

OVER 800,000 PASSENGERS FOR 2023-24 SEASON

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Five cruise ships in port earlier this year at the Heritage Quay pier. Over 800,000 passengers are expected to grace the shores of Antigua and Barbuda in the upcoming tourist season.

2023-2024 Winter cruise tourism season off and running

Over nine thousand cruise visitors arrived aboard four cruise ships in October, as the cruise tourism sector is projecting that over eight hundred thousand people will visit the country by the time the season ends in April next year.

The Antigua Cruise Port (ACP) is reporting that a total of 9,326 visitors arrived aboard the four vessels that called during the past month.

The vessels were the Seabourn Pursuit of the Seabourn Cruise Line, Regal Princess of Prin-

cess Cruises, Britannia of the P&O Cruise Lines, and Mein Schiff 4 of TUI Lines. Two vessels – Seabourn Pursuit and Mein Schiff 4 made their inaugural calls to Antigua in October.

For November, a total of 47 cruise ship calls have been listed, including some that will be making inaugural calls to the destination.

Meanwhile, Antigua Cruise Port said it will recommence homeporting operations with the largest vessel, Arvia, to visit the country, on November

18th.

The vessel which is a part of P & O Cruises, will make a total of nine (9) calls for the season.

Luxury mega yacht Emerald Sakara will begin homeporting on November 18th when it makes its inaugural visit.

The vessel is expected to be stationed at the Nevis Street Pier while Arvia will be homeporting at the Fifth Berth on that date.

ACP will conduct simultaneous homeporting operations with both vessels in the upcoming season.

SeaDream II will begin homeporting on January 14th and make three homeporting calls for the season, according to ACP.

Star Clipper and Royal Clipper will also do turn-arounds.

Meanwhile, preparations continue for the anticipated inaugural call of an Oasis Class ship from Royal Caribbean, which is tentatively scheduled for January 2, 2024.

Much has depended on the clearing of a rock formation at the mouth of the channel before a final confirmation can take place.



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Port of St. John's already a transshipment hub for the OECS

The policy objective of the government of Antigua and Barbuda to make the Port of St. John's a major transshipment hub for goods earmarked for neighbouring islands is already taking place on the ground.

General Manager of the Antigua Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque, who has been promoting the country and its improved

harbour facilities to the shipping community, said this is already happening with one shipping line and discussions are taking place to expand this operation with other shipping lines.

“On Saturday, we had a ship from Tropical Shipping, that brought in cargo for St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and a few



General Manager of the Antigua Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque

other ports.

“A Tropical vessel will then pick up these goods and take them to their respective destinations; we are doing transshipment,” he declared.

He explained that transshipment is not something that the Port Authority has like a signed document, saying it will do transshipment with them for the next three or five years, but the reality is that it is already happening.

“We are discussing with them to make it more permanent, but it is happening and we are excited about that.

“As a matter of fact, not only will we be doing that for Tropical but there are one or two other parties with whom we are very close to signing an agreement to do more transshipment,” he revealed.

Telemaque said this is important as Antigua and Barbuda has a role to play, not only for its existence but for the OECS as well.

“For example, I have been touting the fact that this port that we just upgraded and expanded, a US\$100 million development, is what I call, the transshipment hub of the OECS.

“That is, because it is here that we have the most capable operating staff, the largest space to house both dry and refrigerated cargo, the largest container space, the largest multiple berth locations, and the deepest harbour in the OECS is here, and therefore I think with all of these things being said, I think this port is prepared to serve the region and we are embarking to do so as we are doing with Tropical,” he stated.

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Police probe ‘sudden death’ of female found at Potworks Dam

The death of a middle-aged female whose body was found in a motor vehicle near Potworks Dam is being treated as a ‘sudden death’ until the police investigation into the matter proves otherwise. That is according to Inspector Frankie Thomas, the head of the Police Strategic Communications Department. Thomas reported on Tuesday afternoon that the police were on the scene of an incident at Potworks Dam, where the lifeless body of a 49-year-old female of All Saints was found inside a vehicle.

