

ARMED MASKED MEN STORM CHSS

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The inauguration ceremony for the installation of the new Director of the Pan American Health, Dr Jarbas Barbosa, was presided over by Antigua and Barbuda's Sir Molwyn Joseph as First Vice President of PAHO. In this photo, Sir Molwyn is being greeted by Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador, Sir Ronald Sanders. At right is Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS.

Mayhem at CHSS, armed masked men invade

Calls are mounting for armed guards to be placed in public schools to ensure the safety of students and teachers following an incident at Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) that has left the campus shaken.

Classes ended abruptly yesterday after two masked men scaled the back fence of the school - one armed with a cutlass, the other with a golf club - in search of a male student.

The incident took place at approximately 12:35pm.

A source confirmed that after the men entered the school's compound, male teachers intervened which caused the masked attackers to retreat.

An eyewitness recounted the chaos that ensued at CHSS as both pupils and teachers ran for cover.

There are also reports that some students fainted due to fright over the unfolding situation.

The police have been credited for responding

swiftly to the call for help from the school's management, but both attackers escaped the area before their arrival.

Although they have not yet been identified, the masked invaders are believed to be teens or young adults.

Shortly after the incident, CHSS's principal, Ashworth Azille, convened a general assembly at about 12:55pm in which he announced that school was being dismissed.

The parents of the student who was the target of the attack were summoned to the school to discuss the incident and take charge of the custody of their child, who was unharmed.

As news of the incident spread, people have taken to social media to call for the government to act swiftly to improve security in public schools.

Some parents and guardians of children who attend CHSS vowed not to



A witness to the attack at CHSS was able to capture this photograph of one of the attackers, seen here wielding a metal golf club, on their mobile phone as they took cover in a nearby classroom.

send their children back to school for the rest of this week for fear that the perpetrators of Tuesday's at-

tack might return.

2022 was marred by several violent attacks involving school children. Several students, mostly male, sustained injuries, some of which were severe.

In every instance, the perpetrators escaped.

Pointe Xpress made several unsuccessful attempts on Tuesday to reach the Director of Education, Clare Browne, for his response to the incident at CHSS.

Wed 01 Day 80° ☀️ Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High around 80F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.		Wed 01 Night 73° 🌙 Mostly clear. Low 73F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.	
☔ Humidity 68%	☀️ UV Index 9 of 10	☔ Humidity 77%	☀️ UV Index 0 of 10
🌅 Sunrise 6:38 am	🌇 Sunset 6:02 pm	🌕 Moonrise 2:40 pm	🌑 Moonset 3:29 am ○ Waxing Gibbous

Two men robbed in armed home invasion

The police have thus far been unsuccessful in finding the perpetrators responsible for the armed robbery at an apartment in the Obeez complex on Sir Sydney Walling Highway on Saturday.

Robbery victim, Francisco Vasquez, related to police that three masked gunmen forced their way into his home at approximately 3:00am on Saturday.

Vasquez said he heard a knock at his apartment door and rose to see who was outside.

On opening the door, he



saw a man who he did not know sitting in the gap.

As he was about to close the door, three masked men who were armed with guns that were trained on

Vasquez forced their way into his home. Vasquez and his roommate were ordered by the gunmen to lie on the ground.

The robbers then ran-

sacked the apartment and stole jewellery, US\$10,000, EC\$5,000 and an iPhone 13 Pro Max before making good their escape.

Neither victim sustained injuries during the ordeal.

The police's investigation has been made more difficult as Vasquez and his roommate were unable to identify their attackers.

Despite questioning several people in relation to the robbery, police have not yet been able to get the breakthrough that will allow them to solve the crime.

FEBRUARY IS
BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

ABEC pleased with general elections

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) has reported that they are pleased with the conduct of the 18th January general elections.

On Tuesday, ABEC credited its dedicated staff and the availability of adequate financing, along with its ability to purchase vital equipment and supplies that ensured elections were conducted smoothly.

At a press conference held yesterday, however, the commission made a point of dispelling several misconceptions that have been circulating about the elections. Among them was the claim that the Register for Elections was published later than prescribed by the law. Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon, dismissed this suggestion.

“We consulted with our legal counsel and because of the public holidays, [between the issuance of the Writ of Elections and publication of register}, we are confident that it was published on the correct date.

“In any event, Section 27 (4) of the [elections] Act noted that anything in connection with the printing and publication of the register of electors for Elections, ABEC has the right to select the date by which the register is published.

“If we thought that

we had done something wrong, the commission could issue an order to correct that. We are, however, confident that we are correct,” she explained.

Dame Lorna also addressed claims that the supposed lateness of the publication of the register did not allow claims and objections to be heard. “Let me dispel that right away: no objections can be made on the Register for Elections. Objections are made when the Revised List is published with the names of those individuals, who registered up to the end of November, 2022.

“The period for claims and objections ended on January 9, 2023, and no further claims and objections are allowed after that date,” she explained.

Dame Lorna also addressed the concerns raised by one of the visiting election observer groups regarding the removal of the names of dead people from the register of electors.

She said there is a procedure in place to remove deceased people from the list which is carried out in collaboration with the Civil Registry, as death certificates and hymn sheets from the funerals are collected as part of the verification of the death of a person.

“There is a letter that goes to the Civil Registry, and we collect the death



Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon

certificates. We need proof that a person has passed that can be verified. Currently, there is no automatic notification from the Civil Registry to our offices; we have to request the information,” Dame Lorna noted.

She also urged the public to inform ABEC of deaths they are aware of. This will aid in overcoming one of the challenges the commission encounters; when often the name

placed on a hymn sheet does not correspond with the name under which the person registered to vote.

According to the ABEC official, it is inevitable that the names of deceased persons will appear in the register as people die every day, however, the assurance was given that the number of deceased people who appear on the list at any time is significantly lower than the public is misled to believe.

New Utilities Minister proposes “community-based” solutions to water woes

Minister of Utilities, Melford Nicholas, has promised a new approach to resolving the water issue that has plagued the country for years.

Nicholas revealed that since his appointment following the 18th January general elections, he has had at least two meetings with the senior staff of APUA as well as with members of the Water Business Unit.

“I decided that I would use a softer approach when I met with the senior staff. I think that they were presently surprised that I did not come in with any hostility. Instead, I came with a desire to find out more.

“What I said to them



is that we have to change the orientation; we have to become customer-focused and solution oriented.

“I had to say to one senior manager that they misled the cabinet - as so much more lied beneath the surface- and they were not speaking out.

“So, we are going

to move to a community-based solution to the water issue,” Nicholas reported.

Sea View Farm was used as an example of how APUA and the ministry will cooperate to solve problems efficiently and creatively.

This community is trou-

bled by low water pressure which causes customers to be without the commodity even when water is being pumped into the area.

Minister Nicholas said discussions are being held to find solutions to situations like this.

Nicholas also gave the commitment that town hall meetings will be held at which APUA’s consumers will have the opportunity to offer their input as solutions are sought out that will resolve the water problem. These town halls will begin in Sea View Farm and will continue next in Old Road, which also experiences deficiencies in water service due to challenges with low pressure.

Guys and Dolls
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SNRA targeted by vandals again

Public school administrators remain hopeful that the government will move with urgency to beef up security on school plants as cases of vandalism and break-ins resurface.

The latest incident occurred between Friday evening and Saturday morning at Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA).

