

DOCTORS DOMINATE NEW KNIGHTHOODS!

PAGES 8-9



Forty years of political independence, economic progress and cultural advancement have given greater hope and courage to this young, energetic and bold generation gifted with every reason to be optimistic and confident about a future Antigua and Barbuda well prepared for the resilience, creativity and achievement they already display in vivid abundance – the murals behind them, painted by them, being just one colorful and enlivening example. The next 40 years will find them owners of a nation they helped to build and shape; conquerors of a future they are right now envisioning and crafting.

- INSIDE:**
- A&B leads prosecution against fossil fuels, harmful emissions
 - PM Browne lays out case for climate compensation in BBC interview
 - Jamaica: Witness testifies that Vybz Kartel ordered multiple murders!

Antigua and Barbuda and other at-risk small islands demand end to fossil fuel subsidies

Statement by the Antigua and Barbuda Department of the Environment, issued from the Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) Glasgow, Scotland, on Tuesday November 2nd 2021

For generations, fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) have formed the backbone of our energy systems and global economy, as we rely on them daily for transport, food, and electricity.

A by-product of our reliance on fossil fuel, however, is the de-

struction of our natural environment, real and enhanced political risks to democratically elected leaders, and the undermining of our financial systems such as banking and insurance.

According to local climate experts, there are alternatives to fos-

sil fuels that bear none of the risks associated with the fossil fuel industry.

Fossil fuel is not the only energy source that can be used. In fact, wind and solar are much more abundant than fossil fuel and they're renewable.

Fossil fuel has a mo-

nopoly in the global energy system despite being the most expensive. This monopoly is maintained due to the excessive subsidies and policies and measures that ensures this monopoly, says Director of the Department of Environment and Antigua and Barbu-

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da's Climate Ambassador, H.E. Diann Black-Layne.

A recent report published by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) says that global production of fossil fuels is on track to rise over the next two decades. That's within the lifetime of most Antiguan and Barbudans under 50 years.

This rise in fossil fuel production means that global temperature is likely to rise beyond the 1.5 C threshold. This threshold was the limit beyond which could lead to "catastrophic and irreversible effects of climate change" according to the United Nations' climate science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

For Antigua and Barbuda and other small island states, this means our banking systems, access to insurance, even our pension system is at risk.

"We're already facing climate disasters at the current 1.2-degree threshold; a 1.5-degree world means small island states like Antigua and Barbuda will be struggling to survive," says H. E. Diann Black-Layne.

A recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says the fossil fuel industry receives about US\$11 million per minute in subsidies. That is literally adding fuel to the fire that is causing the demise of many small island states. Yet, only US\$24 billion dollars in finance is provided for the world's poorest countries to deal with both the impacts of - and mitigation against - climate change.

In 2015, almost all global leaders signed the Paris Agreement aimed at limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius – and, ideally, no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. Last June, a report published by the IPCC warned that the world would likely exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius within this decade.

For years small island citizens have been pleading with the G20 leaders to keep "1.5 alive!" – a call to action for them to divorce themselves from environmentally hazardous practices and to be considerate of the plight of developing nations, of island people.

G20 members (an inter-governmental forum of 19 countries

and the European Union) have directed around US\$300 billion in new monies toward fossil fuel production since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic — almost twice as much as they have toward clean energy. These countries emit almost 80% of global greenhouse gases that are causing global warming, accelerating climate change.

Antigua and Barbuda, with a population of almost 100,000 citizens, has contributed a tiny portion of the greenhouse gases that are heating the planet. Yet our nation and other small island nations are withstanding the worst of climate change.

As small island citizens, Antiguan and Barbudans are no strangers to extreme weather events such as storms, droughts, floods, and heatwaves. Antiguan and other small island citizens live under constant threat and fear of displacement, loss of property – and even life! – due to extreme climate events.

Small island nations have nothing close to the economic influence of the US and other G20 countries to

alleviate the damages caused by climate change-related disasters. In 2017, Hurricane Irma alone caused more than US\$220 million in damages – more than a quarter of the Antigua and Barbuda's tax revenue for that year!

Our sister isle, Barbuda, lost nearly half of her houses, leaving all her citizens displaced. Irma not only took homes from Barbudans, but also their livelihoods, culture, and sense of safety.

However, the sobering reality is that this event is not a one-off catastrophe, and it is likely to happen again in the near future. To combat this, it is important to address the support that the fossil fuel industry receives from the richest nations.

According to the Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph – Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Health, Wellness & the Environment: "Globally, we need to remove fossil fuel subsidies. It's the only way to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At this ... COP26, the world's governments must step up and take immediate steps to close the emissions



Antigua and Barbuda's Climate Ambassador and Chief Environment Officer, H.E. Diann Black-Layne

gap and ensure a just and fair transition to clean energy." COP26 (Conferences of the Parties) is the 26th annual United Nations climate change conference, taking place in

Glasgow, Scotland in November. As very few countries are taking measures to reduce fossil fuel production or to cut subsidies, this year's conference will be the defining moment for them to pledge to scale up their ambitions. As the current chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Antigua and Barbuda will be the leading voice advocating for 39 small island states; negotiating for higher climate ambitions from the G20, better climate financing for small island nations,

and for a halt on subsidising the fossil fuel industry.

As the Honourable Minister Sir Molywn Joseph has aptly said: "Our world is on the brink of climate chaos due to global warming, and it will take extraordinary action to turn this around ... Subsidising fossil fuels is basically offering financial support for small island economies and people to be ravaged by hurricanes, droughts and sea-level rise. They are financially supporting our devastation."

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PM Browne's interview with the BBC at UN Climate Change Summit

Prime Minister Gaston Browne was on Tuesday interviewed by the BBC during the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

Below is the transcript of that interview.

BBC: We talk about an existential threat, which sometimes is used glibly by journalists and by world leaders. But it really matters to people on the frontline. Let's speak to Gaston Browne. He's Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. He's also the chair of the Alliance of Small Island States which is made up of 39 small islands, low-lying coastal developing states whose beaches are disappearing.

Gaston Browne (GB): Correct. In fact, we are suffering most of the consequences of climate change. We're seeing more frequent and ferocious storms, and we would have seen ocean acidification and the destruction of our coral reefs ... Even the coastline, in some instances, we're losing our beaches ... As you know, most of our economies are tourism-based ... When you

lose your beaches, you lose your tourism. So, it is a very significant threat for those of us on the frontline – countries in the Caribbean, in the Pacific and Indian oceans ... That is why we continue to push developed countries and industrialized countries to reduce emissions.

BBC: Were you encouraged by the sense of purpose that came from the podium this afternoon, or was it just more of the same for you?

GB: For us, we want to see increased ambitions, not just talk; and we were somewhat disappointed that there will be an overshoot of that 1.5 degrees [Celsius] ... For us it's a matter of survival. And the fact that we are unlikely to achieve that 1.5 goal, that in itself is of significant concern to all small island states, and globally.

BBC: Do you think we should really be talking about the mid-Century option, or should we really be talking about the end of the decade? Because we have to cut our emissions by at least 45 per cent in the next eight years, and talking about mid-Century, somehow, for me, seems to kick it down the road.

GB: Absolutely, and that represents a significant threat for small island states; because if we are going to overshoot the 1.5 and countries are only going to achieve their NDCs in the middle of the Century, then evidently we're going to have several more decades of even more significant, more frequent and more ferocious storms and other climate effects. So that is totally unacceptable for us.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (right) with US President Joe Biden (second from right) and Guyana's President Dr. Irfaan Ali (left) among others at the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland.

