

# SPEAKER REJECTS “SHUGY’S” RESIGNATION

*Story on Page 2*



*Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Gerald Watt, has ruled that the resignation of St. Mary's South Parliamentary Representative, Kelvin Simon is not valid.*

## Speaker rejects “Shugy’s” resignation

The attempt by the representative of St. Mary’s South, Kelvin ‘Shugy’ Simon, to tender his resignation thus paving the way for a by-election in the constituency, has been unsuccessful.

That’s because the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Gerald Watt, said the resignation

failed to meet the criteria as established by the Constitution and therefore it is ‘Constitutionally deficient, a nullity and of no legal effect’.

The Speaker’s ruling is contained in a letter penned to Simon on Monday.

The following is the full letter written by the Speaker addressed to Hon Kelvin Simon:



*Government of Antigua and Barbuda*

Sir Gerald Watt, Q.C.  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
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The Hon. Kelvin Simon MP  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Bolans  
Parish of St. Mary’s (South)  
Antigua

Dear MP Simon,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 informing me of your resignation as “the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of St. Mary’s (South) effective today June 7, 2023”.

In considering your purported resignation I have paid due attention to a number of matters, including the existence of the electoral petition CASWORTH AARON v. KELVIN SIMON, filed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023 and due to be heard on July 3, 2023, the relevant constitutional provisions specifically section 41(1) and 125(1) (a) and (b), and 125(2), and the manner in which resignations are permissible pursuant to Parliamentary Laws in the House of Commons in the United Kingdom and Canada.

Section 41(1):

“Every member of the House shall vacate his, seat in the House-

- a. at the next dissolution of Parliament after he has been elected;
- b. if he ceases to be a citizen;
- c. if he is absent from the sittings of the House for such period or periods and in such circumstances as may be prescribed in the rules of procedure of the House;
- d. subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, if any circumstances arise that, if he were not a member of the House, would cause him to be disqualified from election as such by virtue of section 39(1) of this Constitution; or
- e. if, having been elected to the House by virtue of being A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY, HE RESIGNS HIS PARTY WHIP AND WITHDRAWS HIS ALLEGIANCE FROM THAT PARTY (emphasis mine):

Provided that he shall not be required to vacate his seat so long as he remains an independent member of the House.”

I note and draw attention to the fact that your letter fails to indicate that you have taken the necessary steps as mandated by section 41(1) (e) and as a consequence is constitutionally deficient, a nullity, and of no legal effect.

Section 125(1) (a) and (b) and 125(2) reads as follows:

“1. Any person who is appointed or elected to any office established by this Constitution may resign from that office by writing under his hand addressed to the person or authority BY WHOM HE WAS APPOINTED OR ELECTED; (emphasis mine)

Provided that-

- a. The resignation of a person from the office of President or Vice-President or from the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall be addressed to the Senate or the House, as the case may be, and
- b. resignation of any person from membership of the Senate or the House shall be addressed to the President or the Speaker, as the case may be.

2. The resignation of any person from any such office as aforesaid shall take effect when the writing signifying the resignation is received by the person or authority to whom it is addressed or any person authorised by that person or authority to receive it.

A careful reading of section 125(1) (a) and (b) in general indicates clearly that it provides the mechanism by which persons resigning from appointed and elected offices may resign and indicates to whom the letters of resignation ought to be addressed, no more, no less. Nowhere does the section establish any right of resignation in respect of any person appointed or elected to any office. As to section 125(2), this section merely indicates when the resignation takes effect.

Further, section 125 cannot be read and interpreted in isolation it must be read in conjunction with section 41(1)(a)-(c) which deals specifically with the vacating of your seat in the House of Representatives, and specifically states, the manner in which you may do so. The suggestion by some lay persons and attorneys alike that section 125(b) creates a right of resignation, is a seriously flawed interpretation, which I summarily reject.

In arriving at my decision in this matter, I have looked carefully at both sections 41(1) and 125(1) of the Constitution, the learning contained in “Halsbury’s Laws of England vol. 78 (2018)” paragraph 702 (which deals with “retirement from the House of Commons”), the learning contained in the Parliamentary laws applied in the House of Commons in the United Kingdom and Canada, and I have taken note of the fact that the Standing Orders of our House of Representatives do not provide for resignation from the House under any circumstances. The authorities clearly show that resignation of Members of Parliament can only resign under laws and procedures contained in the relevant legislation.

For all of the reasons I have stated, I am of the considered view that your letter of resignation does not conform to section 41(1) (e) of the Constitution, and therefore cannot be accepted. However, there is nothing to prevent you from resubmitting a letter of resignation which conforms with the said section 41(1) (e).

In light of the above, I must inform you that you continue to be the sitting Member for St. Mary’s (South), and in this regard, I am by copy of this letter informing the Leaders of both sides of the House and the Attorney General of my decision in this matter, and my supporting reasons. I also hold myself available to meet with you and your attorney to address any concerns you may have in respect of my decision.

Very truly yours



Sir Gerald A. Watt KCN, KC

Speaker of the House of Representatives

c.c. Hon. Gaston Browne – Prime Minister

Hon. Jamale Pringle – Leader of the Opposition

Hon. Steadroy Benjamin – Attorney General

## Two 'persons of interest' in custody

The police have confirmed that two persons of interest are in their custody and being questioned in relation to the shooting over a week ago, that has left the victim fighting for his life in the hospital.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas said they include Dexter Scotland, who surrendered to the police on Monday morning after a Wanted Bulletin was posted on Saturday, bearing his photograph.

Inspector Thomas said a second individual is also being held by the police, in connection with the shooting.

On Sunday, June 4, the police alleged that Scot-

land, a resident of Willikies, was involved in an incident where another Willikies resident was shot multiple times and was rushed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC).

Scotland had been on the run since the incident happened until he turned himself over to the police on Monday.

The victim, not yet identified, has been hospitalised in an unstable condition at the SLBMC.

The Police Administration wishes to thank the general public for the assistance and support that is being offered to the police in this and other ongoing investigations.



