

HARRISON CENTRE OPENS

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Clare Hall Secondary school were the winners of the Schools' Special Drills Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Thursday.

New learning centre to bridge nation's skills gap

The formal opening of the new Harrison Centre, Antigua and Barbuda Institute for Continuing Education (ABICE) took place on Thursday as hundreds turned out to witness the opening of the centre, a gift from the Harrison's Foundation.

Among the officials who delivered remarks at the

opening exercises, was Prime Minister Gaston Browne who noted that Antigua and Barbuda currently has a shortage of skilled labour in several disciplines, and it is the expectation that the new Harrison Centre will help bridge the gap.

"Our government now must ensure that we train a

highly-skilled cadre of young Antiguan and Barbudan to fill these gaps so that we don't have to continue to import these talents in order to supplement our labour requirements," he emphasized.

Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, under whose stewardship the Centre falls, said the government is mak-

ing every effort to ensure that nationals can access education at all levels. "Just as the Youth Skills programme became the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education, the metamorphosis will continue. Like the mythical phoenix rising from the ashes, the Harrison Centre, ABICE, will emerge as a centre of excellence for technical and vocational training, not only for Antigua and Barbuda but for the entire OECS," he remarked.

Sir David Harrison, who has funded the project to the tune of £4 million, congratulated the government for pursuing the project, despite encountering challenges along the way.

"You should be proud; you actually stand out in the way that you remain undaunted. This is not me being friendly here; you actually get things done and that takes a lot," he observed.

Antigua and Barbuda's representative in London, High Commissioner, Karen-Mae Hill and Executive Director of ABICE, Arlene Weste, were among those who offered thanks and appreciation to Sir David for his generous contribution to Antigua and Barbuda.

The new edifice will offer workshops in a variety of skills for young people whose preference is for skilled and vocational training.



Body found in motor car

A police investigation is now underway into the circumstances surrounding the death of a man – identified as Rolston Joseph – a fisherman, whose body was found in a white motor vehicle in the vicinity of the TN Kirnon School on Thursday morning.

Inspector Frankie Thomas has confirmed that detectives from the Serious Crimes Unit spent several hours on the scene conducting further investigations into the circumstances around what is believed to be the country's ninth murder for the year.

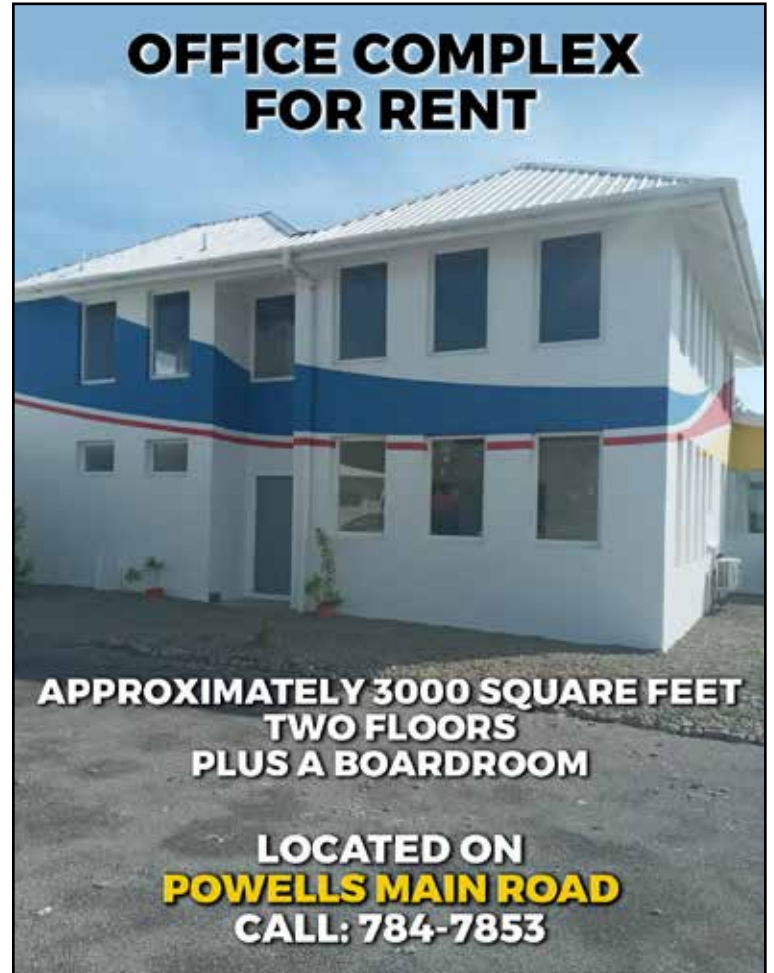
The body was clothed in a red and white t-shirt and jeans shorts. He was found slumped over in the vehicle as he appeared to be trying to escape from his assailant(s). There are signs that the vehicle broke through

the school's fence and ended up at the back of one of the booths operating between the TN Kirnon School and the Antigua Grammar School. A cell phone was also found on top of the body as if placed there by someone.

Further signs that Joseph may have been trying to escape from his assailant(s) are evidenced by what appears to be bullet holes in the white sedan vehicle.

Inspector Thomas said the police received a report of the incident around 7:05 a.m. on Thursday 2nd November.

The police are asking anyone with information surrounding this incident to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers Hotline number at 800-Tips (8477).



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VACANCY AC TECHNICIAN

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **AC Technician**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **AC Technician** is expected to participate in the installation, repairing and servicing of all of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority's (ABAA's) Air Condition Units. He/she will respond to all service requests to repair and maintain ABAA's Air Condition Units in line with Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures.

The functions of the AC Technician will include but not limited to:

- Participate in the inspection, repair, diagnosis, and location of technical difficulties relating to all ABAA air condition units.
- Service all air condition equipment as part of the ABAA's Preventative Maintenance Programme.
- Inspect and test equipment repairs to monitor proper functioning and to ensure customer satisfaction.
- Test refrigeration equipment for refrigerant leaks.
- Provide prompt and effective responses to complaints from customers, airport users and Management and ensure that all situations/incidents are accurately recorded and reported to the Supervisor in a timely manner.

Minimum Requirements:

- Antigua State College Diploma.
- An Associate's degree in HVAC-R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) or Professional/Guild certification or vocational qualifications in air conditioning and/or refrigeration
- Minimum five (5) years' practical air condition and/or refrigeration experience.
- Air Condition and/or refrigeration experience in an aviation environment would be an asset.
- Knowledge of chilled water system is an asset.
- Detailed knowledge of the technical operation and repair of air condition and/or refrigeration equipment.
- Ability to competently use tools and equipment to meet the role requirements.
- Ability to use computer diagnostic and testing equipment.
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure (resilience).
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective collaboration skills.
- Excellent customer service skills

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
 P. O. Box 1051
 V. C. Bird International Airport
 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.
 E-mail: hr@abairportauthority.com
 Website: www.vcbia.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is 17 November 2023. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.



Dean Jonas

Advisor on the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas, fired

Dean Jonas, who served as the Advisor to the Minister with responsibility for the Blue Economy, has been fired.

Jonas was formally notified by way of a letter dated October 31, 2023.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who appointed Jonas to the position following his electoral defeat in the January 18 General Elections, noted that there was a litany of wrongs that the former advisor committed during his tenure and which the prime minister could no longer tolerate.

