

COURT RULES AGAINST ASOT MICHAEL

Story on Page 2



Eleven students who secured scholarships to pursue studies in the People's Republic of China are traveling today (Thursday) to begin their study programmes, with the full blessings of the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet. *Story on page 6.*

Court rules against Asot Michael

The High Court in St. John's has dismissed an injunction filed by Asot Michael, against the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Gerald Watt, over his suspension from the House for three consecutive meetings.

Michael was suspended on May 18 after he engaged in actions deemed by the other members of the House to have been egregious and unbecoming of a member of the House. The majority of the other members of the House voted for his suspension.

Following the suspension, Michael filed a motion before the court to have the suspension nullified.

On Wednesday, Mr. Justice Rene Williams accepted the submission from the legal team representing Sir Gerald, that the court has no jurisdiction over a matter that happened in the parliament of Antigua and Barbuda.

"The court has no jurisdiction to be in judgment in the internal affairs of parliament. This is consistent with the principle of the separation of powers.



Asot Michael

Additionally, Section 58 of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution codified this long-held position that the words and the actions of a member of parliament, while addressing parliament or in a committee, cannot be inquired into by a court. This is where the question of Absolute Privilege comes in," Dr. Dorsett explained.

He further explained that whilst Michael's suspension was the result of a vote by members of the House, it



Sir Gerald Watt

was a matter over which the court has no jurisdiction to entertain.

Based on these well-established and documented principles, the High Court judge dismissed Michael's application for an injunction to nullify his suspension.

Dr. Dorsett was assisted by his associate Jared Hewlett, while Michael was represented by Barbadian attorney, Elliot Mottley, KC, and attorney Hugh Marshall Jnr.

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Burials at Tomlinson's are to begin shortly

Preparations of the lands at Tomlinson's, earmarked for a public ceremony are to begin immediately, to allow for burials at the site.

The Cabinet, on Wednesday, decided to commence burials at Tomlinson's, immediately after the land has been fenced and the plans for graves and buildings are completed.

According to the Cabinet Notes, the St. John's Public Cemetery cannot accommodate burials unless these take place in the graves where family members are buried. Additionally, the cemetery next to the Lady of the Valley Church is nearing capacity.

Cremation will become an alterna-

tive for the burial of bodies, according to the Notes, and regulations are to be adopted by the parliament of Antigua and Barbuda to ensure that certain standards are adhered to in the new Tomlinson's Cemetery.

The cabinet wants to ensure at the onset, that headstones are utilized and standardized, to allow for a tidy and respectful burial place for loved ones.

The Ministry of Works has been mandated to begin the work of fencing the lands earmarked for the cemetery, as well as the other preparatory work necessary, to be completed before the start of burials.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet invited

the Director of Public Works, Deputy Director, and Chairman of the DCA to report on several road projects that are now underway in St. John's and Cades Bay. They reported that the Anchorage Road is likely to be completed by the end of August, and the Cades Bay Bridge will follow shortly thereafter.

The Ministry of Works is also charged with fencing the Bolans' playing field and constructing changing rooms and bathrooms.

The MoW team told the Cabinet that the Boys Training School is almost ready for occupancy. It is estimated that it will be completed by the second week of September.



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Kenaka Ryan dies nine days after being shot

Antigua and Barbuda has recorded its fifth murder so far this year, with the death of Kenaka Ryan.

The 24-year-old died at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre on Wednesday afternoon, nine days after he and 20-year-old Nia Rose were shot multiple times, in Green Bay.

Police say the duo was shot by unknown assailants sometime around 8:45 pm on 14th August 2023.

Both Ryan and Rose were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Cen-

tre by Emergency Medical Services. The 20-year-old woman underwent emergency surgery but succumbed at approximately 11:35 pm

In the days after sustaining gunshot wounds, Kenaka Ryan's condition was listed as stable. But his health declined and the Jennings resident passed away.

Police are searching for the killer/s who committed the heinous crime and are asking anyone who may have information that will aid in their investigation to



Kenaka Ryan

contact the Criminal Investigation Department at 462-3913 or call Crimestoppers at 800-Tips (8477).

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Antigua and Barbuda congratulates India on first moon landing

Antigua and Barbuda has congratulated India on its historic achievement of successfully landing a craft near the Moon's South Pole on Wednesday.

The congratulatory message was penned by Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and dispatched to the Indian High Commission in Guyana, noting that India has given the developing world much cause to celebrate.

"India's moon landing is an important step for further lunar exploration, and India is to be congratulated on this major achievement," he declared as he greeted the news that India has made history by becoming the first country ever to land on the moon's South Pole.

Minister Greene declared that "India has given the developing world good cause to continue to reach for the moon."

"Antigua and Barbuda extends its sense of great pride to the Government and people of India and to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) that managed the moon landing. We are all inspired by this accomplishment," said Minister Greene.

With this achievement, India joins an elite club of

countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union, and China.

The Vikram lander from Chandrayaan-3 successfully touched down as planned at 18:04 local time (12:34 GMT).

Celebrations have broken out across the country,

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying, "India is now on the Moon."

"We have reached where no other country could. It's a joyous occasion," he added. Mr. Modi was watching the event live from South Africa where he is attending the BRICS summit.

Indian Space Research

Organisation's chief Sreedhara Panicker Somanath said the successful landing "is not our work alone, this is the work of a generation of ISRO scientists."

