

MONDAY 05TH OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 10 ISSUE 50 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

The Palace Releases Details of the Royal Visit to Antigua and Barbuda

Story on page 2



An up close look at the attendees at Saturday's ABRSC's Africa-CARICOM gala displaying their African -themed outfits

Photos courtesy: CELESTIAL MEDIA

The Palace Releases Details of the Royal Visit to Antigua and Barbuda

(Their Majesties will visit The Bahamas, Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda, but only that which pertains to Antigua and Barbuda is published below)



The Commonwealth and Antigua and Barbuda's Independence

The King and Queen's visit to Antigua and Barbuda to open the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2026 coincides with the country's 45th anniversary of Independence.

On Antigua and Barbuda's Independence Day, celebrated on 1 November, Their Majesties will attend a Church Service.

Later that day, Their Majesties will attend the country's annual Independence Parade at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, where The King will inspect the parade, and join Antiguan and Barbudans in celebrating the 45th anniversary of Independence. The King will also meet some of the nation's most celebrated sporting figures, including cricketing legends who have contributed to Antigua and Barbuda's sporting heritage.

Communities, Culture and Heritage

The King and Queen's programme will begin at Government House where Their Majesties will celebrate the rich culture and heritage of Antigua and Barbuda, meeting musicians, young people and community representatives from across the country. Their Majesties will view exhibitions highlighting the nation's artistic talent and cultural history, including work supported through the Royal Drawing School.

The King and Queen will also visit a Garden location, where they will meet local horticulturists, artisans and members of community groups working to preserve traditional skills, heritage plants and sustainable growing practices. The visit will showcase Antigua and Barbuda's unique natural heritage and the efforts being made to pass traditional knowledge to future generations and the distinct identity and contributions of the island's communities.

Nature and Sustainability

The King's journey will continue to a historical heritage site where he will learn about efforts to conserve both Antigua and Barbuda's natural environment and historic built heritage. His Majesty will meet conservation specialists restoring historic structures, alongside organisations working to strengthen climate resilience and protect marine ecosystems.

The King will also hear about innovative coral restoration projects designed to support the recovery of coastal reefs and will meet young people involved in environmental programmes focused on sustainability and ocean stewardship.

Later, at a beach, Their Majesties will meet youth-led environmental organisations and community groups working to protect Antigua and Barbuda's coastline through conservation, education and beach-cleaning initiatives, demonstrating the importance of healthy marine environments to island communities across the Commonwealth.

The vital role business contributes to the sustainable agenda will be explored at the Commonwealth Business Forum Reception, where The King will meet business leaders from the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council who will be meeting with Heads of Government.

Youth, Opportunity and the Commonwealth

Throughout the visit, Their Majesties' will engage with young people whose work reflects the priorities of CHOGM 2026 and the future of the Commonwealth.

wealth. The Queen will meet students participating in a Commonwealth writing workshop at a school, celebrating creativity, literacy and cultural exchange through The Queen's Commonwealth Writing Competition.

The King will join participants from the Commonwealth Youth Forum and members of The King's Commonwealth Fellowship Programme, hearing about their research and project proposals for tackling challenges facing young people and communities across the Commonwealth, including climate resilience, and about opportunity through education, entrepreneurship and innovation. The King's Commonwealth Fellowship Programme was launched by the Association of Commonwealth Universities at CHOGM 2024 in Samoa to create opportunity and to tackle challenges including climate change and inequality, affecting Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Their Majesties' programme in Antigua and Barbuda will conclude with their attendance at CHOGM 2026, where The King, as Head of the Commonwealth, will participate in events bringing together leaders, young people, businesses and civil society representatives from across the Commonwealth. Meanwhile, The Queen will attend a session of the Women's Forum and meet representatives of groups from Antigua and Barbuda supporting efforts to end violence against women and girls.

The King, when Prince of Wales, visited Antigua and Barbuda in November 2017, following the widespread devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. This is Her Majesty The Queen's first official visit to Antigua and Barbuda.

His Majesty previously made official visits to Guyana in February 2000 and The Bahamas in July 1973.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAY / WEDNESDAYS

**-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink**

\$17.99



\$19.99

**-Burger
-Medium Drink**



Local News

New Performing Arts Centre Will 'Uplift' the Environs of that Area of St. John's

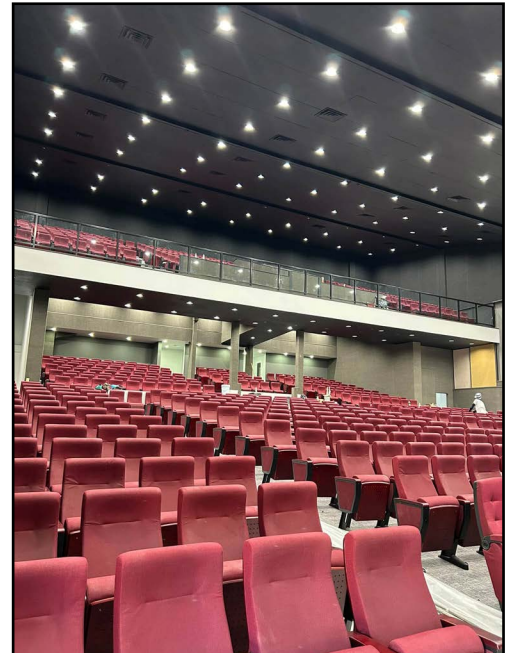
Prime Minister Gaston Browne is calling the transformation of the former Deluxe Cinema into the National Performing Arts Centre as a 'gift' to the people of Antigua and Barbuda from his government.

The prime minister was gushing with pride when he spoke of the work to transform the former cinema into a facility that will be the pride of all Antiguan and Barbudans.

The work to transform the cinema into the National Performing Arts centre is into the final stages with major construction work now ended and only the finishing touches, to include the installation of the audio-visual system and the exterior aesthetics that are now being done.

"I am just delighted with the progress that we have made and the way in which that facility has been transformed into a modern Performing Arts Centre. That is where we are going to have the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). All that is left now is to install the screens; there will be one big screen at the back of the stage and two at the sides and some of the audio system is still to be installed. However, I have to tell you, it's an upliftment of the area as well in terms of how beautiful the building is currently," he declared.

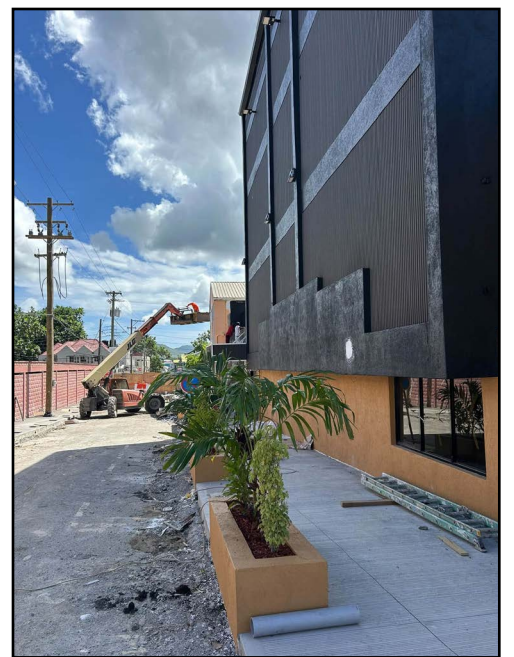
PM Browne noted that when the government first acquired the then abandoned Deluxe Cinema, there were suggestions that the government was 'bailing' out a Cabinet minister whose family ran the cinema for decades.



However, the prime minister reiterated that the acquisition was 'good value' for money as the cost paid was 'several million dollars' less than the property was worth.

"It is now clear for the people of Antigua and Barbuda to see what we (the government) saw when we acquired the building eight years ago. There was no corruption in this matter, nor was it a case of us bailing out a minister. We attained a property for EC\$6 million that was worth roughly twice that amount," he explained.

PM Browne also disclosed that the government has received donations from friendly governments and institutions to assist with the cost of the transformation. "For example, from Philip-Morris, we received a donation of \$4 million and the latest donation came from the government of Dubai



of \$1 million. Now we have a facility that is valued at approximately \$25 million," he stated.



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Minister Kiz Johnson to Attend OECS Human and Social Development Meeting

Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 10th OECS Council of Ministers Meeting on Human and Social Development, scheduled for October 7–8, 2026, in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The meeting will take place under the theme, “Advancing Social Protection in the OECS: Policy, Practice and Learning.”