“The police arrived on the scene shortly after 1:00

p.m. on Tuesday 7, November, and found her body slumped over, inside the vehicle. Relatives of the woman reported her missing sometime after 2:00 p.m. on Monday. She was pronounced dead at 2:47 p.m. The deceased has been identified as 49-year-old Gwendolyn Williams of McPond, All Saints,” Inspector Thomas reported.

The police spokesman said there are still many unanswered questions, such as why the woman chose to drive her motor vehicle to the spot where it was found, an area at Potworks Dam that was previously used as a shortcut to Bethesda.

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Press Release

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LIAT SCHEDULE DISRUPTION DUE TO MAINTENANCE ISSUES

St. John's, Antigua, November 7, 2023 – LIAT wishes to advise that due to unscheduled maintenance issues that there will be a disruption to its regular flight schedule. The issues have caused LIAT to suspend its current schedule as it works to resolve the issues and put its aircraft back into schedule. However, due to logistical and supply chain issues, the airline does not have a concrete deadline for the return to its regular schedule. Therefore, several flights in the coming weeks have been cancelled.

LIAT acknowledges that this disruption will cause a major inconvenience to its customers at this time. However, the safety of our passengers, crew and ground staff are of the utmost importance.

LIAT is currently exploring all available options to assist passengers at this time. Our Reservations Call Centre is currently contacting affected passengers to assist with their travel needs. The airline is also working diligently to expedite the maintenance process so the airline can resume its regular schedule which is essential to connectivity in the region.

Passengers are asked to monitor their e-mails and LIAT's social media platforms for updates. Due to the high volume of calls, we ask that passengers await their contact calls or to contact the airline via email at Reservations@liat.com.

LIAT sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this schedule disruption and looks forward to resuming service soon.

-END-

LIAT, The Caribbean Airline, is currently under Administration. The Administrator is Mr. Cleveland Seaforth of BDO. LIAT operates a limited schedule to nine destinations currently. For more information, please visit www.liat.com.

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Local businessman donates A/C units to SLBMC - Pediatric Department

Local businessman, Everod Roberts, is donating several air conditioning units to be used by the Pediatric and other departments of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, which have had to cope with rising temperatures.

A presentation exercise of 40 A/C units was held at the hospital where Roberts' personal assistant, Desma Granger Sutton, made the presentation on his behalf. Reading from a prepared text, Granger Sutton explained that Roberts was recently warded at the hospital and therefore he is making the presentation for two reasons; firstly, to thank



Representatives of SLBMC and Roberts Construction and Engineering the doctors and nurses who stay, and secondly, to bring Pediatric Ward who had to cared for him during his relief to the patients at the *cont'd on pg 8*

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Grays Farm man sentenced to prison for illegal firearm

Jari Jackson, 33 of Grays Farm who was arrested and charged by the police for having an illegal firearm and ammunition in his possession has been sentenced to prison.

The accused appeared before the court on Tuesday, charged with possession of a 9mm pistol and possession of

five matching rounds of ammunition. He pleaded guilty to both charges and was sentenced to five months at His Majesty's Prison on the charge of possession of a firearm.

He was further fined an additional \$3000 for possession of ammunition, which he has to pay \$1000 by Friday

of this week. The remaining balance is to be paid on the second Friday of each consecutive month or in default serve three months in prison.

Jackson was found in possession of the illegal weapon during a police force stop and search exercise on Sunday, 5th November.

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contend with the sweltering heat.

“It was during his stay here, that he had occasion to pass by the Pediatric Ward and noticed the young patients struggling in the sweltering heat. Being a generous and altruistic person, he immediately promised that he would supply the department with enough A/C units to keep the kids cool during the most intense heatwave. We all know that global warming is real and that heatwaves are here to stay,” she stated.

Roberts added that the children are the nation's future and ought to be treated in ideal conditions. He felt that the children are not responsible for global warming and ought not to be suffering from its effects.

Chair of the Pediatric Department, Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis thanked the benefactor, Roberts, for the donation of the A/C units, noting that all will benefit from his generosity.

“We've all experienced the discomforts of extremes



The 14 Air Conditioner units donated by Everod Roberts through his companies

in temperature so we can imagine how our children feel as they are already ill and having to cope with the difficulty of extreme temperatures.

