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ANTIGUA/BARBUDA AND PRC PLEDGE TO STRENGTHEN DIPLOMATIC TIES

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Local News



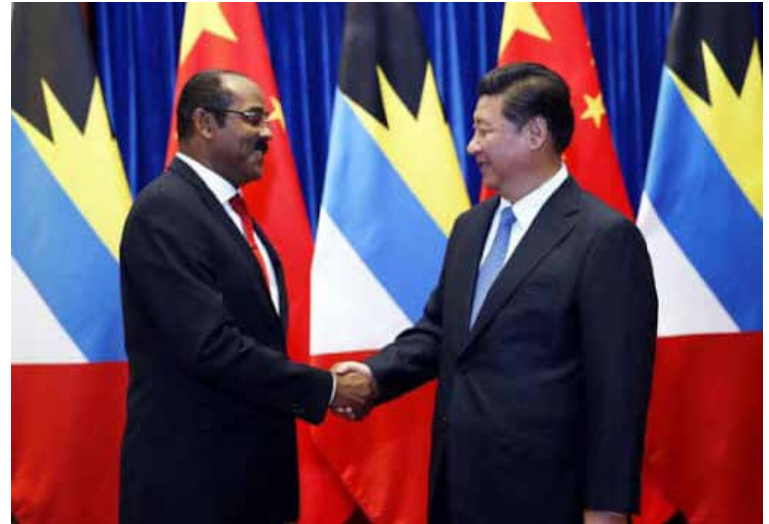
After 40 years of friendship, Antigua and Barbuda, PRC recommit to building closer ties

The close bond that exists between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China (PRC) featured prominently in several addresses delivered on the occasion of the formal opening of the PRC's embassy in St. John's and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene and the PRC's Ambassador to An-

tigua and Barbuda, Zhang Yanling all highlighted the strong ties between the nations as the central theme in their addresses.

Noting that Antigua and Barbuda was the first Eastern Caribbean state to establish diplomatic ties with the PRC, Sir Rodney said the consistency of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to this bilateral relationship, despite the changing political winds and alternative offers, contributed to the PRC's decision to make the twin island nation its diplomatic headquarters in the



region.

Prime Minister Browne, meanwhile, said despite the geographical, population, economic and cultural dif-

ferences between the two countries, the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the PRC remains

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strong.

He noted that forty years ago when Antigua and Barbuda established diplomatic relations with China, Taiwan was vigorously pursuing ties with many Caribbean states.

Antigua and Barbuda chose to establish ties with the PRC and to adopt the 'One-China' policy.

"I believe that the relationship between the PRC and Antigua and Barbuda is such that it should serve as an example for diplomatic relations among states, especially where such differences exist," Browne said.

Foreign Minister Greene noted that the friendship between the two countries is built on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

With a shared vision of prosperity, Antigua and Barbuda and China will



continue to nurture diplomatic relations.

"Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the People's Republic of China approach to diplomacy and its all-embracing way of engaging us as equal partners with a shared vision for the world.

On January 1st, Antigua and Barbuda will be celebrating 40 years of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China; 40 years of a productive and respectful partnership of alliance building and solidarity for the eradication of poverty and the promotion of economic growth," Greene remarked.

Ambassador Zhang said China will never forget that Antigua and Barbuda was first in the region to establish diplomatic ties with the PRC and has been consistent in its adherence to the "One China" police.

"We attach importance to the synergy of each other's development strategies and aim to deliver a better life for our people.

"The building of the Big Creek Bridge, which is the first cooperation project between us, has not only facilitated the travel of local residents across a major waterway, but has since become a symbol of friendship between our two countries," she observed.

The ambassador revealed that Antigua and Barbuda was also the first to sign the PRC's "Belt and Road" initiative.

The opening ceremony on Tuesday included cultural performances from both Antiguan and Barbudan and Chinese artists and a tour of the embassy grounds and offices.



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Local News



ABLP postpones campaign until January

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has suspended all public meetings that were planned for the remainder of this month.

The party's organisers had scheduled the first campaign event for last evening at Thwaites Corner, but a statement from the ABLP informed the public that, "A

decision was taken to move the date of Tuesday's meeting until after New Year's Day, when the yuletide season has ended."

An announcement on the new date will be made shortly, the party advised.

In Barbuda however, a town hall meeting will be held on Thursday evening

after which campaigning will be suspended.

The ABLP has encouraged all political parties to follow suit during the Christmas season, one of the holiest periods on the Christian calendar.

On Monday evening, political leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour

Party, Gaston Browne, announced 18th January, 2023 as the date on which voters will go to the polls to elect a new government.

Nomination Day is set for 28th December, 2022.

During the launch of his party's candidates, Prime Minister Browne highlighted the achievements of his administration in health, education, housing, tourism and other areas as reasons why an ABLP government should be returned to office.

He described several members of his cabinet as "the best ministers in their respective fields that this country has ever seen".

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Wed 21 Day		Wed 21 Night	
83°		75°	
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Police investigate Villa house fire

An investigation has been launched into a house fire that occurred in Villa on Saturday in the wee hours of the morning.

Officers from the St. John's Fire Station responded to the scene to extinguish the blaze at the Gordon Street home after receiving a call for help at about 2:30am.

According to reports, the owner of the house, Tony Emmanuel, was present when the fire erupted.

Emmanuel was alerted to the fire by a friend who was staying as a guest at the home.

The men tried to douse the flames on their own, but it soon became too much for them to handle and police and fire services were called.

According to fire officials, extensive damage was caused to the living room area of the 38 x30 foot, two-bedroom wooden home.

Police and the fire brigade are cooperating to investigate the incident.

Jane Ryna joins Centenarians' Club



Jane Lucreta Ryan is the newest member of the Centenarians' Club in Antigua and Barbuda

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The ABLP party leader slammed the main opposition United Progressive Party for its dismal performance while in office from 2004 to 2014.

Browne told the public that the UPP, led by Harold Lovell, should not be given the chance to take the reins of government in Antigua and Barbuda.

Browne also recalled that Antigua and Barbuda experienced a steep economic decline when Lovell served as minister of finance.

"He contracted the country's economy by 25 percent and did not grow the country's economy.

"Year after year this country's economy contracted under the dead

hands of Harold Lovell, and you're telling me the man that created the problem can now be repackaged as your saviour? Of course not!"

"How can you, or anyone for that matter, justify those who have decimated this country's economy, those who have decimated lives and livelihoods? How can you justify giving them the governance of this country especially during such a difficult global period in which you have to deal with all of these global challenges?"

Browne cautioned that to change his administration at the height of the country's development would be careless.

"We have gathered significant momentum in this country and I want to say to

you, the people of Antigua and Barbuda, you have to exercise immense responsibility. You cannot take the next general elections for granted. If you fail to vote for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party government,

then you are increasing the risk of the country in which, potentially, you can inadvertently turn over the governance of this country to a bunch of criminal elements," the City West MP told his party's supporters.

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Consumer fuel hoarding temporarily depletes service stations

The West Indies Oil Company's attempt on Monday to avert fuel hoarding chaos failed as thousands of automobile owners descended upon service stations last night, draining the supplies at the pump.

WIOC's Chief Executive Officer, Gregory Georges, reassured the public on Monday that there was absolutely no need for panic as the country's supplies of gasoline and diesel were adequate.

The disquiet began over the weekend with a rumor that the tanker transporting fuel did not make land.

WIOC's Georges dismissed the claim, noting that the ship's arrival had only been delayed. He said while some gas stations may be low in supply, the country itself had sufficient reserves of

petrol.

He offered the assurance that a shipment of fuel had been cleared and that all service stations would be fully replenished by today.

"I don't understand what has caused this panic buying of gasoline except to say that it appears to have been caused by unsubstantiated rumors that have been making the rounds. There is absolutely no need to panic as there are enough supplies to meet the needs of the country for some time to come," Georges stated.

