

PM MAKES FORCEFUL CASE FOR GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE OF MVI



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PM Browne makes forceful case for global acceptance of MVI

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne built a clear and compelling case for the use of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) at a media briefing for the groundbreaking measure, held during the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Prime Minister Browne, who co-chairs the United Nations High-Level Panel on the MVI, has been at the very forefront of an exercise to construct a new index that would allow vulnerable developing countries to access concessional financing, to build resiliency and offset the crippling effects of climate change and other external shocks.

Left to their income alone, many of these nations simply do not qualify for the grants and financing available from international financial institutions required to rebuild their fragile economies when impacts like hurricanes and pandemics undermine their debt-burdened fiscal resources.

Under the circumstances, Prime Minister Browne pressed home the point that "the MVI is the one lifeline that (SIDS) are grabbing onto," as the outdated mechanism of using gross national income to determine a country's needs is long outdated and ineffective.

"The destructive force of a hurri-



cane is absolute. It has no respect for deceptive per capita metrics," Prime Minister Browne argued.

"In a sudden onset disaster, a small island nation like my own can lose everything overnight. Without an MVI that shows in a data-driven manner how some countries are more vulnerable than others, the ability of the most vulnerable countries to withstand pandemics, economic shocks, disasters, and climate change, will be lost," the Prime Minister continued.

The High-Level Panel recently presented its report to the UN General Assembly after 18 months of intense work, collecting data, scientific evidence, and detailed analysis on the creation of an MVI framework, that provides a deeper and enlightened understanding of a country's true vulnerability and development requirements.

The report, a first of its kind, contains a series of recommendations to UN Member states on the next step of



the MVI including its use by all stakeholders. "The Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are strongly encouraged to pilot test the MVI. Put it to use, and test it out. This has already begun by the Caribbean Development Bank.

"We also encourage the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to consider how the MVI could be incorporated into the governance framework for Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility and graduation, to complement World Bank income data," Prime Minister Browne stressed.

Ultimately, according to Prime Minister Browne, the goal is to have a globally accepted MVI that will provide vulnerable countries with accurate metrics by which their vulnerabilities can be accurately and precisely measured.

The high-level panel, chaired by Prime Minister Browne and the former Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg, holds the view that consensus on an MVI that works in harmony with traditional measurements like Gross National Income or GNI has the potential to revolutionize global development.

"...the index can empower our countries and the international community in making informed decisions, craft effective policies, and build lasting resilience."



Antigua and Barbuda team attends CTO meeting in Turks and Caicos Islands

Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez is leading the country's delegation at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) State of the Tourism Industry conference taking place in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fernandez is accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, and other officials. The meeting of the CTO comes after a hiatus of five years of the organisation's flagship event, the SOTIC which kicked off at The Shore Club in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Bringing together government and private sector tourism leaders from its member nations under the theme "Invest. Innovate. Inspire – A New Model for Caribbean Tourism Growth," SOTIC provides stakeholders a unique opportunity to collaboratively examine tourism investment and financing in the Caribbean.

Presiding over the conference for the first time, Dona Regis-Prosper, Secretary-General and CEO of the intergovernmental body, invited delegates to share their perspectives on how best to invigorate the Caribbean tourism industry and establish efficient frameworks for prosperous



public-private partnerships during the two-day conference, which follows two days of destination briefings for members of the media and business meetings.

"Tourism Investment and Financing in the Caribbean" was the focus of the presentations and panels that took place on Wednesday, while delegates will explore "Drivers for Caribbean Tourism Growth," as an overarching topic on Thursday, October 12.

Minister Fernandez is one of the featured speakers at a panel discussion on Thursday (today) on "Aviation Competitiveness in the Caribbean."

The other panelists include Peter Cerdá, Regional VP, Americas, International Air Transport Association (IATA); and Rafael Echevarne, Executive Director, Airports Council International – Latin America & the Caribbean. Jamaica's Director of Tourism Donovan

White will serve as moderator for this important discussion.

Welcoming travel and tourism-focused journalists from the Caribbean, Latin America, the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom as well as local media yesterday, Josephine Connolly, Minister of Tourism for the

Turks and Caicos Islands, presented a comprehensive overview of the archipelago's tourism product, its culture and history, and plans for sustainable development of its lifeblood industry.

Following the Turks and Caicos presentation invited media received destination briefings and updates from tourism representatives of other CTO member countries and territories in attendance, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, St. Martin, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Tobago.

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Claim No. ANUHCV: 2015/0047

IN THE MATTER of an ex parte application for an Interim
Protection Order pursuant to Section 6 of the Domestic
Violence Act 2015

BETWEEN:

LUIS HERNANDEZ
Claimant/Respondent
AND
SHEREE MANNING
Defendant/Applicant

TO: Mr. Luis Hernandez
Crosbies
St. John's
Antigua

TAKE NOTICE that Cumberbatch & Associates has applied to be Removed as Counsel for the Claimant/Respondent in the mentioned matter.

You may obtain copies of the Notice of Application, Affidavit in Support and Draft Order for the appearance in Court on Friday 13th October, 2023, at the High Court of Justice, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Fridays or at Cumberbatch & Associates, Upper Long Street, St. John's, Antigua.

Dated this the 10th, day of October, 2023
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law



Junior Tourism Minister Maliah Stuart and Senior Education Training Officer, Tracey Brown

Antigua and Barbuda's Junior Tourism Minister attends CTO conference

Antigua and Barbuda's representation at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's State of the Tourism Industry conference taking place in the Turks and Caicos Islands goes beyond officials from the Ministry of Tourism and the ABTA.

