

MOH PROVIDES 'STATE OF HEALTH' REPORT

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From left: Indian Honorary Consul, Vijah Tewani, new Indian High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Mrs. Telang at a dinner Tuesday night in the High Commissioner's honour.

MOH provides 'state of health' report

There have been ten recorded cases of dengue fever in Antigua and Barbuda reported over the past several weeks.

However, according to Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, there are no reported deaths from the disease and the ministry continues the fight to eradicate the aedes aegypti mosquito that is responsible for spreading the virus that causes the disease.

Sir Molwyn made the disclosure during a press conference on Tuesday where he provided reporters with a 'state of health' report for the country. The

Minister also reported that there are four cases of COVID-19 in the country. However, there have not been any further reports of the disease over the past seven days.

Sir Molwyn disclosed that testing for dengue fever is ongoing at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre as well as with the Caribbean Public Health Agency's (CARPHA) assistance. Currently, testing is also being done for chikungunya, influenza A & B and leptospirosis.

"The Ministry of Health is committed to strengthening the capacity to control the presence of the aedes



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

aegypti mosquito which spreads the virus," the minister reported.

On the issue of leprosy, Sir Molwyn noted that there have been a number of cases reported in other Caribbean territories but so far, the disease has not been detected in Antigua and Barbuda. "From our surveillance, Antigua and Barbuda continues to be free of leprosy and has been so for more than twenty years. We however believe that education and the dissemination of information and an awareness of leprosy is important so our public relations team will be getting the information out to the public in the coming weeks and months," he stated

Fortunately, according to Sir Molwyn the country's health infrastructure now has the Infectious Disease Centre where anyone diagnosed with leprosy and

other highly contagious diseases such as cholera will be housed and treated.

On the issue of COVID-19, the health minister said there are currently no vaccines available, but the ministry has already made contact with World Health Organisation to access vaccines. He was not able to provide information how soon these vaccines will arrive.

He explained that the ministry decided not to stockpile vaccines because they have a short shelf life and there had been a decrease in the number of people wishing to be vaccinated.

Under the circumstances, the minister is urging the public to practice the hygienic steps to prevent the spread of this disease such as washing hands, practice good cough etiquette and the wearing of masks.

NOTICE

TO: Your Worship, Chief Magistrate
The Licensing Court
Magistrate's Court
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Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
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St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS DOUBLE SIX ENTERPRISE

I, Darryl Reynolds DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 4th day of April, 2024 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Double Six Enterprise" situated Ottos New Town, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 2nd day of February, 2024

.....
Darryl Reynolds
268-729-1982

Antigua and Barbuda wants more people to people contact with India

Antigua and Barbuda is proposing removing the remaining restrictions to more people to people contact with the people of India.

This proposal was among matters raised when Prime Minister Gaston Browne met on Tuesday with the visiting new Indian High Commissioner, Dr. Amit Telang, who made a courtesy call on the prime minister on his inaugural visit to the country.

PM Browne used the opportunity to thank the government and people of India for coming to the rescue of many Caribbean states during the COVID-19 pandemic when many developed countries withheld anti-COVID vaccines and other medical equipment from countries such as Antigua and Barbuda.

“It was extremely difficult to get these vaccines but luckily for us India came forward to make vaccines available and, in the process, helped to save lives.

We will be always grateful for this level of assistance from our friends, India,” PM Browne remarked.

Now, he said, it was time to further deepen the areas of collaboration to include investments and trade as well as people to people contact through tourism. “We want to see more visits from the people of India coming as tourists. Already, we have visa-free entry for officials and diplomats and I am hoping that we can move to visa-free entry for all so that we can invite more Indians to our shores as tourists,” he stated.

The prime minister took note of the fact that India has been growing exponentially with a growing middle class that is looking for more exotic areas of the world to visit; Antigua and Barbuda, he suggested, could be one such destination.

PM Browne calls for putting in place the necessary regime for people to move freely between both



Prime Minister Gaston Browne met on Tuesday with the visiting new Indian High Commissioner, Dr. Amit Telang

countries. Additionally, he made a case for more airlifts between both Antigua and Barbuda and India.

Noting the new University of the West Indies campus here in Antigua and Barbuda, the prime minister stated that this is another area where these contacts could be strengthened with study programmes organized jointly with UWI FIC and universities in India.

On the issue of India's role on the global stage, PM Browne observed that with its huge population, financial markets and economic growth, India will become

one of the major powers over the next decade. “You have all the ingredients to achieve this,” he told the High Commissioner.

HC Telang welcomed the remarks from the prime minister and noted he met with officials of UWI FIC on Monday and already discussions are taking place on various areas of cooperation between The UWI and universities in India.

He also made an offer of more training opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda nationals to pursue various training programmes in India



Ministry of Education launches new show to tackle Mathematics performances

Efforts are continually being made by the Ministry of Education to tackle the ongoing issue of the performances in Mathematics, more so at the CSEC level.

Over the years, the national performances in CSEC have declined.

In the hopes of improving those trends, a new show, Math Matters, has been launched.

Acting Education Officer for Mathematics, Shoya Brown-Hurst explained the reasoning behind launching this new series.

