

GOV'T TO OFFER SHARES IN NAMCO

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Michael Nathan-Pepple, the author of the book, 'Historical Churches of the Caribbean Island of Antigua', recently paid a visit to the Office of the Prime Minister with his wife, where he met with Prime Minister Gaston Browne . *Story on page 6.*

Gov't to list NAMCO on stock exchange

Residents of Antigua and Barbuda, as well as persons elsewhere will soon have an opportunity to invest in the National Asset Management Company (NAMCO).

The revelation was made by Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst, the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, on Thursday at the post-Cabinet press briefing.

This comes on the heels of discussions held during the recent Cabinet meeting, where the Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Timothy Antoine, who

is currently visiting Antigua, encouraged more residents to invest in financial instruments.

Hurst said one reason why more people do not invest in stocks is because the whole concept is quite new. He added that there are only two local companies that are listed on the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange (ECSE).

“There are so few Antigua and Barbuda companies listed on the ECSE, only the West Indies Oil Company and one other, that the gov-

ernment has decided that it will also list NAMCO on the ECSE, to allow residents to purchase stocks and share in the profits of the company,” he remarked.

Hurst expressed the view that the attitude of nationals towards investing in the stock exchange, will itself change as more companies are listed. “It is new, the idea that you take your money and rather than place it in a bank, you purchase shares in these companies. By the way, banks are now becoming brokers as in the case

when WIOC made its share offering, it was a St. Lucia bank that served as the broker. This, I’m sure will be corrected when more local companies are listed,” he predicts.

The Chief of Staff opined that residents have not previously participated in the stock exchange, based primarily on a lack of knowledge, rather than over fears of losing their investments.

The Chief of Staff said the government will seek ways to encourage more residents to invest in stocks and bonds by making it easier to invest in government bonds on the stock exchange. He noted that these are mostly subscribed by large institutions.

In his presentation to Cabinet on Wednesday, Governor Antoine noted that while 60% of adults in the United States invest in financial instruments, only 4% of the Antigua and Barbuda people invest in financial instruments.

Further, he explained that while savings in Antigua and Barbuda exceeded 2 Billion EC Dollars, bank interest rates are at 2%, which is lower than the rate of inflation.

NAMCO is the ‘special purpose’ vehicle that the government uses to manage its investments in the West Indies Oil Company, State Insurance Corporation, and Blue Horizon, the dredging company.



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Murder accused remanded

Murder accused Dexter Scotland made his first court appearance on Thursday to answer the charge of murder filed against him by the police.

The Willikies man is charged with the death by shooting, of fellow villager 25-year-old Jahfari Isaac.

The incident happened on June 4; Isaac died one week later in the hospital from his wounds.

At his court appearance, the accused entered a plea of not guilty and was

remanded to His Majesty's Prison.

The Police Administration is commending the general public for the assistance provided to the police during the investigation and is also encouraging greater support and partnership with the police.

The administration is also commending the hard work of the investigators involved in the case.

This is the second homicide for the year, being investigated by the police.

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Telemaque expresses high praise for ABPA Act amendments

The General Manager of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority (ABPA), Darwin Telemaque is expressing high praise to the government for adopting the recent amendments to the ABPA Act.

He noted that while the legislation was initially passed by the parliament to facilitate the seizure and the anticipated sale of the super yacht Alfa Nero, there are other very tangible benefits to its passage.

“For all these years that the port has been in operation, we have been unable to address navigational issues before vessels sink to the ocean floor. We were only allowed to remove navigational risks when they become risks. If, for example, there is a vessel located in an area where it shouldn't be and if it pos-



Darwin Telemaque

es navigational risks because it is still afloat, we had no legislation to guide us in dealing with this risk. In this case, the legislation allows that the port will have no requirements to pay to have the vessel removed, but to be paid for doing so,” he stated.

The port manager described the legislation as ‘progressive’ and that the ABPA fully intends to take advantage

of the new powers it now has under the amendment.

According to Telemaque, the benefits of the new legislation go far beyond dealing with the Alfa Nero, as this will likely be in place for many years in the future. He identified the port's mandate to include ensuring the safety of the Antigua and Barbuda harbors and environment, as well as the economic viability of the very important marine sector.

Meanwhile, the sale of the Alfa Nero takes place tomorrow morning when the bids will be opened at the Treasury Building on Independence Drive.

Telemaque said he anticipates that the vessel will earn more than the USD60 million at which the For Sale price was listed.



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Antigua and Barbuda to observe Desertification and Drought Day

Antigua and Barbuda is joining the rest of the international community in observing Desertification and Drought Day tomorrow, June 17 under the theme “Her Land. Her Rights.”

