



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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WATER RELIEF FOR ROUND SOUTH BY WEEKEND

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is seen here presenting Cuban Diplomat Esther Fiffe Cabreja with a special portrait during their final meeting on Monday. The ambassador's tour of duty has officially ended. [Story on page 3](#)

Water relief for south residents by weekend

Relief is on the way for residents of the southern corridor of Antigua who have been experiencing disruption in their water supply over the past several weeks.

A return to 24-hour water service is expected by the end of the week.

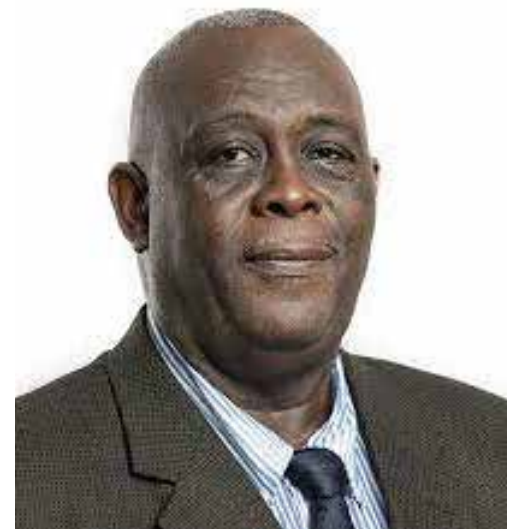
That's the assurance from APUA's Water Business Manager, Ian Lewis, who said his engineers have been working feverishly over the past week to have the two units from the Ffryes Desalination Plant that have been down return to production.

"The parts for the booster units arrived last week Monday and since then the engineers have been working to have the two units back online. I am pleased to announce that they have completed repair work on the

booster for the #2 unit, which means that water production will return to seventy-five percent of its capacity," he stated.

The Ffryes plant has a 930-thousand gallon per day capacity, but because of the fact that it has been operating at fifty percent of capacity, APUA has had to institute a rationing plan through which people living on the southern side of the plant – Crabbes Hill to Old Road – would receive water for 48 hours without interruption, then switch to the villages from Sugar Ridge to Jennings the next two days.

Work is continuing on the #1 booster unit and Lewis is anticipating that this will be completed by the end of the week, allowing for a resump-



Ian Lewis

tion of regular water distribution to the residents from Jennings to Old Road on a daily basis.

Another challenge faced by APUA's Water Business Unit relates to the new plant located at Fort James beach. According to Lewis, the turbidity of the water makes it difficult for the plant to operate at full capacity. He explained that filters were placed at the suction areas, but tiny particles have been passing through the filtration sieves, causing damage to membranes.

"We have since informed our suppliers of this development and we have ordered an ultra-filtration unit that will eliminate that problem. As soon as this is installed, then normal water service will return to areas north of Newgate Street to McKinnon's.

There is also the struggle to supply water to elevated areas and places that are at the end of the production line. To overcome this problem, Lewis said increase water supply is required, as well as the acquisition of additional booster pumps to be placed at strategic points on the island.



<p>Tue 28 Day</p> <p>80° ☀️</p> <p>23% ESE 6 mph</p> <p>Sunshine and clouds mixed. High around 80F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.</p> <p>Humidity 71%</p> <p>UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 6:26 am</p> <p>Sunset 6:13 pm</p>	<p>Tue 28 Night</p> <p>72° ☁️</p> <p>17% E 6 mph</p> <p>Clear to partly cloudy. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.</p> <p>Humidity 78%</p> <p>UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 12:35 pm</p> <p>Moonset 1:23 am</p> <p>☾ Waxing Gibbous</p>
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Antigua and Barbuda gives Cuban ambassador warm, emotional send-off

Prime Minister Gaston Browne described it as ‘bitter-sweet’, while Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene said it was with ‘heavy hearts’ that the people of Antigua and Barbuda bid farewell to the outgoing Cuban Ambassador, Esther Fiffe Cabreja, who has come to the end of her tour of duty in St. John’s.

Prime Minister Browne credited Ambassador Fiffe Cabreja for taking the good relations between Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda to new levels. “Let me thank you for your contributions, as you have certainly elevated the bilateral relations between our two countries during which we have recorded a number of significant achievements. Generally speaking, the cooperation was taken to new levels and we saw that especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when you were able to utilize your good offices to get us additional nurses to deal with this debilitating disease,” he recalled.

The prime minister noted that at that time, there was a scarcity of nurses, yet, Antigua and Barbuda was able to get the additional health personnel because of the efforts of the ambassador. He added that Cuba has always stood with the people of Antigua and Barbuda, even immediately after the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma in 2017,



Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, presents a souvenir to Ambassador Esther Fiffe Cabreja.

when Cuba was one of the first countries to respond positively with aid.

“One of the things I like about Cuba is that they give from the little that they have, which makes it very impressive. It’s not that Cuba has excesses to share, but through true solidarity with their Caribbean brothers and sisters they have assisted,” he remarked.

He also thanked Cuba for generally helping with the health delivery system of Antigua and Barbuda, as a cursory glance would show the significant numbers of nurses and or Cuban trained doctors helping to ‘prop up the system’.

