

BOLANS CLINIC OPENS TODAY

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The Bolans Clinic opens today

The new health clinic located in Bolans is opening its doors today offering services to people in the community.

The clinic was officially opened several months

ago, but it had several challenges to overcome before it could be operational.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Ena Dalso-Henry, said the ministry had planned on

resolving the outstanding issues last week to ensure that the clinic could begin offering services to the public.

Unfortunately, the threat posed by the pas-

sage of Hurricane Tammy brought much of these activities to a halt, pushing back the operationalization of the clinic into this week.

She indicated that teams from the Ministries of Works and Health spent much of Monday putting the finishing touches to the structure to ensure that it would be in a state of readiness for Tuesday.

Already, she noted the pharmacy at the clinic is functional and the plan is that all other services will be ready when the doors open today.

The clinic will feature offices for two doctors, offices for nurses, examination rooms with attendant equipment, as well as a dental clinic.

Getting the clinic functional has been part of the government's plans to overhaul and upgrade the health facilities in the country especially those in the rural areas that had fallen into disrepair.

The clinic at Bolans is a completely new structure and it is a marked upgrade from the site of the previous clinic that was housed in rental accommodations.

It is expected to serve patients in the southern corridor of Antigua by offering a host of healthcare services that would reduce the need for these individuals to seek these services at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.



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All systems are a go!!!

“We are ready!” That is the word from the Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes, describing the state of readiness of the Electoral Commission, as voting gets underway in the St. Mary’s South constituency for an important by-election today.

Hughes disclosed that all the preparations for the by-elections were completed ahead of the day of polling. These include training the Election Day workers who will be working in the booths, printing the ballot paper, securing the ink, stocking up on the necessary stationery, and securing the screens that will be used in the polling booths.

Earlier, he reported that there are a total of 2,717 registered voters eligible to cast ballots during the by-election. This is up by 129 on the number that was eligible for the January 18 poll.



Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes

A total of eight polling stations will be in place for the by-election: five in Bolans, two in Urlings, and one in Johnson’s Point. “The five polling stations in Bolans are located in the Bolans Primary School, for Urlings, it’s the Urlings Primary School and for Johnson’s Point, it’s the Johnson’s

Point Clinic,” Hughes stated.

The by-election is a contest between three candidates: Anthony Antonio of the Democratic National Alliance, Dwayne George of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, and Kelvin Simon of the United Progressive Party.

Hughes said he does not anticipate any problems during Election Day as his team has been working assiduously over the past several weeks in preparations for the poll. He added that there were no setbacks due to the passage of Hurricane Tammy.

Polls open promptly at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.

Counting of the ballots will take place at the Urlings Primary School and Hughes estimates that the results should be available between 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

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Parliament moves to regularize composition of National Honours Committee

Both houses of parliament have adopted a resolution to regularize the composition of the National Honours Committee.

The two houses were called to a special separate session on Monday to adopt the resolution which Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin said was necessary to correct an irregularity in how the committee was established.

He said a matter was brought to his attention when there was a meeting of the committee with more members of the Senate, sitting as members than what the law has prescribed.

Accordingly, he said that as the Attorney General, it



Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin

was his duty to draw the attention of the parliament to this wrong and to take remedial actions to make it right.

He reported that the National Honours Act, of 1998,

prescribed that four members of the House of Representatives; three from the government's side and one from the opposition bench, should sit on the committee.

He then nominated the following members of the House to be members of the committee; the Representative for St. John's Rural East, Maria Browne, the Representative for St. John's Rural South, Daryll Matthew, the Member for St. John's City East, Melford Nicholas and from the opposition, the leader, the Member for All Saints East and St. Luke, Jamale Pringle.

At its meeting later, the Senate accepted the nomination of two members, Senator Samantha Marshall, the Leader of Government Business in the House and Minority Leader, Shawn Nicholas.

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Government underscores its commitment to the small business sector

Small business owners attending a training workshop on ways to introduce a quality management system into their respective businesses have been assured that the Antigua and Barbuda government stands full square behind them in their efforts to grow and expand their businesses.

The assurance was delivered by Trade Minister, E.P. Chet Greene at the opening of the one-week training session organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) and held at the John E. St Luce Financial and Conference Centre.

Minister Greene observed that there are many 'catchphrases' associated with the small business sector, but that the Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, had asked him to deliver a message to the business owners that the government is there to offer a helping hand as they navigate the world of business.

"Over time we coin these beautiful phrases 'SMEs', 'SMMEs', 'small businesses are the engines of growth and wealth creation.' Well, today, they are not just catchwords and phrases; we mean it with all sincerity. Prime Minister Browne asked me to relay to you the small business operators his government's commitment to ensuring that this programme is not just another

programme, but one through which and from which you will reap the fruits of your labour," he outlined.

Director of the ABBS, Dianne Rodriguez said the Bureau has recognized that many small to medium en-

terprises in Antigua and Barbuda do not yet have formal systems or structures in place to allow them to incorporate, appreciate, and efficiently and effectively implement quality management systems (QMS) in their

operations. Such awareness would also be a necessary step for the successful introduction of a National Quality Award (NQA) Program that would serve as a vehicle for business excellence and

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Local News



Man dies days after suffering an electric shock at the Deep Water Harbour

One of the two men who suffered an electric shock while working at Antigua

Port Authority last week has died. 25-year-old Leandro

Payano succumbed on Saturday in Santo Domingo, where he was warded in a

burn center.

