

MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 193 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

SCAMMERS ARRESTED OVER “TOP-UP”, FUNDRAISER SCHEME

Story on Page 2



A reception was held at Sandals Grande Antigua on Thursday to honour Sir Richard Richardson of Antigua and Barbuda and Alston 'Becket' Cyrus of St. Vincent and the Grenadines who received honorary degrees at the event on 8th October, 2022.

Scammers targeting unsuspecting residents

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has issued an appeal for the public to be on the alert for scammers who are using the internet and phones to defraud unsuspecting people of money and other valuables.

At least five men who are believed to be associated with the scheme, were detained by police as an investigation commenced into several reports that were made by citizens and business owners.

In a statement, STRATCOM, the communications department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, said the phone scam was being carried out by people purporting to



be notable individuals who would then request phone credit.

In other instances, money was solicited from businesses under the guise of raising funds for medical purposes from the same mobile phone credit swindlers.

The public is being urged to carry out proper background checks before volunteering or providing financial assistance to unknown individuals.

The police are further advising the public to report all suspicious activities to any police station without delay.



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UWI FIC holds in-person graduation ceremony

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus held its first in-person graduation exercises on Saturday afternoon in an affair filled with as much pomp and circumstance as the joy and contentment seen on the faces of the members of the graduating class.

Campus sources report that there were eighty-nine students who graduated after completing their studies at the campus as well as students who pursued studies either at the UWI Open Campus or the other three main campuses.

One of the highlights of the graduating exercises was the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree on national cricket icon, Sir Richard 'Richie' Richardson. A similar degree was also conferred on calypso icon, Alston Beckett Cyrus of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In his acceptance address, Sir Richie noted that as a small boy growing up in one of the smallest villages in Antigua – Five Islands – he never would have imagined he would be standing at the podium at a UWI graduation ceremony that was being held in his native village.

"I would not have dreamed that I would see the UWI would establish its fourth landed campus right here in my

little village, Five Islands. This is an accomplishment that every Antiguan and Barbudan should smile about and grasp at the very affordable opportunity in our country to advance educationally in higher education and life-long learning at a prestigious regional institution," he urged.

He asked the graduates to overlook the fact that they are all citizens of small countries, and to never see themselves as being 'small' as Caribbean people have proven time and again that they are as good as anyone from anywhere in the world.

Sir Richie commended the graduates for their perseverance in continuing to pursue their studies during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. "You are the beginning of a cultural change in your families, your communities and your countries having achieved higher education. We the honorary graduates share a similar passion with you, the graduating class 2022. Our level of determination, drive and love for sports and music led us to our successes. We have excelled and let the world know of our Caribbean through cricket and calypso; now it's your turn to find your niche and to excel at it," he remarked.

The cricketing great paid homage to the many who contributed to his



Sir Richard Richardson

successes over the years but he especially singled out his late mother as the person who instilled in him a strong sense of discipline even at an early age. He also thanked his wife, Lady Richardson for her support and love over the years as well as those who helped shaped his cricketing career, including cricketing great, Sir Isaac Vivian Richards.

The valedictorian address at the graduation was delivered by Athalia Crump who graduated First Class Honours with a Bachelor of Science in Banking and Finance who recalled some of the challenges she faced with financing her course of study, however, despite having the 'wind knocked out of her' a number of times, she persevered until the end.



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PM Browne reacts to comments by Grenadian PM Mitchell: "I do not blame him"

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says he cannot criticise his Grenadian counterpart for recent comments indicating that Grenada stands ready to lease airplanes to serve his country if regional governments fail to take a firm decision on the future of intra-regional travel by the end of the year.

"If by October, November, we don't have an arrangement, then it means if Grenada has to go and lease the planes so that we can fly between Grenada and Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, we will have to do so," Prime Minister Dikon Mitchell told the Grenadian media house, WPG10.

He added, "I have made it quite clear, we have to put money, if not into LIAT 2020, if not InterCaribbean, then some other vehicle that is prepared to fly. It is as simple as that."

The collapse of LIAT dealt a major blow to Caribbean air travel, particularly within the Leeward



From left: Prime Ministers Dickon Mitchell, Gaston Browne, Ralph Gonsalves and Phillip Pierre earlier this year on their way to the CARICOM Summit in Suriname

and Windward islands. Although operations have resumed on a limited basis, the free movement of travellers throughout the island chain is far from resolved.

Reacting to his Grenadian counterpart's statement, Prime Minister Browne said he does not fault him and added that there is an urgent need for LIAT to be upgraded to meet the demands of travellers.

"I don't blame him. The area needs airlift, and he's right; the most efficient way to deal with this issue is for

the governments to come together and to resolve LIAT," the Antiguan and Barbudan prime minister stated on his Pointe FM, Browne & Browne show on Saturday.

As the government in St. John's forges ahead with plans for LIAT 2020, Caribbean leaders agreed at a meeting in August that they would retain the services of an aviation consultant to undertake a study whose results will be used to advise them on the way forward.

But with growing demand for improved intra-re-

gional travel, Prime Minister Browne believes that the work must continue to meet the travel needs of the people of the sub-region.

"In the interim, if we do not scale up LIAT, then he has a point: I think we are going to have a very strong tourism season in 2023 within the Caribbean and we can't have LIAT with three planes and just sit back," PM Browne said.

"What we plan to do is... add two more planes within the next few months. Hopefully, we can get them in place for the next season. We are currently negotiating with a potential lessor," he said.

The prime minister reiterated his government's commitment to expanding LIAT to ensure that all members of the OECS benefit from increased airlift.

"I understand his [Dickon Mitchell's] frustration, and I can't fault him for making that type of statement," Browne concluded.



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.

Monday, 10th October 2022	Tuesday, 11th October 2022	Thursday, 13th October 2022	Friday, 14th October 2022
Section of Hodges Bay 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Whenner's Road near the Santana Complex 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Golden Grove, Antigua State College, Nut Grove, and Gray Hill south of APUA Reservoir 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Blue Waters including Blue Waters Resorts 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Eastern section of Briggins near Tash Express 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Bolans on White Wood Tree Drive 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM		Old Parham Road, Wireless Road, and Clare Hall north of Subway 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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.

Air Canada returns to V. C. Bird International

Canada's national airline – Air Canada – has returned to Antigua and Barbuda with weekly direct flights that will increase to five a week as the winter tourist season moves into top gear.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Colin C. James, said the authority is very pleased with Air Canada's decision to provide weekly flights from Toronto, and later from Montreal, to V. C. Bird International Airport.

The flights will likely continue until the end of the winter season when a new schedule will go into effect.

James was buoyant regarding the Canadian airline's feedback to Antigua and Barbuda's marketing efforts in Canada which is the country's third most important source market.

"Between Air Canada, Westjet and Sunwing, we will be having daily flights from Canada into Antigua and Barbuda. That's a big deal!" he exclaimed.

At a brief welcome ceremony held at the airport, Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, noted that during the eight months Air Canada suspended service to the region because of the pandemic, the government worked to improve the country's hotel room stock, among other things.

"Over the last eight months, we



Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez welcomes Air Canada pilot, Captain Parminder Grewal, to Antigua and Barbuda

have had much interest expressed in Antigua and Barbuda. We decided that with the extra interest, to get busy, so that by next November, we hope to open the Royalton Chic; a brand new property with the first phase being over two hundred rooms.

"The Jolly Beach property, which has been closed for some time, will be open by December 1st, 2022, with an estimated 200 rooms," he reported.

Other developments include PLH, which should open its doors in the first quarter of next year, while Nobu, Barbuda will start before the end of the

year.

Fernandez also announced new investments by the Sandals Group.

"Sandals will be spending an estimated US\$100 million to upgrade the property and add more rooms," he announced.

The tourism minister also mentioned the agreement signed with a Jamaica-based entertainment group to establish a tourist attraction at Fort Barrington.

"This will add to the many attractions we already have for visitors to enjoy. There's much history in what will be reflected from this particular attraction," he stated.

Air Canada Vacations representative, Helena Inacio, gave a commitment that she and her team of travel agents will work aggressively on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda as Air Canada since the days of its predecessor, Trans Canada Airways, has served Antigua and Barbuda faithfully since December 1958.



Air Canada aircraft on the tarmac at V. C. Bird International Airport after an absence of eight months

Local News



Teen boys acquitted of rape

Two young men walked out of the High Court in St. John's free last week, moments after they were found not guilty of rape.

