

A&B WELCOMES ST. LUCIA TO COSIS

Story on Page 2



Antigua and Barbuda will solidify its place at number one as a leader in tourism, shipping, and port management when the long awaited, state of the art, \$90 million Deepwater Harbour relaunches today at 2pm. The public will finally witness the completed masterpiece designed by the globally renowned Tabanlıoğlu Architects, who are based in Istanbul, Turkey. In addition to being the most modern facility of its kind in the OECS, the new cruise port will also feature retail shops, bars, a restaurant, casino, beach, swimming pool and dedicated children's entertainment area. [Photo: Tabanlıoğlu Architects/Global Ports Holding PCL/Antigua Cruise Ports] *Story on page 8.*

Local News

St. Lucia joins Commission of Small Island States in legal effort for climate justice

St. Lucia has become the most recent nation to join the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS) whose purpose is to seek climate justice for small island states, utilising the international legal system.

The Instrument of Accession was signed on Wednesday by St. Lucia's Prime Minister, Philip Joseph Pierre.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is Co-Chair of COSIS, an organisation which he founded with the Prime Minister of Tuvalu at COP26 in Edinburgh last year, said, "I am personally and officially delighted

that the Government of St. Lucia has joined this initiative to seek climate justice for small islands that have suffered and are continuing to endure the harmful impact of Climate Change on our countries.

"Prime Minister Pierre and I discussed this prospect in Egypt during COP 27 last month and we agreed on the value that COSIS adds to our fight for compensation to our island states for the damage caused to us by major polluting countries."

Noting that St. Lucia is the second country to join COSIS over the last week, Prime Minister Browne expressed

the hope that other Caribbean countries will get on board “in our collective interest”.

Vanuatu, a South Pacific nation, joined on 2nd December.

He noted that COSIS now consists of six small island states that will shortly be seeking an opinion from the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) regarding their legal rights for compensation for climate change damage. As the depository country for the COSIS treaty, Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday deposited St. Lucia's Instrument of Accession with the United Nations Secretariat.

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Snail collection to resume

Agriculture Minister, Samantha Marshall, has given the assurance that work to control and eradicate the Giant African Snail will continue.

The invasive pests continue to wreak havoc across the country and their carnage to local vegetation worsens when their numbers increase rapidly when weather conditions are favourable to their reproduction.

At a town hall meeting at Cedar Grove Primary School on Tuesday, Minister Marshall said the Plant Protection Unit's plan to reduce the number of snails will resume shortly.

"We're going to be re-starting our collection programme very shortly.

"I think the Plant Protection Division has actually been having a number of sessions with farmers as to how they can make sure they're able to protect their crops and get rid of these snails," she said.

The collection programme, introduced approximately five years ago, involves teams who travel to infested communities to gather the Giant African Snails.

The snails are then destroyed, following strict guidelines, after which the



Agriculture Minister, Samantha Marshall

snail hunters are compensated financially.

The work of these snail eradication teams is enhanced by the efforts of residents to also reduce the snail population.

"I believe they went a little quiet after we went through a very dry spell and a lot of us just did not see the snails as much. But now that we are getting back into the wet season period and they are coming out, they will be starting very shortly with that whole process," Marshall said.

A document prepared by the Plant Protection Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs in July this year detailed that, "Up to the end of 2021, the Giant African Snail had

to effect control.

"Though several interceptions have been made, the Giant African Snail is not known to have established on Barbuda.

"With the significant level of infestation on Antigua, official control measures have shifted the emphasis from the application of molluscicides (snail and slug bait) as the main control measure to one of physical collection of the snails and their subsequent destruction.

"Ongoing efforts are focused on establishing a concerted and sustained level of public participation in the eradication process using more environmentally-friendly means."

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Local News



Antigua and Barbuda thanks Cuba for pandemic-related assistance

Antigua and Barbuda has expressed its thanks to the Cuban government for its assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the height of the global health crisis, scores of Cuban medical personnel arrived in Antigua and Barbuda to provide critical support to the health care system.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, made the point in his address to the 8th CARICOM/Cuba summit in Barbados this week.

“During these difficult times, the Republic of Cuba demonstrated that it was a good friend and regional partner, deploying mem-

bers of its Henry Reeve Medical Brigade to assist CARICOM member states with medical support,” he remarked.

Noting Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba’s long history of shared cooperation, the foreign affairs minister said there are seventy-seven members of Cuba’s health brigade working in the country.

“Cuban medical professionals, including those of the Henry Reeve Brigade, have gone beyond their call of duty in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic and other medical issues and must be lauded for their heroic acts of service.

“In another act of



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene

health solidarity, CARICOM member states have also been offered the Abdala and Soberana vaccines against COVID-19,” he disclosed.

Greene also outlined other areas in which Cuba has provided support to the region.

“Cooperation with Cuba has resulted in the graduation of thousands of young persons across the region in medical careers, and other tertiary-level and technical areas, which has been an essential means for expanding healthcare human resources in the region, and has ensured access to inclusive and equitable education,” said Greene.

Cuba recently increased the number of medical scholarships offered to Antigua and Barbuda from seven to eleven. These scholarships will allow Cuban trained doctors to specialise in med-

ical disciplines including endocrinology, psychiatry, paediatrics, cardiology and nephrology.

Scholarships in dentistry are also available.

Foreign Minister Greene said he is honoured to reaffirm Antigua and Barbuda’s commitment to strengthening its relations with Cuba and increasing bilateral cooperation.

“CARICOM-Cuba relations are based upon an iron-clad friendship, and a foundation of mutual trust and respect.

“Our relations are also based upon the basic truth and recognition that we must cooperate together in the face of common threats and challenges that affect our region,” said Greene.

The minister also called for an end to the United States’ financial, economic and trade embargo which has been in effect against Cuba for sixty years.

Poorly planned UPP clean-up causes chaos in St. John's Rural South

The United Progressive Party's candidate for St. John's Rural South, Gladys Potter's poorly executed clean-up campaign caused an upset in Ottos earlier this week which had to be swiftly corrected by MP for the area, Daryll Matthew.

Residents were being encouraged to place bulk waste items outside their homes by Potter's camp for collection by solid waste authorities.

However, the UPP candidate's campaign team failed to contact the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)- the agency responsible for the collection of refuse - to collect the items.

A drive through the community on Tuesday revealed sidewalks cluttered with discarded fans, old mattresses, broken refrigerators and other large waste items.

On Tuesday afternoon, faced with several complaints from constituents about the unkempt condition that had been unnecessarily created, MP Matthew



sprang into action and arranged with the NSWMA to address the mess created.

Matthew has, with the cooperation of the NSWMA and members of the constituency, been spearheading

his own, ongoing, community clean-up campaigns.













The beautification efforts have involved clearing blocked gutters and waterways, decluttering vacant lots of land and the

removal of litter and other garbage.

Several other UPP candidates have also initiated their own constituency clean-up campaigns.

While residents are encouraged to exercise civic pride, an appeal has been made for people to use the correct avenues when planning bulk waste disposal.

This involves contacting the NSWMA to properly schedule the collection of large items that do not form part of normally generated household waste.

Thu 08 Day		Thu 08 Night	
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 Sunrise 6:24 am	 Sunset 5:33 pm	 Moonrise 5:59 pm	 Moonset 6:45 am
		○ Full Moon	

Local News



Convicted rapist gets five-year prison sentence

Alfred Greenaway, a convicted rapist, will spend just a fraction of the maximum 30-year sentence behind bars.

Greenaway, appearing before Justice Colin Williams on Wednesday, learnt that he will spend just five years behind bars at His Majesty's Prison (HMP) for his crime.

He was found guilty

in September of raping an 18-year-old woman when he was 24-years-old.

According to the facts of the case, on 5th September, 2018, the victim was at her boyfriend's home when he left for about half an hour.

While he was gone she took a nap.

At some point, she woke up to find a man she later identified as the defendant



peering in the window.

When spotted, Greenaway reportedly ran off.

At the time, Greenaway was unknown to the victim.

Dressed in only a vest and leggings, the virtual complainant quickly put on a pair of jeans.

Suddenly, however, the defendant pushed a faulty door to the home open and asked the victim for her partner.

She told Greenaway her boyfriend was not there and he exited the house.

As the complainant continued to dress, the defendant returned and again asked about her boyfriend's whereabouts.

She this time told Greenaway that she intended to go out to look for her boyfriend.

It was at this point that the defendant ordered his victim to remove her pants. When she refused, he held a pair of scissors to her throat, removed her clothing and raped her.

After a short trial, the

jury weighed the evidence and found Greenaway guilty as charged.

A few weeks later, Greenaway's lawyer, Pete-Semaj McKnight, presented the mitigating factors he hoped the court would consider when sentencing his client to avoid the maximum 30-year prison sentence.