Payano and Edgar Benjamin Alcantara, 32 years old, were allegedly shocked by a high-tension power line while moving scaffolding at Deep Water Harbour.

The duo had been cleaning the outside of the administrative building.

Both men were rushed to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and Leandro Payno was later airlifted to the Dominican Republic where he died while undergoing treatment.

Edgar Alcantara is also said to be receiving treatment in the Dominican Republic for the burns he sustained during the accident.

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increased visibility and market access for local products and services.

The training workshop is being undertaken under the 11th European Development Fund, Technical Barriers to Trade Program EDF. It is being executed through projects that build capacity and awareness development and use of Quality Infrastructure (QI) that would accomplish the overarching purpose of the EPA programs in the Caribbean.

The sessions are being conducted by Cheryl Anderson, a business owner with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of quality management systems and quality infrastructure.



Trade Minister, E.P. Chet Greene

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INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

23rd Oct

01st Nov 2023

23 OCT

Independence Art Exhibition
V. C. Bird International Airport and John E. St. Luce Finance & Conference Center

30 OCT

Barbuda Day Activities

24 OCT

Golden Age Celebrations
Various communities throughout Antigua and Barbuda

25 OCT

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony
Heroes Park, Sir Sydney Walling Highway, 10:00 a.m.

26 OCT

National Dress Day
All Day
National Youth Rally | 8:30 a.m.
Cheerleading Competition | 11:30 a.m.
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

27 OCT

28 OCT

A Night of Theatre
TBA, 8:00 p.m.

29 OCT

Independence Church Service
Ebenezer Methodist Church, 4:00 p.m.

30 OCT

Schools' Independence Programmes
National Schools' Panorama Competition
Antigua Recreation Grounds, 5:00 p.m.

31 OCT

THE LEGACY Independence Gospel Experience
Antigua Recreational Grounds, 7:00 p.m.
Ticket Cost: \$35.00
Gate: \$50.00

01 NOV

Independence Flag Ceremony
Barbuda, 9:00 a.m.
Independence Food Fair
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, 11:00 a.m.
Independence Ceremonial Parade & National Awards
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, 5:30 p.m.



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Local News



Drug 'mule' arrested, beaten in cell

Venezuelan national Renzo Eduardo Sanoja is expected to appear in the District B Magistrate's Court later this week on cocaine charges.

The 40-year-old was charged by police for having 907 grams of cocaine in his possession. However, his appearance before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards was delayed following allegations that he was badly beaten while in police custody, by a cellmate.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is yet to confirm or deny the allegation.

According to a STRATCOM statement, Sanoja was intercepted at V.C. Bird International Airport on Wednesday, 18th October, 2023 by the police and customs during a joint drug operation.

During interrogation, the police discovered he had ingested a total of 74

cocaine pellets. The Venezuelan national was transported to Sir Lester Bird Medical Center where he later excreted the controlled substance.

He was charged with possession of cocaine, importation of cocaine, possession with intent to transfer, and being concerned with the supply of cocaine.

The illicit substance has an estimated value of EC\$63,236.00.

US judge with Antiguan roots appointed to NYS Supreme Court

New York State Governor, Kathy Hochul, has announced the appointment of the Honorable Marsha Michael to a vacancy on the New York State Supreme

Court, Appellate Division, First Department.

Justice Michael was born in St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands to Antigua and Barbuda parents

Primrose Francis and Terry 'Beckett' Michael. Her grandparents were Joseph and Kathleen Francis of Newfield.

"Our legal system relies

on intelligent, discerning jurists to lead our courts and dispense justice," Governor Hochul said. "I'm proud to appoint the Honorable

