

No Plans to 'Lock Down' St. John's For CHOGM

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Activities marking the 45th anniversary of political independence started on Sunday with the official Independence Church Service held at the Precision Centre at Paynters

No Plans to 'Lock Down' St. John's For CHOGM

Chairman of the national CHOGM Task Force, Foreign Minister, E P Chet Greene is 'clearing the air' regarding arrangements that will be in place during the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda from November 1 – 4.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Task Force, Minister Greene made specific reference to St. John's, the country's business centre and the plans that will affect operations in the capital during the event.

"We understand that businesses must proceed even while we accept that there will be some disruptions to normal operations and these we will try to keep as short as possible. It will only be for the opening ceremony planned for Tuesday November 3 where parts of the city will form part of a security perimeter operation. So for example, operations can continue west of Corn Alley as a cruise ship is due in port on that day, and we must expect taxi operators, vendors, Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay to operate as normal," Greene explained.

According to the minister, the opening ceremony is the only event planned for St. John's city centre and it will be the only time when areas of the city will see heightened security. However, after the opening ceremony comes to an end, it is anticipated that the barriers and restrictions to the movement of pedestrians and motor vehicles will be removed and normal business may proceed.

The only other event when security will be of major significance on parts of St. John's will be the Inter-Faith Service planned for Sunday November 1st at the St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration. Here too, at the end of the service, the restrictions will again be quickly removed. These restrictions will only be limited to the northern portion of the city, including



Chairman of the national CHOGM Task Force, Foreign Minister, E P Chet Greene

Friar's Hill road.

Minister Greene said he expects the major supermarkets, the public market, the West Bus Station to operate

as normal throughout the hosting of CHOGM. Additionally, in the case of the East Bus Station, this will only be affected on November 3 from early morning to about 1:30 in the afternoon when all restrictions are expected to be lifted.

These and other CHOGM related matters will be the subject of at least two town hall meetings planned this week by the CHOGM Task Force. The first takes place on Wednesday night at the Sir John E St. Luce Conference Centre and the second to be held in St. Paul at a time and place to be announced.

The town hall meeting planned for the Sir John E, St. Luce is expected to be a simulcast involving ABS Radio and television and other media entities in Antigua and Barbuda.



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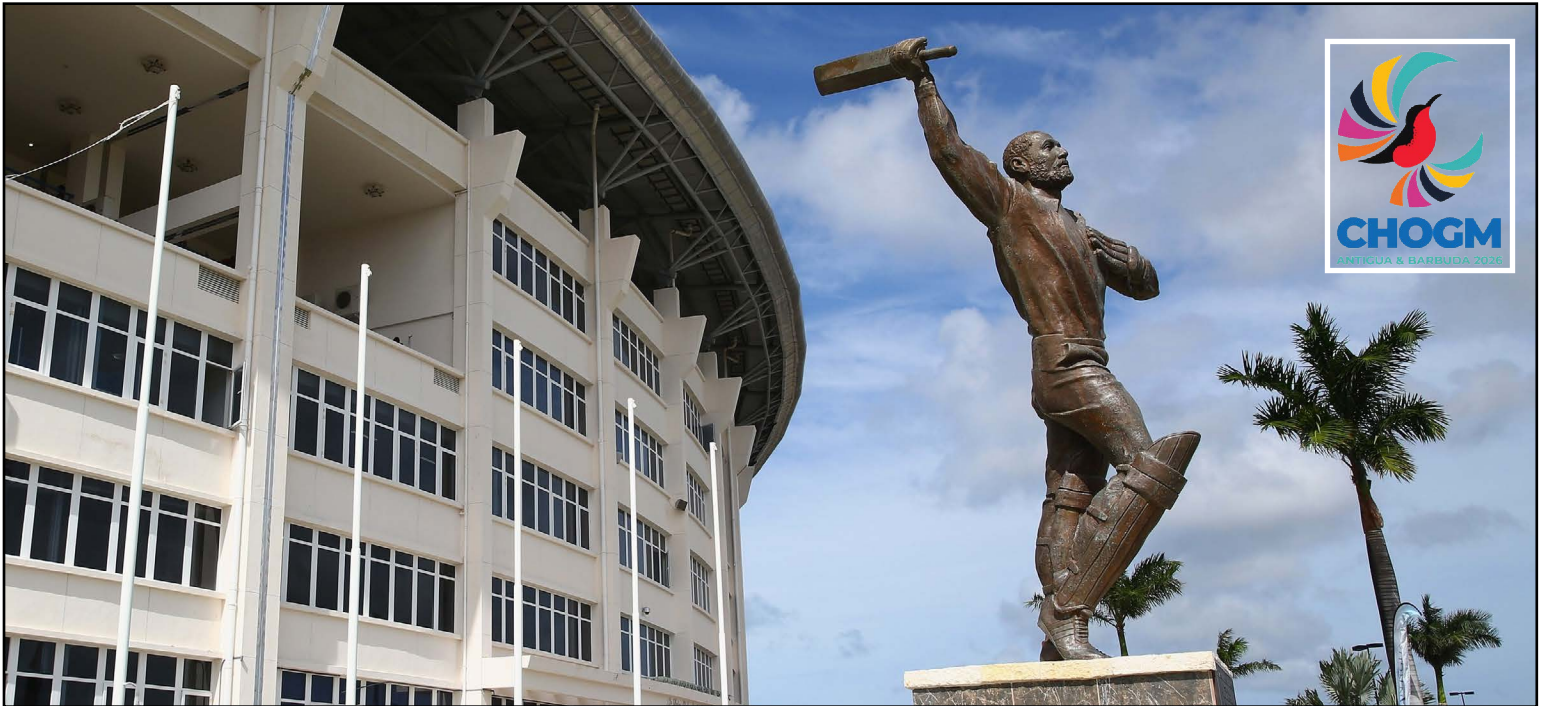
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Cabinet Receives Presentation on “One Commonwealth Night” Concert for CHOGM 2026



The Cabinet has been updated on plans for One Commonwealth Night, a major cultural and entertainment event being planned as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026.

The presentation outlined an ambitious programme designed to bring together music, culture, storytelling, youth participation and leadership from across the 56 member countries of the Commonwealth.

The event, being promoted under the theme “Many Voices. One Commonwealth,” is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026, at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium, beginning at 8:00 p.m. and concluding at 11:00 p.m.

Cabinet was informed that the three-hour production is being developed as a flagship live cultural experience of CHOGM 2026, providing an opportunity for Antigua and Barbuda to showcase its artistic excellence while celebrating the diversity, creativity and shared values of Commonwealth nations.

The representative outlined a proposed programme featuring internationally acclaimed performers along-

side some of Antigua and Barbuda’s leading musical talents.

Among the artists identified in the presentation were Jamaican reggae star Tarrus Riley, Grammy Award-winning Indian vocalist Falguni Shah, popularly known as Falu, Ghanaian musician Rocky Dawuni, the internationally recognised Kanneh-Mason family of classical musicians, and Jamaican-Canadian reggae performer Jah’Mila.

The presentation also identified British actor and musician Idris Elba as a proposed host, alongside Antiguan Senator Jamilla Kirwan. Elba’s participation remains subject to confirmation.

The programme is expected to feature prominent Antiguan performers, including soca artiste Claudette “CP” Peters, singer-songwriter Asher Otto and vocalist Arlen Seaton.

Cabinet was particularly pleased with the proposed involvement of the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra, which is expected to play a central role in the production.

The orchestra and choir will provide musical accompaniment for several performances, demonstrating the talent and accomplishments of young

Antiguan and Barbudan musicians on an international stage.

The presentation indicated that internationally acclaimed conductor Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser is expected to conduct the youth orchestra during the event.

The representative explained that One Commonwealth Night is being designed as more than a traditional concert.

The production will employ a three-stage arrangement, with separate performance areas dedicated to orchestral music, storytelling and leadership, and cultural performances.

These stages will operate as one continuous production, creating a seamless experience for the audience.

The programme will be presented through four principal chapters: “Our Commonwealth,” “Voices That Inspire,” “The Future We Create,” and “Prosperity, Together.”

The opening chapter will celebrate Antigua and Barbuda as the host nation and is expected to include a welcome by Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Subsequent segments will highlight inspirational Commonwealth voices, cultural diversity, innovation, oppor-

Local News



tunities for young people and the importance of inclusive development.

The programme also proposes contributions from Commonwealth Poet Laureate Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh and Commonwealth Young Person of the Year Shifra Ainomugi-sha.

A special segment titled “Digital Futures for Youth” will focus on empowering young people across the Commonwealth through technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and access to new economic opportunities.

The presentation indicated that Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey is expected to participate in this segment, highlighting the importance of creating lasting opportunities for the Commonwealth’s younger generation.