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## Seventeen-year-old remanded at HM Prison

The 17-year-old Villa resident who was arrested and charged by police for the robbery of a Saint Joseph's Academy employee is remanded to His Majesty's Prison.

The youth appeared before the Child Justice Board on Monday after he was charged over the weekend with robbery and shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm, in relation to the crime that was committed against Shane Anthony on 4th June at St. Joseph's Academy located at Stapleton Lane. Reports indicate he was also involved in other robberies.

Anthony was held up by two young men bearing flare guns who robbed him

of his mobile phone and cash. One fired the flare gun after Anthony attacked him, causing the adult to sustain burns to his left ear.

Police say the second accomplice, a 16-year-old, was taken into custody on Sunday. He too will make an appearance before the Child Justice Board before any charges are laid against him.

A search warrant was executed at his family's Paynter's home shortly before 7 pm, where police reportedly seized clothes and detained the teen on suspicion of committing a felony, with aggravated robbery.

It is believed he will be formally charged shortly.

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I, Itony Vincent Hope, **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises know as "**Itony Bar and Restaurant**" situated at Bird Road, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023

.....  
Itony Vincent Hope

## UWI FIC to introduce two graduate programmes



*The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus*

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is introducing two graduate programmes this year, and it is hoped that the offerings will generate interest among those who are seeking to upgrade their qualifications.

In addition to its Post Graduate Diploma in Education, The UWI FIC last year introduced its first Master's Programme in Corporate Finance. For 2023, the institution of higher learning will offer a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching Exceptional Children.

The UWI Five Islands Campus's recruitment of-

ficer Dr. Adiola Matthew said this programme is geared towards teachers who want to be able to meet some of the up-and-coming challenges that are being experienced in the classroom, today.

"Some of those challenges are cognitive challenges, students with learning difficulties, learning disabilities as well as some of the behavioral problems that we are now seeing arise in the classrooms. We are therefore excited to offer that to our teachers," she stated.

The second programme is a Master's of Business Administration. This pro-

gramme targets people who work in various levels of the public and private sectors, particularly those in supervisory and management roles.

"Most of those who think of an MBA, think firstly of people in the banking or business sectors. But the truth is, for example, a doctor, - if we think about the SLBMC - we have many people who are managing other doctors, nurses and other staff.

"There is a way to become a strategic planner, a strategic person who must understand the different management processes. So we are saying to those

in the hotels, health or any profession where management skills are required. This programme is for you," she stated.

The UWI FIC representative said persons can gain access to the graduate programmes through the academic route, adding they will also consider work experience.

The application process is ongoing for the graduate programmes, that will be offered through a blended format.

A special event is planned for Thursday for anyone with an interest, to visit the campus to seek additional information.

# New visa-free entry into Canada 'a welcomed development'

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has commended Canada's decision to offer visa-free entry to some Antiguans and Barbudans, describing it as 'a welcomed development.'

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show over the weekend, PM Browne said he felt that it was a privilege that should not have been removed from Antiguans and Barbudans in the first place.

"Canada and the Caribbean have always enjoyed special relations, with a common history of being colonies of the United Kingdom, and past Canadian prime ministers had developed a particular love for the Caribbean and its people," the prime minister noted.

Additionally, PM Browne spoke of the personal friendship he currently enjoys with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Based on these facts, he said Canada should not have adopted what he called 'a hostile stance against the Caribbean.'

The prime minister also feels that negative comments emanating from opposition-aligned media entities may have helped muddy the waters concerning how Antigua and Barbuda was viewed by countries such as Canada.

"What had happened is that they had mired the country in much controversy stating that it was giving away CIP passports to known 'crooks'," he

stated.

PM Browne admitted that over the years 'one or two' persons were granted CIP passports, who were later found to have been involved in unscrupulous activities. Unfortunately, much 'hysteria' was generated around these very few incidents and which may have been picked up by the person at the Canadian Embassy in the region, who may have made a recommendation to halt visa-free access for Antiguans and Barbudans.

The new requirements come with some limitations. They will only apply to persons with a US visa or those who have had a Canadian visa over the last ten years.



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## PM Browne sends condolences to Italy Re: the death of former Prime Minister Berlusconi

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has dispatched a letter of condolences to the government and people of Italy over the death of former Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi.

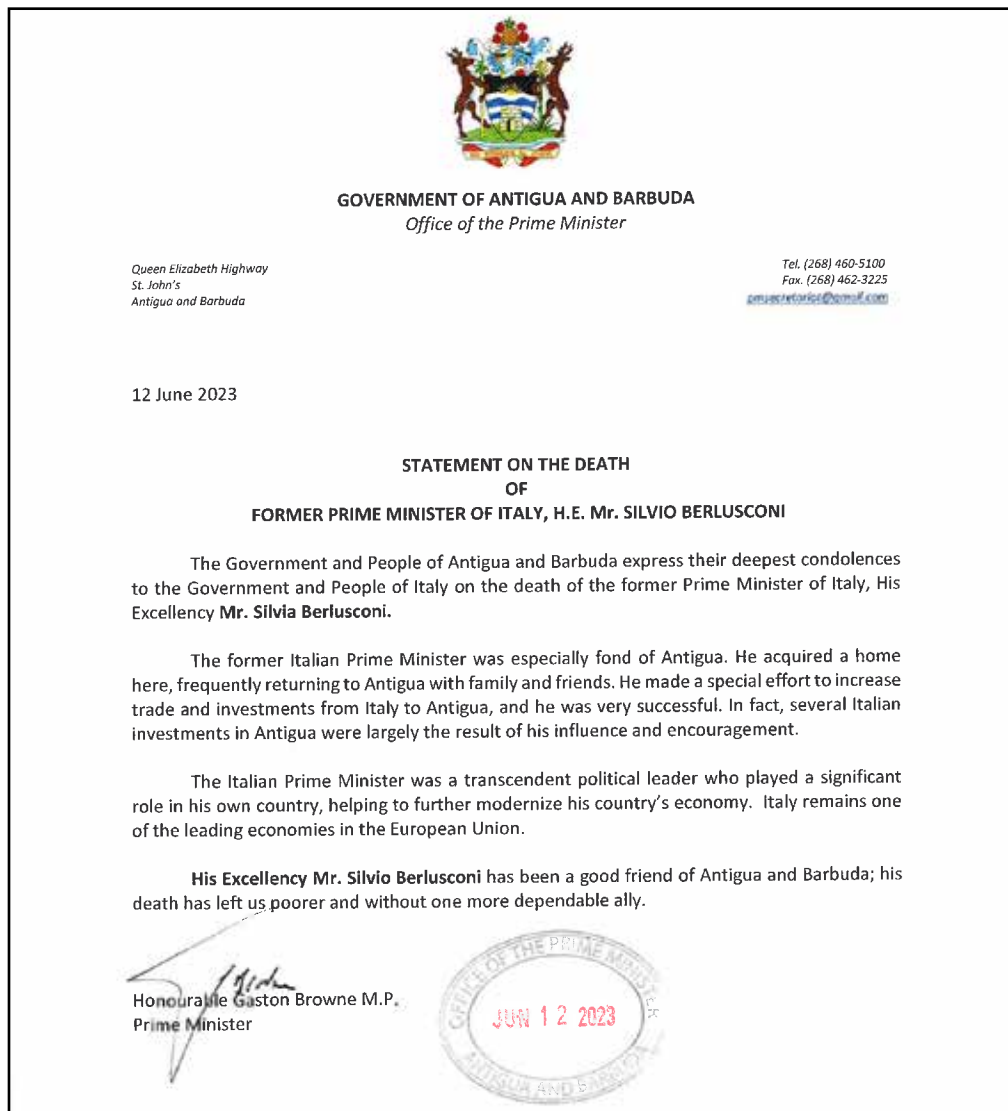
The Italian government on Monday announced his passing at the age of 86 years old.

