward at the Holberton Hospital. Accepting on behalf of the facility were Matron, Aldine Robins and Operations Manager, Sandy Daniel.

The Care Project is a government-run facility that provides a home and essential care for persons with severe mental or physical disabilities many of whom have been abandoned by their families. For most residents, the Care Project is the only home they have ever known and many are expected to remain under the care of the facility throughout their lives.

While the project primarily serves children, residents at the facility range in age from 10 years to 48 years.

The Care Project functions as a department within the Ministry of Health.

Ralph explained that PDV Caribe chose to make the donation to the Care Project in keeping with its motto; 'To recognize our common humanity and to serve others with dignity'. She also encouraged other corporate entities to contribute to the Care Project, noting that the level of love and care provided at the facility are unmatched.

PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd. is a private company owned by the government of Antigua and Barbuda which operationalizes the PetroCaribe Energy agreement.

According to Ralph, over the years PDV Caribe has funded several developmental and infrastructural projects as well as social services catering to the well-being of residents of Antigua and Barbuda. These include the People's



Benefit Programme which provides \$100.00 monthly to pensioners to help settle their utility bills as well as \$215.00 monthly to families

facing financial hardship.

In September, PDV Caribe celebrated its 20th anniversary.



Local News



Local dentist participates in National Dental Board Exams of Trinidad and Tobago



L to R Dr. Larry Coldero, Dental Council of Trinidad and Tobago(DCTT) Examiner, Dr. Reisha RafeekChairperson DCTT examinations sub-committee& Chief Examiner, Dr. Shivaughn Marchan, DCTTExaminer, Director of The School of Dentistry, St Augustine UWI, Dr. Derek Marshall-DCTT Regional Board Examiner

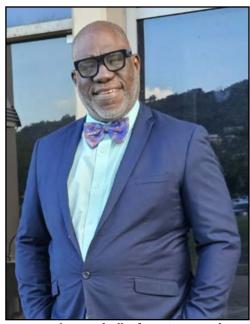
Antigua and Barbuda's **Dr. Derek Marshall** has been hounored as the first regional examiner to participate in the National Trinidad and Tobago Dental Board Examinations, held on November 27 and 28, 2025.

The Board's examination structure includes both a didactic section and a clinical component, requiring candidates to demonstrate proficiency and successfully pass each section. This rigorous evaluation process ensures that successful candidates meet the basic standards of care expected of dental

professionals worldwide.

Dr. Marshall, along with a select group of esteemed Trinidadian dentists trained across various regions, to include the UK, the US, and the University of the West Indies, conducted clinical evaluations.

On Day 1, the focus was on endodontics (root canal procedures) and fixed prosthodontics (crowns and bridges), whilst Day 2 centered on restorative dentistry (fillings) and periodontics (deep scaling and root planning).



Dr. Derek Marshall of Antigua and Barbuda



Scheduled System Upgrade



ATMs, Debit Cards and Debit Card Pinning

Dear Valued Customer,

To further upgrade our services, ECAB will conduct a scheduled system upgrade from **9:00 p.m. Wednesday**, **December 3**, **2025 to 3:00 a.m. Thursday**, **December 4**, **2025**. The upgrade will temporarily impact the services listed below:

SERVICE	INTERRUPTION PERIOD	DETAILS
Debit Card Transactions	9 p.m. Wednesday 3rd - 3 a.m. Thursday 4th	Transactions will be unavailable during the upgrade window.
Branch ATMs • Woods Branches • Redcliffe Street • High Street • Coolidge	1:00 p.m. Wednesday 3rd - 3 a.m. Thursday 4th	1 ATM at each location will remain online until 9 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd for customer use.
Remote ATMs 1st Choice Foods Epicuriean Supermarket Perry Bay Supermarket Jolly Harbour Dockyard	9 p.m. Wednesday 3rd - 12 p.m. Thursday 4th	
MOREBankingDebit Card PIN reset feature only	9 p.m 3 a.m.	All other MOREBanking services remain available.

Customers are encouraged to make arrangements to use alternative methods of payment such as credit cards, cheques or cash during this period.

For questions or support, please contact our Customer Support & Digital Banking team at (268) 480-6186 or info@ecabank.com

We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience as we conduct this necessary update.

MANAGEMENT

Local News



Governor General attends the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society's Annual Fair and Flower Show



Governor General in the Floral Competition Room with President Barbara Japal and Member Jackie Ferracho

The Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams was warmly welcomed at the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society's Annual Fair and Flower Show on Satur-



Plant Seller Lorilyn Walker

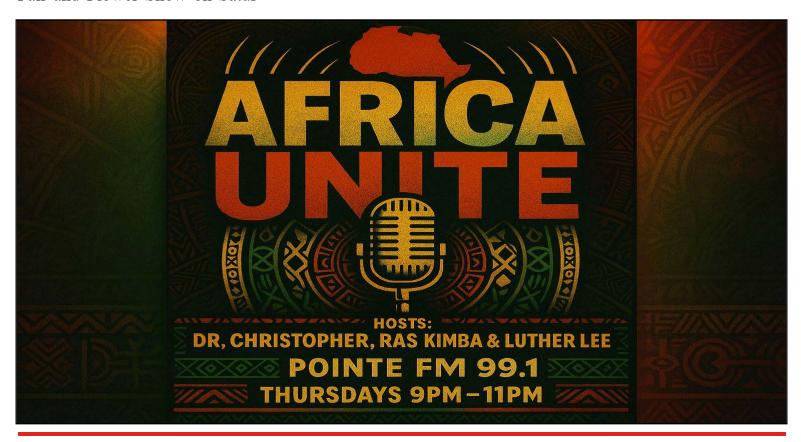
day afternoon. The event, held at the Society's tranquil headquarters Agave Gardens, brought together plant lovers, floral artists, community members, and vendors for a celebration of creativ-



Best in Booth Sandra Patrick of Exclima-

ity, horticultural skill, and local enterprise.