"I am urged to communicate to you formally on matters that have been repeatedly drawn to my attention concerning your conduct in the discharge of your duties as it pertains to

your appointment as Advisor to the Minister responsible for the Blue Economy (Sir Molwyn Joseph)," the letter stated.

It added that several reports have reached the Cabinet regarding Jonas' disregard for proper institutional arrangements and his tendency to exceed his authority within the ministry. "On numerous occasions, you have been advised and reminded that you are no longer a minister of government nor are you a functionary of government, but rather an advisor to the minister," according to the letter.

The missive also accused Jonas of disregarding the specific directions and policies and where he

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Antigua and Barbuda participates in WTO meeting

Antigua and Barbuda remains hopeful that a recent meeting of trade officials at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will have the political backing to achieve the desired outcomes at the 13th Ministerial Conference, to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 26 to 29 February 2024.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented through its delegation to the World Trade Organization including Permanent Representative, Ambassador Colin Murdoch, and Director of International Trade and WTO Delegate, Joy-Marie King.

King said the two-day meeting of senior trade officials concluded with encouraging signs that negotiators in Geneva will eventually lead to an agreement on several key issues.

According to King, "The meeting aimed to take stock

of the progress on international trade issues on the negotiating agenda- such as agriculture and food security, dispute settlement reform, the e-commerce work programme, and moratorium; phase two of the fisheries subsidies negotiations, and development issues in addition to deliberating on pressing international issues."

King further indicated that senior officials had the opportunity to engage each other through various configurations, including plenary meetings of the full membership, breakout sessions on specific issues- international trade and industrial policy and international trade and environmental sustainability, bilateral talks, group coordination meetings, and consultations with the chairs or facilitators of negotiations.

In her submission to the WTO membership, Direc-



Joy-Marie King

tor King highlighted several priority areas for the OECS and Antigua and Barbuda, including but not limited to, the great need for the urgent and full restoration of the institution's binding dispute settlement system as it is the

cornerstone to maintaining a rules-based global trading system.

Further, the dispute settlement system is an indispensable mechanism to help the smallest, poorest, and most vulnerable members to better navigate the uneven power dynamics of global trade."

The engagement concluded with a session on the way forward, including a concluding summary from the General Council Chair and the Director-General.

Joy-Marie King is a certified expert in the areas of commercial diplomacy, international trade, policy negotiations, and sustainable development.

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sought to act in his indiscretion on 'far too numerous' occasions.

In his letter, PM Browne noted that he had been quite "tolerant" of Jonas's unorthodox style of engagement while being mindful of his need for gainful employment."

The prime minister drew attention to an incident where Jonas exceeded his authority, guided a vessel out to sea, and issued directives to anchor and deploy equipment for mining, in a mapped zone area. According to the prime minister, this

resulted in the severing of underwater cables resulting in the temporary loss of internet services in parts of the island along with financial compensation.

"This was an egregious and irresponsible act for which you have remained defiant and unrepentant," the letter indicated.

PM Browne said, given the numerous and frequent complaints he had no choice but to release Jonas of his appointment with immediate effect.

Jonas contested the 2023 General Elections on the ABLP's ticket as a candidate in the St. George constituency.

Tourism Ministry and ABTA extend congratulations to Sir Robert Barrett

Tourism officials are congratulating Sir Robert 'Rob' Barrett on receiving a knighthood as part of the celebrations marking Antigua and Barbuda's 42nd anniversary of Independence.

Sir Robert was presented with the National Award, Knight Commander (KCN) during the Ceremonial Parade at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Wednesday night.

"The Ministry of Tourism, along with the Board and the staff of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, extend heartiest congratulations to Antigua and Barbuda tourism industry veteran Sir Robert 'Rob' Allen Barrett, on being awarded a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation – KCN.

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Sir Robert is the Chairman of the Elite Island Resorts, an impressive collection of nine all-inclusive beachfront properties throughout the Caribbean.

Elite Island Resorts is one of the largest hotel chains in Antigua, with five hotels on the island. The group of hotels employs over 1000 employees in Antigua and is a significant contributor to the country's economy.

Sir Robert received the national honour for his distinguished contribution to the field of economic development, tourism, and community service.

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez applauds Sir Robert on his commitment to the indus-

try. "Your unwavering support and dedication have helped to transform and shape the Antigua and Barbuda tourism product.

"Your extensive experience and willingness to offer your expertise have not gone unnoticed. We recognize and applaud you for your sterling contribution."

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Vernon Jeffers Snr. also extends congratulations to the eminent hotelier.

"Sir Robert has been a mentor to many hoteliers, myself included, throughout his years within the industry, in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean.

"Many people have been positively impacted by his contributions. He is one who leads by example and is truly a pioneer of Caribbean tourism."

Also sending a congratulatory message is the CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James. "Sir Robert is one of the savviest tourism marketers that I have met.

"He constantly stays updated with industry trends and is always open to sharing his extensive knowledge.

"He is readily available and recognized for his willingness to partner with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority on effective marketing programmes."

Mr. Robert Barrett's journey in the Caribbean began in the 1960s when he worked his way up from beach boy to night auditor and general manager. In the 1980s, Robert focused his attention on the tourism industry in Antigua and Barbuda, and since then his work spanning over thirty-eight years and his philanthropy has been a success story.

Through Mr. Barrett's leadership, Antigua and Barbuda has benefited from investments and creating employment at hotels: the Pineapple Beach Resort, Royal Antiguan, St. James' Club, Galley Bay Resort, Verandah Resort, Grand Pineapple Resort, and the Jolly Beach Resort.



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First round of the Junior Chef Cook-off Competition is today

The competition designed to develop and sharpen the culinary skills of young people within the educational system enters the first phase today.

The event is the anticipated inaugural Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Cook-Off Competition. “Hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, this culinary extravaganza takes place at the GARD Centre across two action-packed days – on Friday, November 3, and Monday, November 6, marking the

grand commencement of a delectable voyage into the world of gastronomy,” ac-

ording to the ABHTA.

This competition celebrates the quintessential

local dish, Pepperpot, and participating schools have
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cont'd from pg 8

dedicated the past four weeks to honing their culinary skills in preparation for this epic showdown. Following the thrilling preliminary rounds, the top four schools will ascend to the finale, slated for Monday, December 4, 2023, under the umbrella of the annual Tourism Week celebration.

The competition is structured into four electrifying rounds, each featuring a set of talented schools:

Friday, November 3, 2023:

Round 1 (8:30 a.m.) will bear witness to the culinary wizardry of Glanvilles Secondary, St. Mary's Secondary, Sir McChesney George High School, and Sir Novelle Richards Academy as they go head-to-head to demonstrate their culinary prowess.

Round 2 (1:00 p.m.) will showcase a fiery Peppercorn showdown between All Saints Secondary School, Princess Margaret School, Pares Secondary School, Antigua Grammar School, and the Seventh Day Adventist School.

Monday, November 6, 2023:

Round 3 (8:30 a.m.) will shine a spotlight on The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, Antigua State College, Clarehall Secondary School, Jennings Secondary School, and Ottos Comprehensive School.

Round 4 (1:00 p.m.)

will culminate in a thrilling faceoff between Christ the King High School, The Antigua Girls High School, Irene B. Williams School, and St. Joseph's Academy.

