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GOV'T SIGNS OFF ON BOOBY ALLEY CONDO DEVELOPMENT



On Thursday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne signed the official Booby Alley Social Housing Project agreement with the People's Republic of China which will see the development of 150 condominium style homes.

Local News



Booby Alley Housing Project moves closer to reality

The Booby Alley Housing Project where residents of this area of The Point will receive new homes through financing provided by the People's Republic of China moved one step closer to reality following the signing of the Booby Alley Housing Project Units Agreement.

The agreement that will formally begin the process leading to the construction of 150 2-bedroom homes for residents of the area was signed on Thursday by Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, the parliamentary representative of the area, and the PRC's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Zhang Yanling.

Prime Minister Browne said this first phase of the project will see the construction of the first set of units, which will have floor space of 900 square feet. Similar developments will take place in other areas as part of the programme. "As you are aware, initially, the PRC had allocated almost EC\$100 million to assist us with our social housing programme. Because of COVID-19 and other challenges, it has been quite an effort to get the people to vacate the area to make way for the project leading to delays. However, we are now at the stage where we are about to accelerate the project with the hope that within the coming months, we can complete the designs and all the necessary soil testing and to get the approvals so that we can start as soon as possible,"



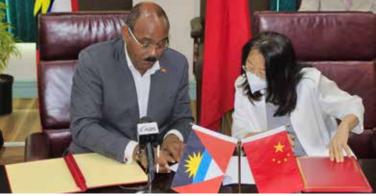
Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin

he stated.

PM Browne added that his government has been on a programme of empowering the people of Antigua and Barbuda and this involves three critical areas; education, health care and adequate housing. "We have made significant progress in the area of health care. We have done well in the education space especially with the establishment of the UWI FIC. The area of housing we have made significant strides. You would note that there is a direct correlation between quality of life and housing. For example in the Booby Alley area, there are persons living there for decades in squalid conditions with the homes posing a health and fire risk," he declared.

The prime minister said the project is to improve the housing stock of people living in the area and thus improve their quality of life.

Ambassador Zhang Yanling noted that work on the project started three years ago as it has been a priority of her government to undertake projects that benefit the people under the ambit of the



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and H. E. Zhang Yanling, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda

close ties that exist between the two peoples. "We have been making every effort to start this project and we do understand the importance that nationals attach to the government's housing revolution. It is a priority of us to be improving people's lives and we are very glad that we can be of some assistance to this process," she remarked.

According to the ambassador, much work was done on the project by both sides since it was announced three years ago. However, she said the Coronavirus Pandemic delayed the start. Fortunately, she added, after social and economic activities returned to normal, the PRC is pleased to move forward with the project.

"The signing of the letter of exchange today is a key step in moving forward," she declared.

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin and the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Works, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, also addressed the signing ceremony.



Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim

"We now have a number of persons who are still there, who are still looking at their choices and it is their right so to do and we accommodate that. But the project is moving forward successfully," the permanent secretary assured.

"We have demolished derelict houses, we have demolished derelict buildings, we have made sure that we have cleared quite a bit of the area and I'm sure that the Chinese ambassador will be pleased to know that in very short order, we'll have the entire area cleared, so this Urban Renewal and Development Project will be successfully implemented," Pilgrim said.

There are fifty residents that remain at Booby Alley and by next Wednesday, Pilgrim said 46 should be ready to relocate.



Local News

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ABDF officer is latest road fatality

Another road fatality has been recorded in Antigua and Barbuda. It is the second traffic-related death in eight days.

Private RayAundre Carbon of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force died on Wednesday at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre as a result of the injuries he sustained in the accident on Monday.

According to reports, Carbon, a Grays Farm resident, was riding a motorcycle from west to east on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway, when he attempted to overtake a car that was turning on to American Road.

As a result, the motorcy-

Carbon, who is in his 20s, was severely injured.

This tragedy is the seventh road death since the start of the year.

On its social media page, the Grace Apostolic Church located on Federation Road in Gravs Farm, extended condolences to the deceased

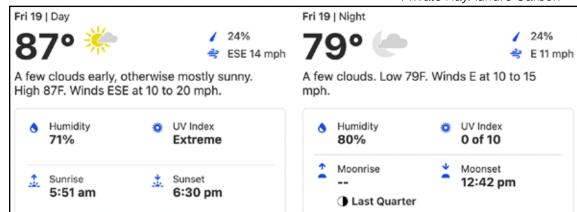
cle crashed into the car and man's family, including his father who is a pastor.

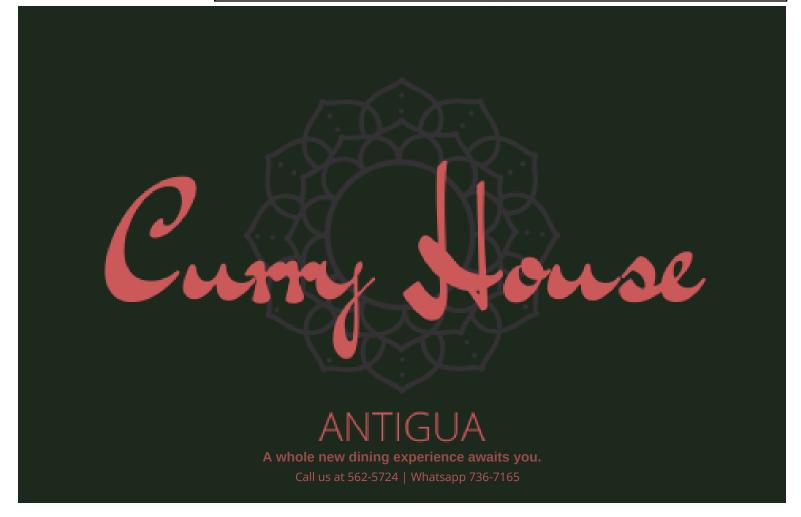
> "RayAundre was raised in the Grace Apostolic Church and will be greatly missed by all of us," said the post.

> An autopsy is expected to be conducted to determine Carbon's exact cause of death.



Private RayAundre Carbon





Local News



Survey of Barbuda lands to start soon

The project to incorporate the land in Barbuda under the National Land Registry is about to start with a survey of the sister island.

"The Cabinet received a presentation from one of the principals of Trimble Company - a firm which specialises in cadastral surveys and land registers - to give us an update on efforts to integrate the lands of Barbuda into the national system. This project involves a number of phases as two years ago we included Inland Revenue Department into the system to help improve collections," Information Minister Melford Nicholas revealed at Thursday's post-Cabinet briefing.

Under the current system, he explained, information concerning all taxable lands is made available to the Inland Revenue Department (IRD), and this will also be the case for land in Barbuda when the survey and mapping process has been completed.



The Trimble Company provided timelines for the completion of its work; each step being detailed to allow for the measurement of its effectiveness.

Nicholas said that while the project is being referred to as the 'Barbuda Lands Project', this is just the working title as there will continue to be a single National Land Registry where all the land in Antigua and Barbuda is duly registered.

The information min-

ister said he has already reached out to Barbuda's parliamentary representative, Trevor Walker, and the chairman of the Barbuda Council, Mackenzie Frank, to arrange a meeting in which the project will be discussed in detail.

Nicholas continued that the Privy Council ruling earlier this year settling the ownership of the land in Barbuda had no impact on the fact that the survey and mapping exercise of the land in Barbuda was necessary in order for it to be be properly recorded in the national registry.

"The work that we are doing here is ensuring that when lands are demarcated or surveyed there is accuracy and clear delineation of boundaries. It is a non-political issue and that is the point that I will emphasise when I meet with the representatives of Barbuda," he stated.

The Privy Council confirmed that all lands in the unitary state of Antigua and Barbuda are owned by the Crown, unless privately owned. Since no land in Barbuda is owned by any person or corporation, all land comprising Barbuda is owned by the Crown.

Those who have leasehold interest in the land in Barbuda, including the PLH project, the Privy Council determined, have a lawful interest in the land as determined by the authorities in Antigua and Barbuda.