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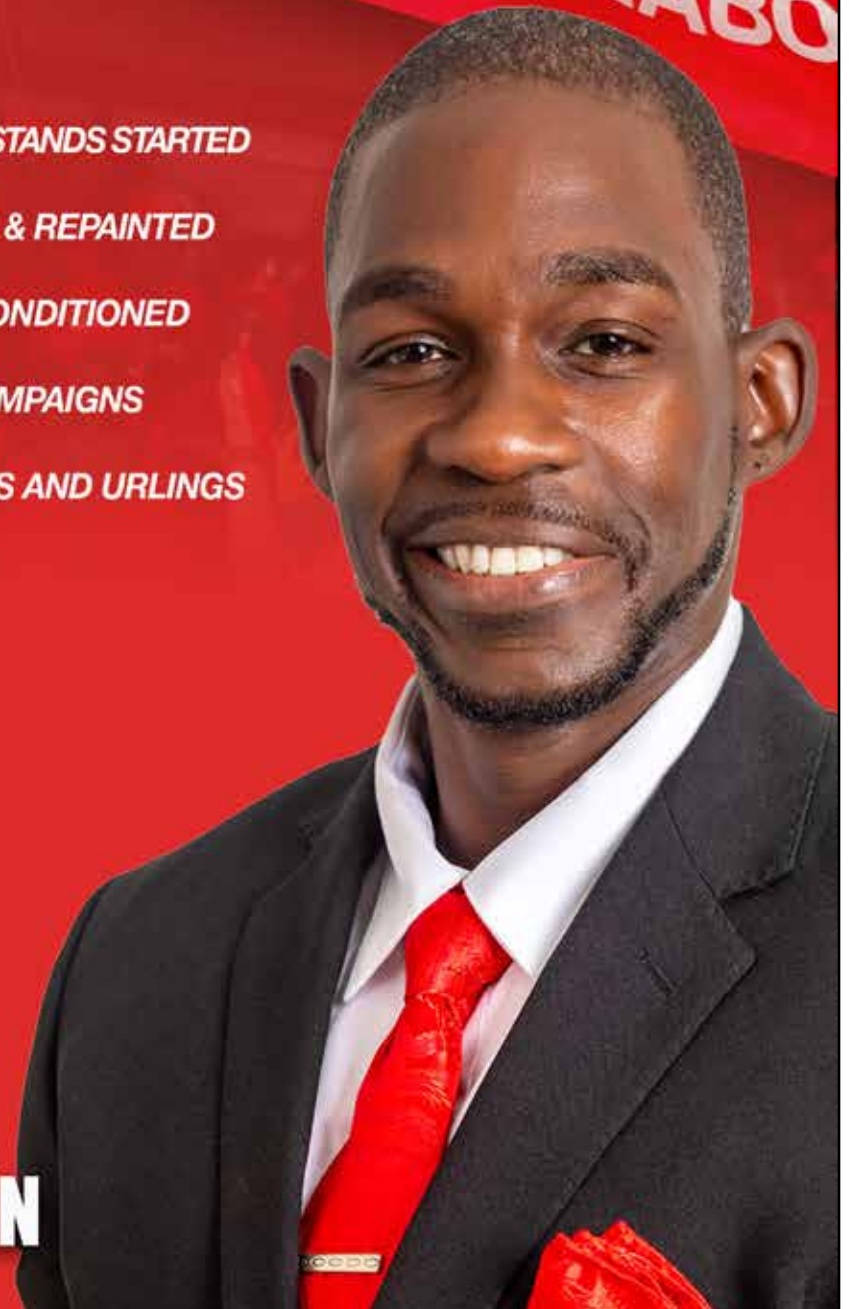
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Local News



cont'd from pg 8

Justice Marsha D. Michael to the Appellate Division, First Department, and I'm confident she will serve New Yorkers with distinction."

Justice Marsha D. Michael currently serves as an Associate Justice on the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court for the 1st and 12th Judicial Districts. She was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, in the 12th Judicial District (Bronx County) in 2018.

Justice Michael began her judicial career in 2015 when she was elected to the bench as a New York City Civil Court Judge in Bronx County.

She was assigned to New York City Criminal Court where she presided over domestic violence misdemeanor matters as well as conducted jury trials.

Before joining the bench, Justice Michael served as a Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Deborah A. Dowling and Honorable Janice L.

Bowman. Justice Michael began her legal career as an associate at a civil litigation firm in Bronx County, after earning her J.D. from Albany Law School in 2002.

Justice Michael continues to be a public servant of Bronx County where she has taught at Monroe College and administers a judicial internship and mentorship program in partnership with her judicial colleagues and a local Bronx High School. The interns serve for an entire school year as interns for judges sitting in civil, criminal, and family court. Justice Michael is also the chair of the Gender Fairness Committee of the Unified Courts, 12th Judicial District, a member of the Judicial Friends Organization, the National Association of Women Judges, NY Chapter, the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, and a board member of the Supreme Court Justices Association of the City of New York, Inc.



Justice Marsha D. Michael

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Sea-level rise: West Antarctic ice shelf melt 'unavoidable'

By Mark Poynting

Increased melting of West Antarctica's ice shelves is "unavoidable" in the coming decades, a new study has warned.

These floating tongues of ice extend from the main ice sheet into the ocean, and play a key role in holding back the glaciers behind.

But as ice shelves melt, it can mean that the ice behind speeds up, releasing more into the oceans.

The study's findings suggest that future sea-level rise may be greater than previously assumed.

"Our findings seem to increase the likelihood that [current] estimates [of sea-level rise] will be exceeded," Dr Kaitlin Naughten of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), the report's lead author, told the BBC.

In 2021, the UN's climate body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released its latest estimates of future sea-level rise.

It projected global average sea-level rise of between 0.28m and 1.01m by 2100 - one key reason being the melting of glaciers and ice sheets.

Sea-level rises of around a metre may not sound much, but even these increases would put hundreds of millions of people worldwide at risk of coastal flooding.



However, the IPCC also noted that higher rises were possible due to "ice-sheet-related processes that are characterised by deep uncertainty" that were not directly included in its estimates.

One of these key uncertainties is how the ice sheet interacts with the oceans.

This latest study, published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, is the first to directly simulate how ocean warming will affect Antarctic ice shelves in response to different levels of greenhouse gas emissions. These are the gases produced when fossil fuels are burned - the main contributor to human-induced climate change.

Amundsen Sea, off the coast of West Antarctica, will warm roughly three times faster than the historical rate through the rest of

this century, the study finds. This will lead to much more rapid melting of ice shelves.

Concerningly, this will still happen even if humanity takes strong steps to slow warming, the study suggests. But this is not a reason to avoid moving away from fossil fuels, Dr Naughten stresses.

