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A&B POSITIONED TO BECOME AXIS OF REGIONAL SHIPPING

Story on Page 2



Farmers in some parts of the island are battling an infestation of leafhoppers, a tiny insect that can cause considerable damage to crops and severe losses for agriculturalists. Pictured here, a local farmer (centre) and district officers attached to the Ministry of Agriculture inspect crops to assess the damage caused by the pests. [Photo Credit] Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs *Story on page 3.*

Local News



Telemaque makes case for A&B to become regional shipping hub

A compelling case has been made for Antigua and Barbuda to become a shipping hub for the OECS with the recent expansion of the St. John's Harbour.

Making the case at the just-concluded Caribbean Maritime University 2022 Industry/Academic conference in Kingston, Jamaica, was Chief Executive Officer of Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque.

This year's meeting surrounded the theme "End to End Logistics: Opportunities in an era of Uncertainty".

Delivering the feature presentation, Telemaque warned that the situation facing the global shipping industry is becoming increasingly perilous as both the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal have raised their usage tolls frequently over the past year.

Against this backdrop, Telemaque made several recommendations including greater cooperation among Caribbean states on shipping issues, increased investments by Caribbean states in

feeder vessels and improving air transportation.

Within the OECS, Telemaque suggested it would be economically practical and more strategic to develop one, and no more than two, major ports to serve the needs of the sub-region.

"Unlike Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas, the small domestic cargo base of the OECS makes it uneconomic for each member state to undertake port expansion projects that would include increasing berthage that separate cargo and cruise operations.

"It would appear more economically viable to centralise cargo operations to one or two ports in the OECS," he advanced.

To drive home his point, Telemaque noted that Antigua and Barbuda's new St. John's Harbour, with its improved facilities and expanded capacity, positions it well to serve as a shipping base for the OECS.

"This newly developed port will simultaneously accommodate three full size regional liner services and



Chief Executive Officer of Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque

five cruise vessels, including Oasis and Quantum class vessels. The port will also have expanded warehouse capacity, and shortly, a logistics park with all the supporting modern digital systems to efficiently handle cargo across the OECS countries," he said.

Additionally, he explained that Antigua and Barbuda's size, relative to its

GDP (Gross Domestic Product), when compared against other OECS countries, makes the Port of St. John's a most practical choice for the OECS.

"The location of Antigua in the chain i.e. proximity to many OECS markets and direct all water connection to a number of key hub ports - Miami, Caucedo (DR), Trinidad, Felixstowe - with options from North America and Jamaica."

Telemaque cited significant improvements in the operational performance of the port, especially related to its productivity, as further reasons why the St. John's Harbour is the ideal candidate to serve as the sub-region's shipping hub.

Thu 06 Day		Thu 06 Night	
86°		78°	
21% E 15 mph		22% E 10 mph	
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 71%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 81%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:58 am	Sunset 5:52 pm	Moonrise 3:56 pm	Moonset 2:46 am
		☾ Waxing Gibbous	

Local farmers fight leafhopper infestation

The Extension Division of the Ministry of Agriculture has determined that a leafhopper infestation affecting farmers in the south-central, northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest districts is not severe.

Okra, sorrel and eggplant are among the crops most affected by the pest, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Following a recent assessment, District Officer Joel Matthew said the problem is not dire, especially since farmers have opted to use chemicals to control the spread of the pests.

Inexpensive natural remedies can also be used to get rid of the leafhoppers and these can prove to be far more cost effective for farmers when compared to the use of chemicals.

Matthew has given an undertaking that the Extension Division will begin to examine these alternatives and make recommendations



to farmers.

Leafhoppers cause damage to crops when they suck the sap out of their leaves which disturbs the flow of water and nutrients in the plants. The plant is also injected with harmful toxins secreted by the insect as they feed. These processes damage the leaf margins, or the entire leaf, which eventually becomes pale and dies.

In an infestation of the pest, the widespread leaf damage affects the growth of the entire plant and reduces its expected yield.

Andy David, whose farm is located in Sanderson's, ex-

plained that the leafhoppers have gravely affected his production of okra and drastically cut production.

According to the Uni-

versity of California's Integrated Pest Management Programme, leafhoppers develop through 3 life stages: egg, nymph, and adult.

Adult female leafhoppers are prolific, laying as many as six eggs per day. They insert their eggs into tender plant tissue, causing tiny pimple-like wounds. The emerging nymphs generally develop through five increasingly larger instars before maturing into flying adults, without a pupal stage. This entire process takes about three weeks.



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Satisfactory response to HPV testing pilot project

There has been a positive response from the public to the recently launched HPV testing pilot project.

The Human Papilloma-virus (HPV) test detects the presence of the virus which causes cervical cancer.

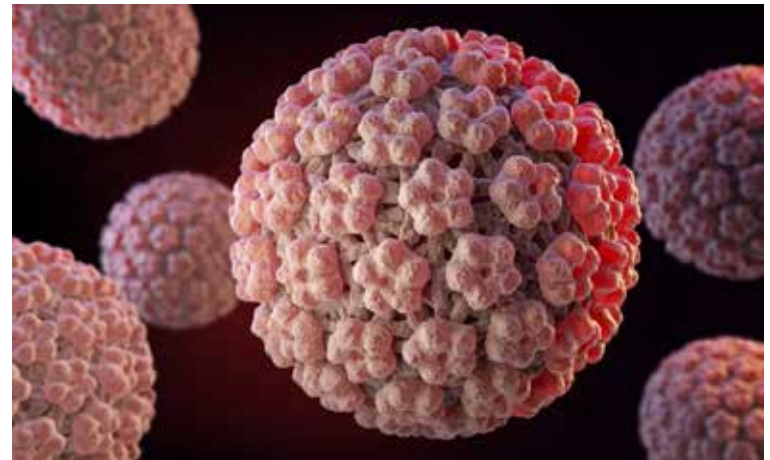
Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Cherie Tulloch, chairperson of the Cervical Cancer Taskforce, said that in less than a month, more than one hundred women have taken advantage of

the free HPV testing being offered.

“We’ve had more than one hundred tests done; we’ve had more than a hundred women signing up through the link that just came out last week. So, the response has been tremendous, and actually, what women enjoy the most is the fact that the turnaround time will be significantly less. We are aiming for two weeks for them to get their results,” Dr. Tulloch stated.

Online registration for HPV testing can be com-



pleted through the Facebook pages of the Medical Benefits Scheme and Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment.

Appointments can also be booked by calling any of the participating clinics, according to the taskforce’s chairperson.

The free HPV screenings began at the All Saints, Browne’s Avenue, Clare Hall, Grays Farm and Jennings clinics on 13th September.

While all women are at risk of developing cervical cancer and should be screened, Dr. Tulloch said the pilot project is placing emphasis on a specific age group.

“For the purposes of this pilot that we’re doing with HPV testing, we’re focusing on women between 30-49, still encouraging women outside of that age group to get their pap smears done,” she detailed during a recent interview.

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of death among women in Latin America and the Caribbean according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

“Despite being highly preventable, it kills 35,700 women each year in the Americas, and the majority (80%) of these cases are in Latin America and the Caribbean.

“Mortality rates three times higher in Latin America and the Caribbean than in North America highlights the existing inequities in wealth, gender and access to health services in the region.

“If current trends continue, cervical cancer deaths in the Americas are projected to increase to over 51,500 in 2030, due to the growing population and gains in life expectancy; 89% of these deaths will occur in Latin America and the Caribbean,” predicts PAHO.

ABPSA

20 22

Caribbean Public Service Day Week of Activities

2

Sunset Cruise (3:00pm)
Wadali Cats Cruise

Church Service (10:30am)
St. John's S.D.A Church

3

4

Glow Walk (6:00pm)
Rising Sun. Free to all! Water & Glow sticks included.