Junior Tourism Minister, Maliah Stuart of the Christ the King High School has been named as Antigua and Barbuda's 2023/2024 representative. She won the Junior Minister of Tourism

award after outperforming four other contenders at the recently held National Tourism Youth Congress Speech Competition on June 21st.

Stuart is being accompanied by Tracey Brown, Senior Education and Training Officer Tourism Education, Training & Awareness.

As part of the CTO conference this year, there is a competition among the Junior Ministers of Tourism, Stuart will represent Antigua and Barbuda.

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Booby Alley site: Cleared and ready

A trailer towed away the remaining houses at Booby Alley in The Point, late Tuesday afternoon, fully clearing the large land space earmarked for a Housing Development Project.

Approximately three houses remained in the area after the residents were relocated to temporary dwellings.

150 two-bedroom units are to be constructed at Booby Alley, in a turn-key arrangement between the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China.

The agreement was

signed between both nations on 18 August 2022.

However, one year on, construction is yet to begin and the government had expressed concern that it risked losing the support of the Chinese Government, because of the drawn-out process of convincing some Booby Alley residents to accept temporary housing elsewhere.

In late September, the compulsory acquisition of a plot of land at Booby Alley was avoided after its occupants agreed with the government.

Senate Majority Leader, Samantha Marshall,

sought an amendment to the order paper under public business when the Upper House of Parliament convened to have the item that was listed as a 'motion' struck out.

It came after siblings Dawn and Desiree Browne and the government arrived at an agreement over

the land that is less than 0.05 acres, Senator Marshall revealed.

The project earmarked for Booby Alley is described as social housing that will allow for flexibility in how citizens and residents who occupied the area will become homeowners.

Notice for Naturalization

Notice is hereby given that **Juan Carlos Mercedes Victor** of **Nellie Robinson Street**, Ovals, St. John's Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Minister of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

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Intense training for By-Election workers underway

Approximately thirty workers who will man the electoral booths in the St. Mary's South constituency on Election Day attend an intense training programme ahead of the By-Election slated for October 24.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes and oth-

er senior staff of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission are conducting the training for presiding officers, poll clerks, and information officers who will conduct the voting process that day.

"They are covering topics such as the duties of

presiding officers, the issuing of the ballot papers, the collecting of gender statistics, the rules that govern the companion of a blind voter who is presented to cast a ballot, and how to check fingerprints before and after the voting process," Hughes explained.

The election day workers will also be exposed to training on how to record names in the Register and set up the polling stations. According to Hughes, the polling stations should be set up uniformly in all eight polling stations.

He said there will be eight polling stations set up across the constituency; five in Bolans, two in Urlings, and one in Johnson's Point.

Overall, the SOE said his team is in a state of readiness for the by-election.

"All our boxes have been packed with all the items we will need and all other preparations have been completed," he stated.

The publication of the Revised Register will likely be completed today, Thursday.

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New heatwave warnings issued

From rain and warnings last week to an excessive heat warning this week, the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service has issued an excessive heat warning that is in effect until next Tuesday between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM daily.

The bulletin issued by Acting Director of the Met Service, Dale Destin, stated that the combination of high temperatures, relatively high humidity, and light winds will result in dangerously hot conditions. The threat of health

problems, for mainly sensitive people, is forecast to be high, with the potential for extensive impacts.

The maximum heat index is likely to occur during the early afternoons, he cautioned, with the heat index or feels-like temperature being 50 Degrees Celsius or 122 degrees Fahrenheit at maximum.

Elderly people, young children, people with chronic illnesses such as breathing difficulties, heart conditions, or psychiatric illnesses, people who work

or who exercise in the heat, homeless people, and low-income earners are mostly at risk, with illnesses including heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke likely to occur.

Residents are asked to take extreme caution against the heat.

The symptoms of those affected can range from dizziness or fainting, nausea or vomiting, headache, rapid breathing and heart-beat, or extreme thirst.

In those circumstances, residents are advised to find a cool place, where

they can apply cold water to parts of the body while hydrating.

In some cases, it may be necessary to seek medical assistance.

Fire Dept issued detailed report of fire in Villa

Inspector Bagot reports that at 11:00 am on 10th October 2023, the St John's Fire Station responded to a fire call in Villa in the No.15 fire tender and rescue jeep.

On arrival at the scene, the fire crew met a wooden and concrete structure and a motor car fully engulfed in flames.

The Fire Crew immediately commenced fire-fighting operations by using water from the No.15 fire tender to control and extinguish the fire.

The house and its contents along with the motor car were completely destroyed.

The dwelling house was owned by Nigel Bascus and measured 24' x 44'. No one was at home at the time of the fire. The Fire Brigade is investigating the origin of the fire.

Inspector Lester Bagot
Public Relations Officer
Fire Department
St. John's



Walk for the Cure

Saturday, 14 October, 2023


Assembly Point: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Assembly Time: 3:00pm
Move Off Time: 3:30pm
Registration fee: Adults \$50.00 & Children \$25.00

Lots of prizes will be given away for categories such as largest group, 1st person to complete the walk and so much more.

Route:
 Start from Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, turning left to Paynter's Court on to Piggotts Main Road, turning left to pass the Sunny Side School, on to Factory Road and end at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

All proceeds to be donated to Breast Friends and The Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.





