

FAMILY RECEIVES KEYS TO NEW HOME

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne (with child in hand) and other senior government officials were on hand to present a new house to Audy Fortuna and family.

The 'soul' of a government on display

A family of five was on Monday presented with the keys to a fully-furnished brand-new home donated by the government, in an act described as the 'heart and soul' of a caring government on display.

The house – constructed at a cost of \$170,000.00 – is located at Bay Street in Villa Area and it was donated by the government after the family, Audy Fortuna and her five children, suffered the loss of their rental home in a fire sometime in the past.

Prime Minister and Parliamentary Representative, Gaston Browne, said the greatness of a nation is represented by the way that it treats the poorest in the society. "Today, you are witnessing the tangible example of our charity in that we are helping one of the poorest families in the community to own a home," he



New house located at Bay Street, Villa Area, presented to family following devastating fire stated.

The prime minister said the government recognized at an earlier point that it could not depend on the private sector to help uplift the 'poorest of the poor' and that the government had to intervene to ensure that we do not allow any family to fall through the cracks. He pointed out that where there is an urgent need, the government ought to step in and assist.

PM Browne reported

that the Fortuna family's rental property along with all their belongings were destroyed in a fire and that they were unable to build a home for themselves. He said he reported the matter to the Cabinet and urged that it step in the help the family.

Health and Environment Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph noted that two of the biggest challenges facing families at the lower rung of the economic ladder are

their ability to pay their rent and electricity bills. Under an initiative being introduced by the ministry, Sir Molwyn said low-income home owners will receive solar panels for their homes along with storage batteries that will help alleviate some of their electricity costs.

He credits PM Browne as the first prime minister to tackle the problem of housing and urban renewal head-on, noting that the housing development programme that will soon commence in the Point, will later spread to the Grays Green community and to other areas such as Jennings and Bendals. This programme, he noted, represented the 'soul' of a caring government headed by PM Browne.

Inspector Veldon Ragette who heads the Home Assistance Programme for the Indigent (HAPI) initiative, calls the donation



The house comes fully furnished thanks to donations from several corporate citizens

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Employment levels continue to grow

Antigua and Barbuda continues to see improvements in the number of people employed as the economy remains on target to regain the losses it suffered at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne disclosed that on this important question, figures from the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board, for January to September 2023, paint a vivid picture of the steady improvement of the numbers of our people in employment and growth in their income.

“A remarkable 43,946 employed and self-employed contributors reported earnings totaling \$975 million during this period,” according to Prime Minister

Browne. He said the stability of the labor market and the robust economic growth the country has experienced, have culminated in a noteworthy \$15.4 million, or a 12 per cent increase in contribution income to the Social Security Board from January to October 2023, compared to the same period in 2019.

“This surge not only reflects the vitality of our economic recovery, but stands as a testament to the success of my government’s policies in the interest of our people. It is heartening to note that 90 per cent of the income generated by the Social Security Board is dedicated to pension benefits; a lifeline for many in our society,” he reported.

cont’d from pg 2
of the home to the Fortuna family ‘a transfer of wealth’ as the family is richer by more than \$170,000 with the furniture included.

Inspector Raggette is extending thanks on behalf of the HAPI programme to its sponsors, volunteers, and donors for their amazing support and generosity. “Your kindness has made a profound impact on the lives of this family, instilling hope and giving them a fresh start,” he remarked.

He expressed special thanks to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Sir Molwyn Joseph, Works and Housing Minister, Maria

Vanessa Browne, Social Transformation Minister, Sen. Samantha Marshall, Sen. Rawdon Turner, Mary Baltimore and the Social Protection Board, Exotic Antigua, Kings Casino, Ofir Arnan, Townhouse Mega Store, Cool & Smooth, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Matthias, Lesley Barnes, Kem Hodge, Aldin Crump, Elkanah Charles, Dane ‘Blinds’ Richards, CityWest Youths, Amir Hourani, Daniella Josiah, Edward Mansoor, Troy Allen, the team from National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company Ltd., Franklin James, and many others for making this possible.

This financial strength, the prime minister noted, not only fortifies the stability of our social protection architecture, but also positions the Board to navigate unforeseen challenges, as exemplified by its adept management of pension payments since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“With sustained economic growth and the implementation of adjustments approved in 2016, the Social Security Board is poised for an even stronger position to fulfill its pension obligations and other vital benefits,” he forecasts.

The Social Security Scheme, a cornerstone of Antigua and Barbuda’s so-

cial fabric, will continue to play a pivotal role in safeguarding the well-being of many of our people.

“These figures are not just statistics; they represent the tangible impact of my government’s policies,” PM Browne declared.

The Social Security Scheme reported that pre-pandemic employment figures for Antigua and Barbuda was approximately 45-thousand persons contributing to the scheme. That figure fell to roughly 40-thousand at the height of the pandemic. It means that Antigua and Barbuda has recovered approximately one thousand jobs each year since the pandemic in 2020.

AUCTION NOTICE

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Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 16th day of January 2024 at 11:00am the above residential property at Buckley’s Heights.

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The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: **464-7653** and **562-7653**.

