

DWAYNE GEORGE TO BE A SENATOR, MINISTER OF STATE



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Dwayne George, who briefly served in the Senate until he was nominated as a candidate for the October 24 By-election, will be named a Senator in the Upper House, as well as a Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.

The swearing-in ceremony takes place on Thursday morning at Government House. George was the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's candidate in Tuesday's By-election where he came up short to the United Progressive Party's candidate Kelvin Simon.

George improved the ABLP's showing in Tuesday's poll which sends a clear message to the party that he is someone who has much potential for the future.

"Senator George has demonstrated



that he has the ability to produce for the people and he is highly qualified to take up the position of Minister of State in the Finance Ministry. We look forward to working with him in this new capacity," said Prime Minister Gaston Browne in a statement issued by his Office overnight.

In a Facebook post to members of the constituency, George expressed heartfelt thanks for their support in the By-election.

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful people of St. Mary's South for your support at

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The work continues for the ABLP in SMS

Although the results of Tuesday's By-election in the St. Mary's South constituency did not go in favour of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's candidate, Dwayne George, the party is satisfied with his overall performance in the short time that he had to prepare for the contest.

Party Chairman E.P. Chet Greene, said the results proved that not only is the ABLP a viable party in SMS constituency, but George has been proven to be a viable candidate for the area.

"We had about two months to prepare Dwayne George, who had no history of involvement with the party and he must be given credit when one sees the amount of work done in the short time that he was named as the candidate. This speaks to the formidable nature of the organization. Losing someone of the nature of Samantha Marshall and having to find a replacement in such a short time and having to prepare him for the contest; this is a



ABLP Party Chairman E.P. Chet Greene

story by itself," Greene noted.

He especially addressed party faithful in SMS urging them not to be overly worried by the results of the By-elections. "We knew it was going to be a difficult task in the short time available for George, but now the message is for supporters to continue to do

the work in the area, as he has proven that he can lead the constituency," he emphasized.

The party chairman said that based on the plans that are in store for George where he will be appointed as a Senator and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance this will enable him to continue to provide service to the people of SMS.

"The work continues; if no other message I would want the nation to understand is that the work continues, not only infrastructural work, that continues, but the whole building of the culture of labour and the party structure in SMS. There is no letting up going forward," Greene declared.

He expressed the view that while the party lost the count, it did not 'lose' the election. "We will not skip a beat as we now have a representative who is creditable and who has the energy to perform for the people delivering on the promises made," he added.

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the polls. The constituency has chosen, and I respect and appreciate your decision."

"My goal today is the same as it was yesterday, the development of our community. For over the last 20+ years, and more so the last 80+ days as a candidate, it has been my privilege to work with this remarkable community, and I want you to know that my commitment remains as steadfast as ever.

"Today, I stand more determined than ever to

continue the journey toward progress and prosperity for St. Mary's South," he stated.

George is also expressing his thanks and appreciation to the Prime Minister and ABLP Leader, Gaston Browne, as well as the wider ABLP Family for welcoming him and giving him their full support.

"While we may not have won, together we have built on what was achieved by Samantha N. Marshall and that cannot go unnoticed in the community," he observed.

PM Browne also thanked those who assisted with the campaign for the By-election, noting that the

party gained support and it is now positioned to take the seat at the next general elections.

Notice From MBS

Join the Medical Benefits Scheme for its final public physical activity event for 2023.

Register NOW for the MBS Fitness Challenge Walk, Run Ride, set for Saturday, 4th November 2023 from the MBS headquarters on Nevis Street to Ffryes Beach, start time 4:00 a.m. Warm-up: 3:55 a.m. There is the option to start in Christian Valley at 4:30am

All the usual amenities will be available at the MBS Fitness Challenge including Entertainment on the route, refreshments and transportation back to town. Registration is Free. Tee Shirts are \$20.00. Check the Medical Benefits Scheme social media for details or call 481-6266/6352 for more information.

Government to upgrade laws governing rent

The Cabinet has agreed to launch a program to upgrade the laws of Antigua and Barbuda that relate to rent.

It said there was a need to closely revise and modernize the Rent Restriction Act. This piece of legislation was passed on 12th September 1947 and does not reflect the current realities of renting in Antigua and Barbuda.

It has been observed that residents have expressed concerns with the rates being charged for rent by

landlords, as well as the difficulty landlords face in collecting rent from delinquent tenants.

“The intent therefore is to bring a sense of balance and fairness in the way in which rent is charged, and also to modernize mechanisms for landlords to be able to collect their rent. While the government agrees that we are operating in a free market economy, the Cabinet agreed that there is a need to regulate this sector to ensure that

there is fairness and equity,” the weekly Cabinet Notes determined.

It said to this end, the Rent Restriction Board is to be immediately put in place.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has decided to create new parcels of land at Dunbars for sale to young professionals. It has been a policy of the Gaston Browne administration to empower the people of this country through land ownership.

The commercial rate for land in that area is about

\$15 per square foot. However, the Cabinet has decided to price the new parcels to be created at \$6 to \$7 per square foot for residential purposes, and at \$13 per square foot for commercial purposes.

The sale of these lands is to be managed in a manner that ensures young Antiguan and Barbudans can get these parcels of land, and covenants will be put in place to ensure that speculators and other wealthy buyers do not benefit.