“It has been a concern and I would even say systematic issue. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic our numbers were trending in the upward direction but since then we have lost that momentum. The problem is dynamic. Many

factors are contributing really but more so, we want to ensure that with our teachers we are building capacity so that they are more than capable to teach Mathematics and just to enable our students and ensure that they are putting in the practice that they need so that they are more successful,” she said.

The new show will span 17 episodes and will focus on an array of topics for both Secondary and Primary students.

“This first season will begin to address some of those topics to include: Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Consumer Arithmetic, as well as, some others.

“The first 13 will focus on our Secondary school students and the last four will feature content for our primary

school students, particularly those in Grades four to six.

“We have three facilitators doing the Secondary school episodes. Tisha Hughes-Thornhill, Anthony Lennon and Chatesha Jacobs. The Primary section will be brought to you by myself and another teacher, Chaka Grant. We are just trying to target our students, more so, as they prepare for those examinations and the last two episodes for the Secondary will focus on test-taking tips and strategies that they can employ as they proceed into the CSEC Mathematics examination and the same will be done for Primary school students as they navigate the National Assessment,” Brown-Hurst explained.

She is encouraging parents as well to tune in along with their children.

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-2 Mash

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- After touching pets or animals
- After handling rubbish

2

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- Then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer

3

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Janice Samuel HMP resident tops Lifelong Learning Unit The UWI FIC Course

Janice Samuel resident of His Majesty's Prison in Antigua and Barbuda is the Top Student in the Lifelong Learning Unit, The UWI FIC course, Digital Transformation of the Financial Sector.

Upon learning of her success, Samuel was overcome with emotion. "I am surprised and happy to receive this news. I must admit that from among the many courses Digital Transformation of the Financial Sector was not my first choice. Although it was initially challenging, similar to other areas of my life, when things seem difficult, I engage my best effort to overcome hurdles so that I can achieve a successful finish".

Samuel now plans to transfer the skills and knowledge gleaned through the programme to her colleagues in the penal institution. It is believed that this attitude of camaraderie and humility will serve her well when she reenters society and establishes her entrepreneurial ventures.

Superintendent of Pris-

ons, Colonel Trevor Pennyfeather welcomed the announcement and stated that, "Each person has a right to a second chance. The courses are strengthening our rehabilitation programme and preparing inmates for life within the prison and in the wider society. We appreciate the opportunities being presented through the University of The West Indies Five Islands Campus".

The Lifelong Learning Unit was established in 2021. Through its Seeds of Hope Programme, residents of His Majesty's Prison are offered scholarships to participate in professional development courses. Easier access to continuous education has created a pathway for a number of inmates to increase knowledge, improve skills and earn Certificates of Proficiency.

The Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Unit, Paula C. M. Lee applauded the efforts of Samuel and all the students who have chosen to study through The University of the West Indies Five Islands



Janice Samuel

Campus. She acknowledged that, "Through learning, families and communities can earn higher incomes and improve their quality of life. Through learning curious minds can discover and invent. Through learning more people can build and preserve generational wealth."

Currently, more than 120 students are enrolled in Quarter 1 courses. "In-

creasingly barriers that have restricted access to learning and development are being removed. We therefore urge working adults across the OECS to register for 2024 professional development courses. The Lifelong Learning Unit is committed to training individuals to participate in the evolving global job market, Lee observed.

Swetes resident sentenced to four months in His Majesty's Prison

Vashawn James of Swetes was sentenced to four months at His Majesty's Prison on charges of possession of firearm and ammunition.

He appeared in court on Monday, charged jointly with several others and pleaded guilty to unlawful possession

of one .22 Pistol, and one .380 pistol along with several different caliber rounds of ammunition.

He was sentenced to four months in prison and fined \$2,500.00. He has until March 22 to pay the fine or serve an additional three months in prison.

He was also fined an additional \$6,450 for unlawful possession of ammunition. He has until August 15 to pay those fines.

The charges against the other defendants were withdrawn before the court.

Rotary Club makes donation of equipment to School of the Blind

The Rotary Club of Antigua has donated a set of equipment to the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired to help it to better meet the needs of its students.

A brief presentation ceremony was held recently where the equipment was handed over to the school. Among those present at the ceremony was the District Governor (DG) Brian Glasgow who is visiting Antigua as part of his official visit to interact with and observe some of the projects being undertaken by Rotary Clubs in Antigua.

In making the donation to the institution's representatives, Josette Cannonier and Noella Moses, President of the Rotary



Club of Antigua Michael Spencer explained that the gesture is in keeping with the Club's focus this year, raising awareness about disabilities.

The donation included: electric kettle, microwave, ink, USB cords, a white board, markers and card stock printing paper. The

school's representatives expressed profound gratitude to the Club for the needed supplies.

Meanwhile, as part of his official journey, DG Glasgow paid a courtesy call to the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams on Monday. He also visited the T.N Kirnon Prima-

ry School's computer lab, which was also outfitted with a Peace Shelf, and also visited classrooms at the School for the Deaf.

On Tuesday, he witnessed the symbolic unveiling of a "Peace Pole" with the Interactors at the Christ the King High School.



PMS set to implement Hall of Fame during annual Sports Day event

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) has always been at the forefront when it comes to innovative sporting events and this time around, the secondary school will take it a step further in honoring the past students who would have paved a way in sports.

