

# NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY ON WFD



*Food packages being prepared for distribution to the most vulnerable on World Food Day.*



## No one should go hungry tonight

The civil society group – Adopt A Family (AAF) – has used World Food Day (Monday) to mobilize efforts, to ensure that on that day, no one in Antigua and Barbuda went to bed without a nourishing meal.

Adopt A Family, led by its founder and chief organizer, Inspector Veldon Raguette, collaborated with the Ministry of Social Transformation to arrange for the distribution of food packages to the most vulnerable members of society for World Food Day (WFD). The Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre was a hive of activity on Monday with the packaging of bags with food items to be distributed to the society's most vulnerable.

“On World Food Day, we believe that this means no one should go without



food, especially on that day. So our goal for the day is to work towards ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry. For more than two decades we have been working with

this department of government (Social Transformation) to reach the needy persons in the society. They deal with these individuals daily and they know exactly

who these people are,” Insp. Raguette stated.

According to the organizer, the goal for WFD is to pack at least one hundred

*cont'd on pg 3*





*cont'd from pg 2*

and fifty (150) bags with food items and to have them distributed by teams from the department as well as from AAF.

Ragguette said it is likely that the work will continue today (Tuesday) with another seventy-five (75) bags packed and distributed.

He disclosed that he has had the assistance of several private sector entities who have made generous donations to the cause. Unfortunately, several farmers were not able to fulfill their pledges to assist because of crop damage caused by the recent tropical storm. "The items are from well-wishers who believe in giving back to the society. The donations are the result of a total of 35



*Agriculture Minister E.P Chet Greene was among those lending a hand in the distribution of food packages*

entities that came together to donate to make this distribution a reality," he reported.

Two members of the Ministry of Social Transformation team – Sharon Dalso and Lakesha Adams – stated that the farming community had a tradition of donating

to the less fortunate in the society and this was expected to continue this year. The ministry's involvement includes identifying the needy persons in society as well as helping to package the backs with the donated items and finally assisting with the distribution.



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## Seedling distribution on World Food Day

The Ministry of Agriculture staged a distribution of seedlings on Monday in recognition of World Food Day and as part of the national efforts to strengthen food security.

The Ministry’s Agricultural Extension Division presented its first Seedling Distribution and Veggie Fair Day on the compound of the PDO Compound in St John’s.

Along with the distribution of seedlings of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, there were also local fruits and vegetables on display, local drinks, and several traditional Antigua and Barbuda dishes including cha-cha dumplings and bam-bulla.

There were also several samples of fruit and vegan-based food products, and local arts and crafts.

Agriculture Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, visited the exhibition/distribution event to encourage those involved in the agricultural sector, whether as farmers or as agro-processors to continue to produce not only for themselves and their families but also for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

“Food security is more than a

*cont’d on pg 5*

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## 53-year-old is country's eighth road fatality for 2023

A 53-year-old man - Troy Strunk-ey of Old Parham Road - is the country's eighth road fatality for 2023.

The police reported that Strunk-ey died on Sunday night following a traffic accident on the Sydney Walling Highway in the vicinity of the former

XPZ premises.

The police reports are that Strunk-ey was traveling from East to West along Sir Sydney Walling Highway when he allegedly lost control of his motorcycle and collided with a utility pole on the Northern side of the road.

He was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:56 p.m. The incident occurred around 10:23 p.m. on Sunday, 15th October.

The police say their investigations into the fatal accident are continuing.

*cont'd from pg 4*

catchphrase; it is a deep commitment by my ministry and the government to work towards achieving this goal, for our own sake and for our children's sake," he added.

Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of CARICOM have set a goal of 25 by 25; that is to reduce the region's food import bill by 25 per cent by the year 2025.




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*IAEA training session participants and facilitators*

## IAEA mounts a one-week mission to Antigua and Barbuda

A four-member team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is in St. John's as a part of a mission to conduct training with key local personnel on matters related to radiation and nuclear safety.

The Bureau of Standards is the coordinating agency for the advisory mission which is intended to review and assess the Regulatory Infrastructure for Radiation Safety and Nuclear Security in Antigua and Barbuda and to make recommendations for the development of the infrastructure.

The training started on Monday at the conference room of the new Port Authority Building at the Deep Water Harbour. Participants are drawn from the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, Police Department, Fire and Rescue, Port Authority, Customs Division, Airport Authority, NODS, National Housing, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, Emergency Medical Services, Legal Affairs, Government Analytical Services, Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, Transport Board and the Solid Waste Management Authority.

Addressing Monday's opening

exercises, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool welcomed the IAEA Mission on Regulatory Infrastructure for Radiation Safety service and thanked the team for facilitating this workshop.