Reports from the High Court state that the jury returned the not guilty verdict just two hours after they started deliberations.

According to the source,

at the time of the alleged offence in March 2019, the accused were both 16 while the girl involved was 14.

The trial, which was held before Justice Colin Williams, lasted for three days before the jury of 6 women and 3 men was asked to retire to consider the facts of the case.

The accused men, now 19, were represented by Wendel Robinson.

The incident was alleged to have occurred on the farm of a secondary school.

The case became known when the girl and her friend reported the incident to a teacher who then summoned everyone involved



to the principal's office.

The teenagers told the court that the young girl consented to the sexual encounter.

The principal summoned the boys, the virtual complainant, and their parents to the school. The parents were advised that the boys would be suspended.

The crux of the case that had to be determined was whether consent had been given based on the evidence presented to the court.

Mon 10 | Day
86°
 Considerable cloudiness. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Mon 10 | Night
79°
 Mostly cloudy skies with a few showers late. Low 79F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Humidity **73%**
 UV Index **10 of 10**
 Sunrise **5:59 am**
 Sunset **5:49 pm**

Humidity **82%**
 UV Index **0 of 10**
 Moonrise **6:32 pm**
 Moonset **6:32 am**
 Full Moon

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD. (St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I.) Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2022 (Stated in United States Dollars of America)			
	Note	2022	2021
Assets			
Deposit with banks		481,415	513,310
Demand deposits		70,253,568	74,210,748
Time deposits		70,734,983	74,724,058
Total due from banks		946,974	1,230,775
Accrued interests receivable		71,681,957	75,954,833
Total cash and cash equivalents	4, 7, 13	71,681,957	75,954,833
Investment securities measured at amortised cost	8, 13	60,388,254	60,392,628
Loans	9, 13	694,611	1,205,173
Prepaid expenses		71,472	53,088
Other assets	10	1,501,691	1,501,691
Total other assets		1,573,163	1,554,779
Total assets		134,337,985	139,107,413
Liabilities and equity:			
Liabilities:			
Deposits from customers:			
Demand deposits		5,042,562	938,079
Time deposits		116,494,204	124,100,058
Accrued interest payable		1,896,068	3,844,519
Total deposit from customers	4, 13	123,432,834	128,882,656
Other liabilities		2,248,152	2,354,271
Total liabilities		125,680,986	131,046,927
Equity:			
Share capital	11	5,000,000	5,000,000
Additional paid-in-capital		10,000	10,000
Retained earnings		3,846,999	3,050,486
Total equity		8,656,999	8,060,486
Commitments and contingencies	12, 13		
Total liabilities and equity		134,337,985	139,107,413

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD. (St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I.) Statement of Profit or Loss For the year ended June 30, 2022 (Stated in United States Dollars of America)			
	Note	2022	2021
Interest income:			
Securities		5,165,167	5,172,850
Deposits with banks		2,378,293	2,891,951
Loans		42,005	63,250
Total interest income	13	7,585,465	8,128,051
Interest expense:			
Deposits	13	4,967,307	5,836,647
Total interest expenses		4,967,307	5,836,647
Net interest income		2,618,158	2,291,404
(Reversal) impairment losses on loans		(2,053)	2,057
Reversal of losses on investments securities		(1,293)	(4,961)
Reversal of other provisions		(821)	(2,868)
Total impairment losses and other provisions		(4,167)	(5,772)
Other income (expenses):			
Commission income	13	888,936	984,520
Commission expenses		(18,063)	(17,765)
Total other income, net		870,873	966,755
General and administrative expenses:			
Salaries and other personal expenses	13	2,751,788	2,963,716
Fees and professional services		62,831	38,318
Depreciation		0	2,800
Banking license		38,000	43,359
Others		28,771	28,955
Total general and administrative expenses		2,881,390	3,077,148
Net income before income tax		611,608	186,783
Income tax	6	(15,295)	(4,670)
Net income		596,313	182,113

The statement of profit or loss should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes that are an integral part of these financial statements.

UWI introducing mandatory foreign language requirement in all undergraduate programmes

The University of the West Indies (UWI) on Thursday announced that it has evolved as a “multilingual” institution, with a new policy that will require all new undergraduate students to take up a foreign language and become “conversation competent”.

The requirement comes under The UWI’s Foreign Language Policy for its five regional campuses which was approved and is being implemented after in-depth internal strategic planning and discussion with regional education stakeholders, the university said.

“Going forward, the expectation is that all UWI graduates will be at least conversation competent in a



language other than English,” said Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, Professor Justin Robinson.

The UWI currently has teaching and learning departments on its campuses that produce substantial numbers of graduates with specialised foreign language degrees. Majors and minors in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japa-

nese, Chinese (Mandarin) and teaching competencies in others like Arabic, German, Hindi, Korean, and Yoruba have long been commonplace, however, the introduction of the Foreign Language Policy will now see all students participating in foreign language training at a general level.

The policy is being im-

plemented on a phased, faculty-by-faculty and campus-by-campus basis, beginning in the academic year 2022/2023 with applicability to new incoming undergraduate students only.

Universal coverage and participation of all students are anticipated within the next three academic years, the university said.



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Local News



DOE launching programme to tackle mosquitoes, illegal dumping

Close to 7000 mosquito traps will be distributed in McKinnons and Cashew Hill this week.

The exercise is part of a new campaign being launched by the Department of Environment themed “Ways to Reduce Mosquitoes and Illegal Dumping”.

The group will be distributing traps to residents in these two communities for outdoor and indoor use.

McKinnons and Cashew Hill were chosen as they have been the focus of several DOE projects.

“When we are distributing it in both areas, we are going to distribute one outdoor and two indoor per household. So, we are targeting at least probably 1000 to 1200 households in each of the areas. That is a vast amount of households. We are looking to roughly give out about



DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENT
Antigua and Barbuda

7000 traps, maybe a little more than that,” Technical Director Vekash Khan detailed.

An official launch will be held at the St. Andrew’s Anglican Church today.

In addition to the distribution of traps, the group will also host several other activities this week.

These include seminars with residents in the area and community walk-throughs.

The DOE will also partner with

the Central Board of Health and the National Solid Waste Authority to tackle illegal dumping.

According to Daryl George, Senior Environment Officer within the DOE, focus will be placed on increasing educational campaigns that target the residents of the pilot communities.

The DOE and partner agencies will also move to enforce legislation that is already in place to deal with illegal dumping and offer incentives to persons who report the illegal activity.

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Around a third of adults and young people said their mental health has got much worse since March 2020.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/coronavirus/we-are-here-for-you/coronavirus-research/>



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The economic, social and cultural impact of the UWI FIC

By Everton Barnes

The University of the West Indies Five Island Campus held its annual graduation exercise over this past weekend.

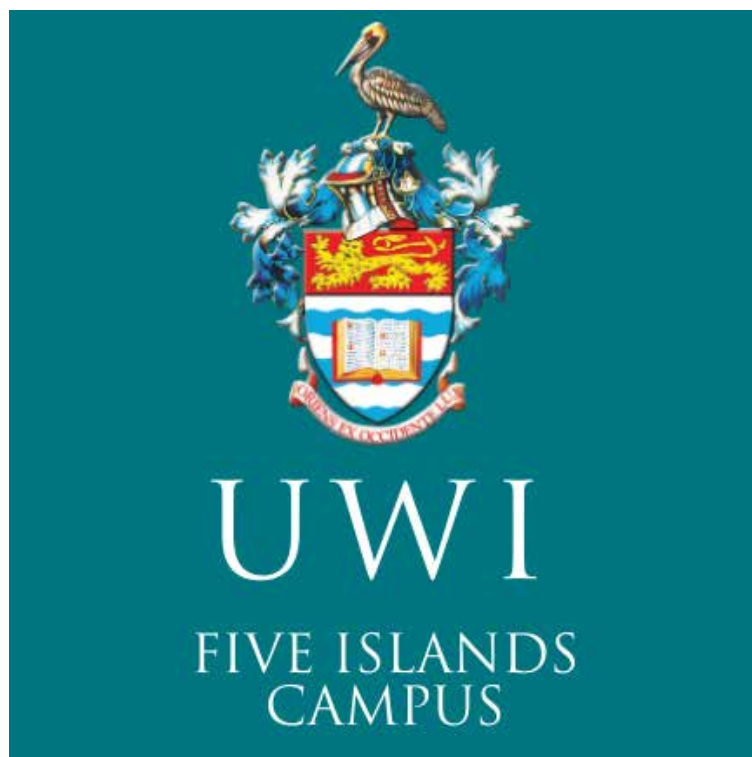
Campus sources say eighty-six students who completed their studies at the nascent institution were joined by students enrolled at the UWI Open Campus, and the university's three regional campuses, Mona (Jamaica), Cave Hill (Barbados) and St. Augustine (Trinidad and Tobago).