The President, Barbara Japal led Sir Rodney on a guided tour through the floral exhibition







Best In Show Lorraine Davis' Let's Pollinate

room, where they were greeted by member Jackie Ferracho and treated to an impressive display of local floral art and botanical arrangements. The Governor General expressed appreciation for the Society's role in promoting environmental awareness, gardening, and the beautification of Antigua and Barbuda.

Throughout the fair, Sir Rodney visited several plant booths, including displays by Denise's Plants as well as Lorilyn Walker, who showcased a diverse collection of ornamentals, succulents, and tropical foliage. The vibrant marketplace atmosphere reflected the growing popularity of home gardening and sustainable horticultural practices across the island.

A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of awards for the Floral Design Competition. Frankie Pereira received two



Prickly Plants



Celebrating Silver Win at the International Chelsea Flower Show

prizes on behalf of Lorraine Davis, who secured top recognition in multiple categories including the coveted Best in Show award with her 'Let's Pollinate' design.

In addition, Sandra Patrick of Exclimations was honoured with the award for Best Booth, acknowledging her exceptional creativi-



Ralph with his selection of unique fruit trees ty, presentation, and engagement with fairgoers.

The Governor General extended gratitude to the organisers, exhibitors, and patrons for an inspiring and enjoyable afternoon, noting the importance of such events in building community spirit and supporting local talent.

Local News



ABLP St. John's Rural West Branch hosts appreciation luncheon for longstanding constituents









The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) St. John's Rural West Branch hosted a special appreciation luncheon this week in honour of more than 60 longstanding constituents who have played a pivotal role in shaping the constituency and for supporting the branch over the years.

The event was held to rec-

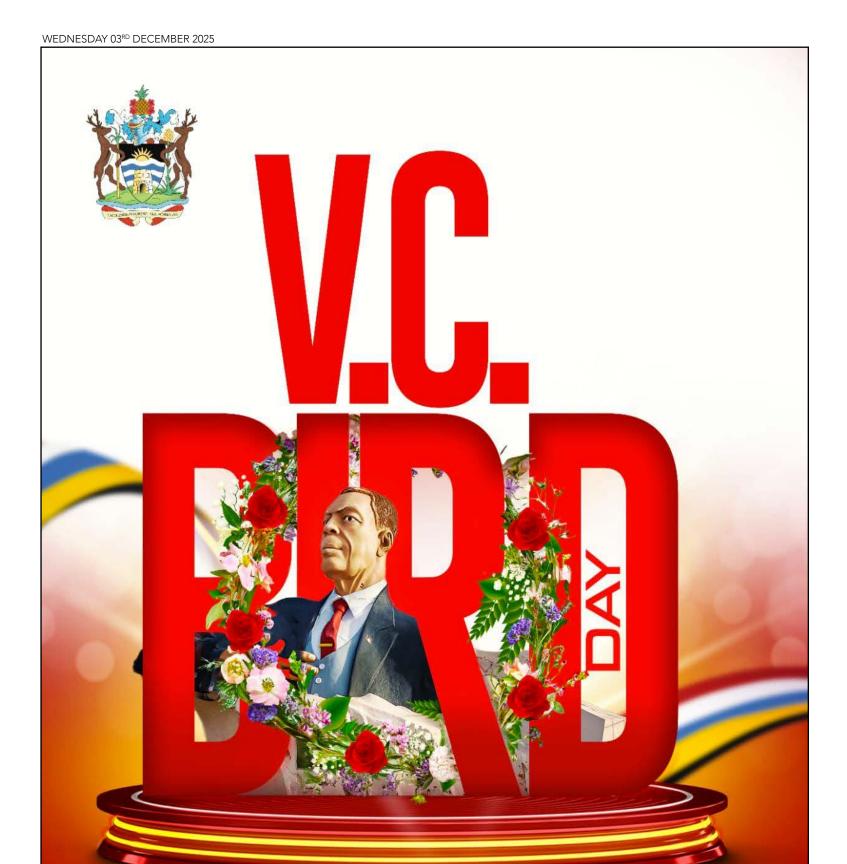
ognise the contributions of the community's "pillars"—individuals whose dedication, loyalty and hard work have strengthened the branch and helped nurture growth across St. John's Rural West. Attendees were treated to a warm, celebratory atmosphere where fellowship, gratitude and community spirit were at the forefront.

Branch representatives noted that the luncheon forms part of their continued commitment to acknowledging those who paved the way and ensuring that the people who have given so much to the constituency feel valued and appreciated.

Among the attendees community was member Carol Bird, who shared her appreciation for the thoughtful gesture. "It was a very good gesture-strong team and very strong and dedicated supporters," she said. "I am really thankful I came."

The branch reaffirmed that events like these not only honour past contributions but also help strengthen community bonds as they continue working together for the advancement of St. John's Rural West.





