

MORE GROWTH IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE

Story on Page 2



Approximately 1,300 teachers in the public education system head back to school this week. *Story on page 3.*

More growth in gov't revenue

There are more signs that the Antigua and Barbuda economy continues to grow and expand. This is represented by the growth in government revenues collected by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

Deputy Commission of IRD, Jermaine Jarvis, is reporting that between January and June, this year collections rose by nearly \$40 million over the same period of last year. Looking closely at the figures, Jarvis said between January and June 2022, \$209 million was collected. Based on that, the department budgeted a collection target of \$229 million for the first half of this year.

However, actual collection for the first six months topped \$249 million which is \$20 million more than was budgeted and \$39 million more

than the corresponding period last year.

The deputy commissioner said the increases were mainly driven by increased ABST yields which was \$26 million over what was budgeted for the six-month period. Last year the first half collection was \$100 million compared to \$126 million this year.

He added that all the other major taxes saw increases this year as well. Corporate income tax rose from \$38 million to \$58 million while property tax rose by \$14 million.

According to Jarvis the only tax bracket that did not record growth was the area of stamp duties. The department had budgeted to collect \$28 million for the first half but the actual amount collected was \$21 million.

The stamp duty mainly comes from the sale of lands and the transfer of titles. Asked if this represented less land sales over the period under review, Jarvis said this may not necessarily be the case.

He explained that this may be a result of less high-cost land sales where the government collects more in stamp duties while the overall land sales may be higher or remain the same.

He said the rise in collections this year, points to a robust economy, as the ABST taxes represent higher consumer spending on goods and services.

Jarvis said he anticipates that the trend for increased collections will continue for the remainder of the year.



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Teachers head back to the classrooms today

The summer vacation for the nation's teachers has ended as approximately thirteen hundred teachers in the public education system head back to school this week.

Director of Education, Clare Browne said a packed agenda awaits the teachers returning to the classrooms after the summer break. "The teachers are expected to attend staff meetings with their principals on Monday. However, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the ministry has organized a series of professional development workshops for all teachers at various venues. These sessions also include the principals from both primary and secondary schools who are expected to attend a workshop tailored particularly for them," he disclosed.

For example, teachers from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 2 will have their sessions at the Villa Primary School with Grades 3 to 6 teachers meeting at the Clare Hall Secondary School. Special Education Needs teachers will meet at the Antigua Grammar School.

The sessions for the principals take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium while Industrial Technology teachers will gather at the Cortsland Hotel.

Following the professional development sessions, the teachers will return to their respective schools on Thursday and Friday to complete final preparations ahead of the start of the 2023-2024 School Year on September 4.

Meanwhile, Browne said the Board of Education has been busy all summer carrying out repairs to the school plants. "The Board of Education has been doing the work of carrying out the repairs requested by the principals at our various schools, These include the physical structure of the schools themselves as well as for critical areas, such as ensuring that the bathrooms at all the school plants are in working condition. They have also repaired or supplied new furniture to many of our schools," Browne stated.

There are thirty primary schools in Antigua and Barbuda and thirteen secondary schools.

TRAINING COHORTS		
COHORT	VENUE	LEAD CONTACT
Principals and deputy principals	Sir Vivian Richards	Mrs. E Jonah Greene Deputy Director
Barbuda (Holy Trinity/MGSS)	Sir McChesney George	Mrs. Denise Mills EO Admin – Secondary Ms. Alison Leadette EO Senior Statistician (ag)
Primary Pre-K-Grade 2	Villa Primary School	Mrs. Embler Spencer EO ECD
Primary Grade 3- Grade 6	Clare Hall Secondary	Mr. Rolston Nickeo EO Admin – Zone 1
Home Economics	Princess Margaret School	Mrs. Iris-Mae Gumbs EO Curriculum
Industrial Technology	Cortsland Hotel	Mrs. Marion Byron ADE/TVET
Library Services	Princess Margaret School	Mrs. Karen Browne-Francis EO Curriculum
Visual Arts	All Saints Secondary	Mr. Melville Richardson EO Curriculum
Business Education	Princess Margaret School <i>Auditorium</i>	Dr. Janelle O'Mard EO Curriculum
Information Technology	Clare Hall Secondary <i>IT Lab</i>	Mrs. Shelly Galloway EO Curriculum
Physical Education	Antigua Grammar School <i>Classroom</i>	Mr. Sean Samuel EO Curriculum
Social Studies	Antigua Grammar School <i>Auditorium</i>	Mr. Phillip Lloyd EO Curriculum
Special Education Needs	Antigua Grammar School <i>Classroom</i>	Ms. Joyann Harrigan EO Curriculum
Guidance & Counselling & HFLE	Antigua Grammar School <i>Classroom</i>	Ms. Andrea Airall EO Curriculum
Modern Languages	All Saints Secondary <i>Auditorium</i>	Mr. Young Romero EO Curriculum
Agriculture Science	John E St Luce Center <i>Mini Room</i>	Mrs. Nicolette Francis EO Curriculum (ag)
Performing Arts	Antigua Girls High <i>Mini-Hall</i>	Mrs. Caryl Edwards-Lewis EO Curriculum (ag)
English	Antigua Girls High <i>Auditorium</i>	Dr. Desryn Collins EO Curriculum
Natural Science	Sir Novelle Richards <i>Science Labs</i>	Mr. Anthony Spencer EO Curriculum
Mathematics	Sir Novelle Richards <i>Auditorium</i>	Mrs. Shoya Browne-Hurst EO Curriculum (ag)

Local News



Ministry of Trade to open satellite office at the port

The Ministry of Trade and the Antigua Port Authority are joining hands to make doing business at the country's main seaport more efficient and customer-friendly.

