

CABINET TO GET PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON STORM DAMAGES

Story on Page 2



Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra will undertake a 12-day musical tour of the United Kingdom from 10 to 21 October 2023. *Story on page 8.*

Cabinet to get preliminary reports on storm damages

Preliminary reports on the damages caused by Tropical Storm Philippe, to the nation's roadways and infrastructure, are expected to go before the Cabinet when it convenes its weekly meeting today, one day later than usual.

One report was compiled by teams from the Ministry of Works following the passage of the storm

from Monday night into Tuesday morning. The storm impacted Antigua with wind gusts of up to 47 miles per hour and almost eight inches of rain in some parts of the island.

The heavy rains have caused low-lying flooding in some areas of the island and have led to erosion in several of the main roadways and secondary roads. Several bridges

were also impacted by the storm.

The Ministry of Works is the government agency where the technicians with the know-how to carry out these tasks, and who must prepare the preliminary report for the Cabinet to consider.

The ministry will also carry out a similar exercise on all government-owned buildings, or those buildings that are occupied by the government.

The report will be 'preliminary,' as the Cabinet meeting comes just two days after the storm, and it may require more time for an in-depth look at the full extent of the damages.

Along with a report from the Ministry of Works, the Cabinet is also expected to hear from the Utilities Ministry which will provide insights into the damages caused to the electricity distribution system by the storm.

During the height of the storm, the entire system was knocked off-line plunging the entire island into darkness. So far, the Electricity Business Unit has been busily working to restore power to consumers and businesses island-wide.

Most consumers have since had their electricity returned last evening, although there may still be some pockets of consumers where the power is yet to be returned.

One of the most critical tasks by the teams from the different government agencies is to put a cost to the damages to the infrastructure and utility services.

This would be in addition to consumers and business owners who suffered varying degrees of damage to their properties.



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Fire department kept busy during the storm

The Fire Department is reporting that its Search and Rescue team responded to multiple calls from persons who needed to be rescued during the passage of Tropical Storm, Philippe, on Monday night into Tuesday morning.

According to a spokesman for the Fire Department, Inspector Lester Bagot these rescue operations were conducted in collaboration with units from the police and the defense force.

“The areas of operation were Anchorage Road, Pigotts Village, Sir George Walter Highway, the Point and

Villa Area, Bendals, King George 5th Grounds, and Golden Grove Extension,” he reported.

The several calls from persons who were stranded, and who needed to be rescued were separate from the call early on Tuesday morning of the fire that completely gutted the historic building that housed several businesses, at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina in Falmouth Harbour.

“At 1:35 am the All Saints Fire Station responded to a major structural fire at Falmouth, where the Antigua Yacht Club building was completely

destroyed. Fire suppression took about six hours. This fire affected ten businesses occupied in the said structure,” Inspector Bagot stated.

The fire brigade has extended its thanks and appreciation to the Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue ABSAR for its assistance in fighting the fire at Falmouth Harbour. “Commendation must be given to the fire-fighters and ABSAR for their bravery in fighting a major fire, during a tropical storm. We commend them for their enthusiastic response in their efforts to save lives and property,” he added.



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12 pounds of cannabis seized at the General Post Office

A total of 12 pounds of cannabis were seized during a drug operation at the General Post Office on Monday, 2nd October.

The Police and Customs Officers discovered 12 packages of the con-

trolled substance inside three separate boxes, during a search.

The items were taken to the Police headquarters for further investigation. The substance is estimated at \$72,000.

This is the latest of such seizures of cannabis or other banned substances that the police acting in collaboration with the Customs Division and the General Post Office have intercepted in recent months.

The FCRA appoints Britney McDonald as Project Management Consultant for Conservation Project

The Fitches Creek Residents Association (FCRA) has announced the appointment of Britney McDonald as the Project Management Consultant for the project “Building a Community Constituency for Conservation of Fitches Creek Bay and the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA)”.

This project, funded by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), seeks to foster a constituency for biodiversity conservation that strengthens community ‘ownership’ of the NEMMA and Fitches Creek Bay. It aims to stimulate community and collective actions that prevent further erosion of its protected area status, whilst also strengthening protected

area governance through the use of collaborative social accountability approaches.

McDonald will be instrumental in driving the execution of this important initiative. Her role will primarily involve ensuring that the project meets its objectives through the application of inclusive participation methods. These methods are focused on engaging and empowering targeted communities along with poor and marginalized populations, especially women, youth, the disabled, and ethnic minorities, who are particularly vulnerable to the negative impact of biodiversity degradation and climate change resilience.

“Our goal is to create a sustainable protective ecosystem that the community



Britney McDonald

feels invested in,” said McDonald.

“We aim to facilitate change from the grassroots level, enabling community members to take collective action to preserve their environment.

“We believe that this community-centric approach is critical in preventing further erosion of the area’s protective status and promoting a healthier ecosystem.”

The FCRA said it is confident that with McDonald’s wealth of experience and dedication to sustainable development and community engagement, she will prove invaluable in bringing this project to fruition.

“We look forward to seeing the positive impact her leadership will have on the NEMMA and Fitches Creek Bay conservation efforts,” the FCRA said in a media release.



Meet Julene Harrigan Thomas of Heritage Quay's Vendors Mall

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association is shining the spotlight on the extraordinary, entrepreneur extraordinaire at the Vendors Mall in Heritage Quay, Julene Harrigan Thomas, the latest in its "Unveiling Hospitality Professionals" Series.

When you step into the vibrant world of the Vendors Mall, your heart will be captured by the genuine warmth and hospitality radiated by Julene Harrigan Thomas.

