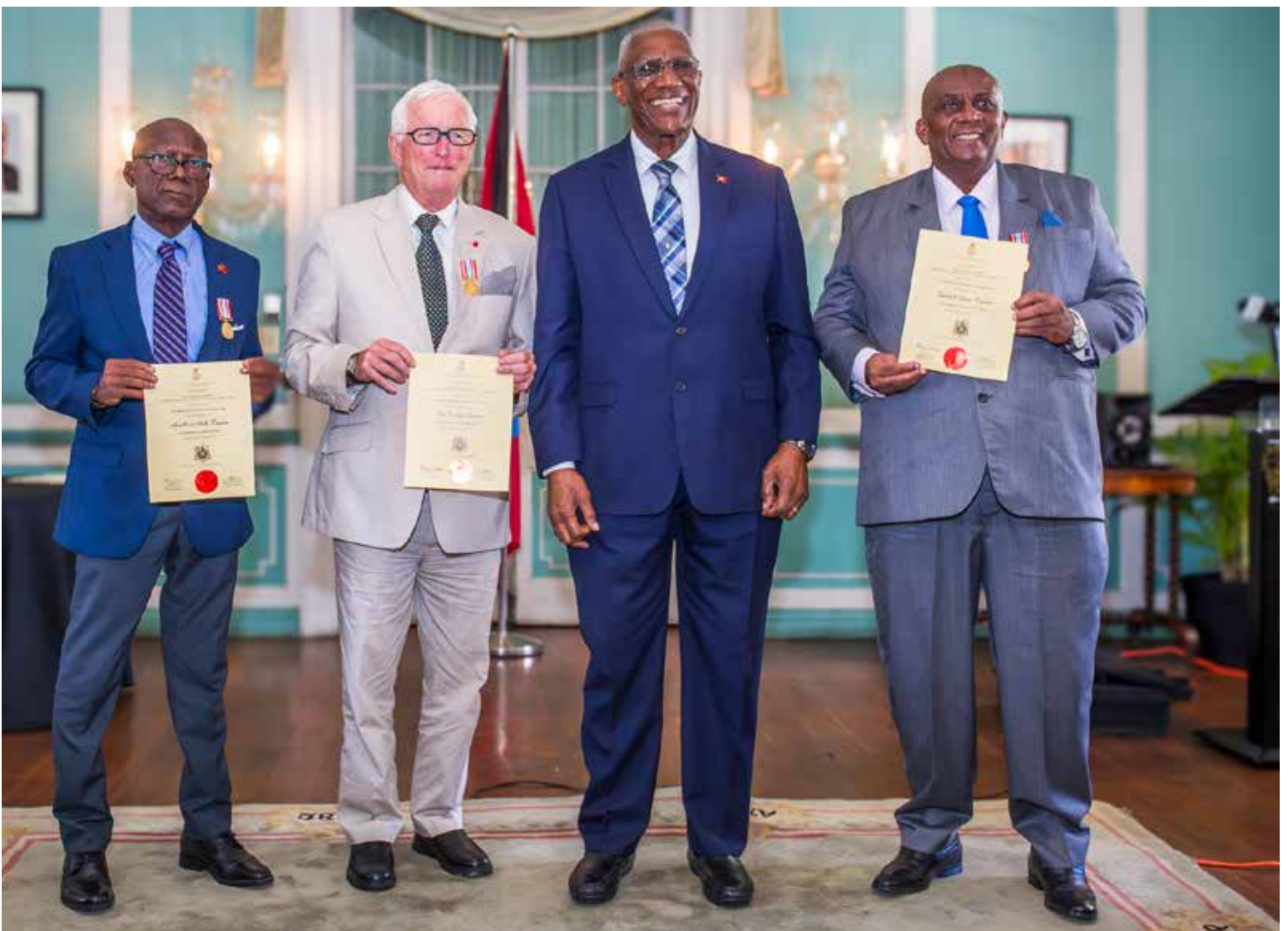


PM BROWNE TRAVELS TO SAUDI ARABIA

Story on Page 2



Former civil servant Lauckland Lake, Bob Bailey of Sailability Antigua, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, and St. Joseph's Academy Principal Rudolph Davis. *Story on page 5.*

PM Browne to attend Inaugural Saudi Arabia/CARICOM summit

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is traveling to Riyadh for the inaugural CARICOM-Saudi Arabia Summit on Thursday where Caribbean leaders will engage in substantive discussions with Saudi Arabian counterparts.

This landmark summit arises from the keen interest of the Government of Saudi Arabia in cultivating enhanced relationships with nations across the Caribbean and Central and South America.

PM Browne heads a 10-man delegation to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, that includes Works Minister Maria Browne and Senator Dwayne George, who is making his first official trip since his appointment less than a month ago as the Junior Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

The primary focus is on fostering



PM Gaston Browne and former PM of St. Kitts and Nevis Dr. Denzil Douglas moments before boarding a Saudi aircraft to Riyadh.

investment and trade, particularly in critical sectors such as infrastructure, hospitality, energy, climate change, and environmental sustainability.


Beyond trade and investment, the summit aims to reinforce shared principles, facilitate increased peo-

ple-to-people contact, and celebrate cultural heritage. It marks a significant step towards deepening ties between CARICOM nations and Saudi Arabia.