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The operations at National Solid Waste up for review

The government is reviewing the operations of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to examine ways in which the statutory body may overcome the many challenges it faces.

“The Cabinet and a team from the NSWMA examined various challenges that prevent the organization from performing as efficiently as is expected.

“As one of the government agencies responsible for sanitation and beautification, the NSWMA is critical to the health and wellness of our people. There is therefore a need for such an important entity to function at an optimal level,” this week’s Cabinet Notes revealed.

It said that a review by the Board of the NSWMA discovered certain irregularities regarding the payment to service providers, inclusive of some contractors being paid by other Ministries and the NSWMA, at the same time, for the same service.

“Presently, the Authority has a total debt of about \$40 million, most of which is to service providers. In addition, the NSWMA’s weekly expenditure stands at about eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000.00) as much of the services it performs are outsourced to private contractors.

“This is a situation that is both undesirable and untenable. The main challenge facing the NSWMA is how to achieve its mandate while getting

value for money,” according to the Notes.

Consequently, several measures have been identified to bring the NSWMA back to a sustainable position. Inter alia, these include:

(1.) Negotiating with service providers for a fifty percent (50%) write-off of the total debt owed to them.

(2.) All service providers will be required to meet with the Inland Revenue Department, the Medical Benefits Scheme, Social Security, and the Board of Education. All statutory deductions owed to these agencies will be deducted from the amounts owed to service providers.

(3.) The NSWMA is to put mea-

cont’d on pg 6



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A&B gets top marks for its commitment to multilateralism

At a time when wars and strife have erupted at various locations around the world and existential issues like climate change are confronting mankind, Antigua and Barbuda gets full marks for its commitment to multilateralism as the only hope for finding shared global solutions to these challenges.

These comments were part of an address by the United Nation's Resident Coordinator based in Barbados Didier Trebucq, who has responsibilities for Antigua and Barbuda, to a United Nations Day flag-raising ceremony on Tuesday.

It also served to mark Antigua and Barbuda's 42nd anniversary as a member of the United Nations, which will be observed on November 25.

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sures in place to collect all outstanding tipping fees for use of the landfill.

(4.) Three additional trucks are to be purchased to augment garbage collection.


Additionally, the office of the Financial Secretary will engage in discussions with the NSWMA to further identify shortcomings in its operations and to discuss ways in which the agency can become more efficient. A report is to be submitted to the Cabinet in two weeks.

"These last few decades have seen a fruitful relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the UN. Through my office with the

cont'd on pg 8



Didier Trebucq



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WITH THE FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORS (ECCB, FSRC, AND ONDCP)

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Mr. Shawn Williams
Senior Policy Specialist,
Commercial Banking, ECCB



Mr. Morvin Williams
Director, International Banks and
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Colonel Edward Croft
Director, ONDCP


Mr. Phil Rose
Regulatory Team Leader, Domestic
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**SATURDAY
28TH
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UWI Five Islands Campus
8:00PM

"EMBRACING
THE LEGACY,
SHAPING THE
FUTURE"

Local News



cont'd from pg 6

UN Team, we are forging even closer partnerships to better support national priorities in alignment with the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.

“Resilience-building is at the core of our cooperation agenda. We believe

this is essential to combat inequality, accelerate progress towards the SDGs, and help mitigate the multiple vulnerabilities and threats facing Caribbean SIDS,” he noted.

He added that across borders, SIDS has made

significant strides in building resilience and tackling complex global issues.

In this regard, he expressed his delight that Antigua and Barbuda is taking very bold steps towards building resilience, such as in climate adaptation, and

social protection to ensure people’s resilience and digitalization.

“Against this backdrop, I would like to further recognize your government’s vision in creating a digital economy for Antigua and Barbuda. The UN is currently supporting the development of a Digital Transformation Framework that will form part of a National Digitalization Strategy. This strategy will be a major accelerator in moving the needle on the SDGs,” Trebucq revealed.

In support of these efforts, he announced that the UN has increased its presence in-country with the placement of additional human resources to support youth and digitalization initiatives. “Antigua and Barbuda will also be one of the first few countries in the world to benefit from the rollout of the “Early Warning Systems For All” initiative of the UN SG, which will further the resilience agenda in the region,” he explained.

Trebucq also commended Prime Minister Gaston Browne for his advocacy on SIDS’ behalf.

“The reconfiguration of the global financial structure to increase access to finance is needed to build resilience against the dreaded impacts of climate change. Prime Minister Browne has advanced critical solutions on several issues including debt relief and championing solutions to the MVI,” he declared.

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WREATH
LAYING
CEREMONY**

**THURSDAY
26TH
OCTOBER**

Heroes Park, Sir Sydney
Walling Highway

10:00AM



Fallen heroes to be honoured at wreath-laying ceremony

The annual wreath-laying ceremony during which Antigua and Barbuda's heroes are honoured as part of the Independence anniversary celebrations takes place today at Heroes Park in Tomlinsons.

Senior government officials along with the heads of the police and the defense force will participate in the ceremony. Additionally, members of the diplomatic corps are also down to lay wreaths as well. The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, will make brief remarks in which he is expected to highlight the contributions to nation-building by the National Heroes, as well as the examples they provided for current and future generations.

