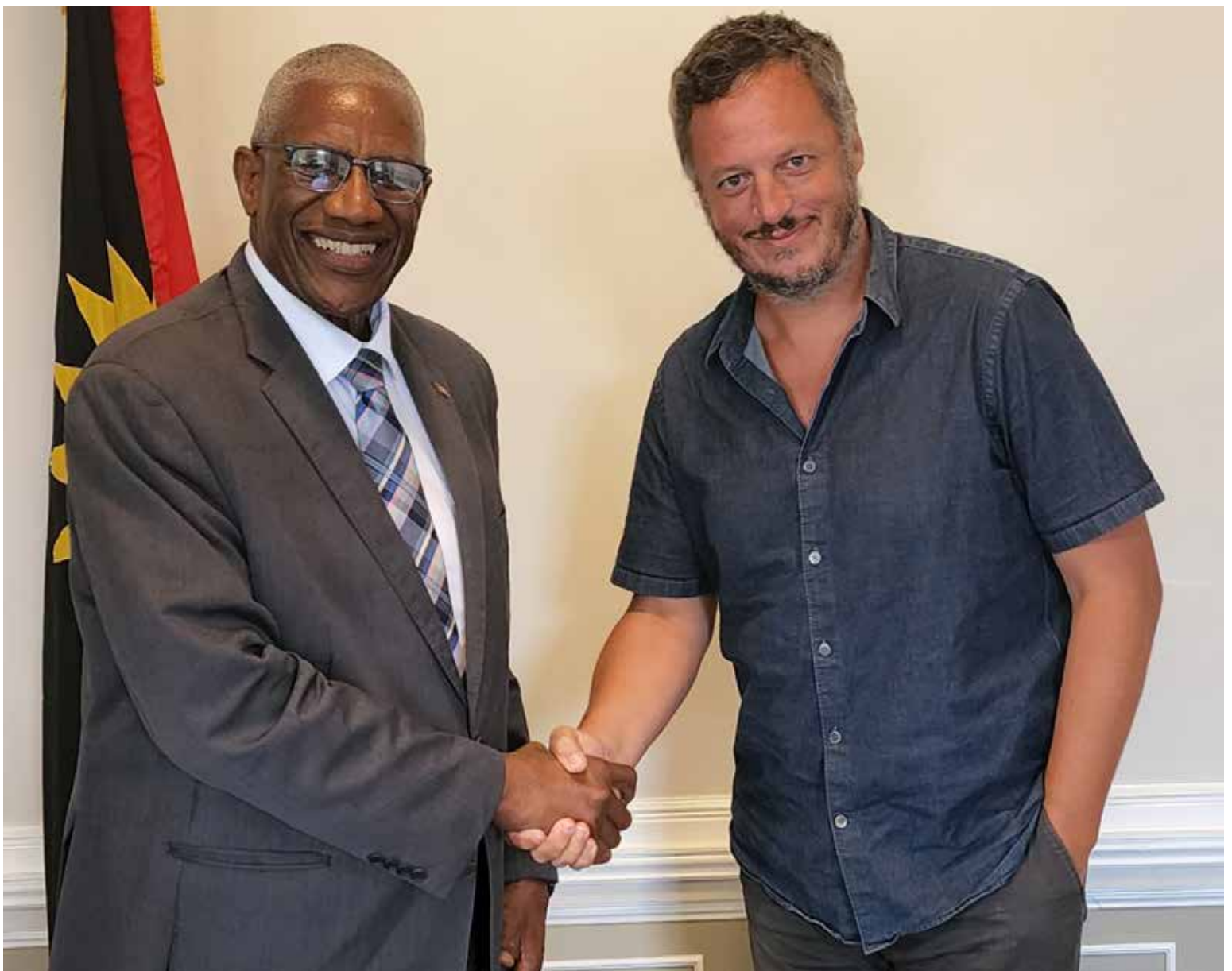


TUESDAY 23RD AUGUST 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 160 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

A&B'S CBI RANKS IN WORLD'S TOP FIVE

Story on Page 2



*His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda and author, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro. **Story on page 7***

Antigua & Barbuda ranks fifth on 2022 CBI Index

The Caribbean region has again taken the lead this year on the annually published Financial Times-CS Global CBI (Citizenship by Investment) Index.

The CBI Index is a rating system designed to measure the performance and appeal of global citizenship by investment (CBI) programmes across a diverse range of indicators. Its purpose is to provide a rigorous and systematic mechanism for appraising programmes, to facilitate the decision-making process for individuals considering them, and to bring value to the CBI industry.

The CBI Index assesses all countries with operational CBI programmes, which, in 2022, include the following 13 nations: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Cambodia, Dominica, Egypt, Grenada, Jordan, Malta, Montenegro, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Turkey and Vanuatu. With North Macedonia's much-publicised programme not yet fully operational, Egypt remains the latest addition to the CBI Index after opening in 2020.

Bulgaria is no longer considered due to the Programme's recent abolition.

The primary methodological objective of the CBI Index is to isolate factors — or 'pillars' — that satisfactorily



measure programme features and jurisdictional desirability. The nine pillars that constitute this year's CBI Index include:

1. Freedom of Movement
2. Standard of Living
3. Minimum Investment Outlay
4. Mandatory Travel or Residence
5. Citizenship Timeline
6. Ease of Processing
7. Due Diligence
8. Family
9. Certainty of Product

Of the thirteen countries analysed in 2022, Antigua and Barbuda ranked 5th with a final score of 69 and a percentage of 77 across the nine pillars.

The country maintained its place with no change from the last analysis in 2021.

In the CBI Index report, the reason for Antigua and Barbuda's 5th place position was explained.

"Antigua and Barbuda's lower score in comparison to the other Caribbean programmes is a result of its five-day residency requirement every five years, as well as its comparatively

longer processing time of between six and seven months," the report, which was published on Monday in the PWM Magazine, stated.

Coming ahead of Antigua and Barbuda were, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis which tied in 1st place, St. Lucia, 3rd and Grenada, 4th.

Antigua and Barbuda maintained its performance over the last year in the Family pillar coming in at 1st place alongside Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis, which also maintained their 2021 rank.

"The Family pillar measures the extent to which investors can obtain citizenship for their immediate and extended family. The CBI Index recognises that the rise of increasingly complex family relationships is driving investors to seek programmes that allow for a more diverse range of family members to be included under a primary application," the report explained.

According to the CBI Index, "Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis retain per-

cont'd on pg 3

THE FINAL SCORES

Country rank	Total Points	Percentage
1 Dominica	81	90
1 St Kitts and Nevis	81	90
3 St Lucia	78	87
4 Grenada	73	81
5 Antigua and Barbuda	69	77
6 Malta	60	67
7 Montenegro	56	62
8 Vanuatu	55	61
8 Egypt	55	61
10 Turkey	53	59
11 Jordan	46	51
12 Austria	45	50
13 Cambodia	44	49

cont'd from pg 2

fect scores for their family friendliness as, in addition to a main applicant, they allow the applicant's spouse, children under 18 and over 18 in certain circumstances, siblings, parents and grandparents of both the main applicant or their spouse to be included in an application."

Antigua and Barbuda also came in for praise along with the other top ranked Caribbean nations for the swift response to both the COVID-19 pandemic and the regional response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict in order to maintain the integrity of the programme.

"While this year all CBI programmes have faced challenges to their stability as a result of the increased regulatory scrutiny of the EU and US, as well as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the Caribbean programmes in particular adapted quickly to protect the stability and integrity of their programmes, as also seen previously in response to COVID-19.

"This is clearly demonstrated by the five Caribbean jurisdictions, along with Malta, swiftly implementing suspensions on applications from Russian, Belarusian nationals (and in one instance, Antigua and Barbuda suspending a Ukrainian national) due to political instability and the difficulties of conducting on the ground vetting checks to maintain the integrity and high due diligence standards of their programmes."