India's achievement comes just days after Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft spun out of control and crashed into the Moon.



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Eleven students are leaving to take up studies in China

Eleven students who secured scholarships to pursue studies in the People's Republic of China are traveling today (Thursday) to begin their study programmes, with the full blessings of the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet.

The students will pursue undergraduate or graduate programmes in architecture, business administration, information security, geography, and political science.

On Wednesday, the students paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne and members of the Cabinet. The prime minister urged them to seek a balance in this phase of their life's journey.

"Life is about balance; we expect you to have fun, but the key focus here is for you to qualify and to successfully complete your studies. It's an opportunity to set the foundation for future growth and development, so you want to seize this opportunity not only to become graduates



and qualify but to possibly pursue post-graduate studies. We live in a very competitive world and you will need a post-graduate degree to become globally competitive," he urged.

The prime minister reminded the students that their competition is not just their peers, here in Antigua and Barbuda, but their peers globally.

He emphasized the need for them to 'build capacity', see themselves as representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, and raise the national flag high during their studies in China.

The scholarships were organized through the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme with the assistance and coordination with the Embassy of the PRC in St. John's.





ABAA hosts students' internship programme

Some 20 students have completed an internship programme with the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, during which they were exposed to various aspects of airport operations.

For the duration of the programme, the interns were attached to various departments at the VC Bird International Airport including, Accounts, Operations, Commercial, Customer Service, the Executive Lounge, Human Resources, IT, Security, and Stores.

"It was satisfying to see that we could enrich the minds of this group of young professionals with the knowledge and experience they will need in reaching the very heights of success as future professionals," stated Human Resources Manager Celestine Reynolds.

In sharing their thoughts, the students expressed satisfaction with how



the initiative was grounded in strong, theoretical knowledge while providing them with useful, relevant, and practical experience, in a real working environment.

Another major priority of the exercise was to provide them with basic

business and technical concepts of the aviation industry.

"The future is bright for the aviation industry when such bright and enthusiastic minds can show such deep interest in the operations of our VC Bird International Airport and the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority. For that I am pleased," noted Director of Operations, Joseph Samuel.

The students who benefitted were; Ashanti Bishop, Misheka Mitchell, Sekoi Joseph, Anaiya Hector, Aalexa Lake, Frances Farrell, Natajah Francis, Rae-Anna Joseph, Danijha Simon, Denecia Henry, Sierra Letlow, Akeile Benjamin, J'herdine Browne, Elijah Edwards, Aulicia Greenaway, Ebonie Gravesande, Mya Southwell, Kyesha Cadogan, Dominic Roach and Noveke Josiah.



Sandals Foundation hosts sporting event to raise funds for pediatric care

From Wednesday, October 11 to Saturday, October 14, the streets of Antigua will come alive as the Sandals Foundation hosts its first-ever all-island charity run to bolster pediatric healthcare services, provided at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, as well as through the SickKids Caribbean Initiative.

The event, which aims to raise £100,000 boasts three distinct levels of participation and invites persons to take part in a 4-day Ultra Marathon 100KM Run; a 21Km Half Marathon Run on Saturday, October 14; or a 10Km walk also on Saturday, October 14.

Speaking at the media launch on Wednesday, Matthew Cornall, General Manager at Sandals Grande Antigua said the event is aimed at bolstering the island's



capacity to provide medical attention to premature babies and children, afflicted by cancer and serious blood disorders.

“We understand how a lack of access to the right medical equipment and resources can significantly affect a country's ability to

provide the proper medical attention to families and especially, children.

Cornall says, “Proceeds from our upcoming Island Run Antigua, will be used to purchase two identified, much-needed pieces of medical equipment [for the Sir Lester Bird Medical

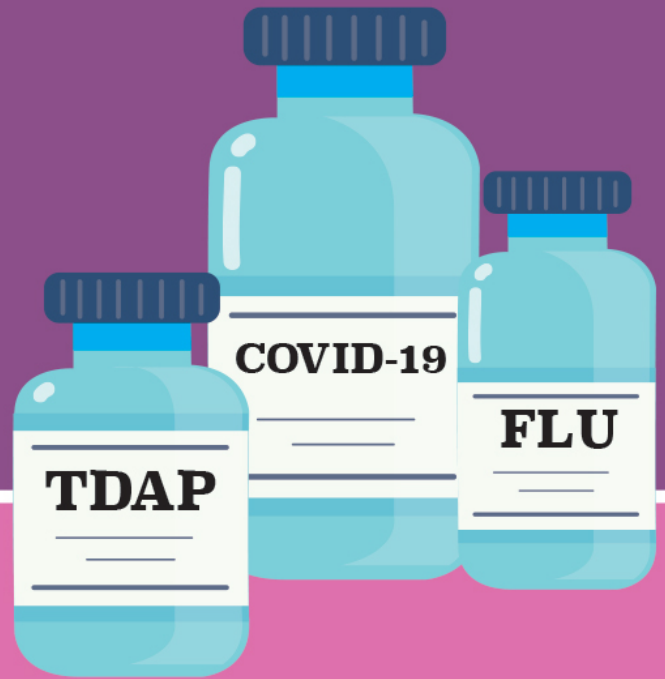
Centre] – a jaundice screening machine and a handheld blood analyzer that delivers lab-quality, diagnostic results in minutes. Funds raised from the run will [also] be donated to SickKids Caribbean Initiative endowment fund, ensuring the continued sustainability of the initiative, benefitting many for years to come.”

Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, Chair of the Pediatric Department expressed gratitude for what the support will mean for countless families.

“We are happy to embrace the assistance of organizations such as the Sandals Foundation and others, who recognize the importance of the early years, and the impact that donations have on future generations. The chance of a healthy life for a child is the greatest gift you can give a family.”



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Threads: Meta to launch web version of flagging Threads app

By Tom Singleton

Meta is releasing a web version of Threads, as it attempts to revive the social media platform.

The rival to X, formerly known as Twitter, enjoyed meteoric growth when it launched in July.

However, users then abandoned it just as rapidly, partly due to its limited functionality.

Meta says the web version is part of a drive to deliver new features but experts warn more needs to be done to rebuild customer interest.

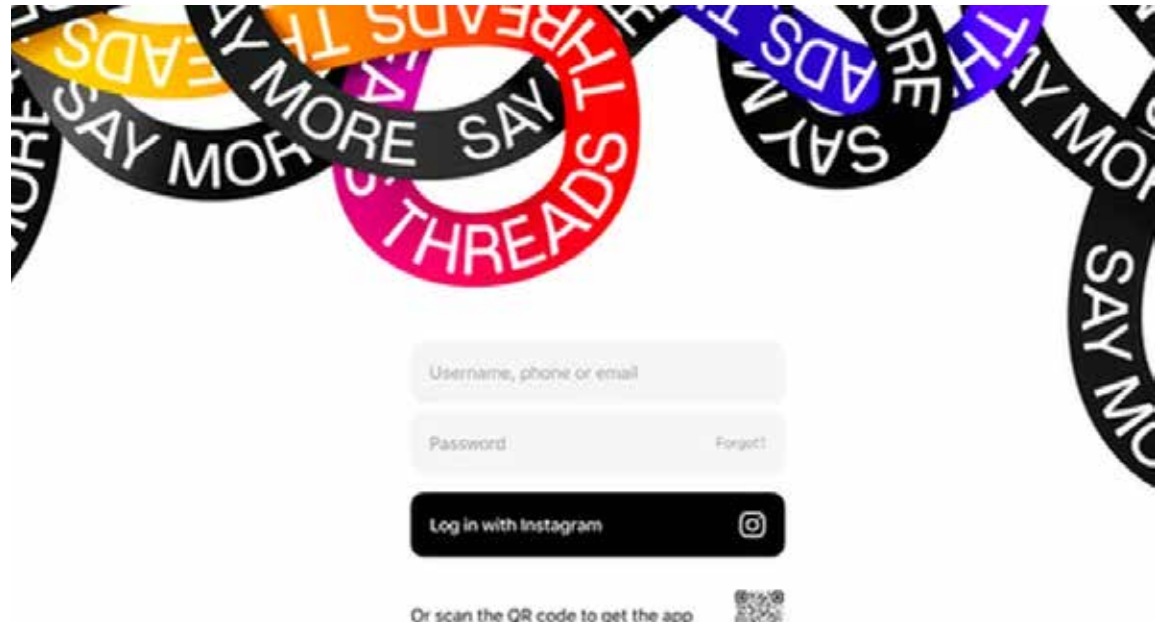
In a post on the platform - accompanied by what he said was a picture of him building Threads for the web - Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg said it would be “rolling out over the next few days.”

Users will be able to post a thread, view their feed and interact with other people’s threads.

However other aspects of the mobile app will not be available on the web initially.

For example, users won’t be able to edit their profile or send a thread to the direct messenger feature of its sister platform, Instagram.

Meta says it will add more functionality in the coming weeks as it seeks to make the web and mobile



Meta hopes the web version will tempt back users.

experience of the app the same.

Threads raced to more than 100 million users in the week following its launch but by the end of July that figure had more than halved.

The tech giant, which also owns Facebook and WhatsApp, will hope this announcement will help reverse that trend.

“Meta made the choice to launch Threads in a very basic form,” said Rebecca McGrath, associate director for media and technology at Mintel.

“This has frustrated users who checked out the platform following its much-hyped launch, and were expecting it to be a ready-to-go alternative to Twitter,” she added.

“Offering a web version is a very important step. However, it still has a way to go.”

The platform still does not have a search function - something users have complained about and experts say it needs if it is to really take on Elon Musk’s X.

“Meta are going to have to work to roll out a vastly improved search functionality to let users find topic-based communities to really draw back the crowd who are looking to replace Twitter,” Tama Leaver, professor of internet studies at Curtin University in Australia, told the BBC.

“On that front, Meta’s reluctance to implement hashtags, especially as they’re already on Instagram, seems an odd choice when really that’s the single feature that’s most synonymous with X and the function that would most likely convince users to come back and give Threads a second look.”

Prof Leaver also said Threads’ attempts to dethrone X might be aided by the controversies that continue to dog the platform previously known as Twitter.

On Monday it was criticised for failing to remove a Holocaust-denying post quickly enough. Mr Musk’s plans to remove the block feature have also drawn criticism, with some saying it will make it harder to stop abusive messages.

Rebecca McGrath from Mintel agrees, saying the “continued controversial moves” at X would “keep up the desire” for an alternative.

“This means people will be ready to engage with Threads once again when it has a more advanced version,” she told the BBC.

“Time, though, is still of the essence for Threads.”