McKnight told Justice Williams that his client suffers from two psychological disorders for which he takes medication.

Additionally, he said his client did not have the best upbringing and noted that his family had struggled financially.

During sentencing yesterday, the judge appeared to have taken all factors into consideration when he sentenced Greenaway to serve five years behind bars.

In total, however, Greenaway will have served 9 years imprisonment at His Majesty's pleasure, as he has been incarcerated on remand since his arrest in 2018.

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Local News



Gate to the new port to be named in honour of long-time employee

The historic opening ceremony of the US\$90 million, redeveloped Deep Water Harbour Port will get underway this afternoon and during the ceremony, another notable and touching event will occur.

During today's festivities, Winston Gomes, the port's very first employee will be honoured for his years of dedicated and loyal service.

According to Port Manager, Darwin Telemaque, Gate 3 where the

historic ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new port will be held, will now bear Gomes' name.

"We need to elevate the folks at the port who have made contributions over the years and one such individual has been at the port since 1969 and tomorrow we will be unveiling gate number three the Winston K. N. Gomes gate.

"We are going to name that part of the port after a long-serving member who worked there from 1969 to



2004 and is now a member of the board in the latter part of his life.

"We are going to celebrate him and it is going to be a fun time," Telemaque said on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Gomes was awarded with the insignia Grand Officer, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit (GOM) by Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, for his outstanding contribution to the development of the port and shipping in Antigua and Barbuda.

Gomes is regarded as a founding member of the port.

He was employed with the government's Harbour Division and later with the Antigua Port Authority for over 30 years in various operational and managerial capacities.

Under his tenure, the port was transformed into a viable economic organisation by instituting regional best practices, training employees and improving overall standards.

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Public encouraged to volunteer for Salvation Army Christmas Kettle drive

With just over a month having elapsed since the launch of the Salvation Army's Christmas kettle initiative, the organisation has issued a plea for more volunteers to assist.

Major Raymoncil Pierre made the appeal on Wednesday.

He noted while many people are willing to make donations, there are not enough people available to man the signature red Christmas kettles.

"We still need more help. For instance, today, we have two stations that do not have anyone to man them as the person scheduled to do so fell ill. Plus, we have another location that hardly has anybody as we don't have enough volunteers.

"So, we are hoping that we get some more persons, whether students



or teachers, if they are willing to volunteer for one hour, two or even three hours. We will appreciate it," Major Pierre said.

As of 3rd December, the organisation has been able to raise \$82,680.13, an encouraging leap towards the 2022 goal of \$160,000.00.

Even during the COVID-19 pan-

demic, the Salvation Army was able to exceed its goal by \$40,000.00 to reach EC\$200,000.00 in donations.

The annual Christmas Kettle drive is the Salvation Army's largest fund-raising event of the year.

It was launched on 11th November at Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy, where one of many kettles are stationed.

Kettles are also located at Epicurean Fine Foods in Jolly Harbour, the Perry Bay Supermarket, First Choice Supermarket, Shoul's Chief Store, Shoul's Toys, Gifts and Housewares, Chase Distributors and Cost Pro Supermarket.

The Salvation Army can also be contacted at 462-0115 or visited at 36 Long Street to make donations.



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How to sleep well and be happy at home

By Daisy Woodward

From promoting better sleep to creating a convivial mood, a new approach to interior design is less about aesthetic trends and more about how our spaces make us feel. Daisy Woodward explores the feel-good home phenomenon.

It's no secret that the spaces we inhabit affect the way we feel. From feng shui to the Scandinavian pursuit of hygge, designing the look and layout of your abode to further a sense of wellbeing is a long-established idea.

Yet, environmental psychology – the study of the human relationship to surroundings – was not recognised as an academic field until the late 1960s, and is an even more recent consideration when it comes to domestic interior design.

"The idea of improving wellness through our indoor spaces is something that has burgeoned," Jean Whitehead, senior lecturer in Interior Design at Falmouth University and author of *Creating Interior Atmosphere: Mise-en-scène and Interior Design*, tells BBC Culture. "It was already prevalent in healthcare interiors, but now it's crossing over into hospitality and leisure spaces, as well as how we think about our homes."

The whole point is building an interior around your personality – Jill Singer

Our collective interest in wellness, Whitehead notes, has been accelerated by the pandemic. Rather remarkably, Europeans have been found in surveys to spend up to 90% of their time indoors, and, during lockdown, "indoors" for most of us came to mean "at home".

Because of this, many of us began to care less about how our abodes looked, from a trends perspective at least, and more about how they made us feel. As a result, a new, more sustainable stance on

interior design has begun to take hold, centred around individuality, mindfulness and self-care.

For Monica Khemsurov and Jill Singer, the founders of online design magazine *Sight Unseen*, the pandemic brought about a newfound appreciation for the myriad objects they had both accumulated over the years. "We were sitting in our homes and our objects were really bringing us comfort, and making us feel less lonely," Khemsurov tells BBC Culture.

This sparked the idea for the duo's book, *How to Live with Objects: A Guide to More Meaningful Interiors*, published this week, in which she and Singer offer up their tips on "how to maximise the visual and emotional impact of your space" through objects.

This involves taking a more intentional approach to both acquiring and living with objects, prioritising heartfelt connection over what Khemsurov dubs a "keeping up with the Joneses" attitude. "It's the basic idea that an object can very easily become imbued with meaning and memories," she says.

Whether it's something a friend made you which reminds you that you are cared for, or a nick-nack purchased while travelling abroad, she observes, objects allow us to relive moments, or feel closer to loved ones, at a glance. "In terms of the aesthetic of the object, we tend to be quite agnostic," Singer adds. "The whole point is building an interior around your personality."

Surrounding yourself with treasured objects is, of course, only one piece of the puzzle when it comes to compiling a personal space that makes you feel good. Lindsay T Graham, a personality-and-social psychologist specialising



Colour, texture, lighting and choice of objects are all factors in creating a feel-good home (Credit: Charlie Schuck/ Clarkson Potter)

in how we affect – and are affected by – the spaces we inhabit, suggests taking an intuitive stance right from the start. "First, go into the space, and look at how it currently makes you feel," she tells BBC Culture.

"Don't overthink it, just ask yourself, 'Am I feeling stressed? Or happy? Am I ready to wind down? Or am I amped up?' Then take a step back and think about what you want to be feeling. Noticing the mismatch between the two will offer clues to what needs to be shifted in order to create an environment that's really going to support you."

Home sweet home

From there, it's all about selecting the right tools to achieve the desired psychological effect. One element is lighting. "Lighting can transform a space instantly," says Graham. "Plus, there's

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been so much research about its influence on our circadian rhythm, which impacts both our mental and physical health." Much of this research centres on using different coloured lights to incite different moods.

"You can buy warm or cool light bulbs," environmental psychologist Sally Augustin, PhD, tells BBC Culture.

"If you're trying to create a calming atmosphere where people will enjoy spending time together, for example, you want a warmer, softer light, whereas for something that requires concentration, you want the light to be cooler and more intense."

Warmer light is most effective when emitted from a lower level – "say, from tabletop or floor lamps" – Augustin explains, while cool bulbs should be placed in ceiling fixtures or overhead lighting sockets.

Likewise, textures can powerfully alter our emotional response to a space. "If you stick to one basic texture, particularly one known to make us feel good, you'll get a more relaxing effect. And if you use multiple textures, you add a little more energy into the space," says Augustin.

"Studies have found that soft textures – like the materials that baby clothes are made from – are most relaxing to feel." It is also helpful to consider textiles' acoustic influence on a room, she explains.

"When you're designing, remember to consider all of the sensory implications. In



your living room, if you have at least one rug, upholstered furniture and curtains on the windows, those softer surfaces will absorb sound and prevent echoing, creating a more pleasant environment."

Another easy way to cultivate calm at home? "Any time you can bring nature into the equation is a win," says Graham.

"Plants are great," says Augustin, "especially green, leafy ones with curving leaves and stems." But, she adds, naturalist or biophilic design extends far beyond plants and views of nature.

"We tend to find curving lines most relaxing – either in two-dimensional patterns, or in three-dimensional forms, like the shape of the back of a couch – as they evoke forms we find in nature. While natural materials, particularly unpainted wood, are really great for keeping our stress levels in check."

How we want to feel at home, however, will inevitably vary depending on the space we're inhabiting and how we're using it at any given time. If you're accommodating multiple people within a space, for instance, you may wish to position your furniture to promote better conver-

sation, Graham explains.

"To create cosiness and the ability to connect with others, we want our furniture facing each other," she says. While Augustin notes that "if you want to encourage the most collegial, convivial interaction, everybody involved should be seated at more or less the same height. It's the same as the advantages of a round versus a rectangular dining table."

