

NEARLY 9,000 CRUISE PASSENGERS VISIT

Story on Page 2





Emerald Sakara



Arvia

Nearly 9000 cruise passengers arrived aboard four vessels on Saturday

Nearly nine thousand eight hundred who started their cruises in St John’s as part of home-porting operations. A very pleased Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez noted that two of the vessels – the Arvia of the P&O Cruise Lines and Emerald Sakara – were the two vessels involved in home-porting.

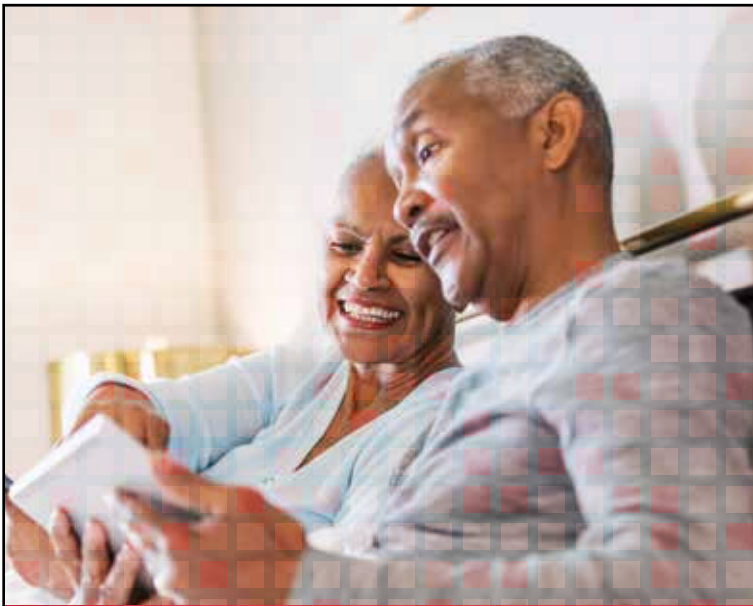
Arvia docked at the fifth berth and brought near her maximum capacity of 5,200 passengers to the destination. In a well-executed exercise, over 700 passengers ended their itinerary in Antigua, while another 700 boarded the P & O Cruises vessel.

Antigua Cruise Port Officer-in-Charge Cynthia Jacobs-Browne said, “Saturday’s success indicates our capacity to manage home-porting.

“We had four vessels in port, and operations were smooth, so guests had a pleasant experience at our port.”

Arvia began homeporting in Antigua in January and will make a total of nine turnaround calls this season, while Emerald Sakara will make thirteen.

Royal Clipper and SeaDream II will also home-port at the Antigua Cruise Port.



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At the Nevis Street Pier, Emerald Sakara did a full turnaround with over 80 passengers starting their journey in Antigua. It was also the first time the 100-passenger capacity superyacht visited the country.

Meanwhile, Artania and Marella Discovery were berthed at Heritage Quay, making it the first time four vessels had been in port, at the same time, for the season.

Fernandez said the ex-

Cruise taxi association conclude increases with cruise lines

The St. John's Taxi Association has successfully concluded negotiations with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association for an increase in fares charged by its members this cruise season.

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez, who noted that the increase represents the first rate increase for taxi operators providing service to cruise passengers, since 2005/6.

with its partners in the industry to increase the number of cruise ship calls in the summer, to extend the season for those taxi operators who ply their trade at the cruise port.

confirmed that the increase is for 10 percent on the current fares and noted that the fares had already been implemented.

Word of this comes from

Fernandez said the Ministry of Tourism is working

Vice President of the association, Andre Friday,

This season, there will be an increase in the number of cruise ship calls at the St. John's Harbour, with more than 700-thousand passengers expected to arrive on board vessels, bringing brisk business to the taxi operators.

Friday said the association welcomes the new increase, noting that taxi operators at the airport and elsewhere have all enjoyed increases and he is now happy that finally, taxi operators at the cruise port can also enjoy increased fares.

Four days of ABST reduction

Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne has announced that following a round robin of his Cabinet members and officials of the Ministry of Finance this

morning, they have set December 15th to 17th and December 22nd as ABST reduction weekend and reduction day; with reductions from 15 % to 5%. This reduction in sales tax is designed to further stimulate the economy, during the yuletide season.

*Maurice Merchant
Director General of Communications
Office of the Prime Minister
Antigua and Barbuda*



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Germany donates equipment to the Department of Immigration

The German government is helping the Department of Immigration (DOI) to be better able to detect fraudulent documents, especially those related to Schengen

visas that grant holders entry into 27 European countries.

ous years, is the level of sophistication at a level higher than we are accustomed to as a law enforcement agency,” Yearwood explained.

Receiving the donations of 50 special lights, to be used to magnify and highlight documents to tell whether or not they are genuine, Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood said the equipment will significantly assist the DOI in keeping ahead of trends where people are traveling with more and more sophisticated documents, that are difficult to detect fraud.

Based on the new trends, she further explained that without improved equipment and training, her officers will not be able to intercept these highly sophisticated forgeries that are increasingly being presented at the ports of entry in Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean territories.