This event underscores the collaborative efforts of the ABHTA and the Ministry of Tourism both dedicated to nurturing the talents of students in the hospitality industry. ABHTA Chairman, Craig Marshall, expressed the organization's unwavering commitment to this mission, stating, "We intend to include this competition in our annual calendar of events at the ABHTA."

"Our primary goal is to identify students across Antigua and Barbuda who possess a natural talent for culinary arts and provide them with a platform to nurture their passion. This is a key mission for the ABHTA."

With an overwhelming response from 18 schools and colleges, the ABHTA extends its gratitude to the dedicated Home Economics teachers and Principals of these institutions for their steadfast support.

To the students, the message is clear: bring your A-game and showcase what you have practiced diligently, every day, as this is your opportunity to shine on the culinary stage. Well-wishers and supporters are welcome to visit the GARD Centre to view the competition on both days, where local treats will be made available for sale.



VACANCY BUS DRIVER

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **Bus Driver**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **Bus Driver** will be responsible for the delivery of transportation services to the employees of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), in line with national road safety laws, Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures. This position will report to the Transportation Officer.

The functions of the Bus Driver will include but is not limited to the following:

- Drive the assigned Company vehicle to safely transport ABAA's employees to and from work.
- Complete the Daily Vehicles Checklist and conduct a comprehensive inspection of the assigned Company vehicle, reporting any conditions of concern to the Transportation Officer.
- Ensure that the assigned vehicles are properly cleaned, regularly serviced and sufficiently fueled prior to transporting employees.

Minimum Requirements:

- A School Leaving Certificate.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in a similar role
- Holder of a valid Class D or F Antigua and Barbuda Driver's License
- Excellent customer service skills
- Good verbal communication skills
- Have sound judgment and decision-making skills
- Ability to work independently, with minimal instructions

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
 P.O. Box 1051

V. C. Bird International Airport
 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.

E-mail: hr@abairportauthority.com; Website: www.vcbia.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

Second Annual ABYMA Showcase nears with a new venue

The second installment of the Antigua and Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association (ABYMA) showcase will present over twenty leading companies and organizations that provide service and support to the marine industry. This 2nd edition of the ABYMA showcase, scheduled for November 16-17, 2024, offers individuals an opportunity to connect with those within the industry and to explore the avenues within.

The exhibitors include various marine service companies such as A & F Sails, A & A Rigging, Axxess Marine, Ultra-Refit, Seagull Inflatables, Anchor Concierge, Marionics Antigua, along with sailing training organizations like Ondeck, Second Star Sailing, the National Sailing Academy, Sailability, Marinas and Chandler-



ies. Also, there are establishments such as Budget Marine, Antigua Yacht Club Marina, Slipway Antigua, Falmouth Harbour Marina, and North Sound Marina, in addition to prominent non-profit entities Antigua Sailing Week and the ABYMA.

Due to the ongoing adverse weather conditions in

Antigua, the venue has been relocated to Lucky Eddi's. This expansive event space offers an ideal setting for ABYMA members to exhibit their businesses, services, and career opportunities to students, individuals aspiring to enter the industry and visiting yachtsmen.

Franklyn Braithwaite, ABYMA President, who was recently acknowledged by the ABHTA as an influential figure in Antigua's hospitality industry, notes, "Yachting is akin to a floating hotel – similar roles exist, albeit on a boat or serving one. The skipper is in charge, just like in a hotel; you need engineers, telecommunications, maintenance, hospitality staff, and various other services, including shore-side support services like provisioning food, and drinks, organizing events, and managing travel and tours. The possibilities are boundless. You can explore the world or

remain here, offering goods and services to global travelers visiting Antigua."

Rana-Jamila Lewis, board and planning committee member of the ABYMA anticipates "Those attending this showcase will hopefully expand their ideas of professional opportunity available outside of traditional sectors. As well as demystify the pathways to entry."

Arrangements have been made for young people to attend, as parents of young adults from educational institutions are being advised that the committee has organized transportation from select secondary schools, therefore encouragement that they attend is appreciated.

All other individuals eager to learn more about the industry and network with its stakeholders are welcome to attend the 2nd ABYMA showcase at Lucky Eddi's in English Harbour from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days.



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Statement on the 45th Independence of the Commonwealth of Dominica

On 3rd November, 1978, the Commonwealth of Dominica became a sovereign and independent State, making it 45 years a youthful democracy, today. ca and Antigua and Barbuda, in recent years, is maintained by the unrelenting cooperation between both Heads of Government.

Having once been a member of the Leeward Islands confederation, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda have been very close historically, with enduring family linkages that cause our futures to be bound together.

All of Antigua and Barbuda therefore congratulates the Commonwealth of Dominica upon its many significant achievements during its 45 years of independence, and extends wishes of future successes to the people and Government of Dominica.

To her citizens who have made Antigua and Barbuda their home, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to embrace the Dominican diaspora whose members are fully integrated into the Antigua and Barbuda society.

The Commonwealth of Dominica has provided the English-speaking Caribbean with many outstanding leaders during its 45 years, the most outstanding being the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit—its current Head of Government.

The comity that has matured between Domini-

Air travel, for example, requires collaboration in order to meet the ambitions of both states. Dominica's commitment to finding solutions to the impasse in air travel is remarkable.

The O.E.C.S. has been provided tremendously talented leadership from the Commonwealth of Dominica with one of its sons having served as the Director General for a significant period.

Dominica contributes significantly to the utility and functional cooperation that the O.E.C.S. has achieved. It has always abided its responsibilities and its obligations.

The Commonwealth's contribution to the outstanding work of the Pan American Health Organization, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, was ably led by a citizen of this outstanding island-country.

On behalf of the people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Prime Minister joins in celebrating the 45 years of sovereignty which the Commonwealth of Dominica now enjoys, and wishes its sister-CARICOM State all the very best for the future.



VACANCY PLANT MECHANIC 2

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **Plant Mechanic 2**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **Plant Mechanic 2** is expected to maintain and repair the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority's (ABAA's) plant equipment at the highest level in line with Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures.

The functions of the Plant Mechanic 2 will include but not limited to:

- Participate in the inspection, maintenance, repair, diagnosis, and location of mechanical difficulties on all ABAA vehicles and equipment.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all Passenger Loading Bridges.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all Conveyor and Baggage Handling Systems.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all ABAA generators both on site and off site.
- Assist with preventative maintenance on all electro/mechanical plant equipment, machinery, and related facilities.

Minimum Requirements:

- Antigua State College Diploma.
- Professional/Guild Certification or Vocational Qualifications in Mechanics.
- Plant Equipment Electrical Certification.
- Minimum three (3) years' working experience in a similar role.
- Minimum one (1) year experience in hydraulics, and diesel and gasoline engines.
- Mechanic experience in an aviation environment would be an asset
- Ability to competently use tools, equipment, vehicles and machinery to meet the role requirements.
- Ability to use computer diagnostic and testing equipment.
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure (resilience).
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective collaboration skills.
- Excellent customer service skills.

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

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 Website: www.vcbia.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

Opinion

A call to arms against the surge of gang violence

By Sir Ronald Sanders

There has been a surge in gang violence and gun violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, leading to a high level of murders and heightened fear in many countries.

The figures are alarming not only for the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) but also for all other countries in the Americas, including the United States of America and Canada.

