

WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 185 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MOVING FORWARD WITH UNITY, STRENGTH AND STABILITY

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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
Moving Forward with
Unity, Strength
and Stability

Local News



Logo and theme for Independence 2022 released

The details of the programme of events, logo and theme for the 41st anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's political independence have been made public.

The Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation (MCII) said the events to commemorate Independence this year will run from 22nd October to 1st November.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Moving Forward with Unity, Strength and Stability".

The MCII said in a statement issued overnight that the theme and logo were the result of the collaborative and creative efforts of the ministry's staff.

This year's Independence events will involve activities on both of the nation's islands.

The celebrations will begin on 22nd October, with Barbuda Day on the sister island and the Festival of Choirs on Antigua.

The activities culminate on 1st

November with the Independence Parade, Food Fair and National Awards Ceremony.

Other activities of note include the national Youth Rally, the National Steelband Competition, National Dress and Flag Day, National Heroes Day, and the Thanksgiving Service.

MCII has extended an invitation to all members of the public to participate in the country's 41st Anniversary of Independence activities.

2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
MOVING FORWARD WITH UNITY, STRENGTH AND STABILITY

SATURDAY OCT 22 BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES ALL DAY BARBUDA FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS 8:00 PM DEAN WILLIAM LAKE CULTURAL CENTER	THURSDAY OCT 27 NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY SPECIAL DRILLS COMPETITION CHEERLEADING COMPETITION 8:00 AM ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS YOUTH CONCERT 7:00 PM ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS
SUNDAY OCT 23 INDEPENDENCE BEACH DAY AND CRAWL ALL DAY ALL BEACHES	FRIDAY OCT 28 NATIONAL DRESS AND FLAG DAY ALL DAY ACROSS ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA PAN DE GLOW MAS 6:00 PM ST. JOHN'S
MONDAY OCT 24 GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATION ALL DAY ALL CONSTITUENCIES	SATURDAY OCT 29 CAR SHOW 2:00 PM SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM EVENING OF DRAMA 8:00 PM DEAN WILLIAM LAKE CULTURAL CENTER
TUESDAY OCT 25 NATIONAL COMMUNITY DAY ALL DAY ALL COMMUNITIES COMMUNITY PLAYERS 70TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT 8:00 PM DEAN WILLIAM LAKE CULTURAL CENTER	SUNDAY OCT 30 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE 8:00 AM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE INDEPENDENCE GOSPEL CONCERT 8:00 PM ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
WEDNESDAY OCT 26 NATIONAL HEROES' DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 10:00 AM HEROES' PARK SCHOOL INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS ALL DAY VARIOUS SCHOOLS	MONDAY OCT 31 SCHOOLS' PANORAMA COMPETITION 7:00 PM ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS TUESDAY NOV 1 INDEPENDENCE FOOD FAIR 10:00 AM SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL PARADE NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY 5:30 PM SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM

Tourism Minister: Create opportunities from threats

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez has underscored the importance of the tourism industry withstanding the many challenges that threaten its survival.

Officials are predicting further growth in the tourism sector nationally for 2023.

But the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine that is driving up costs globally are among the challenges that risk affecting that growth.

Minister Charles Fernandez said while developments globally are cause for concern, it is important

that stakeholders view the opportunities that lie among the difficulties being experienced.

“Just yesterday morning [Monday] you saw the Pound [Sterling] fall to its lowest level ever against the US dollar. How does that affect our second most important source market the UK? So, these are issues we need to understand and not shy away from, but try and get right upfront and deal with it how we can,” Fernandez pointed out.

He focused on marketing and the predicted cold winter expected this year in



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez

the United Kingdom, from which Antigua and Barbuda can benefit, by promoting a “warm winter in Antigua”.

“We need to look at all of these threats and see how we can create opportunities, rather than just sitting back.”

The Ministry of Tourism continues to focus on strategic tourism goals to be achieved within the industry during the next decade, earmarking 2031 as a milestone year.

Previously, Minister Charles Fernandez has been quoted as saying, “VISION 2031 will be guided by the input of all stakeholders throughout Antigua and Barbuda. It will be the culmination of their thoughts, our engagements, and con-

sultations as we work towards a common goal”.

As they work on creating a premium product, the need for frequent assessment of the strategies is being emphasized.

“I think that we need to, every quarter at least, look at where we are, look at where we’re going...to really make it effective, you have to constantly look at it and if you need to tweak something, then you work towards that.

“In effect, we have the macro idea of where we want to be in terms of sustainability and making Antigua and Barbuda even more pristine that we met it, so that future generations could enjoy even more than we have,” the tourism minister concluded.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BREASTFEEDING WEEK

EDUCATION DAY

FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS



28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Villa Community Center

A LOOK AT BREAST MILK SUBSTITUTES

Exploring the Code: Challenges & Solutions

PM Browne addresses climate change at Global Citizens Festival

Prime Minister Gaston Browne was one of the main speakers at the annual Global Citizens Festival last weekend, which was held in Central Park, New York, in conjunction with the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Browne elaborated on the relationship between Loss and Harm and Climate Change, particularly in relation to Small Islands Developing States, in his speech before a live audience of several thousand, and online viewers totalling in the millions.

“Distinguished global citizens, despite our negligible contributions to climate change, it is small island states, like Antigua and Barbuda, that are experiencing its worst effects.

“As Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, I’m asking global citizens to call on world leaders to commit to creating an official Loss and Damage response fund at COP 27 as a form of climate justice in which the polluter pays.

“The polluter must pay,”



Prime Minister Gaston Browne
Browne told the enthusiastic audience.

Antigua and Barbuda’s prime minister urged the audience to stand with SIDS in the battle to combat climate change.

Browne said this must include calls on the United Nations to ensure that its members implement sustainable strategic plans that will empower countries to build resilience against climate change.

“Our requirements do

not stop there. High and middle income small island states should not be excluded from much-needed development assistance, especially during a time of climate crisis.

“That is why I am calling on the United Nations to adopt a new system that will look beyond mere income and to adopt a multidimensional vulnerability index that takes into consideration the vulnerability and resilience of small island states,”





Prime Minister Browne said.

Featured on the ten-hour long concert were performances by Metallica, Mariah Carey, Usher, Charlie Puth, Angélique Kidjo and other international artists.

The Global Citizen Festival is an annual music festival that was started in 2012 and organised by Global Poverty Project.

Since 2015, the goals of the festival have been closely aligned with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include seventeen tasks to end extreme global poverty by 2030.

This year, the festival secured more than US\$2 billion in pledges which will be used to support the goals of the Global Poverty Project and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Wed 28 Day		Wed 28 Night	
86°		78°	
Partly cloudy skies in the morning will give way to cloudy skies during the afternoon. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	18%  E 12 mph	Mostly cloudy skies. Low 78F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	23%  E 10 mph
Humidity 70%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 79%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:57 am	Sunset 5:58 pm	Moonrise 8:16 am	Moonset 8:01 pm
		● Waxing Crescent	

Two primary schools hit by burglars

Burglars have targeted two public schools since the start of the week and carted off a number of items that are critical to the teaching and learning process.

It is believed that in the early hours of Monday morning, thieves broke into Mary E. Pigott Primary School.

According to the school's principal, Alicia Watson, the criminals broke into the administrative building and stole a microwave and a refrigerator. The value of the items has not yet been revealed.

On Tuesday, Pointe Xpress spoke with Principal Watson who related the information she could.

"I got the report from my teacher at around 7:00 (am) when she was coming into school.