When it comes to bedtime routines, surrounding yourself with warm lighting and soothing textures helps

There are plenty of other ways to tap into the psychology of space. "Colour can be very impactful," says Augustin, "Something light and not very saturated will have a calming effect – a sagey green with lots of white mixed into it, say – while warm colours can spur our appetite and make people appear friendlier to one another."

Objects can similarly set the mood of a space, says Graham, "whether that's a piece of furniture, an artwork or a specific thing that lights you up, and you can use that feeling to anchor, or drive the momentum of the whole room."

Singer also suggests shuf-

fling objects around to recontextualise them – "maybe move something somewhere unexpected like a bathroom, or place a chair at the end of the hallway."

When it comes to getting a better night's sleep, meanwhile, the way you arrange your bedroom can, of course, make all the difference.

"You need to think about your night-time behaviours and routine," says Graham, "and what's going to put you into the best space to shut out the thoughts or anxieties of the day."

This can range from surrounding yourself with warm lighting and soothing textures to making sure that your work space – which may remind you of pending tasks – is hidden from sight. The same goes for visual clutter, which, according to Augustin "is stressful generally, and in the context of trying to fall asleep is particularly problematic". And a clear view of the door to your bedroom can make you feel calmer, she says. "That goes back to our basic survival instincts and seeing the entry point to our space."

However you're looking to adjust your space to better support your needs, experts advise us to view our homes as idiosyncratic and constantly evolving organisms – just as we ourselves are.

"Assembling and curating an interior that makes you feel good takes time," says Whitehead. "It's a process of trial and error that should continue throughout our lifetimes".

An unsolved murder amid Costa Rica's Indigenous land disputes

By Raul Roman and Rafe H Andrews

Questions of heritage and who the land belongs to remain difficult to answer.

It was about three hours after sunset on March 18, 2019, when a resident of Yeri, a remote Indigenous settlement near the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, heard the sound of gunfire from his neighbour's home. When two policemen arrived at the crime scene a couple of hours later, they found a 59-year-old man lying in his bedroom with seven 9mm bullet wounds across his back.

News spread quickly of the murder of Sergio Rojas, the most prominent Indigenous leader in the country's recent history.

Carlos Alvarado, the president of Costa Rica at the time, described Rojas's death as "tragic", not only for Indigenous peoples but also for the whole country.

Rojas, the leader of the Bribri tribe, had fought to reclaim Indigenous ancestral land, the vast majority of which had been illegally occupied since at least the 1960s.

Land is vital to the histories and identities of Indigenous people around the world, including those in Costa Rica. Their relationship to a given territory is often familial and spiritual, not to mention critical to sustaining their agricultural livelihoods and lifestyle close to nature. Rojas fought not only for land as an economic resource, but for what he believed to be the cultural integrity and dignity of his people.

But he had been a controversial figure.

In 2010, he launched a campaign to reclaim land, resulting in the seizure of 600 hectares (1,500 acres) of farms and homes owned by people his followers did not recognise as Indigenous.



The grave of Sergio Rojas a week after his burial in April 2019. Across the Indigenous territory of Salitre, the community mourns his death, although debate continues to surround his life. Many of Rojas's Indigenous neighbours did not approve of his methods and say they prefer peaceful ways of preserving their culture [Sam Hutchinson/DAWNING]

At the time of his death, he was being investigated by the local Public Prosecutor's Office for allegedly misappropriating nearly \$800,000 worth of funds as president of the local governing body.

Contentious history

Rojas's legacy is undergirded by a long and complex history of contention over land in Costa Rica.

Legal recognition of Costa Rica's 24 Indigenous territories has been a prolonged and convoluted process since the 1930s. A lack of constitutional assurances for property and cultural rights spurred decades of tension, which led to the gunfire that took Rojas's life.

At the heart of the violence has been a 1977 law that sowed confusion about who could own property in Indigenous areas. The nation's eight tribes, who make up 2 percent of Costa Rica's population of five million, live mostly in self-governed, remote corners of the

country where poverty is high, access to social services is minimal, and disputes over territory are left unmitigated by government or police forces.

The law gave the Bribri and another tribe, the Teribe, legal rights to 11,700 hectares (29,000 acres) of land without allocating funds to compensate displaced non-Indigenous residents, despite a vague stipulation that they would receive payment.

The failure of the government to compensate landowners or control the illegal sale of land to outsiders has resulted in the displacement of people on both sides of the disputes.

Meanwhile, debate about who is considered Indigenous is nearly as contentious as the struggle for land tenure itself. Tribes have varying unique qualifiers for certification, a process fraught with disputes - the Bribri, for example, insist on express proof of a Bribri moth-

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er, while the Teribe accept Teribe lineage on either the maternal or paternal side within six generations.

Unsolved murder

Rojas, who became a lightning rod in this conflict, suffered a previous attempt on his life in 2012 when someone fired at his car.

In response, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – a regional body with moral authority but little teeth – in 2015 ordered the Costa Rican government to adopt precautionary measures to protect the Bribri and other Indigenous people and investigate any danger they faced. Critics have said that no effective safeguards were put in place, particularly in the case of Rojas.

His murder remains unresolved, increasingly mired in controversy. In September 2020, investigators supervised by the Attorney General's Office announced the dismissal of the case, arguing an absence of sufficient evidence after 18 months of secretive work.

No official suspects were produced by the investigation, although the culprit is widely considered by Indigenous activists to be either a political adversary of Rojas or a person displaced by land invasions.

Following a public outcry, the tiny court in Buenos Aires, the small capital of the Puntarenas region where Rojas lived and died, declared it would resume the probe. In January 2021, a human rights commission within the Legislative Assembly in the Costa Rican capital San José urged the central government to reopen the case. Nothing tangible has transpired since.

Who decides who is Indigenous?

Today, Rojas's followers argue that government inaction leaves them no option but to forcefully invade property inhabited by those they deem non-Indigenous. "I will stop at nothing to continue Rojas's legacy," says Felipe Figueroa, who took over to lead the land reclama-

tion movement after his death.

"We're ready with weapons if necessary," explains Jeffrey Villanueva, an Indigenous leader inspired by Rojas.

On the opposite side, those who have lost their land feel abandoned by the government. "My fight is against the government for not compensating me as promised by law," says William Vega. Fifteen men with machetes who considered him non-Indigenous seized his property 10 years ago.

At the court in Buenos Aires, hundreds of cases mount from all sides of the conflict related to land reclamation, including attempted homicide, land misappropriation, and assault with a weapon.

Jean Carlo Cespedes, one of two judges in the region who preside over Indigenous land rights cases, said the central question in the continuing feuds is who has the right to define who is Indigenous.

Multiple organisations in each territory claim to certify identity, which means "everyone has an interpretation of the law designed to help their side," according to Cespedes. No one centralised body has the power to resolve most disputes.

Without solutions from national leaders, the fight continues, the most visible conflict playing out between Indigenous and non-Indigenous neighbours. Yet Indigenous people are not necessarily united in their pursuit of justice – some continue Rojas's legacy while others disagree with it. Others who consider themselves to be Indigenous are not recognised as such.

In remote communities far from San José and the court, tension simmers between neighbours.

Costa Rica's South Pacific territories host three Indigenous groups: the Bribri (in Salitre), the Teribe (mostly in Terra-ba) and the Boruca (in Boruca and Curré, also known as Rey Curré), which are all in the province of Puntarenas.

Each community lives in a continu-



ing push and pull between tradition and outside influences, and members are largely subsistence farmers.

The Bribri are the biggest group, numbering about 11,500 people. There are about 3,300 Teribe and 2,600 Boruca.

Felipe Figueroa, 57, on his way home from the school where he teaches the Bribri language.

Figueroa, Rojas's successor in the land reclamation movement he started and a member of the council of elders in Salitre, which has its own autonomous government that manages land, argues that taking the land by force is the only course of action available.

"Land reclamation is our version of going on strike. It's risky and dangerous, but this is how we achieve our rights."

Residents say that an occupation generally unfolds when small armed groups go onto the land and repel any attempts to resist them. They erect small wooden structures and remain there.

Sometimes they burn the previous owner's home. Police lack the authority

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The World Around Us



cont'd from pg 13
to intervene.

Doris Ortiz, 65, inside her home in Salitre where she and her husband run an organisation devoted to verifying individuals' claims to Indigenous status.

Multiple people and associations in the area purport to provide proof of ancestral identity and certificates. Different territories and their corresponding organisations have a range of certification processes and qualifications

to establish Indigenous identity. The wide range of interpretations muddies the issue and fuels the fire of land conflicts. No single body is invested with the power to decide.

"These days there is no such thing as pure Indigenous - there has been generation after generation of mixing," Ortiz asserts. Her criteria: One must prove that within four generations on either the paternal or maternal side there was at least one Indige-

nous individual.