The situation has become so alarming that I was prompted, in my capacity as President of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), to hold a Special Meeting on this matter on November 1, 2023. Representatives of 22 countries spoke, painting a worrying picture from both humanitarian and security standpoints.

The consensus from the meeting was undeniable: this is a challenge too vast for any single country to tackle in isolation. However, El Salvador claims that its aggressive measures, including jailing 71,000 gang members (about 2% of its population) have brought a great sense of security to a society that had been terrorized by gang violence for decades. Human rights bodies have criticised the administration of President Nayib Bukele,

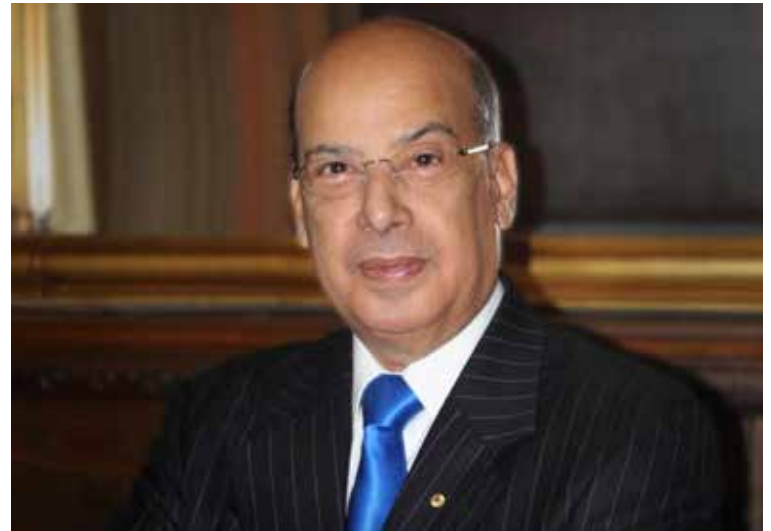
claiming that some of its stringent measure violate human rights law.

The experience in El Salvador is indicative of the tension between strong law enforcement measures to curb the criminal activity of armed gangs and international humanitarian law which demands that, at all times, individuals be guaranteed the enjoyment of fundamental rights and liberties.

How humanitarian law, in respect of uprooting criminal gangs, meshes with the call for a military force to remove over 60 gangs that are tormenting the country, is one of the paradoxes from which some governments have shied away.

In any event, the panel of experts, who vividly described the scale of the problem of guns, gangs and violence, left no doubt about three things: gangs and guns are in the hands of organised criminal enterprises which operate across borders; the infiltration of guns, mostly from the United States of America (US) is fuelling homicides including assassinations; and national law enforcement agencies lack the capacity to cope with the problem by themselves.

Such conditions partly explain the expansion of gang and criminal activity throughout the Americas. But it is not the full expla-



Sir Ronald Sanders

nation; other factors contribute. Among these are disillusioned, disenchanted and desperate young people who are lured into gangs as a way of getting money and asserting themselves.

The presentation by Trinidad and Tobago's Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Reginald Armour, to the OAS meeting was as startling as it was revealing. For example, he pointed out that "in Jamaica, approximately 70% of the violence is related to criminal organizations, despite the Government's drastic measures to combat gangs, by the implementation of 'Gang Suppression' laws and States of Emergency, repeated military and police operations and the arrest of 149 gang leaders". He observed that "these gangs continue to evolve with new leaders and a ready supply of illicit firearms originating from the

United States".

Mr. Armour also disclosed that "in Trinidad and Tobago, the combination of firearms and the fragmentation of competing gangs has increased the murder rate, with 614 homicides recorded in 2022".

This situation is not unique to Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, the two most populous states of CARICOM, apart from Haiti. In 2022, official figures showed that 5 CARICOM countries were among the top 10 nations in the world with the highest national murder rates per 100,000 people. The 5 countries were: Jamaica, St Lucia, Belize, Dominica and Guyana in that order. Of the other 5 countries, 4 were Latin American: Honduras, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil.

At the OAS meeting, Romain Le Cour Grandma-
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son, a senior expert at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, pointed out that, “the proportion of firearms involved in national homicides increased from 15% in 1997 to 70% in 2021”. He said that now, around 50 people are murdered with firearms every day. A similar point about the relation between firearms and violence, particularly murder was made by other speakers, including Maria Eugenia Mata of the Ministry of Public Security of Costa Rica.

According to an article from The Economist, “in previously safe countries, murder rates are hitting record levels, including Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Chile. The article calls it the new narco-network: a cocktail of drugs, guns, and migration is fuelling gang violence across the region”.

The Caribbean and Latin America, therefore, lying next to each geographically with many of them bordering the

Caribbean sea, have a common problem and a collective responsibility to their peoples to work together to address it effectively.

Undoubtedly, national efforts are underway, yet law enforcement agencies grapple with being underfunded and understaffed. Many are also in need of training and equipment. The OAS Secretariat has done a great body of work that assesses strengths and weaknesses within these security forces, and it has expertise that should be utilized to improve national capacity.

In the face of such stark realities – where firearms, gangs, and transnational crime erode the fabric of our societies – the call for action has never been more pressing. We stand at a crossroads where the only path forward is one of unity, collaboration, and unwavering resolve. It is not just about enhancing law enforcement capabilities; it is about forging an unbreakable chain of solidarity across the Americas.

The OAS is well-placed to spearhead this initiative, transforming policy recommendations into concrete measures: from tightening firearm export controls in the United States to fostering regional intelligence-sharing protocols, from expanding support for community programs that address the root causes of gang recruitment to bolstering judicial systems that can withstand the corruption and influence of organized crime. OAS member states should commit to a mobilizing the necessary political will and financial resources to implement such a plan. The time for concerted action is now; the cost of delay is simply too great.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the current President of the OAS Permanent Council. The views expressed are entirely his own. For comments and previous commentaries, see: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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'Crypto King' Sam Bankman-Fried guilty of FTX fraud

Sam Bankman-Fried, who once ran one of the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchanges, has been found guilty of fraud and money laundering at the end of a month-long trial in New York.

The jury delivered its verdict at the end of its first day of deliberations.

It concludes a stunning fall from grace for Bankman-Fried, a former billionaire and one of the most public faces of the crypto industry.

The 31-year-old was arrested last year after his firm, FTX, went bankrupt.

He now faces decades in prison.

Prosecutors had accused him of lying to investors and lenders and stealing billions of dollars from cryptocurrency exchange FTX, helping to precipitate its collapse. They charged him with seven counts of fraud and money laundering.

He pleaded not guilty, maintaining that, while he had made mistakes, he had acted in good faith.

But the case went against him from the beginning, after three of his former close friends and colleagues, including ex-girlfriend Caroline Ellison, pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against him in hopes of reducing their own sentences.

They are to be sentenced at a later date.



They presented evidence that Bankman-Fried's crypto trading firm Alameda Research received deposits on behalf of FTX customers from the early days of the exchange, when traditional banks were unwilling to let it open an account.

Instead of safeguarding those funds, as Bankman-Fried repeatedly pledged to do in public, he spent the money to repay Alameda lenders, buy property and make investments and political donations.

When FTX went bankrupt last November, Alameda owed it \$8bn (£6.5bn).

"He took the money. He knew it was wrong. He did it anyway, because he thought he was smarter and better and that he could figure his way out of it," assistant US attorney Nicolas Roos said in his closing arguments.

Bankman-Fried made

the risky move of taking the stand in his own defence, hoping to convince jurors that prosecutors had failed to prove he acted with criminal intent.