COMMEMORATION AND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

V.C. BUST, MARKET STREET, ST. JOHN'S
TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 2025 | 8:00 AM



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:

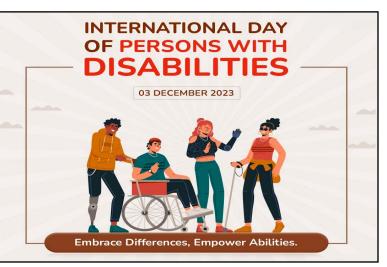
To register your property, SignUp here: https://bit.ly/chogmhotels

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

Feature







The Orange Series 16 Days, One Mission: Safety for Every Woman & Girl

Day 9, December 3rd — International Day of Persons with Disabilities — Where **Protection Meets Inclusion**

Day Nine rises softly like Wadadli dawn, touching the hills, the homes, and the hearts of women who too often walk unseen paths. Today we lift the voices of women and girls with disabilities — and ask the questions the world avoids: Who protects her when she depends on the person who may harm her? Who believes her when her story reaches ears trained in disbelief? Who builds the doors she can actually walk through? The United Nations tells us plainly that women with disabilities face violence two to three times more often than their peers. Their vulnerability does not come from disability — it comes from exclusion. It comes from systems not built to hear their words or support their needs. It comes from stigma that paints dependence as weakness and silence as consent.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the Disabilities Act of 2017 promised access and equality. But promises require practice. What does protection mean when reporting systems lack accessibility? What does justice look like if shelters have steps she cannot climb? What does freedom feel like if she cannot board the bus to safety?UNESCO tells us, "Inclusion is justice — not charity."

Justice means she is believed. Justice means she is supported. Justice means she counts fully — not conditionally.

Some women endure harm quietly: a carer controls medication, movement, food, or money. A partner removes assistive tools. A relative restricts communication. And because abuse looks different when disability intersects with dependency, it often goes unnoticed — masked as caregiving. But Caribbean women with disabilities are oceans — deep, resilient, brilliant. They lead advocacy movements, create businesses, teach children, serve communities, and challenge laws that fail to include them. They are not burdens — they are beacons of strength navigating a world not designed for them. Yet stigma still shadows families, encouraging hiding instead of empowerment. Isolation becomes her prison, and prison becomes vulnerability. How can safety exist where inclusion does not?

Education breaks stigma's grip. Community conversations dismantle myths. Inclusive systems build safety. Police training creates trust. Accessible shelters create refuge. Transportation creates escape routes. Voice

recognition creates justice. Day Nine reminds us protection must be visible built into sidewalks, courtrooms, hospitals, schools, shelters, and transport systems. Equality must be physical, practical, and permanent.

Sixteen Days, one promise: safety for ALL women and girls.

Not most.

Not some.

ALL.

When women with disabilities are safe, seen, and supported, the entire nation rises. And Antigua and Barbuda gains something greater than compliance — it gains community justice.

Today, we say:

No woman is invisible.

No disability excuses neglect.

No system may exclude her safety.

Justice must be accessible.

Joshuanette Francis

Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.

Mobile: +1 (268) 789 GOOD (4663) Website: https://goodhumans268.org/ Tel 268 727 2120 or 268 463 5674



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES REMINDS EVERYONE THAT THE CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025 REGISTRATION IS STILL ONGOING.

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.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service from December 15th, 2025, to January 15th, 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and/or Decorations, and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone, as outlined below.

First Place - \$3,000.00 XCD
 Second Place - \$2,000.00 XCD
 Third Place - \$1,000,00 XCD

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, DutyFree concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

First Place - \$3,000.00 XCD
 Second Place - \$2,000.00 XCD
 Third Place - \$1,000,00 XCD

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

Regional News



Tourism minister: Mas Domnik and WCMF 2025 bring joint revenue of over 69 million to country

Minister for Tourism, Denise Charles-Pemberton, has announced that, thus far, Carnival 2025 and World Creole Music Festival together have pumped an estimated 69.6 million-dollars into the economy.

She made the announcement during the official launching ceremony of Mas Domnik 2026 held on Friday.

"So far, for 2025 Carnival and World Creole Music Festival together have pumped an estimated 69.6 million into our economy, supporting thousands of jobs, expanding business activity, and ensuring meanincome flows ingful across the country," she said. "When our culture moves, Dominica moves, when our creatives thrive, our people thrive. "

She continued, "As we look towards Dominica Carnival 2026, expect bigger, better and bolder."

According to Charles-Pemperton, special focus will be placed on traditional mas for the opening of Carnival and the national parade, scheduled for January





10, 2026.

"Carnival City returns to Windsor Park's Sports Stadium to offer a safe, comfortable and central space for both performers and spectators," she stated. "Roseau will come alive with chill zones, entertainment pockets, food, craft, culture and music."

The minister added, "And with a full calendar of fringe events and village mas, the party simply never stops. One thing you need for Dominica Carnival is energy. From sunrise to sundown is pure 'Sewo'."

Meanwhile, the Minister revealed that this year her ministry and Discover Dominica Authority (DDA) proudly honour Mr. Darnley Guye as Mas Domnik 2026 Personality of the Year for his contribution for over 50 years, from costume building to parade organization, craftsmanship and leadership.

"Tonight we honour the people who make Carnival extraordinary," she said. "For the 2025 season, we pay tribute to the late [Frankie] 'Krazy T' Bellot [and] for Carnival 2026 we honour a man whose commit-

ment spans more than 50 years, Darnley Guye," Charles-Pemberton revealed. "From costume building to parade organization, to shared craftsmanship and leadership."

She emphasized that Mr. Guye has shaped the very festival being celebrated today.

"His hands carried this culture long before many of us even touched the road," she noted. "This evening we applaud him as Mas Domnik 2026 Personality of the Year." (Dominica News Online)

Regional News



\$40m relief fund activated for storm-hit cops



The management committee of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Welfare Fund has activated a \$40-million humanitarian allocation to assist police officers whose homes and families were devastated by the catastrophic passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The fund, which comprises representatives of the Police Officers' Association, the Jamaica Police Federation, and the United District Constables Association, will provide direct support to law-enforcement members to recover while still serving on the front lines.

Sergeant Arleen McBean, chairman of the Jamaica Police Federation, told The Gleaner that while many officers suffered severe personal loss, their professionalism never wavered.