A media release from the Ministry of Agriculture said, the objective of this year’s focus is to highlight women’s land rights especially since they make up approximately 50% of the global agricultural workforce, but regrettably less than one-in-five are landowners.

It noted that this year the UN has decided to emphasize gender equality, women’s involvement in the agricultural sector, and land restoration. Moreover, there is a planned event on 16th June at the United Nations Headquarters General Assembly Hall, titled “Her Land. Her Rights: Advancing Gender Equality and Land Restoration Goals.” It is anticipated that this glob-



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND BARBUDA AFFAIRS

al observance event will put the spotlight on women’s land rights.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, unlike Antigua and Barbuda many females around the world are not fortunate to be owners of land or farms. This missed opportunity not only prohibits women from equal access to land but added to that, is the discriminatory practices pertaining to land tenure, credit access, equal pay, and decision-making, which often impede their active participation in

sustaining land health. Finally, it is observed that women suffer the most when land is degraded.

The Ministry is pleased to report that women in Antigua and Barbuda can be and are farmers, backyard gardeners, agro-processors, beekeepers, vendors, extension officers, or technicians within the sector. Currently registered with the MoA are 120 female crop farmers, 2 female livestock farmers, and 205 backyard gardeners.

Women can and have increased agricultural productivity, restored land, and built resilience to drought. More and more, women are attending relevant workshops, and courses, and are being trained in different areas of the sector. Women are also known to invest more in nutrition, health, and education which benefits themselves, their families, and the wider society both here and abroad.

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PM welcomes book author to OPM

Michael Nathan-Pepple, the author of the book, 'Historical Churches of the Caribbean Island of Antigua', recently paid a visit to the Office of the Prime Minister where he met with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and presented him with a copy of his latest publication.

Nathan-Pepple was accompanied by his wife, Antiguan Sheralyn Nathan-Pepple.

This is Michael's second book about Antigua, with his first book being publicized as a tour guide titled 'All about Antigua and Barbuda'.

His latest book is an overview of the complex relationship between the older established churches, slavery, and their black converts.

Michael Nathan-Pepple is a British Nigerian. He and his wife currently reside in the United Kingdom.



Point Ville Communications launches new application with subscription feature and artificial intelligence chatbot

Point Ville Communications is thrilled to announce the launch of its highly anticipated new application, equipped with a subscription feature and an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot. This groundbreaking application revolutionizes user engagement and sets a new standard for convenience, interactivity, and personalized experiences.

Point Ville Communications takes pride in being the first organization in Antigua and Barbuda to integrate AI technology into its platform. With this innovative addition, the company is paving the way for more

efficient and effective processes across various industries on the island.

The new Pointe application boasts a range of exciting features, including:

Instant Advertisement Purchases: Users can now effortlessly purchase advertisements within the Pointe Platform using their credit cards, ensuring seamless transactions and saving valuable time for businesses.

Obituaries and Community Notices: The application enables users to easily submit obituaries and community notices, ensuring timely dissemination

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NOTICE

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of important information within the community.

New Design with Dark Mode Theme: Pointe's redesigned interface showcases a visually stunning and modern dark mode theme, providing users with a stylish and immersive experience.

Dual Radio Access: Users can enjoy the flexibility of listening to and switching between two popular radio stations, Platinum FM 97.9 and Pointe FM 99.1, directly within the application. This feature ensures a diverse and dynamic radio experience.

Live Pointe TV: The application allows users to watch their favorite shows and stay updated with the latest news and entertainment through the live streaming feature of Pointe TV.

Live Chatroom Features: Members can engage in real-time conversations with other members through live chatrooms while listening to the

radio or watching Pointe TV. This interactive feature fosters community engagement and enhances the overall user experience.

Additionally, Point Ville Communications introduces a premium subscription option, offering an array of exclusive benefits for only USD5 per month. Premium subscribers will enjoy the following privileges:

- Access to live event streams

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- Full versions of highly anticipated shows, such as the Browne and Browne Show. Free users will be limited to only 2 hours on Facebook, while premium members enjoy full access to the show on the platform.

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free user members will continue to enjoy premium member features and content until July 1st, 2023, when the subscription features will be activated. From that point forward, users will be required to purchase a subscription plan to access premium features.

Sherwin Jupiter, the app developer at Point Ville Communications, expressed his excitement about the launch, stating, "We are proud to introduce this innovative application to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. By integrating AI technology and incorporating these new features, we are committed to enhancing user experiences and driving efficiency in various industries."

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Opinion

Strengthening the US-Caribbean relationship: A work in progress

By **Sir Ronald Sanders**

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

The relationship between the United States of America (US) and the 14-member independent member states of CARICOM as well as the Dominican Republic has entered a new phase of cooperation after 7 years of neglect between 2015 and 2022.

