

MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 45 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# TAXI DRIVERS, VENDORS CASH IN FROM CRUISE TOURISM

*Story on Page 2*



The Moravian Church celebrated its 566th anniversary on Sunday with a March of Witness through St. John's that ended at Blackburn Park in Villa.

# Local News



## Taxi Association says its members are benefitting from the cruise industry

More of the visitors arriving in the country aboard cruise ships are taking island tours and bringing increased benefits for the taxi drivers who take them on these tours.

That's the word from the President of the St. John's Taxi Association, Patrick

Burnette, giving an assessment of the cruise season which comes to an end at the end of April.

"From what I have seen, in terms of guest arrivals, we actually see more persons coming off the ships and going out (on tours). I don't have the numbers to

hand, but from what I have seen, the homeporting has also helped as it has brought more economic benefits for our members. All this means, at least from where I stand, is that we are having a better season than the one before."

Burnette also stated the fact that there are obvious signs that the tourists are spending more, which is good for everyone "once people are spending and are taking tours to get a taste of the 'Antiguan experience.'"

"I can tell you this much, if someone goes out on a tour or goes to the beach, it is not just the taxi drivers who benefit. Beach vendors, restaurants or even those who sell drinks from a cooler, all benefit," he explained.

He noted that when everyone gets a slice of the 'tourism pie' that says a lot about the value of the industry to all residents in the country.

Last Friday, Burnette joined Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez and Works Minister Maria



*President of the St. John's Taxi Association, Patrick Burnette*

Browne on a tour of the city to look at the areas of need of immediate attention.

He described, as a 'good start' the move by the two Cabinet members to see for themselves what was needed for the capital city. "It was pleasing to me (the taxi association); it is something about which we have had concerns. We wrote to the minister previously explaining the things that needed to be addressed including our operations and our guest relations. The ministers took it upon themselves to physically see first-hand what was needed, so for the opportunity to tour with them we were quite elated. It was a good gesture as we now await the follow-through," he added.

This year's cruise industry is on target to surpass the 600-thousand persons mark.

Mon 06   Day		Mon 06   Night	
<b>80°</b>	☀️	<b>72°</b>	☁️
18% ☁️ ENE 7 mph		24% ☁️ E 7 mph	
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High around 80F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.		A few clouds. Low 72F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
💧 Humidity <b>70%</b>	☀️ UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	💧 Humidity <b>81%</b>	☀️ UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
🌅 Sunrise <b>6:21 am</b>	🌇 Sunset <b>6:15 pm</b>	🌙 Moonrise <b>5:44 pm</b>	🌙 Moonset <b>5:56 am</b>
		🌕 Full Moon	



## Immediate remedial work in store for the capital city

Immediate remedial work is in store for parts of the city centre following a tour of lower St. John's; carried out last Friday by the Ministers of Tourism and Works.

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez and the Minister of Works, Maria Browne, undertook the tour of St. John's to see, first-hand, some of the issues in the capital relating to sidewalks, open drains and sewage.

It was quite a sight to see the two ministers tour the city as many persons, including taxi drivers, used the opportunity to interact with them voicing their concerns on a range of issues.

Both ministers were joined by the President of the Taxi Association, Patrick Burnette, and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Clement Antonio.

Following the tour, both ministers spoke to the issues

they observed.

"We would have noticed that there are some areas that are in dire need of addressing right away. There are some manholes that are uncovered as well as some covered by boards etc. and are proving to be hazardous to both residents and visitors alike. Our first goal is to make the city a safer one for everyone and we are going to be addressing these matters right away. We also noticed some potholes in the roads that are causing some problems for taxi drivers and others so we will be addressing those as well. Our overall aim is to make Antigua and Barbuda, especially the city-centre a more aesthetically pleasing one and a safer one for all involved," Works Minister Browne stated.

Fernandez thanked the Works Minister for the 'energy' she has displayed in the time that she has taken up the new portfolio noting



*From left: Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez, Minister of Works Maria Browne and President of the Taxi Association, Patrick Burnette.*

it's a good sign of things to come. He remarked that some of the issues raised are things that can be addressed with very little resources.

"Some of these are things we can deal with, even utilizing the Transport Board to erect better signage in the city and better pedestrian crossings to allow for better movement through St. John's for both residents and visitors. I believe we can start with some remedial work that will make a big difference. I am really very pleased with the support we

have received from the ministry of works so far," he stated.

On the issue of the need for general beautification of St John's city, Fernandez addressed the problem of the dilapidated state of many buildings in the capital. He said some are of colonial designs and ought to be identified and preserved. However, he expressed a view that once the general beautification starts private owners of these properties will feel motivated to improve the buildings they own.



# Local News

## Gov't announces measures to better manage the country's finances

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Gaston Browne has announced a set of bold measures designed to eliminate any possibility of wastage as well as to curb revenue leakages in the public sector.

These measures, he argued, are to ensure that value is received for every dollar of public funds spent as the administration seeks to reset the way public finances are managed.

Speaking during the national budget presentation, PM Browne said over the next twelve months, the gov-

ernment will pursue a series of revenue and expenditure reforms that will enhance its ability to deliver both timely and efficient service to the public, and to finance projects and programmes to advance the social and economic wellbeing of all.

The reforms will include the following:

The Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority will be authorized to monitor and report on projects for which concessions and tax exemptions are granted.

Non-statutory tax exemptions will be suspended

across the board. Where a strong case can be made for an exemption, only 50 per cent of the import duty will be provided.

The ABST, Revenue Recovery Charge and Environmental Levy must be paid in all instances.

This is a necessary intervention to maintain expected tax revenues. Currently, nearly half of revenue assessed for collection by the Customs and Excise Division is exempted.

Concessions are granted to help businesses - especially during the startup phase, to incentivize certain activities that are beneficial to the economy, and to provide relief to individuals in need.

But, in order for the government to provide the goods and services, which all in our society rightfully expect, concessions will have to be strictly managed in 2023.

Set offs with companies that provide services to government will be judiciously employed.

The objective will be to allow government to reduce its obligations to suppliers and contractors while, at the same time, allowing these businesses to reduce their tax liability.

The system for exchanges at Customs will be discontinued apart from exceptional cases.

Additionally, the gov-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is promising that the way contracts are issued and managed will be overhauled, particularly those administered through National Solid Waste, Central Board of Health, and Public Works.

"This is to ensure more equitable distribution of contracts and that government receives better value for money.

"This will also allow for better allocation of resources thereby ensuring consistency, timeliness of payments, and most importantly, that the public enjoys improved delivery of services," the prime minister explained.

He also announced an increase in property tax for properties valued in excess of \$3 million. They will be taxed at a rate .02 percent higher than before.

That money will be used to help finance government's urban renewal and national beautification initiative, which includes creation and maintenance of "green spaces" in St. John's and across the island.

### NOTICE

To: Your Worship  
St. Johns Magistrate Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

Dear Sir/ Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Bottle Licence

I, Helle Abeola Jacson and Theophime Rousavelt Joushua Jackson both of Bathlodge Village, with registered business situated at Golden Grove New Extension St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Blazing-Jayz" situated at Golden Grove New Extension in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023





*A well lit school yard at night*



## The beefing up of security at the nation's schools has started

Efforts to beef up the security at the nation's schools are now underway.

This, as the government moves to address the vexing issues of the day; the twin issues of vandalism and violence at many of the school plants.

Within the past year, multiple cases of vandalism and theft at the schools have been reported, additionally they have been compounded by an upsurge in youth-on-youth

violence.

Teachers, parents, and students have appealed to the government to address these issues as they often place the well-being of students and teachers in jeopardy. One source said the lights are to illuminate the schools' premises and are to work in collaboration with cameras that are to be installed on each school plant.

This project continued at several schools recently, with

the latest installations taking place at the Newfield and Sea View Farm Primary Schools. There will be more installations in the coming weeks.