Antigua and Barbuda has six National Heroes: The Father of the Nation, Sir V.C. Bird, Dame Nellie Robinson, King Court Tackey – Prince Klaas, Sir George Walter,

Sir Lester Bird, and the only living National Hero, Sir A. Vivian Richards.

Wreaths will be laid by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Festivals Minister Daryll Matthew, the VC Bird Family, the Walter Family, the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Commission, TOR Memorial School, and the family of Sir Lester Bird.

Heads of the Diplomatic missions in St. John's will also lay wreaths; Carmen Velasquez de Visbal of Venezuela, Raquel Jacobo Jaar of the Dominican Republic, Zhang Yanling of the People's Republic of China, and Lindsay Thompson of the United Kingdom.

Chief of Defense Staff, Colonel Teibert Benjamin as well as Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney will also lay wreaths.



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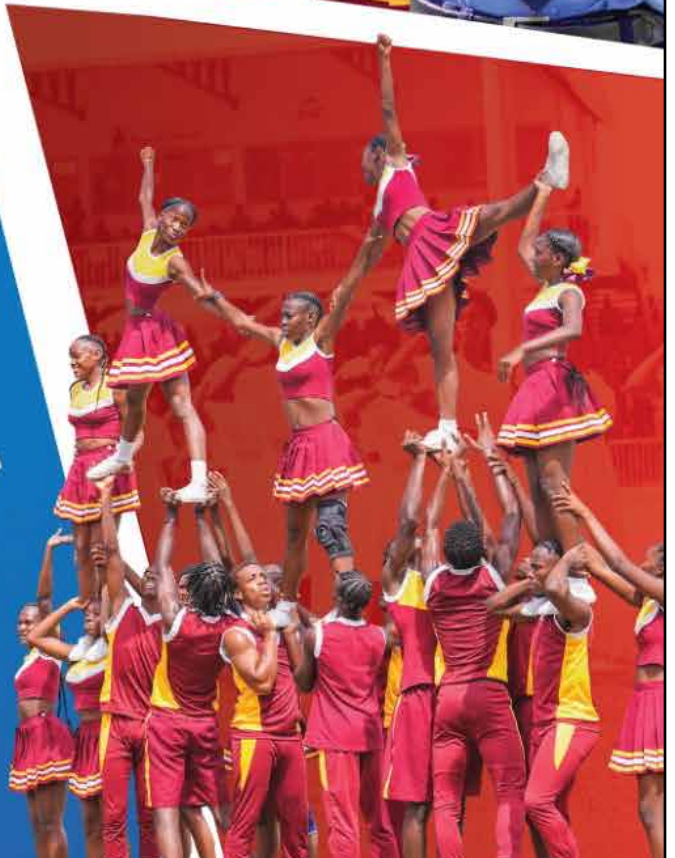
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NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY CHEERLEADING AND DJ COMPETITION

FRIDAY
27TH
OCTOBER

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
8:30AM



Paedophiles using AI to turn singers and film stars into kids

By Joe Tidy

Paedophiles are using artificial intelligence (AI) to create images of celebrities as children.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) said images of a well-known female singer reimagined as a child are being shared by predators.

On one dark web forum the charity says images of child actors are also being manipulated to make them sexual.

Hundreds of images of real victims of child sexual abuse are also now being created using bespoke image generators.

The details come from the IWF's latest report into the growing problem, as it tries to raise awareness about the dangers of paedophiles using AI systems that can create images from simple text instructions.

Since these powerful image generation systems entered the public domain, researchers have warned that they have the potential to be misused to generate illicit images.

In May, Home Secretary Suella Braverman and US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued a joint statement committing to tackle the "alarming rise in despicable AI-generated images of children being sexually exploited by paedophiles".



The IWF's report details how researchers spent a month logging AI imagery on a single darknet child abuse website and found nearly 3,000 synthetic images that would be illegal under UK law.

Analysts said there is a new trend of predators taking single photos of well-known child abuse victims and recreating many more of them in different sexual abuse settings.

One folder they found contained 501 images of a real world victim who was about 9-10 years old when she was subjected to sexual abuse. In the folder predators also shared a fine-tuned AI model file to allow others to generate more images of her.

The IWF says some of the imagery, including that of celebrities as children,

is extremely realistic and would be indistinguishable to untrained eyes.

Analysts saw images of mostly female singers and movie stars that had been de-aged using the imaging software to make them look like children.

The report did not identify which celebrities had been targeted.

The charity said it was sharing the research to get the issue put onto the agenda at the UK government's AI Summit next week at Bletchley Park.

In one month, the IWF investigated 11,108 AI images which had been shared on a dark web child abuse forum.

In June, the IWF warned that predators were starting to explore the use of AI to make depraved images of children, but now

the IWF says the fears are a reality.

"Our worst nightmares have come true," said Susie Hargreaves, the chief executive of the IWF.

"Earlier this year, we warned AI imagery could soon become indistinguishable from real pictures of children suffering sexual abuse, and that we could start to see this imagery proliferating in much greater numbers. We have now passed that point."

The IWF report reiterates the real world harm of AI images. Although children are not harmed directly in the making of the content, the images normalise predatory behaviour and can waste police resources as they investigate children that do not exist.

In some scenarios new *cont'd on pg 13*

FTX: 'King of Crypto' to testify in fraud case

Former crypto boss Sam Bankman-Fried, who is on trial in the US for fraud, will speak in his own defence, his legal team has said.