Renewed US interest in the Caribbean region as a whole, as distinct from a preoccupation with Cuba and Haiti, began at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, hosted by President Joe Biden in June 2022. At that meeting, many Caribbean leaders insisted on a collective meeting with the US President to place serious issues of concern before him.

Prior to the Los Angeles meeting, no engagement between Caribbean leaders, collectively, and a US President had taken place since Barack Obama held a fleeting encounter with them in

Jamaica in 2015.

Donald Trump had no engagement of any kind with Caribbean leaders, collectively. In March 2019, Trump held what many political commentators regarded as a divisive meeting with leaders of 5 Caribbean countries at his personal estate, Mar-a-Lago, in Florida. That perfunctory meeting with the heads of Government of The Bahamas, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and St Lucia was not in the least bit substantial. Of the Heads of Government who met Trump only the Jamaican Head of Government is still in office.

Trump was encouraged to hold it by his political advisers as a gesture of appreciation to the 5 leaders who joined him in recognizing Juan Guaidó as the President of Venezuela – a decision which continues to have adverse consequences in the Hemisphere. The promises he made to these 5 leaders of assistance on various matters never materialized.

Eighteen months of President Biden's administration elapsed before he – and his policy-making team – widened their Caribbean attention beyond Cuba and Haiti. On Cuba, the Biden team had largely continued the hardline policies inherited from Trump, and, re-



Sir Ronald Sanders

garding Haiti, the principal concern was restricting the constant flow of refugees, fleeing to the US to escape what was, even then, a humanitarian crisis.

The game changer was the meeting in Los Angeles in the margins of the 2022 Summit of the Americas where Caribbean leaders were persuasive in setting forth the crucial interests shared by the US and the Caribbean. There were, perhaps, two underlining but unspoken issues that helped to re-ignite US interest in the Caribbean. The first was the growing economic, political and diplomatic presence of China in the Caribbean and Latin America, and the other was a new assertiveness by the leftist groups in Latin America who were being elected to government, challenging the traditional US sway over the area.

What the US saw as

great value in the Caribbean was that, with the exception of Haiti, the 14 CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic were relatively stable democracies, the majority of which were motivated by their development needs and not by ideologies. Strengthening relations with this group was certainly in the interest of the US.

Regarding China, realization had dawned on US policy makers that China was filling a vacuum that the US had left in the provision of financing for development and, as a consequence, had become a serious rival in the what the US had traditionally regarded as its sphere of influence.

The wheels of a new cooperation were set in motion with three joint committees established to pursue energy security, food security, and access to financing. While no dramatic results appear

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to have been achieved by these three Committees, at the very least the US has re-engaged in the region. On June 8, 2023, US Vice President Kamala Harris met Caribbean leaders in The Bahamas in furtherance of enhancing the US-Caribbean relationship.

It was clear from the US State Department's read out of the meeting and the statement issued by the CARICOM Secretariat, on behalf of the Caribbean leaders, that apart from the usefulness of the meeting to ventilate concerns, matters had not progressed in ways that could cause Caribbean leaders to describe it other than as "a useful platform for productive discussions".

Similarly, the US State Department did not describe outcomes beyond stating that among the issues "discussed" were: cooperation to address the climate crisis and the transition to clean energy; ways to strengthen energy security and enhance resilience; and adaptive capacity to withstand the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

Still, the US is maintaining a dialogue. So far, it has not delivered results with the immediacy that the Caribbean might like, but this may be due to difficulties of coordination and implementation on both the Caribbean and US side that require fixing. It is in the Caribbean's interest to establish a single, focussed mechanism, much like the original 1997

Regional Negotiating Machinery, which was given the authority under Heads of Government guidance to negotiate the region's trade and investment relationship with the European Union.

On the same day that Vice President Harris was meeting Caribbean leaders in The Bahamas, three influential members of the US House of Representatives announced the introduction

of the "US-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2023", which they describe as "a comprehensive roadmap to modernize U.S. engagement with Caribbean nations".

The US Congress holds the strings to the purse of US monies and the authority to set priorities and instruct on the release of funds. Therefore, this initiative by Joaquin Castro (Texas), María

Elvira Salazar (Florida), and Adriano Espaillat (New York) should be bolstered by Caribbean endorsement and support. It requires work and a coordinated Caribbean effort, which could well be placed in the hands of the same single, focussed mechanism described earlier in this Commentary.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Hacker gang Clop publishes victim names on dark web



By Joe Tidy

The names and company profiles of dozens of victims of a global mass hack have been published by a cyber crime gang holding their stolen data to ransom.

On Wednesday the hacker group Clop began posting names of firms to its website on the darknet.

26 organisations including banks and universities have been added to try and pressurise victims into paying.