Schools where the light installations have been completed are C.T Samuel Primary, Jennings Secondary School, Liberta Prima-

ry School, Pares Primary School, Parham Primary School, Seaview Farm Primary, All Saints Secondary School, All Saints Primary School, New Field Primary School, Urlings Primary School, Buckley's Primary School, Irene B Williams Primary School (Swetes),





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# Local News



## Italian investor to build hotels in Antigua, Barbuda

An Italian investor wants to build at least two hotels in the country, one in Antigua and the other in Barbuda.

In furtherance of his objective, last Thursday, the investor who has not yet been named, joined the Cabinet on a tour of Morris Bay, the site earmarked for the proposed Callaloo Cay resort development which he has expressed a strong interest in reviving.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst said the

tour was aimed at determining aspects in the lands under review such as the exact boundary markers and the high water marks. The first step is the purchase of the land, and this is being arranged after both sides agree on the sale price.

"We showed him the land at Morris Bay and he said that the land is appropriate for what he wants to build. He has already appointed an architect and at least one other individual who will manage his affairs whenever he is not here,"

Hurst disclosed.

An evaluator hired by the government also took part in the tour and has already prepared a valuation of the property and is to meet with the investor's representatives to settle on a mutually accepted price for the land.

According to Hurst, the investor, said to be worth billions of dollars, explained that he does not have to report to a board and he is ready to start the project as soon as the sale of the land and other details are completed. He is proposing to build one hotel in Antigua and another in Barbuda.

Hurst said the government feels comfortable about the investor and his ability to finance the project on his own, as he has already built a hotel in Grenada. However, the investor feels that there is a large number of residents who have already been trained to work the hotel sector, who represent a pool of workers ready to take up employment at the property.

"We feel confident that following the proposed sale of the land, work on the hotel will start soon after and that it is likely to cost in the region of \$200 million," he declared.

## Dean Jonas' case returns to Magistrate's Court today

The case where former Member of Parliament Dean Jonas is facing four charges resulting from an incident at his home almost two weeks ago, returns to the magistrate's court today.

But this time, there is now a new twist as the former Cabinet minister is now facing an additional charge, while his lead attorney, Wendel Robinson is arguing that the police do not have the authority to prosecute his client as those powers were removed from them by statute.

When the matter resumed last Friday, Jonas



Dean Jonas

faced the additional charge of assault.

Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh is presiding over the case and she is expected to give her decision on all the points raised by Robinson at the resumption today.

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**Call:** (268) 717-8334  
(268) 781-8309



**THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (CAP.44)**



**WRIT OF ELECTION**

**CHARLES THE THIRD**, by the

Grace of God, King of Antigua and Barbuda and  
of His other Realms and Territories, Head of the  
Commonwealth

**To the Returning Officer appointed under section 11 of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap.44.**

**GREETINGS:**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 14(2) of the Barbuda Local Government Act cap.44, the last election was held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 14 (2) of the said Act an election shall be held at regular intervals of two years between each election, to elect four members of the Barbuda Council to fill the seats left vacant by the retiring group of four members of the Council; and

**WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13 (1) (b) of the said Act that the Governor General shall appoint a date to hold an election for the purpose of section 14 (2) of this Act;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SIR RODNEY WILLIAMS, KGN** Knight Grand Collar and **GCMG** Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda hereby appoint Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023, as the date on which an election under section 13(1)(c) of the Barbuda Local Government Act Cap.44 shall be held for the purpose of filling the aforementioned four seats.

**AND I COMMAND** that, due notice being first given, you do cause an election to be held according to law of the elected member to serve in the Barbuda Council as aforesaid and that you do cause the names of such a members then so elected, whether present or absent, to be certified to me without delay.

**GIVEN** under my hand and Public Seal  
this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2023 and in  
the First year of His Majesty's Reign,  
and in the Year of Our Lord 2023



*Rodney Williams*  
Governor General



# Local News



## \$20,000 donated to National Sailing Academy

The Halo Foundation has donated twenty-thousand dollars (\$20,000) to the National Sailing Academy (NSA) and Sailability to help train young people to be better seafarers.

The cheque was handed over by President of the Halo Foundation, Lady Sandra Williams to the General Manager of NSA, Alison Sly-Adams.

The National Sailing Academy and Sailability are two non-profit organisations under the patronage of

Sir Rodney and Lady Sandra Williams. In December, a fundraising event “Music For A Cause” was held on the lawns of Government House in aid of these two organisations and the services they continue to offer in the area of sports.

The National Sailing Academy presents the opportunity for school children in Antigua to learn swimming and sailing free of charge, while Sailability provides instruction for the differently abled.



*Lady Williams presents cheque to Alison Sly-Adams on behalf of the Halo Foundation*



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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

*By virtue of the power and authority vested in me under*

Section 10 of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap.44 and section 20 of the Interpretation Act, Cap. 224. of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992.

*and all other powers and authorities me thereto enabling, I do hereby*

direct Dame Lorna Simon, the Supervisor of Elections, appointed under and by virtue of Section 67 of the Constitution to be the Supervisor of Elections for the purpose of section 13(1)(c) of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap.44.

Given under my hand at Antigua the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2023


  
Governor-General

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, CAP. 44

NOTICE under Section 13 (2) of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Governor-General has, by Proclamation dated 23rd February, 2023 fixed the 29th March, 2023 as the date for the holding of an election under the Barbuda Local Government Act for the purpose of filling four (4) seats now vacant as a result of the statutory retirement of the four (4) members of the Barbuda Council.

  
Dame Lorna Simon, DCN  
Supervisor of Elections  
27th February, 2023

REVISED LAWS OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 1992

THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, CAP. 44

FORM OF NOTICE OF ELECTION

ELECTION FOR THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

1. Nomination papers may be delivered by the candidate or his proposer or seconder to the Returning Officer at the Barbuda Registration Unit between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the 17th March, 2023.
2. Forms of nomination papers may be obtained at the place and time aforesaid. The Returning Officer will, at the request of any elector, prepare a nomination paper for signature.
3. If the election is contested, the poll will take place on the 29th March, 2023.



Dame Lorna Simon, DCN, BSc.  
Supervisor of Elections  
27th March 2023

NOTE

1. Subject to Section 13 (3) of the Barbuda Local Government Act, the attention of candidates and electors is drawn to the rules for filling up nomination papers and other provisions relating to nomination made under Section 16 of the Barbuda Local Government Act Cap 44.
2. Every person guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice will, on conviction, be liable to the penalties imposed by the Representation of the People Act, CAP 379.
3. Electors and their proxies should take note that application to be treated as an absent voter and other applications and notices about proxy voting must reach the Returning Officer by the 24th day of March next, if they are to be effective for this election.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992

The Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44

By the Supervisor of Elections

Appointment of Returning Officer

Mrs. Lornamay Benjamin-Hughes

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Section 11 of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44, I do hereby appoint you Returning Officer for the Barbuda Local Government Election of 29th March, 2023.



Dame Lorna Simon, DCN, BSc.  
Supervisor of Elections

27th February, 2023

# Opinion

# Tony in the doghouse

**By Tony Deyal**

Reverend Warren J. Keating, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Yuma, Arizona, says that the best prayer he ever heard was, “Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am.”

Unfortunately, I am allergic to furry dogs so I have to stay as far away from them as possible. Fortunately for me, at 77 going on 78 I am very much aware that only dogged determination keeps me going and going like the Energizer Bunny.

The downside, or the most unfortunate of experiences, is that at this age while almost all of us can still spend the entire night out with a woman, the only thing that comes is daylight. In fact, I feel like a dog chasing a car- even if I catch it, I can’t drive it.

In my days in Barbados, I had an experience that was the total opposite. I bought a car, a Mini Moke, without doors and totally open to the elements and the animals. My greatest fear was that a big dog would rush out, jump into my car and bite me.