At a separate farewell call on Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene, he told the diplomat that she has left an indelible mark on the relations between Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda. “Yours has been a tour of duty that is punctuated by

sponsored by sending dozens of healthcare workers,” he stated.

Both Prime Minister Browne and Foreign Minister Greene pledged the Antigua and Barbuda government’s unwavering support for the government and people of Cuba in the face of the economic and financial embargo imposed by the United States.

Ambassador Fiffe Cabreja was quite emotional in her response and she thanked profusely the top government officials for their cooperation during her assignment in Antigua and Barbuda that lasted four and a half years.

a string of successes. What readily comes to mind is the role you played at the height of the pandemic when through your efforts, Cuba was called upon and it re-

<p>LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>PROBATE FORM P15(c): Rule 25 (3)</p> <p>THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT</p> <p>IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE</p> <p>ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA</p> <p>(Probate)</p> <p>In the Estate of George Gibbons late of Golden Grove Extension in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased</p> <p><u>NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR GRANT</u></p> <p><u>FIRST PUBLICATION</u></p> <p>Notice is given that after the expiration of fourteen (14) days application will be made to the Registrar of the High Court for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant, Marilyn Alicia Gibbons, daughter of the deceased of Golden Grove Extension, St. John, Antigua having died intestate on the 20th day of November, 2016.</p> <p>Dated this day of 2023</p> <p>..... Damien Benjamin Benjamin Legal Services Attorney-at-law</p> <p>Filed by Benjamin Legal Services, Damien Benjamin Esq., Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is Griffin House, Sonia King Building, Lower St. Mary’s Street, St. John’s, Antigua or by Marilyn Alicia Gibbons, Applicant in Person whose address for service is 6th Avenue, Villa, St. John’s, Antigua.</p>

Case against Dean Jonas adjourned until Friday



Wendel Robinson

The case resulting from an incident at the Scotts Hill home of former parliamentarian, Dean Jonas, opened before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh on Monday.

However, at the start of the proceedings, the police team informed the court that a crown counsel from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will take over the case and

asked the court for an adjournment.

Jonas' lead attorney, Wendel Robinson, vigorously opposed the request, stating that the police had ample time to prepare for the case since the incident last Thursday afternoon.

"I am ready to proceed; the police had since Thursday afternoon to prepare for the case.

"It's a case where most

of the witnesses will be police officers and there's a video that has been circulated multiple times showing the incident," he told the court.

Robinson inquired of the court why was Dean Jonas being treated dif-

ferently, as he was an ordinary citizen of Antigua and Barbuda along with the fact that the offences were all filed under the Small Charges Act and therefore would not require any special attention nor a crown

cont'd on pg 5

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Clare Browne against police guarding school plants

Director of Education Clare Browne has made known his unwillingness to create “police states in our schools”.

He was highlighting a recent request made by teachers of Clare Hall Secondary School for police officers to provide security on the school’s compound.

Following the incident at Clare Hall Secondary School several weeks ago, when two young men scaled the school’s back fence wearing masks and armed with weapons in search of a student, teachers staged industrial action calling for urgent attention to be given by the authorities to improve security, which should include law enforcement officers.

While it was viewed as one way of preventing a recurrence of the incident, Director of Education, Clare Browne said having a police presence at school is not something his ministry subscribes to.

“I want to hasten to say that’s not a place that the Ministry of Education – I don’t think anybody really wants to be in a place where we have police officers in uniform on any school plant. It does something to the psyche of our children.

“We don’t want to create police states in our schools that is not what we want. Schools are supposed to be child friendly institutions,” Mr. Browne stated.

Acknowledging the urgency of addressing the concerns expressed by educators at CHSS, the director assured that focus is being placed on improving school security by boosting the number of guards on school plants, working in association with key agencies.

“The ministry understands and the government understands and certainly the Ministry of Works whose charge it is for school security; we all understand that we have to do some-



Director of Education, Clare Browne

thing to beef up the security situation in schools. If you are working in an environment where every time you hear some chair drops or something that you have to look around, that must be very uncomfortable and we

understand that.”

The director of education said security cameras have been installed at Clare Hall Secondary School and was quick to add that it was not in response to the recent incident on the school’s premises. Mr. Browne revealed the conversation on improving security throughout the public school system began last summer.

He stated that the work continues to ensure adequate security aimed at decreasing theft and vandalism and preventing intruders from entering school plants.

cont’d from pg 4

counsel to present the case to the magistrate.

After listening to both sides arguing for, and against an adjournment, Magistrate Walsh granted the prosecution’s request and adjourned the proceedings until this Friday.

The incident stems from a matter where two police officers entered Jonas’ property inquiring about a child, which he shares with a young woman.

After responding to the officers, there came a point when he asked them to leave. A scuffle ensued and Jonas was arrested and charged on four counts, including battery on police and resisting arrest.

Robinson is arguing that there is no case against his client, as the arrest was unlawful and the police acted in manner that would bring the entire police force into disrepute.

He also said there’s an urgent need for training of rank-and-file police officers.

ABWU and ABTB sign collective agreement

Dozens of employees at the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) are benefiting from the provisions of the latest Collective Agreement signed between the company and the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU).

