

EDUCATION MINISTER: A/C IN THE CLASSROOMS COMING

Story on Page 2



The Immigration Department is exposing some of its officers to a series of intense training that will help them to more readily detect fraudulent documents at the country's border control stations. *Story on page 3.*

Local News



Education Minister says A/C in the classrooms are coming

As Antigua and Barbuda and other parts of the world endure heat waves over the past several weeks, Minister of Education Daryll Matthew said the ministry now has to give serious consideration to installing air conditioning units in schools across the country.

Speaking on the 'Point in the Morning' radio programme, Matthew said the ministry must now be concerned about the hot and humid classroom conditions under which the students are asked to study.

He noted that not long ago, this was not a consid-

eration, but with the impact of climate change affecting weather systems the world over, education officials must now give serious thought to students' comfort in the classroom.

"We, as a nation, felt that if it got hot, all that was needed was to put fans in the classrooms and you are okay. Now the fans are blowing hot air and what is required is a proper climate control environment, which are air conditioning units in our classrooms. However, that poses a problem, as many of our school buildings are old, having been constructed 40

to 50 years ago. Putting a/c's in these buildings leads to another problem; the wiring in these buildings which are not adequate to accommodate a/c units," he explained.

Minister Matthew said it is going to require a multi-discipline approach to re-wire the school buildings across the country, and this would come at a high cost. He added that anyone who recently built a house and made note of the cost to do the wiring would have an appreciation of the anticipated cost associated with a project of this size.

"It is not an overnight



Minister of Education Daryll Matthew

'quick fix,' but it is definitely something that we have placed on our agenda, that we must undertake to ensure so our students can learn and be taught in a comfortable environment," he remarked.

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Intense training underway for Immigration officers

The Immigration Department is exposing some of its officers to a series of intense training that will help them to more readily detect fraudulent documents at the country's border control stations.

These officers are attending a training session organized by the department with assistance from the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), whose officer, Pier-Luc Beausejour is serving as the facilitator of the three-day workshop.

"This training is put on by the Canadian Embassy located in the Dominican Republic, and by extension the CBSA with Mr. Beausejour as the facilitator



impacting knowledge to our immigration officers. The topics to be covered include detecting fraudulent documents i.e., being able to identify fraudulent passports as well as the detection of imposters which will be done by a certain line of questioning.

"This means that interviewing techniques will

also be covered," Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood explained.

This module concludes on Thursday, but Yearwood disclosed that a similar exercise will take place next week, conducted this time by the US Embassy based in Barbados.

Both the US Department of Homeland Security and

the Transportation Services Agency (TSA) will be involved in that training from September 18-20.

Asked what has brought on the need for these training sessions organized separately by the Canadian and US governments, Yearwood said it is being driven by the need to 'sharpen our skills.'

"The need for this training is timely, as the landscape is changing for immigration departments not only for us in Antigua and Barbuda but regionally and around the world. We just have to make sure that we are on top of our game with the new trends that are emerging," she further explained.



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OPM exposes staff to leadership training

Senior staff in the various departments that form part of the Ministry known as the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), are taking part in an executive leadership training programme.

Participants in attendance represent the OPM headquarters, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF), and the Organization of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The three-day training sessions will be facilitated by Human Resources Consultant, Shirlene Nibbs.

Permanent Secretary in the OPM Ministry, Stacey Gregg-Paige, addressed the opening exercises telling attendees that Leadership is not merely a position or a title, but a mindset, a set of skills, and a commitment to continuous growth and de-



The head table at the OPM training with PS Stacey Gregg-Paige (far left) and Shirlene Nibbs on her immediate right.

velopment.

“Whether you are a seasoned leader, looking to sharpen your skills, or someone aspiring to step into a leadership role, this three-day workshop will provide you with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to excel in your leadership journey. Throughout this workshop, various aspects of leadership will be explored, from effective communication and team-build-

ing to strategic thinking and decision-making. The principles of ethical leadership will be delved into, and the importance of leading by example,” she stated.

Gregg-Paige emphasized that leadership is not confined to the workplace alone.

“It extends to every facet of our lives, from our families to our communities. As you grow as a leader, you have the potential to

influence and inspire others profoundly. Leadership is about empowering those around you, fostering a sense of purpose, and working collaboratively towards common goals,” she shared.

In her remarks, Nibbs said the focus will start with the participants themselves as that is where leadership starts.

“Your self-awareness as a leader is important because if you don’t know who you are then you cannot lead others. So that is where we will start, and I expect that you will make a difference in your particular unit, your supervisors will see a difference in you and the country will see a difference in the performance in the various departments of the prime OPM portfolios,” she declared.

Customs officials complete training

Senior officials of the Customs Division have just completed a training workshop that focused on ways to strengthen the department’s operations as well as to reduce the incidence of corrupt behavior among staff.

During the training, customs officials were actively engaged in the World Customs Organisation’s (WCO’s) Consultation Mechanism Training as a part of the Anti-Corruption Integrity Programme facilitated by Integrity Expert, Wagner Castro, who is attached to the WCO. The cus-



toms officials focused on areas such as fostering change, reforming, modernization, strategic planning, and communication.

After the training, Castro expressed his delight with the outcome and he concluded that the sessions were a success. “The aim was to enhance the relationship with

stakeholders, and I’m thrilled to say it was a success. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by all the participants were truly commendable. What impressed me the most was the customs officials’ excellent critical thinking and solution-oriented skills. Their feedback highlighted just how important the

lessons learned during the workshop are for our shared goal,” he noted.