He reported that the latest shipment of fuel was off-loaded on Monday.

Georges said the recent shortage of LPG, or cooking gas, has also been resolved with a shipment of the product

landing just last week.

"We have adequate supplies of fuel and cooking gas to meet the island's need for the holiday period," he stated.

WIOC began replenishing service stations on Tuesday morning as promised, however, the long lines persisted into the afternoon as drivers attempted to fuel up their cars. By Tuesday evening, the lines were reduced as normalcy returned. Georges said there are adequate stores of diesel in the country.

On Monday, WIOC announced that fuel prices would decrease as the price on the world market had also declined. Gasoline now retails for \$13.90 per gallon, down from \$15.54, while diesel is being sold for \$14.25 per gallon, a decrease from \$16.70.



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Local News



OECS calls for US to comply with WTO panel ruling

During a recent meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council, its highest decision-making body, the representative of the OECS member states of the WTO called for the United States to comply with the ruling of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in the case on the cross-border supply of gambling and betting services brought by Antigua and Barbuda as complainant.

The WTO General Council was conducting the fifteenth US Trade Policy Review, under which WTO member states reviewed reports by the US and the WTO Secretariat on US trade policy, and a record number of speakers took the floor to comment on the reports and to pose questions to the US delegation.

The OECS ambassador at the WTO and head of the OECS mission in Geneva,

H.E. Colin Murdoch, took the US to task for its failure to reach a final settlement with Antigua and Barbuda in the case DS 285 which has been outstanding for many years.

While acknowledging the generally positive economic relationship between the US and OECS member states and the role played by the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery



Ambassador Colin Murdoch

Act (CBERA) under which OECS members are eligible for duty-free access to the US market for a wide range of goods, Ambassador Murdoch urged the US to fully comply with the ruling of the WTO Appellate Body.

Ambassador Murdoch noted that while the majority of OECS members which are members of the WTO are also beneficiaries under the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis are not eligible due to their high per capita income classification.

Murdoch pointed out that GDP per capita income criteria do not provide an accurate picture of a country's economy or its development status. He stated that OECS countries, at the highest level, continue to advocate on this issue at various international fora.

WTO's General Council concluded on Tuesday.

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Environment



As Climate clocks tick, aviator races to photograph glacier

By Nat Castañeda

AP — Chunks of ice float in milky blue waters. Clouds drift and hide imposing mountaintops. The closer you descend to the surface, the more the water roars — and the louder the “CRACK” of ice, as pieces fall from the arm of Europe’s largest glacier.

The landscape is vast, elemental, seemingly far beyond human scale. The whole world, it seems, lies sprawled out before you. Against this outsized backdrop, the plane carrying the man who chases glaciers seems almost like a toy.

“No one’s there,” the man marvels. “The air is virtually empty.”

This is Garrett Fisher’s playground — and, you quickly realize, his life’s work.

He is traveling the world, watching it from far above, sitting in the seat of his tiny blue-white “Super Cub” aircraft. It’s here that he combines his two longtime passions — photography and flight — in a quest to document every remaining glacier on the face of the Earth.

On one level, the 41-year-old Fisher does it for a simple reason: “Because I love them.”

But he does it, too, because of weightier things. Because the climate clock is ticking, and the planet’s glaciers are melting. Because



Fisher is convinced documenting, archiving, remembering all of this serves a purpose.

Because, in the end, nothing lasts forever — not even ancient glaciers.

Glaciers aren’t static. In a world that’s getting warmer, they’re getting smaller.

“In 100 or 200 years, most of them will be gone or severely curtailed,” Fisher says. “It is the front line of climate change ... the first indication that we’re losing something.”

According to data from the European Environmental Agency, the Alps, for example, have lost about half their volume since 1900, with the most evident acceleration of melting happening since the 1980s. And the glacier retreat is expected to continue in the future.

Estimates from the EEA say that by 2100, the volume of European glaciers will continue to decline by between 22% and 84% — and that’s under a moderate

scenario. More aggressive modeling suggests up to 89% could be lost.

“We have a record of observations of small glaciers in settled areas, particularly in the Alps and Norway and New Zealand,” says Roderik van de Wal, a glacier expert at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. That record, he says, shows glaciers retreating even more. “That’s a consequence of climate change.”

The slow demise of glaciers, of course, is a problem that transcends aesthetics or even the glaciers themselves. A rise in sea level of about 15 centimetres around the globe during the past century is due in large part to glacier melt.

Which sets that ticking clock running. And which has gotten Garrett Fisher moving.

For Fisher, it started — as so many things do for so many people — in childhood.

He grew up in a quiet rural community in upstate New York, the child of local business owners and grandson of a scrappy pilot who

introduced him early to aviation. He lived next door to a private airport.

Fisher was only a toddler when his grandfather Gordon plopped him in the back of his plane. The boy wasn’t happy about it, but the dismay quickly turned to delight. By age 4, he was hooked on flight.

Fisher recalls endless hours spent gazing out of his bedroom window, waiting for the barn door to his grandfather’s airplane hangar to open. The older man would tell him: “Whatever you set your mind to, you can do.”

Then, as a young man, he took up photography. Two of the three parts of his obsession were in place.

Sometime in the late 1990s, a friend told Fisher that the world’s glaciers were disappearing. It has haunted him ever since, so much so that it added the third piece of the triangle: the urgency to beat the clock.

He saw them disappearing, and he wanted to make sure these pieces of the world — pieces he saw as indescribably beautiful — were preserved, if only in pixels.

“When I’m high up, I see these forbidden views,” he says. “They’re views you can’t have on the ground, that don’t really exist for anyone else.”

He aims his efforts squarely at posterity. Any documentation he makes of the glaciers before their de-

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mise, he believes, could be invaluable to future generations. So, he has launched a glacier initiative, a non-profit to support and showcase his work, and he plans to open his archive to the public for research – some now, the rest when he is gone.

Fisher is hardly the first to feel the archival instinct when it comes to glaciers. Since the invention of photography in the early decades of the 19th century, glaciers have been documented with fascination by everyone from passing travelers to scientists.

Norwegian photographer Knud Knudsen, one of his nation's founding art photographers, delved into the landscape with an obsession similar to Fisher's. He traveled around Norway's west coast, photographing nature: fjords, mountains, waterfalls ... and glaciers.

But in an era where everything related to photography was heavy, unwieldy, and slow, Knudsen was earth-bound, traveling on wagons and boats. On one trip, he brought about 175 pounds in gear – including glass negatives. Unlike Fisher, he could not soar – and could not capture the feeling of looking down upon the vast and magnificent natural formations that he was chronicling in his homeland.

For Fisher, Norway is only the latest glacier frontier. He spent years documenting them in other places, including the American West, before shifting his focus to the Alps and Europe. He has

photographed thousands of glaciers and is hungry for more.

Never, though, even amid the silence and beauty of his flights, does Fisher lose the sense of documenting the “decisive moment” – the inflection points of a glacier that is still here but in the process of disappearing.

He knows, with every flight, that he is documenting a slow-moving tragedy as it unfolds.

The Piper Super Cub is a small two-seater. Fisher squeezes in. He is about to ascend into skies of crystal and cotton in hopes of photographing Nigardsbreen.

“There's about a 30% chance we get to see the glacier,” he says. “There's a bunch of clouds sitting right there.”

The Piper feels – and rumbles – like an old car. It smells of oil and fuel and everything is manual. Fisher brings in his iPad for navigation, but his aviation software doesn't have GPS information on glaciers. So he flies using a mix of instinct, observation and Google Maps.

The aircraft's huge glass windows serve up incredible views. When he's aloft, the houses start to feel like Monopoly pieces. Anxiety dispels into moments of

profound peace. It's as if the altitude – the distance from the world we know – makes all that's happening on the planet below seem a little more manageable. And yet he knows: One false move would end all this.

