

Double Homicide At Creekside

Story on page 5



Scenes from a social event hosted by Chinese Ambassador Jiang Wei and staff of the Chinese Embassy on Tuesday night

Prime Minister Browne Advances Renewable Energy, Electric Mobility and Investment Partnerships During High-Level Bilateral Engagements in Australia



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is using his participation in the Global Citizen NOW Summit in Perth, Western Australia, to advance a series of high-level bilateral engagements aimed at strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's renewable energy transition, expanding investment opportunities and securing practical partnerships for sustainable development.

The Prime Minister's engagements include meetings with senior representatives of the Government of Western Australia, international renewable energy companies, philanthropic organisations and Commonwealth leaders.

The discussions are intended to build international support for Antigua and Barbuda's development priorities, particularly renewable energy, electric mobility, climate resilience and the creation of new economic opportunities.

Prime Minister Browne met on Monday with the Premier of Western Australia, Roger Cook, and the Min-

ister for Energy and Decarbonisation, Amber-Jade Sanderson.

The discussions focused on Western Australia's experience in expanding renewable energy, strengthening energy security and developing clean industries.

The Prime Minister outlined a proposed Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Renewable Islands Initiative, which seeks to transform the energy systems of participating island nations through greater regional cooperation and investment in renewable technologies.

The initiative reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to reducing the region's dependence on imported fossil fuels, improving energy affordability and strengthening economic resilience.

Prime Minister Browne highlighted the need for stronger international support for Small Island Developing States in both the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

He presented the proposed OECS Renewable Islands Initiative and explored whether Fortescue and the Minderoo Foundation could contribute technical expertise, financial support or other forms of cooperation as the initiative develops.

The Prime Minister also outlined Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to establish a sustainable electric mobility programme, building on the Government's partnership with Octopus Energy.

A further bilateral engagement is scheduled with Ms. Zoisa North-Bond, Chief Executive Officer of Octopus Energy Generation.

The meeting will focus on progress under the partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and Octopus Energy, including arrangements for electric vehicles to support transportation during CHOGM 2026.

Some of the vehicles have already arrived in Antigua and Barbuda, representing an important step in the Government's efforts to incorporate cleaner transportation technologies into national operations.

Prime Minister Browne will explore how the electric vehicles can be integrated into a longer-term national electric mobility strategy following the Commonwealth meeting.

The discussions will address practical considerations including charging infrastructure, maintenance, operational requirements, vehicle deployment and potential financing arrangements.

The Prime Minister is expected to emphasise that the electric vehicle initiative should not be limited to a single international event but should create a lasting legacy that supports Antigua and Barbuda's climate com-

mitments and national development objectives.

He will also explore whether Fortescue, Minderoo and other international partners could assist with the next phase of the programme.

Prime Minister Browne will also use the bilateral engagements to promote investment opportunities associated with the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, scheduled for November 1–4, 2026.

The Government is developing an Invest Antigua and Barbuda opportunity during CHOGM to encourage greater international interest in the country's investment prospects.

The Prime Minister is expected to invite participation from international business leaders and organisations with interests in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure and other priority sectors.

He will emphasise that Antigua and Barbuda is seeking partnerships that

deliver measurable benefits, create employment and strengthen the country's long-term economic competitiveness.

The Prime Minister's bilateral programme also included a meeting with the former Prime Minister of Samoa, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, who previously served as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office.

The engagement provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the development challenges confronting Caribbean and Pacific island nations.

Prime Minister Browne sought her reflections on Samoa's experience hosting the previous Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and discussed lessons that could inform Antigua and Barbuda's preparations for CHOGM 2026.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss how the Commonwealth can deliver more meaningful benefits to its citizens, particularly vulnerable communities and young

people.

Prime Minister Browne's bilateral engagements in Australia form part of the Government's broader strategy to leverage international partnerships in support of national and regional development.

The discussions reflect Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to moving beyond declarations of intent towards practical cooperation in renewable energy, investment, climate resilience and sustainable economic growth.

The Prime Minister has consistently maintained that small island nations must pursue strategic international partnerships to overcome the structural challenges associated with limited resources, high energy costs and exposure to external shocks.

The Government anticipates that the engagements in Perth will provide opportunities for continued dialogue and the development of mutually beneficial partnerships as

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Local News



CHOGM Task Force To Host Town Hall Meeting Tonight

The first of four town hall meetings planned by the National CHOGM Task Force takes place tonight at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre on the Factory Road.

The town hall meetings form part of the Task Force's Outreach programme and are designed to provide members of the public with accurate information regarding Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from November 1 – 4.

"We are taking the town hall meetings to the people; we want to hear their concerns generally, but more specifically, we want to hear from them what impact the event will likely have on their daily lives. Importantly, we want to assure the business community, residents of the city centre and people generally that we do not and will not shut down the city as has been rumoured throughout the society," Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene stated.

Minister Greene will head the panel at the town hall and he will be joined by High Commissioner and National CHOGM Focal Point, Karen-Mae Hill, and Superintendents of Police, Rodney Ellis and Elson Quammie.

A special invitation was sent to the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry inviting its members to attend to town hall meeting so that they can get direct answers on the impact of the Opening Ceremony in particular, will have on their

businesses.

Other town hall meetings are planned

for Five Islands, Parham and Cobbs Cross.

Double Homicide At Creekside

The police are investigating a double homicide following a shooting incident at Creek Side on Tuesday afternoon, which claimed the lives of two residents.

The victims are a 49-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman, both residents of Creek Side.

Preliminary reports indicate that sometime between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., a silver Honda CR-V, reportedly carrying several occupants, drove into the area and stopped in front of a shop.

It is alleged that more than one occupant exited the vehicle armed with firearms and opened fire, striking both victims multiple times. Both victims reportedly sustained several gunshot wounds about their bodies and were transported to the hospital, where they were subsequently pronounced dead.

Meanwhile, the police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the



incident or has information that could assist with the ongoing investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

The Commissioner of Police and the



entire Police Administration extend their deepest condolences to the families, relatives, and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time.

Further information will be provided as the investigation unfolds.



