

GAS PRICES IN A&B LOWEST IN ECCU

Story on Page 2



Vector Control Technicians and Laboratory Technicians attached to the Central Board of Health and the Dunbar's laboratory are participating in an Insecticidal Resistance Workshop in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). *Story on page 7.*

Gasoline prices in Antigua and Barbuda lowest in ECCU

Consumers in Antigua and Barbuda are paying the lowest prices for gasoline at the pumps compared to their counterparts in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

A report issued by the ECCU detailing the price of gasoline in the currency union, it said that the average price of gasoline was \$16.12cents. In the eight countries making up the ECCU – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – the prices range from as high as \$17.98cents in Montserrat to \$13.99cents in Antigua and Barbuda at the end of August this year.

Speaking in parliament on Monday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the cost of oil on the world market has been increasing steadily over the past months but the government took a policy decision not to pass on the increases to the consumer but absorbing the increases.

“Petroleum prices have risen to approximately US\$100 per barrel and the fact that there has not been an increase for gasoline at the pumps is because my government has subsidized the fuel sold to consumers.

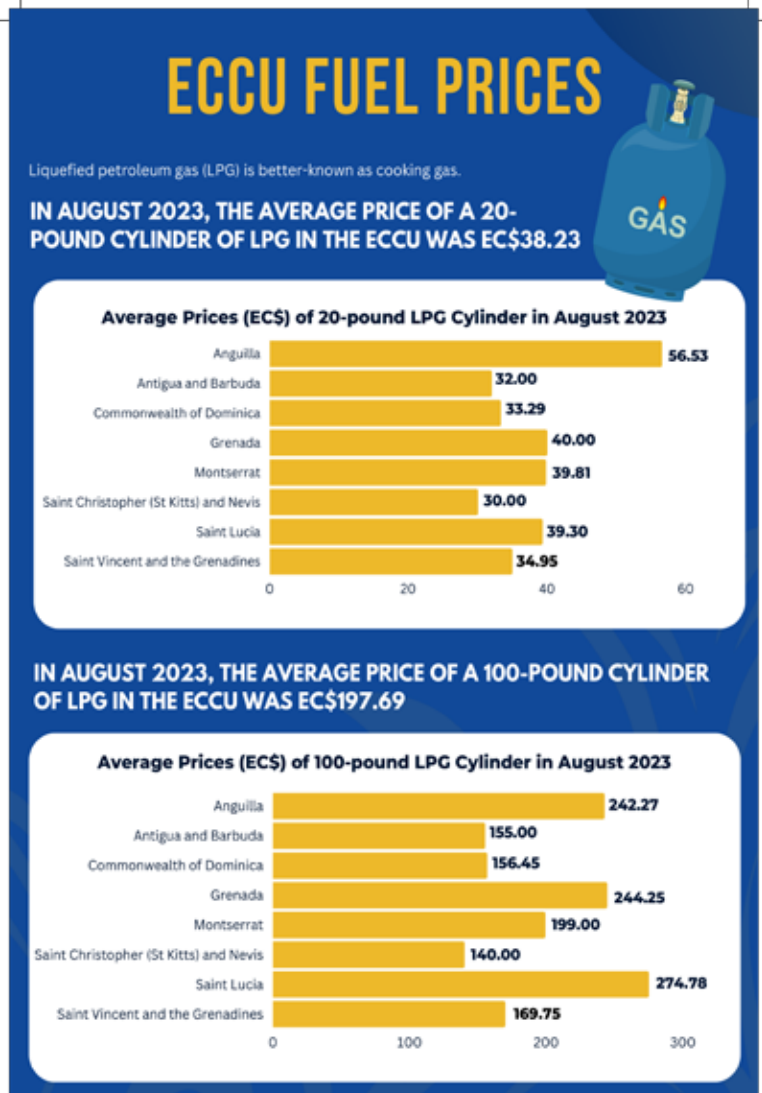
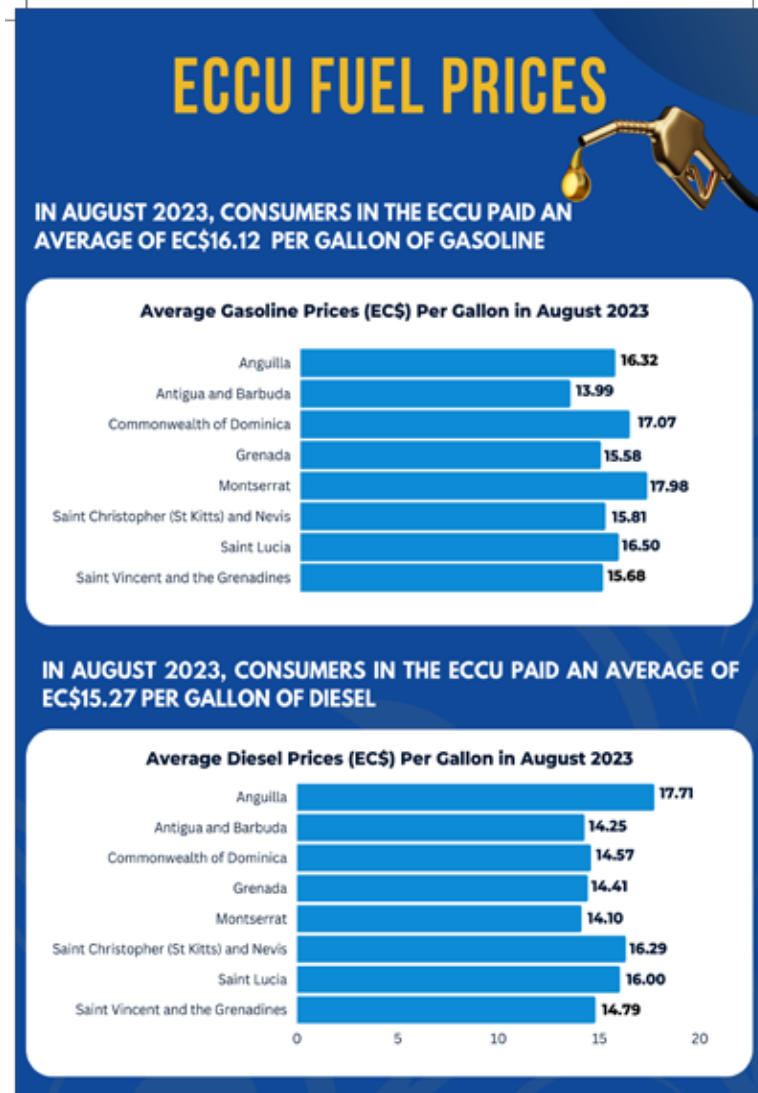
“In fact, for this month and next month we will be paying West Indies Oil Company. So instead of collecting up to \$3 million in consumption taxes