Meet and Greet (5:00pm)
Younger Workers - Botanical Gardens

5

6 & 7

Media Blitz
Details to be given at a later date.

Karaoke Night (7:30pm)
Dredgers Playing Field

8

Team Dadlibots headed to robotics challenge in Switzerland

More than 180 countries will come together in Geneva from 13th to 16th October to participate in the 2022 FIRST Global Challenge under the theme Carbon Capture.

This year, Antigua and Barbuda will be represented by Team Dadlibots which is made up of members Teyanna Nathaniel (Leader), Deshini Charles (Programmer), Leyla Reid (Designer) and Ethan Bailey (Engineer).

Each year, FIRST Global invites nations to compete in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) themed game that is focused on addressing various challenges facing the planet.

Participants engage in 14 Grand Challenges of Engineering in an effort to foster understanding and cooperation among 14 - 18-year-old secondary school students as they use their abilities and collaborate to solve problems and safeguard their future.

Antigua and Barbuda's Team Dadlibots were selected from among the participants in the STEM InFuSed (Innovative Future Sustained) Youth Camp hosted by the Ministry of Education and Sports this summer period at UWI Five Islands Campus.

More than 250 students were exposed to emerging technologies and potential career opportunities during



Teyanna Nathaniel - Leader the camp.

FIRST Global, an education-focused non-profit inspiring science and technology leadership and innovation in young people from all nations through the sport of robotics, has launched the challenge for the 2022 season — Carbon Capture. The environment theme invites FIRST Global teams to reimagine the future of Earth's climate by facing the global issue of climate change.

Each team receives a standard kit of parts with which to build a robot capable of competing on the game field at the 2022 FIRST Global Challenge. In the Carbon Capture game, shifting global alliances of six national teams work together to capture and store carbon, demonstrating the collective effort required to protect our shared



Leyla Reid - Designer

atmosphere. They then divide into regional alliances to focus on local efforts for long-term storage of CO2 to slow the effects of climate change.

"Climate change is a global problem. Tackling it requires the cooperation of everyone," said founder of FIRST Global, Dean Kamen. "By engaging the world's youth on this pressing issue, FIRST Global is an example of the power of investment and teamwork to make a positive impact. Technology is the answer to climate change."

Since the organisation's inception in 2017, the FIRST Global website says it "has inspired millions of students, mentors, schoolmates and community members across 196 nations to leverage STEM to engage with issues including providing access to clean water, improving energy infrastructures, cleaning the world's oceans, combating a global pandemic, and more".

Here at home, students who are interested in STEM education and becoming members of Team Dadlibots can become members of the local robotics association by registering at www.antiguabarbudarobotics.org or following the movement on social media by sear the handle @antiguabarbudarobotics



Deshini Charles - Programmer



Ethan Bailey - Engineer

Local News



PM Browne offers law scholarships through Swissx partnership

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has announced that he will offer economic assistance to five Antiguan and Barbudan students who are desirous of studying law in the US.

Recently, the prime minister said that increasing and improving educational opportunities for nationals remains his administration's priority.

The selected students will each receive a scholarship to attend the American Heritage Law School in California, in association with businessman Alki David's CBD wellness brand, Swissx.

All applicants must apply for the scholarship to the Los Angeles-based law school on the Swissx website, swissx.com.

For decades, the Antigua and Bar-



buda government has prioritised the development of its human capacity by providing scholarships to nationals.

Through the Prime Minister's Scholarship Fund, the Board of Education and internationally sourced

scholarships through partnerships with diplomatic allies, global organisations and private philanthropists, the government facilitates hundreds of scholarship opportunities for nationals each year.



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Antigua and Barbuda Represented at GCF Global Programming Conference

Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Environment, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, and the Deputy Project Coordinator of the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Project, Christa-Joy Burton joined global leaders, experts and companies from 13th – 15th September to participate in the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) second Global Programming Conference (GPC).

The annual event, hosted in Incheon, South Korea, this year, brought together private and public sector stakeholders to explore innovative ways the private sector can mobilise and scale up finance to accelerate climate action in developing countries like Antigua and Barbuda.

The GPC 2022 focused on unlocking capital for climate action by providing a platform to address market failures, showcase new ideas, and forge new partnerships within the climate finance sector.

Attendees left the conference with a new perspective and shared experiences on innovations and best practices for scaling up public-private partnerships toward climate action.

According to Burton, "As one of the first accredited Direct Access Entity (DAEs) to have a regional EDA pilot project approved by the GCF, it was import-



Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Environment, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne

ant to be in attendance to share on our progress and lessons learnt thus far.


"Through the in-person bilaterals and joint sessions, we were able to have candid discussions with the GCF representatives on the effectiveness of the technical support and funding procedures provided by the GCF, and also had the opportunity to strengthen our partnerships not only with the GCF, but with other NDAs and AEs.

"I think this is especially key to improving climate action and project support across developing countries through the sharing of new and best practices and exploring areas for innovation for climate action."

The three-day event took stock of the GCF's role in enabling climate action and provided a stage for GCF stakeholders to inform the strategy for the second replenishment period to effectively respond


The conference also offered the opportunity to advance country programming, share lessons from implementation and disseminate knowledge of GCF operational tools as well as strengthen the GCF partnership network.

The programme included a high-level segment with the participation of Ministers and Heads of Accredited Entities on the first day of the conference, followed by two days of parallel thematic and sectoral tracks and bilateral meetings.



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Local News



Department of Environment, NODS host Shelter Management Workshop

The Department of Environment (DoE), in collaboration with the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), recently hosted a five-day Shelter Management Workshop for over twenty participants from faith-based organisations who have received grant funding from the Department of Environment under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Project, along with other interested community members in the Cashew Hill community.

The objectives of the workshop were to provide disaster response and shelter management training to climate adaptation, provide stakeholders with an overview of the shelter registration process and to train and certify 15-20 persons



in shelter management, specifically the members of the grant awardees' voluntary shelter management teams.

The week-long workshop at the Cashew Hill Moravian Church featured presentations from representatives of the DoE, NODS, the Directorate of Gender Affairs, and the Antigua and Barbuda chapter of the Red Cross.

Other important topics

covered during the sessions included Environmental Social Safeguards, Gender and Complaints Mechanisms.

The workshop achieved one of the goals of the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) project titled, "Integrated physical adaptation and community resilience through an enhanced direct access pilot in the public, private, and civil society sectors of three Eastern Ca-

ribbean small island developing states."

The objective of this project is to strengthen institutional capacities and increase the resilience of at least 5 percent of the population in the Eastern Caribbean pilot countries to climate variability and change, of which 50 percent are women, through adaptation in infrastructure, strengthened buildings and enhanced ecosystem services.

The organisations which benefitted from the workshop included the Bible Speaks Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Tindale Temple Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Steps to Christ Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Cashew Hill Moravian Church, and Wesleyan Holiness Church.

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Somalia drought: The fight for survival as famine looms

By Andrew Harding

Young children are dying in growing numbers in Somalia amid the worst drought to hit the country in 40 years. Government officials say that an even greater "catastrophe" could sweep the country within days or weeks unless more help arrives.

The tears tumbled down 11-year-old Dahir's hunger-hollowed cheeks.

"I just want to survive this," he said quietly.

Seated beside the family's makeshift tent, on the dusty plain outside the city of Baidoa, his weary mother, Fatuma Omar, told him not to cry.

"Your tears will not bring your brother back. Everything will be fine," she said.

Fatuma's second son, 10-year-old Salat, died of starvation two weeks ago, shortly after the family reached Baidoa from their village, three days' walk away. His body is buried in the rocky earth a few metres from their new home - the grave already covered in litter and increasingly hard to spot as new arrivals set up camp around them.

"I cannot grieve for my son. There is no time. I need to find work and food to keep the others alive," Fatuma said, cradling her youngest daughter, nine-month-old Bille, and turning to look at six-year-old Mariam as she gave a rasping cough.