“The way this works is that there are many trends that are spilling over into the Caribbean.

“The construction of these forgeries is so seamless that they often have the security features, and unless you have the proper equipment and training, you are not going to detect these documents,” she added.

“These include the sophistication in constructing travel documents. Gone are the days when you reach a certain port-of-entry and the DOI officer could look in a passport and say, ‘This is not right,’ as it had all the tell-tale signs of not being something legal. However, what we are seeing increasingly this year, and in previ-

Meanwhile, Resident German Counsel in St. John’s, Torzten Stenzel, said the fifty magnifying glasses are designed to help detect fraudulent documents such as passports, visas, and espe-

cont’d on pg 5

NOTICE
TO: HER WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate’s Court
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St. John’s
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
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I, Dwight C. Kendall DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Grays Farm, St. John’s Antigua on Thursday 30th day of November, 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as “Dung Hill Bar & Grill” situated Country Pond, in the Parish of St. John’s, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 15th day of November, 2023

.....
 Dwight C. Kendal
 268-775-1333



cont'd from pg 4

cially Schengen visas, which are becoming more of an issue at the moment. “The officers here need to know if a document is real or not. The bad people get more and more educated, so the copies are getting better and this equipment should make it easier to tell what is wrong and what is genuine,” he revealed.

He said the German Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago

issues the visas that allow entry into 26 other countries, and they have to make sure that when visas are presented at border control, they are the real visas issued by the embassy.

The actual handover of the equipment was done by Colonel Stephan Kaldasch of the German Federal Police, who conducted a training session for officers of the DOI following the presentation.



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Ambassador O'Marde addresses the issue of reparation at conference in Ghana

Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Commission and one of the vice-chairs of the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC), Ambassador Dorene O'Marde, was one of the guest speakers at a conference in Accra, Ghana, where the subject of reparation was the central theme.

The November 14-17 conference was organized by the African Union Commission and the Government of the Republic of Ghana and convened under the auspices of the president of Ghana, with the theme 'Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans.'

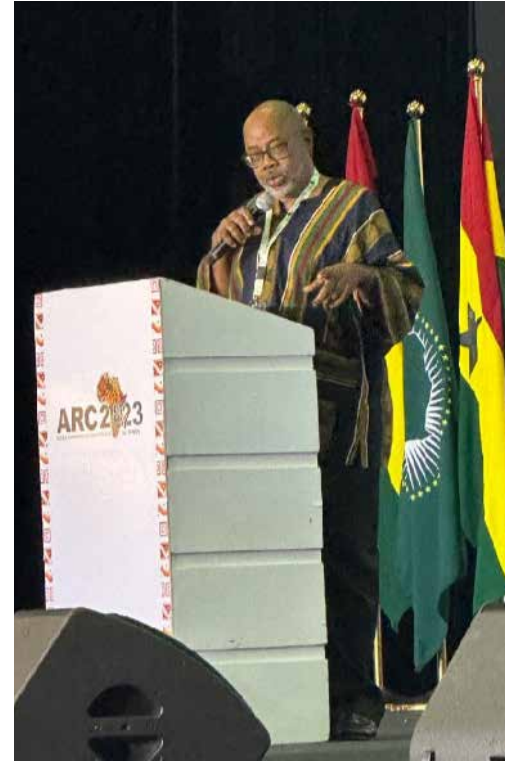
O'Marde spoke on 'Reparations in Action', recounting the decade-long history of the CARICOM Reparations Commission and highlighting its

successes, challenges, and opportunities. He recommended organizational structures and approaches that may prove successful to African countries now preparing to engage in the quest for reparations.

Fifteen (15) selected Heads of State and Government from Africa and the Americas were invited. The conference hosted legal experts, policymakers, academics, stakeholders, and specifically reparationists from the Caribbean, North and South America, the UN System, and the African Union (AU).

President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, called for a united front with African leaders on demands for reparations for transatlantic slavery and colonial-era

cont'd on pg 7



Ambassador Dorene O'Marde



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cont'd from pg 6

damages.

He insisted that 'no amount of money can restore the damage caused by the transatlantic slave trade and its consequences and emphasized that reparations is a matter that the world can no longer ignore and must confront.

He asserted that the entire continent of Africa deserves a formal apology from the European nations involved in the slave trade and called on Africa to work together with the Caribbean to advance reparations in a valid demand for justice.

O'Marde has praised the vision of the Government of Ghana and emphasized



The CARICOM REPARATIONS COMMISSION DELEGATION

that an important goal of the CRC - to forge and participate fully in a global movement for reparations - was fully met at the conference.

The resulting partnership between the fifty-five-member African Union (AU) and CARICOM will further intensify political and diplo-

matic pressure on Europe, to recognize its moral and legal responsibilities to fully engage with the reparations movement.

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Antigua and Barbuda highlights the dangers of climate change, again

Antigua and Barbuda, as a member of CARICOM, is tackling the climate crisis and strengthening its economic engagements and commercial ties to stimulate inclusive growth and a green economic transition.