Reward offered for information on double homicide

Almost one month after they were discovered dead in their Golden Grove home, the police have announced that a reward is being offered for information that will lead to arrests in the ongoing murder investigation of Tyrone and Pietje "Pia" Baptiste.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is offering a \$15,000.00 reward to anyone who can help them crack the case and make an arrest.

The brutally murdered bodies of the husband and wife were discovered

in their home on 20th July.

Until now, information on the progress of the police investigation has been unavailable, however on Thursday, it was revealed that several people were taken into custody and questioned about the murders.

Investigations are continuing.

Both Tyrone, 65 and Pia, 60, were discovered shot to death at around 9:15am.

Reports suggest that Mr. Baptiste was also knifed, but police have not

confirmed the accuracy of this detail.

When Pia did not report to her job as general manager of Tropical Adventures Limited, employees visited her home to ascertain her whereabouts and made the gruesome discovery.

Golden Grove residents have described the couple as warm and friendly and expressed shock and anger at their demise.

While a coroner's inquest was held, autopsies are yet to be performed on the bodies to determine a cause of death.

Local News

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ABEMS releases facts related to Fig Tree Drive Traffic Accident

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment has issued a statement responding to accusations that it was tardy in responding to a traffic accident on Friday 5th August 2022, at Fig Tree Drive.

The Antigua Barbuda Emergency Medical Services (ABEMS) accused certain quarters of the media of reporting that their slow response forced "the driver and other coworkers of the vehicle from which the patient initially fell [to transport] him to the hospital".

It was further reported that the ambulance only caught up to the man who was being transported in the vicinity of the Townhouse Megastore.

The ministry has since investigated these allegations and issued a state-

ment on Thursday informing the public of the facts in this particular matter.

The key take aways from the investigation were:

- The ABEMS received the call from the Public Safety Network (911) through EMS dispatch at 3.52pm
- At the time of receiving the call, two ambulances and the rapid response unit that were on shift at the time were out in the field attending to other emergencies
- Once those calls were completed, the first available ambulance responded immediately to the scene of the accident at 4.08pm
- The Ambulance intercepted the vehicle transporting the patient in the vicinity of the Townhouse Mega-



store at 4:11pm

- The patient was transferred to the Ambulance and necessary interventions made by the Emergency Medical Technicians
- The ABEMS left the scene at 4:15pm and the patient was handed over to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Emergency Room at 4:19pm

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Local News





Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) employees are part of a premier organization dedicated to excellence in patient care and education. By working at SLBMC, you gain the opportunity and the responsibility to make a real difference in the world. Take a closer look at the vacancy below and submit your resume for consideration if you are interested in helping contribute to the legacy of great achievement and even greater promise at SLBMC.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is seeking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Internal Auditor.

The Internal Auditor is charged with examining and evaluating the policies, procedures and systems which are in place to ensure: the reliability and integrity of information; compliance with policies, plans, laws, and regulations; the safeguarding of assets; and, the economical and efficient use of resources of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate must have:

- A minimum of a Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or Financial Management
- ACCA/CPA/CIA and/or other professional Accounting/Auditing qualification
- · A minimum of five years in external or internal auditing experience
- Knowledge of International Professional Practices Framework and International Financial Reporting Standards
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Microsoft Dynamics GP

CORE COMPETENCIES

- The position requires leadership qualities and extensive knowledge of auditing and accounting standards
- Analytical with strong conceptual and problem-solving skills
- Meticulous attention to detail
- Must be critical thinker with a keen interest in improving the organizations internal control structure
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform evaluations of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organizations system of internal controls and risk management framework
- Utilize appropriate audit techniques to determine whether the organization is compliant with applicable regulations
- Make sound recommendations of corrective actions for deficiencies and monitor the implementation or adherence to approved process changes
- Provide advice on risk management, operational efficiency and ease of business.
- Maintain technical competence through continuing education and training

Email your resume to:
HRM@msimc.gov.ag">HRM@msimc.gov.ag indicating the position you are applying for by August 26, 2022. ONLY suitable candidates will be contacted.

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- The length of time from receiving the call from the Public Safety Network (911) to the patient being handed over to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre was 26 minutes
- The time frame from when the ABEMS received the call from 911to when the patient was handed over to the Hospital is considered to be acceptable by international standards

Notwithstanding the findings of the investigation, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment and the Management of the Antigua Barbuda Emergency Medical Services expressed their "deepest condolences to the family on the passing of their loved one".

The ABEMS also used the opportunity to express concern about the level of non-emergency calls that are requesting ambulatory services.

"From January 1st to July 31st, 2022, the ABEMS received 7,841 calls. The

department receives on average, 35 calls per day and of these calls, only 20% are genuine emergencies. This practice plays a major factor in the logistical challenges of response time to such emergencies.

"The ABEMS, upon receiving calls from the Public Safety Network (911) has a responsibility to respond to every call since every call is treated as a genuine emergency until proven otherwise.

"Even after assessing the situation upon arrival it is determined by the Emergency Medical Technicians that it is not a genuine emergency, the ABEMS has a responsibility to still transfer the patient to the hospital once they request it." the AMBES explained.

The organisation therefore imploring the public to desist from this practice so that the ABEMS can continue to provide the best possible pre-hospital care to those persons who are genuinely in need of emergency assistance.











Local News

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Antigua and Barbuda runs US TV primetime campaign featuring reggae Ambassador Causion

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's (ABTB) latest advertising campaign in the US market has been creating a stir as the country's "Reggae Ambassador' Gregory 'Causion' Bailey issues an invitation to CBS TV audiences to "bathe in the sun" in Antigua and Barbuda, known for having an astonishing 365 beaches.

The CBS television advertising campaign which began on 9th August, features fifteen second and thirty second clips of Causion's hit music video 'Antigua Me Come From'.

A call-to-action encourages viewers to contact their travel advisor to book an Antigua and Barbuda vaca-



tion.

The campaign will run through to the Labor Day weekend for a total of four weeks. In this time, it will be aired over 100 times and deliver over 10 million New York DMA ad impressions.

cont'd on pg 8



Local News





Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Ewe youth
- 5) "Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer
- 9) Stay on the same topic too long
- Caspian Sea feeder
- 15) Goat-legged deity
- Some math measurements
- 17) "Don't worry"
- 20) Words with prayers
- 21) Leaders of the band?
- 22) Wise guy's delivery
- 25) Inquire
- 26) Cholesterol-rich egg parts
- 28) "Family Guy" creator MacFarlane
- 32) Jungle creature
- 37) Eagle haven 38) "I don't care'

- 41) Gumption
- 42) Opposite of horizontal
- 43) Nautical direction
- 44) Writer Asimov
- 46) Hidden means of support?
- 47) Grassland
- 53) Notions department?
- 58) Lady of Troy
- 59) What to leave when going all-out?
- 62) Brownish photograph tint
- gin fizz
- 64) Pew area
- 65) Meeting for lovers
- 66) Have a disposition
- 67) Acorn, for one

NO WAY

- 1) Circular religious receptacles
- Appetite stimulus
- Sprayer in self-defense
- "That's all, folks!" voice
- "Weather permitting" and others
- 6) Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
- Misplay, as a grounder
- 8) Arctic attire
- 9) Didn't pass the bar?
- Disney's first name
- 11) Hard yellow cheese
- 12) Change in Roma, once
- 13) Trace the shape of
- Where many things are "made"
- 19) "Friends" friend
- (working in harmony) 23) In
- 24) A la (pie choice)
- 27) Cocoon dweller
- 28) Interstate hauler
- 29) Clapton of rock
- 30) Louise of "Gilligan's Island"
- 31) Foot part
- 32) I, in "The King and I"
- 33) Holiday tune
- 34) It could be a lot
- 35) Shoreline indentation
- 36) Bill that wasn't redesigned
- 37) Back of the boat
- 39) One kind of tide
- 40) Whale type
- 44) Unwrinkle
- 45) Like the best advice 46) Make swell
- pork 48) Moo
- 49) Aquatic birds
- 50) Arm bones
- 51) "Superman" actor Christopher
- 52) Halted
- 53) "Meet Me Louis" (film)
- 54) Person of action
- 55) To see at a distance
- 56) "The Adventures of Milo and
- 57) Christmas season
- grata 60) Persona
- 61) "Cheers" star Danson

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Programming will include CBS morning and evening newscasts, CBS Sunday Morning, Face the Nation, Late Night with Stephen Colbert, Entertainment Tonight and CBS Primetime. A ten-second Antigua and Barbuda logo with picture and no audio will also appear in the bottom right corner during Entertainment Tonight (ET).