Because I worked for the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) I would inevitably end up in the hospital and the nurse would ask me, “Sir, what happen?” Me, “A dog bite me.” Nurse, “How that happen?” Me, “Well I was driving my car and somewhere between Coverly and Newton, I came to a plantation and a big dog rush out, jump into my car and bite me.” Nurse, “Balls”. Me, “No, ankle.” Nurse, “No the place you get bite. Balls.” Me, not knowing that Balls is the name of the village or plantation and not an anatomical reference responded loudly and angrily, “Nurse, not there, my ankle is where I get bite.”

It was after we left Barbados, went to Trinidad and Belize and then ended

up in Antigua that my luck changed and my “Karma” ran into a “Dogma”. It is a fact of life that one day you’re the hydrant and spouting instructions and the next day you’re the dogsbody in the doghouse for forgetting your wife’s birthday, wedding day, Mother’s Day or worse. However, a cat-house is not the feline equivalent of the doghouse although a husband could be in the doghouse if he frequents a cat-house.

Some friends showed my wife and children a new litter of mixed-breed pups known as “pompeks”. I watched them play with the pups and knew that despite my warning that a dog would create problems for us when we wanted to go on holidays, I had already lost the game. A tiny, pathetic pup was then smuggled into the house and presented to me as a fait accompli.

We named him Crix because of his biscuit-coloured coat. About two years later we went out for a few days, leaving Crix with his original owner. Crix took the opportunity of our absence to sow his wild oats and his litter included a little ball of white fur that could barely stand.

Saying that she feared the poor little runt would die if we did not take care of him, Indranie brought him home.

Two more years passed and Missy came. An old female dog with sad eyes, Missy, had moved into the neighbourhood and ended up at our gate looking imploringly at my wife, the animal magnet. Thrice we tried to return Missy to her owners and thrice, in spite of begone, she returned.

I was forced to give up and Missy got her nose past the gate and into the house carrying a bundle – of children. When Indranie joined me in Trinidad, she brought Missy (now going on 17) and one of her daughters, Sheba



*Tony Deyal*

(twelve this year) with her.

Fortunately for our two remaining dogs, even though Indranie cannot drive in Trinidad, she is an animal magnet and claims this is why I was attracted to her. Right now though, our personal stock is down to a Trini rabbit and these two very little, furry dogs.

The older they become, the greater the care and love they get from their “mom” Indranie. I have to stay mum and not say anything.

Indranie treats them so well that she is both a dogsbody and the dogs’ buddy, as well as the best friend of every animal flying, hiding, running or jumping into our yard. She has time and food for all.

Whenever I made a fuss about the dogs and my allergy, either because she kept them in the verandah so I couldn’t use it anymore, or tying them up in the kitchen at night so I had a problem making my early morning coffee, she always had an explanation.

It is only recently I round out that the owners of animals including dogs, cats, birds and rabbits were discovered to have maintained more of their cognitive abilities as they get older than those like me who, either from choice or medical reasons, stay as far away from dogs and other animals as is hu-

*cont’d on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*  
manly possible.

Cognitive abilities are general mental capabilities involving reasoning, problem solving, planning, abstract thinking, complex idea comprehension, and learning from experience. I don't have any cognitive powers and worse, Indranie uses all those she has to justify whatever she deprives me of to please herself and the animals.

Most times, because of my allergy, I let sleeping dogs lie. The only good thing is that without any help from me, our politicians are still better at that than any dog I have known.

They keep promising us (and the dogs) they will do

something positive about the fireworks but it is very clear that they're sleeping on that and all the other promises they make at election time. We actually have a political leader whose nickname is "Rottweiler". One of my disgruntled friends told me that while research shows that dogs know up to 215 words and phrases, all ours talks is "Rott". My reply was, "In that case, we dogs dead."

My son heard me and not knowing that the phrase has nothing to do with dogs as such but means "a situation is hopeless" or "we are helpless", he was upset. "How you mean we dogs dead daddy? You think the Rottweiler will kill our

dogs?"

I had to calm him and so told him a story to show that Rottweilers sometimes meet their match. A quiet, little man walked into a bar with a dachshund under his arm and was immediately made fun of by a burly giant with a Rottweiler. "What a stupid, ugly excuse for a dog," the big bully guffawed.

"Long nose, no legs. Ugliest dog I've ever seen." The little man mumbled, "Yes, but he's real mean." The big man forced a bet on the meek little man. "Fifty dollars," he boasted, "that

my Rott can finish off your poor mutt in two minutes flat."

The two animals lined up nose-to-nose and the short, ugly one lunged forward and bit the Rottweiler in half. "What kind of a dog is that?" asked the amazed Rottweiler owner. "Well before I cut off his tail," the little man said, "he was an alligator."

• *Tony Deyal was last seen saying that he knows why these "pompek" mixtures are called "lap" dogs – they are always hungry and "lap" up everything in sight.*



*Tony in the doghouse*



**Government of  
Antigua & Barbuda**

**Ministry of Education, Sports & Creative Industries  
Government Complex, Queen Elizabeth Highway  
St. John's, Antigua**

**Tel: 462-0192/462-0193/462-0198/462-0199**

**Overseas: 268-462-4959/1051**

**Fax: 268-462-4970**

### **OAS Scholarship Application Announcement**

The Organization of American States announces its 2023 call for scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate academic studies and graduate research.

More information can be obtained through the links listed below.

- ❑ Call for applications for Graduate Studies: [https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/Academic\\_Program\\_OAS\\_2023.asp](https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/Academic_Program_OAS_2023.asp)
- ❑ Call for applications for Undergraduate Studies: [https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf\\_2023.asp](https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf_2023.asp)  
 · Scholarship application form for Undergraduate Studies (last two years of a Bachelor's degree): <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1137&Type=1&Lang=Eng>
- ❑ Scholarship application form for Graduate Studies: <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1136&Type=1&Lang=Eng>

Deadline for submission of applications and accompanying documents to the Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.



## Ocean treaty: Historic agreement reached after decade of talks

By Esme Stallard

Nations have reached a historic agreement to protect the world's oceans following 10 years of negotiations.

The High Seas Treaty aims to place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030, to safeguard and recuperate marine nature.

The agreement was reached on Saturday evening, after 38 hours of talks, at UN headquarters in New York.

The negotiations had been held up for years over disagreements on funding and fishing rights.

The last international agreement on ocean protection was signed 40 years ago in 1982 - the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

That agreement estab-



*Marine protected areas could help endangered species like the whale shark - the largest living fish - recover.*

lished an area called the high seas - international waters where all countries have a right to fish, ship and do research - but only 1.2% of these waters are protected.

Marine life living out-

side of these protected areas has been at risk from climate change, overfishing and shipping traffic.

In the latest assessment of global marine species, nearly 10% were found to be at risk of extinction, ac-

cording to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

These new protected areas, established in the treaty, will put limits on how much fishing can take place, the routes of shipping lanes and exploration activities like deep sea mining - when minerals are taken from a sea bed 200m or more below the surface.

Environmental groups have been concerned that mining processes could disturb animal breeding grounds, create noise pollution and be toxic for marine life.

The International Seabed Authority that oversees licensing told the BBC that moving forward "any future activity in the deep seabed will be sub-

*cont'd on pg 13*





*cont'd from pg 12*

ject to strict environmental regulations and oversight to ensure that they are carried out sustainably and responsibly”.

Rena Lee, UN Ambassador for Oceans, brought down the gavel after two weeks of negotiations that at times threatened to unravel.

Minna Epps, director of the IUCN Ocean team, said the main issue was over the sharing of marine genetic resources.

Marine genetic resources are biological material from plants and animals in the ocean that can have benefits for society, such as pharmaceuticals, industrial processes and food.

Richer nations currently have the resources and funding to explore the deep ocean but poorer nations wanted to ensure any benefits they find are shared equally.

Dr Robert Blasiak, ocean researcher at Stockholm University, said the challenge was that no one knows how much ocean resources are worth and therefore how they could be split.