"There was bad judgment," said defence attorney Mark Cohen, offering a portrait of a nerdy mathematician who was overwhelmed as his companies grew rapidly. "That does not constitute a crime."

Bankman-Fried defended the money transfers between his firms as "permissible" and testified that he was largely unaware of the financial hole described by his deputies until a few weeks before the FTX collapse last year.

The downfall left many customers unable to recover their funds.

Lawyers working on the bankruptcy case have since said they have recovered the

vast majority of the missing money.

Bankman-Fried's trial was closely watched for its implications for the crypto industry as a whole, which has failed to recover from last year's market turmoil.

He has been seen as a poster child for the problems in the sector, which top regulators in the US have described as rife with criminality.

Before the collapse of his companies, he was known for hobnobbing with celebrities and appearing frequently in Washington and in the media, often in casual outfits and with a head of wild curls, to discuss the sector.

The rapid growth of FTX and his deal-making last year, when a market downturn hit other crypto firms, earned him the moniker "the king of crypto".

Petronas makes significant offshore oil discovery in Suriname

CMC - The Malaysian oil company Petronas has made a significant oil discovery off the coast of the country.

Subsidiary Petronas Suriname E&P on Thursday confirmed that an oil reservoir has been found at the Roystonea-1 exploration well in Suriname's Block 52.

Suriname's national oil company Staatsolie also confirmed the discovery today after the local newspaper, *de Ware Tijd*, announced this on Wednesday based on well-established sources.

This is Petronas' second discovery in Block 52.

A discovery was already made in this concession at Sloanea-1 in 2020. Elsewhere offshore Suriname, the company had also hit the mark in 2022 at the Baja-1 exploration well in Block 53.

The Roystonea-1 well, located about 185 kilometres offshore in water depth of 904 meters, was successfully drilled to a total depth of 5,315 meters.

It also encountered several oil-bearing sandstone reservoir packages. Further evaluation is being undertaken to determine the full extent of this discovery and its potential development synergy with the Sloanea-1 discovery made in 2020 within the same block.



“Petronas views the Roystonea-1 oil discovery as a positive development towards realizing our differentiated barrel strategy for international upstream ventures, focusing on a material discovery with minimal contaminants,” said Petronas Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Upstream, Datuk Adif Zulkipli.

Vice President of Exploration, Mohd Redhani Abdul Rahman added, “The success of Roystonea-1 is expected to drive further exploration for commercially viable hydrocarbon resources in the surrounding areas.

“Petronas will continue to work closely with the host authority, Staatsolie, and partners to unlock Suriname's hydrocarbon potential. We look forward

to implementing safe and successful future exploration programs together.”

Block 52, which covers an area of 4,749 square kilometres, is located north of the coast of Paramaribo, Suriname's capital city, within the prospective Suriname-Guyana basin. Petronas Suriname E&P is the operator of Block 52 with a 50 per cent participating interest.

In addition to Block 52, Petronas Suriname E&P operates Block 48 with 100 per cent participating interest.

It is also a partner with 30 per cent non-operating participating interest in the adjacent Block 53 where the Baja-1 oil discovery was made in 2022.

Petronas is the second international oil company that is now taking serious steps to execute a major

oil development offshore Suriname. In September, TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanné announced during a visit to Suriname that the process was being initiated to initiate development in Block 58.

Apache Corporation, partner of TotalEnergies, has confirmed at least 700 million recoverable barrels of oil in that block.

Production costs have been estimated at US\$9 billion. Staatsolie can participate in this development up to a maximum of 20 per cent.

Offshore oil production is seen as one of the most important options for lifting the country out of the economic malaise in Suriname, which is currently implementing an economic recovery plan with the support of the International Monetary Fund.

Regional News

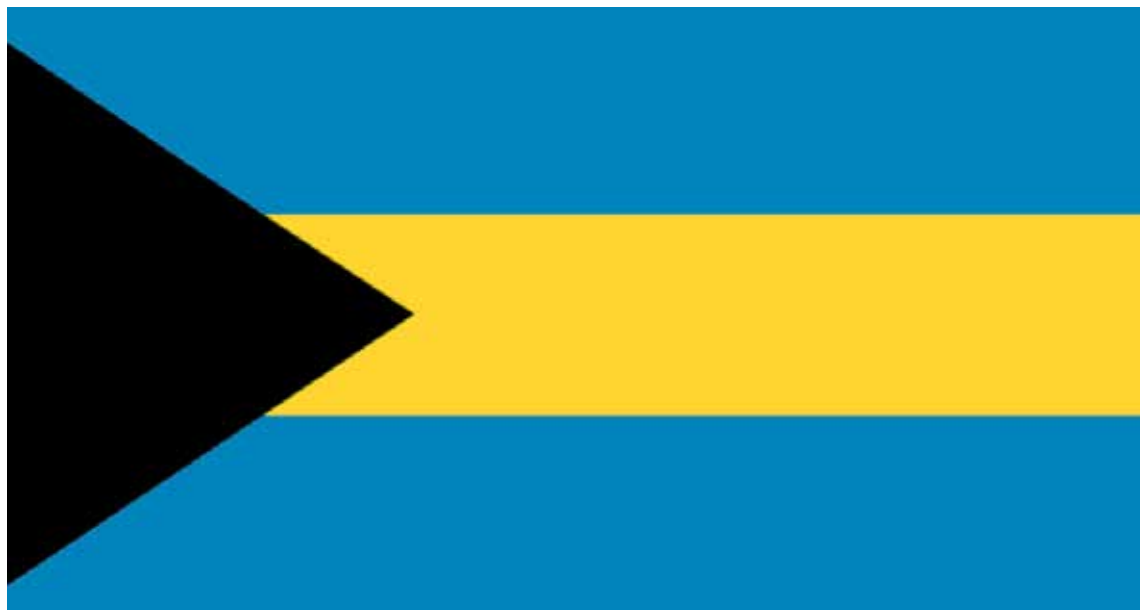


CMC - Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell has encouraged Bahamian students in Jamaica to remain in the country as leaving could be detrimental to their education.

He made the comment as the students asked to be airlifted to The Bahamas after an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 rocked Jamaica earlier this week.

“The better view is for them to remain in place,” he said.

“Follow the instructions of the authorities. Keep as safe as they can. If something catastrophic happens, we’ll intervene, but at the moment, it doesn’t appear to call for that. It’s a scary thing, but if you’re going to go to school in Jamaica, it’s



an earthquake zone so it’s a part of the reality.”

Speaking with the Tribune newspaper on Thursday, the president of the Bahamian Students Association of the University of the West Indies Mona, Stephen Smith, said many stu-

dents wanted to be airlifted home in the aftermath of the quake.

He confirmed that no one was seriously hurt and there were no reports of damage to people’s belongings, although one student told him a sheetrock panel

fell on his leg when he tried to evacuate, but he was not seriously injured.

“Everyone’s still on edge,” he said. “Just to lay down in the bedroom is still a fright because any kind of sudden movement, loud noise, or bump, you feel like the earthquake is about to happen.”

“There wasn’t any loss of life. There’s more so emotional damage that occurred, but there wasn’t any severe building infrastructure damage,” said Smith who added that there had been over 50 aftershocks since the earthquake.

He also confirmed that Prime Minister Philip Davis shared a voice note with him expressing concern.