On Tuesday morning, the school hosted a press conference to officially unveil this year's PMS Sports Meet dubbed 'Welcome to the Pride Lands' on February 14. While many will have their eyes fixed on the number of track and field athletes on display, the day will also see history being made as the school will inaugurate the PMS Hall of Fame and its first ever class of inductees.

The first distinguished class according to principal Dr. Colin Greene features an array of past students across various sporting disciplines who have not only left a rich legacy at the school but on a national, regional and for some, international level.

Heading that list is one of the four cricketers here in Antigua and Barbuda Sir Andy Roberts in the field of cricket.

Two-time Olympian, CAC 100m record holder and former Sportsman of the Year, Cejhae Greene, will also be inducted for track and field.

Also from athletics is former athlete turned coach Ted Daley and National shot-put record holder and Commonwealth Games finalist, Jess St. John.

Agatha Dublin will be inducted for her contributions to track and field as well as in netball while Veron Edwards was selected for cricket and



football.

Former national female footballer and the 2023 Female Coach of the Year in the Ministry of Sports Inter-school Football League Devika Tittle and former national players, Gary Gonsalves and Fernando Abraham will all be inducted.

Anthony Mason is the final inductee of the 2024 class for basketball.

"This is just the first class of athletes but each year we will be looking at inducting even more. We know some may not agree with who is in the first class or may have some they feel should be added but the true focus is to honor and recognize those who paved the way for us at the school and to inspire our present athletes to

be well-rounded individuals," Dr. Greene said.

Greene explained that plans are being made to have a specific section of the school display the hall of famers, a permanent and physical mark so others may come and learn about the school's rich history.

The official ceremony will take place at YASCO during the halftime performance at the PMS Sports Day meet next Wednesday.

The meet will begin at 3pm and will be followed by a No Violence Concert where several of the country's top artistes will perform.

Admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate.

VIP is \$150.

Grenada's economic performance after 50 years of Independence!

By Prof. C. Justin Robinson (Professor of Finance and Principal, UWI Five Islands Campus, Antigua & Barbuda)

An urgent need to spice up and spread economic growth?

Introduction

On behalf of The UWI and the UWI Five Islands campus let me take this opportunity to wish the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique (Grenada) best wishes on the occasion of their 50th anniversary of independence. Grenada is my favourite Caribbean island and some of my favourite humans live there. I am taking the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of independence to provide a brief analysis of the economic performance of Grenada since independence. In the short space provided by a newspaper article I will focus on two economic variables, Gross Domestic Product per Capita and Growth in Real Gross Domestic Product. I am able to access an independent, credible and continuous series of data from the World Bank for the period 1978 to 2023 for these variables and the analysis will be based on this time period which excludes the first four years of independence. Of course, economic growth, national and social development is a complicated issue and many other indicators and variables will matter for a more comprehensive analysis.

Income & Wealth Since Independence

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total market value of all the goods and services a country produces in a period of time. It is meant to reflect the market value of goods and services produced in a country during a period of time and by extension the total amount of income earned in the country during that period of time. When GDP is di-

vided by the population we get GDP Per Capita which is the average income per person in Grenada for a period of time. Since 1978 Grenada has seen a massive explosion in GDP Per Capita from US \$912 in 1978 to \$9,689 in 2023 as shown in table 1. The figures imply that whereas in 1978 Grenadians had an average income of \$204 EC per month or \$2,448 EC a year, that has expanded to \$2,155 per month or \$25,860 EC per year by 2023, which represents a tremendous improvement in material living standards. GDP Per capital is an average across the entire population and of course in reality many people in Gre-



Prof. C. Justin Robinson
nada earn more than this and many earn less, but it gives us an average picture and we can track that average over time. We do not have any data on income dis-

cont'd on pg 10

Table 1. Gross Domestic Product Per Capital 1978 – 2023 (US \$)

	1978	2023	% Change	\$ Change
Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 1,366	\$ 19,919	1358%	\$ 18,553
Dominica	\$ 788	\$ 8,351	959%	\$ 7,562
Grenada	\$ 921	\$ 9,689	951%	\$ 8,767
St. Kitts and Nevis	\$ 1,137	\$ 20,262	1682%	\$ 19,124
St. Lucia	\$ 1,400	\$ 13,030	830%	\$ 11,630
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	\$ 572	\$ 9,125	1493%	\$ 8,552

Source: World Development Indicators

Table 2: Grenada's Growth In Per Capita Income Across Decades

Time Period	Cumulative Real GDP Growth
1978 to 1987	113%
1988 to 1997	58%
1998 to 2007	63%
2008 to 2017	33%
2018 to 2023	10%

Table 3. Annual Growth Rate In Real GDP ECCU (%)

	Ant & B	Dom	Gre	SKN	SLU	SVG
Annual Average	3.64	2.31	3.06	3.79	3.33	3.19
Max Annual	12.71	13.38	13.28	11.18	11.18	14.07
Min Annual	-17.50	-18.36	-13.76	-14.53	-24.37	-4.47
Cumulative (1978 to 2023)	167.63	106.34	140.73	174.20	153.01	146.53
# of Recessions	9	11	10	7	9	5
GDP Losses From Recessions	-48.87	-50.85	-32.05	-25.60	-36.69	-11.44

Table 4. Grenada Cumulative Real GDP Growth by Decade

1978 to 1987	45.54
1988 to 1997	22.60
1998 to 2007	49.17
2008 to 2017	17.75
2018 to 2023	5.67

cont'd from pg 9

tribution in Grenada which is extremely important in tracking economic progress because while average income can grow most of that growth can be within certain groups leaving a lot of the population behind. An analysis of income distribution in Grenada sounds like a perfect research project for some Grenadian graduate students to undertake at the UWI Five Islands campus.

