

THURSDAY 25TH MAY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 101 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

16-YEAR-OLD CHARGED WITH MURDER

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Death of an icon

Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer of chart-topping hits like "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

Story on page 10.

Local News



16-year-old charged with murder

Police have arrested and charged a 16-year-old youth in connection with the alleged murder of Roudi Shamly.

The Upper Fort Road accused is expected in court sometime today, for his first appearance.

The Police Administration is thanking the general public for the support offered to the police during

the investigation.

Members of the public are being encouraged by the police to continue supporting their efforts in the process of solving other outstanding matters of crime.

Meanwhile, a shootout between the police and two men in the early hours of Wednesday morning ended with one man in custody

and another on the run.

Police were at the time responding to reports of two men dressed in hoodies and masks seen loitering behind the Stables Nightclub in Cassada Gardens.

As the police arrived, they observed a rental car R 4089 traveling in a northerly direction leaving Stables Night Club.

The responding law enforcement officers ordered the driver to stop the car, but instead of heeding the orders of the police, the driver accelerated the vehicle, which then hit a parked car in the area, before slamming into a culvert.

According to reports,

two masked men exited the vehicle and one opened fire on the police. The officers returned fire causing both men to run.

The driver, who is believed to be the gunman reportedly escaped, but his accomplice was unlucky.

Following a search of the area, the man was discovered hiding in the nearby bushes and taken into police custody.

When police searched the vehicle which was later impounded, several items were found, that the men intended to use while committing their crimes.

Investigations remain ongoing.

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Business community to support anti-crime efforts

The business community is assuring the government that it stands ready to assist in the national effort to bring criminal activities under control.

This, as a businessman was shot and killed in a brazen daylight robbery at a mini-mart located at the stoplight at the corner of De-Sousa and All Saints Road on Monday afternoon.

Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin informed his Cabinet colleagues on Wednesday, that the business community has made it clear that its members are ready to provide support to the government's crime-fighting efforts.

"The assertions followed a meeting with the Syrian and Lebanese Communities on Tuesday night. The community groups were attending a memorial service for a murdered Syrian Businessman who was shot to death by a robber armed with an illegal gun. Further talks will follow to fine-tune the precise methodologies that will assist with the crime-fighting methods to be employed," a spokesman for the Cabinet said.

According to the spokesman the Cabinet also raised concerns over how illegal guns are being smuggled into Antigua and Barbuda. To this end, the Cabinet has advised law enforcement to increase their monitoring of

the Air and Sea Ports and generally to be on the lookout for illegal weapons entering the country.

The Cabinet has expressed its appreciation to the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for their speedy work in apprehending two suspects in the recent murder. Additionally, the police also have two suspects in custody, in connection with the recent Roti King Robbery.

Further developments also indicate that the police investigative team has been



Steadroy Benjamin

doing excellent work, as it was revealed that in the case of the alleged rape of the 46-year-old woman, the police have five suspects in

custody; one is 13, two are 15, and two are 17 years of age. This incident drew a national outrage as it too happened in broad daylight.



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Local News



21-year-old man pleads guilty to gun-possession charge

In response to the recent spike in criminal activities involving the use of firearms, the police on Tuesday arrested and charged 21-year-old Elvis Pelle of Villa, for unlawful possession of one .25mm pistol and possession of three rounds of .25mm ammunition.

tion.

Pelle appeared before a magistrate on Wednesday where he pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of the firearm. He is to reappear in court next week Tuesday when he is expected to be sentenced.

He was also charged for

allegedly robbing a resident of Yorks of an undisclosed sum of money.

The alleged incident occurred on April 11, 2023, at Villa. On this charge, Pelle will have to appear in the High Court for hearing in the matter.

The police executed a

search warrant on a property occupied by Pelle on Sunday 21 May and discovered the illegal weapon and ammunition during their search. He was arrested and taken into custody.

Pelle has been placed on remand until his next court appearance.

Occupancy, airlift up in April

Antigua and Barbuda remains on track to regain the ground it lost in hotel occupancy rates and airlifts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The latest data released by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA) shows that occupancy rates for the month of April have bypassed the rates for the same month in 2019, the year prior to the pandemic and which was a record-setting year for Antigua and Barbuda tourism.

Occupancy rates for April averaged 75.8 percent, compared with 70.4 percent for 2019. As a footnote, the ABHTA noted that approximately 16,734 room nights are closed in the destination (including Hawksbill), despite this however, if the available rooms had remained the same from 2019 to 2023 the adjusted average would still

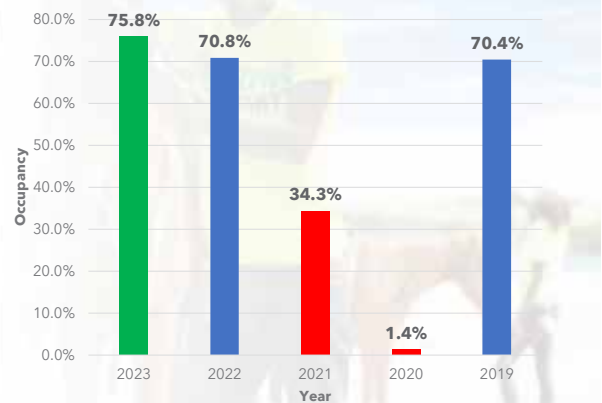


April		
	2023	2022
Overall Occupancy	75.8%	70.8%
Large > 150 rooms	78.3%	71.5%
Mid size 50-150	77.0%	70.6%
Small < 50	66.9%	68.2%
Luxury	75.6%	79.5%
Mid Range	77.6%	71.1%
Budget	66.0%	49.2%

be 73.7 percent. This is a figure higher than in 2019.

Arrivals were also up in April this

Occupancy Comparison April 2019 - 2023



Key Points:

- Approx 16,734 room nights are closed in the destination (including Hawksbill)
- April 2023 result, if equaled to the room nights available in 2019 will be adjusted average to 73.7%

year, in comparison to the base month of 2019. The figures for arrivals in April rose by four percent, to record a total of 28,328 visitors. For April 2019, the figure was 27,302. The United States continues its role as the most important source market for tourists visiting Antigua and Barbuda with a total of 13,608 compared with 11,709 visitors.

The UK, Canada, and the Caribbean are the countries after the US and ranked in descending order, which are most important to Antigua and Barbuda.

Arrivals by Air April 2023 versus 2019

Market	2023	(%) of Arrivals	2019	(%) of Arrivals
USA	13,608	48%	11,709	43%
UK	7,448	26%	6,038	22%
Canada	3,072	11%	3,634	13%
Caribbean	2,534	9%	2,907	11%
Italy	200	1%	1006	4%
Other	1466	5%	2008	7%
Total Arrivals	28,328		27,302	4%

An Italian tour company wants to invest in the Jolly Beach Hotel

There is more good news for the tourism sector, especially the Jolly Beach Hotel, where an Italian tour company wants to reserve approximately eighty rooms for nine months on an arrangement that will last up to three years.

On Wednesday, the principals of the Jolly Beach Hotel management team met with the Cabinet to share insights into this proposal from the Italian chartered company - Alpitour.