That is according to Foreign Minister E.P. Chet Greene, speaking on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda at the 2nd Voices of the Global South Summit in India, last weekend.

The foreign minister said the country aims to be climate resilient – this would include support for adaptation, biodiversity, nature-based solutions, and opportunities within the ocean economy.

“Climate Change remains the largest threat to the sustainable development of Antigua and Barbuda, and the rest of the Caribbean Region. CARICOM countries like other Small

Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States continue to advocate for elevated and concerted actions, to limit the global increase of temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, instead of 2 degrees relative to preindustrial levels,” he stated.

Greene noted that going into COP 28, mitigation outcomes should be robust and in line with the science to keep 1.5 degrees within reach. In this regard, Antigua and Barbuda, he added, underscores that major economies should be urged to increase near-term or 2030 ambition and develop action plans in line with the science since implementation of such actions remains critical to keep 1.5°C alive.

The minister drew attention to the lack of finance for small developing states to undertake the transition to green energy that is now required. “Another issue of utmost concern for the small and vulnerable economies is the lack of climate finance to adequately match the needs and priorities of developing states. While the Technical Synthesis Report addresses the failure of developed countries, to achieve the delivery of 100 billion of climate finance by 2020, it does not provide any basis for recommendations to developed countries to deliver on the goal and to close the gaps in the shortfall of funding from 2020 to date. Neither does it address the need for developed countries to further scale up finance to achieve the 100 billion goals before 2025,” he explained.

A note from the India High Commission in Guyana said the overarching theme of the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit was ‘together, for everyone’s growth, with, everyone’s trust.’ It said the agenda and the deliberations of the foreign ministers’ session of the summit focused on the theme ‘Global South and One Development.’

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Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda Statement

Statement by the President of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda, at the conclusion of a Special Meeting of the Permanent Council on Haiti on 17 November 2023

As we conclude the meeting, it is crucial that we reflect deeply on the continuing plight of the Haitian people.

Their suffering, tragically amplified by the dominance of armed gangs, is rooted in a history marred by oppression, exploitation, and a series of dictatorships.

The profound poverty and underdevelopment of Haiti are not just symptoms but also the root causes of the country's enduring challenges. While re-establishing security is an imperative step towards restoring law and order, making the streets safer, and offering a semblance of normality, we must recognize that it is just the beginning.

The resolution of Haiti's problems does not end with the disarmament



Sir Ronald Sanders

of gangs; that is only a gateway to a much-needed, broader economic and social transformation. A vision for Haiti should extend far beyond recovering it from lawless gangs and declaring, "Mission accomplished."

The Haitian people, who have endured so much suffering, for so long, deserve a future that aligns with the basic tenets of a civilized and thriving society. They deserve the dignity of decent housing, and the certainty of access to essential services, like water and electricity - not as privileges, but as fundamental rights. They deserve opportunities for employment that offer both sustenance and a path to a dignified life.

Education, the bedrock of progress, must be accessible to all children in Haiti, providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to climb the ladder of success. Furthermore, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that the shadow of dictatorship and the blight of corruption are lifted from their lives.

The Haitian people deserve no less than the opportunity to thrive in their own country and in circumstances where their rights are protected, their voices are heard, and their dreams are attainable, and Haitian women deserve a life free of violence and rape.

Let us leave this meeting with an understanding that our work does not end here; but we must get the priorities right, spending our effort and other resources on an agenda that is helpful and meaningful.

We should all make a concerted effort to stand with the Haitian people to make Haiti the country they want for this generation; the next generation and the generations yet unborn.



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Senator Turner continues to 'do the work' for St. Peter

Amid apparent political dormancy, Senator Rawdon Turner remains an unwavering force in addressing the concerns of the people of St. Peter. While other candidates from the General Elections seem to be missing in action, Senator Turner continues to exhibit his dedication to the constituency.

Today marks a significant move as Senator Turner, also the ABLP Caretaker for St. Peter, spearheaded a mobilization effort. Trucks, backhoes, rollers, and graders were dispatched to Paynters and Gunthorpes to tackle pressing road and



Heavy duty equipment at work in St. Peter.

drainage issues that have been plaguing the community.

The mobilization is a clear testament to Senator Turner's hands-on approach

and commitment to actively resolving the challenges faced by the residents. The initiative not only addresses immediate concerns but also

cont'd on pg 11



Improvements to roads in St. Peter

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cont'd from pg 10

underscores the senator’s proactive stance in creating lasting improvements for the community.


Residents of Paynters and Gunthorpes can expect relief as the mobilized resources work diligently to enhance the local infrastructure. Senator Turner reaffirms his pledge to prioritize the needs of the people, showcasing that actions speak louder than words.

In a statement, Senator Turner expressed, “Our community deserves tangible solutions, and I am honored to lead initiatives that directly impact the lives of those I serve. We will continue working tirelessly to ensure a brighter and more sustainable future for St. Peter.”

As Senator Turner takes charge in addressing critical issues, his proactive approach sets a commendable standard for political leadership. The community eagerly anticipates the positive transformations that will result from such a dedicated and hands-on individual.