Cabinet was advised that the concert will also celebrate cultural heritage and inclusion through performances featuring steel orchestras, traditional music and artists representing different Commonwealth regions.

The proposed programme includes a contribution from Scotland’s National

Piping Centre, alongside Caribbean and international musical expressions.

The evening is expected to conclude with a grand finale bringing together participating artists, the orchestra, choir and audience in a celebration of Commonwealth solidarity.

The proposed finale will feature a collective performance of Bob Marley’s One Love, reinforcing the message of unity and shared responsibility among Commonwealth nations.

Cabinet recognised the importance of using the occasion to promote Antigua and Barbuda’s creative industries and provide exposure for local artists, musicians and cultural practitioners.

The presentation also demonstrated how cultural events associated with CHOGM can provide a platform for international collaboration and strengthen the country’s reputation as a destination capable of hosting major global events.

Cabinet welcomed the presentation and acknowledged the creative vision behind the proposed production, particularly its emphasis on combining international talent with Antiguan and

Barbudan cultural expression.

The Cabinet noted that the event represents an opportunity to showcase the country’s rich musical traditions, youthful talent and cultural heritage before an international audience.

Cabinet also recognised the significance of the concert’s broader message, which seeks to move beyond entertainment by promoting cooperation, youth empowerment, innovation and shared prosperity.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that the cultural activities associated with CHOGM 2026 reflect the highest standards of organisation and provide meaningful opportunities for local participation.

Cabinet noted that the final programme and participation of some international personalities remain subject to confirmation as preparations continue.

The presentation forms part of the ongoing preparations for Antigua and Barbuda’s hosting of CHOGM 2026 under the theme “Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth.”

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne to Champion Climate Justice at Global Citizen NOW Summit in Australia

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in Perth, Western Australia, to participate in the prestigious Global Citizen NOW: Perth Summit, scheduled for October 18–20, 2026, where he will renew his call for urgent international action to address the existential threats posed by climate change to Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Prime Minister's participation comes at a critical juncture in global climate diplomacy, as world leaders prepare for the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) and Antigua and Barbuda prepares to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from November 1–4, 2026.

The international summit will bring together political leaders, business executives, philanthropists, environmental advocates and representatives of civil society to advance practical solutions to some of the world's most pressing development challenges, including climate change, energy security, sustainable development and equitable access to financing.

Prime Minister Browne is scheduled to participate in a high-level discussion on Tuesday, October 20, under the theme "The Cost of Complacency."

During the session, the Prime Minister is expected to highlight the devastating human, social and economic consequences of climate inaction, particularly for vulnerable countries in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Drawing on Antigua and Barbuda's own experience, Prime Minister Browne will underscore the reality that climate change is not a distant threat for small island nations but an immediate challenge affecting homes, livelihoods, infrastructure, food security and national development.

The Prime Minister is expected to reference the devastation caused by Hur-



ricane Irma in 2017, which damaged or destroyed approximately 95 percent of buildings in Barbuda and forced the evacuation of the island's population.

He will also draw attention to the experience of other vulnerable countries, including Dominica, where Hurricane Maria caused damage and losses estimated at more than twice the country's annual gross domestic product.

Prime Minister Browne has consistently maintained in international forums that small island states contribute disproportionately little to global greenhouse gas emissions yet bear some of the most severe consequences of climate change.

He has repeatedly argued that climate vulnerability must be recognised as a fundamental development challenge and that the international community has a responsibility to provide practical assistance to countries facing repeated climate-related disasters.

The Prime Minister's participation in Australia will also provide an opportunity to highlight Antigua and Barbuda's growing leadership in advancing the interests of Small Island Developing States.

Under Prime Minister Browne's leadership, Antigua and Barbuda hosted the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States

(SIDS4) in May 2024, which resulted in the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS): A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity.

The ten-year framework provides a platform for addressing the structural vulnerabilities of small island nations and advancing international cooperation in areas including sustainable development, climate resilience, financing and economic transformation.

Prime Minister Browne has also been a leading advocate for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which seeks to ensure that the international financial system gives greater consideration to countries' exposure to climate disasters, economic shocks and other vulnerabilities when determining eligibility for development assistance and concessional financing.

The Prime Minister has long argued that traditional measurements based primarily on per capita income fail to reflect the unique challenges faced by small island economies.

Another major focus of his participation will be the international legal efforts undertaken by Antigua and Barbuda, in partnership with Tuvalu, through the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS).

The Commission played a central role in securing the landmark advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea concerning states' obligations to protect the marine environment from the effects of climate change.

The Prime Minister is expected to emphasise the importance of translating these legal and diplomatic achievements into concrete international action, particularly in relation to climate finance, accountability and support for vulnerable countries.

Local News

Cabinet Calls on Butterfield to observe Employees' Rights and Severance Entitlements in Proposed Acquisition of CIBC Caribbean

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has expressed concern regarding an area of the proposed acquisition of CIBC Caribbean by Butterfield, particularly as it relates to the employment rights and severance entitlements of workers employed by the bank in Antigua and Barbuda.

During its meeting last Wednesday, Cabinet considered the matter following concerns about the rights of employees under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and the arrangements being proposed for the continuation of their employment following the acquisition.

Cabinet noted that the employees have drawn attention to the provisions of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code (Amendment) Act No. 9 of 2019, particularly Sections C40 and C44, together with the consequential amendment to Section 176(g) of the Banking Act No. 10 of 2015.

The employees contend that these provisions protect their rights to severance benefits in circumstances involving redundancy, the sale of assets or other forms of transfer of an undertaking to a successor employer.

Cabinet calls upon Butterfield, as the



proposed purchaser, and the existing management of CIBC Caribbean to ensure full compliance with the country's Labour Code and all other applicable legislation governing the transfer of businesses and the protection of employees.

Cabinet further noted the concerns raised by employees regarding the structure of the proposed transaction, including whether it constitutes a transfer of shares or a transfer of the banking undertaking, and the implications of those arrangements for the application of Antigua and Barbuda's labour legislation.

The Government considers it essential that the legal nature of the transaction be clearly established and that the rights of employees be determined in accordance with the applicable laws.

Cabinet recognises the importance of maintaining a stable and competitive banking sector and welcomes responsible investment in Antigua and Barbuda. Cabinet encourages the parties involved in the proposed acquisition to engage constructively with employees and the relevant labour authorities to ensure that all legal obligations are properly addressed before the transaction is finalised.



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St. John's Taxi Association Conducts Clean-up and Beautification Exercise at Ffryes Beach

The Antigua and Barbuda St. John's Taxi Association Inc. (ABSJTA) conducted a clean-up and beautification exercise on Saturday, covering Big Ffryes Beach, Little Ffryes Beach and the surrounding areas.

Undertaken in support of preparations for the 2026/2027 cruise season, the initiative brought members and volunteers together to improve the coastal environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Participants collected 40 biodegradable 48-gallon garbage bags filled with bottles, cans, paper, plastics, and other waste. Additional leaves and large debris were also removed from the beaches and surrounding areas.

The initiative reflects the Association's recognition of the importance of maintaining Antigua and Barbuda's beaches as valued community spaces and central features of the national tourism product. Preserving these areas supports recreation and public enjoyment while contributing to the quality of the visitor experience and the livelihoods sustained by tourism.

The ABSJTA extends its appreciation to all members, volunteers and supporters who contributed to the exercise. Donations of supplies and refreshments, together with the provision of a dump truck for waste collection and disposal, supported the successful completion of the activity.

Following discussions with the Association, the management of Dennis Beach Bar pledged to support future beach clean-up initiatives through donations of rakes and other essential equipment. This



collaboration will help volunteers undertake the exercises more efficiently and support safe and hygienic waste handling.

The ABSJTA has committed to conducting these exercises twice annually: once before the start of the cruise season and again at its conclusion. The Association also encourages other tourism providers

to participate in coordinated clean-up and beautification initiatives. The Association's President stated, "Through sustained collaboration, the tourism sector can contribute to the preservation of the country's beaches, the enhancement of surrounding areas and the continued appeal of Antigua and Barbuda as a destination."



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Local News

Police Administration Expresses Regret Over Incident Where a Dog Was Fatally Shot During a Police Operation

The Administration of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda expresses sincere regret over an unfortunate incident involving several dogs during the execution of a search warrant at a property in All Saints on Friday, October 16, 2026.

At approximately 4:50 a.m., a joint team of police officers, comprising personnel from the Criminal Investigations Department Task Force, Special Services Unit, Gang and Guns Suppression Unit, and K-9 Unit, executed a search warrant at a residential property in All Saints.