"What we do now will help to slow the rate of sea-level rise in the long term," she explains.

The authors caution that further work is needed to increase confidence in its conclusions, but the findings are significant because of how ice shelf melting affects the rest of West Antarctica.

The Antarctic ice sheet contains enough ice to raise global sea-levels by about 58m (190ft) if it melted entirely.

Most is held in East

Antarctica, which has been relatively stable in recent years and is not expected to collapse in the near future.

But a sizeable portion - enough to raise sea-levels by around 5m (16ft) - is held in West Antarctica, which is considered less stable and has been losing mass in recent decades.

Ice grounded on the bedrock of the Antarctic continent generally flows towards the oceans. In many places, these grounded glaciers extend on to the ocean surface, where the ice floats. These are ice shelves.

They play a crucial role in holding back the mass of ice behind. But the melting of ice shelves by warm ocean waters reduces this effect. This can cause the glaciers behind to accelerate.

As it does so, more ice
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may enter the ocean through melting, or break off to form icebergs.

What's more, unlike most of East Antarctica, much of the West Antarctic continent sits below sea-level. This means that glaciers may retreat into deeper and deeper waters, accelerating the loss of ice.

This is the concern with Thwaites Glacier that flows into the Amundsen Sea. Thwaites, sometimes referred to as the "doomsday glacier" because it would raise global sea-levels by around 65cm (25in) if it collapsed entirely, is highly vulnerable to warming.

Its grounding line - the point where ice loses contact with the bedrock and starts to float - is already retreating by more than 1km per year in some places.

"This study worsens the outlook for Thwaites Glacier, as we simulate rapidly increasing melting beneath

its connected ice shelf," Dr Naughten told the BBC.

The processes triggered by faster ice shelf melting "could lead to the collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet", the authors suggest.

However, other factors will also affect how the ice sheet responds to warming, and therefore how quickly sea-levels rise, such as snowfall, surface ice melting and the speed of glacier flow.

These were not directly considered in this latest study.

It is well-established that sea-levels will continue to rise in the coming decades and centuries.

This is because ice sheets take a long time to fully adjust to changes to the rapid warming of recent years, with further temperature rises to come.

But this latest study adds weight to the idea that sea-levels may rise faster than previously assumed as a result of increased ice shelf melt, to which so-

cieties worldwide will have to adapt.

"It looks like we've lost control of melting of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet," concludes Dr Naughten.

"This is a sobering piece of research," agrees Alberto Naveira Garabato, a professor in physical oceanography at the University of Southampton who was not involved in the latest work.

But researchers emphasise this is not a reason to give up.

Steps taken to slow the loss of ice, through cutting greenhouse gas emissions, could be crucial in giving societies time to prepare for and adapt to rising seas.

"It should serve as a wake up call," Prof Naveira Garabato explains.

"We can still save the rest of the Antarctic Ice Sheet, containing about 10 times as many metres of sea-level rise, if we learn from our past inaction and start reducing greenhouse gas emissions now."



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LIVE



Chevron acquires Hess, becomes major player in Guyana's oil sector

By Dillon De Shong

US oil and gas giant Chevron announced that it is entering the Guyanese petrochemical market as it has purchased Hess Corporation.

In a statement, Chevron said the all-stock transaction is valued at \$53 billion and gives the company an enterprise value, including debt, of \$60bn.

Chevron said the transaction gives them 30 per cent ownership in the Stabroek Block, which has more than 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent. ExxonMobil and China National Offshore Oil Corporation hold the remaining shares in the 6.6 million acre offshore oil reservoir that's located in Guyana's Atlantic coast.

Under the terms of the agreement, Hess shareholders will receive 1.0250 shares of Chevron for each Hess share.

"The acquisition of Hess upgrades and diversifies Chevron's already advantaged portfolio. The Stabroek block in Guyana is an extraordinary asset with industry leading cash margins and low carbon intensity that is expected to deliver production growth into the next decade," Chevron stated.

Mike Wirth, Chevron Chairman and CEO, commented: "This combination positions Chevron to strengthen our long-term performance and further enhance our advantaged portfolio by adding world-class assets."

"Importantly, our two companies have similar values and cultures, with a focus on operating safely and with integrity, attracting and developing the best people, making positive contributions to our communities and delivering higher returns and lower carbon."

John Hess, Hess Corporation

CEO, said: "This strategic combination brings together two strong companies to create a premier integrated energy company."

"I am proud of our people and what we have achieved as a company, which has one of the industry's best growth portfolios including Guyana, the world's largest oil discovery in the last 10 years, and the Bakken shale, where we are a leading oil and gas producer. Chevron has a world-class diversified portfolio of assets and one of the industry's strongest balance sheets and cash return profiles.

"I believe our strategic combination creates a company that is stronger in every respect, with the leadership, asset portfolio and financial resources to lead us through the energy transition and deliver significant shareholder value for years to come."

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

St. Vincent's PM continues to press for visa-free travel to Canada

By Melissa Wong

Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines Dr Ralph Gonsalves made his feelings known to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over Vincentians still not being eligible for visa-free travel to Canada while questionable persons from other countries are allowed to enter Canada without one.