Ministers responsible for human and social development will review progress on regional priorities, provide strategic policy direction and strengthen cooperation on issues affecting communities across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Discussions will address social protection, social inclusion, gender equality, child protection, ageing, disability and youth development, alongside

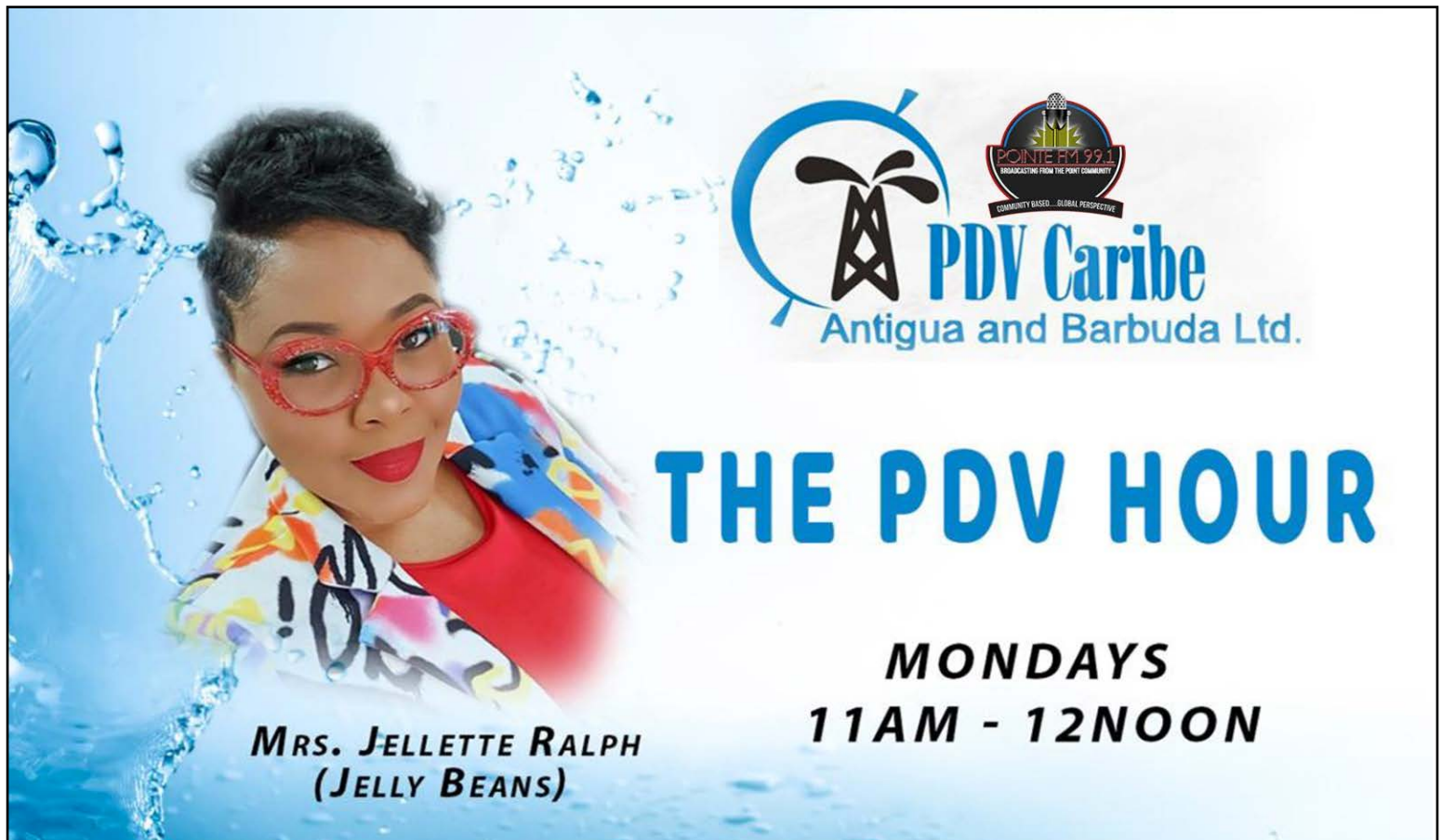


other key human and social development matters.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to assess the implementation of previous Council decisions, consider emerging regional priorities and examine policy recommendations aimed at advancing inclusive, resilient and sustainable social development.

The incoming Chair of the Council, Shevern John, Minister for Social Welfare and Community Empowerment, Ecclesiastical Affairs and National Heritage of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, will lead the regional forum.

Minister Johnson’s participation will provide an opportunity for Antigua and Barbuda to contribute to these discussions and exchange experiences with regional counterparts on strengthening support for vulnerable people and improving social development outcomes.



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(JELLY BEANS)

Local News

Ministry of Health Observes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs joins the global community in observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month throughout October, underlining the importance of awareness, early detection and timely care.

As part of the observance, the Ministry is encouraging members of the public to wear pink every Friday during October in support of breast cancer awareness and those affected by the disease.

Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs, Michael Joseph, encouraged persons to take responsibility for their breast health.

“Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an important reminder that we must take our health seriously. I encourage everyone to know their bodies, pay attention to any unusual changes and seek medical advice without delay if something does not feel or look right. Persons should also speak with their healthcare providers about the appropriate screening for them.

“As we wear pink on Fridays, let us make it more than a symbol. Let us use this month to raise awareness, encourage our loved ones to get checked and support those who are affected by breast cancer.”

The Ministry reminds the public to be alert to changes such as a lump or thickening, changes in the size or shape of the breast, skin or nipple changes, or unusual discharge. Persons who notice any concerning changes are encouraged to consult a healthcare provider promptly.

This October, wear pink, raise awareness and encourage someone you love to get checked.



Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs
Healthy People | Healthy Communities | A Brighter Future

BREAST CANCER Awareness MONTH

OCTOBER

More awareness. Earlier detection.
Better outcomes.

KNOW THE SIGNS

Be alert to changes such as:

-  A lump or thickening in the breast
-  Changes in the size or shape of the breast
-  Dimpling or changes to the skin
-  Changes to the nipple
-  Unusual or bloody discharge

If you notice any unusual change, seek medical advice promptly.
Early detection can save lives.

Wear PINK FRIDAYS IN OCTOBER

Show your support for breast cancer awareness and those affected by the disease.

Think Pink. Get Checked. Save Lives.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

Bring our culture. Shape our identity.

LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

CASH PRIZE - EC \$2,500

ENTRY CRITERIA

- Open to Antiguan and Barbudan nationals at home and abroad of all ages.
- Use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited
- Each participant may submit one logo via email to Performingartscompetition@ab.gov.ag
- Submissions must include the final logo in PNG and PDF formats-in both full-color and black-and-white (monochrome) versions-along with the editable source file.
- Include a short description explaining your design concept and how it reflects the theme *Bring our culture, Shape our identity*

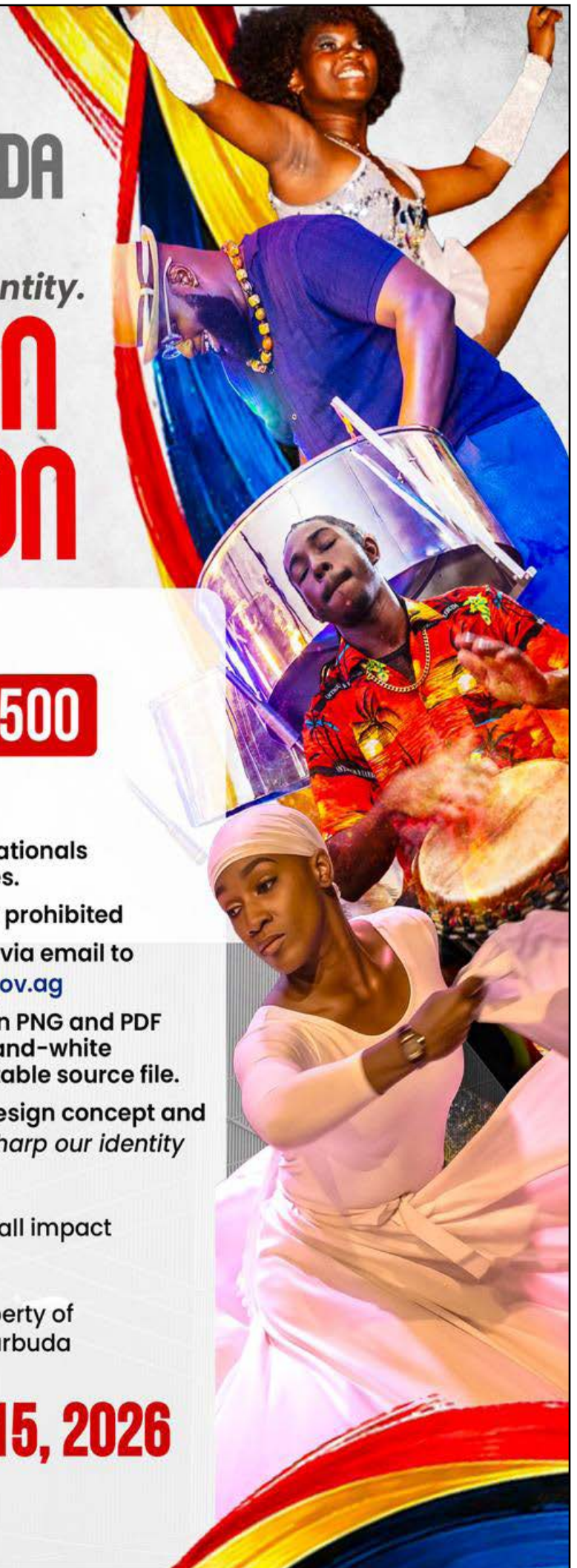
JUDGING

Creativity, Relevance, Clarity and Overall impact

OWNERSHIP

The winning logo becomes the property of
The Government of Antigua and Barbuda

SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 15, 2026



Local News



Government Launches Logo Design Competition for Antigua and Barbuda National Performing Arts Theatre, “Bring Our Culture. Shape Our Identity.”



