

# OPERATION STATIC SENTRY SUCCESSFUL

*Story on Page 2*



*On Tuesday an initiative involving technical activities under the Australian Aid project to support the Barbuda-based NGO, Be-Foundation, began with the installation of a drip irrigation system and plastic mulch. The activity was led by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (MAFBA). The team was assisted by the Barbuda Council's Agriculture Division and the BeFoundation. While in Barbuda this week, the team will engage in various activities under the project and support other local farmers. [Photo: MAFBA]*



# Local News



## “Static Sentry” yields success

Public Safety minister, Steadroy Benjamin, has confirmed that there were no reports of school break-ins or vandalism since the start of a national security forces-led operation.

Operation Static Sentry was proposed by the Antigua Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) earlier this month to support the government’s efforts to curb the increase in burglaries and malicious damage at public schools.

The operation is being conducted by the ABDF in partnership with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

The operation is a short-



term measure aimed at providing adequate security on public school plants that will beat back the criminals who have caused serious disruptions in the education system.

From all indications,

Minister Benjamin has said that Operation Static Sentry is proving effective.

“I’m very satisfied. As a matter of fact, since we have introduced the system at the schools, there has been not one break-in since

that point. It means therefore, that the government’s plans are working, that the Defence Force and Police Force working together are doing a fantastic job!” Minister Benjamin said.

The temporary security plan will remain in place until the government finalises arrangements to install electronic security systems at public schools.

The frequent school break-ins have resulted in the theft of equipment and appliances and thousands of dollars have been expended to repair damaged doors and windows.

*cont’d on pg 3*

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KEEP ANTIGUA CLEAN

## David Harrison nominated for knighthood

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has nominated David Harrison to receive a knighthood, Antigua and Barbuda's highest national honour.

The United Kingdom national is the founder of the Harrison Foundation, a privately funded, charitable organisation, which has provided £4 million in grant funding to the government of Antigua and Barbuda for construction of the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education.

Speaking during Monday's sod-turning ceremony at Tomlinsons, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the final decision regarding his cabinet's nomination rests with the National Honours Committee. He expressed confidence, however, that Harrison would be approved for the honour.

"I do not want to anticipate the decision of the committee, but I believe that it will be accepted and I want to suggest to Daniel that he communicate this information to his father and perhaps he may wish to grace us with his presence on November 1st. The governor general will make the formal



David Harrison (centre) and his wife Sylvia (left) speak with a beneficiary of their charity organisation, the Harrison Foundation. [Credit: Harrison Foundation]

announcement on November 1st," PM Browne said.

According to the prime minister, Harrison, an entrepreneur and philanthropist, is deserving of the honour and should be recognised for his contributions to Antigua and Barbuda.

"This is done in gratitude by the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda to a most deserving partner who has been with us for over two decades, has assisted us and has now

stepped up and would have made a most significant contribution.

"I believe it is perhaps the single largest private sector contribution from anyone and we are very grateful and certainly would have agreed to extend the honour of knighthood for not only this contribution, but the contributions that he would have made during the last couple of decades towards the socio-economic advancement of Antigua and Barbuda," PM Browne said.

*cont'd from pg 2*

Static Sentry came into being after the government was threatened with strike action by the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) who expressed frustration with school security failures.

The government said the prohibitive cost of round the clock security did not make that option to tackle the problem feasible.

National security experts were called in to devise a plan following negotiations between the government and A&BUT and a proposal to handle the

issue was swiftly prepared by the ABDF.



Many people, including Minister Benjamin, have taken the position that the targeted school attacks could be politically motivated as elections are due in less than six months.

"We feel regrettably, however, that these [attacks] may be driven by political considerations. This is the season and notice, all of a sudden, these things are taking place.

"Be mindful; education is something for our future,

for our children and they are the future of tomorrow.

"Please, don't destroy the [school] plants; there is where our children are educated to build Antigua and Barbuda to be a success in the future," Benjamin pleaded.

Thu 27   Day		Thu 27   Night	
<b>86°</b>		<b>79°</b>	
22%	ESE 15 mph	19%	ESE 11 mph
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Humidity <b>72%</b>	UV Index <b>7 of 10</b>	Humidity <b>80%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>6:03 am</b>	Sunset <b>5:38 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>8:05 am</b>	Moonset <b>7:31 pm</b>
		● Waxing Crescent	



# Local News

## Gov't to recruit nurses from Ghana

The government has announced an innovative way of addressing the shortage of nurses to improve the nation's health care delivery system.

This week, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, reported to the cabinet that arrangements are being made to recruit nurses from the West African nation of Ghana.

This was revealed on Wednesday by Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel "Max" Hurst.

"The Minister of Health

informed that Antigua and Barbuda has started the process to attract Ghanaian nurses to Antigua and Barbuda.

"Barbados has successfully recruited one hundred nurses from Ghana.

"They are English speaking, have been trained to meet the standards set by the United States and have several years of experience," Hurst reported.

Like many of its Caribbean neighbours, Antigua and Barbuda has experienced a shortage of nurses. In part, this shortage has been created because Caribbean nurses



*Ghanian nurses in their signature green uniform*

have migrated to the United States and Canada, where their skills are in high demand.

Hundreds of Caribbean nurses take jobs in these countries as the compensation packages are far more attractive than those offered

in the region.

Hurst also reported that the ministry has engaged a consultant to draft a plan to make the nation's polyclinics more efficient and improve staffing.

"Many patients are going to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre for treatment when they need urgent care and not emergency care. The public clinics are not being utilised for the purpose intended because medical practitioners are frequently not present," he noted.

Meanwhile, the cabinet has agreed to amend the law governing burials to introduce cremation in Antigua and Barbuda.

A crematorium was incorporated in the plan for the new cemetery, however, one of the country's two funeral homes made an application for permission to operate one themselves.

The cabinet believes a single crematory is sufficient to meet the country's needs given its population.

A statement issued on Wednesday said a public private partnership may be the direction in which it moves when the time comes to establish the facility.



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## Students to gather at ARG today for National Youth Rally



Students participate in the 2013 National Youth Rally [Photo: Bertram Peters]

For the first time in over a decade, students from the primary and secondary schools across Antigua and Barbuda will march through the streets of St. John's today as part of the National Youth Rally.

The National Youth Rally is one of the featured activities leading to the country's 41st anniversary of Independence.

Hundreds of the nation's youths, adorned in their school uniforms, will gather for a day of fun and fair competitions, in basic and special drills, cheer-leading and disc jockeying.

This year's event will return to the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG).

It is also a special moment this year as it marks the return of the event after a two-year break.

Dwayne Fleming, the 100m CARIFTA gold medalist, will receive the third eyes right by students on Redcliffe Street.

This is the first time in the history of the decades-old event that a third eyes right will be given.

The first eyes right is accepted by the governor general.

With the Double Decker stand now demolished, concerns about seating for the youngsters have arisen, but measures have been implemented to ensure the students' comfort.

In the past, one hundred secondary and forty primary school students were accepted from each school.

This year, however, only sixty secondary and thirty primary students will be allowed to participate.



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# Local News



## Antigua and Barbuda Independence celebrations in New York return

The New York Offices of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda have organised two major activities to celebrate the country's independence. It is the first time since the start of the pandemic that full independence celebrations will be staged by the New York office.

This Sunday, Antiguan and Barbudans living in the tri-state area will come together to participate in the annual Thanksgiving Service.

It will take place this year at the Church of the Crucifixion at Convent Avenue in Harlem. The service, which begins at 4:00pm, will be officiated by Reverend F. Craig Henry while the sermon will be delivered by Archdeacon Franklin Reid.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Chorale, under the direction of Dean Belgrave Pelle, will feature

prominently.

The Chosen Generation will lead the congregation in a praise and worship segment and the City South Steel Orchestra will bring the melodious sounds of pan to the celebration.

"Our nation has survived a period that truly tested our collective will and fortitude as a people. It certainly is a timely occasion for us to give thanks for the many blessings that continue to fall on us as a nation," said Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Aubrey Webson.