However, some within the community believe she and her husband, Manuel, are not Indigenous. As a result, their land has been subject to multiple, forceful invasions by followers of Sergio Rojas "armed with machetes, knives, sticks and stones", according to Ortiz.

Junior Jara, 22, a student from Salitre, plays football outside his new home, where he lives with his mother and sister.

People with mixed heritage are vulnerable to property invasions.

Jara's parents are both Bribri but only his father is recognised as such since his mother has not been able to prove her heritage. That was grounds for another family to occupy their house.

Jara claims the men they hired to repair the bathroom occupied the building and chased them away with knives and they were forced to move elsewhere.

Isabel Vargas-Cascante, 65, shows footage she captured during one of three violent invasions of her property in the Salitre area by followers of Sergio Rojas.

Vargas-Cascante said she returned from the market on July 20, 2012, to discover 40 people inside her home. The police offered no help when she called them.

A month later, 20 people from the same group occupied the family's second farm.

"I began filming, which upset them. They threw me to the ground and hit me repeatedly with a stick. I kept photos of the bruises. We asked for our cattle back but were told: 'They're ours to eat now.'"

A few months later, Vargas-Cascante says the group returned for the third farm.

"Our elders came to try and negotiate, but they were attacked as well."

Vargas-Cascante and her husband relocated to a small community outside Buenos Aires.

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"We lost our livelihood – we are left with nothing."

William Vega, 60, in his kitchen, holds the deed to the 100-hectare (247-acre) farm, where he grew coffee, bananas and avocados, and kept pigs for 28 years.

In many cases, non-Indigenous people did not know that their land purchases went against the 1977 law that grants Indigenous people exclusive ownership within their territory. An occupation can rob a family of their life savings.

Vega is considered non-Indigenous and bought the land from another non-Indigenous farmer, who bought the land before the 1977 law.

He says there was harmony between everyone before Rojas stirred things up. Then, several years ago, a band of 15 people armed with machetes and knives seized his land. They set up camp and told him to go.

Vega has not received compensation for the land that was taken from him.

Jeffrey Villanueva, 44, crushes cocoa beans at his family home in the Terraba territory, where he runs an ecotourism business.

Villanueva is part of a group that has drawn up lists of whom they consider to be Indigenous and of the farms occupied by non-Indigenous people that they intend to take forcefully.

To date, they have recovered two of 18 farms, including one previously owned by his great-great-grandfather.

Villanueva's next goal is to reclaim the farm and home of his next-door neighbour, Donald Guadamos, which he claims used to belong to his great-grandfather.

Donald Guadamos, 49, the intended target of Jeffrey Villanueva's takeover plan, with one of his sons.

Guadamos has lived in Terraba since he was five and considers himself Indigenous, but he is not on the official list of Teribe people created by Villanueva. His father bought his house and surrounding

107 hectares (264 acres) of land overlooking the river from a non-Indigenous man the year Guadamos was born, before the 1977 law.

Guadamos says he would be prepared to move away if he was properly compensated.

Identity is at the core of land disputes and members of the communities in Puntarenas strive to keep traditions alive regardless of ownership.

Above, Cecilia Leyva, 35, and her mother are at their farm in Curré.

Leyva leads a cultural organisation that promotes Indigenous languages, makes natural medicines and teaches others how to weave bags and clothing with time-honoured methods.

Melvin Gonzalez, 42, crafts traditional balsa wood masks in Boruca.

The traditions of Borucan masks began more than 500 years ago, during the Spanish Conquest.

"Diablito", or little devil masks, were created and worn with the intent to scare the unwelcome invaders back to Spain.

Mareju Vargas, 46, at her home in Terraba with her 42-year-old sister Ana Laura. Some residents accuse the local authority, the ADI, of cronyism and corruption. Vargas's sister has Down's syndrome, and she says the ADI rejected her appeal for help, on the grounds that they were not Indigenous. She claims that the community is ruled by nepotism.

"Everything here is controlled by three clans ... they are the ones that benefit from land seizures," she says.

In her view, the issue of Indigenous identity is a smokescreen to hide corruption.

Many Indigenous elders strive to pass on cultural knowledge to younger generations before it is lost to exposure to outside influences.

Above, Celedina Moroto with two of her grandchildren at her home in Boruca.

She feared no one would teach them to speak the Borucan language after she

died. She passed away at 73 in June 2020.

Santiago Figueroa, 68, on his horse in Salitre.

Like many members of the community, he opposes violence and is happy to coexist with non-Indigenous farmers.

Abandoned remnants of the El Diquis construction site by the Terraba river.

Plans to build Central America's largest hydroelectric dam have been frozen.

In 2019, the Indigenous people of Puntarenas won a 40-year battle against its construction. Going ahead would have flooded 200 historical sites, ancient ruins and sacred burial areas.

A vigil on February 25, 2020, in central San José, the country's capital, to mourn the death of Jehry Rivera, another Indigenous leader killed 11 months after Rojas, who he fought alongside.

Rivera was shot five times in the back in a street dispute over recently reclaimed property. Two suspects were detained but a judge in Buenos Aires quickly released them, arguing the gunshots were in "self-defence".

Schools in Indigenous territories face a complex challenge in balancing standardised curriculums with those tailored to the Indigenous history and language of a particular area.

Bilingual education for Indigenous children has no direct budget in Costa Rica.

Disagreements over curriculums have been contentious in these territories, leading to physical violence between the parents of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

A sense of history and cultural pride pervades kitchens and living rooms across Puntarenas where family life continues.

Families on either side of the Indigenous conflict are largely forgotten by their national leaders as they pursue their own versions of justice.

The story was produced by DAWN-ING in partnership with Newton Europe.

Regional News

Cuba urges support for ending ongoing situation in Haiti

CMC - Cuba has called on the international community to do more to deal with the political, social and economic situation in Haiti, where opposition forces and criminal gangs are seeking to remove the government of Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry.

Addressing the eighth-Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-Cuba summit on Tuesday, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, said as so many times during the course of history, Haiti is going through “a particularly complex situation.”

“On behalf of Cuba, which is in favour of stability and peace in Haiti, and which defends the rights of its people to find a peaceful solution by means of dialogue to its huge challenges, we here today express a willingness to continue offering a helping hand to our sister nation.”

“For that reason, we seek to improve the quality of international solidarity with Haiti based on the full respect of the sovereignty and the ultimate determination of that country especially the



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel addressing CARICOM-Cuba summit in Barbados.

current situation which is marked by so many difficult challenges”

The Cuban president said Havana is “urging other regional and international actors to help to look for solutions and concrete projects to provide resources and technologies which can be provided as substantial help to Haiti”.

Earlier this year, CARICOM issued a statement in which it said it “is gravely concerned by the continuing deterioration of the security situation and the social circumstances” in the member country.

It said the continued breakdown in
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Grenada announces tax amnesty for a year

CMC - The Grenada government says it will allow for a tax amnesty for one year as it seeks to recover more than EC\$600 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) in arrears. Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, who is also the finance minister, told Parliament that the current stock of tax arrears is in excess of \$600 million and “the truth of the matter is some of us have not been paying our fair share to support national development”.

Delivering his maiden national budget of EC\$1.3 billion, Mitchell said his administration, which came to power following the June 23 general election “desires to build a sense of national identity and a culture of meeting our obligations to the state”.

He said to prepare for this transition, the government will implement, effective January 2023, a tax amnesty for the next 12 months



that will waive 100 percent of all interest and penalties for all arrears up to December 2021.

“To halt the further accumulation of arrears, all arrears for 2022 onwards will be strictly enforced pursuant to the Tax Administration Act, including the requirement of tax clearance certificates to travel, to access loans from financial institutions, garnishees, et cetera,” Mitchell said, adding that the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) will be allowed to act

“without political interference from government contrary to what obtained in the past”.

Mitchell said in addition to digitization of the tax system, “we are also mindful that a good tax administration system is one that is equitable, efficient and growth friendly.

“Therefore, we will take steps to improve the administration and collection of existing taxes and overtime and simplify and reduce the number of taxes,” he said, adding

that to transition into the new tax system, the IRD will undertake a mass revaluation of properties in 2023.

“The new property values will be implemented in 2024. It is important to note that the revaluation of properties does not necessarily mean higher property taxes, as the minister can vary current rates to achieve revenue neutrality.

“The revaluation exercise will allow the government to implement a more progressive property tax system, however, to improve compliance in this area, the IRD will implement a pilot that will allow public officers to pay their property taxes through monthly deductions.”

Mitchell said this service will also be extended to private sector firms, adding that the initiative will reduce the burden of having to find all the resources at one point in time when the tax deadline comes around.

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law and order, and its distressing effect on the people of Haiti, is intensifying.

“The fraught situation is exacerbated by the inability of the Haitian security forces to address the ongoing violence. The unrest is having a negative impact on the already weak economy leading to even more mass demonstrations.