“About 80 rooms would be specially prepared for those arriving on charters to fill the same from December 15th, 2023, to September 15th, 2024, a nine-month period, when they would occupy the rooms that had been specially prepared.

“The rooms will be brought up to four-star levels and would accommodate adults. To ensure that any extra passengers Alpitour may bring are accommodated, 20 additional rooms are to be prepared using their specifications,” according to the Cabinet notes.

The company intends to inject its funds into the project to ensure that the rooms all meet its specifications. The total capital injection will be USD 1.8 million.

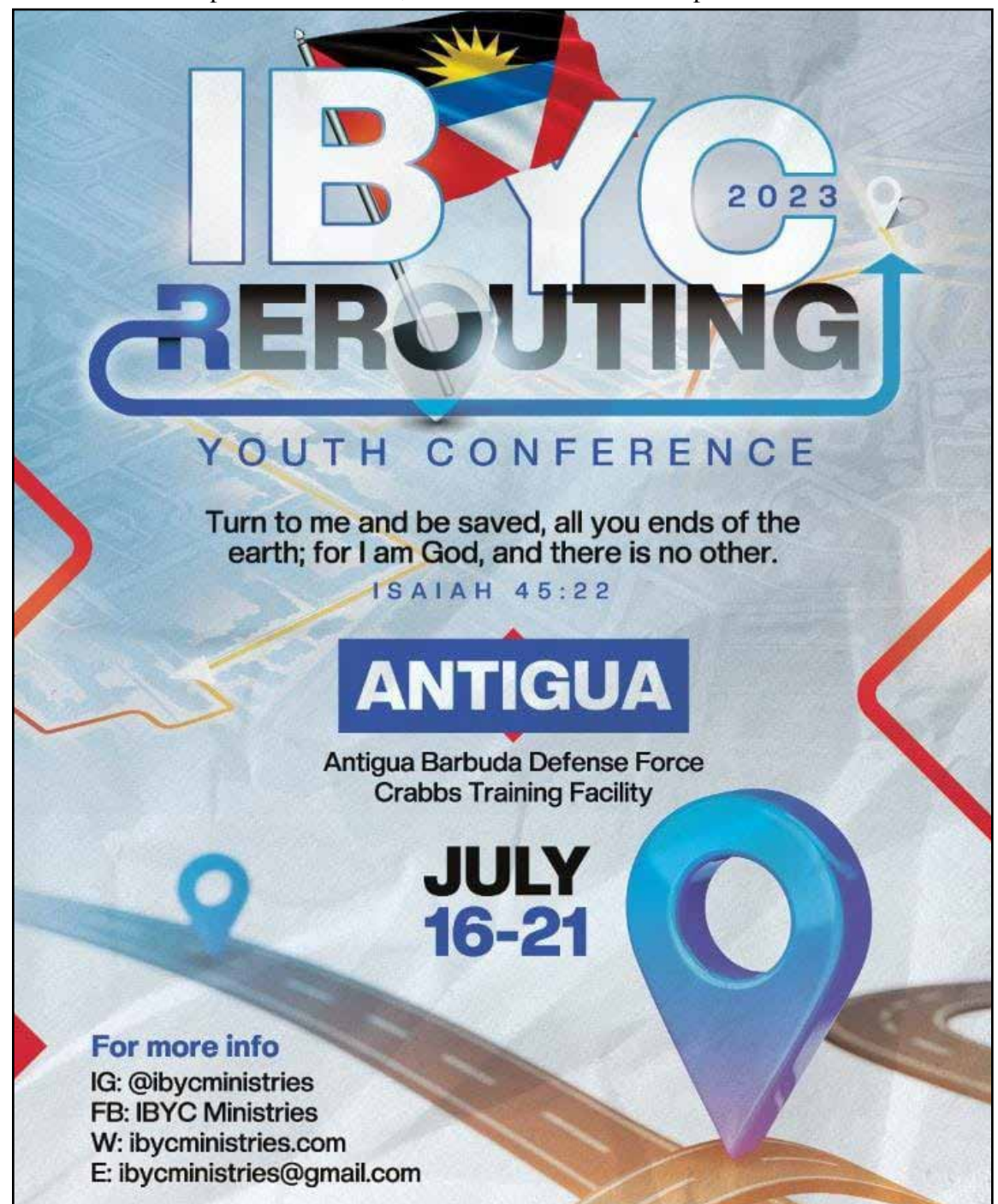
The arrangement with Jolly Beach will be for a three to five-year period and the Government, the owner of Jolly Beach, will earn nearly two million dollars

annually on all the taxes and other costs which Alpitour will have to pay during the nine months.

A government spokesman said the arrangement further confirms the strong demand for Antigua and Barbuda in the marketplace.

“The demand for rooms in Antigua and Barbuda is so strong that this company is prepared to spend its own money and have rooms reserved for the nine-month period to ensure that its customers have accommodations, and at its standards.

“This also means that should this trend continue with the current occupancy rates in our hotels, we are on track to establish new records in tourism for higher occupancy rates, as well as for stay-over visitors,” the spokesman declared.



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Local News



Gov't spends millions to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure

The Antigua and Barbuda government expended millions of dollars to strengthen the healthcare system to make it more resilient and robust to face challenges such as the COVID-19 disease and other health emergencies that may occur in the future.

The disclosure was made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Samantha Marshall at an Inter-American Development Bank Loan Facility: Global Loan Programme to Build Health, Social and Economic

Resilience in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Member Countries workshop, taking place at the Royalton Hotel.

Sen. Marshall said the workshop was a significant milestone in the collective efforts to build health, social, and economic resilience within Antigua and Barbuda, and by extension, across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

"Sometime in or about March 2021, the Government of Antigua and Barbu-

da (GOAB) sought assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank, for financing, aimed at enhancing our COVID-19 crisis response, promoting resilience building, and facilitating recovery in the Health Sector. This initiative represents one of our strategic responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has posed unprecedented challenges to our small, vulnerable twin-island nation," she disclosed.

She described the overarching objective of the project, funded through the loan facility, as being aimed at enhancing the country's capacity to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of the population. It is a testament to the government's commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our citizens and ensuring a resilient healthcare system.

"Thanks to the support of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank, we received a loan totaling US\$4.68 million to invest in our healthcare. Just over US\$1.5 million was allocated as retroactive pay for the investment made by the government, to strengthen our COVID-19 healthcare management strategy. Whilst, US\$3 million+ was directed towards the equipping of a new Renal Centre and to purchase critical diagnostic equipment, to include a new incinerator and oxygen plant for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre," Sen. Marshall stated.

The Minister of State noted that such investments will certainly help the government address the current challenges it faces, ensuring that the healthcare sector has the necessary tools and resources to effectively combat the pandemic, and at the same time improve the healthcare services it currently provides.



Caribbean Development Bank

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Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment

**Official Project Launch and Workshop
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Health Response Project**

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A&B chairs 25th Session of IRENA Council

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) convened Members in Abu Dhabi for its twenty-fifth council meeting to outline actionable steps to accelerate a just and inclusive energy transition, six months out from the 28th Climate Change Conference (COP28), which will be hosted in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), this year.