The Independence Gala will feature entertainment by the legendary Burning Flames. Tickets are already on sale for the Saturday November 12th event, which will take place at Mulino's at Lake Isle Country Club in



*The legendary Burning Flames will provide entertainment for this year's Independence Gala in New York*

Eastchester, New York and can be purchased by calling 212-541-4117 or 646-215-6047 or by visiting the EventBrite website.

The proceeds from the event will be used to support the Mentorship Programme of the Antigua and Barbuda Associations United.

The association's goal is to empower secondary school students in Antigua and Barbuda with the skills and

knowledge to make informed educational and financial decisions in a competitive world. Ambassador Webson, meanwhile, expressed gratitude to the organisations and individuals who have sponsored the independence events.

They include Economic Envoy, Gisella Bru; Ambassador Hanna Akar; the American University of Antigua; Arton Capital, the Citizenship by Investment Unit; MBL Benefits Consulting; Monroe College and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

"We are extremely grateful to our sponsors this year. With their support they have identified with a cause that is both a meaningful and worthwhile initiative in strengthening the educational thrust of our young nation," Ambassador Webson said.

Antigua and Barbuda's 41st anniversary of Independence is being celebrated under the theme, "Moving Forward with Unity, Strength and Stability."

## THANK YOU

Friends of Mount St. John's Medical Centre would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our "Tickle Me Pink 7" event on Saturday 8th October, 2022 and anyone who may have in any way contributed to the great success of the event. This event provides funding towards the Oncology Unit at the hospital as well as free Mammograms and Ultra Sounds to women who need additional care after participating in the Breast Friends Annual Screening which was held on Saturday 22nd October 2022 at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

We wish to also recognize and thank all those businesses and individuals who purchased tickets. Those who donated to the event, their contributions were greatly appreciated. They are as follows:

Goddard Catering, Sandys', Subway Antigua, Signs & Impressions, Rocks Group of Restaurants/Rokuni, Julees, Sterlings, Automotive Art, Cool & Smooth, Townhouse Mega Store, Shouls Toys & Gifts, Wadadli Animal Nature Park, Observer Radio, ABS TV and Radio, Victor & Cynthia McKay, Heather-Gail Cabral, Giselle Hadeed, Lipstick, DJ-Virus, DJ-Undercover, Balloon Occasions-Marilyn Jones-Marsh, Douglas Allen of Dougie Photography, Courtney Thomas, Tianna Harris, Alketz Joseph, Gay Collins, McKala Fleming and Asha Mykoo. Our function would not have been such a success without your contribution.



## Hotel sector maintains robust performance in September

Tourism experts and hoteliers are reporting that strong demand for the Antigua and Barbuda tourism product remains positive.

This is supported by the September hotel occupancy statistics published by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA).

The ABHTA has been using the country's performance in 2019 as the benchmark against which



this year's room occupancy is compared as it was the last normal year of operation before the start of

the pandemic in March, 2020.

2019 was also one of the best performing years for tourism in the country's history.

This year in September, there was a 9 percent increase in occupancy over the same month in 2019, according to the ABHTA's figures.

Regarding arrivals by air, the total for the month of September was 15,462 compared with 14,124 in 2019.

The United States continues to be the main source market for visitors to the country with the United Kingdom a distant second.

An examination of the statistics also showed that most visitors - 43 percent - stayed at hotels, 23 percent opted to vacation in private villas and 21 percent stayed in their own accommodations. The remaining 13 percent of visitors used various other options.

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# Local News



## Antigua Airways reveals attractive travel packages

With the arrival of Antigua Airways less than a week away, tourism authorities are finalising plans to receive the inaugural flight's 150 passengers.

On Independence Day next Tuesday, the new airline will operate a charter service into the V. C. Bird International Airport.

A delegation, led by tourism minister, Charles Fernandez, will welcome the airline's Nigerian owners, crew and passengers who will arrive from Lagos, Nigeria.

While many of the passengers arriving on the direct flight, which takes just under ten hours, will move on to other destinations, Antigua Airways has created a one-week vacation



package for those remaining in Antigua.

The one-week package includes airfare, accommodation and entry VISA for Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the company's website, a basic package is being sold for US\$4347.33 and a business package for US\$9152.27

Airfare alone starts at US\$3432.10



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## Afraid of needles? China using inhalable COVID-19 vaccine

By Ken Moritsugu

The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering an inhalable COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday in what appears to be a world first.

The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated people, according to an announcement on an official city social media account.

Scientists hope that such “needle-free” vaccines will make vaccination more accessible in countries with fragile health systems because they are easier to administer.

They also may persuade people who don't like getting a shot in the arm to get inoculated.

China wants more people to get booster shots before it relaxes strict pandemic restrictions that are holding back the economy and are increasingly out of sync with the rest of the world.

As of mid-October, 90% of Chinese were fully vaccinated and 57% had received a booster shot.

A video posted by an online Chinese state media outlet showed people at a community health centre sticking the short nozzle of a translucent white cup into their mouths.

The accompanying text said that after slowly inhal-



*In this photo taken from video released by Shanghai Media Group, a medical worker hands over aerosolised COVID vaccine developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics Inc. in Shanghai on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering the inhalable COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday in what appears to be a world first. (Shanghai Media Group via AP)*

ing, people hold their breath for five seconds, with the entire procedure completed in 20 seconds.

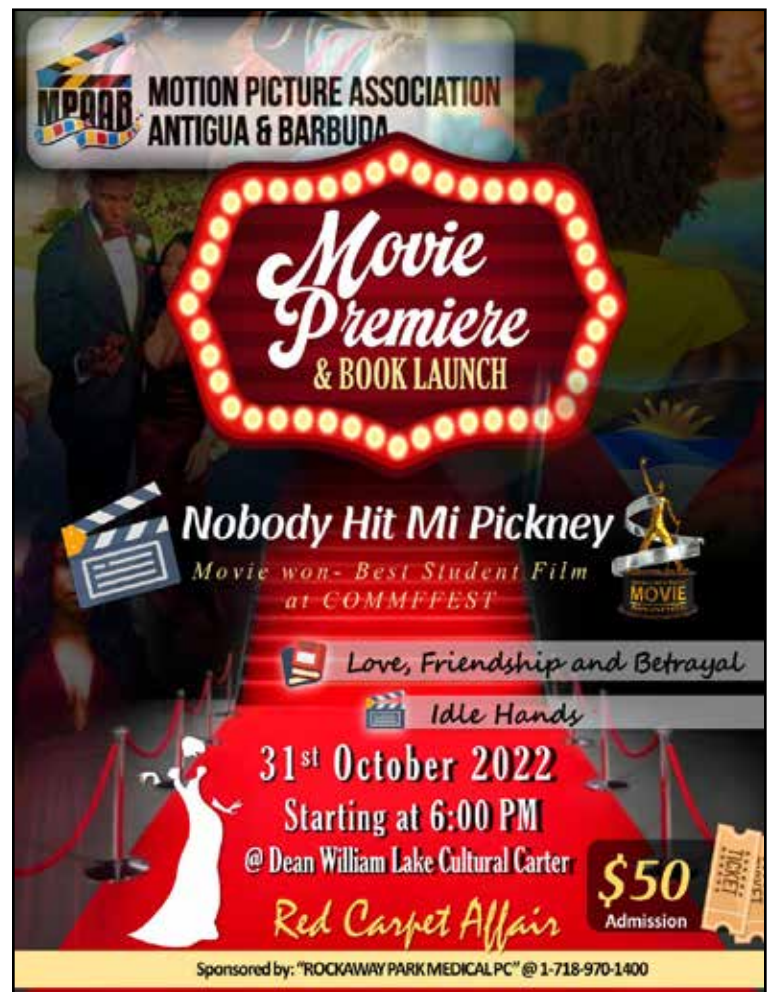
“It was like drinking a cup of milk tea,” one Shanghai resident said in the video.