Allies and critics have paid tribute to the former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, the country's longest-serving postwar leader and one of its most divisive.

The billionaire media tycoon and former AC Milan owner who entered politics at the head of his own Forza Italia in the 1990s, as the traditional parties of the right collapsed, led three governments between 1994 and 2011 and succeeded in making a comeback in 2017, despite a career tainted by sex scandals, allegations of corruption and a tax fraud conviction.

He died at the San Raffaele hospital in Milan, where he had spent six weeks this spring undergoing treatment for a lung infection.

Following is the letter dispatched to the Italian government by PM Browne.



## ECCB team to visit educational institutions

Two educational institutions – the University of the West Indies and the TN Kirnon Primary School – are included in visits slated for today by the visiting team from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

The team is in the country as part of the bank's Country Outreach Mission, where Governor Timothy Antoine is traveling to each constituent member of the ECCB to meet with government officials, the opposition, and civil soci-

ety groups.

During the visit to the TN Kirnon School, which the bank has adopted as part of its mentorship programme, the team will be incorporating activities to mark the bank's 40th anniversary. Sources say that along with interactions with staff and students at the institution, the ECCB officials will plant several trees on the school's compound, as part of activities to mark the bank's 40th anniversary.

Earlier, the ECCB had

announced that during the year of its 'ruby anniversary,' it intends to engage in a number of activities in each member country, as part of the celebration of this milestone.

On Wednesday, the ECCB Governor and his team will have a busy round of engagements with visits to Government House for a meeting with the Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, as well as meetings with the Cabinet, the leader of the Opposition, Jamale

Pringle and members of the Barbuda Council.

At the meeting with the Cabinet, the Governor and his team, will make a presentation to the Ministers on the ECCU's Performance and Prospects under the theme: Repositioning for Resilience and Sustainability.

Governor Antoine and the team will meet members of the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, and on Friday they will travel to Barbuda.

# Opinion



## Words

By Cecil E. W. Wade

In years gone by, children were more timid and inclined to be more compliant with the discipline instilled by their parents. Maybe that was because of the known consequences of their deviant behaviour, which was severe punishment in one form or another. If they neglected to go to school, and their parents could not control them, they would be picked up by an enforcement officer, who would take them to a detention institution called "Skerritt's," which was annexed to Her Majesty's Prison, called "1735," where they would be severely reprimanded or flogged.

Skerritt's was where all Bad Boys were housed; where the lawless and disorderly juveniles were ensconced. Its purpose was to rehabilitate the delinquents of society, with the expectation of having them reintegrated as productive individuals.

Bad Gals were not as prevalent as boys. They were few in numbers, and were usually only prone to promiscuous behavior, a condition from which they appeared to cure themselves, by the time they got into their late teens; so I do not remember there being any houses of detention for girls at that time.

The Skerritt Boys attended the public St. John's Boy School, wearing their khaki shirts and pants, without shoes, but a rolled-up

exercise book and black lead (pencil) in their hands.

Other boys detested having to sit with them in class since there was an anti-social stigma attached to them. But after a while, boys being what they are, started co-mingling. The boys were on a rigid schedule. They arrived at school, located just a stone's throw from their quarters, at 9 in the morning. At midday, they walked diligently back to their dorm for lunch, then returned to school at 1 pm.

Competitive sports at school were compulsory, and the Skerritt's boys were very good athletes, who excelled in all areas of the games. At their residence, they were taught such crafts as carpentry, wood carving, rope making, and grass mat making. They were kept under close supervision, by the Warden, and any unacceptable behaviour was met with severely appropriate punishment.

The rehabilitation at Skerritt's appeared to have been successful because about eighty percent of the boys were reformed as young men. Some went on to become successful professionals and businessmen, in the society today. Conversely, 1735 which was set up solely as a penal institution for adult criminals, had different statistics. Maybe only about twenty percent of the inmates ever made good after being incarcer-

ated. Many of them became serial offenders, making repeat visits to jail during the ensuing years. They were perpetually locked away, only to be seen when pushing their cart in public, piled high with firewood for their fuel, going back to the prison; conspicuously dressed in their white flour-bag shirt and dungaree pants, with matching caps, and their personally made shoes, from old car tyres.

In the old days, though there was less violence and crime, there was much disorder among us ordinary people. Order seemed to have dwelt more, among the colonials and upper echelon of society. They appeared to conduct themselves with more dignity and decorum, while we were frequently rabble-rousing.