He said: “If you imagine a big, high-definition, widescreen TV, and if only like three or four of the pixels on that giant screen are working, that’s our knowledge of the deep ocean.

“So we’ve recorded about 230,000 species in the ocean, but it’s estimated that there are over two

million.”

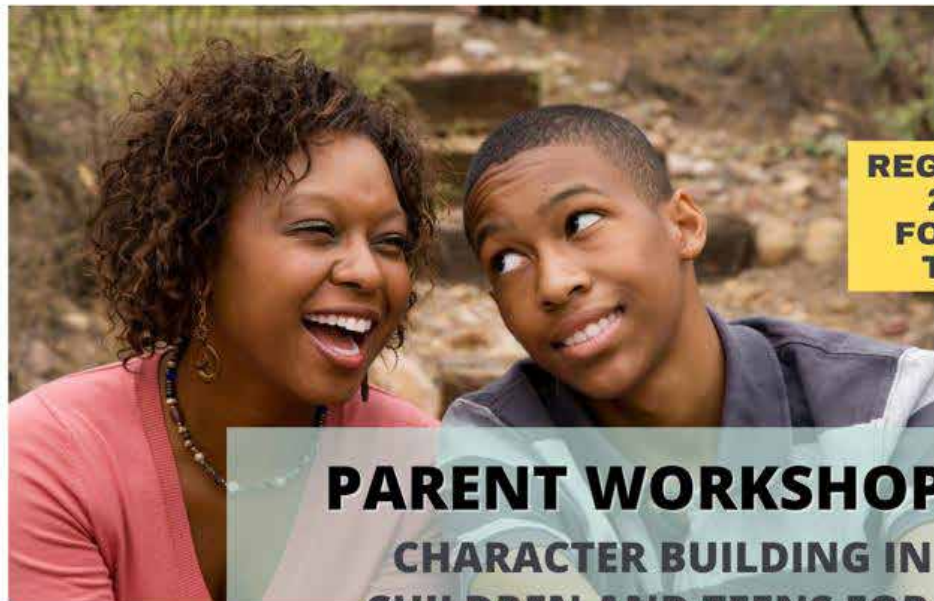
Laura Meller, an oceans campaigner for Greenpeace Nordic, commended countries for “putting aside differences and delivering a treaty that will let us protect the oceans, build our resilience to climate change and safeguard the lives and livelihoods of billions of people”.

“This is a historic day for conservation and a sign that in a divided world, protecting nature and people can triumph over geopolitics,” she added.

Countries will need to meet again to formally adopt the agreement and then have plenty of work to do before the treaty can be implemented.

Liz Karan, director of Pews Trust ocean governance team, told the BBC: “It will take some time to take effect. Countries have to ratify it [legally adopt it] for it to enter force. Then there are a lot of institutional bodies like the Science and Technical Committee that have to get set up.”

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## Year after the slap, Chris Rock punches back in new special

By Jake Coyle

A year after Will Smith smacked him on the Academy Awards stage, Chris Rock finally gave his rebuttal in a forceful stand-up special, streamed live on Netflix, in which the comedian bragged that he “took that hit like Pacquiao.”

The 58-year-old comedian on Saturday night performed his first stand-up special since last year’s Oscars in a much-awaited sequel that had all the hype — and more — of a Manny Pacquiao prizefight. “Chris Rock: Selective Outrage,” streamed live from the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore, marked Netflix’s first foray into live streaming. But it was also a long-awaited comedy counterpunch to Academy Awards infamy.

Rock, performing in all white and with a Prince medallion around his neck, immediately touched on last year’s Oscars while riffing on “wokeness,” hypersensitivity and what he called “selective outrage.”

“You never know who might get triggered,” said Rock. “Anybody who says words hurt hasn’t been punched in the face.”

But Rock then launched into a series of wide-ranging topics examining contemporary issues, including virtue signaling, high-priced yoga pants, the Duchess of Sussex, the Kardashians, abortion rights, the Capitol riot and what he called America’s biggest addiction: Attention.

“We used to want love, now we just want likes,” said Rock.

Rock, who also riffed on how he’d respond if his father transitioned to a woman (he would support him, Rock said), made clear “Selective Outrage” was not going to be just a Will Smith show. Only occasionally did Rock’s



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Rock will be the first artist to perform on Netflix’s first-ever live, global streaming event. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)

material dovetail with the 2022 Oscars, like it did when Rock joked about the oddity of Snoop Dogg becoming such a venerated pitch man for advertisers.

“I’m not dissing Snoop,” said Rock. “The last thing I need is another mad rapper.”

But an hour into his set, Rock closed the special with a torrent of material about the notorious Academy Awards moment.

“You all know what happened to me, getting smacked by Suge Smith. Everybody knows,” Rock said. “It still hurts. I got ‘Summertime’ ringing in my ears.”

While Smith has apologized and repeatedly spoken about the incident since last March, Rock has avoided all the usual platforms where celebrities often go to air their feelings. He never sat down with Oprah Winfrey, and turned away the many media outlets that would have loved to land an exclusive in-depth interview.

“I’m a not a victim, baby,” said Rock. “You will never see me on Oprah

or Gayle crying. You will never see it. Never going to happen.”

But Rock did use his encounter with Smith to shape and enliven his second stand-up special for Netflix. Some of his best material was on their physical differences.

“We are not the same size. This guy does movies with his shirt off,” said Rock. “You will never see me do a movie with my shirt off. If I’m in a movie getting open-heart surgery, I got on a sweater.”

“He played Muhammed Ali,” added Rock. “I played Pookie in ‘New Jack City.’”

Ultimately, Rock suggested he was just caught in the crossfire in Smith’s relationship with his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. It was a joke that Rock told about Pinkett Smith that prompted Smith to stride on stage and strike Rock. The comedian on Saturday referenced Pinkett Smith’s earlier confessions of having an “entanglement” with another man while married.

*cont’d on pg 15*



*cont'd from pg 14*

"I did not have any entanglements," said Rock. "She hurt him way more than he hurt me."

"I love Will Smith," added Rock. "Now I watch 'Emancipation' just to see him get whooped."

Before dropping his microphone and holding his arms up triumphantly, Rock left the crowd with one last zinger. Rock said the reason why he didn't physically retaliate at the Oscars was because "I got parents."

"And you know what my parents taught me?" he said. "Don't fight in front of white people."

Netflix added pre- and post-show bookends of star-studded live programming with, as host comedian Ronny Chieng said, "every comedy legend who owes Netflix a favor." Bono lent a opening introduction. Dana Carvey and David Spade hosted the after-show. Paul McCartney, Tracy Morgan, Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld and one of last year's Oscar hosts, Wanda Sykes, all

added pre-taped messages. Arsenio Hall guaranteed Rock's set would cause Smith to smack his television set.

For much of the past year, Rock has been touring new material in a long string of performances as part of his Ego Death tour. The shows, which had been announced before the 2022 Oscars, have featured performances with Dave Chappelle and Kevin Hart.

On the road, Rock has often worked in jokes and reflections on the slap. Rock first broke his public silence about the slap three nights after the Oscar ceremony, last year in Boston. "How was your weekend?" he asked the crowd. He added that he was "still kind of processing what happened."