Dated this the 15th day of December 2023

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

Budget debate starts today

Debate on the National Budget for Antigua and Barbuda that was presented to the House of Representatives on Friday will begin in the lower house today (Tuesday December 19).

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who also holds the Finance Minister portfolio, presented a \$1.9 billion budget for 2024 that chronicles the performances of the economy over the past fiscal year as well as makes projections for the next twelve months.

The prime minister reported that the economy grew by 8.1 per cent in 2023 fueled by impressive improvements in the tourism and construction sectors mainly.

He also revealed that the growth

in tourism is expected to continue into the new year with several major projects expecting to begin operations and/or the start of other major hotel developments.

These growth performances north of 8 per cent in the past two fiscal years have put Antigua and Barbuda in a category where only the Guyana economy, driven by oil and natural gas, has registered better performances.

During last Friday's budget presentation, the prime minister noted that public servants who have negotiated increases of up to 14 per cent, five per cent of which have already been added to their salaries, will receive a further increase to their salaries/wages from the end of January,

2024.

While setting a date for the start of the budget debate, the government and opposition failed to agree on a date, with the opposition demanding that the debate starts on Thursday.

Following a division, where each member of the House was polled, the decision was made that the debate should start today.

There were suggestions that perhaps the opposition would stay away from the debate, but noting the importance of the national budget debate, it is widely believed that they will attend and participate fully.

The tradition is that the Leader of the Opposition leads off the budget debate.

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Human Rights display unveiled at VCBIA

The Antigua and Barbuda government has unveiled a Human Rights display at the V.C. Bird International Airport as part of a public education campaign to focus attention on human rights issues locally and across the globe. The display, an enlarged poster of a winning artwork submitted by the Antigua Sickle Cell Association, was unveiled on Saturday, December 16, in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office. It forms part of a wider public education campaign being spearheaded in partnership with the Ministry of Legal Affairs to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

“Marking Human Rights Day and the UDHR is timely, as it symbolizes a reinvigorated commitment to human rights and the principle that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The thrust towards the acceleration of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also a clear signal of the continued efforts to protect and promote human rights for all,” a public statement from the UN Resident Coordinator Office said.

Participating in the Unveiling ceremony were high-level Government and UN officials, notably Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene, Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, and other senior officials of government.

Trebucq, shared a few key re-



flections stating, “human rights work continues to be a whole of society endeavor. It is crucial to ensure continuous progress on the SDGs, as it means progress for those persons and groups at risk of being left behind, like children and youth, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly.”

Foreign Affairs Minister Greene in his remarks reminded all that “the full enjoyment of all human rights will only be possible globally with the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals facilitating the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, peace, prosperity and the achievement of climate resilience particularly in the context of small island developing states.”

The public campaign is part of the support provided by the Universal Pe-

riodic Review (UPR) Voluntary Fund for SIDS. The artwork refers to the importance of pain relief, early diagnosis, and access to medical treatment, as elements of the right to health. A TikTok video campaign, by the National Youth Parliament, was also launched, and billboards erected at the Antigua Recreation Grounds as well as on the UN Common Premises on Independence Drive.

The overarching goal of the information campaign is to strengthen dialogue between the government, civil society and the public and to better educate and inform the population of human rights issues and mechanisms.

The display will remain mounted until next year’s Small Islands Developing States’ conference here in Antigua and Barbuda in May.

Nursing Council reminds nurses and mid-wives that re-registration is pending

The Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Council has issued a circular advising members of the nursing community that their annual registration exercises will become due at the end of the year.

“All nurses and nurse midwives are hereby notified that if their nursing and /or midwifery Registration/License expire(s) on the 31st December 2023, they are required by law to re-register on or before the 1st January 2024.

“Employers of professional nurses and nurse-midwives are hereby reminded that it is illegal to hire a nurse/nurse-midwife whose license is NOT

current or for any nurse/nurse-midwife to practice without a license according to the Nurses Registration Act Cap 296 and the Midwifery Act Cap 234 of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda,” according to the circular.

The Nurses Council noted that failure to comply with the requirement of this notice, pursuant to the Nurses Registration Act Cap 296 and the Midwifery Act Cap 234, and to take and use the title of Registered Nurse and or Certified Midwife after the 31st December 2023, may result in the nurse/nurse-midwife being charged with a fee or imprisoned and their employer fined.

Further, the name of any nurse or nurse-midwife whose registration expires on December 31st 2023 who fails to register according to the regulations sited above, may be removed from the register after the 15th day of January 2024.

The Council is therefore reminding employers of nursing personnel that all nursing personnel should function within their scope of work/practice.

Please note that both Nursing and Midwifery registration and re-registration will be done at the office of the Nursing Council effective December 2023.



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pmsecretariat@gmail.com*

18 December 2023

**STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF
THE EMIR OF KUWAIT**

The Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda express their deepest condolences to the Government and People of Kuwait on the death of their Head of State, **His Highness Sheik Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah**.

Kuwait has been a very helpful friend of Antigua and Barbuda dating back many decades, following the destruction wrought by Hurricane Luis in 1995. Kuwait contributed significantly to our island-country's reconstruction. His Highness was singularly responsible for his State's many acts of generosity during the nearly three decades following.

