

LANDS SALE TO BEGIN SHORTLY IN BARBUDA

....Antiguans may purchase land as well

Story on Page 2



Lands sale to begin shortly in Barbuda

The pending sale of lands on Barbuda is soon to become a reality and the government has announced that Antiguanians will be eligible to purchase lands there as well.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced on Saturday that the arrangements to commence the sale of lands on the sister isle are now 'quite advanced' thus ushering the long-awaited sale of lands to private individuals and others on the sister island.

"We are not only going to sell lands to Barbudans, we are going to sell lands to Antiguanians too. It's one state, one unitary state," he declared.

The prime minister said this policy will go into ef-



fect 'in a matter of months, possibly by the end of the first quarter' of 2024.

According to PM Browne, moving ahead with the sale of lands in Barbuda will help to empower the people of the island as land ownership is a means for wealth creation.

He said he is proud of the tough decisions that his administration took over the years for the benefits of the people of Barbuda as these benefits are beginning to show positive results in the lives of many Barbudans.

He said the several developments taking place on

Barbuda have given rise to the creation of many small businesses developed to serve the growing needs for a variety of services, including additional housing, and yacht clearance services among others.

He accused the Barbuda representative, Trevor Walker and members of the Barbuda People's Movement of undertaking a campaign of perpetuating a lie regarding the ownership of lands on Barbuda.

That issue, he explained, has been settled by a judgment from the Privy Council in London, despite which the BPM appears not willing to accept the truth and has resorted to spreading a 'myth' about the ownership of the lands.

A survey of the lands in Barbuda has been commissioned and it is nearing completion. A branch of the Land Registry is also being set up in Codrington to facilitate the registry of lands.

Police probe first homicide for 2024

The police are continuing their probe into a shooting incident at Grays Farm that resulted in the death of a 24-year-old Yorks man.

The alleged incident occurred around 7:30 pm on Sunday January 7th at Christian Street.

He was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he was pronounced dead around 8:30 pm.

Further details will be provided in a later update.



PM Browne gives thanks for nation's progress...extends olive branch to opposition

Prime Minister Gaston Browne used the backdrop of Sunday's National Service of Thanksgiving to thank God for steering the nation of Antigua and Barbuda through challenging times to be able to record three consecutive years of robust economic growth.

Delivering brief remarks prior to reading one of the lessons during the service at the St. John's Pentecostal House of Assembly, PM Browne said the economic gains of the past year are forecast to continue into this year with God's guidance. "This progress is an achievement for all the peo-

ple of Antigua and Barbuda, not just for members of the Cabinet," he declared.

He echoed a call from Governor General Sir Rodney Williams for all to be productive in a national effort of nation building. "I call on all citizens and residents to join in this national effort as we fight the challenges, external and otherwise, that lie ahead. I urge you to 'rise to the occasion' as we move our country ahead," he remarked.

The prime minister also drew attention to the absence of the senior leadership of the opposition, who were invited to attend the



Prime Minister Gaston Browne service. An invitation was also extended to Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle to read one of the lessons and to give brief remarks.

Unfortunately, he noted, they were conspicuously absent. In an effort to avoid

a re-occurrence in the future, the prime minister has offered to involve the Office of the Leader of the Opposition in the planning of next year's service. "I want to emphasise that this is not an ABLP service. It is a National Service of Thanksgiving and I believe that all senior public servants including members of both houses of parliament, on both sides, have a responsibility to be here," he noted.

PM Browne has extended an olive branch to the opposition to ensure their attendance at the service in 2025. "In order to encourage the opposition's involvement, I will recommend that the service for next year should fall under the auspices of the Cabinet and the Leader of the Opposition. This must be inclusive. We cannot divide over such an important national event," he emphasized.



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GG says a 'positive mindset' important for 2024 and beyond

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, has suggested what he calls 'a few principles' by which he is urging nationals to follow as they stand at the beginning of a new year.

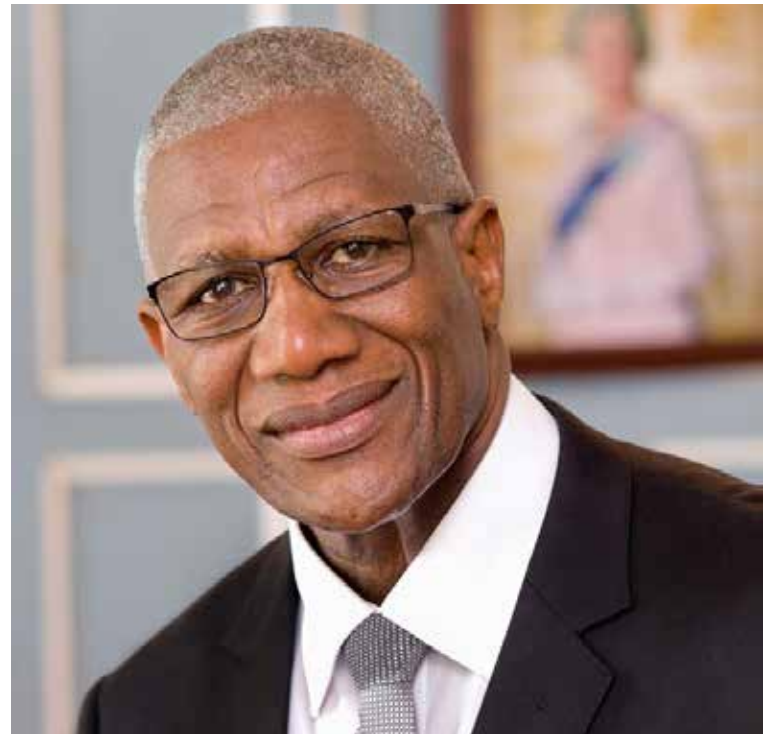
Speaking at the National Service of Thanksgiving at the St. John's Pentecostal Church on Sunday, Sir Rodney said these principles can guide citizens and residents through the coming twelve months and beyond as they navigate some of the challenges and opportunities that will confront them.