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Rolling Stones tease new album with local newspaper advert

By Mark Savage

The Rolling Stones appear to have revealed the title of their new album with an advert for a fictional glass repair business in a local newspaper.

The ad, which appeared in the Hackney Gazette, referenced several of the band's best-known songs.

"Our friendly team promises you satisfaction," it read. "When you say gimme shelter we'll fix your shattered windows."

The band have yet to confirm the existence of their 31st studio album.

However, the advert contained several clues: A miniature version of the Stones' famous lips logo appeared as the dot above the letter i, and the glass repair business was established in 1962, the same year the band was formed.

The company's name, Hackney Diamonds, is believed to be the title of their new album - and uses the same font as the band's 1978 album *Some Girls*.

The phrase is local slang for broken glass - specifically the shards left on the ground after car and shop windows are smashed during a robbery.

The newspaper advert also features a phone number that customers can call to get a quote.

If they do, they hear a recorded message that says:



Sir Mick Jagger paid an emotional tribute to the band's late drummer on their US tour last year.

"Welcome to Hackney Diamonds, specialists in glass repair: Don't get angry, get it fixed. Opening early September, Mare Street, E8. Register for a call at www.hackneydiamonds.com. Come on then."

The website offers fans the chance to join a mailing list, which is run by the Stones' record label, Universal Music.

The advert was first spotted by Simon Harper, founder of Clash Magazine, who posted it to X / Twitter, days after the paper went to press.

Editor Simon Murfitt told the BBC he only learned of the publicity stunt when readers wrote in asking for souvenir copies.

"Often you can't see the ads" when putting the paper together, he said. "On our page planner, it would just

have said 'Universal Music'. So we had no idea what it was until it was published.

"It's normally more local businesses," he added.

A new Stones album would be their first since 2016's *Blue and Lonesome*, which was a collection of blues cover songs, and their first record of original material since *A Bigger Bang* in 2005.

It would also be the band's first release since the death of drummer Charlie Watts in August 2021 aged 80, after suffering throat cancer.

The star is known to have recorded new drum tracks with the band before his death.

"Let me put it this way," Guitarist Keith Richards recently told the Los Angeles Times, "you haven't heard the last of Charlie Watts."

He added that sessions for the album had taken longer than planned because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"If everything hadn't gotten closed down, we might've finished the damn thing," he said.

Singer Mick Jagger added: "We have a lot of tracks done, so when the tour's finished we'll assess where we are with that and continue."

Separately, it has been reported that bassist Bill Wyman was invited back to the band after three decades to record a tribute song for Watts.

In June, an unnamed source told The Sun newspaper: "Bill hasn't seen the band together for years, but always loved Charlie. This record's really a tribute to Charlie, so he couldn't say no."

cont'd on pg 13

Parcel delivery giant UPS avoids first strike in 25 years

By Mariko Oi

UPS has avoided its first US strike in more than 25 years as the union representing its workers said a new five-year contract has been approved.

The two sides have been negotiating for months over demands including higher pay and better working conditions.

In July, UPS said it had agreed a deal with the Teamsters Union to raise the average annual salary of full-time drivers to about \$170,000 (£133,440).

This included health-care and other benefits and is up from about \$145,000.

The deal also gives workers one more day of paid holiday, ends forced overtime and adds air conditioning to new models of the company's trucks from next year.

"This is the template for how workers should be paid and protected nationwide, and non-union companies like Amazon better pay attention," the general president of Teamsters Sean M O'Brien said.

UPS warned earlier this month that its profits



will be lower because of the deal.

The Atlanta-based firm is the world's largest package delivery company, with more than 20 million deliveries a day in more than 220 countries around the world.

In 2020, UPS estimated that the goods it handled were worth about 6% of the US economy, including time-sensitive shipments for healthcare firms and others.

Workers at Amazon

and other delivery firms have pointed to the agreement as they pushed for their own pay raises.

Unions representing "essential" transportation workers such as pilots, port workers and delivery drivers have been enjoying stronger bargaining power in recent months due to the country's tight jobs market.

The latest data showed that layoffs in the US dropped to an 11-month low in July as the labour

market has largely weathered aggressive interest rate hikes from the Federal Reserve since March 2022.

Economists are watching the pay increases closely, as some worry higher wages could start to feed into an inflation problem that started with pandemic-related supply issues.

US inflation hit a peak of 9.1% last year, far above the central bank's 2% target. But it has eased significantly as the shock to food and energy prices from the war in Ukraine has faded.

This year, wage growth has started to outpace inflation which means that it could start to push up prices as consumers spend more money.

cont'd from pg 12

It has also been rumoured that Paul McCartney and Elton John will appear on the album, which is being produced by Grammy winner Andrew Watt.

Rolling Stones podcast Hang Fire said an announcement about the album was due

in September, with the release coming in October.

Murfitt says he's hoping for an exclusive interview with Jagger and Richards in the Hackney Gazette.

"I think we're owed it, aren't we? I'm looking forward to them calling us up."

Kenyan delegation hold talks with government, police in Haiti

CMC – A 10-member Kenyan delegation has held talks with the Haitian government as well as the High Council of Transition (HCT) as efforts continue for the East African country to lead a multi-national force to help the Haitian National Police (HNP) in their bid to restore peace and security in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

The delegation also met with senior HNP officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

“We are here to assess the needs of the National Police of Haiti, better understand the situation and do our best to help the Haitian people,” said Ambassador Georges Orina, Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs, Ministry Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya and Head of the Kenyan Delegation.

