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US LIFTS SANCTION OFF ALFA NERO

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The Alfa Nero

US lifts sanction off Alfa Nero

The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, has welcomed the news that the Government of the United States has removed Super Yacht, *Alfa Nero*, from its sanctions list.

The news was delivered to the Prime Minister on Thursday by Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States, who has been leading the effort in Washington to have the *Alfa Nero* removed from the List of the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) of the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Ambassador Sanders

explained that because the *Alfa Nero* is now lawfully owned by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, the super yacht is no longer linked to the sanctioned Russian Oligarch, Anrey Yurev and his family, and therefore, it is not regarded as ‘blocked property.’

Sir Ronald added that “Effective today, US persons are permitted to engage in any lawful transactions, regarding the *Alfa Nero*, and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda can proceed with an auction to sell the vessel.”

The Ambassador explained that the only pro-



The Alfa Nero

hibition on the Antigua and Barbuda Government is that it cannot deal with any individual or entity which is sanctioned by OFAC. “What this means is that

the Antigua and Barbuda government cannot sell the vessel to a sanctioned person or entity, or any entity or person linked to them.”

Sir Ronald further advised that “since the Antigua and Barbuda law, governing matters related to the *Alfa Nero* specifically prohibits the sale of the vessel to a sanctioned person or entity, the Governments of the US and Antigua and Barbuda are in full agreement on this matter.”

Ambassador Sanders thanked the US Treasury for its full cooperation in resolving this matter, adding that “the diplomatic outreach at several levels contributed greatly to the short span of time in getting the sanctions removed from the vessel, something which usually takes years.”

He said that in all this, the guidance and support of Prime Minister Gaston Browne was a key factor.



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Cabinet orders overhaul of subcontracting system at National Solid Waste Management Authority

The Cabinet has ordered an overhaul of the system by which trucks are subcontracted by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

This as the Cabinet heard reports that there has been much disparity in the manner in which trucks are subcontracted by the statutory board, with some truck owners having contracts for as many as ten trucks in some cases.

According to the report, this has led to some truckers with only a single vehicle to be often overlooked when payments are made, as they seemingly always satisfy the large

contract holders first.

The Cabinet determined that this situation is untenable.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet invited the new Chairman of NSWMA, Michael Joseph, and the Acting Manager, Stacy Stowe, to report on the successes and failures of the statutory body, especially the failure to collect garbage from several rural communities.

“The two officials from NSWMA also explained that there are operators/owners of trucks that were over-represented; their numbers are being brought in line to fit the norm. The officials were empowered by

Cabinet to begin the process of reducing the number of trucks by which several owners/operators exceed the reasonable number.

Small and individual truck owners will then be able to receive reasonable payments each week,” Cabinet spokesman Lionel Max Hurst stated.

It was also explained that the number of NSWMA trucks has been reduced to three working compactor trucks from a total of eight. However, the mechanics were able to cannibalize the non-working trucks and put two additional trucks back on the road.



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Marshall calls for preparation as another hurricane season begins

Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and the Environment, Senator Samantha Marshall, is emphasizing the need for all to be prepared as the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season gets on the way.

In an address to mark the June 1 start of the hurricane season, Sen. Marshall stressed the importance of preparation, as it only takes one storm to completely upend the lives of residents of the country.

“We must remember that it was only one tropical system in September 1995 namely Hurricane Luis that wreaked havoc on our nation and that beyond the physical damage, the mental and emotional effects continued to be felt many years later, if not up to the present by some. It was only one system a few years ago in September 2017, namely Hurricane Irma that decimated our beautiful sister island of Barbuda, and though the recovery was challenging we rebounded well,” the minister recalled.



Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and the Environment, Senator Samantha Marshall

Marshall noted that as a nation, and people, Antiguans and Barbudans have shown much resilience to be able to rebound from adversity, whether natural or otherwise.

“However, these feats should not replace our need to be consistently prepared for hurricanes or any other natural hazards. This was quite evident in the flooding of November 2020 which caught many of us by surprise, as we were suddenly inundated by large volumes of rainfall within a short time.”

“Though it brought some temporary relief to our ongoing drought situation it also created some damage to some of our housing stock, road networks, and drains to name a few. Let us not be complacent but be in a state of readiness, as we journey into the hurricane season and beyond,” she cautioned.

Marshall noted that the predictions for this hurricane season have stated that an above-normal season is likely. Whatever the predictions are, she continued, it only takes one to impact the country and to change

the course of personal and economic growth and prosperity, which everyone aims to achieve.

“We as a nation and people have since learned from the many lessons identified after the impact of each disaster. We have since rebuilt better and stronger, and we have educated our people on the preparation and response mechanisms that are currently in place to deal with any eventuality,” she explained.

In conclusion, Sen. Marshall restated the need for all to begin preparations for the hurricane season immediately. She added that assistance can be sought through the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), which takes pride in providing the public and members of the various communities with the necessary information for them to be disaster prepared.

Fri 02 Day 87° ☁️ Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 87F. Winds SE at 10 to 15 mph.		Fri 02 Night 79° ☁️ A few clouds. Low 79F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.	
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Ministry of Education issues COVID-19 alert to schools

The Ministry of Education is placing all schools in the country, both private and public, on the alert following confirmation from health authorities that COVID-19 is on the rise in Antigua and Barbuda.

A circular from the Director of Education, Clare Browne, addressed to principals of private and public schools under the heading - Keeping safe in the wake of the rise in COVID-19 cases – outlined several steps that they should take to protect both students and staff at the educational plants.

“Schools should ensure that all hygiene protocols are in use (the washing of hands, the cleaning of spaces/surfaces after use, and the use of correct coughing/sneezing etiquette). Parents should be encouraged to provide hygiene pouches for their children. Additionally, parents should endeavor to



Director of Education, Clare Browne

boost the immune system of their children,” the circular advised.

The Director of Education wants the principals to maximize ventilation at the schools as well as strongly recommends that any staff member or student who presents with flu-like symptoms or a mild cold should wear a mask. Under these circumstances, a temperature check should be done and anyone who presents with a fever

should be encouraged to seek professional help.