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Run of show Program and Focus Points

Zone 1-3 Wednesday October 21st, 2026, 6pm-8pm

Venue: John.E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center

10 min Moderator -Welcome, introductions, purpose of the meeting and overview of the programme

10 min CHOGM Task Force Lead -CHOGM briefing, key dates and importance of public sensitization

15 min Hon. E. P. Chet Greene -Ministerial remarks and significance of CHOGM

15 min Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner- Remarks on CHOGM and its significance

10 min NODS Representative -Public preparedness and relevant public information

15 min Superintendent Rodney Ellis, Head of Traffic, and Superintendent Elson Quammie, Head of Major Events Traffic management, security arrangements, and major event operations

35 min Moderator and Panel Public question-and-answer session, clarification of concerns and responses from relevant panelists

10 min Moderator Summary of key points, final announcements, appreciation, and closing remarks

Zone 4 – Friday October 23rd, 2026, 6pm-8pm

Venue: University of The West Indies Five Island Campus

10 min Moderator -Welcome, introductions, purpose of the meeting and overview of the programme

10 min CHOGM Task Force Lead Chaneil Imhoff -CHOGM briefing, key dates and importance of public sensitization

10 min Youth Forum Donte Walter's - Youth participation and community engagement

15 min Superintendent Rodney Ellis, Head of Traffic, and Superintendent Elson Quammie, Head of Major Events Traffic management, security arrangements, and major event operations

45 min Moderator and Panel Public question-and-answer session, clarification of concerns and responses from relevant panelists

10 min Moderator Summary of key points, final announcements, appreciation, and closing remarks

Zone 5- Monday October 26th, 2026, 6pm-8pm

Venue: Parham Primary School

10 min Moderator -Welcome, introductions, purpose of the meeting and overview of the programme

20 min CHOGM Task Force Lead -CHOGM briefing, key dates and importance of public sensitization

20min Superintendent Rodney Ellis, Head of Traffic, and Superintendent Elson Quammie, Head of Major

Events Traffic management, security arrangements, and major event operations

50 min Moderator and Panel Public question-and-answer session, clarification of concerns and responses from relevant panelists

10 min Moderator Summary of key points, final announcements, appreciation, and closing remarks

Zone 6- Tuesday October 27th, 2026, 6pm-8pm

Venue: Cobbs Cross Primary School

10 min Moderator -Welcome, introductions, purpose of the meeting and overview of the programme

15min CHOGM Task Force Lead -CHOGM briefing, key dates and importance of public sensitization

20 min Hon. E. P. Chet Greene -Ministerial remarks and significance of CHOGM

20 min Superintendent Rodney Ellis, Head of Traffic, and Superintendent Elson Quammie, Head of Major Events Traffic management, security arrangements, and major event operations

40 min Moderator and Panel Public question-and-answer session, clarification of concerns and responses from relevant panelists

10 min Moderator Summary of key points, final announcements, appreciation, and closing remarks



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Emergency drills take place ahead of CHOGM

Over the next two weeks emergency personnel will test their response plans in preparation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held here in Antigua later this month.

On Thursday 22nd October, a mass casualty exercise simulating a vehicle crash at Scotts Hill will take place, resulting in several people being injured.

The objective is to test the response mechanism at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and it is therefore expected that individuals will be transported there via the Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Personnel from the hospital, police, fire, various clinics and the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) will all be part of this week's exercise expected to run from 10:00 am to 1:00pm. There will be some disruptions to vehicular traffic in the vicinity of the exercise.

Meanwhile, an evacuation drill is being planned for next week Tuesday 27th October at the newly constructed Performing Arts Centre on High Street in St. John's.

This venue has been designated for the opening ceremony for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which will see a host of high-level delegates in attendance. The safety of participants will be paramount and it's important that emergency personnel are well prepared for any incident.

NODS has been working with various hotels and event venues to enhance their emergency plans ahead of the most significant international meeting ever to be held in Antigua.





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Chinese Embassy Hosts Youth Parliament Representatives To Social Evening



Members of the Youth Parliaments of Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla and St. Vincent and the Grenadines who are in St. John's for a meeting of the regional youth parliament, were on Tuesday night guests of honour of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Wei and the staff of the Chinese Embassy.

The youth parliamentarians partici-

pated in several activities during the evening, including helping to colour the Chinese characters on the China and Caribbean Friendship Wall at the entrance to the reception hall.

Ambassador Jiang noted that she was very pleased to meet young friends from the Eastern Caribbean region at the Embassy, noting that she could feel a strong sense of youth, which is open, confident and energetic. This atmo-

sphere is truly inspiring.

"We live in a closely connected world. Technology makes staying in touch easy, yet true mutual understanding and knowledge of one another have become more difficult. Without face-to-face dialogue, misunderstandings and uncertainty often take root. How we see each other matters. How we understand different development paths matters. How we seek common



ground while respecting differences matters. These are shared challenges for young people everywhere. That is why we are holding this cultural exchange reception,” Ambassador Jiang remarked.

The ambassador is hopeful that events such as the reception will strengthen understanding and friendship between youth from China and this region.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Osbert Frederick expressed his delight in listening to the debate by the youth parliamentarians earlier in the day which led him to remark that the future of the Caribbean is in good hands.

He described the various presentations as quite impressive and he urged

the young leaders to remain focused on their roles as they prepare to at some point assume leadership roles throughout Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean.

Also in attendance at the social were the Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle and two of his senators, Maleika Parker and Jonathan Whenner.

16-Year Old Charged with Burglary



The police have arrested and charged a 16-year-old juvenile of Kentish Road with burglary in connection with an incident that occurred at Tindale Road on October 15.

It is alleged that the juvenile broke into a dwelling house and stole electronic devices, household appliances, jewelry, personal belongings, food and beverages,

along with EC\$550 in cash.

Among the items reportedly stolen were a Chromebook laptop, a tablet, a Samsung cellular phone, a microwave oven, an air fryer and a blender. The stolen property and cash were reported to have a combined value of EC\$9,171.50.

Further investigations into the matter remain ongoing.

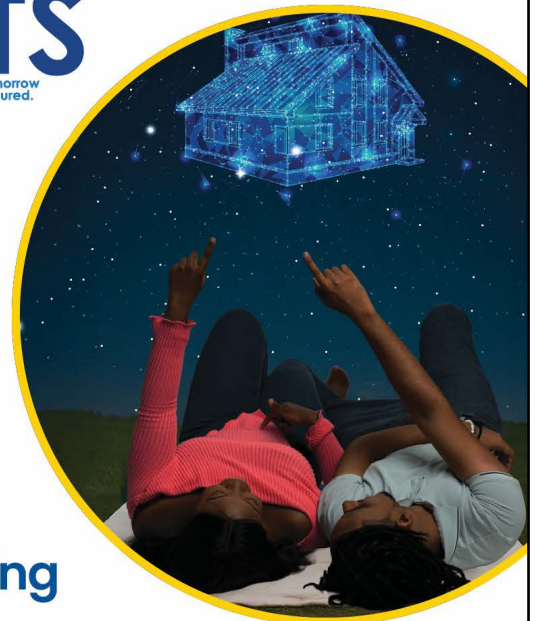


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The World Is Coming to Antigua



Why Small Islands May Hold Big Answers to Global Challenges

By Garfield Joseph

The world is searching for answers.

From climate change and economic uncertainty to geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, food security, and sustainable development, nations everywhere are confronting challenges that transcend borders. In the midst of these global conversations, an extraordinary moment is approaching for Antigua and Barbuda. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will bring leaders from across the Commonwealth to our shores, placing this small twin-island nation at the center of discussions that could help shape the future for billions of people.