“Especially the worsening social conditions and the limited availability of food require urgent and immediate attention from the international commu-

nity.”

CARICOM said it remains available to assist and work with international partners to mobilise financial and technical resources to facilitate a process towards normalisation and ultimately the holding of free, fair and credible general elections.

The political and socio-economic situation in Haiti has intensified following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July last year. Opposition parties have been staging street demon-

strations calling for the removal of Prime Minister Henry, while rival gangs have been engaged in criminal activities ranging from kidnapping to murder.

They are also demanding that fresh presidential and legislative elections be held.

The United States and Canada have in recent months-imposed sanctions on various Haitian politicians accusing them of using their offices or positions in society to further encourage criminal activities in the Caribbean country.

Regional News



Opposition blasts government over re-imposition of states of emergencies

CMC - The leader of the main opposition People's National Party (PNP), Mark Golding has criticized the decision of the Jamaica government to re-impose states of emergencies (SOEs) in several parishes after the authorities said murders had increased following the expiration of the emergency measure last week.

Mark Golding has reiterated the opposition's position that the use of SOEs as a policing tool is not a sustainable path forward for Jamaica and that the opposition believes that the repeated use of SOEs is unlawful.

"It subverts the basic scheme of our Constitution, by allowing the Government to suspend the basic rights of the people in circumstances where it is not clearly justified by an immediate threat to our democratic system of government," he said.

"The PNP is of the view that a strong security presence should be maintained in communities that are facing high levels of violence. The use of the soldiers and police in this way is permitted by our normal laws, and does not require an SOE," Golding added.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness Tuesday told a news conference that "since the end of the last state of emergency, we have seen, unfortunately, an increase in criminal activities in these areas and indeed a threat



People's National Party Leader Mark Golding.

to property and in some instances, public disorder".

Commissioner of Police, Major General Anthony Anderson, said since the discontinuation of SOEs seven days ago, 22 murders have been committed across the island, with 17 of those killings occurring in areas where SOEs had expired in St Ann, Clarendon, St Catherine, St James, Westmoreland, Hanover and specified areas of Kingston and St Andrew.

Prime Minister Holness had declared SOEs in the seven parishes on November 15, but the opposition refused to support a move to extend the SOE to January 14, 2023.

Holness, who left here on Tuesday for Washington,

where he is slated to discuss security matters with several US state agencies, said that as the Christmas season approaches, there is a need to protect life and property.

"It is important to note that we are also approaching the Christmas season. This will be the first Christmas since the ending of the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) and already, we're seeing and projecting an increase in activities including entertainment activities, including increased commercial activities and we are already seeing a demand, a stretch on the resources that we have to guarantee the citizens that they will be able to go about their business in a safe and secure manner," Holness

said.

But in his statement, Golding said "there was no consultation with the opposition prior to this decision being made; no briefing as to the specific security issues which are being relied on as justification for another rounds of SOEs.

"This clearly shows once again that the Government has no regard for the opposition. Mr Holness prefers to be wrong and strong, pressing on with his SOE policy.

"His behaviour indicates that he really does not want our support, no doubt believing that it is to his political advantage for the Government and Opposition to continue to be at odds over this issue.

"We do not see the use of SOEs as a policing tool as a sustainable path forward for Jamaica. Putting the majority of Jamaicans at risk of being detained for extended periods by police or soldiers without charge, is no way to address Jamaica's long standing challenging problem of criminal violence."

Mark Golding said that many lives of lawful young Jamaicans have been disrupted and irreparably damaged by being held in detention without charge for long periods, "sometimes well in excess of a year, with a loss of their jobs and the stigma of being treated like common criminals.

Argentina's VP Fernández guilty in \$1B fraud, gets six years

AP - Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández was convicted and sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison and a lifetime ban from holding public office for a fraud scheme that embezzled \$1 billion through public works projects during her presidency.

A three-judge panel found the Peronist leader guilty of fraud, but rejected a charge of running a criminal organisation, for which the sentence could have been 12 years in prison. It was the first time an Argentine vice president has been convicted of a crime while in office.

Fernández lashed out at the verdict, describing herself as the victim of a “judicial mafia.” But she also later announced that she would not run next year for the presidency, a post she previously held in 2007-2015.

The sentence isn't firm until appeals are decided, a process that could take years. She will remain immune from arrest meanwhile.

Fernández's supporters vowed to paralyse the country with a nationwide strike. They clogged downtown Buenos Aires and marched on the federal court building, beating drums and shouting as they pressed against police barriers.

Fernández roundly denied all the accusations. Argentina's dominant leader this century, she was ac-

cused of improperly granting public works contracts to a construction magnate closely tied to her family.

The verdict is certain to deepen fissures in the South American nation, where politics can be a blood sport and the 69-year-old populist leader is either loved or hated.

President Alberto Fernández, who is not related to his vice president, said on Twitter that she was innocent and that her conviction is “the result of a trial in which the minimum forms of due process were not taken care of.”

Prosecutors said Fernández fraudulently directed 51 public works projects to Lázaro Báez, a construction magnate and early ally of her and her husband Nestor Kirchner, who served as president in 2003-2007 and died suddenly in 2010.

Báez and members of Fernández's 2007-2015 presidential administration were among a dozen others accused in the conspiracy. The panel also sentenced Báez and her public works secretary, José López, to six years. Most of the others got lesser sentences.

Prosecutors Diego Luciani and Sergio Mola said the Báez company was created to embezzle revenues through improperly bid projects that suffered from cost overruns and in many cases



Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernandez greets supporters as she leaves her home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 23, 2022. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd, File)

were never completed. The company disappeared after the Kirchners' 12 years in power, they said.

In Argentina, judges in such cases customarily pronounce verdicts and sentences first and explain how they reached their decision later. The panel's full decision is expected in February. After that, the verdict can be appealed up to the Supreme Court, a process that could take years.

Fernández went on her YouTube channel to say she will not seek further office after her vice presidential term expires on Dec. 10, 2023. “I'm not going to be a candidate for anything, not president, not for senator. My name is not going to be on any ballot. I finish on December 10 and go home,” she said.

Politicians and analysts had noted that until her appeal is settled, Fernández would be free to run for any

elected office — from a seat in Congress to the presidency — and obtain immunity from arrest by being elected.

“Cristina always surprises,” pollster Roberto Bacman, director of Argentina's Center for Public Opinion Studies, said of her announcement. But “she will continue fighting,” he added. “She places herself in the centre of the fight and says that she is not going to hide.”

He said it remains to be seen if the Peronist sector seeks to push Fernández to reconsider her decision.

Patricio Giusto, director of the consulting firm Diagnóstico Político, predicted Fernández will deepen her “strategy of victimisation and equating herself” with Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, the leftist politician who has just been elected president of Brazil after a court overturned his prison sentence for corruption.

Germany raids far-right group over plot to install prince in coup

Reuters - Germany on Wednesday detained 25 members and supporters of a far-right group that the prosecutor's office said was preparing a violent overthrow of the state to install as national leader a prince who had sought support from Russia.

Prosecutors said the group was inspired by the deep state conspiracy theories of Germany's Reichsbuerger and QAnon, whose advocates were among those arrested after the storming of the U.S. Capitol in January 2021.

Members of the Reichsbuerger (Citizens of the Reich) do not recognise modern-day Germany as a legitimate state. Some of them are devoted to the German empire under monarchy, while some are adherents of Nazi ideas and others believe Germany is under military occupation.

The plot envisaged a former member of a German royal family, identified as Heinrich XIII P. R. under Germany's privacy law, as leader in a future state while another suspect, Ruediger v. P., would be the head of the military arm, with the aim of building a new Germany army, prosecutors said.

The group had emulated the structure of the government, creating a "council" that had regularly met since November 2021 as an administration in waiting with different departments, such as foreign affairs and health,



German police arrest "Prince Heinrich XIII" — a 71-year-old man who has gained followers through his controversial political views — as part of an operation against suspected coup conspirators. Image: Boris Roessler/dpa/picture alliance via Getty Images

prosecutors said.

They said Heinrich, who uses the title prince and comes from the royal House of Reuss, which had ruled over parts of eastern Germany, had reached out to representatives of Russia, whom the group saw as its central contact for establishing its new order. It said there was no evidence the representatives had reacted positively to the request.

Neither the House of Reuss nor Prince Reuss' Office responded to requests for comment. An Interior Ministry spokesperson said security agencies were looking closely at any possible contact with Russia.

The Kremlin said there could be no question of any Russian involvement in an alleged far-right plot to overthrow the German state, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying that it "appears to be a German internal problem".

The German government will respond with the full force of the law, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said.

"The investigations provide a glimpse into the abyss of a terrorist threat from the Reichsbuerger milieu," Faeser said in a statement, adding that the constitutional state knew how to defend itself against "the enemies of democracy".

