

PM Browne describes India as 'an inspiration' for Small Islands Developing States

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Group photo featuring outgoing Indian High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang (4th from left), Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene (centre), PS of Foreign Affairs Dr. Clarence Pilgrim (4th from right), National Hero, Sir Vivian Richards (on his left) with representatives of the ministry of foreign affairs and the High Commissioner's delegation also featured

PM Browne describes India as ‘an inspiration’ for Small Islands Developing States



Indian High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang wraps up his tour of duty to Antigua and Barbuda and the Eastern Caribbean with a farewell visit to senior government officials on Monday.

In a brief ceremony to bid farewell to the Indian diplomat, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, described HC Telang’s departure as ‘a bittersweet’

moment, noting that during his tenure the Indian government representative had done much to advance the close ties between the two nations.

He spoke glowingly of India’s economic growth of the past decade adding that on its present trajectory, India will soon have the third largest economy in the world...trailing only China and the United States.

“India is an inspiration to us a Small Island Developing State. India’s economy has grown exponentially and as India continues to grow we want to make sure that we are well-positioned to exploit the opportunities that may arise; even to increase direct trade between the two countries,” he remarked.

The prime minister made reference to the unstable nature of the international order noting that there are increasing challenges with the global uncertainties and Antigua and Barbuda must consider strengthening relations with India as they both seek to diversify their economies.

“As the saying goes ‘when one door shuts...you have to seek opportunities through other doors’. I see the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and India becoming stronger in the months and years ahead,” he suggested.

PM Browne also urged the outgoing High Commissioner, who is returning to take up a new posting in India, to become an advocate for Antigua and Barbuda when he returns to his homeland.

In response, HC Telang described his posting to the Caribbean as ‘very fruitful’ noting that he had been able to accomplish much in the two years that he was based at his Guyana with responsibility for the Eastern Caribbean as well.

He also renewed an invitation for the prime minister to pay an official visit to India...hopefully sometime this year.

Small states want a seat at the table of global conversations, says Foreign Minister Greene



Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene makes a strong case for small states such as Antigua and Barbuda to have a seat at the table of global conversations and not be left out of these discussions that invariably have an impact on their well-being.

The foreign minister expressed these sentiments on Monday when the outgoing Indian High Commissioner to St. John's Dr. Amit Telang paid a farewell call at the ministry of foreign affairs.

FM Greene referenced Antigua and Barbuda's decision to agree to host the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November as an undertaking that carries with it a huge financial costs, one which the country cannot bear without assistance from friends such

as India.

Despite the cost, the minister noted that the country's ambitions are clear; it is to demonstrate that small countries such as Antigua and Barbuda must play a key and meaningful role in the global conversation. "I think it is more important now as we witness the death blows struck against multilateralism, it is more important now for small states to come to the fore to show that there is value in our smallness; it is our combined numbers that will see us stave off some of the looming challenges before us. It therefore places us in a difficult, yet pivotal position as we seek to reset the global agenda," he emphasized.

Minister Greene added that both Antigua and Barbuda and India are aligned in their understanding of global issues. "We have to do



Local News

more with the global south as we have to show that our countries can work more closely. It is clear and without doubt that the world is going through an inflection and it is our ability to raise to the occasion that will make a difference for us," he remarked.

Antigua and Barbuda only living National Hero, Sir Vivian Richards, who has been named the country's Ambassador to CHOGM and who remains widely popular in India, was invited to join the minister in bidding farewell to the outgoing High Commissioner.

Sir Vivian said he was pleased to be present to bid farewell to HC Telang, noting that they had met previously and had developed a good friendship. He joined Minister Greene in wishing the outgoing diplomat much success in his new appointment back in India.

HC Telang thanked the staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their cooperation over the past two years noting that without their assistance he would not have been able to achieve all that he was able to achieve.

In reference to the presence of Sir Vivian, HC Telang acknowledged that while he – Sir Vivian – is a National Hero for Antigua and Barbuda, in India is he also seen as a hero.





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Two senators to attend regional meeting of female parliamentarians

Newly-appointed government Senator Kiz Johnson and the new Independent Senator Jamilla Kirwan are traveling to Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday to attend a series of regional meetings for female parliamentarians.

The sessions are being coordinated by ParlAmericas in conjunction with partners in Trinidad and Tobago and they will focus on deepening two ongoing lines of work in support of women's leadership.

According to the letter of invitation, one meeting opens on Wednesday for female parliamentarians focusing on the topic; "Catalysing Regional Action on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) Against Women in Public Life: Supporting Parliamentary Action," in partnership with UNFPA and ECLAC.

"This meeting will further socialize the results of research conducted on this topic by our organizations and facilitate collaborative work on concrete tools that can be used by parliamentarians and other political actors to contribute to ending TFGBV from their unique spheres of influence," the letter stated.