He reminded the participants that the IAEA also provides innovative scientific solutions to help Small Island Developing States address critical development challenges in areas of agriculture, health, and the environment.

He further stated that many countries use nuclear science and technology to meet their development objectives in areas including energy, human health, food production, water management, and environmental protection. The use of these techniques contributes directly to nine of the 17 SDGs

In his remarks, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim noted that since joining the IAEA Antigua and Barbuda has realized tangible benefits.

"Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Atomic Energy Agen-

cy in November 2015, because of the pending establishment of the Cancer Treatment Centre and the increased use of radiation equipment in various other healthcare facilities. There was also evidence of minor uses of radiation sources or equipment in industry, agriculture, and education," he disclosed.

Ambassador Pilgrim stressed that a national regulatory framework aims to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

Accidents involving radiation sources, or nuclear security events involving radioactive material are often the result of several factors, including the lack of an adequate regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety and security of radioactive material.

"An effective national regulatory infrastructure, established per the IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance, can reduce the likelihood of accidents or malicious acts and, as long as effective emergency preparedness and response measures exist, mitigate their consequences should they occur," he declared.



## Head of ADOMS elected chair of IMO Technical

Ambassador Dwight Gardiner has been elected to serve as chairman of the Technical Cooperation Committee of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

Gardiner is currently the Director/Registrar-General of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), the Maritime Administration of Antigua and Barbuda, and Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 2009 and 2005 respectively.

His election took place during the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee for



*Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, right.*

its 73rd session from October 16-19.

He is also Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary with special representative responsibility for the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Seabed

Authority (ISA), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

Ambassador Gardiner has been involved in the

maritime sector of Antigua and Barbuda for over 35 years.

He was Chairman of the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control from 2009 to 2018; Maritime Advisor to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda from 2004 to 2009; Vice Chairman of the Caribbean MOU on Port State Control from 2003-2008; Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the IMO from 2003-2005; and Senior Deputy Director and Registrar of Ships of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping from 1991 - 2003.

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# Local News



## Sandals Foundation raises £100,000 for charity

The Sandals Foundation has successfully raised £100,000 after hosting its historic 4-day ultra-marathon charity event. With scores of Sandals Resorts team members, guests, private sector representatives,

and residents participating in the Half Marathon and 10K walk components on Saturday, October 14, more than 200 people joyfully crossed the finish line and bid their support for the cause.

Proceeds of the event will help bolster the capacity of the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, as well as 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.

More than 50 local and international partners joined the philanthropic organization's effort to raise funds, including TickeTing App, Digicel Group, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Anjo Wholesale, British Airways, Mail Metro Media, Runners World and Good Housekeeping Magazine, Northstar Meetings Group, Corpay, Hays Travel, 7Stars, EMC3, Upsandowns and UYN.

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## Drastic 'raised the national flag' high at Miami Carnival

Soca artiste Drastic emerged from the just-concluded Miami Carnival with the knowledge that he did a masterful job representing himself and Antigua and Barbuda at the just-concluded Miami Carnival.

With his chart-topping hits such as "Sugary Waistline," "Bam Bam," "Guava Jam," and many more, Drastic proudly represented the twin island state of Antigua & Barbuda in the very first Miami Soca Monarch 2023 Competition, hosted by SOA. The event took place at the Lallos in downtown Miami, where Drastic, the youth from 'Top Ottos' graced the stage to perform before hundreds of enthusiastic patrons and on-lookers.

Known for his infectious beats and catchy melodies, Drastic delivered a spirited and high-energy performance, showcasing one of his 2023 Jumpy soca releases, "MASH UP," produced by the talented DJx Flip Da Boss from Dominica. As Drastic took command of the stage, the audience was treated to a spectacle of dancing and revelry.

Reflecting on his experience at the Miami Soca Monarch 2023, Drastic expressed his gratitude, saying, "First, I want to thank God for the opportunity to travel and use my gift to represent not only myself but also the Philip family and my beloved home, Antigua and Barbuda. While I may not have clinched the first-place title this time, I'm setting my sights on the gold for next year."

Drastic was quick to extend his congratulations to the deserving winner, Marlo from St. Vincent, who claimed victory with his hit song, "Horn." Additionally, he acknowledged the impressive performances of his fellow Antiguan artists, Low Rida and Janine, who also secured spots in the finals of the Miami Soca Monarch competition.

The journey to Miami was made

possible through the unwavering support of Drastic's family, DJ Classy, who sponsored accommodations and ground transportation, and DJ Red Asylum, who provided invaluable support during the competition. Drastic is profoundly thankful for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support from his friends and fans on social media, a testament to the profound impact his music has on his audience.