After plenty of processing, Rock retook the cultural spotlight just a week before the March 12 Oscars, where the slap is sure to be revisited by this year's host, Jimmy Kimmel. In the aftermath of last year's events, Smith resigned his membership to the film academy. The academy board of governors banned

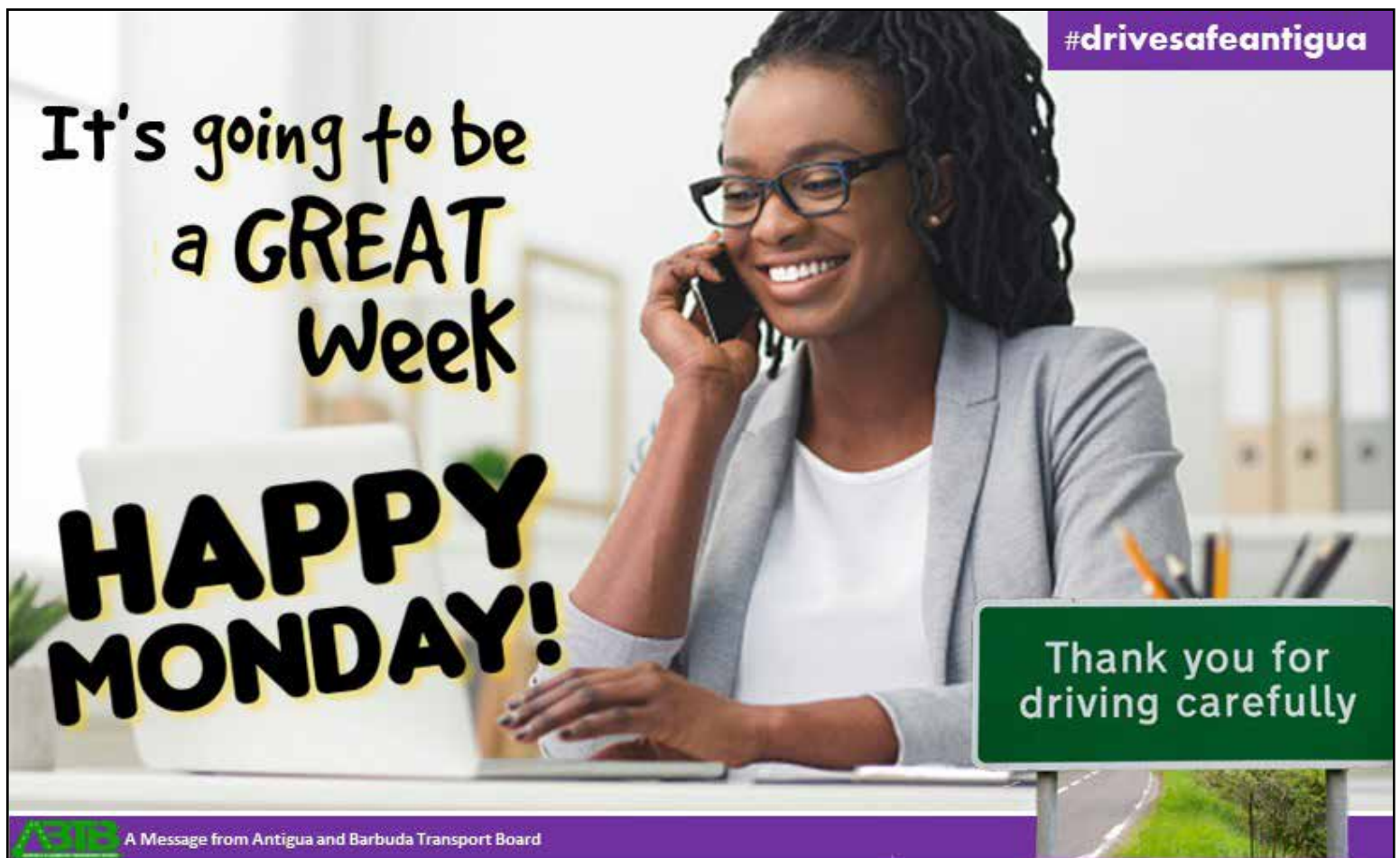
Smith from the Oscars and all other academy events for a decade.

At the annual luncheon for nominees held last month, motion picture academy president Janet Yang voiced regret about how the incident was handled, calling the academy's response "inadequate." Bill Kramer, the academy's chief executive, has said the academy has since instituted a crisis communications team to prepare for and more rapidly respond to the unexpected.

"Selective Outrage" is Rock's second special for Netflix, following 2018's "Tamborine." They're part of a two-special \$40 million deal Rock signed with the streamer in 2016.

As new as the live "Selective Outrage" was for Netflix, it was hard not to notice a few familiar things about it.

"You've got to give it to the tech companies for inventing something that existed for decades," said Chieng. "We're doing a comedy show on Saturday night ... live. Genius."



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# Regional News



## Lawyers fight for man they say US wrongly deported to Haiti

Loop - Paul Pierrilus was deported two years ago from the US to Haiti where he has been trying to survive in a chaotic and violent country where he wasn't born and had never lived.

Both his parents are Haitian but they emigrated to the French Caribbean territory of St. Martin where Pierrilus was born. The family did not apply for citizenship for him in either Haiti or St Martin and later moved to the US when he was 5.

He grew up in New York speaking English.

Deported — after a long delay — because of a drug conviction two decades ago, Pierrilus is now in Haiti where he does not speak Haitian Creole, has been unable to find work and has little savings left as he hopes for a way to leave the increasingly unstable country.

“You have to be mentally strong to deal with this type of stuff,” Pierrilus said. “A country where people get kidnapped every day. A country where people are killed. You have to be strong.”

The 42-year-old financial consultant spends most of his days locked inside a house reading self-help, business and marketing books in a neighbourhood where gunshots often echo outside.

Lawyers for Pierrilus in



*Haitians who were deported from the United States deplane at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport, in Port au Prince, Haiti, September 19, 2021. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph, File)*

the US are still fighting his deportation order, leaving him in legal limbo as the Biden administration steps up deportations to Haiti despite pleas from activists that they be temporarily halted because of the Caribbean country's deepening chaos.

His case has become emblematic of what some activists describe as the discrimination Haitian migrants face in the overburdened US immigration system. More than 20,000 Haitians have been deported from the US in the past year as thousands more continue to flee Haiti in risky boat crossings that sometimes end in mass drownings.

Cases like Pierrilus' in which people are deported

to a country where they have never lived are unusual, but they happen occasionally.

Jimmy Aldaoud, born of Iraqi parents at a refugee camp in Greece and whose family emigrated to the US in 1979, was deported in 2019 to Iraq after amassing several felony convictions. Suffering health problems and not knowing the language in Iraq, he died a few months later in a case oft-cited by advocates.

Pierrilus' parents took him to the United States so they could live a better life and he could receive a higher quality education.

When he was in his early 20s, he was convicted of selling crack cocaine. Because he was not a US citizen, Pierrilus was trans-

ferred from criminal custody to immigration custody where he was deemed a Haitian national because of his parentage and ordered deported to Haiti.

Pierrilus managed to delay deportation with several legal challenges. Because he was deemed neither a danger to the community nor a flight risk, he was released, issued a work authorisation and ordered to check with immigration authorities yearly.

He went on to become a financial planner.

Then, in February 2021, he was deported without warning, and his lawyers don't know exactly why his situation changed.

Lawyers for the  
*cont'd on pg 17*



## Entertainer among two busted for drug trafficking in Guyana

Loop - Singer Mark Ferdinand was among two people arrested on March 2 in connection with an attempt to allegedly smuggle cocaine from Guyana to the United States.

Guyana's Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) reported that its agents intercepted Cranson Carlson Henry as he attempted to board a Caribbean Airlines flight from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport to the United States.

Henry, 52, of the Crane Housing Scheme, West Coast Demerara and of Rockaway Avenue in Brooklyn, New York was questioned, after which CANU claims he admitted to having a quantity of narcotics in his luggage.

A subsequent search of



his luggage resulted in seven parcels of cocaine disguised as Milex powdered milk being seized.

The drugs weighed approximately 13.4 lbs. (6.070 kg) and has a local street

value of GUY\$13.3 Million.

CANU said further investigations led to them arresting Ferdinand, 44.

Ferdinand served seven months in a US prison in 2015 after he pled guilty to



drug trafficking charges.

His brother Berkeley Ferdinand was previously charged by CANU in 2016 for trafficking in narcotics and was sentenced to 3 years in prison.