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Island Run Antigua participants visit SLBMC

Several participants in the inaugural Island Run Antigua, including persons from the United Kingdom members of the Sandals affiliate, Unique Vacations Inc., Ltd. UK, and representatives from Sandals Grande Antigua Resort paid a courtesy visit to administrators at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Hosted by the Sandals Foundation and led by Chair of the Pediatric Department, Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, the tour explored the Neo-Natal Unit for which part proceeds from the targeted £100,000 will support.

Executive Director at the Sandals Foundation Heidi Clarke said, “We are honoured to share with the hardworking medical practitioners who continue to provide the ultimate service in preserving the gift of life. This historic charity event will make it possible for us to provide a jaundice screening machine and a handheld blood analyzer that delivers lab-quality, diagnostic results in minutes.”

For Dr. Belle-Jarvis, the equipment, for which the jaundice screening machine has already been delivered, will make a difference in the care provided within the Neo-Natal Intensive



Care Unit. “The jaundice screening machine will help us tremendously, in monitoring babies for jaundice. Up to 60% of babies who are full-term will be jaundiced and up to 80% who are born prematurely will be jaundiced. We have just about 1000 babies delivered each year so over 600 babies will benefit from this jaundice meter.”

“The blood gas analysis machine,” Dr Belle-Jarvis continued, “helps us to appropriately assess how much carbon dioxide and oxygen are within the bloodstream of our babies, enabling us to make appropriate changes especially when they are on respiratory sup-

port.”

From October 11-14, the streets of Antigua will be ground zero for a charity run to bolster the capacity of the Medical Centre’s ability to serve pediatric needs. Proceeds from the event will also be directed to the Endowment Fund of the Sickkids Caribbean Initiative - a partnership that connects health care in Toronto, Canada with seven Caribbean health institutions – making it possible for doctors and nurses to exchange information and better diagnose and treat children afflicted by cancer and serious blood disorders.

CAL Alone or CAL and LIAT? Fair competition or fearsome fighting

By Arvel Grant

Last week, I read (with some delight) that the IMF is signaling support for a resurgent LIAT. That could then signal possible interest by the World Bank and a network of regional institutions, including the Caribbean Development Bank

A few days later my enthusiasm was dampened, when I read that Port of Spain is prepping for an expanded CAL, to bridge the gap created by the decline of LIAT. My mind went back to the bad old days when BWIA (CAL's predecessor) and LIAT, battled over access to gates, ground equipment, and more, at airports across the Caribbean. In those dreadful days, the passengers (especially the LIAT clients) often got the "Sticky-end of the stick,"

Then came LIAT's bitter battles with Alan Stanford's "crashed" effort to operate a regional carrier. Neither

the retired BWIA brand nor the convicted Stanford could "clip LIAT's wings." It took a combination of failed management practices (including unsustainably high cock-pit costs) and a "once in a hundred years" pandemic, to ground LIAT.

Such was the brand loyalty to the regional airline.

More recently, certain CARICOM governments gave sucker to upstart carriers wishing to operate regionally and side-stepping LIAT in the process. Not surprisingly, the experiment is losing altitude and failing badly. The power of the internet and social media is exposing every slip and slide of the aspirational regional carriers, to the dismay and consternation of their governmental allies.

So, with its oil dollars, Trinidad and Tobago will forge ahead with an expanded CAL. If reliable and trusted

financing can be found, a revised LIAT will take to the skies.

I concede (reluctantly) that multiple reliable regional carriers are a very good thing for the traveling public. Fair competition mitigates the prospect of Caribbean travelers (including heads of governments) being left stranded in unexpected places.

Whether or not regional governments join Antigua-Barbuda and private capital, to launch a new LIAT, the checklist of priorities must include

1. Air-tight and equitable agreement between a share-holder government or governments (on one hand) and private investors, on the other.

Such agreements will need to satisfy: Leasing companies, insurance providers, bankers, national authorities, bargaining agents, and suppliers of goods and services.

cont'd on pg 10



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Commentary

cont'd from pg 9

2. Assurance that any private investor(s) will enjoy the confidence of:

CARICOM, British, French, Dutch, and US authorities. A resurgent LIAT, will need landing rights to service airports and interline with passengers embarking or disembarking in destinations of interest to those dominions.

3. A new LIAT, will need assurances from CARICOM governments, that CAL (or any other regional carriers) will not receive privileges, benefits and rights not readily available to LIAT.

4. If the Governments of the OECS, will stand together, on the principle of equity for all CARICOM-based users of our open skies, the prospects of a new LIAT will be enhanced.

5. Adopting a sound business plan, a new LIAT must abandon the legacy technologies, in use by traditional carriers and embrace more efficient and sustainable business practices.

In that regard, Government interests in a new LIAT must abandon the idea that the new carrier will re-employ all or even most of the former LIAT employees. Specialist call cen-

ters, reservation apps, and modern accounting programs have taken many of those jobs.

Finally, it will be deeply disappointing, in the event investment in a resurgent LIAT is not readily forthcoming from within CARICOM.

There is a very strong case to be made, for the Government of Guyana, to consider making a kind of "wealth-fund" investment in the capitalization of LIAT.

The regional Carrier, is a natural complement, to Guyana's continuing expansion and modernization, of the Ogle International Airport. Further, Guyana's expanding domestic aviation sector represents a good "hand-in-glove" fit with a new LIAT.