On the other side of the dirt road that loops to the south-east, towards the coast and Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, other displaced families told more grim stories of long treks across a drought-parched landscape in search of food.

'No strength to bury my daughter'

A new survey has shown that almost two-thirds of young children and



Dahir (pictured left with his sister and mother) recently lost his brother to starvation

pregnant women in the camps are suffering from acute malnutrition, which, along with a high death rate, could indicate that a localised declaration of famine is already overdue.

"I saw my daughter [three-year-old Farhir] die before me and I could do nothing," said Fatuma, who had walked for at least 15 days with her nine children from a village called Buulo Ciir to reach Baidoa.

"I had been carrying her for 10 days. We had to leave her by the side of the road. We had no strength to bury her. We could hear the hyenas closing in," she continued.

"I've brought nothing with me. There is nothing left at home. The cattle are dead. The fields are dry," said Habiba Mohamud, 50, clutching a piece of twine in one hand, and acknowledging that she will never return to her village.

A succession of droughts, turbo-charged by climate change, is now threatening to end a pastoral way of life that has endured for centuries across the Horn of Africa.

Like other new arrivals, Habiba was busy erecting a tent for her family

from branches, twigs, and scavenged scraps of cardboard and plastic sheeting, hoping to finish it before the chill of night. Only after that could she turn to finding food and medical help for some of her five children.

On the admissions ward in the city's main hospital, Dr Abdullahi Yussuf moved between beds, checking on his tiny, emaciated patients. Most were children between two months and three years old.

All were severely malnourished. Some had pneumonia and many were battling a new outbreak of measles too.

Few infants had the strength to cry. Several had badly damaged skin, broken by the swelling that sometimes accompanies the most extreme cases of hunger.

"So many die before they even reach a hospital," said Dr Abdullahi, watching his team struggling to connect an intravenous tube to the arm of a moaning two-year-old.

'It's terrifying, people are dying'

Although Somali officials and international organisations have been sounding the alarm for months about

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an impending famine in this south-western region, Dr Abdullahi said his hospital was already short of basic items including nutritional supplements for children.

"Sometimes we lack supplies. It's terrifying, actually, because people are dying, and we can't support them. Our local government is not handling this well. It has not been planning for the drought or for the arrival of displaced families," he said, with visible frustration.

A local government minister conceded there had been failings.

"We need to be faster than we are, and we need to be accurate... and more effective," said Nasir Arush, Minister for Humanitarian Affairs for South West state, on a short visit to one of the camps around Baidoa. But more international support, he insisted, was key.

"If we don't receive the aid we need, hundreds of thousands of people will die. The things we're doing now we needed to do three months ago. In reality we are behind. Unless something happens [fast] I think something catastrophic will happen in this area," he said.

The process of formally declaring a famine can be a complicated one, reliant on hard-to-pin-down data, and, often, political considerations.

Britain's ambassador in Mogadishu, Kate Foster, described it as "essentially, a technical process". She



Locals have been migrating from their villages to Baidoa in search of resources and medical care

pointed out that during the 2011 drought "half of the 260,000 deaths happened before famine was declared".

The presidential envoy leading Somalia's international effort to secure more funding thanked the US government, in particular, for recent new funding, saying it "has given us hope".

But Abdirahman Abdishakur warned that without more help, a localised crisis in one part of Somalia could quickly spin out of control.

"We were raising the alarm... but the response of the international community was not adequate," Mr Abdishakur said.

"Famine is projected. It happens [already] in some places, some pockets, in Somalia, but still we can prevent the catastrophic one," he continued, speaking by phone during a stopover in Toronto, Canada.

Women fleeing, men stay behind

Although estimates vary, the population of

Baidoa has roughly quadrupled in the past few months, to around 800,000 people.

And any visitor will quickly notice one striking fact. Almost all the new adult arrivals are women.

Somalia is at war. The conflict has endured, in different guises, since the central government collapsed three decades ago, and it continues to affect almost every part of the country, tearing men away from their families to fight for an array of armed groups.

Like most of those arriving in Baidoa, Hadija Abukar recently escaped from territory controlled by militant Islamist group al-Shabab.

"Even now I'm getting calls on my phone from the rest of my family. There is fighting there - between the government and al-Shabab. My relatives have run away and are hiding in the forest," she said, seated beside her sickly child at a small hospital in Baidoa.

Other women spoke of

husbands and older sons being blocked from leaving areas controlled by the militants, and of years of extortion by the group.

Baidoa itself is not quite surrounded by al-Shabab, but it remains a precarious place of refuge. International aid organisations, and foreign journalists, require heavy security to move around, and any travel beyond the city limits is considered extremely risky.

"We're looking at populations that are under siege. Sometimes it feels quite hopeless," said Charles Nzuki, who heads the UN children's fund, Unicef, in central and southern Somalia.

According to some estimates, more than half the population affected by the current drought remains in areas controlled by al-Shabab. Strict US government rules blocking any assistance from benefiting designated terrorist groups have complicated

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ECCB celebrates 39 years of service to ECCU

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) is celebrating 39 years of maintaining the stability of the EC Currency and unwavering service to the governments and people of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

The ECCB was established on 1 October 1983 as the monetary authority for: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis,

Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Bank's primary objective is to maintain the stability of the EC currency and the integrity of the ECCU banking system.

As part of its mandate the ECCB also provides policy advice to its eight member governments and assists with promoting the economic development of its eight member countries.

To mark its 39th Anniversary, the manage-



ECCB Governor, Timothy Antoine

ment, staff, retirees and the Pentecostal Church of well-wishers of the ECCB God, St Kitts, on 2 October joined the congregation at for divine worship.

cont'd from pg 11

efforts to reach many desperate communities.

But international organisations, and the Somali authorities, are working with smaller local partners to increase access and are now planning air drops into some contested territories.

Still, one aid worker, speaking off the record, acknowledged that it was almost impossible to guarantee that no food or funds were reaching al-Shabab.

"Let's not be naïve, [al-Shabab] taxes everything, even cash donations," they said.

Over the years, the militant group has established a reputation not just for violence and intimidation but for delivering justice in a country with a hard-earned reputation for official corruption.

In at least four villages close to Baidoa, al-Shabab runs a network of Sharia courts that are routinely used by the city's residents and, reportedly,

by people in Mogadishu and beyond, to settle business and land disputes.

Further to the north-east, a sudden uprising against al-Shabab has seen local communities and clan militias - now heavily backed by the central government - drive the group out of dozens of towns and villages in recent weeks.

The military successes have prompted a surge of optimism, but it is not clear if that will help in the fight against famine, or simply distract the Somali government.

"It might, or it might not [help]. I think it may create more [civilian] displacement. Or the government might liberate more areas and people might have more access [to aid]. So, we're looking at it from all sides," said local minister Nasir Arush.

In Baidoa itself - a busy city of narrow, cobbled streets scarred by decades of conflict and neglect - the prices of basic goods, like rice, have doubled in the past month. Many res-

idents blamed the drought, but others also looked further afield.

"Flour, sugar, oil - they've all risen by about the same amount. Sometimes we have to skip meals. I heard about the war between Russia and Ukraine. People say that is the root cause of these problems," said Shukri Moalim Ali, 38, walking over to her dry well, and barren vegetable patch.

While the fight to ward off a deeper, spreading famine is the immediate focus in this region, Somalia's new government is also looking ahead, seeking to address more existential questions about the future.

"It is a challenging task, to respond to the drought, to fight against al-Shabab, and to campaign to access [international] climate justice finance," Abdirahman Abdishakur said.

"We have a young population, an enormous diaspora, and vibrant entrepreneurial skills. So that gives us hope. It's challenging, but we don't have an alternative."