“Students who present with flu-like symptoms during the sitting of an exam should be placed in a space within the classroom where there is minimal contact. Where a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is otherwise ill, all efforts should be made to ensure that his/her exams are administered at a subsequent time,” Browne recommended.

Additionally, the education official is recommending that all persons who have been exposed to COVID-19 wear a mask.

Lastly, the director is urging all principals to ensure that visitors to the school plant wear a mask, while anyone who presents with flu-like symptoms should conduct their business remotely or postpone to another date.

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PM Browne holds high-level talks with major diplomatic partners

Prime Minister Gaston Browne held meetings with major diplomatic partners and top officials in the United Nations during his recent trip to New York, on a wide range of important matters including Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of a major international gathering of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) next year.

Prime Minister Browne traveled to the United States last week, where he joined the former Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg to co-chair the High-Level Panel, on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).

During the busy two days of meetings, he met with the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, and the Under-Secretary-General (USG) and High Representative for the Least Devel-

oped Countries and Small Island Developing States, Ms. Rabab Fatima.

The UN Secretary-General renewed the United Nations' support for the conference and confirmed that he will be in Antigua and Barbuda for the Fourth SIDS Conference, likely to take place in mid-2024.

Prime Minister Browne also used the opportunity to impress on Secretary-General Guterres, the need for the United Nations' support in building the required consensus and agreement for the MVI to be an effective tool that vulnerable island nations can use in building sustainable economies.

In his meeting with Ms. Fatima, the UN official praised the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister and the team of experts for their diligent work in creating an



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres.

MVI for small island states, which is a major area of her concentration at the level of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Browne acknowledged the second visit by the United Nations team to Antigua Barbuda with both the Secretary-General and the USG, in preparation for the fourth SIDS conference scheduled for 2024. The visit will occur during the week of June 5th and will be headed by the Under Secretary General of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference Mr. Li Junhua.

Prime Minister Browne also held a bilateral meeting with the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dame Barbara Woodward.

During their meeting, he expressed his gratitude to the UK for its support of the work of the MVI and its strong and devoted interest in bringing it to reality. Am-

bassador Woodward indicated to Prime Minister Browne that the UK Government is also taking a keen interest in the Fourth SIDS Conference and will be providing technical and financial support to Antigua and Barbuda in the lead-up to the Conference.

Prime Minister Browne also held a bilateral meeting with the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations H.E. Gilad Erdan, during which they discussed Visa-free arrangements between the two countries. The Prime Minister also sought to tap into the possibilities for cooperation in addressing Antigua and Barbuda's water issues, as well as agriculture technology and health.

In this connection, Prime Minister Browne accepted the invitation from the Israeli government, for Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. EP Chet Greene to visit Israel within the next two months to sign off on areas of cooperation.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, shakes the hand of the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dame Barbara Woodward.

Antigua and Barbuda pledges to help end plastic pollution

Minister of Health and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, is strengthening his call for earnest action by all governments and stakeholders in ridding the climate of plastic pollution, which persists as a grave threat to marine ecosystems throughout the region and across the globe.

Sir Molwyn made the plea while delivering a national statement to the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2), which was established by way of a resolution at the United Nations Environment Assembly last year, to create a legally binding instrument that will see the end of plastic pollution by 2024.

“This growth in the use of plas-



Minister of Health and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph

tics has caused catastrophic problems in our marine ecosystems and human and environmental health, due to the resulting plastic pollution,” Sir Molwyn told Government leaders, policymakers and experts gathered in

France for the meeting.

Sir Molwyn followed up an eight-point strategy that he shared with the 54th Ministerial meeting of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution with a thorough examination of key categories that he proposes for consideration, in limiting the negative impacts of plastics.

One such strategy seeks to devise and adopt solutions that promote a circular economy in preference to the traditional linear approach that dispels a “take-make-dispose” approach.

Waste management, Sir Molwyn noted, is another major category with which small islands like Antigua and Barbuda struggle, but crucial in mitigating public health risk while sus-

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Suspended police officer in more legal 'hot water'

Police Officer Jason Modeste was on Thursday granted bail when he appeared in the District A Magistrate's Court on charges of battery and obstruction.

Modeste, who has been suspended from the Royal Police Force of Antigua is one of four people on trial for murder, in the death of Bruce Greenaway in April 2020.

In the latest incident, Modeste is accused of committing the crimes against another police officer at a club in Jolly Harbour.

Before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards in the All Saints Magistrate's Court on Thursday, Modeste was granted bail in the sum of \$3,000.00 with a cash component of \$1,000.00.

Part of his bail condition includes reporting to the police station closest to his residence three days a week.

He is scheduled to return to court on 13th September.

Jason Modeste is represented by Attorney Wendel Robinson. He remains on bail on the murder charge.

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taining economic activity and enhancing public welfare.

"Waste management, however, is one of the least recognised and invested sectors worldwide," Sir Molwyn lamented.

He further underscored his government's commitment to the creation and adoption of legislation and the utilisation of new technologies for waste management and prioritising plastic products that are likely to end up as pollution.

Sir Molwyn further noted that while recycling has proven effective, it only goes so far and requires other approaches, actions, and measures across the lifecycle of plastics in stemming the tide.

Among the measures he calls for are "scaled-up regulations that curtail the flow of plastic debris reaching our Caribbean Sea and wider Caribbean region to ensure that noncompliance and traceability mechanisms are implemented."

The Environment Minister also underscored the need for public/private sector partnerships in strengthening the implementation of policies and legislation.

Sir Molwyn anticipates that a draft treaty, on the condition of the full and involved cooperation of all participating delegations, will be ready for the next Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee meeting as the work of the body advances in ending plastic pollution by 2024.

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Local News

St. Paul's MP gives 'pep' talk to primary school students

The parliamentary representative for St. Paul, E.P Chet Greene delivered a series of 'pep' talks to primary school students ahead of the Grade 6 National Assessment Examinations (NAE).