Ultimately, none should doubt that the lack of meaningful CARICOM participation in a new LIAT will dilute if not destroy the LIAT brand among sub-regional and wider regional travelers.

Given the long-standing North American and European interests in the region's hospitality sector; and noting the potential for interlining between LIAT and the intercontinental airlines serving the region, it is troubling that

investment interests are not forthcoming from those markets.

In the circumstances, investment capital from Africa (in particular Nigeria) may, therefore, be a kind of last resort. Though enlightened, we must tread carefully. The Nigerian aviation sector might not be perceived to have a sufficiently enviable safety record.

Furthermore, the secular authorities in Nigeria, are fighting an insurgency against a stubborn militant Islamic group, operating under the brand of Boko Haram.

Viewed through such optics, a new LIAT, with major investments from Nigeria may need to assure: Caribbean travelers and the tourism markets from North America and Western Europe, that flying a resurgent LIAT will be safe.

Walk good...Let us work together to get the new LIAT soaring again.

(For more analytical pieces, visit: arvelgrant.com or [arvelgranttoday@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/arvelgranttoday) <mailto:arvelgranttoday@facebook.com> Authorized for re-print without content modification(s) - All rights reserved.



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12th October 2023 -

Agricultural Extension Division (AED) 9 am to 2pm

PRESENTERS

FAO - National Correspondent
AED -WFD Team, AED,
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Objective: To attract youth into modern Agriculture by exposing them to smart farming technologies and their benefits on the environment, such as saving water and reducing the use of pesticides and chemicals in farming.

AED = Agricultural Extension Division, CDCED = Community Development & Citizens' Engagement Division, APUA = Antigua Public Utilities Authority, AUA = American University of Antigua, MAFBA = Ministry of Agriculture, DOE = Department of Environment

Environment



Saharan dust returns to Caribbean

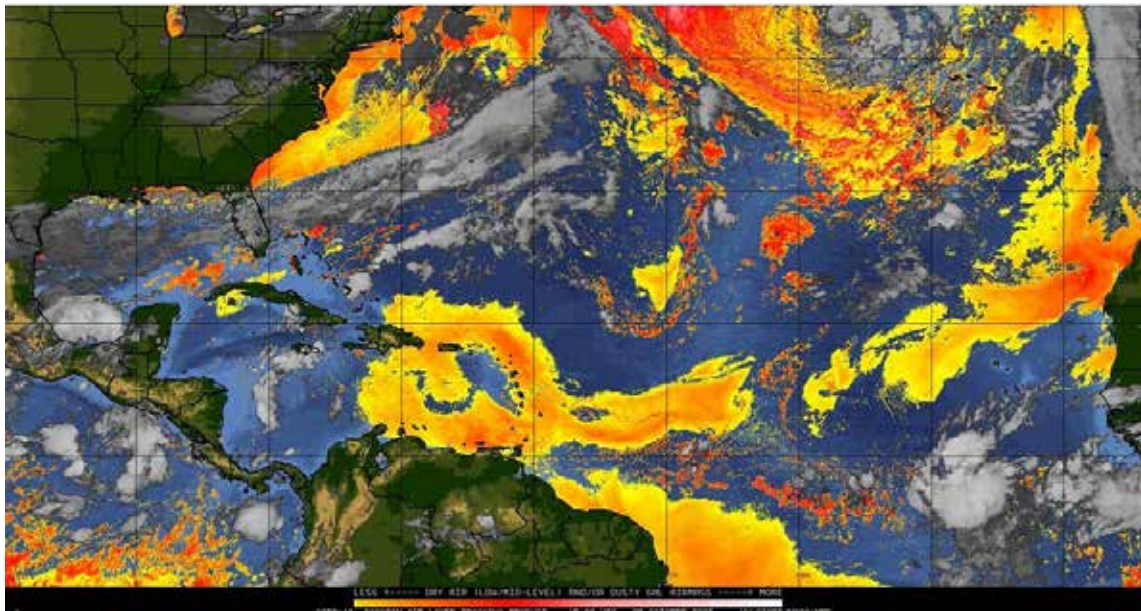
By Melissa Wong

Sinus sufferers and persons with respiratory ailments have probably realised that there's the presence of Saharan dust in the Caribbean region.

The Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service says air quality will be moderate for Antigua and Barbuda last from Monday until Wednesday.

Its forecast states air quality is to fall to moderate levels as a result of particulate matters 2.5 and 10, associated with a fresh surge in Saharan Dust.

The threat of health



Saharan Air Layer (SAL) on October 9, 2023. (Source: CIMSS Tropical Cyclones)

problems is to be elevated, for mainly unusually sensitive people, such as

asthmatics, and could potentially cause them limited health impacts.

Montserrat's Disaster Management Coordination Agency has warned citizens that air quality has dropped to Moderate Levels across Montserrat, today, Monday, October 9 due to a fresh surge in the Saharan Dust.

It says sensitive groups such as the elderly, children, and those with respiratory and cardiovascular ailments should take the necessary precautions.

Dominica's Meteorological Service in its weather outlook for Dominica and the Lesser Antilles on October 9 says the presence of dust haze could result in a reduction in visibility.

It says people with respiratory sensitivities are advised to take the necessary precautions to avoid complications.

The Meteorological Office for St Maarten

cont'd on pg 13

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Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith

Will Smith and Jada have been separated since 2016, she says

Jada Pinkett Smith and husband Will Smith have lived “completely separate lives” since 2016, she revealed in an interview with Hoda Kotb. The prominent Hollywood couple married in 1997 and have addressed separations and marital troubles, but never this specifically.