Key areas of cooperation will be explored, including climate change, renewable energy, investment, and cultural exchanges.

The groundwork laid during these preliminary discussions sets the stage for future strengthened partnerships with the potential to reshape national and regional dynamics and promote shared prosperity.


Antigua and Barbuda is already benefitting from Saudi Arabia's outreach to the region with the signing of the US\$80 million loan to expand the UWI FIC. Work on the expansion of the university is expected to commence during the upcoming year.



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Comptroller of Customs makes the case for tightening tax collection

Comptroller of Customs Raju Boddu believes that tax collection can be further improved if a lid is placed on exemptions.

Boddu said the Customs and Excise Division has experienced an upsurge in revenue collection, which is sustained, and it is good news when compared with the decline experienced at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, he added a further boost in revenue is possible, as he feels that excessive exemptions are standing in the way of that achievement. He is advising the government to reconsider the number of tax exemptions offered to investors.

“We need to make a conscious decision that we would not give everything away, but for one category of the taxes such as the ABST, the Revenue Recovery Charge, the Environmental Levy and Import Duty that are levied on all imports, they could get three waivers

but pay the ABST only,” he suggested.

According to Boddu this will make a great difference in revenue collection and help the government implement its social and economic policies with adequate funding raised from taxes.

“This is a policy decision. Customs does not make the policy, however, we see it as our considered opinion and duty to say what we see on the ground,” he stated.

According to Boddu, while investments are important to economic development, investors should be made to pay their fair share of taxes, which will augur well for revenue collection.

“The decision on which ever they pay would be up to the policy makers, but they ought to pay something as this would buttress our revenue collection and help the government’s overall finances. If they don’t pay all, perhaps a flat rate could be considered,” he recommended.

Last week, The Cabinet invited two (2) experts on information technology (IT) who proposed to help the government identify key sectors that could yield 10 to 12% of additional revenue.

It is believed that a decrease in tax exemptions can help to make a difference.

Meanwhile, The Comptroller of Customs has said Antigua and Barbuda is making significant strides in the area of trade facilitation.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development states that trade facilitation allows better access for businesses to procure inputs from abroad and it supports participation in global value chains.

Nationally, Raju Boddu said the measures put in place by the Customs and Excise Division to facilitate the process are evident and functional. These, he noted, included the ASYCUDA system.

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Consumer protection, media relations discussed with OECS team

A team from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission in St. Lucia spent Tuesday in St. John's meeting with stakeholders to examine several critical issues related to deepening the sub-regional integration movement.

One consultation was held with officials of the Ministry of Trade led by the Minister, E.P Chet Greene; Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim; and Director of the Prices and Consumers Affairs Division, Orrin Steele, among others.

Ambassador Pilgrim said the team wanted to get an update from officials of the ministry on Antigua and Barbuda's progress in implementing a new Consumer's Protection Act and what assistance the



Ministry of Trade officials meet with OECS Team member, Kevin Hope (extreme right).

Commission could offer to speed up the passage of the legislation.

Minister Greene assured the team that the issue of consumer protection is at the forefront of the government's legislative agenda and that the matter is currently at the Ministry of Legal Affairs to be introduced to parliament shortly.

A new business plan for the ministry for 2024 was highlighted with an agenda that includes several pieces of legislation that will benefit consumers significantly. These include updating the Prices Control Act as well as the Rent Control Act. The ministry is also establishing a portal by which consumers may be able to lodge complaints against respective businesses electronically. The database will also provide information on the number of complaints lodged against a particular business.

According to the ministry officials, this database will also feature information on the suggested prices of specific items that consumers will be able to compare in real-time with what the item is being sold for in the supermarkets. The system is expected to be rolled out by the ministry sometime in the new year.

The OECS team met

with other stakeholders in the country including media representatives.

There, the focus was on engaging journalists on some of the achievements of the OECS, including the fact that the creation of a single economic space in the 2010 Revised Treaty of Basseterre paved the way for the hassle-free movement of people and capital within the grouping.

Changes are coming to the arrangement allowing not only OECS citizens to live and work in the economic union but it also allows for their families, even if they are citizens of non-OECS countries, to be able to travel and live with their spouses as well.

The Commission is now working on a common border control system for the sub-region, an electronic immigration card system as well as Social Security portability within the grouping.



OECS Team members (from left) Samantha Charles, Dr. Clarence Henry (both seated) and standing, Kevin Hope.



Three receive GG Meritorious Award

The Governor General’s Faithful and Meritorious Service Award Gold was presented to three men on Tuesday morning for their contributions in Education and Culture, Sports and the Public Service.

During an investiture ceremony at Government House, St. Joseph’s Academy’s Principal Rudolph Davis, Bob Bailey of Sailability Antigua and career civil servant Lauchland Lake accepted their awards in the presence of relatives, friends and colleagues.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams congratulated the men for their sterling achievements and contributions that have touched the lives of



many throughout the country.

Sir Rodney noted that the work of Rudolph Davis, Bob Bailey and Lauchland Lake is evidence that each Antigua and Barbudan has a positive role to play in society.