*cont'd from pg 16*

non-profit Robert F Kennedy Human Rights organization in Washington have taken up his cause. "We demand that the Biden administration bring Paul home," organization attorney Sarah Decker said.

French St. Martin does not automatically confer French citizenship to those born in its territory to foreign parents, and his family did not seek it. They also did not formally seek Haitian citizenship, which Pierrilus is entitled to.

Though he could obtain Haitian citizenship, his lawyers have argued that he is not currently a Haitian citizen, had never lived there and should not be deported to a county with such political instability.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a brief general statement to The Associated Press that each country has an obligation under international law to accept the return of its nationals who are not eligible to remain in the US or any other country. An ICE spokeswoman said no further information about Pierrilus' case could be provided, including what proof does the U.S. government have that he's an alleged Haitian citizen and why 13 years passed before he was suddenly deported.

In 2005, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed an appeal by Pierrilus' previous attorneys to halt his deportation, saying "it is not necessary for the respondent to be a citizen of Haiti for that country to be named as

the country of removal." Decker, his current attorney, disagrees with that finding.

Pierrilus said that while he was being deported he told immigration officers, "I'm not going anywhere. I'm not from where you're trying to send me."

Overpowered and handcuffed, he said he stopped resisting. As he boarded the flight, he recalled that women were screaming and children wailing. Inside, he felt the same. Pierrilus did not know when and if he would see his family or friends again.

After being processed at the airport, someone lent Pierrilus a cell phone so he could call his parents. They gave him contacts for a family

*cont'd on pg 18*

# Regional News

## Guyana seeking to enter vaccine production industry

CMC - In a quest to access lifesaving vaccines without relying on supplies from developed countries, the Government of Guyana has reached out to the nations of Rwanda and India to strengthen its healthcare services and potentially, manufacture vaccines in the Caribbean.

This was disclosed by Vice President Bharat Jagdeo during a press conference on Friday.

He noted that if the talks bear fruit, they will ensure regional security for lifesaving vaccines.

"This has been an old issue here about the safety of our people and given what happened in the pandemic. We have been exploring the possibility of



regional security with vaccines."

He added that the discussions would continue at the government and company level.

President Dr Irfaan Ali previously said that Guyana will be seeking to develop a facility like BioNTech's mRNA vaccine factory in Kigali, Rwanda. He also encouraged inves-

tors in medical research and development to consider developments in the Caribbean.

Already, engagements were held between Guyana and Barbados to work with researchers and developers with the aim of acquiring pharmaceutical equity for global public health.

These efforts, Jagdeo explained, are in response

to the challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic. That global crisis, he said, highlighted the importance of not only having access to vaccines but in ensuring that every region is vaccine secure.

Additionally, the pandemic highlighted the inequality in the manufacturing of vaccines, pricing and also distribution.

"The idea is to ensure we have security in the future because you saw what happened during the pandemic. We could not get supplies for people in this part of the world.

"Africa faced the same thing that is why there is a discussion with Rwanda to do the same thing. We can't rely on the developed world in the future to supply these," Jagdeo said.

India has already assured Guyana of its assistance in establishing a vaccine treatment plant and in building Guyana's capacity through the training of healthcare professionals.

### *cont'd from pg 17*

friend where he could temporarily stay. Since then, gang violence has forced him to bounce through two other homes.

Warring gangs have expanded their control of territory in the Haitian capital to an estimated 60% since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, pillaging neighbourhoods, raping and shooting civilians.

The U.N. warned in January that Haitians are suffering their worst humanitarian emergency in decades. More than 1,350 kidnappings were reported last year, more than double the previous year. Killings spiked by 35 per cent, with more than 2,100 reported.

Pierrilus says he saw a man who was driving through his neighbourhood get shot in the face as bullets shattered the

windows and pock-marked the man's car.

"Can you imagine that? This guy is swirling around trying to flee the area. I don't know what happened to the guy," he said.

As a result, he rarely goes out and relies on his faith for hope. He says he stopped going to church after he saw a livestreamed service in April 2021 in which gangs burst into the church and kidnapped a pastor and three congregants.

Pierrilus talks to his parents at least once a week, focusing on the progress of his case rather than on challenges in Haiti.

He hesitated to share his first impressions of his parents' homeland upon landing in Haiti two years ago. "I had mixed feelings," he said. "I wanted to see what it looked like on my time, not under these circumstances."



## Stationmaster charged in Greece train crash that killed 57

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A stationmaster accused of causing Greece's deadliest train disaster was charged with negligent homicide and jailed pending trial Sunday, while Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis apologized for any responsibility Greece's government may bear for the tragedy.

An examining magistrate and a prosecutor agreed that multiple counts of homicide as well as charges of causing bodily harm and endangering transportation safety should be brought against the railway employee.

At least 57 people, many of them in their teens and 20s, were killed when a northbound passenger train and a southbound freight train collided late Tuesday north of the city of Larissa, in central Greece.

The 59-year-old stationmaster allegedly directed the two trains traveling in opposite directions onto the same track. He spent 7 1/2 hours Sunday testifying about the events leading up to the crash before he was charged and ordered held.

"My client testified truthfully, without fearing if doing so would incriminate him," Stephanos Pantzartzidis, the stationmaster's lawyer, told reporters. "The decision (to jail him) was expected, given the importance of the case."

Pantzartzidis implied that others besides his client share blame, saying that judges should investigate whether more than one stationmaster should have been working in Larissa at the time of the collision.

"For 20 minutes, he was in charge of (train) safety in all central Greece," the lawyer said of his client.

Greek media have reported that the automated signaling system in the area of the crash was not functioning, making the stationmaster's mistake possi-



*Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, second left, accompanied by Transport Minister Kostas Karamanlis, left, visit the location of train collision in Tempe, about 376 kilometres (235 miles) north of Athens, near Larissa city, Greece, on March 1, 2023. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has apologized for any responsibility Greece's government bears for the deadliest train crash in the country's history. At least 57 people died when a passenger train and a freight train collided late Tuesday. (Dimitris Papamitsos/Greek Prime Minister's Office via AP, File)*

ble. Stationmasters along that part of Greece's main trunk line communicate with each other and with train drivers via two-way radios, and the switches are operated manually.

The prime minister promised a swift investigation of the collision and said the new Greek transportation minister would release a safety improvement plan. Once a new parliament is in place, a commission also will be named to investigate decades of mismanagement of the country's railway system, Mitsotakis said.

In an initial statement Wednesday, Mitsotakis had said the crash resulted from a "tragic human error." Opposition parties pounced on the remark, accusing the prime minister of trying to cover up the state's role and making the inexperienced stationmaster a scapegoat.

"I owe everyone, and especially the victims' relatives, a big apology,

both personal and on behalf of all who governed the country for many years," Mitsotakis wrote Sunday on Facebook. "In 2023, it is inconceivable that two trains move in different directions on the same track and no one notices. We cannot, we do not want to, and we must not hide behind the human error."

Greece's railways long suffered from chronic mismanagement, including lavish spending on projects that were eventually abandoned or significantly delayed, Greek media have reported in several exposes. With state railway company Hellenic Railways billions of euros in debt, maintenance work was put off, according to news reports.

A retired railway union leader, Panayotis Paraskevopoulos, told Greek newspaper Kathimerini that the signaling system in the area monitored by the Larissa stationmaster malfunctioned.

**cont'd on pg 20**

# China boosts military budget while warning of escalating threats

China will increase military spending by more than 7% this year, while warning of “escalating” threats.

It was announced at the National People’s Congress (NPC), a rubber-stamp parliament, which is due to confirm President Xi Jinping’s third term.

Beijing’s military budget - around \$225bn (£186bn) - is still dwarfed by that of the United States, which is four times greater.

But analysts believe China downplays how much it spends on defence.

Outgoing Premier Li Keqiang told the NPC that “external attempts to suppress and contain China are escalating”.

“The armed forces should intensify military training and preparedness across the board,” he said.