In summary, the 2022

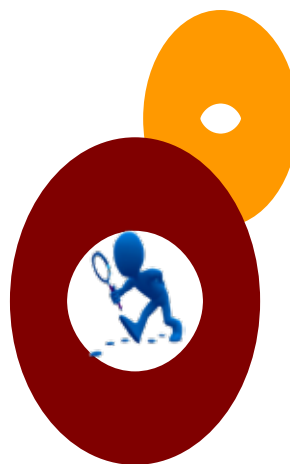
CBI Index concluded, "Released amid a year that has, again, been marked by heightened uncertainty, increased security risk, political instability and intensifying calls to act on the global warming threat, the CBI Index comes at a time when most individuals are reassessing the base they call home and are looking for more stable environments that not only offer security but business, health and education opportunities for generations to come.

"Despite a tumultuous global environment and an investment industry harrowed by scrutiny from the EU and USA, this year's CBI Index hints at opportunity amidst the chaos – opportunity for the CBI industry to evolve and perhaps be the answer to those who look to it to harness the world's offerings.

"Often thought of as a Plan B, the CBI Index infers that in a post-pandemic reset, there has been a shift in trust away from government as individuals obtain second, or multiple citizenships, and take control of their destinies. The new global citizen will look to invest in 'Plan A' and a more positive future for people and planet."

Antigua and Barbuda launched its CBI programme in 2013 and has since become a leader in the industry.

The Caribbean has always led the way in the CBI industry with the world's very first programme launched in 1984 by St. Kitts and Nevis.



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Local News



Gov't turns to CIP to finance Willoughby Bay Project

The government has agreed to an arrangement in which funds for the first phase of the Willoughby Bay Project will be sourced from the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP).

Ambassador Daven Joseph, who chairs the committee overseeing the implementation of the project, said the plan involves raising EC\$100 million to carry out the infrastructural development of

the area to include roads and sidewalks, utilities, a sewage system, drainage and a park, among other amenities.

In a radio appearance on Monday, Joseph explained that sound infrastructure is critical to the project as several local potential investors have expressed interest in the project but have indicated that the infrastructure must be completed before they fully commit to the project.



Ambassador Daven Joseph

“We approached a number of local investors and indicated that there is a dire need for an additional marina if Antigua and Barbuda is to expand its yachting sector of the tourism market and if we are going to step up to meet that growing demand. These investors say they first want to see the infrastructure in place to enhance the value of their investments,” he explained.

According to Ambassador Joseph, at least ten local investors have shown a keen interest in the project although none have made a firm commitment at this time.

“We have come up with a unique way to facilitate local involvement in the project. To that end, we have set up a Willoughby Bay Infrastructural Programme that would raise the funds through a specialised CIP offering.

“The Cabinet has already approved the project and we are working diligently to raise the funds needed,” he stated.

The ambassador said his committee wants to ensure at the onset that the Willoughby Bay Project begins meeting a particularly high standard, thus setting an example for other developments to follow.

He described the project as one that ought to transcend political interests, noting that it should be welcomed as a national project for all to embrace.

He added that the emphasis on local involvement is deliberate as the committee and government have both pledged to “carve out” significant portions of the project in which locals can participate.

The Willoughby Bay Project was one of the main proposals of the Economic Recovery Committee that was charged with conceptualising programmes that would help the country to emerge from the grips of the economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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No further update on Alfa Nero search

The Antigua and Barbuda government has said it will not be disclosing further information on the investigation it has launched into the circumstances surrounding the Russian owned superyacht, Alfa Nero, that is currently docked in the Falmouth Harbour.

Foreign Minister E. P. Chet Greene issued an updated statement on Monday stating that the release of additional information at this time could prejudice the ongoing investigation into the Alfa Nero.

“As promised, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is keeping the public informed regarding the investigation of the superyacht, Alfa Nero, which commenced on Saturday, 20th August.





A view of the deck of the US\$120 million superyacht, Alfa Nero

“The investigation is continuing. It is being conducted by a multi-agency task force of local law enforcement officials and observed by the officers of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), pur-

suant to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) request made to the Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda by the Competent Authority of Government of the United States,” the statement noted.

The foreign ministry has confirmed, however, that it will provide information to the public, as appropriate, and consistent with maintaining the integrity of the matter.

Tue 23 Day		Tue 23 Night	
87°		78°	
16% ESE 12 mph		22% E 9 mph	
Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals. High 87F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly clear. Low 78F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 68%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 78%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:52 am	Sunset 6:27 pm	Moonrise 2:32 am	Moonset 4:09 pm
		● Waning Crescent	



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Tuesday, 23rd August 2022	Wednesday, 24th August 2022	Friday, 26th August 2022
Section of New Winthropes near the football field and Cedar Valley area 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Matthews, western side of All Saints Secondary School 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Section of Jolly Hill 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	Section of Matthews in the vicinity of the Substation 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM	—

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

Local News



ABWU in “war of words” with PM

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers’ Union (ABWU) has taken issue with recent statements made by Prime Minister Gaston Browne regarding severance and other benefits being sought by former employees of LIAT.

Late last week, the head of government restated that his administration has no legal obligation to pay the former workers despite the government’s “compassionate payment” offer which would see workers who accept receive fifty percent of what is owed to them.

This comes amidst calls by the ABWU for the Browne administration to pay the ex-LIAT workers, who have been out of work for over two years, in full.

The prime minister admonished the former employees to be mindful of the fact that the ABWU is politically motivated and added that they risk compromising the temporary offer of cash, land and bonds being offered.

“We’ve offered them a very generous offer and I am appealing to them to accept and let us move forward and settle this issue.

“Again, we accept no liability, but just a caring government that wants to bring them some relief. I am being told that we have over a million dollars still in the account after we made \$2 million available to them,” said the prime minister.

Browne’s comments prompted swift reaction from the union which is hinging its argument on morality.

“The Antigua and Barbuda Workers’ Union maintains its position that while the shareholder governments may not have a legal obligation to the ex-workers, they have a moral responsibility to reach a mutual settlement with the former employees.

“Such a settlement must take into consideration the workers’ reasonable expectations of their terminal benefits.



This position is one that is held by all of our partner unions throughout the Caribbean; it is not the conjecture of a single union working in isolation to aid a political party,” the statement read.

As to its political affiliation with the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP), the ABWU described the PM’s assertion as “a deliberate distortion of the reality and mischievous at best!”

Doubling down on its position to negotiate on behalf of the airline’s former workers, the statement appealed for dialogue among key players instead of “intimidation” and “bullying” tactics.

“To date, more than half of the workers have rejected this [compassionate] offer. The ABWU applauds the dozens of workers who have refused to trade in their hard-earned benefits for a fraction of the value.

“Gaston Browne’s vehement objection to any form of dialogue towards settling the severance issue is unreasonable and unwarranted. Even his colleague prime minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, has called for a ‘humanitarian’ solution that would involve some level of ‘compromise’ by shareholder governments.

“Moreover, in April, Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Phillip J. Pierre, com-

mitted to making severance payments to the non-management staff of the airline, even though his government is not among the shareholders,” the statement said.

While several of LIAT’s ex-staff have accepted the government’s compassionate payment package, about 150 others have not according to the airline’s court appointed administrator, Cleveland Seaforth, who added that EC\$1,000,060 of the EC\$2 million allocated to this cause has gone unclaimed.

“It is fair to say that in recent months, people have not really come to collect cheques. So about 50 percent of the money that the government made available for the payment of severance is still there and can easily be paid out.

“From my perspective, severance is the obligation of LIAT (1974) and it could only be paid from a disposal of assets,” Seaforth said in a recent appearance on state media.