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## Statement from Adopt A Family

*Issued on Monday, October 16, 2023 (World Food Day)*

Today is World Food Day, an important occasion where we come together to address the issue of hunger worldwide. As an organization, our motto is to eliminate hunger one family at a time." Although we understand that we have a long way to go in achieving our goals, we are committed to making a difference, especially today.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors who have played a crucial role in making today's event a reality. Their contribution has been invaluable in organizing and executing this event.

We would also like to acknowledge the support and contributors to World Food Day;

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Oasis Water, our produce and poultry farmers, and many other sponsors who have generously stepped forward to make this day possible. Their commitment to fighting hunger and improving the lives of families in need is truly commendable.

In addition to our sponsors, we want to express our deepest appreciation to our dedicated volunteers. Their selfless efforts and countless hours of work have been instrumental in ensuring the success of today's event; special mention to some young men from Antigua Grammar School who stopped by and gave us some much-needed help, special thanks

to Ika Fergus and his team from the Ministry of Agriculture. Without their passion and commitment, it would not have been possible to reach as many families in need as we have.

While we may not have completely achieved our goals yet, today serves as a reminder of the progress we have made and the impact we can have by working together.

We remain steadfast in our mission to eliminate hunger, one family at a time. With the continued support of our sponsors, volunteers, and the wider community, we are confident that we can bring meaningful change to the lives of those affected by food insecurity.

On this World Food Day, let us not only celebrate the strides we have made but also renew our dedication to making a difference, ensuring that no family goes to bed hungry.

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## Microsoft completes \$69bn takeover of Call of Duty maker Activision Blizzard

Microsoft has completed its \$69bn (£56bn) takeover of Call of Duty maker Activision Blizzard in the gaming industry's biggest ever deal.

It comes as Microsoft, which owns the Xbox gaming console, was given the green light for the global deal after UK regulators approved it.

The Competition and Markets Authority said its concerns had been addressed, after it blocked the original bid.

Microsoft's Phil Spencer said securing Activision was "incredible".

Following the announcement of the deal, Activision Blizzard CEO Bobby Kotick confirmed in a letter to staff that he would step down at the end of 2023.

"I have long said that I am fully committed to helping with the transition," he said. "[Phil Spencer and I] both look forward to working together on a smooth integration for our teams and players."

Despite concerns from rivals such as PlayStation-maker Sony, and regulators over competition in the gaming industry, Mr Spencer, who is chief executive of Microsoft Gaming, sought to reassure gamers.

"Whether you play on Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo, PC or mobile, you are welcome here - and will

remain welcome, even if Xbox isn't where you play your favorite franchise," Mr Spencer said in a statement following the takeover.

"Because when everyone plays, we all win. We believe our news today will unlock a world of possibilities for more ways to play."

Under the re-worked deal, Microsoft has handed the rights to distribute Activision's games on consoles and PCs over the cloud to French video game publisher Ubisoft.

But while a concession has been made, Microsoft will now control games such as Call of Duty, World of Warcraft, and Candy Crush that will provide the firm with huge revenues.

The CMA said the revised deal would "preserve competitive prices" in the gaming industry and provide more choice and better services.

But despite approving the takeover, the watchdog criticised Microsoft's conduct over the near-two year battle.

"Businesses and their advisors should be in no doubt that the tactics employed by Microsoft are no way to engage with the CMA," said chief executive Sarah Cardell.

"Microsoft had the chance to restructure during our initial investigation but instead continued to insist



on a package of measures that we told them simply wouldn't work. Dragging out proceedings in this way only wastes time and money."

After the competition watchdog blocked the takeover earlier this year, Microsoft's president Brad Smith hit out at the CMA's decision, which it said was "bad for Britain" and contradicted "the ambitions of the UK to become an attractive country to build technology businesses".

It has proved controversial and received a mixed response from regulators around the world, but has already been passed by regulators in the European Union. The US competition watchdog recently saw its attempt to pause the purchase rejected by the courts.

But the CMA's Ms Cardell said with the sale of Activision's cloud streaming rights to Ubisoft, which makes Assassin's Creed, "we've made sure Microsoft can't have a stranglehold over this important and

rapidly developing market".

"We were clear that that deal couldn't go ahead, because it would have harmed competition, and that would have been bad for UK gamers," she added.

"We take our decisions free from political influence and we won't be swayed by corporate lobbying."

Mr Smith said Microsoft was "grateful for the CMA's thorough review and decision".

Microsoft is paying cash for Activision at a premium price of \$95 per share, meaning Mr Kotick, Activision's outgoing chief executive, is set for a \$400m payday, with chairman Brian Kelly earning \$100m, based on the shares they own.