Representative Greene visited the Liberta Primary, Cobbs Cross Primary, and the New Bethel Primary; schools in the constituency, to encourage the students to continue their diligent work in preparation for the exams next Wednesday and Thursday.

Greene has a longstanding commitment to the education of the young people in the constituency. Each year, he organizes

a summer camp where art and craft are taught and at the beginning of the school year, he distributes school supplies to students in the three primary schools.

The Ministry of Education said the National Assessment Examinations is the yardstick used to determine what school a child enters for their secondary education. The top one hundred students choose the schools they wish to attend while the others are placed in a secondary school closest to where they live.

A total of 1,330 students will write the Grade 6 NAE this year.



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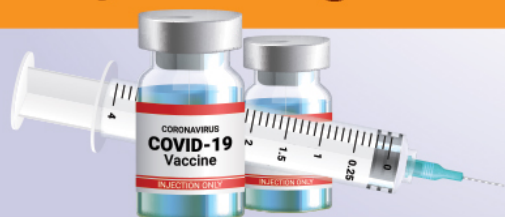
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Opinion



Autonomous weapons – a real and urgent danger to people

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)

As if small states, with limited financial and human resources to safeguard their societies, do not confront enough grave challenges, along comes the phenomenon of “autonomous weapons” – probably the most frightening technological development that has yet been created.

Why should small states be concerned? They should already be deeply troubled by the increase in violence in their societies, including the escalation of homicides, caused by the expanded number of conventional weapons being brought into their territories by organized criminals.

There is now hardly any country that is not experiencing gangs, gang violence, armed robberies, rapes, drive-by shootings and murder. In almost every case, illegal guns are used.

Autonomous weapons in the hands of organized criminals would raise the problem of murders, assassinations, and even targeted destruction to new and frightening heights. For instance, it is now possible to enter facial recognition into a drone equipped to shoot to kill. The drone can then sift images of persons over whom it flies, select a body it believes matches the face, and shoot the person, flying away undetected.

These autonomous weapons are

not restricted to drones. They come in a variety of forms including robots, programmed for warfare. They can also be devices which are planted in built up areas, for instance, and programmed to detonate from great distances.

Imagining the use to which such autonomous weapons could be put by criminals, or even by mentally troubled persons, should terrify everyone, especially law enforcement agencies such as the Police, and agencies concerned with fighting drug trafficking, people trafficking and other forms of crime.

All this is good reason why small states in the Caribbean and everywhere should immediately join the growing international movement to prohibit and regulate autonomous weapons systems.

But, given their own peculiar circumstances of small size, limited human and financial resources, escalating crime and the fearful prospect of autonomous weapons in the hands of criminals, small states should consider banning such weapons now, even ahead of any international convention which will take years to negotiate and agree, and which, like many other treaties, would be unlikely to take account of the circumstances of small states.

The government of Costa Rica, in Central America, should be congratulated for the leadership it is providing in alerting nations and their law enforcement agencies to the real and present danger of autonomous weapons. Last February, the government of Costa Rica and a local non-governmental organization, convened a Conference which was attended by many countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as officials from 13



Sir Ronald Sanders

other nations, including France, Germany, Japan, Nigeria, Russia, and the United States.

From this conference, a Communiqué was issued, calling for collaboration to promote the urgent negotiation of an international legally binding instrument, with prohibitions and regulations governing autonomous weapons, and which would take account of International Humanitarian Law, and ethical perspectives, as well as the prevention of the social and humanitarian impact that autonomy in weapons systems entail.

The adoption of this Communiqué was an important first step, but it lacked sufficient high-level political participation. Consequently, the political decision makers and legislators are not yet adequately informed of the enormous dangers posed by autonomous weapons. In this regard, the media has a role to play in researching, analyzing and reporting on the urgency of this issue, helping to inform decision makers and the general public in their countries.

Several governments, around the world, are heavily investing in the military applications of autonomous weapons, which are part of the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. Among these countries

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are China, India, Iran, Israel, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Indeed, weapons systems with autonomous functions are already being used in Ukraine and other conflicts.

These countries are unlikely to stop their use of these weapons, and like most other weapons developed for military use, they will be bought and abused by criminals and others for criminal purposes, beyond the capacity of law enforcement agencies.

So far, the pleas of many significant international figures to legislate against these weapons have been ignored. Among these persons are the Pope; Ban-Ki-Moon, the former UN Secretary-General, and the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions.

Perhaps the pre-eminent group to which the world should be listening is a group of engineers, AI and robotics experts, and other scientists and researchers from thirty-seven countries. They have issued the "Scientists' Call to Ban Autonomous Lethal Robots", in which they insist that "decisions about the application of violent force must not be delegated to machines."

Groups arguing for legally binding instruments to maintain human control over these weapons, have stressed that "a fundamental condition of international humanitarian law, requires

that some person must be held responsible for civilian deaths. Any weapon or other means of war that makes it impossible to identify responsibility for the casualties it causes does not meet the requirements of jus in bello (the right conduct in war) and, therefore, should not be employed in war."

If, in war, there is a limitation on accountability and who could be brought to justice, in the day to day lives

of ordinary citizens, the use of such weapons to kill or destroy, is even worse. Anonymity of the person, responsible for death or destruction though the use of autonomous weapons, could put them beyond the reach of the justice system and fling the doors wide open to anarchy.

Nearly 70 countries now openly support a new legal framework to govern and regulate autonomy in weap-

ons systems. But waiting for international treaties to be negotiated does not stop small states from acting within their own jurisdictions to adopt laws, prohibiting the importation and use of autonomous weapons and applying stiff penalties for violations.

The issue is real, and it is now.

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Andrew Tate BBC interview: Influencer challenged on misogyny and rape allegations

By Lucy Williamson

Andrew Tate has denied fuelling a culture of misogyny and defended his reputation in a combative interview with the BBC.

When the BBC put a range of allegations to him - including specific accusations of rape, human trafficking and exploiting women, for which he is being investigated by Romanian prosecutors - he dismissed them.