from WIOC, the government will in fact be paying them for fuel in other to keep the prices down,” he revealed.

He added that this is another way that the government’s policies are assisting residents of Antigua and Barbuda by keeping the cost of living down.

With respect to the price of diesel, Antigua and Barbuda pays the second lowest (\$14.25cents). Montserrat consumers pay the lowest at \$14.10cents.

According to the ECCU report gasoline prices declined by almost nine percent in August 2023 compared with the same month last year, while diesel declined by an average of 15 percent across the currency union.



ECCB Governor bemoans the low rate of financial literacy in the ECCU countries

A survey conducted among citizens of the eight countries that comprise the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) has found that the rate of financial literacy and inclusion within the union is at a 'lamentable low'.

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Timothy Antoine, described the findings, released at a region-wide press conference on Monday, as a cause for concern especially given the high rate of adult literacy within the ECCU.

"In a region with a high level of adult literacy in the high 90's, financial literacy and inclusion is lamentably low. How do we explain the following; persons falling for scams offering prizes from competitions for which they never registered (this happens more often than we would like to believe); persons engage in hire-purchases ignorant or indifferent to the effective interest rates, some as high as 35 percent; the proliferation of pay-day loans, which usually means attempts to ride upwards on a down escalator," the Governor queried.

Governor Antoine also pointed to what he called 'highly credentialed persons with multiple degrees' who he said are often clueless when it comes to managing their personal finances. He also expressed concerns about the willingness of some to invest in high-risk investments such as crypto currencies while at the same time refusing to investment in regional financial instruments.

He drew attention to the age-old problem where many persons are spending their limited income on wants while begging families, friends or governments for their needs.

According to the ECCB Governor there is an urgent need for action to address the problem of financial literacy and inclusion in the ECCU. He then issued 'a clarion call for action' for a strat-

egy to scale up the knowledge and effective use of financial tools among citizens of the ECCU.

"We live in a shock-prone world; we are vulnerable to shocks and we must be engaged in life-long pursuit of building resilience, including financial resilience. This is imperative for member countries, companies and individuals. The survey reveals that one in two persons is not financially resilient. We have a big challenge on our hands," he declared.

The Governor wants a society-wide involving in the creation of a strategy to address the issue including the education system. He questioned the efficacy of students passing multiple subjects at



Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Timothy Antoine

CXC but who are financially illiterate and he called on governments to offer what he termed 'financial wellness programmes'.



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MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

Fencing of the area earmarked for a new cemetery will begin this week

Work on fencing the area at Tomlinson’s that has been earmarked for a new public cemetery will begin by the end of this week.

The announcement comes from Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, while speaking in parliament to wrap up debate on the Public Health Amendment Act.

The amendment seeks to allow for the burial of human bodies that have been stored at local funeral homes which remain unclaimed by relatives.

In response to requests for an update on how soon the new cemetery will become usable, Sir Molwyn



Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph

said work will begin shortly on the fencing of the Tomlinson’s site as government moves to speed up the preparation of the cemetery for use.

“The team that is currently working at Cades Bay will complete that aspect of the work this week

and it will be immediately transferred to begin work on the fence at the new cemetery. Part of the fence will use chain-wire fencing material,” Sir Molwyn reported.

He also reported that within the next sixty days the site can be prepared so

that burial can begin.

He said the decision was made to prepare an area for immediate use with the expectation that the master development plan for the area will be implemented over time.

“We are sectioning off a portion of the site to be used immediately for burial. This will ease the pressure on the community and public burial sites,” Sir Molwyn noted.

The health minister said too often family members refuse to claim their bodies and the amendment will allow for the funeral homes with approval of the Chief Health Inspector to bury these corpses.

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Antigua and Barbuda declines loan offer from African Ex-Im Bank

Antigua and Barbuda will not pursue any loan arrangements with the African Export-Import Bank as its interest rates are 'too high'.

The disclosure was made in parliament on Monday by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who said the government took the decision as it was in the best interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"One of the things about this administration is that we are very nimble; almost invariably we are 'first-movers' within the Caribbean on practically every issue. When the African Ex-Im Bank engaged the Caribbean about two years ago, we signed on to explore the possibility of doing business with them," he reported.

However, PM Browne relayed that during the negotiations the government discovered that what the bank called 'concessionary rates' were not what it considered to be concessionary.

