

# FIRE CALLS FOR 2023 TOTALED 409



Fire trucks parked at the St. John's Fire Station.

## Fire calls for 2023 totaled 409

The year 2023 was a busy one for the five fire stations that comprise the Fire Department of Antigua and Barbuda.

The department is reporting that it responded to a total of 409 fire calls for the year, 2023. Of that total, 376 were what the department described as 'major calls' while a total of 33 were cited as minor calls.

The St. John's Fire station responded to the most calls for the year with a total of 263, All Saints responded to 112, Johnson's Point 30, Coolidge 3 and Barbuda 1.

There were 88 house fires, 37 vehicular fires, 68 brush fires, 74 rubbish fire calls, 64 false alarms and 20 business fires with other categories making up the remainder of the fire calls.

The department also explained that the Coolidge Station has been respon-



sible for attending to medical emergency calls which are separate from fire calls. These include medical emergencies involving passengers arriving or departing the VC Bird International Airport located nearby.

For 2023, the station responded to

75 medical emergencies.

According to the fire statistics, the number of fire calls for 2023 exceeded the 2022 total by 22 calls; 409 versus 387.

The 2022 total was a decrease from the 402 recorded for 2021.



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## Health minister raises alarm

Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has raised alarm over the rise in workers getting ill from inhaling noxious fumes at various work sites.

Sir Molwyn’s concerns came in light of an incident at Fitches Creek on Wednesday following which one man died and another was warded in the Intensive Care Unit at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in what the EMS suspect was a case of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The men – who were related and who hail from the Five Islands community – were apparently pumping water from a cistern at a house in Fitches Creek,



Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph when the younger of the two, Amin Martin, who was inside the cistern where the water pump was located, fell ill. His older family member, Henry Richardson, attempted to rescue him but he too fell ill. Both men belong to the Richardson family of Five Islands.

The EMS, fire and

search and rescue units were summoned and both men were pulled from the cistern. Martin, said to be age 39, died at the hospital, while Richardson, believed to be in his 60’s, has since been in the ICU.

According to the Cabinet Notes the Minister of Health reported that work-

ers who inhale fumes and impure air are showing an alarming rate of illness. The Cabinet, therefore, encourages all workers who are exposed to conditions that are likely to affect their lungs to wear protective masks, and to utilize other personal protective equipment (PPEs) during the times when they are working.

This urging by the Minister is said to have preceded any knowledge of the death and injury suffered by the two men.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda expresses its condolences to the family of the deceased, and pray for a speedy recovery of the injured parties.

### AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
SOUTH CENTRAL	15 1987B	227

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

The property is under the ownership of **LOREAN DENISE ROBERTS (aka DENISE LOREAN ROBERTS)**. The land is a 10,890 sq. ft. (0.25 acre) plot with an approximate 3,841 sq. ft., 2-storey with a partial basement reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

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 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer

### AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCELS</u>
CEDAR GROVE & CROSBIES	44 1997B	76 and 77

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 12:00pm the above residential property at the intersection of Westcott Avenue and Neem Avenue, Crosbies.

The property is under the ownership of **SALEM KHOULY and AIDA MANSOOR** with approximately 8,894 sq. ft. of residential building on a 0.75acre plot of land. The building is two-storey with the ground floor space consisting of living room, dining room, kitchen, playroom/bedroom with ensuite bathroom, guest bedroom with ensuite bathroom and a general bathroom. The upper floor is consisting of a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, three other bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and a kitchenette. The property has a two vehicle garage and a standalone one vehicle garage.

On the property is a 26,000 gallon Swimming Pool with Deck, a Pool House and a Basketball Court. The property has a lawn with date palm trees, decorative flowering plants, three fish ponds and a courtyard paved with cut stones.

The Auction shall be held on site.

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

Dated this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer

# SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda takes on new urgency

Antigua and Barbuda is set to host one of the most pivotal conferences of island nations from around the world as they seek to regroup following a COP28 in Dubai that fell short on delivering all of the necessary outcomes for safeguarding an uncertain future.

The conference takes place at the end of May at the American University of Antigua's new state-of-the-art conference centre currently under construction at its campus near Jabberwock. There is a feeling among would-be delegates that the conference here in St. John's has taken on much urgency due to the shortcomings of the Dubai conference.

"During the international conference in Dubai, Antigua and Barbuda played an integral role in a number of side events aimed at advancing discussion on major goals and significant developments that are expected to materialise for these islands during the country's hosting of SIDS4 from May 27 – 30 this year," a media release from the Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission at the United Nations noted.