An analysis of the trends in GDP Per Capita in Grenada shows a massive surge in the immediate post-independence period and GDP per capita more than doubled during the 1978 to 1987 decade. However, it is clear that after this period the growth in GDP Per capita has been quite modest and especially weak since 2008. Even though the growth rate would have been affected by the mathematical fact that GDP would then be growing from a larger base, the 33% increase in the decade 2008 to 2017 is most anemic compared to the 113% growth in the decade 1978 to 1987 (see table 2). In addition to the slowing growth, Grenada's improvement in GDP Per Capita since independence lags behind a number of its Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) counterparts as shown in table 1. To further delve into the factors behind the trends in GDP Per capita we turn our focus to the growth in

GDP itself.

A country's GDP Per Capita as mentioned earlier is its GDP divided by its population. Grenada's population has been relatively stable over the years since independence therefore the trends in Per Capita GDP are largely driven by the growth in GDP, therefore we now shift to focus on the growth in Real GDP. Real GDP is where GDP is adjusted to remove the effects of inflation. As seen in table 3 economic growth in Grenada averaged 3.06% per year over the 1978 to 2023, which is the second lowest among the major economies in the ECCU. Over the 46 year period the economy grew by a combined 140%, again the second lowest among the major economies in the ECCU. The 1978 to 1987 and 1998 to 2007 stand out as two periods of strong and sustained growth in Grenada since independence and account for 67.2% of the growth achieved between 1978 and 2023 over the last 50 years (see table 3).

Over the 1978 to 2023 time period Grenada experienced 10 recessions (years of negative GDP growth) which was the second largest number of recessions among the major economies in the ECCU. Economic recessions in Grenada have tended to be associated with hurricanes or external shocks such as the Gulf War (1991), September 11 ter-

rorist attacks (2001), Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis (2008/2009) and the Covid 19 pandemic (2020) (please see table 5 for details). However, with the exception of the recession following the 2008 global financial crisis and the Covid 19 pandemic, recessions in Grenada have tended to be short and mild.

The major challenge for Grenada appears to be the relatively modest levels of growth achieved in non-recession years and the vulnerability to external shocks which then reverse the moderate gains made in the non-recession years. The factors behind Grenada's relatively weak economic growth in non-recession years (compared to other major ECCU economies) and weak growth since 2008 despite its many assets, need to be researched and form the basis for future policy initiatives (again this seems like a perfect project for some bright graduate students from Grenada to undertake at the UWI Five Islands campus). The evidence may also suggest an urgent need to find new avenues to "spice up" GDP Per Capita as the current model appears to have stalled, unable to create significant new wealth and facilitate catching up with other major ECCU economies.

Policy Challenges Next Fifty Years

Firstly, Grenada needs to invest in building up policy buffers especially in the form of a Debt to GDP Ratio of 60% to minimize the negative effects of the inevitable external shocks. Secondly, policy makers need to focus on improving the ease of doing business, the efficiency of public services, improving physical and human capital and removing obstacles in the way of the entrepreneurs and investors who can identify and execute the new growth opportunities needed to "spice up" the rate of economic growth and to build up reserves for the inevitable bad years from hurricanes and/or external shocks. Thirdly, in pursuing new growth opportunities policymakers should prioritize inclusive growth opportunities so that new wealth is generated that is spread across a broad cross section of the society.

Table 5. Annual Growth Rate in Real GDP

Year	Real GDP Growth	Year	Real GDP Growth	Year	Real GDP Growth
1978	5.34	1993	-1.96	2008	0.95
1979	5.60	1994	1.69	2009	-6.61
1980	-0.53	1995	2.13	2010	-0.51
1981	1.53	1996	4.44	2011	0.76
1982	4.12	1997	5.02	2012	-1.15
1983	3.63	1998	11.75	2013	2.35
1984	3.57	1999	6.90	2014	7.34
1985	5.98	2000	4.89	2015	6.45
1986	7.19	2001	-2.02	2016	3.74
1987	9.10	2002	3.44	2017	4.44
1988	2.97	2003	9.46	2018	4.36
1989	3.77	2004	-0.65	2019	0.68
1990	4.01	2005	13.28	2020	-13.76
1991	1.39	2006	-4.00	2021	4.69
1992	-0.85	2007	6.12	2022	5.80
				2023	3.90

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Facebook and Instagram to label all fake AI images

Meta says it will introduce technology that can detect and label images generated by other companies' artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

It will be deployed on its platforms Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

Meta already labels AI images generated by its own systems. It says it hopes the new tech, which it is still building, will create "momentum" for the industry to tackle AI fakery.

But an AI expert told the BBC such tools are "easily evadable".