To this end, the ministry is opening an office at the port in the new Antigua Port Authority Building. Both Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, and Port General Manager, Darwin Telemaque said the move is to make it easier for users of the port to have all their documentation processed at the same place.

Under the arrangement, persons needing licenses for certain imports need not travel to Friar's Hill Road to the ministry's headquar-

ters to have them signed but can now do so in the port authority building. "This will eliminate the running around and will save the customer time and money and make our port operations much more efficient," Telemaque stated.

Pilgrim said the new office will accommodate representatives from the licensing section, the Bureau of Standards, and the Consumers Affairs division of the ministry.

"The Ministry of Trade has entered into a partnership with the Antigua Port Authority to make it easier for customers to access the services that we offer. By opening the office, we will be able to process documentation much faster to



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim

the overall benefit of all involved," he remarked.

The move is expected to benefit large, medium, or small importers of items into the country. Ambassador Pilgrim said opening the satellite office at the port forms part of the newly established Nation-



Port General Manager, Darwin Telemaque

al Trade Council (NTC), to seek ways to improve the efficiencies of the Ministry of Trade. He noted that the NTC will have its first meeting in September but already, it has begun the work for which it was established.

Telemaque added that the Inland Revenue Department will also set up an office at the port that will save truckers much time in securing licenses to operate on the nation's roadways.

The overall benefits will improve Antigua and Barbuda's overall 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking. "We are likely to move a few notches higher with these moves as they make our port operations much more efficient," he added.

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CEO James: Lack of regional airlifts hurting the tourism sector

The lack of adequate airlifts within the Caribbean is hurting tourism arrivals in Antigua and Barbuda from the regional travel market.

The disclosure comes from Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) Colin C. James, who said the Caribbean has not been able to rebound from the impact of the pandemic, mainly because of the problems with a reliable intra-regional airline service.

“There was a time when the Canadian and Caribbean markets were rivaling each other to be the third most important market for Antigua and Barbuda. One year one market will be up, only to be replaced by the other the following year. However, while we are seeing a resurgence in arrivals from the Canadian market, the Caribbean market has been slow to return to pre-pandemic levels and that’s because of inadequate airlifts,” he reported.

He said this lack of dependable airline services has been hurting intra-regional travel for some time.

“Recently there was a tourism conference in Dominica, and while the conference itself was for one day, it took four days as you had to get there a day ahead and stay much longer than normal because there were no flights available. We have seen that the lack of airlifts means people just don’t travel, whether it’s for Carnival, cricket, business, or for family events,” he remarked.

The CEO noted that LIAT 2020 is critical to solving the intra-regional travel challenges that the region faces and that when these challenges are overcome there will be a corresponding increase in intra-regional travel.

James is also mindful that Caribbean governments ought to rethink the taxes that are placed on tickets for

regional travel. “I want to say, and I think it is critical, that with the resuscitation and revival of LIAT 2020, the taxes that governments place on LIAT ought to be reduced. I would like these governments to eat a little less so that we can eat a little longer. If you look at the price composition on a ticket for LIAT you would see that bulk of it represented taxes to the various countries,” he stated.

He revealed that the Antigua and Barbuda government gave a commitment to reconsider the travel tax and he is urging all governments to either eliminate these taxes or reduce them by fifty percent. “This would make it more affordable for people to travel and more travel represents more revenues for all,” he declared.



Colin C. James



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No registration fees next year, for Piango Fest vendors

Vendors who participated in the 2023 edition of the annual Piango festival, will not be required to pay the registration fee attached to entry into the festival if they want to participate next year.

Making the announcement, Agriculture Minister E.P Chet Greene said, he decided this due to the fact that the second day of the festival, initially slated for August 20, was canceled due to inclement weather. The event was later rescheduled for Sunday, August 27, and held on the grounds of the TN Kirnon School in St. John's.

“In recognition of the fact that you may have lost some money; that sales were slow last week; and that the make-up day was not ever going to be like it was in the original week, I wish to announce that there will be no fees for those persons registered



Agriculture Minister E.P Chet Greene interacting with patrons at the Piango Festival on Sunday

for 2023, who wish to vend in 2024. he stated. If there are new vendors next year, then they would be required to pay,”

The minister told the closing ceremony
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Piango Festival Winners

Prizes were awarded to winners in several categories for agro-processing, at the just concluded Piango festival.

The following are the winners;

Mango Eating Competition (Children) - Marion

Walters
Pineapple Eating Competition - Jodiann Charles

Agro-Processing Confectioneries – Elsbeth Higgins from Best Buy Juices and Nectar –

Elsbeth Higgins
Wines - Michelle Toussaint of Lally Brews

Cakes and Pastries - Nakema Williams from Kema Delectables Chutney and Anchar - Nakema Williams

Smoothies, Ice cream, and Sorbets – Raquel Millington, Popular Topaz 268 Jams, Jellies and Marmalade – Kema Williams Sauces - Nakema Williams

A special award was presented to the juice produced by the Greencastle Station within the Ministry of Agriculture. They will receive \$250.00 worth of labels.

The completion was sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), supported by Caribbean Union Bank.

cont'd from pg 6
emony of the Piango Fest that it is vital that those involved in the sector understand that their work has not gone unnoticed. He also announced that the winner of the agro-processing competition will receive special recognition this year.
“We have an expo in London every year put on by the High Commissioner there, Karen-Mae Hill. By virtue of your top position this year, you have earned passage to that expo slated for November,” he announced.
Greene said his ministry continues to seek ways of incentivizing and catering to the needs of farmers, agro-processors, and other stakeholders.
The top agro-processor at the festival was Nakema Williams from Kema Delectables who won in several categories.