Rudolph Davis has been an educator for more than 40 years and his



work in the performing Arts is also well documented.

Bob Bailey founded Sailability Antigua ten years ago. In collaboration with the National Sailing Academy, they aim to give every person who is differently abled an opportunity to sail.

Lauchland Lake’s contributions in the public service, sports and elections are extensive and are also well documented.

All of the awardees on Tuesday expressed appreciation for the recognition they have received and pledged to continue to play their part in ways that will benefit citizens and residents within society.



Local News



Giveaways, promotions to accompany Silver Airlines' inaugural flight to VCBIA

Travelers from Antigua and Barbuda are being enticed with giveaways and other promotions as Silver Airlines makes its inaugural flight into the destination from Puerto Rico on Thursday.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority said it wants to ensure the success of the service and it will launch a campaign promoting the airline and its service into Antigua from Puerto Rico with connections to the US mainland and other Caribbean destinations to the north.

Marketing Manager of the ABTA, Maria Black-



man said travelers booking flights using a special promotional code will automatically get a ten percent discount on their tickets for a limited time.

In addition, the ABTA is teaming up with Epicurean Supermarket where shoppers spending in ex-

cess of \$200 will get a chance to win a raffle for a free trip. The winner of the trip will be able to purchase a second ticket at a much-reduced price.

Blackman said the price for tickets to Puerto Rico from VCBIA is US\$99 one-way.

Silver airline will operate four flights weekly – Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The flights will depart Antigua after 8:00 am and arrive just after 6:00 pm.

According to the ABTA, official airlift into the destination has been an issue and Silver Airlines with its connectivity to the US mainland will serve as a low-cost alternative for persons seeking to travel to the US via Puerto Rico or who just want to visit Puerto Rico, once a very popular shopping destination for Antiguan and Barbudans.

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Final preparations taking place for Tourism Awards ceremony, 2023

Three tourism entities are putting the final touches to the plans to host the 2023 Tourism Awards gala. The social event is a joint undertaking of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, the Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

Set to take place on December 9, 2023, at Casa Palmadita, the prestigious event will unite industry professionals from across the Tourism sector for an evening of recognition, glamour, and celebration of their unwavering contributions that have propelled Antigua and Barbuda's tourism product forward.

Themed "Diamonds, The Crowned Gems", the 2023 Tourism Awards Gala recognizes industry professionals as the Diamonds



of the sector – invaluable gems distinguished by their versatility, durability, beauty and quality. This theme pays homage to the exceptional commitment and excellence demonstrated by those in the field of tourism, highlighting their

enduring value much like a Diamond. Award recipients will be unveiled on the gala night, promising a glittering celebration. Attendees are encouraged to dress radiantly for a glamorous night.

Minister of Tourism

Charles Fernandez, emphasized the critical role of annual recognition, stating, "This annual event is crucial in acknowledging individuals whose impactful work is vital for the continued development and growth of our sector. Without dedicated employees, our industry would not thrive at the highest level. These crowned gems have made their mark, and we must recognize them on this level."

Craig Marshall, Chairman of the ABHTA, conveyed his enthusiasm for unveiling the awards this year, emphasizing, "the ABHTA's ongoing commitment centers on education and recognition. Our dedication extends to educating the residents of the twin islands about the profound

cont'd on pg 8



Local News



cont'd from pg 7

impact of Tourism on Antigua and Barbuda's economy."

This year's tourism awards will showcase excellence in various categories, including:

- ABHTA Employee of the Year
- ABHTA Supervisor of the Year
- Rising Star of the Year
- Young Hotelier of the Year
- Young Chef of the Year
- Chef of the Year
- Transportation Service Provider of the Year
- Tour Guide of the Year
- Port Frontline Employee of the Year
- Hospitality Hero of the Year
- Excellence in Tourism Operations
- Digital Marketing Excellence Award
- Social Media Marketing Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominees were selected through open nominations from both private and public sector tourism businesses, facilitated by the ABHTA, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Antigua and



Barbuda Tourism Authority.

A panel of skilled tourism industry executives is currently evaluating the nominees.

Winners and nominees will be honoured in the presence of government officials and industry profes-

sionals at the Awards Gala on December 9th, 2023, as part of Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Week, running from December 3 to 9, under the theme: "Our Tourism Industry: Carving a Path to Sustainability through an Empowered Workforce."

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Key Areas of Responsibility

- Ensure coordination and implementation of digital operations and broadcast logistics and related operational requirements.
- Ensure that all ICC staff and support personnel have the required accreditation and access to stadium.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent certification in relevant discipline – Media and Broadcast, business, event management, project management.
- At least 5 years' experience in a lead broadcast, media or project role, and success in delivering regional and international events.

Local Operations Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Manage all venue specific tournament operations and ensure they are delivered to ICC and World Class standards.
- Ensure catering and distribution plans and schedules for match and practice venues are established and communicated with stakeholders and service providers.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent professional certification in relevant discipline – business administration, management, event management, project management, sports management or related field.
- Minimum 5 years' work experience in a lead cricket, sports or related field.