In a blog written by senior executive Sir Nick Clegg, Meta says it intends to expand its labelling of AI fakes "in the coming months".

In an interview with the Reuters news agency, he conceded the technology was "not yet fully mature" but said the company wanted to "create a sense of momentum and incentive for the rest of the industry to follow".

But Prof Soheil Feizi, director of the Reliable AI Lab at the University of Maryland, suggested such a system could be easy to get around.

"They may be able to train their detector to be able to flag some images specifically generated by some specific models," he



told the BBC.

"But those detectors can be easily evaded by some lightweight processing on top of the images, and they also can have a high rate of false positives.

"So I don't think that it's possible for a broad range of applications."

Meta has acknowledged its tool will not work for audio and video - despite these being the media that much of the concern about AI fakes is focused on.

The firm says it is instead asking users to label their own audio and video posts, and it "may apply penalties if they fail to do so".

Sir Nick Clegg also admitted it would be impossible to test for text that has been generated by tools such as ChatGPT.

"That ship has sailed," he told Reuters.

On Monday, Meta's Oversight Board criticised the company for its policy on manipulated media, calling it «incoherent, lacking in persuasive justification and inappropriately focused on how content has been created».

The Oversight Board is funded by Meta but independent of the company.

The criticism was in response to a ruling on a video of US President Joe Biden. The video in question edited existing footage of the president with his granddaughter to make it appear as though he was touching her inappropriately.

Because it was not manipulated using artificial intelligence, and depicted Mr Biden behaving in

a way he did not, rather than saying something he did not, it did not violate Meta's manipulated media policy - and was not removed.

The Board agreed that the video did not break Meta's current rules on fake media, but said that the rules should be updated.

Sir Nick told Reuters that he broadly agreed with the ruling.

He admitted that Meta's existing policy "is just simply not fit for purpose in an environment where you're going to have way more synthetic content and hybrid content than before."

From January, the company has had a policy in place which says political adverts have to signal when they are using digitally altered images or video.

Boeing: Bolts missing from door, says blowout report

By Theo Leggett

A door that blew away from a Boeing 737 Max shortly after take-off may not have been properly secured, a new report says.

The US National Transportation Safety Board has released initial findings from its probe into the incident on an Alaska Airlines plane in January.

It says four key bolts that were meant to lock the unused door to the fuselage appeared to be missing.

The incident happened minutes after Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 took off.

It involved a panel covering an unused emergency exit - known as a door plug. This suddenly blew out, leaving a gaping hole in the side of the main body of the aircraft, the fuselage.

The missing bolts appeared to have allowed the door panel to move out of position and break away from the aircraft, the report says.

It happened just moments after the flight took off from Portland International Airport.

The plane then suffered a rapid loss of cabin pressure, as air rushed out and the atmosphere within the plane equalised with the thinner air outside.

The door plug was manufactured by Boeing's supplier Spirit AeroSystems, and originally installed in



A safety board investigator examines the broken panel two days after the incident in January. The fuselage before being delivered to the aerospace giant.

According to the preliminary report, this door plug was later removed in the factory due to damage that had occurred during the production process.

Photographic evidence suggests that when the plug was reinstalled, at least three of the four locking bolts were not put back in place.

Spirit AeroSystems said it remain focused on working closely with Boeing and regulators "on continuous improvement in our processes and meeting the highest standards of safety, quality and reliability".

Damage to the door plug and its hinges, as well as a lack of damage to the areas where the bolts should

have been, suggests that the bolts were missing before the door moved out of its normal position, the report said.

The findings are likely to make uncomfortable reading for Boeing, which has already faced harsh criticism over its corporate culture and quality control processes.

Inspections have already revealed loose bolts and fixings on other planes of the same specification, raising questions about the way they were built.

Prior to the Alaska Airlines incident, there had been other serious problems on the 737 Max production line, including the discovery of manufacturing defects affecting key parts of the planes, as well as a part protecting the central fuel tank

against lightning strikes.

The scrutiny is all the more intense because of the history of the 737 Max itself.

The plane - a new version of Boeing's decades old workhorse - was involved in two major accidents in late 2018 and early 2019, in which 346 people were killed.

Those crashes were attributed to badly-designed flight control software, which forced both aircraft into catastrophic dives that the pilots were powerless to prevent.

In the aftermath, Boeing faced accusations from lawmakers and safety campaigners that it had put profits above the safety of passengers.

Testifying before US
cont'd on pg 14

Grenada's former PMs, Olympian honoured on Golden Jubilee \$50 bill

By Dillon De Shang

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has unveiled a commemorative EC\$50 note that celebrates Grenada's Golden Jubilee.

The note, which will begin circulating in Grenada in June, features key elements of the Spice Isle's history including images of Prime Ministers Eric Gairy and Maurice Bishop and Olympic 400 metre champion Kirani James.

At last evening's unveiling, ECCB Governor Timothy Antoine said the commemorative \$50 note was proposed to him last June by Grenadian Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, whom he noted is the country's first head of government to be born post-independence.

Antoine said he was "excited" but immediately questioned "how quickly could we get this done" since the design, manufacturing, production and publishing of a note usually takes two years.

A team from Grenada, led by creative Orlando Romain, designed the bill.