When pushed on whether his controversial views on women harmed young people, the influencer claimed he was a “force for good” and that he was “acting under the instruction of God to do good things”.

This was Mr Tate’s first television interview with a major broadcaster since being released into house arrest from police custody in Romania in April.

Mr Tate, who has repeatedly expressed his mistrust of traditional media, has a huge following online but his views have until now gone unchallenged in a direct interview like this.

He agreed to our interview with no set conditions.

He dismissed the testimonies of individual women involved in the current investigation who have accused him of rape and exploitation.



Controversial influencer Andrew Tate denies allegations of manipulation.

And he described another woman, interviewed anonymously by the BBC earlier this year, as “imaginary”, saying she had been invented by the BBC.

The woman in question, given the pseudonym Sophie to protect her identity, told BBC Radio 4’s File on Four that she followed Mr Tate to Romania believing he was in love with her. There, she was pressured into webcam work and into having Mr Tate’s name tattooed on her body, she said.

When questioned about Sophie’s testimony, Mr Tate told the BBC: “I’m doing you the favour as legacy media, giving you relevance, by speaking to you. And I’m telling you now, this Sophie, which the BBC

has invented, who has no face. Nobody knows who she is. I know.”

Sophie is now helping Romanian prosecutors with the investigation.

I also put to him the concerns of schoolteachers, senior police figures and rights campaigners about the influence of his views.

These concerns include comments by the chief executive of Rape Crisis in England and Wales, who said she was “deeply concerned by the dangerous ideology of misogynistic rape culture that Mr Tate spreads”.

Sitting across from me in a small armchair, Mr Tate said those accusations were “absolute garbage”.

Later in the interview, he said it was “complete-

ly disingenuous” to “pretend” that he was damaging young people.

When asked about organisations that blamed him for increased incidents of girls being attacked, and female teachers being harassed, he said: “I have never, ever encouraged a student to attack a teacher, male or female, ever.

“I preach hard work, discipline. I’m an athlete, I preach anti-drugs, I preach religion, I preach no alcohol, I preach no knife crime. Every single problem with modern society I’m against.”

Mr Tate suggested that some of his comments had been taken out of context or intended as “jokes” - including a video discus-

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sion in which he said that a woman's intimate parts belonged to her male partner.

"I don't know if you understand what sarcasm is. I don't know if you understand what context is. I don't know if you understand what's satirical content," he told me when challenged over the comment.

His description does not match the tone in an online video seen by the BBC.

He also denied admitting to emotional manipulation of women, despite comments made on a previous version of his online coaching course, Hustlers University.

An introduction on that site began: "My name is Andrew Tate... and I'm the most competent person on the entire planet to teach you about male-female interactions."

It goes on to say that Mr Tate's job was to "meet a girl, go on a few dates, sleep with her, get her to fall in love with me to where she'd do anything I say, and then get her on a webcam so we could become rich together". The page has since been taken down.

When asked about it in our interview, Mr Tate replied, "I've never said that."

I suggested that making controversial statements had brought him a lot of money by attracting followers who then signed up for a paid course on how to become a successful man.

Mr Tate replied: "I genuinely am a force for good

in the world. You may not understand that yet, but you will eventually. And I genuinely believe I am acting under the instruction of God to do good things, and I want to make the world a better place."

During our conversation, which lasted nearly forty minutes, Mr Tate pointed several times to what he called the "little pieces of paper" I had brought with me, telling me I was "saying silly things" and should "do some research".

In a sign of his mistrust of traditional media, our visit and interview were

filmed by his team for their own use - and after we left he claimed that the BBC had promised only to ask "sanitised questions".

While the BBC did provide topics of discussion before the interview as a matter of courtesy, as per our editorial guidelines, we did not agree the questions we would ask in advance and were clear that our interview would be a wide-ranging, dynamic discussion with challenging questions.

Before we had even left the building, Mr Tate posted a message on social media promising to publish

his own version of the interview, which he did shortly after.

The BBC has followed his case closely since the end of last year, when the Tate brothers were taken into custody, and has spoken to witnesses, former employees, neighbours and associates, and those involved in the investigation, to piece together an accurate picture of the Tate brothers' time in Romania.

The brothers are now in their sixth - and last - month under judicial control in this investigation, and any indictment is expected within the next few weeks.



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Taylor Swift fans report 'amnesia' following Eras show

By **Fiona Nimoni**

You've paid hundreds of dollars for a ticket and braved the pouring rain to watch your favourite artist perform in what should be an unforgettable evening.

But three hours and over 40 songs later, you get home and realised you can't remember a thing.

It sounds almost unbelievable, but many Taylor Swift fans are claiming to suffer from "post-concert amnesia".

Psychologists say emotions and time may be behind the phenomenon.

From out-of-body experiences to entering a dream-like state, Swift's fans - or Swifties as they prefer to be known - have taken to social media in recent days to reveal their guilt at not being able to remember key moments from the Eras tour.

Amnesia can be quite a serious symptom, referring to the loss of memories, experiences and information.

But Dr Michelle Phillips, a senior lecturer in music psychology from the Royal Northern College of Music, says the idea of post-concert amnesia is not as scary as it sounds.

It will rarely be the case that fans have absolutely no memory of being at a concert.

"In fact, it's likely to be one of the things they remember attending for the



Taylor Swift

rest of their lives," says Dr Phillips.

"It's simply that they encode some aspects of the event in memory, and not others."

So whether you tend to focus more on your favourite artist's dance moves, or just enjoy being at a show with your loved ones, people pay attention to whatever is important to them - and encode memories of these things, rather than the music.

The old saying "time flies when you're having fun" is an easy way to think about the idea of post-concert amnesia.

According to Dr Phillips, when fans are excited and so immersed in a moment, they can feel as though "time has suddenly passed" and they haven't been able to properly pro-

cess everything they've just seen, heard and felt.