During a recent signing exercise, Senior Industrial Relations Officer at the ABWU, Kem Riley, explained that the statutory body and workers were at loggerheads on several matters that culminated in strike action during the period leading up to the ne-

gotiations. Riley noted, however, that through skillful negotiation, many of the pressing issues were ultimately resolved. The agreement expands on several existing benefits and includes increases to the meal and snack allowance, the shift allowance, the special skills allowance, the travel allowance and the cashier allowance.

ABTB employees covered under the agreement will also receive a 7% salary increase, which includes retroactive payments.



From left: Arthur Reubel, Kem Riley, Hubert Jarvis, Taisha York, Carlton Brodie

Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board’s Human Resource Manager, Taisha York, expressed delight that both parties were able to come to an amicable agreement before the contract period had expired.

York added that the company places significant value on its employees and proactively invests in their development, even beyond the provisions of the Collective Agreement.

“One of the things we have been promoting in the last two years is continued education. We have sent persons on short courses at the University of the West Indies – fully paid for by the company,” York highlighted.

The HR manager added that employees received

an incremental increase upon their successful completion of a course. York says the company will seek to enshrine this educational initiative in the next Collective Agreement.

ABTB General Manager, Hubert Jarvis, said the company enjoyed a “cordial” relationship with the union, which paved the way for fruitful negotiations.

Jarvis asserted that the company and the union have always found common ground in empowering workers.

The Collective Agreement covers the period January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023. Negotiations for the upcoming contract period are expected to commence in short order.

To: Her Worship
License Magistrate
Magistrates Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua

To: Her Worship
Magistrate for District "A"
Magistrates Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

We, **TIM SPARKS** and **KELLY SALOMON** of Dunbar House in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY** give **NOTICE** that is our intention to apply at the Next Special Sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrates Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on the 6th day of April, 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern License in respect of my premises known as "**RUM RUNNERS BY THE SEA**" situated in Heritage Quay in the Parish of John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda.

DATED the _____ day of _____, 2023

.....
DAMIEN BENJAMIN
BENJAMIN LEGAL SERVICES
Solicitors for **TIM SPARKS** and **KELLY SALOMON**

Heart and Stroke Foundation holds annual symposium

The Antigua and Barbuda Heart and Stroke Foundation held its 4th annual symposium on Sunday where attendees were advised that alcohol intake is among a number of “modifiable risk factors” for heart disease.

Consultant Cardiologist, Dr. Elric Winter stated that while a tiple or two a day might seem harmless enough, a new report – funded by Health Canada and published last month – advised that zero booze is the only risk-free approach.

The visiting specialist from Montreal was one of several experts who delivered a presentation at the 4th annual cardiac symposium, which took place at Sandals Grande Antigua, attended either virtually or in-person by 160 physi-

cians, nurses and pharmacists from across the region.

Dr. Winter said other factors within people’s power when it comes to avoiding heart disease – include cigarette smoking, obesity and lack of exercise.

“These are all things that we can address to help lower blood pressure – and they cost nothing,” he pointed out.

At the centre of Dr. Winter’s talk on modern treatment of hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, was updated advice on the role medication plays.

“Patients with elevated blood pressure should not be put on meds initially; they should be treated with non-pharmacologic therapy such as losing weight to reach their ideal weight for their body size, height and



Visiting cardiologist from Montreal, Canada, Dr. Elric Winter

gender, decreasing their sodium or salt intake, increasing their potassium, and increasing their physical activities,” he explained.

“They should also decrease, but preferably stop their alcohol intake. Recommendations used to be that women could have one

drink per day and men two – but now, the recommendation is zero.”

Parameters on how hypertension is measured have also been altered in recent years. ‘Normal’ blood pressure is now considered to be 120/80 or less.

If the first number, known as systolic blood pressure and which measures the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats, is between 120 and 129, a person is considered to have elevated blood pressure but is not yet hypertensive. A rate of 130-139 is type one hypertension and anything above that is type two hypertension.

The reclassification has shunted more people into the ‘at-risk’ category.

In fact, Dr. Winter warns complications can arise if one’s systolic level is higher than 110.





Caribbean tourism industry could become a source of generational wealth—CHTA

Encouraging entrepreneurship to boost tourism in the Caribbean is key to generational wealth.

This is according to the head of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), Nicola Madden-Greig, at last week's Global Tourism Resilience Conference in Jamaica.

Madden-Greig urged to shine the spotlight on the entrepreneurial class and in turn nurture this segment of society through tourism. Eventually, she explained, this will enable generational wealth, encouraging residents to become owners of their products and services.

"As we continue to grow, we have to make sure that we use tourism to build out our entrepreneurial class ... but also to look at generational wealth and not solely be employees, but become owners of the product and the experience," she said.

According to data from the Caribbean Tourism Organization, "the Caribbean destinations received an estimated 32.0 million international tourist arrivals" in 2019 before the pandemic, which is "4.4% or some 1.3

million more than the 30.7 million of 2018."

In 2021, travel and tourism in the Caribbean "experienced the second-fastest recovery of all regions, with its contribution to GDP growing by 36.6%, data from World Travel and Tourism Council revealed.

