

FESTIVALS COMMISSION APPEALS FOR REMOVAL OF BOOTHS FROM ARG

Story on Page 2



The Antigua and Barbuda Girl Guides Association received \$5,000 from the Halo Foundation as a donation towards their attendance at the 38th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). The cheque was handed over by the Patron of the Antigua and Barbuda Girl Guides and President /Founder of the Halo Foundation, Her Excellency Lady Williams (left). Representing the Girl Guides were Mrs. Denise Matthias-Thomas (Unit Leader with the First Antigua unit) and Susan Sharp, Chief Commissioner (right). *Story on page 8.*

Festivals Commission appeals for removal of derelict booths from ARG

Preparations are in full swing to transform the Antigua Recreation Grounds into Carnival City with the opening of Carnival 2023 just a few weeks away, but the Festivals Commission is asking owners of several

derelict booths to remove them from ARG immediately.

A Commission spokesman said the booths – totaling about five – are an ‘eye-sore’ and they pose a danger to human health, as

they house rats and other disease-carrying animals.

“We are asking these owners to have the booths removed voluntarily or the Commission will have them removed.

“We are making this

public appeal asking the owners to remove not just the booths but any other contents of value in the structures,” the statement declared.

“The booths in question are situated on the northeastern side of the main entrance, next to the gate on Coronation Road. Unfortunately, the conditions of the booths create a hazard within the area, generally and specifically during the carnival season.

“As a result, the Ministry will be taking steps, in the interest of the public, to eliminate such hazards and protect persons during the carnival season,” a media release from the Commission stated.

Therefore, it continued that the Ministry requests that any person interested in any of the booths mentioned, kindly remove all personal items or materials within the next two weeks. The booths will be demolished and removed after this period.

For further information, contact the Ministry of Creative Industries at the Festivals Office on Redcliffe Street or call (268) 462-0194. The public’s assistance will be greatly appreciated in this endeavor.



New timeline for mobile phone number portability

The much anticipated mobile phone number portability will likely become a reality in Antigua and Barbuda in just under nine months.

That is the word from Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas, who reported that two members of the team from APUA gave the Cabinet an update on implementing this policy initiative, long being projected by the government. Mobile phone number portability enables consumers to keep their phone numbers after they switch to another service carrier.

The minister reported that the move towards achieving this objective received a boost when the government engaged a firm to serve as a consultant on implementing the plan. He said the company provided similar services to other Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authorities as well as in Barbados and other Caribbean territories. The firm was hired last July.

According to Minister Nicholas, the company indicated at the onset that it needed at least an eighteen-month window by which the process would have to be observed, get all the operators in the 'same place to understand the business rules,' and ensure that there can be predictable and well-document-



Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas

ed approaches to how this process would work.

"The team gave Cabinet an update as to where they are, noting that there are still some technology adaptations that have to be done," he revealed. For example, he noted that Inet's service providers gave a timeline of the end of September, to make changes to their network. After that, we should be in the training and testing modes," he further revealed.

Minister Nicholas said the APUA team is predicting that by the end of the first quarter of 2024, 'we should be in a position to implement mobile phone number portability.'

He said he and the Cabinet have asked the team to work assiduously to make the timeline sooner if possible. The minister also said he will monitor the situation closely to see if this can happen sooner than the technicians have indicated.

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Invitations have been issued for the submission of nominations for National Awards

The National Honours Committee wants members of the public to submit the names of individuals or organisations they wish to have considered for awards, under the National Honours Act.

“Members of the public are invited to submit nominations of suitably qualified persons to be considered by the Honours Committee in 2023 for conferral of one of three societies of honour, which are further divided into grades and described in the National Honours Act as: (1) The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (2) The Most Illustrious Order of Merit and (3) The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage,” according to a press release from the Committee.

The release from the Chairman of the Honours Committee also listed the criteria for selection, as pre-

sented below:

The candidate being nominated should be 50 years of age or older.

The nominee, having met the age requirement in No.1, should also satisfy one or more of the following characteristics:

Should have demonstrated distinguished service, above and beyond the call of duty in his or her field of employment/career.

Should be a model or good citizen with proven character, lifestyle, work ethics and a habit of using his/her own resources to the benefit of others.

Should have given meritorious service in the field of heritage and cultural endeavours for consideration to be a member of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage, or meritorious service in any other field to be con-

sidered for membership of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit or distinguished/outstanding service to the nation in any field to be considered for membership of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation.

Should have demonstrated the ability, over a sustained period, to work in the interest of and to give selflessly to others without a demand for personal or monetary reward.

A nomination may also be submitted for any company, institution, organization or social club which has rendered an outstanding contribution to the promotion, development, protection or advancement of the arts, history or cultural heritage or humanitarian endeavours in Antigua and Barbuda. Institutional honours are granted in the Order of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit in the grades of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Regarding the guidelines governing the process of nominations and their consideration, the following should be noted:

Previous entries which have been submitted without a positive response may be re-submitted for consideration. Once received, nominations are considered for a period of three (3) consecutive years before being retired. This does not prevent the re-submission of the nomination of the said individual after that period has

passed.

Nominations must be submitted on the form entitled, ‘Nomination for a National Honour of Antigua and Barbuda’ providing as much detail as possible as to the work, projects or service rendered by the individual.

Tangible evidence such as photos, statistics, recommendation letters, videos or other relevant material may be provided with the nomination.

Self-nominations will not be considered.

All nominations should be addressed to the:

Secretary
Honours Committee
c/o Government House
Independence Drive
St. John’s
Antigua and Barbuda

The nominator(s) should provide the following personal information:

Full Name
Physical Address
Email Address
Telephone Number

Please specify the contact information for the key person who should be reached should further information be required.

The final date for nominations for consideration for the 2023 Independence celebrations is August 31, 2023. Submissions should be delivered to the Office of the Governor General during working hours before 3:00 pm, or scanned signed copies may be emailed to hcbagov@gmail.com





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**2023 Grade Six National Assessment
Top Students**

Rank	Student Name	Sex	Primary School	Total	School Choice
1	Sophia L. Aflak	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	379	AGHS
2	Matthew P. A. Dorsett	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	376	AGS
3	Elanya K. Tanner	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	374	AGHS
4	Kellycia Q. Liu	F	Post Millennial Academy	373	AGHS
5	Solange K. St. Rose	F	St. Peter's Academy	372	AGHS
5	Brea E. Tonge	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	372	AGHS
7	Cahira B. Gerald	F	Golden Grove Primary School	371	AGHS
7	Jaina M. D. Stuart-Young	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	371	AGHS
9	Abelia L. Forrester	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	369	AGHS
10	Azhanae J. Marshall	F	St. John's Lutheran School	368	AGHS
11	Alexa J. Wall	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	367	AGHS
12	Alissa S. B. Richards	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	366	AGHS
12	Kayanna S. M. Kentish	F	Antigua Wesleyan Junior Academy	366	AGHS
14	Phoebe P. Lucien	F	Old Road Primary School	365	AGHS
14	Prince G. Browne	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	365	AGS
16	George J. Naddour	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	364	AGS
16	Mia R. B. McCoy	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	364	AGHS
18	Felia J. Charles	F	Nelvie N. Gore Primary School	363	AGHS
18	Tamera N. L. T. Hurst-Henry	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	363	AGHS
18	Upmanyu Kapoor	M	St. John's Lutheran School	363	AGS
21	Joshua J. J. Carr	M	Jennings Primary School	362	AGS
21	Tidonna L. Warner	F	Villa Primary School	362	PMS
21	Malik A. A. Browne	M	St. Michael's Primary School	362	AGS
21	Adjatay A. Lake	M	Sunnyside Tutorial	362	AGS
21	Jasmine A. Khouly	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	362	AGHS
21	Zindel L. J. Batchelor	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	362	AGS
21	Audella-Mae A. J. James	F	New Bethel SDA Academy	362	AGHS
21	Odari N. E. Hodge	M	Grace Christian Academy	362	AGS
21	Jomari M. Medina	M	Divine Academy of Excellence	362	AGS
30	Nnieylah K. Morgan	F	Golden Grove Primary School	361	AGHS
30	LeAnn S. A. Joseph	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	361	AGHS
32	Madison L. Matthias	F	St. Andrews School	360	AGHS
32	Kai D. M. Spencer	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	360	AGS
34	Renaldo R. R. Edwards	M	Urlings Primary School	359	AGS
34	Unique T. E. Samuels	F	Five Islands Primary School	359	AGHS
34	Mikayla C. Ellis	F	Old Road Primary School	359	AGHS
37	Nazeah R. K. Murray	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	358	AGHS
38	Daijon S. Shaw	M	Sunnyside Tutorial	357	AGS
38	Eliel L. D. Noyce	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	357	AGS
38	Naira J. Francis	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	357	AGHS
41	Zende Z. Hazelwood	M	St. Andrews School	356	AGS
41	Israh'l K. David	M	Sunnyside Tutorial	356	AGS
41	Oyebola O. Toye	F	Island Academy	356	AGHS
44	Shazee D. O. Steele	F	Golden Grove Primary School	353	AGHS
44	Starr D. Mangal	F	Grace Christian Academy	353	AGHS
44	Keiyanna A. S. Davis	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	353	AGHS
47	Zaire Hunte	M	Mary E. Pigott Primary School	352	AGS
47	Clashawna T. N. Bailey	F	Golden Grove Primary School	352	AGHS
47	Janier B. Chambers	F	Grace Christian Academy	352	AGHS