Gonsalves raised the issue during his recent trip to the Canada-CARICOM Summit.

St Vincent and the Grenadines is among several Caribbean countries which require a visa to enter Canada or for some travellers, an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA), once certain requirements are met.

The Prime Minister of



St Vincent and the Grenadines, during a media conference today, said he raised this concern with the Canadian PM, who gave him an answer he is accustomed to -- that they will continue to look into the matter.

Gonsalves said he told Trudeau that he acknowledged that every country has a right to control its own immigration system. However, the Vincentian prime minister said he also expressed the following to

the Canadian Prime Minister:

“I find it painful to see that former Nazis or Nazis from European countries can enter Canada without a visa but the children,

cont'd on pg 17

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Venezuelan opposition unites behind María Corina Machado

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

Early results from a vote held by opposition parties in Venezuela to choose a unity candidate for the 2024 presidential election show María Corina Machado in a commanding lead.

With just over a quarter of votes counted, Ms Machado had 93%, even though she is currently barred from holding office.

The other nine candidates are trailing far behind the 56-year-old Ms Machado.

The winner will run against the government candidate.

The opposition, which has historically been deeply divided, called the primary - in which ordinary people were allowed to vote - to close ranks behind a single contender for the presidency.

The governing PSUV party has not yet announced who its candidate will be but it is widely expected to be President Nicolás Maduro, who has been in power since 2013.

While most opposition

parties boycotted the last presidential election after some of their candidates were jailed or barred from running, they have decided to take part in the 2024 poll, even though they say the odds are stacked against them.

It is unclear at present whether the ban on María Corina Machado will be lifted before the election.

It was imposed this June by the comptroller general at the time, Elvis Amoroso, who is a close ally of President Maduro.

Mr Amoroso barred Ms Machado from public office for 15 years alleging corruption without offering any proof.

There has since been huge pressure on the government to reverse that ban, not least from the United States.

The US last week eased some of the sanctions it had imposed on Venezuela's oil and gas industry following a deal between Venezuelan government and opposition representatives to have the 2024 election monitored by international observers.



María Corina Machado thanked her supporters as the results came in.

The deal stipulates that “the registration of all candidates that fulfil the constitutional requirement will be permitted”.

But immediately after it was signed, government negotiator Jorge Rodríguez said this did not apply to candidates who had already been barred by the comptroller general.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned US sanctions could be reapplied if the Maduro government did not begin to lift the bans on opposition candidates by the end of November.

Ms Machado's position has been strengthened by

the high turnout at the primary, which the opposition organised without any help from the National Electoral Council.

There were long queues at the thousands of polling centres the opposition set up across Venezuela and also in major cities abroad.

Many voters said there was an atmosphere of hope and celebration as they cast their ballots.

The vote count was delayed by an internet server blockage but the first set of results gave María Corina Machado such an advantage that she declared victory.

“From tonight we begin a great movement for a great national alliance for the transformation of Venezuela,” she said.

“Today I received a mandate and I accept with Venezuelans the commitment of making that mandate matter,” she added.

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grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Robert Milton Cato who was a member of Canadian armed forces... who fought the Nazis in the second world war... that we can't have a visa-free access.

We either have to have a US visa on which we can get an electronic travel au-

thorisation which helps only about 10 per cent of the population (approximately) or you get your visa in the way in which I applied for mine in order to go the Summit.”

The prime minister says he will continue to press the issue of visa-free travel to Canada for nationals of St Vincent and the Grenadines.



A file image of an Alaska Airlines flight.

Off-duty pilot Joseph Emerson accused of trying to crash Alaska Airlines flight

By Nadine Yousif

An off-duty pilot has been charged with 83 counts of attempted murder, after he allegedly tried to crash a passenger jet during a flight on Sunday night.

The suspect was sitting in the cockpit of an Alaska Airlines flight behind the captain and the first-officer, according to an airline statement.

A police booking document named the suspect as Joseph David Emerson, 44.

The flight was on its way from Everett, Washington, to San Francisco, California, with 80 passengers aboard.

It was diverted to Portland, Oregon, and the suspect was subdued without incident, officials said.

In a statement, Alaska Airlines said the off-duty pilot was traveling in the flight deck jump seat, when he “unsuccessfully attempted to disrupt the operation of the engines.”

Crew members on Alaska Airlines

Flight 2059 reported the incident to air traffic control.

In a recording of air traffic control communication, one of the pilots was heard saying: “We’ve got the guy that tried to shut the engines down out of the cockpit, and he doesn’t sound like he’s causing any issue in the back right now.”

“I think he’s subdued,” the pilot added. He requested police presence “as soon as we get on the ground and parked”.

The flight, operated by Horizon Air, was scheduled to take off at 17:25 local time and arrive in San Francisco at 19:30.

However, the flight was diverted to Portland and eventually took off from there to its intended destination at 19:18.

“All passengers on board were able to travel on a later flight,” a statement by Alaska Airlines said.

“We are grateful for the professional handling of the situation by the

Horizon flight crew and appreciate our guests’ calm and patience throughout this event,” the airline added.

The incident is now being investigated by the Port of Portland Police Department and the FBI, Alaska Airlines said.

In a statement, the FBI confirmed it was investigating and said it “can assure the traveling public there is no continuing threat related to this incident”.