“Our parents are already stressed and unsure of what's happening with their children, or what the next day holds with the extreme temperatures, and our staff, our nurses, and physicians are offering their best, going above and beyond in providing care under less-than-ideal conditions. These units are go-

ing to make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children, the lives of our parents, the lives of our guardians, and the lives of our staff,” she remarked.

A hospital spokesman explained that unfortunately, the facility was not built with central AC throughout. Many of the areas impacted are inpatient areas which includes the Pediatric Department.

“As temperatures become more and more extreme, especially in the summer— You can imagine

just how uncomfortable that is for our patients and families and our care teams. We're very thankful for the generosity of Roberts Construction & Engineering and Roberts Industries Ltd. (the names of the companies in which the donation was made),” she revealed.

According to the spokesman, the value for the 14 A/C units is approximately EC\$26,800.00 The units will be placed in the Pediatric Department and other areas of greatest need at the hospital.

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Italy to seize \$835m from Airbnb in tax evasion inquiry

By **Annabelle Liang**

An Italian judge has ordered the seizure of €779.5m (\$835.5m; £676.8m) from short-term rental giant Airbnb, over alleged tax evasion.

Prosecutors say the firm failed to collect a tax from landlords on around €3.7bn of rental income.

Landlords in Italy are required to pay a 21% tax on their earnings.

Airbnb told the BBC that it was “surprised and disappointed at the action announced by the Italian public prosecutor”.

Airbnb spokesperson Christopher Nutly said the firm’s European headquarters had been working to resolve the matter with the Italian tax agency since June.

Mr Nutly added “We are confident that we have acted in full compliance with the law and intend to exercise our

rights with respect to this issue.”

Three people who held managerial roles at Airbnb from 2017 to 2021 were also under investigation, Milan Tribunal prosecutors said in a statement.

In 2022, Airbnb challenged the Italian law requiring the company and other short-term rental providers to withhold 21% of the rental income from landlords and pay it to tax authorities.

The firm argued that Italy’s requirements on taxation contravened the European Union’s principle of freedom to provide services across the 27-country bloc. The EU’s top court later ruled that Airbnb should abide by the requirements.

In recent years, Italian authorities have increased scrutiny of the tax practices of major companies like Airbnb,

which has been operating in the country since 2008.

Italian prosecutors have launched tax-related inquiries against Netflix and Meta, according to media reports.

Last month, Italian politicians said they planned to crackdown on landlords who did not pay taxes on short-term rentals through platforms like Airbnb.

The co-ruling Forza Italia party said the country would move to introduce a national identification code for short-term rentals.

“That code will bring out the revenue of those who rent flats without declaring them,” Forza Italia leader and Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani told reporters.

Politicians estimate that the move could boost Italy’s fiscal revenue by €1bn.

Tennis great Serena Williams named 'fashion icon'

By **Brandon Drenon**

Tennis legend Serena Williams has been named a fashion icon by the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

The organisation awarded Williams the title on Monday night at a ceremony in New York.

"I explored fashion and style as a way to distinguish myself," Williams told the crowd. "In many ways for me, the tennis courts became my runway."

Williams is the first athlete to win the award. Previous award recipients include Beyoncé, Zendaya and Rihanna.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion rocked the red carpet at the American Museum of Natural History, wearing a bespoke black sequin dress designed by CFDA Chairman Thom Browne.

On the fashion industry's equivalent of Oscar night, Williams was presented the 2023 CFDA fashion icon award by fashion mogul and television star Kim Kardashian.

Others in the audience included actors Anne Hathaway, Gwyneth Paltrow and Demi Moore and singers Mary J Blige and Vanessa Hudgens. In her acceptance speech, Williams spoke of her love for fashion and its role on the ten-



Serena Williams outside of the 2023 CFDA Awards in New York on 6 November.

nis court.

"I designed skirts out of denim and I wore purple tutus and bodysuits and put beads in my hair, and braids," she said. "It was really just a fun time for me."

Williams studied fashion during her playing career - attending fashion school between Grand Slams - and in 2018, launched her S by Serena clothing line.

In 2019, Williams told *Essence* magazine that her clothes "represent women everywhere - indomitable mothers, daughters and sisters; resilient businesswomen and entrepreneurs; outsiders and underdogs; little girls with crazy dreams and unflinching women of colour".