His Highness Sheik Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah was a transcendent political leader who played a significant role in his own country, helping to further modernize his country's defense following an attempt to snuff out its sovereignty. Kuwait remains one of the leading small states in the Middle East, with friends in many regions and corners of the world.

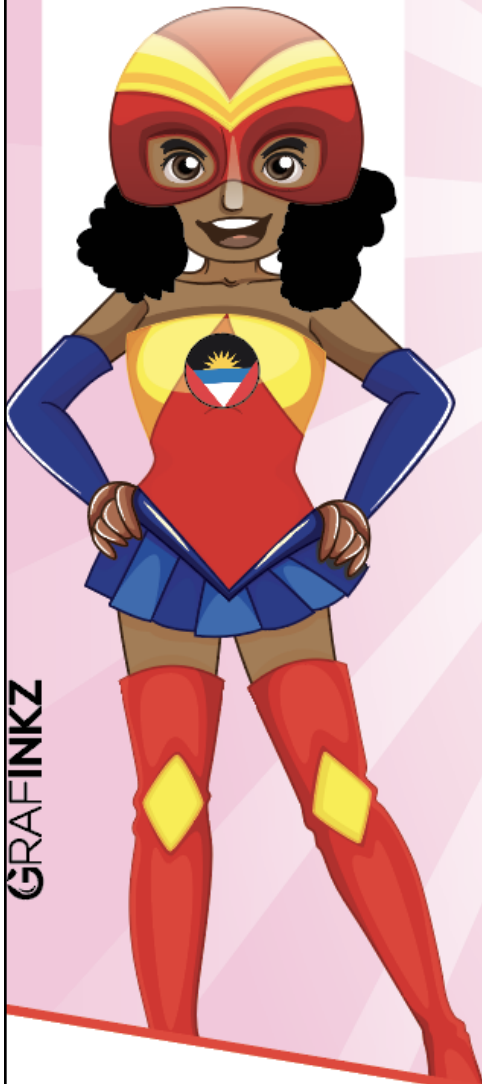
His Highness Sheik Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah has been a good friend of Antigua and Barbuda. His death has deprived us of the comity that characterized our relations, but Kuwait will always remain a very dependable ally. May his God receive him peacefully in the afterlife.


Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister

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Jonathan Majors: Marvel actor guilty of assaulting ex-girlfriend

By Max Matza

Actor Jonathan Majors has been found guilty of assaulting his then-girlfriend after a trial in New York.

The jury found Majors, known for playing Kang in the Marvel universe, attacked British choreographer Grace Jabbari during an altercation in March.

She told the court she was left with a fractured finger, bruising, a cut behind her ear and “excruciating” pain.

Majors now faces up to a year in jail, with a question mark over his starring roles in forthcoming Marvel films.

The six-person jury’s verdict was announced on Monday following three days of deliberations.

The crime took place when the couple were in a car in New York and Ms Jabbari saw a text message from another woman on Majors’ phone, which said: “Wish I was kissing you right now.”

According to prosecutors, when she took the phone, he then grabbed her, twisted her arm behind her back and hit her in the head to get it back.

“I felt like a hard blow across my head,” Ms Jabbari testified.

The jury found him guilty of two of the four domestic violence charges that he was facing.

He was found guilty of assault by recklessly causing physical injury, as well as harassment.

But the jury declined to convict him on charges of aggravated harassment and assault with intent to cause physical harm.

The prosecution painted the assault as the latest escalation in Majors’ attempts to “exert control” over his girlfriend through physical and emotional violence. They shared voice recordings and text messages between the former couple with the jury.

“I’m a monster. A horrible man. Not



Jonathan Majors’ films include Marvel’s Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania.

capable of love,” the actor sent in September 2022 while threatening to kill himself.

In audio from an argument that same month, Majors told her she needed to act more like Coretta Scott King and Michelle Obama, the wives of Martin Luther King and former President Barack Obama.

“I am doing great things, not just for me but for my culture and the world,” he said, adding that she would need to “make sacrifices” for him.

Majors, 34, did not testify. His lawyer has claimed the actor was the victim, however, and that Ms Jabbari assaulted him in a jealous rage after seeing the text message in the car.

Majors, who also starred in Creed III, countersued her in June, alleging that she was the actual aggressor but prosecutors declined to charge her due to a lack of evidence.

As the verdict was read in court, Majors pursed his lips and looked downwards, according to Reuters.

Neither he nor his lawyers have issued a statement in response to his conviction. A sentencing hearing will be held in February. The judge also issued a new protection order, requiring him to

have no contact with Ms Jabbari.

Ms Jabbari was “gratified to see justice served” by the verdict, her lawyer said, adding that it should serve as an inspiration for other abused women to come forward.

“Ms Jabbari testified publicly and truthfully, even though reliving these traumatic events on the witness stand was obviously painful,” lawyer Ross Kramer said in a statement to BBC News.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office brought the criminal charges, said after the verdict that the psychological and emotional abuses carried out by the movie star are “far too common across the many intimate partner violence cases we see each and every day.”