The youth of the region can see potential opportunities in accounting, web development, and technology, added Madden-Greig, and in order for this to progress, joint efforts of tourism officials across the region are essential.

Prioritizing The Younger Generation

The Commonwealth of Dominica has also prepared a plan to encourage generational wealth among its younger citizens, not in tourism but in the form of home ownership.

In July last year, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit introduced the "Future Housing Programme," where affordable housing will be made more accessible to qualified residents who are 45 years old or younger and are employed within the public and pri-

vate sectors.

"In Dominica, we do not have a deep-seated culture that takes this into consideration.

"But with proper generational wealth planning and management, wealth can be passed down for many generations within families.

"This is important because we all want to give our children a significant financial advantage early on in their life so that they have a better chance at successful and progressive futures," Skerrit previously explained.

The Future Housing Programme is also part of Dominica's efforts to provide better housing units that can withstand the effects of climate change.

Most of the projects in housing, healthcare, education, and transportation are overseen by MMC Development Ltd., a private developing company that has closely worked with the government of Dominica for many years.

These projects handled by MMC Development Ltd. are mostly funded by the country's Citizenship By Investment (CBI) program.



Prime Minister's Labour we Love Zone 1 walk and run

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Canada bans TikTok on government devices

By Mike Wendling

Canada will ban video app TikTok from all government-issued devices starting on Tuesday.

The decision follows a review by Canada's chief information officer, and the app "presents an unacceptable level of risk to privacy and security", a government spokesperson said in a statement.

A TikTok spokesperson said the company was disappointed by the decision.

It comes just days after the European Commission announced a similar ban.

Security concerns

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there was enough concern about security around the app to require the change.

"This may be the first step, this may be the only step we need to take," he said on Monday at a press conference near Toronto.

TikTok has been criticised for its use of personal information and ties to the Chinese government.

The short-form video app is owned by Chinese firm ByteDance Ltd.

US federal employees were banned from using TikTok late last year and a number of American universities have also banned the app from being used on their networks. Broader public bans have been implemented in India and several other Asian countries.

The company insists



that Chinese government officials don't have access to user data and that a Chinese version of the app is separate from the one used in the rest of the world. But last year, the company admitted some staff in China can access the data of European users.

The ban for European Commission employees is set to come into force on 15 March.

Canadian privacy regulators are also investigating TikTok over concerns about user data, in particular whether the company obtains "valid and meaningful" consent from users when collecting personal information.

About a quarter of Canadian adults use the app, according to a recent survey by researchers at the Social Media Lab at To-

ronto Metropolitan University.

In a statement, Mona Fortier, the president of Canada's Treasury Board, said the government "is committed to keeping government information secure".

The app will be removed from government-issued phones this week and other devices and blocked from downloads in the future.

"On a mobile device, TikTok's data collection methods provide considerable access to the contents of the phone," Ms Fortier said.

"While the risks of using this application are clear, we have no evidence at this point that government information has been compromised."

The Treasury Board,

which oversees the operations of the federal government, includes the country's chief information officer.

TikTok responds

In a statement, a company spokesperson said the ban on government-issued devices happened "without citing any specific security concerns about TikTok or contacting us to discuss any concern prior to making this decision".

"We are always available to meet with our government officials to discuss how we protect the privacy and security of Canadians, but singling out TikTok in this way does nothing to achieve that shared goal," the spokesperson said.

"All it does is prevent officials from reaching the public on a platform loved by millions of Canadians."

PM Holness leads special CARICOM mission to Haiti

Prime Minister Andrew Holness left Jamaica on Monday morning to lead a special Caribbean Community (CARICOM) mission to Haiti.

Representatives from the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and the CARICOM Secretariat are part of the delegation.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister says as part of this mission, members of the CARICOM delegation members are expected to have discussions with several critical Haitian stakeholder groups.

Holness is expected to



Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

return to the island later in the evening.

Monday's mission comes ahead of a planned stakeholder meeting in Jamaica in the coming weeks to discuss the situation in

Haiti which is confronted with political turmoil and corruption, and unrelenting gang violence, with armed groups committing murder, rape, as well as kidnappings.

At the end of the

44th regular summit of CARICOM Heads of Government in The Bahamas less than two weeks ago, CARICOM chairman and host Prime Minister Philip Davis said the regional grouping had taken its moral obligation seriously as it relates to resolving the issues in Haiti.

He dismissed the idea of boots on the ground and this stage, saying that the first step would be to see how CARICOM can strengthen the Haitian national police to enable them to restore order and curb the criminal activities on the island.

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Guyana and India to sign MOU to boost oil & gas cooperation

Guyana and India are close to signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at boosting their cooperation in the petroleum sector.

Guyana’s Department of Public Information reported that Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo revealed this information during an interview with Indian media.

Jagdeo is on an official trip to India where he is furthering discussions that began when President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali visited to New Delhi in January.

Jagdeo said the Indian cabinet has to approve the MOU before it can be signed by both parties.

The VP noted Guyana has a lot of potential for Indian investors as it has one of the world’s largest oil reserves, equivalent to more than 11 billion barrels, as well as deposits of precious metals and vast amounts of arable land.