World Bank economist says Caribbean economies yet to recover to pre-COVID era

A senior World Bank official says the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Caribbean has not yet recovered to its 2019 level as the region emerges from being among the hardest hit regions by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“We are not expecting that to be the case until 2024 and that reflects the overall slow rate of recovery in the region. Part of that is we know that many of the islands are tourism dependent and we had a hard time getting a handle on COVID,” said William Maloney, the World Bank’s chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean.

He told reporters that many countries in the region are still recording low vaccination rates against the virus that has killed and infected millions of people globally.

He said most were below 40 percent “which leaves us vulnerable to whatever new variant comes.

It is important to realize that covid is in recession right now, but it is very unpredictable, and we have to be prepared for whatever is coming and that means those vaccination rates will have to rise...”

Maloney said the region was also hard hit by the Ukraine crisis occasioned by Russia’s invasion of the Eastern European country since February “because we are net food and fuel



importers, with perhaps the exception of Trinidad and Tobago, and so that puts additional strain on household budgets and government finances. “So, this has made it a very difficult couple of years for the Caribbean. The bank has programmes I think for 19 countries in the region, focusing precisely on issues like fiscal sustainability, building resilience to natural hazards,” he said.

The chief economist said in the case of Haiti, the Caribbean Community CARICOM country is in a “very difficult situation.

“They continue to struggle with multiple pronged crises. You have got gang violence, lingering political institutional and instability and we have had persistent vulnerability to natural shocks. Covid of course exacerbated these and unfortunate to date, it has a low vaccination rate,” Maloney added.

He further stated that the economy continues to contract, adding “we are seeing negative two and half per cent in 2022 and minus 0.1 per cent in 2023.”

“So, the short term and the medium-term situation

is not extremely positive. The bank continues to support recovery from the 2021 earthquake by strengthening disaster risk capacity ...and we have also been working hard to address problems to access to quality learning and to mitigating Haiti’s food insecurity,” the economist stated.

He said the bank’s portfolio for Haiti has increased by 40 percent over the last two years “but ...it remains a very difficult situation”.

He said some Caribbean countries will register economic growth this year, declining in 2024.

For example, Barbados is expected to register a 10.5 percent growth this year, dropping to five percent next year, Jamaica will record a 3.2 percent growth in 2022, falling to two percent next year, Dominica will register 5.8 percent this year, declining to five percent the following year.

The World Bank is predicting that Grenada’s economic growth this year will be 3.8 percent, falling slightly down to 3.4 percent the following year. St. Lucia’s economy will grow by 7.9 percent this year, and six

percent next year, while St. Vincent and the Grenadines will register five percent this year and increasing to 6.3 the following year.

The Bahamas will register eight percent growth in 2022 and 4.1 percent in 2023. Suriname will experience 2.3 percent growth this year, increasing to three percent next year, while Belize will have registered two percent growth for this year and 2024.

The World Bank did not give an economic growth forecast for Trinidad and Tobago. Maloney said Guyana has been having “astronomically high growth and we are expecting 57.8 percent this year, falling to 25.2 percent next year.

“Those are extraordinary growth rates reflecting the development of this new sector and any government will have a challenge in managing those resource flows to be sure that you did not set off inflation within the country and the central bank would need to take measures to control that,” Maloney added.

The economist said Caribbean countries in general would benefit from working as a group on issues such as seeking concessionary financing from international agencies “articulating their concerns...would be a very positive thing” and that the World Bank “stands ready to discuss these issues.” (CMC)

Regional News



Haiti at breaking point as economy tanks and violence soars

AP — Daily life in Haiti began to spin out of control last month just hours after Prime Minister Ariel Henry said fuel subsidies would be eliminated, causing prices to double.

Gunshots rang out as protesters blocked roads with iron gates and mango trees. Then Haiti's most powerful gang took a drastic step: It dug trenches to block access to the Caribbean country's largest fuel terminal, vowing not to budge until Henry resigns and prices for fuel and basic goods go down.

The poorest country in the Western hemisphere is in the grips of an inflationary vise that is squeezing its citizenry and exacerbating protests that have brought society to the breaking point. Violence is raging and making parents afraid to send their kids to school; fuel and clean water are scarce; hospitals, banks and grocery stores are struggling to stay open.

The president of neighboring Dominican Republic described the situation as a "low-intensity civil war."

Life in Haiti is always extremely difficult, if not downright dysfunctional. But the magnitude of the current paralysis and despair is unprecedented. Political instability has simmered ever since last year's still-unsolved assassination of Haiti's president; infla-



A protester carries a piece of wood simulating a weapon during a protest demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, in the Petion-Ville area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

tion soaring around 30% has only aggravated the situation. "If they don't understand us, we're going to make them understand," said Pierre Killick Cemelus, who sweated as he struggled to keep pace with thousands of other protesters marching during a recent demonstration.

The fuel depot blocked by gangs has been inoperable since Sept. 12, cutting off about 10 million gallons of diesel and gasoline and more than 800,000 gallons of kerosene stored on site.

Many gas stations are closed, and others are quickly running out of supplies. The lack of fuel recently forced hospitals to cut back critical services and

prompted water delivery companies to shut down. Banks and grocery stores also are struggling to stay open because of dwindling fuel supplies — and exorbitant prices — that make it nearly impossible for many workers to commute. A gallon of gasoline costs \$30 on the black market in Port-au-Prince and more than \$40 in rural areas. Desperate people are walking for miles to get food and water because public transportation is extremely limited.

"Haiti is now in complete chaos," said Alex Dupuy, a Haiti-born sociologist at Wesleyan University. "You have gangs basically doing whatever they want, wherever they want,

whenever they want with complete impunity because the police force is not capable of bringing them under control."

Henry's de-facto government "doesn't seem to be fazed at all by the chaos and is probably benefiting from it because it allows him to hold on to power and prolong as long as possible the organisation of new elections," Dupuy said.

Gangs control roughly 40% of Port-au-Prince, the U.N. has estimated. They are fighting to control even more territory, killing hundreds of Haitians in recent months — including women and children — and driving away some 20,000

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Belize Police Commissioner open to SOE to deal with upsurge in murders

CMC - Commissioner Chester Williams says there are persons hell-bent on terrorizing their communities and he is not ruling out requesting a state of emergency SOE to deal with the upsurge in murders in Belize.

Williams said he has already directed the police to do "certain things in the different areas to see how we can quell the feud," particularly among warring gangs.

The authorities have organized several sporting and other initiatives in response to gangs and Chester Williams said he will be meeting with the relevant minister to decide "what course of actions will be tak-

en against those groups causing the flare-ups." Asked whether a state of emergency is being considered, the top cop replied "anything is on the table."

"I can tell you that the crowd from the Antelope Extension, I am sick and tired of them. The truth is they have not felt the wrath of the SOE and perhaps that is the reason they are behaving the way they are. The past three murders in the city have been committed by them. So, something drastically needs to be done for them to get the message."

Williams said in the Antelope Extension Area, there are three dif-



Belize's Police Commissioner, Chester Williams.

ferent groups and "there is extremely high tension among them and as I have always said there are some of these young men that certainly don't want anything good in life."

"We do a number of programmes to try and work with them. We talk with them and do interventions with them."

"We do everything possible to try and get them to understand that the lifestyle they are living is not good for them, is not good for society. "The police commissioner said it is impossible for police to control these areas."

"We just can't police everybody. I can't say we are going to tag police to every gang member. I don't have the manpower."

"It is human beings and at the end of the day, while we do have police in the area, you would know that the criminals monitor the police. The police have to move around."

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Regional News

Guyana marks 123rd anniversary of tribunal award defining border with Venezuela

CMC - Guyana marked the 123rd anniversary of the Anglo-Venezuelan Arbitral Tribunal which fixed the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana, optimistic that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will decide the ongoing border dispute with the South American country in its favor.