Information gleaned indicates that unknown persons ventured onto the school compound where they used a heavy object to shatter a glass window to gain access to the office of the Parent Coordinator.

There were no reports of any of the school's property being removed.

The cost of the damage to the window has not been disclosed.

Days before the vandalism at SNRA, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda agreed to enhance security measures in public schools, fulfilling a commitment that was made in the months preceding the general elections.

Days before the vandalism at SNRA, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda agreed that more security features, specifically CCTV cameras and alarm systems, will be installed at public schools.

Cabinet's decision followed the recent disclosure by Minister of Edu-

cation, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, that the break-ins have continued to occur.

Last week, Information Minister Melford Nicholas confirmed that the security equipment will be installed by March this year.

"I did indicate last year when there was the little upheaval from the Teachers' Union that there was time needed to study and evaluate, and my own ministry would have received the proof of concept in December and I did indicate to the minister of education that we are now in a position to get the full costings so that we can roll such a programme out in this first quarter."

American tourist fined on drug possession charge

A New Yorker visiting Antigua and Barbuda found himself on the wrong side of the law when he was arrested and taken to court to face drug possession charges.

Police detained Bernard Benko last Friday after he consented to a search in which a gram of cocaine was discovered.

Benko had purchased the cocaine, which had a value of about \$35, when he arrived with his family on



vacation on a cruise ship.

The American was detained at the St. John's Po-

lice Station as he was required to appear before the Magistrates' Court on Mon-

day.

His family continued their journey without him on Friday evening when the ship departed.

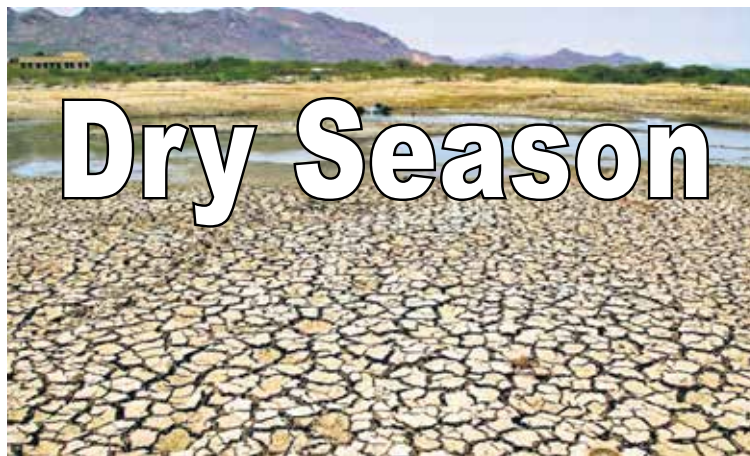
Benko was fined \$100 on the possession charge.

The arresting officers, however, were chided by the court for failing to process and bring Benko before the court on Friday so that he could have had the opportunity to leave the country with his family.

Caribbean Dry season forecast to be somewhat less intense for next three months

The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) Monday said with the likely exception of The Bahamas, Cayman Islands and Cuba, the core of the dry season over the next three months is forecast to be somewhat less intense than usual, with a few more wet days and wet spells than usual.

In its latest edition of the Caribbean Climate Outlook, CariCOF said with little chance of excessive rainfall through March, “marginal to slight potential for flooding, flash floods and cascading hazards is forecasted for most areas.



“This potential is expected to increase to moderate in April. In contrast, drought concerns will likely continue in Cuba and dry spells are expected to be frequent across the region. No significant episodes of heat discomfort are expected through March,

but heat waves may occur in April, particularly in Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad,” CariCOF noted.

It said as of January I this year, moderate or worse short-term drought has developed in Cuba, and eastern and southern Jamaica, while

worse long-term drought has developed in Cuba, eastern and southern Jamaica, and northern Suriname.

At the end of May this year, long-term drought is evolving in Central and Eastern Cuba, and may possibly develop or continue in western Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and St. Vincent.

“Rainfall totals from February to April are likely to be no higher or even lower than usual in The Bahamas, Cayman Islands and Cuba, but at least as high as usual in the Guianas, Hispaniola, the US Caribbean territories and the islands south of Guadeloupe. (CMC)

In Haiti, gangs take control as democracy withers

By Megan Janetsky and Pierre Richard Luxama

Jimmy Cherizier zips through Haiti's capital on the back of a motorcycle, flanked by young men wielding black and leopard print masks and automatic weapons.

As the pack of bikes flies by graffiti reading "Mafia boss" in Creole, street vendors selling vegetables, meats and old clothes on the curb cast their eyes to the ground or peer curiously.

Cherizier, best known by his childhood nickname Barbecue, has become the most recognized name in Haiti.

And here in his territory, enveloped by the tin-roofed homes and bustling streets of the informal settlement La Saline, he is the law.

Internationally, he's known as Haiti's most powerful and feared gang leader, sanctioned by the United Nations for "serious human rights abuses," and the man behind a fuel blockade that brought the Caribbean nation to its knees late last year.

But if you ask the former police officer with gun tattoos running up his arm, he's a "revolutionary," advocating against a corrupt government that has left a nation of 12 million people in the dust.

"I'm not a thief. I'm not involved in kidnapping. I'm not a rapist. I'm just carrying out a social fight," Cherizier, leader of "G9 Family and Allies," told The Associated Press while sitting in a chair in the middle of an empty road in the shadow of a home with windows shattered by bullets. "I'm a threat to the system."

At a time when democracy has withered in Haiti and gang violence has spiralled out of control, it's armed men like Cherizier that are filling the power vacuum left by a crumbling



Jimmy Cherizier, the leader of the "G9 et Famille" gang, talks with members of his gang while taking a ride on the back of a motorcycle in his district of Delmas 6 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. Cherizier, best known by his childhood nickname Barbecue, has become the most recognized name in Haiti. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

government. In December, the U.N. estimated that gangs controlled 60% of Haiti's capital, but nowadays most on the streets of Port-au-Prince say that number is closer to 100%.

"There is, democratically speaking, little-to-no legitimacy" for Haiti's government, said Jeremy McDermott, a head of InSight Crime, a research centre focused on organised crime. "This gives the gangs a stronger political voice and more justification to their claims to be the true representatives of the communities."

It's something that conflict victims, politicians, analysts, aid organisations, security forces and international observers fear will only get worse. Civilians, they worry, will face the brunt of the consequences.

Haiti's history has long been tragic. Home of the largest slave uprising in the Western Hemisphere, the country achieved independence from France in 1804, ahead of other countries in the

region.

But it's long been the poorest country in the hemisphere, and Haiti in the 20th century endured a bloody dictatorship that lasted until 1986 and brought about the mass execution of tens of thousands of Haitians.

The country has been plagued by political turmoil since, while suffering waves of devastating earthquakes, hurricanes and cholera outbreaks.

The latest crisis entered full throttle following the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. In his absence, current Prime Minister Ariel Henry emerged in a power struggle as the country's leader.

Haiti's nearly 200 gangs have taken advantage of the chaos, warring for control.

Tension hums in Port-au-Prince. Police checkpoints dot busy intersections, and graffiti tags reading "down with Henry" can be spotted in every

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part of the city. Haitians walk through the streets with a restlessness that comes from knowing that anything could happen at any moment.

An ambulance driver returning from carrying a patient told the AP he was kidnapped, held for days and asked to pay \$1 million to be set free.