The compassionate payment was announced by Minister of State, Lennox Weston, in December, 2021, for the purpose of “bringing Christmas cheer” to the LIAT staff who found themselves unemployed after the collapse of the regional airline in 2020 which was hastened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

American geographer, author visits GG, Public Library

American geographer and writer, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, paid courtesy calls on the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, and the Director of the National Public Library, Ryllis Mannix, while on a weekend stay in Antigua and Barbuda.

Among his books are *Island People: The Caribbean and the World* (2016), *Names of New York* (2021) and, with the writer Rebecca Solnit, *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* (2016).

Jelly-Schapiro is a regu-

lar contributor to *The New York Review of Books*.

He has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Believer*, *Artforum*, *Transition*, and *The Nation*.

Following a tour of the National Public Library, Mr. Jelly-Schapiro presented signed copies of his book, 'The Caribbean and the World', to the Director of the National Public Library, Mrs. Mannix.

Jelly-Schapiro last visited Antigua and Barbuda in 2014 to carry out research for his book.



Ryllis Mannix, Director of the National Public Library and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro



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Local News



Kelvin Simon to contest St. Mary's South seat on UPP ticket

Public school guidance counsellor, Kelvin Simon, has been named by the United Progressive Party (UPP) as its replacement candidate in the St. Mary's South Constituency.

The UPP made the announcement on Monday morning almost two weeks after it announced that its first-pick candidate, Cortwright Marshall, was being replaced due to ill health.

On Sunday evening, the party's council ratified decisions made by its executive committee earlier this month, "retiring previous candidate Cortwright Marshall out of concern for his health and recommending Simon, who emerged the



Kelvin Simon
front-runner in its constituency polls".

Simon will go up against the incumbent Samantha Marshall of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

In accepting the task of becoming the UPP's candidate in the St. Mary's South Constituency, Simon said

his interest in politics was sparked in 2004. He added that he was humbled by his selection as a candidate for the UPP, a party which he has long admired and expressed his eagerness to begin campaigning.

UPP leader, Harold Lovell, said Simon is ready

to effect change in the constituency and in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Simon is ready to roll up his sleeves and do the hard work that is needed in St. Mary's South. He is determined to help tackle the neglect of the young people, the spiralling cost of living, and the other challenges that are making life tough, not only for his constituents, but for too many Antiguan and Barbudans."

In welcoming Simon to the UPP's slate of candidates, Lovell gave an undertaking that the party will lend its support to his cause "to ensure that he covers the most ground in the shortest possible time".

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EU's loss is Caribbean islands' gain in CBI stakes

By Nick Kochan And Yuri Bender

A fast-changing regulatory backdrop has seen the levels of compliance and due diligence in countries offering citizenship by investment schemes strengthened

European countries marketing 'citizenship by investment' (CBI) programmes — which offer citizenship and passports in return for investments into tourism or infrastructure — are finding themselves under growing scrutiny.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has proved a key turning point in a complex international ecosystem, which has already been improving due diligence and oversight procedures to minimise reputational damage to host countries.

One example has been Bulgaria's announcement of a decision to withdraw its golden visa scheme in February this year, following international suspicion of a programme patronised by Russian investors. The operation of this scheme has previously undermined Bulgarian efforts to join the EU's borderless Schengen club.

Similarly, the UK's decision to curtail its popular Investment Visa programme was linked to



London's imposition of sanctions against Russia. Some practitioners, however, believe that European developments are the result of a knee-jerk rather than considered reaction.

"We are working hard to find alternative schemes for investors," says John Errington, a leading London-based immigration lawyer at Errington Immigration Services, commenting on the UK's stance.

"This decision was definitely unwelcomed and taken hastily."

EU SCRUTINY

EU institutions, long critical of CBI programmes, have piled further pressure on member states to wind down their schemes after the Russian invasion. On March 28,

2022, the European Commission called on the economic bloc's constituents "to immediately repeal any existing investor citizenship schemes and to ensure strong checks are in place to address the risks posed by investor residence schemes".

Furthermore, member states, according to the EU, should assess whether citizenship granted under a 'golden passport' scheme to Russian or Belarusian nationals on an EU sanctions list, drawn up in response to the war in Ukraine, should be withdrawn.

Smaller participating countries in other regions have benefited from these developments.

"People can get the St Kitts citizenship quickly. They regard it as an insur-

ance policy against political turmoil at home," says Mr Errington.

Along with other states in the region, the Caribbean dual-island nation of St Kitts and Nevis is becoming a more popular residential centre for political and economic migrants. The Covid pandemic and the war in Europe — both hugely disruptive events to societies — have encouraged more and more Europeans and North Americans to consider a quieter life on the tropical islands.

Mr Errington is not convinced that all his clients are ready for such a dramatic change of pace and scenery. "When people enquire about a visa from one of the Caribbean islands, I always ask if they can see themselves living

cont'd on pg 10

Business



cont'd from pg 9

there for most of the year. Many want to have an office in London and a British school for their children," he says.

NEW APPROACH

Not only are investors spending more time researching the lifestyle choices associated with their target jurisdictions, they also need to make sure their favoured countries can issue reputable passports, offering good access to a variety of destinations.

Observations by law enforcement agencies about the level of scrutiny of sources of funds in some jurisdictions have compounded the political factors opposing the programmes.

Some in the UK's law enforcement community have shared their concerns about the policing of investor citizenship schemes. The schemes are "a total nightmare", according to Richard Gould, a former senior officer at the UK's Serious Fraud Office, although he adds that due diligence is improving.

"I am not sure any jurisdictions really do the research about origin of wealth [as opposed to source of wealth]," he says.

"I have heard horror stories about some visas being granted after the investment sum was borrowed from a third party."

CBI schemes from several leading Caribbean jurisdictions have, in the past, caused considerable reputational damage to their host nations, believes Phil Mason, a former senior civil servant at the UK's Department for International Development.

"The schemes have been criticised for accepting people potentially implicated in money laundering, especially former Chinese and Russian nationals," he says.

"They also effectively give the holder access to visa-free trav-

el across the region which injects a multiplier effect of taint beyond their own shores. Antigua gave the status to Alan Stanford, the cricket fraudster who ended up getting them on the Financial Action Task Force blacklist for a while," adds Mr Mason. "My biggest concern was how easily due diligence on the recipients fell apart."

STRONGER STANDARDS

But most observers agree that internal levels of compliance in those countries still offering CBI have been strengthened, against a fast-changing regulatory backdrop. "Thankfully most jurisdictions are now either running the schemes down or implementing some reasonable due diligence," adds Mr Gould.

Others associated with crime fighting agencies agree that entry requirements are tightening.

"I think it is getting harder to qualify for these programmes," says Jonathan Benton, a consultant at asset tracing and enhanced due diligence provider Intelligent Sanctuary, who formerly worked for the UK National Crime Agency's anti-corruption unit. "Previously it used to be quite easy as you didn't even have to put £1m down, you'd just have to say you'll invest in a property scheme."

Practitioners also say the type of applicants is changing, with legitimate Western small business owners now exceeding controversial, politically-connected tycoons originating from developing countries.

"Things have changed dramatically and our business just got two new dimensions," says Christian Kaelin, chairman of investment migration specialists Henley & Partners, referring to a changing pattern of applications following the Covid pandemic and Russia waging war in Ukraine.

"The war in Europe has made

people think: where do I go if it really escalates?" he asks, adding that increasing political volatility in previously politically liberal Western countries is also boosting demand for CBI applications.

"Twenty years ago, I talked to people about alternative residence or citizenship and it was a difficult conversation," he recalls. "Today, most countries around the world are not as stable as they were previously. Now even the US and UK have unstable political systems and socioeconomic tensions."