Under the restructured agreement, Microsoft has agreed to transfer the rights to stream Activision games from the cloud to Ubisoft for 15 years outside the European Economic Area (EEA). This includes EU countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

*cont'd on pg 13*

## Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith 'healing relationship'

Jada Pinkett Smith has said she and Will Smith are "working very hard" on their marriage after revealing last week that they separated in 2016.

They have been living separately, she said, despite regularly appearing together.

Pinkett Smith told NBC they were really concentrating on "healing the relationship".

The couple made headlines last year when Will Smith stormed the stage at the Oscars and slapped host Chris Rock.

He yelled "keep my wife's name out of your [expletive] mouth".

Pinkett Smith's revelation around the Hollywood actors' relationship made headlines across the world.

Speaking to NBC's To-



day Show, she said: "We are in a place now that we are in a deep healing space.

"And we are really concentrating on healing the relationship between us..."

"We are working very hard at bringing our relationship together back to a life partnership."

She explained: "He can't be this perfect idealised husband. I have to be

able to accept him for the human he is.

"He has to accept me for the human I am. And we want to love each other there."

When asked if the couple might live in the same house again, she agreed they might.

On Wednesday, as part of a book launch, she said she had considered a legal

divorce but could not go through with it because she was determined to work through it.

She put the relationship breakdown to "a lot of things" and by 2016 they were "exhausted with trying".

Previously there had been speculation about the couple's marriage in 2020 after the pair discussed on her Facebook show Red Table Talk that Pinkett Smith had been in an "entanglement" with artist August Alsina.

The actors met in 1994 when she auditioned for *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, and later married in 1997.

The pair have two children together - Jaden Smith and Willow Smith - along with Trey Smith, Smith's son from his first marriage.

### *cont'd from pg 12*

After the 15 years are up, Ubisoft will no longer hold the cloud gaming rights for Activision's content, but it is understood the regulator believes the time span will see rivals become established for the cloud gaming market to be more competitive.

Microsoft is hopeful the takeover will boost demand for its Xbox console and enable the tech firm to add more titles to its Xbox Game Pass service, where members pay a subscription fee to access a catalogue of games from the cloud - either by downloading or by streaming.

The deal with Activision also means Microsoft will own its studio

solely purposed for mobile games, with hopes of expanding on the successes of titles such as *Candy Crush*.

The takeover further cements Microsoft as a video game giant and could catapult it ahead of Nintendo to become the third-biggest player in the industry behind Sony, the owner of the PlayStation console, and market leader Tencent.

Sony strongly opposed this deal over concerns that big Activision titles like *Call of Duty* could become Xbox exclusives over time.

The PlayStation currently outsells Microsoft's Xbox but like all entertainment platforms, the key to success is access to the best content, though

Sony is also not averse to buying up successful studios.

Nicky Stewart, a consultant and former commercial director of cloud services provider UK Cloud, said the decision to approve the takeover was "great news for gamers".

"[It will lead to] more choice, more innovation, better value and improved gaming experiences and a healthy, competitive market," said Ms Stewart, who is also a former head of ICT at the Cabinet Office government department.

"The CMA has forced Microsoft to make concessions in the UK that other regulators have not. This is good news for the UK's nascent gaming industry."