“The weather's bad, extremely cold, the winds are very strong and the flying's extremely technically challenging,” Fisher says. “And to photograph glaciers, we're getting very close to all of this action. So, it requires a lot of skill, time and determination.”

Lots of people are afraid of flying, especially in small

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Environment

cont'd from pg 11

planes. When news hits of a plane down, it's usually a small craft.

He adds: "I've been told by many pilots that I'm crazy."

Many glaciers are remote and hard to reach or document – except by satellite or by air, making the tiny Super Cub the perfect vehicle for this photographic journey. It is built to navigate the blustery winds and dangerous environments necessary for his work.

Why risk it? Fisher believes satellite images will never capture glaciers effectively – not aesthetically and not scientifically. The glow of a glacier at "magic hour." The way shadow falls on the ice,

revealing an unending, undefinable blue. The sheer epic presence of these ice goliaths that are in a constant state of unbecoming.

Will the engine quit? He has detailed plans in case of a crash on a glacier. He has calculated that he can survive for about 24 hours if he goes down and has measured the tail of the plane to be sure he can fit into it and stay out of the elements while he waits for help. Not for the faint of heart.

Fisher moves around a lot: The United States, Spain, Norway. He rarely stops. His wife, Anne, his friend since childhood, drags him to bed most nights; left to his own devices, he says, he would hardly sleep. This is what

happens to people so bent on something that everything else starts to fall away.

Until now, Fisher has paid for his passion with his own money, but it's not cheap; he is running out of funding and looking for backers.

He positions the work carefully. It is, in many ways, science. In other ways, it is public service. But he always comes back to one thing: beauty.

"Science has all of the data we need. They have tons of datasets, which will be available in the future," Fisher says. "The problem is, it's not beautiful."

What he does, he says, is something whose aesthetics are not only pleasing but might encourage people to

change their ways.

He adds: "It's not a dataset. It's a very motivating, emotionally compelling rendition of these glaciers while they're here. Because these views will not come back."

Glaciers are a window to our past. Photography, too, is a window to our past. Garrett Fisher has combined these pursuits to ensure many views to this moment are available – and that whatever disappears will be remembered.

In the end, so much of his work is about memory. But what about the here and now? Can a photograph communicate the profound experience of being in front of something that is soon to be lost forever? In many ways, that is what his work is trying to figure out.

The archive is the thing he has poured everything into, dedicating countless hours. And beyond the archival dreams, he dares to hope for change.

If he finds the right light, the right angle, the right moment, then maybe people will care more. He's chasing the perfect image; one so beautiful it can make people and policymakers act. And if it isn't one image, then maybe an entire archive convinces people to come, to look, to get close, to pay attention.

"We can live without them. We will live without them," Fisher says. "However, it hurts us to lose them."

Everything disappears. But not yet. There is still time, and Garrett Fisher has an airplane and a camera and is not turning away.



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Elon Musk: Only blue tick users to vote in Twitter polls on policy

By Michael Race & Monica Miller

BBC - Elon Musk has said Twitter will only allow accounts with a blue tick to vote on changes to policy after a majority of users voted for him to quit.

Mr Musk launched a Twitter poll asking if he should step down as chief executive - 57.5% of users voted "yes".

Since then, he has not commented directly on the result of the poll.

But he has said that Twitter will alter its rules

so that only people who pay for a subscription can vote on company policy.

One user claimed that so-called bots appeared to have voted heavily in the poll about Mr Musk's role at the firm. Mr Musk said he found the claim "interesting".

The billionaire had said when he ran the poll that he would abide by the result. If he does quit as chief executive, he will remain as Twitter's owner.

Bruce Daisley, former vice president of Twitter,



Elon Musk

compared any potential change to that of a football manager. "The chairman still remains and Elon Musk is going to be that ever-present voice in the back of the room," he told the BBC's Today programme.

In response to a tweet saying Twitter Blue subscribers "should be the only ones that can vote in policy related polls. We actually have skin in the game", Mr Musk said: "Good point, Twitter will make that change".

Twitter's paid-for verification feature was rolled out for a second time last week after its launch was paused. The service costs \$8 per month, or \$11 for people using the Twitter app on Apple devices, and gives subscribers a "blue tick".

Previously a blue tick was used as verification tool for high-profile accounts as a badge of authenticity and was free.

On Monday, Mr Musk held a poll on his future as chief executive. More than 17.5 million users voted and the majority backed him stepping down.

While the poll was running he replied to one user suggesting there was no replacement chief executive lined up, saying: "No one wants the job who can actually keep Twitter alive. There is no successor."

The technology tycoon, who also runs electric car maker Tesla and space rocket firm Space X, has faced much criticism since taking over the site.

He has obeyed the results of his Twitter polls in the past and quoted the phrase "vox populi, vox dei", a Latin phrase which roughly means "the voice of the people is the voice of God".

Mr Musk bought Twitter for \$44bn (£36bn) in October
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Festivals



Montserrat Carnival 2022 to celebrate 60 years of festival

CMC - Montserrat will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its first national festival December 17, to January 2, 2023.

Rebranded Montserrat Carnival in 2019, the popular festival is expected to draw many people home for two-weeks of revelry, pageantry, and music.

Celebrations begin with a short parade from Carr's Bay to the Festival Village. Former calypso monarchs and Miss Montserrat queens are expected to be a part of the parade, alongside the current delegates for Miss Teen Montserrat as well as current monarchs for Miss Montserrat, Calypso, and Soca.

Happening in tandem with the festival is the Salem Reunion. The committee has planned a series of events for past and current residents of the village, which is the second-largest community since the relocation of many due to volcanic eruptions on the island.

"The opening of carni-



val reflects our 60 years of festival and kickstarts the celebration for 2022 season.

"All the hard work and preparation comes to life. I am looking forward to the vast number of events planned by the Arts Council, the Salem Reunion Team, and the private promoters.

"It certainly adds variety and gives us choices of events to attend," remarked Kenneth Silcott, the director of the Montserrat Arts Council.

Immediately following

the opening ceremony on Saturday evening will be the calypso semi-finals. Fifteen calypsonians will compete for nine slots in the Justin "Hero" Cassell Calypso Finals on Thursday, December 29. Hero is Montserrat's first calypso monarch in 1962 and still holds the record for the most wins at ten.

Other anticipated events on the carnival calendar include the movie premiere of Calypso, Love Nia by young filmmaker Nia Golden on

Tuesday, December 20, Nite of Pan on Wednesday, December 21, and the Miss Teen Pageant on Thursday, December 22.

The Regional Queen of Queens Calypso Competition on Friday, December 30 is expected to be phenomenal with both Karene Asche and Terri Lyons from Trinidad & Tobago contending. Asche is the current monarch for the regional competition. Lyons is T&T's reigning calypso monarch.

Top female calypsonians from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines are expected to compete for the crown.

Revellers will take to the street in costume for the first post-lockdown carnival parade on Monday, January 2, 2023.

Carnival lovers abroad may watch the festivities live and on-demand via MACTV at live.comeseetv.com.

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ber after attempting to back out of the deal.

Since taking control, he has been criticised for his approach to content moderation, with some civil liberties groups accusing him of taking steps that will increase hate speech and misinformation.

On Friday, he was condemned by the United Nations and European Union over Twitter's decision to sus-

pend some journalists who cover the social media firm. He has also fired about half of Twitter's staff.

Mr Daisley said through Mr Musk's activity, you could "get a hint" over what he was thinking through his replies to users.

"He does seem to be quibbling with the vote," he added.

Mr Musk has also been accused of neglecting his electric car company Tesla, which is where most of his

wealth is. Tesla shares have lost more than 60% in value this year, with some saying his obsession with Twitter is destroying the brand.

Last week, Leo KoGuan, the third largest individual shareholder in Tesla, called for Mr Musk to step down as the boss of the electric car maker.

"Elon abandoned Tesla and Tesla has no working CEO. Tesla needs and deserves to have a working full time CEO," he tweeted.