Last year, Haiti’s Prime Minister Dr Ariel Henry, sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations asking for “the immediate deployment of a special-



ized armed force, in sufficient quantity” to stop gang warfare in his country.

Following the discussions on Monday, Prime Minister Henry explained the Haitian request to support the PNH in order to establish security and allow the free movement of people and goods.

The Kenyan delegation has assured the government that it understands the Haitian demands and the

urgent need to put an end to a situation which is paralyzing the functioning of the country and putting the future of its citizens in danger.

The Kenyan delegation is due to leave on Wednesday and plans to meet with the PNH for further discussions and an end of mission debriefing with Prime Minister Henry.

Kenya’s Foreign Minister, Alfred *cont’d on pg 15*

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Guyana: Two arrested for allegedly smuggling cannabis into prison



Photo: Guyana Prison Service

A man and woman were arrested on Monday and Tuesday for attempting to smuggle cannabis into correctional facilities in Guyana.

Shannon Chichester was arrested on Monday after a search of her bag revealed leaves, seeds, and stems of cannabis hidden in toothpaste canisters.

The drugs weighed 22 grams.

Eon Jordan was arrested on Tuesday after a search of his two pairs of slippers revealed a quantity of seeds, leaves, and stems suspected of cannabis.

The parcels amounted to 227 grams.

The duo are expected to appear in court soon.

Director of Prisons Nicklon Elliot has condemned the smuggling of contraband into correctional facilities.

Elliot called on both prison officers and civilians to recognise the dangers that their felonious actions have against themselves, inmates and the wider Guyanese population.

Dominica: DOMLEC blames fallen tree for islandwide blackout

CMC - The Dominica Electricity Services Limited (DOMLEC) has blamed weekend heavy rains for the islandwide electricity blackout on Monday.

DOMLEC, the sole provider of electricity here, confirmed it had “experienced an island-wide power outage” after a tree had fallen in an area where work had been ongoing on a damaged hydro pipeline in Laudat, a small village in the interior of the island, which serves as a critical source of power generation for the island.

“Just above us is what



we have the new Trafalgar balance tanks and that tank collects water from the Laudat plant and also takes up water from the Tituo Gorge intake.

“All that water goes into the tank and goes into this pipeline that feeds the

Trafalgar plants and which feeds other plants,” said DOMLEC’s chief operating officer, Dave Stamp, in a Facebook live presentation.

Stamp estimated a loss of approximately five megawatts of hydroelectric power due to the damage,” saying

the pipeline, which carries a significant volume of water, suffered damage of around 36 to 40 inches.

“We want to thank our competent team which worked tirelessly to facilitate the repairs to the broken Hydro Pipe Line,” DOMLEC said, adding “we thank you our customers for your patience and understanding during the downtime.

“We are pleased that all areas have been restored,” the company said, urging consumers who are still affected to contact it as soon as possible.

cont'd from pg 14

Mutua, has said that his country’s commitment is to deploy a contingent of 1,000 police officers to help train and assist Haitian police to restore normalcy in the country and protect strategic installations.

Two CARICOM countries – the Bahamas and Jamaica- have already said they are willing to provide personnel and

the United States has also indicated a willingness to put forward a Security Council resolution to back a deployment.

Last week, the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, urged the Security Council to ensure that a multinational police deployment force is sent to Haiti to restore peace and security in the country.

Palestinian militant, 17, killed during Israeli West Bank raid

By Tom Bateman

Israeli forces have shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian militant during a series of overnight detention raids in the occupied West Bank.

Residents said Othman Abu Kharj was killed in the village of Zababdeh, near Jenin, after the army entered, sparking confrontations with locals.

The army did not comment directly on his death, but said “explosive devices” were thrown by Palestinians.

Witnesses said troops shot the teenager near a house that had been surrounded.

The Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad claimed Abu Kharj as a fighter in their “rapid response unit”.

The army raids took place in at least 20 locations across the West Bank following the killing of three Israelis in separate attacks by Palestinian gunmen this week.

Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, pledged to “settle the score with the murderers and those who send them, near and far”. He ultimately blamed the killings on Iran, which backs Islamic Jihad and the largest Palestinian militant group, Hamas.

The Palestinian Prisoners Club said more than 50 people were held overnight, accusing Israel of collective punishment and “vandalism” of families’ homes.

Also during Monday night’s raids, a Palestinian man was critically injured after being shot in the head by Israeli forces in a village near Nablus. Video appeared to show him unarmed and running towards an injured person before being hit by a single shot.

The West Bank is in the grip of the worst violence in two decades amid the absence of any political solution to the conflict, while Israel’s military



Dozens of mourners attended Othman Abu Kharj’s funeral in Zababdeh on Tuesday morning.

occupation is now into its 57th year.

Israel has the most ultranationalist government in its history in which politicians now routinely call for more strident military operations and further Israeli settlement expansion.

Meanwhile, internecine divisions have seen Palestinian political rivalries deepen and its official leadership lose control of key West Bank cities to militant groups.

On Saturday, a Palestinian gunman shot dead two Israelis - a father and son - at a car wash in the northern West Bank town of Hawara, the site of repeated violence by both armed Palestinians and mobs of Israeli settlers this year.