The decision comes shortly before prosecutors are due to wrap up their side of the case.

The 31-year-old is accused of lying to investors and lenders and stealing money from customers of his now-bankrupt cryptocurrency exchange, FTX.

Mr Bankman-Fried, who could testify as early as Thursday, denies the charges.

He is facing what could amount to a life sentence in prison if convicted.

Defendants in the US are not obliged to testify during trials - and are often advised against doing so, since it opens them up to questioning by prosecutors.

It also gives members of the jury that will decide the case a chance to form their own impressions, which might not be favourable.

"If the jury does not believe him, it's a guaranteed conviction," Jacob Frenkel, a former federal prosecutor

who has been following the trial told the BBC earlier this month.

Despite the risks, many analysts following the trial had expected the former entrepreneur to take the stand to offer his own version of events and try to undermine the story presented by prosecutors.

"The prosecutors have put on a pretty strong case," said Carl Tobias, law professor at the University of Richmond "I don't know that there's much downside in this case for him to testify given what we've seen so far."

Prosecutors have built their case on statements from three of his closest former friends and colleagues, who have already pleaded guilty.

They have tied Mr Bankman-Fried to decisions to take money deposited at FTX and use it to repay lenders at his crypto trading firm, Alameda Research, buy property, and make investments and political donations.

They say he tried to hide the transfers between the two firms and their close



Sam Bankman-Fried in May 2022.

relationship - and lawyers have buttressed their allegations with text messages, spreadsheets and tweets.

During the trial, these witnesses, who include his ex-girlfriend and former Alameda chief executive Caroline Ellison, have emerged from hours of questioning with their credibility seemingly largely unscathed.

Mr Bankman-Fried's defence team has argued he was following "reasonable" business practices, as his companies grew rapidly.

After the collapse of his companies last year, he admitted in media interviews,

including to the BBC, to managerial mistakes but said he never intended fraud.

Elizabeth Holmes is among other high-profile examples of defendants who have opted to testify in their own defence.

The founder of blood-testing start-up Theranos, who argued that she did not intend to defraud investors, was ultimately convicted of four out of 11 counts and sentenced to more than 11 years in prison.

But testifying can also pay off. Tom Barrack, a former private equity executive and fundraiser for former President Donald Trump, and Lebanese businessman Jean Boustani, both took to the stand in separate, unrelated criminal cases and were acquitted.

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forms of offence are being explored too, throwing up new complexities for law enforcement agencies.

For example, the IWF found hundreds of images of two girls whose pictures from

a photoshoot at a non-nude modelling agency had been manipulated to put them in Category A sexual abuse scenes.

The reality is that they are now victims of Category A offences that never happened.

Haitian gang leader charged with ordering kidnapping of US couple

A powerful Haitian gang leader has been charged by US prosecutors with ordering the kidnapping of an American couple from their home in Haiti, which left the woman dead, authorities said Tuesday.

Vitel'Homme Innocent — who remains at large and is believed to be living in Tabarre, Haiti — was also charged last year in the 2021 kidnappings of Christian missionaries.

The charges are considered largely symbolic in Haiti, where gangs are more powerful than the government and have bigger and better weapons than the police. Gang leaders have previously brushed off UN sanctions and criminal charges filed by US federal authorities as they keep operating with impunity.

In the October 2022 kidnapping of Jean Franklin and Marie Odette Franklin, armed gang members stormed their home, and Marie Franklin was shot and killed in the kidnapping. Her husband, Jean, was held for 21 days and released following ransom payments made to the gang on behalf of his family, authorities said.

No US attorney has been listed for Innocent in court documents, and he could not otherwise be reached for comment on the allegations.

US authorities are offering a reward of \$1 million



FBI wanted bulletin for Vitel'Homme Innocent. Photo: FBI

for information leading to the arrest of Innocent, who runs the violent Kraze Barye gang that operates in Port-au-Prince.

“Vitel'Homme has wrecked particular havoc on US citizens abroad and the people of Haiti by consistently targeting innocent civilians for kidnappings and collaborating with other gangs within Haiti,” said US Attorney for the District of Columbia Matthew Graves. He did not detail how Innocent might be brought to the U.S., where he could face the death penalty if convicted.

“Neither time nor distance will weaken our resolve,” said Jeffrey Veltri, special agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office, which investigated the case.

Innocent was previously

charged by federal prosecutors in Washington last year in connection with the 2021 kidnappings of 16 US Christian missionaries, including five children. Most of them were held for more than two months before escaping from captivity, Graves said.

The latest indictment charges Innocent with conspiracy to commit hostage taking resulting in death, aiding and abetting hostage taking and attempted hostage taking resulting in death by the U.S. Justice Department.

Kraze Barye, which translates roughly to “Breaking Barriers,” controls the Tabarre community in central Port-au-Prince, as well as parts of Petionville and Croix-des-Bouquets within the capital.

It has some 600 mem-

bers and is known for crimes including killings, rapes, robberies, kidnappings and drug and weapons trafficking, according to a recent report submitted to the U.N. Security Council.

“Kraze Barye has become one of the most powerful gangs in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, with an increasing number of fighters and semi-automatic weapons,” the report stated.