Local Logistics Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Assist with the planning, coordination, management and delivery of all air transportation, ground transportation, accommodation, freight and shipping services, territorial customs and immigration clearances.
- Liaise with government agencies and other stakeholders to collaborate on host venue logistics and operations plans.
- Coordinate and conduct physical inspections of local hotels, vehicles and other logistics services.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent professional certification in relevant discipline – logistics, business administration, project management, sports management or related field.
- Minimum 4 years' working experience in logistical operations and procedures for elite sport tournaments.

Local Venue Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Ensure all regional host venues are prepared according to the world cup standards.
- Devise territorial venue budgets and cost estimates, aligning with ICC standards.
- Coordinate venue inspections with relevant agencies to obtain necessary Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) certifications.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent professional certification in relevant discipline – engineering, project management or related field.
- At least 5 years' experience in a related field.

Cricket Operations Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Prepare practice schedules ensuring that all operational arrangements are in place.
- Prepare cricket operations plan for host country.
- Ensure all team and match official requirements are delivered.
- Ensure that pitch and outfield identified for the Tournament meet world class standard.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- At least 5 years' experience in a related field.
- Advanced knowledge of administrative policies, procedures and technology.

Please submit your Cover Letter attaching your Curriculum Vitae / Resume via recruitment@cricketwestindies.org by **Friday, 17th November 2023**.

Please note the following:

- ✓ Interviews with the hiring team will be scheduled quickly if shortlisted.
- ✓ Only suitable applicants will be contacted.

UWI FIC expansion town hall meeting scheduled for Thursday

The planned expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is the subject of a townhall meeting that takes place at the university on Thursday evening.

The Government, through the Ministry of Education, is in partnership with UWI FIC to update the general public on the expansion of the campus and the relocation of the Five Islands Primary School.

The town hall was rescheduled due to the passage of Hurricane Tammy in October.

The town hall meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the Five Islands community and the general public to learn more about the expansion plans, ask questions, and share their feedback.

Representatives from the Ministry of Education and The UWI FIC will be on hand to answer questions and provide information.

“The expansion of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and the relocation of the Five Islands Primary School are

major projects that will have a significant impact on the Five Islands community as well as Antigua and Barbuda.

“The expansion of The UWI will include the construction of new academic and administrative buildings, student housing, and sports and recreation facilities, while the new school will be located on a nearby property and will feature state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities,” a UWI FIC media release stated.



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Diabetes remains a major health concern in the Caribbean

CMC - The Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Tuesday said that diabetes remains a major health concern in the Caribbean region, affecting millions of people and burdening healthcare systems.

In a statement to observe World Diabetes Day, CARPHA said the Caribbean has one of the highest prevalence rates of diabetes in the world, with many individuals unknowingly living with the condition.

“Factors such as genetics, lifestyle, and limited access to healthcare have contributed to this alarming rise,” CARPHA said, noting that in 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) noted that 1.5 million lives were lost to diabetes globally.

CARPHA said, alarmingly, several Caribbean countries reported the highest age-standardised death rates due to diabetes.

“The burden of diabetes is not limited to mortality; it is also a significant contributor to morbidity in the regional population. Complications from diabetes can lead to heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and lower limb amputation,” said CARPHA executive director, Dr Joy St John.

“This disease can adversely affect both the quality and length of your life and that of your family. If you are diabetic, following your treatment regimen and keeping your blood glucose and blood pressure under control are important to avoid serious complications of the disease,” she added.

Over the last three years, the theme for World Diabetes Day has been access to diabetes care. And this year’s campaign focuses on the importance of knowing the risk of type 2 diabetes to help delay or prevent the condition and highlighting the impact of diabe-



tes-related complications; as well as the importance of having access to the right information and care to ensure timely treatment and management.

CARPHA said it remains on the frontlines of the regional response to diabetes and that its efforts include the update of the Diabetes Guidelines for the Management of Diabetes in Primary Care in the Caribbean, which aims to provide standardised and high-quality care for individuals with diabetes in the region.

Furthermore, the Diabetes Nutritional Management Toolkit is available to support healthcare providers in delivering consistent and evidence-based nutritional guidance, CARPHA said, adding that it has also produced a Parents’ Guide to a Healthier Child, which can be used to help reduce children’s risks associated with unhealthy weight, such as diabetes.

Head of Chronic Diseases and Injury at CARPHA, Dr. Heather Armstrong, said “Type 2 diabetes, the most prevalent form of diabetes, is a condition heavily influenced by lifestyle and genetic factors.

“Several factors may increase your risk of having diabetes. Some of them are under your control; others are not.

The ones not under your control are called non-modifiable risk factors and include increasing age; and previously having poor sugar control (pre-diabetes) diagnosed by your doctor. Other factors include having a first-degree relative (parent/brother/sister) with diabetes; and ethnicity.”

CARPHA is urging Caribbean people to get involved in physical inactivity and adopt a healthy diet, insisting that knowing your numbers is not just a slogan, but a life-saving practice.

“For everyone, knowing your risk for type 2 diabetes is the first step in prevention. Early detection and timely intervention can significantly reduce the risk of developing the condition. “A balanced diet, regular physical activity, and maintaining a healthy weight are effective strategies for reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes,” CARPHA added.