# Regional News

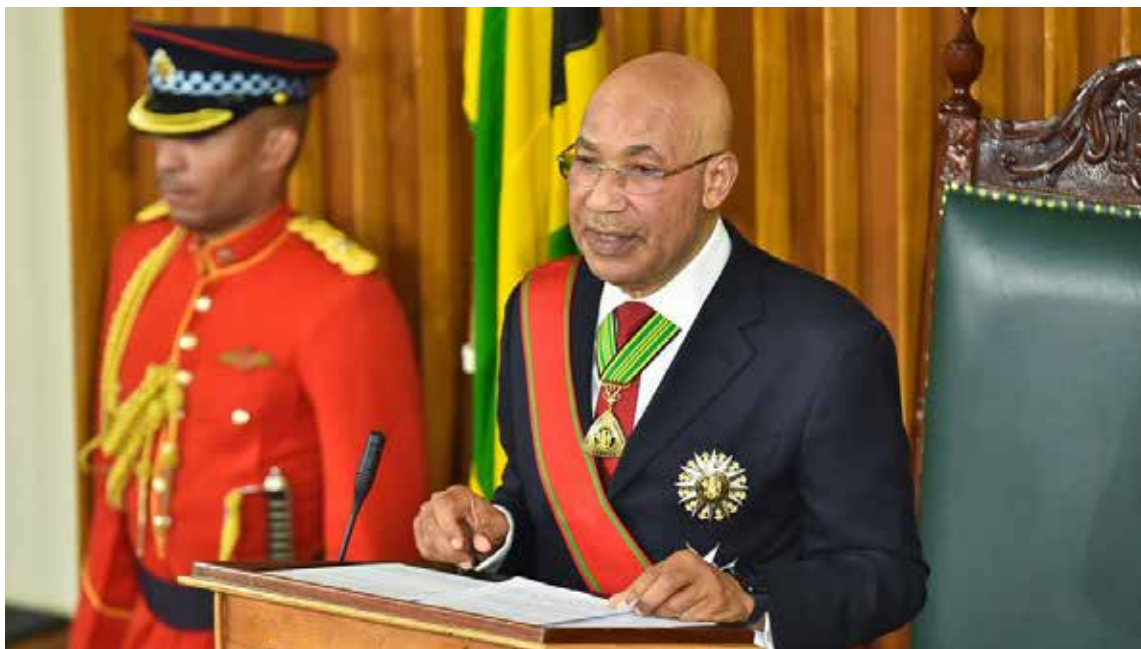


## UK says Jamaican Governor-General can travel to the kingdom visa free

CMC - Britain has sought to give the assurance that Jamaica's head of state will not require a visa to enter the United Kingdom, as London sought to answer a question that had been posted on social media by the Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Marlene Malahoo Forte.

In a statement posted on X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday, Marlene Forte, who is also the co-chairperson of the Government's Constitutional Reform Committee tasked with driving the process to Jamaica's move towards republican status, questioned why the Governor General be "required to apply for and obtain a visa to travel to UK on official business?"

She noted also that the "Independence Constitu-



Governor-General, His Excellency, Sir Patrick Allen.

tion of Jamaica 1962 gives deepest protection to British Monarch in Govt of Jamaica. Governor General is personal rep of King Charles III."

The minister tagged the British High Commissioner to Jamaica, Judith Slater

and the UK Home Office, in her question.

But in a response on X, the British High Commissioner said that the head of state does not require a visa to visit the United Kingdom.

"The Governor General and Lady Allen are not re-

quired to obtain a visa, but rather a vignette, or stamp, is put in their passports which states that they are exempt from requiring visas. This is renewed every 2 years," Slater said.

Jamaicans must obtain a *cont'd on pg 15*

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## Grenada to host CTO's sustainable tourism conference in April 2024

Grenada will play host to the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development to be held from April 22 to 24, 2024.

Making the announcement via a video recording during the wrap-up media conference following the CTO's State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOT-IC) held in the Turks and Caicos Islands last week, Grenada's Minister of Tourism Lennox Andrews thanked the CTO for selecting the destination to host the important event, which plays a key role in disseminating information and increasing awareness of the CTO's vision related to sustainable tourism.

"We are honoured to host the CTO's Sustainable Tourism Conference in 2024. Grenada's commitment to sustainable and inclusive tourism aligns perfectly with the conference's objectives," said Andrews. "We are dedicated to showcasing the transformative power of sus-



*Lennox Andrews, Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism and ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives with responsibility for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT and Creative Economy, at CTO's business meetings in Turks and Caicos last week.*

tainable tourism and its role as a push for social and economic growth and environmental stewardship throughout the Caribbean."

Andrews noted that he and his tourism colleagues will be honoured to welcome regional and international industry stakeholders and other interested parties to participate in conference discussions and to experience the warm hospitality of the

"Spice Island".

The Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development was last held in 2019 in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

"We are excited about presenting the Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development in Grenada next April. This conference underscores the CTO's commitment to advancing sustainable tourism policies

and practices in the Caribbean. Grenada's natural beauty and dedication to sustainable tourism make it an ideal host, and we look forward to engaging in fruitful discussions with our colleagues in the industry," said CTO Chairman Kenneth Bryan.

The conference examines how member states can design and implement sustainable tourism policies and programs, offering a regional forum for information exchange on the successes and pitfalls of national, regional and international initiatives.

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22, 2024, the opening day of the conference, under the theme "Planet vs Plastics".

### *cont'd from pg 14*

visa to visit the UK, including going to the London-based Privy Council, the country's final court of appeal.

Britain imposed a visa restriction on Jamaica in 2003, arguing that it was an immigration measure.

Earlier this month, Malahoo Forte

said Prime Minister Andrew Holness will in "short order" disclose the administration's position on whether Jamaica should accede to the appellate jurisdiction of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) established in February 2001 by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments to replace the Privy Council.



## Russia returns four Ukrainian children in Qatari deal

By **Mattea Bubalo**

Russia has agreed to return four Ukrainian children to their families, as part of a deal brokered by Qatar.

The youngest is two years old and the oldest is 17.

The repatriation is part of a pilot scheme to return more of the thousands of children taken by Russia following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

Ukraine says it has identified 20,000 children who it alleges were abducted by Russia.

However the number of those deported is thought to be much higher.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Russia's President Vladimir Putin in March, accusing him and his commissioner for children's rights Maria Lvova-Belova of the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children.