"We commenced negotiations with the African Ex-Im Bank to secure a loan of US\$100 million on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority to do major upgrades at expansion at the VC Bird International Airport. During the negotiations, the terms they offered us were; a concessional interest rate of 12 percent and a 4 percent negotiations fee. I am told that companies such as Air Peace borrow at

up to 25 percent interest rate. However, I must tell you that the African Ex-Im Bank interest rate model does not work for us. Therefore we had to decline going any further in the discussion," PM Browne emphasized.

He also revealed that the government has turned to a consortium involving Oppenheimer (Investment bankers) and FCIB to do the loan and that negotiations are nearing conclusion. The interest rate will not exceed

eight percent with the negotiations fees at about two percent.

"This is how responsible we have been as a government. We also shop for 'best value' for the people of Antigua and Barbuda," he stated.



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Applications may be submitted via email : hr@sjdcanu.com

Deadline for Applications : September 28th 2023

Local News



Local entities urged to apply for available sargassum research funding

The UK government is making funding available for research into the sargassum seaweed and entities in Antigua and Barbuda are being encouraged to apply.

In a recent response to requests from Caribbean leaders, the UK has launched a call for research proposals on Sargassum seaweed. Recent influx of Sargassum threatens the region's marine ecosystems, economy, and public health. The UK invites partners to submit proposals for up to £300k (USD\$374k) before October 10, 2023.

In a media release, the UK High Commission said the research should advance commercial, scalable, safe solutions to process, sink or store. Finding solutions to Sargassum influxes could be vital to the Caribbean's sustainable development and climate resilience.

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson said, "We all appreciate the awful



Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson

effects the Sargassum has on people's livelihoods and wellbeing and individuals or groups with brilliant ideas for research are encouraged to take advantage of this UK funding opportunity."

More details on the Sargassum call for proposals are available here <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/caribbean-sargassum-advancing-commercial-scalable-processing-or-storage>

Meanwhile, in the run-up to COP28, and the 4th International

Conference on SIDS in 2024, the UK Government continues to advocate on behalf of SIDS. We are committed to building global consensus to support SIDS to address their unique vulnerabilities and to grow resilient economies.

The UK is one of the leading actors to work for systems suited to small states, including in the GCF, where we are pushing to increase access to climate finance for SIDS. The UK is also supporting SIDS through our £500m (USD\$624) Blue Planet Fund, including through initiatives such as our £36m (USD\$45m) Sustainable Blue Economies programme.

The UK Government recognises that SIDS are global leaders in climate action and have a vital role in pressuring the big emitters to act. The UK is committed to delivering the promises of the Glasgow Climate Pact, including action on climate finance and addressing loss and damage.

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CBH vector control technicians participate in workshop

Vector Control Technicians and Laboratory Technicians attached to the Central Board of Health and the Dunbar's laboratory are participating in an Insecticidal Resistance

Workshop in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

The workshop is fo-
cont'd on pg 8

NOTICE

Would Mr. Nhandi Benjamin formerly of St. John's Street, St. John's, Antigua please get in contact with the law office at telephone number 562-5372 in connection with matters relative to the late Therese Lewis, formerly of St. John's Street, St. John's, Antigua who passed on 30th December, 2019.

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Local News



cont'd from pg 7

cusing on the use of insecticides as a key intervention to control mosquitoes and consequently prevent spread of arboviral diseases for example Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika.

The objectives of the workshop is to establish trainers on the ground to continue training staff in the protocol for insecticidal resistance testing, develop protocols for the country and to produce results on insecticidal resistance in mosquito, eggs and larvae.

As a result of this training session, the country's capacity to conduct tests and provide the information about susceptibility of mosquitoes in Antigua and Barbuda will be improved.



PAHO/WHO Country Program Specialist for St. Lucia, Reynold Hewitt and PAHO/WHO International Consultant, Dr. Alexandra Wright are facilitating the training.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **LORA LIRIANO PEDRO** of Alfred Peters Street is applying to the Minister for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

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Police conclude successful Police Week 2023

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has successfully concluded Police Week 2023 with members expressing thanks to the general public for supporting their community outreach activities.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney QPM said that police week 2023 was a great success, and that he was pleased with the support of the public at many of the events.

He is thanking the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the business sector, the office of protocol, the media, and all those persons who contributed to the success of police week 2023. The commissioner is also commending his officers for their hard work and dedication to this year's po-



lice week celebration.

The police force celebrated 55 years of police week this year, which started with a church service at the Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church on Sunday, 10 September.

Several other activi-

ties followed, including an Open Day and Exhibition at Police Headquarters, the Malcolm Nicholas Cup Competition, the first-ever King Show at Antigua Recreation Grounds, the Calypso Monarch Competition, as well as the theatrical presentation put on by the Police Drama Group.

One of the highlights of Police Week 2023 was the distribution of care packag-

es to a number of persons in various communities. The police also held a Cultural Food Festival at the Rising Sun Grounds for the first time this year. The celebrations ended with a family fun day and sports at Ffryes Beach on September, 17.

Police Week was celebrated under the theme, "With dignity and pride, we are working together with our community."



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The Halo Foundation makes donation to the Rotary Club

The Halo Foundation has donated over \$2,200.00 to the Rotary Club of Antigua in support of its upcoming “Scavenger Hunt” in honour of the Mental Health Awareness event scheduled for October 8th.

Through its mental health arm “Blue”, Halo Foundation continues to support mental health awareness initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Rotary Club said the activity is being held in an effort to raise further awareness about issues surrounding Mental Health and Wellness.