"Many of our colleagues in St Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Hanover, Trelawny, St James and other parishes were severely affected by this hurricane. However, they ensured service above self and continue to serve the citizens of Jamaica," McBean said.

She noted that throughout the height of the storm, officers executed hundreds of rescues and relocations.

"The members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force were extremely outstanding during the passage of Hur-

ricane Melissa, ensuring that citizens were transported safely to various shelters and family homes across the length and breadth of Jamaica," she said.

The JCF also maintained security during and after the storm, even as officers struggled with their own losses.

McBean said the Welfare Fund has already begun its outreach to regional and global law-enforcement partners to bolster the recovery effort. "We have reached out to our Caribbean and international partners to join with us to see how best we can assist those who serve, protect, and reassure our citizens of Jamaica," she explained.

She used the opportunity to salute every police officer who stood firm during the crisis.

"I want to use this opportunity to commend every police officer in the JCF for this level of dedication and service to the citizens of Jamaica." (Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News



Dominica's gov't announces upgraded fees for eco sites



Following the recent announcement in the National Budget Address for the 2025/2026 fiscal year, the Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment, and Constituency Empowerment has revealed new fee structures for access to the country's national parks and eco-tourism attractions.

These revised fees will take effect starting December 1, 2025, as per a press release from the Office of the Prime

Minister.

The announcement added that in addition to the fee updates, two popular natural attractions—Titou Gorge and Cold Soufrière—have been officially designated as eco-tourism sites under national jurisdiction. As part of this designation, standard entrance fees will now be applied to visitors wishing to explore these scenic locations.

The OPM indicated that the adjustment in fee structures

aims to generate additional revenue that will be reinvested into the preservation of Dominica's rich biodiversity. Reportedly, these funds will support efforts to maintain trails and landscapes, bolster conservation initiatives, and ensure the sustainable management of these natural sites.

According to the release, to enhance visitor convenience, plans are underway to enable the purchase of access passes online ahead of travel, facilitating smoother

entry and better planning for visitors.

The new fee categories are as follows:

- Private site visits (excluding the Waitukubuli National Trail): US\$8.00 per visit
- Day passes (excluding the Waitukubuli National Trail): US\$20.00 per day
- Weekly passes (excluding the Waitukubuli National Trail): [Fee details to be announced or completed] (Dominica News Online)





International

PAGE 23

Prada Group says it has purchased fashion rival Versace in a deal worth nearly \$1.4 billion

The Prada Group announced Tuesday that it has officially purchased Milan fashion rival Versace in a 1.25 billion euro (nearly \$1.4 billion) deal that puts the fashion house known for its sexy silhouettes under the same roof as Prada's "ugly chic" aesthetic and Miu Miu's youth-driven appeal.

The highly anticipated deal is expected to relaunch Versace's fortunes, after middling post-pandemic performance as part of the U.S. luxury group Capri Holdings.

Prada said in a one-line statement that the acquisition had been completed after receiving all regulatory clearances.

Prada heir Lorenzo Bertelli will steer Versace's next phase as executive chairman, in addition to his roles as group marketing director and sustainability chief.

The son of co-creative director Miuccia Prada and long-time Prada Group chairman Patrizio Bertelli has said he doesn't expect to make any swift executive changes at Versace. But Bertelli has said that the company, which places among the top 10 most recognized brands in the world, has long been underperforming in the market.

Prada has underlined that the 47-year-old Versace brand offered "significant untapped growth potential."



Versace has been in the midst of a creative relaunch under a new designer, Dario Vitale, who previewed his first collection during Milan Fashion Week in September. He had previously been head of design at Miu Miu, but his move to Versace was unrelated to the Prada deal, executives have said.

Capri Holdings, which owns Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo, paid \$2 billion for Versace in 2018, but had been struggling to position Versace's bold profile in the recent era of "quiet luxury."

Versace represented 20% of Capri Holdings 2024 revenue of 5.2 billion euros. An analyst presentation for the Prada deal said that Versace would represent 13% of the Prada Group's pro-for-

ma revenues, with Miu Miu coming in at 22% and Prada at 64%. The Prada Group, which also includes Church's footwear, reported a 17% boost in revenues to 5.4 billion euros last year.

The Prada Group has already begun preparations to incorporate crosstown rival Versace into its Italian manufacturing system, a point of pride for the group.

"Making a bag for one brand or another, the knowhow is the same," Bertelli told reporters last week at the group's Scandicci leather goods factory, which already makes bags for the Prada and Miu Miu brands and will soon add Versace.

The Prada Group's has invested 60 million euros in its supply chain this year,

including a new leather goods factory near Siena, a new knitwear factory near Perugia as well as increasing production at its factory Church's footwear factory in Britain and expanding another Tuscan factory. That's on top of 200 million euros in investments from 2019-24.

Prada's efforts include an academy that has trained some 570 new artisans over the last 25 years in an in-house training academy operating in the Tuscany, Marche, Veneto and Umbria regions.

Last year, Prada hired 70% of the 120 artisans who trained in the academy. The number of trainees rose by 28% to 152 this year. (AP)

International



AROUND THE WORLD

Honduran ex-president Juan Orlando Hernández released from US prison after Trump pardon



Juan Orlando Hernández, the former president of Honduras, has been released from a US prison, according to online records of federal inmates, after he received a pardon from US President Donald Trump for drug charges.

The records show Hernández was released from the high security facility of USP Hazelton in West Virginia on Monday.

Hernández was found guilty in March 2024 of conspiring to import cocaine to the US, and of possessing machine guns. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison.

The US president said Hernández had been "treated very harshly and unfairly" in a social media post announcing the move on Friday. Writing on her social media on Tuesday, Hernández's wife, Ana García de Hernández, thanked Trump for the pardon, and said her husband was now a free man.