Gone are the days when musicians perform on an empty stage with just their microphones and an instrument. These days fans are treated to mind-blowing spectacles, with strobe lights, massive props and more costume changes than you can keep track of - so it's no surprise you are not going to remember everything you have experienced after having to process so much.

Anushka Sri watched Suga from Korean K-pop's BTS perform in Los Angeles on 11 May.

She says most concerts she goes to have "elements of surprise all the time" as well as intensive light movement and fireworks which she thinks "kind of causes memory loss".

Anushka feels she could tell friends about "one or two moments" from the concert but can't recollect the whole set because "it's just hazy".

Dr Helen Prior, senior lecturer at the University of Hull, is interested to see whether some of the memories and emotions Taylor Swift's fans have forgotten can be recalled when they listen to her songs at a later date.

Whether it's listening to your first wedding song or playing your break-up anthem on repeat, music is an art form that has the power to transform you back to a particular time in your life.

So for Swifties worried about having forgotten bits of the show, listening to the set list again might just make all those memories come flooding back.

Work on Dominica's international airport to advance, PM says

Dominica's prime minister has announced that his government wants to "advance the work" at the island's international airport project.

"Significant work has been done, we discussed with the developers and contractors to advance the work to have a shorter period of time to complete the construction [of the international airport]," Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit was quoted by Associates Times. "The discussions are being held, and a strategy is being placed forward to advance the work."

The 11-acre airport site at Wesley in Dominica has been recently cleared and leveled and equipment has been moved directly to the area.

Skerrit also expressed confidence in the contracting firm CR5 and disclosed that over 94 local Dominicans have been employed in the construction. This number does not include the local truckers for the airport project, he said.

"The Government is on top of ensuring that Dominicans get work. I have seen a number of people from Wesley opt out of the National Employment Programme (NEP) because they are engaged in the construction of



the international airport," Skerrit said.

CR5 heads the construction of the airport after winning the EC \$1 billion-plus contract for the Dominica International Airport project. The company, which is in charge of the design, construction, supply, completion, testing, and commissioning of the island's biggest project, also was given revisions on the final design of the airport.

The international airport is a project that has been a long time coming, and finally in 2021 the government of Dominica signed an agreement with MMC Development Ltd. to

finally begin with the construction of the airport.

The developing company has been a reliable partner of the Dominican government in various residential projects that were meant to provide climate-resilient houses to the residents affected by Typhoon Erika in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017.

These infrastructure projects, along with the international airport, are funded by the country's Citizenship by Investment (CBI). Dominica's CBI programme is one of the oldest ones in the country.



Fire guts St Angela's Girls' Hostel in Guyana.

Guyana: Teenagers detained following fire at girls' hostel

CMC - The police have detained four teenagers following a fire that destroyed the St Angela's Girls' Hostel in Karasabai Village, Region Nine, to the south of Guyana.

According to preliminary reports, the fire started at around 03:00 hrs on Thursday and from all indications, it appears to be an act of arson.

Newsroom Guyana reports that threats were made on Wednesday to set the building on fire and villagers claimed that when

the fire first started, they saw some boys riding away from the hostel.

Seventeen students who were at the time being accommodated at the hostel and all escaped unharmed.

The hostel was constructed by the Catholic Church to ease the burden of students staying with guardians in the village.

The students are from the surrounding communities and are attending school at the Karasabai Secondary Department.

Lula welcomes back banned Venezuelan leader Maduro

BBC - Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has visited Brazil for the first time since he was banned by former far-right President Jair Bolsonaro in 2019.

Mr Maduro was received by the new president, fellow leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, ahead of a summit of Latin American leaders in Brasilia.

“What’s important about Maduro coming here is that it’s the beginning of Maduro’s return,” Lula said.

Mr Maduro talked of a “new era” in bilateral relations. Lula said the region should tackle poverty.

A number of countries question the legitimacy of Mr Maduro, who is described by opponents as a dictator.

Greeting his guest in the Brazilian capital on Monday, Lula said his own return had come five months earlier, referring to the time when he again assumed power after beating Mr Bolsonaro in tight presidential elections.

Mr Maduro said Venezuela was open for Brazilian investors, stressing that the two countries “must be united, from now on and always”.

Lula used the visit to criticise US sanctions on Venezuela saying a “constructed narrative of au-



Nicolás Maduro (left) told Lula that Venezuela was open for Brazilian investors.

thoritarianism” was in place about Venezuela and that sanctions were unjustified.

President Maduro last visited Brazil in 2015. Jair Bolsonaro was ideologically opposed to the leftist Venezuelan leader and unlikely to extend an invitation.

However, in the past, Lula enjoyed warm ties with both Nicolás Maduro and his political mentor, the late Hugo Chávez.

In a sign that the relationship looks set to remain solid, Lula spoke of what he called “extremely exaggerated” US sanctions on Venezuela and said it was inexplicable that the US would “impose 900 sanctions because they don’t get on”.

He urged his South American ally to build a new “narrative” about authoritarianism, saying an

unfair and “constructed” one had been established around the state of democracy in Venezuela.

Lula’s comments have been seized upon by his critics who say he turns a blind eye to the Maduro administration’s alleged human rights violations and lack of free and fair elections.

For Mr Maduro, the visit was an opportunity to repeat his call for the US sanctions to be lifted, saying he would call upon the other nations in South America to oppose them as a regional bloc.

Several South American countries are now led by left-wing leaders and might lend their support to such a position, including Argentina, Bolivia and Colombia as well as Brazil.

However, it is unclear if such a demand would make any real difference to the

Biden administration’s policies towards Venezuela.

Since Mr Maduro was elected in 2013, he has grown increasingly authoritarian.

His crackdown on opposition activists ultimately led to the US imposing sanctions on his government and recognising opposition leader Juan Guaidó as interim president in 2019 after a contested election.

Last December, Venezuela’s opposition National Assembly voted to dissolve its parallel government and remove Mr Guaidó.

He was recognised by many Western countries, including the US, but failed to oust the left-wing president.

The vote showed how many opposition politicians in Venezuela had lost faith in Mr Guaidó.