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, is inviting Antiguan and Barbudan creatives worldwide to participate in the official logo design competition for the Antigua and Barbuda National Performing Arts Theatre.

This competition offers a unique opportunity for citizens and nationals to help define the visual identity of a landmark institution that will celebrate, preserve, and showcase the nation's rich cultural heritage and excellence in the performing arts for generations to come.

Participants are challenged to create a logo that captures the spirit of the theme, “Bring Our Culture. Shape Our Identity.” The winning design will become the official logo of the

Antigua and Barbuda National Performing Arts Theatre and earn its creator a **CASH PRIZE** of EC\$2,500.00.

The competition runs from **October 1 to October 15, 2026**, with all entries due by **October 15, 2026**.

Entry Requirements

The competition is open to **Antiguan and Barbudan nationals of all ages**, residing both at home and abroad. Participants must:

- ▶ Submit **one original, unpublished logo design** via email to
- ▶ Ensure the design is entirely original. **AI-generated content is strictly prohibited.**
- ▶ Create a logo that reflects Antigua and Barbuda's culture and performing arts landscape.
- ▶ Include the full name **Antigua and Barbuda National Performing Arts Theatre** and incorporate the competition theme “**Bring Our Culture. Shape Our Identity.**”
- ▶ Design a logo that is simple, memorable, versatile, and effective in both colour and black-and-white formats.

Submit:

- ▶ A high-resolution PNG or JPG file; formats in both full-colour and

black-and-white (monochrome) versions, along with the editable source file.

- ▶ An editable vector file; and
- ▶ A brief written description explaining the design concept and its connection to the theme.

Entries should be submitted via email to: Performingartscompetition@ab.gov.ag Performingartscompetition@ab.gov.ag

Judging Criteria: - Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- ▶ Creativity and Originality
- ▶ Cultural Relevance
- ▶ Clarity
- ▶ Visual Appeal
- ▶ Versatility
- ▶ Overall Impact

Ownership of the winning logo will become the sole property of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government encourages artists, graphic designers, students, and creative professionals to seize this opportunity to leave a lasting mark on a national institution that will serve as a powerful symbol of cultural expression, artistic excellence, and national pride.



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Double Recognition For Social Activist, Playwright Dorbrene O'Marde

A man whose life's work and influence straddle social and cultural activism with creativity and the arts was presented with a special award on Saturday night by the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission (ABRSC), an organization he has headed since its inception more than a decade ago.

Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde received a special lifetime achievement award from the ABRSC at the organisation's annual Africa-CARICOM Gala Dinner, described as 'an unforgettable evening of culture, cuisine and celebration'.

Ambassador O'Marde was hailed for championing the cause for reparatory justice for the centuries of chattel slavery which Africans had to endure on sugar plantations and cotton fields in the Caribbean and the Americas and the psychological, economic and social impact this continues to have on the descendants of enslaved Africans.

The members of the ABRSC were unanimous in their decision that the Ambassador O'Marde was 'most deserving' of the award in recognition of a lifetime of activism and his unrelenting quest for reparatory justice to the people of African descent in the Americas.

The citation reads: "In recognition of your visionary leadership, unwavering commitment and distinguished service to the cause of reparatory justice.

Your steadfast pursuit of truth, justice, dignity and redress has strengthened the reparations movement and created an enduring legacy for generations to come.



Ubuntu — 'I am because we are.'

The introductory narrative noted that Ambassador O'Marde's contribution to the reparations movement extends far beyond Antigua and Barbuda. As a respected Caribbean intellectual, cultural advocate, writer and regional voice, he has remained resolute in advancing conversations surrounding historical accountability, African identity, cultural restoration and reparatory justice.

His leadership of the ABRSC has similarly been marked by a commitment to ensuring that the reparations movement reaches beyond institutions and academic discussions and becomes a cause understood and embraced by ordinary citizens, particularly younger generations.

But while, Ambassador O'Marde was being honoured here in St. John's, a play he wrote and which was first performed by a theatre group he formed in the 1970's, Harambee Open-Air Theatre, A Fly

on the Wall, was being performed in St. Kitts by a Dominica theatre group as part of activities marking the 43rd anniversary of the founding of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

O'Marde was invited to attend the first of two performances of the play at the Cecil Jacobs Auditorium at the ECCB Headquarters in St. Kitts on Saturday night. The play was performed by La Cour De Arts De La Dominique Inc. and directed Curtis Clarendon.

O'Marde missed Saturday night's performance because it clashed with the ABRSC annual gala, however, he traveled to St. Kitts on Sunday to see the performance that night.

O'Marde is a historian, a playwright, produces calypso, conducts calypso judging workshops, wrote King Short Shirt's biography, and also serves as Deputy Chair of the CARICOM Reparation Commission.

A Celebration of Colour, Culture and Cuisine at Africa-CARICOM Gala



It was a night of splendid colours, striking African designs, irresistible flavours and beautiful music as guests came together for the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission's annual Africa-CARICOM Gala Dinner on Saturday, October 3.

From the moment guests arrived, African and Caribbean culture took centre stage, with attendees stepping out in some of their finest African-inspired fashion and filling the evening with colour, elegance and pride.

Hosted by Senator Angelica O'Donoghue the celebration blended culture, cuisine, fashion and entertainment, beginning with the rhythmic sounds of welcome drumming by the Antigua Dance Academy.

Dinner offered guests a taste of Africa alongside Caribbean favourites, with the African menu featur-



ing jollof rice, egusi and fufu, suya, Nigerian fried chicken and fried plantain prepared by Chef Chidima, along with a selection of desserts.

Adding another layer to the ambience was the smooth sound of Vaughn Canoville's acoustic jazz, providing the perfect musical infusion for an evening dedicated to celebrating the deep cultural ties between Africa and the Caribbean.

And, of course, fashion was a show of its own!

One of the most anticipated moments of the night was the Best Dressed competition, and the gentlemen made the decision so difficult that the judges simply could not choose one winner! Siman Jallow of Nigeria and Richard Gyasi of Ghana emerged in a spectacular tie for Best Dressed Male while the beautifully



attired Delica Spencer from Antigua captured the title of best Dressed Female wearing a traditional dress from Burkina Faso.

From the food to the fashion, the music, laughter and fellowship, the evening was a vibrant reminder of the ties that continue to bind Africa and the Caribbean.

Ubuntu - I am because we are.

AFRICA CARICOM GALA DINNER



Local News



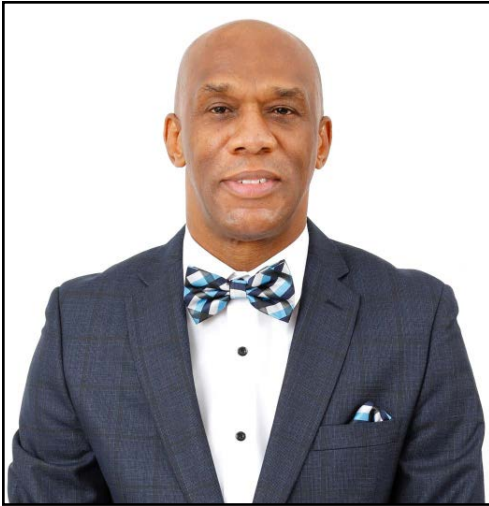
Photos courtesy: CELESTIAL MEDIA

Local News



World Teachers' Day Message 2026

*From the Director of Education
On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
5th October 2026*



“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”
Henry Adams, historian and author

Teachers of Antigua and Barbuda, you may never know how far your influence reaches. The student who finds courage because you believed in him, the child who discovers her ability through your patient guidance, the young person who chooses a better path because of your example: each carries something of your teaching into the world. The lesson may end, but the influence of a teacher continues.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, I extend warm greetings and heartfelt appreciation to every teacher in Antigua and Barbuda. Across our public and private institutions, from early childhood to higher education, your dedication gives our children opportunities and our nation hope. Today, we celebrate you and the enduring worth of your service.

This year, the world calls us to stand with you under the theme, “Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures.” Sixty years

after the adoption of the 1966 ILO/ UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, its central concern remains deeply relevant: teachers deserve the respect, protection and support that enable them to fulfil their vital role. For us in Antigua and Barbuda, this theme asks a direct question: how do we show, in practical ways, that we stand with those who do so much for our children?

We begin by recognizing what your service truly involves. We see your preparation, creativity and commitment. We value the hours spent assessing work, adapting lessons, collaborating with colleagues and engaging families. We recognize, too, the quieter acts of care: reassuring an anxious child, encouraging a struggling learner and restoring confidence where disappointment has taken root. Much of your finest work escapes public notice, but its value is written into the lives you touch.

We also recognize that teaching is becoming more demanding. Digital technologies and artificial intelligence require careful judgement. Diverse learning needs call for inclusive approaches, while social pressures and concerns about student wellbeing draw increasingly upon your time and emotional strength. As you care for your students, your own wellbeing must receive serious attention.

Standing with teachers therefore requires more than expressions of gratitude. Fair remuneration, manageable workloads, safe and adequately resourced classrooms, professional development and respect for your judgement must remain priorities. Your voices must also help to shape the decisions that affect your work. A nation that places its future in teach-

ers' hands must place meaningful support within their reach.