IDB provides funds to boost drinking water supply in Trinidad & Tobago

CMC - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved an US\$80 million loan to boost the efficiency, quality, sustainability and resilience of Trinidad and Tobago's drinking water supply and water security.

The Washington-based financial institution said the funds are part of a US\$315 million conditional credit line for the Trinidad and Tobago National Water Sector Transformation Program.

The IDB said this initial operation will include institutional strengthening and capacity building to help the twin-island republic's Ministry of Public Utilities and its executing agency, the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), "improve their governance and sustainable management of



water resources."

The program will directly benefit an estimated one million residents in surrounding communities.

In addition, about 16,841 business, agricultural, and industrial customers and charitable institutions in different supply areas will also benefit.

"The program will support WASA's operational, commercial and technical management by providing access to innovative digital transformation tools and technologies and data-driven management systems," the IDB said.

"WASA's services will be upgraded through net-

work rehabilitation and optimization, organizational development and capacity building, integrated water resources management, climate change and natural disaster risk management, and leveraging the IDB's experience in water loss reduction projects," it added.

"All of these actions promise to lower the agency's operating costs and subsidies."

The IDB said the program is aligned with its group country strategy for Trinidad and Tobago 2021–2025, "specifically the strategic objective of optimizing digital service delivery by digitizing operational processes and adopting smart technology for water infrastructure and related information and communications technologies."



Guys and Dolls
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FTX founder Bankman-Fried agrees to extradition to US: lawyer

Aljazeera - Sam Bankman-Fried faces criminal charges in the US related to the collapse of his cryptocurrency exchange FTX.

Sam Bankman-Fried may be ready to come to the United States to face criminal charges related to the collapse of cryptocurrency exchange FTX following a chaotic court appearance in the Bahamas.

A lawyer for Bankman-Fried has been quoted as saying Monday the FTX founder has agreed to be extradited to the United States. A court hearing was stopped earlier in the day when his attorneys said it was premature for him to stand before the court.

Jerone Roberts, a local defence lawyer for Bankman-Fried, told The New York Times that lawyers will prepare the necessary documents for extradition. "Mr Bankman-Fried wishes to put the customers right, and that is what has driven his decision," the Times quoted Roberts telling reporters.

It was not immediately clear when extradition could occur.

The court appearance came just a week after Bankman-Fried's lawyers had initially said they planned to fight extradition. An extradition hearing had been scheduled for February 8. The reversal could speed up the timetable for him to be sent to the US.

Bahamian authorities arrested Bankman-Fried last Monday at the request of the US government. US prosecutors allege he played a central role in the rapid collapse of FTX and hid its problems from the public and investors.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said Bankman-Fried illegally used investors' money to buy real estate for himself and his family. The 30-year-old could potentially



spend the rest of his life in jail.

Bankman-Fried arrived at the court in a black van marked Corrections, which was escorted by a SWAT vehicle and a police vehicle. Police quickly whisked him into an entrance at the back of the courthouse.

A handful of people who said they were either crypto enthusiasts or FTX customers came to the courthouse to witness the proceedings.

"We want him to feel the weight of what he's done," said Ben Armstrong, the founder of the BitBoy Crypto website. Armstrong said he had come to the courthouse with a dozen people, some of whom had lost their money with FTX.

If he is brought to New York City, Bankman-Fried will likely be held, at least temporarily, in a federal detention centre in Brooklyn.

Other famous prisoners at the Metropolitan Detention Center MDC in recent years have included the sexually-abusive singer R Kelly, the pharmaceutical company executive Martin Shkreli and the socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, who was convicted of helping the millionaire Jeffrey Epstein sex-

ually abuse children.

During her time at the MDC, which houses about 1,600 prisoners, Maxwell's lawyers repeatedly complained to a judge that it was unsanitary and plagued by cockroaches and rodents. In recent years, three guards there have been convicted of sexually abusing inmates. In 2019, a power failure left inmates shivering for a week in the dead of winter.

Once he is back in the US, Bankman-Fried's lawyer will be able to request that he be released on bail. A separate judge in the Bahamas denied Bankman-Fried's request for bail last week on the grounds he was a flight risk.

Bankman-Fried's downfall, from crypto evangelist to pariah, occurred with stunning speed. FTX filed for bankruptcy protection on November 11 when it ran out of money after the cryptocurrency equivalent of a bank run.

Before the bankruptcy, Bankman-Fried was considered by many in Washington and on Wall Street as a wunderkind of digital currencies,

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Grenada plans to bring legislation to allow cannabis for medicinal use

LOOP - By December 2023, the Government of Grenada intends to present legislation to Parliament to legalise cannabis for medicinal purposes, Minister for Agriculture and Lands Senator Adrian Thomas announced on Monday.

"In January we will be opening a secretariat so that the necessary work can be done," Senator Thomas, who is also Leader of Government Business in the Upper House, said as he presented the 2023 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for debate in the Senate.

"There will be extensive consultation with the general public, involving education programmes, because our people must understand what this industry is all about. We want them to be part of it and, therefore, Madam President we have allocated over EC\$400,000 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37) to that first phase."

Senator Thomas promised that changes to the pertinent legislation will be made by December 2023 to accommodate the industry.

"In 12 months' times, the necessary legislation will be



Medicinal cannabis

put in place and we will be ready to cultivate and process the necessary products from the cannabis," he said.

Back in September, the government named a 12-member Commission on Cannabis Legalisation and Regulation whose task includes holding broad-based consultations and engage in public awareness on the policy decision to legalise cannabis within a legal and regulatory framework.

Moves to legalise small amounts of cannabis began last year under the New National Party administration. In November 2021, after a

series of consultations, a bill was presented to Parliament proposing amendments to the Drug Abuse Prevention Act to allow anyone over 18 years old to be in possession of up to 28 grammes (0.987671 ounces) of marijuana and to allow each homeowner over the age of 18 to grow no more than five trees.

The amendments also provided for members of the Rastafarian community to use the herb solely for religious purposes as a sacrament in adherence to the Rastafarian faith and at a place of worship.

However, smoking in a public place would be prohibited and a person who smokes or uses cannabis or cannabis resin in a public place commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of EC\$500.

However, Parliament was dissolved for the June 2022 general election before the legislation could be passed.

Grenada's Drug Abuse Prevention Act lists cannabis as a controlled narcotic drug and it is not lawful for a person to cultivate or be in possession of the drug.

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someone who could help take them mainstream, in part by working with policymakers to bring more oversight and trust to the industry.

Bankman-Fried had been worth tens of billions of dollars — at least on paper — and was able to attract celeb-

rities like Tom Brady or former politicians like Tony Blair and Bill Clinton to his conferences at luxury resorts in the Bahamas. One prominent Silicon Valley firm, Sequoia Capital, invested hundreds of millions of dollars in FTX.

The new CEO of FTX, John Ray

III, told a congressional committee on Tuesday that there was nothing sophisticated about what Bankman-Fried was up to.

"This is just old fashion embezzlement, taking money from others and using it for your own purposes," he said.

German court convicts 97-year-old ex-secretary at Nazi camp

AP — A German court on Tuesday convicted a 97-year-old woman of being an accessory to more than 10,000 murders for her role as a secretary to the SS commander of the Nazis' Stutthof concentration camp during World War II.

Irmgard Furchner was accused of being part of the apparatus that helped the camp near Danzig, now the Polish city of Gdansk, function. The Itzehoe state court in northern Germany gave her a two-year suspended sentence for being an accessory to murder in 10,505 cases and an accessory to attempted murder in five cases.

The court said judges were convinced that Furchner "knew and, through her work as a stenographer in the commandant's office of the Stutthof concentration camp from June 1, 1943, to April 1, 1945, deliberately supported the fact that 10,505 prisoners were cruelly killed by gasings, by hostile conditions in the camp," by transportation to the Auschwitz death camp and by being sent on death marches at the end of the war.