While the note will be



issued in Grenada, Antoine said it will be legal tender in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, which all make up the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

In his brief remarks prior to unveiling the bill, Mitchell stated the note reflects "things that are uniquely Grenadian".

The prime minister said he hopes residents of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique are pleased with the design.

Grenada is the first member of the ECCU to attain independence from the United Kingdom and Mitchell said they will support member states having their own commemorative \$50 when they achieve the milestone.

Grenada's Governor General Dame Cécile La Grenade was presented with the first note by Antoine.

The second note was presented to Gairy's daughters, who were both emotional about their father being honoured.

Marcelle Gairy said they

were "surprised" by the honour.

"It was a surprise. A very pleasant surprise...I did not expect any of it. I knew they were doing an unveiling but I didn't know they we would have also received one of the notes" she told Loop News.

"I'm very grateful to the prime minister and his government for the very great honour that he has given my father.

"My father was a visionary and a lot of the things that have been achieved during the 50 years, he came up with and decided there was nothing impossible about getting to the stage that we are at now. He wanted to make sure that Grenada wasn't too small or too poor in order to stand on its own feet."

The prime minister presented the second and third minted notes Bishop's widow, Angela Bishop and James.

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lawmakers today, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Mike Whitaker said inspections of 737 Max aircraft had shown that "the quality system issues at Boeing were unacceptable and require further scrutiny".

He promised to put more "boots on the ground" in Boeing's factories in order to increase scrutiny of the manufacturer.

Boeing would be held accountable for

any future failure or refusal to comply with the FAA, he added.

Last month, Boeing's chief executive Dave Calhoun told staff at the company it would co-operate with investigators and regulators «to ensure all the procedures are put into place, inspections, all the readiness actions that are required to ensure every next airplane that moves into the sky is in fact safe and that this event can never happen again».

Guyana: Teachers warned no pay for participating in illegal strike

CMC - The Guyana government has warned teachers who are into the second day of a nationwide industrial action on Tuesday that they would not be paid for participating in what it termed an illegal strike.

“The Ministry of Education has accepted the opinion of the Ministry of Labour that it is illegal to pay teachers who do not report for duty without a legitimate reason,” the Ministry of Education said in a statement.

The ministry said that through its statistical analysis, most teachers had ignored the call by the Guyana Teachers Union (GTU) for them to participate in the “illegal” strike on Monday, promising that those who reported for duty and delivered lessons “will be recognised” for their dedication towards ensuring the nation’s children receive the education they rightfully deserve.

The Ministry of Education declined to provide a figure on the number of educators who responded to the strike call and the GTU said at least 58.16 per cent of teachers stayed away from schools on the first day of the industrial action.

GTU president Dr Mark Lyte dismissed the threat of teachers’ salaries and wages being withheld as a result of their participation in the industrial action, saying, “We hold our ground that the strike is legal so let’s see.”

Chief Education Officer of the Ministry of Education, Saddam Hussain said teachers who locked up schools would be recommended for disciplinary action by the Teaching Service Commission or the School Boards Secretariat.

In its statement, the Ministry of Education said it was “appalled at the illegal locking of schools by head teachers and the barring of students



Teachers in Guyana participate in nationwide industrial action. (Photo credit: Guyana Teachers Union/Facebook)

and teachers from entering some school buildings”

It said it strongly condemned threats meted out to teachers through incendiary voice notes, text messages, phone calls and through cyberbullying.

“The Ministry reiterates that the threat of the Union and its acolytes that teachers who do not turn up to strike will not be on “the benefits list” is empty. Particularly, the threat to withhold duty-free concessions cannot be realised as the Ministry is now administering that process.”

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education said that “those students who are most affected” by the industrial action would be academically engaged via a number of learning platforms and that educational content across grades and particularly for exam classes, is available on the Ministry of Education’s website, the Guyana Learning Channel and its recently launched app, EDPal as well as on the radio, EdYou FM.

“These are timetabled and schedules of topics and times are published on the individual pages.”

On Monday, GTU secretary general Coretta Mc Donald, said, “We submitted a proposal since 2020 and this is 2024. But what we’ve recognised they’ve been doing over the years is that they’ve been pulling from the conditions we’ve been asking for, tweaking them and my good friend (the Chief Education Officer) Saddam Hussain is putting out all kinds of things suggesting that the GTU is asking for 41 things and they’ve already been satisfied 21 or 27 things, something like that”.

Last year, the government ignored repeated calls for collective bargaining and instead engaged a cross-section of teachers to hear their grievances and requests.

Senior Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh in a statement last December announced an across the board salary increase of 6.5 per cent that will benefit over 54,000 public servants, teachers, members of the disciplined services and government pensioners and will place an additional GUY\$7.5 billion (One GUY\$=US0.004 cents) in disposable income annually in the hands of these employees.

Hamas responds to proposed Gaza ceasefire plan

Hamas says it has given its response to a framework proposal for a new ceasefire in Gaza.

The details of the deal - set out by Israel, the US, Qatar and Egypt - have not been released.

It was earlier reported to include a six-week truce, when more Israeli hostages would be exchanged for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel and the US have both said they are reviewing Hamas's response.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is currently in the Middle East, said he would discuss Hamas's response with officials in Israel on Wednesday.