Faeser said she would present a bill in the next few days that would make it easier to remove civil service employees who were deemed to be enemies of the constitution.

One active soldier and several reservists were also among those being investigated, a spokesperson for the military intelligence service told Reuters. The soldier is a member of the Bundeswehr's KSK elite force, which has been overhauled in recent years due to a number of far-

right incidents.

The group had been procuring equipment, trying to recruit new members and holding shooting lessons, prosecutors added. The focus of the recruitment efforts were primarily members of the military and police officers, they said.

A former parliamentary lawmaker from the far-right Alternative For Germany (AfD) was also among those detained, according to German prosecutors.

In a statement, the AfD condemned the far-right group's efforts and expressed confidence in the authorities' ability to bring clarity to the situation quickly and completely. Investigators suspect individual members of the group had concrete plans to storm the Bundestag lower house of parliament in Berlin with a small armed group, prosecutors said.

The vice president of the Bundestag, Wolfgang Kubicki, told the Rheinische Post newspaper the building was equipped for attacks and they were aware of potential threat situations, so "the group's plans were already doomed to fail when they were forged".

But the revelations of the plot evoke memories of the storming of the steps of Germany's Reichstag parliament building by protesters in August 2020 during mass marches against coronavirus curbs, as well as the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Suicide bomber hits Indonesian police station, killing one

AP - A Muslim militant and convicted bomb-maker who was released from prison last year blew himself up Wednesday at a police station on Indonesia's main island of Java, killing an officer and wounding 11 people, officials said.

The attacker entered the Astana Anyar police station with a motorcycle and detonated one of two bombs he was carrying as police were lining up for a morning assembly, said Bandung city Police Chief Aswin Sipayung. The other explosive was defused.

A video that circulated on social media showed body parts near the damaged lobby of the police station, which was engulfed in white smoke as people ran out of the building.

Food vendor Herdi Hardiansyah said he was preparing meals behind the station when a loud bang shocked him.

He saw a police officer whom he recognized as one of his customers covered in blood, being carried on a motorcycle by two other officers to a hospital. He later learned the officer died. Ten others and a civilian were wounded.

National Police Chief Gen. Listyo Sigit Prabowo told reporters when he visited the station Wednesday afternoon that the attacker was believed to have been

a member of the militant organization Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, or JAD, which pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and was responsible for other deadly suicide bombings in Indonesia.

He said police identified the man as Agus Sujatno, also known by his alias Abu Muslim. He was released from the Nusakambangan prison island last year after completing a four-year sentence on charges of terrorist funding and making explosives that were used in a 2017 attack on a municipal building also in Bandung, the capital of West Java province.

JAD was designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. in 2017.

Sujatno was still on police "red" lists of militant convicts after being freed from prison because of his rejection of the government's deradicalization program, Prabowo said.

"He was still difficult to talk to, and tended to avoid the (deradicalization) process," Prabowo said.

The deradicalization program has been used since 2012 as part of the government's soft approach to rehabilitate militants and wean them off radical views so they can better integrate into society once they are released.

According to the Na-



Police officers secure a road leading to a police station where a bomb exploded in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Kholid Parmawinata)

tional Counterterrorism Agency, from about 2,500 militants arrested between 2000 to 2021, about 1,500 have been released from prisons, and nearly 100 of them were recaptured in several attacks or for plotting attacks.

The deradicalization process involves discussion classes with religious figures, prominent scholars and community leaders, as well as financial assistance for opening a business once militants are released.

Prabowo said he ordered police task force units and the counterterrorism squad to investigate the latest attack and find other possible culprits.

West Java Police Chief Suntana, who uses one name, said a paper taped to the perpetrator's motorbike was recovered with the words, "Criminal code is the law of infidels, let's fight the

satanic law enforcers."

Indonesia's Parliament on Tuesday passed a new criminal code that, among other things, bans insulting the president and state institutions.

"Using the new criminal code can only be seen as a momentum by terrorists to launch their action," said Adhe Bakti, the executive director of the Center for Radicalism and Deradicalization Studies. "Police and places of worship are actually the main target of JAD since the beginning."

He urged police to strictly monitor those on their "red" lists, because he said convicted militants who refuse to take part in the deradicalization program are likely to commit acts of terror again.

"They have to be continuously offered (to join the program) like a salesman offering his wares," he said.

Sports News



World Cup 2022: 'Cristiano Ronaldo reduced to role of superstar nobody wants'

BBC - Cristiano Ronaldo was reduced to the role of the superstar nobody wants after Portugal followed Manchester United's lead in deciding they might just be better off without him.

And better off without him they certainly were as Portugal rewarded coach Fernando Santos's courage in dropping his country's sporting icon with the complete attacking performance and a 6-1 win over Switzerland that sets up a World Cup quarter-final against Morocco.

Santos was not only vindicated for his decision to axe Ronaldo after publicly criticising his gestures when he was substituted in the last group game against South Korea, he hit the jackpot as his young replacement Goncalo Ramos looked the real deal in hitting a superb hat-trick.

It has been a bruising time for 37-year-old Ronaldo's considerable pride and ego as first his Manchester United career ended in acrimony following public criticism of the club and now Portugal did what was previously unthinkable - at least going as far back as 31 games and before Euro 2008 - and ditched him from their starting line-up at a major tournament.

This was certainly the bravest selectorial call of this World Cup and the biggest of Santos' eight-year time in charge of Portugal.



Cristiano Ronaldo wasn't named in Portugal's starting XI for a game at a major tournament for the first time since 2008

Santos, despite having a Euro 2016 win on his CV, will have known what was at stake by making this seismic change. If Portugal had lost, he would have known who would carry the can for their World Cup exit and it would not have been Cristiano Ronaldo.

Instead, Santos watched with his usual stern expression as Portugal looked a more vibrant, fluid and threatening side without all their focus trained on the often overpowering presence of Ronaldo.

Portugal moved smoothly through midfield with Bernardo Silva and Bruno Fernandes at the controls, and up front Benfica's 21-year-old striker Ramos, previously unknown on this sort of goal-scoring stage, carried any burden he may have been feeling as Ronaldo's replacement lightly.

The previously subdued but richly talented Joao Felix looked liberated, rather like the rest of the Portugal team.

Ramos's hat-trick came in various very well-taken shapes via a near-post finish thrashed high past Switzerland keeper Jan Sommer, then a poacher's near-post strike from a cross, before a clever dink for his hat-trick. Some first full Portugal start.

Ronaldo, before this game, had played 514 minutes of World Cup knockout football without a goal. Ramos had three in 67 minutes.

Pepe, the 39-year-old defensive warhorse, showed age was not a factor in Santos's thoughts as he headed the second while Ramos showed he could make them as well as score them when he set up Raphael Guerreiro to make it 4-0.

And through it all sat Ronaldo, cameras trained on every facial expression as the Portuguese national hero saw the first signs of his international career following his Manchester United career into the past.

He was swarmed by hundreds of cameramen

once the national anthems had finished playing and there was an almost testimonial feel to what happened once Portugal proved they were superior for his absence by routing a bitterly disappointing Switzerland.

Ramos had made it 5-1, Portugal were cruising, when a huge roar of "Ronaldo" started to sweep around the vast Lusail Stadium, followed by chants of his celebratory trademark "Siu".

It appeared to be a large number of locals who had paid their money to see Ronaldo in the flesh who were leading the demands. It may even have been the suffering Switzerland fans hoping Santos would remove their tormentor Ramos.

Santos relented with 16 minutes left, sending Ronaldo on for Joao Felix to a pop star's reception.

It was all vaguely awkward - even a touch embarrassing - as the fading talisman trotted on to make what felt like a personal appearance rather than a meaningful contribution in a World Cup knockout game.

There was an air of anticipation every time Ronaldo received the ball, those inside the arena desperate to see some of the old magic. They almost saw it when he rammed in a shot but the boos rang out as the offside flag went up.

Even Ronaldo's brief spell in the limelight was

con'd on pg 23

More legal problems for Jack Warner

CMC - The embattled former FIFA vice president, Austin Jack Warner's legal problems mounted on Monday after a High Court ruled in favour of the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) in its legal battle over the ownership of the Dr. Joao Havelange Centre of Excellence in Macoya, Trinidad.

In addition, Justice Robin Mohammed ruled that Maureen Warner, the wife of the former national security minister, and two of the family's companies will join her husband and others in the US\$37.8 million lawsuit against them. They had sought to be removed from the lawsuit.

In the application, Austin Jack Warner's wife, and the companies, Renraw Investments Limited and CCAM and Company Limited claimed that the case, filed in 2016, was statute barred as it concerned conduct which took place between 1995 and 2011.

They also argued that while CONCACAF could claim that Warner had a fiduciary duty to it based on his long stint at the helm of the organisation, they had no connection.