As a Ministry, we reaffirm our responsibility to listen, engage constructively and pursue practical improvements with teachers and their representatives. Your daily experience offers insights that educational planning cannot afford to overlook. Our appreciation must be reflected in our actions.

I also call upon parents, guardians, communities and national partners to stand with our teachers. Strengthen your relationships with schools, support the work of educators and uphold the mutual respect upon which learning depends. Our children flourish when home, school and community share responsibility for their development.

Teachers, as we honour you, I encourage you to continue learning, collaborating and innovating. Let compassion guide your relationships, fairness shape your judgement and integrity distinguish your conduct. Your example teaches alongside your words, and its influence can be just as enduring.

Thank you for your patience, your perseverance and your belief in the potential of our children. May God strengthen you, sustain your wellbeing and bless your efforts with fulfilment.

Happy World Teachers' Day to every teacher in Antigua and Barbuda.

When we stand with teachers, we stand for our children's promise and our nation's future.

Clare L. Browne
*Director of Education
 Ministry of Education, Science and Technology*

Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority Begins Rehabilitation of St. John's Waterfront Boardwalk



The Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, under the leadership of its manager, Darwin Telemaque, has commenced a major rehabilitation of the waterfront boardwalk connecting Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay.

The project will replace ageing wooden piles and worn decking with durable concrete piles and water-sealed, pressure-treated pine decking. These improvements will reduce frequent maintenance requirements and provide a safer, stronger and longer-lasting walkway for residents and visitors.

Demolition is already underway, with reconstruction scheduled to begin later this week. To minimize disruption, the work will be undertaken in four phases, beginning with the main section connecting Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay.

The second phase will cover the section beside the Heritage Quay police outpost, followed by the area between Exotic Antigua and the Boardwalk Casino. The project will conclude with the final stretch from the Boardwalk Casino to Lower Nevis Street.

Barring unforeseen delays, the entire project is expected to be completed ahead of the 2026/27 cruise tourism season.

Once completed, the restored boardwalk will improve pedestrian access along the waterfront and enhance the downtown shopping and tourism district for residents, businesses and arriving cruise passengers.

The rehabilitation reflects the Port Authority's continued commitment

to improving national infrastructure and maintaining a safe and attractive waterfront.

The Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority thanks the public for its patience during the works and looks forward to welcoming residents and visitors to the restored boardwalk.



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Whether you are being discharged from ou... See more

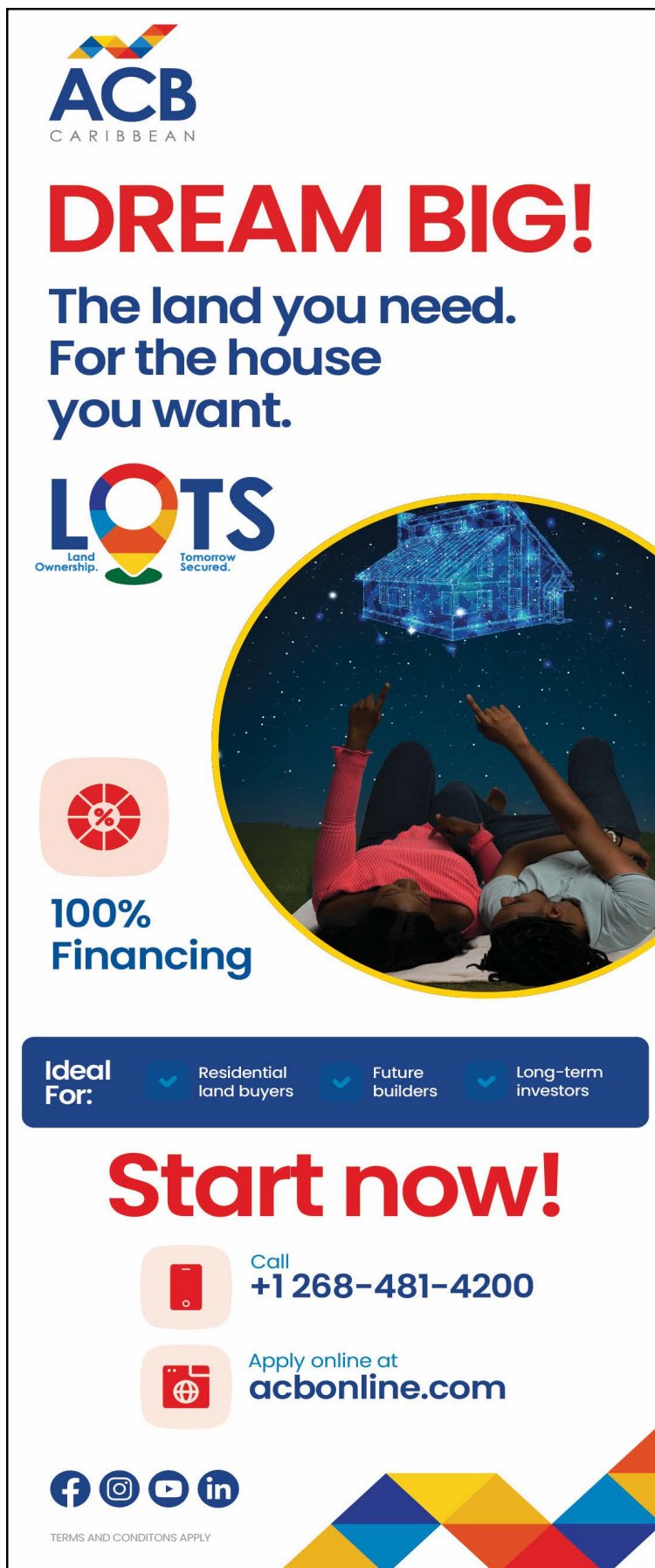
The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has announced that starting this week, its pharmacy is commencing full 24/7 services to anyone needing a prescription filled.

“Beginning October 4, our pharmacy will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to better serve our community. Whether you are being discharged from our Emergency Room late at night or simply need to

fill a prescription outside regular business hours, we are here for you,” a flyer being publicized by SLBMC stated.

It added that the 24/7 pharmacy is open to everyone and all valid prescription are accepted, regardless of where the individual received care.

The pharmacy at SLBMC is located on the second floor close to the reception desk.



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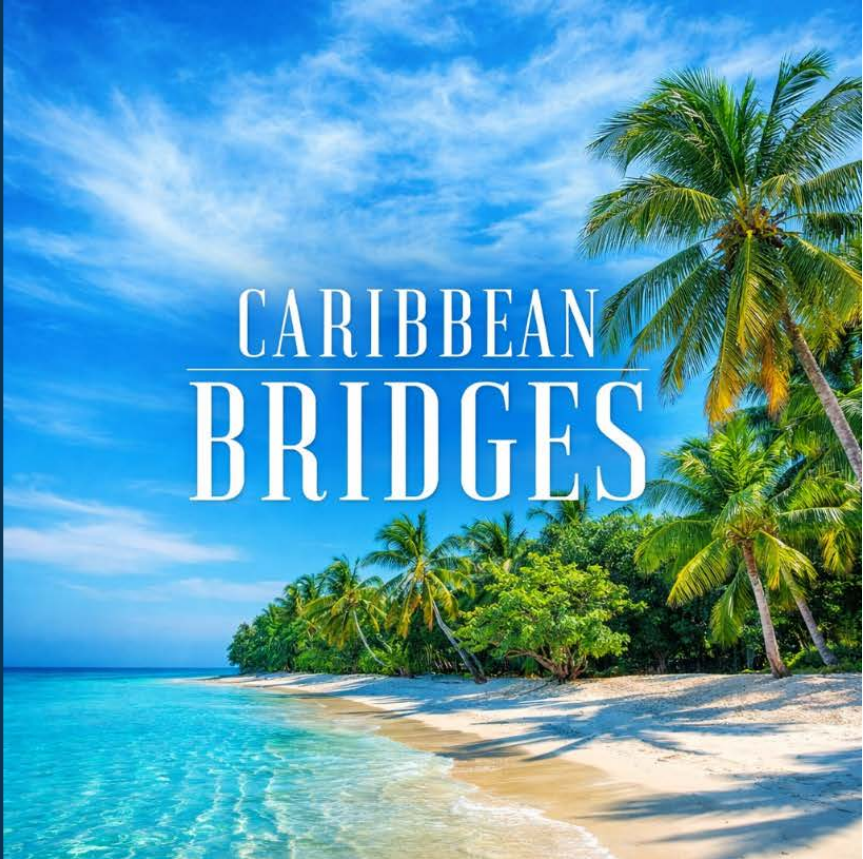
BRITAIN AND THE DIASPORA

Burnham's Britain and the families we sent there

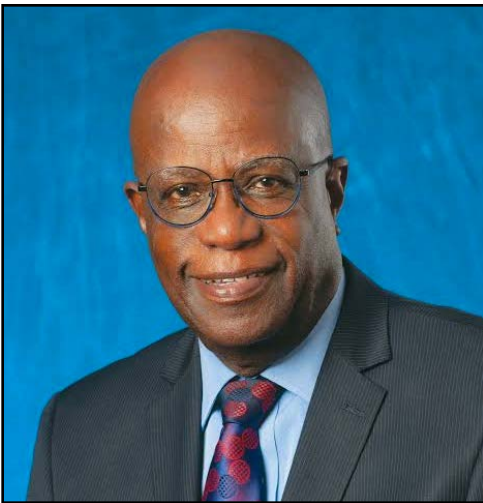
Julian Rogers

caribbeanbridges.substack.com

CARIBBEAN BRIDGES



Burnham's Britain and the families we sent there



By Julian Rogers

When Andy Burnham rose in Liverpool on Tuesday to deliver his first conference speech as Britain's Prime Minister, he began with his grandmother. She walked three miles out of a bombed-out city after the war, he said, to put a deposit on a house, and that decision changed the fortunes of the family.