Applicants from developing countries such as Russia and China, plus Middle Eastern and Asian nations no longer form the majority of the client base, he says.

"US citizens are now our single largest client group. The war and the pandemic have shown people they need access rights.

"Two decades previously, they would have laughed at Caribbean citizenship. Now everything has changed."

These changes include the ability of investment migrants to move freely around the Caricom bloc of nations, which he likens to a Caribbean EU.

Wealthy investors in CBI, says Mr Kaelin, are also increasingly keen to help poor countries hit by either economic or natural disasters such as tropical storms.

This trend reflects a younger generation of business people, more interested in philanthropy and impact investment.

"The only lifeline for Caribbean states during the pandemic, when the cruise ships stopped visiting, was CBI," he says.

"The only thing that kept things alive in the East Caribbean was these schemes allowing people to contribute to economies and the social environment.



"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

Sports 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



Maya village's water, future threatened by Mexican train

By Mark Stevenson

Mexico's ambitious Maya Train project is supposed to bring development to the Yucatan Peninsula, but along the country's Caribbean coast it is threatening the Indigenous Maya people it was named for and dividing communities it was meant to help.

One controversial stretch cuts a more than 68-mile (110-kilometre) swath through the jungle between the resorts of Cancun and Tulum, over some of the most complex and fragile underground cave systems in the world.

It is one of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's signature projects and has drawn objections from environmentalists, archaeologists and cave divers, who have held protests to block backhoes from tearing down trees and scraping clean the thin layer of soil.

But for the largely Maya inhabitants of the village of Vida y Esperanza – a clutch of about 300 people and 70 houses whose name means “Life and Hope” – the train is going to run right by their doors. They fear it will pollute the caves that supply them with water, endanger their children and cut off their access to the outside world.

A few miles away from the acres of felled trees where the train is supposed to run, archaeologist and cave diver Octavio Del Rio points to the Guardianes cave that lies directly beneath the train's path. The cave's limestone roof is only two or three feet thick in some places, and would almost certainly collapse under the weight of a speeding train.

“We are running the risk that all this will be buried, and this history lost,” Del Rio says.

López Obrador dismisses critics like Del Rio as “pseudo environmentalists” funded by foreign governments.

As with his other signature projects,



A bulldozer clears an area of forest that will be the line of the Mayan Train in Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022. Mexico's ambitious Maya Train project is supposed to bring development to the Yucatan Peninsula, but along the country's Caribbean coast it is threatening the Indigenous Maya people it was named for and dividing communities it was meant to help. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

including a new airport in the capital and a massive new oil refinery on the gulf, the president exempted the train from environmental impact studies and last month invoked national security powers to forge ahead, overriding court injunctions.

Many critics say López Obrador's obsession with the projects threatens Mexico's democratic institutions. But the president counters that he just wants to develop the historically poor southern part of Mexico.

“We want to take advantage of all the tourism that arrives in Cancun, so they can take the Maya Train to see other natural beauty spots, especially the ancient Mayan cities in Yucatán, Campeche, Chiapas, Tabasco,” which are poor neighbouring states, López Obrador said earlier this month.

But the Maya themselves are people scraping a living from the limestone

bed of the dry tropical jungle. The ancient Mayan civilization reached its height from 300 A.D. to 900 A.D. on the Yucatan Peninsula and adjacent to parts of Central America, and they are best known for constructing monumental temple sites like Chichen Itza.

The Mayas' descendants continue to live on the peninsula, many speaking the Mayan language and wearing traditional clothing, while also conserving traditional foods, crops, religion and medicine practices, despite the conquest of the region by the Spanish between 1527 and 1546.

“I think that there is nothing Maya” about the train, said Lidia Caamal Puc, whose family came from the Mayan town of Peto, in the neighbouring Yucatan state, to settle here 22 years ago. “Some people say it will bring great benefits, but for us Mayas that work the

cont'd on pg 14



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The World Around Us



cont'd from pg 12

land, that live here, we don't see any benefits."

"Rather, it will hurt us, because, how should I put it, they are taking away what we love so much, the land."

When marines showed up last month to start cutting down trees in preparation for the train on the edge of the village, residents who hadn't been paid for their expropriated land stopped them from working.

The head of the village council and a supporter of the train, Jorge Sánchez, acknowledged that the government "had not paid the people who were affected" even though the government has said they will get compensation.

But it's not just about the money, Sánchez said. "It will bring back jobs for our people."



Tourists swim in a cenote, a natural deep-water well, in Playa del Carmen, one of the proposed stops along the Maya Train project in Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador dismisses critics of his Maya Train project as "pseudo environmentalists" funded by foreign governments, while some locals fear it will pollute the caves that supply them with water. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

The 950-mile (1,500-kilometre) Maya Train line will run in a rough loop around the Yucatan Peninsula, connecting beach resorts and archaeological sites. But in Vida y Esperanza, the train will cut directly through the narrow, rutted four-mile (six-kilometre) dirt road that leads to the nearest paved highway.

For more than two years, Mayan communities have been objecting to the train line, filing court challenges

arguing the railway violated their right to a safe, clean environment, and to be consulted; in 2019, the Mexico office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights found that what consultations the government did do were flawed.

The question about the economics of the train, and tourism income, is more complex, in part because no credible feasibility studies were done.

The project is expected to cost about \$8 billion — but appears likely to rise to as much as \$11 billion — while the government calculates it will bring in \$9.5 billion in revenue or "benefits."

But those estimates are widely doubted because López Obrador is essentially betting on luring sun-and-sand beachgoers to the ruins

cont'd on pg 15

We're Backkkkk

The Police Drama Group is back with a play called

School call Eeeeeen



Written and directed
By Owen Jackson

Antigua Recreation Ground

\$20.00 **8:pm** **\$20.00**

Saturday 10th September 2022

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and Indigenous towns for so-called “cultural tourism.” It is not clear how many want to combine those two activities, especially if the high speed train zooms past the beauties of the low jungle.

International tourism to the country has started to recover from pandemic losses, with the strongest showing from U.S. visitors. In the first half of 2022, just over 10 million tourists arrived from January to June, 1.5% higher than the first half of 2019. But overall tourist spending remains below pre-pandemic levels.

Unless the army, which is building the train line, constructs a large overpass bridge above the tracks, villagers would be forced to take a back road four times as long to get to the highway. It would no longer make economic sense to live there.

The government tourism agency that oversees the train project, Fonatur, says an overpass will be built for Vida y Esperanza. But such promises have gone unfulfilled in the past.

And the army plans to fill the underground caves to support the weight of the passing trains, which could block or contaminate the underground water system.

The high-speed train can't have at-grade crossings, and won't be fenced, so that 100-mile per hour (160-kph) trains will rush past an elementary school. Most of the students walk to get there.

Just as bad, the train

project has divided Vida y Esperanza.

Luis López, 36, who works at a local store and opposes the train, said “it might bring minor benefits, but it has downsides.”

“The cenotes will be filled or contaminated,” he said, referring to the sinkholes that villagers rely on. “I survive on the water from a cenote, to wash dishes, to bathe.”

Many residents of Vida y Esperanza, who rely on diesel generators, would much rather have electricity than a tourist train that will rush by and never stop there.

Mario Basto, 78, a wiry resident who works as a gardener, said he'd rather have decent medical care than the train.

“It seems like the government has money it just needs to get rid of, when there are hundreds of hospitals that don't have medicine,” Basto said.

And there are some people in Vida y Esperanza who support the train project, almost entirely because of jobs it has brought during construction.

Benjamin Chim, a taxi and truck driver who is already employed by the Maya Train, will also lose part of his land to the project. But he says he doesn't care, noting “it is going to be a benefit, in terms of jobs.”

“They are taking a bit of land, but it's a bit that doesn't have any symbolic value, for me it doesn't mean anything,” Chim said.