During the operation, officers reportedly encountered several dogs, including pit bulls, a Rottweiler, and a Bullmastiff, which were displaying aggressive behaviour as police attempted to enter the premises.

In an effort to control the situation



and prevent possible injuries to officers, less-lethal measures were initially employed.

However, one of the dogs reportedly continued to advance aggressively towards the officers despite these measures, resulting in an officer discharg-

ing a firearm. Regrettably, the animal was fatally wounded.

The Police Administration deeply regrets that the circumstances surrounding this operation resulted in harm to the animals, particularly the unfortunate loss of one of the dogs.

As an organization that operates its own K-9 Unit, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda fully recognizes the important role dogs play in our society, not only as working animals but also as loyal companions and valued members of many families.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda reiterates that it does not condone unnecessary harm or cruelty to animals. The organization remains committed to protecting life, respecting animal welfare, and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the execution of its duties.



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Senator Joel Rayne: “The Police Should Not Be Strangers Until an Emergency Occurs”

Senator Joel Rayne is calling for a renewed focus on police-community engagement, youth outreach and sport-based initiatives as part of a stronger national response to gun violence.

Speaking during the Senate debate on the Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2026, Senator Rayne said police officers must be visible, accessible and actively engaged with residents well before an emergency arises.

“The police should not be strangers in our communities until an emergency occurs. We should know our police officers, and they should know us. There must be a relationship built on trust, communication and mutual respect,” Senator Rayne stated.

He called for regular police engagement in communities through meetings with residents, school visits, youth outreach programmes and other initiatives that allow officers to interact with citizens outside emergency or enforcement situations.

Rayne, who is also the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, said these efforts could strengthen public confidence, encourage the sharing of credible information and help identify potential problems before they escalate into serious incidents.

He placed particular emphasis on using sport to build relationships between police officers and young people. Recalling a time when officers participated actively in football, cricket and netball, he said community sporting activities created opportunities for positive interac-



Senator Joel Rayne

tion, familiarity and mutual respect.

Senator Rayne urged the police and sporting organisations to revive and expand sport-based initiatives, including national competitions and activities involving young people and law enforcement officers.

“Sometimes, the best way to build trust is not through a uniform or a police vehicle, but through meaningful interaction. When our young people can play alongside police officers, speak with them and get to know them as individuals, it helps to break down barriers and build relationships that can make a real difference,” he added.

He said sport could promote discipline, teamwork and positive decision-making while providing young people with constructive opportunities and helping officers become more familiar and approachable figures within their communities.

While acknowledging that legislation is necessary to strengthen the country’s response to illegal

firearms and gun-related offences, Senator Rayne said lasting progress would also require a preventative approach rooted in sustained police-community contact.

“Public safety cannot be the responsibility of the police alone. Communities must play their part by reporting suspicious activities, sharing credible information and helping to create an environment where criminal activity is not tolerated. But for that cooperation to flourish, people must feel that the police are partners in their communities, not simply a presence they encounter when something goes wrong,” he stated.

Senator Rayne also stressed that community cooperation must be matched by accountability, professionalism and respect for citizens’ rights.

He maintained that addressing gun violence requires a comprehensive national response that combines appropriate laws and effective enforcement with public education, youth outreach and meaningful community involvement.

Senator Rayne concluded that the immediate priority should be to strengthen relationships before crises occur, create positive avenues for youth engagement and ensure that police officers are known and trusted within the communities they serve.

“We must move beyond responding to emergencies. We must rebuild relationships, reconnect through our communities and use every available opportunity to prevent crime before it happens.”

More Than 30-Thousand Seedlings to Boost Agricultural Production

The Ministry of Agriculture has launched an exercise to distribute more than thirty thousand seedlings to farmers, backyard gardens and others in the society as part of ongoing efforts to boost food security.

Agriculture Minister Anthony Smith Jnr. made the announcement during recent activities marking World Food Day.

“Under this year’s World Food Day theme, Innovate Today, Nourish Tomorrow, we joined farmers, educators, students and partners to distribute more than 30,000 seedlings, our largest donation yet. Eggplant, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, beans, melons, Chinese cabbage, herbs and spices are going to small-scale and backyard farmers, helping more households grow what they eat,” the minister announced.

He said a nation that feeds itself is a nation that’s more secure. “By producing more locally, we reduce what we spend on imports, including about \$150 million in livestock products each year. New poultry, pork and small ruminant abattoirs will help our livestock farmers meet more of that demand right here at home.

I encourage all farmers to register with the Ministry of Agriculture’s Extension Division to help us direct resources, infrastructure and technical support where they’re needed most,” the minister urged.

The minister explained that the new poultry abattoir will produce chicken that will be sold in parts as is preferred by local consumers. The second abattoir will focus on pork and small rumi-



nant meats.

Government is aggressively promoting local food production to strengthen the country’s food security at a time

when disruptions in supply-chains and instability in the international marketplace make such moves critically important.



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The IICA booth highlighted small businesses such as ANBROP, Granma Aki, Kima's Delectables, Ackees Acres, GARDC and SHADE Hydroponics, showcasing how local entrepreneurs are adding value to agricultural products and creating new opportunities in the agri-food sector.



Representing IICA were Technical Specialist Craig Thomas and Assistant Executive Secretary Tamisha Edgecombe-Doram, who helped highlight the Institute's commitment to supporting local enterprises and advancing agricultural development.

Visitors to the IICA booth learned about technical cooperation initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda, including the Vetiver Grass Initiative, the rehabilitation of the Antigua Black Pineapple

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Ministry of Health Congratulates Newly Appointed Midwifery Board Members

The Ministry of Health announces the appointment of new members to the Midwifery Board, who were recently sworn in by Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General, at Government House.

Dr. Kamaria DeCastro has been appointed Chairperson of the Board, with Nurse Patricia-Ann Clarke-Thomas serving as Deputy Chairperson. The other members are Nurse Jacqueline Jno-Baptiste, Nurse Laurelllyn Williams, Nurse Arlea Gregory, Nurse Wanda Samuel and Dr. Andre Winter. A Secretary to the Board will be appointed by the Governor General at a later date.

The Board plays an important role in supporting the regulation of midwifery practice and the maintenance of professional standards, helping to ensure that women and newborns receive safe and quality care throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, welcomed the appointments and highlighted the value of having a medical doctor serving alongside experienced nursing professionals on the Board.

“The practice of midwifery is an essential part of maternal and newborn healthcare, and the Board has an important responsibility in supporting professional standards and safe practice. The inclusion of a medical doctor alongside nursing professionals brings complementary clinical expertise and perspectives to the Board’s work. This multidisciplinary approach can strengthen collaboration among healthcare professionals, support informed decision-making and contribute to the continued improvement of maternal and newborn care in Antigua and Barbuda,” the Minister said.



The Ministry looks forward to working with the newly appointed members as they undertake their responsibilities in support of professional accountability, the continued

development of midwifery practice and the delivery of safe, quality maternal and newborn healthcare services across Antigua and Barbuda.

Chess Sets donated to Support After-Class Sessions



activities that promote both academic enrichment and character development among young learners.

The visit also included meaningful discussions with the school's leadership and teaching staff. Lady Williams and Lady Hadeed met with Mrs. Anthony, the Headmistress and Class Teacher Mrs. Gonsalves, to explore how the Halo Foundation and its partners could continue supporting Cedar Grove Primary School through small, practical initiatives tailored to the school's needs and geared towards improving day-to-day learning experiences.



Lady Sandra Williams, President of the Halo Foundation, and Lady Mahasen Hadeed, wife of the late Sir Aziz Hadeed, visited Cedar Grove Primary School recently to celebrate learning, encourage youth development, and strengthen educational opportunities for children in the community.

During the visit, the distinguished guests presented John Nathan and his teaching partner Kofe James, as well as the school's Chess Club with 20 chess sets, enabling the club to more successfully continue after-class strategic chess sessions. The donation underscores the importance of inclusive

Chess is widely recognized as more than just a game—it is a structured activity that trains children to think carefully, plan ahead, and learn via strategy. Through consistent participation, this is a game that can help children to build a foundation of skills that are valuable both in and out of the class-



room.

There is a requirement for children to evaluate positions, consider consequences, and make decisions based on evidence. Chess strengthens the habit of thoughtful problem-solving rather than impulsive responses.

Amongst many other benefits, chess supports the understanding of patterns, geometry-like board relationships, and logical sequencing. Children often become more confident in tackling puzzles and structured reasoning activities.

Speaking to the class during the visit, Lady Williams emphasized that initiatives like chess support the full development of children—not only academically but also mentally and socially.

“Education is not limited to books and classrooms,” she said. “It is also about providing young people with activities that develop their minds, build confidence, and encourage strategic thinking. We



are proud to support Cedar Grove Primary School and to empower the Chess Club with the tools they need to learn, grow, and excel.”