BBC: We are looking at pictures at the moment of Antigua and Barbuda after Hurricane Irma. I was talking to Baroness Scotland last night – the Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations – and she was saying that when the IMF [and] the World Bank look at the economy of a small island like Dominica, they look at the debt and they don't reassess that debt in the mind of what has happened naturally. They have [had] two hur-

ricanes. Do you feel like that? Do you get the debt relief you should get, given what you are facing?

GB: We don't, and I have to tell you, a country like Antigua and Barbuda has been placed at a significant disadvantage, because we are considered to be a wealthy small island state ... Generally speaking, the international community does not take into consideration the vulnerability of the country; so we have been pushing for

the developed countries, the international financial institutions ... to eliminate that per capita income criterion and to look at the vulnerability of the country; because, when your country is destroyed by a hurricane and you have human suffering, and you are using this per capita income criterion ... it is insensitive. It does not take into consideration the human suffering and the need. So, we have taken a position that climate funding – to in-

clude climate ODA – should be based on vulnerability and not ODA (Official Development Assistance).

BBC: That obviously isn't coming from the IMF because they will look at the balance sheet and say, 'Well, your economy is based on tourism.' You are saying, 'We have no economy left if climate progresses as we're seeing it.'

GB: That's right, and the issue that you raised earlier, too, about debt. We have had to borrow repeatedly to repair damaged economy, infrastructure and building. So, then, you would find most of the countries within the Caribbean, for example, that they have a very high debt overhang. So they don't have the kind of fiscal space to transition into these green energy technologies. As a consequence, we have been left behind to some extent. In fact, Antigua and Barbuda and Tuvalu just launched, yes-

terday, a new SIDS (Small Island Developing States) Commission on Climate Change & International Law ... We are now seeking legal advice on the issue of loss and damage, and to go the legal route to develop a compensatory mechanism for loss and damage; because it's unfair to these countries that repeatedly they have to borrow to repair damaged infrastructure ...

BBC: There's a lot of countries – UK, France, Germany, United States – who've not had those conversations with their own populations.

GB: It is well known that these small island states ... contribute less than one percent of global emissions. So it is the heavy polluters [who] are the ones creating the problem and, as far as we see it, the polluter must pay, and there has to be a mechanism for compensation for

loss and damage – which, incidentally, is one of the areas that was not discussed in any significant way at this COP (Conference of the Parties); and that is why we have launched a separate initiative in which we will be utilizing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; writing to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea to get some directions as to how we deal with the issue of the liabilities arising from these heavy polluters, and

also to ... use whatever judgment we get as a mechanism to force these industrialized countries – these heavy polluters – to settle wherever there is damage.

BBC: Prime Minister ... I could talk to you much more, but I wish you all the best with your negotiations. I think we all understand what you are facing and I hope you get something out of the summit. Thank you very much. **GB:** Thank you as well. Cheers.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(IN ADMINISTRATION)

ANUHPB 2021/

In the Estate of "GLORIA BACHELOR" a.k.a. "GLORIA ROSETTA BACHELOR" a.k.a. "GLORIA BACHELOR", late of Cassada Gardens, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **CHARMAINE BEVERLY SERENE HENRY**, formerly of Cassada Gardens, St. John's, Antigua, now residing at 2100 Bishop CT, Lawrence, KS 66046, USA, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 18th day of September, 2018.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 25th day of October, 2021

TALIA N. DACOSTA
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
STAPLETON CHAMBERS

Filed by **STAPLETON CHAMBERS** Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Stapleton Chambers, Stapleton Lane, P. O. Box 2891, St. John's, Antigua, email: craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com, Tel No: 268-562-7185; Fax No. 268-562-7967

New Knights and Dame: medics and businessman among those highly honoured at Independence '40

The evening of November 1st brought the official close of celebrations marking Antigua and Barbuda's 40th Anniversary of Political Independence.

Marking the closure of the week-long event, was a day filled with island-wide food displays, a parade of marching bands and uniformed bodies, fireworks, and the highly anticipated announcement of this year's National Honours.

Antigua and Barbuda's honours system recognizes the outstanding service and contributions of the country people.

Officially authorized by Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor-General presents honours and awards on her behalf to thank people for their contributions to Antigua and Barbuda.

Under the theme "Resilience, Reflection and Recovery", the country's 40th Anniversary of Independence witnessed 15 national honours bestowed upon Antiguan and Barbudan nationals and institutions.

According to the Honours Committee, during the Independence Parade & Awards Ceremony, the following na-

tionals received several awards. Out of the 15 named individuals, five were bestowed the highest form of awards recognizing their distinguished and outstanding service to Antigua and Barbuda.

Topping the publication was Dr. Ruby Beryl Viola Lake-Richards: Dame Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (DGCN) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of medicine. Dr. Lake-Richards was earlier this year awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science at a special convocation hosted by The UWI, Five Islands Campus. Dr. Ruby Beryl Viola Lake Richards was one of the first 33 medical students who attended The UWI (then University College of the West Indies).

Four other doctoral, medical and business professionals also attracted rounds of boisterous applause as they too were awarded some of the nation's highest honours.

Dr. Hayden Thomas: Knight Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KGCN) for distinguished and outstanding contribution

in science, food technology, teaching, community service, and nation-building.

Dr. Reginald Alford Walwyn: Knight Commander, Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KCN) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of ophthalmology and community service.

Dr. Joseph John: Knight Commander, Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KCN) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of healthcare and business.

Mr. Robert David Shoul: Knight Commander, Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KCN) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of business and community development.

Ten other proud Antiguan and Barbudans were also celebrated that night as they graced the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to be honored.

They were: Ms. Cora Casima Mergenthala Huggins, Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of Merit (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contributions in the field of education and community ser-

vice; Mrs. Violet Yvonne Albertha Lewis, Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of Merit (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of education; Ms. Elma Benjamin, Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of Merit (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of pharmaceutical services and healthcare; Mrs. Felicity Richards-Aymer, Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of Merit (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of health; Mr. Knackbill Nedd, Grand Cross, Most Distinguished Order of Merit (GCM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in nation-building;

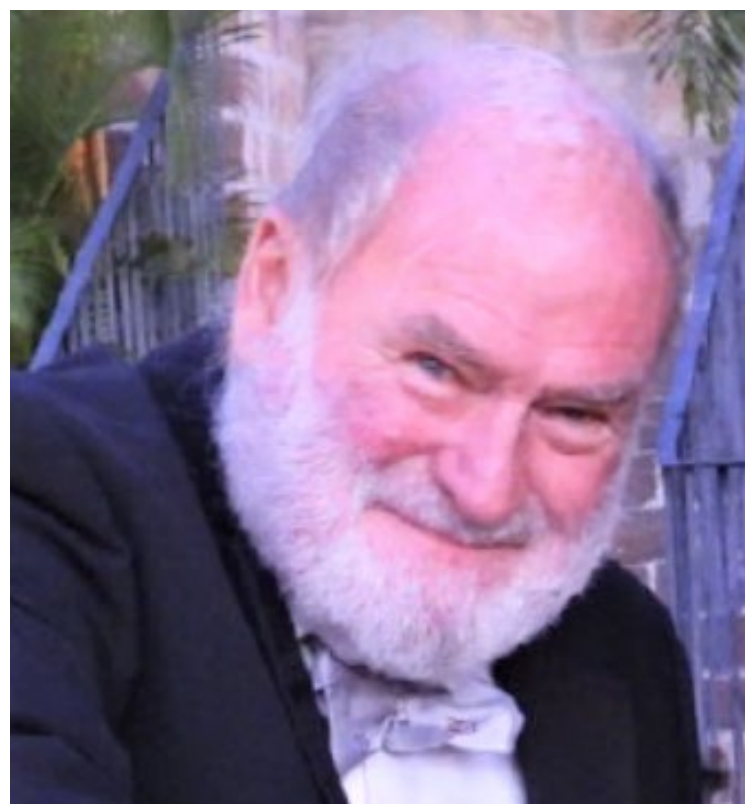
Ms. Rosannette Kirby, Officer, Most Illustrious Order of Merit (OM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution to youth and community development; Rev. Dr. Lester Washington Emanuel, Officer, Most Illustrious Order of Merit (OM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution to community service; Mr. Oliver Joseph, Officer, Most Illustrious Order of Merit (OM) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the field of business and community service;

Mr. Michael Rose, Officer, Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (OH) for distinguished and outstanding contribution in the yachting industry.