"The first of these is embracing, nurturing and maintaining a positive mindset

and outlook. In the face of the inevitable challenges that 2024 will bring, an optimistic outlook will determine whether or not the challenges overwhelm us as well as the extent to which we live our lives according to God's will and the Biblical truths and God's commandments that have withstood the test of time," he explained.

Secondly, the Governor General is making a clarion call for all to be productive in whatever they do.

"Productivity is not merely measured by busyness. The question is, 'Are we, in our various roles



Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams

and endeavours, genuinely giving our best?" Let us be mindful not to be busy like bees without making honey.

"Instead, let us focus on the quality of our efforts, ensuring that we are effective and efficient in what we do so that our endeavours bear meaningful fruit," he added.

Thirdly, the Head of State is extolling the virtues of a 'can do' spirit.

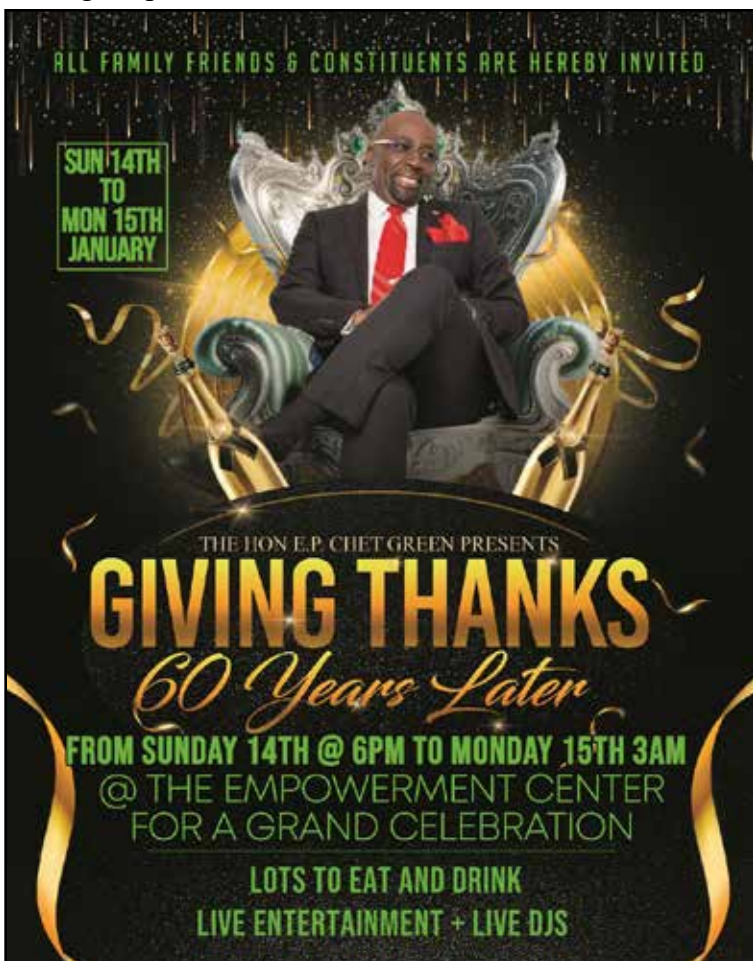
"In a world marked by fast-paced technological changes and challenging circumstances, the importance of initiative and a 'can do' attitude cannot be overstated.

"Let us be proactive in adapting to change and let us seize the opportunities that arise, drawing on the positive mindset and outlook that I spoke of earlier.

"Too often we are re-active, and in doing so, we lose our sense of urgency and self-determination, and we end up missing opportunities rather than seizing them," he stated.

Sir Rodney also wants the people of Antigua and Barbuda to make the best use of time.

"Time is a most precious commodity. A new year highlights how quickly time passes, how quickly our children grow up and things change. So, the fourth principle is prudence, being prudent with the use of our time, talent, and resources. Let us be wise stewards, making thoughtful choices that contribute to the well-being of our families, our communities, and our nation," he remarked.



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Ministry of Education: Violence among youth has escalated over the past year

The Ministry of Education says it continues to be concerned about the level of violence among young people within the education system noting that this trend has escalated over the past year.

And according to Director of Education, Clare Browne, this violence has impacted schools, homes, social events and anywhere young people gather.

In fact, the director revealed that a study has indicated that the attacks on other young people are not random acts, but are the results of systematically planned incidents.

“These attacks are not

reaction to an incident but are planned attacks with forewarned messages sent to the intended victims via social media. Following an assessment of the incidents and individuals involved, a number of variables have been identified which allow for the development of profiles and the intervention that are required if the society is to break this cycle of violence,” he disclosed.