Lady Hadeed added, “When children are encouraged to think critically and creatively, the benefits extend into every part of their lives. We look forward to seeing the Chess Club thrive and to sup-

porting the school in additional ways that make a meaningful difference.”

The leadership team welcomed the guests’ commitment and expressed appreciation for the chess sets and the opportunity they provide for after-class learning and enrichment.

80 Yachts Expected in Antigua as Salty Dogs Rally Returns in November

Approximately 80 yachts participating in the Salty Dogs Rally are expected to arrive in Antigua between November 10 and 15, with most planning to remain based on the island for the winter.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Michael Freeland, said the rally is returning after visiting Antigua last year, bringing another opportunity for the country to strengthen its ties with the sailing community. Ahead of the arrivals, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has delivered a selection of local products and visitor information for the participants, with English Harbour Rum sponsoring rum miniatures.

The packages also include hot sauce, caps and marine guides containing information about Antigua, giving sailors a taste of the destination while helping them prepare for their stay.

Devin Joseph, the Tourism Authority's Yachting Business Development Manager, made the presentation on behalf of the authority. The anticipated extended stay of many participating yachts could bring business to marinas, provisioning companies, restaurants, marine service providers and other businesses serving the yachting sector.

For tourism officials, the returning rally also provides an opportunity to encourage repeat visits and build lasting relationships with sailors who



choose Antigua as their winter base. The welcome initiative brings together

tourism promotion and local business support as Antigua and Barbuda prepares to receive the fleet in November.



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Photo Essay



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Commentary

More Than a Number: What the Class of 2026 Tells Us

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Five Islands Campus



On Saturday October 10, 2026, the UWI Five Islands Campus graduated its largest class ever as over 200 graduates crossed the stage. That milestone deserves celebrating, and we celebrate we did but as anyone in that hall knows the headline number was not the real story, the real story was in the faces, the families, and the firsts.

Two lives, one lesson

This year our university and campus awarded honorary doctoral degrees to two Caribbean icons who belong in the same sentence, Drs Thea LaFond and Don Rojas.

Thea LaFond won Dominica's first Olympic gold medal, in the triple jump in Paris, with a national record leap of 15.02 meters in 2024. She told the audience that she had her Olympic debut at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics where she competed in the women's triple jump and finished last in the qualification round. Her 2024 gold medal proves that where you start



does not decide where you finish. For the young people in the audience, she is a living example that excellence from a small island is not an exception it is a possibility.

Don Rojas, a son of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has spent more than half a century using words as tools of liberation, from the Grenada Revolution to the front ranks of the Black press across the diaspora. For the older generation, his is a story of conviction kept across a lifetime and a history lesson for the younger ones present.

Side by side, they show what a Caribbean university is for, connecting generations. As one spoke to what we can achieve now while the other reminds

us of what was struggled for and is still unfinished.

Our first public health graduates

For the first time, the Five Islands Campus graduated a class in the Master of Public Health. For years, senior health professionals in Antigua and Barbuda hit a ceiling. They had the experience, but promotion required a qualification that meant leaving home, work and family and many simply could not.

Now they can earn it here, and several are now eligible for promotion into leadership roles in our health system which is not only good for them but for the health care system. I was especially pleased to see a practicing doc-



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Commentary

tor in this first cohort; we need more doctors focused and public health and equipped to lead in the sector.

Our first MBA class

We also graduated our first MBA class, professionals who studied while running departments, businesses and households. A country that wants to own more of its economy needs people at home trained to build and lead its enterprises.

Teachers who never had to leave

Once again, we graduated experienced teachers who are now fully certified, without having to leave their classrooms or their children. Among them was a class valedictorian, Chemique Harris-Benjamin. That a working teacher can top the graduating class tells you about the calibre of the people we have been asking to wait.

Behind many of these graduates stood someone the programme booklet does not name, the grandmother, aunt or neighbour who minded the children through evening classes and exam weeks. Caribbean progress has always been financed by these unbooked transfers and these degrees belong to them too.

The gap we cannot ignore

One more thing was plain on that stage. Our graduates were overwhelmingly women. We are not alone in this as across The UWI, roughly 70 of every 100 students are female.

We celebrate every one of these women. Caribbean women never entered the workforce, because they were never out of it, and they have walked boldly through the door education opened. But a degree earns a seat, not yet the chai as our boardrooms are still chaired mostly by men. The work for our daughters is not yet finished.

The question for our sons is different. The anthropologist Peter Wilson observed that Caribbean societies run on two value systems. The first is respectability, earned through school, church and work. The second is reputation,

earned among peers on the street corner. We raise our girls towards the first and our boys towards the second. A degree is a slow investment in respectability, with years of discipline before the dividends arrive. Too many young men are being offered faster, riskier returns elsewhere, and too many of those offers end badly.

The men who graduated on Saturday show the other road, they chose the long road, and it paid. So here is my request. Look at the men and boys in your life, your sons, brothers, nephews, partners and colleagues. Talk to

them about what further study could do for them. Not as a lecture, but as an invitation and if cost, time or confidence is the barrier, we want to hear about it, and we want to help.

What comes next

The largest class in our history is a beginning, not a finish line. To the Class of 2026, you have made your families and your campus proud, now go and make your country proud.

And to those still thinking about it, especially the men, the door is open, right here at home.

NOTICE

**TO: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrate Court
High street
St. John's
Antigua**

**TO: The Commission of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua**

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Notice- Application for Tavern License

I, Curdyan Harper of Golden Grove, with registered business situate at Golden Grove St. John's Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court High Street, St. John's Antigua on Friday 4th December, 2026 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition in respect of premises known as "C.E.S.H E Enterprise" situated at Golden Grove in the parish of St. John's Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 18th day of October, 2026

Tel# 722-3334

.....

Why such cruelty? (Chronicles of a blockade that never ends)



By Raulito Torres

Prominent Cuban composer and singer

Why so much hatred, so much cruelty, so much gloating over the misfortune of our neighbor?

Because politics is one thing, and self-indulgence is another. Blockades as a tool of the state are one thing, and watching a nation bleed to death is another. And that's exactly what Marco Rubio and Donald Trump are doing: they're licking their chops.

The Miami mythomaniac

Marco Rubio was born in Miami in 1971, but he has spent his life peddling a false story: that his parents fled Cuba after 1959, escaping the Revolution. A lie. His parents left the island in the 1950s, under Batista's dictatorship, long before Fidel Castro came to power. Even the Washington Post confirms this with supporting documentation. But this fabrication served his purposes. It helped him win over Miami's hardline right wing, to cultivate a victim image of communism that guaranteed him votes.

Rubio isn't a politician with a coherent ideology. He's a man who turned hatred of Cuba into a lucrative business. His entire career was built on that foundational myth. And when a lie feeds you for thirty years, you end

up believing it. Or worse: you end up needing it to be true. You need Cuba to be the hellhole you claim it is, because otherwise, who are you? A son of immigrants who lied to play the martyr?

Young Marco grew up boasting that one day he would lead an army of exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro and become president of Cuba. That's not a political project. That's the obsession of a rich kid who never learned to lose.

The millionaire who doesn't know how to lose.

For Trump, Cuba isn't a cause. It's a trophy. It's the missing piece to complete his "win-win-win" puzzle. He looks at Cuba and says, like a spoiled child, "I want it." There's no strategy, no geopolitics. There's an old man who needs to prove, at almost eighty, that he's still the strongest in the yard.

The shared obsession

What unites these two is something darker than politics. It's a psychological need to humiliate, to see the other on their knees. Rubio needs Cuba to fail to justify his lies. Trump needs Cuba to surrender to feed his legend. And between them, they've built an unprecedented machine of cruelty.

The more than sixty-year-long embargo is not enough for them. The more than 240 measures Trump implemented during his first term are not enough. Now, in 2026, they have signed executive orders blocking the assets of any company or individual doing business with Cuba. They have cut off fuel supplies. They have sanctioned the Cuban oil company. They have sent letters to world capitals threatening sanctions against anyone who dares to vote against the embargo at the UN.

And meanwhile, here on the island, people are dying. Without bullets or bombs. Cuba is dying from blackouts. From a lack of medicine. From not being able to pump water because there's

no electricity for the pumps. Infant mortality has risen to 9.8 per 1,000 live births, when it used to be 4. There are more than 67,000 children who haven't been able to complete their vaccination schedule. That's not collateral damage. That's genocide, no longer so slow, as you called it some time ago.

The million-dollar question

Why? Why so much cruelty? Why don't you let Cuba be a successful country, even if it's a different kind of success than you understand it to be—imperfect, with its mistakes, its rhythm, and its shortcomings?