A Centre of Excellence



is expected to emerge from the SIDS4 Conference as a game changer in addressing some of the gaps that island nations have been seeking to overcome in building climate resilience, overcoming burdensome debt and achieving their sustainable development goals. The centre will be a predetermined point on the compass that SIDS would be able to use in setting course for a new and brighter future and the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne is determined to see this happen.

While leading the country's high-level delegation at COP28, Prime Minister Browne made use of every

*cont'd on pg 6*





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# Local News



## UWI FIC is getting its own reverse osmosis plant

The government is planning to meet the need for potable water by the coming expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands campus.

To this end, the Cabinet took the decision to add a Reverse Osmosis Plant at Five Islands to supply potable water to the growing student population, faculty and staff as the University expands.

“Such a plant will also supply potable water to the hotels in that area and neighbouring communities. It is estimated that in five years, the population of the UWI Five Islands Campus will likely exceed 5,000 students. The demand for water will then increase sig-



nificantly. The existing and new hotels that are planned for the area would also demand additional gallons of potable water, daily,” Cabinet spokesman, Am-

bassador Lionel Max Hurst stated.

He revealed that an American firm, with a branch in Trinidad and Tobago, is in discussions with APUA and the government to arrive at an agreement to supply 2 million gallons of reverse osmosis water daily.

At the conclusion of the negotiations, it is expected that the company will construct two Reverse Osmosis Plants. It is estimated that by April 30, 2024, the additional water will begin to flow to consumers.

This company will build, own, operate, and then transfer (BOOT) the plants to APUA after a fixed number of years.

## National Service of Thanksgiving slated for Sunday

The government and people of Antigua and Barbuda will join hands on Sunday, January 7, for a National Service of Thanksgiving that has now been institutionalized by the Gaston Browne Administration.

The service takes place at the St. John’s Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

Under the theme, ‘Let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord’, the service is designed to start the

New Year giving thanks to God for the many blessings he has bestowed on the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams will bring greetings to worshippers while Prime Minister

Gaston Browne will bring greetings as well as read the first passage of scripture.

An invitation was extended to the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle to bring greetings followed by his reading of the second passage of scripture.

Invitations have been sent to members of parliament in both houses, members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials of government along with other officials.

Members of the public are also invited to attend the service which starts at 9:00 am. This is the ninth consecutive year that this special service of thanksgiving is being held.

*cont’d from pg 4*

available opportunity to make the SIDS4 conference a point of emphasis, diving into the goals and priorities of the Centre of Excellence in addressing the main areas of concern that island nations face in overcoming their peculiar challenges.

A defining initiative of the Centre of Excellence will be a Data Hub, an empowering feature for small and micro states that will usher in a new era in accessing the resources they need from a global financial architecture that impedes more than supports recovery and development.

At a COP28 Launch of the SIDS Global Data Hub, Prime Minister Browne stated: “The excuse should no longer be by the international community, “we are unable to assist SIDS because there is no data”.

“The SIDS Global Data Hub is a tool of empowerment, equipping policymakers, scientists, and communities with the insights needed to chart a course towards climate resilience, the SDGS and the fulfilment of the next 10-year framework that will be adopted in Antigua and Barbuda at SIDS4,” he stated.

**ABLP**

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## Candlelight vigil for 'Kentae'

Leaders and members of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party will gather tonight (Friday January 5) at the party's headquarters on Nugent Avenue for a special candle-light vigil for Albert 'Kentae' Semper.

"Join us on Friday, January 5th, 2024, at 7 pm at The People's Place for a special Candlelight Vigil in honor of our dedicated community activist and long-standing member of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP),

Comrade Albert 'Kentae' Semper.

"In this challenging time, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends on behalf of the leadership and members. All comrades and friends are warmly invited to come and pay tribute to the remarkable life of Comrade Kentae," a circular from the ABLP sated.

Semper was not only a vocal and staunch defender of the ABLP, he also hosted a weekly radio programme on Pointe FM radio.

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# World Braille Day



## World Braille Day, January 4th 2024 Empowering through inclusion and diversity

Two hundred years ago, Louis Braille was born in France on January 4th 1824. Braille became blind as a young child. However, he quickly adjusted to his new way of life. At the age of 15 (in 1824, He invented the Braille code.

The code is a system of raised dots, used in educating children with severe vision loss, to read and write.

In a briefing to CCB.Media, Arvel Grant (CEO of CCB-Eye Care Caribbean) noted that, braille was introduced to the Caribbean in 1911, by James Augustus Alves, A Guyanese educator who lost his sight in a school-yard accident. Grant observed that, following

his loss of sight, James Alves travelled to England for adjustment to blindness training. According to Grant, upon returning to the Caribbean, James Alves embarked on a regional campaign to introduce services for blind people across the region.