While these students studied at the other campuses, they found it more economical to participate in the graduation in St. John's.

One such student was a young woman from a neighbouring island, who travelled to Antigua for the exercise. Fortuitously for her, based on a friendship she developed with one of her Antiguan and Barbudan study-mates, she was able to travel to Antigua and be hosted at her friend's home; a friend who was happy to extend a helping hand to a sister Caribbean national.

The young woman, believed to be of modest means, arrived on Sunday 2nd October, 2022, for the graduation on 8th October.

In the spirit of hospitality, her Antiguan friend requested, and was granted, time-off from her job for the week. Over the course of the



week, she was given an extensive tour of Antigua and was able to participate in tourist activities including a catamaran sea excursion, dining at local restaurants, and a zipline tour. There was even time for a night out at a popular entertainment nightspot located in the eastern section of the island.

I spent considerable time speaking about this young woman from a neighbouring Caribbean state for a reason: this young woman, of modest means, spent eight nights in Antigua and Barbuda, and in this time she generated economic activity for a nightclub, tourist attractions, restaurants - from high end to small foodshops - and even gas stations. She even had her

hair and makeup done at a local salon.

If one student can generate that much economic activity over an eight-day period, how much would she have generated had she been a fulltime student at UWI FIC?

This article's purpose is to drive home the significant economic, social and cultural impact UWI FIC's presence has on Antigua and Barbuda.

This is the third graduation that the university has staged since its launch in 2019. Already, there are plans to expand the physical plant to include more classrooms, dormitories, housing for faculty and other facilities.

The government has announced that as much as

US\$45 million will be invested in the university in the coming years.

Additionally, the government is encouraging nationals to invest in ancillary services that the university will naturally require. It is anticipated that supermarkets, additional accommodation, food services, car rentals and entertainment spots will soon be cropping up near the university.

These are all opportunities to create generational wealth for locals.

It should be noted that in many developed countries, entire towns have developed around universities. UWI FIC could likely have a similar impact on Five Islands and neighbouring communities.

The economic potential of UWI FIC is enormous. Consider that the American University of Antigua (AUA) contributes up to five percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). That's more than the contribution made by the agricultural sector.

Imagine, the produce of hundreds of small farmers does not generate as much economic activity as AUA. Remarkable!

UWI FIC has the potential to surpass AUA's contribution.

There's another impact that the UWI FIC has had

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on Antigua and Barbuda's society.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has been on a crusade to encourage nationals to upgrade their education in order to take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

This call appears to be answered by institutions such as the Antigua and Barbuda Institution for Continuing Education (ABICE) which is reporting increases in registration to their many programmes.

Other institutions, such as the Vocational Education and Empowerment Programme (VEEP), are seeing their numbers swell as well.

The UWI FCI is no exception as it too has reported an increase in registration in all subject areas in recent times.

The long-term result of this is that the number of people in Antigua and Barbuda with university level education will also increase, a goal the prime minister has long advanced.

Over time, it is expected that the number of the local population who complete university will soon grow to equal that of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago where UWI campuses have been long established.

The people coming to Antigua and Barbuda to study at UWI FIC will be the region's brightest and best. As the institution further develops and expands to add courses in dance, music and the performing arts

along with other extra-curricular activities, Antigua and Barbuda will naturally benefit from the cross fertilisation of ideas and talents.

Antigua and Barbuda could then lay claim to being the sub-region's cultural hub with regular performances in theatre, dance, pantomime and other creative expressions.

The impact of the UWI FIC on Antigua and Barbuda will therefore be both qualitative and quantitative. The evidence of this impact may not even take very long to be realised; it will likely be tangible in a single generation.

This analysis would

not be complete without acknowledging that PM Browne did everything possible to ensure that UWI FIC was established in St. John's, even in the face of opposition from some existing countries where campuses are located.

Through it all, he remained laser-focused on the goal. Having achieved that goal, he is now actively seeking the necessary funding to expand the university's physical plant to accommodate more students and faculty.

As the Father of the Nation, the Rt. Hon. Sir V. C Bird can be credited for ensuring primary and second-

ary education was guaranteed to ordinary folk. That was the requirement of his time.

At this stage in the country's history, PM Browne must be credited for his efforts to bring UWI FIC to Antigua and Barbuda at a time when tertiary level training is critical to the nation's growth and development.

One cannot achieve an economic powerhouse without a highly trained and educated population.

This is the 21st century requiring new approaches, new modalities.

UWI FIC is *sine qua non* for this time!



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Opinion



Tony caught NAAP-ing

By **Tony Deyal**

Dedicated to the National Association of Administrative Professionals (NAAP) and the Caribbean Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (CASAP)

In the 1970s I did a nightly programme on national television and was very pleased when many of the members of the National Association of Administrative Professionals (NAAP) remembered those days. They had asked me to talk about “Volunteerism” so I started with a quick back-in-time for them. “Thanks for remembering me. The programme was called ‘Face Of The Nation’ and everywhere I went people knew me as ‘Face’. In the streets, even at home, people called me ‘Face’ and would say, “Hey, look Face” and add, “What you have for we tonight, Face?” In those days, Grenada was able to tune into the Trinidad TV signal and when I went to the first anniversary of the “Grenada Revolution” to say hello to an old comrade, Maurice Bishop, people recognised me and I had to face the constant shouts of “Look Face” and “All you see Face? He here in Grenada.” A youngster recognised me on a street in St Georges and shouted loudly to draw my attention, “Face! Face!” His mother was very angry and chided him, “Boy, where your manners? That is a big man you talking to. Tell him you sorry for not calling him Mister

Face!”

I then added an incident that epitomised what visual artist, Andy Warhol, called our “fifteen minutes of fame” and learnt the hard way that it was never entirely nor always the name of the game. When it leaves you, it is forever. I call my story or experience “A Day On Frederick Street”, the crowded main drag of Port-of-Spain where push always come to shove. I was weaving my way through the crowd, hustling to get to a book-store, when a lady grabbed me by my shirt and yelled, “Stop! Stop!” above the noise. “Stop! I know you,” she bellowed. She clung on to me, examined me from every angle- back, front and even side – repeating “Wait! Wait! I know you.” Then she had her magic recollection memory moment. She laughed triumphantly and shouted loud enough for the passing parade and even my friends in Grenada to hear, “Yes! Yes! I know you. You used to be Tony Deyal!” I had to grin and face it.

One thing that I never left behind me with Tony Deyal was my commitment to helping others to help themselves and one another. Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless but because they’re priceless. In fact, way back in time, Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, insisted that the essence of life is to serve others and to do good. Long after him, Winston Churchill stressed, “We



Tony Deyal

make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian Former-Secretary General of the United Nations gave us a global perspective, “If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.” Of course, even those who believed what he said, even U.S. comedian Ron White, still found the humour in it. Ron quipped, “I believe that if life gives you lemons, you should make lemonade...And try to find somebody whose life has given them vodka, and have a party.” If that does not work, it is not the fault of the concept so much as too much of its execution.

I was quite surprised to learn that among its many and surprising benefits, vol-

unteering can help you make friends, learn new skills, advance your career, and even feel happier and healthier. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who don’t. Older volunteers (like me) tend to walk more, find it easier to cope with everyday tasks, are less likely to develop high blood pressure, and have better thinking skills. Even more interesting for me is that volunteering can also lessen symptoms of chronic pain and reduce heart disease. If this makes you want to become a volunteer, go ahead but don’t be like the volunteer at the Catholic church who prayed that he would get the missionary position.