In addition to the attempted murder charges, Mr Emerson also faces 83 counts of reckless endangerment and one count of endangering an aircraft. He was lodged at Multnomah County Detention Center while the investigation continues.

Officials said they were unsure when he would be arraigned.

On Monday, the Federal Aviation Administration sent guidance to US air carriers that the incident was “not connected in any way shape or form to current world events”.

Iceland's PM to strike over gender pay gap

By Ido Vock

Tens of thousands of women in Iceland, including Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir, will refuse to work on Tuesday.

The “kvinnafri”, or women’s day off, has been called in protest at the gender pay gap and gender-based violence.

Fields in which women form the majority of workers, such as health-care and education, will be especially affected.

The planned walkout will mark the first full-day women’s strike since 1975.

Women and non-binary people have been urged to refuse paid and unpaid work on Tuesday, including household chores.

“I will not work this day, as I expect all the women [in cabinet] will do as well,” Iceland’s PM Ms Jakobsdóttir told the mbl.is website.

Ms Jakobsdóttir said her government is looking into how female-dominated professions are valued, in comparison to fields traditionally dominated by men.

According to the Icelandic Teachers’ Union, women make up the majority of teachers at every level of the educational system, including 94% of kindergarten teachers.

Around 80% of workers at the National University Hospital of Iceland, the biggest in the country, are women.

Iceland has been ranked the best country in the world for gender



Katrín Jakobsdóttir will not work in protest at the gender pay gap and gender-based violence.

equality by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for 14 years in a row. But the country is not completely equal, with the WEF assigning it an overall score of 91.2%.

The volcanic island, which is one of the most sparsely-populated countries, ranks 14th in the world for economic participation, below countries including Liberia, Jamaica and Norway.

Around 90% of Iceland’s female workforce went on strike in 1975, seeking to highlight the importance of women to the economy. The strike prompted the country’s parliament to pass an equal pay law the following year.

Former Icelandic president Vigdís Finnbogadóttir told the BBC in 2015 that the 1975 strike was “the first step for women’s emancipation in Iceland,” which paved the way for her to become the first woman to be democratically elected head of state in the world in 1980.

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Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zardan, left, and his batting partner Rahmanullah Gurbaz encourage each other as they bat during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Chennai, India, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. (AP)

Afghanistan records another upset at World Cup

CHENNAI, India (Reuters) - Afghanistan pulled off their second giant-killing act of the ongoing 50-over World Cup with a memorable eight-wicket victory against 1992 champions Pakistan on Monday.

Afghanistan's top three batters smashed fifties and skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi made an unbeaten 48 at number four in their successful pursuit of a 283-run victory target that they accomplished with one over to spare.

It was Afghanistan's first ODI victory against Pakistan in eight attempts and the outcome leaves defending champions England at the bottom of the points table.

It was a clinical chase by Shahidi's men, who had stunned England earlier

in the tournament, after Pakistan posted 282 for seven, riding on half-centuries by skipper Babar Azam and opener Abdullah Shafique.

"This win tastes nice," a beaming Shahidi said after their second victory in five matches. "The way we chased today was very professional."

Babar won the toss and elected to bat against a spin-heavy Afghan attack, which kept things tight in the first 10 powerplay overs.

Afghanistan packed in four spinners in their playing XI, but it was pacer Azmatullah Omarzai who drew first blood by dismissing Imam-ul-Haq for 17.

Teenage spinner Noor Ahmad, who took three for 49, dismissed Ab-

dullah Shafique (58) and Mohammad Rizwan (eight) in his successive overs in his memorable World Cup debut.

Babar (74) fell to Noor as well trying to accelerate the scoring, leaving it to Iftikhar Ahmed and Shadab Khan to provide the late flourish.

Iftikhar clobbered four sixes in his belligerent 40, while Shadab contributed as many runs before falling to the last ball of the innings.

Afghanistan raced to the 100-mark in the 16th over with openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz (65) and player-of-the-match Ibrahim Zadran (87) combining in a breakneck opening stand of 130.

They made Pakistan's bowling look pedestrian and Babar's men did

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Dowrich's century leads CCC to victory over Volcanoes

In a thrilling encounter at the Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad on Sunday, Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) orchestrated a sensational two-wicket victory over the Windward Islands Volcanoes in the CG United Insurance Super 50 Cup, with Shane Dowrich emerging as the star of the day.

Facing a challenging target of 268 after the Windward Islands posted a total of 267 for eight from their allotted 50 overs, CCC managed to scrape across the finish line, scoring 271 for eight.

It was a heart-pounding finish as Jediah Blades struck a crucial boundary off Shamar Springer, securing the hard-fought win off the final delivery of the match.

The hero of the day, Shane Dowrich, named Player of the Match, remained unbeaten on a remarkable 102, guiding his team through the nail-biting contest.



Combined Campuses and Colleges batsman Shane Dowrich bats against the Windward Islands Volcanoes in the CG United Insurance Super 50 Cup at the Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Sunday, October 22, 2023. (CWI Media)

The opener, Kadeem Alleyne, also played a significant role with a valuable contribution of 68, and his partner Johan Jeremiah added 30 to set the stage for CCC's innings.

Despite the promising start, Daryl Cyrus posed a serious threat by taking four for 54, putting CCC's chances of victory in jeopardy.