The CEO noted that Braille has become common place. According to him, Braille can be found: On ATMs, in elevators and museums; on hotel room doors and other signs; As an option on restaurant menus and in airline safety briefings.

He noted that, because of the widespread use of Braille in the education of children across the Caribbean, an in-



ARVEL GRANT  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

creasing number of Caribbean citizens (who are blind) are making significant contributions in: Government and politics; Academia and the wider fields comprehensive of education; Business management; Journalism and the wider legacy and social media; business, agriculture and the arts.

He emphasized that all families which include children with severe vision loss, should ensure that the child learn to read and write braille, as part of its education; while acquiring skills in accessible information technologies.

Grant is urging anyone wishing to learn Braille, to seek-out the many online Braille instruction services. According to him, often, such services are delivered without charge.

[ccbmedia@eyecarecaribbean.com](mailto:ccbmedia@eyecarecaribbean.com)

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# Opinion

## Ralph Gonsalves explains himself on Guyana Venezuela map

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The New Year broke over Guyana with Guyanese everywhere deeply worried about the intentions of the Nicolas Maduro government in Venezuela which, through various communiques and public statements and action, appeared to be gearing up to seize the Essequibo region of Guyana.

A meeting, on December 14, 2023, in which Maduro and Guyana's President, Irfaan Ali, participated in St Vincent, under the auspices of the Prime Minister of that country, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, eased fears of an imminent Venezuelan invasion, but it did not quell the sense of deep disquiet among the Guyanese people.

Into this scenario of anxiety and uncertainty, on Wednesday, January 3, a Venezuelan group posted a photograph on Facebook which was rapidly shared on social media networks. The photograph prompted swift condemnation of Prime Minister Gonsalves from many Guyanese.

The picture showed the Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister, Keisal Peters, standing at the two ends of a line with two Venezuelans, who were holding, for the camera in front of them, a papier-mâché map of Venezue-

la which depicted Essequibo as Venezuelan territory. Behind Gonsalves was a statue of Simon Bolivar.

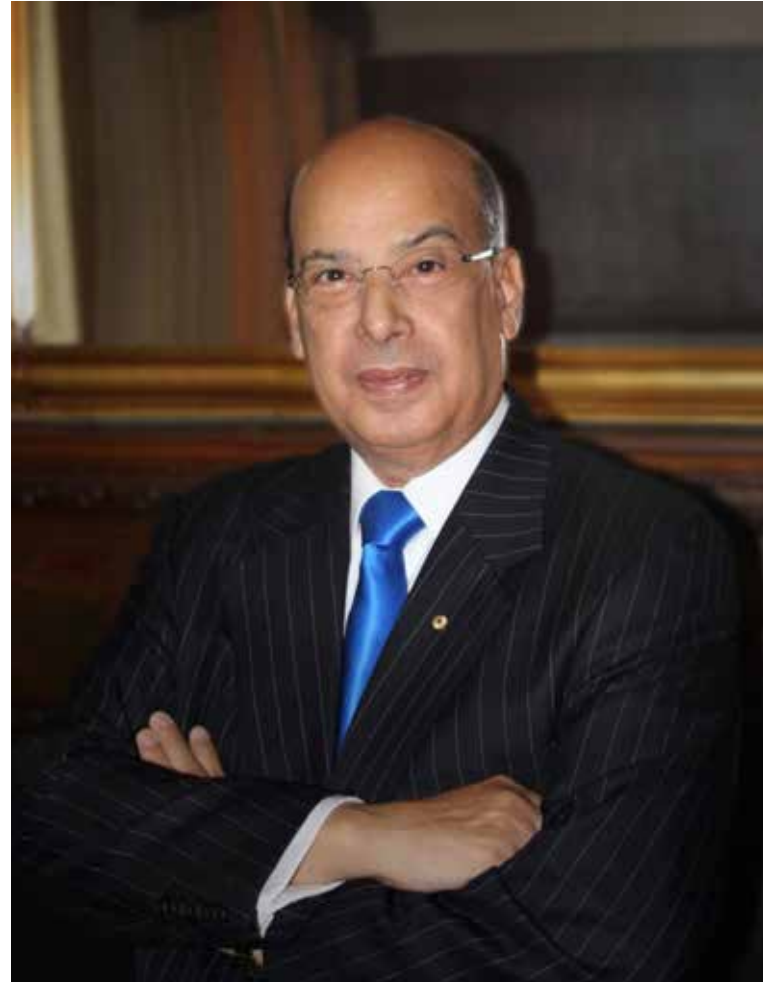
The photograph was described by the Venezuelans, who posted it, as "Very emblematic image of the PM of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, paying homage to the liberator Simon Bolivar with a map of Venezuela that includes our Essequibo".