"Guyana is optimistic that the Court will decide the case in its favor and that the validity of the arbitral award, and the border will be upheld. In the meantime, it is dedicating all of its efforts to the achievement of this outcome," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said in a statement.

The ministry said the tribunal created by the Treaty of Washington of 1897, provided for both Britain and Venezuela to agree to accept the tribunal's award as a 'full, perfect, and final settlement of the boundary

issue.

"123 years later, Guyana still accepts and celebrates the award as such," the ministry said noting that Caracas had applauded the award.

"In the words of the law firm handling Venezuela's case, written in the American Journal of International Law as late as 1949: "The award secured to Venezuela the mouth of the Orinoco and control of the Orinoco basin, these being the most important questions at issue," the ministry said, adding that on May 7, 1905, an official boundary map was drawn up by Commissioners of Britain and Venezuela delineating the boundary as awarded by the Tribunal.

"For almost sixty years, Venezuela recognized, respected – and even protected – that boundary. In 1962 however, as Guyana's independence drew closer and the neighbor would no longer be Britain but a fledg-



ling State, Venezuela abandoned the path of propriety and with it the rule of law and cast eyes on Guiana's Essequibo territory."

Georgetown said as it celebrates the anniversary date of the Arbitral Award of Paris of 3rd October 1899, "we celebrate the rule of international law and the sanctity of Treaties.

"We celebrate that our quest for justice has led us to the hallowed halls of the International Court of Justice," the ministry said, noting that Guyana brought the matter to the Court in an Application submitted on

29 March 2018.

"The Court confirmed its jurisdiction over Guyana's claims, rejecting Venezuela's objections, in a judgment issued on 18 December 2020. This assures that it will be the court that decides, with final and binding effect on the parties – Guyana and Venezuela – whether the 1899 Arbitral Award establishing the international boundary between the two States was lawfully issued and remains legally valid and permanently binding as a matter of international law," the ministry added.

cont'd from pg 14

people from their homes. Kidnappings have spiked.

Henry has pledged to hold elections as soon as it's safe to do so, writing in a speech read at the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 24 that he has "no desire to stay in power longer than necessary."

"My country is going through a multidimensional crisis whose conse-

quences threaten democracy and the very foundations of the rule of law," Henry said. He condemned widespread looting and violence, and said those responsible "will have to answer for their crimes before history and before the courts."

From 2004 until 2017, U.N. peacekeepers bolstered the country's security and helped rebuild political institutions after a violent rebellion

ousted former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. But for now, any foreign intervention in Haiti is off the table.

Local political leaders have repudiated the suggestion of outside help, noting that U.N. peacekeepers in Haiti sexually abused children and sparked a cholera epidemic more than a decade ago that killed nearly 10,000 people.

Seoul's reprisal blows up after North Korean missile success

AP— A malfunctioning South Korean ballistic missile blew up as it plowed into the ground Wednesday during a live-fire drill with the United States that was a reprisal for North Korea's successful launch a day earlier of a weapon that flew over Japan and has the range to strike the U.S. territory of Guam.

The explosion and subsequent fire panicked and confused residents of the coastal city of Gangneung, who were already uneasy over the increasingly provocative weapons tests by rival North Korea.

Their concern that it could be a North Korean attack only grew as the military and government officials provided no explanation about the explosion for hours.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said no injuries were reported from the explosion, which involved a short-range Hyumoo-2 missile that crashed inside an air force base on the outskirts of the city.

A Joint Chiefs of Staff official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing, said the missile's warhead didn't explode during the crash and that the fire was caused by burning rocket propellant. The official said the missile fell soon after liftoff and that no civilian facilities were affected.



In an image taken from video, flames and smoke rise from a military airbase Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, in Gangneung, South Korea. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said no injuries were reported from the explosion which involved a short-range Hyumoo-2 missile. (Kim Hee Soo via AP)

Kwon Seong-dong, a governing party lawmaker representing Gangneung, wrote on Facebook that a "weapons system operated by our blood-like taxpayer money ended up threatening our own people" and called for the military to thoroughly investigate the missile failure. He also criticized the military for not issuing a notice about the failure while maintaining a media embargo on the joint drills.

"It was an irresponsible response," Kwon wrote. "They don't even have an official press release yet."

South Korea's military acknowledged the malfunction hours after internet users raised alarm about the blast and posted social media videos showing an orange ball of flames emerging from an area they described as near the air force base. It said it was investigating what caused the "abnormal

flight" of the missile.

Officials at Gangneung's fire department and city hall said emergency workers were dispatched to the air force base and a nearby army base in response to calls about a possible explosion but were sent back by military officials.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries are conducting the joint exercises to show their ability to deter a North Korean attack on the South. During Tuesday's drills, they conducted bombing runs by F-15 strike jets using precision munitions and launched two missiles each that are part of the Army Tactical Missile System.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan was scheduled to return to waters east of South Korea on Wednesday to demonstrate the allies' "firm will"

to counter North's continued provocations and threats. The carrier was part of drills last week with South Korea and Japan.

The homegrown Hyumoo-2 is key to South Korea's preemptive and retaliatory strike strategies against the North. Some versions of the missile are similar to Russian-designed Iskandar

missiles, which also inspired a localized variant in North Korea as it expands its arsenal of nuclear-capable short-range weapons designed to evade South Korea's missile defenses.

North Korea's successful launch of a nuclear-capable ballistic missile hours before the drills was the country's most provocative weapons demonstration since 2017 and was its fifth round of weapons tests in 10 days.

That missile has a range capable of striking Guam, which is home to one of the largest military facilities maintained by the U.S. in Asia. North Korea in 2017 also tested missiles capable of hitting the continental United States.

Japan's lower house, the more powerful of the two-chamber parliament, adopted a resolution on Wednesday condemning North Korea's launch, saying that the flight over Japan posed a "grave and imminent" threat to the country's security.

OPEC+ makes big oil cut to boost prices; pump costs may rise

AP— The OPEC+ alliance of oil-exporting countries decided Wednesday to sharply cut production to support sagging oil prices, a move that could deal the struggling global economy another blow and raise politically sensitive pump prices for U.S. drivers just ahead of key national elections.

Energy ministers cut production by a larger-than-expected 2 million barrels per day starting in November after gathering for their first face-to-face meeting at the Vienna headquarters of the OPEC oil cartel since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group said the decision was based on the “uncertainty that surrounds the global economic and oil market outlooks.” Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman stressed the cartel’s stated role as a guardian of stable energy markets.

“We are here to stay as a moderating force, to bring about stability,” he told reporters.

Besides a token trim last month, the major cut in the amount of crude that OPEC+ ships to the world is an abrupt turnaround from months of restoring deep cuts made during the depths of the pandemic. As demand rebounded, global energy prices have swung wildly since Russia invaded Ukraine, helping fuel inflation that is squeezing economies around the world.

The impact of the produc-



tion cut on oil prices and thus the price of gasoline made from crude will be limited somewhat because OPEC+ members already can’t meet their quotas.

The decision could help alliance member Russia weather a looming European ban on most of Moscow’s oil and comes amid an energy crisis created by Russia reducing natural gas supplies to Europe, whose leaders call it retaliation for supporting Ukraine and imposing sanctions.

Oil is trading well below its summer peaks because of fears that major global economies such as the U.S. or Europe will sink into recession due to high inflation, rising interest rates and uncertainty over the war in Ukraine.

“We are going through a period of diverse uncertainties, which could come our way, it’s a brewing cloud,” bin Salman said, adding that OPEC+ sought to remain “ahead of the curve.” The fall in oil prices has been a boon to U.S. drivers, who saw low-

er gasoline prices at the pump before costs recently started picking up, and for U.S. President Joe Biden as his Democratic Party gears up for congressional elections next month.