At the opening of the twenty-fifth Council Meeting, Mr. Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations was elected Chair of the Council. The biannual, two-day meeting, with Antigua and Barbuda serving as Chair, and the United States of America as Vice-Chair, showcases how each Member is working to increase global renewable energy capacity, in the aftermath of ongoing energy and geo-political crises.

Speaking ahead of the council meeting, IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera said: "Collaboration across the international community has never been more important. The twenty-fifth IRENA Council meeting offers a welcome opportunity for the Agency to assess how we are progressing, and to identify the actions needed to ensure we remain agile and responsive to the needs of our Members."

For his part, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations and IRENA Council Chair Mr. Tumasie Blair, said: "Global events in recent times have worsened the challenges faced by many nations, including small island developing states like Antigua and Barbuda. As we quickly approach COP28, the IRENA governing body



Tumasie Blair

meetings like this Council present us with an opportunity to assess and realign our course of action, to ensure that we remain agile in the face of the monumental climate challenge ahead."

"The Council must present tailored initiatives for the economies of SIDS, for whom the climate crisis presents a looming existential threat. We have an opportunity to make this possible, as we are one year away from the Fourth UN International Conference on SIDS that will be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024," Blaire further added.

This year's Council meeting delves into the pressing issues at the top of the climate and sustainable development agenda, including the need to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, mobilise energy transition finance and enhance mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The twenty-fifth Council meeting also examines the global status of geothermal energy, critical materials, and the preliminary findings of IRENA's preview of the World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO) 2023. The report calls for urgent energy infrastructure reforms to support the rapid scale-up of renewable energy deployment globally.

IRENA recently signed an agreement with Masdar, a renewable energy company based in Abu Dhabi, to develop a roadmap for COP28, outlining strategies to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.

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Local News



CARPHA Promotes Immunisation with Innovative Trivia Game Show

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is tackling the problem of vaccine hesitancy with an innovative programme aimed specifically at the region's youth.

CARPHA has launched a regional online schools' game show aimed at improving the public's understanding, especially young people and their parents, about COVID-19 and vaccination processes. The COVID-19 and Immunisation game show, entitled "*Take Your Best Shot*," also promoted routine immunisation

for better overall health and well-being.

This unique pilot project, which was funded by the United States Agency for International Development, Eastern and Southern Caribbean (USAID/ESC) and the United Nations International

Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Eastern Caribbean, saw students from eight secondary schools in two Caribbean states – Guyana and St. Lucia compete for grand prizes.

In its five-year strategic plan, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified

vaccine hesitancy as one of the ten global health threats the world faces in 2019 and beyond. Vaccine hesitancy has been defined by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) working group as the "delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite the availability of vaccination services."

Dr. Joy St. John, CARPHA Executive Director explained, "Historically, the Caribbean had one of the best immunisation records in the world.

However, recent studies indicated that routine immunisations had been declining due to the hesitancy caused by misinformation." Dr. St. John added that COVID-19 heavily exacerbated the situation, resulting in doubt about the efficacy of vaccines in general.

In light of this, CARPHA, in partnership with USAID and UNICEF, created this innovative public education programme to share accurate, evidence-based information that would combat misinformation, address concerns, and improve understanding about vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine.



Nationwide Soil Sampling in Antigua & Barbuda for regional project

The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) for Caribbean small island developing states (CSIDS), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the University of the West Indies (UWI St. Augustine) is executing a national soil survey in Antigua and Barbuda as part of the regional project 'Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS) Multi-Country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems: Phase 1 (CSIDS_SOILCARE Phase 1).

The 4-year project, under its five components, involves eight participating countries namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia.

The project was launched in August 2022 in Antigua & Barbuda with support from the executing agency, PISLM, and in partnership with FAO and national agencies. Through this collaborative effort, the project's focus areas include establishing the Caribbean Soil Laboratory Network and the Caribbean Soil Information System for guiding the rehabilitation of degraded land and soils, building resilience against

natural disasters and climate change, enhancing food systems, and creating alternative livelihoods within the agricultural sector.

To achieve these project outputs, project partners will conduct technical assessments of land and soil degraded areas through soil sampling and laboratory testing methods to develop strategies for the rehabilitation and restoration, engage in public education and awareness building, and develop policy to strengthen financing mechanisms for building resiliency to land degradation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs hereby informs the public that under Component 1 of this project, a National Soil Survey will be executed both in Antigua and Barbuda during the period Monday, June 5th – Thursday, June 22nd, 2023.

As part of the activities, The Honorable E.P Chet Greene is expected to

launch the three-week exercise on Monday, June 5th at the Ministry of Agriculture Headquarters where national and regional project partners and stakeholders will be in attendance.



Field Officers from various departments within the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Environment, and the Barbuda Council along with consultants from PISLM and UWI will embark on collecting 120 soil samples which will span both Antigua and Barbuda based on digital soil sampling combining soil groups and land use data. Given the vast amount of samples, it is highly likely that some sites may fall on private properties and the sampling team would require access to successfully undertake the activity.

In this regard, the Ministry kindly requests the cooperation of the public and private property owners in facilitating the technical project team's access to designated sites.

The outcome of this exercise will be facilitating technical capacity building within the Ministry and non-state persons and the production of state-of-the-art soil maps that will provide data on soil organic content (SOC) among other indicators that will help improve decision-making on Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) issues, crop production, and livelihoods nationally.

For more information please contact the Ministry Headquarters at +1(268)-462-1213 or the Permanent Secretary's secretariat via email at mafba@ab.gov.ag and Project Assistant, Ms. Simone Dias at soil-carepaang@pislmsids.org. For ongoing updates, please visit the Ministry's website and Facebook page.

To find out more about the project, visit PISLM at their website pislmsids.org, and Facebook at facebook.com/csids.SOILCARE.

Thu 25 Day		Thu 25 Night	
84°		78°	
30% ESE 8 mph		23% SE 8 mph	
A shower or two possible early with partly cloudy skies in the afternoon. High 84F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.		A few clouds. Low 78F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 75%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 85%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:33 am	Sunset 6:35 pm	Moonrise 10:30 am	Moonset 11:49 pm
		Waxing Crescent	

Music legend Tina Turner dies at 83

By Hillel Italie

Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer who teamed with husband Ike Turner for a dynamic run of hit records and live shows in the 1960s and '70s and survived her horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with the chart-topping "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

Turner died Tuesday, after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, according to her manager. She became a Swiss citizen a decade ago.

Few stars travelled so far — she was born Anna Mae Bullock in a segregated Tennessee hospital and spent her latter years on a 260,000 square foot estate on Lake Zurich — and overcame so much. Physically battered, emotionally devastated and financially ruined by her 20-year relationship with Ike Turner, she became a superstar on her own in her 40s, at a time when most of her peers were on their way down, and remained a top concert draw for years after.

With admirers ranging from Beyoncé to Mick Jagger, Turner was one of the world's most successful entertainers, known for a core of pop, rock and rhythm and blues favorites: "Proud Mary," "Nutbush City Limits," "River Deep, Mountain High," and the hits she had in the '80s, among them "What's Love Got to Do with It," "We Don't Need Another Hero" and a cover of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together."