For Antigua and Barbuda, CHOGM is more than a diplomatic gathering. It is an opportunity to demonstrate something the world is increasingly coming to understand: size does not determine significance.

For generations, influence was often measured in terms of population, military strength, or economic power. Yet the defining issues of the 21st century have begun to challenge those assumptions. Increasingly, the world is discovering that some of its most valu-

able lessons are emerging not from the largest nations, but from communities that have learned to thrive through resilience, adaptability, and innovation.

Few places understand these qualities better than small island states.

Long before climate resilience became a global buzzword, Caribbean nations were finding ways to adapt to environmental vulnerabilities. Before discussions about sustainable development dominated international conferences, island communities were learning how to balance economic growth with the responsible stewardship of natural resources. Before many countries appreciated the importance of community-based resilience, our people understood that survival and success often depended upon cooperation, ingenuity, and shared purpose.

These experiences give small states something valuable to contribute to global conversations.

As Commonwealth leaders gather in Antigua and Barbuda, they will discuss many of the issues defining our era. They will examine pathways to economic growth, environmental sustainability, digital transformation, education, security, and youth empowerment. While the participants may come from vastly different regions and circumstances, they share a common understanding that today's challenges require solutions built on partnership rather than isolation.

There may be no better place to host that conversation than Antigua and Barbuda.

Visitors arriving for CHOGM will undoubtedly be captivated by our breathtaking landscapes. They will experience turquoise waters that seem almost unreal, coastlines kissed by year-round sunshine, and hospitality that has become one of our nation's defining characteristics.

Yet beyond the beauty lies a deeper

story.

They will encounter a nation that has mastered the art of welcoming the world while preserving its identity.

They will find a people whose history reflects courage, perseverance, and optimism. A people who transformed challenges into opportunities and who continue to embrace the future without losing sight of their heritage. They will witness communities where tradition and innovation coexist comfortably, where culture remains vibrant, and where progress is pursued without sacrificing authenticity.

Perhaps that is one of Antigua and Barbuda's greatest strengths.

In a world often divided by political differences, economic disparities, and social tensions, our islands offer a reminder that connection still matters. We understand the value of relationships. We understand the importance of dialogue. And we understand that meaningful progress is rarely achieved alone.

The Commonwealth itself embodies these ideals. It brings together nations, large and small, rich and developing, from every continent and every background. Despite their differences, member states are united by a commitment to cooperation and mutual respect. In many ways, that spirit mirrors the values that have long characterized Caribbean societies.

As a host nation, Antigua and Barbuda has a unique opportunity to showcase not only its natural beauty but also its character.

This is a chance to present ourselves not simply as a tourist destination, but as a country of ideas, innovation, and possibility. A nation capable of convening meaningful dialogue. A nation prepared to contribute to conversations that extend far beyond our shores.

More Than a Government Event

Feature

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The opportunity before us is not simply to host a successful conference, but to leave a lasting impression on the world.

As the days count down to CHOGM, every citizen has a role to play in shaping the impression our nation leaves on the world.

The success of this gathering will not be measured solely by official communiqués, policy discussions, or diplomatic engagements. It will also be reflected in the experiences visitors have when they interact with our people, visit our communities, and witness firsthand the values that define Antigua and Barbuda.

Whether serving in hospitality, operating a small business, driving a taxi, assisting a visitor, volunteering at an event, or simply extending a warm greeting, each citizen becomes an ambassador for our nation.

Long after delegates return home, they may forget the details of individual meetings. What they are likely to remember is how they were welcomed, how they were treated, and how our country made them feel.

In that respect, CHOGM belongs not only to governments. It belongs to all of us.

For many visitors, CHOGM may be their first experience of Antigua and Barbuda. They will arrive expecting beautiful beaches and warm weather. They will certainly find both. But they may leave with something even more valuable: a deeper appreciation for the role small nations can play in shaping global solutions.

In many respects, that may become the legacy of this historic gathering.

At a time when the world faces unprecedented challenges, the answers are unlikely to come from any one country acting alone. They will emerge through collaboration, shared experiences, and a willingness to learn from one another. They will come from recognizing that wisdom is not the exclusive property of larger na-

tions and that innovation often flourishes in unexpected places.

That is why the world coming to Antigua matters.

For a few days, the attention of governments, businesses, media organizations, investors, and international observers will focus on these islands. The conversations that take place here may influence partnerships, investments, and initiatives that extend far beyond the Caribbean. Yet beyond the official meetings and ceremonial events lies a more powerful story, one that speaks to the promise of coopera-

tion in an increasingly complex world.

It is the story of a small nation with a global outlook.

A story of resilience, hospitality, and hope.

A story that reminds us that while some countries may be small on the map, they can still make a remarkable impact on the world.

And as Antigua and Barbuda prepares to welcome the Commonwealth, that may be the most important message we have to share.



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THURSDAY
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8:30 AM



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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

Social unrest sets Europe's streets ablaze

Rising fuel costs, discontent with the state of schools, declining public services, and a housing crisis have created perfectly stormy weather for an autumn of protests in Europe.

Crowds have taken to the streets for weeks in major cities, resulting in arrests, looting, injuries, and violence across France, Italy, and Albania. In Spain and Portugal, tent camps have sprung up in protests against unattainable rents and housing costs.

Young Europeans are experiencing “a strong sense of uncertainty and a lack of control”, said María Silvestre, professor of sociology at the University of Deusto in Spain. “And when specific situations come together, a spark suddenly ignites that is capable of channeling that discontent and driving people into the streets.”

Cities have turned into battlefields as top EU economies, including France, Italy, and Spain, approach pivotal elections while far-right parties have made electoral gains in Germany and could do so elsewhere. It also comes as Europe faces a critical moment in its support for Ukraine, with President Donald Trump making overtures to President Vladimir Putin even as Russia is blamed for increasingly frequent hybrid attacks in NATO countries.

Right-wing politicians have seized on the chaos. While protests in France have appeared broad-based, Trump portrayed immigrants as responsible for the destruction, writing on his Truth Social platform: “The migrants have taken over France. They must CLOSE THE BORDERS, FAST!” on Monday.

Many of the protests have been fuelled by frustrated young people. Other elements, including black-clad, masked agitators, have fomented violence, but French authorities and police have not blamed immigrants.

Here is a look at what is driving the unrest:

In France, which has a centuries-old tradition of popular protest, high



schoolers have staged blockades and demonstrations for more than three weeks, demanding more resources for schools they call understaffed and dilapidated, especially in lower-income neighbourhoods.

The protests then broadened as France's CGT labor union and other activists joined in while students paused for a fall break. The movement now includes demands over rising living costs and public services.