He highlighted that this year, some



Vice President Hon. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo during his meeting with President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, India. Photo: DPI

14 oil blocks offshore Guyana are being auctioned.

Another opportunity for India lies in the Stabroek block.

“Next year, ExxonMobil will have to give up 20% of their holdings. So, all of those will be available for some form of bilateral engagement, where

we can actually see joint production or exploration-related activities,” Jagdeo stated.

Further, the vice president said Guyana is looking to recruit skilled workers from India to help develop the oil and gas sector.

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Surinamese President begins talks with civil society to ease tensions

President Chandrikapersad Santokhi began hearings with various civil society organizations and groups in an attempt to de-escalate the high political tensions in the country, but two key groups have refused to be part of the consultations.

The head of state said that he wanted to obtain input from society to adjust his policy, after a peaceful demonstration on February 17 turned into large-scale riots in the capital Paramaribo in which numerous businesses were looted and destroyed and the Parliament building was also attacked by demonstrators.

While Santokhi indicated that he wants to have dialogue with all groups, Trade Union C-47 and the Association of Economists in Suriname (VES) say they will not participate in the discussions with the head of government.

C-47 chairman Robby Berenstein is not satisfied with the implementation of previous proposals made to the government by the trade union and therefore sees no point in talking to Santokhi again without concrete ac-



tions being taken by the government.

The President will hear from the trade unions, individual citizens, social groups, political parties and the business community. The president said in the National Assembly last Friday that he will allocate two weeks for these talks. If necessary, the period will be extended.

“We first want to know the status of the things we have requested. Before you come and talk about national dialogue, start giving us an answer to that. We don’t even know where the dialogue should lead,” Berenstein said.

VES cited similar reasons for not participating in the consultations, though it said it is available to provide concrete support to

make the country’s economy healthy.

A letter from the organisation to the president indicated that the advice given from June 2020 and in other consultations had not been implemented.

VES claims to have advised the president at an early stage to hold a national dialogue. However, this was not heeded and it said the government had shown itself to be insensitive to the cries from society.

“We already advised you on June 16, 2020 to immediately implement the necessary ‘unpopular’ economic measures. As a result, the derailed economy would return to equilibrium within one year. However, you have continued to consistently ignore the dozens of opinions issued by the VES

since then, and your government has remained insensitive to the consequences we have tried to shield you from,” the VES said.

The Surinamese Association of Journalists (SVJ) was one of the organisations received by President Santokhi on Sunday. During the dialogue, the SVJ pointed out the importance of freedom of the press and the right of free expression.

With regard to the freedom of expression of citizens, the media organization explained that in addition to the citizen’s duty to comply with laws and regulations, the government has an important constitutional task to ensure that this right of citizens is not hindered or limited and at the same time safety is guaranteed to society.

The SVJ has stressed that it is unacceptable that under the pretext of guaranteeing security, the fundamental right of citizens to express their opinion freely and to hold protest demonstrations will be restricted by the government.

cont’d from pg 12

“We don’t want India’s involvement only in defining our gas policy, but also from an investment perspective to develop those resources,” the VP stated.

Outside of oil and gas, Jagdeo has held discussions with Indian Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar where it was agreed

that the two nations will continue to work on strengthening bilateral partnership in education, healthcare, capacity building, ICT, renewable energy and climate change.

Both nations also signed an Air Services Agreement to facilitate an air link between Guyana and India.

Settlers rampage in West Bank villages after Israelis killed

By David Gritten

Israeli settlers have attacked Palestinian villages in the northern occupied West Bank, after two settlers were shot dead by a Palestinian gunman.

One Palestinian man was killed and more than 100 others were injured in the violence near Nablus on Sunday night, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Dozens of cars and houses were also burnt, according to a local official.

It followed the killings of the two Israelis - brothers from a nearby settlement - along a highway.

The Israeli military said it was continuing to search for the Palestinian who shot Hillel Yaniv, 22, and Yagel Yaniv, 20, and that it had moved in hundreds of extra troops.

And on Monday afternoon, an Israeli-American man was shot and killed in an attack on a highway north of Beit HaArava Junction, in the east of the West Bank near Jericho.

The man was taken by paramedics to a hospital in Jerusalem, but was later pronounced dead. He was a dual national. US Ambassador Tom Nides expressed his sadness in a tweet.

The incidents came after Israeli and Palestinian officials had pledged to



Israeli police by the Israeli man's car attacked near Jericho on Monday.

de-escalate tensions at a summit in Jordan.

Videos posted hours after the summit ended on Sunday showed a large crowd of Israeli settlers entering the village of Hawara, about 4 miles (6km) south of Nablus, lighting fires and throwing stones.

Ten-year-old Lamar Abusarees said her house was one of those set alight.

"My mother moved us to a corner because there was no safe place. They broke all the windows while we were inside," she told Reuters news agency.

A Palestinian official who monitors settlements in the Nablus region, Ghasan Daghlas, told Palestinian Wafa news agency that 30 houses were damaged by stones or burned down in Hawara, and that 15 vehicles were torched.