Over the next few weeks, the Customs Official will be assisting Liaison Officers at various Customs & Excise locations, in the next stage of the WCO Anti-Corruption and Integrity Program (ACIP).

ABHTA launches unveiling hospitality professionals series

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has announced the launch of a thirteen-week project, leading up to the celebration of Tourism Week 2023, commencing on December 3rd through to December 9th.

Under the theme, “Unveiling Hospitality Professionals,” this initiative will embark on a journey that will focus the spotlight on the heart of the hospitality industry on its often-unsung heroes—the dedicated individuals who infuse life and vitality into the sector.

“Throughout this profound journey of spotlighting hospitality employees,

we will immerse ourselves in their diverse backgrounds, personal triumphs, and unwavering pursuit of excellence. Whether their roots are traced back to humble beginnings or they have honed their craft through years of dedication, these hospitality professionals have committed themselves to the indus-

try’s growth, a media release from the ABHTA noted.

In its inaugural feature, the ABHTA focuses the spotlight on the Deputy General Manager at Mill Reef Club, Michelle Seaforth, whose journey into the world of hospitality began at a tender age, inspired by her mother’s role as the Rooms Division

Manager at Jolly Beach Resort. According to Seaforth, her mother’s vivid narratives about guests, events, and team interactions always captivated her imagination. Reflecting on her early experiences, she recalls, “My occasional visits to Jolly Beach further sparked my interest in the industry. The warm and welcoming atmosphere, from the reception desk’s greetings to the chef’s live omelet station, left a lasting impression on me. It was brimming with joy and energy. During those visits, I realized that I wanted to be a part of the hospitality industry.”

Seaforth described her *cont’d on pg 6*

Unveiling Hospitality Professionals

Michelle Seaforth, Mill Reef Club



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PRC supports Halo's farming efforts

Ambassador Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda, Her Excellency Mme. Zhang Yanling presented a cheque for EC\$20,000 earlier this week to the Halo Foundation. The donation was accepted by President of Halo, Her Excellency Lady Williams, and is earmarked for the further development of

the Halo Youth Farm project. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China is a major partner in Halo's agricultural programme, and has provided expert seminars on farming techniques, as well as financial aid, in the past. The Ministry of Agriculture and the American University of Antigua have also extended much needed support.



cont'd from pg 5

path to her current position as Deputy General Manager at Mill Reef Club as marked by resilience and the principle of "stoop to conquer," instilled by her father. She embarked on her career as a janitor after completing her studies at Johnson & Wales University in Miami. The concept of climbing the ladder from the ground up resonated with Michelle

as she put her degree in Travel Tourism and Hospitality Management with a minor in Food and Beverage to practical use.

Today, Michelle oversees six departments—Reception, Housekeeping, Reservations, Beach and Gardens, Maintenance, and House Rentals—in her most senior role to date.

Chairman of the ABHTA, Craig

Marshall, emphasized the importance of sharing stories like Seaforth's to inspire the next generation of Antiguan and Barbudan talent, aspiring to reach the highest echelons of the hospitality industry.

He expressed the ABHTA's commitment to launching this project with the hope that primary and secondary students will gain insights into the diverse facets of the hospitality sector.

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Shelby James earns Masters' Degree

Family and friends of Shelby James are extending their heartiest congratulations on the successful completion of her studies leading to a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Earlier this year, James traveled to Scotland to participate in the graduation exercise, held at Napier University where she did her studies.

James is employed as a Senior Supervisor in the Immigration Department where she worked for 25 years. However, in an attempt to broaden her scope, she requested and received a secondment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was there that she saw the opportunity

to improve her skills, obtain the necessary and required training, and gain the knowledge to better equip her, to make a more meaningful contribution to the Immigration Department.

James recognized also the benefits to be obtained from higher education, so she enrolled in and successfully pursued a three-year Master's Degree Programme with Edinburgh Napier University.

It is expected that Miss James will resume her duties shortly in the Immigration Department, better equipped to serve and improve its services, by applying her newly acquired knowledge to its overall benefit.



Shelby James

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Possible solution to school deviant behaviour

Dear Editor,

I believe I have a solution to substantially decrease deviant behaviour and crimes in primary and secondary schools in the United Islands of Antigua and Barbuda. As I stated in previous crime prevention and detection solutions I provided, the key is eliminating opportunities for unruly, deviant, and criminal behavior.

These opportunities within schools can be eliminated by including a course that requires law enforcement and military personnel to be present on campuses to teach this particular course/subject/class.

This course will include the importance of being kind to others and protecting others, how to stay safe, how to detect suspicious activities, how to report suspicious activities, etcetera.

This course/subject can venture deeper into social science areas involving criminology, criminal justice, police science etcetera.

Officers being present on premises as teachers has positive impacts on behavior, to decrease misconduct in schools and society, in general. Various officers should be assigned to teaching, with most in formal uniforms (this diminishes the feeling of threat to students and makes officers more inviting to students).

Officers sometimes should wear weapons on their person concealed and sometimes not concealed (depending on what intelligence from INSU and how popular the officer-teacher is). This is being used also as a crime opportunity reduction tactic.

Offering such a course gives officers a chance to be present on campus in a non-threatening manner (I usually advise against having officers constantly in primary and secondary schools solely for policing purposes, when officers are there only for policing, to

avoid emotional distress to students).

However, such distress could be eliminated when officers are seen as teachers or friends who could help students achieve greatness.