Hernández, a member of Honduras's National Party who served as the country's president from 2014 to 2022, was extradited to the US in April 2022 to stand trial for running a violent drug trafficking conspiracy and helping to smuggle hundreds of tonnes of cocaine to the US.

During his trial, prosecutors in New York said Hernández ran the Central American country like a "narco-state" and accepted millions of dollars in bribes from drug traffickers to shield them from the law.

He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$8m (£6m) as part of his sentence.

Trump explained his reasoning for the pardon while talking to reporters on Air Force One on Sunday.

He claimed the investigation into Hernández was a "Biden administration set up", referring to his predecessor in the White House.

"They basically said he was a drug dealer because he was the president of the country," Trump said.

Hernández's release comes as Honduras is locked in a "technical tie" for the election of a new president.

As of Monday afternoon, there were just 515 votes separating right-wing candidate Nasry Asfura from his nearest challenger, Salvador Nasralla, a former TV host standing for the country's centrist party.

Trump criticised Nasralla on Friday, writing that he was "a borderline Communist".

He characterised Asfura as "standing up for democracy" and praised him for campaigning against Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, with whom Trump has engaged in a war of words in recent months.

For his part, Nasralla has pledged to cut ties with Venezuela if he wins.

The Trump administration has accused the left-wing Maduro - whose re-election last year was dismissed as illegitimate by many countries - of being the leader of a drugs cartel.

It has said its efforts to counter drug trafficking are a justification for a military build-up in the Caribbean. The administration has also conducted strikes on vessels it says have been used for smuggling though some analysts have described these moves as a means of pressurising Latin American leaders.

Honduras has been governed since 2022 by President Xiomara Castro, who has forged close ties with Cuba and Venezuela. (BBC)



International



Diddy hits out at 'shameful' and 'illegal' documentary

Lawyers for Sean "Diddy" Combs have hit out at a new Netflix documentary produced by rapper 50 Cent, which they say is "a shameful hit piece" that "relied on stolen footage".

The four-part documentary, titled Sean Combs: The Reckoning, was released on Tuesday and is billed as a "staggering examination" of the hip-hop mogul, who was convicted on prostitution-related charges earlier this year.

It includes what Netflix described as "explosive" footage of Combs filmed in the days before his arrest, including a phone conversation with his lawyers.

The director said she obtained the footage legally, but Combs' spokesman said it was "fundamentally unfair, and illegal" to use his private footage.

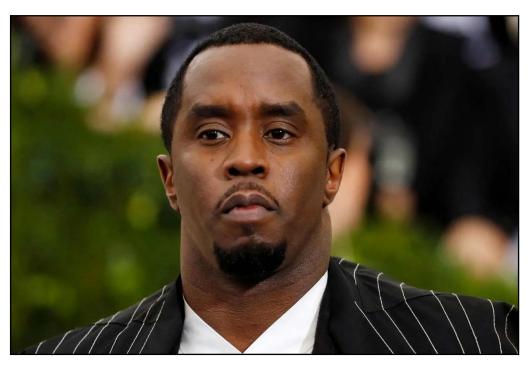
He also said it was "staggering" that Netflix had given creative control to 50 Cent, who he described as "a longtime adversary with a personal vendetta".

"Netflix is plainly desperate to sensationalise every minute of Mr Combs's life, without regard for truth, in order to capitalise on a never-ending media frenzy," the statement said.

"If Netflix cared about truth or about Mr Combs's legal rights, it would not be ripping private footage out of context - including conversations with his lawyers that were never intended for public viewing. No rights in that material were ever transferred to Netflix or any third party."

The statement added: "For Netflix to give his life story to someone who has publicly attacked him for decades feels like an unnecessary and deeply personal affront. At minimum, he expected fairness from people he respected."

The documentary opens with footage of Combs in a hotel room six days before arrest in September 2024, talking



on the phone to attorney Marc Agnifilo and telling him he wants to "fight for my life".

Pushing Agnifilo to have a more upfront media strategy to protest his innocence, Combs told him: "We have to find somebody that'll work with us. It has to be somebody that has dealt in the dirtiest of dirtiest of dirty business of [the] media and propaganda."

At another point, viewers see Combs talking to his son Justin on the phone five days before his arrest. "God told me to do nothing... [but] other people need to do something 'cause this is ridiculous," he said in the clip.



International



Combs' spokesman said the documentary contained footage that was "never authorised for release".

"As Netflix and CEO Ted Sarandos know, Mr Combs has been amassing footage since he was 19 to tell his own story, in his own way. It is fundamentally unfair, and illegal, for Netflix to misappropriate that work."

Netflix has not responded to a request for a response but pointed US media to comments it has published from the documentary's director Alexandria Stapleton.

"It came to us, we obtained the footage legally and have the necessary rights," she said. "We moved heaven and earth to keep the film-maker's identity confidential."

The documentary is executive produced by Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, whose long-running feud with Combs stretches back two decades.

Jackson told ABC News' Good Morning America on Monday: "If I didn't say anything, you would interpret it as that hip-hop is fine with his behaviours. There's no-one else being vocal."

The documentary covers Combs' career as one of the most powerful men in hip-hop, and includes allegations that he was involved in the murder of rapper Tupac Shakur in 1996.

It features tapes of a police interview in which former gang member Duane "Keffe D" Davis claims that Combs offered him \$1m (£769,000) for a hit on Shakur.

Mr Davis is set to stand trial for Shakur's murder in 2026. He now says his proffer agreement with police, under which he agreed to tell them what he knew but it couldn't be used against him in court, was given under duress, according to Netflix.

The programme also includes Kirk Burrowes, who co-founded Bad Boy

Entertainment with Combs, claiming that he believes Combs "had a lot to do with the death of Tupac".