Though it’s not a legal divorce, Pinkett Smith told Kotb in a clip released Wednesday on “Today” that it is essentially a divorce without papers. Smith and Pinkett Smith share two children, Willow and Jaden,

as well as a son, Trey, from Smith’s first marriage.

Representatives for Smith and Pinkett Smith did not immediately respond to request for comment.

The news came as a surprise to many, considering Pinkett Smith’s candor in her “Red Table Talk” series, in which she and Smith addressed her extramarital relationship in an episode in 2020, and the slap at the 2022 Academy Awards. At the ceremony, Smith infamously walked up on stage and struck presenter Chris Rock after Rock made a

joke about Pinkett Smith’s hair.

The full interview will air on an hour-long NBC News prime-time special on October 13 at 8pm ET. Pinkett Smith also has a memoir, “Worthy”, out on October 17, which promises more details about their lives and relationship, as well as her upbringing in Baltimore.

She told Kotb that, “By the time we got to 2016, we were just exhausted with trying. I think we were both kind of just still stuck in our fantasy of what we thought

the other person should be.”

Pinkett Smith added that though she’s considered divorce, she hasn’t been able to go through with it.

“I made a promise that there will never be a reason for us to get a divorce. We will work through... whatever,” she said.

In a new interview with People Magazine, Pinkett Smith also said that she initially thought the slap was part of a skit.

“I was like, ‘There’s no way that Will hit him,’” Pinkett Smith said. “It wasn’t until Will started to walk back to his chair that I even realised it wasn’t a skit.”

Smith has apologised several times for the incident, which got him a 10-year ban on attending the Oscars or any other academic event.

cont’d from pg 12

warns that varying concentrations of Saharan dust will affect air quality over the next few days. It says persons with allergies/respiratory illnesses should remain vigilant.

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Office says a mild concentration of Saharan dust is present.

And, the St Vincent and the Grenadines Meteorological Service in its 72 hours weather outlook on October 8 said a film of haze may be noticeable at times across the area.

Dominican Republic secures historic spot on UN Human Rights Council

By Dillon De Shong

The Dominican Republic has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2024-2026.

The Dominican Republic received 137 of 186 valid ballots cast during Tuesday's vote at the General Assembly.

This is the Dominican Republic's first time on the HRC.

Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez was on hand to witness the vote.

In a statement, Álvarez said obtaining a seat on the council "constitutes a mile-



A delegate casts their country's vote during the Human Rights Council elections. Photo: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

stone for the country and reaffirms the commitment of

the Dominican Government to the promotion, protec-

tion, defence and fulfilment
cont'd on pg 15

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Premier: BVI grateful for OECS support against UK's direct rule threat

By Dillon De Shong

British Virgin Islands Premier Dr Natalio Wheatley has thanked the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) for supporting the territory in its continued fight against the United Kingdom's threat to impose direct rule of the territory if key governance reforms are not implemented.

Speaking at the opening of the 36th OECS/Pooled Procurement Service (PPS) Policy Board Meeting and Ninth OECS Council of Health Ministers on Monday night, Wheatley said Virgin Islanders are grateful that members did not neglect their struggle and have used their voices on international platforms to highlight the looming threat on their democracy.

"The OECS and individual states have stood in defence of democracy and the human rights of the Virgin Islands people in the face of threats to suspend our Constitution through an Order in Council of the United Kingdom Parliament and to re-impose direct rule by the UK," he said

"These threats, if they materialise, will undo gen-



British Virgin Islands Premier Dr Natalio Wheatley.

erations of struggle and hard work by the Virgin Islands people to achieve self-determination as advocated for in international human rights conventions and international law; can threaten Virgin Islanders' ancestral ownership of our islands; and can pose a serious risk to erasing our unique culture, heritage and identity."

He continued: "The OECS as a body and individual states have been very outspoken at every available opportunity to highlight our concerns to the international

organisations and the global audience. For this we are very grateful, and our brother and sister states in the Caribbean can always be assured of the BVI's support in your times of need."

Wheatley said the advocacy of OECS members and non-member states are a clear example of what can be achieved when nations work together.

The UK currently has an Order In Council that the Foreign Secretary can use to dissolve the BVI's parliament and exercise di-

rect rule from London, via the Governor's Office.

Former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss sought the order from the Privy Council last year when she was Foreign Secretary as an assurance that governance reforms, which retired British Judge Sir Gary Hickinbottom recommended in his Commission of Inquiry (COI) report, were implemented.

The 900 page COI report found that corrupt elements have been able to find a foothold in many of the government agencies on the BVI.

Wheatley and his team have met with subsequent Foreign and Overseas Secretaries to lobby for the order to be removed but their appeals were denied.

cont'd from pg 14

of human rights at a global level."

Also joining the Dominican Republic as representatives for Latin America and the Caribbean are Cuba, Brazil and Peru.

The countries will begin their three-year stint from January 1, 2024.

The HRC, which was created in 2006, is made up of representatives from 47 UN member states.

Current members of the council include Argentina, Costa Rica, India, Germany, Cameroon, South Africa, the United States of America, and Vietnam.



The inmates set mattresses alight.

Paraguay jail: Rioting inmates hold guards hostage

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

At least 10 guards are being held hostage by inmates at Paraguay's largest prison, police in the South American country have confirmed.