Williams, 42, ended her 27-year professional career in 2022 in New York at the US Open, though she

has said "I am not retired", and "the chances (of a return) are very high".

She referred to her career's end in a *Vogue* magazine article as "evolving away from tennis".

At the awards ceremony, Williams thanked several people but saved the last one for her mother.

"Watching her sew created this creativity in me that I still have to this day," Williams said.

St Vincent: Ag Police Commissioner says island has a crime “problem”

CMC - Acting Commissioner of Police, Enville Williams, says that St Vincent and the Grenadines has a problem with gun violence as the island recorded three murders last weekend pushing the death toll so far this year to a record 47.

Williams, who took up his new position last month, told a news conference that the island had recorded 47 homicides this year, 43 of which police have classified as murders. The figure is five more than last year when a record 42 homicides were recorded.

“I wish that my first chat with us as Commissioner of Police were under better circumstances but it is not,” said Williams, who before his new post had been the assistant commissioner of police with responsibility for crime fighting.

“Over the period Friday to Sunday, three lives were lost due to senseless acts of violence, two of which were by the route of illegal arms and ammunition,” Williams said as he spoke about “the disheartening nature of crime generally but more specifically crime committed by the use of the firearms”.

He said firearms were used in the commission of 36 of the 43 murders recorded this year.

“But, like I said before, we have a problem. That is the reason why the government and CARICOM

(Caribbean Community) is treating illegal firearms as a pandemic,” Williams said.

“So, it is not just a police problem but a whole-of-society problem and as such we must address this pandemic in a united fashion, hence the reason why I appeal and we continue to appeal to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to partner with us.”

Police said that Zachari “Zack” McIntosh, 31, died last Friday, three days after he sustained injuries allegedly in an altercation with a close relative, who has since been arrested.

Police also reported that Maurice Primus, 31, was found dead with gunshot wounds to his body and head last Friday night and on Sunday night, Tambu Patrick, 39, was gunned down.

Two people are assisting police with their investigations.

“Friends, we have a problem where the use of illegal guns is becoming all too rampant among us and we must not, as citizens, as Vincentians, allow this practice to be normalised as the way forward,” Williams told the media.

“As right-thinking Vincentians, we must not accept these occurrences as normal and we should do everything in our power to rid our streets and our communities of illegal arms and ammunition and the few rogue men



and women who seek to use them to instil fear among citizens.”

Williams said that very shortly the Royal St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF) and law-enforcement community in general will roll out “the highly-anticipated gun amnesty” that Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves announced in his independence address on October 27 this year.

“This, among other measures, is geared towards making our streets and our communities safer for all of us because too often lives are lost because of illegal firearms. Homes are shattered, dreams are broken and too many cries are going up because of violence,” Williams said.

He urged Vincentians to partner with the constabulary and the law enforcement community in general “as we seek to tackle this scourge of crime and criminality because we must continue to make our country safe and secure for all of us.

“I encourage, therefore,

civic groups, neighbourhood watches, religious organisations to join in solidarity with us as we make a Herculean effort to rid our streets of violence. Yes, it is our job, but together we can do this together to make St Vincent safe for all of us,” said Williams, who urged young people involved in the bloodletting to stop.

“I want to, again, appeal to our nation’s youth, those who think it is ok to perpetrate these crimes, to stop. Make no mistake, make absolutely no mistake, our resolve to get rid of the guns off the streets of St Vincent is strong,” Williams said.

“Make absolutely no mistake, we want to give you an opportunity to give up the guns and ammunition where you have them. But make no mistake, we are resolved to get them.

“So, we want to encourage you who in some way, shape or fashion, believe that you have an upper hand to know that the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force and law enforcement generally in St Vincent,

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TCI: Over 100 irregular migrants intercepted near Northwest Point

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) continues to intercept irregular migrants in its waters.

A report states that 115 migrants are currently at the Detention Centre following the interception of an illegal vessel on Monday evening.

According to police reports, the vessel was detected and intercepted by Officers of the Marine Branch near Northwest Point, Providenciales. The vessel was towed to the South Dock Port containing 86 males (including two minors) and 29 females (including one minor).