"She was stopped by the security that informed her that there seems to be a break-in. Then I shared it with the relevant authorities, the officers," the principal said.

Watson stated that the officers arrived at the school compound at the same time as she did.

"They checked and saw that a refrigerator was missing, the microwave was missing already and the stove was halfway out. They tried climbing through a window it seems," she revealed.

Meanwhile, overnight on Monday, Charlesworth T. Samuel Primary School was targeted. Several items were

stolen there, including a projector used by teachers to facilitate classes.

In recent times, Greenbay Primary School was robbed of items to be used as part of a University of the West Indies Five Islands campus community outreach programme. Sir Novelle Richards Academy was also vandalised and the walls marred with graffiti. There were no reports of stolen items in that incident.

The government has indicated that it is moving to increase security in public schools. In addition to increased manned security during school hours, the government plans to install security cameras and other remote surveillance systems in the hope that criminals will be deterred from targeting school campuses.

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Dr. Monica Osborne-Stevens, MD
FAMILY MEDICINE PRACTITIONER DIABETES SPECIALIST



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POINTE ON DE STREETZ

Local News



St. Paul Health Month to place priority on vision wellness

Member of Parliament for St. Paul, E. P. Chet Greene, says his constituency's Health Month activities this October will place priority on vision and eye health.

The St. Paul Health Month is an annual event spearheaded by the area's parliamentary representative which provides a variety of health-related services to all members of the community at no cost.

In an appearance on Pointe FM on Tuesday, Greene said men's health and wellness will also come into focus, as several doctors will travel to Antigua and Barbuda to provide additional support to the local medical practitioners who will volunteer their time and expertise to facilitating the health screenings and counselling sessions.

"We will continue next month, October, with our annual Health Month activities. The Health Month activities will have a high concentration on eye health.

"We are having sixteen doctors from North America – the United States to be exact – coming to work with our local team, headed by Dr. Jerry Simon, in our slew of medical services.

"We also have Dr. Baba Thwaites working alongside Dr. [Lester] Simon, and a team of skin doctors to offer what he does best in terms of service to men. And so, it's gonna be a month of real, solid services to the community," MP Greene told Pointe FM's Vernon Springer on Tuesday.

While emphasis is on providing these services to residents of St. Paul, MP Greene indicated that this year, the programme's reach will expand to those residing outside of the community.

He also revealed that for the first time, the initiative will offer prescrip-



MP E. P. Chet Greene

tion eyeglasses to those who are in need.

"And I dare say not only in the community of St. Paul's; some of the programmes will be extended beyond St. Paul's to students and public service drivers across the country.

"As I speak of eye health, one of the features of this year's programme will be that I'm offering tests, vision tests, to our public sector transport drivers. So, our taxi drivers, our bus drivers, those who carry people on a daily basis, can have a chance to have their vision checked.

"And an additional feature to the programme is that we are offering eyeglasses in this programme. The doctors who will come here [are] optometrists, ophthalmologists, are coming prepared to offer, prepare and present glasses to persons who are in need of certain types of remedial lenses."

Greene also disclosed the details of the other services, including prostate screenings which will be led by Dr. Dwayne "Baba" Thwaites, that will be offered during the St. Paul Health Month.

"You know prostate is a major issue in Antigua and Barbuda and I don't think that there can be ever too many prostate tests being done, and so that comes to St. Paul's.

"A St. Paul's-born doctor living in the United States will be on hand to offer services in paediatrics and I very much like the tone of what he's offering," said Greene.

While the St. Paul Health Month activities run throughout the month of October, other events intended to support healthy habits and lifestyles among the community's residents are planned by the St. Paul Empowerment Centre year-round.

St. Paul's Empowerment Centre teams up with UWI FIC

In what has been described as a first of its kind and a sign of things to come, the St. Paul's Empowerment Centre in Liberta has teamed up with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) to launch a course in tourism management.

Twenty young people have signed up for the course, which is the brainchild of E. P. Chet Greene, the Member of Parliament for St. Paul.

The launch of the programme took place on Monday evening in Liberta.

Greene said the first initiative in partnership with the UWI FIC represents the beginning of larger plans for delivering educational opportunities to people in the community.

"When we conceived of the idea of the Empowerment Centre, this is some of what we had in mind because we knew that there is no greater vehicle for empowerment than through education. Education is not just about academics, as this Centre will be doing technology courses as well as we seek to empower the people of St. Paul," he stated.

He continued that the purpose of the courses is to ensure that opportunities are provided for people in the community to be adequately trained.



MP E. P. Chet Greene

"What we are doing here is local training for global competition. If I was speaking on a national platform, I would use names such as Sir V. C. Bird or Sir Vivian Richards, however, I want to utilise our St. Paul's notables such as World Warri Champion, Trevor Simon, who honed his skills right at the corner adjacent to the centre and who took on the world in warri and who emerged the winner several times," Greene noted.

The parliamentary representative said it was a "big deal" to have the UWI FIC coming to Liberta, meeting people where they are and realising their commitment to make education accessible to all.

Greene made it clear, however, that his efforts will not end with the provision of classes by the UWI FIC. The Youth and Education Empowerment Programme (YEPP) will also begin offering classes at the St. Paul's Empowerment Centre in October.

Classes will also be offered to students who will write the Grade Six National Assessment.



UWI FIC representative, Paula Lee

Plans to provide mathematics classes are also in progress.

Meanwhile, UWI FIC representative, Paula Lee, provided more information on the Quality Tourism and Hospitality Management course.

"Several months ago Mr. Greene approached me about offering scholarships through the UWI for students from his constituency.

"This particular course was selected because of the area's huge dependence on the tourism industry. These courses are designed specifically to offer individuals opportunities to re-skill, up-skill, or if they desire,

to change their career paths [so] that they can diversify," she explained.

Lee noted that the jobs of the future will require that those seeking them are well trained and fully prepared.

She further explained that courses being offered will incorporate training and skill building in technology, management and critical thinking.

The participants in the course, which will be conducted online, will participate in group work, complete a research topic and prepare a final paper that will be shared with their peers.

Local News



Public's participation in PEARL survey encouraged

The Ministry of Education and Sports has announced the commencement of a survey in association with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' programme for Educational Advancement and Relevant Learning (PEARL).

The programme was launched recently to create a new educational experience for children of the OECS, thereby creating greater access to quality education for children. One of the areas of focus for Antigua and Barbuda is Special Educational

Needs.

Education Officer Special Needs Education, Joyann-Ann Harrigan, is encouraging administrators, educators, healthcare professionals and parents to participate in the process through Survey Monkey.

"There are seven sur-

veys and each group of persons will answer a survey specific to them. Once they have completed that survey and they click submit on Survey Monkey, it goes directly off to the OECS group," Harrigan explained.

She detailed that the survey is taking place simultaneously in all OECS territories and once the information is gathered, stakeholders will come together and hold discussions on the way forward.

"We will all meet and have a discussion based on what the data is saying. It is to improve special educational needs services within the OECS for the students, for our teachers, for our educators, for our parents, for the community in all spheres."

The survey will remain open until the end of October, 2022.

Four main components are contained in the US \$ 10 million OECS PEARL programme.

They include:

Enhanced quality and equity of access to Early Childhood Education

Enhanced Curriculum and Assessment

Strengthened Leadership and Management

Programme Management, Institutional Strengthening, Monitoring and Evaluation

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- * Investment mistakes to avoid.
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- * Q & A

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Workplace

The importance of HR compliance

Competent human resource (HR) professionals understand that one of our principal functions is to protect the organisation from legal exposure and public disgrace. This we accomplish by not only obeying the Labour Laws but also by subscribing to established best practices and industry standards.