Prisoners started a riot at the Tacumbú jail in the capital, Asunción, on Tuesday afternoon.

Television footage showed prisoners on the roof of the jail throwing stones at police.

The prison director says members of a prison gang called Rotela Clan are behind the unrest.

The exact number of guards still being held hostage is unclear.

A police spokesman said it was "at least 10", but in a video call with a local radio station on Wednesday morning local time, the prison's director, Luis Esquivel, said he and 21 guards were still being detained by the rioters.

Standing in front of his uniformed staff in what he describes as "at the back of a wing", Mr Esquivel explained that he and the guards had been held for 15 hours. He added that they were being "treated well".

According to Mr Esquivel, the inmates have made three demands in exchange for letting the hostages go: a guarantee that the police will not storm the jail, a signed document guaranteeing that there will be no reprisals for the riot, and a promise that the overcrowded Tacumbú will be reopened for new inmates.

Local media have reported that the last demand is an attempt by the Rotela Clan to further strengthen its influence in Tacumbú by having even more of its members sent to it, even though the jail is already holding thousands more inmates than it was designed for.

More than two dozen women are also reportedly inside the jail, but it is not clear if they are being held against their will or if they stayed voluntarily with their jailed partners when the riot broke out during visiting hours.

Flames could be seen inside the jail as inmates set mattresses alight.

Paraguay's justice minister, Ángel Barchini, said the government would not let itself be blackmailed by criminal gangs and insisted that the security forces would regain control of the jail.

Mr Barchini had announced during a meeting of ministers on 2 October that he had a plan to wrest control of Tacumbú from the Rotela Clan, which controls it.

Media in Paraguay have speculated that news of this plan could have triggered the riot, which broke out on

cont'd on pg 17

Afghanistan hit by second earthquake in days

Another earthquake has hit western Afghanistan, just days after two large quakes in the same region killed more than 1,000 people.

The new 6.3 magnitude quake struck at around 05:10 local time (00:40 GMT) on Wednesday, 28km (17 miles) north of Herat, killing at least one person.

More than 100 were injured and taken to hospital, health officials said.

Unicef said more than 90% of those who died in this week's earthquakes in Afghanistan were women and children.

The wider impact of the latest quake is not yet clear, but many people were sleeping in the open after their homes were destroyed on Saturday.

The governor of Herat province said there had been significant damage. Many phone and power lines are down. Aid agencies have said there is also a shortage of blankets, food and other supplies.

An eyewitness in cen-



Saturday's earthquake has killed more than 1,000 people.

tral Herat, where some houses still stand, said she woke up screaming and ran out of her home.

"I was in the deepest sleep because I hadn't slept in the days before," she told the BBC.

"I have never felt so close to death," she said, adding that she ran barefoot to the outskirts of the city, where many have been sleeping in tents since the first quake.

Saturday morning's earthquake hit Zindajan, a

rural district some 40km from Herat.

Images from the villages show entire houses, which were too fragile to withstand the tremors, reduced to rubble.

Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, as it lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

cont'd from pg 16
Tuesday.

Paraguay is not the only country in the region to struggle to regain control of jails which for years have been run by inmates.

In Venezuela, the leader of a "luxury" jail complete with mini-zoo and baseball

pitch escaped before thousands of soldiers were deployed to transfer inmates and establish order.

And in Ecuador, prison gangs have become so powerful that they control much of the criminal enterprises across the country from behind bars.

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West Indies Women's "A" Team to tour Pakistan

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's Selection Panel has announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming West Indies Women's "A" Team tour to Pakistan from October 17 to November 8.

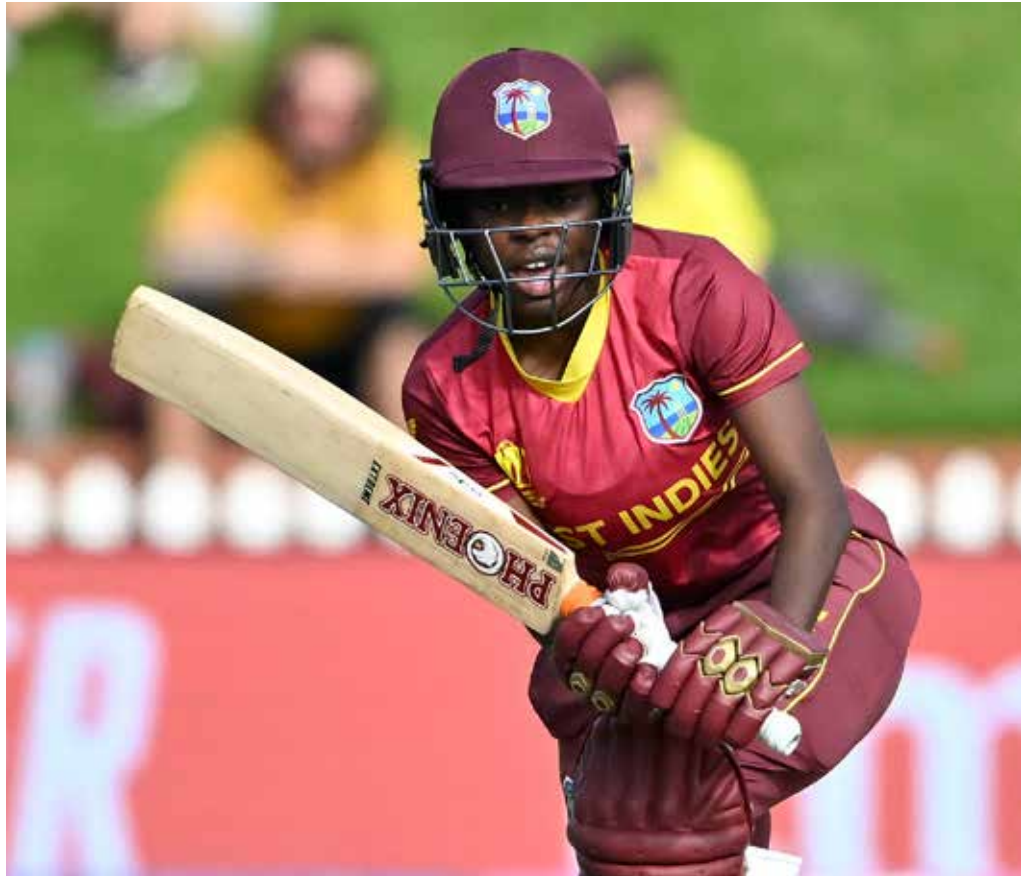
The West Indies Women's "A" Team will be led by Head Coach Shane Deitz and captain Rashada Williams, the top-order batter and wicketkeeper.