She holds the number C-14 spot at Heritage Quay's Vendors Mall, where she has cultivated an enchanting atmosphere that beckons visitors from all corners of the globe.

For Julene, hospitality runs in

her blood, with her entire family of strong, enterprising women, including her mother and aunts, actively engaged in the vibrant hospitality industry.

Today, after dedicating over two decades to refining her business, Julene has evolved beyond the title of a mere vendor; she now stands tall as a true entrepreneur, meticulously steering her business toward daily success.

Visitors to Heritage Quay are in for a treat as they not only get to explore locally branded gifts but also have the privilege of indulging in crafts made and designed by Julene herself.

Her keen attention to detail ensures that every item on offer is a reflection of quality and authenticity.



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UK High Commission launches initiative aimed at young people

The British High Commission in St John’s is launching an initiative - the Resident British Commissioner (RBC) for a Day campaign - which seeks to expose young citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda to the exciting world of diplomatic relations.

The initiative, which is being introduced with the support of the Directorate of Gender Affairs (DoGA), urges candidates between the ages of 18 and 25 to submit a two-minute long video explaining why they should be the RBC for a day and how the role aligns with their aspirations. Additionally, male entrants are asked to include at least one recommendation to reduce the incidence of male suicides, and females are asked to include at least one recommendation for the reduction of gender-based violence against women

and girls.

Candidates must also like and follow both the Resident Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda and the Directorate of Gender Affairs’ Facebook pages.

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson explained why this opportunity will be worthwhile for the successful young man and woman.

“This is an amazing opportunity for two young people to experience what it’s like running a diplomatic mission, and what that takes. Our winners will get to experience engaging with Ministers and Senior Officials, the media, host a themed lunch, learn about our projects, and get to meet staff working at the British High Commissions in St John’s and elsewhere in Barbados and

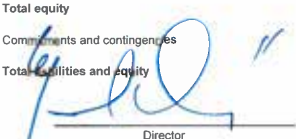

the Eastern Caribbean,” she stated.

“Importantly they will be able to use their position as RBC for a day to give a voice to important issues surrounding International Men’s Day, and the 16 Days of Activism. My team and I are really looking forward to seeing your entries!”

Entries should be submitted to rbc.antiguaandbarbuda@gmail.com by 27 October 2023 and the announced winners are expected to undertake their responsibilities during International Men’s Day and 16 Days of Activism commemorations.

The Communications Officer within the Directorate of Gender Affairs, Ms. Raisa Charles underscored the importance of the campaign.

“The RBC for a Day Campaign *cont’d on pg 7*”

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD. (St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I.)			
Statement of Financial Position			
June 30, 2023			
(Stated in United States Dollars of America)			
	Note	2023	2022
Assets			
Deposit with banks			
Demand deposits		380,242	481,415
Time deposits		59,951,615	70,253,568
Total due from banks		60,331,857	70,734,983
Accrued interests receivable		1,090,773	946,974
Total cash and cash equivalents	7, 13	61,422,630	71,681,957
Investment securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)	8, 13	21,836,311	0
Investment securities measured at amortized cost	8, 13	38,186,458	60,388,254
Loans	9, 13	602,572	694,611
Prepaid expenses		65,351	71,472
Other assets	10	1,501,693	1,501,691
Total other assets		1,567,044	1,573,163
Total assets		123,595,015	134,337,985
Liabilities and equity:			
Liabilities:			
Deposits from customers:			
Demand deposits		1,742,515	5,042,562
Time deposits		108,596,912	116,494,204
Accrued interest payable		2,079,615	1,896,068
Total deposits from customers	13	112,419,042	123,432,834
Other liabilities		2,103,130	2,248,152
Total liabilities		114,522,172	125,680,986
Equity:			
Share capital	11	5,000,000	5,000,000
Additional paid-in-capital		10,000	10,000
Retained earnings		4,062,843	3,646,999
Total equity		9,072,843	8,656,999
Commitments and contingencies	12, 13		
Total Liabilities and Equity		123,595,015	134,337,985
 			
<p>The statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes that are an integral part of these financial statements.</p>			

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD. (St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I.)			
Statement of Profit or Loss			
For the year ended June 30, 2023			
(Stated in United States Dollars of America)			
	Note	2023	2022
Interest income:			
Securities		4,674,690	5,165,167
Deposits with banks		2,836,304	2,378,293
Loans		35,931	42,005
Total interest income	13	7,546,925	7,585,465
Interest expense:			
Deposits	13	4,855,260	4,967,307
Total interest expenses		4,855,260	4,967,307
Net interest income		2,691,665	2,618,158
Reversal of impairment losses on loans		(11)	(2,053)
Reversal of losses on investment securities		(857)	(1,293)
Provision (reversal) of other provisions		4,953	(821)
Total impairment losses and other provisions		4,085	(4,167)
Other income (expenses):			
Commission income	13	770,271	888,936
Commission expenses		(32,338)	(18,063)
Total other income, net		737,933	870,873
General and administrative expenses:			
Salaries and other personnel expenses	13	2,850,911	2,751,788
Fees and professional services		65,975	62,831
Banking license		45,354	38,000
Others		36,766	28,771
Total general and administrative expenses		2,999,006	2,881,390
Net income before income tax		426,507	611,808
Income tax	6	(10,663)	(15,295)
Net income		415,844	596,513
<p>The statement of profit or loss should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes that are an integral part of these financial statements.</p>			

cont'd from pg 6

falls in the DoGA's Women in Leadership and Masculinities portfolios and allows us to fulfill our core mandate of gender mainstreaming," she explained.