Such ransoms are now commonplace, used by gangs to fund their warfare.

An average of four people are kidnapped a day in Haiti, according to U.N. estimates.

The U.N. registered nearly 2,200 murders in 2022, double the year before. Women in the country describe brutal gang rapes in areas controlled by gangs. Patients in trauma units are caught in the crossfire, ravaged by gunshots from either gangs or police.

“No one is safe,” said Peterson Pean, a man with a bullet lodged in his face from being shot by police after failing to stop at a police checkpoint on his way home from work.

Meanwhile, a wave of grisly killings of police officers by gangs has spurred outrage and protests by Haitians.

Following the slaying of six officers, video circulating on social media – likely filmed by gangs – showed six naked bodies stretched out on the dirt with guns on their chests. Another shows two masked men using officers’ dismembered limbs to hold their cigarettes while



A woman and her daughter run past a barricade that was set up by police protesting bad police governance in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph, File)

they smoke.

“Gang-related violence has reached levels not seen in years ... touching near all segments of society,” said Helen La Lime, U.N. special envoy for Haiti, in a late January Security Council meeting.

Henry, the prime minister, has asked the U.N. to lead a military intervention, but many Haitians insist that’s not the solution, citing past consequences of foreign intervention in Haiti. So far, no country has been willing to put boots on the ground.

The warfare has extended past historically violence-torn areas, now consuming mansion-lined streets previously considered relatively safe.

La Lime highlighted turf wars between Cherizier’s group, G9, and another, G-Pep, as one of the key

drivers.

In October, the U.N. slammed Cherizier with sanctions, including an arms embargo, an asset freeze and a travel ban.

The body accused him of carrying out a bloody massacre in La Saline, economically paralyzing the country, and using armed violence and rape to threaten “the peace, security, and stability of Haiti.”

At the same time, despite not being elected into power and his mandate timing out, Henry, whose administration declined a request for comment, has continued at the helm of a skeleton government. He has pledged for a year and a half to hold general elections, but has failed to do so.

In early January, the country lost its final democratically elected institution when the terms of 10 sena-

tors symbolically holding office ended their term.

It has turned Haiti into a de-facto “dictatorship,” said Patrice Dumont, one of the senators.

He said even if the current government was willing to hold elections, he doesn’t know if it would be possible due to gangs’ firm grip on the city.

“Citizens are losing trust in their country. (Haiti) is facing social degradation,” Dumont said. “We were already a poor country, and we became poorer because of this political crisis.”

At the same time, gang leaders like Cherizier have increasingly invoked political language, using the end of the senators’ terms to call into question Henry’s power.

“The government of Ariel Henry is a de-facto
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government. It's a government that has no legitimacy," Cherizier said.

Cherizier, a handgun tucked into the back of his jeans, took the AP around his territory in La Saline, explaining the harsh conditions communities live in. He denies allegations against him, saying the sanctions imposed on him are based on lies.

Cherizier, who would not tell the AP where his money came from, claims he's just trying to provide security and improve conditions in the zones he controls.

Cherizier walked through piles of trash and past malnourished children touting an iPhone with a photo of his face on the back. A drone belonging to his team monitoring his security follows him as he weaves through rows of packed homes made of metal sheets and wooden planks.

Tailed by a cluster of heavily armed men in masks, he would not allow the AP to film or take photos of his guards and their weapons.

"We're the bad guys, but we're not the bad-bad guys," one of the men told an AP video journalist as he led her through a packed market.

While some have speculated that Cherizier would run for office if elections were held, Cherizier insists that he wouldn't.

What is clear, said McDermott, of InSight Crime, is that gangs are reaping rewards for the political chaos.

InSight Crime estimates that before the killing of the president, Cherizier's federation of gangs, G9, got half of its money from the government, 30% from kidnappings and 20% from extortions. After the killing, government funding dipped significantly, according to the organisation.

Yet his gangs have significantly grown in power after the group blocked the distribution of fuel from Port-au-Prince's key fuel terminal for two months late last year.

The blockade paralyzed the country in the midst of a cholera outbreak and gave other gangs footholds to expand. Cherizier claimed the blockade was in protest of rising inflation, government corruption and deepening inequality in Haiti.

Today, G9 controls much of the centre of Port-au-Prince and fights for power elsewhere.

"The political Frankenstein long ago lost control of the gang monster," McDermott said. "They are now rampaging across the country with no restraint, earning money any way they can, kidnapping foremost."

Civilians like 9-year-old Christina Julien are among those who pay the price.

The smiling girl with dreams of being a doctor wakes up curled on the floor of her aunt's porch next to her parents and two sisters.

She's one of at least 155,000 people in Port-Au-Prince alone that have been forced to flee their homes due to the violence. It's been four months since she has been able to sleep in her own bed.

Their neighbourhood in the northern fringes of the city once was safe. But she and her mother, 48-year-old Sandra Sainteluz, said things began to shift last year.

The once bustling streets emptied out. At night, gunfire would ring outside their window and when neighbours would set off fireworks, Christina would ask her mother if they were bullets.

"When there were shootings I couldn't go in the yard, I couldn't go see my friends, I had to stay in the house," Christina said. "I had to always lay down on the floor with my mother, my father, my sister and my brother."

Christina started having heart palpitations due to the stress and Sainteluz, a teacher, worried for her daughter's health. At the same time, Sainteluz and her husband feared their kids could get

kidnapped on the way to school.

In October, during Cherizier's blockade, armed men belonging to the powerful 400 Mawozo gang stormed their neighbourhood. That same gang was behind the kidnapping of 17 missionaries in 2021.

Christina saw a group of men with guns from a friend's house and ran home. She told Sainteluz, "Mommy we have to leave, we have to leave. I just saw the gangsters passing by with their weapons, we need to leave!"

They packed everything they could carry, and sought refuge in the small, two-bedroom home of family members in another part of the city.

Life here is not easy, said Sainteluz, the main provider for her family.

"I felt desperate going to live in someone else's home with so many children. I left everything, I left with just two bags," she said.

Sainteluz scrambles to scrub clothes, cook soup for her family in the dirt-floored kitchen and help Christina sitting on an empty gasoline container meticulously doing her math homework.

Whenever a gust of wind blows through the nearby hills, the rusted metal rooftop of the house they share with 10 other people shudders.

The mother once worked as a primary school teacher, earning 6,000 Haitian gourdes (\$41) a month. She had to stop teaching two years ago due to the violence. Now she sells slushies on the side of the road, earning a fraction of what she once made.

Young Christina said she misses her friends and her Barbie dolls.

But, the sacrifice is worth it, Sainteluz said. Over the past few months, she's heard horror stories of her daughter's classmates getting kidnapped, neighbours having to pay ransoms of \$40,000 and killings right outside their house.

At least here they feel safer. For now, she added.

Jamaica to crack down on the illegal sale of driver's licences

CMC - The Jamaica government says it will introduce legislation to deal with the illegal sale of driver's licences.

"We have an unfortunate situation in our country where some people are buying their

driver's licence. They are not taking a test for it... they are buying it," said Transport and Mining Minister, Audley Shaw, noting that the full arm of the law will be brought to bear against persons who

have been selling and illegally obtaining driver's licences.

Shaw said that for too long the practice of "purchasing licences" has gone unabated, allowing persons, many with no driving experi-

ence, to be on the road operating motor vehicles.