“The President is disappointed by the shortsighted decision by OPEC+ to cut production quotas while the global economy is dealing with the continued negative impact of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine,” the White House said in a statement. “At a time when maintaining a global supply of energy is of paramount importance, this decision will have the most negative impact on lower- and middle-income countries that are already reeling from elevated energy prices.”

The Biden administration will work with Congress on additional tools to reduce OPEC’s control over energy prices, the statement said.

Biden has tried to receive credit for gasoline prices falling from their average June peak of \$5.02 with administration officials highlight-

ing a late March announcement that a million barrels a day would be released from the strategic reserve for six months. High inflation is a fundamental drag on Biden’s approval and has dampened Democrats’ chances in the midterm elections.

Oil supply could face further cutbacks in coming months when a European ban on most Russian imports takes effect in December. A separate move by the U.S. and other members of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies to impose a price cap on Russian oil could reduce supply if Russia retaliates by refusing to ship to countries and companies that observe the cap.

The EU agreed Wednesday on new sanctions that are expected to include a price cap on Russian oil.

Russia “will need to find new buyers for its oil when the EU embargo comes into force in early December and will presumably have to make further price concessions to do so,” analysts at Commerzbank said. “Higher prices beforehand boosted by production cuts elsewhere would therefore doubtless be very welcome.”

Dwindling prospects for a diplomatic deal to limit Iran’s nuclear programme also have lowered prospects for a return of as much as 1.5 million barrels a day in Iranian oil to the market if sanctions are removed.

Putin formalizes annexation of shrinking occupied territory in Ukraine

Reuters - President Vladimir Putin formally incorporated four Ukrainian regions into Russia on Wednesday even as his forces retreated within them, while Moscow stepped up its energy war with Europe by further cutting gas supplies.

Pushing ahead with Europe's biggest annexation since World War Two, Putin signed off on a law annexing the new territory, which represents up to 18% of Ukraine, some of which Moscow's forces do not control.

If Crime is added, which Russia annexed in 2014, Moscow is laying claim to 22% of Ukraine, though it has yet to spell out where all of the borders will be located and its own troops have been forced to retreat on two fronts.

The Russian leader's signature was the final stage in the legal process to annex Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine and Zaporizhzhia and Kherson in the south.

Kyiv says it will never accept an illegal imperial-style land grab and has recaptured hundreds of thousands of square miles of its own territory in recent weeks.

Andriy Yermak, head of Ukraine's presidential office, said on Telegram that what Russia was doing reminded him of a "collective madhouse".

"Worthless decisions by a terrorist country are not worth the paper they are signed on,"

he said.

The West has imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia and European Union ambassadors on Wednesday agreed a new package to punish it for the annexation plan, the Czech EU presidency said.

Moscow, which has reduced gas supplies to Europe blaming Western sanctions and technical difficulties, was withdrawing gas from a pipeline to Europe and redirecting it to Russia, Denmark said, citing a statement from Russian gas firm Gazprom.

With even Russian state TV hosts showing signs of despondency at the battlefield losses, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the idea that they undermined the annexation plan.

"They (the four regions) will be with Russia forever and they (ceded land in the new territories) will be returned", a defiant Peskov told reporters.

A map published by the state RIA news agency suggested Russia wants big chunks of Ukraine under the control of the Ukrainian army which has been rapidly advancing in the east, and which this week made a breakthrough in the south too.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday night that his military had taken back dozens of towns in regions in the south and east that Russia has declared annexed.

Reuters could not inde-



Newly-mobilized Russian reservists take part in a training on a range in Donetsk region, Russian-controlled Ukraine.

pendently verify his statements.

"This week alone, since the Russian pseudo-referendum, dozens of population centres have been liberated. These are in Kherson, Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk regions all together," Zelenskyy said.

Moscow moved ahead with its annexation plan after holding what it called referendums over several days from Sept. 23 – votes that were denounced by Kyiv and Western governments as illegal and coercive.

Zelenskyy chaired a meeting of Ukraine's top military officials on Wednesday morning during which they discussed countering new types of weapons used by Russia, a probable reference to Iranian-made drones.

The Ukrainian air force said 12 drones had attacked from the south overnight, six of which had been shot down.

Russian forces who have been forced to retreat in recent days have dug in at new

positions where they hope to halt the Ukrainian advance, Russian-installed officials said.

A video released by the Ukraine defense ministry on Tuesday appeared to show the Ukrainian flag being raised over one of those communities, Davydiv Brid, in Kherson.

Russian defense ministry maps presented on Tuesday also appeared to show rapid withdrawals of Russian forces from areas in eastern and southern Ukraine where they have been under severe pressure from the Ukrainian counteroffensive.

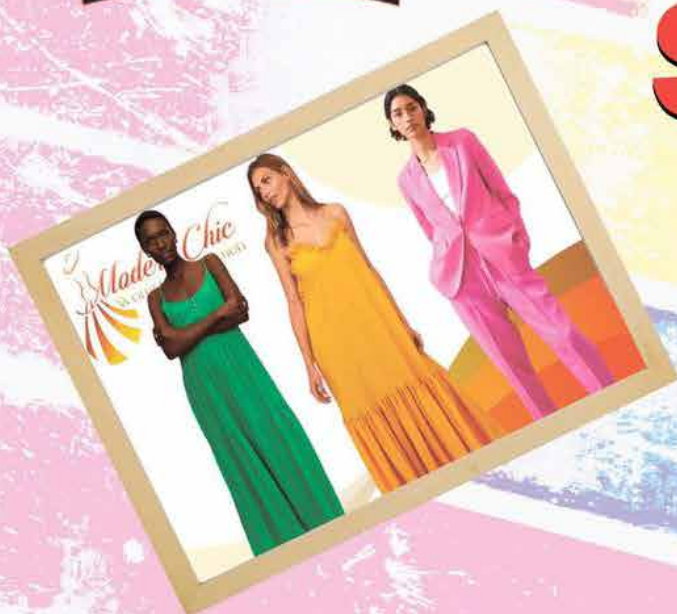
In the east, Ukrainian forces have been expanding an offensive after capturing the main Russian bastion in the north of Donetsk, the town of Lyman.

Russian forces were destroying their reserves of ammunition and trying to destroy bridges and crossings in order to slow the Ukrainian advance, the UAF said in its daily report.



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CAS hears soccer player's challenge of a 2-year doping ban

AP— A Kazakh soccer player banned for two years by UEFA in a doping case had his appeal heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Wednesday.

Ruslan Valiullin tested positive for a banned stimulant after a Europa Conference League game in August 2021 but the case was brought only after he scored twice in a World Cup qualifying game for Kazakhstan three weeks later. It ended 2-2 against Ukraine and the result stood. The 28-year-old midfielder has not played in 13 months while the case has passed through UEFA judicial bodies to CAS. The court said Vali-

ullin is challenging a two-year ban in a case that involves the prohibited substance methylhexanamine. It gave no timetable for a verdict. Valiullin tested positive after Kazakh club Tobol lost to Slovakian team Žilina 5-0 in a Europa Conference League qualifying game. Last year, an official from the Kazakhstan soccer federation said Valiullin believed his failed doping test was the result of “some vitamins” he had been taking.

Athletes testing positive for methylhexanamine have often blamed tainted supplements but need to prove the source of contamination



Ruslan Valiullin

for a reduced ban to be considered. UEFA has never published details of Valiullin's case, citing its own confidentiality policy for doping cases.

Turkey OKs sending troops to Qatar for World Cup security

AP — Turkey's parliament on Wednesday approved deploying Turkish soldiers to Qatar to help maintain security during next month's World Cup.

With a show of hands, lawmakers approved a motion to send an unspecified number of troops to the Gulf country for six months.

Fikri Isik, a ruling party legislator and former Turkish defense minister, said the deployment would involve 250 troops and a corvette-class naval vessel.