Rank	Student Name	Sex	Primary School	Total	School Choice
47	Rizia R. Spencer	F	Post Millennial Academy	352	AGHS
51	Calliesha C. Anthony	F	Old Road Primary School	350	AGHS
51	Ajani M. Purcell	M	Minoah Magnet Academy	350	AGS
51	Neola S. Noronha	F	St. John's Catholic Primary School	350	AGHS
51	April S. Browne	F	St. Michael's Primary School	350	AGHS
51	Sahrah N. K. Butler	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	350	AGHS
51	Matthew J. W. Martin	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	350	AGS
51	Jelijah V. I. Richards	F	Grace Christian Academy	350	AGHS
58	Malia S. Bailey	F	St. Andrews School	349	AGHS
58	Sanaa R. Simon	F	St. Andrews School	349	AGHS
58	Jameer J. Winter	M	Sunnyside Tutorial	349	AGS
58	Lily M. B. Emmanuel	F	Grace Christian Academy	349	AGHS
62	Dominique I. Magloire	M	Urlings Primary School	348	AGS
62	J'hadora M. Samuel	F	Grays Crescent Primary School	348	AGHS
62	Holly M. F. Grave	F	Island Academy	348	AGHS
62	Aliese F. Faustin	F	Post Millennial Academy	348	AGHS
66	Mitchellee K. A. Benjamin	F	J. T. Ambrose Primary School	347	AGHS
66	Dia T. Boatswain	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	347	AGHS
68	Novianna N. Francis	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	346	AGHS
68	Nateya K. J. Rayne	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	346	AGHS
68	Alyssa A. S. Culley	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	346	AGHS
68	Ty J. A. Francis	M	Divine Academy of Excellence	346	AGS
72	Serone S. Elliston	F	T. N. Kirnon Primary School	345	AGHS
72	Annie-May E. Ashiboe-Mensah	F	J. T. Ambrose Primary School	345	AGHS
72	Dante J. Odlum	M	St. John's Catholic Primary School	345	AGS
72	Joyce R. Bsomai	F	St. John's Catholic Primary School	345	AGHS
76	Jair P. L. Baptiste	M	Freeman's Ville Primary School	344	AGS
76	Aniah V. S. Willock	F	Minoah Magnet Academy	344	AGHS
76	Allyssa A. A. Edwards	F	Seventh Day Adventist Primary School	344	AGHS
76	Kéreecia C. N. Lee	F	Antigua Wesleyan Junior Academy	344	PMS
80	Jaydie J. Anthony	M	Old Road Primary School	343	AGS
80	Raeshaida T. Jacobs	F	Antigua Wesleyan Junior Academy	343	AGHS
80	Chamiya C. Ambrose	F	Grace Christian Academy	343	AGHS
80	Sophia F. Cao	F	Post Millennial Academy	343	AGHS
84	Tichonia K. A. Andrew	F	Liberta Primary School	342	AGHS
84	Zahvniq J. Eddie	F	Villa Primary School	342	AGHS
84	Kadesh T. Charles	M	Seventh Day Adventist Primary School	342	PMS
84	Kai A. Zukowski	M	Island Academy	342	AGS
84	Raymond Nassar	M	Kids Unlimited School	342	AGS
84	Nafisa A. T. Quashie	F	St. John's Lutheran School	342	AGHS
90	Kamari J. T. Roberts	M	St. John's Catholic Primary School	341	AGS
91	Medwin K. Webster	M	J. T. Ambrose Primary School	340	AGS
91	Kevinice D. James	F	Gospel Light Elementary	340	AGHS
91	Princess A. Alfred	F	Grays Crescent Primary School	340	AGHS
91	Steven J. Chungath	M	St. John's Catholic Primary School	340	AGS
91	Kamiah B. J. Edwards	F	New Bethel SDA Academy	340	AGHS
91	J'Nya C. George	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	340	AGHS
91	Faith S. Fiedtkou	F	Grace Christian Academy	340	AGHS
98	Eboni F. M. Morrissey	F	J. T. Ambrose Primary School	339	AGHS
98	Rhaegan M. A. Andrew	F	Minoah Magnet Academy	339	AGHS
98	Marirose Alskaf	F	St. John's Catholic Primary School	339	AGHS
98	Trevaughn Thomas	M	Sunnyside Tutorial	339	AGS
98	James J. R. Tranter	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	339	AGS
98	Gabrielle K. V. Johnson	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	339	AGHS

Antigua and Barbuda is already benefitting from its relationship with the Joseon Cybernation

Over the weekend, the Prime Minister's Office announced that Antigua and Barbuda has established diplomatic relations with the Joseon Cybernation with immediate effect.

According to the media release this happened following what it termed 'intense discussion and the unanimous decision' of the Cabinet.

The release explained that Joseon is the non-territorial successor state to the Joseon Empire that was founded in 1392, in what is today's North and South Korea, now separate nations. "The non-territorial state seeks peaceful and friendly relations with the states of the United Nations to contribute to building a world of development and goodwill. It does not claim any territory. Joseon is a dynastic empire that ruled over a united Korea until the early 20th century. It has been reimagined by Joseon King Andrew Lee as a digital nation without territory or borders," according to the release.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst has disclosed that already Antigua and Barbuda has been benefitting from the relationship with the Joseon Cybernation. "A representative from the Joseon King Andrew Lee has visited the country and he made a presentation of US\$1.5 million that went to assist with the current ex-

pansion of the Sir Novelle Richards Secondary School. Additionally, they have committed to making a further amount available, that is expected to go towards the University of the West Indies at Five Islands," Hurst revealed.

Hurst explained that the relationship with the Joseon Cybernation will not affect Antigua and Barbuda's already close ties with the Republic of South Korea. "There's no competition concerning the two relationships," he noted.

The media release fur-

ther explained that Antigua and Barbuda has, during its four decades of sovereignty, sought to build peace and friendship internationally and regionally. The foreign policy of Antigua and Barbuda has been aimed at achieving friendly relations with all states and peoples and declaring no state an enemy of this Small Island Developing State. The country aims to befriend even those states and entities that are non-traditional and modern entities.

On 5th April 2022, the two states, Joseon and An-

tigua and Barbuda, signed an Agreement that supports education, economic investment, and other developmental initiatives and provides the basis for longstanding friendly relations. The signing of a Treaty of Peace, Amity, and Commerce with Antigua and Barbuda speaks to the forward-looking views and policies of our outstanding Caribbean state.

This newly executed agreement establishing diplomatic relations will continue the tradition of seeking peace and development with many partners.



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Pre-screening for RCL jobs starts today

Residents who have indicated a desire to secure one of the several jobs being made available by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCL) begin the process of selection today.

pre-screening for those who submitted their documents as part of the application process will go through pre-screening, in preparation for the actual interviews slated for Tuesday and Wednesday.