Ashmini Munisar, the off-spinning all-rounder, has been named as the team's vice captain.

This is the first ever West Indies Women's "A" Team away tour, which will feature three 50 over matches against the Pakistan "A" Team at the Lahore Country Club in Muridke. It will also include a tri-nation T20 Series with Pakistan "A" and Thailand.

The preliminary matches will be played at the Lahore Country Club with the final at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Lead Selector for Women's and Girls' Cricket Ann Browne-John said, "The 'A' Team tour to Pakistan is a welcome addition to the calendar. It is a perfect opportunity for the developing players to get some international experience.



Rashada Williams will captain the West Indies Women's A Team. (CWI Media)

FULL SQUAD: Rashada Williams (Captain), Ashmini Munisar (Vice Captain), Jahzara Claxton, NaiJanni Cumberbatch, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajnabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Sheneta Grimmond, Trishan Holder, Zaida James, Djenaba Joseph, Qiana Joseph, Nyia Latchman,

Mandy Mangru, and Shunelle Sawh.

TEAM MANAGEMENT UNIT: Shane Deitz (Head Coach), Sheena Gooding (Team Manager), Robert Samuels (Assistant Coach), Samantha Lynch (Assistant Coach), Tajay Grant (Physiotherapist), and Yvonne Arthur (Strength & Conditioning Coach).

Trimingham Trucking Enterprises and H. Wright Promotions get wins in business league

Trimingham Trucking Enterprises and H. Wright Promotions recorded wins in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition on Tuesday night.

Trimingham Trucking

Enterprises claimed their sixth win in nine games by cruising to a 56-46 victory against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Donte Trimingham shot

a game-high 32 points, and T-Shawn Lewis scored 11 points for Trimingham Trucking Enterprises.

Takeem Martin sank 12 points, Michael Barton converted 11 points, and Errol Quallis had 10 points for the Fearless crew, who suf-

fered their fifth loss in eight games.

H. Wright Promotions notched up their third win in seven games by snatching a 58-54 victory against the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

Adrian Carnegie pro-
cont'd on pg 19



The champion Antigua Grammar School team that won the 2022 Under-16 Boys Division title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League. (File photo)

AGS begin title defense with goalless draw

Reigning champions, Antigua Grammar School (AGS), failed to make a winning start in defense of their Under-16 Boys Division title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League on Tuesday.

The Grammarians were held to a goalless draw by the Ottos Comprehensive School during a dou-

ble-header at the Princess Margaret School's (PMS) playing field in the opening round of matches.

But Princess Margaret snatched a 2-1 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary in the other game at the PMS playing field.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy and the Clare Hall Secondary got

off to winning starts during a double-header at the Potters playing field.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy hammered newcomers Trinity Academy 12-0.

Clare Hall Secondary prevailed 4-2 against All Saints Secondary School.

St. Mary's Secondary School snatched a 1-0 win against Jennings Secondary

School at the Golden Grove playing field.

The Secondary Schools Football League will continue with matches in the east zone of the Under-20 Boys Division at 3 pm today (Thursday).

The Irene B. Williams Secondary School will host the defending champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (AB-ICE), at the Swetes playing field.

Clare Hall Secondary will entertain Pares Secondary at Clare Hall, and All Saints Secondary will clash with St. Joseph's Academy at the Glanvilles playing field.

cont'd from pg 18

duced 17 points, Humroy Wright scored 16 points, and Anthony Greer contributed 11 points for H. Wright Promotions.

Baldwin Anthony Jr. converted 18 points, and Naeem Joseph scored 11 points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, which lost for the seventh time in as many games.

The business basketball league will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Thursday).

First Pharmacy Fearless Crew will take on Eye Mobile Vision Care at 6:45 pm, and joint-leaders Anjo Wholesale will clash with the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 7:45 pm.

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Players undergo training at a West Indies Emerging Players Academy session at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua in July 2022. (CWI Media)

West Indies Academy to face Ireland Academy in Antigua

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the match schedule and venues for the West Indies Academy home series against Ireland Academy.