Settlers also set a barn and three vehicles on fire in nearby Burin, as well as a house and a water tank in Asira al-Qabaliyya, he said.

The Palestinian health ministry said 37-year-old Sameh Aqtash died after being shot in the stomach during an attack by settlers in Zaatara.

Mr Aqtash's brother, Abdul Moneim, said they had been standing outside a blacksmith's when they were attacked by settlers.

"They left the area and then came back with the occupation [Israeli] army," he told AFP news agency. "The army shot my brother, not the settlers."

However, the Israeli military said Mr Aqtash was not shot by an Israeli soldier.

This part of the West

Bank falls under full Israeli control, and Palestinians criticised Israeli security forces for failing to protect them.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he held the Israeli government fully responsible for what he called "the terrorist acts carried out by Israeli settlers, under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces".

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, appealed for calm and urged settlers to allow the Israeli military and security forces to focus on finding the gunman who killed the two Israelis.

"I ask that when blood is boiling and the spirit is hot, don't take the law into your hands," he said in a video statement.

cont'd on pg 15

Thai drug dealer had plastic surgery to look like Korean man, police say

By Kelly Ng

A Thai drug dealer underwent several facial plastic surgeries to look like “a handsome Korean man” and evade the law, local authorities have said.

Saharat Sawangjaeng, who adopted the alias Seong Jimin, was caught last week at a condominium in Bangkok.

Police, who had been on the hunt for the 25-year-old for three months, said “none of his original face was left”.

They tracked him down by tracing the distribution of ecstasy to other sellers and buyers in Bangkok.

Witnesses described him as a “handsome Korean man” to police.

He had also changed his name to a Korean one. In a video of the arrest provided



Saharat Sawangjaeng went under the knife several times and changed his name to dodge investigators.

by the police, Mr Saharat said he wanted to move to South Korea: “I want to start a new life. I am bored of Thailand”.

Mr Saharat has been charged with the illegal import of narcotics. He admitted to ordering MDMA - also known as ecstasy - over the dark web using crypto-

currencies, the police said last week.

He had in previous years been arrested on at least three occasions. One time he was detained on an assault charge, and the police found 290 ecstasy pills and 2kg (4.4lb) of narcotics in liquid form in his possession.

But he managed to escape detention and at one point, underwent extensive surgical procedures to dodge investigators.

Thai Police major-general Theeradej Thammasuttee described him as “one of the main causes of Bangkok’s MDMA epidemic”, The Straits Times reported.

“He is a drug lord importing MDMA from Europe at just 25 years old. We believe there are more suspects in foreign countries. We will continue our investigation,” Mr Thammasuttee said.

While Mr Saharat said in the video that he mostly imported drugs from the Netherlands, he added that he did not know the identity of the people he dealt with as part of the operation.

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UN Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland said he was “gravely concerned by the deteriorating security situation”.

“There can be no justification for terrorism, nor for arson and acts of revenge against civilians,” he added.

Settlers had called for a march to Hawara in order to “seek revenge” for the deadly attack on Hillel and Yagel Yaniv, who lived in the settlement of Har Bracha, which is 1.2 miles south of Nablus.

The brothers were driving through Hawara when a Palestinian man rammed their car and then shot them both several times.

Their mother, Esty, said: “Words can’t describe this disaster. Instead

of bringing children to the wedding canopy, we need to bury them.”

She also appealed for unity among Israelis and stressed that “responsibility to guarantee security rests solely with the army”.

No Palestinian militant group has so far claimed they were behind the attack, but the gunman was reportedly wearing a shirt bearing the insignia of the Nablus-based Lions’ Den.

Members of the group were the targets of an Israeli raid in Nablus last Wednesday in which 11 Palestinians, including several civilians, were killed - the deadliest such operation in the West Bank since 2005.

Israeli forces have been carrying out waves of search, arrest and intelligence-gathering raids in Nablus

and the nearby city of Jenin, saying they are trying to stem the spate of deadly attacks against Israelis by Palestinians.

Since the start of this year, more than 60 Palestinians - militants and civilians - have been killed by Israeli forces. On the Israeli side, 13 people have been killed in attacks - all civilians, except for a paramilitary police officer.

More than 600,000 Jews live in 140 settlements built since Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

Most of the international community considers the settlements illegal under international law, though Israel disputes this.

Winter storm hits California with snow and central US with tornadoes

By Nadine Yousif

A winter storm that brought unprecedented snow to southern California has moved eastward, bringing with it tornadoes and powerful winds.

Residents in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Texas were asked to seek shelter as severe weather makes its way to the region through Monday.

There were reports of damaged homes and knocked down power lines, leaving thousands without power.

At least 12 people have been reported injured as a result of the storm.

Severe weather is expected to continue to the upper Midwest later in the week.

Californians have already faced mass power outages, flooding and the closures of both motorways and beaches as the storm swept the US state.

More than 120,000 people - many of them in the Los Angeles area - lost electricity after days of fierce winds.

As of Monday, around 46,500 homes in California remain without power. An additional 28,300 were without power in Texas and Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma, seven tornadoes were reported to have hit the state late on Sunday. Footage emerged showing overturned cars and homes



Tornadoes in Oklahoma destroyed several homes and knocked down power lines on Sunday.

with collapsed roofs due to the strong winds. Officials reported at least 12 weather-related injuries.