US federal bodies have also been targeted.

The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency told CNN it “is providing support to several federal agencies that have experienced intrusions affecting their MOVEit applications.”

It’s not known which agencies are impacted or what data stolen but cyber authorities say they do not expect it to have significant impact.

The mass hack is likely to have affected hundreds of organisations around the world with around 50 so far confirmed either by the firms themselves or by the hackers.

On the hacker’s so called ‘leak site’ there are companies from the US, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada.

Oil giant Shell was posted on Wednesday and has since confirmed it is a victim.

The BBC is choosing not to name the other firms.

Ransomware gangs like Clop use their leak sites to ‘name and shame’ victims into paying by posting company profiles. It is a well-trodden and often profitable process.

“Once Clop names companies to its data leak site, the group will start its rounds of negotiations with affected organisations, demanding ransom payments in order to avoid their data

being breached, said Chris Morgan, Senior Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst at ReliaQuest.

Mr Morgan says the hackers will hope that the victims make contact and set a deadline of how long they have before their data is made public.

Clop has been known to demand ransoms of hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions of dollars but police forces around the world discourage victims from paying as it fuels these criminal gangs.

The MOVEit hack was first disclosed on 31st May when US company Progress Software said hackers had found a way to break into its MOVEit Transfer tool.

MOVEit is software designed to move sensitive files securely and is popular around the world with most of its customers in the US.

Progress Software said it alerted
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5 Productions

Bill Cosby: Nine women sue former comedian in Nevada over sexual abuse

Nine women have sued disgraced comedian Bill Cosby, accusing him of using his “enormous power, fame and prestige” to target them for sexual assaults.

The women say the former actor and comedian drugged and assaulted them in homes, dressing rooms and hotels in Nevada between 1979 and 92.

The state has recently scrapped its time limit for filing such claims.

Mr Cosby’s spokesman said they were motivated by an “addiction to massive amounts of media attention and greed”.

It is the latest in a string of civil and criminal cases against the 85-year-old former star, who enjoyed huge fame in the 1980s and 90s thanks to his sitcom *The Cosby Show*.

In 2018, he was jailed for drugging and molesting a woman, but that conviction was overturned on a technicality in 2021.

Last June, a jury in a



More than 60 women have made allegations of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment against Bill Cosby.

civil trial decided he sexually assaulted a teenager at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles in 1975, and awarded her \$500,000 (£407,000) in damages.

Earlier this month, former Playboy model Victoria Valentino sued him, alleging that he raped her in 1969 after she had dinner with

him. In total, more than 60 women have made allegations against him.

Some of those involved in the latest lawsuit have previously made public accusations against him. They include Lili Bernard, a former *Cosby Show* guest star, and model and personality Janice Dickinson, who both

say he drugged and raped them.

Nevada has recently lifted its statute of limitations for sexual abuse cases involving adults, which previously meant accusers had to file civil cases within two years.

Cosby’s spokesman Andrew Wyatt criticised such so-called “lookback laws”.

“From this day forward, we will not continue to allow these women to parade various accounts of an alleged allegation against Mr Cosby any more without vetting them in the court of public opinion and inside of the courtroom,” he said.

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its customers as soon as the hack was discovered and quickly released a downloadable security update.

But the criminals were already able to use their access to get into the databases of potentially hundreds of other companies.

Payroll services provider Zellis, which is based in the UK, was a MOVEit user

which was subsequently breached. Zellis has confirmed that eight UK organisations have had data stolen as a result, including home addresses, national insurance numbers and, in some cases, bank details.

Not all firms have had the same data exposed. Zellis customers which have been breached include the BBC, British Airways, Aer Lingus and Boots.

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31-year-old man diagnosed with Monkeypox in The Bahamas

Loop - A 31-year-old man from New Providence has been diagnosed with monkeypox (Mpox), the Ministry of Health and Wellness announced on Wednesday.

This is the country's third confirmed case of Mpox.

The ministry said the man, who has no significant medical or travel history, began experiencing symptoms on June 1.

"He presented to a physician and was placed in isolation. Subsequently, tests were conducted for Mpox, and confirmed by the National Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit (NSU). Surveillance and Public Health protocols were activated and remain ongoing," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry has urged Bahamians, who suspect they may have the virus, to call their primary care provider or the nearest public health community clinic to arrange a visit to be



evaluated.

Symptoms of Mpox include skin rash/lesions, fever, headache, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion. Symptoms can last for two to four weeks.

The public is also advised to follow the safety protocols for monkeypox which include:

Washing your hands properly and often with soap and water.

Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer until soap and water are available.

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces regularly.

Maintaining physical distance from others, particularly if you feel ill.