The assessment by the Student Support Department in the ministry has identified a number of risk factors that helped to perpetuate the violence. These include;



Director of Education, Clare Browne

- being members of a dysfunctional family environment where physical and emotional needs are not being met
 - a history of behavioral or mental health issues. In some cases, parents did not follow through with intervention, or the social system did not adequately support the individual
- support and accessibility to violence.
- The protective factors have been listed as, strong family support, supportive peer relationship, access to education, community involvement, mentorship, access to mental health services and positive future outlook.

Browne noted that any intervention plan to stem youth violence would include community involvement to include schools, the church, civil society groups, establishing partnerships with law enforcement, develop substance-free zones around schools, community centers and all student-related activities, especially sports, and the training of community members as conflict mediators.

A number of risk factors have also been identified.

These are family dysfunction, peer pressure, low socio-economic status, substance abuse, mental health issues, exposure to violence, lack of natural

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Education Official makes case for government support for private schools

Director of Education Clare Browne is making a strong case for an annual subvention by the government to assist privately run educational institutions in Antigua and Barbuda.

Director Browne says he recognizes that the education system has been allocated the largest slice of the 2024 National Budget, and while he recognizes that that money is being stretched to the limit, he says he is looking forward to the day when the private schools at all levels, pre-school, primary and secondary will be able to get an annual subvention from the government to help them cover their operational costs.

“I would love to see private schools get some financial assistance from the government to help them keep their doors open.

“Many of these schools are having a number of challenges and it is important that they all remain open as we do not have enough spaces within the public schools to accommodate all the students currently enrolled in private schools,” he declared.

Director Browne is of the view that all students whether in the public or private schools are entitled to the best education available.

“Some private schools are struggling and we have a responsibility

to ensure that all students get a good education regardless of whether they attend school, public or private,” he stated.

Additionally, the director noted that there will come a time when consideration is given to providing each school in the public sector with a small budget to allow it to carry out some of its tasks.

Too often, he noted, teachers and students spend time raising funds to support school-related activities.

He said teachers and students should be concentrating on education rather than finding ways to raise funds for their institutions.

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Foreign Minister Greene mourns the passing of former Ambassador Dr. Patrick Lewis

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, E P Chet Greene, announces with deep regret the passing of Dr. Patrick Lewis, who served as the country’s Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as Ambassador to the United Nations. Dr. Lewis passed away in the United States on January 5 after a short illness. He was 85.

Minister Greene expressed his condolences, stating that Dr. Lewis’s diplomatic service was marked by dedication. Dr. Lewis served as Ambassador to the



Minister of Foreign Affairs, E P Chet Greene

United States and the OAS from 1992 to 1995 and as Ambassador to the United Nations from 1995 to 2004.

Before his diplomatic career, Dr. Patrick Lewis was an academic in the United States. Among the posts he held was Professor

of History at the Hampton Institute in Virginia.

In honour of the late Dr. Patrick Lewis, Minister Greene announced that the flags at the Antigua and Barbuda Embassy in the United States and at the Permanent Mission to the

United Nations in New York have been lowered to half-mast for the entire week. Minister Greene stated, “It is appropriate that the Foreign Ministry pay tribute to one of our fallen, who, in life, served our nation in two important international arenas.”

The Minister expressed his deepest sympathies to Dr. Lewis’s family, friends, and colleagues and said that the Antigua and Barbuda government will be represented at Dr Lewis’ memorial service by its current Ambassador to the US and the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders.

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Year we go again folks

By Tony Deyal

It is believed that a New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. I see it as a double whammy – what you personally should expect this year, 2024, and also what will happen to the world we live in. In other words, a New Year has tipped in, and we must try to meet it halfway.

So let's start with Susan Miller, the famous astrologer, and Aries people. You are in a glorious financial reward state that started last year in May and ends on May 25 this year. You will be able to travel a lot more, with many luxurious and beautiful experiences.

If you Taurus people are upset that Aries is getting everything and not you, don't worry. Taurus can get anything you want. Your one true love is ready and right there for you, but better yet, when Jupiter hits Gemini, that is when you will start making money for the next six months. Gemini. Don't give up.

You will wear the crown from May 25, 2024, to early June 2025. According to Susan Miller, your changes are internal and the new desires, ideas, and wishes regarding achievements, even writing a new book, are all yours.

While cancer is not something any of us wants, you who are born between June 21 and July 22 have

a different kind of Cancer. You have to extend your friendships, join a club, go to conventions, talk to people, and most of all, be open. Do it until May 24, and after that you will have a special new year starting in mid-2025.

Since I am a Leo, I should expect the best career year ever by making all the news, and regardless of my damaged left knee, I will be climbing to new heights.

Don't tell my wife, but love comes to me after May 25. Who would believe that at my age this is the year when I will stand and elevate myself.

Next is Virgo. You have the best long-distance travel opportunities. Susan wants you to spin your compasses and look out for very good luck.

But you must travel before May 25 because after that, you will get what I would already have, the most fabulous career aspect ever. However, because of Saturn, your closest relationship is going to be tested. Libra, Susan considers you "an interesting case". You are a money magnet right now, especially in January.

You could be getting a commission of royalties, an inheritance or even win a sweepstake!!! Scorpio, you're next! You have the best marriage aspects. You could get engaged for



Tony Deyal

Christmas or Valentine's Day. You're going to make a lot of money in the second half of the year.