Her trademarks were her growling contralto, her bold smile and strong cheekbones, her palette of wigs and the muscular, quick-stepping legs she



Tina Turner performs in a concert in Cologne, Germany on January 14, 2009. Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer, died Tuesday, after a long illness at her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, according to her manager. She was 83. (AP Photo/Hermann J Knippertz)

did not shy from showing off. She sold more than 150 million records worldwide, won 12 Grammys, was voted along with Ike into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 (and on her own in 2021) and was honoured at the Kennedy Center in 2005, with Beyoncé and Oprah Winfrey among those praising her. Her life became the basis for a film, a Broadway musical and an HBO documentary in 2021 that she called her public farewell.

Until she left her husband and revealed their back story, she was known as the voracious on-stage foil of the steady-going Ike, the leading lady of the "Ike and Tina Turner Revue." Ike was billed first and ran the show, choosing the material, the arrangements, the backing singers. They toured constantly for years, in part because Ike was often short on money and unwilling to

miss a concert. Tina Turner was forced to go on with bronchitis, with pneumonia, with a collapsed right lung.

Other times, the cause of her misfortunes was Ike himself.

As she recounted in her memoir, "I, Tina," Ike began hitting her not long after they met, in the mid-1950s, and only grew more vicious. Provoked by anything and anyone, he would throw hot coffee in her face, choke her, or beat her until her eyes were swollen shut, then rape her. Before one show, he broke her jaw and she went on stage with her mouth full of blood.

Terrified both of being with Ike and of being without him, she credited her emerging Buddhist faith in the mid-1970s with giving her a sense of strength and self-worth and she finally left in early July, 1976. The Ike

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and Tina Turner Revue was scheduled to open a tour marking the country's bicentennial when Tina snuck out of their Dallas hotel room, with just a Mobil credit card and 36 cents, while Ike slept. She hurried across a nearby highway, narrowly avoiding a speeding truck, and found another hotel to stay.

"I looked at him (Ike) and thought, 'You just beat me for the last time, you sucker,'" she recalled in her memoir.

Turner was among the first celebrities to speak candidly about domestic abuse, becoming a heroine to battered women and a symbol of resilience to all. Ike Turner did not deny mistreating her, although he tried to blame Tina for their troubles. When he died, in 2007, a representative for his ex-wife said simply: "Tina is aware that Ike passed away."

Little of this was apparent to the many Ike and Tina fans. The Turners were a hot act for much of the 1960s and into the '70s, evolving from bluesy ballads such as "A Fool in Love" and "It's Going to Work Out Fine" to flashy covers of "Proud Mary" and "Come Together" and other rock songs that brought them crossover success.

They opened for the Rolling Stones in 1966 and 1969, and were seen performing a lustful version of Otis Redding's "I've Been Loving You Too Long" in the 1970 Stones documen-

tary "Gimme Shelter." Laurence Fishburne and Angela Bassett gave Oscar-nominated performances as Ike and Tina in the 1993 movie "What's Love Got to Do with It," based on "I, Tina," but she would say that reliv-

ing her years with Ike was so painful she couldn't bring herself to watch the movie).

Ike and Tina's reworking of "Proud Mary," originally a tight, mid-tempo hit for Creedence Clearwater Revival, helped define

their assertive, sexual image. Against a background of funky guitar and Ike's crooning baritone, Tina began with a few spoken words about how some people wanted to hear songs that were "nice and easy."



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Technology



Virgin Orbit: Branson's rocket dream ends after mission failure

By Peter Hoskins

Sir Richard Branson's rocket company Virgin Orbit has shut down, just months after a major mission failure.

It comes weeks after the firm set up to launch satellites paused operations to try and boost its finances.

It had been selling off items it owns in a bid to survive, including its converted jet Cosmic Girl, and most of its headquarters in California.

In January, its first ever satellite mission in the UK reached space, but fell short of its target orbit.

The mission was billed as a milestone for UK space exploration.

It had been hoped the launch, called Start Me Up after the 1981 Rolling Stones hit, would turn the country into a global player - from manufacturing satellites to building rockets and creating new spaceports.

But the rocket experienced an anomaly which "prematurely ended" the first burn and Sir Richard's space dream was all but over.

Two months later the company "paused all operations" in an apparent attempt to shore up its finances and almost all employees were laid off.

It has been a tumultuous period for the Virgin boss.

Earlier this month, Sir



Richard told the BBC that he had personally lost around £1.5bn during the pandemic after lockdowns hit his airline and leisure businesses.

"There was a time when I thought we were going to lose everything", he said. However, he has managed to retain his billionaire status - he has a net worth of £2.4bn according to the latest Sunday Times Rich List.

When it became clear Virgin Orbit was unable to secure long-term funding, it filed for bankruptcy protection in the US early last month.

Rival start-up Rocket Lab has bought most of Virgin Orbit's headquarters in California as well as other assets. The company's Boeing 747 plane, which was converted to help launch

satellites, has also been sold off. In total, the asset sale fetched \$36.4m (£29.4m).

Virgin Orbit, which was founded in 2017, never made a profit as a public company.

So much was riding on Virgin Orbit's rocket launch from Cornwall in January, it was supposed to be a spectacular start to a new industry in the UK.

But the dislodging of a small component - a fuel filter - had a domino effect. The rocket failed, confidence was lost in Virgin Orbit and now the company has been sold off, piecemeal.

Where does this leave Spaceport Cornwall, the UK's first licensed spaceport? US-based Virgin Orbit was their key customer.

The Cornwall team there say they're working with other launch companies, including Sierra Space, and they'll continue to create and grow a space cluster in the South West.

But another Cornwall blast off is unlikely to happen anytime soon. The site at Newquay Airport is limited to horizontal launches - where a plane takes off, carrying a rocket, which is then launched mid-flight.

Other sites around the UK have their sights set on space too. SaxaVord Spaceport, based on the Shetland island of Unst, is now leading the way.

This is a vertical launch site where rockets blast off skywards from a pad. SaxaVord is working with

cont'd on pg 13

Caribbean warned: El Niño looking more likely

Loop - It is increasingly likely that an El Niño will emerge in the next few months and Caribbean governments are being urged to keep a close eye on global and regional climatic conditions and potentially prepare for very dry and very hot conditions, without ruling out the possibility of intense storms or hurricanes.

The warning comes from a joint statement by The UWI Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development (The UWI GICSRD) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

It explains El Niño is the term used to refer to warmer than usual ocean surface temperatures near the equator in the Pacific Ocean.

Over the past three years, the Pacific waters have been cooler than average due to an unusually persistent La Niña. However, La Niña ended in March and the ocean temperatures in the Pacific, both at the surface and a few hundred metres below are warming so quickly that many major



atmospheric centres globally are not only warning of emerging El Niño conditions but suggesting it may be a 'significant' event.

It states the Caribbean must pay attention.