It also noted that Kraze Barye is among a handful of gangs that recruit the most children, and its leader is known for kidnapping prominent people.

Kraze Barye is allied with G-Pep, another larger and more powerful gang.

Kidnappings and killings continue to surge as gangs estimated to control

cont'd on pg 15

CARICOM: Venezuela's referendum threatens regional security

By Dillon De Shong

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) said Venezuela's upcoming referendum on the annexation of disputed territory with Guyana is not valid.

CARICOM made the statement as it expressed unwavering support for Guyana in its border dispute with Venezuela.

"CARICOM insists that the Referendum proposed by Venezuela has no validity, bearing, or standing in international law in relation to this controversy; the Referendum is a purely domestic construct, but its summary effect is likely to



undermine peace, tranquillity, security, and more, in our region," the 15 member-integration movement said in a statement on Thursday.

CARICOM expressed concern with the five questions being considered in the referendum.

CARICOM believes that two questions if approved by Venezuelans, would permit the government to embark on the annexation of two-thirds of Guyana's internationally recognised territory to create a state within Venezuela known as

Guyana Essequibo.

"CARICOM reaffirms that international law strictly prohibits the government of one State from unilaterally seizing, annexing or incorporating the territory of another state. An affirmative vote as aforesaid opens the door to the possible violation of this fundamental tenet of international law," the group said.

CARICOM expressed support for Guyana's efforts to have the border dispute finally settled via the International Court of Justice and said it hopes Venezuela would participate in the matter.

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up to 80% of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince keep growing more powerful.

From July 1 to September 30, more than 700 people in Haiti were reported kidnapped, a 244% increase compared with the same period last year, according to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, more than 1,230 people were reported killed during those months, more than double compared with the same timeframe last year.

Among those recently kidnapped is the secretary general of Haiti's High Transitional Council, which is charged with organizing long-awaited general elections. Authorities said gang members dressed as police officers abducted Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre last week.

Haiti is awaiting the deployment of a multinational armed force led by Kenya to help quell gang violence that has overwhelmed police, with only some 4,000 officers on shift at a time for a country of more than 11 million people.



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Ukrainian officials say the fighting is becoming too intense for children to remain.

Ukraine war: Forced evacuations as Russian attacks intensify

By Jenny Hill

Ukraine has started the forced evacuation of around 1,000 children from areas near to the front line as Russia intensifies attacks.

Parents have been told they must move their families to safety from 31 settlements in the southern Kherson and eastern Donetsk regions.

Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Officials in the north-eastern Kharkiv region are also preparing to evacuate 275 children from 10 settlements.

Ukraine has ordered such evacuations before when fighting has intensified.

Officials say many children are living under near constant shelling and insist it's now far too dangerous

for them to remain at home.

Accompanied by police officers - with the power to force families to flee - they're now going door to door to persuade parents to leave with their children.

Kyiv has promised families safe passage to safer parts of the country where they'll be given free accommodation and places at schools and nurseries.

Oleksandr Tolokonnikov, who is the spokesman for the Kherson regional administration, explained that some families were still reluctant to leave their homes, despite the increased danger and discomfort of living under near constant enemy attack.

"There are different cases," he said. "For example, when families barricade themselves inside. Of course the police don't break doors. They talk

to people. They show videos to people of what happens if the shell hits, with killed and injured children. It is more psychological work".

Getting the families out is a difficult and dangerous task carried out by emergency workers and volunteers.

In the Donetsk region a special police unit known as the White Angels is responsible for getting people to safety.

Ukraine's deputy prime minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, said the evacuation teams were risking their lives and appealed to parents to be ready: "If you're warned about evacuation, please don't delay, pack the most necessary things, your documents, and leave."

But she also acknowledged that the authorities in Kherson lack sufficient armoured vehicles to transport chil-

cont'd on pg 17

Morocco town holds protest to demand aid weeks after earthquake

By Gloria Aradi

Hundreds of residents of the Moroccan town of Amizmiz have protested against local authorities, weeks after a deadly earthquake destroyed their homes.

Amizmiz, located 34 miles (55km) south of Marrakesh, was one of the hardest-hit by the 8 September earthquake.

It was the worst to strike Morocco in more than 60 years, killing nearly 3,000 people and leaving thousands more injured and homeless.

The residents accuse local authorities of delaying aid and neglecting them.

Following the earthquake, authorities put up displaced families in tented camps, accompanied by a promise of financial assistance to help rebuild their homes.

But the protesters now say they cannot continue living in the camps as conditions are deteriorating, with heavy rains and winds hitting the region and temperatures dropping as winter approaches.

The protesters also accuse local authorities of withholding assistance, in-



According to authorities, the earthquake destroyed more than 50,000 homes in the High Atlas Mountains.

cluding tents, from some of the residents who lost their homes.

The protest went ahead on Tuesday despite the withdrawal of the Amizmiz Earthquake Victims' Co-ordination group, which had organised the protest.

The group said they had pulled out after local authorities promised to address their concerns.

They said that the authorities had promised to speed up assistance, including providing new tents to those who had not previously been given any, and those whose tents had been dam-

aged by the harsh weather.

They also pledged to improve sanitation at the camps and provide the displaced with access to water and electricity.

Morocco's King Mohammed VI last month announced 120bn Moroccan dirhams (\$11.6bn; £9.4bn) over five years to rebuild the regions impacted by the earthquake and support the more than 4.2 million affected people.