The series will feature three 50-Over matches and two four-day matches in Antigua from November 17 to December 5. The first 50-Over match will be at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Friday, November 17, followed by the second match at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) on Sunday, November 19.

The third limited over match will be back at SVRS on Tuesday, November 21. Both four-day matches will be played at CCG – the first starting on

Sunday, November 25, and the second start on Sunday, December 2.

Graeme West, CWI's High-Performance Manager, outlined the idea behind the series and the structure. He noted that CWI continues to prioritize the development of players with the aim to prepare them to play at the highest level.

He said, "We are delighted to host Ireland Academy in Antigua for what will be a highly competitive multi-format series. This series is critical in the players ongoing development and education and we are pleased that it will involve both red and white ball matches.

"2023 has provided the players with some great exposure through the Headley-Weekes Series, the CG United Super50 Cup and the Republic Bank CPL, so this will be a fitting conclusion to the calendar year and provide the squad with clear aims and objectives going into 2024."

West added, "These five matches are not being played in isolation, but form part of CWI's overall high-performance strategy. We want to provide the squad with competitive environments and high-performance platforms that facilitate growth and prepare the players to excel in a West Indies shirt."



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DEWS Pro Builders hold APUA Telecoms to draw in business football league

Defending champions APUA Telecoms were held to a goalless draw in the second round of matches in the Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Business Football League, which is organized by the Ministry of Sports.

Following their 4-0 drubbing of CHAPA Warriors in their opening affair in Group 2, APUA Telecoms were unable to breach the defense of DEWS Pro Builders and were held to a goalless draw at King George.

But the Ministry of Agriculture and Royalton Hotel claimed their second win in as many matches to move to the top of Group 1.

Goals by Alden Spencer Daniel Bryan gave the Ministry of Agriculture a 2-1 win against Terminix at the Golden Grove playing field. Tyrique Thwaites scored for Terminix, who secured a 2-2 draw with Hermitage Hotel in their first-round encounter.

The Royalton Hotel snatched a 2-1 win against the Galley Bay Resort at the same venue.

Deshawn Semple and Kevanght Abercrombie each converted once for the Royalton Hotel, which beat APUA Water by the same scoreline in their opening encounter.

Chesney Simon scored for the Galley Bay Resort, which also suffered a 2-1 loss against Keyonna Coco's in their first outing.

Curtain Bluff Hotel claimed their first win in two matches by beating APUA Water 2-1.

Ezekiel Stoll and Jonti Wyre scored for Curtain Bluff, while Djarie Sheppard converted for APUA Water, which lost for the second time in as many games.

The Emergency Medical Service (EMS), the St. John's Development Corporation, and the Antigua Port Authority all recorded their first wins in

Group 3.

The EMS snatched a 3-2 victory against the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Khalique Kellman, Berishaun Phillip, and Marckens Dorisca scored for the EMS, while Danyel Greenaway and Kareem Campbell each converted once for the Transport Board.

St. John's Development Corporation beat the ABDF Warriors 4-0, and the Antigua Port Authority prevailed 2-1 against the National Solid Waste Management Authority.

The APUA Head Office and Public Works Asphalt fought to a goalless draw in another Group 3 encounter at Radio Range.

PBC HC VER snatched a 3-2 victory against Anjo Wholesale to record their second win in as many matches in Group 4.

Tony Llorente, Kwami Byers, and Armando Martinese had conversions for PBC HC VER, while Sean Tomlinson and Jamour Martin found the back of the net for Anjo Wholesale.

Darryl Massicott had a double conversion, and Dante Isaac scored once as the University of the West Indies (UWI) snatched a 3-2 victory against Villa Tech Ent. to claim their first win in the competition.

The Antigua Plumbing and Hardware Center and Kennedy's Blue Diamond played to a 1-1 draw in the other Group 4 affair.



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VIP advance to Dredgers Taped Ball League Final

Pelican Safari VIP booked their place in the championship final of the Dredgers Taped-Ball League on Tuesday night.

Pelican Safari VIP defeated Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets by six wickets in the first qualifier at the Dredgers playing field.

The Bullets won the toss and batted first, making 73 for six off their allotted 10 overs. Kenroy Simon top-scored with 16 runs, including two fours and a six. Kadeem Josiah picked up two wickets for 10 runs.

VIP achieved victory by scoring 74 for four with 16 balls to spare. Demetri Lucas struck 29, which included three sixes. Essan Warner claimed two wickets for 15 runs.

VIP will face the winner of the second qualifier in the final, which will be played at Dredgers on Tuesday, October 17.

The Dredgers will take on Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets in the second qualifier today (Thursday) at 6:30 pm.

The Dredgers advanced to today's qualifier by crushing Marko Inc. Grill Box Buckleys 3J's by 67 runs in the eliminator on Tuesday evening.

Buckleys 3J's decision to field first after winning the toss backfired when Melvin Charles blasted a half century to propel the Dredgers to an impressive 134 for four off their allotted 10 overs.

Charles hammered 51 runs, including seven sixes and a four. D'Ahri Francis struck 25, which included four sixes. Mervin Higgins chipped in with 22 runs, which included three fours and a six. Rodney Williams captured two wickets for 26 runs.

Chasing a victory target of 135 runs, Buckleys 3J's were dismissed for just 67 runs in 9.5 overs.

Glenton Williams snapped up two wickets for five runs, Kerry Mentore bagged two wickets for 13 runs, and Javaughn James captured two wickets for 21 runs.



Dredgers batsman Melvin Charles