For years The UWI and CIMH have independently and at times collaboratively researched how El Niño events affect the Caribbean. The research shows that during an El Niño, the Caribbean is prone to be dry, or even 'very dry'. The 2009 to 2010 and 2014 to 2016 droughts, considered two of the most severe to impact the Caribbean in recent memory, occurred during El Niño events.

El Niño events are also associated with a reduced number of hurricanes due

to less than conducive conditions for development caused by stronger upper atmospheric winds. Even if the El Niño does not develop, the end of the La Niña means that climate conditions will change from what the region has experienced over the last three years.

To compound the issue, the Caribbean Sea is unusually warm for this time of year. This adds to the uncertainty about if and how regional drought and the hurricane season activity will evolve this year as warm seas around the Caribbean ejects more moisture and heat into the atmosphere.

In addition to contributing to very hot days and nights and more heatwaves, the very warm Caribbean

Sea may provide windows of opportunity for a very strong hurricane to develop, notwithstanding El Niño's dampening effect. For this reason, the region can never let down its guard as it only takes one hurricane or storm to cause immense economic setbacks to an impacted country and sometimes the entire region.

Very warm seas also impact coastal marine ecosystems such as coral reefs and seagrass beds, and offshore fisheries may experience disruption of seasonal patterns and uncertain catches. The UWI-CIMH research also shows that the concurrent state of both the Pacific and Atlantic (both warm this year) has a strong impact on how the rainy season will unfold.

Caribbean governments, residents and other interests are urged to continue paying close attention to shifts in global climate including the likely emergence of El Niño this year.

cont'd from pg 12

several firms, including a German company called Rocket Factory Augsburg - engine testing is set to take place in Shetland later this year.

And it's not the only spaceport to be based in Scotland. Others are planned in

Sutherland in the Highlands and Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

The demise of Virgin Orbit shows just how hard this race to space can be - and there may well be more failures along the way. But the UK's ambitions for space are far from over.

Guyana: Police say schoolgirl started deadly fire

CMC - Police say they will send a file to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) on Wednesday after indicating that the deadly fire at the dormitory at a secondary school that resulted in 19 students being killed had been started by a female student.

The school housed female students from Mahdia, Campbelltown, Mico-bie, El Paso and several other villages in the North Pakaraimas in Region 8

“Several of the students were interviewed in the presence of a Probation Officer, and statements were taken. The scene is presently secured and guarded by ranks as investigations continue,” the police said in a statement, adding “the Police file will be sent to the DPP tomorrow morning (Wednesday)”.

In the statement the police said that the investigations so far into the fire that swept through the dormitory at the Mahdia Secondary School 100 miles south-west of Georgetown during the early hours of Monday “reveal that a female student is suspected of having set the devastating fire because her cellular phone was taken away by the Dorm’s mother and a teacher”



The statement said that at the time of the fire, there were 57 female students in the one-flat concrete building measuring about 100 feet by 40 feet, with several windows, all grilled, and with five doors.

“According to the female students, they were asleep and were awakened by screams. Upon checking, they saw fire/smoke in the bathroom area, which quickly spread in the building, causing several students to receive burns to their bodies and smoke inhalation, whilst several managed to escape.

“The injured students were taken to the Mahdia District Hospital, seen,

examined and admitted patients by doctors. At the hospital, five of the female students were pronounced dead.”

The police said that a search was carried out in the building, which was completely destroyed by the fire, and 14 burnt remains of human beings were found.

The statement said that the government’s pathologist, Dr Nehaul Singh performed post-mortem examinations on Monday with dissections on six of the bodies and that the “cause of death was given as smoke inhalation and burns, respectively”.

The police said that the bodies were identified by relatives and handed over to them for burials. They said 13 of the burnt bodies were taken to Georgetown and are presently at the Memorial Gardens Funeral Home for storage and DNA purposes.

The police added that 17 students who were taken to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) for medical treatment “are in stable/critical condition,” while 11 others who were taken to the Mahdia District Hospital are also in a stable condition.

Meanwhile, President Dr Irfaan Ali said DNA samples from the bodies

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Electricity problems grow on Grenada's sister isle of Carriacou

Loop - The island of Carriacou which recently experienced island-wide power outages due to a fire at a power plant and then generator issues, is now facing another challenge as electricity will now have to be rotated to different parts of the island.

Grenada Electricity Services Ltd (Grenlec) in a statement says on the evening of May 23, the generator that had been overheating at Grenlec's Carriacou Power Plant was forced out of service because of further technical difficulties.

The unit that is temporarily out of service is the larger of the two generators that had been supplying electricity to the Island in the aftermath of the fire at the Plant on April 28.

This loss of additional generation resulted in an islandwide outage. This new



development means that the load shedding schedule published by Grenlec will not be implemented.

Instead, electricity will be rotated to different parts of the island with priority being given to emergency facilities and commercial centres.

Wallace Collins, Carriacou and Petite Martinique

Branch Manager said: "Additional technical resources have been mobilised to assist with resolving the issues on the generator, so to restore service to more customers".

Grenlec officials are now awaiting verification on whether the containerised rental unit from Trinidad will make a shipment

this week.

Extending apologies to customers for the latest events, Collins notes: "In the meantime, Grenlec is exploring other options for more immediate relief for customers in Carriacou".

Grenlec says it will continue to provide updates to customers as the situation changes.

cont'd from pg 14

of the unidentified victims will be sent to the Mount Sinai laboratory in New York and test results will be back here on Friday.

The team is in the process of collecting all samples from the remains and from the parents after which those samples will be packaged and transferred sometime tomorrow to Mount Sinai.

"They will be flown to Mount Sinai labs in New York because this lab provides the shortest return time in terms of the results," the President said during a live update on Tuesday.

Ali said Cuba, the Caribbean and

the United States (US) have offered to assist Guyana with treatment of a number of schoolgirls who were severely burnt by fire.

"We cannot also not remember the generous offer of Cuba yesterday (Monday) to give us full medical support in and out of Guyana and to be a host country for any medical needs in Cuba," he said, announcing that the first funeral for those killed will be held on Thursday. He identified the victim as Sabrina John, who will be laid to rest in her home village of Karisparu, Region Eight.

"I continue to pray to that the mercy, love, patience of God be with all

these families and be with us as a nation," Ali said, adding that a flower laying ceremony will also be held at the Mahdia hostel on Wednesday.

Ali said the ceremony will be attended by foreign diplomats based here and that the country's Flag raising ceremony that had been scheduled for Thursday night as part of the Independence celebrations, will now be converted into a night of prayer and remembrance for the children who perished in the fire.

"This independence will now be dedicated through prayer and remembrance to these our beautiful children of Guyana," President Ali said.

Regional News



IDB and GPE partner for education funding in Belize

Loop - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) have teamed up to transform education in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of this initiative, the two institutions have approved a total of \$20 million in financing to support the Skills for the Future Program in Belize.

The program will accelerate foundational learning, bridge the skills gap, prepare students for a changing job market, close gender gaps, and promote inclusive education.

Belize has made enormous efforts to expand primary education and teacher trainings. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant learning losses, and secondary students faced higher repetition and dropout rates. These challenges have overwhelmingly affected the most vulnerable children and exacerbated learning gaps.