As happens when emotions are high and anxiety pervasive, none of those who commented on the Facebook post, checked either the age of the photograph or the circumstances in which it was taken.

There appeared to be a general assumption that the photograph was taken after the St Vincent meeting of December 14, which issued "The Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela".

In this connection, the comments on Facebook and on social media accused Gonsalves of acting in support of the Venezuelans by appearing in the company of Venezuelans with a map, showing Essequibo as part of Venezuela.

I was never persuaded that the Facebook post and the image it offered of Gonsalves, seeming to endorse Essequibo as a part of Venezuela, represented the truth of the situation. I



Sir Ronald Sanders

immediately posted on the Facebook page, the following observation: "I have known and highly regarded Dr Ralph Gonsalves for over 40 years.

I cannot be convinced that, when he stood behind the artwork map, showing the Essequibo incorporated into Venezuela, he was made aware of the image being displayed.

The Ralph Gonsalves, I know and respect, would not consciously do such a one-sided thing while the world awaits a decision on the Guyana-Venezuela controversy from the In-

ternational Court of Justice, and while he, himself, is playing the role of CEL-AC's honest broker".

In order to write this commentary, I called Dr Gonsalves to learn his side of this story.

He told me what he subsequently included in a letter to Presidents Ali and Maduro, concerning this incident.

He explained that he was not aware of the photograph but confirmed that it was taken at a ceremony commemorating Bolivar in St Vincent on the grounds

*cont'd on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

of the Venezuelan Embassy in December 2022.

He went on to say in his letter, as he had told me: “While the photographs were being taken, I am advised that someone attached to the Venezuelan Embassy placed the “papier-mâché” depiction of the said map in front of us. I did not look at what the depiction was. I assumed that it was about Simon Bolívar.”

As all leaders know – politicians and otherwise – persons take photographs in which they appear but have little knowledge of anything or anyone that is not within their vision. Gonsalves was behind the map, and photographs are taken within seconds.

That situation could have happened to anyone, and indeed, they frequently do.

He described the incident as “an innocent inadvertence on his part” and he regarded it as “unfortunate” that it “has been used by some to drum up, unnecessarily, antipathy of one kind or another”. He also understood “all the emotions attendant on this controversial issue”; and recognized that, as happened on this occasion, “from time to time there will be flare-ups”.

Gonsalves then said to both Ali and Maduro, “we as leaders must maintain a patience and a calm knowing that sun brightens stone, even as the river

burns”. For those who do not recognize those words, they are taken from one of the iconic poems of Guyana’s Poet Laureate, the late Martin Carter, “Death of a Slave”.

Dr. Gonsalves went on to urge that “about this matter of the papier-mâché depiction, hopefully it has been laid to rest, where it ought properly to reside among the assorted ghosts from the past, which ought never to rule us from the grave”.

None should forget that in the long months of 2020 as Guyana’s democracy was being sorely tested and the free will of the people, as expressed at the

ballot box, was being jeopardised, Ralph Gonsalves stood in solidarity with all the people of Guyana, seeking peace, stability and democratic rights.

Like every man, Ralph Gonsalves, is not infallible but one thing is for certain, he is a Caribbean man and, he cares deeply about our one Caribbean region.

Undoubtedly, he has a friendship with Maduro, and he is seeking, as best he can, to promote acceptance of a lasting solution to the Guyana-Venezuela controversy.

That is Ralph Gonsalves’ nature. But he is no enemy of Guyana’s, and none should wrongly try to

make him so.

He has explained himself fully and satisfactorily. As he has asked, the matter should be laid to rest.

Of the greatest importance now is that Guyana and its CARICOM partners must move forward, focusing on the legal and diplomatic efforts necessary to end the Venezuela controversy.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*



# Mary Poppins actress Glynis Johns dies aged 100

By Andre Rhoden-Paul

Glynis Johns, known best for her role as suffragette mother Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins*, has died at the age of 100.

The British actress, whose career spanned more than 60 years, died in Los Angeles on Thursday, her manager confirmed.

She appeared in dozens of films and was also an accomplished theatre performer.

Her manager Mitch Clem said in a statement her death was a “sombre day for Hollywood”.

Johns starred opposite Dame Julie Andrews in the classic 1964 Disney musical *Mary Poppins*, which went on to win five Oscars.

Her manager of 25 years Mr Clem said her “light shined very brightly for 100 years”.