Causion's 'Antigua Me Come From' video, launched in May 2022 to inspire summer travel, features some of Antigua and Barbuda's scenic locations, popular resorts, and hospitable people.

ABTA US Director of Tourism Dean Fenton said. "The song really resonated well with our target audience during the early summer months and was the perfect anthem for our brand.

Summer is still going strong in Antigua and Barbuda and we are excited to see what this television opportunity does for the destination as far as increasing brand awareness, driving last-minute summer bookings, and getting persons thinking about upcoming winter breaks."

The CBS audience is considered a strong target for the destination. Viewers plan to take an all-inclusive resort, spa, and beach vacation in the next 12 months, have spent \$10,000 or more on vacations during the past 12 months and have an annual household income exceeding \$250,000.



"Overcoming the Challenges Together"

Police Week 2022



Pre-Events

- Saturday 20th August 2022- Hike to Mount McNish 5:30am
 - Wednesday 24th August 2022-Netball, YMCA 6pm
- Friday 26th August 2022- Fitness Jam, King George to Police Ground 4pm
- Sunday 28th August 2022 -Road Race All Saints Fire Station to Police Ground 5am
 - Saturday 3rd September 2022

Police Cricket Team VS Parish League Team, Police Grounds 1pm Queen Show, Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

Police Week

• Sunday 4th September 2022

Church Service – Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church 9am Brunch – Police Head Quarters

Monday 5th September 2022

Opening Day – Police Head Quarters 10am to 2pm

Malcolm Nicholas Cup Competition – Corner of Market and High Street 4pm

• Tuesday 6th September 2022

Inter-force Shooting Competition – SWFGPA 9am ports Final Matches- Football, Cricket – Police Grounds 3pm

Wednesday 7th September 2022

Sick and Shut In

Calypso - Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

• Thursday 8th September

Veterans Cocktail - SWFGPA - 5pm

• Friday 9th September 2022

Sports day/ March Pass - Police Grounds 10am

• Saturday 10th September 2022

Full Bore Shooting Competition – Crabbs Shooting Range 10am
Variety Concert - Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

• Sunday 11th September 2022

Beach Bash - Ffyers Beach 10am

Opinion



Haiti sinking deeper into catastrophe: Who will save it?

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

Haiti has never been far from widescale human suffering, grave political instability, and grim economic underdevelopment. But its circumstances today are worse than they have been before.

The country has become a battle ground for rival criminal gangs, whose weapons are superior to those of the Police, both in quantity and fire power. These gangs have established fiefdoms in which they rule supreme, terrorizing communities, kidnapping people, demanding huge ransoms, committing vile murders and even burning their victims – alive or dead. Even more disturbing, some gangs appear to have established links with politicians.

Beyond the loss of control of law and order, the country is being governed, in name, by unelected officials with no independent judiciary or functioning national assembly. An accord among civil society groups and political players, fashioned in September 2021, has collapsed. This makes fulfilment of the desire for a "Haitian-led" solution to the country's problems most unlikely, and not credible.

What makes this situation worse is that Haiti has no strong institutions to support governance and to address the deep-seated problems of the country.

Some nations – among them countries whose governments have contributed to the underdevelopment and weakness of Haiti – now convenient-

ly hide behind the Haitian call for a "Haitian-led" solution, to do little or nothing. The United Nations (UN) withdrew its Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in October 2017 after 13 years.

Despite the dire situation which now exists, the UN Security Council opted to extend the mandate of its Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) until 15 July 2023, but not to expand it to tackle the spiral of violence, lawlessness, and the terror of armed gangs.

Against this background, Luis Almagro, the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), issued a rousing public indictment of the "international community" and the self-interested political elite in Haiti. Almagro minced no words when he declared: "The institutional crisis that Haiti is experiencing right now is a direct result of the actions taken by the country's endogenous forces and by the international community". He stated unequivocally that, "The last 20 years of the international community's presence in Haiti has amounted to one of the worst and clearest failures implemented and executed within the framework of international cooperation". To be clear, "the international community" in Haiti amounted to "a core group", compromising the European Union, the UN, the OAS, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, and Spain.

I publicly agreed with his assessment. It was the most honest and compelling statement by a high official of any regional or international institution ever issued, concerning Haiti. In agreeing with his statement, I interpreted his definition of the "international community" as including every country, every international financial and development institution,



Sir Ronald Sanders

the United Nations and its organs, and the OAS itself. But I also recognized then, what I later said in the Permanent Council of the OAS on August 17, when the Foreign Minister of Haiti, Jean Victor Généus, clearly prompted by Almagro's statement, asked for a meeting.

What I said, in brief, was that "many countries in the international community are perfectly innocent of what happens in Haiti or has happened there. There are others - both countries and institutions - that have damaged Haiti irreparably over many years. Now, it is up to those countries to do something to correct the situation. Financial support is the obligation of those members of the international community with the resources to do so. And many of them, incidentally, bear responsibility for the situation in Haiti today".

Almagro is clearly right in saying, "...resources have to be provided to Haiti through an institutionalized process by the international community with a strong monitoring component

cont'd on pg 12



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Opinion



cont'd from pg 10

and capacity to combat corruption and prevent the resources from being diverted and misused".

As I observed at the OAS meeting, Haiti cannot expect an international response to its needs "without some assurance that, within Haiti, there will be a collective, solidified position, both in terms of the requests they make, the cooperation they will give, and the openness with which they will deal with the international community".

For his part, Foreign Minister Généus said that the Government has tried to promote dialogue, suggesting that its efforts have not been successful, but that "the Prime Minister will continue tirelessly in this quest for dialogue and consensus".

Of course, such a dialogue will not happen, nor will any agreement be sustained, unless there is good offices mediation to facilitate it and oversee the implementation of its agreements. Mediation cannot happen without an invitation from the Ariel Henry provisional government and the agreement of the other

Haitian groups.

Neighbouring countries are already struggling with the failure of the Haitian State. The Bahamas, with a population of 400,000, has an estimated 150,000 Haitian refugees in its territory. This year alone, the Bahamas Government has spent millions of dollars repatriating Haitian refugees. In the words of the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the OAS, Josue Fiallo, the situation in Haiti "constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to my country's national security, foreign policy and economy". And the US has deported or expelled thousands of Haitians, fleeing from their desperate conditions.

In his statement of August 8, Almagro identified what amounts to a programme of action to try to save Haiti. It includes: bringing violence under control and disarming the gangs; providing technical and financial resources to address the current security situation; creating a central mechanism to deploy assistance without overlapping and wasteful efforts; a strong monitoring component to combat corruption; drafting a new Constitution that fixes deficiencies in the existing constitution, including by establishing an autonomous Central Bank, an independent justice system, a functioning and effective education system; and investment to create employment and alleviate poverty.

Few would disagree with this agenda. The questions it raises are: who would provide the financing and which agency would be trusted to implement it?

These are questions, which must be addressed before Haiti sinks even deeper into an even bigger catastrophic humanitarian crisis than it has suffered so far. Haiti must become a priority on the agenda of all international and regional bodies... now.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Environment



New endemic birds identified in the Caribbean

logical Society has identified three new endemic species of birds in the Caribbean.

In its annual supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds, the society recommended that the new birds be split from three species.

"We are very excited to add a total of three new endemic species to the Caribbean! We look forward to continuing to learn more about our specialty Caribbean birds and maybe seeing more distinct species in the future!" conservation group Birds Caribbean said.