More work being done in St. Peter



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Salt Peter and battery

By Tony Deyal

Dedicated to my son, George Deyal, and his beloved wife, Sara Jean

My computer suddenly started belting out Someone Like You. It's a Dell. Unfortunately, just as I was about to start the research for this week's column, it stopped charging. Now, if that was Amazon or PriceSmart I wouldn't have minded. In fact, I would have been "happy like pappy". However, I was subjected to what I called not just a salt with battery but an in salt to my son George and my daughter-in-law Sara, who had bought this expensive machine for me. It reminded me of the joke about the man who said, "My girlfriend was devastated when she found out the reason why my nickname is 'The Love Machine'." Then he added, "It's because I'm terrible at tennis." In the meantime, I was thinking of going to a nearby computer store but I couldn't hack it. So, I shifted my thoughts to salt.

This is because researchers at the City University of Hong Kong found the secret to a more efficient, less expensive approach to keeping massive computer systems cool: Just add salt. It cools computers and boosts performance by a third. How did they come up with that? Most likely because salt and salt production played key roles in Chinese history and economic devel-

opment. I also think that it was a Chinese emperor who boasted, "Whenever my enemies are badly cut by my sword, I never rub salt in their wounds. That would be adding in salt to injury." Worse, his chef threw salt in the eyes of one of the soldiers and then dumped a bowl of dim sum flower over his head. The Emperor sentenced him to death for a salt and battering.

The Chinese were not alone. The Romans paid their soldiers in salt and it was not what we call an "in salt". While we get people angry when we 'in salt' them, the Roman soldiers became seasoned veterans. There is an old joke that flour, sugar, salt, water and yeast grew up together in jail. In other words, they were bread in captivity. However, when the prison chef had his 10-year anniversary, the prisoners dropped salt and pepper on him. He had become a seasoned professional. However, amateurs can do even better.

This is supposed to be a true story about a family who took their four-year-old daughter to a restaurant. Pointing to the stainless-steel shakers, she asked her mom, "How do you know which is salt and which is pepper?" Her mom replied, "Look at the holes on top. If it is the letter 'S', it's salt. If it is the letter 'P', it's pepper." The



Tony Deyal

child then asked, "Oh, so pepper is from the P hole?" The mother stuttered, "Well, yes." Then the girl caused the whole restaurant to look, turn their faces and laugh when she boasted loudly, "I know! Then the salt comes from the S hole!"

PETER

But what about Peter? Where does he or IT come from? Well, let me give you a taste of IT (Information Technology). In the Bible (Matthew 5:13), Jesus told his followers that they are the "salt of the earth". However, when it came to doing his job in Heaven, he was a tougher cookie than the ones we get from Burger King. A lawyer went to Heaven and the first thing he did was ask Peter, "Are you sure it is my time? I'm not that old, you know!" Peter shook his

head and asked, "What do you mean? You're 86 years old!" The lawyer corrected him, "No, I'm not. I'm only 58. Where you got that 86 from?" Peter then replied, "Well, we just added up all the hours you've charged to your clients."

When Steve Jobs went up, Peter was already upset. As Steve stepped into the pearly gates, St Peter looked at him with a frown on his face, pointed downward as Steve's final destination, and told him, "After what happened to Adam and Eve, you know how we feel about Apples up here. They got the oldest computer that the Almighty created. It was an Apple but with extremely limited memory. Just one byte and everything crashed." I know that Peter

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

wanted to ask Steve, "If your company made a car, would it have Windows?" What I didn't know is that Peter was in greater demand on earth than Steve was in Heaven.

Two prostitutes were driving around the city with a sign on top of their car which said: "Two Prostitutes -- \$50.00." A policeman stopped them and made it clear that, if they didn't remove the sign, it would be jail for them. Just then, another car passed by with the sign, "JESUS SAVES." One of the girls asked the officer, "How come you stopped us and didn't stop them."

The policeman explained that it was totally different from what was on their car. It was a religious sign. The two ladies took down their sign and drove off. The next day, the same policeman stopped them again. Then he had no choice but to let them go. On the top of their car they had placed a new and much larger sign which read, "Two Fallen Angels Seeking Peter -\$50.00." Fortunately, Peter was in Heaven where, in his first meeting with the Almighty, he was told, "Come forth and receive eternal life." He came fifth and won a toaster, but that did not stop him. The only problem he had was that while some people are salt of the earth, some are salt-peter, which is one of the ingredients in gunpowder, fireworks and rockets. If I was around when Christ told him, "Thou are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church", I would have warned him, "Watch out for the salt-peters, Peter. Make them pay the day rate and not the nitrate."

Had I looked at any of the rates, day or night, I would not have been in the quandary in which I found myself. I should have known that the biggest lie in the universe, and the one to which I had committed myself, is, "I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions." So, no hope for me.