"Youth perspectives on gender issues are critical. They not only show us what historical inequalities persist but also reveal new threats facing our community. By raising awareness among the youth we give them the power to protect themselves in gender-based violence and inequality in all its forms and to shape a society where these issues are reduced."

Meanwhile, Political and Projects Officer at the British High Commission, Kadeem Joseph reminded prospective candidates that such opportunities serve as a meaningful boost to their professional profile, and allow them to gain key insights into the world of diplomacy.

British High Commission St. John's | Directorate of Gender Affairs

Submit entries and ask for guidelines: rbc.antiguaandbarbuda@gmail.com

Submission deadline: 27th October 2023

RBC for a Day!

Entry Requirements:

- Must be 18-25 years old.
- Must submit a 2-minute video explaining why you should be the Resident British Commissioner (RBC) for a day, and how the role best aligns with your aspirations.
- Male applicants: include one recommendation to address suicide amongst males.
- Female applicants: include one recommendation for reducing gender-based violence against women and girls.
- Must follow the Resident British High Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda's and the Directorate of Gender Affairs' Facebook pages.
- Must be a resident/ citizen of Antigua and Barbuda.

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Local News



ABYSO to make first overseas tour



Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra will undertake a 12-day musical tour of the United Kingdom from 10 to 21 October 2023.

ABYSO was formed in 2018, in partnership with the Kanneh-Mason family, and is marking its fifth anniversary by undertaking, its first overseas tour.

The tour begins with the launch of a new partnership between the ABYSO and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO).

“This partnership will bring together ABYSO’s aspiring young musicians with RPO professionals to develop cross-cultur-

al musical experiences in both the UK and Caribbean,” a media release from the organization stated.

The ABYSO touring musicians will benefit from open rehearsal opportunities and instrument and sectional coaching sessions with RPO principals.

They will have the opportunity to perform pre-concert for public audiences at Cadogan Hall.

Musicians will also participate in a creative workshop to produce a brand-new piece of music led by award-winning composer James Redwood.

cont’d on pg 9

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cont'd from pg 8

The musicians will also collaborate in a two-day project bringing together ABYSO with young musicians in the Brent Youth Concert Pops Orchestra (BYCPO).

The RPO sessions will end with a concert on 15th October in The Duke's Hall at the world-renowned Royal Academy of Music in London.

This concert will include steelpan player Khan Cordice, saxophonist Jess Gillam, RPO musicians, the BYCPO, and members of the Kanneh-Mason family.

The ABYSO tour will continue to the historic Christ Church Cathedral at Oxford University.

There the orchestra will perform with the choirs of Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) on Sunday 16th October.

CCCS has developed a close relationship with Antigua and Barbuda over the years.

The National Youth Choir performed at the school during their UK tour in 2019.

CCCS also raised funds to support the Red Cross Barbuda, hurricane relief efforts in 2017.

Tutors from the school, led by Director of Music Sophie Biddell, have mentored ABYSO musicians.

After the performance, the ABYSO will have lunch at the College, followed by a tour led by an Antiguan student, Ianthe

Fraser, who is currently studying at Oxford.


The ABYSO will then travel to Jersey, Channel Islands, as the guests of the Jersey Music Service.

Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey continue to build close ties through hospitality, cricket, and cultural exchanges.

The ABYSO visit will be part of the Jersey Music Service's plan to relaunch a youth orchestral programme on that Island.

The concert in Jersey will be held on 18th October at Les Quennevias School.





Walk for the Cure




Saturday, 14 October, 2023

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

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

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

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

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Sandals name ABHTI student as top performer in training programme

Sandals Grande Resort has concluded its third cycle of the annual Hospitality Training Programme (HTP), with 25 trainees successfully obtaining their certificates of completion.

Hospitality Management student enrolled at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI), Tracy Ann Peck, was recognized as the top participant in this recent cohort. Peck, who was attached primarily to the communications division also trained in the housekeeping and cost control departments, during her 10-week stint at the resort.

“Tracy Ann was a pleasure to work with and her general disposition and attitude towards her work assignments were nothing short of an experienced professional.

“She was meticulous in her duties and driven, despite challenging situations from time to time,” shared Sandals Public Relations Manager Leon Norville.

Other trainees who received special tokens and prizes during this cohort included Lawrence Clarke Jr. and Kemet Morson.

The Sandals Hospitality Training Programme, now in its 15th year has afforded approximately 1,600 young Antiguan the opportunity to



sharpen their skills in the tourism industry through in-depth training at the region’s largest hotel chain.

Meanwhile, Four team members at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa are set to bolster their leadership development skills, after successfully being selected to pursue a fully-funded Diploma in Hospitality Leadership at Florida International University in collaboration with Sandals Corporate University.

They are Club Sandals Supervisors, Je’Mel Francis and Ieasha Tuitt, Sous Chef Juleen Rose and Assistant Weddings Manager, Meria Govia.



Tracy Ann Peck

The funeral for accident victim Robert Dyer has been rescheduled to next week

The Police Constable was to be laid to rest on 3rd October, but the passage of Tropical Storm Philippe forced a postponement.

Officers of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda were notified on Wednesday that the new

date for the funeral is Tuesday 10th October, 2023 at Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church commencing at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Constable Dyer is to be accorded full military honours.

He died on the spot

when the motorcycle he was riding from east to west, collided with another vehicle traveling in the opposite direction on Sir Sydney Walling Highway, shortly before noon on Monday 4th September, 2023.