The key to all this is the “WIIFM”. It is not a special radio station selling voluntarism to the world but an ac-

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ronym for “What’s In It For Me”. Even though volunteers are people who offer their services without being asked, there must be something in it for them. If there is nothing for the volunteers but hard work, they would never volunteer unless they are narcissists and love punishment. It is like when I talked about one of my teachers in the old days, Mrs. Ford, who beat us with a thick, leather strap. One of my friends saw it differently and replied, “Boy, these days some men will pay good money for that.”

Mark Twain’s “Tom Sawyer” taught us that you can get people to volunteer to do something that initially seemed to them to be very menial work. In fact, Tom was able to get his friend Ben Rogers who initially ridiculed him, not just to beg to help but paid good money for the privilege. This proves that you don’t necessarily need the song and dance that Tom used. All you have to do is make

those interested realise that what you’re offering them is worth their time and commitment, if not immediately, in the long term. It is vital that there is something in it for them that they value, want, need or require.

You have to give them something they feel will be worth their while. It is like the woman participating in a survey who was asked how she felt about condoms. She replied, “Depends on what’s in it for me.”

We are all of us into WIIFM because we come first. One of my Irish Catholic teachers once told me flatly, “Tony, I try to help people and this is why I joined the Church but you must understand that my primary duty is to save my own soul first and then I can try to save other people.”

That’s really the way the cook- ie crumbles. It is like the pilot in the plane when all the engines conked out. He came out of with a parachute on his

back and said, “I’m going for help. I’m coming back just now.” This is where we humourists and comedians come in. We lighten the load as I tried to when I ended my session with the group. First, I told them about the man who claimed,

“My wife volunteers every week as a school crossing guard.” Then he added, “I tell everyone she’s into human trafficking.” Then I added, “I joined a volunteer group to help stab victims. I didn’t have a sharp knife, so I had my work cut out for me.”

For all of you interested in being volunteers, you will have your work cut out for you. It could be really hard work and sometimes you feel like giving up. When that happens, just remember that a diamond is merely a lump of coal that did very well under pressure.

**Tony Deyal was last quoting the Dalia Lama, “If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.”*



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PAHO supports health authorities in Haiti in the response to the re-emergence of cholera

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says it is working closely with Haitian public health authorities and international partners to address the outbreak of Cholera in the French-speaking country.

After more than three years without reported cases, Haiti first confirmed earlier this month two cases of *Vibrio cholerae* O1. In an update on Wednesday, national authorities confirmed 11 cases, including two deaths, and a total 111 cases under investigation in various communes around Port-au-Prince.

PAHO said as an initial immediate response, it donated two tons of medical supplies and materials for case management and disinfection from its emergency stockpile in Port-Au-Prince to Doctors Without Borders (MSF), who is facilitating the health response in the affected area.

PAHO said it has also provided tents to MSF and the ministry of health to set up four cholera treatment centres capable of accommodating 50 patients each. In addition, the organisation is procuring cholera kits and other essential supplies to treat patients and to prevent the further spread of the disease.

“Haiti is currently facing a complex humanitarian crisis, including socio-political unrest and fuel blockages that significantly constrain the operation of health services and hinder the provision of humanitarian assistance by international organisations and partners.

“Access to affected communities is extremely challenging and has worsened in the past weeks due to fuel shortages, protest marches, looting, and general strikes. Health facilities are beginning to close their doors



Cholera can lead to rapid dehydration and shock; if not treated quickly, severe cases can be fatal. In Haiti, thousands of people have died from cholera in recent years. Photo: Andres Martinez Casares/ Reuters

and healthcare workers are unable to commute to work. Patients encounter the same difficulties due to lack of transportation and roadblocks around the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Power supply issues affect the population’s access to water, which can aggravate the already precarious situation,” PAHO said.

In an epidemiological alert issued earlier this month, PAHO warned that the worsening violence affects the timely assessment of the epidemiological situation and that cholera cases are likely to be higher in the country. PAHO emphasised that the social-political and conflict conditions could impact the dynamics of cholera resurgence and the severity of the disease in patients suffering from acute diarrhoea.

PAHO has recommended that countries in the region strengthen their surveillance systems for the early de-

tection of cholera and acute diarrheal disease and update their preparedness and response plans. The organisation also called on member states to continue efforts and reinforce actions to improve water and sanitation quality and conditions.

Between October 2010 and February 2019, PAHO said a sustained outbreak caused more than 820,000 cholera cases and almost 10,000 deaths in Haiti. In February, Haiti marked three years without cholera and was preparing to submit its case for cholera-free status certification at the end of 2022.

Cholera is spread through water and food contaminated by faeces and causes acute diarrhoea within hours. Safe water and sanitation are critical to prevent and controlling cholera transmission, which can be a challenge in poor communities and in situations of conflict. The disease is treatable with rehydration measures and antibiotics.

Trinidad & Tobago gov't shocked by most recent US travel advisory

The Trinidad and Tobago government says it is shocked at the latest travel advisory issued by the United States, which encourages Americans to avoid the capital due to violence and shootings.

Washington DC maintained a Level 2 advisory for Trinidad and Tobago but issued a Level 4 advisory for Port of Spain, advising US citizens not to travel there.



Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

In addition, the advisory stated that US government

personnel are prohibited from traveling to several areas including all beaches, claiming that violent crimes, such as murder, robbery, assault, sexual assault, home invasion, and kidnapping are common.

In addition, it said gang activity, such as narcotics trafficking, is common, with a significant portion of violent crime being gang related.

“Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas,” the advisory said.

But National Security Minister Fitzgerald Hinds, said Trinidad and Tobago has not had any major terrorist activity for many years, perhaps not since 1990.

“We have had little bombings about the place,

unfortunately someone lost a leg...and we haven't had that experience and thank God, I was a little bit taken aback,” he said.

He added that the government continues to work alongside the United States and other friendly governments in dealing with crime and that terrorism, which is not unique to Trinidad and Tobago.

“We continue to do our work, we continue to collaborate with our friends, the United States of America and other international partners and other international agencies and it is a work in progress...,” he said.

“But yes, I was a little bit taken aback with this major focus on terrorism bearing in mind that terrorism is an opportunist activity and wherever they get an opportunity to do something they do it anywhere in the world, and, in that sense, Trinidad and Tobago is not as vulnerable as every other country anywhere in this world,” he added. (CMC)



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Regional News



Kamina Johnson Smith disappointed that TCI blames Jamaicans for crime upsurge

CMC – Kamina Johnson Smith says the Jamaica government has noted with “concern” recent developments in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) related to an upsurge in gang activity in the British Overseas Territory. But Kingston said it is disappointing that despite the fact many nationalities had been identified with the crime situation there “Jamaicans were singled out,” adding that “such statements are distinctly unhelpful.”

Governor Nigel John Dakin Monday said the security situation in the TCI is related to Jamaican gangs and serious transnational crime rather than international terrorism.

“It remains ongoing, and it will not stop, unless we stop it,” Dakin told the House of Assembly as he



Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith

made reference to the surge in gang violence.

The governor said several months ago two local gangs lost their leadership. He said one extremely violent local gang leader was shot dead by police, while

resisting arrest.

“The other, a Haitian gang leader, who the police had made four separate attempts to arrest in the shanty areas of ‘Romy Yard,’ was killed by one of his own gangs before he could be ar-

rested.”

The governor said the vacuum and confusion this created, allowed a predominantly Jamaican gang with a relatively small footprint to reinforce from Jamaica.

cont'd on pg 17

US Coast Guard seizes millions in cocaine in the Caribbean Sea

CMC – The United States Coast Guard says it seized more than 700 pounds of cocaine after intercepting a vessel in the Caribbean Sea.

It said four men were apprehended when the vessel was intercepted by the Coast Guard Cutter Winslow Griesser and Caribbean Corridor Strike Force agents had offloaded 721 pounds of cocaine in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The coast guard said the interdiction took place in the Mona Passage, near Puerto Rico and the four men, who claimed to be Dominican Republic nationals are facing federal prose-

cution in Puerto Rico for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance aboard a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

It said this charge carries a minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of imprisonment for life.

An additional charge of assaulting federal officers with a deadly weapon carries a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, the US Coast Guard said.

“I cannot be prouder of the

Winslow Griesser crew, especially our small boat crew, whose skill and professionalism were instrumental in stopping this drug smuggling go-fast vessel,” said Lieutenant Commander Mark Tatara, the commanding officer of the cutter Winslow Griesser.