Jamaicans urged to safeguard the nation's children



CMC -The Deputy Mayor of Kingston, Winston Ennis, has appealed to Jamaicans to do their part in safeguarding the nation's children.

Ennis made the appeal during the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation's (KSAMC) monthly meeting earlier this week where he strongly condemned the abduction and killing of eight-year-old Danielle Rowe.

"The level of heartless-

ness and cruelty can only be classified as incomprehensible and frankly demonic. I implore all of us, please take additional measures to protect our children and if any of us suspects or sees anything, please report it to the police," he urged.

Decrying the violent act against the child, Ennis said it is particularly disturbing as it took place on the heels of the recent Child Month celebrations.

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CARICOM reiterates commitment to assisting Haiti

CMC - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has reiterated its commitment to assisting the government and people of Haiti, as the country tackles several issues.

In the aftermath of a meeting held in Jamaica earlier this week, CARICOM, in a statement on Thursday, said the meeting sought to facilitate inclusive dialogue among Haitian stakeholders in an effort to find a solution to the protracted multi-dimensional crisis in which the country has been mired.

During the meeting, stakeholders addressed the core issues of the interim governance measures needed to restore confidence in the transition and to ensure that the government could deliver its commitments.

“These commitments include the critical issue of security and stability; the organisation of credible general elections to choose a legitimate and representative government; constitutional reform; and the pursuance of fundamental reforms re-



quired to preclude a repeat of the current crisis,” the press release stated.

Stakeholders also stated that there was a need to build confidence and trust in the interim administration in order to effectively address the security crisis and for preparations for elections to commence.

In this regard, there was widespread stakeholder support for modification of the structures of government in the interim period.

Haiti’s Interim Prime

Minister, Dr Ariel Henry, committed to greater inclusiveness in governance through the establishment of a government of national unity, beginning with working with the partners of the December 21 Accord to increase the number of members of the High Transition Council (HCT) in order to include representatives of a wider group of stakeholders.

Several other suggestions were made of mechanisms reflecting the spirit

and intent of the Haitian constitution by implementing a governance structure based on a presidency and a prime minister.

Additionally, this structure should adhere to the constitutional requirement that a minimum of 30 percent of decision-making positions be held by women.

The Eminent Persons Group was urged to continue to use CARICOM’s Good Offices to work with all stakeholders to find a definitive solution to the crisis.

The Eminent Persons Group also committed to go to Haiti to continue these consultations within the next several weeks.

CARICOM also pledged to provide support for the elections including assessment of preparations for and observation of the elections.

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“It is reprehensible to think that coming after Child Month in May, when we were reminded as a society and a nation to nurture, protect, and celebrate our children, that such a dastardly act could be committed on such a young child,” he said.

On Thursday, June 8, Danielle was abducted from the Braeton Primary School in Portmore, in the central parish of St.

Catherine where she was a student.

She succumbed to injuries inflicted by her abductors in hospital last Saturday morning.

“As Councillors, we again have the sad duty of adding another name amongst the children who have lost their lives under tragic circumstances to the Secret Garden Monument on Church Street,” Ennis lamented.

Canada highway crash near Winnipeg leaves at least 15 dead

By Nadine Yousif

At least 15 people have died after a “very serious” road crash in the Canadian province of Manitoba, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said.

The crash was between a semi-trailer truck and a bus carrying mostly elderly people.

Police said the collision happened on the Trans-Canada Highway near Carberry, two hours west of Winnipeg.

Emergency crews and air ambulances have responded to the crash.

In several tweets, the RCMP in Manitoba said it was responding to a



Manitoba crash leaves 15 people dead - most were seniors.

“very serious... mass causality” collision, and that all of its resources, including its major crime unit, had been deployed to the scene.

Emergency vehicles, including an air ambulance and 12 ambulances, were dispatched to the scene at 11:43

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International drugs ring smuggled cocaine in surfboards

By Vanessa Buschschröter

Police in Uruguay say they have broken up an international drugs ring which smuggled cocaine from South America to Europe hidden inside surfboards.

With help from counter-narcotics police in Spain, Portugal and Italy, three Italian citizens were arrested.

Sniffer dogs had alerted officers in Uruguay to six surfboards containing a total of 50kg (110lb) of cocaine.

Police allowed one board to be dispatched in order to track down those receiving it.

The dogs alerted their handlers to the suspicious package on 23 May. Officers said the boards were



The smugglers had stuffed the inside of the surfboards with cocaine.

uncharacteristically heavy and when they passed them through a scanner, they spotted hidden packages inside.

A photo supplied by Uruguay’s interior ministry shows white powder spilling from one of the boards after it had been cut open.

Two Italian nationals were arrested by police in

Portugal as they went to pick up the cocaine-filled surfboard which police had allowed through.