The ownership of the lucrative property, which features a swimming complex, restaurants, a 44-room hotel, conference facilities, a gym and the Marvin Lee Stadium, arose shortly after Warner's successor at the region-



Austin Jack Warner

al football association, Jeffery Webb instituted an integrity investigation against him and fellow former president Chuck Blazer.

The investigation came three years before Warner and Blazer and other FIFA officials were implicated in a United States (US) Department of Justice investigation into corruption in the operations of world football's governing body.

In the claim, CONCACAF is contending that Warner, his wife and the companies were involved in a conspiracy to misappropriate CONCACAF funds which were allocated to construct the facility by misrepresenting that it (the facility) was actually owned by CONCACAF.

CONCACAF also listed accountant Kenny Rampersad and his company as parties to the claim, contending that he had a conflict of interest by serving as the accountant for both CONCACAF and the companies.

Rampersad contended that he provided secretarial services to the companies and claimed he did not owe CONCACAF any fiduciary duty, as he merely served as an auditor.

In his defence, Warner, who served as CONCACAF president between 1990 and 2011, said he could not recall facts surrounding the deal, owing to CONCACAF's delay in bringing the claim. He also denied that he and his wife had a controlling interest in the companies and challenged the arrangement as he denied that he misappropriated funds.

Justice Mohammed's decision on the preliminary issue means the substantive case can now go on trial before him. He has also ruled that a case management conference in the case is scheduled for February.

CONCACAF had also filed similar proceedings against Warner in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York. In July 2019, it obtained a US\$20-million default judgement against Warner after he failed to attend hearings of the case or send legal representation.

Last month, Warner lost his challenge before the London-based Privy Council, the country's highest court, regarding his extradition to face a barrage of charges of racketeering, wire fraud, money laundering, and bribery from the early 1990s.

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stolen away from him when another bright young Portugal striker, Rafael Leao, came on and rounded off this thumping win with the sort of finish, curled into the top corner, that already has the 23-year-old marked down as a future star at AC Milan.

At the final whistle,

Ronaldo applauded the crowd then was first down the tunnel, leaving the real celebrations to those who deserved it, namely his Portugal team-mates who had delivered their finest performance of this World Cup and who will threaten anyone performing like this.

Ronaldo may yet make a decisive contribution at this

tournament - he is trying to attract a new club after all - but it is hard to see him making it as a starter against Morocco.

After being shown the door at Manchester United for his petulance and outspoken views on the club's hierarchy, he now finds himself marginalised on territory where he must have

thought he was even more untouchable with Portugal.

As the old saying goes, Ronaldo was the future once. He increasingly looks like the past and the future belongs to emerging stars such as Ramos and Leao. So what now for the fallen idol of club and country? Surely the bench at best against Morocco.

LTA fined £820,000 for ban on Russian players

BBC - The Lawn Tennis Association has been fined £820,000 by the ATP for banning Russian and Belarusian male players from this summer's grass-court events.

The ban was imposed in reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The governing body has also been warned it could lose its ATP membership if a similar decision is made next year.

The LTA says it is "deeply disappointed" and has accused the ATP of showing a "surprising lack of empathy for the situation in Ukraine."

The punishment follows six-figure fines for the LTA and the All England Lawn Tennis Club, who organise Wimbledon, from the WTA for excluding female Russian and Belarusian players.

The ATP, which oversees men's tennis events outside of the Grand Slams, allows Russians and Belarusians to compete in Tour events but not under their national flags.

"The ATP, in its finding, has shown no recognition of the exceptional circumstances created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, or the international sporting community and UK Government's response to that invasion," the LTA said in a statement.

"The ATP appear to regard this matter as a straightforward breach of their rules - with a surprising lack of empathy shown for the situation in Ukraine, and a clear lack of understanding of the unique circumstances the LTA faced."

The LTA has been fined \$200,000 (£164,018) for each of the five ATP events it staged this year: the tour level events at The Queen's Club and Eastbourne, and the Challenger tournaments at Surbiton, Nottingham and Ilkley.

The LTA followed the All England Club's (AELTC) lead when it decided to ban all Russian and Belarusian players from Wimbledon, following government pressure.



Russian Daniil Medvedev was top of the men's world rankings when he was banned from playing Wimbledon in 2022

On Wednesday, Thomas Bach - president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) - said he disagreed with the decision by Wimbledon and the LTA to ban Russian and Belarusian players, saying: "Governments should not decide the grounds on who participates in which sports events. [It] should be on sporting merits, not on political interference."

The women's WTA Tour has already fined the LTA \$750,000 (£615,067) for excluding the players from its grass court events in Nottingham, Birmingham and Eastbourne.

The LTA's strongly worded statement continued with a warning that the fine will affect future tournaments being staged in the UK.

"The financial impact of both this fine and the WTA's fine will have a material impact on the LTA's ability to develop and host tennis in this country," it continued.

"For example, we had intended to host a number of ATP Challenger level events to give more opportunities to lower ranked players in the first quarter of 2023 and will now not be able to do this, particularly given the possibility of further fines.

"We will carefully consider our response and we await the outcome of our appeal against the WTA's decision and sanction."

Both the ATP and the WTA stripped Wimbledon of ranking points this year, and it has not been lost on the LTA that points will be awarded at this month's United Cup - despite Russian players being excluded.

The ATP will donate the fine to humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

Another very sensitive decision awaits the AELTC and the LTA in the spring. With no end to the war in Ukraine in sight, the two organisations will have to decide whether they are prepared to incur the wrath of governing bodies and some players by banning Russians and Belarusians once again.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Michelle Donelan said: "Despite widespread condemnation, the international tennis tours are determined to be outcasts in this, with investment in the growth of our domestic game hampered as a result.

"This is the wrong move by the ATP and WTA. I urge them to think carefully about the message this sends, and to reconsider."

Williams impressive with 54* but England take series

England Women took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the CG United One Day International series against the West Indies Women, winning the second match by another big margin on Tuesday night. England won the toss and elected to bat first on the pitch that yielded them 300+ in the first CG United ODI, which they won comfortably by 142 runs and secured two ICC Women's Championship points.

England found it difficult to get the scoring going as the West Indies bowlers were more accurate in their lines and lengths than the first match.

The opening pair of Tammy Beaumont and Emma Lamb who replaced the injured Alice Capsey, posted 42 before Lamb was run out by Shemaine Campbell for 25.

Sophia Dunkley got her Caribbean campaign off to a start when she shared a 51-run partnership with skipper Heather Knight who made 25 with two fours off 30 balls to get the English tally going. At this point England were 133-4 in the 25th over.

Dunkley carried on reaching her fifth ODI half-century, she eventually fell for 57 off 56 balls with seven fours.

Amy Jones came in at No.6 and lifted the total with a breezy 70 which



required just 63 balls and included eight fours as England reached 260 all out in 48.1 overs. Hayley Matthews led the way with the ball, finishing with figures of 9.1-0-50-3 followed by Afy Fletcher 10-1-41-2 and Aaliyah Alleyne 8-0-47-2.

In their run chase, West Indies got off to a bad start as skipper Hayley Matthews and Kycia Knight both fell in the second over to Lauren Bell. Both batters were enticed to drive the ball, Matthews caught at first slip and Knight by the keeper.

The West Indies top order slumped to the English bowling attack. They lost five wickets inside seven overs with the score on 28. Chinelle Henry batting at No. 7 and Rashada Williams were the only pair that looked the part to carry a fight until the end of the innings, putting on 35 runs together before Henry fell for 13. Prior to that partnership, Williams added 20 with Chedean Nation (17) and 21 with Shabika Gajnabi.

Williams brought up her second ODI half-century to remain on 54 not out off 80 balls which included four fours and a six as the West Indies were all out for 118 in 31.3 overs. Lauren Bell was the pick of the England bowlers, finishing with figures of 8-0-35-2 followed by Charlie Dean with 3.3-0-9-2. Jones for her top score and four catches behind the stumps was named the CG United Player-of-the-Match.

West Indies Women's head coach Courtney Walsh was disappointed by the performance, telling CWI Media, "In both games we haven't batted well. We were a lot better with the ball in this game on a good batting track and for the score where we had them at 260, I thought we would have batted better. We lost those early wickets and just never recovered.

"The batters can take a lot from Rashada's performance. I am pleased with how she went about it and

showed that it can be done. We have a lot at stake with one game remaining and we need to get championship points.

"Our momentum is good but performance and execution, we have to try and get better."

The teams meet again on Friday at the same venue for the 3rd CG United ODI in a Day/Night encounter. First ball is at 2:00pm Eastern Caribbean/1:00pm Jamaica time.