This primary school and secondary school policing course/class/subject could seek the support of the colleges, universities, banks, police departments, military, US embassy, my US businesses, and others to give extra benefits and credits to those students who took and did well in such classes and currently do not have any criminal records.

So, such a student is motivated to participate in such a course/class/subject because they would have a better chance of being hired in banks in Antigua and Barbuda (everybody wanted to work in a bank in Antigua and Barbuda and considered it prestigious to do so).

The student completing this course helps to demonstrate that they have the moral character needed to work in the banks, the initial requirement and motivation to be employed in the nation's military and police, and it will also help to demonstrate to foreign countries like the US (I know this, I practice immigration law, among many other areas) that you are someone likely to be of good moral character.

Students who participate in these police and community safety courses successfully would be given credits to attend the Antigua State College or other learning institutions on the United Islands of Antigua and Barbuda, which also would increase their chances of getting into such colleges and universities.

These institutions can promise to fill a certain amount of their available spaces with the kind of applicants who took and completed the courses/classes/subjects I am mentioning here.

This encourages our youths to un-

derstand the importance of crime prevention, their moral character, their duty toward their community, etcetera.

It will result in crime reduction, our youths being better people, our youths being safe, and more people who contribute to providing intelligence (to INSU) and eliminating opportunities for criminals to commit crimes in our communities.

The course could entail students setting up their own community watch and providing essays on what suspicious activities they have seen, what crimes they have experienced, and how it impacts them, their families, their community, and the nation. This will also bring our youths closer to law enforcement and law enforcement closer to our youths.

Officers teaching these courses in Primary, Secondary, and even Tertiary institutions will serve as deterrents (eliminating opportunities for criminals and deviants), as this is a way of collecting data and bettering understanding the community they serve, according to the purpose of the Intelligence and National Security Unit (INSU) unit that I have mentioned in my previous article.

Such programs have too many benefits and practically cost nothing to implement.

It will have significant positive impacts on crime reduction, community relations, our youths, economic development, national security, etcetera.

It will require officers with at least an associate's degree in criminal justice, criminology, or police science, even though I prefer at least a bachelor's degree or better, a master's degree. More details will be available from me to ensure this program achieves all of its purposes. This is just my way of helping.

Concerned citizen



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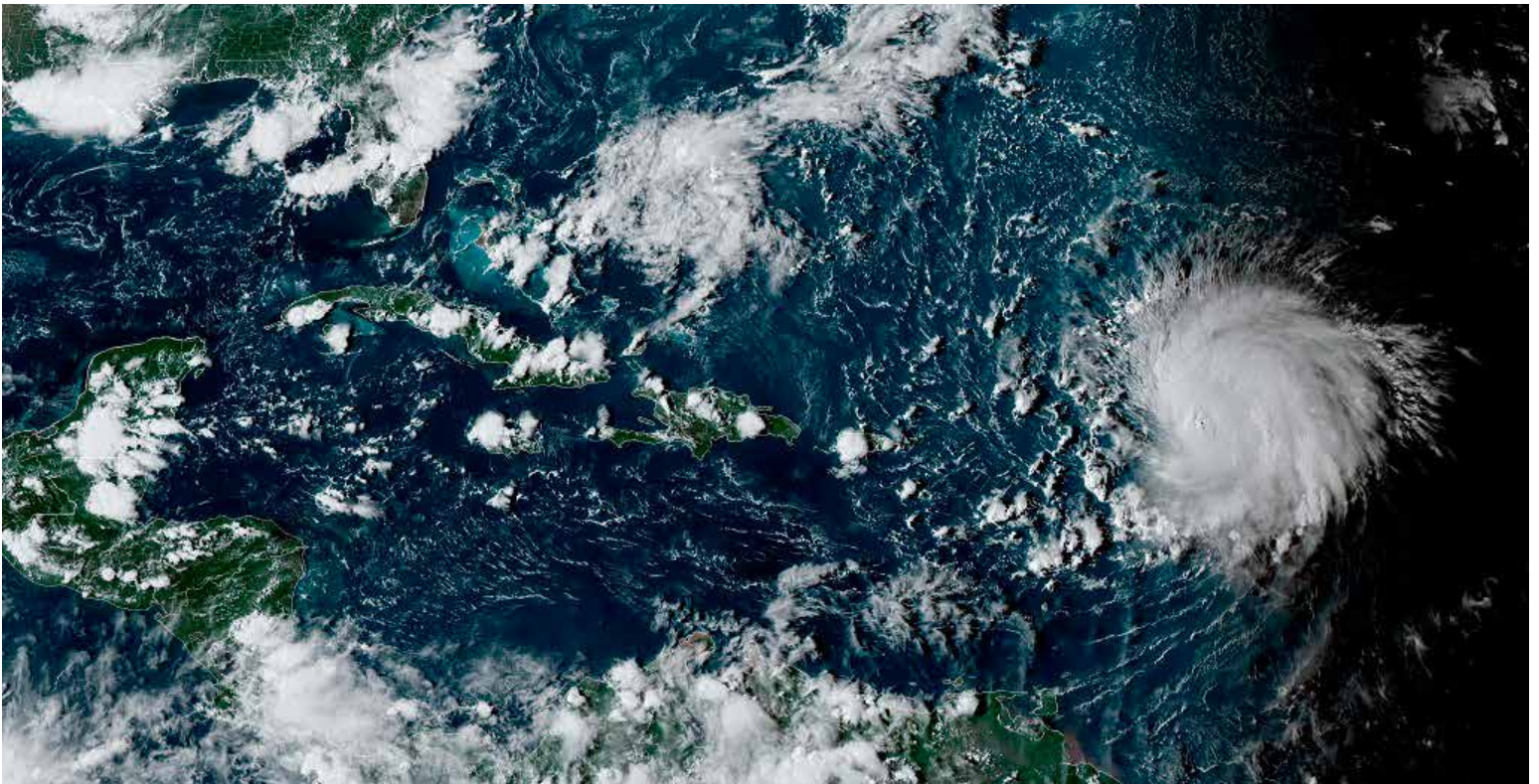
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This satellite image provided by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration shows Hurricane Lee, right, in the Atlantic Ocean on Friday, September 8, 2023, at 4:50 pm EDT. Lee is rewriting old rules of meteorology, leaving experts astonished at how rapidly it grew into a goliath Category 5 hurricane. (NOAA via AP)