“Glynis powered her way through life with intelligence, wit, and a love for performance, affecting millions of lives,” he said paying tribute.

“Today is a sombre day for Hollywood. Not only do we mourn the passing of our dear Glynis, but we mourn the end of the golden age of Hollywood.”

She also won a Tony Award in 1973 for playing Desiree Armfeldt in Stephen Sondheim’s Broadway musical *A Little Night Music*, in which she sang



Glynis Johns in *Mary Poppins* as suffragette mother Winifred Banks.

*Send In The Clowns*.

Sondheim wrote the song especially for Johns to sing, however she lost the part to Elizabeth Taylor in the 1977 film version.

“I always said that *Send In The Clowns* was the best gift I was ever given,” she told AP news agency.

In an interview with ABC News in October on her 100th birthday, Johns added: “I got applause for that. I loved doing it. I felt it.”

Part of a showbusiness family, Johns was born on 5 October 1923 in South Africa while her Welsh actor parents were performing there.

Her first big screen role

was in 1948 as the mermaid Miranda, with her performance in the comedy making her a star in the UK.

She was later nominated for an Academy Awards for best supporting actress for her role in 1960 film *The Sundowners*.

She also made frequent TV appearances, including in *Batman*, and starred in her own sitcom *Glynis* on US television in 1963.

Her last acting roles were in the 1995 film *While You Were Sleeping*, featuring Sandra Bullock, and the 1999 film *Superstar* starring Molly Shannon and Will Ferrell.

She retired to the US,

and spent her final years in an assisted living home in Hollywood where she died peacefully, her manager told BBC News.

Ahead of her 100th birthday in October, Labour MP Chris Bryant had called for Johns to be made a dame.

He tweeted on Thursday: “So sad. One of the great British actors who should have been given a damehood.”

The actress is survived by her grandson Thomas Forwood, who is based in Paris, and her three great-grandchildren.

She will be buried next to her father, actor Mervyn Johns, in the UK.



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## The Bahamas records first double murder for 2024

Gun violence has claimed more lives in The Bahamas as the country recorded its first double murder for 2024 yesterday.

Police said the deceased were a 29-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman.

The identities of the deceased were not revealed by police but they noted the man was out on bail for an attempted armed robbery and he previously faced charges for firearms possession and manslaughter.

Preliminary reports indicate the duo were driving west along Prince Charles Drive just before noon. Upon reaching the intersection with College Gardens, their car was approached by another vehicle whose occupants began shooting at them.

The gunmen escaped by fleeing west on Prince Charles Drive. Their vehicle was later found abandoned on Hanna Road.

Police said the victims were shot multiple times and they died on the



Investigators collect evidence at the scene of The Bahamas' first double murder for 2024.

scene.

A seven-year-old boy, who was a passenger in a nearby vehicle, sustained

minor injuries from shattered glass.

This murder took the 2024 homicide figure to four.

## Puerto Rico official says Governor's motto violates election law



Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Pierluisi gives a press conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 6, 2019. (AP Photo/Dennis M Rivera Pichardo, File)

The Puerto Rico governor's office must stop using the slogan "Making things happen" to promote the administration's work because it looks like election campaigning, election officials said Wednesday.

The phrase can no longer appear on ads launched with public money by the administration of Governor Pedro Pierluisi, who is seeking a second term in an election this year. The

*cont'd on pg 15*

## Gonsalves reaches out to Guyana and Venezuela after map controversy

St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves has written to the Guyanese and Venezuelan presidents to explain the situation which led to him taking a picture holding a papier-mâché map of Venezuela that included disputed territory.

Gonsalves said he was unaware of what was depicted on the artwork when he posed for the picture in December at the home of Venezuela's Ambassador to Guyana as they commemorated the life and work of Simon Bolivar.

Gonsalves also noted that he did not see any photographs from the event until it went viral on social media last evening.

"While the photographs were being taken, I am advised that someone attached to the Venezuelan Embassy placed the 'papier-mâché' depiction of the said map in front of us. I did not look at what the depiction was. I assumed that it was about Simon Bolivar," he wrote.

"It is unfortunate that this innocent inadvertence on my part has been used by some to drum up, unnecessarily, antipathy of one kind or another.

"I understand all the emotions



Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

attendant on this controversial issue; and from time-to-time there will be flare-ups."

Gonsalves told Maduro that he has spoken with the Guyanese president and Vice President Bharat Jagdeo about the matter and he hopes the situation "has been laid to rest, where it ought properly to reside

among the assorted ghosts from the past, which ought never to rule us from the grave."