Belize also needs a skilled workforce to ensure a low-carbon, sustainable and competitive economy. The country's reliance on agriculture, tourism, and fishing, and the exposure of critical infrastructure on the coast, increases its vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.

The partnership be-



tween IDB and GPE brings complementary support to Belize to address those challenges through the \$20 million Skills for the Future Program. The program is comprised of a \$15 million loan from IDB and a \$5 million grant from GPE. The government of Belize is also contributing resources for project management and to facilitate program execution and monitoring.

The GPE funds will help close learning gaps in foundational skills at the primary school level, support education for students with disabilities, close gender gaps, and strengthen the country's education data system, in particular, to track the progress of vulnerable groups and monitor gender equality interventions.

The grant will also carry out impact evaluations to scale up successful interventions. In addition to investing in these areas, IDB funding will help turn six high schools across the

country into science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) laboratories to develop graduates who possess the fourth industrial revolution skills needed for the workforce, such as cloud computing, cyber security, and skills for the XXI century.

The program will have nationwide coverage with investments at the primary and secondary levels, including technical and vocational education and training (TVET). It will enable low-performing students from all government-financed primary schools to participate. In addition, a third of all secondary students will benefit from six STEAM laboratories and 15 secondary schools equipped with Virtual Lab technologies.

"The collaboration between IDB and GPE demonstrates the acknowledgement of education as a crucial catalyst for social and economic development

in Belize, a goal that the IDB Group entirely supports," said Rocio Medina Bolívar, IDB Group Country Manager in Belize.

"The Global Partnership for Education is pleased to collaborate with the IDB to support the government of Belize in attaining its education goals," said Laura Frigenti, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education. "There is no more relevant agenda for countries than to prepare today's students for the world of tomorrow, with skills that match the challenges our world is facing."

"I am pleased to give my endorsement to this program, which forms a crucial component of the government's plan to establish an educational framework that equips students to thrive not just academically but in all aspects of life. One of this ministry's primary objectives is to stimulate economic development by equipping the Belizean labour market with the essential 21st-century skills demanded by the fourth industrial revolution," said Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology of Belize.

The IDB loan has a 25-year repayment term, a five-and-a-half-year grace period, and an interest rate based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).



Soldiers have joined efforts with indigenous search teams to find the children.

Colombian plane crash: New clues found in search for lost children

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

A desperate search for four children who have been missing since their plane crashed in the Colombian jungle on 1 May has yielded new clues.

Items belonging to the siblings, who are aged between 11 months and 13 years, have been found in two different locations in the rainforest.

Their mother and the other adults on board the plane died in the crash.

But search teams say small footprints found last week indicate that the children survived the impact.

The footprints were spotted on Thursday and specialists said most likely belonged to the children.

Earlier last week, search teams had found a child's drinking bottle, a pair of scissors and a hair tie, as well as what appeared to be a makeshift shelter made from branches and a half-eaten passion fruit.

The children belong to the Huitoto indigenous group and members of their community have expressed the hope that their knowledge of fruits and

jungle survival skills will have given them a better chance of surviving the ordeal.

But despite more than 100 soldiers combing the jungle, no further traces were found until the early hours of Wednesday.

The latest items were spotted by an indigenous woman some 500m (1,640ft) from the crash site.

She found a dirty nappy, a green towel and shoes, which judging by their size are thought to belong to the second youngest of the missing siblings, who is four years old. The nappy is believed to have been worn by the 11-month-old baby.

At a separate location, the search team found another nappy, a mobile phone case and a pink cap which matches the drinking bottle found last week.

Indigenous people have joined the search and helicopters have been broadcasting a message from the children's grandmother recorded in the Huitoto language urging them to stay

put and to stop moving so as to make them easier to locate.

The latest traces are further indication that the four siblings survived the plane crash which killed their mother and the plane's pilot and co-pilot, the Colombian army said.

But it warned that the state of the items suggested that they had not been abandoned there recently, but "some-time between 3 and 8 May".

The army added that it was encouraged by the fact that none of the items showed traces of blood.

The army colonel in charge of the search also said that all indications were that the four children were roaming the jungle on their own.

Last week, Colombia's president came under criticism when a tweet published on his account announced that the children had been found.

He erased the tweet the next day saying that the information - which his office had been given by Colombia's child welfare agency - could not be confirmed.

German police raid climate activists who blocked traffic

BBC - German police have carried out raids in seven states in a probe into climate campaigners suspected of forming or backing a criminal group because of their controversial activities.

Among those raided was Last Generation spokeswoman Carla Hinrichs, whose door was broken down by armed police while she was in bed, the group said.

For months Last Generation has disrupted traffic in German cities.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz has condemned their campaign as “completely crazy”.

For weeks in Germany there has been a ferocious culture war about whether Last Generation can be legally defined as a criminal organisation.

Conservative MPs have demanded tougher penalties including jail sentences, while left-wingers have warned of a dangerous authoritarian clampdown.

Some 170 police took part in Wednesday’s raids on flats and other buildings in Berlin, Bavaria, Dresden, Hamburg and elsewhere, shutting down the group’s website and freezing two accounts.

Ms Hinrichs’s flat in the Berlin district of Kreuzberg was targeted at 07:00 on Wednesday by 25 police



Last Generation activists have blocked traffic and even defaced paintings in museums as part of their campaign.

officers carrying guns, her colleagues said.

No arrests have been reported but seven people aged 22 to 38 are suspected of organising a campaign to collect at least €1.4m (£1.2m) in funding mainly to finance “further criminal acts”. Police and prosecutors said the raids were aimed at establishing Last Generation’s membership structure.

Two of the activists under investigation are suspected of trying to sabotage an oil pipeline running across the Alps from the Italian coast at Trieste to Ingolstadt last year.

In Berlin, Last Generation activists are making an impact. Roads blocked by activists have become a regular feature in radio traffic reports. Households have

been getting leaflets inviting locals to Last Generation information or training events.

Last week, 12 streets were blocked in the city as activists glued themselves to the road or to cars. But these street sit-ins have resulted in some drivers lashing out. Countless social media videos show outraged drivers screaming at campaigners.

In polls, most Germans disagree with the group’s tactics. In a survey carried out by left-leaning magazine *Der Spiegel* this month, 79% of respondents said the group’s actions were wrong, with only 16% agreeing with the activists.

But that doesn’t mean all Germans support a clampdown either.

Many left-wing and Green politicians as well as commentators say they

disagree with the group’s tactics because they enrage people rather than win them over to environmentalism. But they argue activists should still have the right to campaign peacefully.

Last Generation criticised Wednesday’s raids using the chancellor’s “completely crazy” quote, *VölligBekloppt*, as a hashtag, asking when the authorities would instead search “lobby structures and confiscate government fossil funds”.

Another climate action group, *Ende Gelände*, complained that the raids were targeting people seeking to “raise the alarm about the climate crisis rather than those responsible for it”.

Last Generation said it would continue its activities and some supporters online

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95-year-old woman tasered by police in Australia dies

By Antoinette Radford

A 95-year-old woman who was tasered by police at an Australian care home, sparking a public outcry, has died.