It was also announced at the meeting that China would pursue a reduced economic growth target of about 5% this year.

The Two Sessions, as the meetings are known, are an annual affair.

But this year’s sessions are particularly significant as delegates are expected to reshape several key Communist Party and state institutions.



This week’s NPC meeting will also formalise Mr Xi’s leadership of the country, as he will be elected president of China and head of the armed forces.

He secured his position in the echelons of Chinese power in October last year, when the Communist Party re-elected him as their leader for a third term.

The increase in military spending comes as Mr Xi is navigating worsening ties with the US over the Ukraine war and the recent spy balloon saga, even as he warms his embrace of Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

US officials have also repeatedly

warned that China may invade Taiwan in the coming years. China has held ever-growing displays of military force in the air and seas around Taiwan, including the firing of ballistic missiles.

China sees self-ruled Taiwan as a breakaway province that will eventually be under Beijing’s control.

The NPC will also unveil the new premier, China’s equivalent of a prime minister who traditionally oversees the economy and administrative aspects of governance.

Li Qiang, one of Mr Xi’s most trusted colleagues, is expected to assume the role.

*cont’d from pg 19*

tioned six years ago and was never repaired.

Police and prosecutors have not identified the stationmaster, in line with Greek law. However, Hellenic Railways, also known as OSE, revealed the stationmaster’s name Saturday, in an announcement suspending the company inspector who appointed him. The stationmaster also has been suspended.

Greek media have reported that the stationmaster, a former porter with the railway company, was transferred to a Ministry of Education desk job in 2011, when Greece’s creditors demanded reductions in the number of public employees. The 59-year-old was transferred back to the railway company in mid-2022 and started a 5-month course to train as a stationmaster.

Upon completing the course, he was assigned to Larissa on Jan. 23, according to his own Facebook post. However, he spent the next month rotating among other stations before returning to Larissa in late February, days before the Feb. 28 collision, Greek media reported.

On Sunday, railway unions organized a protest rally in central Athens attended by about 12,000

people according to authorities.

Five people were arrested and seven police officers were injured when a group of more than 200 masked, black-clad individuals started throwing pieces of marble, rocks, bottles and firebombs at officers, who gave chase along a central avenue in the city while using tear gas and stun grenades.

In Thessaloniki, about  
*cont’d on pg 21*



## Bangladesh fire: Thousands shelterless after blaze at Rohingya camp

BBC - Thousands of people have been left without shelter after a massive fire broke out in a crowded Rohingya refugee camp in southeastern Bangladesh.

The blaze, which is now under control, engulfed some 2,000 shelters at Cox's Bazar camp on Sunday.

It is estimated that about 12,000 people, most of whom escaped violence in neighbouring Myanmar, have had their accommodation destroyed.

The cause of the fire is not yet clear and no casualties have been reported.

The blaze started at about 14:45 local time (08:45 GMT) and quickly tore through the bamboo-and-tarpaulin shelters, an official said.

"Some 2,000 shelters have been burnt, leaving about 12,000 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals shelterless," Mijanur Rahman, Bangladesh's refugee commissioner, told AFP news agency.

The blaze was brought



under control within three hours but at least 35 mosques and 21 learning centres for the refugees were also destroyed, he added.

Hrusikesh Harichandan, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told the BBC there had been "massive damage" to the camp.

He said basic services such as water centres and testing facilities had also been affected.

"My shelter was gutted.

[My shop] was also burnt," Mamun Johar, a 30-year-old Rohingya man, told AFP.

"The fire took everything from me, everything."

Thick black clouds were seen rising above Camp 11, one of many in the border district where more than a million Rohingya refugees live.

The camps, overcrowded and squalid, are vulnerable to fires.

Between January 2021 and December 2022, there were 222 fire incidents in the Rohingya camps in-

cluding 60 cases of arson, according to a Bangladesh defence ministry report released last month.

In March 2021, at least 15 people were killed and some 50,000 were displaced after a huge fire tore through a camp in the settlement.

The refugee camp, said to be the world's largest, houses people who fled from Myanmar following a military crackdown against the Rohingya ethnic minority.

The Rohingya are Muslims in largely Buddhist Myanmar, where they have faced persecution for generations.

The latest exodus of Rohingya escaping to Bangladesh began in August 2017, after Myanmar's military brutally retaliated when a Rohingya insurgent group launched attacks on several police posts.

### *cont'd from pg 20*

3,000 people attended two protest rallies. Several of the crash victims were students at the city's Aristotle University, Greece's largest, with over 50,000 students..

The larger protest, organized by left-wing activists, marched to a government building. No incidents were reported at that event.

In the other, staged by Communist Party members at the White Tower, the city's

signature monument, there was a brief scuffle with police when the protesters tried to place a banner on the monument.

"The Communist Party organized a symbolic protest today in front of the White Tower to denounce the crime in Tempe, because it is a premeditated crime, a crime committed by the company and the bourgeois state that supports these companies," Giannis Delis, a communist lawmaker, told The Associated Press.





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APRIL 29TH**

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More Info Coming Soon



## Young Lions and Lion Hill advance in First Division standings

Young Lions romped to a 4-1 win over West Ham in the latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division.

Tavin Crump scored twice with goals in the 72nd and 79th minute while Dante Fritz had a 33rd minute conversion and Demarques Douglas scored in the 42nd minute for Young Lions' victory at the ABFA's Technical Center on Friday evening, 3rd March.

Anderson Lightfoot scored a consolation goal for West Ham by converting a penalty kick in the 21st minute.

Their sixth win in 13 outings lifted Young Lions to 18 points and into sixth place in the standings. West Ham will remain second from bottom of the standings after crashing to their 8th defeat in 12 matches.

Lion Hill recorded a 4-0 win over bottom team JSC Progressors to remain in fourth place in the First Division league on Thursday, 2nd March.

Tiquaine Teague scored twice with conversions in the 59th and 90th minute while Cassell Southwell scored in the 25th minute and Craige Andrew converted an own-goal in the 27th minute to give Lion Hill victory at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Their fifth win in 13



*The Lion Hill first division football team. (File photo)*

matches lifted Lion Hill to 22 points and ensured they remain in fourth place, while JSC Progressors remain in the cellar position with four points after suffering their 11th loss in 13 outings.

Amali Colboure scored a late equalizer for Green City to snatch a 1-1 draw with Police in their encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Colboure scored in the 86th minute after Kelly Reid had converted a penalty kick in the 16th minute to give Police the lead.

Their second draw in 12 matches lifted Green City to 23 points and ensured they remain in third place in the standings, while Police advance to 16

points they slipped from 7th to 8th place after recording their fourth draw in 13 outings.

Ken Murray had an 8th minute conversion and Alpha Ottos scored in the 44th minute to give Bendals a 2-0 win over John Hughes at the Bendals playing field.

Bendals advance to 20 points and remain in 5th place after claiming their sixth win in 13 appearances. Despite the defeat, John Hughes remain second in the standings but lost grounds on leaders Garden Stars.

Their third loss in 13 matches left John Hughes in second place with 24 points, 13 points behind unbeaten first division

leaders Garden Stars.

Alren Lewis scored a hat-trick as Fort Road came from behind to snatch a 3-2 victory over Bolans at the Fort Road playing field.

Lewis scored via a penalty kick in the 9th minute and also had conversions in the 31st and 73rd minute for Fort Road. Taiem Tonge scored in the first minute and Janic Richards converted a free-kick in the 38th minute for Bolans.

Their sixth win in 13 matches has allowed Fort Road to join Bolans on 17 points. Fort Road advance to seventh place, but Bolans remain in sixth place by virtue of a superior goal difference. It was the sixth loss in 13 matches for Bolans.



# Sports News



The Villa Lions premier division team. (File photo)

## Villa Lions edge past Bullets to take top spot in premier league

Villa Lions snatched a last minute win over Pigotts Bullets to move to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) premier division at the Technical Center on Saturday night, 4th March.