While I expected lots of mosquitoes, flies, fleas, midges and even mice in the night, I did not anticipate a bug, especially the one that took over the charger in my computer. What caused it, though? Was it that I left my Windows open or did a Python come into my Dell? I even thought of calling the police and telling them that I had a hacker inside. Seeing that I had no real idea of what caused the problem, I thought of going to the beach so I

could surf the web and get some ideas and answers. One of the responses I got was "If your computer isn't working properly and you don't understand why ... just hit it a bunch of times with a hammer. It still won't work properly, but at least you'll understand why."

Tony Deyal was last seen saying his problem was caused by his computer beating him in a game of Bridge. However, it was no match for his kickboxing.

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Guyana takes top spot at CSEC, CAPE

Guyana has topped the region at this year's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

This was announced by Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand

during a broadcast on the Ministry of Education's Facebook page on Friday.

Alex Muntaz of the Anna Regina Secondary School, who copped 23 Grade One's and four Grade Two passes, topped the entire Caribbean at this year's CSEC examination.

Muntaz also earned himself the most outstanding Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) student award for the region.

Meanwhile, Naresh Jagnanan is this year's top Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) student. Jagnanan, who attended Queen's College, also nabbed the most outstanding award in Business Studies.

Other CSEC top Caribbean performers are Abigail Stephanas who copped the award for most outstanding Science student and Nailah Rahaman, who was the most outstanding student in Humanities. Both students attended Queen's College

Siddiq Gafar of the ISA Islamic School nabbed the accolade for most outstanding student in Business at the CSEC.

Guyana nabbed four out of the seven available awards, as a result of its outstanding performances.

Meanwhile, Virendra Dookie from the Saraswatie Vidhya Niketan Secondary School who raked in passes in 19 Grade Ones and One Grade Two has been adjudged Guyana's second top CSEC student.

Joshua Gulab from Queen's College is the country's second-top CAPE student.



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Dominica: Opposition leader wants senator's appointment revoked



Jesma Paul- Opposition leader in Dominica.

CMC - The leader of the main opposition party in Dominica, Jesma Paul Victor, has called on President Sylvanie Burton to revoke the appointment of Sean Douglas as a Senator with immediate effect.

In a statement, the opposition leader, who was responsible for the senatorial appointment of Douglas earlier this year, said the decision was a difficult one for her.

She added that it came after weeks of "careful consideration of the importance of protecting the dignity and credibility of our democratic governance processes from individual excesses."

'I deeply regret this course of action which became necessary because of a significant breach of trust, callous disregard for the principle of collec-

tive responsibility in the Parliamentary Opposition, and a refusal to be responsible for unilateral actions that undermine the work of the team."

The opposition leader said this conflicts with the values that are essential to the "effective discharge of our oversight and representational responsibilities in Parliament."

"Further, this severely frustrates upholding integrity, ethical conduct, and the commitment to the highest standards of national service that we strive to honour and uphold at all times."

She also pointed to reports of verbal abuse "directed at me, the calls for my resignation, the double standards, and the misogynistic disrespect for my decision that have flooded the air-

cont'd on pg 17



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SVG: Top cop urges men to seek help in battling with issues of life

CMC - Acting Commissioner of Police, Enville Williams, Sunday urged men in the St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSCGPF) to seek assistance if they are battling “with the issues of life”.

In a message to mark International Men’s Day (IMD) that is being observed under the theme “Zero Male Suicide,” Williams said men tend to choose to suffer in silence rather than to ask for help

He used the occasion to honour “all the men of the RSVGPF for their sacrifice, bravery, and unwavering dedication to duty and country.

“Every day, these loyal men go above and beyond the call of duty to protect and serve the citizens and residents of St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) in every kind of weather and under very stressful and dangerous circumstances.

“I want you to know that I appreciate your sterling contribution to nation-building and citizen security as the custodians of law enforcement in SVG. I encourage you to continue to execute your duty with-



Acting Commissioner of Police, Enville Williams.

out fear or favour, malice or ill will, and respect for everyone; no matter what their status in life is,” he said in his message.

But Williams noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that suicide remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide with more than twice as many males dying due to suicide as females.

“These staggering statistics reveal that men and boys are more at risk when it comes to committing suicide. But there is hope! Together, we can work to reduce incidents of suicide

globally and in SVG. How can we do so? By reporting and seeking help for those who are showing suicidal tendencies.

“I want to encourage men everywhere to seek assistance if they are bat-

tlng with the issues of life, be it social, financial, gender, emotional, marital, or work-related among others,” Williams said, adding “breaking your silence and asking for help can save your life”.

cont’d from pg 16

waves and social media in recent times.”

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit condemned the “vicious attacks” against the Opposition Leader by callers on a local radio station after her decision to revoke Senator Sean Douglas’s appointment as an opposition member of parliament.

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Putin critic Girkin wants to stand in Russia presidential election

By Vicky Wong

An outspoken pro-war blogger who has fiercely criticised Russia's military strategy in Ukraine has said he wants to challenge Vladimir Putin in next March's presidential elections.

Igor Girkin, 52, led pro-Russian fighters in eastern Ukraine in 2014, following Moscow's annexation of the southern Crimea peninsula.

Girkin is in jail awaiting trial for extremism, which he denies.

He said he wanted to disrupt the "sham" poll with the winner already known.