The assembly also voted to appoint a commission to govern the country’s foreign assets, as they sought a united front ahead of elections scheduled for 2024.

Venezuela’s long-running political and humanitarian crisis has seen some seven million people flee the country since 2015.

Venezuela has been caught in a downward spiral for years with growing political discontent further fuelled by skyrocketing hyperinflation, power cuts and shortages of food and medicine.

Debt ceiling deal heads to US Senate for approval

BBC - US senators are working against the clock to pass a deal to raise the government's \$31.4tn (£25tn) debt ceiling - and avert a debt default by the world's biggest economy.

The deal cruised through the House of Representatives by a vote of 314-117 on Wednesday, despite a few defections.

It now needs Senate approval before it can head to President Joe Biden's desk to become law.

The bill must pass by 5 June, when the US is forecast to hit its debt limit.

If the package is not approved by the deadline, a default would mean the US government could not borrow any more money or pay all of its bills. It would also threaten to wreak havoc overseas, affecting prices and mortgage rates in other countries.

With Republicans in control of the lower chamber of Congress and Democrats holding sway in the Senate and White House, a deal proved elusive for weeks until Mr Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy inked a compromise last weekend.

Leaders on both sides are now keen to move the deal rapidly through the Senate.

Democratic Majority leader Chuck Schumer warned on Wednesday: "I cannot stress enough that we have no margin, no margin, for error."



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said it is imperative that the US avoids a default on its debt.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell told reporters that he will be "proud to support it without delay".

It remains unclear when the bill will move to a vote in the Senate.

The chamber is narrowly divided - 51 out of 100 seats are held by Democrats. With 60 votes required to approve most bills, some combination of Democratic and Republican votes will be needed.

Some Republicans have threatened to stall the bill's consideration, however, and may call for amendments if Senate leaders permit. A few have said they plan to vote against the measure.

All 100 senators need to agree to set up a final vote on the bill.

If any amendments are approved, the deal must head back to the House of

Representatives for another vote - which would almost certainly push final approval past 5 June.

When the House voted on the 99-page bill on Wednesday evening, 165 Democrats joined 149 Republicans in approving it by the required simple majority.

In a statement afterwards, President Biden thanked House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, saying the Republican had negotiated in good faith.

"Neither side got everything it wanted," said the president. "That's the responsibility of governing."

The agreement suspends the debt ceiling, the spending limit set by Congress that determines how much money the government can borrow, until 1 January 2025.

The legislation will result in \$1.5tn in savings

over a decade, the independent Congressional Budget Office said on Tuesday.

The contents of the bill have drawn objections from both hard-line Republicans and Democrats.

"We did pretty dang good," Mr McCarthy said after the vote. But some conservative Republicans complained they had secured too few concessions in exchange for raising the debt limit.

Left-wing Senator Bernie Sanders came out against the bill on Wednesday, saying he cannot "in good conscience" support it - but he told CNN he would not delay its passage.

The last time the US came this close to overshooting its debt ceiling, in 2011, the credit agency Standard & Poor's downgraded the country's rating, a move that has yet to be reversed.

Nova Scotia battles its largest wildfire on record

By Nadine Yousif

Firefighters in Nova Scotia are battling the largest wildfire in the Atlantic province's history.

Officials say the fire on the southern tip of the province has burned about 20,000 hectares, with flames reaching nearly 100m (328ft) in height.

Meanwhile, another fire that has forced the evacuation of thousands near Halifax, the largest city, continues to burn.

The wildfire smoke has travelled south, with air quality warnings in the US.

As of Thursday morning, Nova Scotia officials said the massive fire in Shelburne County in the south of the province is still burning. No fatalities or injuries have been reported, but around 50 homes have been destroyed as a result of the fire.

Dave Rockwood, a spokesperson with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, told reporters on Wednesday that the fire appears to be "very fast moving".

Mr Rockwood said firefighters have spotted flames as tall as 60 to 90m.

The fire is significantly larger than the average seen during an entire fire season in Nova Scotia, said Lucas Brehaut, a wildfire researcher with the Canadian Forest Service.

"Last year was quite high, at about just over 3,000 hectares burned," Mr Brehaut told the BBC. The Shelburne County fire, by comparison, is more than five times that size.

He added the high flames reported by firefighters are an indication of how strong and rapid the wildfire's spread has been.



The massive fire in Shelburne County has destroyed around 50 homes and forced the evacuation of 5,000 residents.

More than 6,000 people have been evacuated from the region, the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) division said.

They are in addition to another 16,400 people who were evacuated from a suburban area nearby Halifax due to a smaller, 836-hectare wildfire that has been burning since Saturday and has destroyed around 200 homes and structures.

On Wednesday, Nova Scotia officials increased the fine for breaking the provincewide burn ban - a restriction on outdoor fires - to C\$25,000 (\$18,000; £14,800) - a massive jump from C\$237.50.

Officials said that smaller fire is more than 50% contained as of Thursday morning, but are fearful the flames may spread due to hot weather in the forecast.

"We are still dealing with a very dangerous and volatile situation," said David Steeves, a spokesperson with the Department of Natural Resources, adding the temperature could climb above 30C (86F) later in the day.

Officials said rain is not forecast for the region until Friday, and that they remain unsure on when residents can return to their homes.

Canada's federal government also announced on Thursday that it will be sending more resources to help Nova Scotia battle the flames.

This includes military personnel, as well as additional firefighters to help relieve those who have been working on the ground for days.

More than 300 firefighters from the US and South Africa are heading to Canada in the coming days. Some will be sent to battle fires in Nova Scotia, while others will be sent to battle ongoing fires in Canada's western province of Alberta.

They will join firefighters from Australia and New Zealand who are already on the ground.

Nova Scotia is seeing an unusually active wildfire season this year, Mr Brehaut said. It is part of a wider trend in Canada where the fire season has had an earlier start than normal.

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Mexican police find 45 bags of human remains

By Oliver Slow

Mexican authorities have found 45 bags containing human remains in a ravine outside the western city of Guadalajara.