Russia insisted that its motives were purely humanitarian, claiming it evacuated hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian children to protect them from danger, with top officials scorning the indictment at the time.

The return of the four children will test a scheme worked on by Qatar after it headed talks with Moscow and Kyiv, a diplomat who asked to remain anonymous due to the scheme's sensitivity told news agencies.



*A Ukrainian boy, pictured with his grandmother and Russia's children's rights commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova, is one of the four children.*

It is hoped that further repatriations would follow if the first was successful, they added.

However, getting the children out of Russia has not been straightforward. In at least one case a child had to travel home via Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

One of the four children to be returned, a seven-year-old, was reunited with his grandmother on Friday and arrived in Ukraine on Monday.

The other three children, also reunited with their families, are expected to arrive in Ukraine later on Monday or Tuesday.

They are among thousands of Ukrainian children who Kyiv says were forc-

ibly separated from their families, taken across the border into Russia and faced an active effort to strip them of their Ukrainian identity.

The BBC has previously found that Ukrainian children in Russia were frequently told there was nothing in their country to return to and were subjected, to varying degrees, to a "patriotic" Russian education.

In some cases Ukrainian families have been forced to make gruelling journeys into Russia to get their children back.

It is thought that so far only around 400 Ukrainian children have returned before Qatar mediated the four's return.

"They want to separate children from their biolog-

ical families, Russify these children, hide these children and transfer them to another ethnic group," Daria Gerasymchuk, an adviser to the Ukrainian president for children's rights and rehabilitation previously told the BBC.

However, work to reunite children with their families would continue, Ms Lvova-Belova said in a post on her Telegram channel, quoting President Putin as saying: "We have never been against children being reunited with their families."

Russia would also help pay transportation and accommodation costs, and where necessary carry out DNA analysis, she added.

*cont'd on pg 17*

## Brussels shooting: 'Europe shaken' after two Swedes shot dead

By George Wright

Two Swedish nationals have been shot dead and a third person injured in Brussels, in an attack which prosecutors are treating as terrorism.

The Belgium-Sweden Euro 2024 qualifier football match being played in the city was abandoned.

Brussels is on its highest terror alert as the gunman, who appeared to have an assault rifle, remains at large.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who was on a visit to Albania, said: "Europe has been shaken."

A spokesman for the Belgian federal prosecutor, Eric van Duyse, urged the public to "go home and stay at home as long as the threat has not been eradicated".

He said a man claiming to be the attacker had said in a video on social media he had been inspired by the Islamic State group.

A video shows an Arabic-speaking man saying he carried out the attack in the name of God and that he killed three people.

The video and others uploaded during the attack are being verified by police, the BBC has been told.

Federal prosecutors say a terrorism inquiry has been



Belgian police officers search for evidence.

opened over the shooting on the Boulevard d'Ypres.

A social media video shared by newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws on Monday, but not verified by BBC News, shows a man wearing a fluorescent jacket get off a scooter armed with what appears to be an assault rifle and enter a nearby glass-fronted building.

He appears to then shoot at least one person.

Police and emergency services cordoned off nearby roads following the

shooting which happened at around 19:00 (17:00 GMT).

Belgian media outlets report that the two people killed were wearing football shirts belonging to the Swedish national team.

Swedish footballers told Uefa they did not want to play the second half of the match and the Belgian team agreed, according to Swedish broadcaster TV6.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander de Croo went on social media to offer his "sincere condolences to the

Swedish PM following tonight's harrowing attack on Swedish citizens in Brussels".

"Our thoughts are with the families and friends who lost their loved ones," he said. "As close partners the fight against terrorism is a joint one."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on social media her thoughts were "with the families of the two victims of the despicable attack in Brussels".

"I extend my heartfelt support to the Belgian police, so they swiftly apprehend the suspect," she said. "Together, we stand united against terror."

*cont'd from pg 16*

Qatari minister Lolwah Al Khater confirmed the mediation in a statement, calling the repatriations "only a first step".

"We are encouraged by the commit-

ment and openness shown by both sides throughout the process, which we sincerely hope will lead to more initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions and building trust between the two parties," she added.



## Guyana pledges support to Cricket West Indies

President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, pledges support to Cricket West Indies (CWI) for the re-development of cricket in the Caribbean through infrastructural development, cricket programmes, and commercial opportunities.

On October 13, 2023, President Ali and CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow, met at State House in Guyana as part of the commitment to strengthen stakeholder relationships across the region.

CWI Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe; CWI Independent Director, Manniram Prashad; and Owner of Guyana Amazon Warriors, Dr. Ranjisinghi Bobby Ramroop



*President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali.*

were also in attendance.