While the president's

supporters have claimed that anybody who opposes the train isn't really Mayan, that would be news to people in Vida y Esperanza, where residents swear that Mayan spirits, known as “Aluxes,” inhabit the forest.

Locals pacify the spirits by leaving a small drink of wine out for them.

Bright blue-green Toh birds, tarantulas, blue morpho butterflies, iguanas and the occasional jaguar cross the roads and jungle.

And it would also threaten something older than even the Mayas.

Del Rio, the archaeologist, discovered human remains of the Maya's ancestors that may date as far back

as 13,700 years in another cave network – but it took him and other divers 1 1/2 years to snake through a single cavern system. “This is work that takes years, years,” he said.

López Obrador wants to finish the entire train in 16 months by filling the caves with cement or sinking concrete columns through the caverns – the only places that allowed humans to survive in this area.

But for the villagers, much of the damage has already been done.

“They have already stolen our tranquillity, the moment they cut through to lay the train line,” Caamal Puc said.



African migratory birds threatened by hot, dry weather

By Wanjohi Kabukuru

Africa's migratory birds are threatened by changing weather patterns in the centre and east of the continent that have depleted natural water systems and caused a devastating drought.

Hotter and drier conditions due to climate change make it difficult for travelling species who are losing their water sources and breeding grounds, with many now endangered or forced to alter their migration patterns entirely by settling in cooler northern areas.

Roughly 10% of Africa's more than 2,000 bird species, including dozens of migratory birds, are threatened, with 28 species — such as the Madagascar fish eagle, the Taita falcon and hooded vultures — classed as “critically endangered.”

Over one-third of them are especially vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather, an analysis by environmental group BirdLife International said.

“Birds are being affected by climate change just like any other species,” BirdLife policy coordinator Ken Mwathe said.

“Migratory birds are affected more than other groups of birds because they must keep on mov-



Flamingoes feed in the popular Berg River estuary in Velddrif, South Africa, Monday Sept. 14, 2020. The alteration of weather patterns like the ongoing drought in east and central Africa chiefly driven by climate change is severely undermining natural water systems devastating livelihoods and now threatening the survival of most of the world's famed migratory bird species. (AP Photo/Nardus Engelbrecht, File)

ing,” which makes it more likely that a site they rely on during their journey has degraded in some way.

The African-Eurasian flyway, the flight corridor for birds that travel south through the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert for the winter, harbours over 2,600 sites for migrating birds.

An estimated 87% of African sites are at risk from climate change, a greater proportion than in Europe or Asia, a study by the United Nations environment agency and con-

servation group Wetlands International found.

Africa is more vulnerable to climate change because it is less able to adapt, said Evans Mukolwe, a retired meteorologist and science director at the World Meteorological Organization.

“Poverty, biodiversity degradation, extreme weather events, lack of capital and access to new technologies” make it more difficult for the continent to protect habitats for wild species, Mukolwe said.

Hotter temperatures due to human-caused climate change and less rainfall shrink key wetland areas and water sources, which birds rely on during migratory journeys.

“Lake Chad is an example,” Mwathe said. “Before birds cross the Sahara, they stop by Lake Chad, and then move to the Northern or Southern hemisphere.

“But Lake Chad has been shrinking over the years,” which compromises its ability to support

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birds, he said.

Parched birds means tougher journeys, which has an impact on their ability to breed, said Paul Matiku, executive director of Nature Kenya.

Flamingoes, for example, which normally breed in Lake Natron in Tanzania are unlikely to be able to “if the migration journey is too rough,” Matiku said.

He added that “not having water in those wetlands means breeding will not take place” since flamingoes need water to create mud nests that keep their eggs away from the intense heat of dry ground.

Non-migratory birds are also struggling with the changing climate.

African fish eagles, found throughout sub-Saharan Africa, are now forced to travel further in search

of food.

The number of South African Cape Rockjumpers and Protea canaries is severely declining.

Bird species living in the hottest and driest areas, like in the Kalahari Desert that spans Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, are approaching their “physiological limits,” the most recent assessment by the U.N.’s expert climate panel said.

It added that birds are less able to find food and are losing body mass, causing large-scale deaths for those living in extreme heat.

“Forest habitats get hotter with climate change and ... dryland habitats get drier and savannah birds lack food because grass never seeds, flowers never fruit, and insects never emerge as they do when it rains,” Matiku said.

Other threats, such as the illegal wildlife trade, agriculture, the

growth of urban areas and pollution are also stunting bird populations like African fish eagles and vultures, he said.

Better land management projects that help restore degraded wetlands and forests and protect areas from infrastructure, poaching or logging will help preserve the most vulnerable species, the U.N. environmental agency said.

Birds and other species would benefit from concerted efforts to improve water access and food security, especially as sea level rise and extreme weather events are set to continue, said Amos Makarau, the Africa regional director of the U.N. weather agency.

Scientists say that curbing emissions of planet-warming gases, especially in high-emitting nations, could also limit future weather-related catastrophes.



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British Virgin Islands Governor appoints individuals to lead review in areas of concerns

CMC – The Governor of the British Virgin Islands, John Rankin, has appointed individuals to lead reviews in three areas of concern surrounding government processes outlined in the Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

The recommendations by Commissioner Sir Gary Hickinbottom had indicated there must be reviews into the discretionary powers of public officials, the disposal of Crown lands, and House of Assembly members contracting with the government, among other things.

During a recent press conference, the governor indicated that people have been selected and appointed to review the processes in these areas.

“I am pleased to say these reviews will be led respectively by Ms. Anthea Smith, Mr. David Abednego and Mr.



Governor of the British Virgin Islands, John Rankin

Denniston Fraser,” Rankin said.

Smith has been an attorney-at-law in the Virgin Islands for more than two decades and she was appointed by former Governor Augustus Jaspert to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission in 2019.

Adednego is the Managing Partner

of Harbour Chambers BVI. He spent 11 years in the BVI Financial Services Commission as the deputy director and director of the Insolvency Services Department. He also specialises in BVI property law with great emphasis on residential property and raw land acquisition and disposal.

Fraser is a former managing director of the BVI Airports Authority. He retired in 2019. Fraser is also a practising attorney in the British Overseas Territory.

In addition to the appointments, the governor also announced that the Public Service Management Code is close to being finalised.

“This will be followed by a period of consultation with the public service, and I hope shortly thereafter to be able to sign the new code into effect,” Rankin said.

UN shipping officer says aid delivery by ship to Haiti becoming ‘increasingly critical’

CMC – A shipping officer with the United Nations’ World Food Program (WFP) says aid delivery by ship to Haiti is becoming “increasingly critical.”

Speaking on Friday as the global body celebrated World Humanitarian Day, Captain Madeleine Habib who manages the organisation’s coastal shipping service to ensure the safe transit of essential humanitarian goods and assets to the northern and southern parts of the country voiced concern about the need for deliveries.

“A maritime alternative is increasingly critical as

gang control over the highways out of the capital continues to grow,” she added.

“This means that the Haitian population and humanitarian actors have limited freedom of movement in and out of the capital.

“The situation has a huge impact on the population’s income and on the implementation of humanitarian and development projects that should support the community,” Habib continued.

“This is especially true for the population of the southern peninsula of the country, which is still suffering from the devastating

impact of the August 2021 earthquake.”

She said farmers in the south of Haiti are struggling to get their goods to markets.

“One year after the disaster, I recognize that thousands of people, especially in the south, are still struggling to recover and are unable to rebuild their lives because the growing insecurity in Port-au-Prince has shattered their economic prospects,” Habib said.

“Farmers in the rural south are unable to get their produce to markets, so their livelihoods are suffering.