“This World Diabetes Day, let us remember the importance of knowing your numbers, supporting those living with diabetes, and striving for a healthier Caribbean. By raising awareness and taking proactive steps, we can combat the diabetes epidemic and make strides toward a brighter and healthier future,” CARPHA said.

IMF delegation confident Barbados could be removed from FAFT Grey list

CMC - An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation has found that Barbados has made significant progress in strengthening its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) framework and that the island could be removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FAFT) Grey List in 2024.

In a statement issued Monday, following the one-week virtual mission to Barbados, the head of the delegation, Pablo Morra, said that at its October 2023 Plenary, the FATF made the initial determination that Barbados has substantially completed its action plan to strengthen the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime and warrants an on-site assessment to verify its implementation.

“Verification of the progress made on its action plan could allow Barbados to be removed from the FATF Grey List in 2024,” Morra said.

The FATF identifies jurisdictions with weak measures to combat AML/CFT in two FATF public documents that are issued three times a year.

The FATF said that its process to publicly list countries with weak AML/CFT regimes has proved effective.

It said that as of October 2023, the FATF has re-



viewed 129 countries and jurisdictions and publicly identified 102 of them. Of these 76 have since made the necessary reforms to address their AML/CFT weaknesses and have been removed from the process.

According to the Grey list issued then, Barbados, Jamaica and Haiti are the three Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries “under increased monitoring”.

Last week, Attorney General Dale Marshall said that Barbados was close to being removed from the FATF Grey List and, thereafter, the European Union’s blacklist.

He told a one-day regional Anti-Money Laundering and Cybercrime conference that being placed on the European Union’s blacklist and the FATF Grey List was negatively impacting some Barbados-based businesses’

ability to conduct business in some jurisdictions and preventing some Barbados diplomatic offices from opening bank accounts in some jurisdictions.



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Dominica to create world's first sperm whale reserve

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

The Caribbean island of Dominica says it will create the world's first sperm whale reserve.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said commercial fishing and large ships would be banned in an area off the island's western coast measuring almost 800 sq km (300 sq miles).

The area is a key nursing and feeding ground for the endangered mammals.

"The 200 or so sperm whales that call our sea home are prized citizens of Dominica," Mr Skerrit said.

"Their ancestors likely inhabited Dominica before humans arrived. We want to ensure these majestic and highly intelligent animals are safe from harm and con-



Sperm whales are the largest toothed predators.

tinue keeping our waters and our climate healthy," the prime minister added.

Sperm whales have one of the widest global distributions of any marine mammal species, having been spotted in deep waters off the Arctic and Antarctic as well as around the equator.

But the sea off Dominica is one of the few where the species can be found throughout the year.

Commercial fishing will not be permitted in the reserve, but artisanal fishing will be allowed, as long as it is sustainable and does not endanger the whales.

Tourists will be able to view the whales from boats and even swim with them, but their numbers will be restricted under new regulations.

Large ships will be required to use designated ocean corridors to avoid disturbing the mammals.



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Guyana presents case in ICJ to block Venezuela's Essequibo referendum

Guyana has begun presenting its case in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to block Venezuela's planned referendum on the disputed Essequibo-Guyana region.

The Guyanese team, which is led by Advisor on Borders and Agent in the case Carl Greenidge, argued that the referendum is an affront to the rule of international law.

In his opening remarks, Greenidge said Guyana is committed to resolving the border dispute in a peaceful way, however, they believe Venezuela has other plans and the referendum is intended to usurp the court's authority.

"For Guyana, the international rule of law is sacrosanct, and respect for it is indispensable to international peace and security.

"The referendum Venezuela has scheduled for December 3, 2023, is designed to obtain an overwhelming popular mandate for the government to reject the jurisdiction of the court to pre-empt a future judgment of the court and in so doing undermine the authority and effectiveness of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations," he said.



"It is a refusal to accept the court as the means of settlement of the dispute concerning the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award and [the] related question of the determination of the land boundary between Guyana and Venezuela."

Guyana has asked the court to issue five provisional measures from the ICJ to prevent Venezuela from taking disruptive action while the court is attempting to settle the border dispute.

The requested measures submitted to the court for consideration are:

1. Venezuela shall not proceed with a consultative referendum planned for 3 December 2023 in its present form;

2. In particular, Venezuela shall not include the First, Third, or Fifth questions in the Consultative Referendum;

3) Nor shall Venezuela include within the "Consultative Referendum" planned, or any other public referendum, any question encroaching upon the legal issues to be determined by the court in its judgment on the merits, including (but not limited to:

(a) The legal validity and binding effect of the 1899 Award;

(b) Sovereignty over the territory between the Essequibo River, and the boundary established by the 1899 Award and the 1905 Agreement; and

(c) The purported

creation for the State of 'Guayana Esequiba' and any associated measures, including the granting of Venezuelan citizenship and national identity cards".

4. Venezuela shall not take any actions that are intended to prepare or allow the exercise of sovereignty or de facto control over any territory that was awarded to British Guyana in the 1899 Arbitral Award.

5. Venezuela shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.

The hearing continues on Wednesday before the ICJ panel which includes President Judge Joan Donoghue.

Suella Braverman accuses Rishi Sunak of betrayal in scathing letter

Suella Braverman has launched a full-scale attack on her old boss Rishi Sunak, a day after he sacked her as home secretary.