A third Italian citizen, who police say dispatched the drugs from Uruguay to Europe, was detained in Italy.

The Uruguayan prosecutor’s office said that the

transatlantic operation was “a model of international co-operation”.

Drug traffickers are increasingly using Uruguay, which borders Brazil and Argentina, as a transit country to ship drugs from drug-producing parts of South America to Europe.

Uruguay’s interior minister has said that the country is fully committed to the fight against drug-trafficking and that controls at the country’s ports and border crossings are key to disrupting drug shipments.

Police think the Italian smugglers entered Uruguay across the land border with Brazil and then travelled on to Argentina after posting the surfboards.

US man held after fatal attack at German castle

By Matt Murphy

A 21-year-old woman has died after she was attacked and thrown from a hill at the historic Neuschwanstein Castle in southern Germany on Wednesday.

Prosecutors said the woman - who has not been named - died overnight after she was shoved 50 metres into a gorge.

Her friend, a 22-year old woman, remains in hospital with serious injuries after she was also pushed when she attempted to stop the assailant.

Police said they have detained a US man in connection with the attack.

The 30-year-old tourist, who has not been named by police, initially fled the scene, officers said.

He was later detained on Wednesday after a massive police manhunt involving more than 25 vehicles and was taken to a police station

in nearby Fuessen in Bavaria state.

In a statement, police said they believed the man met the women - who German media reported were both American citizens - on a trail near the Marienbrücke bridge. The spot is a popular viewpoint used by tourists to view the castle.

He then led them to a hidden trail, on the pretext that the way to the bridge was difficult to navigate, before attacking the 21-year old woman.

“When the 22-year-old wanted to intervene, he choked her and then pushed her down a steep slope,” Bavarian police said in a statement.

Officers said that “an attempted sexual offence to the detriment of the 21-year-old must be assumed”.

“He then pushed her down the slope, where she came to rest about 50 meters next to her friend,” they



The Marienbrücke bridge where police say the man met the two women.

added.

The 21-year-old woman was taken to hospital by helicopter, but later died from her injuries. Her friend, who is said to be in a serious condition, was responsive when found by police.

The man appeared at the Kempten District Court on Thursday, where the investigating judge issued an arrest warrant and the man was remanded into custody.

Senior public prosecutor Thomas Hormann told

reporters that the investigation into the incident was just beginning.

Neuschwanstein is one of Germany’s most popular tourist attractions. More than 1.3 million people visit the site annually, according to the Bavarian finance ministry.

Sitting around 126km (78 miles) from Munich, it was built in the 19th century and served as the principal residence of the rulers of the region.

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local time on Thursday (17:35 BST), the RCMP said at a press conference.

Most of the seniors aboard the handi-transit vehicle were from Dauphin, Manitoba and the surrounding areas.

At least 10 people, including the two drivers, are at hospital with likely “significant” injuries considering the “magnitude and force applied” from the crash, officials said.

The RCMP had asked motorists to

avoid the area as several kilometres of the highway were closed near the crash site.

A witness told CBC News that he saw a burning vehicle in a ditch just after noon local time.

John Proven described the scene as “shocking”. “I have never seen an accident that big,” he said.

He said he also saw a semi-trailer truck nearby with a burned front end, and that about 20 police vehicles and eight ambulances were at the scene.

A spokesperson with the local air ambulance service told the news outlet that the agency had deployed one of its largest responses ever to the crash.

“This is sort of in line with the similar large incidents that we responded to in the past, such as the tragedy with Humboldt Broncos,” Blake Robert said, referring to a 2018 crash between a bus carrying a youth hockey team and a semi-trailer truck that led to the death of 16 people.

ABBA names squad to contest FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers

With just a little over a week left before the commencement of the second round of the FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers, the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) has named its final squad to contest the tournament, which is scheduled to take place in Chile and Nicaragua from June 19th to June 26th.

A 12-member squad of the senior national men's basketball team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, has been selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the section of the competition that is being hosted in Nicaragua.

The players were selected from a 30-man training squad, which was selected and began preparations for the competition in April.

The squad, which will travel to Nicaragua on Sunday, comprised Alexis Jackson, Jamine 'Muff' Charles, Jabari Williams, Remy Brewer, Adonis Humphreys, Cohen DeSouza, Selassie Braithwaite, T-Shawn Lewis, Kareem 'Macky' Edwards, Jaden Andrew, Kenya Achom, and Xavier Spencer.

Seth Joseph and Donte Trimmingham were selected as reserve players.

The players are being accompanied by head coach George Hughes; assistant coaches Bradbury Browne and Cedric "Supa" David; and team manager Inga Francis.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent also includes physiotherapist Natrechia Mussington; equipment manager Marlon "Buju" Charles; and media relations officer Carlena Knight.