However, Dowrich displayed exceptional composure, scoring 102 off 101

deliveries, featuring three boundaries and three sixes. Jordan Johnson chipped in with 34 runs from 33 balls, providing crucial support.

As the game approached its climax, it was left to Dowrich to carry his team to the brink of victory, and he did not do it alone.

With just nine runs needed from the final over, Romario Greaves played a significant role, smashing a vital six off the third ball. However, he was unfortu-

nately run out for 14, leaving one ball and Dowrich at the other end.

In a thrilling conclusion, Jediah Blades emerged as the hero, striking a boundary off the first ball he faced, sealing the victory for CCC. Larry Edward, on the Windward Islands side, picked up two wickets for 65 runs.

Earlier, the Windward Islands managed to post a competitive total of 267 for eight, thanks to impressive half-centuries from Alick Athanaze (65), Jeremy Solozano (55), and Sunil Ambris (51).

Andre Fletcher also contributed with 32 runs. Blades, Isai Thorne, and Abhijai Mansingh were among the key wicket-takers for CCC with two wickets each.

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not help their cause with sloppy fielding.

Shaheen Afridi returned to break the burgeoning stand, dismissing Gurbaz, but Zadran and Rahmat Shah, who made 77 not out, continued the good work.

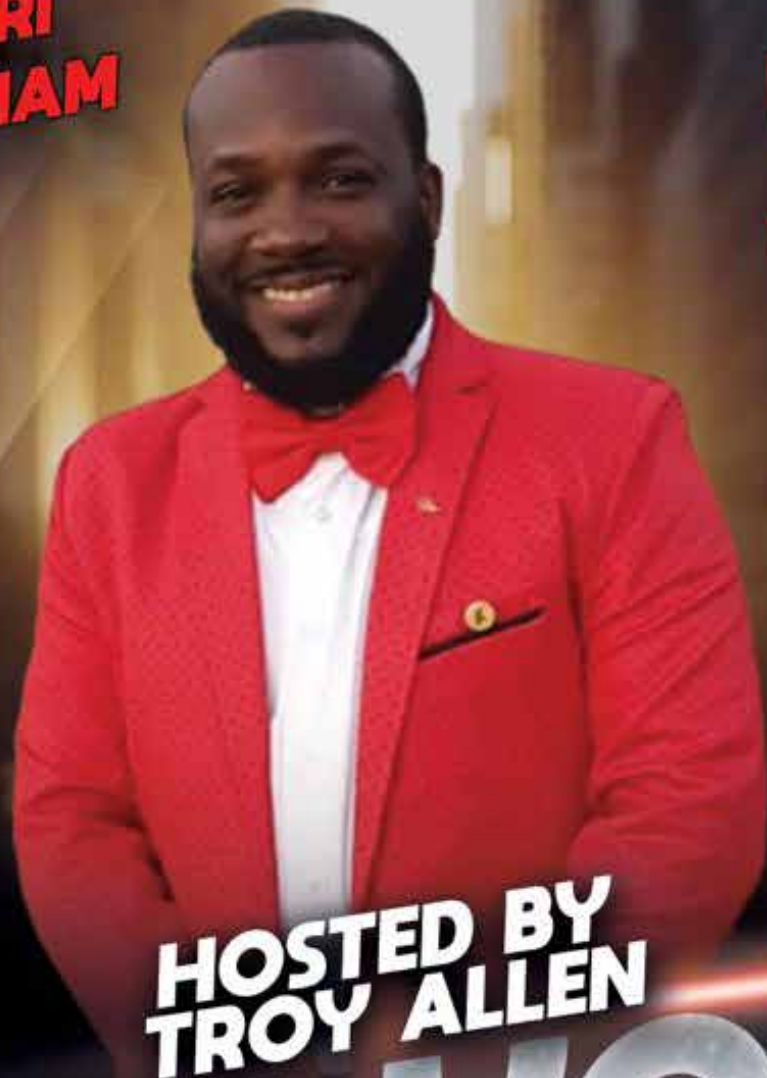
Hasan Ali ended Zadran's gallant knock but Shah and Shahidi milked the Pakistan attack with consummate ease during their unbroken 96-run stand to seal

a memorable victory over their neighbours.

"That really hurt us," a dejected Babar said after Pakistan's third defeat in five matches left their semi-final hopes in the balance.

"We got a good total but our bowling was not up to the mark. In World Cups you need all three departments firing and we haven't done that."

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India's cricket great Bishan Bedi dies at 77

NEW DELHI (AP) - Bishan Bedi, the India cricket great whose dazzling left-arm spin claimed 266 test wickets, has died. He was 77.

The death of Bedi, who underwent multiple surgeries over the last two years that included a knee operation a month ago, was confirmed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India on Monday.

"The BCCI mourns the sad demise of former India Test Captain and legendary spinner, Bishan Singh Bedi," the BCCI wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and fans in these tough times. May his soul rest in peace."

Born in Amritsar on Sept. 25, 1946, Bedi was part of the famous Indian spin quartet with Bhagwath Chandrasekhar, Erapalli



Australian spinner Jason Krejza, left, talks to former Indian cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi during a practice session in New Delhi, India, on Oct. 26, 2008. Bedi, the India cricket great whose dazzling left-arm spin claimed 266 test wickets, has died. He was 77. The death of Bedi, who underwent multiple surgeries over the last two years that included a knee operation a month ago, was confirmed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. (AP)

Prasanna and Srinivas Venkataraghavan in the 1970s.