Focusing on the future, Gonsalves said he is encouraged by news that representatives from Venezuela and Guyana will be meeting in Brazil to further advance "the Argyle Declaration".

*cont'd from pg 14*

opposition Popular Democratic Party has challenged the administration's use of the phrase.

Walter Vélez, who oversees the election controller's office, told reporters that the slogan could

allude to achievements and goals, both of which are barred under laws restricting the use of public funds for election-related advertising.

Sheila Angleró, a spokeswoman for Pierluigi, said the governor's office is

evaluating the decision.

A lawsuit filed in October last year by the Popular Democratic Party alleges that more than \$3 million in public funds have been used to promote the slogan, and the case is pending in court.

Jesús Manuel Ortiz, the party's president, said in a statement that it's regrettable the slogan wasn't struck down until this year, adding that the funds should not be used "to develop campaigns to highlight anyone's image."

# Iowa student shoots six, one fatally, at high school

By Chloe Kim

A student shot six people, one of them fatally, at a high school in the US state of Iowa before taking his own life on the first day back from holiday break, police said.

A “pretty rudimentary” improvised explosive device was found by investigators at Perry High School, police said, and rendered safe.

Five of those shot were students and one is a school administrator.

The student that died was in sixth-grade, which is for 11 or 12-year-olds.

Reports of an active shooter came in at 07:37 local time (13:37 GMT) and the first officer reached the scene within minutes, police said.

Speaking to reporters after the shooting, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Assistant Director Mitch Mortvedt said that officers responding to the scene quickly found what they determined to be the suspect with a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The suspect was later identified as Dylan Butler, a 17-year-old student. He was armed with a pump-action shotgun and a small calibre-handgun, according to police.

Mr Mortvedt also said that the suspect had “made a number of social media



posts in and around the time of the shooting.”

Of the injured, one was in a critical condition and four were stable, Mr Mortvedt added.

Earlier in the day, Dallas County Sheriff Adam Infante told reporters that owing to the early hour, “luckily, there was very few students and faculty in the building, which I think contributed to a good outcome in that sense.”

Lori Meinecke, a Perry High School teacher, told a local radio station that she heard about six to seven gunshots around that time.

The middle school was cleared at about 08:25 local time and the high school was cleared at 08:27 local time. The two schools are on the same campus.

A local TV station spoke to Kevin Shelley, a parent

of a 15-year-old, who said his son had been shot in the hallway, but would survive.

Mr Shelley’s son told him he was hit in the back and had his arm grazed before running into a classroom to seek shelter with fellow students.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) responded. The Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation was leading the investigation.

“It is horrendously awful,” said Linda Andorf, board president for the Perry Community School District, NBC reported. “This is just disgusting. It’s terrible.”

“It’s impossible to understand why anything like this happens,” Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds said at

a news conference, adding that “every Iowan stands” with the victims and their families.

US President Joe Biden was briefed on the shooting and was in touch with Governor Reynolds’s office, according to the White House.

The town of Perry has less than 10,000 residents and is about 40 miles (64km) north-west of Iowa’s capital, Des Moines.

The shooting comes days before the Iowa caucuses begin on 15 January, kicking off the process of the 2024 Republican primary process.

The shooting came as one of the candidates, Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, was scheduled to campaign in Perry. The event was cancelled and replaced by a prayer and discussion between Mr Ramaswamy and local residents.





Ballistic missiles launched by Russia hit Ukraine's capital Kyiv on 2 January.

## Ukraine war: US says Russia using North Korea ballistic missiles

Russia has used ballistic missiles and launchers supplied by North Korea in its war on Ukraine, the US has said.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby called it a "significant and concerning escalation" relating to Pyongyang's support for Russia.

He said the US would raise the matter at the UN Security Council and impose additional sanctions on those working to facilitate arms transfers.

Moscow has denied any such collaboration.

However, in September North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Russia to discuss potential military cooperation.

The US has previously accused Pyongyang of supplying Russia with weapons, but this is the first time US intelligence has shared details about ballistic missiles - self-guided rockets that can reach targets 900km (500 miles) away.

Speaking during a White House press briefing on Thursday, Mr Kirby

said Russia's procurement of ballistic missiles from North Korea was a direct violation of numerous UN Security Council resolutions.

"We will demand that Russia be held accountable for yet again violating its international obligations," he said.

He also said the US believed Russia was planning on purchasing close-range missiles from Iran, but that it had not done so yet.

The UK said it "strongly condemns" Russia's use of ballistic missiles sourced from North Korea in Ukraine.

"North Korea is subject to a robust sanctions regime, and we will continue to work with our partners to ensure that North Korea pays a high price for supporting Russia's illegal war in Ukraine," a spokesperson for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said.