Despite hundreds of thousands of people marching peacefully, the weekend's unrest led to 2,400 arrests and serious disturbances in parts of France, including looting in Paris, Marseille, Lyon, and Bordeaux. In Limoges, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall and nearly destroyed the building. Some schools were set on fire. As students and rioters threw firebombs and law enforcement responded with tear gas, hundreds have been injured.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned Saturday's violence, accusing far-left activists of trying to foment chaos by attacking buildings and police.

“Those who looted will have to pay for the damage, and those who sought to bring down the Republic will be

held accountable,” Macron said Sunday in a rare televised address.

In Spain, elementary and secondary schoolteachers began an indefinite strike in Madrid last week to demand better pay and working conditions. Discontented teachers staged similar walkouts elsewhere in Spain this year.

In Madrid's central Puerta del Sol, tarpaulin tents have blanketed the square for weeks to protest rising housing costs, sparked by the eviction of Maricarmen, an 87-year-old woman who later died while hospitalised. Smaller protest camps followed in other Spanish cities.

The public pressure led the ruling Socialist government to approve affordable housing measures, but they lacked support in Parliament, triggering a snap election announced by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez for November. A general strike was also called for November — the first in 14 years.

Similar housing protests have sprung up in Portugal's largest cities, Lisbon and Porto, and in Barcelona, a focal point of Spain's overtourism and housing challenges.

Spain's minimum wage is €1,221 (US\$1,370), while the average month-

Regional News

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ly rent for an 80-square-metre apartment is around 1,130 euros (about \$1,270), according to an analysis by the business newspaper *Expansión*.

“Most of my paycheck goes to the rent. My roommate struggles to make ends meet just like I do,” said Diana Manzanares, a 20-year-old waitress at the Madrid encampment. “This is my reality and the reality of most of us living in this city.”

“Italia in Piazza,” or Italy in the Streets, has galvanised thousands of demonstrators, voicing demands for better employment, healthcare, education, and access to housing, as well as higher wages. Inflation in Italy rose to 4.2 per cent in September, surpassing the eurozone’s 3.8 per cent, according to government data.

The peaceful marches were followed by violent riots in Turin and Bologna and in Italy’s finance and fashion capital of Milan, where masked rioters clashed with police, looted stores and set property on fire. Milan police said 271 people were arrested — most of them minors — and 14 security officers were injured during two days of unrest.

Now a newly formed group calling itself the “October 17 Movement” has announced what it describes as a “permanent mobilisation” to demonstrate every Saturday at 3 p.m. in cities across Italy.

Anti-government protests have stretched over a week in Albania’s capital of Tirana, with clashes escalating after high school and university students joined the broad anti-government “Flamingo” movement calling for Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama to resign.

Rama has condemned the protesters as “ideologised and radicalised” by antifa, an umbrella term for loosely organised far-left militants in the United States, where President Donald Trump has designated the movement a terrorist organisation.

Ending corruption is a major demand of the movement, which was named for the natural habitat of flamingos in an area where Rama’s government

agreed to allow a major luxury tourism development linked to Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law. They also want protections for healthcare, education, and public pensions, according to its website.

In Serbia, the university students leading mass anti-corruption protests for nearly two years are challenging an attempted return to power by the

Balkan country’s former populist leader Aleksandar Vucic in parliamentary elections.

The former authoritarian president is aiming to be named prime minister after the October 25 vote. The youth-backed Students’ List party is believed to be running close to Vucic’s party, making the outcome uncertain and fueling fears of possible violence. (AP)

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Doomsday cult leader convicted of 191 murders



The leader of a Kenyan doomsday cult linked to more than 400 deaths was convicted yesterday of murdering 190 children and one adult after ordering followers to starve themselves to death to meet Jesus.

Justice Diana Kavedza ruled that Pastor Paul Mackenzie, leader of the Good News International Church, oversaw an organised system that used religious teachings to compel followers to fast until they died.

In 2023, more than 400 bodies were exhumed from shallow graves on the 800-acre (320-hectare) Chakama Ranch in coastal Kilifi County, where Mackenzie's followers lived in mud huts, away from the scrutiny of local communities and authorities.

Mackenzie was arrested and charged with murder alongside his wife and dozens of his followers. Some followers later became prosecution witnesses in the case. The trial began in 2023.

He has denied all charges, saying he did not force his followers to fast.

A mitigation hearing will be held on October 30 while sentencing is

scheduled for November 6.

The court found that the directive to fast to death was implemented by

targeting children first, while guards were deployed to prevent them from escaping, beating those who attempted to escape or eat.

Mackenzie also told his followers to shun education and healthcare. In her ruling, Justice Kavedza said that "medical treatment was presented as an instrument of Satan".

In April last year, the Court of Appeal allowed the prosecutor to proceed with 191 murder charges against Mackenzie and his co-accused.

In May 2024, the High Court directed prosecutors to reduce the murder charges to no more than 12 counts. However, the Court of Appeal ruled that the law does not limit the number of charges that can be brought against a defendant. (AP)

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Teen wakes up in coffin at her own funeral in Guatemala



A 15-year-old girl in Guatemala shocked mourners when she reportedly woke up inside her coffin during her own funeral, hours after her family believed she had died.

According to the New York Post, Yuleidy Ixcotoyac collapsed while being driven to a medical centre by her father, Abraham Ixcotoyac, an evangelical pastor. He reportedly believed she had died after finding no signs of breathing or a pulse, but no doctor confirmed her death and no death certificate was issued.

A funeral was arranged about eight hours after she collapsed. During the wake, her mother, Lesvia Ríos, noticed movement inside the coffin and alerted relatives.

The teenager, dressed in a pink T-shirt, reportedly sat up and began speaking before family members helped her out of the coffin and gave her water.

Ixcotoyac is now conscious and recovering at home. Guatemalan health authorities have not publicly commented on the incident. (Jamaica Observer)



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JAN 9TH AND 10TH 2027

Florida brings more charges against Raúl Castro



Former Cuban President Raúl Castro is facing more charges in Florida related to the 1996 downing of civilian planes flown by Miami-based exiles after the US government indicted the former leader earlier this year.

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier yesterday accused Castro, 95, of directing spies to infiltrate the exile group Brothers to the Rescue and ordering the attack on their planes. The state charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder is based largely on a federal indictment announced in May that included charges of murder and destruction of an airplane.

It remains unclear whether Castro will ever step foot in a US courtroom. Uthmeier said the arrest warrant will restrict Castro's ability to leave the island nation and prevent him from travelling to any place with an extradition agreement with the US.

"I'm not ignorant of the fact that Raúl Castro is an older man who's probably not looking to march himself into Miami," Uthmeier said. "I think others would get him before the court of law would, but at the end of the day, we stand ready to prosecute the case."