RCL is looking for executive chefs, pastry and sous chefs as well as first and second cooks. A spokesman for the Ministry of Tourism, which is coordinating the event explained that there are openings for youth coun-

cilors as well, but not many persons with the requisite qualifications have applied for those jobs.

This is the third major cruise line to offer employment for Antigua and Barbuda residents over the past year. The others are Carnival Cruise Lines and MSC Cruises.

The spokesman said each month persons have left the country to take up job offers aboard vessels operated by the cruise lines. "We have several people who are leaving this month and others slated to leave next month as well. The process takes a little time but it is working," the spokesman remarked.

Girl Guides get donation from Halo Foundation

The Antigua and Barbuda Girl Guides' fundraising efforts to secure the necessary monies to attend the organization's world conference, received a well-needed boost with the presentation of a cheque for \$5,000.00

The donation came from the Halo Foundation, the charitable organization of which Sir Rodney and Lady Williams serve as

patrons. "This donation goes towards the local Girl Guides' attendance at the 38th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). The meeting will take place in Cyprus from July 26th - 31st and will address — among other topics — financial challenges of the institution post-pandemic," a media release stated.

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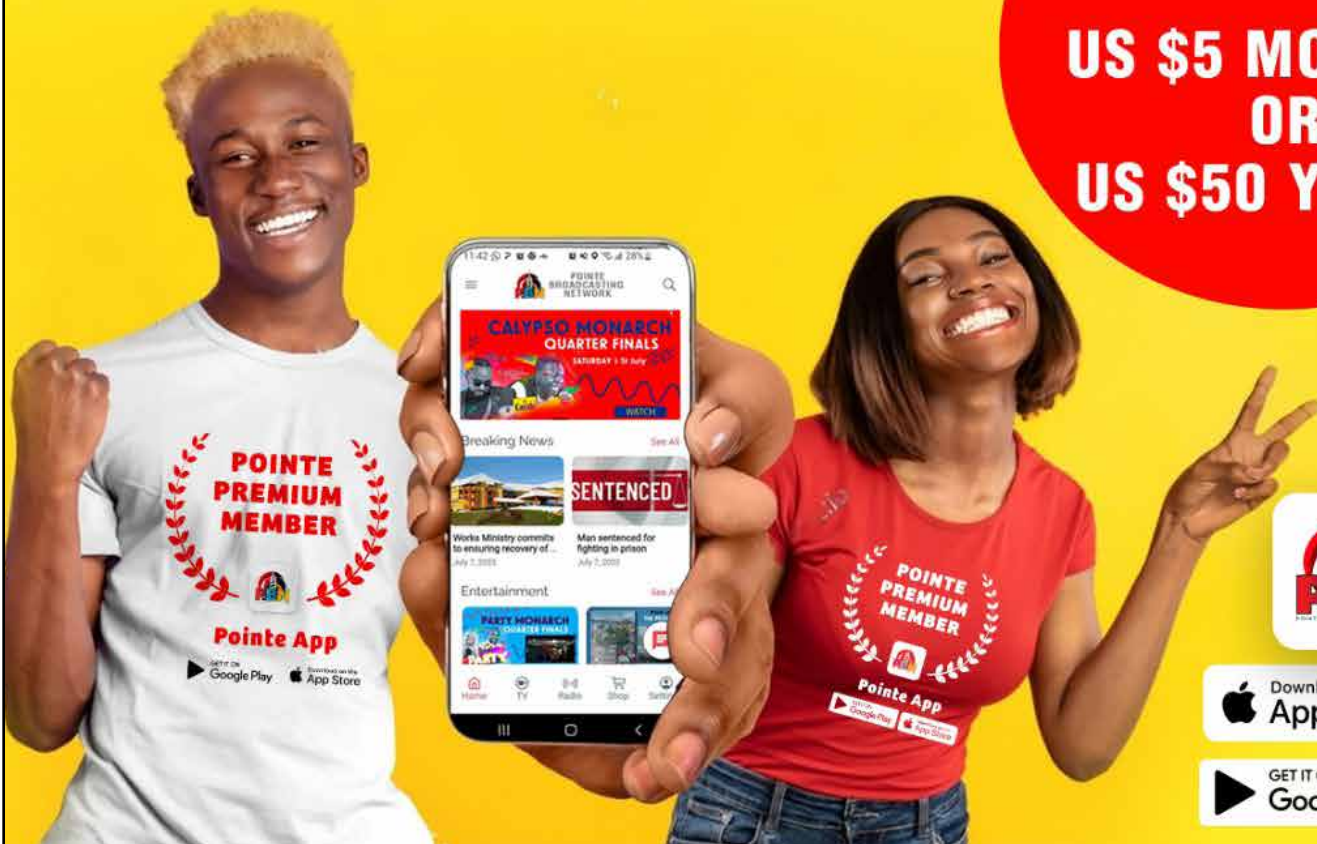
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Young professionals invited to an annual networking event

The Nolan Hue Foundation is extending its warmest invitation for its highly anticipated Young Professionals Networking Event.

The fundraiser will be hosted at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center, under the theme "The Power of Us" on Friday, 14th July.

NHF is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering growth and empowerment among aspiring leaders.

This annual yet exclusive gathering has been tailored with "utmost care and thoughtfulness" as "opportunity" is the keyword encapsulating the essence of the event.

NHF's Management TEA* says, "Our aim is to



Young professionals networking at NHF's 'Di Network Mix Up' held in March at Skyy Bar.

create a vibrant platform where talented individuals can connect, learn from one another, and explore new avenues for professional advancement."

The event caters to anyone interested in meeting new people in a pro-

ductive and creative environment, primarily college students, recent graduates, entrepreneurs of all ages, and young professionals.

This year, the organization's main goal is to assist individuals attending the event to not only learn

how to put their ideas and dreams into action and reality but to also promote their business or organization and build relationships by discussing innovative and creative ideas.

The members of management believe that it will surpass this goal by providing knowledge and motivation to those who have already started their businesses

Tickets cost \$80 and may be purchased on the TickeTing app or by contacting any Nolan Hue management member.

Contact NHF by email at nolanhue@gmail.com or by contacting Ms. Imani Sinclair at cell: 268-720-7724 & email: imani@nolanhue.com with any questions or concerns.








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A Samantha who can vs. A Kelvin who can't!

Dear Editor,

With the court case behind us, it is now time to focus on the pending bi-election in St. Mary's South. As the headline suggests, this is a matter of who has and can work for the people of St. Mary's South, versus who really can't.

Ms. Marshall and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party have a proven track record behind their backs.

While constituents may have been swayed by the United Progressive Party's hot-air balloon, full of arguments during the January general elections, the harsh reality is, that

balloon popped when the labour party retained the government.

Over the last 6 months, St. Mary's South would have had time to assess Mr. Simon as a representative. Over that time, they would have heard from Mr. Simon on why he can't help persons who need a helping hand. The term "there isn't a lot I could do, as we are in opposition," was the term most used by Mr. Simon.

On the other hand, Mr. Simon made sure he was living life as an MP. Breakfast at cafes in the mornings, and drinks and football at beachside

bars in the evening. Mr. Simon was living his best life. However, when it came to the representation, he asked the good people of St. Mary's South for, he was missing in action, and optics was the name of the game.

During a public meeting, Mr. Simon claim he recently attended 2 graduations in the constituency. He further claimed Ms. Marshall sent representatives although she was in Antigua and did not attend the graduations. The truth is, these are the "bold-faced" lies mixed with a little truth, Mr. Simon and the UPP have

cont'd on pg 13



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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

cont'd from pg 12

mastered over the years.

The facts are Ms. Marshall did send representatives to the graduations. This was done as Ms. Marshall represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 3rd Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Washington D.C, United States of America, during the times of the graduations.

Moreover, Ms. Marshall ensured the graduating students were rewarded for their achievements. From prizes to top performers to vouchers for school supplies to others, Ms. Marshall made sure students were celebrated in her absence on this most important day.

Mr. Simon on the other hand, came with thanks, prayers, and his long empty hands. Mr. Simon then left the graduations and boarded a plane to the St. Kitts Music Festival where he partied the weekend away.