The qualification process for the FIBA AmeriCup focuses on providing each sub-zone the opportunity to compete in qualifying tournament windows.

Antigua and Barbuda alongside Barbados were named as the two teams to advance after the Caribbean Qualifiers were canceled due to the failure to appoint a host country.

Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados were selected to contest the second round based on their current FIBA World Ranking, presented by Nike, which revealed that they were current-



Selassie Braithwaite

ly the highest-ranked teams within the region. Barbados is ranked 19th, one place above Antigua and Barbuda.

A draw was subsequently held on May 19th, which placed Antigua and Barbuda in Group B versus Cuba, the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), and host Nicaragua. Barbados will contest Group A against host Chile, Paraguay, and Ecuador.

Each team will play against the rest of the teams in its group (a total of three games per team).

The best two teams in each of the groups will automatically qualify for the FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Qualifiers, beginning in February 2024.

The Wadadli Bulldogs will face Nicaragua in their first encounter on June 23rd. A day later, they will face Cuba and will take on the USVI in their final encounter on June 25th.



T-Shawn Lewis



Jaden Andrew

Dave Joseph One-day contest resumes this weekend

The Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition will resume with the third and fourth rounds of matches this weekend.

In tomorrow's (Saturday) third round matches, Urlings will take on Freetown at Urlings, Mahico will face defending champions Police at Clare Hall, and Old Road will tackle Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm at Old Road.

Oliver Benjamin and Malique Gerald will umpire at Urlings; Dallis Adams and Llewellyn Simon will officiate at Clare Hall; and Dirk

Schouten and Julien Charles will umpire at Old Road.

Three matches are also scheduled for Sunday. Time of Victory Old Road will clash with Freetown at Free-

town. Llewellyn Simon and Malique Telemaque will be the umpires.

Sea View Farm will take on Urlings at Sea View Farm, where Oliver Benja-

min and Dirk Schouten will be the umpires, while Masters will meet Police at Clare Hall. Dallis Adams and Julien Charles will be the officiators at Clare Hall.



The ABSCA to stage Father's Day All Star Weekend event

The Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA), in conjunction with sponsors St. John's Co-Operative Credit Union Ltd. and Caribbean Alliance Insurance Company Ltd., will stage three matches during its Father's Day All Star Weekend event at the Dredgers playing field on Sunday.

The event, which will commence at 11 am, will feature two male and one female matches.

The men's matches will feature Drahz Team Iko Rapid Fire against MRM and Highly Recommended Security Tech Team Kerry Big Hitters, and Lee's Nursery President's X1 against the Rakaman Construction Vice President's X1.

Rapid Fire will be led by captain

Nigel Fergus with Hezekiah Weston as vice-captain, while the managers are Baldwin "Spliff" Anthony and Joseph "Jojo" Aparicio.

The Big Hitters will be skippered by Kerry Mentore with Mervin Higgins as vice-captain, while the managers will be Joseph "Swango" Mark and Kenroy "Bingo" Frederick.

The President's X1 will be captained by Steve Martin, and Isaiah Viville will be the vice-captain, while the Vice-President's X1 will be led by Winston Roberts, with Randino Turner as vice-captain.

John F. Shouls Team Christine Super Warriorz will clash with Goody and Just Come Taxi Services and Tours Team Makada Star Girls in the female encounter.

The Super Warriorz will be led by captain Christine Mills, with Nolia Hodge-Elvin as vice-captain. The managers are Verenique Crogman and Arnold "Nal" Gregory.

The Star Girls will be led by skipper Makada Samuel, with Cheryl Williams as vice-captain. The managers are Javid "Goody" Goodwin and Devon "Sowa" Thomas.

The Father's Day event will culminate with a bingo game, which is set to start at 6 pm. A ticket for the bingo cost \$5, but there is a special deal of three tickets for \$10.

Participants in the bingo will be eligible to win prizes such as two tickets each for the Breakfast and Blue Jeans fetes during the Antiguan Carnival season.



Justin Athanaze



Kadeem Henry

Top four teams to battle in semi-finals of ABCA Two-Day contest

The four top teams at the end of the nine-round preliminary stage will resume their quest for supremacy in the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship this weekend.

The top team at the end of the preliminary rounds, Empire Nation, will entertain the fourth-place finishers, All Saints Pythons, at King George.

The defending champions and second-place finishers, the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, will host the third-place finishers, the All Saints Pythons, at Ball Beef in Liberta in the semi-finals, which will commence at 11 am tomorrow (Saturday).

The winners of the two semi-finals will advance to the final, which will take place the following weekend, to battle for the title.