While Mr Blinken has given no indication of how the US views the response, President Joe Biden described it as "a little over the top" - suggesting the Israeli leadership will not easily agree to what the group is asking.

A senior Hamas official told the BBC the group had presented a "positive vision" in response to the framework but had asked for some amendments relating to the rebuilding of Gaza, the return of its residents to their homes and the provisions for those who had been displaced.

The official said Hamas - which is proscribed as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the UK, US and other countries - had also asked for changes relating to the treatment of those injured, including their return home and transfer to hospitals abroad.

The proposal was sent to Hamas around a week ago but a representative told the Reuters news agency it had taken them until Tuesday to respond because parts of it were «unclear and ambiguous.»

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman al Thani



Aid agencies say the situation in Gaza is catastrophic and are among those calling for a new ceasefire.

has described Hamas's response as "positive" in general.

The conflict in Gaza was triggered by an unprecedented cross-border attack by Hamas gunmen on southern Israel on 7 October, in which about 1,300 people were killed and about 250 others taken hostage.

More than 27,500 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

During a week-long ceasefire in late November, 105 Israeli and foreign hostages were freed in exchange for 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

The timing of any new deal could be complicated by claims briefed earlier this week by Israeli defence officials that the military is "making progress" in its hunt for Hamas's leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar.

However, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under intense domestic pressure to secure the release of the remaining hostages.

A growing sense of regional crisis also adds to the urgency Mr Blinken

brings to the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, as he arrives seeking progress on the deal.

The US is increasingly trying to stem a widening regional escalation after last week's drone strike that killed three American soldiers in Jordan.

Washington retaliated with air strikes against Iran-backed militias in Syria and Iraq and is warning more will come.

A ceasefire deal in Gaza is seen by the US as the most realistic way to reduce tensions further afield.

On Tuesday, Israel confirmed that 31 of the 136 remaining hostages in Gaza had been killed.

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, a spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), said their families had been informed and that the authorities would continue to push for the return of the remaining captives.

"This is a moral obligation, national obligation and international obligation and this is our compass and this is how we will continue operating," said Mr Hagari.

Jennifer Crumbley: Michigan shooter's mother found guilty of manslaughter

A jury has found a Michigan mother guilty of involuntary manslaughter for failing to stop her son from carrying out a deadly school shooting.

Jennifer Crumbley, 45, is the first US parent convicted of manslaughter over a mass shooting carried out by their child.

Prosecutors accused her of being negligent in allowing her son to have a gun, and ignoring warnings signs.

Her husband, James, is facing a separate trial on the same charges.

He has pleaded not guilty.

Their son, now 17, is serving life in prison for killing four classmates at Oxford High School in Michigan on 30 November 2021.

Seven people were also injured in the shooting.

The judge, speaking to jurors, said this was likely "the hardest thing you've ever done".

Ms Crumbley appeared emotionless and stared straight down as the verdict was read in Oakland County court on Tuesday.

She was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter, each carrying a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Some relatives of those killed in the shooting expressed relief over the verdict.



Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald hugs a family member of one of the shooting victims.

"The People spoke!" Buck Myre, the father of Tate Myre, a 16-year-old killed in the shooting, told the BBC in a statement.

"You can agree or disagree with the people, but this is how the system is supposed to work."

The question at the heart of the trial was whether the mother could have foreseen and prevented the deadly crime.

Ms Crumbley and her husband James bought the gun their son used just days before the shooting.

They were charged by police within days of the killings. Police had to search for the pair and found them in an industrial building in Detroit following a tip from the public.

For more than two years they have been kept in a county jail, unable to make bail.

Initially, the parents were supposed to be tried together but in November sought separate trials. James Crumbley is scheduled to

go on trial in March.

At her trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Ethan Crumbley had wanted mental health help and complained of hallucinations, but said his parents did not get him treatment. Ms Crumbley said on the stand that she did not think her son had mental health problems.

The morning of the shooting, the parents cut short a school meeting about a disturbing drawing their son had made to go to work and declined to take the then 15-year-old home.

School officials sent him back to class without checking his backpack, which contained a gun.

Just hours later, he killed Hana St Juliana, 14, Myre, 16, and Madisyn Baldwin and Justin Shilling, both 17.

Some experts have suggested the cases against the Crumbleys could lead to more charges for parents of children who commit mass shootings.

Stephen J Morse, a pro-

fessor of law and psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, said he disagreed with the verdict, arguing that because Ethan Crumbley had pleaded guilty, he was the only one responsible for the shooting.

"I understand that she was not necessarily the best mother in the world, but this is not a crime," he said.

Mr Morse said he believed the decision could set a bad precedent, causing courts to look for "scapegoats" in similar situations.

Others say this case was so unusual that it is unlikely to have wider ramifications.

"I don't fear that this is going to open the floodgates to parents being charged in a run of the mill case, if there is such a thing," said Frank Vandervort, a University of Michigan clinical professor of law.

"I think the facts of this case are so unique and sort of extreme."

Prosecutors attempted to make the same case during the two-week trial, alleging Ms Crumbley ignored her son's pleas for help despite expressing concern about him in private messages.