He was quoted as saying on his Facebook page, "In your existing, please remember to live! Being yourself is one of the most fundamental ingredients for happiness and success!" One must ask the question, whose happiness and success, Mr. Simon? Fundamental ingredients in your selfishness, Mr. Simon?

In contrast, over the last 9 years, Samantha Marshall has developed a

track record of service in St. Mary's South and Antigua and Barbuda. From improvements to the St. Mary's Secondary School, road works across St. Mary's South, expansions to the Reverse Osmosis plant, Bolans clinic, and police station (in progress), Johnson Fire Station, empowering young people

to develop themselves with courses from UWI and assisting families in need of a helping hand; Samantha Marshall has demonstrated a level of commitment and service to her constituency and country with a can-do approach to solving problems over the 9 years, and more importantly, the last 6 months.

She has proven your vote will be well placed in her as a member of parliament as opposed to that of a vote for someone who can't do anything for your development in opposition.

Samantha CAN! Kelvin CAN'T! It is as simple as that.

A. Gittens



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 ISAIAH 45:22

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Opinion

Laughing gas and hot water

By **Tony Deyal**

Did you hear the story of the man who had the great honour of being crushed by a steam roller? He was flattered. In one sense, his problem was that he didn't know whether to laugh or cry. This is because one proverb insists that "flattery will get you nowhere". However, sexy "Mae" West, the actress, knew from experience that, "flattery will get you everywhere".

George Bernard Shaw, the Irish playwright, saw it from the male viewpoint, when he said, "What really flatters a man is that you think him worth flattering." However, Napoleon Bonaparte, while exiled in St Helena, disagreed and said sadly, "He who knows how to flatter also knows how to slander." My favourite author of all time, P.G. Wodehouse, spoke for a lot of us with, "Flattery will get you nowhere, but don't stop trying."

I'm still not sure if I am nowhere or somewhere with my writing or, for that matter, with the ghost of Wodehouse. My first dialect poem, *Wake Tonight* (1967) included the line, "We all was broken – without a cent/more broken even dan de Ten Commandment". Last night, as I was reading a Wodehouse collection, I found a story about one of his best-know characters, Psmith, who said, "[I'm] as broke as the ten commandments."

Even though my family was even more broke that the whole Psmith family put together, I was a bit like the young Wodehouse. He recalled, "I know I was writing stories when I was five. I don't remember what I did before that. Just loafed, I suppose." In my case, I know I read the newspapers and ate a lot of what we call "hops" bread or loaves when I was five, but I'm not sure if I knew write from wrong in those days. Fortunately, I did not wait to be hit on the face with a book to know great writing when I saw it. From very early on I was captivated by the Wodehouse way with words like, "I could see that, if not actually disgruntled, he was far from being grunted."; "He had just about enough intelligence to open his mouth when he wanted to eat, but certainly no more."; "The fascination of shooting as a sport depends almost wholly on whether you are at the right or wrong end of the gun."; and, "An apple a day, if well aimed, keeps the doctor away."

BUILD TODAY

This is why I decided to build today on yesterday's and tomorrow's greatest humourist, P.G. Wodehouse who taught us all, "There is no surer foundation for a beautiful friendship than a mutual taste in literature." Consider, "The voice of love seemed to call to me, but it was a wrong number," and "It was my Uncle George



Tony Deyal

who discovered alcohol was a food well in advance of modern medical thought." In my case it was both my Uncle Jacket and my father, as well as my Aunty Moon and the rest of the family. The day my father fell off his bike into a pool of water at the side of the road and my mother said to him, as she often did, "Deyal, you drunk!", I shut my ears to the angry back-and-forth and fled to Wodehouse who had written in *Meet Mr. Mulliner*, "Intoxicated? The word did not express it by a mile. He was oiled, boiled, fried, plastered, whiffled, sozzled, and blotto." This is why my own work, even though it is short stories or novelties, and not novels, is based on the core of the Wodehouse method, "I believe there are two ways of writing novels.

One is mine, making a sort of musical comedy without music and ignoring real life altogether; the other is going right deep down into life and not caring a damn."

There are many different areas that Wodehouse not just delved into, but brought to the "fore". Clearly Golf is one. Sports is or are another. Food is a third and crime did pay the piper and pipe tobacco (which he smoked). But his take on women (and men) is my choice of choices. In *Mostly Sally* Wodehouse wrote, "And she's got brains enough for two, which is the exact quantity the girl who marries you will need." He added, "Chumps always make the best husbands. When you marry, Sally, grab a chump. Tap his head first, and if it rings solid, don't hesitate. All the unhappy

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marrriages come from husbands having brains. What good are brains to a man? They only unsettle him." In *Uneasy Money* there is the truth and nothing but the truth, "At the age of eleven or thereabouts women acquire a poise and an ability to handle difficult situations which a man, if he is lucky, manages to achieve in the later seventies."

NOWHERE CLOSE

I will be 78 next month and am nowhere close. One of the reasons is that many women are like the one Wodehouse described, "She looked away. Her attitude seemed to suggest that she had finished with him, and would be obliged if somebody would come and sweep him up." On the male side, and from a woman's viewpoint, "If men's minds were like dominoes, surely his would be the double blank." Another was, "I attribute my whole success in life to a rigid observance of the fundamental rule, never have yourself tat-

toed with a woman's name, not even her initials." And for the men who speak about women in terms like, "She had more curves than a scenic railway" or "She looked as if she had been poured into her clothes and forgotten to say 'when'", remember Wodehouse and *The Small Bachelor*, "Marriage is not a process for prolonging the life of love, sir. It merely mummifies its corpse."

Evelyn Waugh, the writer of *Brideshead Revisited*, argued that Wodehouse was capable of two or three striking metaphors per page and gave as examples, "He looked like a sheep with a secret sorrow."; "One young man was a great dancer, one who never let his left hip know what his right hip was doing."; "She had just enough brains to make a jaybird fly crooked."; "Her face was shining like the seat of a bus driver's trousers."; and "He had the look of one who had drunk the cup of life and found a dead beetle at the bottom."

Fortunately for me and all the Wodehouse readers, including (hopefully) some of you who have read this article, copies of his 72 novels and short-story collections like *laughing gas* and *hot water* are still available.

Even last night I had to laugh at his recollection of his first novel (and my own first book), "It has been well said that an author who expects results from a first novel is in a position similar to that of a man who drops a rose petal down the Grand Canyon of Arizona and listens for the echo."

But, despite this, like him I believe and am committed to, "As we grow older and realise more clearly the limitations of human happiness, we come to see that the only real and abiding pleasure in life is to give pleasure to other people."

Tony Deyal was last seen trying a Wodehouse put-down, "You're one of those guys who can make a party just by leaving it. It's a great gift."



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Threads: Twitter threatens legal action over Meta's new app

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

Twitter is considering legal action against Meta over its fast-growing rival app Threads.

Threads, which was launched to millions on Wednesday, is similar to Twitter and has been pitched by Meta bosses as a “friendly” alternative.

Twitter's Elon Musk said “competition is fine, cheating is not” - but Meta denied claims in a legal letter that ex-Twitter staff helped create Threads.

More than 70 million people have signed up for the new app, according to Meta.

Twitter has an estimated 350 million users, according to Statista.

According to an SEC filing from 2013, it took Twitter four years to build the same number of users that Threads gained in a day - though Twitter grew its userbase from scratch, while Threads was able to tap into the pre-existing two billion monthly users Meta says Instagram has.

The look and feel of Threads are similar to those of Twitter, BBC News technology reporter James Clayton noted. He said the news feed and the reposting were “incredibly familiar”.

But US copyright law does not protect ideas, so for Twitter to be successful in court it would have to prove that its own intellectual prop-



erty, such as programming code, was taken.

And in 2012 Meta was granted a patent for “communicating a newsfeed” - the system that displays all the latest posts when you use Facebook.

In a move first reported by news outlet Semafor, Twitter attorney Alex Spiro sent a letter to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Wednesday accusing Meta of “systematic, wilful, and unlawful misappropriation of Twitter's trade secrets and other intellectual property” to create Threads.

Specifically, Mr Spiro alleged that Meta had hired dozens of former Twitter employees who “had and continue to have access to Twitter's trade secrets and other highly confidential information” that ultimately helped Meta develop what he termed the “copycat” Threads app.