In his briefing, Mr Kirby also urged US Congress to approve extra US funding for Ukraine "without delay".

"The most effective response to Russia's horrific violence against the Ukrainian people is to continue to provide Ukraine with vital air defence capabilities and other types of military equipment," he said.

"Iran and the DPRK [North Korea] are standing with Russia. Ukrainians deserve to know that the American people and this government will continue to stand with them."

The last US military aid package to Ukraine, worth some \$250m (£195m), was approved by Congress on 27 December.

Talks on further funding have stalled in Congress because of a lack of support among Republicans, who insist that tougher security measures on the US-Mexico border must be part of any military aid deal.

Ukraine has warned that its war effort and the country's public finances are at risk if further Western aid does not come soon.

## ABSF anticipates less international engagements for its swimmers

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) is anticipating a less active year of international competitions for its swimmers in 2024.

President of the ABSF, Edith Clashing, said 2024 will not be as busy as last year in terms of international engagements for its swimmers. She, however, expects there will be the usual regional competitions for the swimmers of Antigua and Barbuda to indulge in.

“In terms of regional meets, we have Carifta coming up in Easter in the Bahamas; we have the CCCAN (Central American and Caribbean Swimming Federation) Championships, which is slated for Mexico in June.

“All of these events are now being slotted back in the places where they should be this year. We had a lot of shifting last year because of catch-up events,” she explained.

Clashing said the ABSF is ex-



Jadon Wuilliez

pecting to receive an invitation for its swimmers to participate for the first time in the 28th Goodwill Games Swimming Championships, which is being hosted in St. Lucia this year.



Stefano Mitchell

“Kids who would have qualified for OECS but just did not make Carifta are going to be eligible for selection to attend the Goodwill Games,” she added.

## Warner makes 34 before rain disrupts Sydney Test



The umpires tell the Pakistan players that play has been suspended due to poor light on the second day of their cricket test match against Australia in Sydney, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024. (AP)

SYDNEY, (Reuters) - David Warner made 34 in what is likely to be his penultimate innings in the long form of cricket as Australia reached 116 for two on the rain-disrupted second day of the third Test against Pakistan on Thursday.

Bad light stopped play midway through the second session before a huge rainstorm swept down across the city, leaving the home batsmen kicking their heels for the remainder of the day, still 197 runs behind Paki-

stan's first innings score of 313.

Marnus Labuschagne, who was 23 not out, and Steve Smith, unbeaten on six, will resume on day three on Friday when no rain is forecast.

The last three New Year's Tests at Sydney Cricket Ground have been impacted by the weather and all ended in draws.

Australia hold an unsailable lead in the three-match series against Paki-

*cont'd on pg 19*



Players of the English Harbour football team. (File photo)

## Urlings hold English Harbour to draw in Second Division

English Harbour were held to a draw for the second time this season in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division league on Wednesday.

Jahmiah Daniel scored two minutes before the end of regulation to allow Urlings to salvage a 2-2 draw with English Harbour at the Urlings playing field.

The result allowed En-

glish Harbour to advance to 11 points from five matches, while Urlings moved on to three points after drawing for the third time in four encounters.

CPTSA Wings and FC Master Ballerz also played to a draw, but there were wins for Bethesda and Golden Grove in the other Second Division matches on Wednesday.

Marques

Gordon's

12th-minute conversion gave Wings the lead, but Marvin Moses scored in the 21st minute to equalize for FC Master Ballerz as both teams battled to a 1-1 draw at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The result carries Wings to five points from five games, lifting the Master Ballerz to the same number of points from three matches.

O'Shale Simon struck a hat-trick to lead Bethesda to

a four-nil drubbing of Glanvilles at the Glanvilles playing field.

Bethesda secured their third win in five matches and advanced to 10 points.

Glanvilles remain on three points after losing for the fourth time in five matches.

Golden Grove recorded a 4-1 victory against West Ham at the Golden Grove playing field.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

stan after victories in the Tests in Perth and Melbourne, but will be desperate to send Warner into retirement a winner on his home ground.

The 37-year-old had come through a single over with six runs to his name at the end of play on Wednesday and resumed with childhood friend Usman

Khawaja under cloudy skies on Thursday. He should have departed for 20 when Pakistan debutant Saim Ayub dropped a sitter in the slips, and was fortunate on 27 that his edge went between the slips and gully and ran to the boundary for four.

A bowling change for Pakistan did the trick with off-spinner Agha Salman

coming on to remove Warner with his third ball, the Australian bamboozled by the spin and bounce and edging the delivery to Babar Azam in the cordon.