The Hispaniola Puerto Rico Mangoes have been split from the Antillean Mango.

Mangos are large hummingbirds with decurved bills.

The Hispaniolan Mango



The Cuban Kite, formerly considered a subspecies of the Hook-billed Kite, is now a full species.

(Anthracothorax dominicus) can be differentiated by males having a shimmering green throat, and entirely velvet-black underparts. whereas the Puerto Rican Mango (Anthracothorax aurulentus) has green flanks, a black belly patch and

lighter underparts that are a brownish-grey. The female Hispaniolan Mango has a purplish tail base, while the female Puerto Rican Mango has a brownish tail.

In the early 1900s, the two mangos were formerly considered two separate species, but that changed in the 1980s.

Birds Caribbean said recent examinations of museum specimens have found that there are enough plumage and morphometric differences to split these two species.

In Jamaica, the iconic Streamertail hummingbird was split into the Blackbilled Streamertail (Trochilus scitulus) and Red-billed Streamertail (Trochilus polytmus).

Birds Caribbean said the biggest difference between these now two distinct species is mainly in the name. The Red-billed Streamertail is widespread across the island while the Black-billed Streamertail is restricted to the eastern part of Jamaica.

A male Hispaniolan Mango (left) perched in the Dominican Republic and a male Puerto Rican Mango (right) perched in Puerto Rico. [Photo by Ryan Mandelbaum and Carlos-Gomez] cont'd on pg 15

Technology

PAGE 15

Women in Tech Caribbean Community to hold inaugural conference

The Women in Tech Caribbean Community (WiTC) will bring together amazing women in tech and tech adjacent fields for its inaugural conference on August 20.

The one-day virtual conference will feature empowering keynotes, breakout sessions and thought-stimulating panel discussions on topics that are specific to the Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora communities.

The conference will be held under the theme "WeAreWiTC".

WiTC states: "This theme underscores that we, women of Caribbean heritage, are here making confident strides in tech all over the world. We are here and we are amplifying our voices."

The goals of the conference are to:

• Provide opportunities for the

diaspora and local communities to connect and collaborate,

- Facilitate necessary conversations that connect, shape and grow female tech talent and
- Expand community and build awareness of Caribbean women in tech

The conference will target women tech professionals who reside within the Caribbean and the diaspora, Caribbean students who are studying Computer Science or a tech-related major and want to work in the tech industry, and tech community supporters who want to change and influence the local tech ecosystem.

Women in Tech Caribbean is a Slack community aimed at connecting self-identifying Caribbean women in the tech space at home and in the diaspora.

It is a safe space for members to network, share opportunities, ideas, jobs, and more, especially during its monthly networking calls.

Their community currently has over 250 members from all over the Caribbean, including but not limited to Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados.

With a total of 46 countries represented in its community, they host events such as its Speaker Series to keep members informed on relevant topics no matter where they are in the world.

Their primary goal is to be the central avenue for Caribbean women in tech to create and share opportunities while providing a space for members to connect locally and across the diaspora. (Loop)

cont'd from pg 14

There is also a small hybrid community of Streamertails living in a zone where both species overlap.

In Cuba, the Cuban Kite (Chondrohierax wilsonii) was split from the Hookbilled Kite. The Cuban Kite was originally recognised as its own species in 1847, when it was first described, but was later lumped into Hook-billed Kite since the bird has large variations throughout its extensive range in Latin America.

Bird Caribbean said the Cuban Kite has a barred collar, which other Hook-billed Kites lack, is smaller in size and has a larger bill that is typically yellow.

While both species re-



Maldari and Dominic Sherony]
main genetically similar, the
Cuban Kite is not known to ically ender

Cuban Kite is not known to travel outside of its homeland, according to Birds Caribbean. The Cuban Kite is critically endangered due to habitat and prey loss and there have been very few sightings in recent years.

The society also rejected proposals to reclassify a few species including the Hispaniolan Elaenia and Red-legged Thrush.

Entertainment



UK man in court over threat to 'kill queen' with crossbow

A man who got into the grounds of Windsor Castle armed with a crossbow told police he wanted to "kill the queen," prosecutors said during a court hearing Wednesday.

Jaswant Singh Chail, 20, is charged under the Treason Act with intending to "injure the person of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, or to alarm her Majesty."

He has also been charged with threats to kill and possession of an offensive weapon.

Chail was arrested at the royal residence west of London on Christmas Day 2021, when the queen was staying there.

Prosecutors allege the former supermarket worker from Southampton in southern England was wearing a hood and a mask and carrying a loaded crossbow with the safety catch off.

They say he told a police officer "I am here to kill the Queen," before he was handcuffed and arrested.



Jaswant Singh Chail has been charged under the UK Treason Act with intending to "injure the person of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, or to alarm her Majesty" after making his way onto the grounds of Windsor Castle armed with a crossbow. He has also been charged with threats to kill and possession of an offensive weapon.

Prosecutor Kathryn Selby said the Supersonic X-Bow weapon allegedly carried by Chail had the potential to cause "serious or fatal injuries."

Prosecution lawyers maintain Chail wanted revenge on the British establishment for its treatment of Indians and sent a video to about 20 people claiming he was going to assassinate the queen.

To get close to the royal family, he had tried to join the British Army and the Ministry of Defence Police, prosecutors allege.

Chail appeared remotely for Wednesday's hearing at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court from Broadmoor, a high-security psychiatric hospital.

He was not asked to enter a plea, and was ordered detained until his next court appearance on Sept. 14.

The allegations against him are not being treated as a "terrorism offense," Selby said.

Charges under the Treason Act of 1842 are rare. In 1981, Marcus Sarjeant was charged under the act after firing blank shots at the queen as she rode on horseback in the Trooping the Colour parade in London.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison.

The last person to be convicted under the separate and more serious Treason Act of 1351 was William Joyce, a World War II Nazi propaganda broadcaster known as Lord Haw-Haw.

He was hanged for high treason in 1946.



Entertainment

PAGE 17

R. Kelly jury picked in child pornography, trial-fixing case

By Michael Tarm And Don Babwin

A federal jury was impanelled Tuesday in R. Kelly's hometown of Chicago to decide multiple charges against the R&B singer, as prosecutors and defence attorneys argued toward the end of the process about whether the government was improperly attempting to keep some Blacks off the jury.

Kelly, who is Black, is accused of enticing minors for sex, of producing child pornography and of fixing his 2008 state child pornography trial at which he was acquitted.

As the sides began exercising peremptory challenges — in which they can remove a fixed number of potential jurors from the pool — Kelly attorney Jennifer Bonjean accused prosecutors of seeking to strike Blacks "to deny Mr. Kelly a jury of his peers."

Prosecutors noted multiple African Americans had already made it onto the jury before the defence objected, and they argued their reasons for wanting to strike had nothing to do with race. In one case, they said one older man appeared to have a hard time staying awake.

Judge Harry Leinenweber partially agreed with the defence, disallowing prosecutors from striking three Blacks from the jury, and



R. Kelly restoring them. About half the 12 jurors impanelled were identified as Black by the judge, prosecutor and defence attorneys.

Six alternates were also selected.

Some of the jurors selected had watched at least part of a six-part documentary series, "Surviving R. Kelly," about sex abuse allegations against the Grammy award-winning singer. Watching it wasn't an automatic disqualification as long as a would-be juror could assure Judge Leinenweber they could still be impartial.

Among the 12 jurors selected was a retired real estate agent who had one son who was a prosecutor and another son who was a defence attorney. Another juror was a librarian.

Opening statements are scheduled for Wednesday morning, after which prosecutors will begin calling witnesses.

In all, the judge dis-

missed about half of the more than 100 potential jurors who were vetted over two days in a large, 25th floor courtroom in downtown Chicago.

Among those dismissed was a woman who said she had unfavourable views of police and judges, a woman who said she once took martial arts classes with Kelly's kids and a man who said he didn't think the IRS should exist.