The third CG United ODI in Antigua and Barbuda will be free for local and visiting fans as it falls on V. C. Bird Day, a national holiday, and is being supported by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Fans who purchase tickets will receive their tickets securely into their online Windies Tickets account to save to their mobile device or print out for presentation at the stadium, avoiding the need to queue at or travel to the stadium ticket offices. Ticket offices at each venue will be open on the day of each match.

All matches will be available to view in the West Indies live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel as well as on the ESPN Play app. Fans in the UK will be able to view on BT Sport with fans based in the USA able to watch live on ESPN+.

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Jennings United and Real Blizzard win again in Second Division League

Jennings United and Real Blizzard notched up their second win in as many matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Second Division on Tuesday, 6th December.

Shaquille Watkins and Daryl Massicotte each scored a brace as Jennings United romped to a 4-0 win against FC Master Ballers at the Jennings playing field.

Watkins scored in the 3rd and 53rd minutes, while Massicotte had conversions in the 22nd and 90th minute.

Malachi Ramsey and Amos Christian scored on either side of halftime to give Real Blizzard a 2-0 win over CPTSA Wings at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Ramsey's 16th minute conversion gave Real Bliz-



The Real Blizzard team that started their ABFA's Second Division game against CPTSA Wings at the New Winthorpes playing field on Tuesday, 6th December, 2022. (Photo courtesy Real Blizzard FC)

zard a 1-0 halftime advantage and Christian sealed his team's victory by scoring in the 77th minute.

All the goals came in the first half as ABAYA and English Harbour battled to a 2-2 draw at the Parham playing field in the other second division match on

Tuesday.

Uriah Turner gave ABAYA an early lead with a 3rd minute conversion. Wayne Phillip equalized for English Harbour by scoring in the 16th minute.

ABAYA regained the lead when Zidane Smith scored in the 24th minute

only for Nigel Graham to score in the 38th minute to snatch English Harbour's second equalizer.

Bendals and JSC Progressors also fought to a 2-2 draw in Tuesday's lone first division encounter at the Bendals playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Andris Anthony scored an own goal in the 50th minute to give JSC Progressors a 1-0 lead.

Jahbendigo Jacobs scored in the 73rd minute to equalize for Bendals and Darren Stevens gave the home side a 2-1 lead by scoring in the 77th minute.

However, Bendals were denied their second win of the season as Jahquane Richards scored in the 80th minute to equalize and salvage a share of the points for JSC Progressors.

Jennings beat SNRA in Under-16 Boys' football league

There was success for Jennings Secondary in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Tuesday, 6th December.

Marius Andrew scored twice to give Jennings Secondary a 2-1 win over Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) in their Under-16 Boys' Division affair in the first match of a double header at the Potters playing field.

Isjaunte Isadore scored for Sir Novelle Richards Academy. Isadore also found the back of the net when he scored for Sir Novelle Richards Academy in a 1-1 draw with the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing

Education (ABICE) in their East Zone Under-20 Boys' Division encounter in the second match at Potters.

The Secondary Schools' Football League will continue with matches in the Under-16 and Under-20 Boys' Divisions today, Thursday, 8th December.

At 2:15 pm, Clare Hall Secondary will tackle Irene B. Williams at the Potters playing field, while Princess Margaret Schools will meet Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Golden Grove playing field.

In the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division, All Saints Secondary

will take on the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) at the Police Recreation Ground at 3 pm, while Pares Secondary will clash with Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Potters playing field at 3:15 pm.

In the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division, Princess Margaret School will meet Antigua State College at the Golden Grove playing field at 3:15 pm, while Antigua Grammar School will face cupholders Ottos Comprehensive School at the Princess Margaret School's playing field at 3 pm.



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ABHF to host inaugural handball competition

The Antigua and Barbuda Handball Federation (ABHF) will be hosting its inaugural competition on Sunday, 11th December.

The event will take place at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex, starting at 6:30 pm.

The Force, The Black Team, and the under 16 teams of The Faithfulls and Future Stars are the teams that will battle for the title in the association's inaugural event.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Handball Federation Cliff Williams said the participating teams mainly comprised Antiguan players who are also part of the resident Spanish-speaking community.

"The teams have been preparing for a while now. We have managed to get into a community that really like handball. It is within their nature. Most of the teams comprised players of the Spanish community, but most of them who are born in Antigua," Williams said.

Active participation in the sports of handball has declined significantly since it was first introduced in the twin-island nation by the current President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Association (ABNOC), Paul Chet Greene in 2011.



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Handball Federation Cliff Williams (File photo)

Sunday's competition is part of the federation's efforts to expand and develop the sport in the twin-island state.

Williams said its inability to get the right facility had delayed the national handball federation's staging of its first ever competition.

"They have been practicing for a while and we were hoping to have the tournament much earlier. We had issues in finding the right facilities. They have been practicing on hard courts and getting damage in terms of the fall that comes from scoring and that sort of thing.

"So we had to work to-

wards getting a better surface, which we tried the JSC, but now we got the relationship with the volleyball association to use their facility so things are coming on pretty well."

Williams said he is anticipating a good display by the teams in Sunday's competition.

"I expect a good showing. Most of the basic knowledge is being taught and learned and they have been practicing. I am expecting a commendable performance in terms of the four teams," Williams said.

"It is something to start with. I am not someone who gets carried away with training, I am more for compe-

tition so the first chance I get is to hold a tournament of this sort and build from there.

"After this, we will probably put on another tournament or league and then continue to improve to try and compete outside of Antigua."

The Antigua and Barbuda Handball Federation is asking the general public to come out and show their support for this new sport and is reminding the public that they are presently recruiting persons who are interested in playing the game.

The winning team on Sunday will continue to prepare to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the 2023 International Handball Federation's (IHF) Emerging Nations League to be held in the Caribbean region in the first half of the year.

The North America and the Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) is the governing body of the Olympic sport of handball and beach handball in North America and the Caribbean region.

It is affiliated with the world governing body for the sport, the International Handball Federation. The NACHC has 21 member countries located within North America and the Caribbean.

Wadadli Elite to contest Montserrat Basketball Invitational Tournament

A 12-member contingent of the Wadadli Elite Academy will be representing Antigua and Barbuda in the Montserrat Basketball Invitational Tournament that will shoot off on the Emerald Isle on Sunday, 11th December.

Chief Executive Officer and assistant coach Byron Andrew said the Wadadli Elite, which will be led by point guard Jaden Andrew and shooting guard Tequan Broodie, will include guest player Remy Brewster.

"So, there is going to be a player party of 10 players with head coach Irwin 'Wanga' Armstrong and myself assisting Mr. Armstrong. It will be led by our point guard Jaden Andrew along with Tequan Broodie, who is our shooting guard," Andrew said.

"We have a guest player coming in to join us by the name of Remy Brewster. We are very excited about him joining us for this tour and I know the people in Montserrat are going to have a good time seeing these young players participating."

The rest of the players are Ronde Davis, Shaheem Omarde, Lopez Adams, Dominick Anthony, Teran Zachariah, Rashaun Harry and Orion Seraphin.

According to officials from the Montserrat Amateur Basketball Association, the games will run from Sunday, 11th December to Thursday, 15th December, at the Little Bay Sports Centre.

The Wadadli Elites of Antigua & Barbuda are expected to compete against the Skillful Ballers from the British Virgin Islands, a team from St. Kitts & Nevis and home team Montserrat Shamrocks.



Players of the Wadadli Elite Academy will be representing Antigua and Barbuda in the Montserrat Basketball Invitational Tournament that will shoot off on the Emerald Isle on Sunday, 11th December. (Photo courtesy Wadadli Elite Academy)

Andrew said he is expecting his Under-23 players to rise to the occasion and give a good account of themselves in the tournament which is geared towards players who are under 26 years old.

"We are really looking forward to this tournament. It will bring in order some of the younger players to step up to the plate. This is an Under-26 tournament, most of our players are Under-23, but we think that we will do very good," Andrew stated.

"We think we have the players that can hold their own in this tournament and we are very excited for them."

There will be two games per night during the tournament. Following the 6 pm opening ceremony on Sunday, St. Kitts & Nevis will play the BVI at 7 pm. Montserrat Shamrocks will play the Wa-

dadli Elite later that night.

On 12th December, the Wadadli Elite will face St. Kitts & Nevis at 7 pm, and Montserrat Shamrocks will take on the Skillful Ballers of the BVI right after.

On 13th December, the Skillful Ballers will challenge the Wadadli Elite and Montserrat Shamrocks will oppose St. Kitts & Nevis.

The semi-final games will be played on 14th December and the final will take place on 15th December, which will be followed by the presentation of awards to bring the competition to an end.

The tournament is being sponsored by the Government of Montserrat's Sports Department, Bank of Montserrat Ltd., Serra, Caribbean Alliance, Montserrat Tourism Division, Montserrat Stationery Centre and Ken Cassell.