“We appreciate our Customs and Border Protection and our Coast Guard watch standers who worked seamlessly to ensure a successful outcome in this case that helped keep these drugs from reaching the shores of Puerto Rico and bring those responsible to justice,” he added.

Dominica to tighten gun legislation

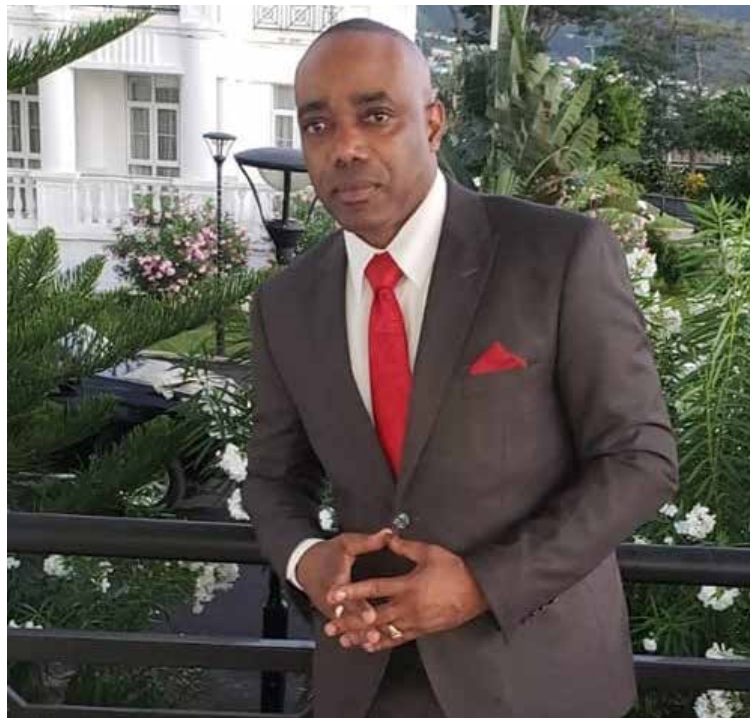
CMC – The Dominica government says it is moving towards tightening legislation regarding the use of guns and other illegal weapons including a mandatory lengthy jail sentence for convicted persons.

National Security and Home Affairs Minister, Rayburn Blackmoore, said the Firearm and Bail Acts will be reviewed to impose stiffer penalties on persons convicted on charges of trafficking in illegal firearms.

“We have strong gun laws in our country. However, laws are very organic and are meant to be changed with time. In that regard, in very quick order, further changes will be made to our firearms act.”

He said anyone found importing or trafficking illegal firearms “will go to jail for a long time upon conviction.”

“It means therefore that there will be a mandatory custodian jail sentence for



Dominica's National Security Minister, Rayburn Blackmoore

anyone found importing or trafficking illegal firearms. That person will be out of circulation for a long time.”

Blackmoore recently said a Bail Act was enacted into law “and to bring further clarity to this piece of legislation, further strengthening to the said act will be made to ensure that bail applications can only be made

before the High Court for illegal firearm matters.”

Blackmoore said he wanted to praise the various law enforcement agencies, including customs and police, noting that as the island moves toward the upcoming festive season including the independence celebrations, “people will be more inclined to take their chances.

“Therefore, there will be a greater need for greater vigilance and diligence by our police officers, customs officers, and Dominicans on a whole.”

The national security minister said the government condemns the trafficking in illegal firearms, noting “we do not manufacture firearms, so these illegal guns come from the other side.

“Dominica is not a gun town and therefore we as a people have to ensure that this beautiful country does not descend to that level. Let me remind you that your government takes this matter very seriously and will not relent in its effort to build an effective infrastructure to intercept, recover illegal firearms and to bring the perpetrators to justice,” he said, making reference to the recent interception of 20 illegal firearms and 409 rounds of ammunition at a port on the outskirts of the capital.

cont'd from pg 16

But in a statement, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith said it’s “regrettable” and “unhelpful” that officials in the TCI have singled out Jamaicans in relation to an upsurge in gang activity there.

“It is truly regrettable that, against information indicating that various nationalities have been and are involved in previous criminal activity and the recent upsurge, Jamaicans were singled out for blame,” she said, adding “such statements are distinctly unhelp-

ful,” she added.

“Crime in our Caribbean societies affects us all and it is therefore our hope that there will be a speedy resolution to the current upsurge. We assure our nationals in the Turks and Caicos Islands of our concern and interest in the situation and urge them to remain calm while they continue to exercise their usual responsible citizenship in the country,” Johnson Smith said.

“We also assure them we have communicated their concerns to the government of the TCI, and are assured of their recognition of the value

of our many law-abiding citizens who contribute positively to their society,” she added.

Johnson Smith noted that Jamaica and the TCI have been engaged at various levels, and that Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Premier Charles Misick have held discussions on the ongoing situation, including on the multinational nature of gang-fuelled violence, which also affects Jamaica.

She further explained that Jamaica and other CARICOM members were asked to provide assistance and are examining ways in which to do so.

Regional News



EU blacklists the Bahamas, Anguilla, and Turks and Caicos Islands

CMC – The European Union (EU) added Anguilla, The Bahamas, along with the Turks and Caicos Islands to its blacklist of tax havens on Tuesday.

In December 2017, the EU established a list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. It is part of the EU's external tax strategy, and it intends to contribute to ongoing efforts to promote tax good governance around the world.

With the removal of Bermuda and Tunisia, these new additions bring the total number of jurisdictions on the EU list to 12 which

comprises American Samoa, Anguilla, The Bahamas, Fiji, Guam, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, US Virgin Islands, and Vanuatu.

The European Council said in a release that it regrets that these jurisdictions are non-cooperative on matters related to tax and invites them to engage with the EU's Code of Conduct Group to rectify the issues.

The Turks & Caicos Islands are listed for the first time. The Bahamas was previously listed in 2018, and Anguilla in 2020.

Chiara Putaturo, Oxfam EU's tax expert, contends that the move is "a total whitewash", expressing that the criteria for blacklisting are weak and unfair to non-European countries.

"This is not a blacklist; it is a whitewash. Two years have passed since the EU agreed to strengthen the list and give it some teeth, but nothing has changed. The criteria remain woefully weak.

While this list captured three zero-tax rate countries, it was not due to their tax rate and they can easily be delisted again. The EU should automatically blacklist zero- and low-tax rate countries and hold European countries up to the same level of scrutiny as non-European countries.

The current list makes the EU a hypocrite as major tax havens in Europe like Malta and Luxembourg escape the list while countries outside Europe like Eswatini and Botswana risk being blacklisted," he said.

It is said that the EU's inclusion of Anguilla, The Bahamas, and Turks & Caicos Islands in the list is due to concerns that these three jurisdictions, which all have zero or nominal-only corporate income tax rates, are luring profits without generating meaningful economic activity.

It is also said they failed to adequately address sever-

al suggestions of the OECD Forum on Harmful Tax Practices (FHTP) in connection with the enforcement of economic substance criteria, which they promised to do earlier this year.

The current blacklist includes only one of the world's 20 worst corporate tax havens identified by the Tax Justice Network (TJN) in 2021, and one of the world's 15 worst corporate tax havens identified by the 2016 Oxfam analysis.