The answer lies in fear. A prosperous, sovereign Cuba, one that doesn't need to ask Washington for permission to trade with the world, would be a living proof that the blockade was never a matter of national security. It would be proof that all this suffering was unnecessary. And they can't allow that. Because if Cuba demonstrates that it's possible to live without the empire, then the empire will be left without subjects, without vipers licking its boots.

That's why the cruelty. That's why the reveling in the misfortunes of others. That's why Rubio lies and Trump threatens. It's not strength. It's fear. Fear that this small, blockaded, but dignified people will show the world that it can be done.

And meanwhile, here we are. With the blackout, with "solving" by inventing solutions every day. But we're still here. My grandfather always told me: "The ones whom endures wins." I don't know what he would say right now with the times we're living in and the thunder that's crashing down. What I am sure of is that the US government, with all their power and all their hatred, haven't been able to defeat us. Nor will they ever be able to!

And I dedicate these scribbles to my grandfather.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**

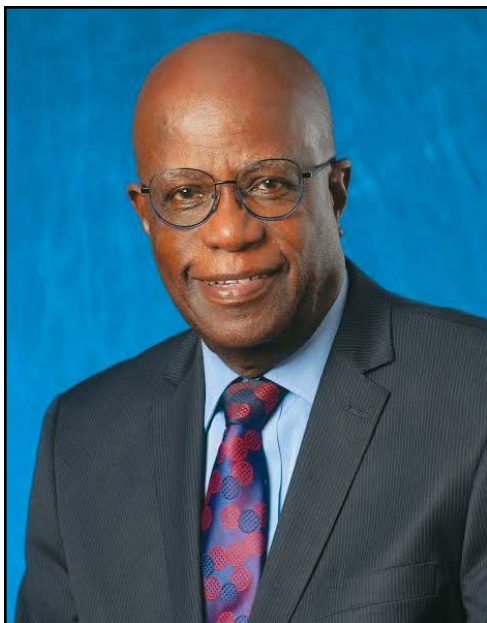


**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

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FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

What the Grand Stand Needs Next



By Julian Rogers

Mia Mottley's call for "Slave" to join the CXC syllabus drew the headlines from Sparrow's farewell. But the Prime Minister who spoke after her, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, said two things that matter just as much, and she deserves the same careful reading.

She began with a joke she shares with Mottley, that neither of them could ever have made a career as a singer, and then settled into a tribute better organised than most eulogies. Sparrow, she said, was an icon, an ambassador, a storyteller and a social commentator. Then came the line I would put on a wall. Calypso, she said, was "our newspaper", "our parliament", "our theatre", "our comedy", "our protest" and "our history book".

It is not every day that a head of government concedes that the real parliament sat in a tent. She meant it as a compliment to both institutions, and the point is sound. A great many people learned how the country saw itself from calypsonians.

Then she turned to education, which

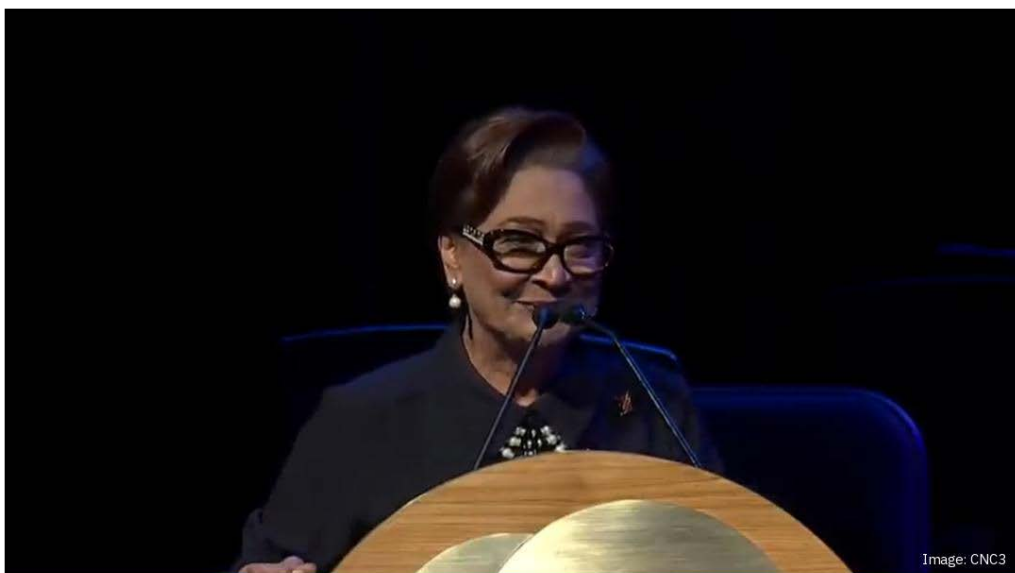


Image: CNC3

KAMLA SAYS:

Calypso Was Our History Book

A grandstand with his name. A pledge on the syllabus.
Neither has a date yet.

Julian Rogers caribbeanbridges.substack.com

CARIBBEAN
BRIDGES

she said has always had a special meaning for her. She grew up on calypso because her mother had a roti shop with a jukebox, and Sparrow's advice to children about going to school and learning well was part of the soundtrack. She said it carried a serious message, that "education gives our children the power to change their circumstances," and that Sparrow could take a national issue and put it into words ordinary people remembered. His words, she said, travelled "from the calypso tent into the classroom and into the home". That is exactly the argument for putting him on the CXC syllabus, made by the person who now has to help deliver it.

She also said something about him that applies to the whole region: "He

never had to become less Caribbean in order to become international." She noted his honours, including the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, conferred in 2014 during her first tenure as Prime Minister.

Then came the two commitments. On the syllabus, she told Mottley that Trinidad and Tobago would "work with you and the others in the Caricom to make your suggestion become a reality." On the monument, she announced that the Grand Stand at the Queen's Park Savannah will be refurbished and will bear the name of Dr Slinger Francisco, the Mighty Sparrow. The Savannah is the open ground at the heart of Carnival in Port of Spain, and it is an apt place for the name of a man who sang Carnival

into the world.

Both commitments are generous. Neither has a date. I say that without criticism, because a funeral is for sentiment, and a government that announces a grandstand in the same breath as a pledge on the curriculum has at least picked two things worth doing. But the next stage is administrative, and administration needs three things the speech did not supply: an owner, a deadline and a budget.

So here is what I would ask of her government. First, name the lead ministry for the CXC proposal and put it on the agenda of the next Caricom Heads of Government meeting, in writing, with Mottley's name beside hers. Second, publish a timetable and a cost for the refurbishment, and say whether it will be ready for Carnival in February. Third, link the two. A renamed grandstand will be seen by Carnival crowds. A teaching kit with the licensed recordings, the history and the lesson plans will be seen by every child in the region. If the government can do the first, it can fund the second.

Mottley asked for a syllabus. Persad-Bissessar offered a building. The sensible reading is that they are one project: the place where the crowd gathers and the place where the child learns. "The king has left the stage, but the song goes on," she said at the close. Songs do not go on by themselves. They need schools, archives and a budget line.

Julian Rogers is founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges. Read more at caribbeanbridges.substack.com

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers
julian@caribbeanbridges.com

#CaribbeanBridges #MightySparrow
 #Calypso #CXC #KamlaPersad-Bissessar



Feature

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

 Good Humans
 268 Inc

THE BEAUTY WE CAN MAKE



Tomorrow, in the gardens, we begin,
 With caps once scattered, gathered in.
 Small circles saved from roadside rain,
 Now waiting for a purpose once again.
 We bring our hands, our time, our care,
 And build a brighter picture there.

The Botanical Gardens is the place,
 Where colour finds a patient, careful space.
 From eight until four, come share the day,
 And help us give these caps another way.
 With CHOGM now just two weeks away,
 Our community has something clear to say.

A cap beside a gutter may seem small,
 Too slight to draw attention there at all.
 Yet joined with others, fitted into place,
 It helps a flag reveal its shape and face.
 What once lay loose beneath a passing shoe,
 Can form a field of red, or white, or blue.

We gather colours, working side by side,
 And give each careful contribution pride.
 Some sort the shades; some help the work proceed;
 Some offer guidance where they see a need.
 No single pair of hands can do it all,
 Yet every willing contribution answers a call.



Across the Commonwealth, our colours rise,
 With stories held beneath familiar skies.
 Each flag invites a question and a name,
 While every nation's story keeps its claim.
 We learn how difference helps a picture grow,
 Through all the separate colours that we show.

And as we work, let understanding grow,
 Beyond the things appearances may show.
 A disability cannot define
 The worth within a life as full as mine.
 Our beauty needs no trophy to be true;
 Our dignity belongs to me and you.