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Scientists discover how brain cells die in Alzheimer's

By James Gallagher

Scientists in the UK and Belgium think they have figured out how brain cells die in Alzheimer's disease.

It has been a mystery and a source of scientific debate for decades.

But the team, writing in the journal *Science*, connect the abnormal proteins that build up in the brain with "necroptosis" - a form of cellular suicide.

The findings have been described as "cool" and "exciting", as they give new ideas for treating the disease.

Long-awaited clues

It is the loss of brain cells, called neurons, that lead to the symptoms of Alzheimer's, including memory loss.

And if you look inside the brains of people with the disease you'd see the build-up of abnormal proteins called amyloid and tau.

But scientists have not been able to join the dots between these key traits of the disease.

This is what the researchers - at the UK's Dementia Research Institute at University College London and KU Leuven in Belgium - now think is happening.

They say abnormal amyloid starts to build up in the spaces between neurons, leading to brain inflammation, which the neurons do not like. This starts to change their internal chemistry.

Tangles of tau appear and the brain cells start producing a specific molecule (it's called MEG3) that triggers death by necroptosis. Necroptosis is one of the methods our bodies normally use to purge unwanted cells as fresh ones are made.

The brain cells survived when the team were able to block MEG3.

"This is a very important and in-



Researchers believe new findings about a form of cellular suicide gives new ideas for treating Alzheimer's.

teresting finding," researcher Prof Bart De Strooper, from the UK's Dementia Research Institute, told the BBC.

"For the first time we get a clue to how and why neurons die in Alzheimer's disease. There's been a lot of speculation for 30-40 years, but nobody has been able to pinpoint the mechanisms.

"It really provides strong evidence it's this specific suicide pathway."

The answers came from experiments where human brain cells were transplanted into the brains of genetically modified mice. The animals were programmed to produce large quantities of abnormal amyloid.

There has been recent success in developing drugs that strip amyloid out of the brain and they mark the first treatments to slow the destruction of brain cells.

Prof De Strooper says the discovery that blocking the MEG3 molecule can hold off brain cell death could lead to a "whole new line of

drugs development".

However, this will take years of research.

Prof Tara Spire-Jones, from the University of Edinburgh and the president of the British Neuroscience Association, told me "that is a cool paper".

She said it "addresses one of the fundamental gaps in Alzheimer's research... these are fascinating results and will be important for the field moving forward."

However, she stressed that "many steps are needed" before knowing whether it could be harnessed as an effective treatment for Alzheimer's.

Dr Susan Kohlhaas, from Alzheimer's Research UK, said the findings were "exciting" but still at an early stage.

"This discovery is important because it points to new mechanisms of cell death in Alzheimer's disease that we didn't previously understand and could pave the way for new treatments to slow, or even stop disease progression in the future."

TikTok fined €345m over children's data privacy

Irish regulators have fined TikTok €345m (£296m) for violating children's privacy.

The complaint concerned how the social media app handled children's data in 2020 - particularly around age verification and privacy settings.

It is the biggest fine to date TikTok has received from regulators.

A spokesperson for the social media firm said it "respectfully disagree[s] with the decision, particularly the level of the fine imposed".

"The criticisms are focused on features and settings that were in place three years ago, and that we made changes to well before the investigation even began, such as setting all under 16 accounts to private by default," they said.

The fine was issued by Ireland's Data Protection Commission (DPC) under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) privacy law.

GDPR sets out rules that companies must follow when handling data.

The DPC found that TikTok had not been transparent enough with children about its privacy settings, and raised questions about how their data was processed.

Data Protection Commissioner Helen Dixon told



BBC News the inquiry also found that accounts made by those aged between 13 and 17 were made public by default on registration, meaning the content they posted was visible to anyone.

"That is precisely at the hands of TikTok because of the way they designed the platform, and we say that infringed the data protection by design and by the default requirements of the GDPR," Ms Dixon said.

The firm has been given three months to make its data processing completely comply with GDPR.

Prof Sonia Livingstone, who researches children's digital rights and experiences at the London School of Economics and Political Science, welcomed the DPC's decision.

"[Children] want to participate in the digital world without being exploited or manipulated. And that means that platforms must explain how their data are treated and, most important, treat their data fairly, since privacy is a child's right," she said.

There remains an investigation under way about whether TikTok has illegally transferred data from the EU to China. TikTok is owned by Beijing firm ByteDance.

Despite the fine being in the hundreds of millions, it is actually smaller than other penalties seen in recent months - such as the €1.2bn (£1bn) fine Meta was given by the regulator in May for mishandling people's data when transferring it between Europe and the United States.

It is however substantially larger than the £12.7m fine TikTok was issued by the UK data watchdog in April for allowing children aged under 13 to use the platform in 2020.

The fine issued by the DPC specifically refers to 2020, and TikTok took several actions in the years following to make it more compliant.

This included it becoming one of the first social media sites to make accounts for 13 to 15-year-olds private by default in January 2021. It will also introduce a change this month which will mean all 16 and 17-year-olds signing up to the platform will have their account set to private by default.

Regional News



Caribbean fraud victims to get money from WU in recovered remission

CMC - The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has announced that the Western Union Remission Fund began distribution of about US\$40 million in funds forfeited to the United States from the Western Union Company (Western Union) to about 25,000 victims located in the Caribbean, the United States and other places.

The DOJ said on Friday that these victims stand to recover the full amount of their losses.

It said this is the first distribution in the second phase of the Western Union Remission distributions.