In the south of the West Bank on Monday, Palestinian gunmen fired at least 20 rounds at a car near Hebron, killing an Israeli woman from a nearby settlement, Batsheva Nigri. The male driver was seriously wounded while Ms Nigri’s 12-year-old daughter was unharmed.

Last week, a 15-year-old Palestinian boy was left seriously wounded after being shot in the head by Israe-

li forces in occupied East Jerusalem. Police alleged he had tried to throw a petrol bomb at them during a raid.

The same day video showed an apparently unarmed Palestinian man said to suffer from mental health problems being shot and wounded by Israeli troops during a protest near Israel’s separation barrier in Qalqilya. The army said it was investigating.

The violence is adding to a deteriorating political atmosphere and fueling more aggressive rhetoric.

Following the attacks against Israelis, far-right online chat groups followed by hundreds of Israeli settlers called for “revenge” against Palestinians and the ethnic cleansing of the town of Hawara.

Pro-settler National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who leads the ultranationalist Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) party, appeared to brief against his cabinet colleague, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, implying he was weak on security, while another MP from the party called on Mr Gallant to resign.

cont’d on pg 17

Vietnam's iconic 'kissing rocks' at risk of collapse

Vietnam's iconic "kissing rocks" in the heart of Ha Long Bay are at risk of collapse, a report has warned.

Ha Long Bay in Quang Ninh province is dotted with hundreds of tiny islets, attracting 4 million tourists in 2019.

The twin rocks, which rise out of the bay and appear to touch - or "kiss" - are highly popular with visitors.

But experts warned in a July report that rising sea levels and fishing boats travelling too close are causing the rocks to erode.

Ho Tien Chung of Vietnam's Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources said illegal fishing and unregulated tourism were helping to speed up the erosion of the rocks.

While the institute was carrying out research for the report, workers ob-



served one tourist boat stopping within just 19 metres of the islet.

Experts observed deep fissures crossing the rocks, warning that they could collapse if action is not taken to preserve them.

"Tourists can see the

rocks that are precarious at low tide," Ho Tien Chung said.

"The water level then is low, exposing the supporting foot of the rocks which are gradually being eroded, causing a risk of collapse if no measures are taken to

protect and reinforce them soon."

Islets in the bay have long been buffeted by coastal erosion and several other notable tourist attractions have been heavily damaged in recent years by buffeting seas.

To counteract the effects, the report urged officials to introduce new regulations to the bay, including limiting the speed of boats passing through it to just 5-10kmh (3-6mph).

Local fishermen should also be encouraged to avoid fishing around the rocks to reduce churn and cement could be inserted into cracks in the islet to sure up its foundations, the report added.

cont'd from pg 16

Meanwhile, Hamas praised Monday's attack near Hebron, calling it a "natural response" to Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank and linked it to "threats" on the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. The militant group Islamic Jihad said it sent a warning "that what is coming will be more severe and harsh".

In July, the army carried out its biggest military assault in years on Jenin refugee camp, in which 12 Palestinians, including militants and children, were killed.

An Israeli soldier also died during the raid, and on Tuesday the army said he was

killed by fire from his fellow soldiers "following an incident of mistaken identification".

Tuesday's overnight raids saw troops detain two Palestinians suspected of carrying out Monday's attack near Hebron, the army said. Mr Gallant said: "The terrorists who brutally murdered Batsheva Nigri will spend the rest of their days in prison. We will employ all means to strengthen our security. We will pursue and find our enemies."

At least 219 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and 31 Israelis have been killed this year.

Kenyan athletes held after 'love triangle' death of Rwandan runner Siragi Rubayita

Two Kenyan athletes have been arrested after a Rwandan runner was found dead at a renowned training centre in western Kenya following an alleged involvement in what local media have dubbed a "love triangle".

Siragi Rubayita, 34, was training in the town of Iten before a competition in Italy. His family claim he was killed in what they have described as "a senseless act of violence when a fellow athlete and his girlfriend invited him to their home the night before his

departure".

The family are calling for "truth and justice" for their son who was "pursuing his passion for running and sports excellence".

Police investigating the incident that led to Mr Rubayita's death say two Kenyan athletes, a male and a female, are the main suspects.

Nasra Bishumba, Mr Rubayita's sister, told the BBC that her brother was expected back home in Kigali on Friday before his scheduled trip to Italy.

She said his coaches in



Rwandan runner Siragi Rubayita was found dead after a search by his coaches.

Iten were "instrumental" in searching for him when his roommate raised the alarm after his failure to return home.

"After informing us, they immediately started working with the police and that's how the suspects were apprehended," she said.

According to local reports, the Kenyan male athlete was allegedly unhappy with the relationship between Rubayita and the Kenyan female athlete.

A post-mortem is set to be carried out and Rubayita's family has dispatched a team to Iten "to bring him home where we intend to give him love and honour him for the exceptional son and brother that he was".

In a statement, Rwanda's High Commission in Kenya revealed that "a diplomat from the commission is on the ground to follow up on the case".

Mr Rubayita has represented Rwanda in international competitions in Africa and Europe.

In June he finished 13th in the Kigali International Peace Marathon.



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Guadeloupe and Curacao recorded wins in CFU U-14 contest

Guadeloupe and Curacao recorded wins in Tier II Group C of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters yesterday (Wednesday).

Guadeloupe came from behind to snatch a 2-1 win over their peers from the fellow French-speaking island of Martinique in a keenly contested encounter.