Goalkeeper Shahoi Dorsette stepped up to converted a penalty kick in the fifth minute of added on time or the 95th minute, which gave Villa Lions their 11th win in 14 matches this season to overtake Jennings Grenades and All Saints United at the top of the premier league standings.

The outcome of the encounter could also have been different if Akeem Isaac had capitalized on a great opportunity from the penalty spot to put Bullets ahead in the game.

However, it wasn't to be, as Isaac failed to convert a penalty kick in the 68th minute which resulted in Pigotts Bullets remaining on 14 points after succumbing to their 7th loss in 13 matches to slip to 13th place in the 16-team competition.

On the other hand, the result lifted

ed Villa Lions to 34 points, one ahead of former leaders Jennings Grenades who are now in second place and three points in-front of All Saints United in third place with 31 points.

But Villa Lions' stay at the top of the top domestic league could be temporarily since they can be overtaken by the other two strong contenders - Jennings Grenades and All Saints United - who were scheduled to play their 14th round matches a day later, yesterday evening (Sunday).

Empire and Parham also recorded win in the premier division on Saturday night. Empire beat Ottos Rangers 3-0 in the second game of the triple header.

All the goals were scored in the first half by forward Rakeem Joseph in the 7th minute, Nyque Watkins in the 13th minute and Shemar Scott in the 45th minute to give Empire their fifth win in 13 outings to advance to 17 points and up to 10th in the standings.

Their sixth loss in 13 encounters ensured that Ottos Rangers remain on 19 points and seventh in the standings.

Malcolm Stewart scored a brace as Parham prevailed 3-1 against Cedar Grove Blue Jays in Saturday's feature match.

Stewart scored in the third minute of added on time in the first half (45+3 minutes) and also had an 81st minute conversion after J'Twan Brown had scored the opening goal of the match in the 45th minute for Parham.

Keon Greene scored the lone goal for Cedar Grove Blue Jays when he converted a penalty in the 50th minute. The fourth win in 14 matches lifted Parham to 15 points which enabled them to overtake Pigotts Bullets into 12th place in the standings.

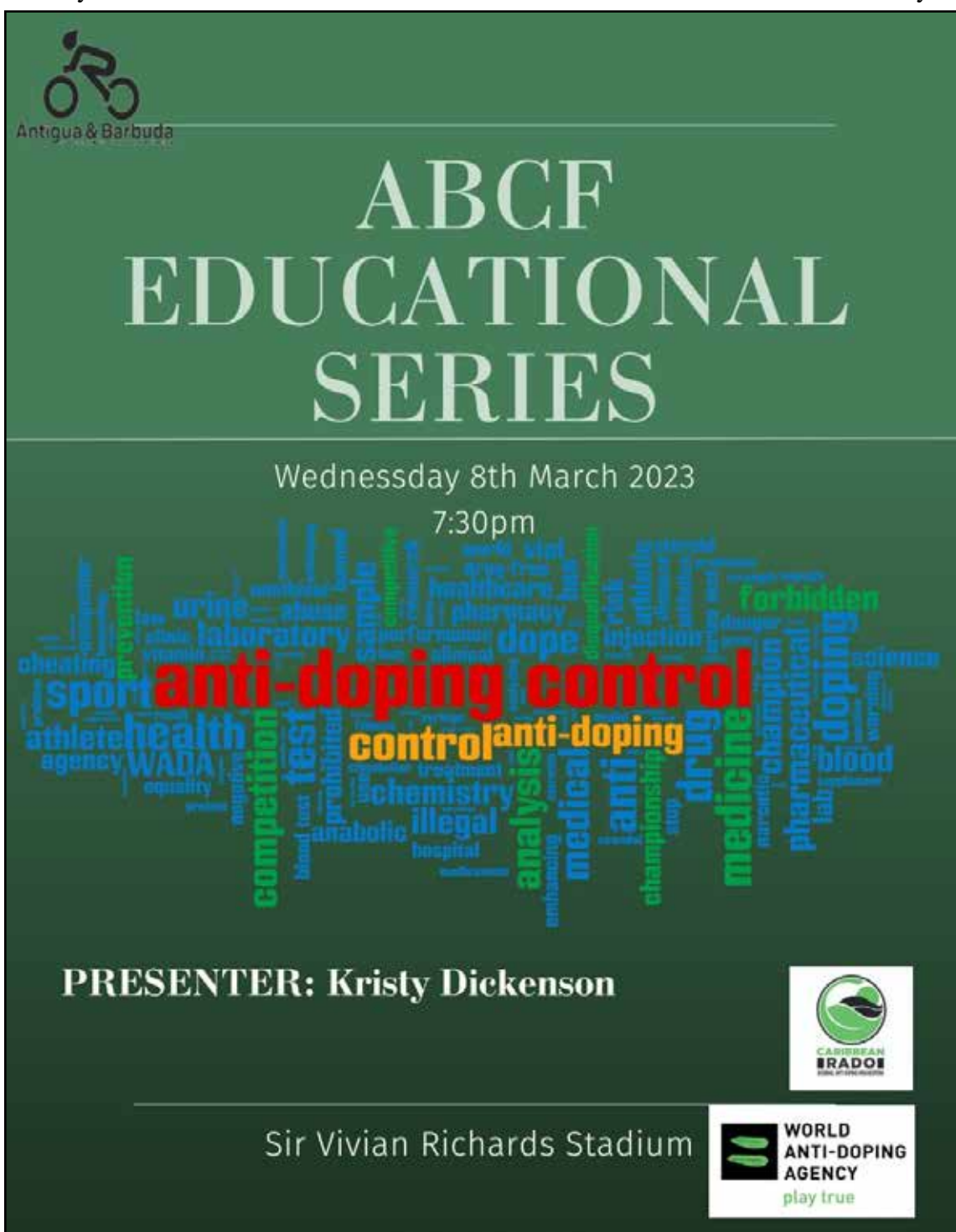
Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain third from bottom of the standings on seven points after tumbling to their 10th defeat in 13 outings.

Forward Raheem Deterville scored a brace as Old Road came from behind to cruise to a 5-1 victory over Swetes in their encounter at the same venue on Friday, 3rd March.

*cont'd on pg 25*



Zhanira Pereira converted 19 of her 21 attempts for State College. Jahlika Pascal sank eight of her 15 tries and Ijahnae Isadore scored five of her seven attempts for Clare Hall Secondary.



## St. Anthony's beat AGS in schools' basketball

St. Anthony's Secondary School pulled off an impressive 14-point win over the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Competitions at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday, 3rd March.

Terrol Marsh Jr. sank 13 points to lead St. Anthony's Secondary to their 34-20 victory against the Antigua Grammar School in their Senior Boys Division encounter.

Jaleyle Joseph scored eight points for the Antigua Grammar School.

St. Mary's Secondary School defeated Ottos Comprehensive School 30-12 in the Junior Boys Division.

Yohan Nicholas converted 12 points and Shakur Anthony scored nine points for St Mary's Secondary.

Princess Margaret School recorded two wins in the schools' basketball league on Thursday, 2nd March.

Princess Margaret School trounced the Antigua Girls High School 38-8 in their Senior Girls' Division encounter.



*The players of the St. Anthony's Secondary take a break during a timeout in their senior boys' division encounter against Antigua Grammar School in the Schools' Basketball Competitions at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday, 3rd March, 2023. (Photo courtesy Schools' Basketball League)*

Melissa Haywood shot a game-high 30 points for Princess Margaret while Keturah Christmas scored four points for the Antigua Girls High School.

Princess Margaret

School prevailed 54-43 against the Antigua State College in a Senior Boys Division affair.

Craig Massiah shot a game-high 33 points and Michael Ainsworth sank

11 points for Princess Margaret School while Shemmoi Liddie converted 12 points and Judah Benn scored 10 points for the Antigua State College.