The DOJ said the first phase of distributions paid more than US\$365 million to over 148,000 victims, all of whom received full compensation for their losses.

The Justice Department anticipates authorising more distributions for victims in the coming months.

The second phase of the Western Union Remission was opened in March 2022 to provide victims who had not filed petitions in the first phase of distributions an opportunity to file for remission, the DOJ said.

It said it continues to accept petitions for remission from those victimised by the scheme.

“The latest distribution of the Western Union Remission Fund compensated thousands more vic-



tims harmed by predatory schemes,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicole M. Argentieri of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division. “Victim assistance is a primary goal of the Department’s Asset Forfeiture Program, and this latest distribution is a testament to the impact asset forfeiture can have in compensating and making victims whole.”

US Attorney Gerard M. Karam for the Middle District of Pennsylvania said: “Today’s distribution of US\$39.6 million to thousands of victims to compensate them for their losses demonstrates our commitment to hold all responsible parties accountable and to ensure justice for the victims who were financially harmed. We thank our law enforcement partners who continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the victims.”

“The US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is committed to protecting victims of fraud and will continue to investigate those perpetrating such schemes,” said Postal Inspector in Charge Chris-

topher Nielsen of the USPIS Philadelphia Division. “This US\$39 million disbursement to 25,000 victims brings the total disbursed to over \$404 million to over 174,000 victims in the Western Union Remission process.

“We would like to thank our partners in this extraordinary effort especially the Justice Department’s Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section,” he added.

The DOJ said that, in 2017, Western Union entered into a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) with the United States.

Pursuant to the DPA, it said Western Union acknowledged responsibility for its “criminal conduct, which included violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and aiding and abetting wire fraud, and agreed to forfeit US\$586 million, which has been made available to compensate victims of the international consumer fraud scheme through the remission process.

“Western Union simultaneously resolved a parallel civil investigation with the

Federal Trade Commission,” the DOJ said.

In this scheme, it said fraudsters targeted consumers, including seniors, through multiple scams.

The DOJ said three specific scams directed towards seniors include the grandparent scam, where the fraudster would pose as the victim’s relative in need of immediate money to avoid personal harm, lottery, or sweepstakes scams, where the fraudster would tell the victim that they had won a large cash prize but had to pay fees such as taxes to claim the prize; and romance scams, where the fraudster would pose as an online love interest and request funds for a visit or for another purpose.

In each of these scams, the fraudsters convinced their victims to send money through Western Union, the DOJ said.

It said certain owners, operators, or employees of Western Union agent locations were complicit in the schemes.

“Western Union aided and abetted the fraud scheme by failing to suspend or terminate complicit agents and by allowing them to continue to process fraud-induced monetary transactions,” the DOJ said.

“Western Union fulfilled its obligations under the DPA and the court granted the motion to dismiss the information.”

Suriname deports human trafficker after serving jail term

CMC - Suriname has deported a 59-year old person after serving a prison sentence for human trafficking.

The Aliens Department of the Suriname Police Force (SPF) said that the person, identified only as DY, will not be allowed to enter the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country for the next five years.

It said DY was arrested on August 6, 2021, after a trafficking in person (TIP) victim reported that he had been forced into la-



bour here. The victim was persuaded by DY to transfer heavy equipment and other gold mining equipment

from China to Suriname.

According to the agreements made, the victim would enter into a partner-

ship with the suspect who posed as a major entrepreneur in Suriname.

Upon arrival in Suriname, the victim found a different situation than agreed upon during the negotiations. The victim did not find a gold mining company, but a location in the hinterland with a tent in which he had to spend the nights.

The court heard that the victim was threatened and abused after he hinted that he would withdraw and take back all the equipment.

On July 27, 2022, the suspect was declared guilty of human trafficking, embezzlement and simple assault and was sentenced to imprisonment for three years.

The police said that after serving two-thirds of his prison sentence, DY was provisionally released by the Conditional Release and Pardon Committee pending his deportation.

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Load shedding woes, generation shortfall affects Dominica

By Melissa Wong

Dominica is experiencing electricity problems due to a generation shortfall which has led to increased load shedding leaving many consumers frustrated.

With the Caribbean experiencing excessive heat, the timing couldn't be worse.

During a media conference today, General Manager of Dominica Electricity Services Limited (DOMLEC) Bertilia McKenzie, explained DOMLEC is facing a generation shortfall due to an ageing generation fleet. She says over 10 megawatts of generation that is in the diesel section is past due for retirement.

McKenzie also noted Dominica is experiencing an extremely dry season.

In terms of solutions, she says the government has provided an 800-kilowatt generator which was brought online on September 15. DOMLEC has also secured a generation consultant from Saint Lucia who has commenced

working. Technical assistance has also been sought from Venezuela.

Generators will be needed to address the pressing issue.

The General Manager of DOMLEC said citizens can expect some measure of relief by the first week of October and by the end of year, certainly greater relief than what they will experience by October.

She adds Dominica can also pray for rain to get the hydro.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit said he has taken note of the comments and discomfort of citizens. He says the necessary support is being provided to DOMLEC from a government standpoint.

The DOMLEC board has been advised to inform him of actions it intends to take to address the immediate challenges of load shedding and what its recommendations and strategies are for the medium term.

The prime minister says the pro-

curement of new generators was also discussed with DOMLEC to address the situation in the medium term. He explained the government would have to assist DOMLEC in procuring the generators because if it were to do it alone, there would be an increase in tariff and an increase in the cost to consumers, which they are trying to mitigate against.