The plan includes a pledge to grant 140,000 dirhams in reconstruction aid to each household with a collapsed home and 80,000

for each household whose home was partially damaged.

Earlier this month, the government said it had started disbursing 2,500 dirhams in monthly assistance to each affected household, as part of a year-long cash relief program.

Morocco's government faced criticism from some citizens in the aftermath of the earthquake after it turned down some offers of international aid, despite thousands desperately needing urgent assistance.

"I think it is really an error [to insist on] sovereignty and national pride. This is not the moment to refuse because the aid is essential, even developed countries accept outside help [in disasters]," activist Maati Mounjib told the BBC's Newsday programme at the time.

cont'd from pg 16

dren to safety. It's estimated that around 800 children live in the affected areas and Ms Vereshchuk said she'd asked international organisations to help.

"800 children is a lot, and we need to take them out as soon as possible."

Ukraine says that Russian troops have launched major assaults on a few areas along the Eastern front in recent days and intensified shelling in the south.

It's feared that Moscow plans attacks on critical infrastructure as winter approaches.

**OCT
31ST
2023**

START TIME
7PM

ARG
ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUND



ANTIGUA
BARBUDA

ANTIGUA-BARBUDA
FESTIVALS
COMMISSION



THE GOVERNMENT OF
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
PRESENTS

LEGACY

THE INDEPENDENCE
GOSPEL EXPERIENCE

TICKETS	\$35	\$50
	(IN ADVANCE)	(AT THE GATE)

BOX OFFICES: QUINTESSENCE VARIETY PLUS
ROTI KING • INET • COOL & SMOOTH
THE LARDER RESTAURANT • TICKETING APP

PASTOR NATHANIEL BASSEY | TODD DULANEY
KEVIN DOWNSWELL | BLESSED MESSENGER
JOHNMARK WIGGAN | ROMARO GREAVES (saxophonist)

ROXY | PSALMIST ROBYN | MIN. DORNELL CARTY
ROLANDO JAMES (steelpanist) | RASHID WALKER
BENJARRAY | OLD ROAD SDA WORSHIPPERS
MIN. WENDY FERRIS | VERITY DANCERS AND MORE

EMBRACING THE LEGACY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Australia drub the Dutch after Maxwell mayhem

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Glenn Maxwell smashed the fastest hundred in the history of the 50-overs World Cup as Australia thrashed the Netherlands by a record 309 runs in what was their third successive win of the tournament on Wednesday.

Eighteen days after South Africa's Aiden Markram smashed a 49-ball hundred at the same Arun Jaitley Stadium against Sri Lanka, Maxwell took nine balls fewer to bring up his century.

The all-rounder produced a blistering 106 off 44 balls and opener David Warner made 104 as Australia racked up 399 for eight after electing to bat.

The five-time champions then returned to bundle out their opponents for 90 in 21 overs, subjecting the Dutch to the biggest defeat in the tournament's history.

"Just about the complete game, couldn't be happier," Australia captain Pat Cummins said after his team consolidated their fourth position in the points table with a major net run-rate boost.

"I think we're starting to play to our potential and play the style we always talk about.

"The openers started really well and Steve Smith at three - a really



Australia's Glenn Maxwell leaves the ground after losing his wicket during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Australia and Netherlands in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023. (AP)

good powerplay and that's how we want to play, get ahead of the game."

With Travis Head continuing his recovery from a fractured hand, Mitchell Marsh retained his place as Warner's opening partner but did not last long.

The Netherlands began with spin from both ends and Warner smashed Aryan Dutt for four fours in a row to signal his intention early.

The feisty left-hander raced to a 91-ball hundred, his second successive ton in the tournament, and took off his helmet and leapt in

his trademark celebration.

Logan van Beek (four for 74) removed Warner soon after, but Steve Smith (71) and Marnus Labuschagne (62) helped themselves to easy half-centuries.

The Dutch bowlers briefly stemmed the run flow but the ground had been laid for Maxwell to explode with the bat.

The all-rounder toyed with the Dutch attack smacking nine fours and eight sixes in his clattering innings.