2021 has been a remarkable year for the Halcyon Steel Orchestra. They not only celebrated 50 unbroken years as an orchestra, playing and developing pan in Antigua and Barbuda, they also coped the 2021 INSTITUTIONAL AWARD during the 40th Independence parade and awards. Halcyon Steel Orchestra received the Institutional Honour, The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (Gold) for distinguished and outstanding contribution to culture through the development and advancement of steel band and steel pan music.



This revered medical practitioner is now Sir Joseph John.



The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (OH) has been bestowed on Michael Rose for his contribution to yachting.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA MINISTRY OF WORKS
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT
CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT DRAINAGE CHANNEL**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) - United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund towards the cost of the Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of (GOAB) and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than (GOAB) shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Works (MOW), through its Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU). MOW has contracted Consultants who will assist the PIMU with delivering the Project.

GOAB now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of an earthen, grassed swale drain and a culvert outlet structure within the VC Bird International Airport compound.

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms, which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- (a) more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country, or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- (b) owned or controlled by the Government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted. Tender and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective contractor's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

- (a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last five years of at least One hundred and fifty thousand United States

Dollars(\$150,000USD) or Four hundred thousand Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD 400,000.00 minimum), of which only the three best years will be evaluated;

(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of fifty thousand United States dollars (USD 50,000.00) or One hundred and thirty-five Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD 135,000.00); and

(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity between 1st January, 2015 and submission deadline (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Electronic Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below. Alternatively, a hard copy may be obtained from the first address below for a non-refundable cash payment of XCD \$150.00. Requests may be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **“Request for Bidding Documents for the Construction of Airport Drainage Channel”**, along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which Bidding Documents are being requested.

Applicants who request that documents be forwarded to them must submit an account number from a local courier agent that accepts freight collect charges. Documents will be promptly dispatched, but under no circumstance will MOW or their authorised agent be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so transmitted.

Sealed envelopes clearly marked **“Bid for the Construction of Airport Drainage Channel”**, must be received at the second address below not later than **12:00 noon on 30th November, 2021**. Bid opening will take place immediately after the deadline for submission at the second address below in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend.

All bids must be accompanied by a signed, completed Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

GOAB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOAB's action. GOAB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

Address for Correspondence

Project Coordinator
Ministry of Works
St. John's Street
St. John's
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

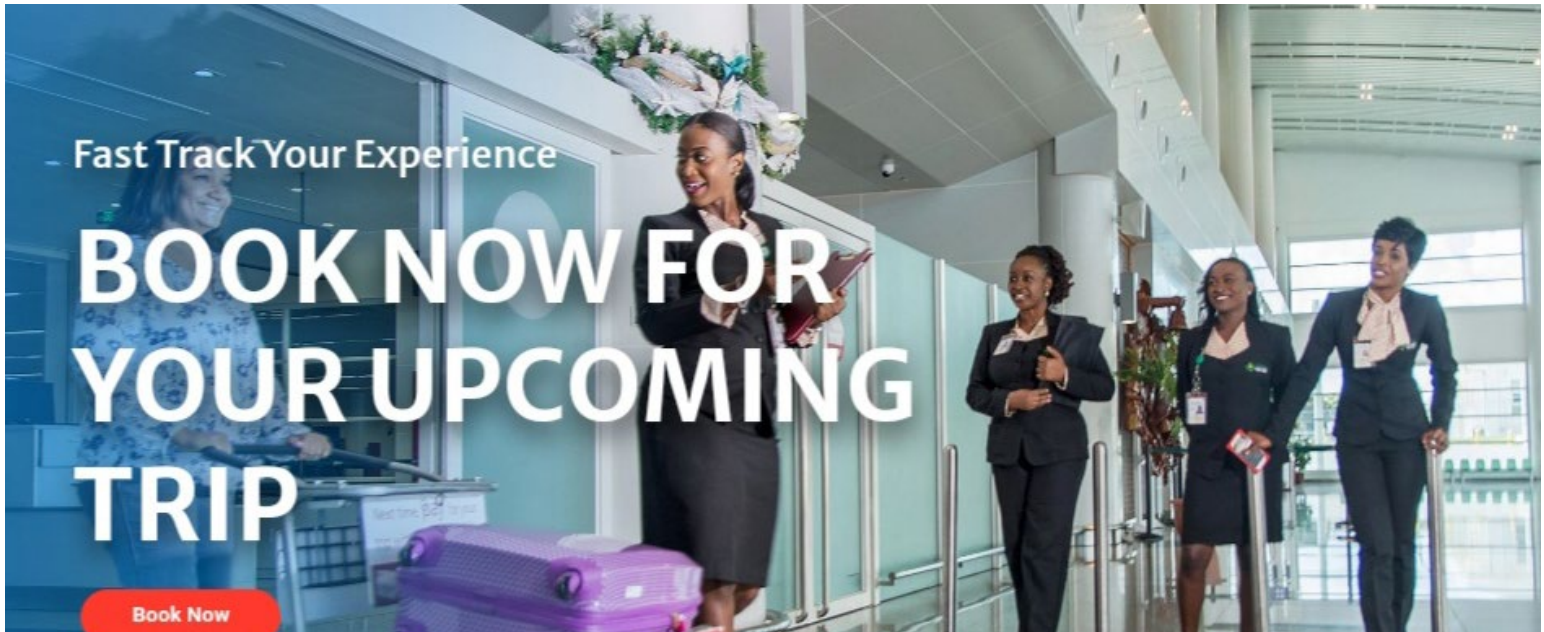
Tel: +268 562-9176
Fax: +268 462 4622
Email: projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag

Address for Bid Submission and Bid Opening

Chairman, Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance
Government Office Complex
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Tel: (268) 562-5825 / 5826
Fax: (268) 562-1717
Email: tenders.board@ab.gov.ag

VCBIA announces Independence Day launch of revamped website



The V.C. Bird International Airport has launched its revamped and enhanced website aimed at introducing yet another level of convenience to the travelling public. The site, found at www.vcbia.com, will go live on Monday November 1st, Independence Day in Antigua and Barbuda. The launch culminates many months of work to ensure that the website improves and delivers on the highest levels of traveller expectation.

It provides a wealth of information for anyone travelling to or from Antigua and Barbuda, and offers mobile-friendly features for the traveller on the go.

Persons visiting the site will be able to secure information on the airport's Fast Track ser-

vice and its Executive Lounge to make bookings, should they desire access to these exclusive services. The website opens a visual window into the array of services and facilities that helped earn the VC Bird International Airport its recognition as one of the finest in the Caribbean. "We couldn't have chosen a better time to launch the site. Independence is an occasion that evokes a sense of pride among Antiguan and Barbudans, and we are equally excited that we can showcase our services and the efforts of a hardworking staff to travellers in this way," stated CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority Euleta Francis.