Captain Madeleine Habib
[Photo: Jiri Rezac/Greenpeace]

“It takes a village, and the supply chain is an essential part of that village,”

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Barbados PM warns of more food supply disruption

CMC – Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley has warned of more disruption to the food supply into next year as a result of droughts in North America, China, and other parts of the world.

Speaking to the in-person and virtual audience attending to the Agri-Investment Forum and Expo II at the Queen's Park Savannah on Friday, Mottley stressed that a reorganisation of plans beyond the medium term, is imperative.

"It, therefore, means that our plans cannot only be medium-term plans to substitute feed, which we must do, as Guyana is planning to do under the distinguished leadership of my brother, President [Dr. Irfaan] Ali by 2025, with corn and soya production being ramped up to scale," she stated.

"We don't have the luxury of that. Because we have a population that is feeling the vagaries and the negative consequences of rampant inflation. But inflation is going to also reinforce the fact that the lack of access is going to be there because of these droughts."

Given this expectation, Mottley repeated the urgency for regional farmers to grow six- and twelve-week crops and suggested that they also fo-



Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley

cus on rearing six-week livestock to meet the needs of the region.

"None of us can avoid the reality that our people must eat. And the reality is, that there are things that we can do and that we have done in our past to ensure survival.

And we are there again. Whether it is rabbits or chickens, whether it is fishing, whether it is new forays as we are doing in Barbados in aquaculture, we have the responsibility for urgent action today," the Prime Minister added.

Since the hosting of the Guyana forum, Mottley shared that regional heads had been asked to formulate a framework for financing. She added that Barbados had worked assiduously with the financiers as well as with

regional and international organisations to effect this.

"We've written to every minister of agriculture asking for the projects. Some have started to come in already and they'll be loaded on the electronic dashboard that will be available for heads to see today. Also, on that dashboard will be training support from CARDI..."

The prime minister also reiterated the importance of tackling the issue of air and maritime transportation, pointing out that regional heads were working on these areas, which she emphasised was a work in progress.

The Expo, which concludes on Sunday, has as its theme: Transforming Agriculture through Innovation and Investment.

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she added. "We might not be on the frontline, but our network of trucks, ships and planes keeps essential humanitarian aid moving towards our beneficiaries.

"Our team continues to ensure the transportation of humanitarian aid to these vulnerable populations," Habib said.

WFP said in a statement that its school feeding program is considered to be the largest food safety net in Haiti. Every school day, WFP said it delivers hot meals to close to 300,000 children across more than 1,000 schools, mainly public, throughout the country.

The organisation says it buys locally an average

of 800 metric tons of food annually for the program, supporting national agriculture in line with the Haitian government's rural development priorities.

The UN agency said it is currently providing emergency food assistance to more than 150,000 people who have been affected by a prolonged drought

and the deterioration of the economic situation since 2018.

To help mitigate the impact of future disasters, WFP said it works to ensure that stocks of emergency food are on standby in the "right locations" before the start of the hurricane season, which runs from June to November each year.

Police file terrorism charges against Pakistan's Imran Khan

AP — Pakistani police have filed terrorism charges against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, authorities said Monday, escalating political tensions in the country as the ousted premier holds mass rallies seeking to return to office.

The charges followed a speech Khan gave in Islamabad on Saturday in which he vowed to sue police officers and a female judge and alleged that a close aide had been tortured after his arrest.

Khan himself has not publicly spoken about the latest charges against him. However, a court in Islamabad issued a so-called "protective bail" for Khan for the next three days, preventing police from arresting him over the charges, said Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a senior leader in his Tehreek-e-Insaf opposition party.

Hundreds of Tehreek-e-Insaf members stood outside Khan's home on



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks during a joint news conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul, File)

Monday in a show of support as the former premier held meetings inside.

The party has warned that it will hold nationwide rallies if Khan is arrested while working to try to squash the charges in court.

"We will take over Islamabad and my message to police is ... don't be part of this political war anymore," warned Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, a former minister under Khan.

Under Pakistan's legal system, police file what is

known as a first information report about charges against an accused person to a magistrate judge, who allows the investigation to move forward. Typically, police then arrest and question the accused.

The report against Khan includes testimony from Magistrate Judge Ali Javed, who described being at the Islamabad rally on Saturday and hearing Khan criticise the inspector-general of Pakistan's police and another judge. Khan went on to re-

portedly say: "You also get ready for it, we will also take action against you. All of you must be ashamed."

Khan could face several years in prison from the new charges, which accuse him of threatening police officers and the judge under Pakistan's 1997 anti-terrorism law, which granted police wider powers amid sectarian violence in the country.

However, 25 years later, critics say the law helps security forces skirt constitutional protections for defendants while governments also used it for political purposes.

Other former Pakistani politicians, including former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and former President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, also have been targeted in probes using the law.

Khan has not been detained on other lesser charges levied against him in his recent campaigning against the government.

Philippine kids back in school after two years lost to virus

AP — Millions of students wearing face masks streamed back to primary and secondary schools across the Philippines on Monday for their first in-person classes after two years of coronavirus lockdowns that are feared to have worsened alarming illiteracy rates among children.

Officials grappled with daunting problems, including classroom shortag-

es, lingering COVID-19 fears, an approaching storm and quake-damaged school buildings in the country's north, to welcome back nearly 28 million students who enrolled for the school year.

In a grade school in San Juan city in the capital region, teachers checked the temperatures of students and sprayed alcohol on their hands before letting them into classrooms.

Renaline Pemapelis, 27, excitedly gave last-minute instructions to her son, who was going to school for the first time. "I have mixed feelings, worried and excited," she said.

Only about 24,000 of the nation's public schools, or about 46%, were able to begin in-person classes five times a week starting Monday, while the rest

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Argentina farmers hoard soybeans in standoff with government

AlJazeera – Typically, what Walter Malfatto reaps, he sells. For the 59-year-old farmer who toils 700 hectares (1,730 acres) of farmland in the province of Buenos Aires, that consists mostly of soybeans, along with wheat and barley.

But this year, Malfatto estimates he has stored 60 to 70 percent of his harvest in silo bags – a method he says is intended to insulate him from an ongoing economic crisis that has eroded the Argentine peso.

“They’re going to have to devalue the currency soon,” Malfatto told Al Jazeera. “The agricultural sector won’t be able to sustain it otherwise.”

As a grain shortage fuelled by the war in Ukraine wreaks havoc in some parts of the world, Argentina, a breadbasket nation, is caught in its own standoff.

President Alberto Fernandez has accused the agricultural sector of hoarding \$20bn worth of products as

it speculates with a volatile economy and a currency devaluation he says is not coming. “They’re not going to twist my arm,” the president said in a public address last month that took aim at the “speculators”.

Inflation is expected to hit 90 percent this year in Argentina. The country is on its third economy minister in six weeks, and the Central Bank is pulling levers intended to build up its dwindling US dollar reserves.

One key place the government has looked to is the powerful agricultural sector.

Yet an attempt to incentivise more soy exports through a new arrangement that increases the amount of money farmers make has not yielded the desired results. The system, available until the end of August, gives producers more options to convert their earnings to US dollars, as well as a better exchange rate for a portion of the sales.



Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez has accused the agricultural sector of hoarding \$20bn worth of products amid an economic crisis in the South American nation [File: Matias Baglietto/Reuters]

The government says it needs exports to increase so that more US dollars flow into its reserves in particular so that it can cover the cost of importing natural gas, which has gone up in both price and consumption during the country's winter months.

Meanwhile, earlier this year, the government hiked export taxes on soy oil and flour by two percentage points, to 33 percent, in a bid to help stabilise domestic prices. Wheat and corn exports are taxed at a rate of 12 percent.

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will resort to a mix of in-person and online classes until Nov. 2, when all public and private schools are required to bring all students back to classrooms, education officials said.