Across the Caribbean, many of us will have heard an echo of our own

history. In those same post-war years, our parents, uncles and aunts sailed to Britain, saved through the pander hand, and bought homes on streets where they were not always welcome. Their story is part of the Britain Burnham now wants to rebuild. It is worth asking whether his plan has room for them.

The heart of the speech was a National Care Service, which Burnham called a policy as significant as the creation of the NHS itself. It would be free at the point of use, would end care charges taken from the basic state pension, and would protect people's homes and savings. He promised it would be funded without borrowing and introduced in the next Parliament.

For Caribbean families, this is no abstract British debate. The Windrush generation is now in its eighties and nineties. Many of its members own homes bought through a lifetime of sacrifice, homes that current care costs can swallow whole. A system that protects those assets matters to their chil-

dren in London and Birmingham, and to relatives here in Kingston, Bridgetown and Georgetown who may one day inherit them.

Burnham also offered a striking apology to care workers, saying his profession had let theirs down for too long. Caribbean women have carried Britain's hospitals and care homes since the 1950s. That apology will be welcome. Better pay would be more welcome still.

The price of the care service is a change to pensions. The triple lock remains until the end of this Parliament, but from April 2030 the state pension will rise by at least prices or 2.5 per cent and track earnings over time, with the savings directed into care. For pensioners living in Britain, that is a trade of slower pension growth for security in old age. For the many returning residents now living across the region on British pensions, the trade looks less attractive, since they are unlikely ever to use a care service in Britain. Our returning residents' associations, and the

governments that court these retirees, should seek clarity on how the new formula will apply to pensions paid overseas.

On immigration, the Prime Minister cited net migration down more than 80% since the peak of the Boris Johnson era, then paused to thank those who have come to Britain and contributed. It was a gracious moment in a hostile climate. Yet in a speech that leaned heavily on 1945 and the building of post-war Britain, there was not a single mention of Windrush, the Commonwealth or the Caribbean. That silence says something, and our leaders should not be shy about pointing it out.

There is a wider regional interest too. Burnham declared that Brexit had done more harm than good and promised to set out options for a closer long-term relationship with Europe. Any such shift will shape Britain's approach to trade with CARIFORUM. The region should be making its case in London now, not reacting once decisions are taken.

Burnham told his audience, "More of the same isn't good enough", and on that point he is right. He has offered Britain honesty, ambition and a clear direction. What he has not yet offered is a clear acknowledgement of the Caribbean contribution to the country he wants to renew.

He asked Britons to get behind his plan if they agreed with enough of it. Caribbean governments, diaspora bodies and returning residents should engage with it seriously, and on our own terms: fair pay for care workers, clarity for pensioners abroad, and a place for the Caribbean in the national story he is telling.

We sent our best to help rebuild Britain once before. We are entitled to be named when Britain speaks of rebuilding again.

Julian Rogers is the founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges.

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers .
julian@caribbeanbridges.com

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Come Earn. Make an Impact.

Climate conscious, day by day,
Means changing what we throw away.
It means we stop, we look, we see,
The cost of waste to land and sea.
A bottle tossed may seem so small,
But multiply that one by all.
By homes and schools, by shops and bars,
By beaches, roads and passing cars.



Then one becomes a thousand more,
Washed through the drains and to the shore.
And what we thought had disappeared
Is sitting somewhere, year by year.

But climate action can begin
With simple work and hands dug in.
Not every change must start up high,
With speeches made in suit and tie.

Sometimes the answer starts with you,
With one small thing that you can do.

A bag to pack, a cap to sort,
A bottle moved, a little support.

At John Hughes, there is work to do,
And we are calling out to you.
Come join the mission, take a stand,
And earn some cash with helping hands.

Fifteen bags, the target set,
One hundred dollars you can get.

Come in the morning, start at eight,
Pack your bags and do not wait.

Come with a cousin, bring a friend,
Work side by side from start to end.
Come with a neighbour, form a team,
And help us push toward the dream.

The dream is bigger than the pay,
Though one hundred dollars helps your day.



The bigger goal is what we leave
For generations yet to breathe.

Cleaner spaces, cleaner ground,
Fewer bottles lying around.
Less plastic sitting in a heap,
Less waste for future hands to keep.

Come earn, come learn, come lend a hand,

Come help protect this island land.
Come see what happens to our waste,
And why we cannot act in haste.

We buy a drink, we use it fast,
But plastic has a longer past.
Long after we have gone away,
That bottle may remain and stay.

So climate conscious means we know



That waste must have somewhere to go.
 It means we plan before we throw,
 And think about the things we owe.

We owe our children cleaner seas,
 Healthy soil and stronger trees.
 We owe our communities a place
 Where care for nature has a space.

We owe ourselves the chance to prove
 That when we gather, things can move.
 A hill of bottles may look tall,
 But many hands can move it all.

One person starts with fifteen bags,
 Another joins and never lags.
 Ten people come, then twenty more,
 And soon we change the final score.

Fifty people working strong
 Can push the movement right along.
 A hundred hands can change the view
 And prove what community can do.

This is not only cleaning waste.
 It teaches value, care and place.
 It shows that action has a price,
 But participation brings returns twice.

You earn some cash for work you give,
 And help improve the place you live.
 You leave with money in your hand
 And fewer bottles on the land.

That is climate action made real,
 Something you can touch and feel.
 Not only words upon a page,

But people working, stage by stage.

Come conscious of the things you use.
 Come conscious of the things you choose.
 Come conscious of what waste can mean.
 Come help us keep our country clean.

Come because you need the cash.
 Come because you hate the trash.
 Come because you want to see
 A cleaner future by the sea.

Come because one bag can start
 A bigger change in someone's heart.
 Come because the work is there.
 Come because you truly care.

Fifteen bags, one hundred paid,
 And one more difference proudly made.
 One more person joins the plan.
 One more person says, "I can."

Climate conscious is not a trend.
 It is a promise without end.
 To think before we throw away,
 To choose a better path each day.

It is community taking lead,
 Responding when the planet needs.
 It is finding ways to earn
 While taking time to help and learn.

So come to John Hughes, start at eight.
 The bottles will not move if we wait.
 Bring your strength, your time, your drive,
 And help this environmental mission thrive.

Fifteen bags can play a part.
 One hundred dollars is where you start.
 But when you leave, remember this too:
 The greatest impact may be you.

Because every person who takes a stand
 Helps build a cleaner island land.
 Every bag and every mile
 Makes the future look worthwhile.

Come earn.
 Come learn.
 Come play your part.

Come make an impact.
 Come make a start.

And when the final bag is gone,
 The work we started carries on.
 Because a climate-conscious mind
 Leaves wasteful habits far behind.



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Regional News

US Coast Guard intercepts ship carrying fuel to Cuba

The United States (US) Coast Guard says it has concluded the successful interdiction of a Motor Vessel (M/V) Grace following a coordinated international enforcement effort confirming the vessel's "illicit trafficking" of fuel to Cuba.

The US Coast Guard said in early September, a Coast Guard tactical team boarded M/V Grace in the Caribbean Sea.

It said M/V Grace was transiting to Cuba, carrying fuel, and was believed to be employing tactics common amongst the "dark fleet."

Following the boarding, the US Coast Guard said it escorted the M/V Grace to Progreso, Mexico, where a Mexican Navy (Marina) inspection team confirmed the presence of large quantities of fuel in the vessel's ballast tanks.

The vessel was also carrying several containers believed to contain illicit fuel, the US Coast Guard said.

"The unsafe stowage of fuel in ballast tanks represents an inherent hazard to the marine environment," it said. "The actions of the United States and Mexico prevented an unregulated fuel transfer in the Caribbean Sea, where deceptive shipping practices, unsafe vessel conditions and concealed cargoes can increase the risk of oil spills and other pollution incidents that threaten coastal communities, fish stocks and sensitive marine ecosystems."

Vice Admiral Nate Moore, deputy commandant for operations, said that "illicit fuel shipments violate international law and pose severe environmental threats in the Caribbean Sea,

"As the Coast Guard leverages our unique authorities and capabilities on the high seas, coordinated efforts are vital to stopping illegal fuel shipments and upholding international law," he said. "We thank the Government of Mexico for its assistance in bringing M/V Grace to justice."



Moore said that the US Coast Guard employed a range of assets and specialised capabilities to ensure a "safe, seamless operation in accordance with US and international law."

Admiral Kevin Lunday, commandant of the US Coast Guard, said: "The high seas are not a sanctuary for lawlessness.

"Dark fleet actors who employ deceptive tactics to engage in illicit activities will not evade justice," he said. "The Coast Guard is bringing every capability to bear to interdict these vessels and uphold international law."