Ask what allows a neighbour to take part,
 And let their answer guide a thoughtful start.

Europe



Cyprus



Malta

Feature



A seated place, instructions made more clear,
 A listening person ready to draw near.
 Inclusion grows through choices that we make,
 And through the time we willingly will take.

No person is an object cast aside;
 No human worth should ever be denied.
 Our work with waste invites a different view
 Of habits we can question and renew.
 Respect means seeing people as they are,
 With dreams that reach beyond a label's bar.

The caps can teach us something as we go:
 Responsibility must learn to grow.
 A finished drink still leaves a choice behind,
 An opportunity to act with care in mind.
 Collecting caps is one useful place to start;
 Reducing waste must also play its part.

Let children see that careful hands can build,
 And spaces once neglected can be filled
 With purpose, conversation, hope and cheer,
 With neighbours finding reasons to draw near.
 Let lessons travel home beyond the gate,
 And help another thoughtful habit germinate.

Come bring your patience; come and bring your care;
 Come meet the people working with you there.
 The beauty lives within the work we share,
 The time we give, the welcome we prepare.
 A flag may catch a visitor's passing eye;
 Our daily choices help its meaning fly.

Tomorrow, let the gardens hear our call:
 A cleaner, kinder country needs us all.
 From eight to four, let willing hands unite,
 And turn discarded colours towards the light.
 For when our care becomes the work we do,
 A more inclusive future comes to view.

Let Antigua and Barbuda show
 How shared responsibility can grow.
 Beyond the photographs, beyond this day,
 May care continue guiding what we say.
 One cap, one conversation, one fresh start:
 A Commonwealth of colour, built with heart.





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

SPECIAL DRILLS AND CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER 2026



SIR VIVIAN
RICHARDS
STADIUM



8:30 AM



NATIONAL
EVENTS
DEPARTMENT
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



MINISTRY OF
SPORTS &
CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY
18
OCTOBER

Independence Church Service

Precision Center

4:00 PM

THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

8:30 AM

SUNDAY
25
OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

10:00 AM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

6:00 PM

MONDAY
26
OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

10:00 AM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26

Ends: October 29

TUESDAY
27
OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School

8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
28
OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY
29
OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities

Evening of Theatre

St. Anthony's Secondary School

7:00 PM

FRIDAY
30
OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley

8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY
1
NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony

Barbuda

7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

5:45 PM



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Regional News

Manchester dad charged in suspected revenge killing of two men over daughter's murder



shooting of Obrien's four-year-old daughter, Saniyah Obrien, on Sunday, February 8, while they were seated in his Voxy motor car in the parish.

An investigations led to Obrien being apprehended, interviewed, and subsequently charged. He is scheduled to appear before the Manchester Parish Court on Wednesday, October 21. (Jamaica Observer)

A Manchester father has been charged with conspiracy to murder in relation to the killing of two men in the parish in March that is believed to have been a reprisal for the shooting death of his daughter a month earlier.

Charged is 37-year-old Kumar Obrien, otherwise known as 'Frazzle', of Melrose Drive, Land Settlement.

The deceased have been identified as 29-year-old farmer Yakieni Shaw, also known as 'Yankee', of Comfort District, Manchester, and 21-year-old Damien Edwards, otherwise known as 'Damie', of Melrose Gardens, Williamsfield, in the parish.

Reports from the Mandeville Police are that Obrien allegedly conspired with other men to kill Edwards and Shaw, who were gunned down about 3:50 pm on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

The shooting is believed to have been a reprisal for the fatal



VACANCY

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- Preparing and serving our much-loved KFC products
- Working as part of a supportive and energetic team
- Helping to maintain a clean, safe, and positive restaurant environment

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Bring your **resume** and come prepared to meet with our team. You could be one step closer to joining the KFC family!

Location: KFC Administration Office, Brysons Complex, Friars Hill Rd., St. John's, Antigua.

All applicants:

- **Must be 18 years and older**
- **Have Social Security & Medical Benefits**



SVG explores big opportunities for seasonal workers in Canada

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Transformation, Hon Israel Bruce is presently in Canada on a visit to farms that are participating in the Seasonal Workers Programme.

Minister Bruce is accompanied by Agricultural Officer, Research and Development-Camille Walsh De-Jong and Executive Officer, Ministry Transport, Infrastructure and Physical Planning, Candice Bullock Seargeant.

The purpose of the visit is to assess prospective farms to expand the programme so that more Vincentians can have the opportunity to participate in the programme.

While in Canada, the delegation is expected to meet with Deputy Minister of Labour, Employment, Social Development Canada-Temporary Foreign Worker Programme Directorate.

Meetings are also scheduled with the Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (FARMS) & CanAg Travel Agency and President, CEO and Labour committee of the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association (BCFGA).

Also on the agenda is a visit to potential employers in Kelowna, a city in the south of Canada's British Columbia province, as well as potential employers in Surrey and Abbotsford.

The delegation will also participate in activities staged by the Consulate in Canada to mark St Vincent and the Grenadines' 47th anniversary. The delegation will also meet with the SVG Consulate General in Canada, Dr. Roderick McKree.

The delegation left the state on October 14 and will return on October 28. (St Vincent Times)



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Govt. moves to restrict vape imports

President Irfaan Ali on Saturday night announced plans to restrict the importation of all types of vaping products into Guyana, citing growing concerns over their widespread and unregulated use, particularly among children and young people.

In a statement delivered via his Facebook page, President Ali said Finance Minister, Dr. Ashni Singh would soon sign an order under the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, imposing the restrictions, with exceptions requiring approval from the Minister of Health, the National Tobacco Control Council or the Tobacco Control Board, as specified in the order.

The President said the measure was intended to address the growing public health risks associated with vaping while allowing legitimate medicinal, therapeutic and alternative applications to continue under the supervision of the relevant health authorities. "This measure is necessary in light of growing concerns over the widespread and unregulated importation, sale, and use of vapes and vaping products in Guyana," the Guyanese leader said.

He added that the Government had a responsibility to protect public health, particularly the well-being of children and young people, and to ensure that products posing potential risks to consumers were subjected to appropriate oversight. He said the decision followed engagements with parents, teachers, children, religious



leaders and other members of society who had expressed concern about the increasing use of vaping products. He warned that vaping products were not harmless, despite often being marketed as alternatives to conventional cigarettes.

The President pointed to concerns about exposure to toxic substances, nicotine addiction, respiratory problems and the potential effects on the mental health and brain development of children and adolescents. "Vaping with all of the other alternative substances is negatively affecting our children and young people," he said.

Ali also highlighted the risks associated with exposure during pregnancy, noting that the potential consequences extended beyond immediate health concerns. He warned that the easy availability of vaping products could expose chil-

dren and teenagers to risks at an early age, including in the school system. "The absence of complete knowledge about those long-term effects must not be mistaken for evidence of safety," the President said.

President Ali urged parents, teachers, religious leaders and community leaders to educate young people about the dangers associated with vaping, particularly products containing additives. He said the Government had received concerns from teachers, parents and children about the use and misuse of vaping products among teenagers and, in some instances, younger children in schools. The President acknowledged that some vaping products were promoted as alternatives to conventional cigarettes and nicotine products, and that certain technologies might have medicinal or therapeutic applications.

However, he stressed that such uses would have to be assessed and approved by the relevant health authorities. "The decision on the qualification has to be done at the level of the Tobacco Control Board," he said.

According to the President, the restrictions are primarily intended to address the importation of vaping products for recreational use, without preventing legitimate applications that health authorities deem necessary and appropriate. He said the move formed part of a broader international effort to strengthen regulation of vaping products, adding that several countries had already imposed restrictions on their importation and distribution.

President Ali maintained that the Government was seeking to protect children, schools, families and communities while ensuring that any permitted use of vaping products remained subject to established laws, regulations and medical standards.

"We have to protect our children, we have to protect our schools, we have to protect our society," he said. The President described the announcement as a response to concerns raised across Guyanese society and said the Government had a duty to take measures to address emerging public health challenges. The order is expected to establish the restrictions and the framework under which exceptions may be granted by the designated health authorities. (Kaeiteur News)

Mamdani welcomes court ruling rejecting Trump administration challenge to NYC sanctuary laws

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has welcomed a federal district court's ruling dismissing a lawsuit brought by the Trump administration challenging the city's sanctuary laws for Caribbean and other immigrants.

In his ruling, Judge Ramón Reyes Jr, who was appointed by former President Joe Biden, wrote that the Trump administration lacks standing to bring its 2025 lawsuit claiming New York City's sanctuary laws are pre-empted by federal law.

"This is a victory for New Yorkers and a rebuke to ICE's (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency) deportation agenda," Mamdani said.