Hurricane Lee swirls through open waters on a path to Atlantic Canada

Hurricane Lee whirled north of Puerto Rico on Tuesday as a Category 3 storm, with forecasters noting it would remain in open waters through this week while on a path to Atlantic Canada.

The storm was located 575 miles (925 kilometres) south of Bermuda. It had winds of up to 115 mph (185 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 7 mph (11 kph).

By Sunday, Lee was forecast to weaken into a tropical storm and likely make landfall in Nova Scotia, Canada, according to AccuWeather.

“A significant storm surge will occur along with the strongest winds and risk of property damage,” AccuWeather said in a statement.

Winds and flooding also are expected to affect Rhode Island, eastern Massachusetts, southeastern New Hampshire and central and coastal Maine, forecasters said.

Hurricane Lee was expected to start turning northward on Tuesday afternoon on a path that would take it just west of Bermuda late Thursday, with the National Hurricane Center warning the island could experience tropical storm conditions.

Lee is expected to weaken in upcoming days as it enters cooler waters.

“Despite the weakening that is forecast, keep in mind that the expanding wind field of Lee will produce impacts well away from the storm centre,” the center said.

Lee was generating dangerous surf and rip currents for the Lesser Antilles, the British and US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda and parts of the southeast US coast. Those conditions were expected to soon spread to the US East Coast.

“It remains too soon to know what level of additional impacts Lee might

have along the northeastern US coast and Atlantic Canada late this week and this weekend,” the National Hurricane Center said.

Lee is the 12th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 and peaked on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Margot became the fifth named hurricane of the season on Monday. It was located some 935 miles (1,505 kilometres) southwest of the Azores. It had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph) and was moving north at 13 mph (20 kph). Margot is forecast to remain over open waters.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has forecast 14 to 21 named storms this season. Six to 11 of those are expected to strengthen into hurricane, and of those, two to five could develop into Category 3 storms or higher.



Dengue cases confirmed in Montserrat

Montserrat's Ministry of Health and Social Services has reported the presence of laboratory-confirmed dengue fever as well as probable cases of the virus on island.

In light of this health threat, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Garrett Stanley; urged residents to take the necessary precautionary measures to prevent spread of the vector-borne disease.

He stated, "To control the spread of the virus we must decrease the mosquito index on island. At this time residents must give the utmost priority to eradicating breeding sites at their homes and places of business. They must conduct inspections and eliminate all sources of standing water that allows mosquitoes to breed".

Common breeding sites that home business owners should pay attention to include garbage bins, vases and drip trays, dish drainers, bottles, buckets and drums for water collection, pet bowls, drains and guttering, swimming pools and old tires.

It was also indicated that the Vector Control Team was on stand-by to assist residents

with inspections should they be unable to locate breeding sites on their premises. The team can be contacted at 491-6057.

Dengue fever is a potentially life-threatening illness, spread to humans via the bite of an infected *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito.

Infected persons experience high fever, intense headaches, bone and joint pain, pain behind the eyes, nausea and/or vomiting as well as rash.

Health Officials noted that there is no specific treatment for dengue; however, the timely detection of cases to identify any warning signs of severe dengue infection is important to prevent fatality.

Individuals experiencing symptoms should therefore access medical attention as soon as possible at a Health Centre or Private Doctor.

It was further recommended by Health Officials that residents protect themselves and persons in their care from bites by using repellents containing DEET, using screens and mosquito nets and wearing loose, light clothing to cover the arms and legs.



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Dominica: Lack of support for first female head of state nominee

CMC - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit Tuesday said he is “disappointed” that the government’s nomination for the position of President of Dominica, did not get the support of the Opposition Leader.

Parliament will meet later on Tuesday to discuss the issue of a replacement for President Charles Savarin, whose two five-year term, in office comes to an end on October 1 this year.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said that the Dominica Constitution provides for consultation between the head of government and the Opposition Leader on the selection of a candidate. Failure to reach an agreement would mean that the election of a President will take place 14 days after Parliament has been informed of the situation.

The government has nominat-



Sylvanie Burton.

ed 58-year-old Sylvanie Burton, a member of the island’s indigenous population, to become the island’s 11th head of state since the attainment of political independence from Britain on November 3, 1978.

But speaking on the state-owned DBS radio, Skerrit said that he would have to inform the Speaker of the Parliament of the position adopted by the Opposition Leader, Jesma

Paul Victor not to support the government nominee.

Skerrit told radio listeners that he was disappointed that there could not have been consensus on the appointment of Burton, who is from the Kaliango Territory, where the descendants of the country’s indigenous people, the Caribs, still resides.