"The promotion of these acts by the accused took place through the completion of paperwork" in the camp commander's office, a court statement said. "This activity was necessary for the organization of the camp and the execution of the cruel, systematic acts of killing."

The verdict and sentence were in line with prosecu-



This undated photo from 1945 shows the Nazi concentration camp Stutthof in Sztutowo, Poland. A 97-year-old woman charged with being an accessory to murder for her role as secretary to the SS commander of the Stutthof concentration camp during World War II. (Stutthof Museum Archive via AP)

tors' demands. Defense lawyers had asked for their client to be acquitted, arguing that the evidence hadn't shown beyond doubt that Furchner knew about the systematic killings at the camp, meaning there was no proof of intent as required for criminal liability.

In her closing statement, Furchner said she was sorry for what had happened and regretted that she had been at Stutthof at the time.

Furchner appeared to follow the verdict attentively but didn't show any obvious emotion. It wasn't immediately clear whether she would appeal, though lawyer Wolf Molkentin said the defense team thinks the case presents "insurmountable doubts" as to her guilt.

But presiding Judge Dominik Gross said it was "simply beyond all imagination" that Furchner didn't notice the killings at Stutthof, German news agency dpa reported. He said she could see from her office the collection

point where new prisoners had to wait after arrival, and the crematorium was in constant use in the fall of 1944, with smoke spreading across the camp.

Furchner was tried in juvenile court because she was 18 and 19 at the time of the alleged crimes and the court couldn't establish beyond doubt her "maturity of mind" at the time of the alleged offenses. Gross nonetheless noted Tuesday that she could have resigned from her position at any time.

Furchner tried to skip the start of her trial in September 2021, but police later picked her up and she was placed in detention for several days.

Efraim Zuroff, the top Nazi hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said that "today's verdict is the best that could be achieved, given the fact that she was tried in a juvenile court."

"In view of Furchner's recent statement to the court that she 'regretted everything,' we were concerned

that the court might accept her defense attorney's plea for an acquittal," Zuroff said in a statement. "Yet given her claim that she had no knowledge of the murders being committed in the camp, her regret was far from convincing."

Prosecutors in Itzehoe said during the proceedings that Furchner's trial may be the last of its kind. However, a special federal prosecutors' office in Ludwigsburg tasked with investigating Nazi-era war crimes says another five cases are currently pending with prosecutors in various parts of Germany, dpa reported. Charges of murder and accessory to murder aren't subject to a statute of limitations.

Initially a collection point for Jews and non-Jewish Poles removed from Danzig, Stutthof was later used as a so-called "work education camp" where forced laborers, primarily Polish and Soviet citizens, were sent to serve sentences and often died.

From mid-1944, tens of thousands of Jews from ghettos in the Baltics and from Auschwitz filled the camp along with thousands of Polish civilians swept up in the brutal Nazi suppression of the Warsaw uprising.

Others incarcerated there included political prisoners, accused criminals, people suspected of homosexual activity and Jehovah's Witnesses. More than 60,000 people were killed at the camp.

Survivor found from Thai navy ship that sank Sunday

AP — Rescuers found a survivor and recovered five bodies from a Thai warship that sank over the weekend in the Gulf of Thailand, navy officials said Tuesday, as hopes faded for two dozen people still missing. Officials acknowledged there were not enough life jackets for all those aboard.

The HTMS Sukhothai, a corvette in service for 35 years, sank Sunday night in rough seas with 105 people aboard. The navy said an earlier tally of 106 people on board was incorrect because one sailor failed to join the journey.

Navy commander Adm. Cherngchai Chomcherngpat said initially at a news conference in Bangkok that two people had been rescued on Tuesday, but later said he had received updated information that only one person was alive and that five bodies had been recovered. According to those figures, 76 people have now been rescued, five have been found dead and 24 are still unaccounted for.

Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Chonlathis Navanugraha said the survivor and the bodies, along with some debris, were found about 60 kilometers (37 miles) from where the ship sank. He said the United States, Britain and Malaysia have offered to help in the search.

The survivor, identified as Chananyu Kansriya, was found floating in the sea at about 3 p.m. and was picked



In this photo provided by the Royal Thai Navy, the HTMS Sukhothai corvette warship lists off the coast of Prachuap Khiri Khan province, Thailand, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. The Thai navy ship sank in the Gulf of Thailand and ships and helicopters were working Monday to rescue sailors from the water. (Royal Thai Navy via AP)

up by a passing cargo ship, Chonlathis said. A navy frigate was bringing him back to shore.

Vice Adm. Pichai Lorchusakul, commander of the 1st Naval Area Command, told reporters that Chananyu was in weak condition and would receive medical treatment on the frigate, which has facilities akin to a mobile hospital.

He was quoted by the Thai Rath newspaper as saying search efforts had been accelerated, but the missing could not be expected to survive in the sea for longer than two days.

Chonlathis was slightly more optimistic. “We still have hope,” he said. “Judging from the direction of the water and the wind, it is blowing toward the beach. That is good luck. We continue to search with hope.”

The navy has deployed four large ships, two maritime patrol aircraft, two helicopters and a drone, and the air force has contributed

one plane and one helicopter. Small boats could not be used because the sea remained extremely choppy, navy officers said.

The search is gradually moving south to take into account the currents, Capt. Kraipich Korawee-Papawit, commander of one of the rescue ships, told Thai PBS television.

Strong winds and high waves caused seawater to enter the ship on Sunday evening, knocking out its electrical system and making control of the ship virtually impossible. Other naval vessels rushed to the scene, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) offshore, to try to assist the stricken vessel but could not do much because of the poor sea conditions. Because the ship could not be controlled, more water entered, causing it to list and sink.

Thailand’s Meteorological Department had issued a weather advisory for the general area just a few hours

before the accident, saying that waves in the Gulf of Thailand were expected to be 2-4 meters (7-14 feet) high. It suggested that all ships “proceed with caution” and warned small craft not to go to sea until Tuesday.

Survivors interviewed by Thai television said there were not enough life jackets because the ship was carrying guests in addition to its normal crew, which the navy website said was 87 sailors and officers.

Navy Commander Cherngchai said about 30 people from the Marine Corps and Air and Coastal Defense Command were aboard the ship, resulting in the shortage of life jackets. He said 18 people without life jackets had been rescued.

Cherngchai said all aspects of the sinking and the provision of life jackets will be investigated.

Earlier Tuesday, Vice Admiral Pichai was confronted at one of the rescue centers by a woman who said she was the mother of one of the missing sailors.

“My son called me with his friend’s phone when the ship started to sink,” the woman said in an exchange captured on video. “He said he did not get a life jacket and only a life buoy. As a parent, when I heard this, my heart was broken. If there were not enough life jackets, how much hope can you give me?”

GOP's usual embrace of Trump muted after criminal referral

AP — The Republican Party quickly and forcefully rallied behind Donald Trump in the hours after federal agents seized classified documents from his Florida estate this summer.

Four months later, that sense of intensity and urgency was missing — at least for now — after the Jan. 6 House committee voted to recommend the Justice Department bring criminal charges against him. Leading Republicans largely avoided the historic criminal referral Monday, while others pressed to weigh in offered muted defenses — or none at all.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Trump critic who suggested the former president likely benefited — politically, at least — from the FBI's summer-time search of his Florida home, said Trump was at least partly responsible for the deadly attack on the Capitol.

"No man is above the law," Hogan told The Associated Press shortly before the committee's vote.

The divergent responses are a sign of how quickly the political landscape has shifted for Trump as he faces a new legal threat and mounts a third bid for the presidency.

It's a marked change for a party that has been defined, above all, by its



Former President Donald Trump gestures as he announces he is running for president for the third time as he speaks at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Nov. 15, 2022. Trump is facing a new legal threat, but there is little sign that the Republican Party is defending the former president with the same intensity and urgency that defined his previous legal clashes. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

unconditional loyalty to Trump under any and all circumstances for the last six years.