"This has resulted in unqualified and inexperienced persons getting motor vehicles... going at excessive

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Criminal Case against Barbados' former deputy speaker adjourned to March

CMC - The unlawful sexual intercourse case against Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, Neil Rowe, has been adjourned to March 20 after he made an appearance in the Oistins Magistrates' Court on Monday with a new lawyer.

Rowe, 43 has been charged with having unlawful sexual intercourse with a female without her consent, or was reckless as to whether she consented, on September 18, 2022.

Last October, when he appeared before Magistrate Deidre McKenna, Rowe was represented by King's Counsel Roger Forde.

But on Monday, he was represented by a battery of lawyers including Kings Counsels Ralph Thorne and Michael Lashley.

Rowe, who was not required to plead to the indictable charges on his previous appearance, continues on BDS\$10 000 bail.



Neil Rowe

Trinidad records lowest temperature in a decade

CMC - Trinidad and Tobago Monday recorded its lowest temperature in January for the past decade with the country's Meteorological Service (TTMS) reporting that Trinidad "experienced a record-breaking cold night."

According to the TTMS, the minimum temperature cooled to 65 degrees Fahrenheit at Piarco Airport, during the pre-dawn hours on Monday.

"This was due to colder air from the north encroaching on Trinidad and Tobago where the winds were mostly calm, with pre-existing very dry conditions and al-



most cloud free skies for most of the night".

"This is the lowest temperature recorded at Piarco for January during the last decade, since 2012. The lowest minimum temperature on record at Piarco is 61 degrees Fahrenheit which

occurred on the nights of January 21 and 30, 1964, followed by 62 degrees Fahrenheit on the night of January 28, 1976".

The TTMS said although there was a slow start to the cool season, the first half of this month had

cool temperatures in the mid to lower 60's degrees Fahrenheit "eventually dropping to low 60's during the second half of January and culminating during the last week with morning temperatures below 68 degrees Fahrenheit".

It said that there is a high probability that cool nights will continue into the first week of February "and possibly drop lower than 65 degrees Fahrenheit, urging persons, who are susceptible to lower temperature and who experience respiratory problems to be proactive and wear warm and/or extra clothing.

St. Lucia police warn they are prepared to “push back” against crime

CMC - The Royal St. Lucia Police Force (RSLPF) is warning persons against challenging or interrupting law enforcement officials from performing their duties following an incident in the capital last weekend when police tried to apprehend persons brandishing weapons.

In a statement, the police said last Friday night they received “information of persons brandishing firearms and possible assaults with said firearms” at an area just on the outskirts of the capital.

The police said a police team was sent to the area and “upon arrival, the officers observed the disorder and immediately attempted to quell the situation.

“Whilst doing so, a male proceeded to physically attempt to prevent the officers from conducting searches of suspected persons; that individual assaulted a police

officer and was detained by other officers present.”

But the police said a crowd gathered and persons “repeatedly grabbed the male suspect, as well as police personnel, in an effort to free the man from lawful custody.

“Missiles were also thrown at the officers and the police vehicle, which was parked nearby. The team of officers eventually left the area with the male suspect, who remains in custody in relation to charges of obstruction, assault, resisting arrest, use of obscene language, and damage to property.

“The actions of the male who is currently in custody and other persons within the crowd, obstructed the police in the execution of their lawful duties. Their actions were deliberate attempts to prevent the officers from finding and seizing illegal guns from persons who were in



Assistant Commissioner of Police George Nicholas

the area,” the statement said.

The police said it is “unlawful for anyone to obstruct the police during the execution of their sworn duty to protect citizens and maintain law and order.

“It is also dangerous for persons who engage in such illegal behaviour as the police are authorised in law to use deadly force if the situation demands it. It is impossible to achieve our crime

reduction mandate without public cooperation.

“Such acts not only embolden criminal elements but restrict the ability of the police to reduce violent crimes,” the police statement said.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner of Police, George Nicholas, said “there seems to be a blatant disregard for law and order in this country to the extent where people resist and even challenge the police.”

Nicholas, while praising law enforcement officers for showing restraint, said the situation that occurred on Friday night “must be dealt with.

“I must applaud the police for exercising restraint, but it’s a situation where the police have to push back. We cannot tolerate that kind of resistance and that kind of disregard to the officers,” Nicholas told reporters.

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speed, with no regard for road and environmental conditions. These are some of the reasons behind the fatal crashes we have been seeing on our roads.

“This is very unfortunate, and as the Minister of Transport and Mining, I am issuing a warning that it is going to end. It is my duty as Minister (to put a stop) to this,” he said.

Shaw said that further compounding the matter is that many youngsters have also been illegally operating motor vehicles, causing havoc and mayhem on the nation’s streets, with no care for their actions.

“Statistics from the Road Safety Unit show that in 2022, 488 people died in crashes, with young people up to 29 years old accounting for 170 deaths... the highest figure of any age cohort.

“Unqualified minors are operating vehicles across the island, contributing to road crashes. We must put a stop to it, and we will be holding persons responsible,” Shaw added.

Under the new Road Traffic Act, a road code test must be taken to be granted a provisional driver’s licence or a learner’s permit. Another test must be successfully completed within six months to obtain a driver’s licence.

Pakistan blames 'security lapse' for mosque blast, 100 dead

AP - Pakistani authorities scrambled Tuesday to determine how a suicide bomber was able to carry out one of the country's deadliest militant attacks in years, unleashing an explosion in a crowded mosque inside a highly secured police compound in the city of Peshawar. The death toll from the blast climbed to 100.

Monday morning's bombing, which left at least 225 wounded, raised alarm among officials over a major security breach at a time when the Pakistani Taliban, the main anti-government militant group, has stepped up attacks, particularly targeting the police and the military.

Who carried out the bombing was unclear. A commander from the Pakistani Taliban, known by the acronym TTP, claimed responsibility, but a spokesman for the group later distanced the TTP from the carnage, saying it was not its policy to attack mosques.

More than 300 worshippers were praying in the Sunni mosque, with more approaching, when the bomber set off his explosives vest, officials said. The blast blew off part of the roof, and what was left caved in, injuring many more, according to Zafar Khan, a police officer.

Rescuers worked through the night and into Tuesday morning, removing mounds



Rescue workers conduct an operation to clear the rubble and search for bodies at the site of Monday's suicide bombing, in Peshawar, Pakistan, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. The death toll from the previous day's suicide bombing at a mosque in northwestern Pakistani rose to more than 85 on Tuesday, officials said. The assault on a Sunni Mosque inside a major police facility was one of the deadliest attacks on Pakistani security forces in recent years. (AP Photo/Muhammad Zubair)

of debris to reach worshippers still trapped under the rubble. The death toll rose as more bodies were found and several of the critically injured died, said Mohammad Asim, a government hospital spokesman in Peshawar.

Most of the victims were police officers, he said.

Counter-terrorism police are investigating how the bomber was able to reach the mosque, which is inside a walled-off police headquarters compound called Police Lines. The compound is located in a heavily security district of Peshawar that includes other government buildings.

"Yes, it was a security lapse," said Ghulam Ali, the provincial governor in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa prov-

ince, of which Peshawar is the capital.

Akhtar Ali Shah, a former regional interior secretary once based in Peshawar, said it "was not a spur of the moment attack."