"The federal government came to court seeking to force New York City to turn its public servants into deportation agents and divert our resources towards carrying out ICE's cruel agenda. Today, they lost.

"The court made clear that the federal government has no standing to bring this case and cannot commandeer our city workers to do its bidding. Our local laws make New York City safer. They allow us to focus our resources on protecting and serving our communities and ensuring that every New Yorker can turn to their city government without fear that asking for help will make them a target for deportation," he said.

The mayor said that the federal government wanted to use fear to divide the city, adding: "We will not let them. We will continue to uphold our local laws and use every tool at our disposal to protect New Yorkers from ICE's abuses.

"Our city belongs to all of us, and we will not abandon our neighbours to satisfy an inhumane, xenophobic



agenda," he said.

New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Faiza N. Ali said that, for decades, New York City's sanctuary laws have helped build trust between immigrant New Yorkers and their local government.

"These local laws are essential to ensuring that all New Yorkers can access critical public services, including healthcare, housing and public education, without fear. At a time when federal immigration enforcement is destabilising and separating families and putting communities across the five boroughs at risk, defending these protections has never been more important.

"Today's ruling is a win for New York City and immigrant New Yorkers. It affirms our right to determine how to best use resources to serve and protect our communities. The federal government's attempt to undermine our laws has been rejected, and we will not back down from our commitment to protecting our immigrant neighbours."

She said her office would "keep working to ensure immigrant New

Yorkers know their rights, can access trusted support and have the opportunity to live with safety and dignity".

President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), Murad Awawdeh, whose organisation represents more than 200 immigrant and refugee groups in New York, hailed Judge Reyes for "upholding our constitutional rights and the state's rights to pass laws that keep our communities safe".

Awawdeh said Trump's lawsuit was "a last-ditch attempt to make an end run around the Tenth Amendment".

He said neither New York City nor New York State would be bullied by the federal government into giving up their rights and protections.

In his ruling, Judge Reyes wrote that "even if the United States has standing — and it does not — its pre-emption claims fail.

"All of the United States' pre-emption claims — express, conflict and field — fail because the relevant federal statutes do not regulate private actors," he said, adding that "there is nothing within federal law that obligates states to participate in federal immigration enforcement or compels states to comply therewith.

"The United States' pre-emption arguments amount to nothing more than a backdoor around the Tenth Amendment and rest on a false distinction between (a) compelling local governments' participation in federal immigration enforcement and (b) prohibiting local governments from dictating how their personnel and other resources may be utilised towards federal immigration enforcement," the judge said. (CMC)

Scuffles and fires break out as protesters rally across France, joining students



A car and a newspaper kiosk were set on fire in Paris as police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse violent groups of protesters, while similar tensions erupted Saturday in other big cities on the fringes of nationwide demonstrations against rising living costs and in support of high school students' grievances.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez's office described "a growing number of violent incidents," including assaults on police officers, looting or attempted looting of shops and damage to public buildings.

Authorities reported at least 272 arrests across the country, including in Paris.

In the French capital, police used tear gas and water cannons to push back people wearing hoods and masks and throwing fireworks and other objects at officers in the Place de la République, northeast of the Paris city centre.

Large numbers of riot police were deployed in the square and surrounding streets.

The majority of peaceful protesters joined a march that moved toward northwestern Paris.

The crowd chanted France's national anthem as French flags were waved.

The chants were accompanied by people playing trumpets and violins.

Meanwhile, police were working to prevent other small groups of protesters from converging on government buildings, Nuñez's office said.

Many metro stations were closed Saturday at police request, including those around the Champs-Élysées and near the presidential palace, parliament and government offices.

In Lyon, France's third-largest city, where about 20,000 protesters joined the march, fire broke out inside a tourist office. Smoke and flames were seen rising from the building.

In the southern port city of Marseille, some shops and a municipal police station were damaged, while some protesters briefly forced their way into the lobby of City Hall.

"This is unacceptable," Marseille

Mayor Benoît Payan told BFM TV, describing the damage in City Hall as "limited."

Nuñez's office also reported violence by masked groups in Rennes, Toulouse, Montpellier and Grenoble, among other cities.

Protesters across France responded to calls on social media to revive the "yellow vest" movement, which emerged in 2018 against social injustice. Demonstrators expressed widespread frustration and anger at the government as gasoline, energy and food prices have spiked in recent months.

Student groups protesting since mid-September through school blockades have urged supporters to join them.

The CGT, one of France's major labour unions, also backed the protests, calling for "higher wages and pensions, lower prices and the protection of public services that meet people's needs."

In recent weeks, France has seen thousands of arrests, hundreds of injuries and schools set on fire as the new school year descended into nationwide student protests that are influencing the country's presidential election campaign and drawing international attention.

Among protesters, particularly gruesome wounds suffered by some teenagers have been blamed on police riot-control weapons.

Nuñez suspended the use of a type of police stun grenade against the young demonstrators after a 15-year-old lost a hand.

On Tuesday, climate and social justice activist Greta Thunberg joined students at a high school in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis. (AP)

China sentences six for lead-tainted kindergarten food that sickened over 200 children



A court in China on Friday sentenced the operator of a kindergarten and other employees to prison terms for serving tainted food, after more than 200 students were found with abnormally high levels of lead in their blood, official media reported.

Li Huifang, who operated the Heshi Peixin Kindergarten in the city of Tianshui in Gansu province, was sentenced to life in prison, with 500,000 yuan (\$75,000) of her personal assets ordered to be confiscated, according to Chinese

state broadcaster CCTV.

The Lanzhou Intermediate People's Court also sentenced Zhu Jinglin, the kindergarten's executive principal, to 15 years in prison with a 300,000 yuan (\$44,800) fine, CCTV reported.

Four others who worked in the kindergarten kitchen were sentenced to prison terms of between six and eight years, it said.

The court ruled that Li and Zhu instructed the four kitchen workers to add toxic and harmful substanc-

es to food consumed by young children and kindergarten staff.

In July 2025, more than 200 students and over 20 staff members were found to have abnormally high blood lead levels, with media reports saying that the school added inedible lead-containing pigments to their food for visual appeal.

High levels of lead exposure can damage a child's brain and nervous system. (AP)



A vibrant and colorful poster for the Antigua Carnival 70th Anniversary. The background features a collage of images showing carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, multi-colored feathered headdresses. The dancers are wearing gold and silver jewelry and are captured in dynamic poses. The overall color palette is bright and festive, with a mix of purple, pink, blue, and green. In the center, there is a stylized logo consisting of a black silhouette of a person with arms raised, surrounded by a fan-like shape with various colored segments (yellow, green, blue, red, pink). A small flag is visible to the right of the logo. Below the logo, the text "ANTIGUA" is in bold black capital letters, followed by "Carnival" in a large, flowing pink script. Underneath that, "THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL" is written in smaller black capital letters. The "70th" is prominently displayed in a large, 3D, diamond-encrusted font. At the bottom, the dates "JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027" are written in large, bold, pink capital letters. At the very bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, followed by the text "ANTIGUA CARNIVAL" and "@ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL".

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Sports News

BOE keeps hopes alive in retaining business basketball league title



The Board of Education basketball team

Cup-holders, the Board of Education (BOE), have kept alive their hopes of making a successful defense of their round-robin title in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League.

The Board of Education enhanced their chances of retaining their title by prevailing 74-63 against Sandals in their penultimate match of the 13-team round-robin league at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

Xavier "X-Man" Meade produced a game-high 23 points, Daniel Perez sank 20 points, and his brother Danny Perez and Adonis Humphreys each chipped in with 10 points for the BOE.

Adissa "Ras I" Harris converted 15 points, Keroi Lee had 13 points, Kim Casey got 12 points, and Selassie Braithwaite scored 10 points for Sandals, who finished their quota of 12

round-robin matches with a record of eight wins and four losses.

Their latest victory lifted the BOE to their 10th win in 11 games, but they remain in second place behind unbeaten leaders Richie's Shooterz.

Last year's losing finalists, Richie's Shooterz, have a perfect record of 11 victories in as many encounters.

To stay in contention to win this year's league title, the BOE must defeat Richie's Shooterz when both teams clash in the final round-robin game of the season at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday (today) at 7 pm.

Meanwhile, APCMOL wrapped up their campaign in the round-robin league by surging to a commanding 75-55 victory over Anjo Wholesale in their final encounter at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 28 points, Judah Ferris converted 13 points, and Amare Browne scored 10 points for APCMOL, who finished their league campaign with a record of eight wins and four losses in their 12 games.

Nathan Matthew sank 21 points, and Erije Joseph scored 13 points for Anjo Wholesale, who wrapped up their league campaign

with a record of six wins and six losses in their 12 encounters.