Ms Jabbari had met Majors two years earlier on the set of Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania, where she was a movement coach. After his arrest, Marvel pushed back the release of Avengers: The Kang Dynasty, in which Mr Majors is due to play the lead villain. Another film, Magazine Dreams, which had been touted as a possible Oscar contender, also had its release postponed following the allegations.



Dr Rafi Rozan, Chief Consultant Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and his team removed a massive tumour from a 44-year-old patient (Photo: GPHC)

Guyana: Doctors perform life saving gynaecological surgery on woman

CMC - In what has been described as a remarkable medical feat, a 44-year-old female patient from the Essequibo region recently underwent a life-saving gynaecological surgery at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC).

The procedure, performed by Dr Rafi Rozan, Chief Consultant Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, along with his expert team, successfully removed a massive intrabdominal tumour suspected to be ovarian in origin.

In a statement, the hospital said the patient had been enduring persistent abdominal discomfort, pain, and bloating for several months, prompting her to seek medical attention.

The hospital said that diagnostic tests, including ultrasounds, tumour markers, and CT scans, revealed the presence of a large intrabdominal suspected ovarian tumour.

Under the guidance of Dr Rafi

Rozan, a renowned gynaecological surgeon specialising in complex surgeries, the patient underwent extensive counselling and consultations.

Based on this, the risks, benefits, and potential outcomes of the comprehensive laparotomy (open abdominal surgery) were thoroughly explained to the patient and her family.

During the surgery, the team exercised precision and care to mitigate potential complications. They then discovered that the tumour was not ovarian but a renal tumour.

Dr Nirvanie Singh and Dr Parjohn, also part of the surgical team, said this marked the Gynaecological team's first nephrectomy (removal of a kidney).

Dr Rozan, in recalling the moment, consulted urologist Dr Rajendra Sookraj, who noted it was the largest kidney he had ever seen, measuring approximately 72 centimetres in diameter and weighing 15.8 KG (34.7 lbs).

Following the successful surgery, the patient received post-operative care, including pain management and support for a smooth recovery.

Dr Rafi Rozan and his team closely monitored the patient's progress, conducting regular examinations and follow-up tests to detect any signs of complications.

Despite initial difficulty regaining balance while walking due to the weight loss from the tumour, the patient's recovery progressed remarkably well.

Gradually regaining strength and mobility, she improved each day under the watchful care of Dr Rafi Rozan and his medical team.

The hospital noted that success of this intricate surgery underscores the expertise and commitment of the medical professionals at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation in delivering exceptional patient care and advancing medical capabilities.

Regional News



US legislators want end to armed foreign intervention in Haiti

CMC - Several United States legislators are calling on the Biden administration to withdraw United States support for an armed foreign intervention in Haiti, as the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country gets ready to observe its 220th anniversary of independence on January 1, next year.

Congresswomen Yvette D. Clarke and Ayanna Pressley, joined four other legislators in also urging Washington to “encourage negotiations for a Haitian-led democratic political transition”.

Clarke is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the largely Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, and Pressley, represents Massachusetts’ 7th Congressional District that is home to one of the largest Haitian Diaspora communities in the US

The United Nations recently approved a US-drafted resolution supporting a Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) in Haiti after President Ariel Moise urged support to bring about peace and security in his homeland, following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021.

The country has been overrun with criminal gangs involved in murders, rapes and other criminal activi-



ties, while opposition parties have been calling on Moise to name a date for fresh elections.

In their letter to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the US legislators expressed concern that a foreign military intervention further risks destabilising Haiti “endangering more innocent people and entrenching the current illegitimate regime.”

“We are gravely concerned that an armed foreign intervention will only serve as a tool to buttress an illegitimate leader and undermine efforts by a representative transitional government to define the actual support desired from the international community.”

“The State Department should not override the will of the Haitian people,” they urged. “It is clear that a transitional government is the only viable path forward for Haiti to return to stability and democracy,” the lawmakers wrote.

They said to further save the lives of Haitians

and reduce violence in Haiti, the Biden administration should “swiftly block arms shipments to Haiti, and hold weapons traffickers and gang financiers accountable for their actions.”

“Countering this continued gun trafficking to Haiti is a critical step to the security and stability of the country,” they wrote.

“We urge you to work with the relevant government agencies, including the Department of Justice, to take the steps necessary to put a robust anti-arms trafficking to Haiti strategy in place.”

“Rather than hastily address this situation by supporting an armed foreign intervention – a strategy that has been tried and failed several times in Haiti – we urge you to take a holistic approach.”

In their letter, the legislators said “We believe that a genuine commitment to supporting the Haitian people requires the United States to withdraw support from de facto Prime Minis-

ter Ariel Henry and encourage negotiations for a Haitian-led democratic political transition”.

They said that the United Nations Security Council’s recent approval of the US-drafted resolution supporting a Kenyan-led MSS to Haiti “lacks a clear mission and strategy.”

They noted that, over a year ago, Prime Minister Henry requested foreign support to address the then-gang-led blockade of fuel terminals and humanitarian aid.

But they added that Haitian authorities have already recovered the main fuel terminals and begun distributing supplies.