If that happens, remember that I found out and told you, right? Sagittarius, I understand from Susan that you don't like to be married. In fact, you're terrified of it. However, she says that you will have the best commitment aspects starting May 25 (just about five months away) and going on for a year. Capricorn has the best love aspects – true romantic love. Susan says it's magical for you but, unfortunately, it will end on May 25.

To wrap it up, Susan says that Aquarius has the real-estate aspects right now. You can buy a house or fix it to increase the value. You can buy, sell, renovate, refresh, and redecorate. You can then invite love, but only after May 25, and if you're in that, check out

Taurus, Gemini, and Capricorn. Don't come near Leo because my wife will not appreciate your presence.

That brings us to Pisces, and I found out from Susan that if you want to buy a house, you have to wait until the second half of the year - early June, July, or August. Let's take a quick look at general global predictions before going quickly back to the personal.

Nostradamus, the mystical who was never mistaken, said there will be war on the water with the Chinese navy (most likely against Taiwan), a climate disaster, and royal unrest supposedly "the King of the Isles will be driven out by force." He will be replaced by King Harry and not William. The present Pope will be replaced by new one who will be there for a much longer time.

Even more aware of
cont'd on pg 11

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the future was Baba Vanga, the “Nostradamus of the Balkans”, who had some terrifying ones for us this year. Vladimir Putin will be assassinated by a “fellow countryman”.

Now while getting Putin out seems to be a great idea, putting in someone else will plunge the world into greater uncertainty. Baba also warned about terror attacks across Europe by a “big country”, which will be carried out with biological weapons.

The mystic also foretold a huge economic crisis that could plunge the global economy into chaos. Cyber hackers will hit the power grids and water-treatment plants, and a worsening climate with several terrifying weather events will wreak havoc for the whole of this year.

The only good news will be medical and technological breakthroughs to treat cancer and Alzheimers as well as a major breakthrough in quantum computing.

But enough of the bad news. I will leave the other bad news bandits for now and jump to astrologer Afiza Kelly.

She tells Aries, “We know you love to win, but what does that mean on New Year’s eve? ... But before you invest all your time and energy planning the ‘perfect’ evening, maybe you should allocate a little bit of room for ... spontaneity?” She has good news

for Taurus, “Love is in the air ... and you’re definitely feeling it!” (I hope its not Baron, the Calypsonian, and the thing in his pocket).”

Gemini is told: “There are so! Many! Things! You want to do so on New Year’s Eve ... it may be best to stay close to home.” Maybe next year? Afiza then takes on Cancer and recommends that you spend the next New Year’s evening at home relaxing and charging up for an entire year ahead. Well in addition to a really good curl, that is one way of getting ahead in life.

She tells Virgo: “Remember that others’ experiences are not your re-

sponsibility. Just focus on yourself, and the rest will come together! Promise!” Afiza calls Libra ‘the diplomat of the zodiac’ and says: “Be sure to stand up for yourself and advocate for your desires. Libra, it’s time to let others bend to your wishes for a change. Hey, it’s only fair!” She laughs and tells Scorpio: “There’s nothing you love more than a good scandal! It’s part of what makes you so ... Scorpionic”.

Sagittarius finds out that “There’s no one more equipped to roll with the punches than you, Sagittarius.” Afiza sees Capricorn as a “big picture person”,

Aquarius as “... a little psychic” and Pisces “your hopes, dreams and aspirations can be realised under this enchanted sky”. And me Leo, “You’re an excellent listener, especially when you can relate to someone else’s story.” However, I took her advice, “Focus on ways you can pass the microphone to others and give them centre stage.” Folks, this is for you. Have a great year, and if you’re feeling down and need a laugh or two, read my column.

Tony Deyal was last seen saying if he is still around next year, the only thing he will be kissing at midnight is 2024 goodbye.

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The Chinese recall follows a similar move last month in the US - where this file image was taken.

Tesla recalls more than 1.6 million cars in China over steering software issues

By Ece Goksedef

Tesla is recalling more than 1.6 million vehicles in China over issues with steering software and door-locking systems, the country's regulator says.

The recall includes its models S, X, 3 and Y, and 7,538 imported vehicles.

The problems will be fixed by remote updates to software, meaning the vehicles will not need to be taken to dealerships or garages.

It comes less than a month after Tesla recalled two million cars in the US due to autopilot software issues.

In May last year, the Chinese regulator said more than a million vehicles may have acceleration and braking system issues.

The American electric car giant then discovered problems with assisted driving functions and door-locking

systems.

The Chinese regulator, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), described the planned vehicle update as a recall, even though it will happen remotely.

Tesla will release an over-the-air software update for a total of 1,610,105 vehicles, including imported Models S and X and the China-made Models 3 and Y cars made from 2014 to 2023, the SAMR said.

The regulator added that this was to tackle issues with the autosteer function and cut the risk of collision.

"For vehicles within the scope of this recall, when the automatic assisted steering function is turned on, the driver may misuse the level two combined assisted driving function, increasing the risk of vehicle collision and posing a safety hazard," the SAMR explained.

Separately, Tesla will also upgrade

the software for 7,538 units of Models S and X cars to fix the problem of doors that could unlock in crashes.

This is the second recent blow for Tesla in the country, after China's BYD overtook Tesla's electric car sales worldwide in the last quarter of 2023.

Another similar move in 2022 saw Tesla recall nearly 128,000 cars in China over a rear motor inverter defect.