He said Davis spoke to Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who assured him everything was operational in the country and at the university.

THANK YOU

Friends of Mount St. John’s Medical Centre would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our “Tickle Me Pink 8” event on Saturday 8th October, 2023 and anyone who may have in any way contributed to the great success of the event. This event provides funding towards the Oncology Unit at the hospital as well as free Mammograms and Ultra Sounds to women who need additional care after participating in the Breast Friends Annual Screening which will be held on Saturday 4^h November 2023 at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

We wish to thank all our Patrons and the Businesses that purchased tickets and also recognize and thank businesses and individuals who donated to the event, their contributions were greatly appreciated. They are as follows:

Goddard Catering, Subway Antigua, Signs & Impressions, Sheer Rocks Group of Restaurants/Rokuni, Julees, LeBistro French Restaurant, Lighting Expo, Digicel, Curtain Bluff Resort, Hermitage Bay, Fox House Restaurant, Lipstick, Cool & Smooth, Townhouse Mega Store, Flo’s Perfumery Plus, Shouls Toys & Gifts, Observer Radio, ABS TV, Twin Island Media, Victor & Cynthia McKay, Heather-Gail Cabral, Lipstick, DJ Undercover, DJ Altitude, Balloon Occasions - Marilyn Jones-Marsh, Douglas Allen of Dougie Photography, MeLange Creations, Kingdom Floral Plus, Alyssa Derrick, Tianna Harris Camryn Jackman, Jolie George-Alexander, Janae George-Alexander, Zoey James, Iman Blackman and A’Rissa Aska. Our function would not have been such a success without your contribution.

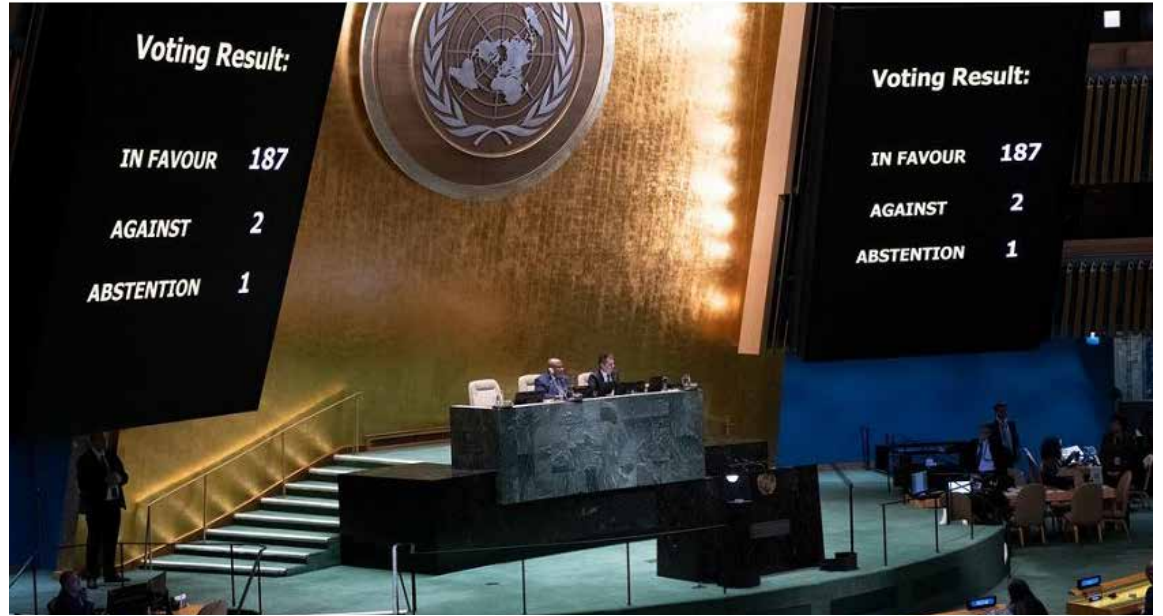
CARICOM nations support UN resolution to end US embargo on Cuba

All 14 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states voted in favour of a resolution at the UN General Assembly, which calls for an end to the United States' economic and trade embargo against Cuba which was first imposed in 1960.

The resolution's full title is the "necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

A total of 187 States voted for the resolution put forward each year against the embargo with only the US and Israel voting against and Ukraine abstaining.

The CARICOM countries which voted in favour of the resolution were Antigua and Barbuda, The Ba-



The UN General Assembly votes on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. (UN Photo/Evan Schneider)

hamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Assembly voiced concern that despite its

resolutions dating back to 1992, "the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is still in place", and that "the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries".

The General Assembly reiterated its call for all States to refrain from promulgating and applying such restrictive laws and measures, in line with their obligations under the UN Charter and international law.

German vice-chancellor Habeck hits out against rising antisemitism

By Paul Kirby

German Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck has vowed a tough political response to increasing antisemitism.

In a video seen eight million times, he criticised antisemitism from Islamists, the far right and “parts of the political left”.

Germany has seen a recent surge in antisemitic and anti-Israel incidents.

They began after the 7 October attacks in Israel during which Palestinian Hamas militants killed 1,400 Israelis and took more than 230 hostages.

Israel then launched a war it says is aimed at destroying Hamas. The Hamas-run health ministry says more than 9,000 people have since been killed.

Mr Habeck’s lengthy and emotive video has had a big impact in Germany. He pointed out that almost 80 years after the Holocaust, Jewish communities were having to tell their members to steer clear of certain places.

Some political figures praised him for giving what sounded like a state of the nation address. Antisemitism commissioner Felix Klein said he had made a clear and prudent appeal to the responsibility of everyone in Germany to stand up for the safety of Jewish women and men.

Germany has outlawed



Robert Habeck’s video of almost 10 minutes has been widely praised across the political spectrum.

the burning of other countries’ flags and the vice-chancellor reminded Germans that burning the Israeli flag or praising Hamas’s actions were crimes.

“Anyone who is German will have to answer for this in court,” Mr Habeck said in his message. “Anyone who isn’t German also risks losing their residence status. Anyone who doesn’t yet have a residence permit is giving grounds for deportation.”

Mr Habeck said some Muslim groups had been “too hesitant” in distancing themselves from Hamas or antisemitism, and he spoke of his concern about young activists on the left talking of “anti-colonialism”.

Not everyone was impressed. One former party colleague said she was disgusted he had implied that Muslim migrants and refugees had brought antisemitism into Europe.

The head of Germany’s Central Council of Muslims, Aiman Mazyek, had earlier

condemned antisemitism as a sin, stressing that Germany’s five million Muslims should not all be lumped together. He went on to condemn Israel’s bombing of Gaza as a war crime.

When Hamas gunmen attacked Israeli communities on 7 October, activists celebrated on the streets of the Berlin district of Neukölln, handing out pastries to passers-by, sparking outrage in much of Germany.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser announced on Thursday that all activities linked to Hamas in Germany would be banned, along with a pro-Palestinian network called Samidoun that handed out the pastries.

She said “terror organisation Hamas pursues the goal of destroying the state of Israel”, while Samidoun was spreading propaganda against Israel and Jews under the pretence of acting as a “solidarity organisation” for the release of prisoners in various countries.

Hamas is proscribed as

a terrorist group in the EU, US and UK, so it was already banned in Germany. But Ms Faeser said outlawing its activities enabled authorities to broaden the ban and would make it easier to intervene in gatherings of supporters.