"Based on what DOMLEC is saying to me, they are seeing an increase in demand, it's not only because of the heat, but there is an increase in demand I guess because of the growing of the economy and people utilising more energy. So there is a real increase in demand and we have generators that are old, that may have issues and of course the hydro situation with the dropping of the water levels."

The prime minister said the energy issues have to be addressed as he noted the World Creole Music Festival is coming up where there will be a high use of energy.

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Debris found from F-35 jet in South Carolina after US pilot ejected

Military officials have found the debris of an F-35 military jet that went missing after the pilot ejected over South Carolina.

The debris of the \$100m (£80m) plane - which disappeared on Sunday afternoon - was discovered in rural Williamsburg County, said authorities.

The pilot ejected from the cockpit and parachuted to safety in a North Charleston neighbourhood.

The public had been asked to help find the jet.

In a statement on Monday, military officials said the debris was found “two hours north-east of Joint Base Charleston”.

Officials had focused their searches around Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion, north of the city of Charleston - the jet’s last known location.

The debris found has been confirmed as the wreckage of the missing plane, a military spokesperson told the BBC.

Officials said the aircraft was involved in a “mishap” which they are currently investigating but did not offer details of what the mishap was.

The public has been asked to keep away from the area to allow investigators to do their work.

The fighter jet was left in autopilot mode when the pilot ejected, a spokesman at Joint Base Charleston



A file photo of F-35 jet seen at San Francisco's fleet week.

told NBC News, adding that it may have been airborne for some time, complicating its discovery. “A plausible sequence of events is that when the pilot ejected, the electronics for the transponder were fried and thus the military was no longer able to track its location,” JJ Gertler, a senior analyst at the Teal Group, a defence consultancy, told the BBC during the search for the plane.

“The entire cockpit would have been subjected to rocket exhaust and so all of the electronics, the chips, may well have not survived that, including the system that signals where the airplane is,” Mr Gertler said.

“If it did go into water, that signal would not be able to be found,” he added. Mr Gertler said it is possible that the aircraft continued flying after the pilot ejected

but that it was “extremely unlikely” due to “the damage the aircraft would have received from the ejection seat” and “the change in aerodynamics when the canopy is gone”.

The plane belonged to the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, which works to train pilots, CNN reported.

A second F-35 flying at the same time returned safely to base.

Joint Base Charleston had posted on X - formerly Twitter - asking the public for help to find the aircraft.

The request led to mockery online and criticism from lawmakers.

Nancy Mace, a Republican congresswoman for South Carolina, asked on X, formerly Twitter: “How in the hell do you lose an F-35?

“How is there not a tracking device and we’re

asking the public to what, find a jet and turn it in?”

The aircraft is a stealth jet - meaning its airframe, sensors and systems are designed to operate undetected by enemy radar.

Earlier on Monday, the US Marine Corps announced a two-day pause in air operations throughout the military branch this week.

A Marine Corps press release on Monday said officials plan to “discuss aviation safety matters and best practices” sometime this week. “During the safety stand down, aviation commanders will lead discussions with their Marines focusing on the fundamentals of safe flight operations,” said the press release.

In 2018, the US military temporarily grounded its entire fleet of F-35 jets after a crash in South Carolina.

Peru coach crash: 24 killed as bus falls into ravine

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

At least 24 people have been killed and 21 injured in a coach crash in Peru.

The inter-city coach was travelling overnight in the Andes mountains between the cities of Huancayo and Huanta when it fell into a 200m-deep (650 ft) ravine.

Coach crashes are common in Peru, especially at night and on mountain highways.

Official figures suggest more than 3,300 people died in traffic accidents in the Andean country in 2022.

So far, officials have not said what might have



The coach plunged some 200m from a mountain road into a ravine.

caused the coach to veer off the road and into the ravine in an area known as Huaccoto, high in the Andes mountains.

However, the mayor of a

nearby town told local radio that the highway where the accident happened had not been repaired since it had been damaged in a landslide a month ago.

Firefighters from the towns of Huanta and the province of Churcampa were dispatched to the location where the accident occurred.

Locals were the first to arrive at the scene and found some passengers alive in the vehicle.

They said that the coach had come to rest in some bushes, whose branches prevented it from being washed away by the nearby river.

Police and firefighters managed to free the survivors and take them to the nearest hospitals.



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Antigua and Barbuda cyclists finish outside top places at JCCC

Antigua and Barbuda's two representatives, Tahje Browne of Wadadli Cycling Academy and Jomari King of Vipers, finished outside of the top positions at the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships (JCCC) in the Dominican Republic on September 15 to 17.

However, Browne, who is the more experienced of the two Antiguan cyclists that contested the age 15-16 Pre-Junior Class in both the individual time trial and road race, produced the better results at last weekend's event.

Browne improved on his sixth-place finish at last year's competition by finishing 4th in the individual time trial from a field of 14 riders on Saturday. He completed the 10-kilometer course in a time of 14 minutes and one second.

King, making his debut for Antigua and Barbuda in an overseas competition, finished in 10th place in the individual time trial by clocking 15 minutes and 38 seconds.

The individual time trial in the 15-16 Pre-Junior Class was won by Amauri



Young Antiguan cyclist Tahje Browne at the start of the individual time trial during the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships in the Dominican Republic on Saturday, September 16, 2023. (Photos courtesy ABCF)

Santiago of Puerto Rico in 13 minutes and 19 seconds.

Cajur Chue of Jamaica finished second in 13 minutes and 29 seconds, while Emir David Garcia of the Dominican Republic came third in 13 minutes and 35 seconds.