A number of the top performers in the preliminary rounds will be on display in this weekend's semi-finals, and they will be seeking to contin-

ue their impressive displays in their quest to lead their respective teams into the championship final.

Among them will be all-rounder Justin Athanaze, leg-spinner Micah McKensie, and Tyrone Williams Jr. of Empire Nation; Joshua Thomas and all-rounder Karima Gore of Liberta Black Hawks; Demari Benta, Elroy Francis Jr., and Kadeem Henry of Pigotts Crushers; and Michael Marcellin of All Saints Pythons.

Athanaze finished the preliminary rounds as the second-leading wicket-taker with 47 scalps at an average of 9.23 runs per wicket. He also had the sixth-leading batting aggregate of 441 runs at an average of 44.10 in 12 innings.

Teenager McKenzie finished the preliminary rounds as the sixth-leading wicket-taker with 27 wickets at an average of 13.36.

Williams Jr. is the 10th-leading wicket-taker with 23 scalps at an average of 11.83. He also had the

third-leading batting aggregate of 499 runs at an average of 41.58 in 15 innings.

Thomas finished the preliminary rounds with the fourth-leading batting aggregate of 472 runs at an average of 47.20 in 12 innings.

Gore had the 10th-leading batting aggregate of 372 runs at an average of 74.40 in eight innings.

Benta ended the preliminary rounds as the fourth-leading wicket-taker with 38 scalps at an average of 9.45.

Francis Jr. is the eighth-leading wicket-taker with 26 wickets at an average of 13.08. He also had the second-leading batting aggregate with 684 runs at an average of 62.18 in 12 innings.

Henry topped the batting aggregate with 716 runs at an average of 59.67 in 14 innings, and Marcellin finished as the third-leading wicket-taker with 39 wickets at an average of 10.54.

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tion at Dee's Service Station, the Sir George Walter Highway, and the Pigotts Main Road.

They will make a left turn onto the Sir George Walter Highway and proceed through Coolidge until they reach the intersection with Jabberwock Road and Hospitality Drive.

They will make a left turn onto the Jabberwock Road, past the American University of Antigua and Jabberwock Beach. The cyclists will travel through Hodges Bay and proceed along the Hodges Bay Main Road into Cedar Grove Village.

They will then make a left turn onto Friar's Hill Road, passing Longfords, Cedar Valley, and Marble Hill. They will proceed along Friar's Hill Road past the Woods Shopping Center and the St. John's Public Cemetery.

The cyclists will proceed to the intersection with Old Parham Road near the YMCA Sports Complex.

They will make a left turn onto the Old Parham Road and proceed eastwards past the YASCO Sports Complex before finishing back in front of the Top Ranking Store.

Cyclists from all the major clubs affiliated with the ABCF are expected to once again compete for top honours in several categories, including elite male, women, cadets, sports, and masters class.

One lap of the route consists of 11 miles, and the Elite Riders will have to complete six laps totaling 66 miles to win their class.

The cyclists in the masters' class will be required to complete five laps, or 55 miles; the females will complete three laps, or 33 miles; the sports class will

complete four laps, or 44 miles; and the cadets will only be required to complete one lap, or 11 miles.

Emanuel Gayral of Team Terminix is the current champion of the ABCF's Inet National Individual Time Trial.

Gayral dethroned Robert Marsh by winning the 11-mile Elite Men's Divi-

sion and overall title in the 2022 Inet National Individual Time Trial.

Overseas-based cyclist Jyme Bridges held off a strong challenge from Shawn Weathered to win the 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race.



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 FRIDAY - 1:00PM TO 7:00PM
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\$300

- FOOD
- FAMILY
- FUN
- SLAM DUNK
- 3 POINT
- SKILL CHALLENGE AND MORE

JSC SPORTS COMPLEX ⌚ 5:00 P.M TO 9:00 P.M



ABCF to stage national championships this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) will be staging its two-day national championships this weekend.

The event comprised the Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial on Saturday and the Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race the following day.

The Inet National Individual Time Trial, which is also being supported by Gatorade, Subway Restaurant, and Paradiso Water, will commence at the Police Recreation

Grounds at 8 am tomorrow (Saturday).

The cyclists will proceed eastward on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway. They will travel through Gunthorpes and continue eastward past the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The cyclists will continue their eastward journey by traveling past Parham's Corner, Vermont, and the Mount Joy Service Station.

They will move onto the Pares Village Main Road, the Glanvilles

Main Road and the Willikies Main Road before turning around and traveling back along the same route to the finish line at the Police Recreation Grounds.

The Top Ranking Nationals Road Race, which is also being supported by Subway, Gatorade, and Paradiso Water, will start in front of the Top Ranking Store on Old Parham Road on Sunday at 8 am.

The cyclists will proceed eastward until they reach the intersection
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