Intelligence officials estimate Hamas has 450 members in Germany, many of them German citizens.

A week after the Hamas attacks, antisemitic incidents in Germany soared by 240%, compared with the same period in 2022.

Petrol bombs were thrown at a Berlin Jewish community centre and Jewish-owned homes have been daubed with slogans.

The head of Germany’s Central Council of Jews, Josef Schuster, welcomed the bans and called for action against “other hate organisations”.

Neighbouring Austria has also seen a sharp increase in reported antisemitic incidents.

On Tuesday night, a Jewish section of Vienna’s central cemetery came under attack. A swastika was daubed on the wall and a fire broke out in a ceremonial hall.

Although the cause of the fire was unclear, the head of the Jewish community, Oskar Deutsch, wrote on social media that the fire had destroyed valuable old

cont’d on pg 19

Migrant caravan heading through Mexico to US grows in numbers

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

A group of thousands of migrants who have set off on foot for the United States from southern Mexico is steadily growing in size.

Its organiser says around 7,000 people now make up this migrant caravan, up from 5,000 just days ago.

Most of them are from Central and South America, local aid groups say.

US President Joe Biden is due to meet leaders from the region on Friday to discuss how to curb the flow of migrants to the United States.

President Biden has come under attack for his handling of migration, in particular on the US-Mexico border.

Republicans say he is not doing enough to stem the flow and Democrat mayors, whose cities have seen an influx after Republican governors bussed newly arrived migrants there, have joined in the criticism, saying that their cities cannot house and



So far, the migrant caravan has made its way about 40km (25 miles) from Tapachula to Huixtla.

feed them.

The number of people apprehended at the US's southern border exceeded 2 million both in the 2022 and the 2023 fiscal years.

In September 2023 alone, US Border Patrol apprehended more than 200,000 migrants crossing the US-Mexico border unlawfully, according to US Homeland Security figures.

Those who have joined the migrant caravan, which left the city of Tapachula on Monday, say they are determined to make it to

the US.

"In Venezuela things are very tough, we can't live with the money we get, it's not enough for us, and that's why we're going to the United States," a Venezuelan father who was embarking on the long walk with his wife and two daughters told Reuters news agency.

One of the organisers of the caravan, Irineo Mújica of the NGO People without Borders, said that the migrants had set off together after having been left

"stranded" by the Mexican authorities in increasingly dangerous Chiapas state.

"Organised crime is already taking over Chiapas, violence is everywhere. We are trying to save lives with these kinds of actions," he said of the caravan.

A migrant from Honduras told Mexican newspaper La Jornada that he decided to join the trek north after having waited in vain for a transit permit to cross Mexico.

"I could not keep on waiting without money, sleeping in the street, that's not a life. Better that we should head up [northwards] and let's hope the [Mexican] government helps us, doesn't stop us".

Some previous caravans have clashed with Mexican police, which tried to stop them from walking along major highways.

cont'd from pg 18

books and a Torah Ark.

In a separate development, police in France have said that a Moldovan couple have been detained on suspicion of spray-painting Stars of David on walls in Paris.

They were arrested on 27 October, days before dozens of Stars of David tags appeared on buildings linked to the Jewish

community in the 14th district of the capital. The couple, who said they had carried out the offence on behalf a third party, are now facing expulsion.

Prosecutors have said they are unclear whether the tags were intended as an insult to the Jewish people or not. However, unconfirmed reports say another couple is being sought in connection with the other incidents.

Windies Academy defeat Harpy Eagles by 92 runs

Ackeem Auguste and Nyeem Young bowled West Indies Academy to an emphatic 92-run victory over the Guyana Harpy Eagles in the CG United Insurance Super50 Cup at the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Wednesday.

Needing 264 for victory after the West Indies Academy had posted 263 all out from their 50 overs, Guyana were dismissed for 171 in 35.1 overs as their batters offered little resistance to the bowling of their opponents.

Auguste, known for his batting, took four for 48 and Young captured *cont'd on pg 21*



The West Indies Academy team celebrate after capturing a wicket against the Guyana Harpy Eagles in the CG United Insurance Super50 Cup at the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. (CWI Media)




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Antigua Grammar School gets first win in Under-20 boys division

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) recorded its first win during the latest round of matches in the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

Jaiden Wray scored twice as Antigua Grammar hammered Jennings Secondary 7-0 at the Princess Margaret School's playing field to claim their first win in three encounters.

Wray had conversions in the 49th and 60th minutes. Javere Joseph opened the scoring in the 9th minute, and Okahrie Michell made it 2-0 with a 12th-minute conversion.

Keondre Hewlette scored in the 25th minute, and Sedique Adams had a 45th-minute conversion. Antigua Grammar also benefited when Jennings Secondary scored an own goal.

The Ottos Comprehensive and Clare Hall Secondary also recorded wins.

Joylan Joseph scored in the 9th minute, and L'andre Elliot had a 24th-minute conversion to give Ottos Comprehensive School a 2-0 victory against Antigua State College at the Golden Grove playing field.

Clare Hall Secondary snatched a 2-1 win against St. Joseph's Academy in an East Zone encounter at the Clare Hall School playing field.

Noel Jno Baptiste scored in the 12th minute, and Amos Christian had an 18th-minute conversion for Clare Hall, while Dejaun Francis converted for St. Joseph's Academy in the 44th minute.

However, Irene B. Williams Secondary won by default against Pares Secondary School in the other East Zone encounter that was to be played at the Parham playing field.

The secondary schools' football league will continue today with matches in the Under-14 and West

Zone of the Under-20 boys' divisions and the opening round fixtures in the Under-16 girls' category.

Pares Secondary will face Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the Under-14 division at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos at 2:10 pm.

The Antigua Grammar School will meet Ottos Comprehensive in the Under-20 division at the same venue at 3:10 pm.

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Jennings Secondary will clash in both the Under-14 di-

vision at 2:10 pm and the Under-20 boys' category at 3:10 pm in a double-header at the PMS playing field.

The Under-16 girls' division will commence with three matches at the King George V Recreational Grounds in St. John's.

All Saints Secondary will take on Antigua Girls High School at 2:10 pm, Jennings Secondary School will challenge Ottos Comprehensive School at 3:10 pm, and Clare Hall Secondary will clash with Sir Novelle Richards Academy at 4:10 pm.

cont'd from pg 20

three for 18.

The only real resistance came from Kevin Sinclair, who scored a hard-fought 46, and late order 32 from Veerasammy Permaul.

The Academy owed their match-winning total to Matthew Forde, known more for his bowling, and Teddy Bishop, who posted scores of 52 and 48, respectively.

Young was also productive with the bat, hitting a solid 42. Joshua Bishop got 37 and Kevin Wickham made 32. Sinclair, Permaul, left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie, and Shamar Joseph each took two wickets for the Harpy Eagles.



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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.



Basketball legend Carl Knight gets national award

Legendary national basketballer Carl “Bowlie” Knight has been bestowed with a national award.

Knight received an Officer of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (OH) during the ceremonial parade to commemorate Antigua and Barbuda’s 42nd anniversary of political independence celebration at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Wednesday evening.

Knight, who was among 12 Antiguan, one business, and two organizations to receive national awards at Wednesday’s ceremony, said he is humbled to be given such an honour.