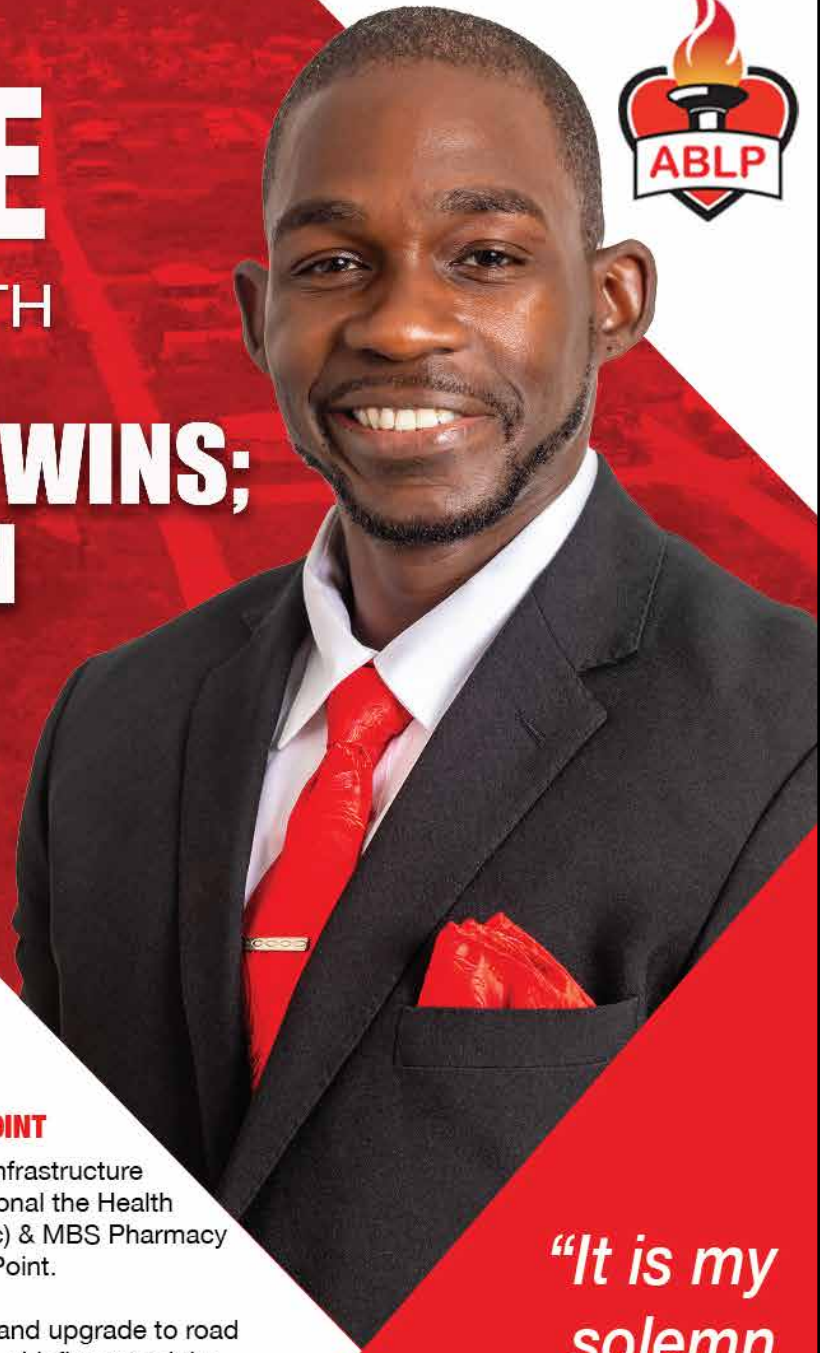
The death of the

39-year-old sent shockwaves throughout the RP-FAB.

Constable Dyer was described as a hard worker and one who was very passionate and committed to his functions as a law enforcement officer.

DWAYNE GEORGE

ST. MARY'S SOUTH



Hello,
Below are a few immediate plans I have for St. Mary's South. I would like to invite you to take a read and let's discuss a brighter future for us all in St. Mary's South.

GEORGE WINS; YOU WIN

*Best wishes,
Dwayne George*

BOLANS

- Erect a spectator stand, bathrooms & changing rooms on the field in Bolans.
- Refurbishing & secure sporting complexes around the community.

WEST PALM BEACH

- Trim over grown vegetation.
- Road Work & Drainage infrastructure.

URLINGS

- Erection of basketball court and subsequent fencing of the complex on lands at the back of the Urlings Primary School.
- Renovate and Revitalize the Technical Institute at the Urlings Primary School.

JOHNSONS POINT

- Remedy the infrastructure to get operational the Health Centre/ (Clinic) & MBS Pharmacy at Johnsons Point.
- Maintenance and upgrade to road infrastructure, chiefly around the Darkwood Beach & Fryers Beach area.

NEW VILLAGE

- Repair and erect walk-ways to homes.
- Clean drains of debris and flush clean.

"It is my solemn commitment, when elected, to donate half of my salary for 6 months to the development of our community's upliftment"

Dwayne George



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TikTok: Social media app shuts shop after Indonesia ban

By Mariko Oi

Social media app TikTok is suspending its online shopping service in Indonesia to comply with new rules in South East Asia's biggest economy.

The move will take effect at 17:00 Jakarta time (10:00 GMT).

The country's government says the regulations are aimed to help protect local physical and online retailers.

Indonesia was the first country to pilot the app's e-commerce service in 2021 and became one of the biggest markets for TikTok Shop.

Last week, Indonesia announced regulations that would force TikTok to split its shopping feature from the popular video sharing service in the country.

Announcing the measures, Indonesia's trade minister Zulkifli Hasan said: "Now, e-commerce cannot become social media. It is separated."

He also told social media platforms they had a week to comply with the new rules or risk losing their licence to operate in the country.