Parliamentary delegates attending the meeting on TFGBV are also invited to contribute to a day of exchange with young women leaders on January 22, 2026. This will be the first day of an in-person meeting of the Young Women in Leadership Regional Workshop, being held in partnership with UN Women Caribbean and CIWIL, to bring together former participants of young women's parliamentary programming from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.



Senator Kiz Johnson



Senator Jamilla Kirwan

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Local News

Halo Foundation undertakes Nationwide Anti-Bullying Resource Distribution



The Halo Foundation has initiated a project through which it has distributed anti-bullying and conflict-resolution resources to 34 primary and secondary schools across Antigua and Barbuda.

The distribution was led by Bolinda Baptiste, alongside Cuthbert Forbes, as part of the Foundation's

ongoing commitment to youth development and violence prevention. The exercise forms part of the Halo Foundation's national anti-bullying campaign, which was launched in 2018 to proactively address youth violence and promote a safer, more inclusive learning environment throughout the twin-island state.

The Foundation's President, Lady Sandra Williams, noted that "since launching our anti-bullying campaign, we have remained committed to creating wholesome, more compassionate spaces for our young people. This initiative reflects our belief that prevention begins primarily with education,





and that when schools are properly equipped, students are empowered to resolve conflicts with empathy

and respect.” During the school visits, administrators — including prin-

pals, counsellors, and librarians — warmly welcomed the team and expressed sincere appreciation for the donated material. Many noted that the resources will play a critical role in supporting dissipation of disputes, emotional literacy and positive peer interaction among students.

“The feedback from schools reaffirmed why this work matters,” said Bolinda Baptiste. “By equipping our educators and students with practical tools, we are helping to foster empathy, communication and peaceful problem-solving from an early age.”

The distribution reached 22 primary schools and 12 secondary schools, along with the Public Library, ensuring wide access to age-appropriate resources that encourage dialogue, understanding, and respectful engagement among young people.

Since its inception, the Halo Foundation’s anti-bullying campaign has remained focused on prevention, education, and community collaboration, reinforcing the belief that lasting change begins with early intervention and consistent support.

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Community activist Terri London mobilises support for students at Jennings Primary



Community activist Dr. Teri London and Her Level Up Team are collaborating with Ralph Mims of the R Mims World Group in an initiative that seeks to ensure that no child misses class due to a lack of basic necessities.

Driven by this philosophy, Dr. London and her team made a critical donation of personal care items to Jennings Primary School.

She said the donation focuses on “comfort and dignity,” providing the school’s office with a steady supply of sanitary napkins, lotions, deodorants, dental floss, and other hygiene essentials.

The initiative aims to address a common but often unspoken challenge: the natural physical changes young female students experience as they age.

“Too often, “natural surprises” in public can lead to embarrassment or anxiety, forcing students to leave school early and miss val-



able instructional time.

“By stocking the school office with these supplies, as donors, we are creating a “safety net.” Instead of heading home feeling distressed, students can now find a private, safe space

to freshen up and return to their desks with their heads held high,” she noted.

For Ralph Mims and the Level Up team, the goal is simple: keep children in the classroom.

“Learning and educa-

tion are paramount,” said a spokesperson for the group. “Our goal is to encourage children to stay at school. By removing the stress of being unprepared for natural medical occurrences, we allow them to focus on what really matters—their future.”

The Level Up team and R Mims World Group have a long-standing reputation for boosting local education. This latest contribution highlights their commitment to the holistic well-being of the student body, recognizing that a child’s confidence is just as important as the books in his/her backpack.

Jennings Primary staff expressed deep gratitude for the items, noting that having these supplies on hand transforms the school office into a place of support rather than just administration. It ensures that “growing pains” remain a small part of a student’s day rather than a barrier to their education.

ABLP Opens St. Philip's North Branch Centre in Willikies

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) marked the official opening of its St. Philip's North Constituency Branch Centre, on Sunday at Willikies bringing supporters, party members, and residents together for a proud moment of unity.

ABLP Caretaker for St. Philip's North, Randy Baltimore, led the opening and described the new space as more than just a building, a dedicated hub for community empowerment, grassroots engagement, and local development.

"Today is not just about cutting a ribbon. Today, we are opening a door — a door to access, to service, and to real partnership. This Community Centre is a commitment to the people of St. Philip's North. It's a place where voices will be heard, concerns will be addressed, and progress will be built — together.

"This space is more than bricks and walls. It represents trust, unity, and responsibility. It will be a place where residents can meet with us directly, raise issues, seek guidance, and track



the work we are doing as a community — not in talk, but in results," Baltimore stated.