In a blistering letter to the prime minister, she said he had repeatedly failed on key policies and broken pledges over immigration.

Mr Sunak had adopted “wishful thinking” to “avoid having to make hard choices”, she wrote.

Her broadside comes on the eve of a key ruling on the government’s Rwanda plan.

On Wednesday morning, the UK Supreme Court will deliver its verdict on the lawfulness of the postponed scheme to send some asylum seekers to Rwanda to claim asylum there.

The ruling on the flagship policy will be a key moment for Mr Sunak’s government, and could reignite divisions among Tory MPs over the ECHR human rights treaty.

Mrs Braverman, a leading figure on the right of the party, has previously described delivering the Rwanda plan as her “dream” and “obsession”.

In her letter, the former home secretary claimed she struck a secret deal to serve in Mr Sunak’s cabinet in exchange for a series of commitments in key areas, after Liz Truss’s premiership imploded last year.

Her support, she added, had been a “pivotal factor” in allowing Mr Sunak to win the support of Tory MPs and enter No 10.

She added that she had argued within government for curbs on human rights law to ensure the Rwanda policy was not derailed by legal challenges.

But compromises from Mr Sunak during the passage of the Illegal Migration Act, she wrote, had left the policy “vulnerable” to legal challeng-



es under the European Convention of Human Rights, even if the Supreme Court declares it lawful.

If the ruling goes against the government, she added, he would have “wasted a year” on the flagship law to stop small boat crossings, “only to arrive back at square one”.

“Worse than this, your magical thinking - believing that you can will your way through this without upsetting polite opinion - has meant you have failed to prepare any sort of credible Plan B,” she wrote.

A No 10 spokesman thanked Mrs Braverman for her service, but added: “The prime minister was proud to appoint a strong, united team yesterday focused on delivering for the British people.”

He said the government had “brought forward the toughest legislation to tackle illegal migration this country has seen and has subsequently reduced the number of boat crossings by a third this year”.

And whatever the outcome of the Supreme Court tomorrow, the prime minister “will continue that work,” he said.

In her letter, the former home secretary told Mr Sunak he had “mani-

festly and repeatedly” failed to deliver on policy priorities.

“Either your distinctive style of government means you are incapable of doing so,” she wrote.

“Or, as I must surely conclude now, you never had any intention of keeping your promises.”

She added: “Someone needs to be honest: your plan is not working, we have endured record election defeats, your resets have failed and we are running out of time. You need to change course urgently.”

Mrs Braverman was sacked from her role on Monday, after opponents accused her of stoking tensions ahead of pro-Palestinian marches in London.

She lost her job days after she claimed police had applied a “double standard” to protesters, in an article for the Times newspaper.

Mrs Braverman said Mr Sunak had failed “to rise to the challenge posed by the increasingly vicious antisemitism and extremism displayed on our streets”.

“I have become hoarse urging you to consider legislation to ban the hate marches and help stem the rising tide of racism, intimidation and terrorist

cont’d on pg 17

Sharp decrease in number of Venezuelan migrants at US-Mexico border

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

The number of Venezuelans illegally crossing the US-Mexico border has nearly halved since deportation flights restarted last month.

Statistics from Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) indicate a 46% drop in such arrivals.

In early October, US President Joe Biden's government announced it would deport Venezuelans who were ineligible for asylum or temporary legal status.

More than seven million people have fled Venezuela in recent years.

According to the CBP figures released on Tuesday, border agents apprehended 29,637 Venezuelans at the border last month, a sharp drop from September's record high of 54,833.

Overall illegal entries along the southern border also decreased in October by 14% - from nearly 219,000 in September.

On 18 October, US Im-



A group of migrants crossing into the US on 8 November 2023.

migration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began deportation flights to Venezuela. Since then, hundreds of Venezuelans have been sent home.

Acting CBP Commissioner Troy Miller said the "resumption of removal flights... consistent with delivering consequences for those who cross the border unlawfully" had contributed to the dramatic decline of Venezuelan illegal migrant detentions.

In September, the US also said that about 472,000 Venezuelans would be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for a period of 18 months.

Those granted TPS status are eligible to work while they wait for their asylum cases to be heard.

The influx of Venezuelan migrants into US cities such as New York, Denver and Chicago has become a politically contentious issue, with even some Democratic

elected officials criticising the Biden administration for its handling of the issue.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, for example, blamed the federal government for not providing enough assistance to help the city house and provide services for newly arrived migrants.

The economy of oil giant Venezuela has collapsed under socialist President Nicolás Maduro, who has been in power since 2013.

cont'd from pg 16

glorification threatening community cohesion," she added, accusing the PM of putting off "tough decisions in order to minimise political risk to yourself".

In her letter, Mrs Braverman said the conditions under which she agreed to become home secretary in October 2022 were set out in a "document with clear terms".

Sources close to Mrs Braverman claim Mr Sunak read and agreed the

document the letter refers to, which had been drawn up by Mrs Braverman.

They say he took a copy and there were witnesses.

Mrs Braverman said the agreement included "firm assurances" on cutting legal migration, inserting measures to override the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into legislation to stop small boat crossings, delivering key Brexit legislation and issuing "unequivocal" guidance to schools on protecting biological sex

and safeguarding single-sex spaces.