This operation also included members of the TCI Regiment and the TCI Border Force. The irregular migrants were handed over to Border Force for processing.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands



Irregular migrants intercepted. (Photo via: The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force)

Police Force (RTCIPF) says so far for the year up to November 6, 2023, there were 27 interceptions.

The number of irregular migrants in-

tercepted for the period included 2,788 males and 700 females, a total of 3,488.

Included in the total figure are 28 minors.

cont'd from pg 12

we will do all that we have to do to protect the good name of SVG and the citizens of SVG from these senseless acts of violence.”

He appealed to the public to say something when they see something.

“But there is that small sector of society, those who harbour the criminal and shield them from police action and or prosecution — stop these acts. It is eroding the very society that you live in. It is undermining the peace and security of your neighbours.

“And if you continue to do it, we will come for you likewise. When you continue to give them shelter to criminals, they are emboldened to do more. So, I want to appeal to you not to hide

them, not to give them shelter or safe space to operate in because by doing that, your neighbours and brothers and sisters are affected by the crime perpetrated by them,” Williams said.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner of Police with responsibility for police operations, Christopher Benjamin is urging the public to work along with the police to fight crime.

“I know the question is being asked, ‘What the police is doing? We are working hard to keep everybody safe but if I outline to you exactly in detail what we are about to do or what we are doing, it will defeat the purpose.

“But all I will say, you will feel us. So, expect some inconvenience based on our

initiatives. We will be seen. A high police presence will be visible throughout our communities and also, we will be present but not so present. So, we will be there and you won’t know we are there,” Benjamin said.

“I urge citizens, come forward, give information to the police so that we can bring these people who are committing these crimes to justice. Don’t wait until it is affecting you to come forward. Remember we are all in this crime fighting business together.”

Acting Assistant Commissioner of Police with responsibility for crime fighting, Trevor Bailey, said that the police have taken immediate steps to address an upsurge in crime in the Central Leeward town of Layou.

Bailey said the authorities have recognised that there was “a bit of a fall-off between the citizens and the police.

“And we are committed to mending that bridge, to fill in that gap,” he told the media, adding “we are committed, deeply committed, and we are concerned about the level of crime in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

“We have every shoulder, every boot that is being laced, the members of the Royal St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, our shoulders are committed to the task of making sure that crime is at a minimal and more so, homicides in St Vincent and the Grenadines, with dispatch, with urgency, we get a proper grip on the entire situation.”

Ukraine war: Grenade birthday gift kills army chief Zaluzhny's aide

By Paul Kirby

A grenade given as a birthday present has blown up and killed a close aide of the head of Ukraine's armed forces Valery Zaluzhny.

Maj Hennadiy Chastyakov, 39, had returned to his flat with presents from his colleagues and was opening them with his son when the grenade exploded.

Maj Chastyakov was killed and his 13-year-old son left seriously wounded.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the boy had started turning the ring on the grenade.

"Then, the serviceman took the grenade from the child and pulled the ring, causing a tragic explosion."

Prosecutors clarified later that he had accidentally set off the grenade while trying to take it away from his son.

The blast has been described as a "tragic accident" and the minister appealed to the public to await the outcome of an official investigation. Police said the explosion in the family flat at Chaiky in the western outskirts of Kyiv had been "as a result of careless handling of ammunition".

But it soon emerged that another five grenades had been found in the flat. Mr Klymenko said that they had been a gift from a colleague in the army.

Two similar grenades were later found in a search of the colleague, described as a colonel in the army.

Pictures from the scene showed other grenades on the floor of the flat, along with other gift bags. Maj Chastyakov had apparently brought the grenades home in a bag with a bottle of whisky.

A source told Ukrainska Pravda that the bottle had been in a gift bag with grenade-shaped glasses and the explosion happened when he opened



Similar grenades were later found during the search of an army colleague's office.

the bag. Other reports said that his colleague had handed over the bottle saying: "It's hard to surprise you: That's why I'm giving you combat grenades and a bottle of good whisky."

Gen Zaluzhny spoke of the unspeakable pain and heavy loss to the Ukrainian military and to him personally, describing Maj Chastyakov as a "reliable shoulder" since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

His death is the latest setback for the Ukrainian military, after a missile strike killed 19 soldiers in a Russian attack on an awards ceremony close to the front line in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia. There was widespread criticism that the ceremony had been allowed to go ahead in a dangerous area.