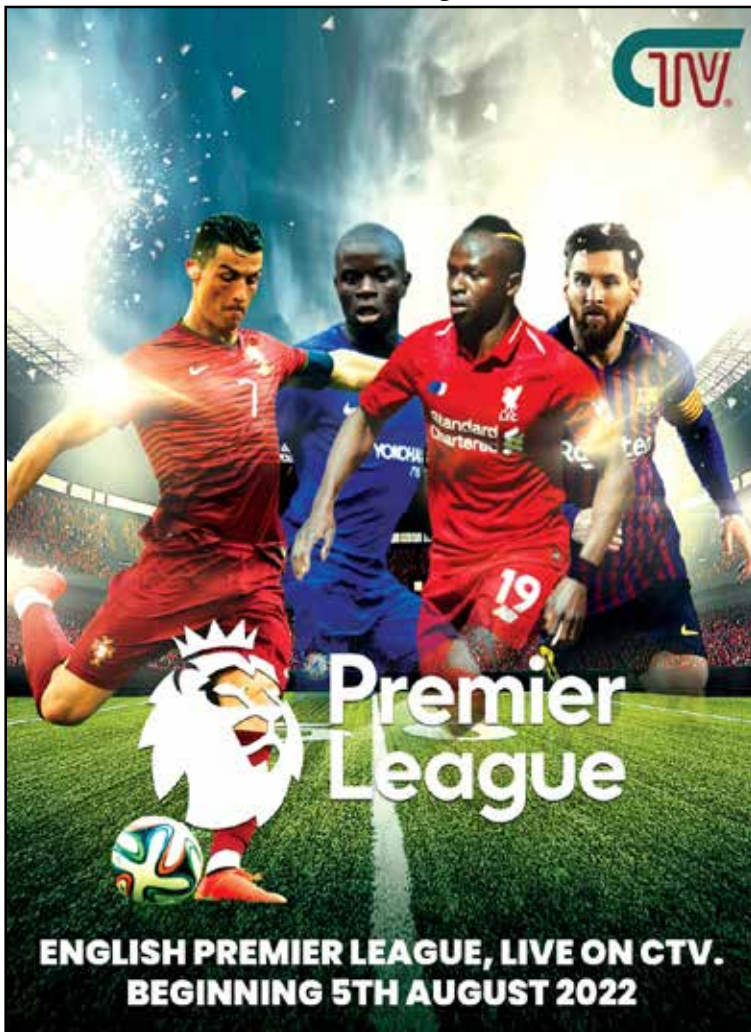
Among the 12 countries in the world with a zero percent tax rate, three are blacklisted and two are greylisted.

Bermuda which was removed today is a zero-tax jurisdiction. It is ranked as the third most-harmful tax haven in the TJN Tax Havens Index and the first one in the Oxfam 2016 tax havens ranking.

Putaturo further argues: "Stronger criteria could stop the industrial levels of tax dodging by the world's richest and corporates. Governments and ordinary people are facing the cost-of-living crisis.

Ending tax havens could provide the much-needed hundreds of billions in revenue as the world's super-rich would have to pay their fair share."

Since 2020, the EU list has been updated twice a year. The list is expected to be revised in February 2023.



Scottish leader: Independence vote key, whatever court says

AP – The leader of the Scottish government said Sunday that she will push on with her campaign to take Scotland out of the United Kingdom, even if she loses a Supreme Court case seeking authorization to call a new independence referendum.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to hold a referendum in October 2023, but the Conservative U.K. government in London has said no.

Britain's top court is due to hear arguments starting Tuesday on whether Scotland's semi-autonomous administration can organise an independence vote without the London government's consent.

Sturgeon, who leads the Scottish National Party, said that if her Edinburgh-based government loses the court case, she will make the next U.K. national election a de facto plebiscite on ending Scotland's three-century-old union with England.

She did not give details of how that would work. A vote held without the approval of the U.K. government would not be legally binding.

Sturgeon said that if the courts blocked a referendum, "we put our case to people in an election or we give up on Scottish democracy."

"It should be a last re-



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on stage alongside Lesia Vasylenko Ukrainian Member of Parliament after speaking during the SNP conference at the Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA) in Aberdeen, Scotland, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. (Andrew Milligan/PA via AP)

sort," she said. "I don't want to be in that position. I want to have a lawful referendum."

Scotland and England have been politically united since 1707. Scotland has had its own parliament and government since 1999 and makes its own policies on public health, education and other matters. The U.K.-wide government in London controls matters such as defence and fiscal policy.

Scottish voters rejected independence by a margin of 55% to 45% in a 2014 referendum that was billed as a once-in-a-generation choice. Sturgeon's government argues that Britain's departure from the European Union and the coronavi-

rus pandemic have upended politics and the economy and that it's time to revisit the case for independence.

British voters narrowly approved Brexit in a 2016 referendum, but those in Scotland voted strongly to stay in the EU.

Sturgeon's party leads a pro-independence majority in the Scottish parliament, together with the Scottish Green Party, and she maintains that support has created an "indisputable democratic mandate" for a new independence vote.

Sturgeon promised to produce documents in the coming weeks outlining the economic basis for independence and answering questions such as what currency

the country would use after a split.

She said her goal of holding a referendum in a year's time was realistic.

"There's little point speculating on the outcome of a court hearing, but should that be yes, we have the plans ready to go to legislate," she said.

Polls suggest Scotland is about evenly split on independence. Labour Party politician Alistair Darling, a former U.K. Treasury chief said polls also show a majority of Scots do not want a referendum anytime soon.

"This country is tearing itself apart. And that uncertainty is damaging to our growth prospects and to our wellbeing," Darling said.

Ukraine war: 'Russian attack' on city claimed by Moscow kills 13

BBC – At least 13 people have been killed by Russian missile strikes on the south-eastern city of Zaporizhzhia, Ukrainian officials say.

Dozens more were wounded, and several residential buildings destroyed.

The city is under Ukrainian control, but it is part of a region that Russia says it annexed last month.

Zaporizhzhia has been hit repeatedly in recent weeks, as Russia hits back at urban areas after suffering defeats in the south and north-east of Ukraine.

Parts of the Zaporizhzhia region, including its nuclear power plant – which is around 52km (30 miles) from the city – have been under Russian control since early in the invasion.



Ukrainian officials initially put the death toll at 17 but later revised it down.

The BBC's Paul Adams, who was recently in the city, says the buildings

struck are not obvious military targets and the attacks seem entirely indiscriminate.

More than 60 civilians are understood to have been killed in and around Zaporizhzhia in the past nine days.

Ukrainian President Zelensky called the shelling "merciless strikes on peaceful people again".

"Absolute meanness," he said. "Absolute evil. Savages and terrorists. From the one who gave this order to everyone who fulfilled this order. They will bear responsibility. For sure. Before the law and before people."

The Ukrainian regional governor in Zaporizhzhia, Oleksandr Starukh, said 12 Russian missiles had partially destroyed a nine-storey building, and levelled five other residential buildings.

"There may be more people under the rubble. A rescue operation is under way at the scene. Eight people have already been rescued," he said on Telegram.

Meanwhile, a power line supplying the nuclear plant has been reconnected after shelling resulted in a cut on Friday night, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael

cont'd on pg 21



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Gambia cough syrup scandal: Police investigate deaths linked to Indian medicine

BBC – Police in The Gambia are investigating the deaths of 66 children, which have been linked to four brands of imported Indian cough syrup.

Senior officials from the Medicine Control Agency and the importers have been called for questioning, the president's office said.

President Adama Barrow said that the authorities would "leave no stone unturned" in the investigation.

Gambians, angry about what happened, are wondering who is to blame.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global alert over the four cough syrups - warning they could be linked to acute kidney injuries and the children's deaths in July, August and September.

Bereaved parents have told the BBC how their children stopped being able to pass urine after being given the syrups. As their condition worsened, efforts to save their lives were fruitless.

The products - Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup



Musa Kuyateh was one of the 66 children who died after taken the cough syrup

- were manufactured by an Indian company, Maiden Pharmaceuticals, which had failed to provide guarantees about their safety, the WHO said.

The Indian government is also investigating the situation. The firm has not responded to a BBC request for comment.

But in a comment to the ANI news agency Maiden said it was shocked and saddened over the incident. The company said it followed Indian health protocols and was co-operating with an investigation.

Gambian health officials and Red Cross workers are now going door to door, as

well as to pharmacies and markets, searching for the syrups as well as other medicines.

More than 16,000 products have been located so far and have been taken away for destruction, a Red Cross official told the BBC.

On Friday, President Barrow addressed the nation, expressing his regret for the loss of life saying that "the source of the contaminated drugs" would be investigated.

He announced plans to open a laboratory capable of testing whether medicines are safe and a review of relevant laws and guidelines for imported drugs.

He also said that "the child mortality figure of 66 is not at much variance with the recorded data for similar periods in the past", which left some wondering whether the authorities thought that these deaths were unusual.

The president followed this up on Saturday evening with a more robust statement, suspending the licence of the suspected importer and announcing the police investigation.

Some of the parents who lost their children have told the BBC that they are considering taking legal action of their own against the authorities.

cont'd from pg 20
 el Grossi, said.

"Our team at #Zaporizhzhya confirms the offsite power line lost yday was restored & #ZNPP is reconnected to the grid - a temporary relief in a still untenable situation," he tweeted on Sunday.

Mr Grossi said he would call on both sides to support a protection zone around the plant. Russia and Ukraine have blamed each other for the shelling.