The announcement came after Indonesia's President Joko Widodo said last month: "We need to be careful with e-commerce. It can be very good if there are regulations but can turn



There are more than 125 million TikTok users in Indonesia.

bad if there aren't any regulations."

"Our priority is to remain compliant with local laws and regulations," TikTok said in a statement on Tuesday.

"As such, we will no longer facilitate e-commerce transactions in TikTok Shop Indonesia," it added.

Online retailing in Indonesia has soared in recent years. The value of e-commerce sales will have increased more than sixfold between 2018 and next year to hit 689 trillion Indonesian rupiah (\$44bn; £36.5bn), according to the country's central bank.

TikTok Shop had been growing its market share since its launch two years ago into Indonesia's online

shopping market, which is dominated by platforms such as Tokopedia, Shopee and Lazada.

The country of more than 278 million people is home to 125 million TikTok users. That includes 6 million sellers and millions more creators who earn money using TikTok Shop to promote goods.

In June, the company's chief executive Shou Zi Chew visited Indonesia, pledging to invest billions of dollars in the region over the next three to five years.

The growth of online retailers has had a major impact on the owners of physical shops such as Sukmamalingga, who has had a store selling Muslim clothing such as kaftans at Tanah

Abang Market in Jakarta for nine years.

"None of my customers from regions in Indonesia shop anymore, even though I often send photos of new models of clothes," he told BBC News Indonesia.

Government figures show there are more than 64 million smaller businesses - known as micro, small and medium enterprises - which account for almost two-thirds of Indonesia's economy.

The new regulations are another setback for TikTok, which has come scrutiny under in the US, European Union and the UK, where Parliament has banned the app from its network over security concerns.

Actor Julia Ormond sues Harvey Weinstein and Disney over sexual assault

By Max Matza

Actor Julia Ormond has filed a lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein, claiming he sexually assaulted her in 1995 after a dinner in New York.

The *Legends of the Fall* star is also seeking damages from Disney, Miramax and her former talent agency who she says failed to protect her from abuse.

The case was filed in New York under a law that allows sex cases to be filed outside of the statute of limitations.

Weinstein is currently serving a 23-year prison sentence for rape.

Ormond - best known for roles in 90's films *First Knight*, *Smilla's Sense of Snow* and *Sabrina* - alleges that her career never recovered after the attack by Weinstein.

The suit argues that at the peak of her career, she and Weinstein returned from a business dinner to an apartment provided by the production company, where he "stripped naked and forced her to perform oral sex on him".

"That sexual assault on Ormond could have been prevented if Miramax or Disney had properly supervised Weinstein and not retained him while knowing that he was a danger to the women he encountered at work," states the lawsuit, which was filed on Wednesday.

The British actor is also suing the Creative Artists Agency (CAA), her former talent agency which she says failed to warn her about Weinstein's abuse and "suggested that if she reported Weinstein to the authorities, she would not be believed, and he would



Ormond seen at a film premier in 2017.

seriously damage her career".

"Still worse, not long after Weinstein's assault on Ormond and her reporting of the assault to them, CAA lost interest in representing her, and her career suffered dramatically," the lawsuit adds.

"The damage to Ormond's career because of Weinstein's assault and the aftermath was catastrophic both personally and professionally," the lawsuit says, adding that she "nearly disappeared from the public eye" since the alleged attack and retaliation by the defendants.

In a statement issued through her lawyers, Ormond said: "After living for decades with the painful memories of my experiences at the hands of Harvey Weinstein, I am humbled and grateful to all those who have risked speaking out."

The "courage" of other survi-

vors has "shed light on how powerful people and institutions like my talent agents at CAA, Miramax and Disney enabled and provided cover for Weinstein to assault me and countless others".

"I seek a level of personal closure by holding them accountable to acknowledge their part and the depth of its harms and hope that all of our increased understanding will lead to further protections for all of us at work."

The lawsuit asks the court to award Ormond, 58, an unspecified amount for lost wages, and for "mental pain and anguish and severe emotional distress".

The BBC has contacted Disney, Miramax and CAA for comment.

More than 80 people have made rape and misconduct claims against Weinstein, 74, dating back as far as the late 1970s.

Former Grenada PM: Independence activities on October 19 controversial

By Melissa Wong

Political leader of the New National Party (NNP), Grenada's Opposition leader Dr Keith Mitchell has voiced strong opinions regarding the recent decision to launch Grenada's 50th anniversary of Independence activities on October 19... the same date the country will observe the 40th anniversary of the death of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

He described the decision as controversial.

Speaking at a news conference, Mitchell said he does not agree with the twinning of both events and believes the initiative is not necessarily a smart one.

He believes the government should have listened to comments from the



Grenada's Opposition Leader, Dr Keith Mitchell.

public first as October 19 is a tough day for a lot of people in Grenada.

The former prime minister said while some people will be happy to

have to revisit it, others will be going through another set of traumas and difficulties.

Mitchell said he would not have taken the initiative to pair both events at this time without a tremendous level of consultation throughout the length and breadth of the country.

"I think it might be raising up a lot of eye sores that could be very tough for a lot of people in this country. I see people break down and still crying about their loved ones that had been lost on that fateful day.

I'm not sure that some of these people necessarily would be very happy having to revisit this on this particular day."

Mitchell said he will wait to see what marriage will be put forward regarding Independence and October 19.

"That would be most interesting," he said.

On October 19, 1983, former prime minister Maurice Bishop was executed along with 10 others at Fort Rupert.

Grenada will mark its 50th anniversary of political Independence on February 7, 2024.