Kelly, dressed in a grey suit and wearing a surgical mask over his mouth and nose, followed proceedings from a defence table, sometimes appearing to study would-be jurors Tuesday as they answered the judge's questions.

During a break around lunch, several Kelly supporters on court spectator benches made heart signs with their hands and directed them at Kelly. He appeared to notice across the courtroom, smiling and nodding his head.

One central focus of the trial will be on whether Kelly threatened and paid off a girl with whom he allegedly videotaped himself having sex when he was about 30 and she was no older than 14. That's the allegation underpinning another of the charges against Kelly, conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Jurors in the 2008 child pornography trial acquitted Kelly, with some later explaining that they felt they had no choice because the girl did not testify. The woman, now in her 30s and referred to in court filings only as "Minor 1," will be the government's star witness in the federal trial that's expected to last four weeks.

Kelly faces four counts of enticement of minors for sex — one each for four other accusers. They, too, are expected to testify.

Two Kelly associates, Derrel McDavid and Milton Brown, are co-defendants at the Chicago trial. McDavid is accused of helping Kelly fix the 2008 trial, while Brown is charged with receiving child pornography. Like Kelly, they also have denied wrongdoing.

Kelly, 55, already has already been sentenced by a New York federal judge to a 30-year prison term for a 2021 conviction on charges that he used his fame to sexually abuse other young fans.

Entertainment



Armani, others flee wildfire on Sicilian island retreat

gio Armani and dozens of others were forced to flee from their vacation villas overnight as firefighters worked to extinguish the remnants of two wildfires on the Sicilian island of Pantelleria on Thursday.

A photo shows flames that appear to encroach on Armani's villa, but his press office said they stopped short of the property. Armani and guests evacuated to a boat in the harbour overnight.

The head of the region's civil protection agency, Salvatore Cocina, said arson is suspected in two wildfires that forced around 30 people to seek refuge in boats or on safer parts of the island.

Fashion designer Gior- Firefighters used Canadair planes to douse the flames, along with ground teams to protect homes.

> Authorities said structures appeared to have been lost.

> The island's mayor, Vincenzo Campo, told the ANSA news agency two Canadairs were working on putting out the last flames on difficult terrain and that the wind had dropped off.

> "After the great fear of last evening and the night spent at work, Pantelleria is returning to normal," Campo said. "It seems the worst is over."

Local officials appealed for any information that would help identify the cause of the blaze, which tween Sicily and Tunisia, is



Flames burn beyond fashion designer Giorgio Armani's villa on the Sicilian island of Pantelleria, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022. The designer and his guests evacuated overnight to a boat in the port, and the flames stopped short of the property, according to his press office. (Armani Press Office Via AP)

started in two points 400 metres quarter-mile) apart.

Pantelleria, located be-

a popular beach and trekking destination that includes ancient archaeological sites and natural geographic formations. (AP)

Anne Heche's death ruled accidental after fiery car crash

Actor Anne Heche died from inhalation injury and burns after her fiery car crash and the death was ruled an accident, according to coroner's results released Wednesday.

Heche, 53, also had a fractured sternum caused by "blunt trauma," according to information on the website of the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner.

A full autopsy report was still being completed, the coroner's office said.

The Emmy-winning film and television actor was removed from life support Sunday at a burn centre. She was injured when her car jumped a curb and smashed into a West Los Angeles home on Aug. 5.

The car and the home burst into



Anne Heche

flames. Only Heche was injured.

Heche suffered a "severe anoxic brain injury" caused by a lack of oxygen, according to a statement released last week on behalf of her family and friends.

She was declared brain-dead but was kept on life support until her organs could be donated

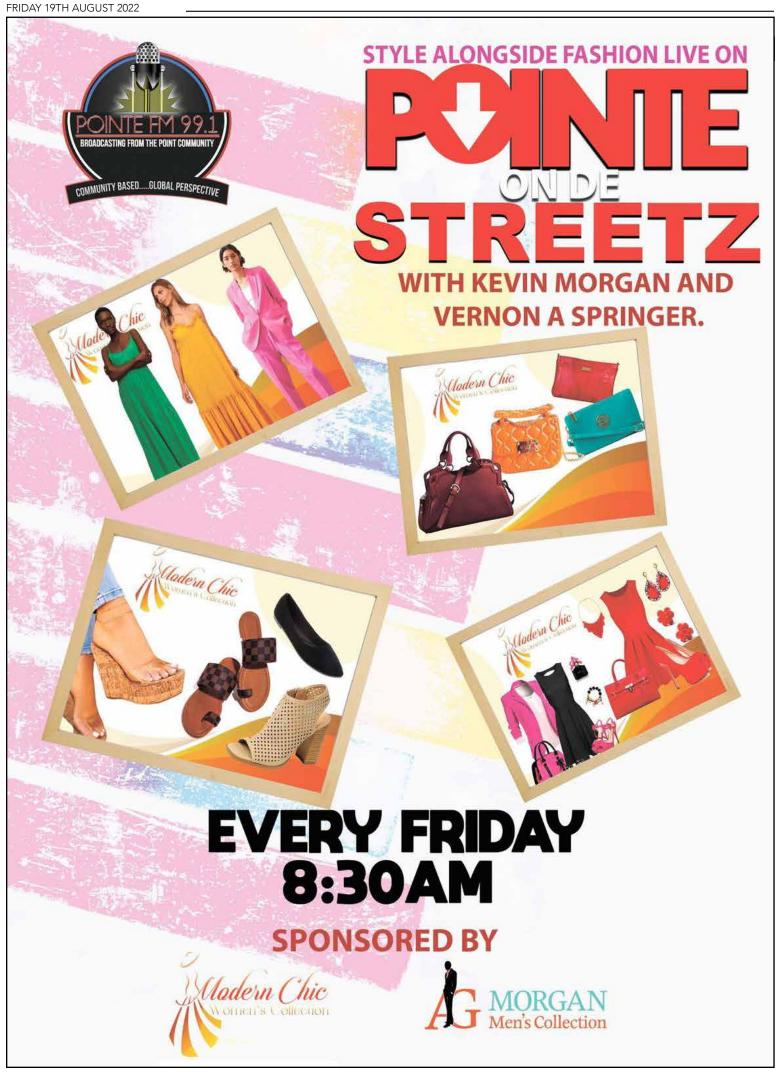
Detectives looking into the crash had said narcotics were found in a blood sample taken from Heche.

However, police ended their investigation after she was declared braindead.

The coroner's office listed Aug. 11 as her date of death.

Heche first came to prominence on the NBC soap opera "Another World" in the late 1980s before becoming one of the hottest stars in Hollywood in the late 1990s.

She was a constant on magazine covers and in big-budget films opposite actors including Johnny Depp and Harrison Ford. (AP)



Regional News



Bahamas to repatriate survivors of deadly boating incident

CMC - The Bahamas government says 15 Haitian migrants who survived when their vessel capsized in waters off New Providence last month will be repatriated to their homeland later this week.

"As you all are aware, several persons were charged and are currently before the courts. As it relates to those survivors, this week we anticipate that we're going to repatriate 130 irregular Haitian migrants and another 30 plus to Cuba, and in that number going back to Haiti will be 15 migrants who were involved in that tragedy at died, including a pregnant



sea," Immigration and Labour Minister Keith Bell told reporters.

Police suspect at least 45 people were travelling to Florida from New Providence on July 24 when their boat capsized in rough seas near Blackbeard's Cay.

At least 17 Haitians

woman and two minors, while several people are believed to be still missing.

The authorities have so far identified six of the 17 people who died in the tragedy and Bell dismissed reports that the government has given families of the deceased victims a two-week deadline to collect their remains.

"I don't know the specifics but certainly there can be no deadline.

"We are exercising the highest degree of humanity as we possibly can, and we are continuing to work with the Haitian community and the Haitian pastors to ensure that the remains are identified, and they're given the highest degree of dignity and respect."

Regarding the burial costs, the Haitian government has already committed to covering the funeral expenses of the unidentified persons who perished at sea last month.