One of the main drivers be-

hind the project is the airport's commercial manager, Geneva George. She credits the entire team, including the developer and the IT team, for their untiring efforts in pulling all of the parts together.

"I am very proud to be associated with the project. Among its other exceptional features, the site also makes flight information available to the traveller from any page they might be visiting," beamed the airport's IT coordinator Jasen Lewis.

The platform has also been made responsive to rapidly evolving trends in the flight industry. Its exceptional scalability makes it possible for e-commerce and advertising features to be added soon.

Roadworks update



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda's Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (SRIRP) is at an advanced stage with excavating, road paving and drainage works ongoing along sections of Sir Sydney Walling Highway (SSWH).

The Ministry of Works, through the Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU), is working to rehabilitate a total of 28 kilometers of road network with resurfacing work on four main roads.

To date, 90 percent of the design-build process has been completed, with 70 percent of the earthworks, five percent of the drainage, and 45 percent of paving on SSWH.

A critical project stakeholder is the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), which is responsible for the installation of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)

water mains. The company has already completed the installation of 63 percent of the new water pipes. APUA's telecommunications installation work stands at 90 percent with approximately 35 underground junction boxes to be constructed.

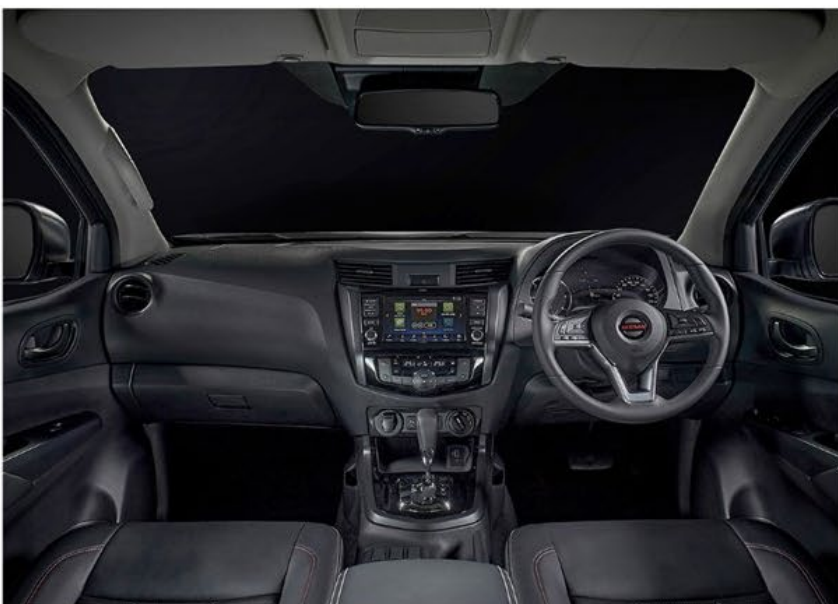
Mr. Nigel Francis (Acting Project Engineer II) has been performing duties as Project Engineer for the Second Road Project. He said, "APUA's Electricity Business Unit has commenced the relocation of utility poles and has maintained steady progress. Overall, works have been progressing satisfactorily.

"It has been a pleasure assisting with finalizing the APUA variation scope despite some setbacks," Francis added. He said one of the main successes is aligning APUA's agenda with project goals. He describes this

as a major victory for the team, while noting that although the work is still ongoing, significant progress has been made.

Francis emphasizes that Quality Assurance and Quality Control must not be overlooked, and he is pleased that the Contractor has presented a detailed plan. Once this is adhered to, the final product will stand the test of time – since the goal is to mitigate negative impacts – especially with a vulnerable climate zone.

Three additional roads – Valley Road (North), Old Parham Road and Anchorage Road – will also see improved drainage, widening, and resurfacing work under the SRIRP. The project is at an advanced stage with excavating, road paving and drainage works ongoing along sections of the SSWH.



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Unions and parents, think of the workers and the children

Dear Editor: Here are some random things that make me so angry.

1. What are Unions complaining about? They are complaining that they were expecting and waiting for consultations. Really? Have the Unions been asleep for the past 18 months? One of the primary functions of 21st Century Unions is workers' education. What have the unions been doing? Have they been holding sessions with their members to educate them about the COVID pandemic and its effects on the economy and jobs? The answer is a BIG, FAT NO. They have just been collecting dues. Let me say this right now, and I can talk for the banking and hotel industries: The day that Government changes the legislation that now makes it mandatory (that magic word again!) for employers to deduct union dues from the earnings of their employees, 98% of workers will not pay those dues voluntarily.

2. More than 50% of Antiguanians were born in the United States of America. President Biden has now made it mandatory from 1st November for all persons entering the US to be vaccinated. I don't hear Antiguanians on the talk shows cursing Biden. But that is how we are – just pull down our own. They will lap their tails between their legs and run for the vaccine because they would not be able to exist without being able to go 'Merica.

3. I strongly believe that a tent city should be established opposite the hospital to treat all the unvaccinated who get COVID and they should be treated on a cash-only basis. I am confused about why they are going to the hospital. They do not believe the science. They do not believe and trust the doctors. They do not know what is in the vaccine. Do they know what is in the medication that they will receive at the hospital?

4. With COVID cases rising daily, I ask the million-dollar question: How will this country fund the long term effects of COVID on the body? COVID sometimes damages organs of the body. There are people now recovered from COVID who have heart, lung and kidney problems. Some are getting massive headaches and pains in their joints, months after they have recovered. Medical Benefits and the Government are already struggling with kidney problems and dialysis, high blood pressure, diabetes and all its accompanying problems like blindness and kidney failure, cancers, etc. How the hell is this small country now going to pay for the idiots who refuse to get vaccinated and then get sick?

Congratulations to the Media, except Observer, for the fantastic job that is being done to educate the people of this country about COVID and vaccines. ABS TV/Radio and Nice FM take a bow. Thanks to all the medical

professionals who, even though tired and overworked, still take the time to go on the media daily and nightly.

Congratulations to Prime Minister Gaston Browne. You are a true leader. Do what you have to do to keep the population safe. History will vindicate you.

Finally, a word to the anti-vax adults of this country. Your selfishness, ignorance and massive egos are robbing the children of this country of an education. This will be the second year that our children will be unable to properly attend school. And it is the children at the lower end of the economic scale who will be punished. The middle-class kids all have laptops, tablets and proper Internet. The kids from the poorer families do not.

Additionally, many of these children with just a single and hardworking mother, get structure in school. For most of them, the School Meals Programme provides their only proper daily meal. This is Real Talk. This is not fair to our children. Years from now when they can only get the low-end jobs and have no hope, the blame will be squarely at the feet of today's adults.

(Signed)
Denzil Warner
Old Road, St. Mary, Antigua

Those born with gold spoons ...

Dear Editor: It is easy to talk when you are rich and don't have to worry about where your next meal is coming from and how you will feed your children.

It is easy for the likes of Eli Fuller and his Caucasian friends to criticize the government on environmental matters when their bread is already buttered. Many of the followers on his Facebook page are Americans. They have a lot to say about little Antigua but nothing to say about their own country, USA, which is responsible for about 14% of the total global carbon emissions.

In fact, the USA is number 2 in production of carbon dioxide, right behind China. This excessive concentration of carbon dioxide disrupts the natural regulation of temperature in the atmosphere and leads to global warming.

But don't get me wrong. We all must become more aware of protecting the environment and about creating sustainable development that works hand-in-hand with the environment. But we live in a real world and this is just not always possible. Governments have to balance the needs of their people against the damage to the environment.