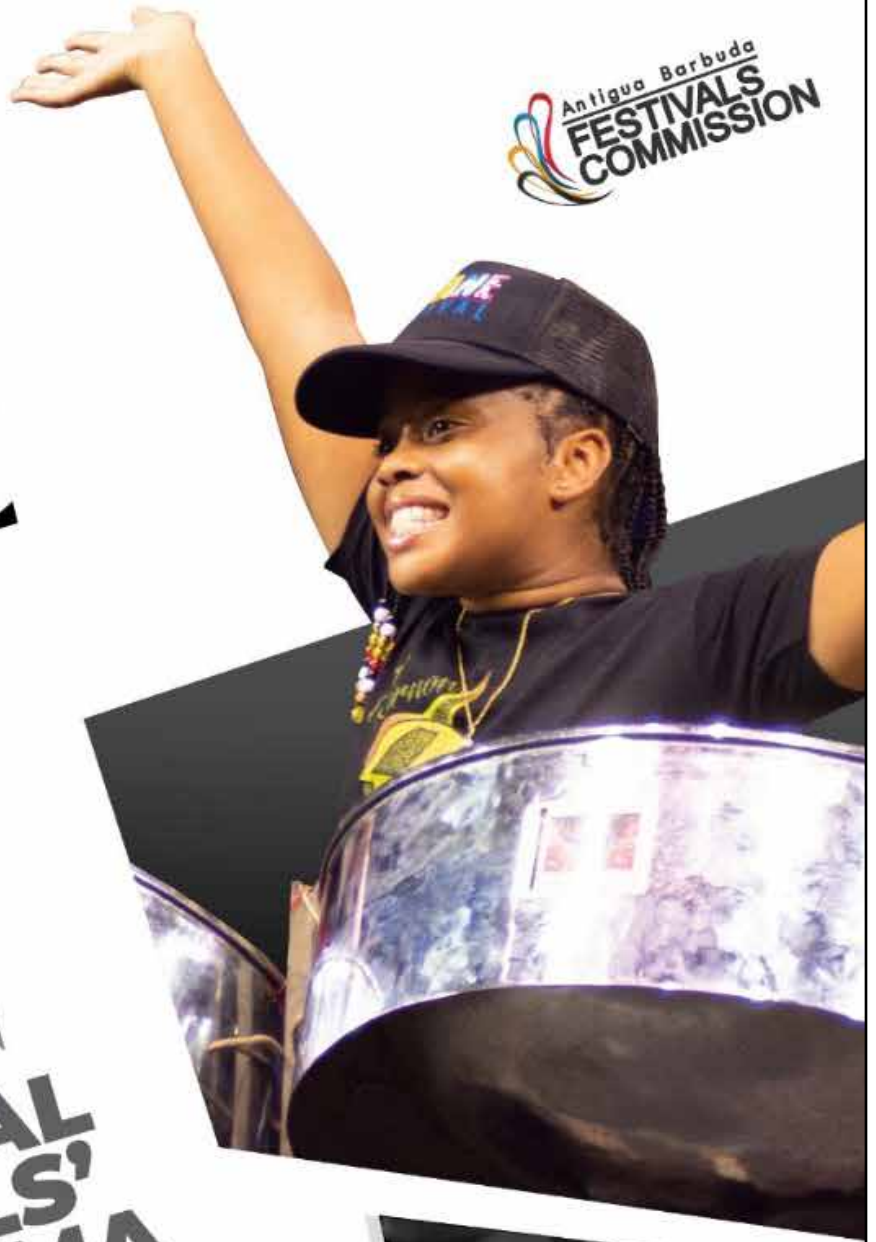
He was particularly harsh on de Leede,

who bled 115 runs in his 10 overs -- the most by a bowler in a men's ODI. It included 28 runs in de Leede's final over alone.

With Maxwell playing some outrageous shots on either side of the wicket, Australia plundered 131 runs in the final 10 overs.

It left the Netherlands with a mountain to climb and they faltered early in their chase, losing both the openers inside six overs.

Adam Zampa then ran through their lower order to claim three wickets for eight runs to hasten their collapse.



42nd



ACB

CARIBBEAN

**NATIONAL
SCHOOLS'
PANORAMA
COMPETITION**

MONDAY

30TH

OCTOBER

Antigua Recreation Grounds

5:00PM

\$10.00
SCHOOL CHILDREN

\$15.00
ADULTS

"EMBRACING
THE **LEGACY**,
SHAPING THE
FUTURE"

Gray and Jeremiah lead divisions in national draughts tournament

Marvin “Bruce” Gray and Amakusa Jeremiah won both matches on Tuesday night to remain leaders of the Masters and Seniors divisions, respectively, in the Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association’s (ABDA) Spectacular Prime Minister National Independence Draughts tournament at the Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Centre.

Gray beat O’Neil Jordan 7-1 and prevailed 6-3 against Anthony “Tony” Gomes to lead the Masters Division with a total of 26 points from four matches.

Bernard “Premier” Willock also won both matches to occupy second place in the Masters Division with a total of 25 points from three encounters.

Willock powered his way to pull off crushing 9-0 victories over Dale Samuel and St. Clair Josiah.

Anthony “Tony” Gomes



trounced St. Clair Josiah 9-0 to move into third place with a total of 22 points from four outings.

St. Clair Josiah rebounded to win his two other encounters in the Masters Division. Josiah claimed 5-2 victories against O’Neil Jordan and Vanus “J” Hector.

Elvis Cordice secured

wins in the other two matches in the Masters Division on Tuesday. Cordice hammered O’Neil Jordan 7-1 and prevailed 6-3 against Vanus “J” Hector.

Jeremiah prevailed 5-2 against Jack Matthew and crushed Tion Grant 7-1 to lead the Seniors Division with a total of 24 points

from four matches.

Grant occupied second place with a total of 19 points after playing to a 4-4 draw with Stevenson “Smoothdee” Vital.

Matthew moved into third place with a total of 16 points after salvaging a 4-4 draw with Eustace “Zocio” Samuel.

Transport Board and Richie’s Shooterz go joint-third in business basketball league

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board and Richie’s Shooterz claimed contrasting wins to move into joint third-place in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association’s (ABBA) Business League on Tuesday night.

The Transport Board improved to the current third best record in the league with eight wins and two losses by prevailing 80-72 against H. Wright Promotions.