Clare Nowland was critically injured after police responded to reports she was wandering around the home with a steak knife at about 04:00 last Wednesday.

New South Wales Police (NSW) said she died “surrounded by family and loved ones”.

The officer who Tasered Mrs Nowland has been charged with assault.

The 33-year-old senior constable will face court in early July on charges of recklessly causing grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and common assault.

He remains suspended from duty with pay while investigations continue.

Mrs Nowland lived in a care home in the town of Cooma about 114km (71 miles) south of Canberra, Australia’s capital city.

NSW Police said their thoughts and condolences “remain with those who were lucky enough to know, love, and be loved by Mrs Nowland during a life



Clare Nowland

she led hallmarked by family, kindness and community.”

Last week, police said she was “armed” with a steak knife. On Friday, they confirmed that she required a walking frame to move and the officer discharged his Taser after she began approaching “at a slow pace”.

Mrs Nowland is believed to have suffered a fractured skull and a serious brain bleed after falling and hitting her head during the incident.

It has prompted calls for a state parliamentary inquiry and the release of police bodycam vision of the confrontation.

In a statement, Mrs Nowland’s family said she was a “well respected, much loved and a giving member of her local community” and the “loving and gentle-natured matriarch of the Nowland family.”

They have asked for privacy following her death.

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suggested the raids would galvanise support for their campaign.

The police response has been welcomed by conservatives, as well as some politicians from two ruling parties, the FDP and centre-left SPD. Some Green politicians said while they disagreed with the group’s radical actions, they suggested the raids may have been too heavy-handed.

Left-wing and environmental groups announced a

march in Berlin on Wednesday afternoon with further demonstrations in Leipzig, Munich and Potsdam. Greenpeace and politicians from the left-wing Linke party called the raids a “new level of escalation” from police that undermined the basic democratic right to protest.

Last Generation is campaigning for a speed limit on motorways of 100km/h (62mph).

It played a key role in protests against the expan-

sion of an open coal mine in the village of Lützerath in January, where campaigner Greta Thunberg was briefly detained.

Last October two activists threw mashed potato at a Claude Monet painting at a museum in Potsdam near Berlin and then glued themselves to a wall, an action that mirrored similar protests in the UK by the climate action group Just Stop Oil.

Last Generation is not limited to Germany. Two

activists glued themselves to an area in front of the Austrian parliament in Vienna on Wednesday, defying a ban on protests outside the building.

In Italy, three Italian activists were due in court on Wednesday for gluing themselves to a Vatican museum sculpture dating back to Roman times last August. Activists belonging to the group had also coloured the Trevi fountain in Rome black as a statement against fossil fuels.

Sports News



GNFC players to undergo trials in UK



Three players, accompanied by two coaches of the Generation Next FC (GNFC), will undergo trials at Brooke House College in the United Kingdom next month. (Photo courtesy GNFC)

Three players, accompanied by two coaches of the Generation Next FC (GNFC), will be getting the opportunity to undergo trials at Brooke House College in the United Kingdom next month.

According to a release from the GNFC, Joshua Henriques, Ethan Camacho and Ethan Barton, accompanied by two of the club's coaches, Desmond "Zeco" Bleau and Vincent "Nabbu" Samuel, will be travelling to England in June.

The players' trials are being facilitated through GNFC's
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Chef Haywood wins Mother's Day Golf Championship

One of the country's top chefs, Walcott "Wally" Haywood, cooked up a storm to the top of the podium to win the 3rd annual Patricia Matthew Mother's Day Golf Championship at Cedar Valley over the weekend.

Haywood, who is the head chef at the Big Banana Restaurant, was in fine form in the fairways and on the greens, swinging his way past his rivals to win the coveted title.

The 15 handicapper shot an 18-hole score of 87 to claim the top prize, finishing two shots clear of Paullus Martin of Harney Motors.

Aubrey Matthew, who ended the contest with a score of 92, captured the third place trophy.

The event, which was held one week later

than usual, also saw Haywood claiming honours in two other categories.

Haywood was victorious in the closest to the pin contest on hole number 15 and he also won the long drive exercise in which he finished miles ahead of his competitors.

Former LIAT pilot Kori Robertson won the closest to the pin on the second hole. The tournament was sponsored by Tucker on the Grill with support also coming from Subway Restaurant.

Caption

Benefactor of the Mother's Day Golf Championship Patricia Matthew, left, presents a plaque to winner Walcott 'Wally' Haywood during a presentation at the event on Sunday, 21st May, 2023. (Photo courtesy Jermaine Kentish)



Villa Lions capture Under-15 title in youth football league

Villa Lions have captured the Under-15 Boys Division title in the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League.

They secured their title by winning all 10 matches to finish at the top of the six-team round robin competition with a perfect 30 points.

Villa Lions won their last two encounters during the final round of matches at the St Anthony's Secondary School's playing field.

Villa Lions hammered Five Islands 8-0 and prevailed 2-0 against Willikies, who finished third in the competition with 16 points from their 10 matches.

Willikies had recorded their fifth win in the league with a 3-0 victory against Gray's Green.

Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) Rebels hammered bottom team Earthquakes FC 5-0 in their last encounter to finish in the runners-up position with 18 points from 10 matches.

Earthquakes FC finished in the cellar position with two



The Villa Lions Under-15 football team. (Photo courtesy Villa Lions FC)

points after failing to win any of their matches. They had two draws and eight losses during their 10-match campaign.

Five Islands claimed fourth place with 10 points while Gray's Green finished second from bottom with nine points.

The other winners in the various categories of the youth league were decided earlier this month.

New Evolutions captured the Under-17 Boys di-

vision title with Willikies and Gray's Green finishing second and third respectively.

GNFC Rebels narrowly clinched their Under-11 division title ahead of Pigotts Bullets while Villa Lions snatched the Under-13 category ahead of the GNFC Rebels.

In both the Under-11 and the Under-13 Divisions, the top two teams ended the league with the same points and same goal difference. The champions were then

decided by the team scoring the most goals as per FIFA rules.

The Girls Division was won by Cutting Edge FC. Wadadli United FC came second while GNFC Rebels A finished in third place.

Pigotts Bullets A Team captured the Under-7 Division while Pigotts Bullets 1 secured the runners-up position.

GNFC Rebels won the Under-9 Boys category with TAMO FC finishing second.

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partnership with Brooke House College and the Calvin Ayre Foundation, sponsors of the club's Advanced Academy programme.

If the three players are successful in their trials, they will be awarded full scholarships to attend St. Anthony's Secondary School in Antigua for the duration of their high school education.

The full scholarships will be sponsored by Brooke House College and the players will be afforded annual visits to England where they will undergo further training.

Upon graduating from high school, the players will also be offered scholarships to attend Brooke House College for Tertiary education.

The GNFC coaches will also benefit from the international experience

as part of the club's new initiative of a "coaches exchange programme" where they will be assisting in coaching the college teams.

The GNFC is expressing its sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Calvin Ayre Foundation for covering the cost of air travel and Brooke House College for accommodating its coaches and players at their expense.