“When I breathed it in, it tasted a bit sweet.”

The effectiveness of non-needle vaccines has not been fully explored. Chinese regulators approved the inhalable one in September, but only as a booster shot after studies showed it triggered an immune system response in people who had previously received two shots of a different Chinese vaccine.

A vaccine taken as mist could fend off the virus be-

*cont'd on pg 11*





*cont'd from pg 10*

fore it reaches the rest of the respiratory system, though that would depend in part on the size of the droplets, one expert said.

Larger droplets would train defences in parts of the mouth and throat, while smaller ones would travel further into the body, said Dr. Vineeta Bal, an immunologist in India.

The inhalable vaccine was developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics Inc. as an aerosol version of the company's one-shot adenovirus vaccine, which uses a relatively harmless cold virus.

The traditional one-shot vaccine has been approved for use in more than 10 markets including China, Hungary, Pakistan, Malaysia, Argentina and Mexico.

The inhaled version has received a go-ahead for clinical trials in Malaysia, a Malaysian media report said last month.

Regulators in India have approved a nasal vaccine, another needle-free approach, but it has yet to be rolled out.

The vaccine, developed in the U.S. and licensed to Indian vaccine maker Bharat Biotech, is squirted in the nose.

About a dozen nasal vaccines are being tested globally, according to the World Health Organization.

China has relied on domestically developed vaccines, primarily two inactivated vaccines that have

proven effective in preventing death and serious disease but less so than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at stopping the spread of the disease.

Chinese authorities also have not mandated vaccination — entering an office building or other public places requires a negative COVID-19 test, not proof of vaccination.

And the country's strict "zero-COVID" approach means that only a small proportion of the population

has been infected and built immunity that way, compared to other places.

As a result, it's unclear how widely COVID-19 would spread if restrictions were lifted.

The ruling Communist Party has so far shown no sign of easing the "zero-COVID" policy, moving quickly to restrict travel and impose lockdowns when even just a few cases are discovered.

Authorities on Wednesday ordered the lockdown

of 900,000 people in Wuhan, the city where the virus was first detected in late 2019, for at least five days. In remote Qinghai province, the urban districts of Xining city have been locked down since last Friday.

In Beijing, Universal Studios said it would close its hotels and attractions "to comply with pandemic prevention and control."

The city of more than 21 million people reported 19 new cases in the latest 24-hour period.



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# On Sunday, Brazil's bitter presidential race comes to an end

By David Biller And Carla Bridi

On Sunday, Brazilians choose between a future of conservative values under a far-right leader or the hope of returning to a prosperous past presided over by a leftist. In the fiercely polarised country, many are simply voting against the candidate they despise.

On the one hand, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva points to his track record improving Brazilians' livelihoods while president from 2003 to 2010, and pledges to care for them again. Opposing da Silva is President Jair Bolsonaro, who appeals to religious conservatives and claims da Silva's return to power would usher in communism, legalized drugs and abortion.

For months, it appeared that da Silva was headed for an easy victory. Opinion polls can be highly unreliable predictors of election results, particularly in an enormous, sprawling nation like Brazil. But analysts and politicians agree that the race has grown tight.

Bolsonaro has railed against Supreme Court justices and insistently cast doubt on the reliability of the nation's electronic voting system, which analysts have warned is a clear sign that he could reject election results — like former U.S. President Donald Trump, whom he admires.

The Brazilian president, who says he hates socialism, has had little problem spending vast sums on the poor in the run-up to Brazil's Oct. 30 runoff.

Bolsonaro expanded Brazil's biggest welfare program, granted cooking gas vouchers to low-income Brazilians, gave 2.7 billion reais (\$500 million) to taxi and truck drivers, and announced a program to forgive up to 90% of state bank debts for some 4 million people, among other measures.

Since July, an additional 3 million families have been added to the flag-



Supporters of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, who is running for reelection, right, confront supporters of Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is also running for president, during a campaign event at a bus station in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022. The presidential run-off election is set for Oct. 30. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

ship welfare program and its spending was boosted. It cost 67.4 billion reais (\$12.7 billion) in the first 10 months of the year, according to data from the Citizenship Ministry.

"Never has this amount of money been thrown to people at the same time, and the machinery been used in such an audacious way as Bolsonaro is doing," said Thomas Traumann, an independent political analyst.

Da Silva's Workers' Party, which traditionally draws support from the poor, underestimated how Bolsonaro would use the levers of power, Traumann said.

Analysts say that da Silva has at times acted as though victory was assured, a matter of merely running out the clock. The Oct. 2 first-round vote was a wake-up call, with Bolsonaro significantly outperforming polls that he and allies have long dismissed as undervaluing his support. Some had shown da Silva ahead by double-dig-

its; Bolsonaro finished within about five points.

Still, the former president has kept focus on kindling nostalgia for his tenure, when Brazil became the B in the BRICS group of emerging nations and tens of millions were rising into the middle class, eating well and travelling. The man universally known as Lula has promised a return to those glory days without detailing plans as to how he will bring them about.

"Lula's campaign is about the past; that is its biggest strength and biggest weakness," said Brian Winter, vice president for policy at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas. "It is the memory of boom years of the 2000s that makes people want to vote for him. But his unwillingness or inability to articulate new ideas and bring in fresh faces has left him somewhat helpless as Bolsonaro closes the gap."

Most polls now show da Silva with

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

a narrow lead. On Oct. 22, his party's president released a video saying that he will only win if everyone turns out to vote. Traumann noted that the tone marked a departure from the party's previous overconfidence.

Years after the revelation of massive Workers' Party corruption, some voters are holding their noses and backing Bolsonaro — even those who disagree with his culture-warrior crusade, or blame him for many of Brazil's nearly 700,000 COVID-19 deaths, and the worst Amazon rainforest deforestation in 15 years. Likewise, others who had sworn off his Workers' Party have declared their vote for da Silva.

"This is an election of rejection, not an election of choosing who represents one's ideals best," said Thiago de Aragão, director of strategy for Arko Advice. "The majority of Bolsonaro supporters don't necessarily love Bolsonaro, or endorse him, but they hate Lula more. And vice versa. They're two of the most rejected politicians in Brazil's history."

In April, da Silva tapped centre-right Geraldo Alckmin, a former rival, as his running mate — part of an effort to create a broad, pro-democracy front to counter Bolsonaro.

Da Silva over recent months has haemorrhaged support among evangel-

ical voters, who now comprise roughly one-third of Brazil's population, and his campaign was slow to enact a strategy to stanch the bleeding. Evangelicals were key to Bolsonaro's election in 2018, but support was soft this year.

A Bolsonaro-backed social media blitz to return them to the fold has borne fruit. Some of it has been unscrupulous, claiming da Silva communes with the devil, for example, part of this election's broader disinformation torrent.

Bolsonaro's campaign outplayed da Silva by forcing him to debate a values agenda, according to Creomar de Souza, a political analyst and CEO at Dharma Politics, a consultancy.

Both campaigns have been thin on plans, and much more engaged in mudslinging and slander in person and on social media. Much more content has originated from Bolsonaro's camp.

To the extent that there have been proposals, they have centred on who will provide continued welfare, despite very limited fiscal room going forward.

In their first and only head-to-head debate, on Oct. 16, the two candidates hurled insults and each called the other a liar more than a dozen times.

Da Silva scored points as he confronted Bolsonaro with criticism of his pandemic management, causing the

incumbent to repeatedly fumble in attempting to muster a response. Later, the tables were turned as Bolsonaro attacked da Silva on his party's recent history with corruption. Da Silva himself was jailed for 580 days, though the Supreme Court later annulled his convictions on the grounds the judge was biased and colluded with prosecutors.

De Aragão said that each candidate "visibly loses his edge" when faced with their huge mistakes that were "dark points in Brazil's history."

Bolsonaro's momentum has apparently stalled in the home stretch, according to Dharma's de Souza. De Souza attributed that to local newspaper Folha de S.Paulo reporting that Bolsonaro's economic team is evaluating changing the way minimum wage increases are calculated, and to an allied politician having a shootout with police, wounding two of them.