HR is more technical than many realize and when leadership does not recognise this it could be harmful to the organization. In the same manner that time is taken to carefully design and staff marketing teams and finance departments, deliberate attention is also

required when assigning HR functions; especially if we truly consider humans as our most valuable resource.

The functions of HR include recruitment and selection, training and development of staff, proper documentation and record keeping, building and enforcing timely policies, monitoring staff engagement and performance, and creating fair remuneration packages.

As an Association we continue to advocate for every business entity in Antigua and Barbuda to prioritize engaging qualified and knowledgeable HR professionals.



We are aware that not every company, based on the size of its operations, would have the resources to maintain a committed HR department but there are numerous local options of experienced HR consultants that a small business owner can tap into for guidance.

So, what are some of the pitfalls of not giving proper

attention to this area of your business and what are the benefits of having access to a knowledgeable HR professional?

One wrong decision in HR can expose your organization to legal risks. Non-compliance with the Labour Code on even the smallest matter could be detrimental.

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tal. So much so that the Code cites in several areas that: "Anyone who contravenes the requirements of the Code shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine and or imprisonment".

There are financial consequences as well that vary with the offence. No business owner or HR Manager relishes taking time away from the business to attend protracted court matters and incur legal costs or having to pay fines to the government. Such funds are better spent investing in employee development or business expansion.

Then there is the damage to the company's reputation. The stigma of the company being branded as a violator of the Labour Code or being a company with inhumane or unethical labour practices can linger

for years.

Prospective employees, investors and even potential customers who research the company would see red flags and soon the word spreads that this is not a good place to do business. The irresponsible decision of a business owner or careless actions of a novice HR practitioner can cause sometimes irreparable damage.

In contrast the benefits of compliance with the Labour Code and adherence to best practices and internationally recognized standards can yield big dividends.

Such companies have fewer industrial relations issues and have a more positive work environment. They can focus on managing well, providing quality products and services, being innovative and creative and giving customers value for money.

Employees value companies that adhere to order and are law abiding corporate citizens. In short, a company in compliance with labor laws, best practices and standards becomes more attractive to high value talent as a preferred employer.

It is therefore instructive for HR professionals to be experienced and schooled in the field and very familiar with our Labour Code. We also encourage new HR practitioners to consider joining HRPAB where they would have access to our network of professionals and receive the support and encouragement they need for growth and development.

The Human Resource

Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



NOTICE

Closure for Annual Stocktaking

Island Provision Food Distribution & Best Cellars

Wines & Spirits will be **CLOSED** on **Friday 30th**

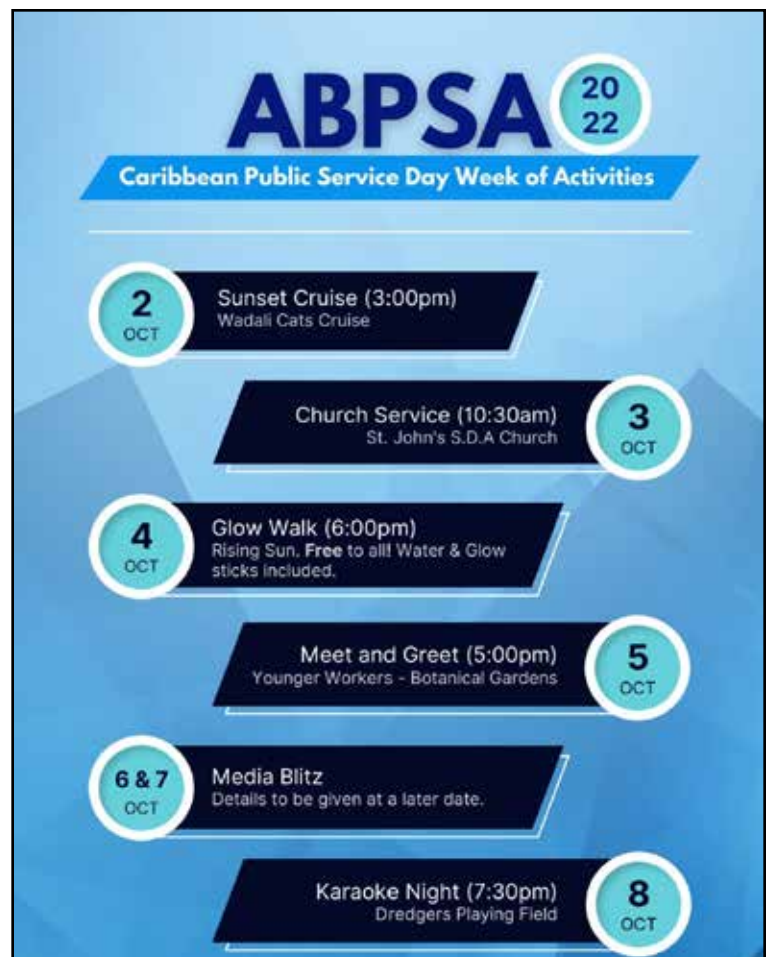
September 2022 at 10:00am for **ANNUAL**

STOCKTAKING. We will resume regular operating hours on Saturday 1st October 2022.

We **THANK YOU** for your continued support and offer our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience these closures may cause.

MANAGEMENT

Island Provision Group



ABPSA 20 22

Caribbean Public Service Day Week of Activities

- 2 OCT** Sunset Cruise (3:00pm)
Wadali Cats Cruise
- 3 OCT** Church Service (10:30am)
St. John's S.D.A Church
- 4 OCT** Glow Walk (6:00pm)
Rising Sun, Free to all! Water & Glow sticks included.
- 5 OCT** Meet and Greet (5:00pm)
Younger Workers - Botanical Gardens
- 6 & 7 OCT** Media Blitz
Details to be given at a later date.
- 8 OCT** Karaoke Night (7:30pm)
Dredgers Playing Field

Haiti nominee Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume seeking to replace Dominican as PAHO director

Haiti has nominated Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume, a former acting prime minister and former minister of public health and population, for the position of director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Ministers of Health and other high-level representatives from countries and territories of the Americas will meet September 26 to 30 to elect a new director to replace Dominica's Dr. Carissa Etienne

Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume is among six candidates vying for the position with the others coming from Brazil, Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Uruguay.

PAHO said the detailed curriculum vitae presented by each candidate and letters of nomination have been sent to PAHO member states, participating states and associate members.

"The conference will elect the director from among the nominated candidates by secret ballot. The candidate who receives the majority of votes from member states will be elected," it said, adding that in accordance with PAHO's Constitution, the director will serve a five-year term and may be re-elected once. The elected person will take office on February 1, 2023 and complete his or

her term January 31, 2028.

PAHO is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System and serves as the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas. This year, PAHO marks its 120th anniversary of active work in promoting health and wellbeing throughout the region.

Dr. Etienne was elected for a second term as the PAHO director in 2017, during the 29th Pan Amer-

cont'd on pg 14



Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume



POINTE FM NEWS


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EDWARDS JR.**


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MONDAY-FRIDAY — 6:15 AM | 11:15 AM | 5:15 PM
SATURDAYS — 11:15 AM : SHAHEIN FITZPATRICK

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CARICOM launches initiative to facilitate intra-regional trade

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Monday launched a new regional platform to facilitate intra-regional trade in goods and agricultural products. CARICOM Chairman, Suriname's President Chandrikapersad Santokhi reminded all CARICOM nations that one of the key principles of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) "was and still is, to achieve regional integration, and economic growth, within our community."