The US Coast Guard said the interdiction of M/V Grace follows the Coast Guard's boarding and detention

of the M/V Jaira Provider, "another substandard vessel determined to be carrying illicit fuel to Cuba earlier this summer."

In support of the Trump administration's policy and in coordination with interagency and international partners, the US Coast Guard said it continues to conduct operations "to counter illicit maritime activity by dark fleet, stateless vessels, and vessels that fail to adhere to international standards.

"These efforts are conducted consistent with customary international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention and in cooperation with Flag State and Port State authorities," the US Coast Guard said. (CMC)

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Regional News

At least 5,700 killed, wounded in Haiti gang crisis this year – UN



Haiti's gang violence crisis has left at least 5,700 people dead or wounded this year while more than 1,000 women and girls have been raped, UN human rights chief Volker Turk said Friday.

The figures, compiled by the UN mission in Haiti up to September 11, also include 230 kidnappings, though Turk said "the real figures are likely much higher".

Addressing the UN Human Rights Council, Turk warned that gangs continue to expand despite the deployment of an international security force intended to help Haitian authorities restore order.

"Despite some success in containing their activity in parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, gangs continue to adapt and expand, re-emerging in new areas and constantly rearming," he said.

Turk said the deployed Gang Suppression Force remained significantly understrength. The mission is intended to reach 5,500 personnel but currently has about 1,500 so far.

"The force remains far below the

strength needed," Turk said.

At the same time, he said, the UN had "serious concerns about the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force" by Haiti's national law enforcement and self-defence groups.

"Since the beginning of the year, more than half of all casualties occurred in the context of security operations, with hundreds of people struck by stray bullets and explosive drones," he said.

Turk said that "so-called self-defence groups" had killed or injured some 280 people so far this year.

William O'Neill, Turk's designated expert on human rights in Haiti, told reporters that the situation was "dire but not hopeless".

He said if a full-strength Gang Suppression Force had the right capacities — intelligence, night vision, helicopters — it could be highly effective against the gangs, where power resides in a few hands.

He said it was no secret who the gang leaders are and where they are, so if a team could swoop in and arrest the leadership, "most likely the gang col-

lapses".

The gangs understand power, "and if you're more powerful than they are — game over", said lawyer O'Neill, who helped establish the Haitian National Police in 1995.

Capturing a group of top leaders "to cut the head of the snake" would be "absolutely a game-changer", he told the UN correspondents' association.

Through arms embargoes and sanctions, "if you can cut off and strangle their access to financing and weaponry, it becomes much easier than to do anything kinetic", he added.

Of guns recovered from gangs, an "overwhelming number" could be traced back to gun shops in "10 to 12 zip codes in Florida", and he said that the United States "needs to do much more".

O'Neill said the gangs had no underpinning ideology and were based on "pure criminality", while about half of their members were minors.

"The gangs have no popular support; it's zero. The population hates them, and with good reason," he said. (AFP)

Regional News

Guyanese can now enter Saudi Arabia without US, UK or Schengen visa



Guyana has secured a significant travel and diplomatic milestone with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with Guyanese passport holders now able to enter Saudi Arabia using a visa on arrival or an electronic visa without first having to possess a valid United States, United Kingdom or Schengen visa.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation announced the development on Saturday, noting that Guyana is now the only country in South America whose passport holders enjoy this facility without the requirement for a third-country visa.

Previously, Guyanese passport holders were required to have a val-

id US, UK or Schengen visa in their passports to qualify for the Saudi e-visa or visa on arrival. That condition has now been removed.

The change is expected to make travel between Guyana and Saudi Arabia significantly easier, including for persons travelling for Umrah, tourism, to visit family and friends, or for other purposes.

Guyanese travellers will also no longer need to go through an agent or visit a Saudi Arabian Embassy to access the facility. They can apply for the electronic visa directly or obtain a visa on arrival using their Guyanese passport and paying the required visa fee.

The ministry said the development

is a consequence of the intensification of bilateral relations and ongoing discussions between Guyana and Saudi Arabia, particularly in areas including trade, economic partnerships, investment, tourism and people-to-people relations.

The new travel facility is also being viewed as a significant step in strengthening and consolidating relations between the two countries.

The government says it will continue efforts to enhance the features of Guyana's Machine Readable Passports, in keeping with global standards and requirements, as the country seeks to further expand international travel opportunities for Guyanese. (CMC)

Cornell president vows review in wake of alleged student gang rape

The president of Cornell University voiced support Saturday for an external review of the institution facing widespread outcry over the alleged gang rape of a student in 2024.

The incident was detailed in a graphic lawsuit filed last month, drawing harsh backlash against the Ivy League institution and New York prosecutors for not filing any criminal charges against the accused perpetrators.

“In conjunction with our board of trustees, I welcome the independent review by an outside law firm into all aspects of Cornell’s handling of the 2024 matter,” President Michael Kotlikoff said in a video shared on Cornell’s website.

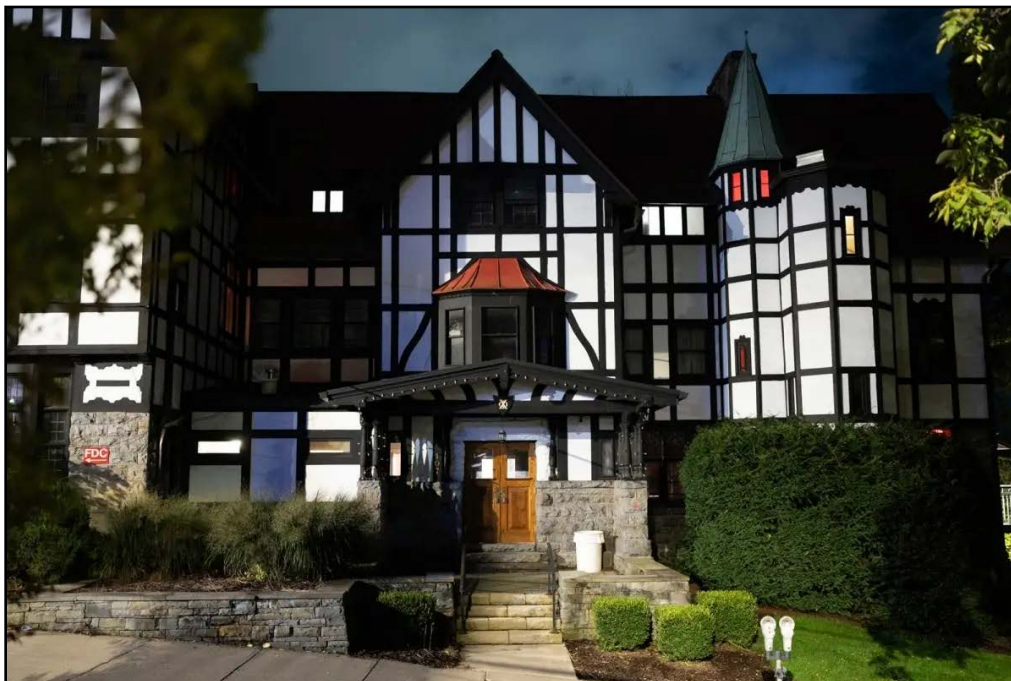
The plaintiff claimed in the civil suit that she was drugged with ketamine, assaulted and raped by seven members of the Chi Phi fraternity, a social club for male students.

“This has been one of the most difficult weeks in our history, and I know many of you are angry, saddened, and struggling,” Kotlikoff continued.

“What happened to Jane Doe in 2024 is deeply disturbing and will weigh heavily on our community for years to come.”

The criminal investigation into the gang rape was reopened Monday, with New York Governor Kathy Hochul appointing the state’s top prosecutor, Attorney General Letitia James, to lead the effort.

Hochul slammed how the initial investigation into the complainant’s claims unfolded at Cornell, which is located in Ithaca in central New York State.



“She sat for hours and told (police) exactly what happened to her. And according to new reports, she could not have been clearer that she was 100 per cent confident that she had been raped,” Hochul said.

Kotlikoff said in the video the school supported the decision to reopen the criminal investigation, but added that Cornell “will not wait for the investigation or the review to be completed before we act.”

“We will continue taking every step necessary to make Cornell an institution that leads not just in what we say about these issues, but in the work that we do to address them.”

Meanwhile, thousands of American women have taken to social media to support the alleged victim after a political commentator threatened to reveal her identity.

Messages of support with the hashtag #IAmJaneDoe have proliferated on TikTok, X and Instagram, with users claiming to be the alleged victim in a bid to make it harder to

identify her.

Some US media outlets have compared the wave of online support to the #MeToo movement in 2017, when millions of women took to social media to share stories of sexual assault and harassment following revelations about Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Following the rape allegations, Cornell shut down the fraternity and temporarily suspended the students allegedly involved, several of whom were later expelled.

Local authorities said they declined to prosecute in 2024 because the complainant’s testimony did not establish a lack of consent.

In the United States, one in four female undergraduates reported forced sexual contact or sexual contact for which they could not consent, according to a 2020 study of 33 institutions by the Association of American Universities. (AFP)

UAE shared details about FlyDubai flight with Israel, including pilots' names and nationalities -- regional officials claim



Regional officials say authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) shared a list of passengers and crew members with Israel ahead of the FlyDubai flight on which the co-pilot attacked the captain in an attempt to seize control of the Israel-bound aircraft and crash it.