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DJ Jime Events hosts fifth annual Charity Week

DJ Jime Events, a renowned event management company, recently concluded its highly anticipated 5th Annual Charity Week that follows the Carnival festivities each year.

With a focus on meaningful contributions, the week-long event aimed at making a difference by donating school bags and supplies, providing meals to the Soup Kitchen, and extending financial support to a local non-profit organization.

As a responsible corporate entity, DJ Jime Events remains dedicated to 'giving back' to the community that has embraced it wholeheartedly.

The success of the 5th Annual Charity Week is a testament to its unwavering commitment to uplifting the lives of those in need.

The week commenced with an inspiring donation drive for school bags and supplies, ensuring that underprivileged children are equipped with the tools they need to succeed academically. DJ Jime Events,



alongside generous contributions from sponsors and community members, collected an impressive number of school bags filled with essential supplies.

These donations are expected to empower countless students throughout the academic year.

In addition, the company organized a series of meal preparation sessions in partnership with the Soup Kitchen.

Volunteers from the company and the community came together to cook and distribute nourishing meals to individuals facing food insecurity. By addressing a significant issue faced by many members of the community, it sought to provide comfort and support during challenging times.

Moreover, as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local



non-profit organizations, DJ Jime Events extended financial aid to a deserving cause.

The carefully selected non-profit entity received a substantial donation, which will assist them in furthering their vital work and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of those they serve.

Throughout the 5th Annual Charity Week, the events company emphasized the importance of collective action in creating a positive and lasting impact.

The company's exemplary dedication to uplifting the community has not only inspired individuals but also fostered a sense of unity and compassion amongst attendees.

Reflecting on the week-long event, DJ Jime, the founder of DJ Jime Events, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved. He said, "We are privileged to have such an incredible community that supports our vision of creating positive change.

"We are humbled by the overwhelming response and we would like to thank every individual who contributed their time, resources, and generosity to make this year's Charity Week a resounding success."






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Opinion

Men, mind and matter

By **Tony Deyal**

It is said that age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. If you mind, you mutter like the comedian George Burns who said, "Sex at age 90 is like trying to shoot pool with a rope." Like him, I look to the future because that is where I'm already spending the rest of my life.

While we know from schooldays that everything which goes up must come down, what we find out and experience later are the real ups and downs. For all of us there comes a time when not everything that's down can come up. That is when you end up down in the dumps.

Worse is when you find out that there are men of your age and older who are still full to capacity. A young woman who had what she thought was a casual relationship with an older man went to her doctor for a physical, only to discover that she was pregnant. She called him on the phone and as soon as he picked it up she blasted him, "You old goat, how could you let this happen? You are a stupid, irresponsible man who should know better. You went and got me pregnant! What do you have to say for yourself?"

For a moment there was nothing, but dead silence on the phone. The woman got even more hostile and shouted, "Did you hear me?" And

then the man replied very, very quietly, "Who is this?"

Even more incredible was Nanu Ram Jogi from India who, at 90, was hailed as the world's oldest father because he had just produced his 21st child! He was like another 90-year-old who announced to his doctor that he needed a quick check-up because he had the hots for a 19-year-old stripper, and she insisted on marriage and not just a "one-and-done".

His doctor was aghast and begged him to reconsider. "At your age," the doctor explained, "prolonged sex with a girl that young could be fatal." The old man shrugged and replied, "So if she dies, she dies."

WHERE AM I GOING?

By this time all of you, my faithful readers, are wondering where the heck I'm going with this. I know many of you don't care where, so long as the punch-lines are rolling.

The fact is that last week I felt sorry for all my Caribbean and even my British, US and Canadian fan club members because times were rough, tough and getting worse. I had already put together the ideas for a column about a Trinidad duck which damaged the front of a police car.

The constable driving the vehicle is supposed to have been so frightened that he experienced a "sitting" duck with an "H". The next day there was an editorial in



Tony Deyal

the Trinidad Express Newspaper, "Sitting ducks". All I can say is the "H" was again silent. This is why I figured I would do like Keats, the poet, and help you escape the weariness, the fever and the fret where men sit and hear each other groan.

What makes it even tougher is that older women have it much better than men of my age or older. An 80-year-old couple decided to spend their summer holidays apart for the first time in their married life, the wife went to Barbados and the husband went to Tobago. A few days after arriving in Barbados the wife got a terse e-mail from her husband that read, "Darling, Arrived safely in sunny Tobago. I met a 20-old young lady and am having a wonderful time. Love, Bob."

The woman replied to her husband with this e-mail, "Darling, I met this twenty-year-old lifeguard and am having a wonderful time as well. Love, Susan." Then she added, "P. S. Remember that 20 can go into 80 more times than 20 can go into 20." As some of my Trini and my other Caribbean friends would say, "Maths for days!"

If you think old men have it less hard than old women, there is a story about an elderly couple who were in bed in a downstairs room while their newly married son and daughter-in-law occupied the guest bedroom upstairs. The man was awakened by his wife, who whispered, "George, listen." They could hear the bed upstairs creaking rhyth-

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mically.

“Come on,” she urged. So he obliged and went back to sleep. He had just fallen back to sleep when his wife woke him up again, made him listen to the music of the bedsprings, and urged him to greater heights. He wearily and grudgingly obliged.