Pro-presidential MP Maryana Bezulha said Maj Chastyakov's death was down to negligence: "I would never have thought Hennadiy would die as a result of carelessness on his own birthday. Grenades are issued, not given as presents."

However, the official cause of the explosion has been questioned by Ukrainian commentators, some of

whom have speculated whether it was an attack targeting Gen Zaluzhny himself, on the assumption that he might have attended his aide's birthday celebrations.

Last week the commander in chief gave a blunt assessment of the situation on Ukraine's front lines against Russia's invasion forces.

"Just like in World War One, we have reached the level of technology that puts us into a stalemate," he told the Economist. "There will most likely be no deep and beautiful breakthrough."

Both the Kremlin and President President Volodymyr Zelensky denied the war had reached deadlock. "Today people are tired, everyone is tired, and there are different opinions. That is clear, but there is no stalemate," Mr Zelensky said at the weekend.

In his regular nightly address on Monday night he appealed to Ukrainians to "pull ourselves together, avoid unwinding and splitting up into disputes or other priorities".

He also announced that "now is not the right time" for presidential elections due to take place next spring, because Ukraine was at war and under martial law. He was elected in 2019.

Netanyahu says Israel will have security control over Gaza after war

By Raffi Berg

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will have “overall security responsibility” for the Gaza Strip “for an indefinite period”.

Mr Netanyahu’s made his first such comments about Israel’s plan for Gaza after the war with Hamas ends in an interview with the US ABC News network.

However, he did not elaborate on the kind of security mechanism such a plan would involve.

Israel says it aims to destroy Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007.

Hundreds of Hamas gunmen burst through the border and attacked Israeli communities and a music festival on 7 October, killing more than 1,400 people, Israeli authorities say, in the bloodiest such event in Israel’s history.

Hamas - proscribed as a terrorist organisation by Israel and many Western governments, including the UK - also took 242 people hostage, the Israeli military says.

Israel declared war on Hamas the same day and has been attacking Gaza from land, sea and air since then.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says more than 10,000 people have been killed since Israel began its operation.



Israel says the objective of its forces is to remove Hamas from power in Gaza.

When asked who should govern Gaza - home to 2.2 million Palestinians - after the war, Mr Netanyahu said only “those who don’t want to continue the way of Hamas”.

But he also declared that Israel must have security control.

“I think Israel will, for an indefinite period, have the overall security responsibility, because we have seen what happens when we don’t have it.

“When we don’t have that security responsibility, we have the eruption of Hamas terror on a scale that we couldn’t imagine.”

Before the war, Israel

- along with Egypt, which also shares a border with Gaza - blockaded the territory to try to stop weapons reaching the militant Islamist group and prevent it from carrying out attacks.

Israel also controlled its border with Gaza, as well as Gaza’s air space and shoreline, implementing a strict security regime and allowing in only certain vetted goods, as well as food, fuel and medicine. Imports were often halted after attacks from the territory.

Despite Israel’s controls, Hamas and other armed groups have frequently carried out attacks

against it, with Israel repeatedly hitting Gaza with air strikes in response.

Although it is unclear what type of security control Mr Netanyahu envisages, any return to long-term occupation on the ground is likely to be opposed by the international community.

One week after the war began, US President Joe Biden said a re-occupation by Israel of Gaza would be “a big mistake”.

Although Israel pulled its troops and settlers out of Gaza in 2005, the UN considers the territory as remaining under Israeli occupation.

Sports News



Another upset in business league basketball playoff contest

The upset continues in the playoff phase of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday night.

Following the shocking ousting of third-seeded Trimmingham Trucking Enterprises by 12th-seeded Sledge O'Ballers on Sunday, 10th-seeded Eye Mobile Vision Care stunned seventh-seeded Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in their first-round knockout playoff encounter.

Eye Mobile Vision Care, which won last year's round-robin league title, prevailed 60-50 against Fearless Crew in the opening game of a first-round playoff double-header.

Adonis Henry shot a game-high 23 points, and Shaheim O'Marde sank 13 points for Eye Mobile Vision Care.