Thousands of students leave school each year looking for jobs. They have no gold spoons in their mouth. It is easy for Eli Fuller to tell the government that they should not have built the road along Darkwood Beach. Try telling that to the people of Urlings, Crabbe Hill, Johnson's Point and Old Road who are easily able to access St. John's.

It is easy to say don't build hotels and homes. But people need jobs and places to live.

Check Eli Fuller's FB page and Vlog. He only ever mouths off when it is something that directly affects him and his business. Once he can conduct his charters, he does not give a damn whether the average Antiguan can make a living and feed his family. When there were restrictions, he was full of it. Restrictions were removed, he became silent. Then restrictions were re-imposed, he was back on FB mouthing off. Restrictions were removed and he was silent again. In other words, he is self-serving.

He is also not the brightest bulb but he lives off the Fuller name.

As the old saying goes: We cannot eat the environment. And little Antigua's contribution to climate change is so small it cannot even be seen.

Regards,

Reds.

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Bahamas PM says gov't will focus on carbon credits over oil drilling

EW News - Prime Minister Philip Brave Davis yesterday advised that The Bahamas would be pursuing the monetization of its carbon credits – transferable points gained from reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) – rather than oil drilling.

Davis maintained that oil exploration does not necessitate the exploitation of natural resources, but would rather provide an opportunity to monetize the find.

He spoke to the government's plans to access concessionary lending on the sidelines of COP26, the global United Nations (UN) conference about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it.

Carbon credits are certified by independent organizations or governments and represent an emission reduction of one metric tonne of CO₂, or an equivalent amount of other GHGs. The credits are transferable and generally sought after by major companies seeking to offset carbon dioxide emissions to meet regulatory limits.

Davis explained that global leaders are not

responding to calls for funding.

"We have what they call a graduated state. We are not eligible for concessionary lending. That is going to change because we are now working on a framework for what they call the multi-vulnerable [indices] to ensure [that] countries like ours could have access to concessionary lending," Davis said.

"So, in the absence of being able to find revenues to adapt and mitigate against climate change, we have to look elsewhere.

"Drilling in [and] of itself does not necessarily mean exploitation. If you drill and find, you can monetize the find without exploiting it. But – for right now – what we are doing, what I'm considering, is the replacement of the thought-of drilling with monetizing our carbon credits."

Last week, Press Secretary Clint Watson told reporters that Davis is "engaging with experts" to determine his administration's position on oil drilling going forward.

While in opposition, Davis affirmed his support for oil drilling



Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Brave Davis speaking to reporters at COP26.

under the caveat that it be done in an "environmentally friendly" manner.

He previously told Eyewitness News (EWN) that he still supports the agreement struck with the Bahamas Petroleum Company (BPC), now Challenger Energy, to exploit the natural resource for the benefit of the Bahamian people, if it is found to exist in commercial quantities.

Challenger is now focused on renewing the licenses into a third, three-year exploration period and securing

a partner — ideally a large industry player — to provide expertise and capital for the next phase of activity.

The company's Perseverance #1 well represented the first exploratory drilling in The Bahamas since the mid-1980s, and the first test of any prospect located in deeper waters off the shallower water carbonate banks.

Drilling concluded in February of this year without incident and no discovery of commercial quantities of oil.

UK won't outright tell BVI to cut public service, but has hinted it

BVI News - The BVI's political leader has said he believes that although it is not explicitly stated, the UK wants the territory to drastically reduce its public service.

Addressing the House of Assembly recently, Premier Andrew Fahie said the UK's intention of a chop to the BVI's public service is suggested in the conditions of the £300 million loan guarantee Britain has offered for hurricane recovery.

The Premier said the loan guarantee is something the territory wants, but the BVI remains concerned about the conditions attached to the offer, even as dialogue on the matter is ongoing. He said if the BVI was to stray outside of the proposed borrowing ratios attached to those conditions, the UK would become empowered to automatically approve all future budgets.

And if the UK were to take control of the BVI's budget, Fahie said some numbers or percentages of debt-to-income ratios that were suggested in passing conversation would only be feasible if the BVI would cut the largest section of its recurrent budget. He then noted that the largest section of the recurrent budget was the salaries for public officers.



BVI Premier Andrew Fahie

"So they'll never say that you must cut public officers. You'll never hear that. And they will say 'we never told them that', and they'll be correct. But read between the lines," the Premier urged.

He said several terms and conditions attached to the loan guarantee documents are still left to be ironed out, while others remain unclear and undefined. He pointed to two

specific terms — 'other mechanisms' and 'other measures' — both of which the UK said it would reserve the right to implement at any time.

The concerned Premier said these terms could mean anything and government is reluctant to accept such a condition.

"So, you want me as a Minister of Finance to sign onto a document that is saying these kinds of con-

ditions with other measures and other mechanisms that we don't know the definition of them?" Fahie questioned.

Without a clear definition in place, the Premier suggested that this could mean that the UK would want him to hand over control of the BVI's financial services sector in the event the BVI defaults on the conditions.

Guyana Looks to Middle East for Help in Constructing Deep Water Port



St. Kitts Observer - A deep-water harbour port in Guyana providing access to the Atlantic Ocean is back on the agenda with renewed interest and assistance from the Middle East.

This project is expected to benefit Guyana and its neighbours Brazil, Suriname and French Guiana.

On Friday, Guyana's President Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced that during his recent visit to Expo 2020 in Dubai, he had "extensive" discussions with Khalifa Port.

Khalifa Port, located halfway between

Dubai and Abu Dhabi, is a state-of-the-art deepwater port built to accommodate some of the world's largest ships.

Officials from Khalifa Port already had two technical teams in Guyana and are expected to return, President Ali said, with their "evaluation".

"They are looking at a modern state-of-the-art facility operation with cutting edge technology, focusing on efficiency, safety and security," Ali told the media.

The President said a team from Khalifa Port is expected in Guyana

in another 2-3 weeks to follow up with an evaluation.

"Their initial assessment is one of great optimism," Ali said. "That is how they described it; they believe ... this is a project that can happen; that this is a project that is viable. They are now working on the financial details."

Asked about funding, Guyana's President would only say that the government is looking at "private sector investment", adding that the Abu Dhabi team will deliver both technical and financial evaluations.

This port is expected to provide the land-locked Roraima region of Brazil with access to the Atlantic Ocean.

This access has seen decades-long discussions, as well as bilateral agreements, between the South American neighbours.

Guyana's President said discussions have started with some of his country's neighbours. "All three countries are strongly committed to the project," he declared on Friday.

Ali said a strategic meeting between Brazil, Suriname and French Guiana on the port and other issues is planned for early 2022.

Already there have been transformational projects on riverside lands along the three main rivers. The oil and gas industry has seen the development of onshore facilities.

At least two major onshore facilities are in the planning stages and would be located in both the Essequibo and the Demerara rivers.

Jamaica: Imprisoned entertainer Vybz Kartel ordered murder hits, witness testifies

Jamaica Gleaner - A former top-tier member of the One Don Gang on Tuesday testified at the Clansman-One Don trial that reputed leader Andre 'Blackman' Bryan and other alleged gang members would reportedly frequent the St. Andrew studio of popular dancehall artiste I- Octane, whose real name is Byiome Muir.

The witness testified that the alleged gang members, including him, visited the location multiple times to record music with the entertainer.

Earlier, the witness testified that he asked permission from Bryan and one of his alleged commanders to keep a gun that the gang was buying.

The ex-gangster, who is the second prosecution witness from the gang, told the Home Circuit Court that after he got the go-ahead, he told the police.