The troops would be in addition to some 3,000 riot police that Turkey has said it would send to Qatar to reinforce security during the international soccer



competition.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan requested parliamentary approval to deploy troops, explaining in the motion submitted last week that the Turkish soldiers would join other forces from the United

States, France, Britain, Italy and Pakistan.

The force would be deployed against “various threats and especially terrorism” in Qatar, which expects to host more than 1 million visitors during the month-long competition,

the Turkish leader said.

Turkey has built close ties with Qatar and established a military base there.

Lawmakers from Erdogan's Justice and Development Party and its nationalist allies supplied the votes to pass the motion. Opposition parties criticized the deployment plans, accusing the government of allowing Turkey's army and police to be used like employees of “private security firms.”

Earlier this year, the Interior Ministry announced that Turkey would deploy 3,250 Turkish police officers to Qatar. They include 100 special operations police and 50 explosives experts.

Sports News



Hans Niemann 'likely cheated' in more than 100 games, investigation finds

BBC - A chess player at the center of a cheating row gripping the game "likely" cheated in more than 100 games online, according to an investigation.

Hans Niemann has been accused by world champion Magnus Carlson of cheating, though no evidence has been presented. Now an investigation by Chess.com says it is likely Niemann has cheated "much more often" than he has acknowledged. But it found no evidence he had cheated in his game against Carlson or in any "over-the-board" games. The American has admitted cheating in informal games when he was younger but denies doing so in competitive games. The 19-year-old, who has been approached by the BBC for comment, has previously accused Carlson and Chess.com of trying to ruin his career. The scandal began last month, after Carlson, considered by many to be the greatest player of all time, was defeated by Niemann at the Sinquefeld Cup in a major upset.

The Norwegian made veiled accusations of cheating against Niemann at the time before openly accusing him last week. Now Chess.com has produced a 72-page investigation into Niemann's games on the site, which most of the world's top players compete on, including for cash prizes.



World champion Magnus Carlson (left) rocked the chess world by accusing Hans Niemann right of cheating

The site, which has banned Niemann for alleged cheating, claims it is likely he cheated as recently as 2020, including in prize money events and against highly-rated "well known" figures in the game. Its analysis compared Niemann's moves to those suggested by chess computers - which are far stronger than even the best players - and the probability of his results, among other factors.

"Overall, we have found that Hans has likely cheated in more than 100 online chess games, including several prize money events," the report said. "He was already 17 when he likely cheated in some of these matches and games. He was also streaming in 25 of these games. "The report contradicts statements previously made by Niemann that he had only cheated in informal games on the site when he was 12 and 16, but never in competitive games or when he was streaming on

gaming platforms such as Twitch. Short presentational grey line

However, although his results are "statistically extraordinary", Chess.com said there was no "direct evidence" Niemann had cheated in his win against Carlson or in other over-the-board games in the past. In his statement last week, Carlson suggested Niemann had cheated in their game at the Sinquefeld Cup in the US state of Missouri, saying he "wasn't tense or even fully concentrating" while outplaying him using the black pieces "in a way I think only a handful of players can do".

He also said he had become suspicious of Niemann because he has made "unusual" progress in recent years. Others have argued that Niemann's progress, while fast, is comparable to other top junior players. Chess.com said there were "certain aspects" of the game that were "suspicious", including Niemann's

explanation of the game afterwards.

The site also noted "anomalies" in Niemann's rate of improvement, which has seen him soar up the rankings in classical chess from around 800 in the world to the top 50 in less than two years. Chess.com said this rise was the fastest in "modern recorded history" and had occurred "much later in life than his peers".

The site also denied it had been pressured by Carlson, who has dominated chess for more than a decade, to remove Niemann. Carlson has insisted he will not play Niemann, and earlier this month resigned in protest after just one move when they re-matched each other in an online tournament. When the controversy erupted earlier this month, Niemann issued a strenuous denial, saying he was willing to play naked to prove he was not concealing electronic devices that could allow him to cheat. "I don't care, because I know I am clean. You want me to play in a closed box with zero electronic transmission, I don't care. I'm here to win and that is my goal regardless."

A statistical analysis of Niemann's over-the-board games by Prof Kenneth Regan, widely regarded as the world's leading expert on cheating in chess, found no evidence he had cheated.

Tennis star Kyrgios to fight charge on mental health grounds

AP — Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios will apply to have an assault charge dismissed on mental health grounds, his lawyer told an Australian court on Tuesday.

Lawyer Michael Kukulies-Smith appeared on behalf of Kyrgios in a court in the tennis star's hometown of Canberra and asked for an adjournment so forensic mental health reports could be prepared. Magistrate Glenn Theakston adjourned the case until Feb. 3, when Kyrgios' lawyers are expected to apply to have the charge dismissed under a section of the local crimes law. The 27-year-old Australian tennis star will appear in court in person on that date for the first time since he was charged by police by summons in July.

The law gives magistrates the power to dismiss a charge if they are satisfied an accused person is mentally impaired, and dealing with an allegation in that way would benefit the community and the defendant. The common assault charge, which has a potential maximum sentence of two years in prison, relates to an incident in January 2021 that was reported to local police last December.

The charge reportedly relates to an incident involving his former girlfriend.

Kukulies-Smith told the court his client's mental health history since 2015 made the application appropriate, citing a number of



Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, returns to Karen Khachanov, of Russia, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships

public statements made by Kyrgios.

In February, Kyrgios opened up about his performance at the 2019 Australian Open, saying what appeared to be a positive time in his life had been "one of my darkest periods."

"I was lonely, depressed, negative, abusing alcohol, drugs, pushed away family and friends," he wrote on Instagram. "I felt as if I couldn't talk or trust anyone. This was a result of not opening up and refusing to lean on my loved ones and simply just push myself little by little to be positive."

Kyrgios made further references to his mental health struggles during his runs to the final at Wimbledon and the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open.

After ending Daniil Medvedev's U.S. Open title defense last month to reach the quarterfinals, Kyrgios expressed pride at lifting himself out of "some really

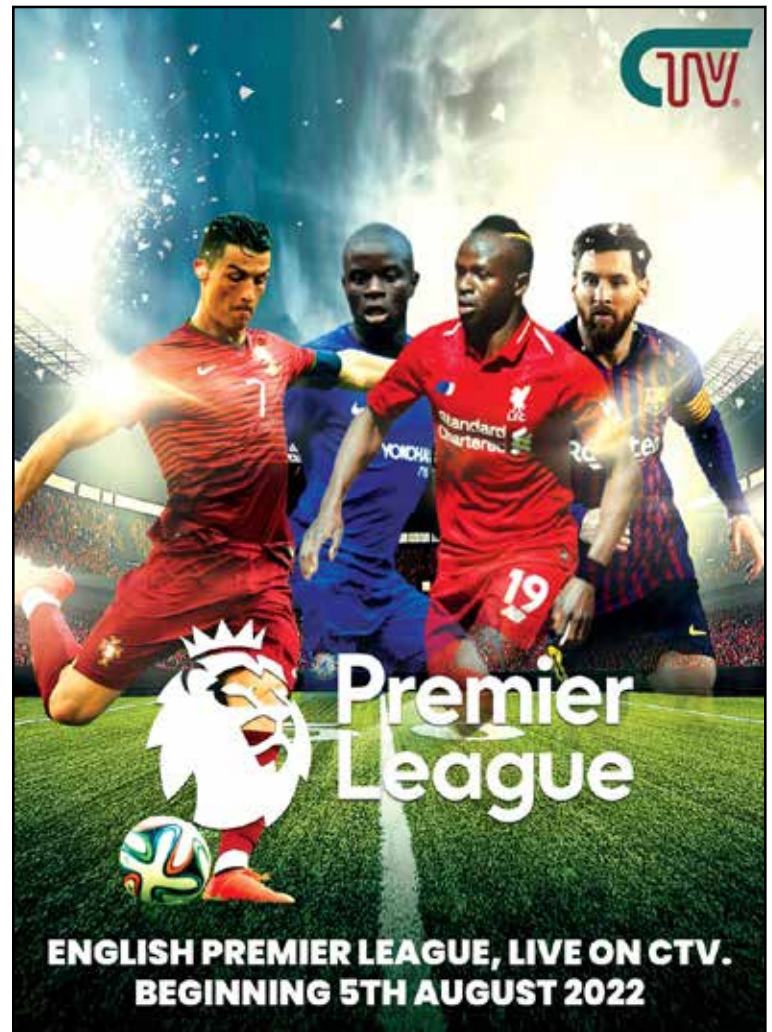
tough situations, mentally" and "some really scary places" off the court.