The Head of State reiterated his commitment to establishing a partnership with CWI to improve the overall performance of West Indies cricket. One of the primary objectives will be establishing a High-Performance

Centre in Guyana to service cricketers from across the region.

His Excellency said, “We are excited as a government to play our part with the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) in the new

re-development of cricket in the region. We welcome the partnership with CWI in the development of a regional High-Performance Centre and cricket academy here in Guyana.”

He added his intention to work with the CWI President to advance the popularity and growth of the sport on multiple fronts in the Caribbean.

“We are also working with President Dr. Shallow and Cricket West Indies on advancing some innovative ideas in bringing more opportunities to our cricket players and spectators in the Region.

President Ali underscored the importance of collaboration between par-

*cont'd on pg 19*

## APUA INET off to winning start in business volleyball league

Reigning champions APUA INET made a successful start in defense of this year's Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) Business League competition over the weekend.

APUA INET launched their 2023 campaign with a straight-set win against the Media at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex. The cup-holders prevailed 25-21, 25-15 to inflict the second loss in as many games for the Media.

Treasury came from behind to pull off a 2-1 victory against MEDSO in

their opening encounter in the 11-team round-robin competition.

After losing the opening set 20-25, Treasury recovered to win the encounter, leveling the match by taking the second set 25-14. Treasury then secured victory by winning the deciding third and final set 15-11.

Newcomer Royalton also made a winning start to the Business League competition.

The Royalton claimed a straight-set 25-21, 26-24 victory against 77 Bus Service in their opening game.

Last year's third-place finishers,

ICONS, also made a successful start to their league campaign by pulling off a hard-fought 2-1 win against Nate's Photography, prevailing 25-23, 22-25, and 15-12.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), which captured the runners-up position last year, and Sandals also made winning starts to this year's league campaigns.

ECAB eased past the Media 25-12, 26-24, while Sandals prevailed 25-23, 25-17 against the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT).



The Jamaica Scorpions are the reigning champions of the CG United Super50 Cup. (File photo)

## CWI to invest US\$2.5 million in prize monies for regional cricket

Ahead of the start of the CG United Super50 Cup, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced a major increase in prize money and bonuses for teams participating in the tournament as well as other regional competitions, totaling more than US\$2.5 million over a four-year period.

With the region's marquee List A tournament set to bowl off today (Tuesday), there is an incentive for the champions to take home a top prize of

US\$100,000, as well as the Sir Clive Lloyd trophy, when they win the grand final on Saturday, November 11, under lights at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago.

The losing finalists will receive US\$50,000, while the team that tops the points table in the league phase will also get US\$50,000. This is the biggest prize money in the history of the tournament.

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of CWI said,

“The aim is to incentivize our cricketers, which will ultimately result in more intense and competitive cricket.

The increase also extends to all senior men's and women's tournaments. There is a big boost in the West Indies Championship that will be played in the first half of 2024.

The champions of this traditional “red ball” four-day, first-class competition will win US\$250,000. The second-placed team will

receive US\$100,000.

There is an increase in winnings for the Women's CG United Super50 Cup and the T20 Blaze. The winners of the 50-overs will receive US\$20,000 next year with a minimum increase of US\$10,000 annually over the next four-year cycle. The runners-up will receive half these amounts.

The T20 Blaze winners will also be rewarded with an increase, US\$10,000 for the winners next year, with further increases annually for the upcoming four years. The runners-up will receive half these amounts.

CWI is also finalizing a new four-year MOU with the West Indies Players Association, which will see further increases for individual players, including a major boost to women's remuneration.

### cont'd from pg 18

ties with an interest in advancing the development of cricket at every level.

He said, “I urge CWI to unify their efforts in rebuilding and strengthening our cricket in the interests of all stakeholders.”

Dr. Shallow lauded His Excellency for Guyana's investments in cricket thus far and recognized the potential of collaborating with Guyana.

He expressed, “President Ali's commit-

ment to cricket is evident with the major investments to stage the magnificent cricket festival, including the CPL finals in Guyana. His zeal for the success of West Indies cricket is unquestionable.

Guyana has successfully hosted the last two Caribbean Premier League (CPL) finals. Their cricket festival, culminating with CPL's final, is emerging to be a regional calendar event, having attracted thousands of visitors to Guyana.



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## Double victory for Antigua and Barbuda's Stuti Kashyap

In a remarkable display of skill and determination, Antigua and Barbuda's national Under-15 player, Stuti Kashyap, captured two titles at the recent California State Table Tennis Championships.

The naturalized Antiguan citizen clinched victories in the Girls' Under-15 and Under-19 categories at the October 7-9 event in the United States of America.

In the fiercely contested Under-15 category, Kashyap showcased her prowess by defeating her California-based opponent 3-1 in the finals.