Perhaps it was a carry-over from slavery and colonial times when we were conditioned to antagonize each other and inform the slave masters of the goings on among us, as he practiced his control by the strategy of divide and rule. We were mortally afraid of the white man.

I remember as a young boy, there was always pushing and shoving, wherever there was a gathering of people for any reason. When a lot of people gathered at a standpipe in the street catching water to take home, there was always much fighting. Some would

forcibly remove others' buckets and place theirs under the tap to get theirs filled before the others who were ahead of them. At Deluxe, to see a cowboy movie with Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, or Rocky Lane, the crowd would be fighting among themselves to be first to get into the cinema, and at the end of the film, there would be violent pushing and shoving to be the first to get out. We seemed to have been in a perpetual state of disorder!

Before I became a teenager, we boys used to roam around the streets at Christmas time, taking in the spectacle displayed by the clowns, john-bulls, etc., and one of the most disturbing sites was to see the white people upstairs at Morris Michael's gallery on Redcliffe Street, throwing down their pennies and half-pennies to the crowd of black people in the street below, who were trampling each other, like a stampede wrestling, walking on each other's neck, combating for the small change raining down from above.

The spectators, being thus entertained would be joined by some local collar-and-tie blacks, who in today's parlance would be called "nuff and edge-up." These, and other distasteful memories are still with me as a senior citizen today. We have not only been order-less on our own accord but we have also been disordered by the higher-ups.

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## World Bank urging Caribbean nations to invest more in climate

Loop - The World Bank is advising small Caribbean countries that they accelerate private-sector development improving their respective investment climate.

In its latest report which was released last Friday and titled, "The Caribbean Regional Private Sector Diagnostic (RPSD)" the organization noted measures to reduce cross-cutting constraints to private investment, such as gaps in connectivity and skills mismatches, and break the region's current low-growth, low-productivity trend.

Countries covered by the report included Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts-Nevis, St



# THE WORLD BANK

Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

According to the World Bank, these countries "face major cross-cutting constraints and addressing them would foster an environment more conducive to trade, investment and growth".

"These constraints are gaps in trade policy, trade facilitation, and

connectivity; skills mismatches; limited access to finance, especially for small and medium enterprises; and vulnerability to climate change," it added.

World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean countries, Lilia Burunciuc, further advised that to realise the economic potential of the Caribbean, there is a need to bolster regional linkages and economic diversification and move to greener and more inclusive growth.

The report further added that the Caribbean countries suffer from frictions that raise their cost of trade and hamper their competitiveness.

It explained that tariff and non-tariff measures, weak trade facilitation, and poor transport connectivity make trade expensive and depress export volumes.

In this regard, the World Bank recommended the establishment of national and regional trade facilitation committees, digitisation and simplification of trade procedures, and increase of supply and efficiency of air and marine cargo shipping.

The study also examined two key sectors; the digital economy and renewable energy, in which greater private investment could contribute to export diversification and job creation, enhance productivity, and strengthen resilience to climate change and natural disasters.



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## JP Morgan agrees to pay \$290m to settle lawsuit brought by Jeffrey Epstein victims

By Sam Cabral

JP Morgan has agreed to pay roughly \$290m (£232m) to settle a lawsuit brought on behalf of alleged victims of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Attorneys for the bank said it was “in the best interests of all parties, especially the survivors who were the victims of Epstein’s terrible abuse”.

The lawsuit had alleged the largest US bank ignored warning signs about its client during a 15-year relationship.

The agreement is subject to court approval.

JPMorgan Chase will not admit liability in the case, but upon the settlement’s approval the bank will put out a statement regretting its association with Epstein, David Boies, one of the victims’ attorneys, told CNN.

“We all now understand that Epstein’s behaviour was monstrous,” lawyers for the bank said in a statement on Monday.

“Any association with him was a mistake and we regret it. We would never have continued to do business with him if we believed he was using our bank in any way to help commit heinous crimes.”

The settlement follows



weeks of embarrassing revelations about the extent of JP Morgan’s relationship with the late financier.

Late last month, long-time chief executive Jamie Dimon provided a formal statement under oath for the case, in what turned out to be a day-long deposition from the bank’s headquarters in New York.

Lawyers representing the unnamed accuser who filed the suit - identified only as Jane Doe 1 - asked a federal judge on Friday to allow them to take new testimony from Mr Dimon.

They also asked to reopen depositions for three other key witnesses in the case.

Another lawsuit filed against the bank late last year in federal court is still

pending. That case was brought on behalf of the government of the US Virgin Islands, where Epstein owned a private island with a mansion.

The financier kept hundreds of millions of dollars in more than 50 accounts at JP Morgan between 1998 and 2013, five years after he pleaded guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution.

He was found dead at the age of 66 in a prison cell in 2019. New York City’s medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.

The Jane Doe 1 lawsuit said that JP Morgan “knowingly facilitated, sustained and concealed” the frequent cash withdrawals Epstein made to pay the young women he trafficked, while profiting from the deals and

clients that the financier brought in.

The bank, which earlier failed to dismiss the dual suits, has countered that any civil liability should rest with Jes Staley, a former top executive who befriended Epstein.

Mr Staley has said his former employer is trying to “deflect blame” for its own failures and sought to dismiss the claims, but the complaint against him remains active.

Last month, Deutsche Bank, where Epstein was a client after he left JP Morgan in 2013, settled for \$75m with Epstein accusers.

To date, the Epstein estate has paid out more than \$150m to more than 100 of his victims.

## Facebook owner Meta plans to create Twitter rival



BBC - Meta has shown staff plans for a text-based social network designed to compete with Twitter, sources have told the BBC.

It could allow users to follow accounts they already follow on Instagram, Meta's image-sharing app.

And it could potentially allow them to bring over followers from decentralised platforms such as Mastodon. A Meta spokesperson confirmed to the BBC that the platform was in development.

"We're exploring a standalone decentralised social network for sharing text updates," they said.

"We believe there's an opportunity for a separate space where creators and public figures can share timely updates about their interests."