Browne also claimed a fourth-place finish from a field of 25 cyclists in the 70-kilometer road race on Sunday.

Browne clocked a time of one hour, 55 minutes, and 53 seconds. King only man-

aged to finish in 23rd place in the road race.

The road race was won by Leudy Isaias Luna of the Dominican Republic in a time of one hour, 55 minutes, and 50 seconds.

Daniel Lashley of Barbados finished in second place, while Emir David Garcia of the Dominican Republic came in third.

Trainer/coach St. Clair Williams and Omari King accompanied the two Antiguan cyclists at the JCCC in the Dominican Republic.



Young Antiguan cyclist Jomari King relax after competing in the road race during the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships in the Dominican Republic on Sunday, September 17, 2023.



Barbados Royals Carlos Brathwaite, center, congratulates Guyana Amazon Warriors Kevlon Anderson, second left, at the end of their CLP encounter at Providence in Guyana on Sunday, September 17, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

Magnificent Hope century eliminates Royals from CPL playoffs

It was a record-breaking night for the Guyana Amazon Warriors as they posted their highest-ever total to earn an 88-run victory over the Barbados Royals in the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) action at Providence in Guyana on Sunday.

Barbados Royals had won the toss and chose to bowl first, with the Guyana Amazon Warriors causing carnage, Shai Hope scoring the second fastest century in CPL history from just 41 balls, on route to the Amazon Warriors scoring 226 for seven after 20 overs, their highest team score in the CPL.

The total proved to be too much for the Barbados Royals, with spinners Gudakesh Motie and Imran Tahir taking wickets at frequent intervals to restrict the Royals to 138 for six, losing by 88 runs.

With play-off qualification already secured, Guyana Amazon Warriors start-

ed with attacking intent, opening with Saim Ayub and Odean Smith, who put together 35 runs in the first three overs.

Ayub then fell for 16 and was replaced by Hope, who played one of the most memorable innings in CPL history.

Hope's innings of 106 off 44 balls included 17 boundaries and was supported by Kevlon Anderson, making his T20 debut, who made 47.

Shimron Hetmyer's late cameo of 16 not out pushed the Amazon Warriors their highest ever total in the CPL. Left-arm pacer Obed McCoy claimed two for 36, and medium pacer Jason Holder had two for 50.

The Barbados Royals' chase suffered an early blow as opener Rahkeem Cornwall departed in the third over for six, while Gudakesh Motie used his variations to dismiss Justin Greaves and Laurie Evans, to reduce the Royals to 42 for three with the run rate gradually in-

creasing.

Once Rovman Powell was bowled by Imran Tahir, the odds became stacked against the Royals, and they were unable to keep up with the required run rate despite a half-century from Rivaldo Clarke. Clarke hit a top score of 54 not out off 43 balls for the Barbados Royals who failed to qualify for the CPL play-offs. Tahir claimed three for 23, and Motie captured two for 11.

The CPL moves to the play-off stages this week as the Guyana Amazon Warriors will face the Trinbago Knight Riders in Qualifier 1, while the St. Lucia Kings will take on the Jamaica Tallawahs in the Eliminator.

Summarized scores: Guyana Amazon Warriors 226/7 (Hope 106, Anderson 47; McCoy 2/36, Holder 2/50) beat Barbados Royals 138/6 (Clarke 54 not out, Brathwaite 18 not out; Tahir 3/23, Motie 2/11) by 88 runs.

Sports News



Richie's Shooterz make winning start to business basketball league

Defending play-off champions Richie's Shooterz have made a winning start to their campaign in the annual Antigua and

Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League competition.

Richie's Shooterz

trounced newcomers H. Wright Promotions by 45 points in the second game of an opening-night double-header at the JSC

Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 35 points, including eight three-pointers, to lead Richie's Shooterz to their 89-44 victory.

Weekes was supported by Nickon Mcgregor, who scored 20 points, and Kwame Brathwaite, who converted 19 points.

Humroy Wright sank 13 points, and Anthony Greer converted 11 points for H. Wright Promotions.

But defending league champions Eye Mobile Vision Care got off to a losing start in defense of their title.

They lost 66-69 in overtime against Trimming Trucking Enterprises in the league's opening game.

Trimming Trucking Enterprises prevailed by three points after both teams were deadlocked 61-61 at the end of regulation.

Javonte Daley produced a game-high 20 points, and T-Shawn Lewis scored 18 points for Trimming Trucking Enterprises.

Shaheim O'Marde converted 15 points, and Davike Osbourne sank 13 points for Eye Mobile Vision Care.

The 2023 Business League competition got under way with a parade of participating teams and a brief opening ceremony on Sunday.



9 Teams

ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES



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The Netball action will take center stage at the YMCA Sports Complex.

India name squads for Australia ODI series

India (Reuters) - KL Rahul will lead a second-string India team in the first two One-Day Internationals of a three-match series against Australia this month, with regular captain Rohit Sharma returning for the final game, the country's cricket board said on Monday.

Several of India's regulars have been rested for the first two games, including captain Rohit, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav.

The squad for the final match is the one that will be part of India's World

Cup campaign on home soil - with the addition of Ravichandran Ashwin and Washington Sundar, who will be available for all three games.

Ashwin, India's preferred spinner in test cricket, played the last of his 113 one-day internationals in January 2022 and was left out of the provisional squad announced earlier this month.

Meanwhile, Axar Patel, who missed the Asia Cup final due to a quadriceps strain, has been named in the squad for the final ODI, but his participation is sub-



India's spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. (Getty Images)

ject to fitness.