Sports News



Double Six and Parham Strikers lead Team Three Hand domino contest

Double Six Diamonds have joined Parham Strikers as leaders of the second series of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League Team Three-Hand Competition, which is being contested using the accumulated points format.

Both teams are leading the competition with a total of 236 points apiece after the third round of matches at the association's headquarters in Ottos Newtown.

Double Six Diamonds scored 74 points while Parham Strikers got 71 points in their latest encounters.

Dominatrixx, Ramplers and Unstoppables are following closely behind with all three teams advancing to 230 points apiece.

In the latest round of matches, Dominatrixx scored 70 points, Ramplers got 84 points while Unstoppables gained 68 points.

Rising Stars chalked up 80 points in their third round match to move into fifth place with an overall total of 229 points.

The C Team of Bolans Revellers recorded 70 points to advance to 226 points while the A Team of Bravo secured 90 points to move up to an overall total of 225 points.

Double Six Ice and Triple Dynamite are next in line with 224 points apiece. Double Six Ice claimed 73 points while Triple Dyna-



The Willikies Super Stars are still leading the Team Four-Hand domino competition. (File photo)

mite got 82 points in their latest encounters.

Moise Eagles scored 67 points in their third round match to advance to 223 points, Legacy secured 75 points to move up to 216 points while Future got 79 points to jump up to 213 points.

The A and B teams of Bolans Revellers are closely behind with an overall total of 211 and 210 points respectively. The A Team of Bolans Revellers recorded 74 points while the B Team of Bolans Revellers scored 76 points in their

latest matches.

The A Team of Willikies Super Stars scored 63 points to move up to third from bottom of the 18-team competition by advancing to an overall total of 206 points.

The B Team of Bravo recorded 63 points to move to second from bottom of the standings by advancing to 184 points.

But the B Team of Willikies Super Stars slipped into the cellar position, scoring 62 points in their latest outing to advance to an overall total of 183

points.

The Willikies Super Stars have maintained their lead in the second Team Four-Hand competition of the ABNDA league.

The Willikies Super Stars notched up their third win by scoring 42 points to beat Unstoppables with 30 points during the third round of Team Four Hand matches.

Success as well for Bolans Revellers who prevailed 56-32 against Double Six, while Ramplers won by default against Dominatrixx.

CWI announces changes to West Indies men's squads

Cricket West Indies (CWI) Senior Men's Selection Panel has announced changes to the West Indies "A" Team squad currently in Bangladesh and the West Indies One-Day International (ODI) squad to play the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Sharjah.

For the ongoing "A" Team Series in Bangladesh, left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul will travel to Sylhet as cover for fellow left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the three-match series with a lower back injury.

Motie will travel to Dubai ahead of the West Indies' three-match ODI series against the United Arab Emirates at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. He will not play but will receive treatment from the medical staff with the aim of being available for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe, which start on 18th June.

Off-spinner Kevin Sinclair, who is presently in Bangladesh with the "A" Team, will replace Motie in the 15-member ODI squad for the series in Sharjah.

Experienced batter



Johnson Charles has been called into the West Indies ODI squad as a replacement for Devon Thomas. (CWI Media)

Johnson Charles has also been called into the ODI squad as a replacement for Devon Thomas. Thomas has been provisionally suspended from playing cricket due to charges brought by the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit under the Anti-Corruption codes.

Lead Selector, Dr Desmond Haynes said, "We were forced to make some changes to the squads, and this has presented opportunities for players to come in."

"Sinclair has been in good form all year and has taken that to the 'A' Team series in Bangladesh. Permaul and Charles are experienced players, and they will be able to quickly adapt to the conditions and fit into the environment in Sylhet and Sharjah."

Haynes added, "Motie is a key part of our plans for the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe, so we are hopeful he will make a full recovery for that tour-

nament. The decision was taken to have him remain with the squad in Sharjah so he will be closely monitored and receive the best treatment available."

Updated Squads: West Indies "A" Squad vs Bangladesh "A" - Joshua DaSilva (Captain), Alick Athanaze, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Tevin Imlach, Akeem Jordan, Brandon King, Jair McAllister, Zachary McCaskie, Kirk McKenzie, Anderson Phillip, Raymon Reifer, Kevin Sinclair and Veerasammy Permaul (cover for Gudakesh Motie).

West Indies ODI Squad vs United Arab Emirates - Shai Hope (captain), Brandon King (vice-captain), Alick Athanaze, Shamarh Brooks, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Dominic Drakes, Kavem Hodge, Akeem Jordan, Keemo Paul, Raymon Reifer, Kevin Sinclair and Odean Smith.



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Four teams level on eight points in Women's T20 Blaze

The race for the title in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's T20 Blaze is heating up with four teams at the top of the table on eight points each after three matches.

After the third round on Tuesday, defending champs Jamaica, Barbados, Windward Islands and Guyana all have eight points with two more rounds to be played.

Playing at Warner Park, the Windward Islands sprung a big surprise as they defeated Trinidad and Tobago Red Force Divas by seven wickets.

Winning the toss and sending the Red Force Divas into bat first, the Windward Islands continued their consistently accurate bowling as they stifled the Red Force Divas to a score of 59 all out in 17.4 overs.

The Windward fielders were brilliant as Qiana Joseph alone had four catches. Bowling for the Windwards, Afy Fletcher, Nerissa Crafton and Carena Noel all had two wickets a piece.

In their turn at the crease the Windward batters made easy work of the target, reaching 62 for three in 16.2 overs. Joseph led the run-chase with 18 not out fol-



Guyana celebrate the dismissal of a Leeward Islands batsmen during their third round match in the CWI Women's T20 Blaze at Warner Park in St Kitts on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023. (CWI Media)

lowed by 13 from skipper Fletcher.

Barbados snapped Jamaica's unbeaten start to the tournament by defeating them by nine wickets in the second match of the day. Stafanie Taylor led the Jamaica batting with a valiant 34 not out from 43 balls to guide her team to 98 for four in their 20 overs.

Rashada Williams opening the batting was next best with 19 from 23 deliveries.

Keila Elliott did the trick with the ball for Barbados as she picked up two for nine, while debutant Theanny Herbert-Mayers claimed one for 12.

Aaliyah Alleyne and Kycia Knight shared a 62-run opening partnership as they raced towards the target before Knight was dismissed for 28 off the bowling of Chedean Nation.

Alleyne powered on and brought up the first half-century of the tournament, as she finished on a run-a-ball 55 not out with Kyshona Knight on 11 not out, as Barbados reached 102 for one in 16.5 overs.

Guyana defeated the Leeward Islands by five wickets in a match that was much closer than the victory margin suggests. Batting first, the Leeward Islands

were lifted by Divya Saxena who made 31 from 43 balls, next best was Amanda Edwards with 13 from 18 as they closed their innings on 93 for six.

Plaffiana Millington was once again the standout bowler for Guyana by bagging three for 21.

Sheneta Grimmond smashed three fours on the way to 26 off 29 for a top score, while Shemaine Campbelle added 23 not out off 24 balls to take Guyana home to victory at 94 for five in 17.4 overs. The tournament will continue with the fourth round of matches today (Thursday).