"It was the handiwork of a well-organised group," he told The Associated Press. He said those behind the attack must have had inside help to gain access to the compound and probably entered it several times for reconnaissance or even to plant explosives ahead of time.

"It's not a security lapse, it's a security breach," he said. "From all entry points, there are multiple layers of security you have to cross" with ID checks.

Talat Masood, a retired army general and senior se-

curity analyst said Monday's suicide bombing showed "negligence."

"When we know that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is active, and when we know that they have threatened to carry out attacks, there should have been more security at the police compound in Peshawar," he told the AP, using the official name of the Pakistani Taliban.

The military's media wing declined an Associated Press interview request for the chief of army staff. Asim Munir, who took office in November, has yet to do any media appearances.

Kamran Bangash, a provincial secretary-general with the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, called for an investigation and blamed the instability on the government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

The government "has failed to improve the economy and law and order situation, and it should resign to pave the way for snap parliamentary elections," he said. The party's leader, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, denounced the attack.

The bombing comes as Pakistan is contending with political and economic crises from a disputed election and from unprecedented floods last summer that killed 1,739 people, destroyed more than 2 million homes, and at one

cont'd on pg 14

Australia deploys more experts, equipment to search for lost radioactive capsule

Reuters - Australian authorities on Tuesday sent out more personnel and specialised detection equipment to search for a tiny radioactive capsule missing somewhere in the outback, including a team from the country's nuclear safety agency.

The capsule is believed to have fallen from a road train - a truck with multiple trailers - that made a 1,400 km (870 mile) journey in Western Australia and its loss has triggered a radiation alert for large parts of the vast state.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services said on Monday that it would



take five days to retrace the road train's route. On Tuesday, it said that 660 km had been searched so far.

The hunt involves a slew of government agencies including the Department of Defence, the police and now

the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency and the Australian Nuclear and Science Technology Organisation.

The capsule was part of a gauge used to measure the density of iron ore feed

that had been entrusted by Rio Tinto Ltd (RIO.AX) to specialist contractor SGS Australia for packaging and unpacking. Transport was then subcontracted out to logistics firm Centurion.

Authorities suspect vibrations from the road train caused the screws and a bolt from the gauge to come loose, and then the capsule fell out. The gauge was picked up from the mine site on Jan. 12 and was unpacked for inspection on Jan. 25 when the loss of the capsule became evident.

Centurion said in a statement that the capsule was *cont'd on pg 15*

cont'd from pg 13

point submerged as much as a third of the country.

Sharif visited a hospital in Peshawar after the bombing and vowed "stern action" against those behind the attack. On Tuesday he dismissed criticism of his government and called for unity. "My message to all political forces is one of unity against anti-Pakistan elements. We can fight our political fights later," he tweeted.

Shortly after the explosion, a Pakistani Taliban commander Sarbakaf Mohmand claimed responsibility for the attack in a post on Twitter.

But hours later, TTP spokesperson Mohammad Khurasani said it was not the group's policy to target mosques, seminaries and religious places and that those taking part in such acts could face punitive action under TTP's policy.

His statement did not address why a TTP commander had claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Pakistan, which is mostly Sunni

Muslim, has seen a surge in militant attacks since November, when the Pakistani Taliban ended a cease-fire with government forces.

The Pakistani Taliban are the dominant militant group in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and Peshawar has been the scene of frequent attacks. In 2014, a Pakistani Taliban faction attacked an army-run school in Peshawar and killed 154, mostly schoolchildren.

But the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, a regional affiliate of the Islamic State group and a rival of the Taliban, has also been behind deadly attacks in Pakistan in recent years.

Overall, violence has increased since the Afghan Taliban seized power in neighbouring Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops pulled out of the country after 20 years of war.

The TTP is separate from but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban. It has waged an insurgency in Pakistan in the past 15 years, seeking stricter enforcement of Islamic laws, the release of its members in

government custody and a reduction in the Pakistani military presence in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province it has long used as its base.

Earlier this month, the Pakistani Taliban claimed one of its members shot and killed two intelligence officers, including the director of the counterterrorism wing of the Inter-Services Intelligence spy agency.

Security officials said Monday the gunman was killed in a shootout near the Afghan border.

The Taliban-run Afghan Foreign Ministry said it was "saddened to learn that numerous people lost their lives" in Peshawar and condemned attacks on worshippers as contrary to the teachings of Islam.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on a visit to the Middle East, tweeted his condolences, saying the bombing in Peshawar was a "horrific attack."

"Terrorism for any reason at any place is indefensible," he said.

Seventh Memphis officer disciplined, EMTs fired in Nichols death

AP - Two more Memphis police officers have been disciplined and three emergency responders fired in connection with the death of Tyre Nichols, officials said Monday, widening the circle of punishment for the shocking display of police brutality after video showed many more people failed to help him beyond the five officers accused of beating him to death.

Officer Preston Hemphill, who is white, was relieved of duty shortly after Nichols' Jan. 7 arrest, the police department announced. Later in the day it said another officer had also been relieved, but without naming the person or specifying what role they played in the incident.

That brought the total number of Memphis officers who have been disci-



A group of demonstrators gather at dusk in Shelby Farms Park on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn., in response to the death of Tyre Nichols, who died after being beaten by Memphis police officers. Nichols, who had a hobby in photography, frequented the park to photograph sunsets. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

plined to seven, including 10 death.

Also Monday, Memphis Fire Department officials announced the dismissal of emergency medical technicians Robert Long and

JaMicheal Sandridge and Lt. Michelle Whitaker. The EMTs had previously been suspended.

Fire Chief Gina Sweat said in a statement that the department received a call from police to respond to a report of a person who had been pepper-sprayed. The workers arrived at 8:41 p.m. as Nichols was handcuffed on the ground and slumped against a squad car, the statement said.

Long and Sandridge, based on the nature of the call and information they were told by police, "failed to conduct an adequate patient assessment of Mr. Nichols," the statement said. Whitaker and the driver remained in the engine.

An ambulance was
cont'd on pg 16

cont'd from pg 14

dislodged from equipment contained in a crate. The transport crate and pallet were supplied by SGS, a Centurion spokesperson told Reuters by phone.

SGS did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Rio has apologised for the loss.

The road train travelled from Rio's Gudai-Darri mine in the state's remote Kimberley region to a storage facility in the suburbs of Perth - a distance longer than the length of Great Britain.

Search crews are travelling north and south along the state's Great Northern Highway as well as other sections of the road train's journey with specialised radiation detection equipment.

"Today's delivery will further boost our

search efforts and complement the equipment we have been using since the search started last Thursday," Darryl Ray, incident controller for the fire and emergency services department, said in a statement.

"The equipment can detect radiation emitted by the missing capsule and is currently being used around the Perth metropolitan area and outskirts."

The silver capsule, 6 mm in diameter and 8 mm long, contains Caesium-137 which emits radiation equal to 10 X-rays per hour.

People have been told to stay at least five metres (16.5 feet) away if they spot it as exposure could cause radiation burns or radiation sickness, though driving past the capsule is believed to be relatively low risk, akin to taking an X-ray.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



cont'd from pg 15

called, and it arrived at 8:55 p.m., the statement said. An emergency unit cared for Nichols and left for a hospital with him at 9:08 p.m. — 27 minutes after Long, Sandridge and Whitaker arrived, officials said.