“It is unfortunate and I see this as a repudiation of a woman and a repudiation of a Kaliango...the people who first came to our country, who defended our patrimony that we could have a Dominica to call our home.”

He said he was also disappointed that a “highly qualified” person did not meet the approval of the opposition.

“She has stayed in Dominica all of her life at the service of the Kalin-

cont'd on pg 13

St George’s University confirms student reported missing in Grenada

St George’s University (SGU) has confirmed that a student enrolled in the School of Medicine has been reported missing.

A statement says SGU’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Office of the Dean of Students are working closely with the Royal Grenada Police Force.

An extensive investigation and search are underway. Appropriate measures by the University administration are in place, such as the deployment of DPS Personnel Safety Patrol and K-9 trained dogs and notification of the student’s emer-



Liam Fisher.

gency contact.

SGU says it respects the privacy of the reported missing student and all those impacted. Students, faculty and staff affected by

these events have access to support from SGU’s Psychological Services Center.

DPS will keep the relevant authorities apprised of further developments.

Meanwhile, the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) in a statement has since indicated that it is seeking the public’s assistance in locating Liam Fisher, 35, a Canadian Citizen who is a Medical Student at St George’s University residing at True Blue, St George.

He is approximately five feet eleven inches in height, medium built of Caucasian descent with a bearded face.

Fisher was last seen on Saturday, September 9 attending the Grenada Hash House Harriers run from the Marian Playing Field.

Vincentian national gunned down in Grenada

CMC - Grenada police set up roadblocks and were searching vehicles leading out of the capital, as they launched a manhunt for those responsible for the murder of a St Vincent and Grenadines national, who was shot multiple times as he sat in his vehicle on Monday.

Police have identified the victim as 51-year-old Dexter Chance, who in July last year, had been freed of charges linked to a multi-million dollar drug bust here.

Police said that Chance, was shot and killed in Woburn, on the outskirts of the capital, St George and a photograph circulating on social media showed his bloody body in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Chance, along with Grenadian Bernard Spann, 46, and Jamaicans Ian White, 53, and Alrick Reynolds, 48, were arrest-



Dexter Chance.

ed in August 2019 in connection with the seizure of 40 kilos of cocaine at Dr Grooms in Point Salines, south of here.

He was denied bail then as the prosecution told the court that they believed that Chance's arrest had helped in cracking a major drug ring in the Caribbean.

However, in January

2020, he was granted bail, the conditions of which included reporting to police twice weekly, surrendering his travel documents and obtaining permission of the court to leave Grenada.

Chance remained in Grenada after being freed of the charges last July.

In 2011, Chance, along with fellow Vincentians

Gareth McDowall and Carlos Sutherland, had been extradited to Tortola to stand trial along with three other people in connection with a 2008 drug bust.

The men were charged after the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force said they found 61 kilos of cocaine onboard a chartered catamaran.

The cocaine had an estimated street value of one million US dollars.

On July 3, 2012, Chance and the other Vincentians were sentenced to six years in prison for importing drugs into the Virgin Islands. However, five years later, the Vincentian men were released after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions for drug importation, on the ground that the then judge erred in law in relying on a certificate of analysis not bearing the name of the defendants.

cont'd from pg 12

ago people, at the service of Dominica. Every developmental programme and project which has been pursued in the Kaliango territory over the last 40 years, Mrs Burton has been involved one way or the other, preparing the project document, soliciting funds or overseeing its implementation.

"I can't understand any good reason why the Leader of the Opposition would have come to her conclu-

sion, but I guess her advisors would have a different view and would so advise her," he said.

Skerrit's Dominica Labour Party (DLP) government has a significant majority in the 21-member Parliament and the government's nominee is expected to be elected when the Parliament meets.

Mrs Burton has been a senior public servant since 2014 and is currently the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Rural

Modernisation, Kalinagoo Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment.

She has been a Justice of the Peace for 25 years and holds a Master's Degree in Project Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development.

She is married and has two children.

"She is the first female president and first indigenous president in Dominica," Skerrit said.

Libya floods: Entire neighbourhoods dragged into the sea

By Lucy Fleming

Rescue teams in Libya are struggling to retrieve the bodies of victims that have been swept out to sea in tsunami-like flood waters.

At least 2,300 have been killed, according to the ambulance authority in Derna, the worst affected city.

Two dams and four bridges collapsed in Derna, submerging much of the city when Storm Daniel hit on Sunday.

About 10,000 people are reported missing, the Red Crescent says, and the death toll is expected to rise further.

Some aid has started to arrive, including from Egypt, but rescue efforts have been hampered by the political situation in Libya, with the country split between two rival governments.

The US, Germany, Iran, Italy, Qatar and Turkey are among the countries that have said they have sent or are ready to send aid.

Video footage recorded after dark on Sunday shows a river of floodwater churning through the city with cars bobbing helplessly in the current.

There are harrowing stories of people being swept out to sea, while others clung onto rooftops to survive.

"I was shocked by what I saw, it's like a tsunami," Hisham Chkiouat, from Libya's eastern-based government, said.

He told BBC Newshour that the collapse of one of the dams to the south of Derna had dragged large parts of the city into the sea.

"A massive neighbourhood has been destroyed - there is a large number of victims, which is increasing each hour."

Mr Al-Dbeibah said rescue teams were struggling to recover some bodies, and that the navy and divers were trying to retrieve bodies from the sea.