The candidates will square off in their final debate Friday, less than 36 hours before polls open. It will be broadcast on television behemoth Globo, reaching tens of millions of Brazilians.

"This is anybody's race, with Lula still the favourite, but by a small margin," Winter said. "People are going to be hanging on for dear life on Sunday watching these results come in." Bridi reported from Brasilia.

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# Haiti's shipment of mangoes to the US halted

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the closure of its mango preclearance program in Haiti, blaming the “worsening challenges” faced by its inspectors in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

In an October 24 letter to the President of the Association Nationale des Exportateurs de Mangués (ANEM) Ralph Perry, the area director for Central America and the Caribbean at the USDA Preclearance and Offshore Program, Jorge Abad, said the closure will take effect from the end of January next year.

“We are taking this action because of worsening challenges in Haiti that have made it impossible for our APHIS

inspectors to safely work. This move is in alignment with information that we have received from the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.”

He said the USDA has placed all ten Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspectors in Haiti “on indefinite, paid leave starting October 10, 2022” and the team will remain on leave until the program officially closes.

“We commit to working very closely with them, Haiti’s national plant protection organisation, and ANEM as we move forward with this process. We will consider reinstating the program if the situation in Haiti improves, in consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince,” Abad wrote.

He said the safety of “our employ-

ees is our highest concern.”

Officials say the closure will seriously affect farmers, noting that last year, the sector recorded more than US\$12 million in revenue.

But so far this year, they note that the volume of mangoes from Haiti, one of the leading producers of Francisque mangoes in the Caribbean and Central America, has declined to about 48 per cent.

This decrease is attributable to the situation of insecurity in Haiti, the difficulties of moving and transporting the fruit in the country as a result of the shortage of fuel caused by armed gangs seizing fuel depots as well as the high prices paid for the commodity on the black-market soar. (CMC)

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# Regional News



## St. Vincent's PM says country's material well-being 'on the mend'

CMC - St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has told nationals in the diaspora that despite extreme challenges, the material well-being of the country is "on the mend".

St. Vincent and the Grenadines will celebrate its 43rd anniversary of political independence from Britain on Thursday and in an independence message to the Vincentian diaspora, Prime Minister Gonsalves said the theme for the occasion focuses on "our people's resilience and fortitude."

"This thematic emphasis is apt given the extraordinary challenges of the past two and a half years consequent upon the COVID-19 pandemic of March 2020 and continuing, the volcanic eruptions of April 2021, Hurricane Elsa of July 2, 2021, and the knock-on effects of the continuing and exacerbated global turmoil, inclusive of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine initiated on February 24, 2022.

"Objective assessments of the responses by the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to these extreme challenges have concluded that commendations are in order," Gonsalves added.

He said through bilateral and multilateral cooperation his government has secured appropriate solidarity for



*Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves (File photo)*

immediate humanitarian and social safety net supports, in addition to material resources for worthwhile capital projects "in pursuance of sustainable development, inclusive of building a modern, competitive, many-sided post-colonial economy."

Moreover, from its own resources, and in partnership with the private sector, his administration has been "a catalyst in accelerating socio-economic development.

"Further, and most importantly, the government, in communion with the people and non-governmental organisations, has led the way in pursuit of a path of inclusive development, consistent with equity and the ethical principles of fairness, justice, responsibility and responsiveness," Gonsalves said.

He told the diaspora that in the deep valley of convulsions, dislocation, and even despair, "our people's resilience, fortitude and fresh

hope were summoned in aid of recovery and rebuilding.

"As we climb out of this treacherous valley onto the mountain of achievement, the evidence of much better times is at hand."

Gonsalves said that this year, the local economy will grow by five per cent, projected to grow to six per cent next year with an anticipated growth of 4.8 per cent in 2024.

He said advances are being made in vital areas such as agriculture and fisheries; hotel development; the construction of a modern port; sea defences and river defences; school rehabilitation and construction; the building of a modern hospital; housing and community amenities; roads and bridges; renewable energy, telecommunications, and water; the creative arts; sports and recreation; strengthening democracy, good governance, and the judicial system; and regional integration.

"This fresh hope is conjoined with an abiding faith made manifest in works and an unbreakable love for our country, a love that looks on tempests and is never shaken," Prime Minister Gonsalves said.

Meanwhile, the island's envoys in the United States have been reflecting on the country's achievements and giving thanks for the "many blessings so graciously bestowed upon us as a nation".

"We are here today because God has blessed us with the wisdom and resilience to survive the health, climate and economic crises of the past few years, notably those of the 2020 to 2022 period," said Ambassador to the United States, Lou-Ann Gilchrist.

Gilchrist, who is also High Commissioner to Canada and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), said "ours is a nation in which peace and justice prevail".

Permanent Representative to the United Nations I. Rhonda King reflected briefly on the nation's journey adding "as our nation, like most, emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we joined the family of nations in recommitting ourselves, in varying degrees, to the numerous development agendas, financing arrangements and multilateral platforms".



## Privy Council upholds multi-million-dollar damages in favour of former T&T government minister

CMC - The London-based Privy Council Tuesday upheld a TT\$18.03 million (One TT\$=US\$0.16 cents) judgement in favour of a former finance minister in Trinidad and Tobago, after she had taken legal action against a private hospital and one of its doctors.

Gulf View Medical Centre and one of its doctors had appealed the multi-million dollar awarded to Karen Nunez-Tesheira, after her 54-year-old husband died following a medical procedure.

The Privy Council, the country's highest court was asked to determine whether the Court of Appeal was correct to uphold the trial judge's findings as to causation and quantum among other matters.

The Privy Council was told that on

April 13, 2004, the husband of the former finance minister, Russell Tesheira, was admitted to the Gulf View Medical Centre (GVM) to undergo surgery on his prostate. Tesheira experienced heavy bleeding following the operation and died the same day.

His widow issued a writ of summons against GVM and two of the doctors for clinical negligence in the death of her husband seeking damages in excess of TT\$18 million.

Nunez-Tesheira, who served as finance minister in the Patrick Manning government between 2007-10, had her claim against one of the doctors settled before trial. The doctor and GVM's appeal to the Court of Appeal were dismissed, although several findings of the High Court judge were reversed.

In their appeal to the Privy Coun-

cil, both GVM and the doctor sought relief against both liability and quantum.

In its 33-page ruling, the Privy Council noted that the Court of Appeal in its judgement made a concurrent finding of fact that the cause of the death of the former senior insurance executive was fluid overload.

"On the evidence before [the judge], there was sufficient evidence for him to conclude that on a balance of probabilities the death of the deceased was caused by the negligence of the appellants," the Court of Appeal had ruled.

The Privy Council said "there are no grounds for the Board to go behind such concurrent findings as to the cause of the deceased's death" as it dismissed the appeals.

## Guyana to examine mechanism regarding appointment of top posts in judiciary

CMC - Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, says Guyana could examine the mechanism used to appoint a chancellor of the judiciary and chief justice during the national consultation process for constitutional reform.

The Irfaan Ali government will soon embark on the constitutional reform process as it seeks to upgrade archaic pieces of legislation embedded in Guyana's Constitution.

One of the issues the government is hoping to remedy is the longstanding

deadlock between any government and the opposition over the appointments of a chancellor and a chief justice.

Nandlall, who is also the legal affairs minister, said Guyana has the extreme position where the head of the executive and the leader of the opposition must make the appointments of the chancellor and chief justice. However, the system has not been working.

"Hopefully, one of the provisions which will be microscopically examined in this process is the very



*Attorney General, Anil Nandlall*

article that speaks to the appointment of a chancellor and a chief justice [and] hopefully we will get recommendations emanating

out of the process which will find political consensus because you know, you require two-thirds majority

*cont'd on pg 18*

# Regional News



## Cuba hosts first U.S. business conference in years, seeks investment

Reuters - A few dozen U.S. entrepreneurs braved tough U.S. sanctions and Cuba's worst economic crisis in decades to attend a conference in Havana on Wednesday focusing on the new private sector and aimed at boosting flagging engagement between the Cold War-era foes.