But about 1,000 schools will be unable to shift entirely to face-to-face classes during the transition period for various reasons, including damage to school building wrought by a powerful earthquake last month in the north, officials said.

The Department of Education said some schools will have to split classes into up to three shifts a day due to class-



A boy talks to his mother from a smartphone during the opening of classes at the San Juan Elementary School in metro Manila, Philippines on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

room shortages, a longstanding problem, and to avoid overcrowding that could turn schools into new centres of coronavirus outbreaks.

Among the worst-hit by the pandemic in Southeast Asia, the Philippines under then-President Rodrigo Duterte enforced one of the

world's longest coronavirus lockdowns and school closures. Duterte, whose six-year term ended June 30, rejected calls for a resumption of in-person classes due to fears it might ignite new outbreaks. The prolonged school closures sparked fears that literacy rates among Filipino children — already at alarming levels before the pandemic — could worsen.

A World Bank study last year showed that about nine out of 10 children in the Philippines were suffering from “learning poverty,” or the inability of children by age 10 to read and understand a simple story.



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Qatar detains workers protesting late pay before World Cup

AP – Qatar recently arrested at least 60 foreign workers who protested going months without pay and deported some of them, an advocacy group said, just three months before Doha hosts the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The move comes as Qatar faces intense international scrutiny over its labour practices ahead of the tournament. Like other Gulf Arab nations, Qatar heavily relies on foreign labour. The workers' protest a week ago — and Qatar's reaction to it — could further fuel the concern.

The head of a labour consultancy investigating the incident said the detentions cast new doubt on Qatar's pledges to improve the treatment of workers. "Is this really the reality coming out?" asked Mustafa Qadri, executive director of the group Equidem.

In a statement to The Associated Press on Sunday night, Qatar's government acknowledged that "a number of protesters were detained for breaching public safety laws." It declined to offer any information about the arrests or any deportations.

Video footage posted online showed some 60 workers angry about their salaries protesting on Aug. 14 outside of the Doha offices of Al Bandy International



Branding is displayed near the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, in Doha, Qatar, March 31, 2022. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic, File)

Group, a conglomerate that includes construction, real estate, hotels, food service and other ventures. Some of those demonstrating hadn't received their salaries for as many as seven months, Equidem said.

The protesters blocked an intersection on Doha's C Ring Road in front of the Al Shoumoukh Tower. The footage matched known details of the street, including it having several massive portraits of Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, looking down on passers-by.

Al Bandy International Group, which is privately owned, did not respond to requests for comment and a telephone number registered in its name did not connect on multiple attempts to call it.

The Qatari government acknowledged that the firm

hadn't paid salaries and that its Labour Ministry would pay "all delayed salaries and benefits" to those affected.

"The company was already under investigation by the authorities for non-payment of wages before the incident, and now further action is being taken after a deadline to settle outstanding salary payments was missed," the government said.

Qadri said police later arrested the protesters and held them in a detention centre where some described being in a stifling heat without air conditioning. Doha's temperature this week reached around 41 degrees Celsius (105.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

Qadri described police telling those held that if they can strike in hot weather, they can sleep without air conditioning.

One detained worker who called Equidem from the detention centre described seeing as many as 300 of his colleagues there from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Nepal and the Philippines. He said some had been paid salaries after the protest while others hadn't. His comments could not be corroborated.

Qatar, like other Gulf Arab nations, has in the past deported demonstrating foreign workers, and tied residency visas to employment. The right to form unions remains tightly controlled and available only to Qataris, as is the country's limited right to assembly, according to the Washington-based advocacy group Freedom House.

Since FIFA awarded the tournament to Qatar in 2010, the country has taken some steps to overhaul the country's employment practices.

That includes eliminating its so-called kafala employment system, which tied workers to their employers, who had a say over whether they could leave their jobs or even the country.

Qatar also has adopted a minimum monthly wage of 1,000 Qatari riyals (\$275) for workers and required food and housing allowances for employees not receiving that directly from their employers.

Sports News



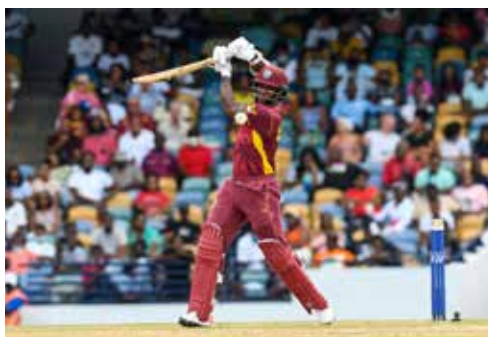
Mayers ends with superb ton but Black Caps have final say

Kyle Mayers scored a brilliant second ODI century and first on home soil but his 105 was not enough as West Indies went under to New Zealand in a high-scoring contest on Sunday night. Under lights at the picturesque Kensington Oval, the visitors produced a superb run chase to overhaul a target of 302 in the decisive third encounter and complete the twin.

Mayers' knock led West Indies to their highest total against New Zealand in eight years, but the Black Caps batters played well throughout their reply to record the third highest run chase at the venue with 17 balls to spare. They took the CG United Series 2-1.

Man-of-the-Match and stand-in skipper Tom Latham led the effort with 69 off 75 balls, scoring one of four half-centuries as Daryl Mitchell (63), Martin Guptill (57) and Devon Conway (56) all weighed in.

When Latham was dismissed in the 44th over leaving two new batsmen at



the crease, Jimmy Neesham exploded with an 11-ball unbeaten 34 – in a 48-run, unbroken sixth wicket stand with Michael Bracewell (14 not out).

The left-handed Mayers had earlier top-scored with 105 from 110 balls as West Indies marched to 301-8 off their 50 overs, after being sent in. Captain Nicholas Pooran blasted a breathtaking 91 from just 55 balls while prolific opener Shai Hope laid the platform with 51.

“This is a tough one. Scoring 300-plus on that wicket I felt was really good. At the half-way stage we felt like we were in the game,” Pooran

said. “But in saying that, I can’t ask the bowlers to do anymore to be honest. One or two more wickets in the power-play would’ve been ideal for us but New Zealand batted well. They put a couple partnerships together and it was tough for us.”

Mayers emerged from a watchful start to get after New Zealand’s attack. He smashed a dozen fours and three sixes, posting 173 for the first wicket with Hope whose knock came off 100 balls and included three fours and a six.

In the back end of the innings, Pooran counter-attacked in a whirlwind knock which included four fours and nine sixes, as he added 52 for the fifth wicket with Keacy Carty (4) before eventually falling in the penultimate over to left-arm seamer Trent Boult who finished with 3-53. Alzarri Joseph then hit 20 not out – including a last ball six which took the home team over the 300-mark.

US Open: Alexander Zverev out as Rafael Nadal and Cameron Norrie move up seedings

BBC – World number two Alexander Zverev has withdrawn from the US Open as he continues to recover from torn ankle ligaments suffered during his French Open semi-final against Rafael Nadal.

Germany's Zverev, 25, was not expected to be able to play after needing surgery in early June.

The 2020 US Open runner-up officially pulled out of the event on Monday.

Britain's Cameron Nor-

rie, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals, moves up to eighth seed.

It means the 26-year-old left-hander would not be able to face a higher-ranked opponent until at least the quarter-finals of the Grand Slam tournament, which starts in New York on 29 August.

Spain's world number three Nadal, who last week lost in his only match since pulling out of Wimbledon with an abdominal injury,



Zverev cried out in pain following the nasty fall in the French Open semi-final against Rafael Nadal and was taken off court in a wheelchair

ry, will be seeded second behind Russia's defending champion Daniil Medvedev.

Antigua & Barbuda Combined Schools win T20 series opener

Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools have made a successful start to their three-match T20 series against the Dominica Combined Schools in their cricket series in Dominica.