An investigation determined that all three violated “multiple” policies and protocols, the statement said, adding that “their actions or inactions on the scene that night do not meet the expectations of the Memphis Fire Department.”

The killing of Nichols, who was Black, has led to days of public discussion of how police forces can treat Black citizens with excessive violence, regardless of the race of both the police officers and those being policed.

On body camera footage from the initial stop, Hemphill is heard saying that he stunned Nichols and declaring, “I hope they stomp his ass.”

Nichols’ death was the latest example in a long string of early police accounts regarding use of force that were later shown to have minimised or ignored violent and sometimes deadly encounters.

Memphis Police Department officers used a stun gun, a baton and their fists as they pummeled Nichols during the nighttime arrest. Video shows Nichols running away from officers toward his house after he was pulled over on suspicion of reckless driving. Nichols, a 29-year-old father, was heard calling for his mother and seen struggling with his injuries as he sat helpless on the pavement, video footage released Friday showed.

The five officers chatted and milled about for several minutes as Nichols remained on the ground, but there were other authorities on the scene. Two Shelby County sheriff’s deputies have been relieved of duty without pay while their conduct is investigated.

In the Nichols case, the police department has been responsible for in-

ternal disciplinary measures, such as firings, while the Shelby County district attorney has handled the criminal charges.

Hemphill was the third officer at a traffic stop that preceded the violent arrest but was not at the scene where Nichols was beaten, his lawyer Lee Gerald said. Hemphill turned on his body camera, in line with department policy, he added.

Lawyers for the Nichols family questioned Monday why the department did not disclose Hemphill’s discipline earlier and why he has not been fired or charged.

“We have asked from the beginning that the Memphis Police Department be transparent with the family and the community — this news seems to indicate that they haven’t risen to the occasion,” attorneys Ben Crump and Anthony Romanucci said in a statement. “It certainly begs the question why the white officer involved in this brutal attack was shielded and protected from the public eye, and to date, from sufficient discipline and accountability.”

Memphis police spokeswoman Karen Rudolph said information on disciplinary action taken against Hemphill was not immediately released because Hemphill was not fired. The department generally gives out information about an officer’s punishment only after a department investigation into misconduct ends, Rudolph said.

Memphis Police Director Cerelyn “CJ” Davis told The Associated Press in an interview Friday that a “lack of supervision in this incident was a major problem.”

“When officers are working, you should have at least one supervisor for every group or squad of people,” Davis said. “Not just somebody who’s at the office doing the paperwork, somebody who’s actually embedded in that unit.”

Calls for more officers to be fired

or charged have been loud and persistent from the Nichols family, their lawyers and community activists who have peacefully protested in Memphis since the video was released. The video was evocative of the arrest of George Floyd in 2020 and officers’ failure to intervene.

On Saturday, Nichols’ stepfather, Rodney Wells, told The Associated Press that the family was going to “continue to seek justice and get some more officers arrested.”

“Questions were raised before the video was released, I raised those questions,” Wells said. “I just felt there was more than five officers out there. Now, five were charged with murder because they were the main participants, but there were five or six other officers out there that didn’t do anything to render any aid. So they are just as culpable as the officers who threw the blows.”

Memphis City Council member Martavius Jones said Monday that police policies on rendering aid and de-escalation appeared to have been violated.

“When everybody saw the video, we see that you have multiple officers just standing around, when Mr. Nichols is in distress, that just paints a totally different picture,” Jones said

Jones said he believes more officers should be disciplined.

“At this point, what’s going to be helpful for this community is to see how swiftly the police chief deals with those other officers now that everybody has seen the tape and knows that it wasn’t only five officers who were at the scene the entire time,” Jones said.

The five fired officers and Hemphill were part of the so-called Scorpion unit, which targeted violent criminals in high-crime areas. Davis, the police chief, said Saturday that the unit has been disbanded.

Nichols’ funeral service is scheduled for today at a Memphis church.

Alessia Russo: Man Utd reject second world-record bid from Arsenal

BBC - Manchester United have told Arsenal that Alessia Russo is "not for sale" at any price after rejecting a second world-record bid of almost £500,000 for the England forward.

The Gunners made their latest offer for the 23-year-old before the transfer deadline of 17:00 GMT on Tuesday.

Arsenal were understood to have eclipsed Barcelona's £400,000 deal for Keira Walsh with a first bid on Monday.

Euro 2022 winner Russo turned down a contract extension at United in June.

United, who are top of the Women's Super League table and three points ahead of third-placed Arsenal, have continued negotiations with Russo but cannot stop their top scorer from talking with other clubs because she has fewer than six months remaining on her deal.

Russo has scored five times in nine



Alessia Russo has scored five times in the WSL this season

WSL appearances this season to take her total to 17 goals in 35 top-flight appearances since joining from North Carolina Tar Heels three years ago.

The former Chelsea development squad captain took her England tally to 10 goals in 17 games by scoring

four times to help the Lionesses win Euro 2022 last summer.

Arsenal have a game in hand on United and second-placed Chelsea but have lost forwards Vivianne Miedema and Beth Mead to anterior cruciate ligament injuries this season.

India take final T20i as James bats solidly on debut

Despite a valiant 34 from captain Hayley Matthews and 21 not out from debutant Zaida James, the West Indies Women fell to another defeat to India Women in their final preliminary match of the Women's Tri-Series at Buffalo Park in East London.

It was a historic day for the Maroon Warriors as four of the Rising Stars players who recently participated in the ICC Women's U19 World Cup were in the playing XI, with Zaida James

and Janelle Glasgow making their T20i debuts.

James took a while to get going but when she did, she powered into two huge sixes to long on and long off. She played a supporting role with Shabika Gajnabi as the pair added 20 runs for the fifth wicket and then 21 runs with Aaliyah Alleyne for the sixth wicket.

Matthews got the innings going after the loss of two quick wickets when Rashada Williams and Shemaine Campbelle were dis-

missed in successive deliveries by Deepti Sharma. Matthews struck five fours on her way to a top-score as the West Indies Women posted 94-6 from their 20 overs. Deepti Sharma finished with figures of 4-2-11-3 and Pooja Vastrakar with 4-1-19-2.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues took 13.5 overs to get their team to victory, finishing on 32 not out and 42 not out respectively. This was after Shamilia Connell

knocked over Smriti Mandhana's off-stump for five and Matthews had Harleen Deol caught by Shabika Gajnabi for 13. Connell finished with figures of 3-0-17-1 and Matthews 2-0-7-1.

Speaking after the match, captain Matthews applauded the efforts by the four U19 players.

"It was really good to see how the U19s played today. Zaida James stepped up with the bat and the energy that they brought on the

cont'd on pg 18

ATP abuse probe finds 'insufficient evidence' against Zverev

AP - German tennis player Alexander Zverev will not face disciplinary action after an investigation into domestic abuse allegations against him found "insufficient evidence" to substantiate the claims, the men's professional tour said Tuesday.

The ATP had commissioned the investigation in October 2021 after Zverev's former girlfriend, Olya Sharypova, accused the 2020 U.S. Open runner-up of abuse.

"Based on a lack of reliable evidence and eyewitness reports, in addition to conflicting statements by Sharypova, Zverev and other interviewees, the investigation was unable to substantiate the allegations of abuse, or determine that violations of ATP's On-Site Offenses or Player Major Offenses rules took place," the ATP said in a statement.