The Cuban Chamber of Commerce and Washington-based consultancy FocusCuba, which are hosting the gathering, said the three day event was the first such forum since at least 2018 when former U.S. President Donald Trump piled new sanctions on top of the decades-old trade embargo.

Both the Cuban and the U.S. delegations criticised the sanctions - most of which are still in place - and called on Democrat U.S. President Joseph Biden to drop his Republican predecessor's policies.

Cuban Chamber of

Commerce President Antonio Luis Carricarte called the gathering in the famous Hotel Nacional an "historic day," praising the persistence of representatives in attendance from both sides of the Straits of Florida.

During a brief thaw in relations under former President Barack Obama, hundreds of U.S. businesses arrived to explore opportunities on the all but forbidden Communist-run island nation.

Some, from cruise ship companies to Western Union Co and Starwood Hotels inked groundbreaking agreements, only to have new U.S. sanctions force them to renege. Others continue to do business.

The government has licensed Cubans to operate nearly 5,500 private small and medium sized businesses over the last year, in a first since Fidel Castro's



*Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Fernandez de Cossio listens to Phil Peters, founder of FocusCuba, during a conference in Havana, Cuba, October 26, 2022. REUTERS/Alexandre Meneghini*

1959 Revolution, opening new possibilities for partnerships with foreign investors.

"Almost everything we do is with the new booming private sector," said Cuban-American Hugo, whose Miami-based Fuego Enterprises Inc operates an online food market that processes 4,000 orders in Cuba per day.

"It is important American businesses see this for

themselves," said Cancio, who was attending the conference.

U.S. entrepreneurs in attendance represent a range of industries from food services to online shopping, digital money transfers, shipping, and finance.

"I think participants are seeking clarity in terms of what is possible with investment on the Cuban side in this new private sector, though any agreements must also be approved by U.S. regulators," said Phil Peters, founder of FocusCuba, told Reuters. "We need more clarity there as well."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Biden administration has loosened some restrictions on Cuba around remittances, tourism and migration. It has also expressed interest in supporting Cuba's private sector.

### *cont'd from pg 17*

to change these provisions in the Constitution," Anil Nandlall said as he addressed a virtual panel on 'Constitutional Reform and the Republic: The Judicial Selection Process in the Context of Administration of Justice and Democratic Strengthening'.

Guyana has been without a substantive chief justice and chancellor for over two decades and in April this year, the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), Justice Adrian Saunders spoke about the lack of substantive appointments for the post of chancellor and chief justice (CJ) of the judiciary in Guyana.

Addressing the Bar Association of Guyana's dinner, Justice Saunders noted that while Guyana's legal and judicial landscape has seen some transformations in its favour over the past decade, the absence of permanent appointees to fill the top position remains the "one significant blot," on an otherwise impressive justice system.

"For the country to have not appointed a chancellor for 17 long years is very disappointing; likewise, to be without an appointed chief justice for several years," Justice Saunders said. The CCJ is Guyana's highest court.



## UK's Rishi Sunak delays plan to plug Britain's budget black hole

Reuters- Britain's new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday delayed the announcement of a keenly awaited plan for repairing the country's public finances until Nov. 17, two-and-a-half weeks later than previously planned.

The postponement, Sunak's first policy decision since taking over from Liz Truss on Tuesday, briefly raised British borrowing costs in financial markets but there was no repeat of the panic bond selling caused by Truss's September tax-cutting plan.

Sunak takes on an economy facing recession at a time when the Bank of England is raising interest rates to tame double-digit inflation. Low growth and rising borrowing costs have worsened the strain on already-stretched public finances.

The government is drawing up spending cuts and cancelling tax cuts just as the rising cost of mortgages, food, fuel and heating is squeezing many household budgets to their limits.

"I have been honest. We will have to take difficult decisions to restore economic stability and confidence," Sunak told parliament, promising to protect the most vulnerable.

"The Chancellor (Jeremy Hunt) will set that out in an autumn statement in just a few weeks."

Finance minister Hunt said more time was needed to ensure the new plan took into account new economic forecasts.

It is expected to set out how the government will plug a budget shortfall of as much as 40 billion pounds (\$46 billion). Unlike Truss's plan last month, it will be fully audited by Britain's fiscal watchdog.

Asked to confirm the govern-

ment's commitment to an expensive inflation-pegged rise in retirement pensions, Sunak's press secretary said she would not speculate ahead of Nov. 17.

His team gave the same answer on other potentially costly spending decisions on foreign aid, defence and welfare payments.

Britain's credibility in financial markets was shaken last month when Truss announced her unfunded tax cuts, triggering a bond market rout so severe the BoE had to intervene. Truss was forced into a U-turn and eventually resigned.

Hunt said he wanted to restore confidence "that the United Kingdom is a country that pays its way and for that reason, the medium-term fiscal plan is extremely important. The plan would show falling over the medium term, he added.

The budget plan delay will complicate the BoE's job next week when it is due to publish forecasts for the economy without knowing the details of the government's fiscal plans, as well as take its latest monetary policy decision.

The BoE is expected to raise interest rates again on Nov. 3, probably to 3.0% from 2.25% although investors increased their bets on a full percentage-point increase to a more than one-in-three chance after the announcement of the budget plan delay.

Hunt said he had discussed the decision to delay the fiscal statement with BoE Governor Andrew Bailey, and that Bailey had understood.

While finance minister during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunak oversaw huge expenditure and borrowing to keep the economy going. He resigned in July in protest at



*Britain's new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak waves as he enters Number 10 Downing Street, in London, Britain, October 25, 2022. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls*

then-prime minister Boris Johnson's leadership and what he saw as a reluctance to take difficult decisions to pay the pandemic bill.

His appointment as Conservative Party leader was broadly welcomed by investors who see him and Hunt as more willing than Truss to tackle the hole in Britain's public finances.

British government bond prices extended their losses on confirmation of the budget plan delay. Long-dated gilt yields hit new session highs as they rose 12-13 basis points before easing back and being little changed on the day.

Sterling was also little changed by the announcement.

Speaking earlier on Wednesday, International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva told Reuters she expected Sunak to steer Britain towards fiscal sustainability and said he was right to warn of hard decisions ahead.

"I listened carefully to him talking to the British people, and this is a message that should resonate across the world. These are tough times, and tough times require tough decisions," Georgieva said.

## U.S., Japan, S. Korea warn of 'unparalleled' response if N. Korea holds nuclear test

Reuters - The United States, Japan and South Korea warned on Wednesday that an "unparalleled" scale of response would be warranted if North Korea conducts a seventh nuclear bomb test.

Washington and its allies believe North Korea could be about to resume nuclear bomb testing for the first time since 2017.

"We agreed that an unparalleled scale of response would be necessary if North Korea pushes ahead with a seventh nuclear test," South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong told a news conference in Tokyo.

Cho was speaking alongside his Japanese and U.S. counterparts, Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

The United States and its allies have offered few details on what new measures they might take, and observers say they have few good options for preventing a new test.

For the first time since North Korea began testing nuclear weapons in 2006, China and Russia this year vetoed a U.S.-led push for additional United Nations Security Council sanctions, and stepped-up allied military drills have only been met by more North Korean tests and exercises.

"We urge (North Korea) to refrain from further prov-



Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeo Mori, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and South Korea's First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Hyun-dong, attend the joint press conference after their trilateral meeting Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, at the Iikura guest house in Tokyo. Eugene Hoshiko/Pool via REUTERS

ocations," Sherman said, calling them "reckless and deeply destabilising for the region.

"Anything that happens here, such as a North Korean nuclear test ... has implications for the security of the entire world," she said, sending a thinly veiled message to Pyongyang's supporters, China and Russia, in the UN Security Council.

"We hope indeed that everyone on the Security Council would understand that any use of a nuclear weapon will change the world in incredible ways."