“We are gravely concerned that an armed foreign intervention will only serve as a tool to buttress an illegitimate leader and undermine efforts by a representative transitional government to define the actual support desired from the international community.”

“Moreover, we are disturbed by the decision to deploy Kenyan security forces, who have a well-documented record of violating human rights.”

The lawmakers claimed that, earlier this year, the Kenyan security forces allegedly killed up to 23 people during demonstrations in Kenya, “raising concerns with both the UN and Am-

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Murder accused extradited from Georgia to USVI

Justine Nisbett has been extradited to the US Virgin Islands to face charges related to a 2021 double murder.

Nisbett was brought back to St Croix on December 15, according to Chief Detective Naomi Joseph.

He underwent processing, booking, and was subsequently detained at the John Bell Correctional Facility.

Joseph said Nisbett is expected to have an advice of rights hearing on Monday, December 18, 2023.

Nisbett has been on the



Murder accused Justine Nisbett walks the tarmac at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport following his extradition to St Croix.

run for two years and was hiding out in the US state of Georgia.

His run from the law ended on November 27, 2023 when he was arrested

in Henry County, Georgia by the US Marshal Taskforce after attempting to enlist in the army.

Nisbett signed away his right to an extradition hearing and was subsequently transferred back home.

Nisbett will be charged alongside Luis Rivera, Jameel Williams, Guillermo Rivera and Gilberto Rivera for the murders of Michael Ramos and Juan Velasquez.

Ramos, 33, and Velasquez, 38, were among four people injured during a shooting at the Aureo Diaz Housing Community on April 19, 2021.

cont'd from pg 12

nesty International” about police brutality in Kenya.

They also noted that the Kenya National Civil Society Center has opposed the deployment of Kenyan security forces to Haiti, accusing them of “extrajudicial killings”

“With the absence of clear objectives for this MSS mission, we strongly believe that funding this security operation in tandem with continued support for the de facto Haitian authorities is a misguided strategy that may have catastrophic repercussions for the Haitian people.

“The message from Haitian civil society and Haitian-American Diaspora leaders has been loud and clear: the US should stop propping up the unconstitutional de facto government and support a democratic political transition,” the US legislators wrote.

They said while the international community has “seemed singularly fo-

cused on the issue of security, a broad swath of Haitian civil society, political, academic, labor, private sector and religious leaders have come together to present a modest proposal for a real transitional government that will pave the way for a Haitian-led solution to this multifaceted crisis.

“Unfortunately, de facto Prime Minister Henry – buoyed by diplomatic support from the US – has rejected these attempts and has only deepened his grip on power.

“The State Department should not override the will of the Haitian people; it is clear that a transitional government is the only viable path forward for Haiti to return to stability and democracy.”

The Congresswomen said while there are no manufacturers of guns and ammunition in Haiti, “the gangs rely on shipments from the United States to arm themselves.”

They said countering this contin-

ued gun trafficking to Haiti is “a critical step to the security and stability of the country.

“We urge you to work with the relevant government agencies, including the Department of Justice, to take the steps necessary to put a robust anti-arms trafficking to Haiti strategy in place,” they urged Blinken.

“We understand that Haiti’s problems are complex and the current everyday violence the Haitian people face is untenable. Our hearts break for the Haitian people, and we stand with them in solidarity.

“Rather than hastily address this situation by supporting an armed foreign intervention – a strategy that has been tried and failed several times in Haiti – we urge you to take a holistic approach,” they added.

“This includes withdrawing support for military intervention and prioritising a representative transitional government in Haiti.”

Storms in US northeast kill three and leave thousands without power

By Madeline Halpert

At least three people have been killed as a massive storm brings power outages, flood watches and flight delays to the US East Coast.

A woman died in floodwaters outside Charleston, South Carolina and two men in northeastern states were killed as the storm moved toward Canada.

Millions of East Coast residents were on flood watch and over 700,000 were without power earlier on Monday.

Lingering until Tuesday, the storm is expected to endanger holiday travel.

The deadly weather brought widespread heavy rain that led to river flooding and flash flooding, the US National Weather Service said. Some areas were “experiencing road washouts”.

The first storm-related death was confirmed in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Nancy Morrow, 72, was killed after she got stuck in a vehicle submerged under water, officials said. Officers jumped in the water to try to save her.

In Hanover, Massachusetts on Monday, an 89-year-old man, Robert



In northern New York, heavy rains flooded cars in the streets.

Horky, died after strong winds knocked a tree over onto his trailer, causing severe head trauma, local officials said.

A third person, who police have not yet identified, died in Windham, Maine. A tree fell on him while he was trying to clean debris from his roof, authorities said.

Heavy winds and rain have made for dangerous travel conditions, leading to over 3,400 delayed and 500 cancelled flights travelling to or in the US, according to FlightAware. The worst airport impacts were in the Boston and New York areas.

Schools across all of the New England region

have also been forced to cancel or delay classes because of road conditions.

The storm has had a number of effects on several states along the East Coast:

In Boston, Massachusetts, winds were as strong as 50 miles per hour (80 kmh), according to the local National Weather Service

Dozens of people stranded in floodwaters were in need of rescue near the waterfront area of Georgetown, South Carolina, where more than nine inches (22 cm) of rain fell, officials said.