Demonstrating consistency

and finesse, she repeated her triumph in the round-robin format in the Under-19 category. Kashyap secured her title by prevailing 3-1 against her Dominican Republic opponent in her final match.

The dual titles solidify Kashyap's position as one of the rising stars in the sport on the international stage.

The Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA) has expressed its congratulations to Kashyap on her outstanding achievements and looks forward to her continued success in future competitions.



Antigua and Barbuda's table tennis player Stuti Kashyap





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## Antigua finish in 8th place at ECVA U23 Men's Championship

Antigua and Barbuda finished eighth out of 10 teams at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Under-23 Men's Championship, which was won by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Road Town, Tortola, on Sunday night.

The young Antiguans won just one of their four games in Pool B, which was contested by five teams, and failed to advance out of the initial group phase.

Antigua and Barbuda's only victory came against Saba, which finished at the bottom of the five-team group after losing all their encounters.

The Antiguans launched their campaign with a 3-1 win against Saba, as they prevailed 25-21, 18-25, 25-23, and 25-14.



The St. Vincent and the Grenadines team celebrate after winning the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Under-23 Men's Championship in Road Town, Tortola, on Sunday, October 15, 2023. (NORCECA)

Antigua and Barbuda then lost all subsequent Pool B games by 3-0 mar-

gins to finish second from the bottom of their group.

Meanwhile, St. Vincent and the Grenadines claimed the title after overcoming a pesky St. Kitts and Nevis in a five-set thriller (25-18, 24-26, 27-25, 23-25, 15-6) in Sunday's final.

Dominica recovered to capture the bronze medals by beating St. Maarten 3-0 in the playoff for third place, which preceded Sunday's final. The Dominicans won 25-23, 25-5, and 25-20.

St. Lucia finished in fifth place, the British Virgin Islands sixth, Grenada seventh, Saba ninth, and Anguilla ended in the cellar position.



Antigua and Barbuda Under-23 men's volleyball team.

*cont'd from pg 24*  
two for 19.

Chasing 71 to win, the Underdogs were dismissed for 60 off their nine overs, with Roland Francis getting 14.

Steve Martin snapped up three wickets for seven runs, Zavear Otto grabbed three wickets for 19 runs,

and Rodney Williams took two wickets for 10 runs.

Etana Looby, a representative of LL Supply Limited, sponsors of the competition, presented several awards during a brief ceremony following the third-place playoff and the final.

D'Ahri Francis claimed the most valuable player

of the final award. He also collected the prize for the highest individual score of the competition, which was 120 not out.

His teammate Mervin Higgins won the most valuable player of the tournament award as well as the prize for taking the most wickets (13).

Essan Warner of Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets claimed the most runs award for scoring a total of 178 runs, which included two half centuries.

His teammate Andra Samuel captured the award for the best bowling figure, which was six wickets for 30 runs in 3.4 overs.



## Dredgers win IBSC T20 Classic title

Dredgers have captured the LL Supply Limited Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) T20 Taped Ball Classic Championship.

The Dredgers secured the coveted title by pulling off a five-wicket win against VIP in the finals at the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) playing field on Sunday.

The VIP won the toss and batted, scoring 148 all out off of their allotted 20 overs. Elroy Francis Jr. slammed 68, and Michael Dover cracked 33. Mike France grabbed three for 13, D’Ahri Francis took two for 27, Justin Athanaze picked up two for 29, and Jedediah Martin Jr. captured two for 30.

The Dredgers then achieved victory by making 153 for five with 19 balls to spare. D’Ahri Francis slammed 73, which included eight sixes and five fours. Mervin Higgins hit 37 not out, while Elroy Francis Jr. claimed three for 34.

Buckley’s 3J’s captured third place. Buckley’s 3J’s defeated the TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs by 10 runs in the third-place playoff at the same venue



*Dredgers celebrate after capturing the LL Supply Limited Island Boys Sports Club T20 Taped Ball Classic Championship at the AGS playing field on Sunday, October 15, 2023. (Photos courtesy ABSCA)*

on Sunday.

The game was reduced to nine overs due to wet conditions at the AGS playing field. Buckley’s 3J’s won the toss and batted, scoring 70 for six off their allotted nine overs.

Kadeem Henry struck 26, and Demari Benta hit 17 not out. Michael Harilall picked up two wickets for nine runs, Charanlal Ram-John claimed two for 16, and Visual Gobin captured

**cont’d on pg 23**



*Dredgers’ D’Ahri Francis, right, accepts his MVP of the final award from Etana Looby.*



*Dredgers’ allrounder Mervin Higgins, right, accepts his tournament MVP award from Etana Looby, who is a representative of LL Supply Limited.*