When asked about the comments out of Tokyo, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called on all the countries to acknowledge "the root causes of the long-standing impasse" and take steps to enhance mutual trust and ad-

dress the concerns of all parties in a balanced manner.

North Korea has been carrying out weapons tests at an unprecedented pace this year, firing more than two dozen ballistic missiles, including one that flew over Japan.

Angered by South Korea's military activities, Pyongyang last week fired hundreds of artillery shells off its coasts in what it called a grave warning to its neighbour to the south.

In September, the USS Ronald Reagan and accompanying ships conducted joint military exercises with South Korean forces in response to a North Korean ballistic missile test in what was their first joint military training involving a US aircraft carrier since 2017.

In response, the United States, South Korea and Ja-

pan have committed to deepening cooperation, Mori said.

"We agreed to further strengthen deterrence and response capability of the Japan-U.S. alliance and the U.S.-South Korea alliance, and to promote further security cooperation among the three countries," Mori said.

On mounting tensions between China and Taiwan, Sherman reiterated the United States' stance that it does not support Taiwan's independence, but that it does not stop it from working with Japan and South Korea to help Taiwan protect itself.

"United States has repeated publicly that we do not support Taiwan's independence, but we want to ensure that there is peace, and so we will be doing whatever we can to support Taiwan and to work with Japan and with Republic of Korea to ensure that Taiwan can defend itself," Sherman said.

At a Communist Party meeting this month, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for accelerating China's plans to build a world-class military and said his country would never renounce the right to use force to resolve the Taiwan issue.

China claims democratically ruled Taiwan as its own territory, while Taiwan's government strongly objects to China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's 23 million people can decide its future.



## Gunmen attack major Shiite holy site in Iran, killing 15

AP— Gunmen attacked a major Shiite holy site in Iran on Wednesday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens. The attack came as protesters elsewhere in Iran marked a symbolic 40 days since a woman's death in custody ignited the biggest anti-government movement in over a decade.

State TV blamed the attack on "tak-firis," a term that refers to Sunni Muslim extremists who have targeted the country's Shiite majority in the past. The attack appeared to be unrelated to the demonstrations.

The official website of the judiciary said two gunmen were arrested and a third is on the run after the attack on the Shah Cheragh mosque, the second holiest site in Iran. The state-run IRNA news agency reported the death toll and state TV said 40 people were wounded.

An Iranian news website considered to be close to the Supreme National Security Council reported that the attackers were foreign nationals, without elaborating.

Such attacks are rare in Iran, but last April, an assailant stabbed two clerics to death at the Imam Reza shrine, the country's most revered Shiite site, in the northeast city of Mashhad.

Earlier on Wednesday, thousands of protesters had poured into the streets of a northwestern city to mark the watershed 40 days since the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, whose tragedy sparked the protests.

Deaths are commemorated in Shiite Islam — as in many other traditions — again 40 days later, typically with an outpouring of grief. In Amini's Kurdish hometown of Saez, the birthplace of the nationwide unrest now roiling Iran, crowds snaked through the local cemetery and thronged her grave.

"Death to the dictator!" protesters



*In this frame grab from video taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran shows people block an intersection during a protest to mark 40 days since the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, whose tragedy sparked Iran's biggest anti-government movement in over a decade, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. (AP Photo)*

cried, according to video footage that corresponds with known features of the city and Aichi Cemetery. Women ripped off their headscarves, or hijabs, and waved them above their heads. Other videos showed a massive procession making its way along a highway and through a dusty field toward Amini's grave. There were reports of road closures in the area.

State-linked media reported 10,000 protesters in the procession to her grave.

Hengaw, a Kurdish human rights group, said security forces fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators. The semiofficial ISNA news agency said security forces fired pellets at crowds of demonstrators on the outskirts of Saez and pushed back demonstrators who tried to attack the governor's office. It said local internet access was cut off due to "security considerations."

Earlier in the day, Kurdistan Gov.

Esmail Zarei Koosha insisted that traffic was flowing as normal, calling the situation "completely stable."

State-run media announced that schools and universities in Iran's northwestern region would close, purportedly to curb "the spread of influenza."

In downtown Tehran, the capital, major sections of the traditional grand bazaar closed in solidarity with the protests. Crowds clapped and shouted "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!" through the labyrinthine marketplace.

"This year is a year of blood!" they also chanted. "(Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) will be toppled!"

Riot police on motorbikes were out in force. A large group of men and women marched through the streets, setting trash cans ablaze and shouting "Death to the dictator!" as cars honked their support. Police unleashed anti-riot bullets at protesters in the streets

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# International

AROUND THE WORLD



*cont'd from pg 21*

and sprayed pellets upward at journalists filming from windows and rooftops. Anti-government chants also echoed from the University of Tehran campus.

Amini, detained for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code for women, remains the potent symbol of protests that have posed one of the most serious challenges to the Islamic Republic.

With the slogan #WomanLifeFreedom, the demonstrations first focused on women's rights and the state-mandated hijab, or headscarf for women. But

they quickly evolved into calls to oust the Shiite clerics that have ruled Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The protests have also galvanised university students, labour unions, prisoners and ethnic minorities like the Kurds along Iran's border with Iraq.

Since the protests erupted, security forces have fired live ammunition and tear gas to disperse demonstrations, killing over 200 people, according to rights groups.

Untold numbers have been arrested, with estimates in the thousands. Iranian judicial officials announced this week they would bring

over 600 people to trial over their role in the protests, including 315 in Tehran, 201 in the neighbouring Alborz province and 105 in the southwestern province of Khuzestan.

Tehran prosecutor Ali Salehi told the state-run IRNA news agency that four protesters were charged with "war against God," which is punishable by death in Iran.

Iranian officials have blamed the protests on foreign interference, without offering evidence.

Last week, Iran imposed sanctions on over a dozen European officials, companies and institutions, in-

cluding foreign-based Farsi channels that have extensively covered the protests, accusing them of "supporting terrorism." The sanctions involve an entry and visa ban for the staffers in addition to the confiscation of their assets in Iran.

Deutsche Welle, the German public broadcaster whose Farsi team was blacklisted, condemned the move on Wednesday as "unacceptable."

"I expect politicians in Germany and Europe to increase the pressure on the regime," said DW Director General Peter Limbourg.

In a separate development, most of the remaining portion of a 10-story tower that collapsed earlier this year in the southwestern city of Abadan, killing at least 41 people, fell on Wednesday, state-run media reported. The state-run IRNA news agency reported that a woman in a car parked near the site was killed. Other parts of the building had collapsed last month.

The deadly collapse of the Metropol Building on May 23 became a lightning rod for protests in Abadan, some 660 kilometres (410 miles) southwest of the capital, Tehran.

The disaster shined a spotlight on shoddy construction practices, government corruption and negligence in Iran.

Videos spread online of the remaining tower crashing into the street as massive clouds of dust billowed into the sky.

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## Fisherman plead not guilty to charges in tournament scandal

AP - Two men accused of stuffing five walleye with lead weights and fish fillets during a lucrative fishing tournament on Lake Erie pleaded not guilty to cheating and other charges on Wednesday.

Jacob Runyan, 42, of Broadview Heights, Ohio, and Chase Cominsky, 35, of Hermitage, Pennsylvania, made no comments during their brief court appearances in Cleveland. Their attorneys declined to comment about the case after the hearing.

Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor James Gutierrez also declined to comment, referring questions to a spokesperson.



Jacob Runyan, left, and Chase Cominsky, sit in court as they are arraigned, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, in Cleveland. The two pleaded not guilty to cheating and other charges in a lucrative fishing tournament on Lake Erie in the end of September where they were accused of stuffing five walleye with lead weights and fish fillets. (AP Photo/Mark Gillispie)

The cheating allegations surfaced Sept. 30 when Runyan and Cominsky's fish were significantly heavier than walleye of that length typically are. Fischer became suspicious. An angry crowd at Gordon

Park in Cleveland watched Fischer cut the walleye open and announce there were weights and fish fillets stuffed inside them.