The crowd was initially silent but quickly roused into yet another ovation for Warner, whose runs took his career tally to 8,729 in 112 Tests at an average of 44.53.



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## India complete seven-wicket win over South Africa to share series

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - India chased down a modest victory target of 79 to claim a seven-wicket win over hosts South Africa in the second Test at Newlands on Thursday and share the two-match series 1-1 after an extraordinary game finished inside five sessions.

India ended their second innings on 80 for three as they launched an assault to try and negate a difficult wicket that was still helping the bowlers.

Rohit Sharma finished not out on 16 and Shreyas Iyer on 4, with Yashasvi Jaiswal (28), Shubman Gill (10) and Virat Kohli (12) being the wickets to fall.

There will be plenty of scrutiny of the Newlands pitch with the match completed in 642 balls, the shortest ever Test in which there has been a winner, beating Australia's 656-ball victory over South Africa in 1932.

South Africa, who won the toss and elected to bat, will look back on a desperately poor first innings in which they were bowled out for 55 on a record-breaking opening day.

They gave themselves a fighting chance by dismissing India for 153 when the visitors lost six wickets for the addition of no runs, the first time that has happened in 147 years of Tests.

But India seamer Jasprit Bumrah took six for 61 as the tourists bowled South



India celebrates the wicket of South African batsman David Bedingham during the second day of the second Test match between South Africa and India in Cape Town, South Africa, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024. (AP)

Africa out in their second innings for 176 on the stroke of lunch on the second day to set up the win.

Bumrah bowled a superb probing line but also profited from poor shot selection from the home batters, who seemed in a hurry to score runs on the tricky wicket.

South Africa opener Aiden Markram scored a quick-fire 106 as he defied the conditions but lost partners at regular intervals, which forced him to try his hand.

Markram raced to his century in 99 balls, but played one big shot too many, as he skied a Mohammed Siraj delivery to Rohit Sharma at mid-off to end an innings of 17 fours and two sixes.



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## Monk headlines scouts for CAF GNFC PI Combine

Former manager of Swansea City Football Club Garry Monk headlines over 10 coaches who have confirmed their participation as scouts of various clubs, colleges, and universities for this month's annual Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Player Identification Combine (PIC), which is hosted by the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC).

This year's CAF Player Identification Combine for male and female players, ages 15 to 23, will be held at St. Anthony's Secondary School from Thursday, January 25, to Sunday, January 28.

Monk, a former Swansea City player, went on to manage the club in the English Premier League from February 4, 2014, until he was sacked the following season on December 9, 2015.

He later went on to manage four clubs in the English Championship, the second-tier division of the United Kingdom's football pyramid. They are Leeds United, Middlesbrough, Birmingham City, and Sheffield Wednesday.

Monk and his brother Stuart will attend the CAF

Player Identification Combined as a scout for Soccer Profile, an innovative soccer platform.

Soccer Profile was founded in 2018 by the Monk brothers. Stuart Monk is an innovative coach and scout with experience coaching both grassroots and professional players.

He is a coach educator for the Football Association of Wales and a regional coach mentor for the English FA. He is currently working as a consultant for English Premier League club Brentford. His vast knowledge of working with talented young players has contributed to the development of the Soccer Profile platform.

The soccer-profile platform has subscribers spanning six continents, from grassroots to professional academies.

Other scouts confirmed for the CAF Player Identification Combine, which is being held for players to showcase their talents in their bids to secure athletic scholarships at colleges and universities or trials at professional football clubs, include Micky Adams, Sam White, Martin Longworth,



Coach Garry Monk (Getty Images) and Junior Osei-Tutu.

Adams is a former manager for three English football clubs: Leicester City, Sheffield United, and Southampton.

According to President of the GNFC Ricky Santos, Sam White will be scouting talent for three colleges at the event.

Longworth will be seeking possible recruitment for Hartpury College University in the United Kingdom.

Osei-Tutu will be scouting players for English League Two Club Milton Keynes Don and Soccer Assist, of which he is the co-founder.

Osei-Tutu will also be accompanied by Tyrelle McLeod-Bentley, who is also the co-founder of Soccer

Assist, which is one of the United Kingdom's leading scholarship agencies that represents multiple colleges in the United States.

The other confirmed scouts are Matthew Thompson, Jordi Shiels, Martin Marlow, and Lawrie Dudfield.

Thompson will be representing the University of the Firebirds District of Columbia in the United States. Scouts will also be representing Brooke House College in the United Kingdom, which has already awarded several scholarships to participants at the previous CAF PI Combine.

Interested players can register with the GNFC or call 720-6741 for further information.