Monday's hearing of the Jan. 6 House committee, comprised of seven Democrats and two Republican Trump critics, likely marks Congress' final attempt to hold the former president accountable for the attack on the U.S. Capitol by hundreds of his loyalists as elected officials worked to certify President Joe Biden's 2020 election victory. The criminal referral, which is non-binding, is the culmination of a yearlong investigation that included more than

1,000 witnesses, 10 televised public hearing and over 1 million documents.

The committee, which Republican House leader Kevin McCarthy boycotted and dismissed as a "sham process," will formally disband on Jan. 3 as Republicans take over the House majority.

Ever defiant, Trump predicted the criminal referral would ultimately help him.

"These folks don't get it that when they come after me, people who love freedom rally around me. It strengthens me. What doesn't kill me makes me stronger," Trump said in a

statement posted on his social network, condemning the criminal referral as "a partisan attempt to sideline me and the Republican Party."

This week's vote comes just one month after Trump formally launched his 2024 White House campaign. He had hoped that his status as an announced candidate might give him new leverage in his many legal entanglements while warding off potential Republican primary challengers.

Such hopes have yet to materialize. Early polls suggest the 76-year-old

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former president is no lock to win the 2024 nomination as emboldened Republican rivals prepare to line up to run against him.

Already weakened, Trump is also bracing for the potential release of his tax returns, which he has worked for years to keep out of the public eye. The House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday was scheduled to consider the release of six years of Trump's taxes, as well as those related to his businesses, although it wasn't immediately clear when any documents might be available to the public.

Trump's greatest liability heading into the next presidential election may have little to do with his legal challenges, however. Republicans are increasingly worried about his ability to win.

The GOP's concerns about Trump's electability intensified after the November midterm elections, when Trump's hand-picked candidates in several high-profile contests were defeated. The setbacks followed deeper Republican losses in the two previous national elections under Trump's leadership.

Indeed, the initial weeks of Trump's third presidential campaign are going so poorly that some Trump allies are privately wondering whether he's serious about his 2024 ambitions at all.

Trump faced Republican demands to apologize for his decision last month to share a private meal with noted white supremacist Nick Fuentes.

Days later, Trump called for the "termination" of parts of the Constitution over his lie that the 2020 election was stolen. And days after that, his hand-picked candidate in Georgia's high-stakes Senate race, former football star Herschel Walker, lost his runoff election.

Trump has not held a single campaign event. Last week, after previewing a "MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT," he unveiled a line of digital trading cards depicting him as a superhero.

At the same time, Trump's legal challenges are mounting.

Attorney General Merrick Garland last month appointed a special counsel to oversee the Justice Department's investigation into the presence of classified documents at Trump's Florida estate as well as key aspects of a separate probe involving the insurrection and efforts to undo the 2020 election. The Fulton County, Georgia, district attorney is separately investigating attempts to overturn that state's 2020 election results.

It's impossible to predict how much longer the investigations will last or whether the DOJ will take the unprecedented step of indicting a former president and current candidate. But Trump is no longer shielded from prosecution the way he was as president.

And his party is becoming less willing to stand behind him.

The Republican National Committee announced it would stop paying some of Trump's legal bills after he launched his 2024 presidential campaign.

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell called for "an immediate and thorough explanation" after the FBI executed a search warrant at Trump's estate in August. On Monday, he told reporters he had only one "immediate observation" about the criminal referral: "The entire nation knows who is responsible for that day."

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., called for Garland's resignation over the summer, but on Monday, he was silent on the committee's referral, focusing instead on alleged FBI mis-

steps.

Former Vice President Mike Pence, a 2024 presidential prospect himself who aggressively condemned the FBI after it seized classified documents from Trump's estate, offered somewhat muted criticism of the Jan. 6 committee when given the chance.

"As I wrote in my book, the president's actions and words on Jan. 6 were reckless. But I don't know that it's criminal to take bad advice from lawyers," Pence told Fox News.

He added, "When it comes to the Justice Department's decision about bringing charges in the future, I would hope that they would not bring charges against the former president."

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who is also considering a 2024 White House campaign, acknowledged Trump's role in Jan. 6 but said the criminal referral "isn't helpful" to the DOJ's investigation.

"The record is clear that former Pres. Trump is responsible for what happened on January 6, but accountability is most likely to come from the American people who are ready for our country to move beyond the events of January 6," he tweeted.

So far, only a handful of members of Congress have endorsed Trump's 2024 bid.

One of them, No. 3 House Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik, called the Democratic-led committee "unconstitutional and illegitimate." She said Trump was well positioned heading into the 2024 presidential contest.

"As of today — he announced a few weeks ago at this point — the only candidate is Donald Trump, and he is winning significantly against the field," Stefanik told The Associated Press on Monday. "So, we'll see what happens. But I think he's in a very strong position."

Stokes: England's tactical moves paid off in Pakistan

By Rizwan Ali

AP — Captain Ben Stokes believes England adapted well to the conditions in Pakistan with its aggressive and bold tactical moves to register the country's only second 3-0 test series sweep in the subcontinent.

Stokes' predecessor Joe Root led England to its only other sweep on the subcontinent when it beat Sri Lanka 3-0 in 2018. And England's 'Bazball' approach to test cricket under new coach Brendon McCullum, a long-time star for New Zealand, was the determining factor in Pakistan losing a three-test home series 3-0 for the first time.

England signed off on its first test tour to Pakistan in 17 years with an emphatic eight-wicket win Tuesday on the fourth day of the final test in the cricket fortress of Pakistan – National Stadium.

"It won't really sink in until we get home or in the new year," Stokes said after scoring an unbeaten 35 in England's run-chase that was led by Ben Duckett's powerful 82 not out off 78 balls. "We understand what we've done is pretty special ... it will be something to be really proud of."

"Coming into subcontinental conditions ... everything we've tried has come off. I've learned a lot in terms of the tactical side, that's the best thing to come out of it."

McCullum described England's nine wins in the last 10 test matches as "quite an incredible ride" under Stokes' brand of aggressive cricket.

"We're definitely comfortable with nine out of 10," McCullum told the Pakistan Cricket Board's digital podcast. "The side is walking in his sort of style now and playing the way that he likes the game to be played, it's been



England's skipper Ben Stokes, second right, receives trophy from a representative of KFC after winning the third test and series against Pakistan, in Karachi, Pakistan, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. (AP Photo/Fareed Khan)

absolutely fantastic."

England set the tone of its dominance when its top four batters – Zak Crawley, Duckett, Ollie Pope and Harry Brook – smashed belligerent centuries on the opening day of the first test on a flat wicket at Rawalpindi which later received a demerit point from the ICC.

Stokes made a bold declaration on the fourth day at Rawalpindi that saw England registering a 74-run win in dimming light on the last day with Pakistan less than 10 minutes away from forcing a draw.

Pakistan's batters cracked under Stokes' umbrella of fielders surrounding them throughout the 343-run chase before eventually falling for 268.

"The first test pitch was very, very flat and we just said 'enjoy the flatness boys, let's just enjoy this challenge and see what we can do.'"

England blunted the mystery spin of Abrar Ahmed on a slow turning

wicket in Multan before registering a thrilling 26-run win – also inside four days. Ahmed did pick up 11 wickets in the game, his test debut, but Brook's century in the second innings once again gave England enough runs to defend through Mark Wood's express pace on the fourth day.

"It is a great time to be in this dressing room and a great time to be playing for England," Stokes said. "I'm just encouraging everyone to turn up every day and enjoy what you're doing. Obviously it is easier to do when we are winning the way we are at the moment."

The toss didn't affect England's dominance in the series when Babar Azam won his first toss of the series and opted to bat in the final test. The left-arm spin of Jack Leach and 18-year-old Rehan Ahmed dismissed Pakistan for 304 before England notched a significant 50-run lead through Brook's third hundred in the series.