Meta's chief product officer Chris Cox said coding was under way on the platform. The tech giant aims to release it soon, although no date was given. There is some speculation that

it could be as early as the end of June.

Screenshots have appeared online which were shown internally to employees, potentially giving an idea of what the app will look like.

Sources within the company have told the BBC that these leaked screenshots are genuine. If they are, the layout of this new platform will be familiar to anyone who has spent time on Twitter.

The text-based network - which has a working title of P92 - could turn out to be a greater rival to Elon Musk's Twitter than either BlueSky or Mastodon.

While both have attracted users disillusioned with Twitter, starting afresh on a new social network and rebuilding a community, is difficult.

But the Instagram community is enormous. Meta says it has around two billion users, which dwarfs the 300 million that are believed to use Twitter - although its figures can no

longer be verified.

If even 25% of Instagram users can be coaxed into using P92 (it will undoubtedly have a sexier name when it launches), it will instantly become bigger than its older rival.

Meta says it takes "inspiration" from other products, although others put it less kindly - Stories on Facebook was based on a Snapchat feature, and Reels on Instagram is unmistakably similar to TikTok.

Twitter has come under scrutiny in recent months over moderation on the platform, and in May withdrew from the EU's voluntary disinformation code.

Under Mr Musk, Twitter moderation has reportedly been reduced - which critics say allowed an increase in the spread of disinformation.

But Mr Musk says there is now "less misinformation rather than more" since he took over in October 2022.

## UNHCR grants Cameroonian detainees Asylum Seeker Status

Loop - Fourteen Cameroon nationals who were being detained in St Kitts and Nevis after being rescued at sea in March 2023, have received Asylum Seeker Status from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Ministry of National Security says UNHCR granted this to the Cameroon nationals on June 8, 2023. According to UNHCR's definition, an asylum seeker is "someone whose request for sanctuary is yet to be processed."

The Ministry says therefore, in addition to being protected against forced repatriation to their home country,



the Cameroon nationals are entitled to continued humanitarian care while their asylum requests to UNHCR are being processed.

The Government of St

Kitts and Nevis will continue to collaborate closely with UNHCR and provide the Cameroon nationals with the necessary basic humanitarian services.

The official Asylum Seeker Certificates were hand-delivered to the Cameroon nationals at noon on June 10, 2023, and the

*cont'd on pg 15*

## BVI: Two female tourists die in unrelated incidents at sea

Loop - Police in the British Virgin Islands have confirmed that two female tourists from the US died in unrelated incidents while at the Baths last week.

On Tuesday, Diana Wright, 63, of Texas was found unresponsive by members of her family while snorkelling in waters near The Baths

around 3 pm. She was transported to shore where attempts were made to resuscitate her by personnel from the Iris O'Neal Clinic and Virgin Islands Search and Rescue. She was later pronounced dead.

And, around noon on Friday, another female tourist, a native of California, was snorkelling at the Baths when she began experiencing difficulty. She was transported to shore where attempts were made to restore breathing. She was later pronounced dead.

The name of the second female is being withheld until the next of kin has been notified.

The cause of death in both cases is still to be determined.

Investigations are ongoing.



## Two charged with murder in St. Kitts and Nevis

Loop - Two men have been charged in connection with recent murders on St Kitts and Nevis.

The Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF) arrested and charged Keith Godwin for the murder of Alden «OJ» Maynard.

Maynard, 45, was shot dead while he was driving his vehicle along the Bypass Road of the FT Williams Highway on June 6.

Maynard was the island's 15th murder victim for 2023.

Nyon Dasent was charged with the murder of Vaughn Parris.

Parris, 31, was shot dead in Dorset Park on June 6.

He was the 16th murder victim for 2023.

RSCNPF thanked islanders for their assistance in solving the murders.



Keith Godwin (left) and Nyon Dasent.

“We continue to encourage everyone to say something if they see something. The life-altering effects of criminal activity negatively

impact us all. In that regard, criminal acts committed in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis are everyone's business.

This demonstrates what can be accomplished when society and law enforcement work together,” police said.

*cont'd from pg 14*

tended humanitarian provisions the Government has agreed to provide were also clearly communicated to them.

One such consideration is the Government's decision to release them from detention and relocate them to an apartment complex with a view to increasing their comfort and autonomy. This arrangement will remain in place for 90 days while their asylum applications are in progress.

In response, the Cameroon nationals communicated the following three demands and stated that their hunger strike which they started the afternoon of June 9, 2023, will continue until they

have been met:

They wish to be issued with a United Nations identification card.

They wish to speak with the United States (US) Embassy or the US Congress.

They wish to be sent to their Cameroonian friends and family in Texas, US, as they claim they are specially protected under US law.

The Ministry of National Security says it was explained to the Cameroonian nationals that these demands fall outside of the remit and authority of the Government of St Kitts and Nevis, save and except the granting of access to communicate with the US Embassy.

In this regard, they have been provided with the requisite email addresses, telephone numbers, and the physical address of the United States Embassy in Barbados.

In short order, the Government of St Kitts and Nevis will be reviewing its asylum legislation and procedures as the government says it cannot and will not tolerate illegal migration going forward.

As a sovereign nation, the Government of St Kitts and Nevis states it is adamant that the country will not become a safe haven for human traffickers and persons who use illegal means to enter its borders.

## France shooting suspect under investigation for murder



*Solaine Thornton*

BBC - The suspect held over the fatal shooting of an 11-year-old British girl in France is under investigation for murder, prosecutors say.

Solaine Thornton was shot dead while playing on a swing in her garden on Saturday evening.

Prosecutors said Dirk Raats, a 71-year-old neighbour, got to within 10m of the girl's father before opening fire through a hedge.

He had been in conflict with the family over building work on their property.

Mr Raats then shut himself in his house in the village of Saint-Herbot, north of Quimper in Brittany,

following the incident but gave himself up to police an hour later.

His wife, who was also arrested, surrendered half an hour after he did, but she has since been released.

Prosecutor Camille Miansoni said the couple had been in conflict for years with their British neighbours over works taking place on their property.