He was sound asleep when his wife woke him for the third time. “George listen,” she said. He leaped to his feet, grabbed a broom from the closet, and started to beat on the ceiling like a madman, shouting and complaining, “Cut it out! Cut it out! You’re killing your father.”

LAST WORD

Of course women don’t ever leave men with the last word. Talking back is man-datory. One old woman was asked by her doctor about her night vision, “When you want to make love, do you have a tough time finding your

husband in the dark?” “No,” she responded truthfully, “it isn’t hard”.

And it’s not just the women. An older man, accused of trying to force himself on a young woman, was arrested and taken before a magistrate. The case was dismissed because the evidence did not stand up in court. Occasionally, the table turns, but not necessarily in the right direction.

Two travelling salesmen, Joe and Bob, ran into bad weather and had to seek shelter in a very well-kept farm owned by a widowed older woman. A few months later Joe called his buddy Bob and asked, “Remember that night when we were stuck in the storm and this widowed lady let us stay in her farmhouse?”

Bob said that he remembered. Joe then asked his friend, “Did you sneak into her room in the middle of the night and make love to her?” Bob admitted that he did. Joe persisted,

“Now, tell me the truth, did you give her my name instead of yours?” Bob sheepishly conceded that he did. Then Joe laughed gleefully, “Well thank you good buddy. I just got a letter from the lady’s lawyer. She died and left me her farm and 10 million dollars.”

The one that most of my male colleagues like is the story of very aggressive older woman, drinking with her friends at a beach bar and half-jokingly asked the handsome and muscular young waiter, “So tell me cutie, where have you been all my life?”

“Actually, ma’am,” he replied, “for the 50 years of it, I wasn’t even around.” Yet, this is still better than the old man who boasted that he was different, he and his wife made love almost every night, almost Monday, almost Tuesday.

Tony Deyal, with his eyesight fading, was sure that a man is as old as the woman he feels he feels.

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EU safety laws start to bite for TikTok, Instagram and others

By Chris Vallance

Some of the biggest tech organisations and search engines now have to comply with new EU rules designed to protect users.

Under the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) rule-breakers can face big fines.

Nineteen major platforms, such as Facebook or TikTok, face the most stringent rules which include having plans in place to protect children and stop election interference.

Many have made changes, some of which will affect users in the UK.

While the UK Online Safety Bill is still working its way through parliament - the EU's Digital Services Act became law on 16 November 2022.

But firms were given time to make sure their systems complied.

On 25 April the commission named the very large online platforms - those with over 45 million EU users - that would be subject to the toughest rules. They are: Alibaba, AliExpress, Amazon Store, the Apple App Store, Booking.com, Facebook, Google Play, Google Maps, Google Shopping, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Wikipedia, YouTube and Zalando. Search engines Google and Bing will also be subject to



the rules.

They had four months to comply with the act's rules. Smaller tech services won't have to comply until next year.

Breaches could lead to a fine of 6% of turnover and potentially suspension of the service.

There are extra requirements in the DSA for these very large platforms and search engines. They have to assess potential risks they may cause, report that assessment and put in place measures to deal with the problem. This includes risks related to:

- illegal content
- rights, such as freedom of expression, media freedom, discrimination, consumer protection and children's rights
- public security and threats to electoral processes

gender-based violence, public health, protection of minors, and mental and physical wellbeing.

Targeted advertising based on profiling children is no longer permitted.

They must also share with regulators details of how their algorithms work. This could include those which decide what adverts users see, or which posts appear in their feed. And they are required to have systems for sharing data with independent researchers.

In blog posts, and in statements given to the BBC, organisations have stressed the effort they put in to comply. Both TikTok and Meta said more than 1,000 people across their businesses had worked on complying with the act.

Many have already implemented changes. A number focus on personalised

advertisements and feeds including:

Starting July TikTok stopped users in Europe aged 13-17 from being shown personalised advertising based on their online activity.

Since February Meta apps including Facebook and Instagram have stopped showing users aged 13-17 worldwide advertising based on their activity to the apps.

In Europe Facebook and Instagram gave users the option to view Stories and Reels only from people they follow, ranked in chronological order.

In the UK and Europe Snapchat is also restricting personalised ads for users aged 13-17. It is also creating a library of adverts shown in the EU.

There were also commitments to provide more

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Tropical Storm Idalia forms near Gulf of Mexico

Tropical Depression 10 which formed on Saturday strengthened into Tropical Storm Idalia on Sunday morning, adding to the recently busy 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

An update from the US National Hurricane Center said the maximum winds are estimated to be 40 mph (65 km/h) with higher gusts. Tropical Storm Idalia is about 80 miles east-southeast of Cozumel, Mexico.

NHC says a Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for...

Yucatan Peninsula from Tulum to Rio Lagartos, including Cozumel

Pinar del Rio Cuba
A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for...

Isle of Youth Cuba
Interests in Florida should monitor the progress of this system.

The system is expected to produce the following rainfall amounts:



Portions of the eastern Yucatan: 2 to 4 inches, with isolated higher totals of 6 inches.

Western Cuba: 3 to 6 inches, with isolated higher totals of 10 inches.

Portions of the west coast of Florida, the Florida Panhandle, and south-

ern Georgia: From Tuesday into Wednesday, 3 to 6 inches, with isolated higher totals of 10 inches.

Heavy rainfall is also likely to spread into portions of the Carolinas by Wednesday into Thursday.

This rainfall may lead to flash and urban flooding,

and landslides across western Cuba.

Scattered flash and urban flooding can also be expected across portions of the west coast of Florida, the Florida Panhandle and portions of the Southeast US by Tuesday into Thursday.

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data to researchers: Google promised to increase data access for those hoping to understand more about how Google Search, YouTube, Google Maps, Google Play and Shopping work.