According to the state complaint,

Castro was the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and First Vice President of Cuba when he gave the final authorisation to shoot down the planes. Cuban Directorate of Intelligence agents operating as part of the Wasp Network in the Miami area and the Florida Keys infiltrated Brothers to the Rescue and reported flight plans, investigators said.

On February 24, 1996, three unarmed Cessna aircraft departed Opa-Locka Airport in Miami-Dade County. Well outside Cuba's territorial waters, Cuban MiGs destroyed two of the civilian planes with air-to-air missiles, killing the four occupants, the complaint said. Both aircraft were traveling away from Cuba and received no warning despite contact with Havana air traffic

control, US officials said.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel called the federal indictment earlier this year a political stunt that sought only to "justify the folly of a military aggression against Cuba". He accused the US of lying and manipulating events surrounding the shootdown.

"Our historic federal indictment laid the groundwork, and James and his team have now taken the important step of bringing charges under Florida law," US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Jason Reding Quiñones said at a news conference.

Castro took over as president from his ailing older brother Fidel Castro in 2006 before handing power to a trusted loyalist, Díaz-Canel, in 2018.

While he retired in 2021 as head of the Cuban Communist Party, he is widely believed to wield power behind the scenes, underscored by the prominence of his grandson, Raúl Guillermo Rodríguez Castro.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has been threatening military action in Cuba ever since US forces captured former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, the Cuban government's longtime patron.

After ousting the Venezuelan leader earlier this year, the White House ordered a blockade that choked off fuel shipments to Cuba, leading to severe blackouts, food shortages, and an economic collapse across the island. (AP)

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MV Barima disaster: Engineer lacked maritime certification, search faced obstacles, rescue logs relied on media

The Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the fatal capsizing of the MV Barima on Monday exposed troubling gaps in vessel maintenance, maritime safety procedures and the coordination of the initial search-and-rescue operation, with testimony revealing that the vessel's chief engineer lacked formal maritime certification for his position, mandatory safety drills were not being conducted, and official rescue records relied on figures obtained from media reports.

The disclosures emerged during Monday's resumed hearings at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, where commissioners examined the operational preparedness of the vessel, the limitations confronting military aircraft during the early search, and the accuracy of information recorded by the authorities as rescuers worked to locate passengers and crew following the July 18, 2026 disaster.

Taken together, the testimonies raise questions about whether adequate systems were in place to maintain the vessel, ensure compliance with safety requirements, and coordinate an emergency response when the MV Barima got into difficulty.

Chief Engineer Christopher Clark, of the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), told the commission that he held no formal maritime licence or certification for his position, relying instead on an internal promotion letter issued by management.

Under questioning by commissioners, Clark disclosed that although he had spent approximately two decades in the department, much of his work involved shore-based plumbing and electrical repairs rather than engineering duties aboard vessels.

His testimony also raised questions about his familiarity with the MV Barima and the vessel's maintenance history.

Clark acknowledged that he had not worked on or maintained the vessel in nearly 18 years and could not recall basic structural details, including the location of its onboard water tanks.

The commission also heard that the



MV Barima operated without a formal planned maintenance system or standard operating procedure manuals. Instead, servicing was carried out on an ad-hoc basis every 500 engine hours.

Adding to the concerns, Clark admitted that mandatory safety drills were not being conducted.

The testimony raises questions about the standards governing appointments to senior maritime engineering positions, the systems used to monitor vessel maintenance, and the enforcement of safety procedures within the maritime sector.

It also places the vessel's maintenance arrangements under scrutiny as the commission seeks to establish the circumstances that led to the tragedy and whether deficiencies in operational preparedness contributed to the outcome.

The commission also heard how inadequate nighttime landing facilities along the Essequibo Coast limited the options available to the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Air Corps during the early hours of the search.

Major Loyden Layne testified that he received an urgent telephone call from his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jocelyn Hosanah, shortly after 1:00 a.m. on July 19, 2026, following the emergency involving the MV Barima.

He was initially asked to fly from Ogle to either Anna Regina or Hampton

Court. However, Major Layne advised that landing at either airstrip before first light would not be advisable unless runway lighting was activated.

He told the commission that neither runway was lit and that the operation could proceed only at first light or if the necessary lighting was available.

The flight objective was subsequently changed to an offshore reconnaissance mission using a GDF Islander aircraft.

Major Layne recounted that he and his co-pilot operated in pitch-black conditions at an altitude of approximately 500 feet, spending between 20 and 25 minutes circling a steady red light observed offshore.

The location was estimated to be 49.5 nautical miles from Ogle and 14 nautical miles from Hampton Court.

The aircraft did not have specialised searchlights, limiting the crew's ability to observe the area to what could be seen with the naked eye.

The coordinates of the location were entered into the aircraft's GPS and relayed to GDF headquarters for further operational action.

Major Layne's witness statement and accompanying map were tendered into evidence as Exhibits LL1 and LL2.

His testimony highlighted the practical constraints confronting the early aerial search, including the absence of runway lighting at the two coastal airstrips and the limited visual-search capability of

International

AROUND THE WORLD



the aircraft deployed.

Questions about the reliability of the first emergency response were also raised during the testimony of Rickford Samaroo, Director of Air Navigation Services at the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA).

When commissioners questioned him about figures indicating that 67 persons had been rescued while 66 others remained the subject of the search, Samaroo acknowledged that the information came from media reports rather than records independently maintained by the authority.

“Well, that’s what we had from the media releases,” Samaroo told the commission.

Pressed on whether the figures came directly from the media and whether subsequent updates had been recorded, he confirmed that they had not been incorporated into the authority’s log.

“Media, yeah,” he said, adding that although the media issued several updates during the day, those updates were not recorded.

“No, not in our log. Thank you,” Samaroo told the commission.

The exchange raised questions about how survivor and missing-person figures were tracked and verified during the initial response to the disaster, particularly while search operations were continuing.

The testimony did not, by itself, establish that the figures used by the authorities were incorrect. However, it exposed a gap in the record-keeping process, with the commission hearing that media updates were available but were not entered into the relevant operational log.

During Samaroo’s testimony, the commission received several technical exhibits, including the status incident report and integrated time log generated by the Rescue Coordination Centre, an air traffic control audio transcript involving Roraima Airways aircraft ROR 401, and excerpts from the 2019 Aeronautical Search and Rescue Plan, as amended in 2024.

These were admitted as Exhibits RS3, RS4 and RS5, respectively.

Samaroo explained that the timestamps in the integrated operational logs were recorded in Coordinated Universal

Time (UTC), requiring four hours to be deducted to establish local Guyanese time.

According to the status report, the Rescue Coordination Centre was formally activated at 1:10 a.m. local time on July 19, with L. Fernandez designated as the Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator for aerial operations.