An investigation has been launched into why the floods were able to cause



The low-lying areas of Derna near the sea have been worst affected.

such devastation, he said, adding that 2.5bn Libyan Dinar (\$515m) would be given to help rebuild Derna and the eastern city of Benghazi.

The cities of Soussa, Al-Marj and Misrata were also affected by Sunday's storm.

Water engineering experts told the BBC it is likely the upper dam, around 12km (eight miles) from the city, had failed first, sending its water sweeping down the river valley towards the second dam, which lies closer to Derna - where neighbourhoods were inundated.

"At first we just thought it was heavy rain but at midnight we heard a huge explosion and it was the dam bursting," Raja Sassi, who survived along with his wife and small daughter, told Reuters news agency.

Libyan journalist Noura Eljerbi, who is based in Tunisia told the BBC she only found out that around 35 of her relatives who all lived in the same apartment block in Derna were still alive after contacting a local rescue team.

"The house has been destroyed but my family managed to get out before things got worse. They are safe now," she said.

Rescue worker Kasim Al-Qatani told BBC Newsnight that there is no

clean drinking water in Derna, and a lack of medical supplies.

He added that the only hospital in Derna could no longer take patients because "there are more than 700 dead bodies waiting in the hospital and it's not that big."

Libya has been in political chaos since long-serving ruler Col Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in 2011 - leaving the oil-rich nation effectively split with an interim, internationally recognised government operating from the capital, Tripoli, and another one in the east.

Libyan journalist Abdulkader Assad said the confusion around this was hampering rescue efforts.

"You have people who are pledging help but the help is not coming," he told the BBC. "There are no rescue teams, there are no trained rescuers in Libya. Everything over the last 12 years was about war."

But despite the split, the government in Tripoli has sent a plane with 14 tonnes of medical supplies, body bags and more than 80 doctors and paramedics.

Brian Lander, the deputy director of emergencies at the UN's World Food

cont'd on pg 15

Biden impeachment inquiry: McCarthy says House will investigate president

By Anthony Zurcher

The US House of Representatives will open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, its most senior Republican has said.

Kevin McCarthy said the inquiry would focus on “allegations of abuse of power, obstruction and corruption” by Mr Biden.

Republicans have been investigating the president since they took control of the House in January.

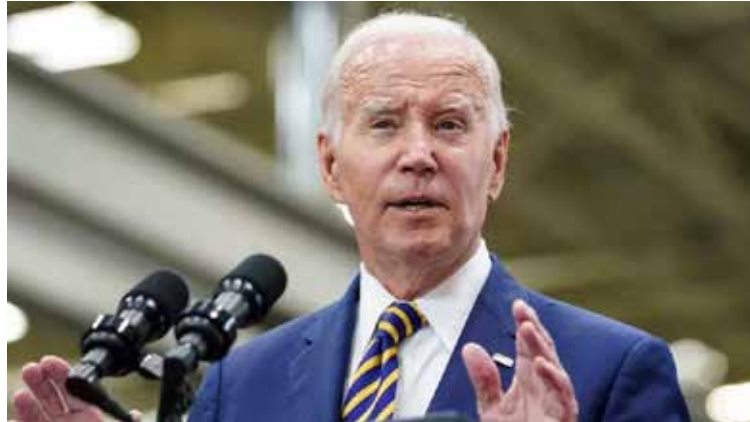
The hearings have found no concrete evidence of misconduct by Mr Biden.

They have, however, shed more light on business dealings by the president’s son Hunter Biden - which Republicans say are questionable - and on Mr Biden’s knowledge of his son’s activities.

In a brief statement at the US Capitol, Mr McCarthy said there were “serious and credible” allegations involving the president’s conduct.

“Taken together, these allegations paint a picture of a culture of corruption,” he said.

The White House was



President Joe Biden

quick to condemn Mr McCarthy’s decision.

“House Republicans have been investigating the President for nine months, and they’ve turned up no evidence of wrongdoing,” White House spokesperson Ian Sams wrote in a social media post.

“Extreme politics at its worst.”

Hunter Biden is currently under federal investigation for possible tax crimes related to his foreign business interests.

Mr McCarthy, a California lawmaker, also alleged that the president’s family has received special treatment from Biden administration officials investigating allegations of misconduct.

The White House has denied any involvement in the Hunter Biden case, and said that President Biden has no ties to his son’s business operations.

This inquiry will give congressional investigators greater legal authority to investigate the president, including by issuing subpoenas for documents and testimony that can be more easily enforced in court.

The US constitution states a president can be impeached for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanours”, a process which can end in them being removed from office.

However, any effort to remove President Biden would be unlikely to succeed.

The House of Representatives, where Republicans hold a narrow 222-212 majority, would need to vote in favour. It would then need to proceed to a Senate trial and vote.

Democrats have a majority in the Senate, and would almost certainly shoot down the proceedings if it gets that far.

Mr Trump, the only US president to have been impeached twice, was acquitted both times by his fellow Republicans.

Mr McCarthy, who as Speaker leads Republicans in the House, has been lobbied for weeks by right-wing members to open an impeachment inquiry.

Congressman Matt Gaetz of Florida, a close ally of former President Donald Trump, called the announcement “a baby step following weeks of pressure from House conservatives to do more”. He had previously threatened to force a vote to remove Mr McCarthy from his leadership position if the Speaker did not start an impeachment investigation.

cont’d from pg 14

Programme, said the organisation had food supplies for 5,000 families.