“Twitter intends to strictly enforce its intellectual property rights, and demands that Meta take immediate steps to stop using any Twitter trade secrets or other

highly confidential information,” the letter says.

“Twitter reserves all rights, including, but not limited to, the right to seek both civil remedies and injunctive relief without further notice.”

BBC News, which has seen a copy of the letter, has contacted both Meta and Twitter for comment.

Mr Musk said that “competition is fine, cheating is not” in response to a post on Twitter that referred to the legal letter.

On Threads, Meta spokesperson Andy Stone posted that “no one on the Threads engineering team is a former Twitter employee - that's just not a thing”.

Sarah Kunst, managing director at venture capital firm Cleo Capital, told the BBC's Today programme Threads could offer a “brand-safe environment” for existing Instagram advertisers who “feel they can allocate some budget and see what happens”.

She added that while the app reaching 30 million users could be the result of an

initial rush, it will likely see a steady increase in users.

“They've made it very easy to cross-post to other platforms like Instagram, so I think that we'll continue to see growth,” she said.

Both Mr Musk and Mr Zuckerberg have acknowledged the rivalry over Threads, which is linked to Instagram but works as a standalone app.

As it launched in 100 countries, Mr Zuckerberg broke more than 11 years of silence on Twitter to post a highly popular meme of two nearly identical Spider-Man figures pointing at each other, indicating a stand-off.

Shortly after, and as the word “Threads” trended globally on his platform, Mr Musk said: “It is infinitely preferable to be attacked by strangers on Twitter, than indulge in the false happiness of hide-the-pain Instagram.”

Twitter CEO Linda Yaccarino said in a tweet on Thursday that while the platform, is “often imitated” it “can never be duplicated”.

Both Meta and Twitter have undertaken significant layoffs this year, with Meta announcing in April that it would cut staff levels by approximately 10,000.

Twitter lost a large proportion of its 7,500 employees, as high as 80%, in waves of redundancies following Mr Musk's takeover last October.

Tourism stakeholders stress importance of collaboration during crisis

As the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season got off to a busy start, key stakeholders in the Caribbean tourism sector convened a virtual forum last week, placing a spotlight on the pivotal role of effective, strategic crisis communications when responding to, and recovering from natural and manmade disasters.

During the forum, hosted by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), the consensus was clear: collaboration across regional, national and community levels, paired with efficient, proactive communications, forms the backbone of successful crisis management and resilience in the tourism sector.

Neil Walters, Acting Secretary General of the intergovernmental CTO, noted that just three weeks into the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season the region had already witnessed three tropical storms, which forecasters signaled was an early and aggressive start to the hurricane season.

Walters told ministers, senior officials and private sector leaders participating in the webinar that: "Communication plays a vital role in managing crises, as it shapes perceptions, builds trust, and ensures that accurate and timely information reaches both internal and



external audiences during times of crisis ... (which) can mean the difference between chaos and order, despair and hope."

He further highlighted the importance of the CTO and CHTA collaboration, in working together to ensure the safety and well-being of visitors, industry professionals, and local communities.

Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic as "the world's most devastating health crisis in over 100 years," Nicola Madden-Greig, Director of marketing and sales for The Courtleigh Hospitality Group in Jamaica, and President of CHTA, which represents the private sector, asserted that partnership between the CTO and CHTA on disaster preparedness has been pivotal to navigate the various challenges that confront the Caribbean tourism

sector. She noted the contributions of various partner organisations and surmised that maintaining the legacy of resilience and success as a region and destination was tied to "working together at the regional, national and community levels."

"Effective collaboration must be accompanied by effective communications, and in the age of multiple channels of communications, and when any of us with a cell phone and internet access can quickly report, accurately or not, on the status of a crisis, it is essential that we continue to build and implement sound communication plans to ensure that what is actually happening on the ground is reported in the most accurate way," said Madden-Greig.

The virtual tourism forum, which focused on Crisis Communications and Best Practices for Hazards

Response and Recovery, was the second in a series, jointly organized by the CTO and CHTA, as part of efforts to support disaster preparedness, sensitization and capacity building for tourism sector.

Bevan Springer, president of Marketplace Excellence (MPE) who moderated the session, noted that timely, accurate press releases and updates are necessary, but it is equally important to ensure the narrative is from a Caribbean perspective, thereby framing the destination's future agenda.

"Every crisis prepares us to deal with the next crisis, and learning from one crisis to another is something that is critically important," he declared.

Springer, who is also founder and president of the Caribbean Media Exchange

cont'd on pg 18

Bahamian government expects gun amnesty to begin next week

CMC - National Security Minister, Wayne Munroe, says he expects a gun amnesty initiative to be introduced next week aimed at curbing the gun crime situation in The Bahamas.

Munroe, speaking at a news briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister, said that senior police officials are liaising with the State Minister of Social Services and Urban Development Lisa Rahming, who had informed Parliament last week about the two-week gun amnesty.

The National Security Minister said that the authorities are ironing out minor details and it is anticipated that there will be a rollout of the amnesty proposal late next week.

Munroe also said that



since police increased saturation patrols, crime has decreased throughout New Providence.

“The statistics provided to me by the police report that year to date comparison for the central, northwestern and southern divisions that make up Bain and Grants Town decreased by 15 per cent for central, 44 per cent

for northwestern, and seven per cent for southern division and these are crimes that relate to quality of life crimes.

“The south-central division experienced a decrease of 16 per cent a year to date. The northeastern division, that includes my constituency of Freetown, has seen a decrease of 38 per cent. And

year to date, crime decreases in the Fox Hill division has fallen by 42 per cent and in Carmichael, which represents the largest policing division, that has fallen by 26 per cent,” Munroe added.

He said that the police had received the final tranche of the 100 vehicles the government recently purchased.

cont'd from pg 17

(CMEx), recommended developing post-crisis marketing plans to reboot and recover, such as the one MPE and the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism instituted after the twin “Irmaria” storms in 2017 to help get the Territory back on the map and into the marketplace by partnering with airlines, travel advisors and other strategic partners.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Trevor Moss, general manager of travel compliance for the Ministry of Tourism, Investments and Aviation for The Bahamas.

He outlined the integrated communication and cooperative system used by his country to deal with crises:

“We work as one voice, one re-

sponse with many moving parts, ensuring the safety of lives throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas by maintaining a structured method of response with clear communications prior (to), during, and after major incidents.”

Speaking about public relations initiatives for recovery in the British Virgin Islands after 2017’s twin storms, Lauren Kaufman, senior vice president and director of operations at MMGY NJF, asserted there were two types of crises: dangerous situations such as hurricanes, and reputational crises, which tend to last for months beyond some of the disasters comprising dangerous situations. For both situations, she recommended a robust media relations program. She encour-

aged stakeholders to be proactive by quickly getting messages out and securing control of the narrative.

Wrapping up the session, Lelei LeLaulu, a communications advisor to Marketplace Excellence, stressed the importance of first finding out what affected communities need to ensure the delivery of appropriate aid in the aftermath of a disaster. He recommended a fundraising web page or portal and highlighted the need for regular updates on the status of recovery, as well as reporting to donors on how their resources were used.

The forum was designed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and experiences, with the aim of fostering a culture of tourism sector resilience.

SVG PM hints at changes 'in the political configuration' in government

CMC - Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has hinted at changes in his government when Parliament meets next week for the first time in its temporary new home.

"When the Parliament is opened on the 13th back here, you're likely to see one or two changes in the political configuration on the government side. But that is a discussion for another time," Gonsalves said in the east coast town of Calliaqua Thursday, as he addressed the official opening of the temporary Parliament building.

Last month, lawmakers met for the last time in the dilapidated 200-year-old building that was built to house the National Assembly and the High Court.

The government says it will build a new parliament building in Richmond Hill on the outskirts of the city and has built a temporary building to host the National Assembly in the interim.

Political observers have speculated that Prime Minister Gonsalves could replace one or more of the four government senators, in keeping with a practice he has adopted at the mid-term of the election cycle since coming to office in March 2001.

Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government Minister, Julian Francis, has attended just two meetings of Parliament since suffering a stroke last July and Gonsalves has been shouldering the additional ministerial burden.