The suspect was "profoundly exasperated" over the works, which he said affected his privacy and caused disturbance to him and his wife.

Mr Miansoni said the suspect had gone into his home to fetch one of the guns and returned to the

garden before opening fire and shooting three or four times through a hedge. This suggested a level of premeditation, he said.

"It appears that he clearly aimed at the father, that he aimed at his wife, but however he seems less clear as to a possible admission that he aimed at the girl," Mr Miansoni said.

Solaine Thornton and her eight-year-old sister Celeste had been playing on a swing as their parents tended the barbecue when the neighbour began firing.

The younger girl ran to another neighbour's house to raise the alarm and is now said to be in shock.

A local resident told

French media that the younger child ran to neighbours shouting: "My sister is dead, my sister is dead".

The victim's parents Adrian and Rachel Thornton were also hurt and are in hospital.

A search of Mr Raats' home uncovered two rifles, one of which had not been previously declared. The couple, both Dutch nationals, tested positive for alcohol and cannabis. They had no previous convictions, prosecutors said.

Mr Miansoni said the suspect had expressed regret, and that a mental health assessment had found nothing notable.

*cont'd on pg 17*



*cont'd from pg 16*

Adrian and Rachel Thornton, both from Oldham, came with their two daughters to live in the hamlet of Saint Herbot in 2019. Theirs is the only English family in the area.

Previously, the Thorntons had lived in other parts of France. Solaine was born in Brittany and Celeste in the Massif Central in central France.

The family home in Saint Herbot is a square, whitewashed, relatively modern house with a large plot of land behind and a workhouse which was once a sawmill.

While his wife worked in social services and his two children attended local schools, Adrian, a mechanic, spent a lot of time working on his plot of land.

According to Marguerite Bleuzen, mayor of the town of Plonevez-du-Faou, the land had been abandoned and was returning to the wild. Adrian

set about the task of clearing the land, cutting down undergrowth and some trees.

This appears to have caused the friction with his neighbours, whose large green-shuttered house looks down onto the Thorntons' plot.

"I was called out there three years ago, when there were the first tensions," said Mr Bleuzen. "We managed to settle things down, but since then I had never had to intervene."

But after Saturday's shooting, the mayor later heard from neighbours that there had been regular flare-ups.

"On one occasion, I was told that the Dutch man brought out a weapon. I wish I or the police had been told, and this might have been avoided," he said.

Locals say that the English family were well-liked. They lent their plot of land for parking at the hamlet's annual September festival which hon-

ours the saint after which it is named. The 14th Century church lies 100m from the Thorntons' house.

By contrast, no-one seems to have had any contact with Mr Raats or his wife.

At around 22:00 local time on Saturday night, he fired through his hedge into the plot of land where the Thorntons were having a barbecue.

The rough-and-ready children's play area, with a swing and a small trampoline, is right next to the hedge which separates the two properties. When the man fired, the girls were at practically point-blank range.

According to Mayor Bleuzen, when police arrived, Rachel Thornton was holding her dead child in her arms.

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said it was providing assistance to a British family.



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## Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi dies at 86

BBC - Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian former PM who overcame various scandals to hold office four times, has died at 86.

He died at the San Raffaele hospital in Milan. In April, he was treated for a lung infection linked to leukaemia.

Berlusconi's death leaves a "huge void", Italy's defence minister said, with a national day of mourning due to take place on Wednesday.

The longest-serving prime minister in post-war Italy, he had bounced back from sex scandals and corruption cases.

After taking political office in 1994, the billionaire media tycoon led four governments until 2011 - though not consecutively.

Last September, Berlusconi's centre-right Forza Italia party went into coalition under right-wing Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Reacting to the news, Ms Meloni remembered her predecessor as a "fighter". In a video message, she said he remained "one of the most influential men in the history of Italy".

Her deputy Matteo Salvini said he was "broken" and thanked Berlusconi for his "friendship", "advice" and "generosity".

Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said: "An era is over... Farewell Silvio." His death left a "huge void", Mr Crosetto added in a tweet.

The Italian government has declared a national day of mourning for Wednesday, the same day Berlusconi's funeral is scheduled to take place at Milan Cathedral.

"All Italian and European flags on public buildings will be lowered to half mast from Monday nationwide," a spokesman told the media.



*Silvio Berlusconi*

Another figure to pay tribute was Vladimir Putin, who called Berlusconi a "true friend". In a statement the Russian President said he had always admired Berlusconi's "wisdom" and "ability to make balanced, far-sighted decisions".

French President Emmanuel Macron sent his condolences to Berlusconi's family and the Italian people on behalf of the French people.

He described Berlusconi as "a major figure in contemporary Italy", saying he was "at the forefront of the political scene for many years, from his first election as a member of parliament in 1994 to the senatorial mandate he held until his final days".

In the US, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said Italy was a major US ally and Berlusconi had "worked closely with several US administrations on advancing our bilateral relationship".

Berlusconi had been suffering from a rare form of blood cancer, chronic myelomonocyte leukaemia, doctors at San Raffaele revealed in April.

He had repeated health problems after contracting Covid in 2020. So far, there has been no official confirmation of the precise cause of death.

Born in 1936 in Milan, Berlusconi began his career selling vacuum cleaners, before setting up a construction company.

He went on to become one of Italy's richest men, building a business empire that included television networks, publishing companies and advertising agencies.

On top of that, he gained international recognition as owner of legendary football club AC Milan - which he saved from bankruptcy in 1986 - before going into politics in the 1990s.

Former AC Milan player and manager Carlo Ancelotti, who now manages the Real Madrid team, remembered Berlusconi as a "loyal, intelligent, sincere man".

Mr Ancelotti, who twice won the Champions League with AC Milan under Berlusconi's ownership, said the former PM had been a fundamental part of his journey "as a football

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Thousands evacuated as Philippine volcano oozes lava

By Joel Guinto

Around 13,000 people have been evacuated in north-east Philippines as the country's most famous volcano, Mayon, continued to ooze lava.

Riding lorries and buffalo-drawn carriages, people living within the "permanent danger zone" or six-kilometre radius fled to shelters.