The initiative, dubbed "CIMSUPRO" – CARICOM Market Place and Suspension Procedure- will register suppliers and buyers of CARICOM originating goods.

Santokhi said CIMSUPRO provides a platform, where entrepreneurs, from CARICOM, can offer their products, from raw materials to finished products.

He said the region, faces many challenges, resulting from global developments, including the coronavirus

(COVID-19) pandemic," and in order to recover from that, the region needs to be better equipped and "must first work on strengthening our communities' capacities and supporting each other.

"After all, the initial intention of the grouping of countries, now known as CARICOM, was to promote economic integration and cooperation, among its members. As the oldest surviving integration movement, in the developing world, CARICOM has the duty, to set forth, its goals, and be a model for regional integration."

He told the ceremony that the region faces many challenges, such as the need, to enhance productivity and sustainable growth, which in turn, requires the ability, to transform our economic base.

"Trade and economic development shall only be achieved, through private-public partnerships. After all, it is the private sector that trades and does



business. Therefore, I'm more than delighted, with the establishment, of CIMSUPRO," he said, noting that it is helping in the formation of a CARICOM industrial policy.

"The extension of the regional integration, which has been sought, since the start of CARICOM, can now be reached, just by visiting the website, to seek the necessary inputs, from the CARICOM marketplace."

Santokhi said CIMSUPRO, provides a strategic aim, towards improving the efficiency "of our regional suspension mechanism, which is directly aimed, towards encouraging pro-

duction, more so, it seeks, to develop our industrial policy"

He said long waiting periods for suspension, granted by the CARICOM Secretariat, "and the uncertainty, of not knowing at which stage your suspension request is, are things of the past.

"With this platform, we have given the first step, towards further expanding our Industrial Policy strategies," he said, urging all member states, to populate CIMSUPRO.

CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, speaking at the launch, said the initiative marks an important milestone in the evolution of the way trade and business can and will be conducted within the 15-member grouping.

Stakeholders, especially suppliers of regionally produced goods may access the portal and register at: <https://www.cimsupro.com/user/register> (CMC)

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ican Sanitary Conference. She began her second five-year term on February 1, 2018.

PAHO said its Pan American Sanitary Conference is the organization's highest decision-making body, meeting every five years to determine general policies of the organization to improve the health and well-being of the population in the region.

Dominica's President Charles Savarin, as well as Dr. Etienne will be among the speakers on the opening day.

During the week-long conference, PAHO says a number of reports will be presented and discussed, including the "Strategy and Plan of Action on Psychoactive Substance Use and Public Health" and "Plan of Action to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol." (CMC)

Fact-Finding team to probe work conditions of Jamaican farmers in Canada

CNW – Jamaica's Ministry of Labour and Social Security has reported that Cabinet has approved the appointment of a seven-member fact-finding team to investigate the working conditions of Jamaican farm workers in Canada.

The Jamaican farmers are under the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers (farm labour) Program.

According to a ministry release, the development comes after Minister Karl Samuda announced the appointment of a tripartite panel.

That action was taken in response to correspondence to Samuda on behalf of several Jamaican farm laborers in Canada, who were said to be worried about numerous aspects and conditions of their seasonal working arrangements.

Following the allegation, the minister visited a number of farms in Canada where Jamaican laborers are employed and later stated that he observed no indication of any justifiable basis for the concerns.

However, there are still concerns, and members of the fact-finding team will investigate the matter.

Over two-weeks, the team will visit all provinces



where Jamaican farmworkers are employed, and a complete report which will be presented to Minister Samuda.

The report will be presented to Cabinet and then tabled in Parliament.

The fact-finding team is expected to:

- Conduct random selection of Canadian farms covering all where Jamaican farmworkers are employed.
- Collect data on the working conditions of Jamaican workers employed under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP).
- Interview workers who have been injured

to assess the level of care and responsiveness to their needs by the Jamaica Liaison Service in Canada and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

- Speak to employers and other interest groups to hear concerns.

- Provide a report outlining the team's findings, with recommendations to improve the Jamaican Overseas Employment Programme in Canada.

The members of the team are:

1. Helene Davis-Whyte (Chair) – President, Jamaica Confederation of Trade Union (JCTU)
2. Donald (Danny)

Roberts – Deputy Chairman, Industrial Disputes Tribunal (IDT)

3. Wayne Chen – President, Caribbean Employers' Federation

4. Raymond Eytle – Second Vice-President, Jamaican Employers' Federation

5. Wayne Jones – Deputy Financial Secretary, Strategic Human Resource Management, Ministry of Finance and Public Service

6. Sidia Madden – Chief Internal Auditor, Ministry of Labour and Social Security

7. Kandre Leveridge – Researcher/Community Development Specialist



Hurricane Ian strikes Cuba, Florida braces for Cat 4 damage

AP – Hurricane Ian tore into western Cuba on Tuesday as a major hurricane, with nothing to stop it from intensifying into a catastrophic Category 4 hurricane before it hits Florida on Wednesday.

Ian made landfall at 4:30 am EDT Tuesday in Cuba's Pinar del Rio province, where officials set up 55 shelters, evacuated 50,000 people, rushed in emergency personnel and took steps to protect crops in Cuba's main tobacco-growing region.

The US National Hurricane Center said "significant wind and storm surge impacts" were occurring Tuesday morning in western Cuba. Ian sustained top winds of 125 mph (205 kmh) as it moved over the city of Pinar del Rio. As much as 14 feet (4.3 metres) of storm surge was predicted along Cuba's coast.

After passing over Cuba, Ian was forecast to strengthen even more over

warm Gulf of Mexico waters, reaching top winds of 140 mph (225 kmh) before making landfall again. Tropical storm-force winds were expected in Florida late Tuesday, reaching hurricane force Wednesday morning.

The hurricane centre said there's a 100 per cent chance of damaging tropical storm force winds and water along Florida's west coast, and expanded its hurricane warning, from Bonita Beach north through Tampa Bay to the Anclote River.

Tampa and St. Petersburg could get their first direct hit by a major hurricane since 1921.

"Please treat this storm seriously. It's the real deal. This is not a drill," Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director Timothy Dudley said Monday at a news conference on storm preparations in Tampa.

Western Cuba is relatively lightly populated, but with tropical storm force

winds extending outward 115 miles (185 kilometres) from Ian's centre, Cuba's capital wasn't spared. Havana's residents openly worried about flooding ahead of the storm, with workers unclogging storm drains and fishermen taking their boats out of the water.

"I am very scared because my house gets completely flooded, with water up to here," Adyz Ladron said, pointing to his chest.

In Havana's El Fanguito, a poor neighbourhood near the Almendares River, residents packed up what they could.

"I hope we escape this one because it would be the end of us. We already have so little," health worker Abel Rodrigues said.

Ian's forward movement was expected to slow over the gulf, enabling the hurricane to grow wider and stronger before it brings punishing wind

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St. Vincent man jailed for murdering woman he believed infected him with HIV/AIDS

CMC – A St. Vincent High Court judge has sentenced a 26-year-old man to more than 17 years in jail after he was found guilty of murdering a woman he wrongly thought had infected him with HIV/AIDS.

Justice Brian Cottle sentenced Desron Roberts, who had been remanded for nearly four years awaiting trial, to a further 17 years, five months, and 11 days in prison.

On June 27, Roberts pleaded not guilty to the charge that between October 24 and 27, 2018 he murdered Rhodesia Rochelle Bailey.