Combs has always denied any involvement in Shakur's death.

The documentary also features further claims of violence and threats, many of which have previously been made public in dozens of lawsuits, including alleged abuse against former girlfriend Cassie, which ended in a settlement.

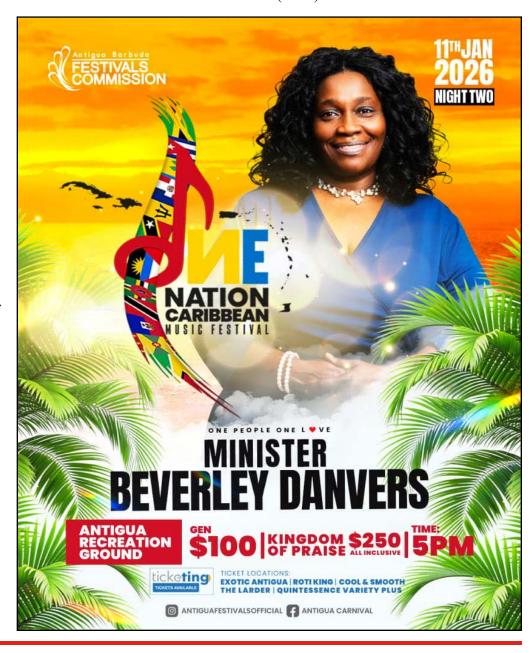
Combs has previously denied the complaints, calling them "sickening" and "full of lies".

In a media statement earlier this year, his lawyers said "anyone can file a lawsuit", adding: "No matter how many lawsuits are filed it won't change the fact that Mr Combs has never sexually assaulted or sex trafficked anyone – man or woman, adult or minor."

The documentary also includes interviews with two jurors from Combs' trial.

In July, he was convicted on two charges of transportation to engage in prostitution but found not guilty of the most serious charges - racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking of two ex-girlfriends.

He is now serving a 50-month prison sentence and has said he will appeal. (BBC)





Sports News



American coach to take part in MDBA Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp



Organizer of the MDBA Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp Mahijah Davis, right, accepts a cheque from Lorraine Bryan of Bridget's Supermarket. (Photo courtesy of the MDBA)

The Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) 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 ninth annual MDBA Christmas Camp, which will take place at the JSC Sports Complex from Monday, December 15, to Friday, December 19.

Cox is currently the sports agent for Seros Partners in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the United States of America. He has also acquired significant coaching experience, having served in head and assistant coach positions at several colleges and universities in the United States of America.

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.

This month's MDBA camp will be conducted in two sessions per day. A session for the 12 to 16 age group will take place from 3 pm to 4:55 pm, while another session for the 17 to 25 age group will be held from 5 pm to 6:55 pm.

A fee of US\$120 or EC\$300 per person is being

charged to participate, and registration will be done at the venue on the first day of the camp. Participants will receive jerseys and camp shirts.

Light refreshments will be provided to the participants. Interested persons can call 721-2264 for more information.

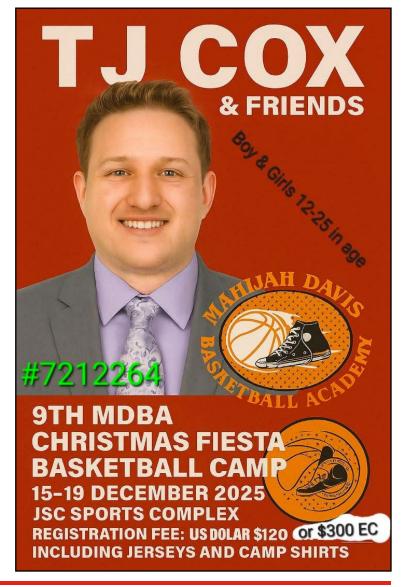
This month's camp will serve as a valuable showpiece of talent, discipline, and athletic development.

Meanwhile, Bridget Supermarket has made a generous donation to this year's

MDBA Christmas Camp. The financial assistance is geared towards the support of the young children in utilizing safer and more positive environments.

It will also assist in youth development and the empowering of young men and women striving for their dreams.

Davis expressed his gratitude to Lorraine Bryan of Bridget's Supermarket for the contribution, which will assist in the success of this year's MDBA Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp.



Sports News



Windies Under-19s claim 5-2 win against England in youth ODI series



Players of the West Indies Under-19 team

The West Indies Men Under-19s clinched their seven-match Youth One-Day International (YODI) series 5-2 with a 59-run victory against England's Men Under-19s in the final match at the National Stadium in Grenada on Monday.

The Young English Lions bowled out the West Indies for 213, with Surrey seamer Alex French claiming three for 21.

Caleb Falconer top scored in the chase with 52, but the English tourists were bowled out for 154 to suffer their fifth loss of the series. Aadian Racha snapped up four for 21, and Antiguan leg-spinner Micah McKenzie grabbed four for 38.

Captain Farhan Ahmed was his usual dependable self, taking two for 37 from his 10 overs during the West Indies innings.

The finger spinner bowled Tyriek Bryan for 36 and then the dangerous Joshua Dorne for 39, with deliveries that caught both on the crease to finish the trip with 12 wickets at an average of 21.6.

Fellow spinner Ralphie Albert, also impressive on the trip, returned two for 35 before the recalled French removed the West Indies middle lower order. Shamar Apple and Aadian Racha each made 31 for the West Indies.

In reply, the Young English Lions

were unable to build partnerships, with Falconer's half-century the standout, while wicketkeeper Joe Moores added 37.

The West Indies and the Young English Lions will begin their final preparations ahead of the 2026 ICC Under-19s Men's World Cup, which begins in Zimbabwe and Namibia next month.