Some have not yet detailed the changes they have made when asked to do so by the BBC. X, formerly called Twitter, simply said it was "on track" to meet its compliance deadlines.

Retailers Zalando and Amazon have mounted legal action to contest

their designation as a very large online platform. Amazon argues they are not the largest retailer in any of the EU countries where they operate.

Nevertheless Amazon has taken steps to comply with the act and has "created a new channel for submitting notices against suspected illegal products and content". Zalando told the BBC it will be compliant with the act.

Wikipedia has made some changes in response to the DSA but the Foundation which supports the project says

they should not affect users everyday experiences. It argues that the approach to regulation in the DSA is preferable to the approach of the online safety bill. It has said some of the requirements in the UK legislation would be hard for it to comply with.

Phil Bradley-Schmieg, legal counsel at the Wikimedia Foundation told the BBC: "Our hope is that lawmakers emulate the DSA; understand the diverse internet ecosystem; and protect safe, free, and public projects online."

Bahamas introduces bills to legalise marijuana use

The Government of the Bahamas has unveiled several bills aimed at legalising marijuana for medical and religious purposes and decriminalizing possession of small amounts, joining other Caribbean nations that have taken similar steps.

If approved, those caught with less than 30 grams (one ounce) of marijuana would pay a \$250 fine and the incident would not appear on their criminal record. Buying marijuana for recreational purposes would remain illegal.

Officials said licenses for cultivation, retail, transport and religious use would only be granted to companies that are entirely Bahamian-owned. Licenses for research, testing and manufacturing would be awarded to companies that are at least 30 per cent Bahamian owned.

Attorney General Ryan Pinder told reporters Thursday that marijuana



for religious purposes could only be smoked on the premises of a licensed organisation.

The government envisions creating a Cannabis Authority to regulate the industry.

Public hearings on the issue are scheduled for September, and legislation could be approved before next

year.

Other Caribbean nations have relaxed their marijuana laws. Antigua decriminalized marijuana use for the general public. Jamaica also decriminalised small amounts of marijuana, while the US Virgin Islands recently authorized its recreational and sacramental use.

Search begins for new TCI Police Commissioner



Police Commissioner Trevor Botting.

Turks and Caicos Islands Commissioner of Police Trevor Botting will demit office in November.

Botting and newly appointed Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, announced his departure in a joint statement.

Botting has been top cop since July 2019.

He previously served as the Deputy Commissioner from May 2017.

Botting said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the Turks and Cai-

cos Islands.

“It has been my privilege to lead and serve the men and woman of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force for the last four years as Commissioner, and for over two years prior to that as the Deputy Commissioner,” he said.

“I am proud of what the Force has achieved in this time and I am confident that it will continue to develop to meet the challenges it faces. My departure from

cont'd on pg 15

Haiti gang opens fire on protesters in capital, killing seven

By Alex Binley

A gang in Haiti has shot and killed at least seven people who were marching in a big protest organised by a church leader.

Hundreds of parishioners, some armed with machetes, marched through a suburb of the capital, Port-au-Prince, in a bid to rid the area of gang members.

The gang is said to have opened fire on them with machine guns.

Soaring gang violence in Haiti has left more than 2,400 people dead in 2023 alone.

There are fears the death toll from Saturday's shooting could increase, with several people wounded and others kidnapped.

Reuters news agency says unverified videos on social media showed people being shot at in the street, bodies lying on the ground and people who appeared to be hostages saying they thought the march was peaceful and had no idea it was about taking on the gang.

The protest happened



A police officer stands guard in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince.

in the suburb of Canaan, which was founded by survivors of the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Canaan is controlled by a gang led by a man identified only as "Jeff", who is believed to be allied with the 5 Segonn "5 Seconds" gang.

Gédéon Jean, director of Haiti's Center for Analysis and Research in Human Rights, told the Associated Press news agency that he watched the event unfold online and planned to ask the Ministry of Justice to investigate.

He accused the pastor who organised the march of being irresponsible because he "engaged a group of people and put them in a situation like this".

"Police should have stopped them from going," Mr Jean said. "It's extremely horrible for the state to let something like this happen."

Decades of instability, disasters and economic woes have left Haiti one of the poorest and most violent countries in the world.

Gang violence has soared since the assassina-

tion of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, which led to much of the Caribbean country's territory falling out of government control, so now around 80% of the capital is controlled by gangs.

Turf wars have since driven a surge in refugees, severe food shortages, murders, kidnappings and sexual violence.

UN rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said that in the year to 15 August, at least 2,439 Haitians had been killed, 902 injured and 951 kidnapped.

Amid the soaring violence Haitians have organised a violent movement known as "bwa kale" that targets suspected gang members. More than 350 people have been killed since that uprising began in April, according to the UN.

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post will be carried out in a way that causes the least disruption to the Force and the services we provide to protect our communities and all those who visit our islands".

Daniel-Selvaratnam thanked Botting for his dedication and service to the British Overseas Territory.

"During his tenure, Commissioner Botting has worked with partners across the criminal justice system, to implement wider safeguards for victims of crime. I would like to thank him for his service and wish him all the best with his future endeavours," the governor said.

A job posting has been issued for the soon to be vacant post.

Trump campaign raises \$7.1m following historic Georgia mugshot

By Robert Greenall

Donald Trump’s election campaign says it has raised \$7.1m (£5.6m) since his police mugshot was taken at a prison in Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday.

Much of the money comes from merchandise such as mugs, T-shirts and drink coolers bearing the former president’s scowling face.