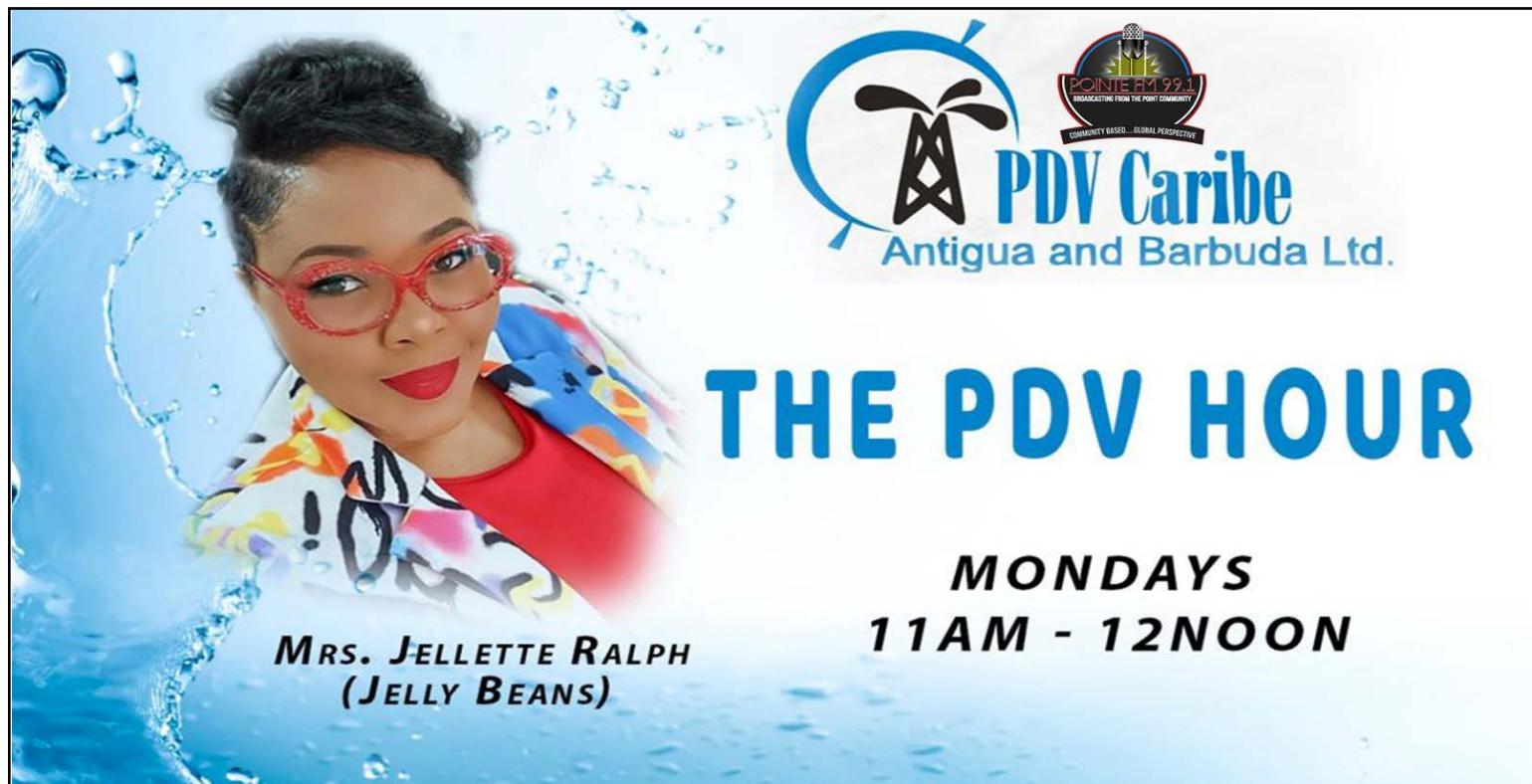
The prospective representative for the area also singled out the current MP, Sir Robin Yearwood, and praised him for his many years of dedicated service to the people of the constituency.

The new centre will serve as a meet-



ing point for residents to share ideas, connect with leadership, and support initiatives aimed at strengthening the constituency and creating positive change from the ground up.

Appreciation was extended to everyone who helped bring the vision to life and those who attended to celebrate the milestone.



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National Junior Solo Steelpan Competition Opens Registration

2026 Edition Honours Victor "Babu" Samuel

The Department of Culture, Ministry of Creative Industries, has announced the official opening of registration for the National Junior Solo Steelpan Competition 2026 (March 15th), a national initiative aimed at strengthening youth development and elevating performance standards within the steelpan art-form.