"I tell Blackman I want to keep the gun. He ask me why and I tell him I have somebody to kill," the witness recalled.

In response, he said, Blackman said he would have to ask defendant 'City Puss', whose name is being withheld, with whom they were both on a joint call.

The witness said he agreed saying, "Yeah man, can gi him, mek him gwaan." The witness said he then called the

cop investigator who he had given a statement to about the gang.

According to the witness, City Puss, after agreeing to give him the gun, told him to report back to him how the gun sounded.

The witness had explained earlier during his testimony that Blackman had instructed him to go and collect \$150,000 from a man named 'Crocs' [defendant Fabian Johnson] to purchase the gun.

He said he went to meet Crocs in Denham Town in Kingston and when he arrived at the location the lone female defendant in the trial, Stephanie Christie, was present. The witness testified that she was given the money to give to Crocs. The witness said he was also instructed by City Puss not to tell Crocs about the gun purchase as he did not "trust di gyal [Christie] mouth".

The witness then explained that Crocs and Christie were involved in a relationship and were inseparable. The witness testified that after collecting the money he went to collect the gun from a man named 'Rel' [defendant Roel Taylor] who lived in Jones Avenue in Spanish Town, St. Catherine.

The court heard that Taylor was Blackman's neighbour and that he operated a furniture



The witness was testifying in the Home Circuit Court. Reputed leader Andre 'Blackman' Bryan and 32 other alleged gang members are being tried on an indictment with 25 counts under the Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organizations) Act and the Firearms Act.

shop and a barbershop at his home.

Bryan and 32 other alleged gang members are being tried on an indictment with 25 counts under the Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organizations) Act and the Firearms Act.

The One Don Gang is a breakaway faction of the Clansman Gang.

The prosecution's second witness in the Clansman-One Don gang trial in the afternoon testified that incarcerated dancehall artiste Vybz Kartel had reportedly ordered hits on three persons, including an entertainer. The witness told the court that the order was reportedly given to the One Don Gang. The former gang member said two of the targets were killed in a double murder in Waterford, St. Catherine, and that an attempt was made on the life of the entertainer, who he did not name.

Pertaining to the orders, he said, "This instruction was given to me by Vybz Kartel by

phone." The dancehall artiste, whose real name is Adidja Palmer, along with Shawn 'Shawn Storm' Campbell, Kahirra Jones, and Andre St John, were convicted in 2014 for the 2011 murder of Clive 'Lizard' Williams.

They were handed mandatory life sentences.

The witness on Tuesday afternoon dropped the bombshell while giving evidence about defendant Jahzeal Blake, who is known to him as 'Squeeze Eye'.

The witness told the court that Blake was the driver in the three incidents.

The witness also told the court that, on one occasion, reputed leader Andre 'Blackman' Bryan sent him to supervise one of Vybz Kartel's video shoots to ensure that it was done properly.

He said the shoot was being done on McKinley Crescent in St. Andrew and it was for the song 'Buck up Inna'.

Taliban bans the use of foreign currency across Afghanistan

Al Jazeera - The Taliban has announced a complete ban on the use of foreign currency in Afghanistan, a move certain to cause further disruption to an economy pushed to the brink of collapse by the abrupt withdrawal of international support in the wake of the group's takeover of the country.

The surprise announcement on Tuesday came hours after a coordinated gun and bomb attack on Afghanistan's biggest military hospital in the capital, Kabul, killed at least 19 people and wounded dozens more.

"The Islamic Emirate instructs all citizens, shopkeepers, traders, businessmen and the general public to ... conduct all transactions in Afghanis and strictly refrain from using foreign currency," the Taliban said in a statement posted online by spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid.

"Anyone violating this order will face legal action," the statement said.

The use of US dollars is widespread in Afghanistan's markets, while border areas use the currency of neighbouring countries such

as Pakistan for trade.

The Taliban's government is pressing for the release of billions of dollars of central bank reserves as the drought-stricken nation faces a cash crunch, mass starvation, and a new migration crisis.

Afghanistan's previous Western-backed government had parked billions of dollars in assets overseas with the United States Federal Reserve and other central banks in Europe.

But after the Taliban took over the country in August, the US, as well as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), decided to block Afghanistan's access to more than \$9.5bn in assets and loans.

The decision has had a devastating effect on Afghanistan's health-care and other sectors, all of which are struggling to continue operations amid cutbacks to international aid.

With a harsh winter fast approaching, Sulaiman Bin Shah, the former deputy minister of industry and commerce, told Al Jazeera late last month that the Afghan people "are paying a huge price because of the slow pace



An Afghan money exchange dealer waits for customers at a money exchange market.

of diplomatic processes and negotiations".

The World Food Programme has said some 22.8 million people – more than half of Afghanistan's 39 million population – are facing acute food insecurity and "marching to starvation", compared with 14 million just two months ago.

The food crisis, exacerbated by climate change, was dire in Afghanistan even before the takeover by the Taliban.

Aid groups are urging countries concerned

about human rights under the Taliban, to engage with the new rulers to prevent a collapse they say could trigger a migration crisis similar to the 2015 exodus from Syria that shook Europe.

The departure of US-led forces and many international donors left the country without grants that financed three-quarters of public spending.

The finance ministry said it has a daily tax intake of roughly 400 million Afghanis (\$4.4m).

Missing 4-year-old found alive in Australia weeks after vanishing

BBC - A four-year-old girl missing for 18 days in a remote part of Western Australia has been found alive and well in a locked house, police have said.

Cleo Smith disappeared from her family's tent at a campsite near the town of Carnarvon on 16 October, triggering a massive search effort.

Police smashed their way into a locked house in Carnarvon ... where they found her.

A 36-year-old man from Carnarvon is in custody and being questioned by police.

"A police team broke their way into a locked house ... They found little Cleo in one of the rooms," Western Australian Deputy Commissioner Colonel Blanch said in a statement on Wednesday.

"One of the officers picked her up into his arms and asked her 'What's your name?' She said 'My name is Cleo,'" he added.

The four-year-old has now been reunited with her parents who had made desperate and emotional pleas for Cleo's return since she vanished.

"Our family is whole again," Ellie Smith, Cleo's mother wrote on Instagram.

Police said the man in custody had no connection to the Smith family.

"We'll have more to



Cleo Smith and her family were on the first night of a camping holiday when she vanished.

say on the rescue of Cleo as the day unfolds," Deputy Commissioner Blanch said.

Authorities had offered an A\$1m (\$750,000; £540,000) reward for information on Cleo's whereabouts.

Australian PM Scott Morrison, who is now heading home after being in Scotland for the COP26 climate summit, tweeted that it was "wonderful, relieving news".

Cleo's family were on the first night of their holiday at the Quobba Blowholes camping ground when she went missing between 01:30 and 06:00 on 16 October.

The remote site in Macleod is about 900km (560 miles) north of Perth

and is a local attraction on the state's Coral Coast, known for its windswept ocean scenery, sea caves, and lagoons.

Cleo had been sleeping on an air mattress next to her younger sister's cot. When her mother – who had been sleeping in the second room of the tent – got up in the morning, Cleo was gone and the tent door was open.

The mysterious disappearance sparked an extensive air, land and sea search, with extra police resources sent to the site from the state's capital city, Perth.

The case drew international attention and there were reports that

bounty hunters had travelled to the region to join the search once the cash reward had been offered.

News that Cleo has been found alive and well sparked a sense of huge relief in the local community.

Carnarvon Shire president Eddie Smith told Australia's 2GB radio: "For 18 days we've been filled with anxiety and concern. I'm a bit emotional at the moment."