Errol Quallis converted 16 points, and Ralph Spooner scored 11 points for the Fearless Crew.

But things went according to plan as the sixth-seeded Callan Shooters trounced 11th-seeded Sir Lester Bird Medical Center 76-55 in their first-round playoff encounter.

Warren Bogle produced 25 points, Leroy Percival scored 21 points, and Marlon Davis had 11 points for the Callan Shooters.

Delornje Jules converted 20 points, and Baldwin Anthony Jr. sank 12 points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

The second round of the business playoff championship will commence with a triple-header this evening (Wednesday).

Anjo Wholesale will challenge Sledge O'Ballers in the opening second round encounter at 6:30 pm.

Third-seeded and reigning playoff champions Richie's Shooterz will begin their title defense against the 6th-seeded Callan Shooters at 7:30 pm.

Top seed and league champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will face the winner of the game between H. Wright Promotions and the Board of Education in the last game of a triple-header on Wednesday at 8:30 pm.

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Australia's Glenn Maxwell celebrates after their win in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match against Afghanistan in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023. (AP)

Maxwell takes Australia to improbable win

MUMBAI (Reuters) - Glenn Maxwell fought through cramps to smash an unbeaten 201 off 128 balls, single-handedly guiding Australia to an improbable three-wicket win over Afghanistan in a World Cup match on Tuesday and sealing the team's spot in the semi-finals.

Afghanistan appeared set for a famous victory against five-time champions Australia at the floodlit Wankhede Stadium, reducing them to 91 for seven wickets after setting them a victory target of 292.

But the Afghans then watched in disbelief as Maxwell launched an extraordinary counter-attack.

With captain Pat Cummins for company, Maxwell took Australia past Afghanistan's total of 291 for five wickets with 19 balls to spare.

The right-handed batsman suf-

fered cramps after going past his fourth hundred in the 50-over format but laboured on, cutting down on running between the wickets to manage the pain and relying more on big hits.

In total, Maxwell hit 21 fours and 10 sixes during his knock - many of them on one leg and the last six sealed the victory and also brought up his double century.

"Horrific, I feel shocking," said Maxwell. "It was quite hot when we were fielding, I haven't done a whole lot of high intensity exercise in the heat. It got a hold of me today, I was lucky to stick it out until the end."

Cummins remained unbeaten on 12 from 68 balls but more importantly added 202 for the unbroken eighth wicket partnership.

Afghanistan held numerous meet-

ings on the ground but were unable to find a way to dislodge Maxwell, who was dropped on 33 by Mujeeb Ur Rahman off Noor Ahmad's bowling.

Maxwell was also adjudged out leg before wicket in the same over against Noor, but the batsman managed to successfully overturn the umpire's decision on appeal.

Afghanistan seamers Naveen-ul-Haq and Azmatullah Omarzai had struck early blows with the ball to reduce Australia to 49-4 after opening batsman Ibrahim Zadran's maiden World Cup hundred helped Afghanistan post a competitive total. Tuesday's victory took Australia to 12 points. They became the third team to reach the semi-finals with India and South Africa having already booked their spots in the final four.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



Players participate in a training session at the Calvin Ayre Foundation Advanced Academy, which is hosted annually by the Generation Next Football Club, at the Fort Road playing field on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022. (File photo)

GNFC's CAF Advanced Academy to start today

Many of Antigua and Barbuda's young male footballers are once again being afforded the opportunity to hone their skills as part of the Calvin Ayre Foundation's (CAF) Advanced Academy, which is hosted annually by the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC).

The GNFC will be starting the Calvin Ayre Foundation Advance Academy for the 2023-24 season at the Fort Road playing field today, Wednesday, November 8.

The sessions, which will be conducted by several football coaches from 4 pm to 5:30 pm, will be held every Wednesday and Friday at the scheduled times.

A GNFC press release states, "We will also be restarting our SAT classes on Saturdays from 4 pm to 6 pm at St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS).

"All players who were in the CAF-GNFC Advance Academy last year and who are between the ages of 13 and 19 years old are asked to be present. Those who are between 13 and 15 years old and are interested in attending trials are welcome."

According to the GNFC, two players at this year's CAF-GNFC Advance Academy will be eligible for selection to undergo trials at Brooke House College in the United King-

dom.