The National Junior Solo Steelpan Competition provides a structured and professional platform for young panists to showcase their technical skill, musical understanding, and artistic expression in a solo performance environment. This year's competition is especially significant as it is proudly dedicated to the memory of Victor "Babu" Samuel, one of Antigua and Barbuda's most respected steelpan icons, arrangers, and mentors, whose lifelong contributions continue to shape the nation's steelpan movement.

Competition Categories

The competition will feature two adjudicated categories: Category A (Junior Melodies): Ages 5–13 Category B (Young Stars): Ages 14–21

Participants in the 5–13 category will perform pre-written, scored pieces, ensuring a standardized and age-appropriate assessment focused on execution, technique, rhythmic and pitch accuracy, and musical interpretation. Participants in the 14–21 category will present original arrangements of any song of any genre and from any era.

Competition Materials & Regulations

All essential competition documents, including:

Scored music for the 5–13 category Competition regulations Adjudication criteria Official registration form are available online at the following link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Di-20JS8rOgR1WWh2jNweEl3W-9zsmaGH?usp=drive_link

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Registration Information

Registration forms may also be collected and delivered in person at the:

Completed forms must be submitted by the stipulated deadline to be eligible for participation. Deadline for registration is February 6th 2025.

Honouring a Legacy

The 2026 National Junior Solo Steel-

pan Competition is held in honour of Victor "Babu" Samuel, whose dedication to steelpan performance, education, and youth mentorship left an indelible mark on Antigua and Barbuda's cultural heritage. By dedicating this year's competition to his memory, the Department of Culture reaffirms its commitment to preserving legacy while investing in the future of the national instrument.





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Feature

Gadgets: Creating More Problems in Education

by **Derrick Nicholas**

I recently read an article in the Jamaica Gleaner, in which Linvern Wright, the president of the Jamaica Association of Principals of Secondary Schools (JAPSS), was expressing his concern that the proliferation of technology as a learning tool in schools may be creating more problems than it solves while robbing children of critical skills they would have learned traditionally.

I, too, have remarked publicly about the systematic replacement of critical thinking by technological devices, some of which are deemed as 'essential'. "There are disagreements about this, but I really believe that one of the things that we are recognizing as schools is that gadgets are presenting more challenges than they are solving problems in schools. All the research is showing that these things are more of a distraction than they are of assistance, especially if things are not properly organized pedagogically," said Wright.

Of course, I am in agreement. The introduction of calculators as early as primary schools has turned our children into button pushers, who lack the critical skill needed to do mental arithmetic.

Wright continued: "... technology is attractive and it is something that gets the dopamine [a brain hormone vital for movement and focus] in children going, I think we have mistaken that kind of dopamine response for effectiveness. However, I think it has more effects on the brain that are adverse where education and child development are concerned, that I don't think we are paying sufficient attention to."

The JAPPS President also cited the students' ability to write notes.



"One of the things that our children are doing less now is that our children are writing less. All the research has shown that, when a child writes notes, versus typing notes, it actually has a better effect on memory and on storing of long-term memory, because of the processes that are involved."

Interestingly, in 2023 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), issued a report which stated, inter alia, that learning benefits may be affected if technology is used in excess or if it replaces qualified teachers.

Meanwhile, Mark Malabver, president of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA), is urging the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information to pause and reassess the country's heavy reliance on technology in classrooms, warning that emerging research suggests it may be eroding students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

According to the JTA president, recent research is increasingly showing that students are becoming distracted by digital devices, with

serious implications for learning and cognitive development.

"The research is saying that many students are too distracted by technology, and you know it robs them of critical thinking and problem-solving skills," he stated. "There was a point in time when we felt that the technology was the magic wand, the silver bullet to solving our pedagogical problems.....but the research is saying that is no longer so."

This writer is not calling for a complete ban on technology in the classroom. My students are not allowed to use their calculators except for solving trigonometry problems. An urgent conversation must be held with the Ministry of Education and its stakeholders on arriving at a balance, where the benefits of modern technology can be incorporated into the classroom. However, this must not be at the expense of traditional learning, where foundation skills, including sustained concentration, independent reasoning, and problem-solving skills remain critical to student success.

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Regional News

Legendary Third World co-founder Stephen 'Cat' Coore has died

Legendary Jamaican musician Stephen 'Cat' Coore died suddenly on Sunday evening, leaving family, friends and fans across the world in mourning.

Coore, born April 6, 1956, had, for more than 50 years, been guitarist and cellist for iconic reggae band Third World.

In a release early this morning, his family made the announcement of his passing.

Coore was a founding member and musical director of Third World, whose pioneering fusion of reggae, soul, funk, pop, and rock helped shape the reggae-fusion sound and propel Jamaican music onto the global stage. Under his musical leadership, Third World achieved international acclaim with enduring classics such as Now That We've Found Love, 96 Degrees in the Shade, and



Try Jah Love, becoming one of Jamaica's longest-running and most successful bands.