“I am extremely proud to receive the award. I am happy, not just for myself but for my family and the basketball fraternity,” Knight said.

“It is a lot of hard work, but even when I am putting in the hard work, this was never the goal of looking forward to receiving something. You just go about doing what you have to do.

“So I give God thanks and praise; he has seen it fit that he should bestow upon me this award, and I am extremely grateful and proud to receive it.”

The award was bestowed upon Knight for his service to the nation, particularly in the development of sports.

Knight has been one of the region’s finest basketball



Basketball legend Carl ‘Bowlie’ Knight, right, accepts his national award from Antigua and Barbuda’s Governor General His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams at the ceremonial parade to commemorate Antigua and Barbuda’s 42nd Anniversary of political Independence celebration at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

point guards that Antigua and Barbuda has ever produced. He started to play the sport at an early age in the Villa community.

Knight’s inherent skill and avid interest came to the forefront from the time he was seen on the Villa School and community basketball courts. The sport has taken Knight to the ranks of notable community basketball teams such as Friend of Villa, Central, and Skillville.

He went on to captain Skillville and lead them to multiple championships during a period in the 1980s in which they dominated the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association’s (ABBA)

Division One league.

Knight gained selection for the senior national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, in 1981 and went on to captain the team at Caricom, OECS, and Leeward Islands Basketball Association (LIBA) tournaments.

Knight played key and instrumental roles in helping the Wadadli Bulldogs dominate basketball in the sub-region in the 1980s to 1990s period, during which Antigua and Barbuda won multiple titles in the OECS and LIBA tournaments.

His basketball skills turned into a passion and then a profession. Knight is currently the schools’ basket-

ball coordinator for the Ministry of Sports, a role he took over from the late Wayne “Doc” Harris in 1997.

Knight was first employed as a PE teacher in the now-defunct Community Development Sports and Games Department under the guidance of its late director, Fitzroy Brann, on July 1, 1987.

Since that time, Knight has grown into his role as a full-time basketball coach in the Ministry of Sports, developing his talents and thousands of young people in schools across Antigua and Barbuda over the years.

Knight and his family have also been intricately involved in basketball at the national administrative level. Knight and his wife, Olena, have worked with ABBA in many roles over the years.

Since 1993 until present, Knight and his family have been organizing, coordinating, and conducting the current business basketball league with ABBA.

Carl Knight has also conducted coaching camps and clinics as well as performed duties as a referee in the ABBA domestic league, including this year.

His wife, Olena, who has served at the ABBA executive level, has been performing roles as a table official in the national domestic basketball leagues for decades.



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Massicot off to join GNFC Gloucestershire

Young Antiguan national player Daryl Massicot of Jennings United left Antigua and Barbuda on Monday, October 23, to represent Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) Gloucestershire in the premier division of the Cheltenham Association Football League (CAFL).

GNFC Gloucestershire was created in 2021 by the current president of Antigua and Barbuda's Generation Next Football Club (GNFC), Ricky Santos, to provide exposure to players from Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean in the United Kingdom (UK).

Fellow Antiguan Maliko Anthony will also fly out tomorrow Saturday, November 4, to represent GNFC Gloucestershire.

Santos said Massicot and Anthony will be joining three other Antiguan players and a player from Montserrat, who are all currently enrolled at Hartpury College and University in the UK, at GNFC Gloucestershire.

"We already have three Antiguan players at GNFC Gloucestershire, one of whom is the captain, Darren Warner. One of the mandates that we stipulate is that once we have an Antiguan in the team, he must be the captain, so Warner is currently fulfilling that role," Santos said.

"Warner is from Generation Next in Antigua. Also from Antigua, we have Carlito Papa and Levi Smith, who are already on the team. All three Antiguan players are attending Hartpury College. We also have Vashirn Roche of Montserrat on the team.

"So with Darly going there, we will have another Antiguan, and soon to be arriving on November 4 will be Maliko Anthony, who will also be joining the team."

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

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

Santos, who launched GNFC in Antigua and Barbuda in 2012, said it has been a great financial challenge to maintain GNFC Gloucestershire in the Cheltenham Association Football League.

"It's been extremely challenging because every-



Young Antiguan national player Daryl Massicot of Jennings United. (ABFA)

thing is being funded by me personally. We have absolutely no sponsors at the moment, and it's also very challenging because it takes close to 1,500 pounds per month for the duration of the season to manage the club," Santos stated.

Santos said he is hopeful that GNFC Gloucester will get some sponsors from Antigua and Barbuda, including the Ministry of Tourism.

"I am very optimistic and hopeful that we will get some sponsors on board. I am hoping that we will get sponsors from Antigua, particularly the hotel industry or even the tourism department of the government," he said.

"We could help to advertise Antigua and Barbuda in the UK to show that this is an Antigua team that is based in the UK football pyramid system.

"We have been promoted twice, and we are hoping that we can attract some sponsors so that we can create the longevity of the club. But most importantly, sponsorship would help to expose our players from Antigua and, by extension, the wider Caribbean by giving them the opportunity to showcase their talents.

"I am positive that eventually we will see one of our players from this region at a much higher level, hopefully in the English Premier League."

ABSF names team for the OECS Swim Championships

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) has announced a 34-member squad to represent the twin island state at the 31st Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Swimming Championships in St. Lucia next weekend.

The 2022 Junior Sportswoman of the Year, Ellie Shaw, male 100-meter butterfly national record holder Tivon Benjamin, and national female 100-meter backstroke record holder Madison MacMillian are named in the Antigua and Barbuda squad, which will be defending its OECS title at the three-day event in St. Lucia from November 10-12.

Shaw and MacMillian, along with Isabelle Bremner and Davina Barton, will compete in the girls 13-14 age category. Benjamin, Manav Sindhi, Tony Goodwin, and Zardad Jan will compete in the boys 15-17 age category.

Experienced swimmer, Bianca Mitchell and Anisa Lewis will compete in the Girls 18 & over category, while Jair Smith will be Antigua and Barbuda's sole representative in the Boys 18 & Over division.

Contesting the Girls 8 & Under division will be Jordin Howell and Isabel Nicholas, while Zane Williams and Jalen Weste will compete in the Boys 8 & Under category.

Keziah Joseph, Kaylee Warner, Elizabeth Sukumaran, and Alyssa Watkins will compete in the girls 9-10 division, while Alessandro Bazzoni, Christopher Walter, and Mkazo Lind-



Ellie Shaw



Tivon Benjamin

say will contest the boys 9-10 category.

Competing in the Girls 11-12 division will be Anya DeGannes, Vizuri Lindsay, and Alaysia Liddie, while Reuben Edwards, Jamie Tranter, and Zahid Derrick will contest the Boys 11-12 category.

Jai Sindhi, Esprit Shaw, and Davin Barton will contest the boys 13-14 division, while Aunjelique Liddie, Alandra Dublin, and Kimberlee Warner will compete in the girls 15-17 category.

There are three alternate swimmers: Anna Sukumaran in the girls 8 & under section, Mila Festini-Cromer in the girls 13-14 division, and Naeem DeSouza in the boys 15-17 category.

The team's head coach is Wayne Mitchell, and he will be accompanied by coaches Nelson Molina and Eliz-



Madison MacMillian

abeth Watkins. The team manager is Kem Warner.

Stefaon Mitchell was also selected to form part of the national team, but had to withdraw due to extenuating circumstances.