At 1:08 a.m., Aeronautical Information Services had queried a Cospas-Sarsat beacon alert and confirmed that a beacon message had been received for the vessel.

Roraima Airways flight ROR 401 departed Eugene F. Correia International Airport at 1:39 a.m., while a Guyana Defence Force helicopter departed at 2:04 a.m. to join the search.

The asset movement records tendered into evidence showed that seven aircraft were mobilised to search maritime target zones and coastal areas.

The aircraft included Roraima Airways’ BN2 Islander, registration 8R-GRC, and Trislander, registration 8R-GRF; GDF Air Corps assets comprising a BN2 Islander, registration 8R-GMN, a helicopter, registration 8R-GKE, and a Dornier 228, registration 8R-BKS; and two additional rotorcraft identified in the records as P-R-O-O-J and 8R-MVA.

The air traffic control transcript documented ROR 401 making contact over the search grid at 3:11 a.m. local time.

The pilot reported that a flare had been located and that the aircraft had detected a strong emergency locator transmitter signal.

Because the aircraft was operating at low altitude over the water, controllers instructed the crew to switch radio frequencies from 128.6 MHz to 124.2 MHz.

The records provided the commission with a timeline of the activation of the rescue coordination centre, the deployment of aircraft and communications between search aircraft and controllers.

However, the questions surrounding the recording of survivor figures indicate that the existence of operational logs alone does not settle whether all critical information was consistently captured and updated during the emergency.

Samaroo also outlined the framework

governing search-and-rescue operations, explaining that Guyana’s system is structured around standards established under International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 12 and the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue manual.

The framework brings together several agencies, including the GDF Air Corps and Coast Guard, Civil Defence Commission, MARAD, Guyana Police Force, Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, the Aerodromes Department and local airport authorities.

Asked whether the plan was regularly tested, Samaroo said communication exercises and biannual full-scale field operations were audited by the GCAA’s regulatory division to identify and correct deficiencies.

The commission requested that copies of previous exercise evaluation reports be submitted to its secretariat.

Those reports could provide further information about the deficiencies identified during earlier exercises, the corrective measures recommended and whether the relevant agencies had implemented them.

The testimonies have placed several aspects of the disaster under examination: the qualifications and experience required for senior engineering positions, the maintenance and safety systems governing the MV Barima, the limitations confronting aircraft deployed during the initial search, and the reliability of information recorded by the authorities as rescue operations unfolded.

While the evidence presented does not, on its own, establish the precise cause of the vessel’s capsizing or determine whether any individual failure directly caused the loss of life, it has highlighted areas in which the commission may need to examine existing procedures, operational decisions and institutional accountability.

The inquiry continues as commissioners seek to reconstruct the events surrounding the disaster, assess the preparedness of the agencies involved and determine what lessons must be drawn to prevent a recurrence. (Kaieteur News)

‘Poppy Man’ gets third national honour

Peter Xavier “Poppy Man” Williams has spent decades immortalising the memory of veteran soldiers.

Now, Jamaica has saluted the 93-year-old once more, awarding him the Order of Distinction in the rank of Officer for his tireless advocacy for veterans of both world wars.

Shortly after receiving his award on Monday, the retired army man returned to a familiar duty: Handing out poppies to guests at the Ceremony of Investiture and Presentation of National Honours and Awards.

It was a fitting occasion for Williams, whose name has become synonymous with the poppy flower — a universal symbol of remembrance of the sacrifice made by world war veterans and hope for a peaceful future.

“Well, the poppy, lest we forget, [highlights] the services that real soldiers gave for the freedom that everybody enjoys today, and it is well-supported. So that is why they call me the Poppy Man,” Williams told the Jamaica Observer with a proud smile.

He proudly counted the honours earned over a lifetime of service. “Look, see how much medals I have?” he asked, pointing excitedly to the badges attached to his chest. “Three national honours! And I hope to get more,” commented Williams.

The latest addition joins the Jamaica Independence Medal and the Badge of Honour for Long and Faithful Service.

The Jamaica Independence Medal was instituted by Queen Elizabeth II to honour members of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and select public officials serving when the nation gained independence from Great Britain.

Dressed in the khaki uniform and boots that he said were issued to him



on October 6, 1952, when he joined the JDF, Williams noted that national service completely changed his life’s trajectory.

Leaving his home in St Mary in search of a better life in Kingston, Williams hailed National Hero Sir Alexander Bustamante as the mentor who put him on the right path.

“When I ran away from country I was trying to find Kingston. But the Holy Spirit led me to Bustamante. He was mayor of Kingston and St Andrew in the 1940s. Him listen to me and send me to school because I walked from St Mary to Kingston to find him. So, from that he became my mentor,” he said.

Williams then attended Alpha Boys’ School, after which he made the decision to serve in the JDF.

When he enlisted, Williams joined the Royal Corps of Signals of the British Army. He later served through its transition to the West India Regiment and then the JDF. Before re-

tiring in 1978, he worked as a postmaster and chief photographer and was seconded to Jamaica Telephone Company for training as a JDF telephone operator.

After retiring from the JDF, Williams spent 12 years as chief security officer at Jamaica Telephone Company, followed by another 12 years in the same role at the newly established St Mary Banana Estates. During that period, he also became active in social work and later joined semi-military organisations.

Now, Williams dedicates his time to the Jamaica Legion, which is an affiliate of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League and was established in 1949. It recognises Jamaicans who lost their lives during World Wars I and II and raises funds to support ex-servicemen through its annual poppy appeal which runs from October to November each year.

But after a career of wearing uniforms, and receiving honours for his service, Williams argues that the most important uniform that he’s ever worn is the “uniform of self-discipline”.

“I was a boy scout from I was 14. On my honour, I promised to do my best, to do my duty to God and the Queen, to help other people at all times, and to obey the Scouts’ law. And the Scouts’ law is trusty, loyal, helpful, brotherly, courteous, kind, obedient, and last of all, to be clean in body and mind,” he said, noting that this principle has stuck with him and influenced his decision to advocate on behalf of veteran soldiers.

That moral, he argued, has become scarce among the current generation. However, he told the Observer that he will continue to play his part to get more youth into the practice of national service. (Jamaica Observer)

Guyana's oil earnings hit US\$3.88B, surpass 2026 projection

Guyana has already received more oil money than government anticipated to earn for 2026. The country initially projected the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) would receive approximately US\$2.8B for the year but the oil account has already overflowed with over US\$3B by August.

According to the NRF receipt for the third quarter, covering the period July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026, the country received a whopping US\$1.8 billion in profits and a royalty payment. The document, published in the official gazette, states that Guyana received US\$1.886 billion in three months alone.

For context, Guyana barely received US\$761 million during the first three months of 2026. In the second quarter, oil revenue increased to US\$1,235,229,090 due to higher oil prices. This means that Guyana has already received US\$3.882 billion up to end of September.