Meanwhile, Russian divers are beginning a fuller examination of the damage done by Saturday's explosion

on the road and rail bridge linking occupied Crimea with Russia.

Though limited traffic has resumed along one lane, a section of the bridge was brought down by the blast.

Security has been tightened and Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a full investigation.

Sports News



Ex-Real Madrid and Spain keeper deletes 'I'm gay' tweet and says he was hacked

BBC – Former Real Madrid and Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas has deleted a tweet that said he was gay - saying his account was hacked.

Casillas tweeted in Spanish: "I hope you respect me: I'm gay," before his former Spain team-mate Carlos Puyol replied: "It's time to tell our story."

The tweet was live for more than an hour before being deleted.

Casillas later tweeted: "Hacked account. Luckily everything in order. Apologies to all my followers."

The tweet added: "Of course, more apologies to the LGBT community."

Casillas split from his wife Sara Carbonero last March. They have two children.

Before Casillas' initial tweet was deleted, Adelaide United player Josh



Iker Casillas won multiple domestic and European honours in more than 15 years with Real Madrid

Cavallo, who came out last October, criticised Casillas and Puyol for apparently joking about coming out.

"Joking and making fun out of coming out in football is disappointing," Cavallo tweeted.

"It's a difficult journey that any LGBTQ+ people have to go through. To see my role models and legends of the game make fun

out of coming out and my community is beyond disrespectful."

Few high-profile current or former male players have ever come out as openly gay in the sport.

Earlier this year, teenager Jake Daniels became the first professional in the UK men's game for more than 30 years to come out while still playing.

The 17-year-old Blackpool player said the decision would allow him to be "free and confident".

Casillas, who retired in 2020, joined Real Madrid aged nine and made 725 appearances for the club during a 16-year career at the Bernabeu, winning three Champions League titles and five La Liga crowns.

He moved to Porto in 2015, winning two Primeira Liga titles and one Portuguese Cup, but his playing career ended after he suffered a heart attack during training in April 2019. He later joined the club's coaching staff.

As well as winning the 2010 World Cup, he helped Spain to two successive European Championships in 2008 and 2012, and won 167 caps between 2000 and 2016.

West Indies to visit South Africa for all-format series

West Indies Men will travel to South Africa for an all-format tour which will feature two Tests, three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals.

The two-match Test Series will commence at SuperSport Park in Centurion from 28 February to 4 March followed by the second Test at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg from 8–12 March. This series will be the final round of matches in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).

The three-match ODI Series will begin at Buffalo Park Cricket Stadium in East London (16 March and 18 March) before the series wraps up at

JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom (21 March). The three KFC T20Is will take the teams back to SuperSport Park (25 March and 26 March) and conclude at the Wanderers (28 March).

West Indies last tour of South Africa was an all-format series from December 2014 to January 2015. During that series, Kraigg Brathwaite made a breakthrough Test century at the St George's Park in Port Elizabeth. In the T20Is West Indies had a famous win, when they made 236-6 to win at the Wanderers. The series also featured an historic century by AB de Villiers – which came off just 31 balls.



FIFA won't sanction Indonesia over fatal crush, Widodo says

AP – Indonesia's president said the country will not face sanctions from soccer's world governing body after the firing of tear gas inside a half-locked stadium caused a crush at the exits, killing 131 people, including 17 children.

Joko Widodo said FIFA President Gianni Infantino wrote in a letter to him about potential collaborations between Indonesia and FIFA and the country will remain the host of next year's U-20 World Cup joined by 24 countries from five continents.

"Based on the letter, thank God, Indonesian football is not sanctioned by FIFA," Widodo said in a video posted on the presidential office's YouTube channel late Friday.

In its security protocols, FIFA advises against the use of tear gas in or around stadiums and recommends exit gates be unlocked at all times during a game.

While those rules are considered a safety standard, they don't apply to domestic or national leagues and FIFA has no authority over how local governments and police control crowds.

Widodo toured the Kanjuruhan soccer stadium in Malang city on Wednesday and said several locked gates had contributed to the disaster that followed a league game between host Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya on Oct. 1.

The national police chief on Thursday said the stadium did not have a proper operating certificate and criminal charges would be brought against six people, including three police officers.

Indonesia's national soccer association, known locally as PSSI, has long struggled to manage the game



A man prays near flowers laid at the Kanjuruhan Stadium where a soccer stampede killed more than 100 people on Oct. 1, in Malang, East Java, Indonesia, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. Indonesia's president said the country will not face sanctions from soccer's world governing body and will remain the host of next year's U-20 World Cup after the firing of tear gas after a match inside the half-locked stadium caused the deadly crush at the exits. (AP Photo/Dicky Bisinglasi)

domestically.

Gaining the right to host next year's Under-20 World Cup was a major milestone in Indonesia's soccer development, raising hopes that a successful tournament would turn around long standing problems that have blighted the sport in the nation, home to more than 277 million people.

The deadly crush is a tragic reminder, however, that Indonesia is one of the most dangerous countries in which to attend a game.

Since last week, the domestic league has been suspended. Widodo has ordered the sports minister, the national police chief and the soccer federation to conduct a thorough investigation into the deadly stadium crush.

He said on Friday that the Indo-

nesian government has agreed to take collaborative measures with FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation to improve stadium safety to prevent another tragedy.

"FIFA, together with the government, will set a transformation team for Indonesian football," Widodo said, adding that Infantino would also visit Indonesia in the near future.

He said that FIFA will be based in Indonesia during these processes to improve safety standards at all football stadiums across the country, formulate security procedures and protocols for the police based on international standards, take feedback from Indonesian football clubs and fans, regulate season calendar under risk-based considerations as well as to involve experts from various fields for advice.

Sports News



Verstappen takes second straight drivers' title with Japan win

AP — Max Verstappen is now a two-time Formula One world champion, both titles awarded under bizarre and unprecedented circumstances long after he crossed the finish line.

The Red Bull driver won the rain-shortened Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday and didn't learn he was champion until F1's governing body penalised Charles Leclerc after the race.

"The championship obviously did not come this time around," Verstappen initially said after climbing from his car following his 12th victory of the season. The Dutchman even apologised to the crowd on the track's public address system.

Seconds later, Verstappen was told he was a two-time world champion and crew members and friends suffocated him with hugs.

"Once I crossed the line I thought: 'It was an amazing race, good points again. But I'm not world champion yet.'"

The 25-year-old said he was tipped off when his mechanics started to cheer, but said he was still confused.

"I don't mind, it was a little confusing," he said. "I find it actually quite... funny."

Two titles for Verstappen signals a changing of the guard in F1, even if Verstappen's championship-clinching races will forever be



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates with his team after winning the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix at the Suzuka Circuit in Suzuka, central Japan, Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022. Verstappen secured second consecutive Formula One drivers' championship. (AP Photo/Toru Hanai)

remembered for their controversial endings.

In Suzuka, Verstappen started from the pole in pouring rain only for the race to be stopped after two laps as several cars crashed. The race resumed two hours later, but only 28 of the 53 laps were completed and Verstappen led the entire way.

The Belgian Grand Prix a year ago was not completed in the rain and F1 for the sixth time in history awarded only half points for that shortened event. So nearly all the teams figured Sunday's race was only going to be worth half points again.

The entire paddock seemed surprised when the FIA then ruled full points would be awarded. But even

that wasn't enough: Leclerc received a post-race penalty that dropped the Ferrari driver from second to third and officially gave Verstappen the points margin needed to clinch the title with four races remaining.

Verstappen has edged past Hamilton as Formula One's main man. The 37-year-old Hamilton, whose Mercedes has been disappointing this year, has not won a race since Saudi Arabia, the penultimate race of 2021.

Verstappen has racing in his blood. His father, Jos Verstappen, ran more than 100 races in F1, but failed to ever win. The elder Verstappen was once a teammate of Schumacher with Benetton

for part of the 1994 season.

His mother, Sophie, was a top-ranked kart racer and a skilled driver in her own right.

Verstappen, who was born in Belgium and learned racing there, drives under the flag of the Netherlands, where after school each day he'd cross the border to his father's race shop and work on becoming a future F1 champion.

He is the youngest driver to ever make a Formula One debut, at 17 driving for Toro Rosso in 2015.