The West Indies will contest Group D along with Afghanistan, South Africa, and Tanzania. The West Indies will take on Tanzania in their opening match at Windhoek in Tanzania on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

England's Men Under-19s have been drawn alongside co-hosts Zimbabwe, Pakistan, and Scotland in Group B. England's opening game is against Pakistan in Harare, Zimbabwe, on January 16.



Sports News



Windies pace puts New Zealand on the ropes in Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters) - West Indies produced a fine display of disciplined fast bowling to leave New Zealand clinging on at 231 for nine when bad light brought an early end to play on the opening day of the first Test at Christchurch's Hagley Oval on Tuesday.

Recalled paceman Kemar Roach led the way with a wicket from the third delivery of the day and his younger teammates Justin Greaves, Jayden Seales, Ojay Shields, and Johann Layne all pitched in to maintain the pressure.

Kane Williamson, granted a life on 33 when debutant Shields bowled him through the gate off a no-ball, scored his 38th Test half century in a 93-run partnership with Tom Latham but three wickets in four overs put the Black Caps in trouble at 103 for four.

The West Indies, who last won a Test in New Zealand in 1995, drove home the advantage after tea, with Shields finally getting his maiden test wicket with a sizzling in-swinging yorker to remove Tom Blundell for 29.

However, all-rounders Michael Bracewell and Nathan Smith stopped the rot with a stand of 52 for the seventh wicket to take the home side past the 200 mark.

Smith departed for 23, caught at short midwicket off the spin of West Indies skipper Roston Chase, and Bracewell holed out for 47 off a Shields bouncer to exit



West Indies' Roston Chase, left, and teammate John Campbell celebrate after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Nathan Smith during their cricket test match in Christchurch, New Zealand, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025. (AP)

with his second Test half Chase's decision vindicatcentury in sight. Chase's decision vindicated when Roach had Devon

Zak Foulkes and Jacob Duffy, both four not out, will resume on day two to defend the final New Zealand wicket.

The West Indies won the toss and chose to field with

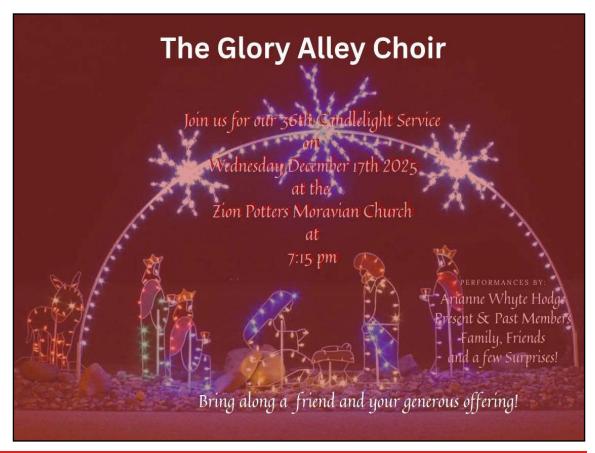
Chase's decision vindicated when Roach had Devon Conway caught in the slips for a duck in the first over, giving the 37-year-old pacer his 285th Test wicket.

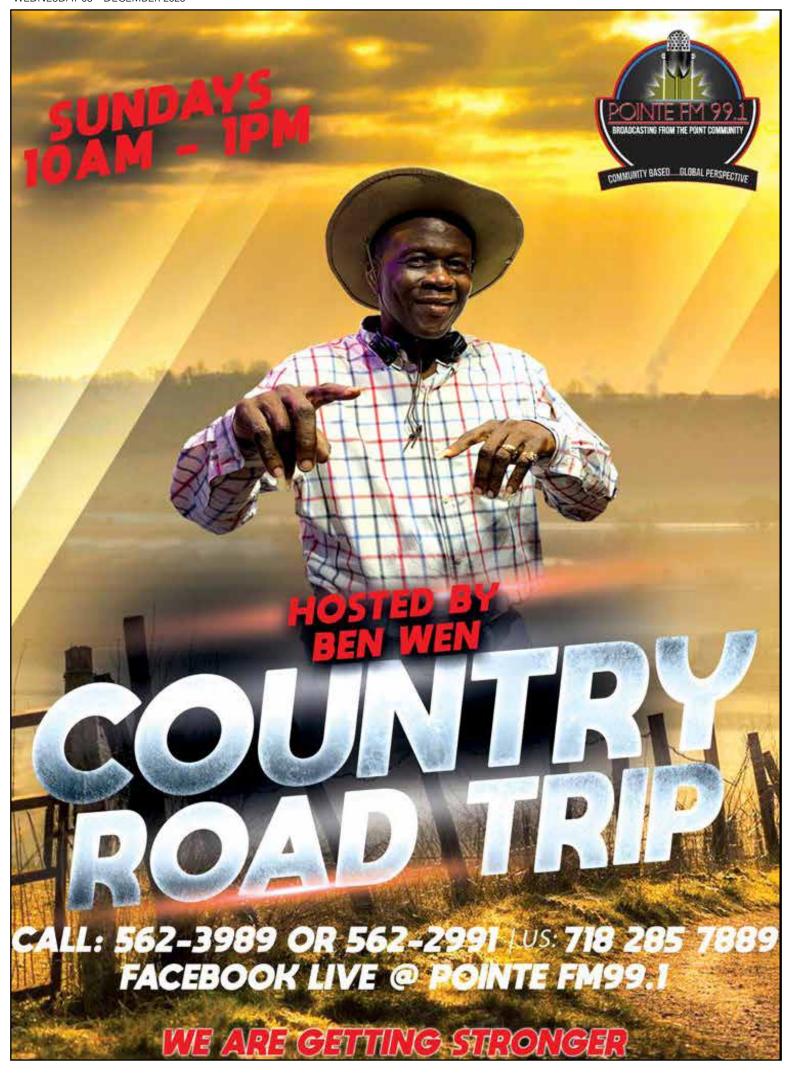
Wet weather disrupted the early part of the day with a first rain interruption in the fourth over, and another in the 11th over, forcing an early lunch break before the skies cleared.