A wind speed of 114 mph (183 km/h) was recorded in northern Texas near the border with Oklahoma - the equivalent of a Category 3 hurricane.

Severe weather is expected to continue through Monday, said the National Weather Service, which forecasted a "deep mid-latitude cyclone" to hit portions of the Midwest, bringing with it showers and thunderstorms.

The National Weather Service and experts have said that the weather pattern likely qualifies as a "derecho", a rare weather pattern characterised by extremely strong straight-line winds.

Parts of Michigan, where more than 147,000 people remain without power

after a winter storm last week, are also expected to be hit again with yet another storm.

Last week's severe weather led to record-high temperatures in parts of the east, while California grappled with rare snow and one of the strongest storms to ever hit the state.

The storm shut down the north-south motorway on the West Coast, Interstate 5. It reopened on Sunday.

Yosemite National Park, however, will remain closed until Wednesday because of severe winter conditions.

On Saturday, all beaches were closed for several hours due to lightning strikes in LA County, the authorities said.

Flights have also been cancelled and delayed in airports including O'Hare and Midway in Chicago and Dallas - Fort Worth.

Residents of the state capital of Sacramento have been warned to avoid travel from Sunday to Wednesday with rain and snow starting up again.

In Oregon, California's northern neighbour, a state of emergency was declared in one county as a precaution. The authorities said this would ensure the necessary resources and equipment could be quickly allocated if later requested.

So far there have been no reports of any storm-related deaths or serious injuries.

Earlier this week, snowflakes were seen falling in Los Angeles, a city famed for its palm trees and sun-kissed boulevards.

Local residents were seen marvelling at the unfamiliar sight of a snow flurry around the Hollywood sign on Mount Lee.



The various winners pose with their prizes during the National Domino Association's Awards and Appreciation Ceremony at its headquarters in Ottos on Saturday, 25th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

ABNDA shows appreciation to outstanding performers during 2022 domestic domino season

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) presented prizes to outstanding individual performers and successful teams for the 2022 domestic season during an Awards and Appreciation Ceremony at its headquarters in Ottos on Saturday evening.

Trevor Scott and Natalie Heron took home the top prize for winning the King and Queen Domino title. The combination of Wendel Anthony and Sonika Regis claimed the runners-up prize, while the duo comprising Devon Graham and Carol-Faye Bynoe walked away with the third-place honours.

Head of the ABNDA Sheldon Gomes and his partner MaClean Harve were also rewarded for capturing the President Pair crown. The Jason King and Sharon Matthew duo claimed

second place honours, while Dwayne George and Manlight Simmons combined to capture third place.

Dwayne George teamed up with Marilyn Gayle to grab the Mixed Pairs title. The combination of Kenny Charles and Lorraine Richardson took second place, while Michael Roach and his partner Francine Hector secured third place.

The 500 Pairs competition was won by the duo of Conrad Constant and Natasha Edwards. Noxford Hoyte and his teammate Glenroy George claimed the runners-up prize while Marilyn Gayle combined with Kaid Jarvis to clinch third place.

Dwayne George and his partner Manlight Simmons captured the Male Pairs title. The Jason King and Rupert Davis duo grabbed second place, while Kenny Charles and Mervin Le-

Fleur combined forces to secure third place.

The Female Pairs championship was won by the combination of Natalie Heron and Shashawna Carter. The duo of Francine Hector and Bernia Richards captured second place, while Lorraine Richardson and her partner Sharon Matthew finished third.

The Dominatrixx team won the Accumulated Three-Hand competition with Double Six finishing second and Triple Dynamite taking third place honours. The Team Three-Hand competition was captured by Bravo. Unstoppables claimed second place and Dominatrixx took third place.

Dominatrixx was also rewarded for winning the Team Four-Hand contest. Willikies Super Stars took second place with Double Six clinching third-place honours.

Cool & Smooth T20 and ABCA partnership continues

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA), Leon “Kuma” Rodney has reiterated the ABCA’s longstanding support of the Cool & Smooth T20 (CST20) tournament, which will take place in April of this year.

According to a media release from the organizers, Rodney expressed his utter satisfaction with the country’s sole national T20 competition and looks forward to hosting the tournament in its tenth year of operation.

“The Cool and Smooth T20 tournament is pivotal to Antigua and Barbuda. It has now become a staple of the cricket calendar, and the ABCA is very pleased and grateful to the Cool & Smooth organization for the successful running of the tournament, as we continue to sanction it without reservation,” Rodney stated.

“We look forward to a fantastic competition in 2023 and hope the tournament can continue to move from strength to strength.”

The ABCA has always been a huge support system for the tournament since its first year of operation in 2013, assisting in the provision of modern administrative standards and being the liaison between the local clubs and the Cool & Smooth T20 team.

The CST20 has been the official T20 tournament of Antigua & Barbuda since its inception and recently received a boost from Leeward Islands Cricket, who will be making their players available for the tournament as well.

President Rodney also highlighted its impact on the development and growth of talent across the nation.