Officials were searching for seven young call centre workers, who had been reported missing last week, when they found the bodies.

The remains include men and women, and the number of bodies is not yet known.

The search is expected to continue for several days because of difficult terrain and poor lighting.

The state prosecutor's office for the western state of Jalisco said in a statement that, following a tip-off in the search for the seven people, they had begun searching at the Mirador del Bosque ravine where they found the bags that included body parts.

Firefighters and civil defence were working with police and a helicopter crew to recover the remains.

The first bag was found on Tuesday, but because of the difficult terrain and lack of sunlight, the investigation resumed on Wednesday and will continue until all remains are located, the prosecutor's office said.

Officials said they would continue working to determine the number of dead bodies, who they were, and



their causes of death.

It added that it would continue trying to establish the whereabouts of the seven people reported as missing.

Although it has not yet been established how the bodies ended up in the ravine, crimes of disappearance are relatively common in Mexico.

More than 100,000 people are missing, government figures suggest, with many being victims of organised crime. Perpetrators are rarely punished.

Government data shows that many disappearances have occurred since 2007, when then-President Felipe Calderón launched his "war on drugs".

Three quarters of those reported

missing were men and one fifth were under the age of 18 at the time of their disappearance.

Relatives of the disappeared say that the government is not doing enough to find them, and that officials are indifferent when they report their loved ones as missing.

The United Nations has called it "a human tragedy of enormous proportions".

Jalisco is the heartland of a violent drug war, and some of the most powerful groups operating there include the Jalisco New Generation cartel (CJNG), and their rival, Nueva Plaza, which split from the CJNG in 2017, sparking violence across Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco state.

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Officials say that the number of wildfires across the country is on par with the 10-year average, but the amount of land burned - around 2.7m hectares in total - is unprecedented.

The fires have had an impact as far as the US,

where air quality warnings were issued in Rhode Island and Massachusetts on Wednesday.

Some people in Boston have reported smelling smoke outside, according to reports in local media, while photos have shown a hazy sky over New York

City on Tuesday as a result of the fires.

Nova Scotia officials said it remains unclear how the two fires started. Provincial officials

Experts say that while wildfires can be sparked by direct human involvement, natural factors, like strikes

of lightning, can also play a huge part.

The cycle of extreme and long-lasting heat caused by climate change draws more and more moisture out of the ground and vegetation, resulting in conditions ripe for wildfires.

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Teams to battle in penultimate round of ABCA Two-Day contest

Nine of the 10 teams are still in with a chance of reaching the semi-finals going into the penultimate round of preliminary stage matches this weekend in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-day Championship.

The top five teams going into this weekend's matches are in with the best chances of securing the semi-finals spots, which will go to the top four finishers at the end of the preliminaries.

After seven round of matches, Empire Nations are currently at the top of the standings with 58 points, 10 points ahead of defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, who are in second place.

All Saints Pythons are third with 46 points, two points more than New Winthorpes Lions in fourth place.

Following closely behind are Pigotts Crushers in fifth place with 43 points and Wes Rising Sun Spartans on 35 points.

Next are Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles with 33 points while Bolans Blasters with 28 points are one point ahead of Jennings Tigers, who are second from bottom of the standings.

Combined Schools, the only team which is out of

contention in reaching the semi-finals, are rooted in the cellar position with just six points.

In this weekend's penultimate round of matches, which will start tomorrow (Saturday), Empire Nations will entertain Bolans Blasters at King George.

All Saints Pythons will host cup-holders PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks at Mack Pond in All Saints.

Pigotts Crushers will take on Combined Schools at Pigotts, Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles will clash with Jennings Tigers at Bethesda and New Winthorpes Lions will face Wes Rising Sun Spartans at New Winthorpes.

Meanwhile, the semi-finals of Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Com-

petition will be contested tomorrow (Saturday) at 1 pm.

Mahico will take on Police at Clare Hall while Freetown will clash with Masters at Freetown. Oliver Benjamin and Dallis Adams will umpire at Clare Hall while Llewellyn Simon and Vaughn Connor will officiate at Freetown.

The winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final at a venue to be decided on Sunday, 4th June.



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Illustrations include: **BULOY'S BAKERY**, a market stall with produce, and a food stand.



The President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association Michael Freeland, center, holds his certificate after the graduation ceremony of the XIII edition of the International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Programme at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland on 24th April, 2023. (Photo by Christophe Moratal)

Freeland gets diploma after completing International coaching programme

The President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Michael Freeland has successfully completed the XIII edition of the International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Programme (ICECP).

Freeland, who is also a basketball coach, successfully completed the ICECP with his project “Shaping the Elite Athlete” and received a certificate from the University of Delaware, the US Olympic &

Paralympic Committee and Olympic Solidarity.

News of Freeland’s accomplishments were conveyed in a letter addressed to the President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) Paul Chet Greene and ABNOC Secretary General Cliff Williams from Abigail Tompkins Co-Director, ICECP US Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Dr. Matthew Robinson Co-Director, ICECP and the Univer-

sity of Delaware.

The International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Programme honoured members of its XII and XIII classes in a graduation ceremony held on 24th April at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

A joint programme of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, the University of Delaware, and Olympic Solidarity (a department of

the IOC), the ICECP provides national-level coaches with enhanced coaching and leadership skills, along with the latest coaching principles from the University of Delaware and the USOPC.

The programme, conducted in partnership with the Olympic Solidarity Entourage United and headed by Mr. Yassine Yousfi, aims to assist national-level coaches in developing proficiency in the

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CWI commences recruitment for a new Director of Cricket

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has commenced the recruitment process for a new Director of Cricket, as the role will become vacant at the end of June when Jimmy Adams contract expires.

Adams, who played 54 Tests and 127 One-Day Internationals for the West Indies, has been in the role since January 2017.

Johnny Grave, CWI CEO stated, "We are extremely grateful for the leadership and contribution that Jimmy has made over the past six and half years.