Mr Trump was released on bail, charged with plotting to overturn the state’s 2020 election results.

He faces three other indictments as he campaigns for the 2024 US election.

They include two related to his false claims that the election was stolen and the attack by his followers on the Capitol in Washington.



Donald Trump has seen a marketing opportunity in the release of his mugshot.

Mr Trump denies all the charges and argues the cases against him are politically motivated because he is leading the race for the Republican

nomination to challenge Democratic Party incumbent President Joe Biden.

cont'd on pg 17

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Wagner boss Prigozhin confirmed dead in plane crash - Moscow

Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin has been confirmed dead after genetic analysis of bodies found in Wednesday's plane crash, Russian officials say.

The Investigative Committee (SK) said the identities of all 10 victims had been established and corresponded to those on the flight's passenger list.

Prigozhin's private jet came down north-west of Moscow on 23 August, killing all those on board.

The Kremlin has denied speculation it was to blame for the crash.

The SK said it was continuing a criminal investigation.

"Molecular-genetic testing has been completed," it said in a statement.

"According to its results, the identities of all 10 deceased have been established, and they correspond to the list published in the flight manifest."

The victims include several senior figures in



Wagner, a Russian mercenary group set up by Prigozhin and involved in military operations in Ukraine, Syria and parts of Africa.

Among them was Dmitry Utkin, who managed Wagner's military operations.

The others on the Embraer Legacy plane - flying from Moscow to St Petersburg - included Wagner members Valery Chekalov, Sergei Propustin, Yevgeny Makaryan, Alexander Tot-

min and Nikolay Matushev.

The plane was flown by pilot Alexei Levshin and co-pilot Rustam Karimov, and there was one flight attendant, Kristina Raspopova.

The crash came two months after Prigozhin led a Wagner mutiny against the Russian armed forces, seizing the southern city of Rostov and threatening to march on Moscow.

The standoff was de-

fused after a deal was reached which led to Prigozhin and Wagner fighters relocating to Belarus.

However, Russian President Vladimir Putin described the mutiny as a "stab in the back" and there has been speculation that Russian security forces were somehow involved in the crash.

US officials quoted by CBS have said that the most likely cause of the crash was an explosion on board the plane, and the Pentagon said Prigozhin was probably killed.

On Friday Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said rumours of foul play were an "absolute lie".

Mr Putin has sent his condolences to the families of the victims.

He described Prigozhin as a "talented person" who "made serious mistakes in life".

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The attention seems to have galvanised his supporters, and he has raised almost \$20m in three weeks, since his indictments in the Georgia and Capitol riots cases.

On Friday, immediately after his arrest in Georgia, he raised \$4.18m, said to be his highest figure in a 24-hour period in the campaign so far.

As well as selling merchandise from its online store, the campaign has been

messaging supporters asking for help.

And on Thursday, Mr Trump himself posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, for the first time since January 2021, sharing the mugshot with the caption "Election interference. Never surrender!" and the address of his website.

This came after the former president was photographed at Fulton County jail, where he surrendered to law enforcement and paid \$200,000 to be released as he awaits trial.



Jacksonville shooter, 21, who killed three 'wrote racist manifestos'

By *Antoinette Radford*

A man who shot dead three people in a racially motivated attack in Florida wrote of his hatred of Black people, police have said.

Twenty-one year old Ryan Christopher Palmeto fired eleven rounds at one woman sitting in her car in Jacksonville, before entering a shop and shooting another two people.

Sheriff T K Waters said he then turned the gun on himself.

Mayor Donna Deegan said it was a "hate-filled crime" driven by racist hatred.

At a news conference on Sunday, Mr Waters confirmed Palmeto had no previous criminal history and lived with his parents in Clay County.

Palmeto had authored several manifestos, for his parents, the media and federal agents, detailing his hatred of Black people, police said.

Mr Waters said those manifestos "detailed the shooters disgusting ideology of hate".

"Finely put: this shooting was racially motivated and he hated black people."

"The manifesto is, quite frankly... the diary of a madman", he said. "He knew what he was doing. He was 100% lucid. He knew what he was doing and again, it's disappointing that anyone would go to these lengths to hurt someone else".

Mr Waters said Palmeto had been briefly detained for 72 hours in 2017 under the Baker Act, mental health legislation that allows the involuntary detention of an individual for treatment.

But the sheriff said his weapons had been acquired legally, telling reporters the problem was not with the availability of guns, but with the killer being "a bad guy".

He urged people not to "look for sense in a senseless act of violence".

Jacksonville police played CCTV video at the news conference showing the moment Palmeto walked up to the car where he killed the first woman with his gun loaded. It then cut to video of him entering the shop.

Mr Waters also confirmed that Palmeto let some people out of the shop without injuring them.

"Why? I don't know. Some of them were white, but I do believe there was a couple that were not," he said.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Sunday the Justice Department was "investigating this attack as a hate crime and an act of racially motivated violent extremism".

"No person in this country should have to live in fear of hate-fuelled violence and no family should have to grieve the loss of a loved one to bigotry and hate," he said.

The attack happened less than a mile from the historically black Edwards Waters University.

Palmeto first went to the university campus, where he was asked to identify himself by a security officer, the university said in a statement. When he refused, he was asked to leave.

"The individual returned to their car and left campus without incident," the statement added.

Sheriff Waters said the gunman was then seen putting on a bullet-resistant vest and a mask before leaving the campus. The university went into lockdown after the shooting.