With 12 victories this season he is nearing the season record of Schumacher and Vettel, both with 13. Schumacher won 13 races in 2004, Vettel did it in 2013.

Anjo Wholesale retains second best record in Business League

Anjo Wholesale trounced Fitzroy Rewinding 75-45 to retain the second best record in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex over the weekend.

Humroy Wright shot a game-high 32 points and Steven Matthew chipped in with 10 points to lead Anjo Wholesale to their eighth win in nine outings in the second game of a triple-header on Saturday evening.

Eric Joseph produced 13 points and Lindsay McDonald scored 10 points for Fitzroy Rewinding who slumped to their seventh loss in 10 games.

Sandals Antigua romped to an emphatic 101-62 victory against Sledge O'Ballers in the first game of Saturday's triple-header to maintain the league's third best record.

Devorn Benjamin shot a game-high 41 points and Kenya Achom scored 17 points to propel Sandals Antigua to their seventh win in nine encounters.

Shane Reviere scored 11 points and Dion "Harry" Jules contributed 10 points for Sledge O'Ballers who suffered their sixth loss in nine appearances.

Sandals Antigua had notched up their sixth win by romping to a 77-38 vic-

tory against Mill Reef in the first game of last Thursday's double-header.

Devorn Benjamin sank 20 points, Coy Quinland scored 14 and Kim Casey produced 11 points for Sandals Antigua. Eril Qualis converted 20 points for Mill Reef as they slumped to their seventh loss in eight encounters.

Defending champions, Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, snatched a hard-fought 66-61 vic-

tory over Graphic Impact Shooters in Saturday's feature game.

Veteran guard Marlon "Buju" Charles had 20 points, Ishan Peets scored 16 points and Russell Daley contributed 13 points for Transport Board to claim their sixth win in eight appearances.

Tavarus Benta sank 25 points, while teammates Delornje Jules and Kwame Braithwaite each scored 10 points for Graphic Impact

Shooters who lost for only the second time in seven outings.

Leaders Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care maintained their perfect record as they remained the only unbeaten team by recording their ninth consecutive win with a 58-46 victory over Fitzroy Rewinding in the second game of a double-header on Thursday evening.

Tequan Brodie shot a

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MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORKSHOP FOR NON-CLINICIANS

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OCS makes winning start to title defence

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) made a successful start in defence of their Under-20 Boys' Division Title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

A goal by Aquan Singh gave Ottos Comprehensive a 1-0 win over Antigua State College at King George V playing field in one of three opening round matches in the West Zone of the competition on Friday, 7th October.

Antigua Grammar School and Princess Margaret School also recorded wins in their opening round matches in the West Zone on Friday.

Goals by Sedique Adams and Denison Stevens gave Antigua Grammar School a 2-1 victory over Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove Playing field.

Princess Margaret School (PMS) trounced St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) 5-1 at the PMS playing field. National Under-17 Boys' striker Tejahno Jarvis scored the consolation goal for SMSS.

Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) made an impressive start to their league campaign in the East Zone with an 8-1 victory over Glanvilles Secondary School at the Police Recreation Grounds on Thursday, 6th October.

Kadeem Campbell and Rashawn Martin each converted twice, while Jamali Roberts, Kemoy Francis, Abraham Bailey and Malique Chatham each scored once for ABICE. Raheem Lewis scored a consolation goal for Glanvilles Secondary.

Pares Secondary School prevailed 2-1 against Clare Hall Secondary in their opening encounter in the East Zone at the Antigua and Barbuda

Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Centre at Paynters.

However, the other opening-round match in the East Zone between All Saints Secondary and Irene B. Williams Secondary was not played due to an unprepared playing field in Swetes Village.

The 2022 Secondary Schools' Football League will continue today (Monday) with the first round of matches in the Under-14 Boys' Division.

Antigua Grammar School will meet St. Mary's Secondary School in the opening match of a double-header at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos at 2:30 pm.

Defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School will face All Saints Secondary in the second encounter at 3:30 pm.

St. Joseph's Academy will take on Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the first game of a double-header at Princess Margaret School's playing field at 2:30 pm.

Host Princess Margaret School will clash with Iare Hall Secondary School in the second encounter at 3:30 pm.

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game-high 18 points and Tehran Zachariah contributed 16 points for Antigua Vision Care.

The Business Basketball League will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening, Monday, 10th October.

Mill Reef will take on Fitzroy Rewinding in the first game at 6:30 pm, Sledge O'Ballers will meet Gal-



Denison Stevens scored one of the goals for AGS in their 2-1 victory against Jennings Secondary in their Under-20 Boys' Division encounter in the West Zone of the Secondary Schools' League at the Golden Grove Playing field on Friday, 7th October, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

ley Bay at 7:30 pm and Sandals Antigua will face Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew at 8:30 pm.

In tomorrow's triple-header at the same venue, Graphic Impact Shooters will oppose Galley Bay Resort at 6:30 pm, unbeaten leaders Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care will meet Vendors at 7:30 pm and Fitzroy Rewinding will clash with Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre at 8:30 pm.

Willikies, Bullets advance to ABFA's Knockout Cup semis

Willikies FC and Pigotts Bullets FC are the first two teams to book their spots into the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition.

Both teams secured their places into the last four by snatching 2-1 victories in their respective quarter-finals matches at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Saturday evening.

Willikies beat Old Road FC in the first game of Saturday's double-head-

er. National striker Novel-le Francis gave Willikies an early lead with a 6th minute conversion.

Ex-national striker Stephan Smith scored an equalizer for Old Road in the 34th minute and both teams ended the first half with the score deadlocked at 1-1.

Following the halftime interval, D'Jarie Sheppard broke the deadlock with a strike in the 66th minute that proved to be the winner to send Willikies FC into the semi-finals of the competition.

A second-half brace by

striker Akeem Isaac enabled Bullets to overcome a first half deficit as the Pigotts men came from behind to salvage a 2-1 victory against Cedar Grove Blue Jays in the second game of Saturday's double-header.

Jahbarry Chandler had scored in the 40th minute to give Cedar Grove a 1-0 halftime advantage.

However, the lead did not last long after the interval as Pigotts drew level when Isaac scored his first goal and Bullets' equalizer in the 51st minute.

Five minutes later,

Isaac scored his second goal of the match, which not only gave Bullets the lead but turned out to be the winner to catapult the team from Pigotts into the final four.

Booth semi-finalists are already guaranteed to take home at least EC\$5,000 at the end of the competition.

The fourth place finishers will walk away with EC\$5,000, the third place winners will get EC\$10,000, the runners-up will claim EC\$20,000 and the champion team will take home the grand cash prize of EC\$50,000.



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Ambassador Percival wins bikini fitness title in Finland

After winning the silver medal at the Arnold Classic IFBB Elite Pro World Championships in Spain last month, the Antiguan and Barbudan bikini fitness queen, Ambassador Kimberly Percival, has returned to the top of the podium.

Ambassador Percival followed up winning the 2022 Elite Pro Diamond Cup at the Prague Bikini Fitness Champion the previous weekend, by capturing the 2022 Jantana Pro Bikini Fitness Championship at the Finland Nordic Fitness Expo on Saturday, 8th October.

Ambassador Percival was among 10 bikini pros who were specially invited to compete in the event in Finland.

The 10 bikini pros who accepted the invitation and participated in the show were Alina Nesterova of Ukraine, Monica Sackova and Natalia Gonzalez of the Czech Republic, Kimberly Percival of Antigua & Barbuda, Theresa Oesterreich and Mascha Stutz of Germany, Johanna Hermans of Finland, Ophelia Gava of France and Reet Reimets of Estonia.

The top five winners are: 1st Kimberly Percival of Antigua & Barbuda, 2nd Mascha Stutz, Germany, 3rd Monica Sackova of Czech Republic, 4th Reet Reimets, Estonia and 5th Alina Nesterova of the Ukraine.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Nordic Fitness Expo, which consisted of a full weekend of events.

It includes the Finish Nationals, Nordic Championships (regional championships for Nordic countries Denmark, Norway and Finland), and a special invite-only Bikini Pro event, which was won by the Antiguan and Barbudan ambassador.



Ambassador Kimberly Percival poses with her trophy after capturing the 2022 Jantana Pro Bikini Fitness Championship at the Finland Nordic Fitness Expo on Saturday, 8th October. (Photo courtesy ABABWF)