An officer from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources confiscated the fish as evidence.

Runyan and Cominsky were indicted earlier this month on felony charges of cheating, attempted grand theft, possessing criminal tools and misdemeanour charges of unlawfully owning wild animals.

Both were released Wednesday on personal bonds of \$2,500.

The first place prize in the tournament totaled around \$28,000.

## Manchester United: Raphael Varane out until World Cup, Cristiano Ronaldo back in squad for Europa League

BBC - France centre-back Raphael Varane will be out of action until the World Cup, while Cristiano Ronaldo returns to the squad for Manchester United's Europa League game against Sheriff Tiraspol.

Varane suffered a leg injury during United's 1-1 draw against Chelsea on Saturday, while Ronaldo was dropped after he left Old Trafford before full-time in the previous match against Tottenham.

"Varane isn't in the squad. He will be out until the World Cup," United boss Erik ten Hag confirmed.

Asked whether Varane would be available for the World Cup, which

gets underway in Qatar on 20 November, Ten Hag said: "We have to see how he develops, how his rehab will develop."

The 29-year-old, who fell awkwardly while trying to challenge Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, has 87 caps for France.

Ronaldo returns for Thursday's game having been left out of Saturday's squad for refusing to come on as a substitute and walking down the tunnel in the 89th minute during United's 2-0 win against Spurs.

The Portugal forward, 37, later apologised for the incident, saying "the heat of the moment" got to him.



Varane left the pitch in tears after picking up an injury during United's draw at Chelsea

Ten Hag said: "I think we said ev-  
*cont'd on pg 24*

# Sports News



## British minister tells gay World Cup fans to 'be respectful'

AP - British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly faced criticism Wednesday after telling gay soccer fans heading to the World Cup in Qatar that they should show some "compromise" and be "respectful of the host nation."

The comments were quickly disavowed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office, while a senior figure in the opposition Labour party called them "shockingly tone deaf."

Homosexual activity is criminalized in Qatar and Cleverly was asked about the issue in the wake of British activist Peter Tatchell being questioned by police after holding a one-man protest in front of Qatar's National Museum, holding up a sign accusing the country of jailing members of the LGBTQ community.

"I have spoken to the Qatari authorities in the past about gay football fans going to watch the World Cup and how they will treat our fans and interna-

tional fans," Cleverly told LBC Radio. "They want to make sure that football fans are safe, secure and enjoy themselves, and they know that that means they are going to have to make some compromises in terms of what is an Islamic country with a very different set of cultural norms to our own."

"One of the things I would say for football fans is, you know, please do be respectful of the host nation. They are trying to ensure that people can be themselves and enjoy the football, and I think with a little bit of flex and compromise at both ends, it can be a safe, secure and exciting World Cup."

Qatar has said all are welcome at the World Cup, including LGBTQ fans, but that visitors should respect the country's conservative culture, in which public displays of affection — even among heterosexuals — is taboo.

Qatari law calls for a prison sentence of one to three years for adults con-



*James Cleverly the Foreign Secretary arrives for a Cabinet meeting, the first held by the new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in London, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. Sunak was elected by the ruling Conservative party to replace Liz Truss who resigned. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)*

victed of consensual gay or lesbian sex. European soccer federations last month announced their intention for captains to wear an armband with a rainbow heart design as part of an anti-discrimination campaign during international matches.

Downing Street quickly rejected Cleverly's language, saying that people

should not have to "compromise who they are."

Opposition parties also criticised Cleverly's comments, with SNP Westminster deputy leader Kirsten Oswald tweeting: "Foreign Secretary seems in essence to be advising people travelling to the World Cup in Qatar to show some respect and not be gay. This is abhorrent."

Labour shadow culture secretary Lucy Powell said: "This is shockingly tone deaf from James Cleverly. Sport should be open to all. Many fans will feel they can't attend this tournament to cheer on their team because of Qatar's record on human, workers, and LGBT+ rights."

### *cont'd from pg 23*

everything and answered all the questions. He was out for one game and now he is back."

Meanwhile, the Football Association has charged United with failing to control their players during the draw against Chelsea. United players reacted angrily to referee Stuart Attwell's decision to award a penalty when Scott McTominay pulled

down Armando Broja in the box.

"Manchester United FC allegedly failed to ensure that its players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion in the 84th minute," an FA statement read.

It is the second time the club have faced an FA charge this season after players surrounded referee Craig Pawson after he disallowed a Ronaldo goal against Newcastle earlier this month.



## NFL's Donald, NBA's Brown end their deals with Ye's agency

AP - Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald and Boston Celtics swingman Jaylen Brown terminated their associations Tuesday with Donda Sports, the brand management agency owned by the artist formerly known as Kanye West.

Donald and Brown signed deals with Donda Sports earlier this year to represent some of their interests outside of their sports.

Both star athletes emphatically dropped the agency owned by Ye, as the  
**cont'd on pg 26**



Los Angeles Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey left, celebrates his sack on Carolina Panthers quarterback PJ Walker with defensive tackle Aaron Donald (99) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif. (AP Photo/Jayne Kamin-Oncea)



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# Sports News



*cont'd from pg 25*

music mogul is now known, amid rising international condemnation of his latest round of offensive and antisemitic remarks.

German sportswear giant Adidas also ended its extraordinarily lucrative partnership with Ye on Tuesday.

Donald, the three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year, signed with Donda Sports last spring after the Rams won the Super Bowl.

The seven-time All-Pro and his wife, Erica, de-

nounced West's "displays of hate and antisemitism" in a statement announcing their decision.

"We felt a responsibility to send a clear message that hateful words and actions have consequences and that we must do better as human beings," they wrote.

"We do not feel our beliefs, voices and actions belong anywhere near a space that misrepresents and oppresses people of any background, ethnicity or race."

Brown emphatically reversed his own tentative

decision Monday to stay with Donda Sports, saying Tuesday that he will "continue to stand strongly against any antisemitism, hate speech, misrepresentation and oppressive rhetoric of any kind."

Former NFL receiver Antonio Brown was named the president of Donda Sports in February, and he claimed the organisation bought a \$2 million suite for the Super Bowl at SoFi Stadium.

Donald and Jaylen Brown subsequently signed with the amorphous agen-

cy, which was supposed to represent the athletes in marketing and branding deals not related to their team contracts.

Donda Sports also claimed to be "centred on professional and wellness support" in the announcement of its deal with Antonio Brown.

Donald and Jaylen Brown appear to be the only announced clients of Donda Sports, which has a nonfunctioning website and an Instagram account with over 279,000 followers and no posts.

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## West Indies Academy ready to get going in the CG United Super50

Andre Coley is hoping to guide his team to success in the upcoming CG United Super 50, and the West Indies Academy head coach is also keen to see the young players mature and learn during the event. Speaking during their on-going pre-tournament camp at Coolidge Cricket Ground, Coley said things have been going according to plan and he expected a good showing in the eight-team tournament.

We began with a pre-camp physical screening, followed by three consecutive solid days of cricket specific training and game play discussions. We had our first of two practice matches against the Leeward Islands Hurricanes which gave us valuable competitive cricket as a squad,” Coley told CWI Media.

“The focus for this week is getting



through two practice matches against the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, planning and managing player loads as we head into the tournament. The players have adapted well, the facility at Coolidge, has been our base since the first camp in July of this year, so they

are familiar with the environment.”

West Indies Academy will feature in the opening contest against Leeward Islands Hurricanes at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 29 October. This year’s event will feature eight teams – traditional six franchises will be joined by West Indies Academy and Combined Campuses & Colleges.

The teams have been drawn in two groups of four and will play matches at four venues – Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua; along with Brian Lara Cricket Academy and Queen’s Park Oval in Trinidad.

“The mood is very positive as the players are looking forward to playing against the three franchise squads in our group. This will be valuable competitive cricket for the squad since most have not been in competitive cricket consistently over the last 24 months,” Coley said.