Windies Under-19s lose to Sri Lanka in opening contest

A valiant 75-run effort from Nathan Sealy could not save the West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under-19s from a six-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka Under-19s in the first Youth One Day International at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Batting first, the Windies Rising Stars posted 223 all out in 49.1 overs, thanks to a top score of 75 off 82 from Sealy, which included five fours and three sixes.

He shared in a 74-run seventh-wicket partnership with Tarrique Edward (27). Earlier at the start of the innings, Adrian Weir (32) and skipper Stephan Pascal (29) got the Windies Rising Stars off to a solid start, sharing in a 58-run opening stance before Weir departed.

Garuka Sanketh was the pick of the Sri Lankan bowlers, finishing with figures of five for 48 in 10 overs, followed by Dinura Kalupahana with three for 45 in eight overs.

Sri Lanka were in early trouble with their run chase, as Nathan Edward and Reon Edwards, scalped the opening pair of Pulindu Perera (11) and Sineth Jayawardena (0) to reduce the hosts to 11 for two inside four overs.

But their middle order



The West Indies Under-19 team players celebrate a dismissal during the first Youth One Day International at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium in Sri Lanka on Sunday, August 27, 2023. (CWI Media)

restored the chase, as Ravishan De Silva and Supun Waduge shared in a 134-run partnership. De Silva hit a top score of 65 from 85 deliveries and Waduge struck 56 from 78 balls, before De Silva became Edward's second scalp.

Dinura Kalupahana slammed 52 not out, and Srujan Sammuganathen cracked 20 not out to take the home team to victory in 43.1 overs.

The West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under 19s team had their first taste of action in Sri Lanka on Friday when they faced the Sri Lanka Cricket Select

Under 19 XI at Colombo Cricket Club.

The West Indies lost by three wickets in a close contest in the warm-up match ahead of the Youth ODI series against the Sri Lanka Under 19s.

A half-century by all-rounder Nathan Sealy was topped by an unbeaten 84 from Sapun Waduge that led the hosts to victory.

Sealy struck two fours and two sixes in the top score of 54 from 71 balls before the visitors were bowled out for 227 in 48.2 overs in the 50 overs-a-side encounter.

Sealy returned to bowl a good spell of 10-0-31-0 with his left-arm spin, and pacer Deshawn James took two for 32 from six overs to lead the West Indies bowling.

But Waduge hit nine fours and a six from 105 balls to lead a successful run chase for the home team.

The Sri Lanka and West Indies Under-19 teams will meet again at the same venue on Wednesday for the second Youth ODI. First ball is at 10 am local time (12:30 am Eastern Caribbean/11:30 pm Tuesday Jamaica).

Powell powers Royals to victory over Patriots

The Barbados Royals defeated the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots in their 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) match at Warner Park, St. Kitts on Saturday night.

The Royals won the toss and opted to field first and despite seemingly having the Patriots innings under their control, the home side rallied with late order batting to set a mammoth total of 197 for seven.

In reply, the Royals saw Rahkeem Cornwall and Kyle Mayers lay the foundation in the PowerPlay before Captain Rovman Powell saw his side home with the fastest 50 in the Republic Bank CPL this season.

Powell's destructive in-



Rovman Powell, right, powered the Barbados Royals to an emphatic six-wicket victory over the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the CPL at Warner Park on Saturday. (Getty Images)

nings saw the Royals complete the second highest run chase in Republic Bank CPL history.

The Patriots got their

innings off to a lightning start, led by Andre Fletcher's sparkling stroke play, the Spiceman's (Andre Fletcher) 360 cricket allow-

ing the Patriots to reach 56 at the end of the PowerPlay but they lost two wickets in the process.

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Guys and Dolls
Simply Classy

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Rahkeem Cornwall induced a mis-timed stroke from Evin Lewis, the opener sweeping only as far as Kyle Mayers for eight before Joshua Da Silva was run out for five chasing a quick second run.

Outside of the PowerPlay, the Patriots run scoring slowed significantly, Andre Fletcher and Sherfane Rutherford only putting on 39 runs from 34 balls before Nyeem Young dismissed Rutherford caught and bowled for 28.

Fletcher followed shortly afterwards having just got to his 50, Qais Ahmad trapping him lbw. That was only the beginning of Ahmad's work as he cleaned up Jyd Goolie to leave the Patriots teetering at 111 for five.

But powerful late order hitting from Corbin Bosch (38) and Dominic Drakes (20) ensured the Patriots ended with momentum on their side, with a stiff target of 198 for the Royals to chase.

If the Royals were going to chase the total, they would need a fast start and they got that and then some, with Rahkeem Cornwall smashing 38 from 15 balls to give the reply the impetus it needed.

Having reached 74 at the end of the PowerPlay the Royals were well ahead of the game, but Kyle Mayers fell shortly after that to open the door for the Patriots.

The Patriots couldn't apply further wicket taking pressure, but even so, with the Royals poised at 150 for three with five overs to go, the match seemed set for a tight finish.

However, captain Rovman Powell saw his side home with a destructive 67 from 29 balls to guide the Royals home with nine balls to spare.

The St. Lucia Kings earned their second win of the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) with a 54 run victory over the Trinbago Knight Riders on Saturday.

The Knight Riders won the toss

and chose to field first, but St. Lucia Kings, powered by the batting of Faf du Plessis and Sikandar Raza, scored a substantial 167 for five off their 20 overs.

Trinbago Knight Riders began their chase scoring runs rapidly, but the spin bowling of Khary Pierre, Roston Chase and Sikandar Raza was ultimately their undoing as they lost frequent wickets and were bowled out for 113, falling 54 runs short of the target.