Midfielder Dayane Saint-Just scored in the 27th minute to give Martinique a 1-0 halftime lead. But substitute forward Lea Louis equalized for Guadeloupe with a strike in the 46th minute.

Striker Lea Pheron then snatched the winner for Guadeloupe with a conversion in the 60th minute.

Goals on either side of halftime by Jazlynn Wouter and Kingnanaichely Provence gave Curacao a 2-0 win against St. Kitts and Nevis.

Wouter's 8th-minute strike gave Curacao a 1-0 halftime advantage, and Provence wrapped up the win with a conversion in the fifth minute of added time (the 75th minute).

Dominica and Grenada battled to a goalless draw in their Tier II Group A encounter on Wednesday.

But Bermuda and Aruba also recorded wins on Tuesday evening. Bermu-

da advanced to the next round on the back of a 3-1 victory over Bonaire when the teams faced off in a Tier II Group B encounter.

It was a settling of the score for Bermuda after they were defeated by Bonaire a few days prior. The Bermudans noticeably made a difference on the pitch, exhibiting better passing and dribbling skills against Bonaire.

However, despite the team's immaculate performance, the first goal came from Bonaire's Genisha Piar Cornelia in the 20th minute with a beautifully placed ball outside the 18-yard box and over the head of goalkeeper Nalini Manors.

The second goal of the game came in the 28th minute when winger Priya Denbrooke broke through the defense and shot a powerful ball into the far post, catching the Bonaire goalkeeper off-guard.

After a defensive challenge from Bonaire, Bermuda was awarded a penalty in the 44th minute, and Azae Burrows stepped up to the call. With composure, she struck the ball into the back of the net and extended her team's lead.

In the 70th minute, Bermuda were awarded a free kick, and once again Burrows delivered for her team. She meticulously organized her position over



Dominica's midfielder Kezia Kharis Challenger (#9) and defender Nirah Taya Tulloch (#3) team up to shield the ball from a Grenada player during their Tier II Group A encounter of the CFU Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023. (CFU Media)

the ball and executed a beautiful kick directly to the goal for the third conversion for her team.

A first-half brace from Lorendana Nepi Perez was enough to see Aruba secure their third win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against the Cayman Islands.

Perez got her first of the evening in the 10th minute. Her sweet left-footed effort was too much for Sasha Parker to deal with in the Cayman Islands goal.

Perez added her second of the evening, doubling the lead for her team in the 18th minute when she unleashed a left-footed rocket that nestled in the top corner of the Cayman Islands' goal. Parker had no chance to save, and Aruba celebrated to the sounds of horns from their supporters.

Aruba would see out the game and complete a hat-trick of wins, remaining unbeaten in Tier I Group B.

ABTTA and Chinese Embassy to stage Friendship Paddle tournament

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA) are partnering to stage the "Friendship Paddle: China-Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Open" in Antigua next month.

The event is scheduled to take place in the main hall at the Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Center at Perry Bay on September 9th from 10 am to 1:30 pm.

This unique sporting event, sponsored by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, celebrates the 40-year milestone of harmonious diplomatic relations between China and Antigua and Barbuda.

The event will see table tennis enthusiasts from both nations rally for victory, embodying the spirit of friendship that binds the two countries together.

The event will feature a one-day open singles friendly tournament. With a roster of 24 players drawn from both nations, this tournament promises thrilling matches and a showcase of skills.

It will also feature round-robin and knockout matches. Players will be divided into groups for the initial rounds, leading to a competitive knockout phase.

The Chinese Embassy will donate table tennis boards and equipment to the

Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association during a presentation segment of the day's events.

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling, ABTT President Charles "Chucky" Bellot, and a special guest are slated to deliver remarks during the opening and closing ceremonies.

The event aims not just to entertain but also to strengthen the bonds be-

cont'd on pg 21



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association, Charles 'Chucky' Bellot. (File photo)



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The members of the West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under-19 team have arrived in Sri Lanka. (CWI Media)

Rising Stars Under-19s settle in and ready for Sri Lanka tour

The members of the West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under-19 team arrived in Sri Lanka and have hit the ground running. The squad reached Colombo on Tuesday and had their first training session yesterday morning (Wednesday) at the Colts Cricket Club.

They will have another training session today (Thursday) before the 50-over warm-up match at the same venue on Friday morning. This match will be against a local team and will start at 10 am (1:30 am Eastern Caribbean/12:30 am Jamaica).

Head Coach Rohan

Nurse said things have gone smoothly and the team is looking ahead to the upcoming series against the Sri Lanka Under-19s – which will feature three Youth ODIs (50 overs) and two Youth Tests (four-day) at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium.

“Based on how well the players responded to today's session we will raise the intensity and volume of work in tomorrow's session as we prepare for the warm-up match,” Nurse said.

“The warm-up game will be used as an opportunity to get all the players

involved and allow them to spend time in the middle in all aspects of the game.”

Nurse added, “Given the volume and length of travel the squad had undertaken today's session was tailored towards re-establishing mobility with the trainer.

“In addition, we focused on getting them familiar with the conditions through fielding drills and a short net session.”

Top-order batter Stephan Pascal will be captain for the white ball matches with Nathan Sealy, the left-arm spinner, to lead the side for two red ball

matches.

The next ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup will be played in Sri Lanka in January and February, 2024.