Derna, about 250km east of Benghazi along the coast, is surrounded by the nearby hills of the fertile Jabal Akhdar region.

The city was once where militants from the Islamic State group built a presence in Libya, after Gaddafi’s fall.

They were driven out some years later by the Libyan National Army (LNA), forces loyal to Gen Khalifa Haftar who is allied to the eastern administration.

The powerful general said eastern officials are currently assessing damage caused by the floods so roads can be reconstructed and electricity restored to help rescue efforts.

Libya’s leading Al-Wasat news web-

site has suggested that failures to properly rebuild and maintain infrastructure in Derna after years of conflict is partly to blame for the high death toll.

“The security chaos and Libyan authorities’ laxity in carrying out close monitoring of safety measures [of the dams] led to the catastrophe,” it quoted economic expert Mohammed Ahmed as saying.

Rubiales summoned to court by Spanish judge



President of Spain's soccer federation, Luis Rubiales, left, stands next to Spain Head Coach Jorge Vilda after being received by Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez at La Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023. (AP)

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) - Luis Rubiales, the former president of Spain's soccer federation, has been ordered to give testimony to a Spanish judge investigating his kiss of a player at the Women's World Cup.

Judge Francisco de Jorge ordered Rubiales to answer his questions on Friday at Spain's National Court in Madrid, according to court documents seen by The Associated Press on

Tuesday.

Rubiales kissed Spain forward Jenni Hermoso during the awards ceremony after Spain beat England to win the title on Aug. 20 in Sydney, Australia. He said she had consented to the kiss, but Hermoso has denied that.

Spanish state prosecutors formally accused Rubiales last week of alleged sexual assault and an act of coercion when, according to Hermoso, he pressured her to speak out in his defense immediately after the scandal erupted.

Rubiales announced on Sunday that he was resigning from his post, from which he had already been provisionally suspended by FIFA.

De Jorge is carrying out the preliminary investigation into the accusations against Rubiales, and will then decide whether the case should go to trial.

According to a sexual consent law passed in Spain last year, Rubiales could face a fine or a prison sentence of one to four years if found guilty of sexual assault.

The new law eliminated the difference between "sexual harassment" and "sexual assault," sanctioning any non-consensual sexual act.


 A promotional graphic for the radio show 'Platinum FM 97.9 Touchline'. It features two men, Epilus and Kevin, standing in front of a red background with a stadium scene. Epilus is wearing a red Arsenal jersey with 'Emirates FLY BETTER' on it. Kevin is wearing a dark t-shirt. The text 'PLATINUM FM 97.9' is at the top right, with a headphones icon. Below the names 'EPILUS' and 'KEVIN' is the word 'TOUCHLINE' in large yellow letters. At the bottom, it says 'MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7AM-9AM' and 'All the best in sports and more' in a dark box.

Simona Halep gets four-year ban in doping case

LONDON (AP) - Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep has been suspended from professional tennis for four years for doping violations, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Romanian “committed intentional anti-doping rule violations” by failing a drug test during the 2022 US Open and for irregularities in her Athlete Biological Passport, the ITIA said.

Halep, who plans to appeal the ruling, had been provisionally suspended since October 2022. The four-year ban will run to Oct. 6, 2026.

Halep reached No. 1 in the WTA rankings in 2017. She won Wimbledon in 2019, beating 23-time major champion Serena Williams in the final, a year after winning the French Open.

Halep, who had blamed contaminated nutritional supplements, plans to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

“I am continuing to train and do everything in my power to clear my name of these false allegations and return to the court,” Halep said in a statement.

She said she also will “pursue all legal remedies against the supplement company in question.”



Romania's Simona Halep holds the trophy after defeating Serena Williams in the women's singles final of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, July 13, 2019. Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep has been suspended from professional tennis for four years for alleged doping violations, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023. (AP)

The ITIA's tribunal heard from Halep and her expert scientific witnesses but concluded that the player committed both offenses.

“The tribunal accepted Halep's argument that they had taken a contaminated supplement, but determined the volume the player ingested could not have resulted in the concentration of Roxadustat found in the positive sample,” the ITIA said.

Halep's biological

passport profile had been examined by an expert panel. Such passports provide a baseline reading of substances in an athlete's body and are considered a way to help chart doping.

The tribunal reported that “likely doping” was the explanation for the irregularities in Halep's profile.

Halep is the most prominent tennis player to receive a ban since five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova test-

ed positive for a newly banned substance at the 2016 Australian Open.

Sharapova appealed her two-year suspension to CAS, which reduced the penalty, ruling she bore “less than significant fault” in the case and could not “be considered to be an intentional doper.”

Halep, who will be 35 when her suspension ends, said she had adjusted her nutritional supplements ahead of the 2022 hard-court season.



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West Indies Women's Squad announced for Tour to Australia

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's Selection Panel has announced the 15-member squad for the tour to Australia in October.

The six-match Series comprises three (3) T20 Internationals (T20Is) and three (3) One Day Internationals (ODIs).

Following the West Indies Women's clean sweep against Ireland Women in the CG United ODI Series and the T20I Series in St. Lucia earlier in the summer, the panel has named an unchanged squad for the Australia tour under the leadership of Captain Hayley Matthews.

The tour will be the first for new Head Coach Shane Deitz who arrived in the West Indies at the end of August.

The inclusion of the 'Rising Stars' quartet of Ashmini Munisar, Djenaba Joseph, Zaida James, and Jannillea Glasgow will see some of our youngest talent in the team having their first opportunity to test their skills against the current T20I and 50-Over World Champions Australia.