However, political observers have speculated that the government is more likely to replace Deputy Speaker, Ashelle Morgan, an attorney, and/or Rochard "Pitbull" Ballah, parliamentary secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Af-



Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves

fairs, and Information.

Both legislators have failed to make an impact politically since being appointed senator after the November 2020 general elections.

In fact, Morgan, along with Karim Nelson, an assistant director of public prosecution, went on trial last November in connection with the April 13, 2021 shooting of then-60-year-old block-maker Cornelius John at his Diamond Estate home.

Morgan was acquitted of the charge that she assaulted John on April 13, 2021. Nelson was also acquitted on charges that he unlawfully and maliciously wounded John and unlawfully discharged a firearm at him on the same date.

There is no indication that either Morgan or Ballah would emerge as a candidate in the next general elections, constitutionally due by February 2026, when Gonsalves' Unity Labour Party will seek a sixth consecutive term in office.

Some political observers say the Prime Minister's comments could mean that he will reassign some ministries, as he had done in the lead-up to previous general elections.

Gonsalves Thursday outlined the legislative agenda when the new Parliament meets saying the government would table a bill to grant a compassionate pension to Stephanie Browne, a former opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) legislator who did not serve for the requisite nine years in order to become pensionable.

"She should have been getting a compassionate pension but everybody seemed to have thought that she had done nine years and getting a pension until she wrote me about it," Gonsalves said.

He said a similar bill will be brought in the name of Offord Morris, a former Labour Party MP, and noted that rather than receiving EC\$1,500 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) monthly as a pension, the two former lawmakers would get EC\$2,000.

He said some people might question the decision to grant the pensions.

"... you want people who serve you to walk 'bout the place begging bread? Is that dignified? Is that worthy of our civilisation?" the prime minister said.

Lawmakers will also debate a bill
cont'd on pg 20

Grenada police confirms a slight increase in crime

CMC - Grenada police said there has been a slight increase in the number of violent crimes in Grenada during the first four months of this year when compared to the same period last year.

However, the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) said there appears to be a reduction in the month of May.

“According to our quarterly report at March 2023 there was an 8.4 per cent increase in crimes,” said Ryan Hall, Officer in Charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, noting however that by the end of May “there has been a reduction by almost two per cent”.

Sharing data on areas experiencing a growth in crime, Hall told a news conference that there has been a 1.4 per cent increase



in harm offenses and 6.6 per cent in assault offenses.

At present, we have recorded 12 homicides of which...two are unsolved and continue to be vigorously investigated,” he said, reminding the population that the police are still searching for one person wanted who is a prime suspect in a murder case.

Police said property crimes posed the greatest challenge for them in terms of detection and Hall dis-

closed that during the first quarter, there was a 21 per cent increase in property crimes. He called on homeowners to take measures that will reduce their risk of becoming victims of property crimes.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Vannie Curwen said that violent crimes are committed mainly by young people.

“However, our fortune has become a little better as we approach May of 2023

when we start seeing a 20 per cent contraction of the first quarter of 2023,” he said.

“Our murder rate for this year has already surpassed our 2022 figures and we are still five months out to the end of the year. Gun-reported crimes are also showing their ugly heads across the country forcing us to respond in ways we have not had to before,” Curwen said while praising citizens for their assistance in helping police in solving crimes.

“Comforting to us though is the fact that we have had overwhelming cooperation from the public which has allowed us to confiscate several illegal firearms making our streets safer for the enjoyment of all,” he said.

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to extend Vincentian citizenship to second-generation Vincentians born overseas. Gonsalves said the bill will be sent to a select committee of Parliament.

Currently, the Constitution and Citizenship laws grant automatic Vincentian citizenship to children of people born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, regardless of where in the world the child is born.

“You know, at the moment you’re allowed, as a first generation Vincentian, you’re born overseas, to get citizenship. Well, we want to do it for second generation,” said Gonsalves, who has ministerial responsibility for

citizenship matters and national security.

“I want those who are second generation to get a chance also at citizenship.”

He said lawmakers will also consider bills to amend the Finance Administration Act and the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) Acts.

Gonsalves said the amendments to the NEMO Act will address “some technical questions dealing with damage assessments”.

Also on the Order Paper are two “developmental bills addressing two...fixed interest loans, US\$16 million dollars in all”.

Gonsalves said the loans from the Saudi Fund will attract two interest rates.

The temporary Parliament building was constructed at a cost of EC\$5.5 million under an EC\$20 million loan from Taiwan that Parliament approved at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The opposition had objected to its inclusion in a supplementary budget approved in April 2020 in response to the pandemic, saying that the building was not a priority and that the government should “put the money where the pain is”.

The opposition boycotted Thursday’s opening ceremony.

Luis Sánchez: Mexican authorities find murdered journalist's body in Nayarit

By Kathryn Armstrong

The body of a correspondent for one of Mexico's leading newspapers has been found in the western state of Nayarit, days after he was reported missing.

Luis Martín Sánchez Íñiguez, 59, worked for La Jornada and had been missing since Wednesday.

His death is being treated as murder linked to his work, in one of the most dangerous countries for journalists.

Mr Sánchez is one of three journalists to have been abducted in the state in recent days.

His body was found on Saturday in the village of El Ahuacate near the city of Tepic, the public prosecutor's office said - a day after his wife filed a missing person's report.

Two messages were attached to his chest, but the authorities have not revealed what they said.

It is thought Mr Sánchez was killed between 24 and 48 hours before his body was found.

His disappearance came a day after a teacher and former reporter went missing on his way to work.

The whereabouts of the



The authorities found the body of Luis Martín Sánchez near the city of Tepic on Saturday.

man, named as Osiris, remain unknown.

The third person to go missing was a man named Jonathan, who the authorities said was abducted on Friday but was later found alive and "in a good state of health".

Mr Sánchez's death has sparked outrage both in Mexico and internationally. The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights has called for the authorities to clarify what happened.

"We demand justice for

the Mexican journalists!" the group wrote on social media.

The Americas branch of the Committee to Protect Journalists is among the other rights groups that have also condemned the killing.

Mr Sánchez is not the first journalist to be targeted in Mexico this year.

José Ramiro Araujo, a news photographer, was killed in the northern state of Baja California in February.

La Jornada said at least four other people have also

been murdered.

Press freedom organisations have consistently ranked Mexico as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists to work.

Many of those targeted covered corruption or powerful drug cartels and campaigners say the killings are rarely fully investigated.

Nearly 150 journalists have been murdered there since 2000, according to the international advocacy group Reporters Without Borders.

War in Ukraine: Biden flies to UK amid concern over cluster bombs

By Kathryn Armstrong

US President Joe Biden is heading to Europe ahead of a Nato summit after several allies questioned his decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine.

The UK and Canada are among those who voiced concern about supplying the bombs, which are widely banned because of the danger they pose to civilians.

The US says they are needed because Ukraine's weapon stocks are dwindling.

Mr Biden will arrive first in the UK, on Sunday evening, before heading to Lithuania for this week's Nato summit.

On Monday, he will meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to discuss various issues, including the war in Ukraine. He will also meet King Charles for the first time since the King was crowned.

Members of Nato - a military alliance of 31 Western nations - will then meet in Vilnius on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Finland will attend its first summit since joining in April. Plans from Sweden to follow suit have been blocked by Turkey, which accuses it of harbouring terrorists.

Mr Biden is expected to seek further support from Mr Sunak to help broker a deal with Turkey.



US President Joe Biden is escorted to Air Force One, before departing for Britain

The matter is also expected to be on Nato's agenda in Lithuania - along with boosting ammunition stockpiles and reviewing defence plans.

Ukraine harbours its own ambitions of joining Nato. But speaking to CNN before his trip, Mr Biden said this could not happen until the war was over - in line with the alliance's long-standing policy.

Citing Nato's mutual defence pact, Mr Biden pointed out that members undertake to protect "every inch" of each other's territory - meaning that "if the war is going on, then we're all in war".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has previously accepted this position, while requesting a "signal" that his country will be able to join the alliance when the war is over. He is expected to attend this

week's summit.

This is, potentially, an awkward visit coming at a critical time for the US-led Nato alliance.