“I think it is fair to say the tournament in Antigua and Barbuda has seen a fantastic growth opportunity for



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association Leon ‘Kuma’ Rodney speaks at the 2022 Opening Ceremony of the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion Tournament at the Coolidge Cricket Ground. (Photo courtesy Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion)

young players between the ages of 16 and 23,” Rodney said.

“There are still some veteran players participating, but there are several development factors within the competition, aimed at providing opportunities for young players, providing more avenues for those players to enhance their craft and expand their horizon.”

According to the release, “The Cool & Smooth T20 tournament has a deep interest in developing the vast talent Antigua and Barbuda has to of-

fer and is overjoyed to work with President Rodney and his team to develop players across the country and provide them with opportunities.

“This tournament is a stepping stone to prepare young players, both nationally and regionally, for the senior, professional levels of cricket.”

The tournament bowls off on 13th April at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, with the grand finale to be played under lights on 29th April at the same venue.

Players to engage in second practice match at CWI Rising Stars Under-19s Camp

The players at the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-19s High Performance Camp will play their second intra-squad practice match at the Coolidge Cricket Ground tomorrow.

This follows a 67-run victory for Team A, which was led by Stephen Pascal, over Team B, skippered by Nathan Sealy in the first encounter at the same venue on Saturday.

Each team batted for two hours and 39 minutes with Team B posting 100 all out in 37 overs after they lost the toss and were sent in to bat.

Middle order batsman Orlando James top scored with 35 off 75 balls, but only two other teammates managed to reach double figures.

Opener Adrian Weir got 23 off 69 balls and Reon Edwards was not out on 16 off 24 balls.

Antiguan and Leeward

Islands leg-spinner Micah McKenzie was the chief destroyer, grabbing four wickets for 31 runs in eight overs. Jacen Agard picked up two wickets for nine runs in five overs and Tarrique Edwards captured two wickets for 28 runs in 10 overs.

In their turn at the crease, Team A made 167 all out in 36.4 overs. Antiguan and Leeward Islands batsman Jewel Andrew hit a top score of 37 off 62 balls. Pascal, who opened the innings, struck 33 off 44 balls, Jordan Johnson made 26 off 44 balls and Trevaun Williams chipped in with 24 off 36 balls.

Pacer Reon Edwards claimed three wickets for 34 runs in seven overs, Goicharaan Chulai picked up two wickets for 10 runs in 5.4 overs and Sealy captured two wickets for 14 runs in eight overs.

The Rising Stars Under 19s High-Performance



Antiguan and Leeward Islands leg-spinner Micah McKenzie captured four wickets during the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-19s High Performance Camp first intra-squad practice match at the Coolidge Cricket Ground on Saturday, 25th February, 2023. (File photo)

camp is being hosted at Coolidge Cricket Ground, the home of Cricket West Indies, from 21st February to 9th March.

Twenty-nine of the best Under 19 players in the region are participating in the camp in the build-up to-

wards the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in 2024.

The players were selected based on performances during the Rising Stars age-group tournaments in 2022.

Later in the year, CWI will host the 2023 regional age-group Rising Stars, presenting the opportunity for other players to compete for selection into the squad ahead of the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup.

The Rising Stars Under 19s High-Performance camp will feature targeted coaching sessions and physical preparations as well as sessions geared towards their off-field development.

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Jordan Riley scored a late goal in added on time for Greenbay Hoppers to salvage their draw with neighbours Five Islands in Sunday's second encounter.

Riley crushed Five Islands' hopes when he scored Hoppers' equalizer in the first minute of added on time or the 91st minute to deny their opponents from claiming their first win of the season.

Before Riley's intervention, Five Is-

lands were on course to record their first win in 13 matches after Tony Sanchez had converted a penalty in the 16th minute to give them a 1-0 lead.

Their third draw of the season takes Five Islands to three points but they remain second from bottom of the standings.

It was also the third draw in 12 outings for Greenbay Hoppers who advance to 18 points but remain ninth in the standings.

Empire claim fourth win in premier division league



Jayvaughn Joseph, fourth right #23, scored Empire's second goal in their premier division league encounter with Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, 26th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

Empire claimed the only win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

Empire pulled off a 2-0 victory over Cedar Grove Blue Jays in the feature match of a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, forward Rakeem Joseph broke the deadlock with a 62nd minute conversion and teammate Jayvaughn Joseph scored in the 75th minute to seal Em-

pire's fourth win of the season.

The result carries Empire to 14 points from 12 matches and up to 11th place on goal difference in the 16-team competition.

Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain third from bottom with seven points after succumbing to their ninth loss in 12 appearances.

Sunday's other two premier league encounters ended in 1-1 draws. Pigotts Bullets and Ottos Rangers battled to their draw in the opening affair.

Akeem Isaac converted a penalty in the 39th minute to give Pigotts Bullets a 1-0 halftime lead. But Ottos Rangers drew level via a Josue "Naymar" Arias 72nd minute conversion.

Their second draw in 12 outings carries Pigotts Bullets to 14 points, but they slipped to 12th place on goal difference.

Their first draw -12 matches, lifted Ottos Rangers to 19 points and up to seventh place on goal difference.

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