Celebrated for his exceptional musicianship, compositional brilliance, and deep musical knowledge, Coore was widely regarded as a cultural ambassador who elevated reggae music and inspired generations of artists at home and abroad.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Jamaican culture and the creative arts, Coore was awarded membership in the Order of Distinction (OD) by the Government of Jamaica, honouring his decades of service to music and his role in promoting Jamaica's cultural legacy worldwide.

He leaves behind his wife Lisa, his children, Shiah, Kanna, Stephen, and Ashley, his grandchildren, as well as extended family, bandmates, colleagues, and countless fans across the globe. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Wanted Guyanese man accidentally shoots himself on livestream

A 24-year-old man from Guyana, Jamal Bourne, also known by his alias 'Skinny', who was under investigation for a murder, accidentally shot himself in the head during a live TikTok stream.

During the broadcast, on Sunday evening, Bourne was live with another armed individual, seen handling a firearm while wearing a ski mask and making threatening remarks to viewers, details a Times Caribbean article.

The accidental gunshot, which resulted in his death, was reportedly witnessed by numerous viewers.



Officials in Guyana confirmed that Bourne was wanted in connection with a recent homicide. Reports are that during the live session, view-

ers observed as Bourne gestured aggressively with a firearm, and boasted about violence he claimed to have carried out.

The stream abruptly ended after a single gunshot was heard.

Police sources announced that Bourne suffered a fatal head injury and was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

According to the article, investigators are examining the footage and other digital evidence as part of their ongoing inquiry, advising the public against sharing or replaying the video. (Dominica News Online)

Overall crime declining, despite challenge of illegal firearms, says security minister



Minister for National Security Rayburn Blackmoore is reporting a decline in serious crimes in Dominica for the year ending 2025. This is amidst growing concern about random occurrences of firearm activity in the country.

The minister made his assertions during a press conference held by his Ministry on Thursday, stating, "I'm happy to report that for the year ending 2025, that we have seen a continuation of a decline in other areas of serious crimes."

"And I want us to put

hands together to the Dominican public and also the members of the police force for demonstrating that, notwithstanding the challenges that we are confronted with, [so far] as gun crime is concerned. And that is something we have to deal with and tackle."

According to Blackmoore, in all the areas of crime, "We have seen historic, significant lows to the extent to which we're also trying to draw reference to the last program we had on DBS Radio last week Thursday, when the Deputy Chief of

Police made reference to the fact that, we have seen in some cases 300 percent decline in some of the major areas of crime, namely burglary from the nineties to now."

Though the minister did not quote additional statistics, Blackmoore believes that this speaks of the maturity of this country, that the country is "emerging."

Furthermore, he acknowledged that gun violence causes loss of life, however, he expressed optimism about the trajectory for the country in light of this re-

ported reduction in illegal activities.

"And it's for us to also appreciate: the fact that if we are able to keep the other areas, insofar as a crime is concerned, at this historic low, so too we can confront this dangerous crime," he stated.

As Dominica proceeds into 2026, Blackmoore said the government will continue to provide the police with all the requisite support to confront this potentially deadly phenomenon in the country. (Dominica News Online)



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Man seriously injured in Sydney's third shark attack in two days



Three shark attacks have been reported in Sydney in a little over 24 hours, leaving at least two seriously injured, according to local authorities.

A man was taken to hospital in critical condition after being injured at Manly beach on Monday evening, New South Wales Police said in a statement.

Hours earlier, an 11-year-old surfer had to be assisted off Sydney's Dee Why Beach after a suspected shark bit his surfboard, with the local council urging swimmers and surfers to be cautious.

The first incident saw a 12-year-old boy taken to hospital with critical injuries after he was attacked by a large shark while swimming in Sydney Harbour on Sunday afternoon, police said.

The boy and his group of friends were jumping off a six-metre rock ledge at Shark Beach, in the Sydney suburb of Vaucluse, when the attack happened on Sunday.

Despite its name, shark attacks are rare at Shark Beach, a popular swim-

ming spot.

The boy was pulled out of the water by his friends before rescuers arrived. Police said it was their actions that had given him a shot at survival, local media reported. He is currently in intensive care.

"The actions of his mates... have been nothing but brave. [It was] a gallant recovery," said Joseph McNulty, who leads the state of New South Wales' marine area command.

"Very confronting injuries for those boys to see, but I suppose that's mateship."

Marine police arrived to a "horrendous scene", McNulty told reporters. They pulled the boy onto a police speedboat and used tourniquets to try and stop the bleeding from his legs.

They also tried to resuscitate the boy as the boat made its way to an ambulance waiting by a wharf.