In total nearly 60 million people from Virginia to Maine were under a

flood watch

The worst of the rains is set to subside Monday evening, but road conditions will still be treacherous, the National Weather Service said.

“Give yourself extra time for your commute and NEVER drive through a flooded roadway,” NWS said.

The storm is expected to move into Canada later on Monday, while some snow may fall across parts of the north-east Monday night as well.

The weather comes nearly a year after a major winter storm in the US caused travel chaos during the busy holiday travel season.



Several cars were set alight by the gunmen.

Mexico violence: Gunmen kill 12 people at Christmas celebration

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Police in Mexico say 12 people were killed and another 11 injured when gunmen stormed a venue at which a group of young people had gathered for a pre-Christmas religious celebration.

The attack happened in the early hours of Sunday local time in Salvatierra, a town in central Guanajuato state.

The local mayor said that the victims had no links to any crime groups.

While deadly shootouts are not unusual in this region, they normally occur when rival gangs target each other.

Local media reported that a group of around 40 mainly young people had gathered on Saturday evening at a former ranch turned into a venue for hire.

They were celebrating Las Posadas (Spanish for “the inns”), a tradi-

tion celebrated between 16 and 24 December during which participants re-enact Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

One of the people who attended the festivity told AFP news agency that the gunmen had opened fire indiscriminately after they were challenged by the guests.

“We realised they were not invited, and when they were asked who they were, they started shooting,” he said.

The victims of the attack have not yet been officially named, but local newspapers said members of regional Mexican music band Dinastía Cornejo were among the injured.

On its Facebook page, the band asked for people to donate blood at the local hospital. Unconfirmed reports also said that a member of the band’s support staff had died in the attack.

Among those killed were two women. Most of the victims are said to range in age between 17 and 35 years.

The Guanajuato state prosecutor’s office is investigating but so far there has been no statement on why the gunmen may have targeted this particular celebration.

Guanajuato is the state which had the highest number of murders between January and September of this year, according to official figures.

Analysts say the violence is mainly due to criminal gangs dedicated to fuel theft, who fight each other for control of the territory and access to oil pipelines. The Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) and the Santa Rosa de Lima cartel are both active in the state and have been increasingly dedicating themselves to stealing oil which they then sell on the black market.

Fort Road win again in women's football league

Fort Road continued their successful run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's League over the weekend.

Fort Road recorded their second win in as many games by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Cutting Edge in a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Daniesia Wilson and Zolique Samuels were the goal scorers for Fort Road against Cutting Edge, which won the women's knockout competition in July.

Trend Setters claimed their first win of the competition by snatching a 2-1 victory against All Saints United.

Virginia Simon had a 22nd-minute conversion, and Ozora Roberts converted a penalty kick in the first minute of added time in the first half (35+1 minute) to give Trend Setters a 2-0 halftime lead.

Kevoncia James scored for All Saints United in the 62nd minute.



Players of the Fort Road female football team. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

Following the conclusion of the knockout competition in July, the women's invitational league commenced with its opening round on Saturday, September 30.

But the league was suspended after the opening round to allow players to represent the senior national Benna Girls team to prepare and participate in the preliminary stage of the quali-

fiers for the 2024 Concacaf Women's Gold Competition from September 20 to December 5.

Fort Road, Cutting Edge, and Wadadli United all recorded wins in the opening round of matches.

Fort Road hammered All Saints United 6-0, Cutting Edge prevailed 3-0 against Ottos Tigress, and Wadadli United beat Trend Setters 4-0.

Rain washes out last match at LICB Under-15 team trials camp

The third and final match of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) Under-15 Team Trials was abandoned due to rain at the Elquemedo T. Willett Park, formerly Grove Park, on Sunday.

The matches, which were held as part of the LICB Under-15 team training camp in Nevis from December 11 to December 18, were geared towards identifying and nurturing the

region's emerging cricket talents, providing a platform for young players to showcase their skills.

A total of 32 talented young cricketers from Antigua and Barbuda, St. Maarten, St. Kitts, and Nevis were chosen to participate in the trials, and the first two intra-squad matches were able to be played.

A team, which was captained by J'Quan Athanaze of Antigua and Barbuda,

recorded a 38-run victory against a team that was led by Lawshorn Bergan of St. Kitts.

The J'Quan Athanaze XI won the toss and elected to bat, posting 188 all out in 48 overs. Karese Farell of Nevis topscored with 42, Athanaze got 27, and Nevisian Mikey Seegolam chipped in with 22. There was also a contribution of 39 extras, including 34 wides.

In reply, the Lawshorn

Bergan XI were restricted to 150 for nine off their allotted 50 overs. There was a contribution of 41 extras, including 33 wides.

The Rondre Daniel XI cruised to a five-wicket win against the Hosea Roberts XI in the second trial match.

The Hosea Roberts XI crashed to 144 all out in 41.5 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Aeden Williams of Nevis cracked 33, compatriot De'Mar-

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CWI announces new global data and streaming partnership with IMG ARENA

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced a new partnership with IMG ARENA, a leading sports data and technology supplier for the betting, media, and performance sectors.