Tesla has a large consumer market in China - where people have been encouraged to buy electric and hybrid vehicles through subsidies. The country aims to have a majority of cars powered with clean energy by 2035.

China also hosts a major manufacturing plant in Shanghai, which is Tesla's first "gigafactory" to be built abroad. The facility delivered 947,000 vehicles in 2023, according to state news agency Xinhua.



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Dominican Republic judge orders conditional release of Wander Franco

A judge on Friday ordered the conditional release of Tampa Bay Rays shortstop Wander Franco while he is investigated for allegations he had a relationship with a 14-year-old girl and gave her mother a car and thousands of dollars in exchange for her consent, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The judge said Franco is allowed to leave the Dominican Republic but must return once a month to meet with authorities. He also was ordered to pay 2 million Dominican pesos (\$34,000) as a type of deposit as the investigation continues.

Franco, who was expected to be released early Saturday, did not speak to reporters after the hearing ended. During a bathroom break earlier in the day, he briefly told reporters that “everything is in God’s hands.”

Supporters who gathered outside the courthouse clapped after the ruling and shouted “Boss! Boss!” in reference to Franco. Franco’s father, also called Wander Franco, exclaimed, “God is just.”

The 22-year-old All-Star is accused of commercial sexual exploitation



Tampa Bay Rays shortstop Wander Franco, centre, is escorted by police to court in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic Friday, January 5, 2024. (AP Photo/Ricardo Hernández)

and money laundering. The judge in the case, Rumaldi Marcelino, had several options for a ruling Friday: release Franco on bond, temporarily arrest him, prevent him from leaving the Dominican Republic or demand that he make occasional appearances until the investigation or a trial has ended.

The girl’s 35-year-old mother, who faces the same charges as Franco, was ordered held under house arrest as the investigation continues. She smiled slightly

as she left the courtroom but did not comment. The AP is not naming the woman in order to preserve her daughter’s privacy.

Franco, who was detained Monday in the northern province of Puerto Plata, hasn’t been charged with any crimes. The judge has received a nearly 600-page document detailing the evidence that prosecutors gathered during a monthslong investigation.

The athlete’s lawyers have not commented other than saying that Franco was

“doing fine.”

Prosecutors said the investigation began after they received an anonymous tip in July 2023 stemming from someone who saw a media post alluding to the relationship. The AP has not been able to verify the reported post.

Authorities accuse Franco of taking the minor away from her home in Puerto Plata in December 2022 and having a four-month relationship with her with consent from the girl’s mother.

cont’d on pg 15

Human trafficking victims rescued in St. Maarten

Four human trafficking victims were rescued in St Maarten by police.

Police reported they spotted a vehicle driving recklessly on Rhine Road at approximately 01:30 am on January 4.

“The officers promptly intervened, stopping the vehicle to conduct a thorough inspection. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the vehicle was occupied by five individuals. Subsequent investigations revealed that these persons were likely smuggled into Sint Maarten via the French side of the island,” the St Maarten Police Force said in a statement.

“The driver, identified



by the initials J.B, was taken into custody at the scene in connection with human smuggling. The four individuals suspected of being victims of human smuggling have also been brought to the police station.”

Police said the human trafficking victims were

handed over to the Immigration Department.

“Human smuggling poses a significant threat to the safety and well-being of individuals involved, as well as the broader community. The Sint Maarten Police Force is committed to combating such illicit activities and will

work in collaboration with relevant authorities to ensure a thorough investigation,” the police force said.

Islanders have been urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities that may be related to human smuggling or other criminal behaviour.

cont'd from pg 14

They accuse Franco of sending the mother monthly payments of \$1,700 for seven months and buying her a car “in order to allow the relationship and let her go out with him wherever she wanted,” according to the document, which quoted the girl.

The girl also was quoted as saying that she had demanded for a local digital media site to publish an item about her alleged relationship with the baseball player because she was “tired” of her mother, whom she accused of taking Franco’s money and not sharing any of it with her.

Days later, Franco published a live video alleging it was a scheme to extort money from him, the document stated.

In September 2023, authorities raided the home of the girl’s mother and seized 800,000 Dominican pesos

(\$13,700) as well as \$68,500 they said was found hidden behind a frame. Another seizure at a different home found a guarantee certificate from a local bank for 2.1 million Dominican pesos (\$36,000) that they said was delivered by Franco for the “commercial and sexual exploitation” of the girl.

In addition, they seized a Suzuki Swift worth \$26,600, according to the document. Authorities noted that days before the car was bought, the teenager’s mother had the equivalent of \$821 in her bank account. The mother also bought property in Puerto Plata worth \$36,000, they said.

Authorities also state that Franco’s mother had sent money to the girl’s mother, but she has not been charged in the case even though they said she got involved “to avoid traces of her son with the accused.”

Franco arrived at a court in Puerto

Plata on Friday morning and remained silent while being escorted through a group of journalists that peppered with him questions. The girl’s mother, who works at a local bank and was wearing sunglasses, also declined comment as she was escorted to a courtroom.

Outside, a small group of young Dominican players donned in baseball attire gathered to support Franco, carrying posters that read, “Free Franco,” and “We all are Franco.”

Franco was having an All-Star season before being sidelined in August, when authorities in the Dominican Republic began investigating claims he had been in a relationship with a minor. Major League Baseball launched its own investigation, placing Franco on the restricted list on August 14 before moving him to administrative leave on August 22. Both investigations are ongoing.