Justin Greaves broke the second-wicket partnership by removing Williamson for 52 when the batting great shoulder armed a delivery and the ball flew off his bat to Alick Athanaze in the slips.

Greaves got Latham two overs later for 24, the New Zealand captain attempting a drive but only managing a thick edge to be caught behind.

Seales then bowled Rachin Ravindra with a full straight yorker that took out the off stump, and Will Young continued his poor run of form with a 38-ball 14 before he nicked the ball and was caught in the slips.







Sports News



Former England batter Robin Smith dies at 62

LONDON (Reuters) - Former England batter Robin Smith has died at the age of 62, his former club Hampshire said on Tuesday.

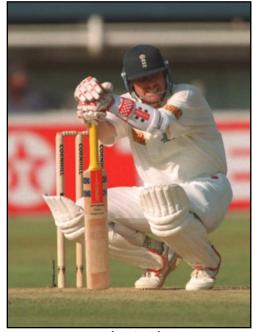
Smith, born in South Africa to British parents, played 62 Tests and 71 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for England, scoring 13 centuries.

He suffered from depression and alcoholism following his retirement, telling British newspapers only last week about his personal struggles.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of legendary batter Robin Smith," Hampshire posted on X.

Robin Smith established himself as a belligerent middle-order batter known for his ability against fast bowlers. He averaged 43.67 in Tests when he was dropped after a series in South Africa in 1995-96.

"It's a sad day ... At the time, in the 80s and 90s, he was England's best batter," a tearful Kevan James, Smith's former Hampshire teammate,



Robin Smith told BBC Radio Solent.

"He was a super player, particularly of fast bowling in an era where the West Indies had all these fast bowlers. He was one of the few England batters who stood up to them and basically gave as good as he got."

Smith was the brother of fellow England international Chris Smith, who played his last Test at Leeds, two years before Robin's England debut at the same ground in 1988.

Nicknamed "The Judge" for having curly hair like a judge's wig, Robin Smith scored 175 against West Indies in Antigua in 1994, the same Test in which Brian Lara made a record-breaking 375 runs.

Smith also hit an unbeaten 167 against Australia in 1993, which remained the highest innings by an England player in an ODI until 2016, when Alex Hales made 171 against Pakistan.

"Robin Smith was a player who stood toe to toe with some of the quickest bowlers in the world, meeting spells of hostile fast bowling with a defiant smile and an incredible resilience," said England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chair Richard Thompson.

"He did so in a way that gave England fans enormous pride, and no shortage of entertainment."



S DOFTS WEDNESDAY 03RD DECEMBER 2025



PMS book spot in knockout stage of Under-16 Boys Division

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) remain on course for their third consecutive title in the Under-16 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Caribbean Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Monday.

Princess Margaret School booked their spot in the knockout stage after beating strong contenders Ottos Comprehensive School 6-0 in their final game in the round-robin preliminary phase to finish their quota of 11 matches in the 12-team standings with 28 points.

The team that finishes at the top of the standings in the preliminary stage will secure an automatic berth into the final, while the second and third-place finishers will meet in a playoff to determine the other finalists for the championship.

Shumba Thomas struck a hat trick with conversions in the fourth, eighth, and 48th minutes.

Allister Nibbs converted twice with strikes in the 24th and 26th minutes, and Kaleel Lawrence scored an own goal in the 13th minute to propel Princess Margaret School to their ninth win.



The Princess Margaret School team with their medals and trophy after winning the Under-16 Boys Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Thursday, December 12, 2024. (File Photo)

Princess Margaret School recorded a draw and a loss in their other two matches this season. Monday's result allows Ottos Comprehensive School to slip from second to third place with 22 points after suffering their second defeat in 10 matches.

The Antigua Grammar School and Sir Novelle Richards Academy are the other two teams that are in contention with Ottos Comprehensive School for the two spots in the playoff.

The Antigua Grammar School pulled off a 2-0 victory against St. Joseph's Academy in their penultimate encounter.

Goals by Tafari Parker in the 37th minute and Keisani Dalso in the 58th minute gave Antigua Grammar School their seventh win in 10 matches to advance to 23 points.

The St. Joseph Academy remains on 18 points after suffering their fourth loss in 10 matches.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy are currently in fourth place with 19 points, having won six of their eight matches. Victory in their remaining three round-robin matches will allow Sir Novelle Richards Academy to finish with a total of 28 points, the same as Princess Margaret School.

If two or more teams finished their quota of 11 matches level on points, other calculations will be used to determine the winner.

All Saints Secondary and Jennings Secondary recorded wins in the latest round of matches in the Under-16 Division. Aaron Marie and Kymani Benjamin both scored twice as All Saints Secondary claimed their fourth win in 10 matches with a 5-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School.

Marie scored in the 15th and 52nd minutes, while Benjamin had conversions in the 39th and 45th minutes. Kemari Brodie scored the other goal in the 59th minute.

The result allows All Saints Secondary School to move on to 12 points, while St. Mary's Secondary School remains on one point after losing for the seventh time in eight matches.

Jennings Secondary claimed their fourth win in nine matches with a 2-0 victory against Pares Secondary School. Keadon Satchell had an 11th-minute conversion, and Dante Griffith scored in the 69th minute.

The result allows Jennings Secondary School to advance to 12 points, while Pares Secondary School remains on one point after suffering their sixth loss in seven games.

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.