St. Lucia Prime Minister to push Caribbean youth economy

CMC - St. Lucia's Prime Minister Phillip J. Pierre says he will use his chairmanship of the board of governors of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to promote the social and economic empowerment of young people in the region.

Addressing the media launch of the 53rd CDB annual general meeting scheduled for June next year, Pierre said he was using the term "youth economy" to highlight the importance of young people in the future socio-economic development of the region and relatedly, access to adequate and affordable finance for development.

Pierre told the ceremony that approximately 17 percent of the region's population comprises youth 15-24 years old and 25 percent between 10-24 years old.

"Given this large youth demographic, the potential contribution to social and economic development is significant.

"However, for this potential to be realised, optimal engagement of our youth in the economy is imperative.

"Unemployment and poor economic participation remain serious concerns among our youth.

"Unemployment rates for persons 15-24 years old in the region, generally range from 18 percent to 47 percent, and average youth unemployment is more than three times that of adult unemployment, 25 percont'd on pg 21



Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Phillip J. Pierre

Regional News

PAGE 21

President Ali wants EU to issue visas from Guyana

CMC – The Guyana government Wednesday urged the European Union (EU) to urgently put systems in place to grant Schengen visas to nationals, who must travel to Suriname or Trinidad and Tobago to obtain such a document to travel to any European country.

A Schengen visa is a short-stay visa that allows a person to travel to any member of the Schengen Area, per stay up to 90 days for tourism or business purposes.

It is the most common visa for Europe and enables its holder to enter, freely travel within, and leave the Schengen zone from any of the Schengen member countries. There are no border controls within the Schengen Zone.

President Irfaan Ali, who is due to leave here later on Wednesday for an official visit to Trinidad and Tobago, made the re-



quest for the EU visas to be granted in Guyana, hoping also that the impending formal establishment of the EU-Guyana Chamber of Commerce would be an impetus for this to happen.

"It is in their strategic interest to have that facility here," he said, adding that he is also hopeful that EU visas could be granted here within the next three months.

"What do you want us to do to help you to get it done and next we must get it done," he said, describing the hassle of Guyanese going to Suriname for three days for Schengen visas as "nonsense, absolutely ridiculous."

Ali noted that apart from British Airways making a return to Guyana, the country is also hoping the Dutch airline, KLM, would service the route.

President Ali said technology should not be used as an excuse not to grant EU visas in Georgetown.

cont'd from pg 20

cent to eight percent respectively".

Pierre said the situation is more severe for young women, compounded by the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that not only killed and infected thousands of people in the region but also reduced employment.

"It is important that an environment is created for young people to be allowed the opportunity to engage in activities that they enjoy. "Our education system must be adjusted to reduce the mismatch between the skills required for the workforce.

"Despite greater access to education and health care than in previous generations, our young males and females, across the region, are among those who disproportionately bear the burden of poverty, marginalisation, and exclusion," Pierre added.

He said at the same time, the region's young people are the primary agents of change and a key to reform and rebuilding the region.

"They possess unmatched levels of innovation and creativity and in them, we can find the solutions to some of our development challenges and emerging opportunities."

Pierre said his government is committed to investing in the island's future through the creation of a youth economy which it believes will propel the sustainable development of St. Lucia.

International



Afghanistan: Deadly blast rips through crowded Kabul mosque

BBC – A huge explosion has ripped through a crowded mosque in the Afghan capital Kabul, killing 21 people, police say.

Another 33 people were injured, Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said.

Wednesday's blast occurred during evening prayers. The mosque's imam Amir Muhammad Kabuli is reported to be among the dead.

It is unclear who was behind the attack, a week after



Islamic State (IS) militants killed a pro-Taliban cleric in a suicide bomb blast, also in Kabul Security forces have now sealed off the blast scene in Kabul.

Witnesses described

hearing a powerful explosion which shattered windows in nearby buildings.

"I saw that so many people were killed, even people were thrown out of the windows of the mosque," one eyewitness told Reuters news agency.

Stefano Sozza, the head of the medical charity Emergency, which runs the city's main hospital, told the BBC his group had already treated 35 people, including children.

cont'd on pg 23

Algeria forest fires: At least 26 dead, minister says

BBC – At least 26 people have been killed and dozens more injured in forest fires that have devastated northern Algeria.

Kamel Beldjoud, the country's interior minister, said 24 died in El Tarf, near the border with Tunisia, as well as a mother and daughter in Setif.

Firefighters, supported by helicopters, were still trying to contain several blazes on Wednesday evening.

Reports say some 350 residents have been evacuated in various provinces.

The civil protection agency said that El Tarf was the worst hit area with 16 fires in progress.

The names of the mother, 58, and her 36-year-old daughter who died in Setif have not yet been released, but officials there said flames had reached dozens of homes and villages.

Northern Algeria is affected by forest fires every year, with 90 people thought to have died in them last year



- and more than 100,000 hectares of woodland burnt.

Last August, Mr Beldjoud blamed a spate of fires in Algeria's Kabyle region on arson, claiming "only criminal hands" could explain "the simultaneous outbreak of about 50 fires across several localities".

Wednesday's toll brings the total number of Algerians killed in wildfires this summer up to 30.

The latest blazes come during a summer which has seen a number of countries in the Mediterranean region ravaged by wildfires - particularly in Europe, with France, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy all affected.

Just last week, more than 1,000 fire officials battled what they described as a "monster" wildfire near Bordeaux.

International

PAGE 23

Measles outbreak in Zimbabwe kills 157 unvaccinated children

A measles outbreak in Zimbabwe has killed 157 children, most of whom were unvaccinated due to their family's religious beliefs, officials said.

The measles outbreak was first reported in the eastern Manicaland province in early April and has since spread to all parts of the country.

At least 2,056 cases have been reported and virtually all of the deaths have been children who were not vaccinated, Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa said.

Zimbabwe's Cabinet has invoked a law used to respond to disasters to deal with the outbreak, she said.

The government says it is embarking on a mass vaccination campaign targeting children aged between 6 months and 15 years old and is engaging traditional and faith leaders to support the drive.

Zimbabwe continued vaccinating children against measles even during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, but the drive has been hampered by religious groups that preach against vaccines.

The Christian sects are against modern medicine and tell their members to rely on self-proclaimed prophets for healing.



A Zimbabwean child being inoculated against measles

Church gatherings that have resumed following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions have "led to the spread of measles to previously unaffected areas," said the health ministry in a statement last week.

Measles is among the most infectious diseases in the world and mostly spreads in the air by coughing, sneezing or close contact. Symptoms include coughing, fever and a skin rash, while the risk of severe measles or dying from complications is high among unvaccinated children.

Outbreaks in unvaccinated and

malnourished populations have been known to kill thousands. Scientists estimate that more than 90% of the population needs to be immunised to prevent measles outbreaks.

The World Health Organization in April warned of an increase in measles in vulnerable countries as a result of a disruption of services due to COVID-19. In July, UNICEF said about 25 million children worldwide have missed out on routine immunizations against common childhood diseases, calling it a "red alert" for child health.

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"Our doctors... operated [on] the patients in need of surgical assistance all night long.

"The injuries were mainly related to the blast, so there were shells inside the bodies and burning injuries all over the bodies of the victims."

He said he believed the blast was inside the mosque. "There was probably someone entering during the prayer time, so it was crowded at that moment and then [the attacker] activated this body burning improvised explosive device.

"So that all the persons that were close to the attacker were basically dead and the ones all around received several injuries," Mr Sozza added.

News agency AP quoted Taliban spokesman Zabi-

hullah Mujahid as saying that the "perpetrators of such crimes will soon be brought to justice and will be punished".

Senior Taliban officials are meeting more than 2,000 tribal and religious elders on Thursday in Afghanistan's second city Kandahar, the movement's main power base.

A spokesman quoted by AFP news agency said "im-

portant decisions" would be taken at the major gathering.

The Kabul bombing came days after the assassination of prominent cleric and Taliban supporter Rahimullah Haqqani in a suicide bombing.

The Islamic State group said it carried out the attack on Mr Haqqani, one of the highest profile figures to be killed since the Taliban returned to power a year ago.