Authorities believe the boy was attacked by a bull shark, an aggressive

species found in warm, shallow waters. Many experts consider bull sharks among the most dangerous sharks in the world.

McNulty believes heavy rainfall over the weekend and brackish water conditions could have created a "perfect storm environment" for Sunday's attack. Rain flushes nutrients into the rivers and oceans which can draw sharks closer to shore.

The final attack, in Sydney's Northern Beaches, prompted police to close all beaches in the area until further notice.

According to police, emergency services were alerted to the third attack after a surfer was pulled from the water at North Steyne Beach, Manly, at 18:20 local time (07:20 GMT).

He had suffered serious injuries to his legs, and was rushed to hospital.

Australia, which is home to some of the world's best beaches, is also one of the deadliest places for shark attacks. There were at least five fatal shark attacks in the country last year. (BBC)

High-speed trains collide after one derails in southern Spain, killing at least 10 people

A high-speed train derailed in southern Spain on Sunday, jumping onto the track in the opposite direction and hitting an oncoming train, the Spanish rail operator Adif said.

Emergency services said the collision killed at least 10 people and severely injured 25.

Two Guardia Civil officials confirmed the death toll to The Associated Press by phone and text message. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with police rules.

The evening train between Malaga and Madrid derailed and hit a train coming from Madrid to Huelva, another southern Spanish city, according to Adif.



Emergency services in Andalucia, the province where the accident happened, said it had recorded five deaths and 25 people with severe injuries. (AP)

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Trump says eight European countries will face 10% tariff for opposing US control of Greenland

President Donald Trump said Saturday that he would charge a 10% import tax starting in February on goods from eight European nations because of their opposition to American control of Greenland, setting up a potentially dangerous test of US partnerships in Europe.

Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland would face the tariff, Trump said in a social media post while at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The rate would climb to 25% on June 1 if no deal was in place for “the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland” by the United States, he said.

The Republican president appeared to indicate that he was using the tariffs as leverage to force talks with Denmark and other European countries over the status of Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark that he regards as critical to US national security.

“The United States of America is immediately open to negotiation with Denmark and/or any of these Countries that have put so much at risk, despite all that we have done for them,” Trump said on Truth Social.

The tariff threat could mark a problematic rupture between Trump and America’s longtime NATO partners,



further straining an alliance that dates to 1949 and provides a collective degree of security to Europe and North America.

Trump has repeatedly tried to use trade penalties to bend allies and rivals alike to his will, generating investment commitments from some nations and pushback from others, notably China.

Trump is scheduled to travel on Tuesday to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he likely will run into the European leaders he just threatened with tariffs that would start in little more than two weeks.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said Trump’s move was a “surprise” given the “constructive meeting” with top US officials this week in Washington.

The European Commission’s president, Ursula von der Leyen, and the head of the European Council, Antonio Costa, said in a joint statement that tariffs “would undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral.”

They said Europe would remain “committed to upholding its sovereignty.” (AP)



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Sports News

Winning start for Liberta in defense of ABCA two-day title

The PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhaws made a successful start in defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

The Blackhaws launched their campaign for a fifth consecutive title with a commanding innings and 136-run victory against the All Saints Pythons at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Pythons crashed to 97 all out in 25.2 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Demetri Lucas hit 37, while off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall grabbed five for 10, and captain and left-arm spinner Karima Gore claimed three for 30.

In reply, Gore slammed a century as the Blackhaws declared their first innings at 356 for eight off 67.5 overs. Gore cracked 149 off 177 balls, including 10 fours and three sixes.

Rivaldo Clarke struck 63, Elroy Francis Jr. scored 39, and opener Kofi James made 38. Pythons skipper Kenrick Scott captured three for 46.

Facing a deficit of 259 runs, the Pythons were bundled out in their second innings for 76 in 17.2 overs. Off-spinner Kofi James snapped up five for 23, and Elroy Francis Jr. claimed three for 26.

CMW New Winthorpes Lions and the Bolans Blasters also got off to a winning start in the competition. The Lions crushed the WES Rising Sun Spartans by an innings and 26 runs at Rising Sun.

The Spartans were all out in their first innings for 133 in 37.3 overs after being sent in to bat. Captain Kerry Mentore hit 44, and opener



Karima Gore

Wayne Henry scored 34. Demari Benta grabbed six for 30.

In reply, the New Winthorpes Lions declared their first innings at 293 for nine off 44.5 overs. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. hammered 82, Ishmael Peters cracked 59, captain Nino Henry scored 48, and Cameron Pennyfeather made 40. Ryan Bandoo captured five for 135.

Facing a deficit of 160 runs, the Rising Sun Spartans were dismissed in their second innings for 134 in 26.1 overs. Junior Henry hit 41, and Kerry Mentore scored 36. Demari Benta bagged five for 34, and Orandel Boston claimed four for 43.