Hamas command in north Gaza destroyed, Israel says

The Israeli army says it has “completed the dismantling” of Hamas’s command structure in the northern Gaza Strip.

Army spokesman Daniel Hagari told reporters that Palestinian militants are now operating in the area only sporadically and “without commanders”.

He said Israel had killed around 8,000 militants in north Gaza. The BBC cannot independently verify this number.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) are now focused on dismantling Hamas in south and central Gaza, he said.

Israel has killed more than 22,000 people since the war began, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza. On Sunday, the territory’s health ministry said it had recorded more than 113 deaths over the past 24 hours.

Gaza has been devastated during Israel’s war with Hamas, and most of the territory’s population of 2.3 million has been displaced.

Israel’s offensive started after Hamas gunmen launched a surprise attack on southern Israel on 7 October, killing 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and taking about 240 people hostage.

More than 100 remain following some releases in a six-day pause in fighting in November.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken



Much of northern Gaza has been reduced to rubble.

said he was focused on ensuring the Gaza conflict does not spread and turn into “an endless cycle of violence” after Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at Israeli territory on Saturday, in what it called a preliminary response to the killing of a top Hamas official in Beirut earlier this week.

Mr Blinken was speaking in Greece at the start of a week-long trip to the region. He has since flown to Jordan, meeting King Abdullah on Sunday before heading to Qatar.

“Washington should put pressure on Israel to agree to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza,” King Abdullah told Mr Blinken, warning him of the “catastrophic repercussions” of the continuation of Israel’s military campaign in Gaza, a palace statement said.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated on Saturday that Israel would continue its campaign to “eliminate Hamas, return our hostages and ensure that Gaza will no longer be a threat to Israel”.

“We have to put everything aside... until the complete victory is achieved,” Mr Netanyahu said in a statement.

In other developments, on Sunday the eldest son of Al Jazeera’s Gaza bureau chief Wael al-Dahdouh, Hamza al-Dahdouh, was killed along with another journalist, Mustafa Thuraya, in an Israeli strike in southern Gaza.

Six Palestinians were killed in an Israeli raid in the city of Jenin in the occupied-West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said on Sunday. Palestinian media said the raid involved a large deployment of Israeli forces.

In addition to the raid,

an Israeli air strike reportedly targeted a gathering in the West Bank, after an Israeli military vehicle struck an explosive device, killing one officer.

Jenin has been a scene of repeated Israeli operations over the past 18 months and they have intensified since the war in Gaza started on 7 October.

On the northern border of Israel, Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at Israeli territory on Saturday following the killing of Hamas leader Saleh al-Arouri in a suspected Israeli attack in the Lebanese capital.

A statement by the Iranian-backed Lebanese movement says it hit an air traffic control base in Meron with 62 rockets. The Israeli military said it had identified about 40 launches from Lebanon, and that it had responded.



Boeing 737 Max 9: Jets to stay grounded as inspections continue

The US aviation regulator has said 171 Boeing 737 Max 9 planes will remain grounded until it is satisfied the planes are safe.

The Federal Aviation Administration has been inspecting the jets after part of an Alaska Airlines plane's fuselage fell off on Friday.

The FAA said its first priority was "keeping the flying public safe".

Thousands of passengers saw their flights cancelled after major US airlines grounded dozens of the jets.

"We have grounded the affected airplanes, and they will remain grounded until the FAA is satisfied that they are safe," the agency said in a statement on Sunday. Disruptions have primarily affected flights in the US.

The vast majority of Boeing 737 Max 9s used in the US are operated by United Airlines and Alaska, while Turkish Airlines, Panama's Copa Airlines and Aeromexico have also grounded jets of the same model for inspections.

Alaska grounded 65 planes, and said on Sunday that it had cancelled 163

flights, or 21%. The airline said travel disruptions from the grounding of some of its planes is expected to last until at least mid-week. United has grounded 79 planes, and said on Sunday it had cancelled 230 flights, or 8%, of its scheduled departures.

Meanwhile, authorities are still searching for the plug door - which they believe fell to the ground in the western suburbs of Portland - and have appealed to the public to help find the panel.

During Friday's incident, Alaska Airlines flight 1282 from Portland, Oregon, to Ontario, California, reached 16,000ft (4,876m) when it began an emergency descent, according to flight tracking data.

Passengers on board said a large section of the plane's outer shell fell to the ground shortly after take-off.

Images sent to news outlets show the night sky and lights of Portland visible through the gap in the fuselage, with insulation material and other debris also seen.

One passenger said the gap was "as

wide as a refrigerator" while another said a child's shirt was ripped off in the wind as the plane made its emergency landing.

The plane, carrying 177 passengers and crew, landed safely back in Portland. Alaska said several passengers were injured, but not seriously.

Boeing's 737 Max has been described as "the most scrutinised transport aircraft in history" after a series of safety issues.

The Max was grounded in March 2019 for a year and a half after two of the type crashed in similar circumstances to each other, killing those on board.

More recently, Boeing said it would increase the pace of 737 Max deliveries after resolving a supply error that required it to conduct lengthy inspections of new planes and its inventory.

About 1,300 737 Max aircraft have been delivered to customers, Boeing data shows.

Last month, the FAA urged airlines to inspect Max models for a possible loose bolt in rudder control systems.