Deputy Commissioner Blanch told 6PR radio that it had been "incredible to see seasoned detectives openly crying with relief".

China is urging families to stock up on food as supply challenges multiply

(*CNN Business*) - China is telling families to stock up on food and other daily essentials as bad weather, energy shortages and COVID-19 restrictions threaten to disrupt supplies.

The country's Ministry of Commerce late Monday issued a notice directing local governments to encourage people to stockpile "daily necessities," including vegetables, oils and poultry, in order to "meet the needs of daily life and emergencies".

The agency also urged local authorities to make sure that people have an "adequate supply" of essentials this winter into next spring. And it told those authorities to keep prices stable — a source of anxiety in recent weeks, as the cost of vegetables has surged throughout China because of unusually heavy rainfall that has hurt crops.

China has stressed the importance of shoring up food and other daily supplies in the past — including in September, ahead of a major weeklong holiday period. But those statements are usually and very obviously intended for local authorities to read, and rarely capture the attention of everyday citizens. The inclusion of language in this statement that mentions families, though, appears to be putting people on edge.

The sudden warning sent shock waves through Chinese social media on Tuesday, as many people speculated about the commerce ministry's rationale.



The government "didn't even tell us to stock goods when the COVID outbreak erupted in early 2020", wrote one Weibo user, responding to the news.

Another speculated that authorities were reminding people that they "might not be able to afford vegetables this winter".

So strong was the reaction that some within Chinese state media sought to quell concerns. Hu Xijin, the editor of the *Global Times*, a state-run tabloid, dismissed suggestions that the notice could be connected with rising tensions between Beijing and Taipei. China considers Taiwan an "inseparable part" of its territory, even though the Chinese Communist Party has never ruled the self-governing island.

The state-owned *Economic Daily*, meanwhile, wrote Tuesday that authorities were attempting to remind families to prepare in case of temporary lockdowns caused by COVID-19.

And state broadcaster CCTV said the portion of the announcement calling on families to stock up on necessities had been "over-

read". It also released an interview with Zhu Xiaoliang, a Commerce Ministry official, who said daily supplies for people are sufficient and can be "fully guaranteed". Zhu added that the announcement was intended for local authorities.

China has maintained a stringent zero-COVID policy, even as countries around the world gradually open up and learn to live with the coronavirus. The world's second largest economy is resolute on completely eradicating the virus within its borders and has implemented tough restrictions to stop outbreaks, including stopping high-speed trains and quarantining passengers, and changing traffic lights to red to discourage traffic in one county where a single case was reported.

China's strict measures even went viral over the weekend after a single confirmed case of coronavirus sent Shanghai Disneyland into a snap lockdown. Crowds in one video were shown lining up in front of makeshift testing sites as health workers in full personal protective equipment (PPE) looked on.

UK, India plan to connect world's green power grids

(Reuters) – Britain and India introduced a plan on Tuesday to improve connections between the world's electricity power grids to accelerate the transition to green energy.

Linking the grids would allow parts of the world with excess renewable power to send it to areas with deficits. For instance, countries where the sun has set could draw power from others still able to generate solar electricity.

The "Green Grids Initiative" at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, was backed by more than 80 countries and could set a model for how rich countries help poorer ones to reduce their emissions and meet the goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial norms.

"If the world has to move to a clean and green future, these interconnected transnational grids are going to be critical solutions," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a statement.

US independent energy expert Matthew Wald said the plan underscored how renewable energy sources need more transmission lines since they must often be built far from cities, unlike coal or gas-fired plants whose fuel can be shipped in.

But Wald said planners in various countries - including the former Soviet Union - have long dreamed of cheap transmission across time zones with limited progress. Although powerline technology has improved in recent years, Wald and others said the plan would require spending large sums.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi attend a meeting during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, November 2nd 2021.

"We're talking about transmission networks that will need to be undersea. They will need to cross mountain ranges. They'll need to cross deserts" said Kartikeya Singh, senior associate at Washington-based Center for Strategic & International Studies,

The official announcement of the transnational grid plan did not include cost figures or funding details. Modi and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had previously outlined the plan. On Monday, Modi had said India would reach net zero carbon emissions by 2070, two decades later than scientists say is needed.

Although seen as skeptical of efforts to slow climate change, Modi has attended the conference, while leaders of other major emitters – including China and Russia – are not attending in person.

The grids plan showed Modi willing to move the world's second

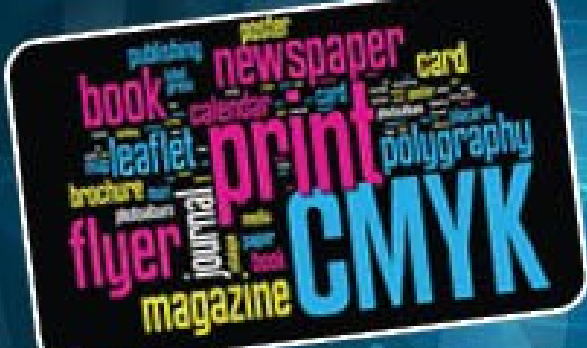
most populous nation away from fossil fuels – as long as developed countries help, said Julie Gorte, senior vice president for sustainable investing at Impax Asset Management.

"Left to their own devices, India is going to build coal plants," she said.

The plan is part of a broader attempt to speed up the roll-out of affordable low-carbon technology, covering more than 70% of the global economy.

Announcing the first five goals of the plan, dubbed the "Glasgow Breakthroughs", Johnson flagged targets to push clean power, zero emissions autos, near-zero emission steel, low-carbon hydrogen, and climate-resilient agriculture.

The United States and the United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, began an initiative – with \$4 billion in backing – to help farming adapt to climate change.



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Stuart Law sacked as Middlesex head coach

Middlesex have parted ways with Stuart Law, despite the Australian having a year left on his contract as the club's head coach.

Law took charge in 2019 but struggled to lift Middlesex's fortunes, twice finishing in the bottom third of the Championship.

Angus Fraser – the former England Test bowler and Middlesex's long-serving director of cricket – was moved sideways during the summer, with Law reporting directly to Andrew Cornish, the interim chief executive who has now been appointed full time.

Following a review of the club's performances, Cornish said "on-field performances have not been up to the standards we require".

Alan Coleman – Middlesex's assistant coach – will take charge of the squad when they return for training next month while the club starts the search for Law's successor.

Middlesex were County Champions in 2016 but suffered relegation the following summer and have struggled to regain ground despite a strong squad.

They finished eighth in the second tier in Law's first season in charge.

Although there some encouraging performances in the Bob Willis Trophy in 2020, they finished bottom of their Championship conference this summer, leaving them to fight for scraps in Division Three.

There has been precious little success in the white-ball formats either, with a quarter-final spot in the 2019 Vitality Blast their best



Former Australian cricketer Stuart Law had three seasons in charge of Middlesex, but leaves with one year left on his contract after an underwhelming tenure.

performance under Law.

This year, Middlesex finished second-bottom in both the Blast and Royal London Cup.

A number of the players who helped win the Championship have left the club in recent seasons - the likes of Dawid Malan, Nick Gubbins and Steven Finn - with Middlesex focusing on bringing through academy talent.

Ethan Bamber, Blake Cullen, Robbie White, Martin Andersson and Luke Hollman all made good impressions in 2021, without that translating to team success.

"We would like to thank Stuart for his efforts across three seasons as head coach of Middlesex," Cornish said. "His passion and dedication to the role have and never will be questioned. It is always sad

when committed people leave the club and things do not work out as all parties would have hoped, and Stuart leaves Middlesex with our thanks and best wishes.