This comment is widely seen in Russia as a reference to President Putin, who is yet to publicly declare that he will run again.

In a letter to supporters published on Telegram on Sunday, Girkin, whose nom de guerre is Strelkov, said: "I understand perfectly well that in the current situation in Russia, participating in the presidential campaign is like sitting down at a table to play with card sharps."

But he said he hoped his attempt to unite patriotic forces would disrupt the Kremlin's plans for the polls in which "the only winner is known in advance".

"This is our chance to unite in the face of external and internal threats," he said.

He told his supporters



Igor Girkin is currently in jail awaiting trial for extremism.

to set up a headquarters for his campaign, and to start collecting signatures for his candidacy, even though he knew he would not be allowed to stand.

Supporters of Girkin told Reuters that his criminal investigation had been extended until 18 December, and that he could theoretically take part in the polls as he has not been convicted yet.

Girkin is a former FSB intelligence colonel. He was one of three men convicted in absentia by a Dutch court last November of murder for his role in the 2014 shooting down of a Malaysia Airlines passen-

ger jet with the loss of all 298 people on board.

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, he gained prominence by mocking Russian tactics and repeatedly warned that Russia faced revolution and even civil war unless President Putin's military top brass fight the war in Ukraine more effectively.

He was arrested in July. If convicted of extremism he could face up to five years in jail.

Russian authorities have cracked down on nationalist critics who have called for a much tougher approach to fighting the war in Ukraine,

after the failed mutiny by Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in June.

Prigozhin was killed in August in a plane crash, the causes of which are still unclear.

President Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview published on Friday that he hoped his boss would stand for another term.

He first served as president from 2000 to 2008, returning to the role from a stint as prime minister in 2012. Recent amendments to the Russian constitution allow him to stay in power until at least 2036 if he is elected again.



The majority of Yemen's population lives in areas under the Houthi movement's control.

Yemen's Houthi rebels hijack cargo ship in Red Sea

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels say they have seized an Israeli cargo ship in the Red Sea.

They said the vessel was then taken to a port in Yemen.

Israel said the ship was not Israeli, and no Israelis were among its crew. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said this was "another act of Iranian terrorism".

Iran has not commented. Houthis had threatened to hijack Israeli ship within their reach over Israel's war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Israel says 1,200 people were killed and more than 240 taken hostage during the surprise Hamas attack on the south of the country on 7 October.

Israel has launched a massive military operation - involving air and artillery strikes as well as ground troops - with the aim of eliminating Hamas.

The Hamas-run health ministry

says the death toll in Gaza since then has reached 12,300. More than 2,000 more are feared to be buried under rubble.

The Houthis have fired several missiles and drones towards Israel just after Israel launched its retaliatory operation.

The US said at the time that all the missiles and drones were intercepted by its warship in the Red Sea.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) described the attack on the ship - which it did not name - as a "very grave incident of global consequence".

The IDF said the vessel was on its way from Turkey to India when it was seized in the southern Red Sea near Yemen.

Although Israel says the seized vessel does not have any connection with it, unconfirmed reports suggest the ship may have an Israeli owner.

In Sunday's statement on social media, Mr Netanyahu said that Israel "strongly condemns the Iranian attack against an international vessel".

He said the ship was owned by "a British company and is operated by a Japanese firm", adding that "25 crew members of various nationalities including Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Filipino and Mexican" were on board the ship.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has recently said that what he called resistance groups allied to Tehran were "cleverly adjusting pressure" on Israel and its supporters.

Earlier this month, the Houthis shot down a US military drone off Yemen's coast, American officials said.

The Houthis have been locked in a prolonged civil war with Yemen's official government - backed by Saudi Arabia - since 2014.

Sports News



Transport Board win playoff title to complete business league double

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board has captured the double in this year's Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Championship.

The Transport Board, which claimed the round-robin league title earlier this month, completed the double by capturing the playoff title at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday night.

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board clinched their best of three playoff finals 2-0 by prevailing 63-55 against defending champions Richie's Shooterz in Game 2.

They were led by former national guard Marlon



Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of ABBA Inga Francis presents the 2023 Business Basketball League Playoff Championship trophy to the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board team at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, November 18, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABBA)

"Buju" Charles, who was

named the most valuable player of the playoff com-

petition. Charles shot a game-high 36 points, and Ray-

mond Dickerson chipped in with 15 points for the *cont'd on pg 21*

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Emerging Ireland defeat West Indies Academy

An unbeaten hundred from Murray Commins and three-wicket hauls from Scott MacBeth and Gavin Hoey handed Emerging Ireland a 26-run victory over the home side in the opening game of their three-match series at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Friday.

Commins, who played his only two Tests earlier this year, carried his bat for 118 not out off 129 balls, as the visitors gathered 245 off 49.1 overs after choosing to bat first.

In reply, West Indies Academy looked in a good position for the win when opener Matthew Nandu struck 59 off 99 balls, his partner Kadeem Alleyne hit 42 off 30 balls and number three Leonardo Julien chipped in with 28.