CWI President Shallow anticipates economic windfall for the Caribbean with ICC Men's T20 World Cup

Cricket West Indies (CWI) President, Dr. Kishore Shallow, lauds the unveiling of the highly anticipated fixtures for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The tournament, slated to unfold across the Caribbean and the USA from June 1 to 29, 2024, promises an unparalleled celebration of cricket excellence and an opportunity to showcase the region's cultural richness on a global platform.

"Similar to many stakeholders, I share the excitement with the unveiling of the fixtures for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup. This represents remarkable progress with the preparation of this historic event," stated Dr. Shallow.

He added, "The ICC Men's T20 World Cup holds immense promise for the Caribbean, not just in terms of cricketing fervor but also as a catalyst for economic growth and regional devel-

opment."

Dr. Shallow highlighted, "This tournament is projected to yield over US\$300 million in direct economic impact for the Caribbean. Moreover, it is anticipated to captivate more than a billion viewers worldwide through television broadcasts, further elevating the global stature of the Caribbean as a sporting and tourist destination.

"This influx of visitors, heightened tourism, and burgeoning business prospects will create a ripple effect," emphasized Dr. Shallow.

"The impact on jobs, revenue streams, and the overall quality of life for our citizens will be substantial."

Furthermore, Dr. Shallow reiterated CWI's unwavering commitment to collaboration, stating, "Cricket West Indies remains steadfast in its collaboration with international partners to ensure the resounding success of the ICC T20 World Cup.



Cricket West Indies President, Dr. Kishore Shallow (CWI Media)

"Together, we aim to deliver an unforgettable tournament that not only captivates cricket enthusiasts worldwide, but also leaves an enduring legacy of unity, sportsmanship, and economic prosperity across the Caribbean.

"The ICC Men's T20

World Cup sets the stage for a significant economic windfall for the Caribbean, providing a unique opportunity for the host nations to showcase their cultural heritage and allure to a global audience while leaving an indelible mark on the world of cricket."

Freemans Ville extend unbeaten run to stay top of Second Division League

Freemans Village continued their perfect run in the latest round of matches to remain leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division.

In a game in which four penalties were converted, Freemans Village pre-

vailed 5-2 against hosts Sea View Farm to record their fifth win in as many games and advance to 15 points at the top of the standings.

Roy Gregory scored one of those penalties in the 84th minute to complete a hat-trick after he had scored in the 20th

and 33rd minutes for Freemans Village, whose other two goals came via penalty kicks.

The spot kicks were converted by Darius Hector in the 4th minute and Malik Charles in the 59th minute.

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Five Islands continue to lead First Division league

Five Islands extended their unbeaten run to maintain their position at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Friday.

Following a goalless first half, Five Islands scored two late goals to snatch a two-nil victory over Lion Hill at the Golden Grove playing field.

Jaheim Jeremy converted a penalty kick in the 84th minute to give Five Islands the lead, and Jamal Joseph scored his team's second goal two minutes later to seal their win.

It was the fifth win in six matches for Five Islands, who advanced to 16 points, while Lion Hill remains on eight points after suffering their second loss in six games.

Success as well for the Police, who prevailed one-nil against Bendals at the Bendals playing field. Jabare Hanson of Bendals scored an own goal in the 10th minute to give the Police their victory.

Bendals finished the game with 10 men after Alvah Guishard was given a red card for using offensive, insulting, and abusive language to the referee.

It was only the second win in five matches for the Police, who advanced to eight points, while Bendals remain on four points after losing for the third time in five games.

Meanwhile, Cutting Edge prevailed two-nil against bottom team All Saints United in the ABFA Women's League at the Technical Center on Friday.

Kavita Cordice had an 11th-minute

conversion, and Ajahna Martin scored in the 17th minute for Cutting Edge. It was the fourth win in seven matches for Cutting Edge, who remain in second place by advancing to 13 points, eight points adrift of unbeaten leaders Fort Road.

All Saints United remain in the cellar of the five-team round-robin competition on three points after suffering their seventh loss in eight matches. Wadadli United and Trend Setters played to a goalless draw in the second game of the women's league double-header.

The result ensured that Wadadli United would remain in third place by advancing to 10 points from seven matches, while Trend Setters would stay in fourth place by moving on to five points from seven games.

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One of the two goals scored by Sea View Farm also came via a penalty kick, which was converted by striker Markland Wright in the 57th minute, while Chevron Moore scored the other goal for the home side in the 12th minute.

Sea View Farm will remain on 10 points after suffering their first defeat in five matches.

Belmont FC, TAMO FC, and Real Blizzard also recorded wins by big margins in the latest round of Second Division matches.

Malique Edwards struck a brace as Belmont FC romped to a 6-1 victory against the Celtics at the ABFA Technical Center.

Belmont moved from third to second place by ex-

tending their unbeaten run with their fourth win in five matches to advance to 13 points, two adrift of leaders Freemans Village.

Jaheim Grant hit a hat-trick to lead TAMO FC to a 7-1 drubbing of bottom-team Young Warriors at the Buckleys Primary School playing field.

Grant had conversions in the 6th, 10th, and 59th minutes, while the other goals for TAMO FC were scored by Adonijah Dyett in the 8th minute, Eddie Jeremy in the 30th, Carlus Stephens in the 74th, and Kevin Paul in the 79th minute.

Ajazze Edwards scored the only goal for the Young Warriors by converting a penalty kick in the 55th minute.