Lead Selector for Women's cricket Ann Browne-John said, "The selection panel has chosen to maintain most of the players who were victorious in the home series against Ireland.

"Jannillea Glasgow, af-



Members of the West Indies Women team converge in a huddle during a cricket match against Ireland in St. Lucia earlier this year. (CWI Media)

ter having an outstanding Rising Stars Women's Under 19 tournament, has been included in the 15-member squad and we see the return of Karishma Ramharack."

Browne-John added, "This team is one we believe will continue to build and develop as our game evolves in the rapidly growing landscape and high-performance setting of women's cricket.

"We have continued to place confidence in some of the developing players. Several of the players are coming off title-winning performances in the Massy Caribbean Premier League so we are expecting them to continue their good run of form.

"This is a team we be-

lieve can produce competitive cricket against a top team like Australia, under the guidance of the new Head Coach and led by the captain Hayley Matthews who's enjoying a very productive 2023 thus far."

The ODI series against Australia is West Indies' fourth fixture in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-2025 after playing New Zealand, England and Ireland.

Each match provides West Indies with opportunity to win valuable points to climb the Championship table where they currently lie ninth out of 10 teams.

Following the Australia Series, West Indies Women will have four further three-match ODI series to play

over the next two years.

At the end of the cycle, the top five teams in the ICC Women's Championship and will book a berth for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in 2025 as well as hosts India.

The remaining teams will have to go through the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

West Indies Women Full Squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbell (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajnabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Chinnelle Henry, Zaida James, Djenaba Joseph, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, and Rashada Williams.






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Organizer claims Parham Super League met objectives

President of East Boys Promotions, Jeremiah Harriett, said the recently concluded inaugural Parham Super League met its overall objectives.

The competition, which was organized by East Boys Promotion, featured eight teams that will be contesting the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) national domestic premier league competition.

It concluded on Saturday, September 2, with Pigotts Bullets crowned champions.

Harriett said one of the objectives was for the participants to use the Parham Super League as part of their ongoing preparations ahead of the official start of the 2023-24 ABFA national domestic season.

"We are grateful for the support that we received from the eight premier league teams that we invited to participate. Our main objective was to create a pre-season tournament featuring premier league teams against each other like they are required to do during the ABFA domestic league," Harriett stated.

"Another objective of the league was to give the participating teams the opportunity to look at their prospective talents, the younger players that are coming through their academies.



The Pigotts Bullets team celebrate after winning the inaugural Parham Super League football competition at the Parham playing field on Saturday, September 2, 2023. (File photo)

"This gave them a chance to gauge the development of the young players that are coming through their respective systems. It provided them with the opportunity to also expose those players to the standard that will be required of them when they play in the ABFA Premier League."

Harriett said he is satisfied that the participating teams also achieved their objectives during the Parham Super League.

"Overall, from what we have seen, the majority of the teams were successful in

utilizing the Parham Super League for their development process," he said.

The Pigotts Bullets won the inaugural Parham Super League by prevailing 3-2 against SAP in the final at the Parham playing field on September 2nd.

The eight teams, divided into two zones, that participated in the Parham Super League are the Pigotts Bullets, SAP, Greenbay Hoppers, Empire, Garden Stars, Parham, All Saints United, and Swetes.

The top two teams at the end of the preliminary

rounds in each zone advanced to the semi-finals. Harriett said he was happy with the overall standard of play displayed during the matches in the Parham Super League.

"I was very impressed with the standard of play. Although a lot of the teams were using their younger players, they also utilized their experienced players alongside them," he stated.

"So overall, the standard was good. It was similar to what we would have seen in a regular premier league game during the season."



Head Coach of the national Under-23 volleyball team, Rosemarie Simon, second left, observe the players during a training session at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday, September 8, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Antigua name squad to contest ECVA U-23 Tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) has finalized its squad to contest the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Under-23 Tournament in Dominica later this month.

The final team of 10 players was selected from an initial squad of 29 players, which started preparations in June for the ECVA tournament, which will take place in Roseau from September 20-25.

The squad comprised three outside hitters in Jasannia Joseph, Schmidt Carter, and Rihanna Brown.

Three opposite hitters are also selected. They are Sharifa Peters, Nashea Browne, and Jerri-Ann Barnes.

The squad is completed by libero Philisha Burnette, setter Jaya Isaac-Carr, and middle blockers Samrah Samuel

and Jahzara Donovan.

The squad will be accompanied by head coach Rosemarie Simon, assistant coach Jacqueline Ladoo, team manager Giselle Azar, and referee Vanessa Burke.

Under the guidance of Simon and Ladoo, the national under-23 squad has been undergoing training and preparation at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex.

They are being assisted by Cuban volleyball coach Francisco Cruz, who is a Federation of International Volleyball (FIVB) Level I instructor.

Coach Simon expressed her enthusiasm for working with the young group of national female volleyballers.

“I am pretty excited about our young group. They have been very dedicated and committed to the process so far. We have just selected our final 10 players

who will be traveling to Dominica on September 18th,” Simon stated.

“The training sessions have been very intense. We started with 29 young ladies trying out to make the national Under-23 team, and after about a month and a half of training, the numbers went down because a number of players pulled out of the sessions.

“I guess the training sessions were too tough for them, so we ended up with 16 players, and from that crop of 16, we selected the final 10 to represent us in Dominica.”

Eight countries will be contesting the ECVA Under-23 Championship. They are Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.