The court heard that Roberts, who was then 22, had a sexual relationship with Bailey, 30, whose house he frequented. On July 16, 2018, Bailey told Roberts that she was HIV positive and two days later, he went to see

a doctor, who advised him to take a post-exposure treatment for HIV and to get tested.

Roberts began the course of medication but did not adhere to the prescription fully as he felt that some of the side effects of the medication were too harsh. He had bouts of depression and contemplated suicide but was afraid to speak to anyone about his problem for fear of the reaction that he would face.

On October 25, 2018, he took a knife with him to Bailey's house in an attempt to kill her. A passing villager found Bailey's body early the following morning. A post-mortem found she died of multiple stab wounds.

Following his arrest, Roberts confessed to murdering Bailey and took police to the house.

In sentencing Roberts, Justice

Cottle said he saw no need to depart from the guidelines regarding the aims of criminal punishment, namely retribution, deterrence, prevention, and rehabilitation and the court must follow the sentencing guidelines unless they lead to injustice in a particular case.

He said there was a significant degree of premeditation involved in the killing, noting that Roberts took the knife with him to the scene and told the victim that he had come to kill her.

Justice Cottle said he found that Roberts did not have the coping skills or social support network to help him to deal with the consequences of having contracted HIV and the associated social stigma. He said it was unfortunate that when confronted with the crises, Roberts could only resort to violence. He, however, said he did not see Roberts as likely to re-offend.

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and water to Florida's west coast. Forecasters said the surge of ocean water could reach 10 feet (3 meters) if it peaks at high tide. Rainfall could total 16 inches (41 centimetres) inches with as much as 24 inches (61 centimetres) in isolated areas. Coastal communities could be inundated.

As many as 300,000 people may be evacuated from low-lying areas in Hillsborough County alone, county administrator Bonnie Wise said. Some of those evacuations were beginning Monday afternoon in the most vulnerable areas, with schools and other locations opening as shelters.

"We must do everything we can to protect our residents. Time is of the essence," Wise said.

Floridians lined up for hours in Tampa to collect bags of sand and cleared store shelves of bottled water. Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state-wide emergency and warned that Ian could lash large areas of the state, knocking out power and interrupting fuel supplies.

"You have a significant storm that may end up being a Category 4 hurricane," DeSantis said at a news conference Monday. "That's going to cause a huge amount of storm surge. You're going to have flood events. You're

going to have a lot of different impacts."

DeSantis said the state has suspended tolls around the Tampa Bay area and mobilised 5,000 Florida state national guard troops, with another 2,000 on standby in neighbouring states.

President Joe Biden also declared an emergency, authorising the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief and provide assistance to protect lives and property. The president postponed a scheduled Tuesday trip to Florida because of the storm.

Playing it safe, NASA was rolling its moon rocket

from the launch pad to its Kennedy Space Center hangar, adding weeks of delay to the test flight. The airports in Tampa and St. Petersburg announced they'll close Tuesday afternoon. And the Tampa Bay Buccaneers said they would relocate football operations to the Miami area on Tuesday in preparation for next weekend's game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

Damaging winds and flooding was expected across the entire peninsula as Ian moves north, reaching into Georgia, South Carolina and other parts of the south eastern United States on Friday and Sunday, the hurricane centre said.

Kremlin announces vote, paves way to annex part of Ukraine

AP – The Kremlin paved the way Tuesday to annex more of Ukraine and escalate the war by claiming that residents of a large swath overwhelmingly supported joining with Russia in stage-managed referendums the U.S. and its Western allies have dismissed as illegitimate.

Pro-Moscow officials said all four occupied regions of Ukraine voted to join Russia. According to Russia-installed election officials, 93% of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87% in the Kherson region, 98% in the Luhansk region and 99% in Donetsk. Possibly explaining the lower favourable vote in Kherson is that Russian authorities there have faced a strong Ukrainian underground resistance movement whose members have killed Moscow-appointed officials and threatened those who considered voting.

In a remark that appeared to rule out negotiations, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the U.N. Security Council by video from Kyiv that Russia's attempts to annex Ukrainian territory will mean "there is nothing to talk about with this president of Russia."

He added that "any annexation in the modern world is a crime, a crime against all states that consider the inviolability of border to be vital

for themselves."

The preordained outcome sets the stage for a dangerous new phase in Russia's seven-month war, with the Kremlin threatening to throw more troops into the battle and potentially use nuclear weapons.

The referendums asking residents whether they wanted the four occupied southern and eastern Ukraine regions to be incorporated into Russia began Sept. 23, often with armed officials going door-to-door collecting votes.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to address Russia's parliament about the referendums on Friday, and Valentina Matviyenko, who chairs the body's upper house, said lawmakers could consider annexation legislation on Oct. 4.

Meanwhile, Russia ramped up warnings that it could deploy nuclear weapons to defend its territory, including newly acquired land, and continued mobilizing more than a quarter-million additional troops to deploy to a front line of more than 1,000 kms (more than 620 miles).

After the balloting, "the situation will radically change from the legal viewpoint, from the point of view of international law, with all the corresponding consequences for protection of those areas and ensuring their security," Kremlin spokes-



Valentina Bondarenko reacts as she stands with her husband Leonid outside their house that was heavily damaged after a Russian attack in Sloviansk, Ukraine, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022. The 78-year-old woman was in the garden and fell on the ground at the moment of the explosion. "Everything flew and I started to run away", says Valentina. (AP Photo/Leo Correa)

man Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday.

Many Western leaders have called the referendum a sham, and the U.N. Security Council met Tuesday in New York to discuss the voting, with the U.S. and Albania planning to introduce a resolution that says the results will never be accepted and that the four regions remain part of Ukraine. Russia is certain to veto the resolution.

The balloting and a call-up of Russian military reservists that Putin ordered last Wednesday are aimed at buttressing Moscow's exposed military and political positions.

The referendums follow a familiar Kremlin playbook for territorial expansion and more aggressive military action. In 2014, Russian authorities held a similar referendum on Ukraine's Crime-

an Peninsula, under the close watch of Russian troops. Based on the voting, Russia annexed Crimea. Putin cited the defines of Russians living in Ukraine's eastern regions, their supposed desires to join with Russia, and an existential security threat to Russia as a pretext for his Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Putin has been talking up Moscow's nuclear option since Ukrainians launched a counteroffensive that reclaimed territory and has increasingly cornered his forces. A top Putin aide ratcheted up the nuclear rhetoric Tuesday.

"Let's imagine that Russia is forced to use the most powerful weapon against the Ukrainian regime that has committed a large-scale act of aggression, which is dangerous for the very existence

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South Africa's beleaguered Zuma open to return to politics

AP — Beleaguered former South African President Jacob Zuma says he is ready to make a surprise return to politics by standing for a top position at the ruling African National Congress' conference in December — if he is nominated by party members.

The 80-year-old Zuma was president from 2009 to 2018 before he was forced to resign amid wide-ranging allegations of corruption in government and state-owned institutions.

He was sentenced to 15 months in prison last year for defying a court order to testify at a judicial commission investigating corruption during his tenure, and has since been released on medical parole.

Zuma is also facing trial for corruption in a separate case involving a major arms deal the South African government was negotiating more than 20 years ago, around the time Zuma was a deputy president of South Africa.

In a statement released late Monday, Zuma said some ANC members approached him to consider contesting the position of party chairman at the end of the year.

"I have indicated that I will be guided by the branches of the ANC and that I will not refuse such a call should they deem it necessary for



Former South African President Jacob Zuma at the High Court in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, on Jan. 31, 2022. Beleaguered Zuma has said he is ready to make a surprise return to politics by standing for a top leadership position at the ruling African National Congress' elective conference in December. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

me to serve the organization again at that level or any other," Zuma said.