"He has overhauled our High-Performance structure, especially with respect to Coach Education & Development, Sport Science & Medicine and most recently with the launch of our Academy based at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua. I have no doubt that Jimmy will continue to contribute to



Current Cricket West Indies Director of Cricket, Jimmy Adams. (CWI Media)

the game, particularly West Indies Cricket."

Dr. Kishore Shallow, CWI President added, "Jimmy has always served West Indies Cricket with passion and distinction. His composed demeanor and professionalism have inspired many positive outcomes over the years.

"One of his legacies would definitely be the commencement of a coaching revolution in the re-

gion. On behalf of the CWI Board, we wish him a favourable future path."

Jimmy Adams stated, "It's been an honour to have been involved in the ongoing evolution of CWI. I have had the privilege of working with some amazing people across the organization and am grateful for all the support they gave me over the past six plus years.

"I wish everyone all the best going forward, espe-

cially in light of the various challenges that exist both regionally and globally."

Under the leadership of Jimmy Adams as Director of Cricket, CWI has started a Coach Education & Development department that created a new set of CWI coaching courses and accreditations that has seen over 1,000 new certified coaches in the region.

CWI launched the Men's Academy, based at CCG in Antigua, started an Under-19 Regional Women's Tournament, Women's 'A' Team series and the Women's Caribbean Premier League.

CWI established a Sports Science & Medicine Department to drive a fitness culture, implemented a new selection policy that included appointing separate Women's and Youth Selection Panels and established the High-Performance Coaching Group.

cont'd from pg 24

areas of sport sciences, talent identification, coaching education and management, athlete development, safe sport principles and grassroots sport development.

The intended outcome is for ICECP participants to return to their countries as both coaches and experts within their respective sports, becoming foundation builders for future coaches and athletes while spreading the Olympic and Paralympic spirit.

With prior visits to Colorado

Springs, Colorado, the University of Delaware and other apprenticeship sites across the United States, the ceremony in Lausanne represented the culmination of the achievements of the coaches.

While in Lausanne, the coaches had the opportunity to share their projects with their respective International Federations. IOC President Thomas Bach and Ivo Ferriani, president of the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation and IOC executive board member, addressed the

ICECP participants and presented the coaches with their diplomas.

Jean-Christophe Rolland, president of World Rowing and IOC member, also presented the diplomas along with Dr. Matthew Robinson from the University of Delaware and Abigail Tompkins from the USOPC.

Thirty-one coaches from 27 nations and 17 sports received diplomas. To date, the ICECP has reached a total of 457 participants from 125 nations and 39 sports since its inception in 2008.



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Antiguans compete at beach volleyball tournament in Dominican Republic

A four-member contingent is currently representing Antigua and Barbuda at an Under-23 North, Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation (NORCECA) Beach Tournament in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

A two-member female team of Jassania Joseph and Nia Benjamin and the two-member men's team comprising Kalique Joseph and Rashawn Martin are representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 1st to 5th June beach volleyball tournament.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent is among 12 countries competing for ranking points as part of the qualification system for age-group international events in the Under-23 NORCECA Tournament.

Antigua and Barbuda is joined by teams from Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and St Kitts and Nevis.

The Under 23 event is the new beach volleyball circuit that the NORCECA Confederation has created for athletes to earn ranking points for this age-group.

Amos Anglade, member of the NORCECA Beach Volleyball Commission said, "we are pleased with this new circuit because each team will be taking their position on their own and not like in the past when the senior ranking was used to distribute teams at a regional, continental and world level."

NORCECA president Cristobal Marte Hoffiz and all beach volleyball lovers are enthusiastic about the



JASSANIA JOSEPH



NIA BENJAMIN

Confederation's new initiative.

In addition to earning ranking points, the circuit will benefit the players to compete in major events with more experience, which in the future contributes to improving the level of competition at the senior beach tour.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, will host a second event from 6th to 9th June, which is a qualifying tournament to the Tlaxcala 2023



KALIQUE JOSEPH



RASHAWN MARTIN

FIVB World Championship.

Thirteen countries have confirmed to compete at the event. They are Canada, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, United States, the US Virgin Islands and St Lucia.

The World Championship qualifier event grants four slots per gender to be in Tlaxcala, Mexico, from 6th to 15th October.

11-member team to attend Roger Boyce Classic Elite Pro Qualifier

An 11-member bodybuilding and bikini fitness team will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Roger Boyce Classic Elite Pro Qualifier at the Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium in Barbados on 3rd and 4th June.

The contingent includes Yvette Butler, Narricca Ballantyne and Maki-va Elvin who will all compete in the Women's Bikini Fitness category.

Also included are Kala Francis and Kayla Joseph who will be contesting the Women's Bikini Wellness class.

Trevorn Giddings and Jameel Knight will be vying for top honours in the Men's Classic Physique.

Two former Mr Antigua champions, Steve Williams and Orson Martin are also part of the team.

The contingent is completed by Duncan Corbin and Tony Jacobs, who will be contesting the Men's Physique category.

The event is an International Federation of Bodybuilding (IFBB) Elite Pro qualifier with the winners of the various classes earning their pro status (card) within the IFBB.

Knight, who is the reigning national Classic Physique champion, said he will be doing his best to win his class in order to attain his IFBB pro card.

"This is my second time going overseas and to get my pro card on the second shot would be really a great thing, not only to just win the pro card but I am also aiming to win the pro show," Knight declared during an interview on state media.

"So I am just aiming all the way to



Jameel Knight

the star. But if I missed the stars, I can land on the moon. So I am aiming to win the pro show."

Reigning national Men's Physique champion Duncan Corbin is also seeking to win his IFBB Pro card after narrowly missing out on the accomplishment during his debut overseas competition at last year's Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships in Barbados.

"It actually would mean a lot to



Yvette Butler

me really and truly because last year was my first year at CAC in Barbados," Corbin stated.

"So the main fact that I came away with a gold and came second in the overall, it would mean a lot to me to say that this would be my second competition abroad and get my pro card on that second attempt. It would be lovely. Actually, I would feel elated about it."