This will mean that West Indies fans in the Caribbean and around the world will be able to access live ball-by-ball scoring and match statistics for all West Indies home internationals and regional games.

The partnership will also enable CWI to provide a greater number of streamed matches than ever before making it easier for fans to follow their favourite teams and players.

The new deal sees IMG ARENA securing the exclusive global data and streaming rights for CWI, in partnership with leading cricket data and analytics provider, CricViz.

IMG ARENA will capture official data from more than 450 matches across



Spectators at a cricket match in the West Indies. (CWI Media)

the West Indies Men's and Women's national teams.

It will cover matches involving the West Indies Under 19, West Indies Academy and various domestic regional competitions, including the Men and Women's CG United Super50 Cup and West In-

dies Championship, and distribute it to over 460 regulated sportsbook operators worldwide.

Through the partnership, CricViz will provide its enhanced Match Centre for the windiescricket.com website to deliver advanced data analysis,

including graphic visualizations and live-action insights, as well as predictive models.

CricViz will also support the live scoring data collection for all of these matches with its in-ground operation and collection software.

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ae Prentice scored 17, and Roberts chipped in with 16. There was also a contribution of 29 extras, including 23 wides.

Nevisian Jahzara Claxton bagged two for 13, Antiguan Tayari Tonge claimed two for 22, Athanaze had one wicket for four runs, and Seelogam captured one wicket for eight runs.

Athanaze scored the only half cen-

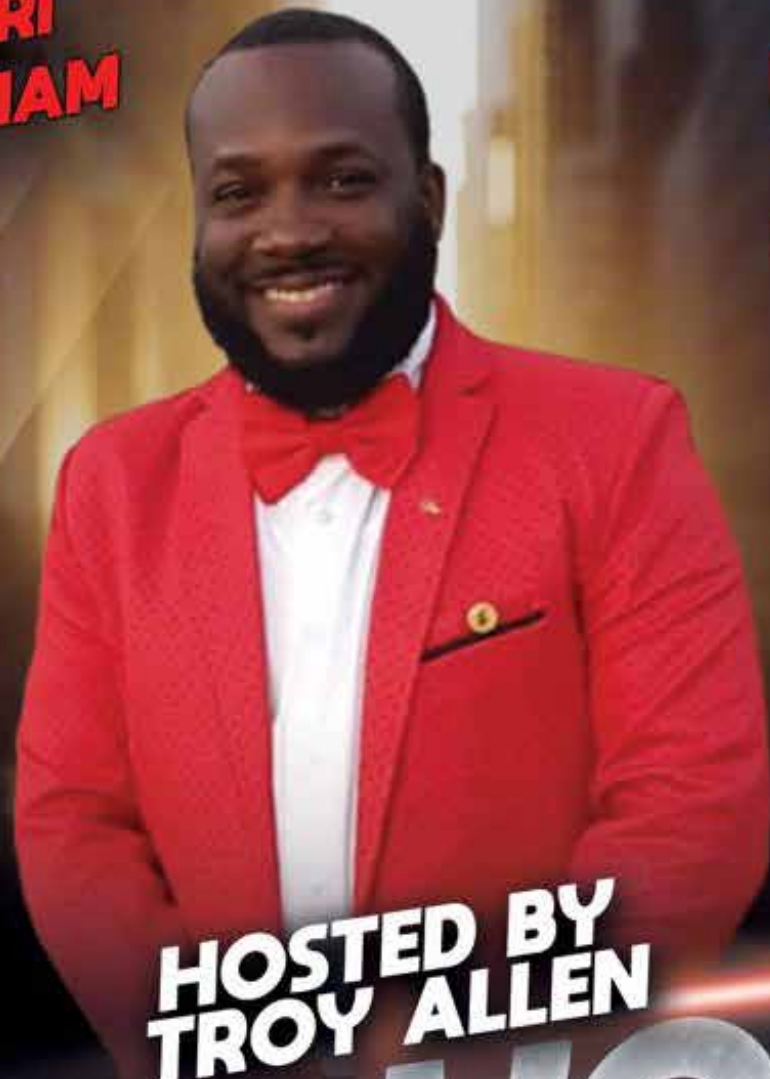
tury of the trials as Rondre Daniel XI achieved victory by cruising to 147 for five in 30.1 overs. Athanaze struck 54, Farell hit an unbeaten 44, Jaeden Bramble of St. Maarten made 21 not out, and Kylan Woods of St. Kitts chipped in with 15.

Antiguan Shawn Harris took one for 16, Edwards claimed one for 20, and Kasim Challenger of St. Kitts captured one for 23.

The trials were overseen by a distinguished coaching team, including Pernel Watley (LICB Youth Coordinator), Jacques Taylor (Coach), Ajarni Frederick (Coach), and Percy Daniel (LICB Coach).

At the conclusion of the trials, a 14-member squad will be selected to represent the Leeward Islands in the 2024 CWI Rising Star Under-15 Tournament.

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The Sandals Inet Grenades football team. (File photo)

Grenades and Old Road stay perfect in Premier League

Cup-holders Sandals Inet Grenades and Old Road continued their good form by maintaining their perfect start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Sunday.