Guyana's share of profits grew significantly during the third quarter after ExxonMobil recovered its US\$55 billion investments in the country. The announcement was first made by the chairman and chief executive officer of Exxon, Darren Woods during the company's July 31, 2026 earnings call for the second quarter.

Instead of just 12.5% of profits, Guyana is now earning 39.8% in addition to its quarterly 2% royalty.

In accordance with the terms of the 2016 Production Sharing Agreement (PSA), Exxon was allowed to take out 75% of the oil produced in Guyana each month until all of the company's investments were repaid.

The remaining 25% of oil each



month was split between Guyana and the contractors, with the country receiving half of the "profit oil" or 12.5%. The country's profit share has now increased since the cost of all projects approved to date have been repaid; but this does not mean the cost bank is empty as operational, exploration and other expenses still exist. Consequently, 20% of production has been set aside in the new formula for costs. The remaining 40% is split evenly between Guyana and ExxonMobil.

Currently, four projects are producing about 900,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd). Guyana's production will surpass one million barrels per day before the end of 2026 as the fifth project, Uaru will add approximately 250,000 barrels. The Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel (FPSO) for that project has already arrived in Guyana.

Even as the country enjoys increased revenues from the sector, its

sudden bounty could be impacted by oil prices. While a sudden change in oil prices is beyond the control of the state, government can take steps to prevent the profits from falling again. If the GoG approves more projects for Exxon without changing the existing arrangements, Guyana's share of profits could again slide to 12.5%.

ExxonMobil is currently pursuing at least two new projects in the Stabroek Block- its eighth and ninth- which will add more expenses to the cost bank. Without implementing new systems like a ring-fencing provision, Guyana's profit share could again fall to allow the operator to finance these multibillion U.S-dollar projects.

President Irfaan Ali during a press conference told this newspaper that the GoG will seek expert advice on the financing of future developments. (Kaieteur News)



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 smiling and posing dynamically. The overall color palette is bright and festive, with a mix of purple, pink, yellow, and blue. 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 in various colors (yellow, green, blue, red, pink). 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 number "70" is prominently displayed in a large, ornate, multi-colored font. Below the "70", the word "Legendary" is written in a pink script. At the bottom, a white rectangular box contains the dates "JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027" in bold pink capital letters. Below this box, social media information is provided: a Facebook icon followed by "ANTIGUA CARNIVAL" and an Instagram icon followed by "@ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL".

ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

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Sports News



Big wins for PMS and OCS in school girls under-15 league



Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) both recorded wide margins of victories in the opening round of matches in the inaugural Girls Under-15 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League.

Both teams surged to commanding victories in their respective matches to kick off action in the competition on Monday.

Jkayla Bellot struck a hat trick to propel the Princess Margaret School to a 7-2 victory over the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) at the Clare Hall playing field.

Bellot had conversions in the second, 40th, and 43rd minutes. Gimel Samuel converted twice with strikes in the 11th and 13th minutes. The other goals for PMS were scored by Arika Henry in the ninth minute and Tagontay Ferris in the 20th minute.

Yanelis Martin produced a 15th-minute conversion, and Kadeecia Willock scored in the 28th minute for the Antigua Girls High School.

Diandra Batchelor, Corniah Jean-Pierre, and Iresha Mason each scored twice to lead Ottos Comprehensive School to a 6-0 drubbing of Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Batchelor got her goals in the fourth and sixth minutes; Jean-Pierre produced conversions in the 12th and 15th minutes; and Mason scored in the 16th and 46th minutes.

Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) also got off to a winning start in their under-15 girls division league competition.

Clare Hall Secondary School launched their campaign by snatching a 1-0 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) at the Clare Hall playing field.

Jonica Mathias scored the only goal of the match with a conversion in the second minute of the game.





Swetes Vipers get second win in ABFA's First Division League

The Swetes Vipers maintained their winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Monday.

After clinching a 2-1 victory over Willikies FC in their opening game, the Swetes Vipers made it two wins in a row, coming from behind to record a 4-2 victory over Five Islands FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Juan Melenciano Jr., scored both goals for Five Islands FC, got his first with a 10th-minute conversion to give his team an early lead.

Shalon Knight scored his first of two goals in the 16th minute to equalize for the Swetes Vipers. Juan Melenciano Jr. scored for the second time with a strike in the 21st minute to give Five Islands FC a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Once again, the Swetes Vipers were able to overcome the deficit, scoring three goals in the second half to secure their second win in as many matches.

Makhai Browne got the second equalizer for the Swetes Vipers with a 48th-minute conversion. Kaijah Matthew gave the Swetes Vipers a 3-2 lead with a conversion in the 54th minute, and Knight sealed victory by scoring his second goal of the match in the 63rd minute.

After being relegated from the Premier Division last season, John Hughes FC won their second match upon their return to the ABFA's First Division League on Monday.

John Hughes FC rebounded from a 2-1 loss against Jets Football Academy in their opening encounter in this season's first division to snatch a 4-3 victory against Golden Grove FC at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Garcel Morrison snatched the winner for John Hughes FC with an 84th-minute conversion after Adonijah Dyett produced a hat trick to lead Golden Grove FC's fight-back from a three-nil deficit to draw level at 3-3.

Goals by Shavon Roberts in the 31st minute and Terrence Thomas in the 38th minute gave John Hughes FC a two-nil lead at halftime. Teammate Caron Davis scored in the 55th minute to increase John Hughes FC's advantage.

Dyett struck twice with goals in the 58th and 68th minutes and achieved his hat trick by converting a penalty kick in the 79th minute.

After suffering a 3-1 loss to the Ottos Rangers in their opening encounter, English Harbour managed to salvage a 1-1 draw with the Young Lions of Old Road in their second match at the Old Road playing field.

Akeem Weekes snatched English Harbour FC's equalizer with a 63rd-minute conversion after Deante' Anthony scored in the fourth minute to give the Young Lions a one-nil lead at halftime.

Emerging batters and coaches benefit from CWI's high performance batting tour

Individualised batting plans for players and hands-on development for coaches are two of the lasting outcomes of Cricket West Indies' (CWI) ongoing High-Performance Batting Tour, which will reach approximately 60 emerging batters and dozens of territorial coaches across the region.

Currently wrapping up in Jamaica (October 17–20), the tour, which began on September 24, has completed four of its six territorial visits – the Windward Islands, Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago – before ending with the Leeward Islands leg in Antigua from October 23–26.

Across the first four legs, 45 of the region's emerging batters have been assessed, while 44 territorial coaches, including franchise coaches, CWI Pathway coaches, and club, school, and youth coaches, have worked alongside Carter and CWI High-Performance Coach Rohan Nurse.

Each four-day visit combines technical assessment, individual coaching, skill development, live application, and coach education. A key focus is improving players' ability to perform against both pace and spin, while establishing a clearer understanding of their individual requirements and areas for improvement.