However, off-spinner Scott MacBeth grabbed three for 33 and leg-spinner Gavin Hoey took three for 43 to bowl out West Indies Academy for 219 in the 42nd over.

Earlier, left-arm spinner Joshua Bishop with



Opener Murray Commins hits 118 not out for Emerging Ireland against West Indies Academy

four for 45, and fast bowler Johann Layne with two for 52, cut through the top order as Ireland Academy collapsed to 37 for four in the 11th over.

Hoey resisted with 25 from 31 balls, but Bishop and off-spinner Kevin Wickham, who claimed two for 51, made key strikes to leave Emerging Ireland reeling at 123 for eight in the 30th over.

However, Commins,

who hit 14 fours and a six, anchored a 103-run, ninth wicket stand with Tom Mayes, who counter-attacked with two fours and three sixes in a knock of 51.

Facing a challenging target, the hosts started brightly, as 20-year-old left-hander Nandu stroked three fours, putting on 58 for the first wicket with Alleyne, who struck two fours and three sixes.

When Alleyne skied

a pull at seamer Matthew Foster and was brilliantly taken by Commins running back at mid-wicket at the start of the ninth over, Julien arrived to add a further 59 for the second wicket with Nandu and keep West Indies Academy on course.

However, Julien fell in the 21st over, stumped off MacBeth and this triggered a slide that saw five wickets fall for 35 runs, leaving West Indies Academy on 152 for six at the start of the 28th over.

Nandu and Junior Sinclair (28) posted 56 for the seventh wicket to revive their side's fortunes, but once the stand was broken, the hosts lost their last four wickets for 11 runs.

cont'd from pg 20

Transport Board.

Point guard Tavarus Benta scored 16 points, and Olivee Morris had 14 points for Richie's Shooterz.

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board prevailed 59-57 against Richie's Shooterz in the opening game of the se-

ries last Thursday.

Marlon "Buju" Charles sank 20 points, and Ishan Peets scored 15 points for the Transport Board.

Kwame Brathwaite converted 17 points, and Tavarus Benta and Nickon McGregor each chipped in with 11 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Sports News



ECAB stay unbeaten in business volleyball league

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League competition on Saturday night.

ECAB remained the only unbeaten team in the competition by notching up their seventh win in as many outings with a 2-0 victory against newcomers Royalton at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The ECAB prevailed 25-21, 25-15 to consolidate their position as leaders of the 11-team round-robin

competition.

It was the sixth loss in as many outings for Royalton.

The Media claimed their second win in five games by beating the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) 2-0 on Saturday.

The Media prevailed 25-21, 25-23 against ABIIT, who suffered their fifth loss in as many games.

Treasury and Sandals won their latest matches in the ABAVA Business League competition.

Treasury overcame Nate's Photography 2-0, prevailing 27-25, 25-

23, to maintain their second-place position in the standings by claiming their sixth win in seven outings.

It was only the second loss suffered by Nate's Photography, which has won the other five of their seven matches.

The Sandals secured their fifth win in eight encounters by surging to a 25-20, 25-21 victory against MEDSO/UWI Fusion.

MEDSO/UWI Fusion remained in the cellar of the 11-team round-robin competition after suffering their seventh loss in as many games.

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Australian players celebrate with the trophy after winning against India during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup final match in Ahmedabad, India, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023. (AP)

Australia beat India to win sixth cricket World Cup title

AHMEDABAD, India (Reuters) - Australia won a record-extending sixth 50-overs World Cup title after opener Travis Head smashed a magnificent century to fashion their six-wicket victory in Sunday's final against the tournament's form team India.

Put into bat, India rode battling half-centuries by KL Rahul and Virat Kohli to post a below-par 240 all out in exactly 50 overs at a packed Narendra Modi Stadium.

Australia suffered a top order wobble of their own, but Head's 137 off 120 balls saw them romp home with seven overs to spare in match that never reached great heights.

Around 93,000 predominantly Indian fans sat mostly in deathly silence as the home team, who had won 10 matches in a row to make the final, succumbed to their first loss of the tourna-

ment in the all-important summit clash.

Earlier, Pat Cummins's decision to field, primarily to avoid operating with a dewy ball in the night, bemused many but Australian bowlers, aided by some superb fielding, stifled their opposition.

India captain Rohit Sharma had been playing tone-setting knocks in their batting template in the tournament and it was no different in the final despite the early loss of Shubman Gill.

Rohit smashed three sixes in his entertaining 47, but fell just before the end of powerplay.

The opener stepped out against Glenn Maxwell, but miscued his shot on the offside. Head ran backwards from cover to take a tumbling catch to get rid of the Indian captain.

Kohli (54) hit Mitchell Starc, who claimed three for 55, for three boundaries in a row, but India slumped to 81 for

three in the 11th over when Cummins dismissed Shreyas Iyer caught behind.

Kohli and Rahul (66) then combined in a dour rebuilding job even if it meant going 16.1 overs without a boundary.

Kohli brought up his ninth 50-plus knock in 11 innings but soon departed after chopping a Cummins delivery on to his stumps.

Rahul hit just one four in his half-century illustrating how difficult the pitch was for shot-makers like him.