The 25-year-old Zverev, who won the singles gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, has always denied the accusations. He is currently ranked 14th.



Alexander Zverev of Germany plays a backhand return to Michael Mmoh of the U.S. during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

Although no disciplinary action will be taken, the ATP said it would reevaluate the determination "should new evidence come to light, or should any legal proceedings reveal violations of ATP rules."

The 15-month investigation was conducted by the Illinois-based Lake Forest Group and included interviews of more than two-dozen people and reviews of text messages, audio files,

and photos submitted by Sharypova and Zverev.

"This included materials voluntarily extracted from Zverev's electronic devices via a third-party forensic expert," the ATP said.

The investigation looked primarily into accusations of abuse at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Shanghai in 2019 but also included "purported misconduct in other locations, including Monaco, New York and Geneva,

as referenced in public reporting."

Ultimately, investigators "found insufficient evidence to substantiate published allegations of abuse," the governing body said.

ATP CEO Massimo Calvelli said turning to specialist investigators was "new ground" for the tour.

"We ultimately believe the exhaustive process was necessary to reach an informed judgement," he said in a prepared statement. "It has also shown the need for us to be more responsive on safeguarding matters. It is the reason we've taken steps in that direction, with a lot of important work still ahead."

Zverev lost to Michael Mmoh in the second round of the Australian Open earlier in January.

cont'd from pg 17

field was really good. We are still missing the experience of Stafanie Taylor and Chinelle Henry and it's been a pretty tough tournament for us when it comes to results, but we have better days to look forward to," she said.

The West Indies Women will travel to Cape Town on February 3 ahead of the start of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. The

eighth edition of the marquee event will begin on 10 February with hosts South Africa taking on Sri Lanka. West Indies have been drawn in Group 2 alongside England, India, Pakistan and Ireland.

Newlands, Cape Town; Boland Park, Paarl and St. George's Park, Gqeberha are the host venues for the tournament with both semi-finals and final being played in Cape Town on 26 February.

ABFA continues coaching education with C-Licence course

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) is continuing to promote its coaches' education and development.

From 26th to 29th January the ABFA hosted a C-Licence certification course at its Technical Centre which attracted several enthusiastic participants.

Fifteen women and twenty-two men participated in the training which was held at the Technical Centre in Paynters.

Head of the ABFA's Coaching Education Programme, National Technical Director (TD), Sowerby Gomes, said last weekend's C-Licence training exercise involved female coaches who are already holders of a D-Licence and with male coaches



FIFA and CONCACAF Instructor Anton Corneal, second left, addresses participants at the ABFA C-Licence Coaching Course at the Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, 28th January, 2023. (Photos: ABFA)

who are seeking to attain either a D or C-Licence.

"The ABFA hosted its

C-Licence coaching course, which we started back on 29th December, 2022, where

we held an all-female C-Licence coaching course and we had just around fifteen participants from the female side; females who would have already acquired a D-Licence and now are willing to venture on to propel their career in extending up to a C-Licence Diploma in February," Gomes said.

"We also started an all-male D and C-Licence course on 26th January until the 29th January, and we are hoping to put on another stint in February for the continuation of the C-Licence for the males."

The coaching course is a joint initiative between the national association and the sub-regional governing body, **cont'd on pg 20**



Left to right: Coach Colin James, FIFA instructor, Anton Corneal, ABFA instructor and coach, Daryl Michael and ABFA Technical Director, Sowerby Gomes at the ABFA C-Licence Coaching Course at the Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday.

Massachusetts kicks off sports betting ahead of Super Bowl

AP - Massachusetts sports fans who want to wager on their favourite teams are finally getting their chance as the state kicks off sports betting at casinos Tuesday, with online betting likely to follow in a few months.

The kickoff comes just weeks ahead of the Super Bowl on Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona.

Lawmakers have estimated sports betting could generate about \$60 million in annual tax revenue and \$70 million to \$80 million in initial licensing fees, which must be renewed every five years. The law includes a 15% tax on in-person wagering and 20% tax on mobile wagering.

While the law allows betting on college sports, wa-

gering on in-state colleges and universities won't be allowed unless those schools are playing in a national tournament, including the NCAA basketball tournaments.

At first, sports betting will be allowed only at kiosks set up at the state's three casinos — Encore Boston Harbor in Boston, Plainridge Park Casino in Plainville, and MGM Springfield in Springfield.

People must be 21 or older to bet.

Massachusetts is late to the sports betting game. More than 30 other states already allow the wagering.

Gambling addiction workers are also prepping for the change.

"We anticipate there will be a lot of new people coming in," said Marlene Warner, CEO of the Massa-

chusetts Council on Gaming and Health, a nonprofit that operates centres at the state's three casinos.

The organisation employs "game sense advisers" who work with casino patrons to help them understand the odds of winning. They can also help people put their names on a voluntary self-exclusion list to block themselves from the casinos.

Warner said one demographic the group is expecting to see are young men, which she said are also one of the hardest groups to reach with help for problem gambling.

"That is also the primary audience for sports wagering," she said. "Those folks are already gambling at sports, often at harmful lev-

els."

During her campaign for governor last year, Gov. Maura Healey said she supported sports betting. It was a shift for the Democrat who, during her first run for attorney general in 2014, called for the repeal of the state's casino gambling law.

"Looking forward to more revenue," Healey said Monday.

Former Republican Gov. Charlie Baker signed the bill legalising sports betting. He had argued that residents were travelling to Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York and Connecticut to wager. Baker is now preparing for his next job as president of the NCAA.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 ruled that banning sports betting was unconstitutional.

The state's expansion into sports betting comes more than 50 years after the state created the Massachusetts Lottery in 1971.

Representatives of professional athletes are asking officials in Massachusetts to toughen regulations to guard players and their families from those wagering on games who make threats against them.

They said those changes could include barring those who make threats from betting in Massachusetts to shutting down betting on a specific game or sport.

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CONCACAF, the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association of Football.

FIFA and CONCACAF certified instructor, Anton Corneal of Trinidad and Tobago, is the chief facilitator of the current ABFA C-Licence course.

Jamaican, Andre Ward, a CONCACAF Development Coach, is also providing training.

They are being assisted by four ABFA certified coaches - TD Gomes, Daryl Michael, Lenny Hewlett and Garfield "Garry" Gonsalves.

Gomes said the thirty-seven participants will have the opportunity to attain coaching diplomas during the final phase of the ongoing training which continues from 12th to

18th February for males coaches and the last week in February for females.

"In terms of the numbers, we had twenty-two males that took part in this C-Licence course and we are hoping that they will continue from the 12th to 18th February. We are also hoping that towards the end of February, the last weekend in February, for the females to pick up their stint," Gomes said.

"What we are hoping to do after the end of February, is to have a week development course for them as we see them in their environment, and we will go out and assess them.

"After the assessment, we will make the determination as to who would have been successful in completing their C-License diploma and that would be offered to them in a small ceremony."



JOIN OUR TEAM

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is seeking a highly motivated and experienced **Human Resources Manager** to join our team. The successful candidate will play a key role in developing and implementing HR strategies and programs that support the overall mission and objectives of the organization.