She accused Mr Sunak of "a betrayal of our agreement" and "a betrayal of your promise to the nation that you would do 'whatever it takes' to stop the boats".

Labour shadow minister Lisa Nandy said the letter was "just the latest instalment in a Tory psychodrama that's been playing out over the last 13 years, holding the rest of the country to ransom while the Tories fight among themselves".

Sports News



Transport Board reach business league playoff finals

Top-seed Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board remain on course to complete the double in this year's Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League competition.

The Transport Board, which has already captured the

round-robin league title, booked their spot in the playoff finals on Monday night.

The former champions wrapped up their best of three semi-final playoff series 2-0 and advanced to the finals by prevailing 62-55 against fourth-seeded Anjo Wholesale in Game Two at the JSC Sports Complex.

Marlon "Buju" Charles and Ishan Peets each produced 16 points, and Russell Daley chipped in with 10 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport

Left

Ishan Peets scored 16 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board against Anjo Wholesale in Game Two of their playoff semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, November 13, 2023. (ABBA)

cont'd on pg 19

Ticket Outlets Antigua: Landing Strip, Roti King, Eighteen Plus 1 Restaurant

Ticket Outlets Montserrat: Beni's Jewelry, Summer Breeze Restaurant



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ABFA postpones Ordinary Congress

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) 91st Ordinary Congress has been postponed until the middle of next month.

The congress, which was slated to take place on Saturday, November 11, has been rescheduled to take place on Friday, December 15.

The reason for the postponement and the new date to convene at the ordinary congress was communicated last Friday to member clubs via a memo, which was signed by ABFA's Vice President Gwen Salmon.

The memo states, "The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association hereby notifies all members that its Ordinary Congress, slated for November 11, 2023, has been postponed until December 15, 2023, as the General Secretary, Mr. Ro-



ABFA's Vice President Gwen Salmon. (ABFA)

han Hector, who plays an integral role in the Ordinary Congress, is presently ill and unable to make it.

"We humbly apologize for any inconvenience

caused by this and look forward to meeting with you all on December 15, 2023."

A letter signed by ABFA's General Secretary Rohan Hector was also at-

tached to the memo, which was dispatched to the member clubs.

In a letter that was dated November 3 and was addressed to vice president Daryl Michael and members of the ABFA's executive committee, Hector made a formal request for medical leave from his job.

Hector's letter states, "I am writing to formally request a medical leave of absence due to an unforeseen medical emergency.

"I have recently been diagnosed with a medical condition that requires immediate attention and treatment. As per my doctor's advice, I need to take a leave from work, starting November 3rd, and anticipate returning on December 4th, 2023.

"This includes the recovery time necessary to facilitate my return at full strength."

cont'd from pg 18
Board.

Steven Matthew and Felix Hamilton each converted 14 points for Anjo Wholesale. The Transport Board awaits the winner of the other semi-final playoff series between second-seeded Sandals and third-seeded Richie's Shooterz, who are the defending champions.

Richie's Shooters leveled their best of three semi-final series 1-1 by snatching a 59-50 victory against the Sandals in

Game Two on Monday night.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 16 points, point guard Tavarus Benta sank 12 points, and Nickon McGregor chipped in with 11 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Keroi Lee scored 14 points, and Selassie Brathwaite had 13 points for the Sandals.

The best of three business league playoff finals will commence at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday.



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South Africa keen to shed choker's tag against Australia

KOLKATA (Reuters) - South Africa sense an opportunity to finally get rid of the choker's tag but the onerous task entails getting the better of the most successful team in the history of 50-overs World Cup, Australia, in Thursday's semi-final in Kolkata.

Hurt by a combination of bad luck and nerves in the business end of show-piece event, South Africa are pitted against a powerhouse who thrive in those big moments as Australia have demonstrated with five titles.

The Proteas need to be in control of their nerves to be in control of their destiny, and barring the batting meltdown against India, they have looked formidable finishing second in the group stage behind the hosts.

There is plenty of firepower in their top order and Australia got their fingers burnt when Quinton de Kock's rapid hundred secured the Proteas' comprehensive victory in a group match in Lucknow.

South Africa, who have never progressed beyond the last four, are fretting over the availability of skipper Temba Bavuma, who is nursing a hamstring strain.

Should he miss the semi-finals, Aiden Markram would lead the



South Africa's players celebrate after taking a wicket against Bangladesh during the ICC Cricket World Cup at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, India, on October 24, 2023. (Reuters)

side, while Reeza Hendricks is likely to open alongside de Kock, who has smashed four hundreds in his final ODI tournament.

They have looked more comfortable setting targets than chasing one though, and they will expect more penetration from their bowlers against a resurgent Australia.

Regardless of how their group stage campaign ebbed and flowed, it came as no surprise when Australia hurled towards the knockout stages by stringing together seven wins in a row following that defeat by South Africa.

Travis Head's return from a hand injury has rejuvenated their batting lineup, allowing others to play with more freedom, which has been evident in their subsequent group matches.

Glenn Maxwell's sensational double hundred against Afghanistan and Mitchell Marsh's unbeaten 177 off 132 balls against Bangladesh are the top two individual scores in this year's tournament.