Australia wicketkeeper Josh Inglis took five catches, which is a record in a World Cup final. Australia, when they came out to bat, slumped to 47-3 seven overs into what had looked like a straight-forward chase for them.

Head combined with Marnus Labuschagne, who made 58 not out, in a 192-run stand to kill off the contest.



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Players of the Princess Margaret School (pink and gray jersey) and Antigua Grammar School compete in the Under-20 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League at the PMS playing field on Friday, November 17, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

PMS draw with AGS in Under-20 Boys Division

Leaders Princess Margaret School (PMS) snatched a 1-1 draw with Antigua Grammar School (AGS) in their latest outing in the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League.

Na'jantae Wynaldum snatched the equalizer for Princess Margaret School by scoring in the 60th or final minute of the match to avoid their first loss of the competition in the encounter, which was played at the PMS playing field.

A 10th-minute conversion by Samuel Brazier had given Antigua Grammar School a 1-0 halftime lead. Antigua Grammar was on course to avenge a 1-0 loss to Princess Margaret when both sides met at the same venue in the first round before Wynaldum's intervention decided the result.

The result ensured that Princess Margaret School remained at the top of the standings by advancing to 14 points from six matches, while Antigua Grammar remained in the lower

half of the table by moving on to six points from five matches.

Irene B. Williams Secondary and Clare Hall Secondary both recorded wins in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys Division.

Irene B. Williams prevailed 2-1 against St. Joseph's Academy at the Swetes playing field. Railique Browne scored in the fourth minute, and Zarrick Skepple had a 12th-minute conversion for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

Adonai-Lee Francis converted for St. Joseph's Academy in the 18th minute.

An 18th-minute conversion by Jevorn Simpson was sufficient to give Clare Hall Secondary a 1-0 victory over All Saints Secondary at the Clare Hall playing field.

Princess Margaret School and Clare Hall Secondary both recorded impressive margins of victories in the Under-16 Girls Division at King George V Grounds.

Irressia Allen scored nine times to

lead Princess Margaret to a 10-0 drubbing of Jennings Secondary. Zoya Simon scored the other goal for Princess Margaret School.

Aliah London scored four times to lead Clare Hall Secondary School to a 6-0 victory against All Saints Secondary School.

London had conversions in the 3rd, 22nd, 31st, and 47th minutes, while the other two goals were scored by Ketaynae Caines in the 13th minute and Sanique Levy in the 41st minute.

Success as well for Ottos Comprehensive School, which beat Jennings Secondary School 3-1 in an Under-16 Boys Division encounter at the King George V Grounds in St. John's.

Cody Richardson converted in the 2nd minute, Silence Manyaka made it 2-0 in the 5th minute, and Demarre Swift added a third goal in the 57th minute for Ottos Comprehensive School.

Jameir Thomas of Ottos scored an own goal for Jennings Secondary in the 52nd minute.

Benna Boys lose to Puerto Rico in Nations League

Puerto Rico continued their campaign for promotion with a 3-2 win over Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys in Group D of League B of the 2023-24 Concacaf Nations League at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters in Antigua on Saturday.

The three points earned keep Puerto Rico in second place in Group D by advancing to nine points, three adrift of leader Guyana, which had its penultimate game against the Bahamas at the Estadio Félix Sánchez in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, suspended on Saturday due to rain.

Wilfredo Rivera put Puerto Rico in front 1-0 in the 7th minute with a power hit inside the area after connecting on a cross from Darren Rios.

Rios himself got on the scoreboard in the 33rd minute with a chip over the goalkeeper to finish off a through-ball service.

Colby Quinones nearly extended the lead in the 48th minute but was blocked by Antigua and Barbuda's goalkeeper Zaiem Scott.

Dion Pereira took one back for the Benna Boys in



Wilfredo Rivera, right, celebrates with teammate, including Ruben Tapia (#16) and Colby Quinones (#5), after scoring one of his two goals for Puerto Rico against Antigua and Barbuda in their Concacaf Nations League Group D of League B match at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters in Antigua on Saturday, November 18, 2023. (Concacaf)

the 52nd minute, connecting at the far post on a cross from Raheem Deterville.

Stephen Browne equalized for the Benna Boys in the 54th minute with a powerful shot from the right flank that was too difficult for Puerto Rico's goalkeeper Joel Serrano to contain.

Rivera snatched the winner for Puerto Rico when he scored his second goal of the match in the 58th min-

ute with a deafening strike at the top of the box into the right bottom corner of the net.

Antigua and Barbuda nearly equalized again in the 60th minute from a free kick, but Puerto Rico's goalkeeper Joel Serrano was in the right place to stop a menacing header.

Puerto Rico ended the match with 10 men as Joel Burgos was sent off in the

first minute of added time (90+1 minute) after receiving a second yellow and will miss his team's final match day due to suspension.

Serrano came away with a crucial save in the fourth minute of added time to deny Deterville the dramatic equalizer and then made a stop on Ashley Nathaniel-George two minutes later to secure the three points for Puerto Rico.