"I have indicated that I will be guided by the branches of the ANC and that I will not refuse such a call should they deem it necessary for me to serve the organization again at that level or any other," Zuma said.

The December meeting is expected to be crucial to the future of the ANC and current President Cyril Ramaphosa, who faces stiff opposition in getting re-elected as party leader and staying on as the country's president.

Zuma has been critical of his successor, and the pair are seen to be part of opposing factions within a divided ANC.

Zuma also endorsed his ex-wife, current government minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, to stand for presi-

dent of the ANC against Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa's struggle to get a grip on corruption, a scandal of his own involving the theft of a large amount of cash from his ranch, and an ongoing electricity crisis that has recently left Africa's most developed economy in power blackouts for up to 10 hours a day all have weakened his standing.

Parliament has formed a three-person panel to investigate if Ramaphosa has a case to answer in the ranch scandal, in which he is accused of money laundering and breaking foreign currency laws by holding cash in U.S. dollars at the property.

He also is accused of bribery for allegedly attempting to cover up the theft of the money to hide its existence. He has confirmed the theft took place and denied

any wrongdoing but dodged questions seeking specific information about the incident. Ramaphosa said the money came from the sale of animals on his game farm.

No criminal charges have been brought against Ramaphosa, but Parliament could impeach him if lawmakers find he broke his oath of office. The South African leader is scheduled to appear in Parliament on Thursday to answer more questions from lawmakers about the theft.

Zuma is still popular among some factions of the ANC and at the grassroots level in some regions. It's unclear how he would deal with an ANC rule that anyone facing criminal charges is ineligible to stand for leadership positions. The rule also demands that those occupying leadership positions should "step aside" from their positions if they are charged.

The corruption charges Zuma faces are linked to a 1999 arms deal, and the case covers a time when he was a political figure on the rise and then deputy president. He is accused of receiving bribes from French arms manufacturer Thales to provide political protection for the multi-billion dollar deal.

Zuma has denied the charges and has moved to have the prosecutor taken off the case, claiming he is biased.

Japanese former leader Abe honoured at divisive state funeral

AP — Japan's assassinated hawkish former leader, Shinzo Abe, was given a rare state funeral Tuesday full of military pomp and surrounded by throngs of mourners as well as by widespread protests, with thousands taking to the streets in opposition.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the publicly financed ceremony was a well-deserved honour for Japan's longest-serving modern political leader. The event was attended by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, Japanese Crown Prince Akishino and other foreign and Japanese dignitaries.

Japan's main political opposition parties boycotted the funeral, which critics say was a reminder of how pre-war imperialist governments used state funerals to fan nationalism. The government maintains that the ceremony was not meant to force anyone to honour Abe. But the decision to give him the rare honour — which was made without parliamentary debate or approval — as well as the funeral's high cost and other controversies have led to anger about the event.



A portrait of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hangs on the stage during his state funeral, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, Tokyo. Abe was assassinated in July. (Franck Robichon/Pool Photo via AP)

The funeral began with Abe's widow, Akie Abe, in a black formal kimono, walking slowly behind Kishida into the funeral venue, carrying an urn in a wooden box wrapped in a purple cloth with gold stripes. Soldiers in white uniforms took Abe's ashes and placed them on a pedestal filled with white and yellow chrysanthemums and decorations.

Attendants stood while a military band played the Kimigayo national anthem, then observed a moment of silence before a video was shown praising Abe's life in politics. It included his 2006 parliamentary speech vowing to build a "beautiful

Japan," his visits to disaster-hit northern Japan after the March 2011 tsunami and his 2016 Super Mario impersonation in Rio de Janeiro to promote the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Kishida, in a 12-minute eulogy, praised Abe as a politician with a clear vision for post-World War II economic growth who promoted national security, the development of Japan and the world and a "free and open Indo-Pacific" as a counter to China's rise.

"You were a person who should have lived much longer," Kishida said as he looked up at a massive photo of Abe. "I had a firm be-

lief that you would contribute as a compass showing the future direction of Japan and the rest of the world for 10 or 20 more years."

Kishida said Abe will be remembered not just as the nation's longest-serving leader but for what he achieved, and he pledged to carry on Abe's policies for Japan and the region.

During the ceremony, Harris sat in the third row next to Rahm Emanuel, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, and they later joined others by placing a branch of chrysanthemums on a table near Abe's photo.

Abe was cremated in July following a private funeral at a Tokyo temple days after he was assassinated while giving a campaign speech on a street in Nara in western Japan.

Tokyo was under high security for the state funeral, especially near the venue, the Budokan martial arts hall.

At a protest in downtown Tokyo, thousands of people marched toward the hall, some banging drums and many shouting or holding banners and signs stating their opposition.

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of our state," Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of the Russian Security Council that Putin chairs, wrote on his messaging app channel. "I believe that NATO will steer clear from direct meddling in the conflict."

The United States has dismissed the Kremlin's nuclear talk as a scare tactic.

The referendums asked residents whether they want the areas to be incorporated into Russia, and the Kremlin has portrayed them as free and fair, reflective of the people's desire for

self-determination.

Tens of thousands of residents had already fled the regions because of the war, and images shared by those who remained showed armed Russian troops going door-to-door to pressure Ukrainians into voting.

Tokyo Olympics bribery arrests widens to third Japan sponsor

AP – Bribery allegations against a former Tokyo Olympics organizing committee member ensnared a third company that sponsored the Games, as Japanese prosecutors “re-arrested” Haruyuki Takahashi for the third time Tuesday.

The latest allegations of dubious payments centre on 15 million yen (\$104,000) Takahashi and another official received from Daiko Advertising Inc., based in Osaka, central Japan, Tokyo District Prosecutors said in a statement.

The arrests, coming on the same day as the state funeral for former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, which is drawing foreign dignitaries including IOC President Thomas Bach and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, underline the determination of the prosecutors to get to the bottom of the Olympic scandal.

Japanese culture usually favours “saving face,” and embarrassment on the international stage tends to be avoided. The arrests are also likely a setback for Japan’s ambitions in bidding for the 2030 Winter Olympics for Sapporo.

A Daiko official was also arrested. Daiko apologized for the arrests, “for the trouble to customers and stakeholders,” and promised to cooperate with the investigation.

Daiko is the third company in the widening Olympic scandal, after Aoki Holdings, a clothing company that dressed the Japanese Olympic team, and major publisher Kadokawa.

With more than 50 companies that sponsored the Tokyo Olympics, speculation is rife about a string of arrests that could continue for months.

Takahashi, 78, a former executive at advertising company Dentsu,



Haruyuki Takahashi, executive board member of the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games attends the Tokyo 2020 Executive Board Meeting in Tokyo on March 30, 2020. Criminal allegations against a former Tokyo Olympic organizing committee board member widened Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022, as Japanese prosecutors “re-arrested” Takahashi in suspected payments from a publisher that became a sponsor for the Games. (Issei Kato/Pool Photo via AP, File)

has been detained since his initial arrest on Aug. 17 on bribery suspicions from Aoki totalling 51 million yen (\$350,000).

Aoki, which makes cheap suits, was a surprise pick to create the team outfits. Three Aoki officials were also arrested.

Last month, prosecutors re-arrested Takahashi, tagging on additional bribery allegations, this time from Kadokawa, which also makes movies and games, totalling 76 million yen (\$530,000).

The sponsorship allowed Kadokawa to publish programs and other books related to the Tokyo Olympics. Also arrested were two Kadokawa officials.