Openers Faf du Plessis and Johnsson Charles put on an 85-run partnership to provide a platform for the St. Lucia Kings, du Plessis reaching his half century from just 33 balls before losing his wicket to an Andre Russell delivery.

The Trinbago Knight Riders would then frustrate the St. Lucia Kings as their variation of bowlers kept the runs down, before Sikandar Raza led a counter-attack, scoring

four boundaries before departing for 32.

Dwayne Bravo and Ali Khan would bowl superbly at the end of the innings, combining to concede just 11 runs and taking three wickets across the final two overs, as the St. Lucia Kings set a target of 168 to win.

There were early set-backs for the Knight Riders, as they lost the experienced wickets of Martin Guppitt, Chadwick Walton and Nicholas Pooran in the powerplay.

Captain Kieron Pollard would provide a destructive cameo as he scored 34 off 15 balls and ensured they stayed ahead of the run rate, but wickets continued to fall, leaving the Knight Riders 86 for six after 10 overs.

The St. Lucia Kings continued to utilise spin effectively. Khary Pierre was the pick of the bowlers, taking four wickets for 20 runs as the Knight Riders were dismissed for 113.



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Martinique celebrate after capturing the Tier II title in the 2023 Caribbean Football Union Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, August 27, 2023. (CFU Media)

Martinique capture Tier II title in CFU Challenge Series

Martinique prevailed 4-2 on penalties against Guadeloupe in the final to capture the Tier II title in the 2023 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday.

Penalty shootout heroics by goalkeeper Louisiane Rene-Corail propelled Martinique to their title against their French-speaking peers following a goalless draw at the end of regulation.

Martinique kicked first and converted through Dayan Saint-Just. Lea Pheron stepped up for Guadeloupe, but Rene-Corail pulled off an early save to give Martinique the advantage.

Tessa Dorville scored to give Martinique a 2-0 lead. Lya Montout scored for Guadeloupe, and Celine Valentine scored to give Martinique a 3-1 lead.

Lea Louis stepped up to keep Guadeloupe in the match, but Rene-Corail dived smartly to her right to come up

with her second save in the shootout. Leina Honorin rounded off the scoring for Martinique, while Lisa Durimel scored the other penalty for Guadeloupe.

Guadeloupe had advanced to the final by snatching a 1-0 win against Bermuda in their Tier II semi-final on Saturday.

Guadeloupe dominated the match, attacking Bermuda from the start of the game and forcing the Bermudans to be on defense for most of the game. With a series of combination plays from the French team, Bermuda struggled tremendously to intercept passes.

Martinique secured their spot in the final by ending Anguilla's unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory in their Tier II semi-final on Saturday.

The Anguillans struggled for the first time, as they were caught on defense most of the game. Martinique came out in full attacking mode and

wasted no time taking shots at goalkeeper Makiesha Connor.

The contrasting styles of football had Martinique moving the ball through lines and creating many combination plays around the Anguillan players. At the half, Martinique dominated although they struggled to score.

It was in the 38th minute that Martinique were awarded a corner that was sent into the 6-yard box and on to the boot of Samira Lamy, allowing her to confidently secure the first goal.

A Martinique counter-attack successfully secured their second goal. A ball played over the top by defender Tessa Dorville was picked up by captain Djhameley Valentin outside the 18-yard box.

Connor was unable to hold onto Valentin's cross into the box. The ball fell from Connor's grasp into the path of Leina Honorin, who shot into the back of the net in the 69th minute.



Puerto Rico celebrate after capturing the Tier I title of the 2023 Caribbean Football Union Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday. (CFU Media)

Puerto Rico claim Tier I title in CFU Challenge Series

Puerto Rico continued their dominant and unbeaten run to defeat Aruba 5-0 in the final to capture the Tier I title of the 2023 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series at the ABFA Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday.

Camila Adame broke the deadlock in the 26th minute when Aruba's goalkeeper Tyanne Rafael allowed the firmly hit ball to slip through her fingers and cross the goal line to give Puerto Rico a 1-0 halftime lead.

The second goal would finally arrive in the 45th minute via a conversion by Natalia Aviles.

Two quick goals for Puerto Rico solidified their claim to the title. Amanda Echevarria Ortiz met a cross from Selymar Sierra at the back post, and being unmarked, she made no mistake to

tap home from close range for her first of the match to make it 3-0 in the 47th minute.

Bryant Laboy Vega extended the lead to 4-0 and officially put Aruba out of reach by scoring in the 53rd minute.

Ortiz would finish off the scoring from the penalty spot in the 67th minute after an infringement in the Aruba penalty area. She made no mistake from the spot to end an extraordinary tournament for the Tier I champions.

The Puerto Ricans booked their spot in the final with a 6-0 victory against the Cayman Islands in their Tier I semi-final on Saturday.

Aruba secured their spot in the final by prevailing 5-3 against Trinidad & Tobago after both teams fought to a goalless draw at the end of regulation in

the other Tier I semi-final on Saturday.

Aruba kicked first and had conversions from Sharienne Vrolijk, Lorenzana Nepi Perez, Niamey Tromp, Dariella Leerdam, and Zyana Rogers.

Trinidad & Tobago's penalties were scored by Mia Lee Chong, Mikalah Guerrero, and Jayda Herbert. Trinidad and Tobago's skipper, Hackeemar Goodridge, failed to convert her penalty kick, which allowed Aruba to claim victory.

In addition to lifting the champion's trophy, Puerto Rico also claimed the Golden Glove Award via Cameila Marin Cestero, who ended the competition with clean sheets.

Captain Camila Adame took home the Most Valuable Player award, while Anguilla's Kaylee Durand, with 11 goals, hoisted the Golden Boot award.