TAMO FC won for the third time in four matches

to advance to nine points, while the fourth loss in as many games left the Young Warriors in the cellar without a point. Real Blizzard claimed their second win in four games by pulling off a

4-1 victory against Blackburn Palace at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

The game between JSC Progressors and Soccer Academy at the ABFA Technical Center was postponed.



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All Saints United and Garden Stars claim wins in Premier League

All Saints United and Garden Stars recorded wins when the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League resumed with its sixth round of matches at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

All Saints extended their unbeaten run by securing their fourth win in five matches when they scored three second-half goals to prevail 3-0 against John Hughes in the first game of Saturday's triple-header.

Following a goalless first half, Nazir McBurnette put All Saints United ahead when he broke the deadlock with a 49th-minute conversion.

Malcolm Stuart struck in the 52nd minute to double the lead, and Junior Lee scored the final goal for United in the third minute of added time (90+3 minutes).

The win carries All Saints United to 13 points, while John Hughes remain on seven points after los-



Some players of the Garden Star team sit on the bench during a match in the Premier League at the ABFA Technical Center. (Garden Stars FC)

ing for the third time in six games.

Tarek Chares struck a brace to lead the Garden Stars to a 3-0 victory against Empire in Saturday's feature match.

Charles had conversions in the 24th and 89th minutes, and Karique Knight scored in the 68th minute for the Garden Stars to claim their third consecutive win after losing their first two match-

es in the Premier League.

The result carries Garden Stars to nine points from five games, while Empire remain in the cellar without a point after losing for the fifth time in as many matches.

Tyrique Tonge scored in the dying moments to snatch a late equalizer for SAP to salvage a 3-3 draw against winless Swetes in the second game on Saturday.

Swetes appeared on course to secure their first win in six outings but were denied when Tonge scored SAP's equalizer in the seventh minute of added time (90+7 minutes).

The result ensured that SAP would advance to eight points from six matches, while Swetes would move on to just two points from the same number of appearances.

cont'd from pg 22

Monday, June 3, while England will go up against archrivals Australia in Barbados on Saturday, June 8.

Another highly anticipated fixture will see the West Indies take on New Zealand on Wednesday, June 12 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago.

First-time Qualifiers Uganda will play their first ever ICC Men's T20 World Cup fixture in Guyana against Afghanistan on Monday, June 3.

Nepal, which qualified for the T20 World Cup for the first time since 2014, will open their campaign against Sri Lanka in one of four matches to be played at Broward County Stadium in Lauderhill, Florida.

Upon completion of the group stage, the top two teams from each of the four groups will move into the Super Eight stage of the competition.

Teams seeded first and second in their groups in the first round will retain that seeding in the Super Eight, provid-

ed they qualify. Super Eight matches are scheduled to be played in popular Caribbean tourist destinations such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The two top teams from each group in the Super Eight will progress to the semi-finals, which will be held in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday, June 26, and Thursday, June 27, respectively. The final will be held at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday, June 29.

Antigua to host seven matches during T20 World Cup

Antigua and Barbuda's Sir Vivian Richards Stadium will host a total of seven matches during the ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup during the event to be co-hosted by the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29, 2024.

Antigua and Barbuda will host three Group B matches in the preliminary group stage and four encounters in the knockout Super Eight phase of the prestigious competition.

The Sir Vivian Richards Stadium will host its first of the three preliminary round matches on June 9, when Oman faces Scotland. It will also be the venue for the match between Australia and Namibia on June 11 and the encounter on June 13 between cup-holders England and Oman.

Antigua and Barbuda will then host matches in the Super Eight stage on June 19th, 20th, 22nd, and 23rd.

The pinnacle ICC men's T20 event will see a record 20 teams divided into four groups competing across 55 games for the right to be crowned ICC Men's T20 World Cup Champions in 2024.

They are co-hosts in the West Indies and the USA, along with the other qualifiers: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, England, India, Ireland, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Scotland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Uganda.

The 20 teams have been divided into four groups of five, with the top two teams progressing to the Super Eights. Group A comprised India, Pa-



The T20 World Cup Trophy is pictured during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Tour at Uluru, Australia, on August 9, 2022. (Getty Images)

kistan, Ireland, Canada, and the USA.

In Group B are England, Australia, Namibia, Scotland, and Oman; Group C will feature New Zealand, the West Indies, Afghanistan, Uganda, and Papua New Guinea; and Group D will comprise South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, and Nepal.

The event commences with the two co-hosts starting their campaigns on the first two days of June. The USA will take on Canada in the tournament opener at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Dallas on Saturday, June 1, while the West Indies will kick-start their campaign against Papua New Guinea at the Guyana National Stadium on Sunday, June 2.

One of cricket's biggest rivalries will take place in one of the world's

most iconic cities, with New York hosting India and Pakistan on Sunday, June 9.

The fixture will be played in a cutting-edge 34,000-seat modular stadium just 30 miles east of downtown Manhattan in Nassau County, New York. Eight matches will be played at the venue.

Defending champions England will begin their title defense on Tuesday, June 4, in Barbados against Scotland, and the 2022 finalists Pakistan will get their challenge going on Thursday, June 6, when they play the USA in Dallas.

Among the plethora of blockbuster matchups scheduled in the group stage, fans can look forward to Sri Lanka taking on South Africa in New York on

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