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Over two years later Guyana's election result still before the court

CMC - The special prosecutor in the case against those accused of attempting to rig Guyana's 2020 General and Regional Elections, says the matter has been adjourned to October 25, 2023, to determine whether a special magistrate or court will be appointed to adjudicate the matter.

King Counsel, Darshan Ramdhani, speaking after a case management hearing on Tuesday, that was intended to address preliminary concerns, said that given the magnitude of the case at hand, it is expected to consume considerable time and court resources.

"It became apparent that many days would have to be set aside to try such a matter. It would take a considerable time because we have nine defendants and there would be a lot of cross-examination, which is a part of these matters.

"These are incidents of a fair trial. We had disclosed over 140 statements, we have close to 100 witnesses, we have tons of documentary evidence, we have a number of video evidence that has been disclosed to the other side," he said.

The attorney said that a matter of grave concern that was once again raised at



The Georgetown Magistrates' Court. Photo: Dillon De Shong

Tuesday's hearing was the issue of whether a dedicated court or magistrate would be appointed to sit and hear the case.

"I believe that the magistrate has recognised that the proper course will be to have this particular issue determined as to whether the court will be put in a position where they have to deal with every criminal case that it has on its docket, or whether a court will be properly authorised to prioritise this case," he noted.

He said that the court does not have the power to determine that it shall relinquish other matters to dedicate itself to this case.

However, such a power is in the hands of the Chief

Magistrate, and the Chancellor of the Judiciary.

"If this court is to commence these matters, having regard to the fact that this court is dealing with other cases, one can understand the agony that the court, the defendants and the people will go through. Justice must be balanced, and fair to the public, because it is in the interest of the public that crimes are prosecuted fairly, and a just outcome is arrived at," Ramdhani explained.

In March, last year, the government wrote to the Chief Magistrate requesting that consideration be given to having the matters heard altogether, as well as to have a single magistrate assigned to focus on the case.

Ramdhani said that the prosecution would formally write to the acting Chancellor of the Judiciary Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, to request that consideration be given to this matter.

The prosecution is alleging that the defendants, including former government minister Volda Lawrence, former returning officer, Clairmont Mingo, the former deputy chief elections officer, Roxanne Myers, as well as the former chief elections officer, Keith Lowenfield, conspired during the March 2, 2020 general and regional elections to defraud the electors of Guyana by declaring a false account of votes cast.

‘False positives’: Colombian army apologises for killing civilians

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

The Colombian army has apologised for killing thousands of civilians and falsely passing them off as left-wing guerrillas to boost its kill rate during the country’s armed conflict.

An inquiry found that 6,402 civilians were murdered by the military between 2002 and 2008 and passed off as rebels in a practice dubbed “false positives”.

In an event attended by mothers of some of the victims, the defence minister called the killings “shameful”.

“They were not rebels,” he added.

The commander of the Colombian army, Luis Ospina, said that “painful acts were committed by members of the national army that should never have happened”.

Victims were young men mainly from poor neighbourhoods in and around the capital, Bogotá.

They were lured with promises of work to rural parts of Colombia, where soldiers executed them. They were then dressed in guerrilla fatigues or had weapons placed in their hands.

The army’s aim was to give the impression that it was winning its fight against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) guerrilla group.

Soldiers have testified that they were pressured by their superiors to drive up their “kill rate” and how they would be rewarded by being given promotions or extra days off.

For years, the relatives of the victims fought to have the truth about their loved ones known.

On Tuesday, in an event held in Bogotá’s main square, Colombia’s



Relatives of 19 of the victims were present at the ceremony in Bogotá.

Minister of Defence Iván Velásquez apologised to them.

“We’re standing here before the victims, before the Colombian society, before the international community, to say sorry,” Mr Velásquez said.

Gustavo Petro, Colombia’s first ever left-wing president and a former rebel with the M-19 group, arrived hours late but also asked for forgiveness for what he compared to a “genocide”.

The relatives of 19 young men who were executed near the Venezuelan border and passed off as rebels were present at the ceremony.

Each took to the stage and said the name of their murdered loved one.

Some of them expressed their disappointment that the apology had taken more than 15 years to be issued.

Others said that it should have come from former president Álvaro Uribe, under whose leadership the vast majority of “false positives” were carried out, and his then-defence minister, Juan Manuel Santos.

“It should have been Juan Manuel Santos who should have been present to show his face and ask us for forgiveness,” Florinda Hernández, whose son Elkin was killed in 2008, said.

Lucero Carmona said that “today my family and I are not granting forgiveness” while Jackelin Castillo, who leads the group representing the mothers of the “false positives” victims, said that “our fight does not end here, we will continue to search for the real culprits, those who gave the order to commit these crimes”.

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), a transitional court system set up as part of the peace deal the Colombian government reached with Farc rebels in 2016, has been investigating the “false positives”.

More than 700 members of the security forces have so far given evidence and in August, the former commander of the Colombian army, General Mario Montoya, was accused of being behind 130 “false positives”.

Venice bus crash: The heroes who pulled survivors from burning wreck

By Mark Lowen

When Boubacar Touré and his flatmates heard a sudden, thundering crash beside their apartment, they thought it was an earthquake. But then they opened the windows of their kitchen, where they were cooking dinner, and one shouted: “A bus has fallen.”

“We ran down to the spot where the bus was on fire and I heard a woman screaming, ‘My baby, my baby,’” 27-year-old Boubacar, who is from The Gambia says, his eyes heavy with exhaustion.

“I managed to pull her through the window and then pulled out her son, who was badly burnt but still alive.”