Sports News



Windies Women return to action with home series

West Indies Women return to action on home soil when they host New Zealand Women in an eightmatch white-ball tour from September 16 to October 6 in Antigua.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) confirmed that the three CG United One-Day Internationals (ODI) and five T20 Internationals (T20I) will be played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. The CG United ODI Series is scheduled for September 16, 19 and 22 and matches will start at 9.30am local time, 8.30am-Jamaica time. The T20Is are scheduled for September 26 to October 6. All of the T20Is will start at 1.30pm local time, 12:30pm Jamaica time, other than the 4th T20I on Tuesday, October 4 which will start at 10.00am local time, 9.00am Jamaica time.

For the CG United ODI Series, West Indies will be looking to build on the progress after reaching the semi-finals of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand earlier this year. The team will then look to the five T20I matches as part of their preparations for the 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in January.

Courtney Walsh, West Indies Women's Head Coach, welcomed the tour and said they will have a



keen eye on the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

"I am very happy that we will be hosting New Zealand in the West Indies. They are a very competitive team, and this will make for a great series for our team. As it comes just after we've had the Women's regional tournaments and the Women's CPL, it will be a great fillip for our players," Walsh said.

Walsh added, "We are currently holding another specialist camp including some new players, and after the Women's CPL we will have a second camp in Antigua. In addition, the Lead Selector was with the West Indies U19 Women's team for their series in Florida and have identified some exciting prospects to consider. cont'd on pg 25

CPL 2022

31st August -30th September

Sports News

PAGE 25

Trinidadians fined for causing harm to world javelin champ Anderson Peters

CMC – Chief Magistrate, Teddy St Louis, said the Trinidadian crew of a Barbados-owned vessel had resorted to "excessive use of force" when they sought to have two brothers, including Grenada's World Javelin champion Anderson Peters, leave the vessel last week.

The magistrate told the accused men that their actions could not be justified although a request had been made for Anderson Peters and his brother, Kiddon, to leave the Harbour Master party boat on August 10.

The four men – the captain, Noel Cooper, 42, deckhand, John Alexander, 55 and sailors, Mikhail John, 35 and Sheon Jack, 28, had on Monday pleaded guilty to the charges of causing harm and grievous harm to the brothers, including Anderson, who earlier this month won gold at the World Championship in the United States and a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in the United Kingdom.

A video recording posted on so-



cial media showed the athlete being thrown into the sea.

The Chief Magistrate fined each of the crew members EC\$3,500 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) for causing grievous harm to be paid forthwith or in default jailed for one year.

On the charge of causing harm with violence they were each fined EC\$2,000 also to be paid forthwith or in default, spend six months in jail.

The four crew members were among six people originally arrested by the police.

But on Monday, the prosecution

withdrew the charges against 45-year-old sailor, Lance Wiggins, while the other person, 40-year-old Abiola Benjamin, who was described as the cruise operations manager on the vessel, also had the charges dropped after video footage was reviewed and the law enforcement authorities indicated that he was trying to separate the men who were engaged in the scuffle.

Apart from the criminal charges, the Trinidadians are also facing a civil lawsuit with the Javelin champion securing the services of attorney Derick Sylvester.

cont'd from pg 24

So, we should have enough cricket before the New Zealand Series starts. Every series that we play we want to win, and we will be playing a positive brand of cricket. We will also have an eye on the T20 World Cup around the corner.

"So, this will give the squad a chance to show-case all their skills, and also give us, the coaching staff, a chance to look at what depth we have."

Tickets went on sale at tickets.windiestickets.com on Wednesday this week.

For all matches, adults can purchase general admission tickets online at \$5.00USD or \$15EC, with free admission for children under the age of 16 when accompanied by a paying adult. Seniors benefit from half price tickets. The stadium ticket office will open on the day of the 1st CG United ODI.

All matches will be streamed live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel. Live ball-by-ball scoring will also be available on the www.windiescricket. com Match Centre.

FULL MATCH

SCHEDULE - All matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

CG United ODI Series

- Friday 16 September: 1st CG United ODI, 9:30am Eastern Caribbean/8:30am Jamaica Time
- Monday 19 September: 2nd CG United ODI, 9:30am Eastern Caribbean/8:30am Jamaica Time
- Thursday, 22 September: 3rd United ODI, 9:30am Eastern Caribbean/8:30am Jamaica Time

T20I Series

• Monday 26 Septem-

ber: 1st T20I, 1:30pm Eastern Caribbean/12:00pm Jamaica time

- Wednesday 28 September: 2nd T20I, 1:30pm Eastern Caribbean/12:30pm Jamaica time
- Saturday 1 October: 3rd T20I, 1:30pm Eastern Caribbean/12:30pm Jamaica time
- Tuesday 4 October: 4th T20I, 10:00am Eastern Caribbean/9:00am Jamaica Time
- Thursday 6 October: 5th T20I, 1:30pm Eastern Caribbean/12:30pm Jamaica time

Sports News



LeBron James inks 2-year, \$97.1 million deal with Lakers

AP – LeBron James has agreed to a two-year, \$97.1 million contract extension through the 2024-25 season with the Los Angeles Lakers, his agent announced Wednesday.

Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul said the league-maximum deal makes James the highest-paid player in NBA history. His new deal includes a player option that would keep the second-leading scorer in NBA history with the Lakers past his 40th birthday in December 2024.

The 37-year-old James is headed into the final year of his most recent contract with the Lakers, who signed the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player and four-time league champion in July 2018. The new deal means the 18-time All-Star will make \$46.7 million this season.

Barring injury, James is likely to surpass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the NBA's career scoring king this winter. James and the Lakers also still hope to be in contention for another title if James and Anthony Davis can return at full health after an injury-plagued 2021-22 ended without a playoff appearance.

James' new deal syncs with Davis' most recent contract extension with the Lakers, allowing both to



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) goes up high to dunk the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis, on May 15, 2021. (AP Photo/ Doug McSchooler, File)

leave the Lakers or to negotiate new deals in 2024. Both superstars are represented by Klutch.

James' recommitment to the Lakers also silences persistent talk of his possible departure as a free agent or in a trade. James hasn't appeared to be going anywhere on social media or in his public appearances, and he praised the hiring of new Lakers coach Darvin Ham.

James has missed significant portions of the season due to injury in three of his four years with the Lakers. He was largely cont'd on pg 27



Sports News

PAGE 27

Antigua & Barbuda draw latest match in Under-15 Girls Invitational tournament

Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines fought to a 0-0 draw in the Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls Invitational Tournament on Wednesday night.

Playing in the feature match of a double-header at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Centre at Paynters, both teams were unable to breach each other's defenses during the keenly contested affair.

The Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls' failure to beat the Vincentians resulted in the home side slipping into second place behind sole leaders Grenada in the five-team round robin competition.

Antigua and Barbuda now have five points from three matches, two points behind leaders Grenada, while St. Vincent and the Grenadines are in third place with four points from two encounters.

The Grenadians, who started their third round

match tied in joint first place with Antigua and Barbuda, had snatched a late 1-0 victory over St. Lucia in the first game of Wednesday evening's double-header.

Striker Abigail Williams scored a penalty in the second minute of injury time (70 plus 2 minutes) to secure the win and all three points for Grenada against the St. Lucians.

Williams, who had slipped past a few opposing players with her run towards her opponents' goal, was brought down after being fouled, just outside the 18-yards box.

She got up and took a free-kick, which resulted in one of the players in the St. Lucians four-player defensive wall using her hand to stop the ball from striking the upper part of her body.

Immediately after the all struck the hand of the St. Lucian player who was standing in the 18-yard box, the referee wasted

no time in pointing to the penalty spot as he awarded the Grenadians the penalty kick, which was skillfully converted by Williams.

It was the second defeat in as many matches for the St. Lucians, the same as Dominica, who is the other team in the tournament.

Both St. Lucia and Dominica are currently occupying the cellar position without a point.