Eight days later, prosecutors arrested Tsuguhiko Kadokawa, the company chairman, on allegations of bribing Takahashi with 69 million yen (\$480,000). Kadokawa asserted his innocence.

Takahashi has already been formally charged with bribery in the Aoki payments. On Tuesday, he was formally charged in the Kadokawa payments.

Kazumasa Fukami, the head of a consulting firm who was arrested with Takahashi in the Kadokawa case, was re-arrested in the Daiko case.

Prosecutors say Takahashi acted in ways to favour the companies in business benefits related to the Olympics in return for the bribes.

Dragging out a suspect’s time in detention, by adding more charges, which is common in Japan, has been widely criticized by human rights activists as “hostage justice.” Analysts say Takahashi, if freed on bail, may destroy evidence.

Takahashi had enormous clout in arranging Olympic sponsorships, although he left the Dentsu board in 2009. He has not been available for comment.

Sports News



Banana thrown at Brazilian players in friendly in Paris

AP – A banana was thrown from the crowd at Brazilian players celebrating a goal in a friendly against Tunisia in Paris on Tuesday.

Forward Richarlison had just scored the team's second goal in a 5-1 win at Parc des Princes when the banana was hurled toward him and the other Brazilians celebrating near one of the corner flags.

What appeared to be a water bottle and another object also were thrown toward them.

Brazil was using the match to make a statement against racism, with

the players posing before kick-off in front of a sign that said: "Without our black players, we wouldn't have stars on our shirt" — a reference to the five stars above the team crest that represents its five World Cup titles.

The Brazilian soccer federation condemned the incident and reinforced its stance to "fight against racism."

The federation's president said he was shocked with what happened.

"The punishment for these actions needs to be more severe," Ednaldo Rodrigues said.



Tunisia's Ghaylen Chaaleli, right, duels for the ball with Brazil's Richarlison during the international friendly soccer match between Brazil and Tunisia at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

Brazilian media said to identify the person who stadium security person-threw the banana onto the nel unsuccessfully tried field.

CWI names Rising Stars Team of the tournament for 2022 regional age-group championships

Cricket West Indies (CWI) today named three "Rising Stars Team of the Tournament" from the recent Rising Stars Under-19, Under-17 and Under-15 Championships.

Leeward Islands won the Rising Stars Under-19 Championship presented by Winlott which was played in St Vincent. The Windward Islands won the Rising Stars Under-17 Championship held in Trinidad and Barbados captured the Rising Stars Under-15 Championship which was hosted by the Grenada Cricket Board.

Six players feature on both the Under-17 and Under-19 teams of the tournament. These are: left-handed

allrounder Nathan Edwards who led the Leewards to the Rising Stars Under-19 Championship title; openers Rampertab Ramnath and Stephan Pascal; as well as batters Jordan Johnson; Joshua Dorne, and Mavendra Dindyal.

Jordan and Edward were members of the West Indies Rising Stars U-19 team which played in the ICC Men's U19 World Cup, hosted in the Caribbean by CWI earlier this year.

Other members of that West Indies World Cup squad: batter Ackeem Auguste; allrounder Johann Layne; wicket-keeper Carlon Bowen-Tuckett; fast bowler Isai Thorne and off-spinner Onaje Amory were also named in

the Rising Stars Under-19 Championship team of the tournament.

Vice President of CWI, Dr Kishore Shallow, congratulated the players on their selection and also spoke of the importance of investment in the Rising Stars championships as part of CWI's Future Stars cricket development programme across the region.

"On behalf of CWI, I want to congratulate all the players who have been named in the three Rising Stars Teams of the Tournament.

"This is a project we have implemented to add an additional incentive to the players' pursuit of excellence

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Qatar tests out massive bus fleet ahead of World Cup

AP – Qatar has tested out a massive fleet of buses ahead of next month's World Cup, when an estimated 1.2 million soccer fans will descend on the small Gulf nation, an official said Tuesday.

Thani Al Zarraa, who is overseeing transport preparations, said some 4,000 buses will be used during the monthlong tournament, which begins Nov. 20. That includes 3,000 buses acquired for the World Cup on top of a pre-existing fleet of around 1,000, he said.

Of the new buses, around 700 will be electric, he told The Associated Press. Fans can also use Qatar's Metro rail system.

The bus fleet will shuttle passengers between main transport hubs and the eight stadiums where the matches will be held. Authorities held tests over the weekend



Buses are seen during a test run of massive bus fleet ahead of Qatar World Cup, in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022. Thani Al Zarraa, who is overseeing transport preparations, said some 4,000 buses will be used during the tournament, which around 700 will be electric. (AP Photo/Lujain Jo)

involving some 1,800 buses without passengers.

Transport will be free for holders of the Hayya card issued by the government, which is required for entry to stadiums. An accompanying app has a feature in which fans can plan

their journeys.

All visitors to Qatar, even those not planning to attend the matches, will need a Hayya card to enter the country from Nov. 1 to Jan. 23. Cardholders will also be able to enter the United Arab Emirates and

Oman.

This will be the first World Cup hosted by an Arab or Muslim nation. Qatar, a small emirate in the Persian Gulf, is among the wealthiest countries on earth thanks to its massive natural gas reserves.

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and to help grow their self-confidence. It rewards the leading performers who have emerged from what were three high-quality tournaments," Dr Shallow said.

"At CWI, we have strengthened the development of young players, and we have increased investment in related programs. This year we welcomed the return of age-group red-ball and white-ball tournaments as part of our very busy Summer of Cricket."

The Rising Stars age group Championships play a crucial role in the growth and development of the next

generation of West Indian cricketers. The Championships are a key component in the system for identifying the West Indies U19 Men's and Women's teams.

This provides the best opportunity to thrive and develop further with the goal of feeding into the West Indies Senior Men's and Women's teams.

Rising Stars Teams of the Tournament:

Rising Stars Under-15: Darrius Batoosingh, Navin Boodwah, Shem Sargeant, Kemar Dixon, Brendan Boodoo, Matthew Miller, Pajay Nelson, Akobi Crichlow-Byer, Arif Khan,

R'Jai Gittens, Arun Ginda; 12th man: Jorden Charles

Rising Stars Under-17: Stephan Pascal, Rampertab Ramnath, Jordan Johnson, Joshua Dorne, Orlando James, Nathan Sealy, Divonie Joseph, Micah McKenzie, Nathan Edward, Solomon Bascombe, Jatario Prescod; 12th man: Mavendra Dindyal

Rising Stars Under-19: Stephan Pascal, Rampertab Ramnath, Jordan Johnson, Ackeem Auguste, Joshua Dorne, Tarrique Edward, Nathan Edward, Carlon Bowen-Tuckett, Onaje Amory, Johann Layne, Isai Thorne; 12th man: Mavendra Dindyal

Sports News



Pointe FM scores over 100 points in business league

Pointe FM became the first team to score over 100 points in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League on Monday night.

Pointe FM notched up their third win in six matches with a 111-39 blow-out victory over Mill Reef in the feature game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Jesus Rodrigues shot a game-high 28 points, Josue Hernandez sank 24 points, Danny Perez scored 18 points, Daniel Perez contributed 14 points and Khalid Shabazz chipped in with 10 points for the victors.

Elliot Samuel produced 14 points and Kacy Williams scored 12 points for Mill Reef, who slipped to their fourth defeat in five encounters.

After winning their first two

matches, Sledge O'Ballers lost their second successive match, suffering a narrow 51-53 loss against the Board of Education in the second game on Monday night.