The bus, carrying tourists back to a nearby campsite after a day in the historical centre of Venice, had been driving along a busy overpass when it suddenly careened off the side on Tuesday evening. It smashed through the barriers and plunged several metres towards a railway track where it burst into flames.

At least 21 people died. Of the 15 who are injured, most remain in intensive care. Some of the victims were children, including a baby.

Warning: This story



Odion Eboigbe (left) and Boubacar Touré (right) pulled several people out of the burning wreckage.

contains descriptions of distressing scenes

Among the dead are nationals from seven countries, the Venice mayor’s office says, including Ukraine, Germany, Romania and Portugal.

Boubacar describes how he grabbed the fire extinguisher from the bus to help quell the flames - but that wasn’t enough.

“Passers-by were giving me other extinguishers but nothing helped, we had to wait for the firefighters”, he recalls. “So I pulled others to safety, a woman and

a man and a child. People were bleeding from their heads, there was so much blood.”

His flatmate, Odion Eboigbe from Nigeria, was with him, pulling others through the wreckage of the mangled vehicle - an electric-powered bus whose batteries are thought to have caught fire.

“We were able to save many but unfortunately others died”, he says.

“I wasn’t scared, I didn’t think of my own safety because I saw people with their heads split open. To-

day my colleagues asked me: ‘what were you thinking when you went towards the flames,’ and I told them I just had to save the women and children.”

Once emergency workers arrived, they spent hours dousing the flames and helping the injured.

The fire was so intense that DNA samples will need to be used to identify some of the dead.

At the spot on the overpass where the bus took its final catastrophic turn, the guard-rails are smashed

cont’d on pg 18

Stokes doubtful for England's World Cup opener, Brook may debut

AHMEDABAD, India, Oct 4 (Reuters) - The universe seems conspiring to fulfill Harry Brook's World Cup dreams and the 24-year-old is likely to make his tournament debut replacing Ben Stokes, who is nursing a minor hip injury, in Thursday's opener against New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

England sacrificed opener Jason Roy to accommodate Brook, who has been marked out as a future superstar of the game because of his explosive batting.

Stokes, who reversed his shock one-day retirement to return to the squad, has not yet been ruled out of what would be a re-match of the 2019 final but skipper Jos Buttler revealed why England's number four batter was not fully fit.



England's all-rounder Ben Stokes. (Getty Images)

"He's got a slight niggle with his hip. Fingers crossed that it will be good news for us," Buttler told reporters at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday.

"He's working hard with the physios and we'll know more when the guys arrive for training (later) today."

Test captain Stokes, who has long been nurs-

ing a troublesome knee, is back in the one-day setup purely as a batter and his record-breaking 182 against New Zealand last month proved what he is capable even in a reduced role.

England are naturally wary of rushing him so early in a six-week long tournament.

"We'll make the right

call here - if he's not fit to play, he's not fit to play," Buttler said.

"It's not the time to take big risk on someone at the start of the tournament."

Brook, an automatic pick in England's test side and part of their T20 World Cup winning team last year, is likely to be the beneficiary of circumstances.

cont'd from pg 17

apart and fragments of glass lie on the tarmac. A passer-by has laid yellow flowers.

Authorities say there was no sign of a sudden braking by the bus. Indeed, CCTV from the moment before the crash shows the vehicle steadily climbing the overpass and then apparently slowing down before inexplicably toppling against the barriers and off to the side.

The driver, Alberto Rizzotto, had worked for the bus company for seven years. The most likely cause, say the authorities, is that he had a sudden medical problem that made him lose control. In his last Facebook post, he

said he was "running a shuttle to Venice."

Relatives of the victims have started arriving in Venice from abroad. Among the injured are nationals of Ukraine, Germany, Croatia and Spain.

According to local media, they include two German brothers, aged 7 and 13, who lost both their parents. There were "entire families, grandparents, grandchildren, spouses" on board, said Chiara Berti from the Angelo di Mestre hospital.

The tragedy has already raised questions about the state of the barriers on the overpass, which were clearly rusting and aged.

Domenico Musicco, the head of an

association for road accident victims, called it "a tragedy foretold".

"Italian road maintenance is poor. Too little is invested in road safety. It is estimated that 30% of accidents are down to that," he told the news agency AFP. Venice has declared three days of mourning for a tragedy that has profoundly shaken this city.

Boubacar and Odion say they haven't slept since the crash.

When I put it to them that some would call them heroes, they shrug. "If saving people makes you a hero, then maybe", says Boubacar.

"But when somebody needs help because they're dying, you can't just walk away."

Matthews climbs to Number 1 spot in the world

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews achieved significant gains to top the ICC Women's T20I All-rounder Rankings after magnificent performances with the bat and ball in the ongoing series against Australia.

Matthews was her team's highest run-scorer in the first T20I, where she played the anchor with a solid unbeaten 99. She followed this up with the wicket of Alyssa Healy, but couldn't stop Australia from winning the game at North Sydney Oval.

However, she went one better in the next T20I. She picked up three crucial wickets in her allotted four overs to finish with three for 36. She followed this with a career-best batting performance, a magnificent 132 runs off 64 balls with 20 fours and five sixes.

It was her second century in this format the highest score by a West Indian woman in T20Is, to set up a momentous West Indies win in Australia to tie the series at 1-1.

With this, Matthews finds herself atop the Women's T20I All-Rounder Rankings with 480 rating points. She has also made significant gains in the batting and bowling rankings.

In the Women's T20I Bowling Rankings, she

jumped two places to tie with Sri Lanka's Inoka Ranaweera in fifth place. In the batters' list, Matthews' two scintillating knocks helped her jump 10 places to the seventh place.