FULL SQUAD: Stephan Pascal, Nathan Sealy, Jewel Andrew, Mavendra Dindyal, Joshua Dorne, Nathan Edward, Tarrique Edward, Reon Edwards, Deshawn James, Jordan Johnson, Devonie Joseph, Tamarie Redwood, Isai Thorne, Steve Wedderburn, and Adrian Weir. **Team Management:** Rohan Nurse (Head Coach), Rohan Clarke (Assistant Coach), Nick Wilton (Assistant Coach), Gibbs Williams (Team Manager), Dominic Angoy (Physiotherapist), and Gregory Seale (Strength and Conditioning Coach).

cont'd from pg 20

tween the two nations. In light of this, attendees can anticipate more than just a sporting event but a celebration of unity, camaraderie, and shared history.

The Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association is a leading body promoting the sport in Antigua and Barbuda, fostering growth, talent, and regional cooperation through various initiatives and events.



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Merissa Aguiliera, centre, is one of four West Indies Women's players that recently made strategic stride in their cricket coaching careers. (CWI Media)

Women's Advance Coaching Programme launched with CWI Women's Academy at CCG

Four West Indies Women's players – Merissa Aguiliera, Charlene Taitt, Britney Cooper and Tremayne Smartt, recently made strategic stride in their cricket coaching careers.

They are part of the Cricket West Indies Advance Coaching Programme – an initiative geared towards providing opportunities for aspiring coaches.

They joined the players at the first West Indies Women's Academy, which was staged at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

As part of its mandate to grow the game and create a pathway in women's cricket, CWI launched the programme to also provide opportunities for aspiring coaches, from online pre-programme onboarding calls to shadowing appointed camp coaches during skill development sessions.

“The Academy presented the perfect opportunity to kickstart CWI's Women's Advanced Coaching Pro-

gramme,” said Chris Brabazon, CWI Coaching Education Manager.

“The ladies have done a fantastic job in adapting and learning. It's very satisfying for us, knowing that we can send them back to their territories equipped with experience and knowledge of high-performance coaching methods and stronger relationships with the players.”

Tremayne Smartt, a former Guyana and West Indies all-rounder, beamed with optimism about the programme.

She said, “It's a great initiative in terms of developing women's cricket in the region and it augurs well for the players and coaches coming up.”

Charlene Taitt, a former Barbados and West Indies all-rounder said, “There were three things I learnt from being here. In fielding you never stop learning new techniques, even as a new former player. In batting, as a

coach it's easier to identify the alignment of a batter and assist them in not falling over. In with the bowlers, helping them to identify their line and length in delivery of the ball.”

CWI's initiative represents a major step towards a brighter, more competitive future for women's cricket in the West Indies, promising a well-rounded development for both coaches and players.

The excitement and energy in the voices of those involved affirm the importance of this opportunity, making this more than just a coaching programme – it's a launching pad for the stars of the future.

This forms part of CWI's strategic plan to enhance and develop the level of coaching in the region. Since 2019, there have been over 1,100 coaches trained (from Foundation to High Performance Level 3) in eight different territories.

Benna Girls trounce Barbados in CFU tournament

Days after playing to a 1-1 draw, host Antigua and Barbuda's young Benna Girls hammered Barbados 5-0 in their Tier II Group B play in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Tuesday night.

Keitonya Skeple, fresh from scoring four goals in a 6-0 drubbing of Bonaire the day before, was again leading the line for the young Benna Girls as they produced a brilliant performance to trounce the Bajans.

Skeple's forceful running resulted in her being brought down illegally in the penalty area early in the match. Iressiea Allen converted the spot-kick to give the Benna Girls the lead in the 11th minute.

Skeple almost doubled it six minutes later, but a great save from Barbados goalkeeper Ukayla Dallaway stopped the in-rushing forward from adding to the Benna Girls' lead.

Skeple again caused Barbados some discomfort. She took a corner kick for her team, but Dalla-



Antigua and Barbuda's midfielder Anesa Liburd (#17) and Barbados defender Ukayla Dallaway tussle for control of the ball during their Tier II Group A encounter in the CFU Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023. (CFU)

way was able to make the save. A second corner kick resulted in the host being awarded a second penalty kick, this time for a handball in the area.

Karmiella Hughes did the honours in the 24th minute, sending her spot-kick to the left of Dallaway and into the roof of the net.

The Benna Girls were truly flying, and Skeple joined the fun. Outmuscling both center backs, the host's leading goal scorer added to her tally, unleashing a powerful right-footed shot to lift her team to a three-goal lead at halftime.

Chasing the game now and needing a goal to get back into the contest, Barbados rang in changes at the start of the second half and committed bodies forward in an attempt to get on the scoreboard.

Gabrielle Birmingham had the Tridents' best chance in the 40th minute but saw her effort float over the crossbar.

Barbados were reduced to 10 players after skipper Taryn Sutherland committed her second bookable offense and was sent off by the referee in the 50th minute.

Salt was rubbed in the proverbial wound as Skeple's ensuing free kick was turned in by Barbados' midfielder Jadae Lorde for an own goal.

Substitute midfielder Anesa Liburd should have added to the total moments after coming on in the 60th minute, but her effort after an Allen cross was saved by Dallaway.

Latoya Williams got her name on the scoresheet three minutes from time when she scored with a firmly struck shot to make it a five-goal win for Antigua and Barbuda.