Sharife Sargeant and Steadroy Graham each scored 15 points and Adissa "Ras I" Harris contributed 11 points for Sledge O'Ballers.

Kareem Blair converted 17 points, Earl Lavishere sank 12 points and Kirwan Peterson chipped in with 10 points for the Board of Education.

Anjo Wholesale recorded their fourth win in five matches with an emphatic 72-45 victory over Vendors in Monday's opening encounter.

Cohen Desouza shot a game-high 18 points and Xavier "Xman" Meade produced 13 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Azande Thomas and Craig Mas-

siah each scored eight points for the Vendors, who slipped to their second loss in five matches.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sport Complex this evening (Wednesday).

The Board of Education will tackle Fitzroy Rewinding at 6:30 pm, Pointe FM will challenge Galley Bay Resort at 7:30 pm and Fearless Crew will face Sledge O'Ballers at 8:30 pm.

In tomorrow's triple-header at the same venue, the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre will meet Vendors at 6:30 pm, cupholders the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will take on Pointe FM at 7:30 pm and Graphic Impact Shooters will clash with Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care at 8:30 pm.

Mixed fortunes for PMS in schools' knockout competition

Princess Margaret School had mixed fortunes on the opening day of matches in the Ministry of Sports Schools' Knockout football competitions on Monday.

Playing at home, Princess Margaret School was beaten 4-2 by Irene B. Williams Secondary in the boys' division, but prevailed 2-1 against All Saints Secondary in the girls' division.

Antioniel Campbell scored with a free-kick

in the 3rd minute to give Irene B. Williams Secondary a 1-0 lead. Karique Knight doubled his team's lead when he scored in the 12th minute.

Princess Margaret reduced the deficit via a Tyrique Hughes conversion in the 18th minute.

But Knight converted his second goal of the match in the 25th minute to restore Irene B. Williams Secondary School's two-goal advantage.

Ralique Browne then

scored in the 35th minute to give Irene B. Williams Secondary School a 4-1 lead.

Hughes then converted his second goal of the game for Princess Margaret School in the 53rd minute, but they were unable to score anymore goals in the match and crashed out of the competition.

The girls of Princess Margaret School were more successful after falling behind in their encounter against All Saints

Secondary.

A Kevoncia James conversion had given the All Saints girls a 1-0 lead, but Princess Margaret drew level when Gabrielle DeSuza scored their equalizer.

Irresia Allen then sent the girls of All Saints Secondary crashing out of the competition when she scored the winner for Princess Margaret School late in the second half of the keenly contested affair.

Swetes and Tryum advance in ABFA's Knockout Cup

Swetes FC and Tryum FC are the latest teams to secure their berths into the round of 16 of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean, Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition.

Both teams recorded contrasting wins in their respective second-round matches at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Monday evening.

An Ashani Lawrence 10th minute conversion was sufficient to give Tryum

FC a 1-0 victory over Fort Road FC in the first game of a double-header on Monday.

Jondale Lewis and Tiquan Isaac each scored a brace to propel Swetes FC to a 6-2 victory against FC Master Ballerz in the other encounter on Monday.

A 9th minute conversion by Shareem Williams gave FC Master Ballerz a 1-0 lead. But Lewis snatched Tryum's equalizer when he scored the first of his two goals in the 11th

minute.

Tryum then took the lead when Isaac scored the first of his two goals in the 15th minute.

Shamoy Carr extended his team's advantage with a 20th minute conversion and Isaac then scored his second goal of the match in the 24th minute to give Tryum a 4-1 advantage.

Lewis then scored his second goal of the match in the 28th minute to give Tryum a 5-1 halftime lead.

Avante Warner scored

FC Master Ballerz's second goal of the match in the 85th minute and Kareem Benjamin then completed his team's scoring with an 89th minute conversion to seal Tryum's victory.

Tryum and Swetes now join SAP FC, Empire FC, Garden Stars FC, All Saints United FC, Greenbay Hoppers FC, Grenades FC, Five Islands FC, Parham FC, Willikies FC, Pigotts Bullets FC, Old Road FC, Villa Lions and Ottos Rangers FC in the round of 16.

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when it comes to the mental strength and so we have three coaches in that aspect. We have Ricky Christopher, who is always a tough and smart individual, Seth Burton and Denmore Roberts," Benjamin said.

"So we will have these sessions and the players would have assignments that they would have to complete in terms of the mental training.

"So it is sort of a holistic type of development programme and if we need special help for someone with a specific mental challenge, we would probably go outside of the club and get a specialist to do some work with that particular individual.

"But I think so far, Seth,

Denmore and Ricky have been doing a good job. I think Ricky mostly focused on the mental challenges that is associated with playing cricket from a psychological aspect.

"Even though Denmore is not a trained psychologist, I think he understands what is required to get the players mentally stronger, mentally focused and get them to understand that making good decisions, right thinking and concentration are skills as well."

Benjamin said Liberta Blackhawks have also been utilizing the services of renowned former Leeward Islands team manager Hugh Gore to conduct sessions with players, who become a little bit troublesome from time to time.



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Black Hawks utilize key persons to aid players' development

There are several persons who have been playing vital roles in preparing the young cricketers at the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks Sports Club.

The Blackhawks continued their dominance of local cricket by playing unbeaten to win all three major competitions of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) domestic programme earlier this year.

In accordance with their annual programme, the players of the Liberta Blackhawks commenced their off-season training earlier this month in preparation for next year's domestic cricket season.

President of the Liberta Blackhawks Sports Club, former West Indies fast bowler Kenneth "Flipper" Benjamin, said several persons, including some former players, are playing critical roles in the ongoing development of the current crop of young players.

"We have Justin 'Rumple' Joseph from All Saints, we have Gregg Matthews, we have Dr. Jerry Simon, our physician, and there is Lennox 'Fox' Julian, who is very much a part of the sports club and is very much involved in all the sports because he still plays football and is very much a part of the cricket set-up as well," Benjamin said.

"Then there is Ian Gore and myself, who do most of the technical work and whenever Wilden 'Pollo' Cornwall is on island, he chips in as well."

Liberta has long been established as one of the major producers of top

Antigua and Barbuda's national team cricketers, some of whom have gone on to represent the Leeward Islands at the regional level and the West Indies on the international scene.

During the past 40 years, the Liberta team has easily been the most dominant cricket side domestically in the country.

Utilizing mainly a young squad throughout the season that ended earlier this year, the Blackhawks completed their highly successful domestic campaign by winning the ABCA's Two-Day crown, the Super 40 championship and the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion title.

Benjamin, however claims that Liberta Blackhawks Sports Club is not overly obsessed with winning competitions, but is more focused on the development of its players.

"I certainly stick by that because I think if you prepare well with quality preparation and you make sure that the players are developing their skills and are learning the game, they are going to win," Benjamin stated.

"So what we are doing is not preparing or training them to win, they will go out there on the field and do that. What we are trying to do, is to create that super athlete and that good sportsman and so forth.

"Nobody really wants to lose, but you are not going to win unless you have good people playing, people who understand the game, people with good skills and can go out and can execute their game. So we prepare them for that, and once that is happen-



President of the Liberta Black Hawks Sports Club, former West Indies fast bowler, Kenneth 'Flipper' Benjamin. (Photo courtesy Kenny Benjamin)

ing, they will win."

Mental strength is an integral component in someone being able to overcome tough challenges and ultimately achieving success. Benjamin said Liberta Blackhawks are utilizing three persons to provide support in helping players to develop their mental strength.

"We actually use three guys
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