Key Responsibilities:

1. *Identifying ABTA's immediate, mid-term and long-term staffing needs and guiding an organizational culture that aligns with the business and employer brands*
2. *Recruiting, selecting, and hiring talent*
Completing cost effective recruitment and selection activities and ensuring compliance with applicable labour law in Antigua and Barbuda and across the overseas offices
3. *Managing a comprehensive compensation program*
Maintaining a cost-effective and competitive compensation and benefits program in alignment with the ABTA's Compensation Philosophy
4. *Designing and executing employee engagement activities*
Maximizing individual and collective employee performance by designing and implementing engagement plans and activities that recognize and reward performance, build talent, capacity performance... Designing and delivering or coordinating learning opportunities Working collaboratively within the Employee Engagement Advisory Committee
5. *Counselling and coaching at all levels*
Guiding and advising members of the leadership team and individual employees on relevant matters, maintaining appropriate levels of confidentiality. Employing progressive discipline
6. *Performing relevant and related duties, as necessary, to maintain the smooth business operations of the ABTA*

Qualifications:

- *Master's Degree in Human Resource Management or related field and 2 years experience as a Human Resource Manager*
- *Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or Business Administration or related field and 4 years experience as a Human Resource Manager*
- *Sound communication skills*
- *Sound knowledge of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code*

If you are a strategic thinker with a passion for HR and a desire to make a positive impact on our organization, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity. The ABTA is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from candidates from all backgrounds.

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and experience to HR@visitaandb.com by **Wednesday February 1 2023**.



JOIN OUR TEAM

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is seeking a highly motivated, highly qualified, and experienced **Chief Marketing Officer (Consultant)** - to join our team. The successful candidate will play a key role in the support and management of the Marketing Change process.

The position of Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) is a two (2) year consultancy reporting to the CEO. The successful applicant will be required to create a supportive environment and implement sound and reasoned systems that coordinate the strategic marketing plan. This is to be done simultaneously while promoting growth and exploiting new marketing opportunities for the destination.

Key Responsibilities:

1. *Evaluating and strengthening, as necessary, the marketing service relationships (PR, Advertising, etc.) across the ABTA to maximize results with minimal waste (human, financial, etc.)*
2. *Guiding the Marketing Pillars Teams in a coordinated development and execution of the strategic marketing plan, e.g.*
 - a. *prioritizing and scheduling high return activities across the Pillars*
 - b. *translating KPIs to tangible actions*
 - c. *evaluating ROI and other KPIs, Etc.*
3. *Collaborating with the HR Manager (HRM) to review the alignment of the matrix structure to the ABTA purpose by:*
 - a. *Defining marketing service gaps*
 - b. *Identifying growth areas of individual team members*
 - c. *Delivering tailored hands-on learning opportunities, etc.*
 - d. *Conducting objective assessment of team members to identify an empowered successor while boosting team morale and engagement, etc.*
 - e. *Strengthening market research and analysis methods*

Qualifications:

- *Master's Degree in Business Management, Tourism, Marketing or related field and 5 years' experience in the capacity of Destination Marketing Management*
- *Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Tourism or Business Administration or related field and 8 years' experience as a Destination Marketing Manager*
- *Sound communication skills*
- *Strong organisation and planning skills*
- *Sound knowledge of Destination Marketing with experience in the digital arena*

If you are a strategic, analytical thinker with a passion for Destination Marketing who is results oriented with a desire to make a positive impact on our organization, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity. The ABTA is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages suitably qualified applications from candidates from all backgrounds.

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and experience to HR@visitaandb.com by **Wednesday February 1st 2023**.

PMS make winning start to netball campaign

Princess Margaret School (PMS) made a winning start in defence of their 16 and Under Division title in this year's Inter-Schools' Netball Competition.

The Princess Margaret School girls cruised to a 13 - 4 victory over Christ the King High School (CKHS) 2nd Team in one of five opening round games at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday.

Jahida Payne sank five of her eight attempts and Gavina Morrison converted each of her five shots for PMS.

Jacquena Tappin netted three of her five tries and Arissa Aska scored one her three shots for the CKHS 2nd Team.

The CKHS 1st Team started with a loss in their 16 and Under Division campaign, going under 3 to 9 against St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS).

Each of CKHS 1st Team's three goals were scored by Jodaliah Constant from her five attempts.

Annika Samuel sank five of her ten shots and Zadaire Parker scored four of her seven tries for St. Mary's Secondary.

The biggest margin of victory was achieved by Ottos Comprehensive School who crushed Clare Hall Secondary 18 - 0 in a one-sided affair.

Kiara Samuel netted thirteen of her fourteen attempts while Jessica Massicott converted five of her ten shots for Ottos Comprehensive.

In contrast, All Saints Secondary snatched a one-point victory over Glanvilles Secondary School in the most keenly contested affair on the opening day.

Shakorah Prince scored five of her eleven attempts and Kinisha James sank five of her sixteen shots to lead All Saints Secondary to their 10 - 9 hard fought victory.

Micah Thomas netted six of her nine tries and Nzae Williams converted each of her three attempts for Glanvilles Secondary.

The Antigua Girls High School overcame Irene B Williams Secondary 10 - 4 in the other encounter on Monday.

Joy Shaw sank seven of her ten shots and Keandra Aska netted her three attempts for the Antigua Girls High School.

Myah Thomas and Radisha Henry each scored two of their four attempts for Irene B. Williams Secondary.



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All Saints United trounce Five Islands to stay top of Premier League

All Saints United recorded another impressive win to regain sole leadership of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

United romped to a 4 - 0 win over Five Islands in the final match of the ninth week of Premier League matches at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Monday night, 30th January.

Forwards, Randolph "Etty" Burton and Nazir Burnette each scored a brace in a dominant display for All Saints United.

Burton opened the scoring with a goal in the 3rd minute and added a second with a 25th minute conversion.

Burnette scored his first goal in the 26th minute to make it 3 - 0, but All Saints United's numbers were reduced to ten in the 43rd minute when Zafique Drew was given the red card for committing his second bookable offence.

Burnette scored his second goal in the 82nd minute to wrap up the scoring for All Saints United.

Their eighth loss in nine matches left Five Islands second from bottom of the 16 team competition with 1 point

Their eighth win in nine matches lifted All Saints United to 24 points, 3 points ahead of their nearest rivals, Jennings Grenades and Villa Lions.

Jennings Grenades are currently in second place on goal difference ahead of Villa Lions, although both teams are jointly tied on 21 points from nine matches.

Garden Stars continued their unbeaten run by pulling off a 5 - 0 win



All Saints United forward, Randolph Burton, (right) dribbles past a Five Islands player during a Premier League encounter at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Monday. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

over Young Lions at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday to maintain their lead at the top of the First Division.

Striker Allan Martin scored a brace with goals in the 34th and 42nd minutes to give Garden Stars a 3 - 0 half-time lead after Jahred Williams scored the opening goal by converting a penalty in the 27th minute.

Tarek Charles then found the back of the net in the 72nd minute to bring the total to 4 - 0, and Dylan Martin completed their opponent's defeat with an 81st minute conversion.

Their eighth win in nine matches has taken Garden Stars to 25 points while Young Lions fifth loss in nine encounters positioned them at fifth in the 12 team round robin contest on 12 points.

The ABFA Second Division continues with three matches at 4:30 pm today.

Belmont will take on Real Blizzard at Belmont, CPTSA Wings will face Jennings United at Clare Hall Secondary School and Blackburn Palace will meet ABAYA at Princess Margaret School.