The Bolans Blasters trounced Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by an innings and 110 runs at Bethesda. Bolans de-

clared their first innings at 262 for nine off 52.2 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Opener Gershun Phillip hit 51, Javvaughn James cracked 38, Orlando Peters scored 37, and Richie Thomas made 31. Captain Tron Payne picked up four for 48.

In reply, the Golden Eagles crashed to 39 all out in 27.5 overs, with Javvaughn James grabbing five for 12. Asked to follow on 224 runs behind, the Golden Eagles were dismissed in their second innings for 114 in 31.1 overs. Richie Thomas took three for 15, and Ondre Peters claimed three for 19.

The other two opening round matches both ended in draws. Empire Nation and Pigotts Crushers fought to a draw at Pigotts.

Scores: Empire Nation 147 all out in 37.4 overs (Melvin Charles 41; Emroy Lee 4/49, Essan Warner 3/10) and 225/7 off 53 overs declared (George Elvin 78, Justin Athanaze 64, Nathan Edward 39; Kadeem Henry 4/72); Pigotts Crushers 122 all out in 41 overs (Xaveek Toppin 38; Justin Athanaze 4/19, JQuan Athanaze 3/24) and 230/4 off 37 overs (Kadeem Henry 106, Essan Warner 51, Xaveek Toppin 41).

Tertiary Institutions and Schools salvaged a draw with the Jennings Tigers at the Factory Grounds.

Scores: Jennings Tigers 232 all out in 38.5 overs (Glenton Williams 88; Damel Evelyn 4/41) and 153/5 off 15 overs declared (Deran Benta 77). Tertiary Institutions and Schools 89 all out in 55 overs (Glenton Williams 5/20, Zavier Freeland 3/17) and 121/9 off 47 overs (Damel Evelyn 78 not out; Glenton Williams 4/42, Zavier Freeland 4/46).

Sports News

Trendsetters win Women's Premier League title



Players of the Empire Trendsetters women's football team

The Empire Trendsetters have captured the title in the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Calvin Ayre Women's Premier League.

The Trendsetters clinched the title after battling to a goalless draw with Wadadli United in the final match of the season at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday.

The result ensured that the Empire Trendsetters finished at the top of the standings in the five-team round-robin contest with 18 points from their quota of eight matches.

Wadadli United claimed the run-

ners-up spot by finishing second with 17 points from their 10 games.

Cutting Edge FC secured third place with 16 points. Fort Road FC ended in fourth place, and Lady Masters FC finished in the cellar.

Both teams ended with three points from their eight matches, but Fort Road FC finished ahead of Lady Masters by virtue of a superior goal difference.

The top three teams received cash prizes from league sponsor Calvin Ayre Foundation. Champions Empire Trendsetters claimed EC\$12,000, Wadadli United took

home EC\$10,000, and Cutting Edge FC collected EC\$8,000.

Striker Nafisa Quashie of Trendsetters captured the Golden Boot Award for the most goals with 12 conversions. Karmiellia Hughes of Trendsetters claimed the Best Defender Award, and Jada Benjamin of Wadadli United won the Best Midfielder Award.

Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran, left, and Darwish Rasooli shared a 162-run partnership against the West Indies in the first T20 International in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Monday, January 19, 2026.

Sports News

Afghanistan beat Windies in first T20 International in UAE



Afghanistan sealed a commanding 38-run victory in the first T20 International against the West Indies, defending a target of 182 with clinical precision at the Dubai International Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), on Monday.

Brilliant knocks from Ibrahim Zadran and Darwish Rasooli were the cornerstone of Afghanistan's total of 181 for three in 20 overs. The West Indies were restricted to 143 for nine off their 20 overs.

After a shaky start, with Rahmanullah Gurbaz falling for a duck and Sediq dismissed cheaply for two, Afghanistan found stability in Zadran (71 off 49 balls) and Rasooli (76 off 54 balls).

The pair forged a brilliant 162-run

third-wicket partnership, taking the West Indian bowlers to task. Zadran's consistency and Rasooli's aggressive hitting, especially in the 15th and 17th overs, allowed Afghanistan to post an imposing total.

Their fielding woes compounded the situation, with several dropped catches in the death overs proving costly.

The West Indies, chasing 182, faced immediate setbacks, losing three wickets in the powerplay.

With the top order falling apart, the Windies were left reeling at 50 for five. Debutant Quentin Sampson showed flashes of promise with a few stylish strokes but was eventually dismissed for a top score of 30 off 24 balls.

Gudakesh Motie hit 28 off 15 balls,

Johnson Charles made 27 off 16 balls, and Matthew Forde struck 25 off 21 balls to briefly keep West Indies hopes alive, but Afghanistan's bowlers were unrelenting.