After both teams battled to a 2-2 draw in their four-match 40-over series, Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools pulled off a six-wicket victory over their Dominican counterparts in their opening match of their T20 competition at Windsor Park Sports Stadium on Sunday, 21st August.

The Dominicans were dismissed for 87 in 19.4 overs, with Yawani Regis getting 29. Kishawn Viville



The Antigua & Barbuda Combined School team on their current tour to Dominica for a cricket series. (File photo)

made 16 and Tyrese Leblanc scored 10.

Ajahrie Joseph picked up three wickets for 17 runs and Malinga Bruney claimed three wickets for 18 runs.

Set 88 to win, Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools achieved their victory target for the loss of four wickets in 18 overs.

Xaveek Toppin hit a top

score of 39 not out and Dravid Richardson made 31. C'Jay Charles captured three wickets for seven runs and Viville picked up one wicket for four runs.

Antigua & Barbuda Under-17s to engage in four-team competition

The Antigua and Barbuda National Under-17 Boys' team will be involved in a series of matches from this week at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Technical Centre at Paynters as they intensify their preparation for their participation in a Concacaf youth qualifying tournament in Nicaragua at the end of the month.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) is helping with the team's preparation by staging the Pride of the Caribbean Under-17 Boys Tournament from 23rd to 27th August.

The competition will feature three other Caribbean teams who will be providing match preparations for the Antigua and Barbuda Under-17 side ahead of their up-coming engagements in Nicaragua.

The other teams participating in the competition are St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Grenada.

Double-headers will be played on each match day, starting at 5pm and 7 pm. The competition will kick-off with its first double-header today (Tuesday) at the technical centre at Paynters. St. Lucia will face Grenada at 5pm and hosts Antigua and Barbuda will tackle St. Vincent and the Grenadines at 7 pm.

In tomorrow's matches, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will challenge St. Lucia at 5pm and Grenada will oppose Antigua and Barbuda at 7pm.

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

Antigua and Barbuda will contest

Group D of the Concacaf Under-17 Men's Qualifying Tournament in Managua, Nicaragua, from 30th August to 8th September.

The Antiguan and Barbudans will face Belize, Turks & Caicos Islands and hosts Nicaragua in the round robin competition.

After round robin play, the four group winners will advance to the 2023 Concacaf Under-17 Championship, joining the top 16 ranked nations that have been seeded directly into the group stage of the Championship.

Guatemala will host the 2023 Concacaf Under-17 Championship. The qualifying competition for the FIFA U-17 World Cup will take place from 11th to 26th February, 2023, in Guatemala City and Antigua in Guatemala.

Sports News



Rain washes out second LI game in Under-15 tournament in Grenada

For the second time in consecutive days, the Leeward Islands had their match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Super 50 Under-15 Boys Championship abandoned without a ball being bowled.

After having their opening round encounter against Jamaica at Lasagesse abandoned due to rain leaving the pitch uncondusive to play on

Saturday, 20th August, the Leewards suffered a similar fate in their second round encounter the following day.

The Leeward Islands second round match against the Windward Islands at Progress Park was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain on Sunday, 21st August.

Rain also severely affected Sunday's other two second-round match-

es as well.

The match between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica at the National Stadium in St George's was also abandoned without a ball being bowled.

The other second-round match between Guyana and Barbados at Lasagesse actually got on the way, but was later abandoned after rain brought a premature end to the encounter.

After losing the toss and being sent in to bat, Barbados were 18 without loss off six overs when rain interrupted the match, which was eventually abandoned due to conditions being unfit for play to continue.

The organisers and players will be hoping for improved conditions, which would allow for the third-round matches to take place today (Tuesday).

The Leeward Islands will take on Guyana at the Grenada National Stadium, Jamaica will meet Barbados at Lasagesse and the Windward Islands will clash with Trinidad and Tobago at Progress Park.

The tournament is scheduled to continue with the penultimate round of 50-overs matches tomorrow (Wednesday).

The Leeward Islands will face Trinidad and Tobago at Lasagesse, the Windward Islands will challenge Barbados at the Grenada National Stadium and Jamaica will oppose Guyana at Progress Park.

In the final round of matches slated for Friday, 27 August, the Leeward Islands will meet Barbados at the Grenada National Stadium, Trinidad and Tobago will take on Guyana at Lasagesse and the Windward Islands will clash with Jamaica at Progress Park.

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out on the field.

However, the situation was quickly brought under control and the officials had indicated they were ready to resume the match.

But while the Antigua and Barbuda team returned to the field ready for the re-start, it is reported that the Dominica team, led by head coach Shane Seraphin, indicated they were not willing to resume the encounter in fear of their safety.

However, instead of ruling that Dominica forfeited the game to Antigua and Barbuda by their failure to resume the encounter, the match officials surprisingly decided to declare the match as a no result, which effec-

tively ended all chances of victory and the championship for the young Benna Girls.

The decision to rule the match as a no result meant Antigua and Barbuda ended their campaign with five points and finished third in the tournament.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who surprisingly lost 2-3 against St. Lucia in the first game of Sunday's double-header, were declared champions of the tournament by virtue of finishing the competition with a superior goal difference over runners-up Grenada, after the two sides ended with seven points each.

Clorie Williams scored a hat-trick for the St. Lucians, while Mei-

ya Wilson netted both goals for the Vincentians.

Antigua and Barbuda's Gabrielle De Souza was declared the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in offense as she ended the tournament as the top individual scorer with five goals.

Griesa Joseph of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was named the Goalkeeper MVP, while teammate Keli-sha Bowen captured the Defender MVP award.

Abigail Williams of Grenada took home the award for the Mid-fielder MVP.

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



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda presents

Police Calypso Competition

Antigua Recreation Grounds

Wednesday 7th September 2022

8pm

\$20.00

Participants and Organizers shown in portraits:

- De Instructor
- Lady Moses
- Spraket
- I Queen
- Panampanana
- Tranada
- De Trooper
- Calypso Birdy
- Silky Smooth
- De Dagger
- Matoumba
- Lady Roberts

Controversial decision ends Antigua and Barbuda's hopes of winning Under-15 girls' title

A questionable decision by match officials to abandon their final match against Dominica robbed Antigua and Barbuda of the chance to finish as winners of the inaugural Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls Invitational Tournament at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday night.

With both teams deadlocked at 1-1 late in the first half, the match, which was stopped in the 33rd minute by the referee after a fight broke out between members of both teams and was further escalated when a few spectators ran onto the field and got involved in the fracas, was declared as a no result without any points awarded to either team.

The controversial ending also dashed Antigua and Barbuda's chances of winning the match, which would also have given them the title.

Leading up to the unsavory ending, the game was evenly poised. Kenisha Jno Lewis had scored a penalty in the 24th minute to give Dominica a 1-0 lead.



The Antigua and Barbuda team that started their final encounter against Dominica in the inaugural Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls Invitational Tournament at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday, 21st August, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

The penalty was awarded after the Antiguan left-back Karmiella Hughes infringed Dominica's midfielder Zarieah Pascal in the 18-yard box.

Jno Lewis then stepped forward to take the penalty kick in which the ball slipped through the legs of Antigua and Barbuda's goalkeeper Serenity Colbourne into the back of the

net.

Ironically, it was an error made by the Dominican custodian Dian Augustine that led to Antigua and Barbuda's equalizer six minutes later.

Augustine failed to collect a ball, which struck one of her legs and rebounded in the six-yards box.

Striker Annika Samuel reacted quickly to cap-

italize as she outran the Dominican defenders to collect the rebound and placed the ball into the vacant goal in the 30th minute.

But just when it seemed as if the Antiguan and Barbudans would go on to take control of the match, it came to a premature end when the brawl broke

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