The top eight finishers at the end of the round-robin league will advance to contest the business league playoff championship, in which the BOE are also the defending champions.

The business league playoff championship will tip off at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday, October 21.

The playoffs will be preceded by an all-star knockout contest, which is open to all 13 teams, at the same venue on Tuesday evening.

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Winning start for Bolans FC in ABFA's Second Division League



The Bolans FC football team

Bolans FC produced a prolific shooting display upon their return to contest the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Friday.

After being relegated from the first division last season, Bolans FC launched their campaign in the second division with a 9-0 drubbing of Herberts FC at the Pigotts playing field in their opening encounter.

Davis Joseph scored four times after Herberts United FC made the worst possible start, with the conversion of an own goal by Zenworth Thomas in the first minute of play.

Joseph had conversions in the 21st, 37th, 47th, and 52nd minutes. Romario Christion converted twice with strikes in the 48th and 69th minutes. The other two goals were scored by Andrew Martin in the 75th minute and Omarrie Ford in the 84th minute.

Bendals FC, which was also relegated from the first division last season, got off to a winning start by surging to a 4-1 victory over Wadadli United in their opening match in the second division at the Golden Grove playing field.

The goals for Bendals FC were scored by Alvah Guishard Jr. in the 16th minute; Jahken Jacobs in the 25th minute; Alfred Francis in the 57th minute; and Zakeba McDougal in the 79th minute. Avante Warner scored a consolation goal in the 59th minute for Herberts FC.

Anderson Herbert scored twice to lead Point West Ham to a 4-0 victory against Glanvilles FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Herbert scored in the 37th minute and converted a penalty kick in the 50th minute. The other goals were scored by Lloyd Sheppard in the 13th minute and Ian Michael in the 28th minute.

The Urlings Golden Stars recovered from falling behind to pull off a 3-1 victory against the CPTSA Wings in their opening match at the Urlings playing field.

Clinton Daniel scored in the first minute of play to put CPTSA Wings ahead. Derrick Pryce scored an equalizer for Urlings with a 29th-minute conversion as both teams reached halftime level at 1-1.

But the Urlings Golden Stars clinched victory via second-half goals by Kion

Jackson in the 54th minute and Raheem Horsford in the 60th minute.

Jaquan Davis scored in the last minute of regulation to salvage a 1-1 draw for Fort Road FC against Bethesda at the Fort Road playing field.

Following a goalless first half, O'Shale Simon broke the deadlock with a strike in the 62nd minute to give Bethesda the lead, and Davis snatched the equalizer for Fort Road FC with a 90th-minute conversion.

Empire FC also got off to a successful start in the ABFA's First Division League. Empire prevailed 2-1 against Five Islands FC in their opening match at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Goals by Marvin Moses in the 23rd minute and Steven Ambrose in the 48th minute gave Empire FC a two-nil lead. Aquez Singh scored in the 62nd minute to reduce the deficit for Five Islands.

After being relegated from the Premier Division last season, Jennings United marked their return to the First Division by snatching a 3-2 victory over Golden Grove FC in their opening game at the Jennings playing field.

Gayon Wright snatched the winner for Jennings United with a strike in the 53rd minute. A double conversion by Deionte Harrigan in the 22nd and 23rd minutes gave Jennings United a two-nil lead.

But Golden Grove drew level via goals by Jamal Spencer in the 31st minute and Jaheem Robinson in the 50th minute.

Sports News

Quashie leads AGHS to victory in school girls under-20 league

Forward Nafisa Quashie scored all the goals as the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) made a winning start to their campaign in the Girls Under-20 Division in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League.

The Antigua Girls High Schools surged to a 5-0 victory over Ottos Comprehensive School in their opening match at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday. Quashie had conversions in the third, 26th, 51st, 53rd, and 62nd minutes.

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) and the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) have continued their winning starts in the Under-20 Boys Division League.

The Princess Margaret School made it two wins in a row by surging to a 6-3 victory over the Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday.

Jahmari George produced a double conversion with strikes in the 15th and 72nd minutes. The other goals for PMS were scored by Roshon Samuel in the first minute, Mario Lewis (32nd), Nashawn Williams (48th), and Shumba Thomas (63rd).

Caseam Dean also had a double conversion with goals in the third and 70th minutes, and teammate Ajay Barthley scored in the 67th minute for the SNRA.

After launching their campaign with a 12-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS), ABCAS made it two wins in a row in this year's competition by claiming a 2-0 victory over Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS) in their second encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Following a goalless first half, ABCAS secured their victory via goals



Nafisa Quashie

by Kymani Richards in the 50th minute and Jamil Thomas in the 57th minute, as Irene B. Williams crashed to their second loss in as many games.

Defending champions, the Harrison Center, and Ottos Comprehensive School launched their campaigns by securing wins in their opening matches.

Jayden Andrew scored an own goal in the fifth minute of play to give the Harrison Center a one-nil victory over Antigua Grammar School at the Golden Grove playing field. Both teams were playing their first match in this year's competition.

The Ottos Comprehensive School also kicked off their campaign by snatching a one-nil victory over Jennings Secondary at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Mickyle Samuel scored the only goal of the match in the third minute, which was sufficient to secure victory for Ottos Comprehensive School. Both teams were also playing their first match in this year's competition.

But the match between St. Mary's Secondary School and Pares Secondary School at Clare Hall was postponed due to an unmarked playing field and a damaged goal post.

The Princess Margaret School also maintained their unbeaten start in defense of their title in the Under-14 Boys Division League.

The Princess Margaret School claimed their second win in three matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against St. Joseph's Academy (SJA) at the ABFA Technical Center.

Kiran Cordice produced a 10th-minute conversion, and Aiquan Scotts scored in the 38th minute for PMS. It was the first loss for SJA after winning their opening match by default against Ottos Comprehensive School.

India and Windies draw T20 series after no result in rain-hit decider



India's captain Shreyas Iyer and West Indies' captain Shai Hope, right, pose with the winners' trophy after the five-match T20 cricket series between the two countries concluded in a draw in Bengaluru, India, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026. (AP)

BENGALURU, India (AP) — A thrilling Twenty20 cricket series between India and West Indies ended in a 2-2 draw on Saturday after no result in the fifth and final match because of rain.

Play finally began at 9:15 p.m. local time — after a delay of nearly two hours at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru — with each innings reduced from 20 to nine overs per side.

India had reached 118 for five in 7.4 overs before rain prevented any further play after West Indies won the toss and opted to bowl. Ishan Kishan top-scored with 30 off 10 balls, hit-

ting two sixes and three fours.

Shreyas Iyer contributed a 14-ball 22, and Naman Dhir hit 24 not out off only six balls, including three sixes, before the rain came down once again. Play was called off at 10:21 p.m. — the last starting time to allow West Indies to bat for only five overs.

India won the first and third T20s at Lucknow and Indore by eight wickets and 14 runs, respectively, but each time the West Indies bounced back.

The West Indies won the second and fourth T20s in Ranchi and Hy-

derabad by six wickets and 24 runs, respectively.

West Indies skipper Shai Hope hit two centuries in the matches and was named player of the series.

India had previously won the three-match ODI series 2-1. India will head to New Zealand for a busy tour — five T20s, five ODIs and two Tests, with the T20 series starting on Oct. 22 in Christchurch.

The West Indies will tour Bangladesh for two Tests, starting on Oct. 28 in Dhaka.

Successive wins for Potters and Garden Stars in Premier League



Players of the Potters Tigers

The Potters Tigers and Garden Stars have maintained their successful starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

Both teams notched up their second win in as many games during a Premier League double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

The Potters Tigers prevailed 3-2 against the Aston Villa Lions, who were playing their first match in this season's Premier Division League.

Keon Green scored twice, hitting the back of the net with a strike in the ninth

minute and converting a penalty kick in the 38th minute, to give the Potters Tigers a two-nil lead at halftime.

Bryan Daniel gave the Tigers a 3-0 advantage with a 55th-minute conversion.

The Villa Lions reduced their margin of defeat by scoring twice in the second-half via conversions by Emerson Tibert in the 58th minute and Nyique Baptiste in the 84th minute.

The Garden Stars recorded a 4-2 victory against All Saints United, who slumped to their second defeat in as many matches.

Goals by Tarek Charles in the third minute, Nadre Thomas in the 24th minute, and Jahred Williams in the 47th minute gave the Garden Stars a three-nil lead.

Delawn Ralph-Greenaway converted the fourth goal for the Garden Stars in the 71st minute after Nazir McBurnette scored the first of two goals for All Saints United with a strike in the 50th minute.

McBurnette got his second goal of the match with a conversion in the 87th minute.