The disclosure on Sunday raises fresh questions over how the attacker, identified as Oman citizen, evaded detection.

It also comes amid reports that preliminary details from the investigation have highlighted several major security lapses.

The regional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly about the probe, said the nationalities of the passenger and crew aboard the FlyDubai flight was among the information shared with Israel.

According to the officials, Israel did not flag any of the passengers or crew.

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, said the Transportation Ministry is responsible for vetting passenger lists from foreign flights.

Transportation Minister Miri Regev told Israel's public broadcaster Kan that security agencies are responsible for flight security and that her ministry was not given a list of passengers or any warnings.

Officials have already disclosed that the Omani co-pilot has been barred from flying by his own country because of concerns about his extremist views.

It also remains unclear how a citizen of Oman, an Arab country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel, was allowed to fly a planeload of Israelis to Tel Aviv.

The UAE, which is leading the inves-

tigation, said the co-pilot attacked the captain of the FlyDubai flight with the cockpit's crash axe and tried to take control of the plummeting plane in a "terrorist attack" Wednesday.

His actions nearly crashed the flight with 182 people on board before an off-duty Indian airline pilot managed to open the cockpit door, allowing others to rush in and subdue the attacker. (AP)



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School protests spill into unrest



Thousands of arrests, hundreds of injuries, schools set on fire in France.

When the summer vacation ended and the new term started just a month ago, few could have imagined that the academic year would so quickly descend into nationwide student protests – and turmoil.

In a country beset by crises – both foreign and domestic – the eruption and rapid spread of protests by unhappy teenage high schoolers caught France off guard.

Yesterday brought more of the scenes that have dominated streets this week: vandalism, garbage fires, teens confronting and taunting police. Officers charging, firing tear gas and making more arrests. By early afternoon, the education ministry reported protests

impacting 560 schools.

Taking grievances to France's streets has long been a rite of passage in the country that spawned the French Revolution of 1789. To name just a few, there were the student protests in 1968, weeks of suburban unrest in 2005, and demonstrations in 2023 against pension reforms.

The students now barricading high-school gates and demonstrating with placards have shown the know-how of veterans – down to wearing masks and goggles against police tear gas.

The timing of these protests – with France engaged in a presidential election race – sets them apart. Candidates campaigning to succeed President Emmanuel Macron in May have seized on the demonstrations as a hot

political issue.

And, although constitutionally barred from seeking a third consecutive term, Macron also joined the fray, speaking out against protest violence and political manipulation of the young demonstrators.

Protests first erupted last week in the Paris region and spread nationwide like wildfire, even to smaller towns.

High schoolers are expressing broad grievances – mainly, schools are under-resourced, with dilapidated facilities and insufficient staff. Still, spending on education is one of the costliest items in the state budget that Macron's government proposed this week, with €65.5 billion (US\$74 billion) set aside for schools in the next year. That's more than the proposed €63.4 billion

International

AROUND THE WORLD



for defence.

Students also complain that school days, which often start at 8 a.m., are too exhausting and the university entrance system too complex. Some university students also joined the protests this week.

Macron's government has repeatedly said that it respects the right to peaceful protest. But it also issued written orders for police to break up protests that block access to schools and to rapidly put a stop to violence and vandalism.

Riot police have liberally used tear gas, wielded their batons, and made arrests to disperse crowds.

Police and school staff have been targeted with explosive fireworks and other injury-causing projectiles. The interior ministry says acid has been hurled in some cases, and that those intent on destruction and looting have grafted themselves onto the high schoolers' movement and behaved like "criminals and vandals" instead of "young people legitimately voicing their demands".

Police made more than 1,900 arrests on Thursday, when 305 officers were hurt, the ministry said.

The protests and confrontations continued yesterday, and unrest also spread to neighbouring Belgium where about a dozen schools closed in Liege, a day after violence in the city and six arrests there.

There have been broader concerns in France that the schooling system is losing ground to those in other countries and failing in its mission to enable children from disadvantaged backgrounds to move up the social ladder.

Performance gaps are growing between highly advantaged and highly disadvantaged students, and overall scores in reading comprehension and mathematics have plunged, according to the latest PISA report, which evaluates students worldwide.

The government banned smart-

phones from high schools when the school year started in September, with officials arguing that banishing screens will improve learning. France this year also became the first country in the European Union to ban social media platforms for children under 15, but the country's top court struck down that measure.

The unrest is sharpening political battle lines between presidential candidates.

Far-left candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon has positioned himself firmly on the side of the students and has decried police actions as "savagery" and

repressive. Police crowd-control projectiles are suspected in some of the injuries that protesters have suffered.

Mélenchon's critics are accusing his France Unbowed party of stoking violence and seeking to score political points from the protests.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen has called for broader police powers against rioters. Conservative former Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, one of Le Pen's main challengers for the presidency, has condemned those who "break things, burn things, or assault people". (AP)

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US execution survivor critically ill, on ventilator: lawyer

The woman who survived a botched execution attempt in a US prison was still hospitalised in critical condition and on a ventilator, her lawyer said Sunday as he called for her death sentence to be commuted to life in prison.

Tennessee's prison chief resigned Saturday after convicted murderer Christa Pike, 50, survived two lethal injections of pentobarbital, a drug that suppresses nervous system activity.

The case gained national attention and raised questions about capital punishment in the United States and the methods used to carry it out.

"She's still in the hospital on a ventilator, critically ill," Pike's attorney Stephen Ferrell said on CNN. "We don't really know the prognosis yet, and may not know for several days."

Ferrell, who has been unable to see his client, said doctors were still trying to rid her body of the drug while she remains under guard at the hospital.

He urged Governor Bill Lee to show leniency.

"I think, at the very least, the governor should commute Ms. Pike's death sentence to a life sentence," Ferrell said. "We don't know what her physical state will be, but it is clear that she has endured a torturous attempt at executing her."

He added: "I think she's spent over 30 years in prison, most of that in solitary confinement, only to be taken out and not executed, but tried to execute her. And that we don't know right now, and we may never know what sort of torture she endured during that process."

Media witnesses listened to Pike snoring for about an hour after she was given the injections, and said she was alive as they were ushered out of the execution chamber viewing area at the Riverbend Maximum Security



Institution in Nashville.

In his resignation statement, Tennessee Department of Correction Commissioner Frank Strada insisted "the Department carried out its responsibilities in accordance with the established protocol."

And Lee, who previously denied Pike clemency, has halted further executions through the rest of the year pending a third-party review.

Pike's case sparked debate over the death penalty for young offenders, as she was 18 when she and her boyfriend beat and killed 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer at a job training camp in 1995.

Pike's lawyers sought clemency citing her age, childhood sexual abuse and mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder. (AFP)

Antigua beat Anguilla in CONCACAF Nations League



A starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda senior men's national team.

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys joined Aruba at the top of Group B in League C in the 2026/27 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Nations League with their second win in Antigua on Thursday night.

Host Antigua and Barbuda, who won their first-round meeting 5-0, recorded their second win over Anguilla with a 3-0 victory at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound.

D'Andre Bishop scored with a right-foot banger in the box to put the Benna Boys ahead in the 35th minute. Bishop

scored a second goal with another right-footed shot in the 64th minute to double the Benna Boys' lead.

Midfielder Sean Tomlinson sealed the win for Antigua and Barbuda, scoring the team's third and final goal with a left-footed strike from within the box in the 74th minute.

The second win in three matches lifted Antigua and Barbuda to six points, the same as Aruba, who have a game in hand.

Anguilla remains at the bottom of the three-team Group B of League C without any points after crashing to their third defeat in as many games.

Thursday's match was the start of the second phase of round-robin matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in early October.

Antigua and Barbuda will clash with Aruba in the final match of the group on Tuesday, October 6.

The group winners will gain promotion to compete in League B in the next edition of the CONCACAF Nations League.

The group winners will also be in contention to secure a berth into the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which will be held in June and July next year.

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ABUT Ministry of Education finish 2nd in ABNA Business League



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education netball team

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education won their final match to secure a second-place finish in the female division of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) Business League Competition on Saturday.

The ABUT Ministry of Education finished second in the five-team round-robin competition by snatching a narrow 19-17 victory over the University of the West Indies in their final outing at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Adina Andre converted 14 of her 21 attempts, and Karol Carlton scored five of her nine shots for the ABUT Ministry of Education, who claimed their third win during their quota of four matches.

Joy Shaw sank 16 of her 23 shots, and Xandea Hobson scored only one of her 14 attempts for the University of the West Indies, who finished third after

losing for the second time during their quota of four matches.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters A team clinched fourth place after winning their only match, snatching a narrow 11-9 victory over the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters B team in a bottom-of-the-table clash in the final outing for both teams.

Rohena Paul converted nine of her 26 shots, and Sequoyah Survia scored two of her nine attempts for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters A team, which had lost all previous three matches.

Heleena Pierre sank four of her six shots, Lovinnia Martin converted three of her six attempts, and J'Nai Spencer scored two of her 10 tries for Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters B team, which fin-

ished winless and in the cellar of the competition after losing all four of their round-robin matches.