President Biden may not have intended to cause offence by skipping King Charles' coronation in May, but his absence was noted.

Then there is the business over who should be the next secretary general of Nato. The UK and the Baltic states favoured the British Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, who has been instrumental in galvanising Western support for Ukraine.

But without US backing, that's a non-starter - and Mr Biden instead appears to favour the former German defence minister and European Commission head, Ursula von der Leyen.

And there is also the row over cluster bombs. The UK is among 123 na-

tions to ban these weapons which can cause indiscriminate harm to civilians.

But the US is going ahead, in the heat of international criticism, in supplying them to Ukraine as its forces struggle to break through Russia's defences in the south of Ukraine.

But Mr Biden's stop-over in Britain is so brief that any cracks in the transatlantic alliance are likely to be smoothed over by warm handshakes and ample protocol.

On Friday, the US confirmed it was complying with a Ukrainian request to send cluster bombs - and was doing so as part of a military aid package worth \$800m (£626m).

Mr Biden told CNN it had been a "very difficult decision" but that he had eventually acted because "the Ukrainians are running out of ammunition".

But a number of Nato allies quickly distanced themselves from the decision.

Mr Sunak did not directly criticise his US counterpart. But he made clear that the UK was one of 123 countries that had signed up to the Convention on Cluster Munitions - an international treaty which bans the production or use of the weapons.

Canada and Spain - Nato members, like the US

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Sudan conflict: Air strike kills at least 22 in Khartoum

By **Zeinab Mohammed Salih**

A Sudanese army air strike on the capital has killed at least 22 people and injured many others, eyewitnesses and an official have said.

Women and children were among the victims, the eyewitnesses told the BBC.

The airstrike hit the Dar es Salaam district of Omdurman, on the opposite bank of the Nile to the capital Khartoum, early on Saturday.

The army and a paramilitary force have been battling for control of the capital since April.

The conflict began after the head of the army, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the head of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, fell out over the future of the country.

A Khartoum state health official, quoted by Reuters news agency, said at least 22 people had been killed in Saturday's airstrike, while the RSF said the death toll was 31.



Fighting for control of the capital has continued since 15 April, including on Tuesday when this photograph was taken.

The paramilitary group added in a statement that the strike had "caused significant destruction to homes".

The UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said he was "appalled" by the violence and concerned that the conflict would become full-scale civil war, "potentially destabilising the entire region". He called on both sides to cease fighting and protect civilians.

The RSF controls much of Khartoum and its twin cities of Omdurman and Bahri. The army has carried out

frequent artillery and air attacks to try and dislodge the paramilitary fighters. But it is thought that Saturday's strike could have resulted in one of the largest death tolls from a single attack.

Twelve weeks of conflict have left the civilian population in the capital terrified. Shops and markets are rarely open and almost all medical facilities have shut down.

Clashes have spread beyond the city, including to the western Darfur region which has seen an outbreak

of ethnic violence.

Across the country, hundreds have been killed and almost three million people have been forced from their homes.

There have been partially-successful attempts to secure temporary ceasefires, but these have never lasted long.

East African regional bloc Igad is trying to re-start peace talks at a summit in Ethiopia on Monday.

But a spokesman for Gen Burhan said he would not attend the meeting.

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and UK - also stated their opposition to the weapons, as did New Zealand, a Nato partner.

"No to cluster bombs and yes to the legitimate defence of Ukraine, which we understand should not be carried out with cluster bombs," Spain's Defence Minister Margarita Robles said.

But Germany, another signatory of the treaty and Nato member, said that while it would not provide such weapons to Ukraine, it understood the American position.

Cluster bombs typically release lots of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately over a wide area.

One of the concerns surrounding

their supply is their failure - or dud - rate. Unexploded bomblets can linger on the ground for years and then indiscriminately detonate.

Ukraine has promised the weapons will not be used in civilian areas and will monitor and report on their use, but Russia dismissed these assurances as "not worth anything".

Stingerz suffer back-to-back losses in first division league

The Northside Stingerz suffered back-to-back losses for the first time this season in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division One League on Saturday night.

Following their 72-80 loss to the Potters Steelers on Thursday, the Stingerz were trounced 77-57 by the Flyers in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

David Hernandez shot a game-high 21 points and grabbed five steals, while Adonis Humphreys converted 17 points and snatched 15 rebounds to



The Flyers Basketball team. The Flyers trounced Northside Stingerz in their ABBA's First Division league encounter at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, July 8th. (File photo)

lead the Flyers to their seventh win in 11 encounters.

Keroi Lee sank 18 points and snatched 12 rebounds, while Devorn Ben-

jamin had 10 points, seven rebounds, and five steals for the Stingerz, who lost for the third time in 13 encounters.

The Potters Steelers lost for only the second time in 12 encounters when they were beaten 92-82 by the

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Black Hawks and Spartans to clash in Thursday League final

The PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and the Wes Rising Sun Spartans will meet in the final of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League competition.

Both teams booked their places in the final by recording victories in the semi-finals.

The Black Hawks defeated the Pigotts Crushers by seven wickets at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Karima Gore slammed an unbeaten 80 and Joshua Thomas cracked 60 not out to guide the Black Hawks to their victory target of 152 for the loss of three wickets with 13 balls to spare.

Off-spinner Elroy Francis Jr. picked up all three wickets for 26 runs.

Kadeem Henry scored 39 and Gavin Tonge struck 32 in the Pigotts Crushers'

total of 151 for seven off their allotted 20 overs.

Amahl Nathaniel claimed two for 16, and left-arm spinner Kadeem Henry captured two for 21.

The Rising Sun Spartans prevailed by eight wickets against Mahico at the Clare Hall playing field.

Mahico were restricted to 104 for eight off 19 overs, with Kenrick Scott getting a top score of 28. Tassilo Allen had two for 16, Melvin Singh took two for 18, and Owen Graham captured two for 23.

The Rising Sun Spartans then coasted to victory at 105 for two with 11 balls to spare. Daren Benta slammed 63 not out, while left-arm spinner Glenton Henry captured two wickets for nine runs.

The Black Hawks and the Spartans will clash in the final on Thursday, July 13th.



Karima Gore struck an unbeaten half century to help the Black Hawks to beat the Pigotts Crushers in the semi-finals of the Antigua Commercial Bank Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League competition. (File photo)

West Indies name squad for first Test against India

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Senior Men's Selection Panel has announced the squad for the first match of the Cycle Pure Agarbathi Test Series powered by Yes Bank against India.

The Panel named 13 squad members and two traveling reserve players for the match, which will be played at Windsor Park in Dominica from July 12th to 16th.

There is a first-time call-up for left-handed batter Kirk McKenzie, while fellow left-hander Alick Athanaze is the other uncapped player in the squad.

There are recalls for all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall, who played his last Test in November 2021, and left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican, who was in the squad which toured Zimbabwe but missed the last tour of South Africa in February.

Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie is unavailable for selection as he is undergoing rehabilitation from injury.

"We were very impressed with the approach to batsmanship of McKenzie

and Athanaze on the recent 'A' Team tour of Bangladesh. These are two young players who got good scores and played with great maturity, and we believe they deserve an opportunity," said Lead Selector, Dr. Desmond Haynes.

"We are without Motie, who is doing his rehabilitation, and this has created an opportunity for Warrican and Cornwall in the spin bowling department. They have both played at Test match level before and are capable of doing the job."

Haynes added, "We had Jayden Seales here in the camp and he has made good progress during his rehab from surgery. However, we felt he is not yet quite ready to return, and we don't want to risk him at this stage. Kyle Mayers was also considered, but he has some niggles, and the precaution is not to have him in the rigors of a five-day match at this stage.

"Looking ahead to the series we know it will be a challenging one as we start the new cycle of the ICC Test Match Championship.



West Indies legend Brian Lara is flanked by Alick Athanaze, right, and Kirk McKenzie, left, during the West Indies training camp at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua on Saturday, July 8th, 2023. (CWI Media)

We want to build and improve and strive to move up the ladder."

The West Indies squad left Antigua for Dominica yesterday (Sunday) following their ongoing pre-series camp at Coolidge Cricket Ground. They will have training sessions this afternoon (Monday) and Tuesday morning in the build-up to the match.