The selected players will also have the opportunity to receive an athletic scholarship to Brooke House College.

"To be eligible for this opportunity, the players must have a good attendance record in the training sessions and the SAT classes. Failure to have a

satisfactory attendance record in both will disqualify any player.

"All players with satisfactory attendance records will also get complimentary passes into our Annual CAF Player's Identification Combine, which will be held in Antigua next year," according to a release.



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Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews, center argues with umpires after he was declared timed out during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in New Delhi, India, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023. (AP)

Mathews demands 'justice' after controversial time out dismissal

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Sri Lanka batsman Angelo Mathews demanded "justice" from the ICC and branded Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan "a cheat" on social media after becoming the first player to be 'timed out' in international cricket at the World Cup on Monday.

Mathews had already made his feelings clear in the press conference after the defeat that ended Sri Lanka's hopes of progressing at the World Cup, saying Shakib's appeal for the controversial dismissal had been "disgraceful."

The 36-year-old had breached the World Cup rule that a new batter must be ready to face a delivery within two minutes of a wicket falling.

Mathews said in a post on X, formally known as Twitter, that he had been in place with seconds to spare before the chinstrap on his helmet broke requiring a new one to be brought out, backing up his position with time-stamped video screenshots.

"Video evidence shows I still had five more seconds even after the helmet gave away!" he wrote.

"Can the fourth umpire rectify this please? I mean safety is paramount as I just couldn't face the bowler without a helmet. This is clear cheating, I want justice," he added in another post.

That directly contradicted fourth umpire Adrian Holdstock.

"In the incident this afternoon,

the batter wasn't ready to receive the ball within those two minutes even before the strap became an issue for him," he said in an on-pitch interview after the game at Arun Jaitley Stadium.

"As a batsman, I think you need to make sure you have all your equipment in place ... because you actually have to be ready to receive the ball within two minutes, not ready to prepare or take your guard."

There was plenty of support for Mathews, with former South Africa bowler Dale Steyn saying the incident "wasn't cool", Australia's Usman Khawaja calling it "ridiculous", and former India captain Gautam Gambhir branding it "pathetic."

Jeffery continues prolific goal scoring form

After dominating the Primary School Cup football competition for Golden Grove School, forward Robert Jeffery has continued his prolific goal-scoring form at the secondary school level.

Jeffery captained Golden Grove to their three-peat Primary School Cup title on June 19 and was the competition's most valuable player and top goal scorer with 25 goals.

The diminutive Jeffery announced himself on the bigger stage by scoring four goals for Clare Hall Secondary in an 8-0 drubbing of Pares Secondary in the Under-14 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Monday.

Jeffery scored in the 3rd, 16th, 24th, and 49th minutes of the encounter at the Clare Hall School playing field. Dante Richards and Cosmore Jno Baptiste each had double conversions.

Richards scored in the 20th and 36th minutes, while Jno Baptiste converted in the 21st and 32nd minutes. The other goal for Clare Hall Secondary was scored by Dwayne Emmanuel in the 25th minute.

Iczhaire Sebastian scored twice to lead St. Joseph's Academy (SJA) to a 5-0 victory against Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

Sebastian had conversions in the 37th and 39th minutes, while the other goals for SJA were scored by Erije Joseph in the 24th minute, Joshua



Golden Grove's Captain Robert Jeffery, right, accepts the Primary School Cup's most valuable player award trophy from Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley after the final at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's, Antigua, on Monday, June 19, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

James in the 29th minute, and Salli Williams in the 41st minute.

Kasim Pennyfeather also scored twice as Ottos Comprehensive recorded a 3-0 win against Sir Novelle Richards Academy in their encounter at the Clare Hall Secondary School playing field.

Pennyfeather scored in the 37th and 43rd minutes, while Lithaddeus Christian had a 28th-minute conver-

sion for Ottos Comprehensive School. But Antigua Grammar School and All Saints Secondary could only battle to a 1-1 draw at the Golden Grove playing field.

Kymani Francis gave All Saints Secondary the lead with a ninth-minute conversion, but Tafari Parker equalized for Antigua Grammar School by scoring in the 17th minute of the keenly contested affair.