For large part of that incendiary knock, Maxwell batted on one leg and had to be rested for their last group match against Bangladesh.

The 35-year-old, who has also played the second spinner's role to perfection, will return for the semi-final replacing either all-rounder Marcus Stoinis or batter Marnus Labuschagne.

"It will be tough (call)," Australia captain Pat Cummins told reporters on Tuesday.

"Now we're at a stage where all 15 guys have played the games. You've got to give up something.

"So it's kind of 'what do you want to give up?' and the good thing is it's whatever way you go, I don't think there's any wrong answer."



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 Antiguan and Barbudans, and their risks factors for chronic diseases, NCDs like diabetes, hypertension, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Persons aged 18-69 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.



Liverpool striker Luis Díaz reunites with his father

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (AP) — Liverpool soccer player Luis Díaz was reunited Tuesday with his father, who was kidnapped in northern Colombia by a unit of a guerrilla group in late October and released last week.

Photographs posted on the Colombian Football Federation's account on X, formerly Twitter, captured the striker and his father, Luis Manuel Díaz Jiménez, hugging each other.

With the message "Welcome home Luchooo," the federation announced the arrival of the elder Díaz to Barranquilla, where the Colombian national team is set to play against Brazil on Thursday.

Armed men on motorcycles kidnapped Díaz's parents from a gas station in the small town of Barrancas on Oct. 28. His mother, Cilenis Marulanda, was rescued within hours by police who set up roadblocks around the town of 40,000 people, which is near Colombia's border with Venezuela.



This photo released by Colombia's Football Federation shows Liverpool soccer player Luis Díaz, left, reuniting with his father Luis Manuel Díaz, days after his father was released from his kidnappers, in Barranquilla, Colombia, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. The soccer player's father was kidnapped in northern Colombia by a unit of a guerrilla group in late October and released the previous week. (Colombia Football Federation via AP)

After the kidnapping, special forces were deployed to search for Díaz's father in a mountain range that straddles Colombia and Venezuela. Police also offered a US\$48,000 reward for information that led to him.

It was initially unclear who carried out the abduction. Colombia's government subsequently announced that it had information that a unit

of the National Liberation Army, or ELN, was responsible in the kidnapping.

The group later acknowledged the kidnapping, saying it was a mistake and that its top leadership had ordered the father's release.

Díaz's parents were taken amid peace negotiations between Colombia's government and the guerrilla group. Authorities arrested

four suspects over the weekend.

Colombia's Ombudsman's Office estimates that between January 2022 and September 2023, armed groups carried out 160 kidnappings and 121 releases.

After Díaz's father was released, the government's peace talks delegation demanded in a statement that the ELN immediately free anyone it still "has in captivity" and end its practice of kidnappings.

"It is unsustainable to argue, from an ethical point of view, that trading with human beings is legal, even under the conditions of an armed conflict," the statement said.

cont'd from pg 24

join All Saints Secondary in third place in the standings.

Reigning Under-20 Boys Division champion Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continued Education (ABICE) were held to a 1-1 draw by Clare Hall Secondary School at Clare Hall.

Following a goalless first half, Karique

Knight gave ABICE the lead with a 51st-minute conversion, and Leon Cort scored in the 68th minute to equalize for Clare Hall Secondary.

ABICE advanced to five points after drawing for the second time in five matches, while Clare Hall Secondary moved to eight points after drawing for the second time in five encounters.

Quashie continues prolific goal scoring form

National Under 15 forward Nafisa Quashi has continued her prolific goal-scoring form in the Under-16 Girls Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

Quashie, who is the league's top scorer, has a total of 10 goals in two matches after scoring four times to lead Antigua Girls High School to a 4-0 drubbing of Jennings Secondary at the Radio Range playing field in Otto on Monday.

Quashie, who is also the joint-leading scorer in the Under-20 Girls Division, had conversions in the 13th, 19th, 43rd, and 50th minutes to lead Antigua Girls High to their second win in as many matches.

Jennings Secondary is now tied with Antigua Girls High School on six points after suffering their second loss in four matches.

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) continued their dominance of the Under-14 Boys Division in defense of their title by recording their sixth win in as many outings.

Shumba Thomas scored a hat-trick to lead Princess Margaret to a 3-0 victory against All Saints Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Princess Margaret strengthened their position at the top of the Under-14 Boys Division by advancing to 18 points from six matches.

All Saints Secondary slumped from second to joint third place, remaining on 10 points after suffering their first loss in five matches.



National Under 15 forward Nafisa Quashi. (ABFA)

All Saints Secondary has been overtaken by Ottos Comprehensive School, which snatched a 1-0 win against St. Joseph's Academy at the Radio Range playing field.

Kasim Pennyfeather scored the only goal of the match to give Ottos Comprehensive their fourth win in six matches to advance to 13 points and second place in the standings.

St. Joseph's Academy remains on

six points after suffering their third loss in five encounters.

Antigua Grammar Schools notched up their third win in five matches by prevailing 2-0 against Pares Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Tafari Parker and Kevonte Lewis each converted once for Antigua Grammar, which advanced to 10 points to

cont'd on pg 23