Bedi earned his 266 wickets in 67 Test matches, at an average of 28.71, with best innings figures of seven for 98 and best match figures of 10 for 194. His last

Test match was against England at the Oval in 1979.

At the time of his retirement, he was India's leading wicket-taker before being overtaken by Kapil Dev a few years later. He averaged under nine runs in Tests as a right-handed batter, but had a highest score of 50 not out. He played only 10 ODIs between 1974-79, picking up seven wickets.

The orthodox spinner took 1,560 first-class wickets — the most by any Indian bowler ever — playing for various teams including Delhi and Northern Punjab in India and Northamptonshire in England.

He is survived by his wife and two children. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes, saying on X, "His passion for

the sport was unwavering and his exemplary bowling performances led India to numerous memorable victories.

"He will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers. Condolences to his family and admirers."

Bedi made his Test debut against the West Indies on the last day of 1966, and took 21 wickets in a home Test series against Australia at the end of 1969.

He kept on troubling major Test playing nations before eventually succeeding Mansoor Ali Khan as India skipper in 1976. His first win as Test captain came at Port-of-Spain when India reached 406 for four in a historic chase. He led India 22 times in total, winning six of them.





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Eight teams remain in ABNDA's 500 Pair contest

Players will resume their battle for supremacy in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) 500 Pair competition at its headquarters in Ottos tonight (Tuesday).

Eight pairs are left in the four-hand competition. Four of the pairs are from the Dominatrix Club. They are Lucille Mack and Frank Govia, McClean Harve and Zenus Williams, Candia Stephens and Rohan Cordice, and Isabelle Benjamin and Wendell Anthony.

Three of the remaining pairs represent Willikies Super Stars.

They are Lorraine Richardson and Kenny Charles, Sharon Matthew and Jason King, and Britney Farrell and Conrad Constant.

The other pair comprised Patricia Lewis and Kaid Jarvis of AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers.

The 500 Pair four-hand



competition started with 21 pairs. Thirteen pairs were eliminated after the second round, leaving the last eight pairs to battle for top honours.

The finalists will clash

for the title on November 1. It will be the fourth competition thus far that will be decided on that day. Among them will be the final of the Team Three-Hand Competition.

Everyday Service Station Double Six, Ramplers, and Willikies Super Stars will battle for the ABNDA Team Three-Hand title.

Zenus Williams and Rohan Cordice of Dominatrix, and Mervin LeFleur of Willikies Super Stars have advanced to the final of the King of Domino competition.

Desiree Parker and Surleen Samuel of AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers, and Carolyn Joseph of Unstoppables have advanced to the final of the Queen of Domino competition.

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past four years, said he is excited for the opportunity to play in Spain.

"It feels great and wonderful. It's something that I have been looking forward to since I was in Barbuda. It has been my dream since I started to play basketball," Adams said.

"My desire to play overseas got greater since I met coach (Irwin) 'Wanga' Armstrong and I came over to Antigua to play with Wadadli Elite in the league."

Lopez said his mother, Jasmine Free-

man, who has been his strongest supporter, is equally as excited as him for the opportunity.

Adams is the third Wadadli Elite player to accept a contract to play professionally in Spain within the past few months.

He joins Wadadli Bulldogs center/forward Alexis Jackson, who departed to fulfill his first professional contract with Tobarra CB in Spain, and national teammate Remy Brewer, who also left to take up a professional offer with AD Maraleja CB in Spain.



Lopez Adams, left, and CEO of Wadadli Elite Academy Byron Andrew at the VC. Bird International Airport on October 19, 2023. (Photos courtesy Wadadli Elite Academy)

Lopez Adams with his mother Jasmine Freeman, right, father, second left, and his younger brother, left, at the VC. Bird International Airport on October 19, 2023.

Wadadli Elite secures professional stint for Adams in Spain

The Wadadli Elite Academy has been instrumental in helping another player from Antigua and Barbuda acquire a professional basketball contract in Spain.

The latest recipient is 19-year-old Lopez Adams of Barbuda. Adams left Antigua and Barbuda last Thursday to begin a one-year stint at the CBJA Alcalá Academy in Madrid, Spain.

Chief Executive Officer of Wadadli Elite Academy, Byron Andrew, said his organization and its resident scout and player manager in Europe,

Jaime Alonso, played key roles in securing the contract for Adams.

“This one was secured by Wadadli Elites along with Caribbean Hoops and Jaime Alonso, who is our resident scout and player manager in Europe,” Andrew said.

“Lopez is a different case because, generally, they don’t like to take kids so old. They usually prefer to take players in the academy at age 16 or 17, but because of his athleticism and height, they are willing to take a chance on Lopez.”

Andrew said Adams has the potential to develop into an outstanding player if he is able to excel at the academy in Spain.

“Adams is going to spend one year at this academy, and it’s almost going to be like a basketball prison. He will be on the court every single day, eating properly, in the weight room, and getting stronger,” Andrew said.

Adams, who has been a member of the Wadadli Elite Academy for the

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