The Cycle Pure Agarbathi Test Series powered by Yes Bank will be the first fixtures for both West

Indies and India in the new 2023-2025 ICC World Test Championship.

The first match bowls off on Wednesday at 10 am (9 am Jamaica/7:30 pm India). The second Test on July 20th to 24th at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad will be historic – marking the 100th Test match between West Indies and India.

FULL SQUAD: Kraigg Brathwaite (Captain), Jermaine Blackwood (Vice-Captain), Alick Athanaze, Tagerarine Chanderpaul, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kirk McKenzie, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, and Jomel Warrican
 Traveling Reserves: Tevin Imlach and Akeem Jordan.

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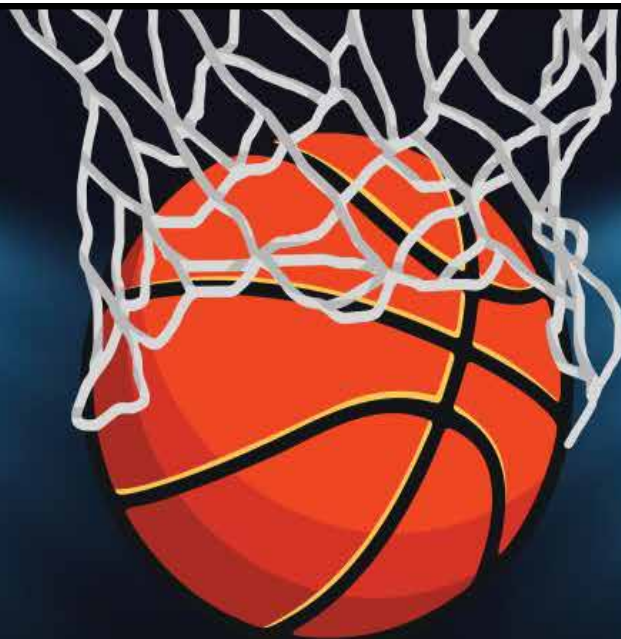
Cuties Ovals OJays in the second game of Saturday's double-header.

Joshua Minner produced a game-high 32 points with eight rebounds and seven assists to lead the Ovals OJays to their ninth win in 11 games.

Team-mates Mario Davis converted 20

points and distributed seven assists, while Alexis Jackson chipped in with 17 points and eight rebounds for the Ovals OJays.

Cohen Desouza sank 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; veteran guard Marlon "Buju" Charles converted 17 points; and Ariel Quallis chipped in with 14 points and six steals for the Potters Steelers.



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Matthews leads Windies Women to series sweep over Ireland

GROS ISLET, St. Lucia - Hayley Matthews produced a spell of magic with bat and ball on Saturday to lead the West Indies Women to an eight-wicket win over Ireland Women in the third T20 international to sweep the series 3-0 at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground.

Batting first, Ireland looked intent on posting their highest total of the series with beautiful stroke play from Amy Hunter and Orla Prendergast. The pair shared in a 66-run partnership for the second wicket when Hunter was runout for 44 off a deflection of Ashmini Munisar's fingers.

Prendergast was caught in the deep by Shabika Gajnabi off the bowling of Afy Fletcher for 40. Rain interrupted Ireland's innings twice before they finished on 116-9 from their 20 overs.

Matthews saved her best bowling performance of the series for her fi-



West Indies Women's team captain Hayley Matthews holds her man of the match and series awards alongside Caroline Eugene, who is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports in St. Lucia. (CWI Media)



The West Indies women's team celebrate after completing their 3-0 series sweep against Ireland following the third T20 International at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Saturday, July 8th, 2023.

nal over when she took the wickets of Rebecca Stokell (0), Arlene Kelly (0) and Ava Canning (0) in consecutive deliveries to become only the third West Indies Women's player to take a T20I hat-trick.

Matthews finished with figures of four for 14, while Cherry-Ann Fraser took two for 19.

During the chase, Djenaba Joseph was caught behind for two in the second over, then Matthews and Aaliyah Alleyne took over the run-chase.

The pair smashed 12 boundaries between them as they raced to the 117-run target. Matthews was closing in on her second consecutive half-century when she was bowled by Georgina Dempsey for 48 off 34 deliveries.

Chinelle Henry joined Alleyne in the middle and the pair took the West Indies Women to victory in 18.1 overs. Alleyne and Henry were unbeaten on 49 and 13, respectively, as West Indies Women finished on 120-2 for an emphatic victory that pleased the team's captain.

"I am pretty pleased. Coming into

the series, anytime I put on my West Indies shirt I try to go out there and do really well, whether that be batting, bowling or fielding," said Matthews who was voted Player of the Match and Player of the Series after taking eight wickets and scoring 135 runs for the series.

"I'm just happy I was able to contribute to the team win. It was great to see some of the younger players getting the opportunity this series and coming into their own.

"We've had debutant players perform really well. We've had Chinelle Henry get her maiden ODI half-century then back it up with a second one (in the series), then two not outs in the T20 series."

Looking ahead, Matthews thanked the women she leads for their support.

"I just want to thank all the girls who have supported me since I've become captain.

"Thank you for backing me up out on the field, we have bigger challenges ahead and I look forward to their support."

Black Hawks extend unbeaten run

Cup-holder PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks have continued their winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 limited overs competition.

Coach/player Wilden "Pollo" Cornwall struck his second century in as many matches to propel the Black Hawks to their third win in as many games by crushing the Bolans Blasters by 170 runs at Ball Beef in Liberta on Saturday.

After slamming 121 not out against the Pigotts Crushers in his first match on Sunday, July 2nd, the former Leeward Islands batsman repeated the heroics by smashing 101 as the home side amassed 247 for five off 31 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat against the Blasters.

The attacking right-hander once again opened the innings for the Black Hawks and faced just 62 balls, cracking 10 fours and six sixes.

Dwayne Fordyce captured two for 44, and Teriq Highland claimed two for 45.

Chasing 248 to win, the Bolans Blasters were bundled out for 77 in 21.3 overs. Elvis Weaver Jr. snapped up three for 25, left-arm spinner Kadeem Phillip grabbed two wickets for seven runs, Ephraim Pollard snatched two wickets for nine runs, and left-arm pacer Javier Spencer picked up two for 14.

Pigotts Crushers recorded their second win in three matches by recording a four-wicket victory against

Jennings Tigers at the Jennings playing field.

The Jennings Tigers were restricted to 132 for six in 28 overs after being sent in to bat. Glenton Williams, who opened the innings, struck 55, and Jedidiah Martin scored 32 off 37 balls.

Vishal Gobin picked up two for 22, and Captain Kadeem Henry claimed two for 27. Demari Benta cracked an unbeaten 43 to lead the Crushers to victory at 133 for six with 11 balls to spare. Martin captured two for 20.

The New Winthorpes Lions secured their first win in two outings by beating the All Saints Pythons by 25 runs at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Opener Asher Murray Cornelius cracked 37 to guide New Winthorpes to 154 all-out in 29.5 overs. Captain Andra Samuel snatched three for 21, and Xaveek Toppin grabbed three for 26.

The All Saints Pythons were then dismissed for 129 in 28.4 overs, with Jelani Mussington hitting a top score of 50 off 35 balls with three fours and three sixes. The Lions' skipper and fast bowler, Nino Henry, picked up four for 18, and Shavon Moore claimed three for 18.

The Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles also claimed their second win in three matches by crushing the Wes Rising Sun Spartans by 70 runs at the Rising



Veteran batsman Wilden 'Pollo' Cornwall hits another century to propel the Liberta Black Hawks to another win in the ABCA Super40 Cup. (File photo)

Sun playing field.

The Golden Eagles made 174 for seven off their allotted 40 overs after being sent in to bat. Opener Shacoy Floyd hit 38, and captain Deran Benta scored 33. Tassilo Allen captured two for 29, and Dean Williams took two for 30.

In reply, the Rising Sun Spartans crashed to 104 all-out in 22.4 overs. Junior Henry topscored with 39 off 29 balls. Benta snapped up four for 31, and fast bowler Kelvin Pitman claimed two for 28.