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Report: Sapporo 'reviewing' bid promotion for 2030 Olympics

By Stephen Wade

AP — Sapporo officials and the Japanese Olympic Committee are “reviewing” the promotion of their bid to land the 2030 Winter Games, news agency Kyodo reported Tuesday.

Kyodo gave few details and neither Sapporo officials nor the Japanese Olympic Committee could be immediately reached for comment. Kyodo did not indicate that officials had entirely scrapped the bid.

The Sapporo bid has been battered by a corruption scandal surrounding the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Sapporo had been considered the favorite for 2030, with Salt Lake City seen as the leader to land 2034.

The governor of the Hokkaido prefecture, Naomichi Suzuki, said last week that the scandal had been a blow to Sapporo's chances.

The International Olympic Committee announced earlier this month that it might delay announcing a 2030 venue until 2024. It has been expected to make that announcement next year.

The IOC has also said it might award the 2030 and 2034 host cities at the same time.

With Sapporo looking less likely, Salt Lake City is the only known candidate. Vancouver appears to be out as a candidate after the provincial government of British Columbia said in October it would not fund a bid.

The 2026 Winter Olympics will be



In this Dec. 1, 2020, file photo, the Olympic rings are reinstalled after it was taken down for maintenance ahead of the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics in the Odaiba section in Tokyo. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee is encouraging individual sports to consider “category qualifiers” — classified in some sports as “open” categories — to ensure transgender athletes will have events to participate in once they reach puberty. The USOPC finalized its two-page “position paper” at its board meeting earlier this month and released it Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, addressing a proposed path forward for transgender participation in sports. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

held in Milan-Cortina.

Support for the bid in Sapporo seems to be split, but city officials have declined to hold a public referendum. Public votes on funding the Olympics have consistently failed.

Salt Lake City has said it would prefer 2034, partly because it does not want to clash for sponsorships with the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. In 2015, the IOC had only two

candidates for the 2022 Winter Olympics — Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan. It chose Beijing by four votes.

The Winter Olympics are becoming an increasingly difficult sell for the IOC, which has said it is concerned there are fewer “climate-reliable” cities able to hold the Games.

Sapporo, Salt Lake City and Vancouver have each held previous Winter Olympics.

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Rehan Ahmed's maiden five-wicket haul, which made him the youngest to do so in men's test cricket, once against cracked through Pakistan's brittle middle-order as England shot out the home team for

216.

“It is exactly what you want when you are picking a team, you want to have discussions that are hard on who to pick,” Stokes said. “Brooky has been outstanding in this series. The way he has played, the way he

has taken the game on, the runs he's scored, the strike rate he has scored at has been incredible to watch.”

Brook was elevated to replace the injured Jonny Bairstow, who scored beligerently during the home summer but was ruled out

of England's historic tour to Pakistan.

“He'll (Brook) be giving the selectors, and me and (McCullum) a migraine,” Stokes said, joking about the next squad selection process, “So yeah thanks Brooky for the sore head.”

Sports News



Dominatrixx continue to lead Team Three-Hand Domino Competition

Dominatrixx have further increased their lead at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) Accumulated Team Three-Hand Competition, which is taking place at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

At the end of last weekend's third week of matches, Dominatrixx are now holding a 35-point lead heading into a pre-Christmas break in the team domino competition.

Dominatrixx won the second of the five matches last Friday night to amass an overall total of 499 points to remain top of the 16-team standings.

They scored 85 points to prevail against Bolans Revellers B Team with 74 points and Willikies Superstars B Team with 64 points.

Dominatrixx also scored 76 points to finish second in the second of five matches that were also contested on Thursday, 15th December. The match was won by Bolans Revellers D Team with 82 points and Legacy finished third with 70 points.

Double Six have now overtaken the Bolans Revellers A Team to claim second place with an overall total of 464 points.

Double Six boosted their tally by scoring 80 points to finish second in last Friday's fourth match



The Dominatrixx team is currently leading the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's Accumulated Three-Hand Competition after the third week of matches at its headquarters in Ottos on Friday, 16th December, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

which was won by Unstoppables with 81 points, with Willikies Superstars A Team ending third with 57 points.

Double Six also won last Thursday's opening match by scoring 77 points to finish ahead of Moise Eagle with 75 points and Parham Strikers with 62 points.

Bolans Revellers A team have now slipped to third place with a total of 458 points. Triple Dynamite declined from third to fourth place with a total of 452 points and Bolans Revellers C Team advanced to the fifth position with 450 points.

Bolans Revellers A Team won last Friday's opening match by scoring

81 points to beat Triple Dynamite with 74 points and Parham Strikers with 59 points.

Bolans Revellers C Team scored 78 points to win the fifth and final match last Friday with Ramplers getting 77 points and Legacy finishing with 73 points.

Willikies Superstars B Team scored 77 points to win the fourth match on Thursday. Bolans Revellers C Team finished second with 73 points ahead of Triple Dynamite with 70 points.

Occupying sixth place are Bravo with 445 points. Bravo scored 69 points to finish second in the third game on Thursday. Unstoppables won the match with 77 points and Bolans Rev-

ellers A Team could only claim a third-place finish with 67 points.

Bolans Revellers D Team and Moise Eagle each scored 76 points to finish ahead of Bravo with 72 points in the third match that was contested last Friday.

Occupying seventh position is the Willikies Superstars A Team with an overall total of 440 points. Willikies Superstars A Team won the final match on Thursday, chalking up 80 points over Bolans Revellers B Team with 67 points and Ramplers with 66 points.

Unstoppables are in the eighth position with 438 points. They are followed

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Two men given life-time bans after pitch invasion in Australia

AP — Football Australia has issued life-time bans to two Melbourne Victory supporters who rushed onto the field during an A-League game, including one who allegedly hit Melbourne City goalkeeper Tom Glover with a metal bucket.

Glover had a concussion and a facial laceration after being hit by the bucket wielded by a pitch invader and referee Alex King was also injured in the incident as about 150 people ran onto the field during Saturday night's Melbourne derby in Australia's top-flight soccer competition.

Football Australia issued a statement Tuesday saying it had conducted an investigation and had banned for life from all soccer-related activities a 23-year-old man who has already been charged by Victoria state police with violent disorder among a range of offenses.

The investigation by soccer organizers found the man guilty of "entering the field of play without authorization and

using an item (bucket) with the intent to cause damage or harm."



Melbourne Victory fans invade the pitch during the A-League Men's soccer match between Melbourne City and the Melbourne Victory at AAMI Park in Melbourne, Australia Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. The soccer match between rivals Melbourne City and Melbourne Victory was abandoned Saturday after fans invaded the field and attacked City goalkeeper Tom Glover. (Will Murray/AAP Image via AP)

Football Australia said a 19-year-old man, who has also been charged by police, had received a life-time ban for "entering the field of play without authorization and engaging in conduct that did or was likely to cause harm or endanger others".

"The actions of these two, and others, are completely unacceptable and those people and their behaviours will never be welcome in our game," Football Australia chief executive James Johnson said

in a statement.

The two men were among three charged by police on Monday following the public release of images of the people wanted for questioning in the incident. All three were given bail and will appear at the Melbourne Magistrates Court in February.

Video on social media showed a man throwing a metal bucket of sand at Glover during the melee about 20 minutes into the game at AAMI Stadium. Glover was taken off the

field dazed and bleeding and later received stitches to a facial laceration. He was back at practice with the club on Monday.

Both sets of fans had been throwing flares onto the field during the game but the situation escalated when a flare appeared to hit a television camera operator.

Glover later picked up another flare off the ground and threw it back into the stands.

Football Australia has also ordered Melbourne Victory to show cause by Wednesday why it should not face severe sanctions for the conduct of its supporters. Victory could face a financial penalty, points deduction or possibly have fans locked out of stadiums.