The competition will continue with another double-header today (Friday). Dominica will tackle St. Lucia at 5 pm and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will challenge Grenada at 7pm.

In tomorrow's (Saturday) off-day from the tournament's matches, a soccerama will be hosted by the ABFAat the venue.

The soccerama, which is being held in partnership with the Ministry of Social Transformation as part of its WIREDI climate change initiative, will involve players from the six female teams that participate in the ABFA's domestic women's competition.

The competition will involve each team having seven female players and four male players on the field for the duration of the matches, which will last for a period of 30 minutes, divided into two 15-minute halves.

The winning team will receive a cash prize of EC\$2,000, the runners-up will take home EC\$1,000 and the third place finishers will get EC\$500.

The event will be a festive one which will be free of charge to anyone wishing to attend.

There will be entertainment, food and drinks will be on sale and there will also be giveaways of prizes to some of the people in attendance at the event that will commence at 1:45 pm.

The Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls Invitational Tournament will resume and conclude on Sunday with the final round of matches.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines will oppose St. Lucia at 5pm, while Dominica will face Antigua and Barbuda at 7pm.

The tournament is being sponsored by Joma Caribbean, Cool & Smooth, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and Paradiso Water.

cont'd from pg 26

healthy in the elongated 2019-20 season when the Lakers won the franchise's 17th NBA title in the Florida bubble, and he has been every bit the dominant player of his prime when at full strength in the ensuing two years.

Although his contract status inspired plenty of offseason chatter, James seemed unlikely to relocate after spending the past four seasons of his 19-year career with the storied Lakers.

His family is settled in Los Angeles, where his eldest son, Bronny, is a 17-year-old senior and college basketball prospect playing at Sierra Canyon High School in Chatsworth.

James has occasionally said he intends to play on the same team with Bronny when his son reaches the NBA. Although plenty of obstacles remain between the younger James and the NBA, he could be draft-eligible in the summer of 2024.

Sports News



Rising Stars International wins Domino series against All Stars of Jamaica

Host Rising Stars International Domino Club of Antigua and Barbuda has won the Stars Domino Competition against the all-female All Star Domino Club of Jamaica.

Rising Stars International prevailed 3-2 over All Star in the five-match test series in four-hand competitions from 11th to 17th August. The Jamaican ladies won the first encounter, which was contested at D'Gala Restaurant in St. Johnson's Village on Friday, 12th August.

Rising Star hit back to take a 2-1 lead in the series by winning the next two test matches, which were contested at the Barefoot Beach Bar n Restaurant, also known as Pensioners, on Sunday, 14th August.

All Stars of Jamaica lev-



The Rising Stars International Domino Club team of Antigua and Barbuda

eled the series by winning the fourth test match at the same venue at Pensioners on Monday, 15th August.

However, Rising Stars of Antigua and Barbuda prevailed in the fifth and final deciding test match on Tuesday, 16th August, to win the series.

Kaid Jarvis was named the Most Valuable Player for Antigua and Barbuda's Rising Stars International at the closing ceremony for the series on Wednesday evening.

The duo of Samantha Darby and Annmarie Hibbert was the most outstanding partners for the All Stars of Jamaica. Judy-Ann Dixon and her partner Michelle Copper was the second best performers for the Jamaicans.

A plaque, which was accepted by Captain Natalie Wright, was also presented to the All Stars Domino Club of Jamaica for participating in the series of matches against the Rising Stars International.

The Rising Stars International Club, which is based in Antigua, has been engaged in competition with teams in other islands for the past several years.

Rising Stars International last embarked on a goodwill tour to St. Maarten in 2019, but was unable to travel during the next two years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.



The All Star Domino Club team of Jamaica (Photos courtesy Rising Stars International)



Sports News

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Antigua & Barbuda **Combined Schools Ioses** second match in Dominica

Schools have lost for the second time to Dominica Combined Schools on their current tour to the nature isle of the Caribbean.

The Dominica Combined Schools pulled off a seven-wicket win over their Antiguan and Barbudan counterparts at Benjamin's Park in Portsmouth on Wednesday to level their Schools' Cricket Series 2-2 after four matches.

Batting first, Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools crashed to 103 all out in 23.4 overs, with Deago Joseph

Antigua and Barbuda Combined getting a top score of 15 and Ajahrie chipped in with 12. Joseph making 12 not out.

> Morell Burton grabbed three wickets for 17 runs in seven overs, Yawani Regis bagged three wickets for 22 runs in four overs and Kyron Phillip picked up three wickets for 23 runs in 5.4 overs.

> Dominica Combined Schools then achieved victory by scoring the required 104 runs for the loss of three wickets in 20.4 overs.

> Phillip struck an unbeaten 37, Regis made 27 not out, Dionne Rolle contributed 13 and Lluvio Charles

Xaveek Joseph claimed one for 17, Shamar Pereira took one for 27 and Ajahrie Joseph captured one for 34.

It was the second successive loss for the Antiguans and Barbudans after taking a 2-0 lead in the series by winning the first two 40-overs aside one-day matches.

The teams will meet in a deciding fifth 40-over match and then battle each other in a three-match T20 series before the Antiguans and Barbudans return home on Saturday, 27th August.

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ward, try their best and represent in the best possible way," Joseph said.

"But to be honest, I am optimistic with the quality that we have and the talent that I have seen so far. They are engaged and they are very young. Most of them are 12 going on 13-years old.

"Most of them still have another year or two and that look good for the future so I am really looking forward to working with them and impart the knowledge.

"So hopefully, they will grasp most of it and just keep on improving because that is all we are looking and asking, for them to put in the hard work and to improve where they can."

The team will be captained by Jennings Ti-

gers all-rounder Matthew Miller, who is one of five Antiguans and Barbudans selected in the squad.

The others selected are medium pacer Tanez Francis of Jennings Tigers, J'Quan Athanaze of Empire Nation, Anthony Pierre of Rising Sun Spartans and Tavari Tonge of Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles.

Also selected are Lythe Browne, who is the vice-captain, Kunal Tilokani, Eirette Richards and Sachin Saunders.

The rest of the players selected are Jaheem Clarke. Krishna Girdhari, Amoree Jones, Jathan Edwards and Ethan David. The squad is also accompanied by former senior Leeward Islands player Jacques Taylor, who is the team's manager.



Sports DEWS

Joseph happy with Leewards Under-15 squad

Head coach Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph is quite happy with the Leeward Islands' squad that will be participating in the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship, which is slated to bowl off in Grenada this weekend.

Part of the 14-member squad left Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday and the others left for Grenada yesterday following a three-day training camp in Antigua in readiness for the 18th to 28th August tournament.

Despite the short preparatory camp, Joseph, who also travelled to Trinidad and Tobago as coach of the Leeward Islands Under-17 Boys team, said he is quite satisfied with the Under-15 squad.

"I think we have a fairly good team. It's a pity that we didn't have some more time to work with them. But I really do think that we have a fairly good team and the players are very much open to learning," Joseph stated.

"In terms of the preparation, we had limited time, but we tried to use it to the best of our abilities. I think in all of the age groups, the Under-15s got the hardest hit because since Covid-19, everyone else got a chance to play some sort of cricket, but in terms of the Under-15s, they never really had any Under-15 tournaments, especially in Antigua in terms of the school league.

"Most of the Under-15 guys would just be starting secondary school, so we never really got a chance to go in



All-rounder Matthew Miller of Jennings Tigers will captain the Leeward Islands inthe Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship in Grenada from 18th to 28th August. (Photo courtesy LICB)

and deal with them, so the Under-15s was the most hard-hit team.

"They are really eager and are ready to go and try to execute their skills. They are happy that they have gotten an opportunity to come back and play again. They are really putting in the effort."

Joseph also said he is confident that the players will continue to apply themselves and improve their game. "I am really pleased with what I am seeing so far. The batting, we have some really talented young players who are really interested in spending time at the crease.

"Spending time at the wicket, that is the key for me and they have a few shots as well, so at competition time, I would just hope and pray that they will go and just put their best foot for cont'd on pg 29

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