Known for its "perfect" conical shape, Mayon started spewing lava last week.

But evacuations only began over the weekend as volcanic activity intensified, setting of alerts.

More people could be evacuated if Mayon's unrest intensifies in the coming days, said Teresito Bacolcol, the country's chief volcanologist.

It is currently under the third highest warning in a five-tier system that forecasts the threat of a hazardous or explosive eruption. It is technically erupting, albeit at a slow pace, with lava oozing from the crater, scientists say.

Located in a farming peninsula called Bicol, Mayon is among the coun-

try's most active volcanoes. It has grown restive in recent weeks with more frequent earthquakes and rocks falling from its crater.

"There's the danger of a fast-moving current of volcanic gases and rocks from the crater," Bacolcol told local media. "It will be difficult to outrun those currents."

An eruption in 1814 killed 1,200 people and buried an entire town. But the perimeter was declared off limits, resulting in fewer casualties after recent eruptions in 2013 and 2018.

As Mayon glowed a fiery red, tourists have also begun to camp out in hill-tops to witness the volcanic spectacle. Mayon, which Guinness describes as the world's "most conical" volcano, is a tourist favourite. Local officials have designated viewing points where thrill-seekers can marvel at its glowing crater.

"Last night, Mayon again put on a show as lava flowed from its crater," Eugene Escobar, a disaster response official in the region, said on Monday in a TV interview.



Lava flows from the crater of Mayon volcano.

Philip Balselle, a French tourist, told ABS-CBN News that he felt lucky that his Philippine holiday this year coincided with Mayon acting up. He joined about a dozen tourists at a lookout point in a nearby town.

"It's the first time in my life that I'm seeing Mayon, and there's volcanic activity," said Filipino tourist Joseph Palasigue from the capital Manila, which is around half a day's drive away.

Mayon's beauty is part of Filipino folklore pop culture. It's name is derived from the local word for beautiful lady, *daragang mayon*.

A Filipina beauty queen, Catriona Gray, won the

2018 Miss Universe competition wearing a gown that is inspired by lava flowing down Mayon's slopes. Her mother hails from Albay province, where the volcano is located.

Mayon is among the Philippines' 24 active volcanoes. In recent days, two others - Taal and Kanlaon - have also been put under close watch for signs of unrest.

While recent eruptions have not directly resulted in many deaths, powerful typhoons in the past have triggered volcanic mudflows that proved fatal.

In 2006, Typhoon Dorian washed volcanic debris from Mayon's slopes, burying villages and killing about 200 people. At least 10 people were killed in volcanic mudslides from Super Typhoon Goni in 2020.

Over the weekend, a powerful typhoon from the Pacific missed the Mayon area.

*cont'd from pg 18*

player first, and then as a coach".

Berlusconi was a polarising politician. He was praised by supporters for his business acumen and populist verve, but reviled by critics for his disregard for the rule of law.

Throughout his political career, he faced a string of legal troubles, including charges of bribery, tax fraud, and sex with an underage prostitute. He was convicted on several occasions, but avoided jail because of his age and the expiry of statutes of limitations.

# Sports News



## Black Hawks beat Rising Sun to seal place in semi-finals of two-day contest

Defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, Pigotts Crushers and All Saints Pythons have joined Empire Nation into the semi-finals following the last set of preliminary round matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Competition over the weekend.

Liberta trounced Wes Rising Sun Spartans by six wickets at Ball Beef in Liberta to qualify for next weekend's semi-finals as the second seed with a total of 66 points, one behind top seed and preliminary rounds winners Empire Nation.

The Rising Sun made 145 all out in 33 overs with Tassilo Allen getting 32, while left-arm pacer Javier Spencer snapped up six for 45.

Karima Gore then hit an unbeaten century as the Black Hawks were all out for 189 in 58 overs. Gore slammed 100 not out off 136 balls, with nine fours and a six. Joshua Thomas chipped in with 42, while Michael Harilall picked up three for 49.

Facing a deficit of 44 runs, the Rising Sun tumbled to 124 all out in 36.2 overs in their second in-



*Bartlette Henry*

nings. Opener Hughan Tonge scored 33 while left-arm spinner Kadeem Phillip took three for 16.

Set 80 runs to win, Gore struck an unbeaten 53 off 50 balls, with seven fours and a six, as the Liberta Black Hawks secured their victory by scoring 81 for four in 20.2 overs.

The Rising Sun finished seventh in the 10-team round robin competition with 41 points from their nine matches.

Empire Nation played to a draw with New Winthor-

pes Lions at King George. The Lions won the toss and batted, scoring 293 in 63.3 overs.

Bartlette Henry top-scored with 87 off 98 balls, with six fours and five sixes, while Jermaine Otto and Kyian Joseph each made 43. Jaeo Benjamin bagged five for 44.

Empire Nation responded by scoring 348 for nine declared off 83.4 overs. Justin Athanaze hit an unbeaten 82 off 97 balls, with nine fours and three sixes.

Captain Kenrick Scott

and Jauri Edwards each made 53 while opener Tanez Francis chipped in with 52. Leg-spinner Asher Murray Cornelius captured three for 62.

New Winthorpes Lions were 26 without loss off seven overs in their second innings when the match ended. The Lions finished the preliminary rounds in fifth place with a total of 50 points from their nine matches.

Pigotts Crushers and All Saints Pythons played to a draw in their encounter at

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the Pigotts playing field. The Crushers made 124 all out in 39.1 overs in their first innings. Opener Kadeem Henry topscored with 59 and Michael Marcellin picked up three for 23.

In reply, the Pythons were all out for 185 off 77 overs in their first innings. Captain Andra Samuel struck 45 and Kadeem Josiah made 31. Jared Jon-Baptiste claimed three for 19 and Demari Benta took three for 46.

Henry slammed a century as the Pigotts Crushers declared their second innings closed at 284 for seven off 64.4 overs. Henry struck 115 off 150 balls, with nine fours and four sixes. Benta cracked 51, Jewel Andrew scored 49 and Captain Elroy Francis Jr chipped in with 30.