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by Ramplers and Moise Eagle Warriors with 436 points each.

Following in the standings are Wilkies Superstars B Team in 11th position with 430 points, Legacy with 417 points, Bolans Revellers D Team with 409 points

and Parham Strikers with 399 points.

Occupying the cellar position is the Bolans Revellers B Team with 392 points. The competition, which will last for a duration of five weekends, will resume with the fourth week of matches early next year.

Blue Jays soar past Five Islands to claim second win



Cedar Grove Blue Jays' players celebrate after Keon Green (#8 orange and black jersey) scored his second and the team's third goal during their Premier Division League encounter against Five Islands at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Monday, 19th December, 2022. (Photo courtesy the ABFA)

Cedar Grove Blue Jays recorded their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Monday night.

Mikele Culzac and Keon Greene each recorded a brace as the Blue Jays soared to an emphatic 4-1 victory over Five Islands in the first game of a double-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters.

Culzac gave the Blue Jays the perfect start to the game by scoring his and the team's opening goal in the 4th minute. Greene then got his first goal with a 16th minute conversion to double Cedar Grove's lead.

Greene scored his second goal to make it 3-0 when he intercepted a poor back pass, which was intended for the Five Islands center-back, outmaneuvered two of his opponents' defenders before firing a firm left-footed shot that went through the legs of the Five Islands goalkeeper into the back of the net.

Culzac converted his second in the

43rd minute to give the Blue Jays a 4-0 halftime advantage.

Cedar Grove failed to add to their tally in the second half, but Eric Murray managed to score a late consolation goal for Five Islands with an 83rd minute conversion.

It was the Blue Jays' second win in three matches, while it was the third loss in four encounters for Five Islands.

Garden Stars continued their impressive start to their ABFA's first division campaign by coasting to a 3-0 victory against Potters Tigers in the first game of Monday's double-header.

Striker Courtney Clarke put Garden Stars ahead by scoring his team's opening goal in the 28th minute. Forward Allan Martin netted in the 43rd minute to give Garden Stars a 2-0 halftime advantage.

Defender Omri Simpson then scored in the 60th minute to complete the scoring and sealed Garden Stars' fourth win in as many matches.

It was the second loss in four matches for Potters Tigers who remain without a win in the first division.

The first division will continue with four more matches tomorrow.

Lion Hill will meet Bolans at the Golden Grove playing field at 5 pm, while Bendals will clash with Green City at Bendals at the same time.

Fort Road will tackle Young Lions at the Old Road playing field at 4:20 pm, while John Hughes will face West Ham at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

Action in the ABFA's Second Division will continue with four matches today.

Sea View Farm and Blackburn will clash at the ABFA's Technical Centre at 5 pm, while CPTSA Wings will meet Golden Grove at the Golden Grove playing field at the same time.

Bethesda will host FC Master Ballers at the Bethesda playing field at 4:30 pm, while Freemans Village will entertain Belmont FC at the Freemans Village playing field at the same time.

Wadadli Elites surge to another emphatic win in ABBA's Second Division

Wadadli Elites1 have continued their impressive start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division.

The Wadadli Elites1 coasted to their second win in as many outings on Monday night by romping to a 100-76 victory over Old Road Daggers in the second game of a Zone 1 double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Jevon Andrew shot a team-high 28 points, Tequan Brodie scored 23 points and pulled down eight rebounds, Te-Ran

Zachariah converted 15 points and grabbed 11 rebound, Jamil Charles sank 11 points and snatched nine rebounds, while Harry Rashaun snapped up 10 rebounds and scored nine points for Wadadli Elites1.

Ariel Quallis shot a game-high 46 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, while Devea Aaron scored 15 points and snatched eight rebounds for Old Road Daggers who suffered their second loss in three appearances.

Ottos Coolers kept their perfect record intact by recording their third win in as

many encounters when they surged to a comfortable 94-55 victory over Cuties Ovals Superiors in the first game on Monday.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game high 36 points; Javon Simon produced 16 points, grabbed seven rebounds and dished out seven assists, while Ismael Palemo scored 15 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for Ottos Coolers.

Dorian James scored 15 points and snapped up nine rebounds and Christopher Henry sank 11 points for Cuties Ovals Superiors who lost for the second time in three encounters.

The second division will continue with another Zone 1 double-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening.

Cuties Ovals Superiors will meet Wadadli Elites1 at 6:45 pm and Jan Serve Fearless Crew2 will take on Old Road Daggers at 8:30 pm.

Wadadli Elites2 and the Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers will clash in a Zone 2 double-header at 6:45 pm tomorrow.

The Honourable Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers will take on Young Warrior Ballers at 8:30 pm.

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sea of people Sunday afternoon after the team won the country's third World Cup, and its first since 1986.

President Alberto Fernández declared a national holiday Tuesday so the country could celebrate the victory.

The day after the streets of Argentina turned into massive parties following the Sunday victory, many kept a close eye on the flight that brought the players home to celebrate.

As the plane got closer to Argentine soil, almost 200,000 people were tracking its path online and news channels gave live coverage of the arrival.

In the afternoon, people started arriving at the airport and outside the AFA headquarters in hopes of getting

a glimpse of the team.

Many were also already at the Obelisk, seemingly ready to spend the night there to ensure a prime spot for Tuesday's festivities.

Several players posted photos of the plane ride on social media.

Messi held the World Cup on the plane. Nicolás Tagliafico, meanwhile, posted a photo of the World Cup buckled into an airplane seat as if it were just another passenger.

As of early Tuesday morning there were no official plans for Fernández, or any other political leaders, to take part in the celebrations despite earlier rumors that the players would go to Government House, which was offered up for the celebrations, according to Security Minister Aníbal Fernández.

The World Cup and the success of the Messi-led squad has brought much-needed good news for a country that has been stuck in economic doldrums for years, is suffering one of the world's highest inflation rates and where almost four-in-10 people live in poverty.

Fernández retweeted several messages of congratulations for the World Cup victory from other world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Thank you for this greeting President Putin," Fernández wrote on Twitter after a telephone call with the Russian leader.

"Let the happiness that today unites Argentina with so many countries in the world serve as an example: Our societies need unity and peace."

Huge crowds welcome Argentina team after World Cup victory

By Daniel Politi

AP — Thousands of fans lined up in the middle of the night to try to get a glimpse of the Argentina soccer team that won one of the greatest World Cup finals of all time ahead what is scheduled to be a day of celebrations in Buenos Aires.

Members of the team, led by captain Lionel Messi, were all smiles as they descended from the plane in Ezeiza, right outside Argentina's capital, shortly before 3 a.m. Tuesday onto a red carpet that had been rolled out for the squad.

Messi was the first player from the plane carrying the World Cup, flanked by coach Lionel Scaloni, who put his arm around the captain as they walked past a sign that read, "Thank you, champions."

The players were welcomed by rock band La Mosca singing "Muchachos," a song that was written by a fan to the tune of an old song by the band and became a popular unofficial anthem for Argentine fans



Argentina's Lionel Messi holds the FIFA World Cup trophy as he deplanes, with coach Lionel Scaloni, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. (AP Photo/Gustavo Garello)

at the World Cup in Qatar. The newly crowned champions of the world boarded an open top bus and several, including Messi, could be seen singing the words to "Muchachos" while they waited for everyone to get on to travel to the headquarters of the Argentine Football Association.

The bus moved at a

snail's pace as fans, many of whom were waving Argentine flags, swarmed the bus on a highway, eager for a glimpse of the players as law enforcement officers tried to keep them at bay.

Throughout the trip, Messi held on the World Cup as players waved to fans and often sang along with them.

It took the bus around

one hour to travel approximately 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) from the airport to AFA headquarters, where the players were welcomed with fireworks.

They will sleep at AFA headquarters for a few hours before boarding the bus later Tuesday to the Obelisk, the iconic Buenos Aires landmark that was a

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