Marlon “Buju” Charles produced a game-high 30 points, Craig Messi-

ah scored 14 points, and Lindsay McDonald chipped in with 12 points for the Transport Board.

Anthony Greer converted 24 points, Adrian Carnegie sank 22 points, and Humroy Wright had 20 points for H. Wright Promotions, which slumped to their fifth loss in eight outings.

Richie’s Shooterz also joined the Transport Board with identical records of eight wins and two losses after being awarded victory by default over the Police, who failed to show up for Tuesday’s first encounter.

The result also means that the Police will remain winless after losing all 10 games thus far in the league.

Hopefully, Richie’s Shooterz will be in action when the business basketball league continues with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex tonight (Thursday).

Richie’s Shooterz will take on Eye Mobile Vision Care at 6:30 pm, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will meet Sandals at 7:30 pm, and H. Wright Promotions will clash with the Board of Education at 8:30 pm.



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS,
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

In Collaboration with

PAHO



The PAHO/WHO recommended tool for surveillance of noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will be conducting its first STEPS survey.

WHAT IS STEPS?

STEPS is a household survey, similar to the national census. It is a three step process aimed at collecting information on the health behaviors of Antiguanes and Barbudans, and their risks factors for chronic diseases, NCDs like diabetes, hypertension, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Persons aged 18-89 years will be identified to participate in the survey.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

The information from STEPS will help to improve our national strategies and actions to decrease the burden of NCDs in our country. By getting involved you become a part of the solution.

STEP
1

You will be asked questions about your health and lifestyle practices.

STEP
2

Some simple measurements such as height, weight, waist-circumference and blood pressure will be taken.

STEP
3

Health professionals will take a urine sample, and a finger-prick blood sample will be taken for testing fats and sugar.



Finalists decided for ABNDA's 500 Pair contest

Two duos from Willikies Super Stars and Dominatrixx have advanced to the final of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) 500 Pair competition at its headquarters in Ottos on Tuesday night.

Lorraine Richardson and Kenny Charles of Willikies Super Stars and Mc-Clean Harve and Zenus Williams will clash in the final of the 500 Pair competition.

Both pairs booked their spots in the semi-finals after prevailing in the quarter-finals, which were contested by eight pairs.

The two teams then advance to the final by ousting the pairs comprising Britney Farrell and Conrad Constant of Willikies Super Stars and Patricia Lewis and Kaid Jar-



vis of AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers.

Lewis and Jarvis will battle Farrell and Constant in a playoff for third place.

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 in the quarter-finals.

The finalists will clash for the 500 Pairs title on November 1. It will be one of four ABNDA's competitions 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 Dominatrixx, and Mervin LeFleur of Willikies Super Stars will clash in the final for the King of Domino title.

Desiree Parker and Surleen Samuel of AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers, and Carolyn Joseph of Unstoppables will battle in the final for the Queen of Domino crown.

The ABNDA will continue its series of domestic competitions with the staging of its male and female pairs contest at its headquarters in Ottos on Sunday.

cont'd from pg 24

"GNFC Gloucestershire is currently the only Caribbean-based club in the English football pyramid system. You have other Caribbean clubs that are in it, but they are not based in the Caribbean," Santos stated.

"The aim of starting GNFC Gloucestershire is to create an opportunity for players in the Caribbean, particularly in Antigua and Barbuda, to showcase and expose their talents so they can be recruited by bigger clubs such as those in the English Premier League," Santos stated.

GNFC gives exposure to Antiguan footballers in the UK

The Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) has continued to forge ahead in its mission to provide exposure to players from Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean in the United Kingdom (UK) via GNFC Gloucestershire.

GNFC Gloucestershire, which is the only Caribbean-based club in the English football pyramid system, was founded in Gloucestershire, England, by Ricky Santos in 2021.

Santos is currently the president of parent club, GNFC, which he started at its current headquarters in Antigua and Barbuda in 2012.

Santos is also an Ambassador for Sports and Sports Tourism in Antigua and Barbuda, chairman of the board for St. Anthony's Secondary School and educational consultant in the Caribbean for Hartpury College and University in the United Kingdom.

GNFC Gloucestershire made its debut in division two of the Cheltenham Association Football League (CAFL) in 2021, and the team has gained promotion in each of its two previous seasons and it is currently playing in the premier division, which comprises 12 teams.

The top division of the Cheltenham Association Football League comprised two rounds, home and away games, and GNFC Gloucestershire, which is based at Oxstals Sports Park on the outskirts of Cheltenham, England, has made a measured start to life in the premier division of the CAFL.

GNFC Gloucestershire have won



Ricky Santos, left, with Antoine Thompson three and lost three of the six matches they have played thus far this season.

If GNFC Gloucestershire continue their upward trend by winning the premier division of the CAFL, they will gain promotion to the national league, which is the fifth tier of the football pyramid in the UK.

Santos said gaining promotion to the national league in the UK would mean GNFC Gloucestershire would be able to play in the English FA Cup competition.

"We started in division two, then

we got promoted to division one, and then we got promoted and are now in the premier league. After that, we go into the national league, which is huge.

"If we get promoted this season, we will go into the national league, and that would be big because we would be part of the FA Cup," Santos stated.

GNFC Gloucestershire is managed by Antoine Thompson, who is also the assistant manager of the academy at Reading Football Club, which is currently in League One in England.

cont'd on pg 23