In the Women's T20I Batting Rankings, Australia's Tahlia McGrath continues to reign supreme with 782 points. England's Sophie Ecclestone (765 points) tops the Women's T20I Bowling Rankings.



West Indies captain Hayley Matthews. (Getty Images)



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Finalists decided for King and Queen of Domino contests

The finalists for the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) King and Queen competitions have been decided.

Zenus Williams and Rohan Cordice of Dominatrixx, and Mervin LeFleur of Wilkies Super Stars have advanced to the finals of the King of Domino competition.

The trio booked their places in the final by advancing through the elimination stages of the King of Domino competition at the ABNDA headquarters in Ottos. A total of 32 players participated in the King of Domino contest.

Desiree Parker and Surleen Samuel of AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revelers, and Carolyn Joseph of Unstoppables

have advanced to the final of the Queen of Domino competitions.

The three ladies will battle it out for the coveted Queen of Domino title after advancing to the final from a field of 35 participants.

The finals of both competitions will take place during Antigua and Barbuda's annual Independence celebrations on November 1.

The ABNDA will continue its 2023 domestic season with the commencement of a Team Three-Hand competition at its headquarters in Ottos this evening (Thursday).

All clubs affiliated with the ABNDA will contest this week's Team Three-Hand competition.



ECCB International Netball Series

Sep 30 - Oct 7, 2023

YMCA Sports Complex
Antigua

Who will reign supreme

Participating Countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Monsterrat
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines

The 2023 World Council of Domino Federation Tournament MVP Zenus Williams is one of the finalists for the ABNDA King of Domino domestic competition. (Photo courtesy the ABNDA)

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Antigua and Barbuda's players compete against their opponents from St. Lucia during the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank International Netball Series at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

Antigua among winners as ECCB netball series resume with morning play

Antigua and Barbuda notched up their second win as the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series resumed at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday morning after all matches were cancelled on Tuesday due to the passage of Tropical Storm Philippe.

Due to the effects of the storm on Antigua and Barbuda, the schedule of games was adjusted, and four games were contested on Wednesday morning,

with Antigua and Barbuda snatching a 36-29 victory over St. Lucia in the day's opening encounter.

Goal Shoot Rayana Regis sank 20 of her 24 attempts, and Goal Attack Tashana Bloomfield converted 13 of her 19 tries for Antigua and Barbuda to record their second win in four encounters.

Goal Attack Melika Destang scored 13 of her 23 shots, and Goal Shoot Jacqueline Remy converted 10 of her 13 attempts for St.

Lucia, who lost for the first time in three outings.

But Grenada ended the unbeaten run of defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the second game on Wednesday morning.

Grenada recorded their third win in as many games by snatching a narrow 34-32 victory against St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who lost for the first time in four encounters.

Goal Shoot Carlene Alexander scored 25 of her

30 shots for the St. Lucians, while Goal Shoot Joseann Antoine sank 20 of her 28 tries, and Goal Attack Shellisa Davis converted 12 of her 18 attempts for the Vincentians.

Guest teams from the Cayman Islands and Barbados also recorded comfortable wins in the other two games, which were played on Wednesday morning.

The Cayman Islands won for the second time in four encounters by prevailing 53-45 against St. Kitts and Nevis, who lost for the fourth time in as many outings.

Barbados romped to their third win in as many games by trouncing Montserrat 106-11. Montserrat remain winless after suffering their fourth loss in as many encounters.

cont'd from pg 24

buda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, via the Ministry of Sports, have provided financial assistance to the national golf team to facilitate their participation in this year's ECGC tournament.

After an absence of two years as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the St.

Lucia Golf Association hosted last year's event at the Sandals Golf and Country Club.

Joining host St. Kitts and Antigua and Barbuda at this weekend's event will be teams from fellow ECGA members in Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Croix, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, and St. Thomas.

Four juniors in Antigua team to defend ECGA championship

Four of the nation's top junior golfers have been included in a 12-member squad named by the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association (ABGA) to represent the twin-island state in defense of its East Caribbean Golf Championship (ECGC) in St. Kitts this weekend.

Marquise George and Siyolo Joseph are selected for the four-member men's team, while Alexandria "Lexi" Hunte, Katherine Woodhouse, and Akevia Warner comprise the three-member female team for the October 6-8 event, in which Antigua and Barbuda are the defending gross team champions.

Woodhouse is replacing Andreina De La Cruz in the Antiguan team, which also won the gross title in the women's division at last year's ECGC in St. Lucia.

De La Cruz won last year's ECGA women's individual title, with Hunte finishing second and Warner claiming third place. The women's success led to Antigua and Barbuda capturing the overall gross team title last year.

The squad will be led by team captain Wilston



The Antigua and Barbuda team that won the gross team title at the 2022 ECGA tournament in St Lucia. (File photos)

Charles, who is also a member of the men's team that also includes Tetson Weatherill. Weatherill is replacing last year's team captain, Paul Michael, in the team.

The Super Seniors in the squad are Wesley Dyer and Roger Vere Ambrose. Both players represented Antigua and Barbuda in last year's competition.

The squad is completed by Seniors' Marcus Franker, former West Indies cricket all-rounder Eldine "Soca" Baptiste, and Algernon Anderson Wynter, who is replacing Dion Massiah in the team from last year.

The Antigua and Bar-

cont'd on pg 23



The three Antigua and Barbuda female junior golfers who captured the ladies team title and claimed the top three places in the women's individual competition at the ECGC in St Lucia from 7th to 9th October, 2022. From left to right: ECGC Women's Individual third place finisher Akevia Warner, runner-up Lexi Hunte and champion Andreina De La Cruz.