Pacer Zia Sharifi starred with the ball, picking up three for 36. Leg-spinner Rashid Khan bagged two for 19, off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman claimed two for 29, and left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad captured two for 34.

The teams will clash in the second game of the three-match series at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. The third and final T20 International will be played at the same venue on Thursday.

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Morocco to file legal complaint over Cup of Nations final fiasco



Players from both sides clash after a controversial penalty was awarded to Morocco late on during the Africa Cup of Nations final soccer match between Senegal and Morocco in Rabat, Morocco, Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026. (AP)

RABAT (Reuters) - Morocco will pursue legal action over the outcome of Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final, where opponents Senegal walked off the field to protest a penalty awarded against them but later returned to win the match.

Morocco were beaten 1-0 after extra time by Senegal in the decider in Rabat, but the hosts had a chance to win the trophy with a last-gasp penalty at the end of regulation time.

Senegalese players stormed off in protest after a VAR decision to hand Morocco a spot kick for a tug on the shoulder of striker Brahim Diaz, who then squandered the kick after having to wait some 14 minutes before the Senegal side returned.

"The Royal Moroccan Football Federation announces that it will pursue legal action with the Confederation of African Football and FIFA to rule on

the walk-off of the Senegalese national team from the field during the final against the Moroccan national team, as well as on the events surrounding this decision, following the referee's awarding of a penalty that was deemed correct by all experts," a statement said.

"This situation had a significant impact on the normal course of the match and on the players' performance," it added.

It is unclear what Morocco wants to achieve with their complaint other than being seen to formally remonstrate over the outcome of the match.

Earlier on Monday, FIFA President Gianni Infantino and CAF condemned the behaviour of Senegal players and members of the coaching staff after the chaotic scenes, saying violence and walk-offs had no place in football.

"We also witnessed unacceptable

scenes on the field and in the stands - we strongly condemn the behaviour of some 'supporters' as well as some Senegalese players and technical staff members," Infantino said.

"It is unacceptable to leave the field of play in this manner and, equally, violence cannot be tolerated in our sport, it is simply not right.

"We must always respect the decisions taken by the match officials on and off the field of play. Teams must compete on the pitch and within the Laws of the Game, because anything less puts the very essence of football at risk."

CAF said it was reviewing footage and that disciplinary proceedings will follow, adding that it "condemns the unacceptable behaviour from some players and officials."

Sports

TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2026

POINT ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
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Villa Lions go second in Premier Division League



A starting XI of the Villa Lions football team

The Aston Villa Lions jumped from third to the second-place position in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

Aston Villa Lions notched up their ninth win in 11 matches by snatching a 4-3 victory against Garden Stars FC in the last game of a Premier League double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Jahlanie Barzey struck a late second-half hat trick to clinch victory for the Villa Lions. Barzey had conversions in the 78th and 84th minutes to draw the Villa Lions level 3-3 with the Garden Stars.

He completed his hat trick when he struck the winner for the Villa Lions with an 88th-minute conversion. Barzey's last two goals came after

Garden Stars were reduced to 10 men with the expulsion of Tarek Charles, who received a red card in the 82nd minute.

Captain Kwame "Munchie" Kirby opened the scoring with a strike in the 22nd minute to put Villa Lions ahead, but goals by Ngozie Harvey in the 28th minute and Jahred Williams in the 34th minute gave Garden Stars a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Kimoi Walsh scored in the 57th minute to give Garden Stars a 3-1 advantage before Barzey struck his hat trick to turn the match in the Villa Lions favour.

The result allows the Villa Lions to overtake back-to-back champions All Saints United into second place by advancing to 27 points. All Saints United slipped to third place with 26 points,

three adrift of unbeaten leaders Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades.

Garden Stars remain on 15 points after succumbing to their fourth defeat in 11 matches.

Old Road moved into fourth place after recording their seventh win in 11 matches with a 2-1 victory against the Pigotts Bullets in Sunday's other Premier League encounter.

All the goals came in the first half as Rakeem Joseph converted a penalty kick in the 14th minute and Kevon Lucas scored in the 18th minute to give Old Road FC a two-nil lead.

Javain Linton reduced the deficit for the Pigotts Bullets with a strike in the 34th minute.

Both teams finished the match with 10 men due to the expulsion of two players, who received red cards.

Jurrell Skepple of the Pigotts Bullet was sent off in the 29th minute, while Old Road's Daniel Nanton was expelled in the 62nd minute after picking up a second caution (yellow card).

The result allows Old Road FC to move on to 23 points, while the Pigotts Bullets will remain on 18 points after suffering their fifth defeat in 11 matches.