Theakston questioned whether Kyrgios would need

to appear in court for the February hearing, but Kukulies-Smith said his client wanted to attend.

Speaking in Tokyo before his matter returned to court, Kyrgios said it was "not difficult at all" to focus on tennis despite the pending charge.

"There's only so much I can control and I'm taking all the steps and dealing with that off the court," he told reporters. "I can only do what I can and I'm here in Tokyo and just trying to play some good tennis, continue that momentum and just try to do my job."



Sports News



AGS and OCS to clash in school boys' knockout semi-final

Antigua Grammar School (AGS) and Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) have set up a semi-final meeting in the boys' division of the Ministry of Sports Schools' Knockout competition.

Both teams recorded wins in their respective quarter-finals matches on Tuesday afternoon to set up their semi-final clash, which will be played on a date and at a venue yet to be decided by the organizers.

National Under-17 boys' striker Sedique Adams, who recorded a hat-trick in leading Antigua Grammar to a 7-0 drubbing of Pares Secondary in their opening match at the Princess Margaret School's (PMS) playing field last Friday, returned to the same venue and scored a brace to guide his team to a 2-0 victory over All Saints Secondary on Tuesday.

Adams, the competition's leading marksman, scored both goals on either side of halftime to give Antigua Grammar a comfortable victory over a short-handed All Saints Secondary, who were missing influential national Under-20 and Garden Stars mid-fielder Wilden Cornwall Jr.

Goals by Manuel Arias, Joylan Sinclair, Demarie Roberts and Josue "Neymar" Arias propelled Ottos Comprehensive School



Antigua Grammar School team's starting X1 for their game against All Saints Secondary in the schools' knockout competition at the Princess Margaret School's playing field in St. John's on Tuesday, 4th October, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

to an emphatic 4-0 victory over St. Mary's Secondary School at King George V playing field in Grays Farm on Tuesday.

Awaiting the winners of the semi-final clash between AGS and OCS will be finalists Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE), who defeated Irene B. Williams Secondary 8-7 on penalties in the other boys' quarter-final match at the Police Recreation Grounds (PRG) on Tuesday.

With both teams aware that victory would give them

a bye into the boys' division knockout final, ABICE and Irene B. Williams battled to a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation, sending the game into a penalty shootout to decide the winners.

Jahbarrie Lawrence and Devonte Looby scored for ABICE, while Karique Knight and Anthoniel Campbell netted for Irene B. Williams during regulation before ABICE ultimately prevailed in the penalty shootout.

The date and venue for the boys' knockout final is also yet to be decided by the

organisers.

Meanwhile, the 2022 Secondary Schools' League competition will kick off with matches in the Under-20 Boys' Division today (Thursday).

There are three opening matches slated to take place today in the east zone at 3 pm.

Irene B. Williams will host the All Saints Secondary at Swetes, Glanvilles Secondary School will face ABICE at Police Recreation Grounds and Pares Secondary School will clash with

cont'd on pg 25

Galley Bay remains winless in Business Basketball League

Galley Bay Resort suffered their eighth loss in as many games in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday evening.

The team representing one of the nation's premier tourists vacation spots, tumbled to a 31-81 defeat against defending champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board in the second game of Tuesday's double-header.

Arthur Nibbs produced 14 points for Galley Bay. Is-han Peets shot a game-high

28 points, Darnell Azille sank 13 points, Kareem Edwards scored 12 points and Kelvin Smith converted 10 points for Transport Board as the cupholders surged to their fifth win in seven games.

Pointe FM recorded their sixth win in 10 games by prevailing 57-38 against Vendors in Tuesday's opening encounter.

Josue Hernandez scored 18 points, Javon Simon contributed 12 points and

Rolando Hamilton chipped in with 10 points for Pointe FM. Craig Massiah converted 15 points for the Vendors who suffered their fourth loss in eight outings.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex today (Thursday).

Galley Bay will meet Anjo Wholesale at 6:30 pm, Sandals Antigua will take on Mill Reef at 7:30 pm and Fitzroy Rewinding will face

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care at 8:30 pm.

There are no games slated for tomorrow (Friday), but the competition will resume on Saturday evening with another triple header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Sledge O'Ballers will take on Sandals Antigua at 6:30, Fitzroy Rewinding will meet Anjo Wholesale at 7:30 and the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will clash with Graphic Impact Shooters at 8:30.

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Clare Hall Secondary at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Centre at Paynters.

The Under-20 Boys' League Competition will continue tomorrow (Friday) with the opening round of matches in the West Zone at 3 pm.

Antigua Grammar School will tackle Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field, defending champions Ottos Comprehensive will meet Antigua State College at King George V in Grays Farm and St. Mary's Secondary School will face Princess Margaret School at the Princess Margaret School's playing field.



MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORKSHOP FOR NON-CLINICIANS

October 19th-November 9th
Wednesdays 5:30pm-630pm
The National Public Library

Facilitators:

Founder and Holistic Psychotherapist, Cerene Prince, MSW, LCSW
Resident Psychologist, Tia Phillip, MSc

Mental Health Peer (MHP) Workshop is a psychoeducational workshop for persons who are not mental health professionals. The MHP Workshop's goal is to equip you with a mental health toolkit to help support your family and community.

FEES

\$300xcd/\$110usd=4 sessions

- Cash accepted at the Wadadli Wellness Expo Oct. 15th
- 15% discounted when you pay on or before Oct.15th
- Credit Card Payment-\$3usd fees apply.

778-8627/774-4538

info@orchardbluecounseling.com

Antigua & Barbuda to attend CAC's Sea and Beach Games in Columbia

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has accepted an invitation to participate in the inaugural Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Sea and Beach Games to be held in Santa Marta, Columbia, from the 19th to 26th November, 2022.

The ABNOC has identified Open Water Swimming, Beach Volleyball, Kite Surfing and Sailing from which to field athletes to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the sea and beach games in Columbia.

General Secretary of the ABNOC, Cliff Williams said the NOC has already written to the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Association, the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association and the Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association for their nomination of athletes in the various sporting disciplines to attend the games.

Williams said the ABNOC has given the national associations a deadline date of this weekend by which they are to submit their nominations of the various athletes.



The ABNOC has selected its Second Vice President, Thomas Greenaway as the Chef de Mission.

The Sea and Beach Games in Santa Marta is the first for the organizers of the traditional CAC Games. The event is under the auspices of Centro Caribe Sports and administered in Antigua and Barbuda under the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee.

The CAC organisers said it is important that the participating national federations consider whether

or not their team or athlete can be competitive at this level before committing to participating.

High expectations for podium positions are the order of the day, therefore, serious assessment and analysis are needed with their commitment.

The national federations are responsible for selecting and preparing their highest performing athletes that meet the games and the ABNOC's requirement.

It is strongly recommended that the athletes who are on the Olympic

Solidarity Scholarship, in the above-mentioned sports, must take part in these Games.

The ABNOC's technical development officer will be in contact with each national federation for a collaborative effort in setting standard, health and fitness measurers and to monitor the athlete's preparation and performance.

Once the athlete has met the qualifying standards of the games, the ABNOC can assist financially in better preparing them for the games.