The Ministry of Tourism played unbeaten to win the female division, securing their fourth win by pulling off a narrow 20-18 victory over the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education in their final outing.

Krizia Duncan sank 14 of her 20 shots, and Kizzy Hughes scored six of her 15 attempts for the Ministry of Tourism.

Adina Andre converted 10 of her 15 attempts, and Karol Carlton sank seven of her 13 shots for the ABUT Ministry of Education.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters finished fourth in the five-team mixed division, recording their only win in their final outing.

After losing their previous three matches, the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters recorded their only win with a 28-5 drubbing of Galley Bay Resort in a bottom-of-the-table clash.

Daniel Kerr converted 20 of his 23 shots, Sequoyah Survia sank five of her eight attempts, and Raenor Sharpe scored two of his five tries for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters.

Ken Henry converted three of his eight attempts, and Kamiyah Hector scored two of his six shots for Galley Bay Resort, who finished winless and in the cellar after losing all four matches.

Sports News

BOE stay unbeaten in Business Basketball League



The Board of Education basketball team

The Board of Education (BOE) extended their unbeaten start to eight games in defense of their title in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

The Board of Education surged to their eighth consecutive win with a 105-37 drubbing of the Philippines in their latest outing.

Daniels Perez shot a game-high 25 points, his brother Danny Perez and Kevin Pimental each converted 20 points, Beniah Mark sank 12 points, and Warren Bogle scored 10 points for the BOE.

Tyndale Telemaque converted eight points, and Jules Frederick scored seven points for the Philippines, who lost for the seventh time in nine games.

In their previous outing, the Board of Education notched up their seventh win with a 109-61 drubbing of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC).

Daniel Perez shot a game-high 26

points, Xavier Meade sank 17 points, and Danny Perez had 15 points for the BOE. In support, Beniah Mark converted 14 points, Warren Bogle produced 12 points, and Kevin Pimental scored 10 points for the Board of Education.

Raheem Charles converted 18 points, Demeitre Leitch had 16 points, and Ricky Willock scored 14 points for the SLBMC, who suffered their eighth defeat in nine games.

Last year's losing finalists, Richie's Shooterz, continued their winning start to their campaign, securing their seventh win in as many matches by dispatching the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) 86-37 in their latest encounter.

Jaheem James shot a game-high 30 points, Cohen Desouza sank 21 points, Sean Nicholas had 12 points, and Nickon McGregor scored 10 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Henry Dorsette scored seven points for the Antigua and Barbuda Union of

Teachers, who lost for the ninth time in 10 games.

In their previous encounter, Richie's Shooterz claimed their sixth win by snatching a 71-67 victory in overtime against the Sledge O'Ballers.

Steven Matthew sank 22 points, point guard Tavarus Benta scored 17 points, Sean Nicholas produced 14 points, and Jaheem James had 11 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Leroy Percival converted 21 points, Terry Roberts sank 19 points, and Ariel Quallis scored 15 points for the Sledge O'Ballers, who slumped to their fourth defeat in eight encounters.

After slumping to three consecutive losses, Anjo Wholesale returned to winning form, recording their fourth win in seven matches with a commanding 85-64 victory against Christos.

Marcus Murphy produced 18 points, and Gabriel Desuza converted 14 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Javon Simon shot a game-high 29 points, and Kirwan Peterson scored 11 points for Christos, who remain winless after suffering their eighth defeat in as many games.

CTM Auto Spa ended a string of five consecutive losses to record their fourth win in nine matches by surging to a 98-60 victory over the Philippines.

Jerome Andrew shot a game-high 21 points, Rhonde Davis and Donte Trimmingham each sank 20 points, and Ryan Shepphard scored 12 points for CTM Auto Spa.

Alvin Ferrerco converted 14 points, and Tyndale Telemaque scored 11 points for the Philippines.

Hope's 162 leads record Windies run chase to beat India in third ODI

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Captain Shai Hope's unbeaten 162 led West Indies to a record run chase win against India in One-Day International (ODI) cricket on Saturday.

The West Indies achieved their highest successful run chase in ODIs when the Caribbean men reached 352 for five to record a five-wicket win with 10 balls to spare. Lokesh Rahul struck 129 not out in India's 351 for seven off their 50 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

India had already won the three-match series after eight-wicket wins in Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati. But the West Indies, chasing for the first time in the series, overcame India for the first time since 2023.

Hope promoted himself to opening batter after Antiguan Jewel Andrew reportedly injured a finger making a catch and had to go to hospital.

After keeping wicket for all of India's 50 overs in high humidity, Hope batted brilliantly in his second successive hundred in the series but struggled in the last overs. Fittingly, he hit the winning run.

"Felt something around the groin area but wanted to fight through till the end," Hope said. His second highest ODI score, from 143 balls, included 17 boundaries and three sixes. Amir Jangoo added 67 off 56 and Keemo Paul made 44 off 35 balls.



West Indies captain Shai Hope bats during the third ODI against India in Chandigarh, India, on Saturday, October 3, 2026. (Getty Images)

"(Chasing is) always a lot easier in India, especially with the dew," Hope said. "Glad we got over the line."

Hope and Jangoo added 109 off 99 balls for the second wicket to defy an India bowling attack that recalled Mohammed Siraj and all-rounder Nitish Reddy and debuted pacer Anshul Kamboj, who went wicketless.

Jangoo was run out in the 21st over but Sherfane Ruth-

erford (24) didn't let the momentum slip. He added 56 with Hope, who reached 50 off 46 balls and 100 off 104 in his 21st ODI hundred and fifth against India.

Paul's cameo included five fours as he added 65 off 61 balls with his skipper. Hope shifted gears after Paul was dismissed in the 41st over, caught off Gurnoor Brar.

Hope hit seven more fours and two sixes after his mile-

stone, taking 62 off the last 39 balls faced to propel West Indies to victory.

India had to serve a slow over rate penalty for the last four overs, with an additional fielder inside 30 yards, as Hope and Gudakesh Motie (19 not out) added 62 off 29 balls for the sixth wicket.

India won the toss again but skipper Shubman Gill was caught behind for one and Virat Kohli was bowled for a golden duck. Both fell to Trinidadian fast bowler Jayden Seales.

Only 28 runs came in the first 10 overs then Rohit Sharma and Rahul propelled the hosts. Sharma resurrected the innings with 92 off 85 balls as he added 137 runs for the third wicket with Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Sharma took his time and was unlucky to miss a second consecutive hundred in the series; he was out caught off Paul in the 25th over. Four overs later, Seales claimed his third wicket by dismissing Gaikwad for 57 off 69 balls. That brought Rahul to the crease, and he led the charge past 350.

Rahul hit six sixes and 10 fours. He scored 50 off 41 balls and his second 50 off 39 balls. He enjoyed good partnerships with Naman Dhir and Brar, and finished on 129 not out off only 87 balls. The teams will begin a five-match Twenty20 series, which will start in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Mixed fortunes for PMS in School Knockout Cup

Princess Margaret School had mixed fortunes in the girls' and boys' division finals of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean School Boys Knockout Cup on Friday.

Princess Margaret School made a successful defense of their girls' division title but was dethroned by the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) in the boys' division final at the ABFA Technical Center.

Princess Margaret School prevailed 4-3 in a penalty shootout against Antigua Girls High School after both teams battled to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation in the final of the Girls Knockout Cup.

Nafisa Quashie gave AGHS the lead with a 33rd-minute conversion, and Kavita Cordice snatched an equalizer for PMS with a strike in the 50th minute to force the match to the decisive penalty shootout.

Both teams advanced to the championship decider after securing wins in the semi-finals.

Nafisa Quashie scored four goals to propel AGHS to a 6-1 drubbing of Pares Secondary School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The Princess Margaret



Payers of the Princess Margaret School pose with their trophy after retaining their title by winning the School Girls Knockout Cup at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday, October 2, 2026.

School recorded a 4-0 victory against Clare Hall Secondary School in their semi-final at the Golden Grove playing field.

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies overcame Princess Margaret School 8-7 in a penalty shootout to win the Boys Knockout Cup after both teams fought to a goalless

draw at the end of regulation in the keenly contested final.

Princess Margaret School advanced to the final by snatching a 2-1 victory against Antigua Grammar School in their semi-final at the Golden Grove playing field.

ABCAS booked their spot in the championship decid-

er after prevailing 3-2 in a penalty shootout against the Harrison Center after both teams battled to a goalless draw at the end of regulation in the first semi-final at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Friday's finals were preceded by the official march past and opening of the 2026/27 secondary schools' football league at the ABFA Technical Center.

The schools' football league will kick off with five opening-round matches in the Under-14 Boys Division on Monday (today).

In a double-header at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos, defending champions Princess Margaret School will begin their title defense against St. Mary's Secondary School at 2:15 pm.

The Antigua Grammar School will clash with Ottos Comprehensive School in the second encounter at 3:15 pm. Jennings Secondary School will meet Clare Hall Secondary School at Golden Grove at 2:15 pm.

In another double-header at the Freemans Village playing field, All Saints Secondary School will face off against Pares Secondary School at 2:15 pm, and Sir Novelle Richards Academy will tackle Irene B. Williams Secondary at 3:15 pm.