Feedback thus far has been consistent, with players and coaches identifying the intensity, volume and standards of the sessions as the stand-out feature. Several of them praised the "specific and intentional" structure of the



A player bats in the nets during the current CWI ongoing High-Performance Batting Tour. (CWI Media)

programme and expressed their appreciation of Carter's approach to "making tweaks for improvement" rather than trying to completely change a player's game.

Reflecting on the programme's progress, Carter said, "The tour has been very successful so far, thanks to a clearly defined programme for each visit, which has allowed us to see where the players are and their natural skills.

"I had a pretty good understanding and appreciation of what to expect, having been part of a camp in St Lucia a few months ago. The standard across the territories has been very good, and I've been impressed with what I've seen."

On his approach of refining rather than overhauling a player's game, Carter added, "No one likes change, but people don't mind tweaking something. My approach is to identify the one per cent improvement that could make all the difference to a player's performance and output. It has also helped that the players and coaches have

been inquisitive and eager to learn and try new things."

Coaches in each territory pointed to the clarity of Carter's messaging and his insistence on executing the fundamentals at a high intensity. One coach in Barbados noted that Carter "was really good at underscoring simplicity and holding players to a high standard."

A coach in Guyana observed, "The game doesn't change. The fundamentals don't change. How you execute; that is how you will become successful or remain successful."

The camps are also building coaching capacity in each territory, with local coaches progressing from observing on the first day to coaching actively by the second and third days. Players have indicated they would be comfortable turning to these coaches for support after the camps.

Players also offered their perspectives on the coaching received and its relevance to their individual development.

Barbadian and West Indies under-19 top-order batsman,

Zachary Carter said, "The intensity and standards of the sessions were higher than what I'm used to in my regular training. They were more structured and challenging, with a strong focus on technique, decision-making, and my bat swing."

The tour reflects CWI's approach to directing its resources towards programmes with the potential to make a meaningful and lasting contribution to player development and performance.

By investing in technical expertise, individualised coaching and the development of regional coaching capacity, CWI aims to strengthen the foundations required to improve the quality of play and support greater success by West Indies teams over the long term.

Players and coaches in each territory have already called for longer and more frequent camps, more one-to-one and video work, and wider reach to younger age groups and female players.

Carter, however, encouraged the territories to build on the foundation already laid.

"They don't have to rely on CWI all the time. There are some excellent coaches in the region, and they have now seen what a four-day programme looks like.

"We've given them a template, so all they need to do now is replicate that approach, combine it with their own expertise, which is of a high standard, and carry on the work they have already been doing."

UEFA demands answers from FIFA over Infantino presidency



UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin, right, and FIFA president Gianni Infantino, left, holding a ball during the 49th UEFA congress in Belgrade, Serbia, April 3, 2025. (AP)

LONDON (AP) — UEFA has given FIFA a Nov. 2 deadline to release documents relating to Gianni Infantino's aborted attempts at a secretive investment plan for the World Cup and other governance issues.

The latest move in a power struggle between the two governing bodies came in the week after UEFA's European delegates were disappointed by what they perceived as a lack of clarity by FIFA president Infantino over the issues at a FIFA council meeting last week.

Infantino provided no documents about the US\$4.2 billion World Cup sell-off plan he launched and quickly dropped in July amid a fierce backlash led by Europe.

Among the 42 questions that UEFA is demanding an answer to are Infantino's personal remuneration package; financial payments made to singer Marc Anthony; the handling

of US striker Folarin Balogun's disciplinary case; business and political relationships involving Donald Trump and his family; and the operational independence of FIFA's judicial, electoral, and ethics committees.

UEFA asked US federal courts to authorize subpoenas compelling the production of documents and sworn testimony about the abandoned investment plan called FIFA Forward Enterprise. FIFA lawyers have claimed UEFA is harassing Infantino.

The formal letter, signed by UEFA general secretary Theodore Theodoridis on behalf of European FIFA council members, stated Infantino's apology for his actions and subsequent explanation failed to address their core concerns.

"These explanations have not begun satisfactorily to address a number

of fundamental questions raised by Council members. Others remain unanswered, and the information and documentation requested have not been (provided)," the letter said.

"The withdrawal of FFE, the recognition of mistakes, and the announcement of 'potential governance reforms' do not answer how the relevant decisions were taken or why the FIFA Council was not involved at the appropriate stage."

UEFA submitted 42 detailed questions to FIFA, demanding responses by Nov. 2 — 16 days before the nomination deadline for the presidential election next March 18.

With the next FIFA council meeting scheduled for Dec. 16 in Doha — after nominations close — UEFA insisted that answers cannot wait.

"These questions require answers now. They cannot be deferred until the next meeting of the FIFA Council — nor can future governance reforms substitute for scrutiny of decisions already taken and accountability for them," the letter emphasized.

The earlier deadline would give federations time to assess FIFA's answers — or its failure to answer — while they can still nominate or endorse a challenger.

Infantino will stand for reelection in March 2027, with a November 18 deadline looming for potential candidates to submit their nominations.

BOE retains regular season title in Business Basketball League



Champions Board of Education receives their trophy from ABBA President Michael Freeland (wearing glasses and beige shirt) after retaining the title by winning Business Basketball League title at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, October 19, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABBA)

The Board of Education (BOE) are back-to-back champions of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League.

The Board of Education achieved the feat after making a successful defense of their round-robin title, retaining the round-robin league championship by surging to a commanding 72-55 victory over Richie's Shooterz in the final game at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday evening.

By winning the top-of-the-table clash, the Board of Education clinched the title ahead of Richie's Shooterz, although both teams finished the regular league season with identical records of 11 wins and one defeat from their quota of 12 matches.

It means Richie's Shooterz had to settle for the runners-up position after suffering their only defeat during the regular season.

Xavier "X-Man" Meade produced a game-high 20 points, Adonis Humphreys sank 18 points, Danny Perez converted 14 points, and his brother Daniel Perez scored 12 points for the Board of Education.

Point guard Tavarus Benta sank 17 points, and Steven Matthew scored 11 points for Richie's Shooterz.

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 with the first two

quarter-final matches at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday (today).

Second-seed Richie's Shooterz will face seventh seed Anjo Wholesale in the opening encounter at 7 pm, and top seed Board of Education will meet eighth seed CTM Auto Spa at 8 pm.

The other two quarter-final matches will take place at the same venue on Thursday. The third seed, Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, will tackle Curtain Bluff Resort at 7 pm, and the fourth seed, APCMOL, will clash with fifth seed Sandals at 8 pm.

The winners of the quarter-final matches will advance to the semi-finals, which will be best-of-three series. The semi-final winners will secure berths in the finals, which will be a best-of-five series.