"Our on-field performances have not been up to the standards we require. The review and the outcomes resulting from it have not been taken lightly, and the Cricket Committee will be actively involved in the search for a replacement head coach.

"I give my assurance to all members and supporters that we have ambitions to be a club that is competitive in all competitions, and with the talented young home-grown side that has been developed here at Middlesex, I have no doubts that this can be achieved."

Ex-Fifa president Blatter and ex-Uefa boss Platini charged with fraud

Former FIFA (International Federation of Football Associations) officials Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini have been charged with fraud and other offences in Switzerland.

Swiss prosecutors say Mr. Blatter unlawfully arranged a transfer of two million Swiss francs (\$2.19m; £1.6m) to Mr. Platini in 2011.

Prosecutors say the payment “damaged FIFA’s assets and unlawfully enriched Platini”.

Blatter and Platini now face trial at a court in Bellinzona.

If found guilty of the charges, the pair could receive prison sentences of several years or fines.

The case was opened in September 2015 after FIFA – football’s world governing body – was dogged by accusations of widespread corruption.

FIFA’s ethics committee launched an investigation which saw both men banned from the game and forced to leave their positions.

The affair ended Blatter’s 17-year spell in charge of FIFA and Platini’s campaign to succeed his former mentor.

A year later, Platini was forced to resign as president of UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) – Europe’s football governing body – after losing an appeal against his ban.



FIFA, football’s world governing body, was engulfed by allegations of corruption in 2015

Both Blatter, 85, and Platini, 66, have denied any wrongdoing.

The Swiss case centres on a request for payment for advisory work that Platini did for the then-FIFA president, Blatter, between 1998 and 2002.

Prosecutors said Platini demanded the payment “over eight years after the termination of his advisory activity”.

“With Blatter’s involvement, FIFA made a payment to Platini in [the] said amount at the beginning of 2011,” the prosecutors said.

They said Blatter and Platini have both been accused of fraud, misappropriation, criminal mismanagement, and forgery of a document.

On Tuesday, Platini’s Swiss lawyer, Dominic

Nellen, told the BBC his client “categorically denies the untrue accusations”.

Mr. Nellen said it was “clear that the investigation should have been discontinued long ago”.

“There are enough witness reports and documents in the case files that prove my client’s innocence,” the lawyer said. “I am 100% confident that we will be able to prove my client’s innocence in court.”

In his own statement, Blatter said he looked forward to the trial and hoped “this story will come to an end”.

He said the payment to Platini was based on a verbal agreement and had been delayed because FIFA was not able to pay the entire amount at the time. Blatter said

the payment had been approved by “all responsible FIFA bodies” and that Platini had paid tax on the amount “at his Swiss place of residence”.

Blatter and Platini were two of the most powerful figures in world football. Their roles at the top of the sport’s governing bodies gave them enormous influence in the game.

A successful football player for club and country, Platini was widely tipped to succeed Blatter following his resignation in 2015 after US prosecutors charged several top FIFA executives with corruption following a major inquiry by the FBI.

The charges came after a dramatic raid on a luxury hotel in Zurich and the arrest of seven FIFA executives.

When Platini himself became embroiled in the investigation, he withdrew his candidacy for the FIFA presidency.

The FIFA ethics committee then suspended Blatter and Platini before initially banning each from football for eight years. Those bans have since been reduced to six in Blatter’s case and four in Platini’s.

Last year, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) rejected an appeal against Platini’s ban which it said “was justified”.

T20 World Cup: Pakistan test themselves in win over Namibia, qualify for semifinals with six-wicket win

Pakistan qualified for the semi-final with a 45-run win over Namibia in the T20 World Cup game at Abu Dhabi.

There's been the odd team with a different strategy but, generally at this T20 World Cup, the captain doesn't have to think twice about what to do on winning the toss. Put in the opposition has been a successful ploy and Pakistan won their first three games doing that.

On Tuesday too, their captain Babar Azam called correctly against Namibia. He could have taken the easy route and chosen to bowl first. There was earlier evidence of why batting first was fraught with risk at Abu Dhabi, as Bangladesh were dismissed for 84 in the 19th over against South Africa in the day's first game at the venue.

Azam, though, decided to bat. It was in preparation for the semi-finals. Instead of experimenting with the combination, he used the game to test his team in anticipation of a challenging scenario of defending a total, which has been difficult in heavy dew later in the evening.

The talented and seasoned Pakistan batsmen used their vast experience to score a huge 189/2. Openers Azam and Mohammad Rizwan shared another hundred-plus partnership, the

former scoring a classy 70 (50 balls) and the keeper-batsman 79-not-out (50 balls). Pakistan restricted Namibia to 143/5 to win by 45 runs and book their semi-final spot with an all-win record after four games.

Despite the mismatch between the sides, the India camp would have keenly followed the game. Not as much for their plans against Namibia, who they play later, but to check the surface. India play their only group game at this venue, against Afghanistan, on Wednesday.

The way the first half of the Pakistan innings went would have worried India. They know the scoreboard doesn't tell the entire story. Namibia proved no pushovers and gave Pakistan a good workout in the first 10 overs, restricting them to 59 runs.

Virat Kohli's side, facing a must-win game against the dangerous Afghanistan, must also score big to improve the net run-rate, which is a dismal minus 1.609. Kohli certainly needs the luck of the toss to change after losing two.

Batting first proved a proper struggle for the Pakistan openers. The in-form Azam and Rizwan could muster just 29 runs in the powerplay. "It was difficult to bat at the start, and Azam and I decided to take the game deep," said Rizwan at the post-match presentation. Captain Gerhard Erasmus used his three left-armers well during that period. Off the first six overs, four were shared by Ruben Trumpelmann, JJ Smit and Jan Frynlinck. At the end of the 10th

over, Pakistan had reached just 59 runs.

Just like England's innings on Monday against Sri Lanka, the script changed after the half-way stage. Pakistan plundered 130 runs in the last 10 overs. After Azam's stylish innings, Mohammad Hafeez produced a cameo of a 16-ball 32-not-out before Rizwan finished strongly with 24 runs off the final over.

The main test that the Pakistan think-tank had in mind was how their bowlers would fare with a relatively wet ball. It proved to be tough. There was no early success for their main strike bowler, Shaheen Shah Afridi. He went wicketless for 36 runs. Pakistan's main spinner Shadab Khan was taken for 35 runs for just one wicket.



Pakistan's Hasan Ali celebrates after the dismissal of Namibia's Michael van Lingen during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup cricket match between Namibia and Pakistan at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. (ANI)

Cameron (left) clocked up a 15th successive victory.



CHANTELLE CAMERON BEATS MARY MCGEE TO UNIFY WORLD LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT TITLES

Chantelle Cameron became unified world light welterweight champion with a unanimous points win over Mary McGee.

The Northampton-born fighter scored 100-90, 99-91 and 99-92 to defend her WBC title against the IBF champion, and sealed the Ring magazine title.

Cameron, 30, is now

one win away from being undisputed champion next year.

"She was tough, she took some shots, I always thought she'd be tough and powerful," said Cameron, who controlled an enthralling bout.

The fight topped the bill at London's O2 Arena after Dillian Whyte pulled out of his heavy-

weight clash against Otto Wallin with a shoulder injury.

Victory over the 35-year-old American was a 15th successive win for unbeaten Cameron and, with two major belts, she is now considered a unified champion within the division.

She will go on to face the winner of Jessica Ca-

mara and Kali Reis - who fight on 19 November on another Matchroom card in America - to decide the undisputed champion.

"It doesn't matter who I face next, I'm taking the belts anyway," said Cameron.

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