“What we want is to see our players buying into a winning mindset while working together as a team to achieve goals for each match, working together as a team. We also want to see them demonstrate resilience by adapting to various pitch and game conditions as they use their skill sets to achieve team goals.” (CWI)



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*Ottos Comprehensive player (#17 Green Jersey) prepares to make a clearance while defending an attack by Antigua Grammar School (black jerseys) during their Under-16 Boys schools' league encounter at King George V Grounds in St. John's, Antigua, on Tuesday, 25th October, 2022. (Photo courtesy Elwin Francis)*

## Clare Hall ends All Saints winning run in U/16 Boys' Football League

Clare Hall Secondary pulled off a 3-2 victory against defending champions All Saints Secondary in the Under-16 Boys' Division of the Secondary Schools' Football Competition at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints on Tuesday, 25th October.

Joseph Jacobs, Amos Christian and Tkai Williams scored for Clare Hall, who recorded their second win in three encounters.

Ne-Quan Tanner and Jayden Browne were the goal scorers for All Saints Secondary, who were beaten for the first time after winning their first two matches.

St Joseph's Academy recorded their first win in the competition by defeating Princess Margaret School 2-1 at King George V. Grounds.

Joshua Roache and O'Kare Simon scored for St. Joseph's Academy, while Zahdeir Forde had the

lone conversion for Princess Margaret School.

Antigua Grammar School claimed their second win in three matches by prevailing 3-2 against Otto's Comprehensive in their encounter at King George V. Grounds.

Sedique Adams scored twice and Javere Joseph netted once for Antigua Grammar School.

Je'Taime Barrett and Elijah Whyte were the goal scorers for Otto's Comprehensive who lost for the second time.

Irene B. Williams kept their unbeaten run intact by recording their second win in three encounters with a 4-0 win over Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Swetes Village playing field.

Rallique Browne scored a hat-trick and Ricardo Phillip netted the other goal for Irene B. Williams, while Allan Davis and Ijuante Isidore

were the goal scorers for Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

The Secondary Schools' Football League will continue with matches in the female and the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' divisions tomorrow, Friday, 28th October.

Antigua State College will take on Jennings in a female division encounter in the first match of a double-header at the Golden Grove playing field at 2:30 pm.

Antigua State College and Jennings Secondary will clash in an Under-20 Boys' division affair at the same venue at 3:50 pm.

Also in the Under-20 Boys' division, St. Mary's Secondary School will tackle Antigua Grammar School at home in Bolans village at 3 pm, while Otto's Comprehensive and Princess Margaret School will clash at King George V. Grounds at the same time.



## Grenades' coach expresses surprise with team's display in KO final

Head coach of Jennings Grenades FC Donovan Peart said he was surprised how well his team played in beating SAP 4-1 in the final to win the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout title at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday, 23rd October.

Peart, who has taken over the Grenades FC's head coaching role from Derrick "Pretty Boy" Edwards, said he was, however, always confident that his team would have defeated SAP.

"Surprised yes, but by the growth that we would have made from previous games we would have played in the tournament. I believe we had improved and have been improving all along since we played our first game in the competition," Peart said, while speaking on the Sports Overflow programme on Platinum Radio 97.9FM.

"So, the surprised for me is not beating SAP, the surprise for me is how well the guys really played."



Head coach of Jennings Grenades FC Donovan Peart holds the trophy after his team beat SAP in the final to capture the ABFA's Knockout title at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday, 23rd October, 2022. (Photo courtesy Donovan Peart)

Peart said he is very satisfied with Grenades FC's performance during the competition.

He credits his assistant coach Christopher Harvey for playing an instrumental role in the Grenades FC's success.

Peart said Harvey did a commendable job during training sessions four times

per week in helping to prepare the players for the recent knockout competition.

"We train four days per week, from Monday to Thursday and I am very satisfied with the players' performance during the tournament," Peart said.

"I must tell you that Grenades' assistant coach is Christopher Harvey and

even the times when I am not around, he kept the guys so fit, aggressive at times and understanding the composure sometimes. So, I must say kudos to Chris Harvey for holding it down."

With more than a few thousand spectators watching the final, Peart said it provided the atmosphere for the players to shine.

"One or two of the guys were playing in front of a big crowd for the first time so it was very important for them to win over the crowd.

"But all the players knew the best way to win over the crowd, especially the opponents' supporters, is to let them see some good football play and like it," Peart said.

"But it was a very good experience for a lot of the guys that were playing for the first time here in Antigua."

Peart said his team had to overcome several injuries to some of the players and they are now looking forward to the upcoming premier league season, which is expected to commence sometime next month.

*cont'd from pg 30*

the Hurricanes' squad.

Also included in the Hurricanes squad are West Indies middle-order batsman Keacy Carty and former Windies left-handed opening batsman Kieran Powell. The rest of the players are Ross Powell, Terrance Ward, Colin Archibald, Jeremiah Louis, Sheno Berridge and Damien Williams.

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes will take on the West Indies Academy in a Zone B clash in the opening match of the limited overs tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in Antigua on Saturday, 29th October.

The West Indies Academy team and Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC) will join the six regional franchise teams in contesting the 50-overs-

a-side competition, which was last contested in February, 2021.

Trinidad & Tobago's Red Force will defend their title and host Zone A featuring the Windward Islands Volcanoes, Guyana Harpy Eagles and CCC. Zone B will feature hosts the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, Barbados Pride, Jamaica Scorpions and the West Indies Academy.

## LI prepare for regional Super-50 with another win in warm-up match

For the second time in three days, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes have beaten the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Emerging Players Academy in a warm-up match for the upcoming regional CG United Super-50 Championship.

After snatching a two-run over the CWI Emerging Players Academy at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Sunday, the Leewards Hurricanes recorded a 20-run win over the same opponents at the same venue on Tuesday.

The Leewards Hurricanes were dismissed for 263 in 45 overs after they lost the toss and were asked to bat first. Ross Powell, who opened the innings top scored with a knock of 47 off 69 balls.

Powell shared in a 94-run second wicket partnership with Karima Gore, who made 45 from 58 deliveries.

Allrounder Rahkeem “Jimbo” Cornwall struck 41 off 33 balls, middle-order batsman Keacy Carty also made 41 from 37 balls and captain Jahmar Hamilton slammed 39 off 21 balls.

McKenny Clarke captured three for 63 in nine overs, Kevin Wickham claimed two for 19, Kevlon

Anderson picked up two for 25 and young Antiguan and Barbudan fast bowler Kelvin Pitman took two wickets for 41 runs.

Chasing a victory target of 264, the CWI Emerging Players Academy were all out for 243 in 40.3 overs.

Middle-order batsman Keagan Simmons top scored with 62 off 65 balls. Simmons shared in a 100-run fourth wicket partnership with Ackeem Auguste, who struck 51 from 57 balls with five fours and two sixes, and Carlon Bowen-Tuckett hit an unbeaten 43 off 53 balls.

Cornwall, bowling his right-arm off-spin, snapped up four wickets for 38 runs in 10 overs. Fellow off-spinner Kofi James captured two for 58 in his 10 overs and Daniel Doram picked up two wickets for 65 runs in 10 overs.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) has named its 14-member Leewards Hurricanes squad for the for the regional CG United Super-50 Championship, which will be played in Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago from 29th October to 19th November.

The team, which will be captained by Jahmar Hamil-



*Rahkeem Cornwall produced a fine all-round performance for the Leeward Islands Hurricane in their regional Super-50 warm-up match against the CWI Emerging Players Academy at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Tuesday, 25th October, 2022. (Photo courtesy CWI)*

ton, includes five Antiguan and Barbudans. Four of the locals are from national domestic champions PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks.

They include senior West Indies team off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, who is the vice-captain, and

leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr., along with off-spinning allrounders Kofi James and Karima Gore.

West Indies wicketkeeper/batsman Devon “Boobie” Thomas of CUB Bethesda Golden Eagles is the other Antiguan and Barbudan in

*cont'd on pg 29*