The Pigotts Crushers ended the preliminary rounds in third place on 58 points, three points ahead of the All Saints Pythons, who finished in fourth place.



*Karima Gore*

The Jennings Tigers recorded a five-wicket win against bottom team

Combined Schools at Jennings. The Combined Schools were all out for 56 in 29.5 overs in their first innings with left-arm spinner Glenton Williams snapping up six wickets for 22 runs.

The Jennings Tigers replied with 112 all out in 34.2 overs with Dravid Richardson capturing four for 29.

Trailing by 56 runs, the Combined Schools made 168 in 50.3 overs in their second innings. Xaveek Toppin scored 46 and Richardson made 31. Nicolas Tappin grabbed four for 17 and Williams picked up three for 60.

Set 113 to win, Cameron Miller cracked 51 not out as the Jennings Tigers achieved victory by scoring 115 for five in 27.4 overs.

Jennings Tigers ended their campaign in sixth place with 42 points, while Combined Schools finished in the cellar position with six points from their nine matches.

The other ninth round encounter between Bolans Blasters and Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles ended in a draw at the Bolans playing field.



*Justin Athanaze*



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The Potters Steelers basketball team. (File photo)

## Stingerz and Steelers win in division one basketball league

Stingerz and Potters Steelers recorded wins in the latest games in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) First Division League.

The Stingerz notched up their eighth win in nine encounters by coasting to a 91-70 victory over All Saints Slam in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Donte Trimmingham shot a game-high 26 points and snatched nine rebounds for the winners. Keroi Lee produced 21 points, 13 rebounds, and eight assists; Jevonte Valerie had 20 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; and Sharife Sargeant chipped

in with 12 points and nine rebounds for the Stingerz.

Olivee Morris produced 15 points, eight rebounds, six steals, and five assists; Adissa "Ras I" Harris sank 14 points and snatched seven steals; and Javid Joseph and John Rolland Jr. each chipped in with 12 points for All Saints Slam, which lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

The Potters Steelers also secured their eighth win in nine encounters by romping to a 94-73 victory over the Braves in the second game of the double header.

Jacob Lloyd had 18 points and nine steals, while Ariel Qualis scored 15 points and grabbed six rebounds

for the victors. Humroy Wright converted 12 points; Ishaan Peets sank 11 points and grabbed five rebounds; and Ammiel Williams chipped in with 10 points for the Potters Steelers.

Tamraj Stuart converted 11 points, while Damien Floyd scored 10 points and snatched 13 rebounds for the Braves, which lost for the seventh time in nine encounters.

The first division will go on a two-week break to facilitate the senior men's national team's preparations and participation in a basketball competition in Nicaragua. The league is expected to resume in the latter stages of this month.



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## Da Squad and Stoneville advance as top seeds in President's Cup



Reigning female division volleyball champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad. (File photo)

Reigning female and male division champions, Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad and Stoneville, have captured the top seed positions in qualifying for the knockout phase of the President's Cup in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local Club League.

Da Squad stormed into the President's Cup by trouncing North Coast Hardware Starz Seniors 3-0 in a top-of-the-table clash in the last game of the preliminary rounds of the female division at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Da Squad romped to a 25-14, 25-20, and 25-14 victory over the Starz Seniors to finish the preliminary rounds unbeaten with a 12-0 record to claim the top seed positions in the President's Cup, which is being contested throughout this week at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Starz Seniors finished as the second seed with a record of nine wins and three defeats. The Jets claimed their third seed position with a record of seven wins and five losses, while Stoneville snatched the fourth seed spot with a record of six wins and six defeats.

Stoneville took the top seed rankings in the men's division by cruising to a 4-1 victory over the Pytonz in a top-of-the-table clash in the last game of the preliminary rounds of the men's division at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Stoneville came from behind to prevail 21-25, 25-18, 27-25, and 25-22 against the Pytonz to finish the preliminary rounds with a record of nine wins and one defeat.

The Pytonz secured the second seed position in the President's Cup with a record of seven wins and three losses. The other two qualifiers into the men's divi-

sion of the President's Cup are the third-seeded Caribbean Alliance Insurance Storming Lions and the fourth-seeded High Flyers.

Da Squad will face Stoneville, while the Starz Seniors and the Jets will clash in the opening round match-ups of the female division in the President's Cup.

Stoneville will take on the High Flyers, while the Pytonz and the Storming Lions will clash in the opening round match-ups of the male division in the President's Cup.

The first-round winners will advance to the best of three finals for the championship title.

## CWI announces schedule for 2023 Home Series



The Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad and Tobago is scheduled to host the 100th Test between West Indies and India in July 2023. (CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the match schedule and venues for the highly anticipated West Indies versus India Men's Series in July and August.

The Series starts with two Test matches as part of the 2023-2025 ICC World Test Championship.

Windsor Park in Dominica will host the first Test match from 12th-16th July. The second Test match, to be played from 20th-24th July at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, will be historic, marking the 100th Test match played between the two teams.

The Test Series is followed by three CG United One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and five T20 Internationals (T20Is).

The CG United ODI Series will start at Kensington Oval in Barbados with the first and second matches on 27th and 29th July. The CG United ODI Series concludes on 1st August at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad, which will be hosting a West Indies Men's ODI for the first time.

The T20 Internationals will also bowl off at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on 3rd August. Guyana hosts the second and third T20 Internationals at the Guyana National Stadium on 6th and 8th August.

The T20 International Series concludes in Lauderhill, Florida, with a blockbuster weekend of back-to-back matches on Saturday, 12th August

and Sunday, 13th August at Broward County Cricket Stadium.

Johnny Grave, CEO of CWI, said, "We are delighted to be able to confirm the schedule and venues for the highly anticipated visit by India. One of the highlights will be the 100th Test at the Queen's Park Oval and this promises to be a fantastic occasion as we celebrate this historic event between these two proud cricketing nations."

Grave added, "We also look forward to hosting India in the white ball fixtures and welcoming fans to attend the matches across the region, as well as in the United States. It will be 18 days of entertainment for cricket lovers to enjoy and savour."