Both teams recorded their third win in as many matches during a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center to move back to the top of the Premier League with nine points each.

Barrington Blake scored twice as the Grenades hammered former champions Empire 7-0 in Sunday's feature match. Blake had conversions in the 21st and 70th minutes, but it was Leaus Henville who opened the scoring with a 16th-minute conversion.

Vashami Allen scored in the 28th minute, and Shaquille Watkins scored in the 44th minute to give Grenades a four-nil halftime lead.

Laqyante Alphonse scored an own goal in the 56th minute, and Kurt Francis scored the last goal for Grenades in the 86th minute.

Former Empire striker Rakeem Joseph scored twice as Old Road prevailed 3-1 against Premier League's newcomers, Green City, in the second game on Sunday.

All the goals were scored in the first half with Joseph hitting the back of the net with strikes in the 12th and 21st minutes.

Nationals senior team winger Raheem Deterville gave Old Road the lead when he scored the opening goal of the match in the 10th minute.

Matthew Edwards scored the lone goal for Green City in the 18th minute. It was the third loss in as many games for Green City, who earned promotion from the First Division to the Premier

League last season.

Yoandir Puga Estevez struck a hat-trick as former champions the Green-bay Hoppers claimed their second win in three matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Garden Stars in Sunday's opening encounter.

Estevez had conversions in the 36th, the third minute of added time in the first half (45+3 minutes), and the 55th minute.

Hoppers finished the game with 10 men because Tiquan Matthew received a red card in the 84th minute after he picked up his second yellow card of the match for displaying unsporting behaviour.

Karique Knight had a 39th-minute conversion, and Sadique Adams scored in the 88th minute for the Garden Stars, who lost for the second time in as many outings.



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match-fit and mentally fully prepared when they journey to South Africa.”

Haynes added, “This is a fantastic opportunity for these young men to represent the West Indies and showcase their talent, playing against their peers, in front of a global audience.

“This is a crucial stage in their development. They have received excellent preparation, help, and guidance from the coaches and support staff, and we expect to see them do very well.”

For the tournament, the West Indies have been drawn alongside hosts South Africa, Scotland, and England in Group B for their first-round matches.

All three matches will be played at the J.B. Marks Oval in Potchefstroom. Before that, they will have warm-up matches against New Zealand and Nepal in Johannesburg.

India, who won the tournament in 2022, is placed in Group A with Bangladesh, Ireland, and the USA. Group C features Australia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, while Group D is made up of Afghanistan, Pakistan, New Zealand, and Nepal.

The top three sides from each group will progress to the Super Six phase, which will be played from January 30 to February 3. The semi-finals will be on February 6 and 8, and the final is on February 11 at Willowmore Park in Benoni.

Full Squad: Stephan Pascal (captain), Nathan Sealy (vice-captain), Jewel Andrew, Mavendra Dindyal, Joshua Dorne, Nathan Edward, Tarrique Edward, Reon Edwards, Deshawn James, Jordan Johnson, Devonie Joseph, Raneico Smith, Isai Thorne, Steve Wedderburn, and Adrian Weir.

Team Management: Rohan Nurse (Head Coach); Rohan Clarke (Assistant Coach), Nick Wilton (Assistant Coach); Dwain Gill (Team Manager); Dominic Angoy (Physiotherapist); and Gregory Seale (Strength and Conditioning Coach).



Young West Indies wicketkeeper/batsman Jewel Andrew



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Windies name squad for U-19 World Cup

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the West Indies Rising Stars squad for the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

The 15th edition of the tournament will be played in South Africa from January 19 to February 11, 2024.

Top-order batter Stephan Pascal has been named as captain, with Nathan Sealy, the slow bowling all-rounder as vice-captain.

Antiguan and Leeward Islands wicketkeeper/batsman Jewel Andrew is also included in the 15-member squad that features most of the players who toured Sri Lanka for three Youth One-Day Internationals (50-over matches) and two four-day 'Test' matches in August and September.

The squad also includes three players who played in the 2022 ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup, which was staged in the West Indies. They are fast bowler Isai Thorne, left-handed all-rounder Nathan Edward, and left-handed batter Jordan Johnson.

Thorne made his first-



The West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under 19s during the Youth ODI Series in Sri Lanka earlier this year. (File photos)

class debut for the West Indies Academy against Emerging Ireland last month and impressed with his pace. He took 12 wickets in two matches at an average of 6.16 per wicket.

Johnson joined the West Indies A Team on the recent tour of South Africa, where he made his first-class debut in the third and final four-day 'Test' match.

The squad has assembled in Antigua for a one-

week camp at the Coolidge Cricket Ground. During the camp, they will have training and fitness sessions, along with planning sessions and personal development workshops.

Lead Selector Robert Haynes said, "We have named a balanced squad for the upcoming ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup, and we expect them to do very well in this prestigious international

event.

"We had a good tour of Sri Lanka in August and September, where the players gained valuable experience. This helped to prepare them for the upcoming assignment.

"Since that tour, we also had a camp in Trinidad where we played against the USA Under-19 and the Trinidad & Tobago Under-23 teams. They will be

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