The three ODIs, which will be played between Sept. 22-27 in Mohali, Indore and Rajkot, will serve

as a tune-up for the 50-over World Cup which begins on Oct. 5.

Twice champions India, who lost in the semi-finals in 2019, begin their World Cup campaign with an Oct. 8 contest against Australia in Chennai.

India squad for first two ODIs: KL Rahul (captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Shardul Thakur, Washington Sundar, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, and Prasidh Krishna.

India Squad for third ODI: Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, and Mohammed Siraj.



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Tallawahs' Alex Hales, Chris Green combine to destroy Kings by 122 runs

The Jamaica Tallawahs all but assured themselves of a place in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Playoffs following a comprehensive 122 run victory over the St. Lucia Kings at Providence in Guyana on Sunday.

The St. Lucia Kings won the toss and opted to field first and that backfired as they ran into an Alex Hales storm. Hales produced his career best 119 not out off 57 balls to propel the Tallawahs to 201 for five, a total that always looked impenetrable.

The Kings were never in the game from that moment and the Tallawahs wrapped up victory inside 15 overs, bowling the Kings out for just 79.

The Tallawahs were hampered by the enforced absence of Captain Brandon King, however, Hales stepped up to the plate to blaze his way to his century.

Hales and Imad Wasim put together a magnificent partnership of 116 from 52 balls to help set a target of 202 to win – an equation that always looked likely to be enough to secure their spot in the



Jamaica's Tallawah's Alex Hales celebrates after scoring his century against the St. Lucia Kings in their CPL encounter at Providence in Guyana on Sunday, September 17, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

Caribbean Premier League eliminator.

In reply, the Kings struggled from the start of the Power-Play. Mohammed Amir dismissed makeshift opener Roshon Primus for five and Leonardo Julien for seven, before Chris Green got in on the act to trap Bhanuka Rajapaksa LBW for 22 and Sean Williams for a duck.

Chris Green was the wicket taker in chief, leading the way with a devastating spell of four for 15. Amir gave good support with two for 17.

Scores: Jamaica Tallawahs 201-5 (Hales 119 not out, Wasim 41; Chase 2-33, Joseph 1-28) beat Saint Lucia Kings 79 (Rajapaksa 22, Forde 13; Green 4-15, Amir 2-17) by 122 runs.


 An advertisement for 'Guys and Dolls Simply Classy'. The image shows a group of five people in formal, stylish clothing. A woman on the left wears a blue and white patterned dress. A man in the center wears a blue suit and a wide-brimmed hat. A woman on the right wears a white dress and a large necklace. The text 'Guys and Dolls' is written in a large, cursive font, with 'Simply Classy' underneath. A phone number '268-782-6020' is displayed at the bottom.

Dredgers stay unbeaten in Tape Ball Classic

Unbeaten leaders Dredgers have maintained their perfect run in the LL Supply Limited Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) T20 Tape Ball Classic.

The Dredgers recorded their fourth win in as many matches by trouncing Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets by 99 runs during a double-header at the Powells playing field on Sunday.

The Dredgers won the toss and batted, scoring 196 for seven off their allotted 20 overs. Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed 85, and player of the match Mervin Higgins chipped in with 20.

Jared Ino Baptiste claimed three for 37, Andra Samuel took two for 20, and Kimani George had two for 33.

Higgins then snapped up five wickets for seven runs as the Bullets

were bundled out for 97 in 12.1 overs. Kimani George hit 35, and Essan Warner got 28.

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) Warriors overpowered PMS by 43 runs in the other encounter at Powells.

The ABDF Warriors amassed 251 all out off their 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

Malique Marcellin hammered 96, including 10 sixes and eight fours, Theodore Benjamin hit 26, and Edwin Jackson contributed 24. Derrick Benta bagged five wickets for 31 runs.

PMS made a valiant attempt to achieve their victory target but fell short after being restricted to 208 for six from their 20 overs.

Peter Bellefonte struck 63, Kenny Benjamin cracked 46, Malinga Bruney scored 44, and Derrick Benta made 25. T'ron Payne captured two for 26.

Buckleys 3J's and VIP also recorded wins in their respective matches at the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) playing field.

The Buckleys 3J's cruised to a 10-wicket win against PEL Desi Boys, who won the toss and batted but could only muster 87 all out off their 20 overs. Ashfaq Ahmad top-scored with 19 not out.

Demari Benta snatched four wickets for 21 runs, Alfred Jarvis picked up two for 15, and Rodney Williams captured two for 21.

Opener Kadeem Henry cracked 78 not out, including eight fours and sev-



Mervin Higgins of Dredgers claimed the man of the match award in his team's victory against Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullet at Powells on Sunday, September 17, 2023. (Photos courtesy ABSCA)



Malique Marcellin of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Warriors captured the man of the match award in his team's victory against PMS at Powells on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

en sixes, and Kemar Christian made 11 not out to propel Buckleys 3J's to victory at 92 without loss in just 5.5 overs.

The VIP defeated Rackaman Construction Strictly Business by 46 runs. VIP won the toss and batted, scoring 114 all-out in 19.1 overs.

Demitri Lucas got 29, and Shaquan Reifer chipped in with 26. Kerry Mentore and Kenroy Frederick each picked up two wickets for 16 runs, and Owen Graham claimed two for 18.

In reply, Strictly Business tumbled to 68 all out in just 8.5 overs. Mentore hit a top score of 34. Kadeem Josiah grabbed five wickets for 17 runs, and Shaquan Reifer captured two for 22.