They showed messages between Ms Crumbley and a man she had an affair with in which she said - before attending the school meeting on the day of the shooting - that she was afraid her son would do "something

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Sports News



St. Joseph's Academy return to winning form in schools' basketball

Defending champions St. Joseph's Academy rebounded from their first loss in the Miniboys Secondary Division of the 2024 Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships on Monday.

After narrowly losing by a single point to Antigua Grammar School in their previous outing, St. Joseph's Academy returned to their winning form by romping to an emphatic 44-10 victory against Clare Hall Secondary at the JSC Sports Complex.

Nathan Matthew and Jayden Lewis produced 18 points apiece for St. Joseph's Academy, while Luis Ozuna scored five points for Clare Hall Secondary.

The St. Joseph's Academy unbeaten run ended in a 20-21 defeat against Antigua Grammar School in their previous game.

Dajon George shot a game-high 13 points, and Esau Harrigan scored six points for Antigua Grammar School. Jayden Lewis



SJA's Nathan Matthew prepares to drive to the basket for a layup during his team's encounter against Clare Hall Secondary in the Miniboys Secondary Division of the 2024 Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, February 5, 2024. (Photo courtesy School Basketball Unit)

converted eight points, and Erije Joseph had six points for St. Joseph's Academy.

Clare Hall Secondary prevailed 98-21 against Sir Novelle Richards Academy in their Senior Boys Division encounter.

In previous results, Post Millennial Academy notched up their first win in the Minigirls Primary Division by pulling off a 7-4

victory against Liberta Primary.

Katelyn Pasula scored six points for Post Millennial Academy, while Marion Roach had four points for Liberta Primary.

Sea View Farm Primary prevailed 8-2 against J. T. Ambrose Primary in the same division. Jenair Pascal sank six points for Sea View Farm.

Sea View Farm Primary also secured an 18-3 victory against Villa Primary in the Miniboys Primary Division.

Ezekiel Jackson produced eight points, Keandi Jacobs scored six points, and Tyrese Lewis had four points for Sea View Farm Primary, while

John Caleb scored two points for Villa Primary.

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dumb”.

When she took the stand in her own defense at her trial, Ms Crumbley sought to put the blame on her husband for the gun purchased for their son.

She told jurors that her husband brought their son to a gun store the day after Thanksgiving to buy him a handgun as a gift.

She said she “didn’t feel comfortable” being responsible for secur-

ing the gun and left James Crumbley manage it. Ethan Crumbley never took the stand, because he was expected to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and refuse to testify.

Families of the victims have expressed frustration that school officials have not faced the same legal consequences as Mr and Ms Crumbley.

“Why isn’t the system allowing the people to decide when it comes to the

failures at the school?” Mr Myre told the BBC on Tuesday after the verdict.

“Is our government under a different set of rules?”

An independent investigation published last year alleged multiple failures from the school system, including allowing Ethan to return to class without checking his backpack.

The school district has pledged to review and improve its practices and policies in response to the report.

All Saints United go second in Premier League



Nazir McBurnette scored All Saints United's final goal against Villa Lions in their Premier League encounter at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, February 5, 2024. (File photo)

All Saints United have moved into second place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

All Saints United leapfrogged Old Road to move into second place behind leaders and defending champions Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades by romping to a three-nil victory against Villa Lions at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday night.

Roneba Cordice scored in the 8th minute to give All Saints United a one-nil halftime lead.

Malcolm Stewart doubled his team's lead with a 65th-minute conversion, and Nazir McBurnette wrapped up the victory by scoring United's final goal in the 86th minute.

Their latest victory extended All Saints United's run to eight wins in nine matches.

It propels All Saints United to 25

points, five adrift of Premier League leaders Jennings United, who have played 10 matches.

Villa Lions have slipped into fifth place with 17 points after suffering their third consecutive loss in 10 matches.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association will continue its domestic season with four matches in its Second Division today.

ABAYA will host the Urlings Golden Stars at the Parham playing field at 4:15 pm. JSC Progressors will take on Golden Grove in the first match of a double header at the ABFA Technical Center at 4:15 pm.

Belmont FC will face Glanvilles in the second game of the double header at 6:15 pm. Blackburn Palace will clash with FC Master Ballerz at the Princess Margaret School playing field at 4:15 pm.

Opening round wins for PMS, AGS and CHSS in schools' cricket

Princess Margaret School, Antigua Grammar School, and Clare Hall Secondary have all made winning starts to their campaigns in the Under-15 Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Cricket Tournament.

Princess Margaret School trounced All Saints Secondary by 49 runs in the 30-over aside encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Princess Margaret School made 129 for two off 11 overs, with J'Quan

Athanaze smashing 83 not out. There was a contribution of 26 extras, and Kerique Mentore chipped in with 13. Malique Lee had one for 17.

In reply, All Saints Secondary was restricted to 80 for four off their 11 overs. There was a contribution of 34 extras, and Zion Challenger scored 25 not out. Ondre Peters claimed two wickets for six runs.

Antigua Grammar School prevailed by five wickets against Pares Secondary School at the Factory Grounds. Pares made 119 for

four off 20 overs.

William Pitman cracked 60, there was a contribution of 34 extras, and Deno Jarvis chipped in with 19. Donet Odlum claimed two for 11.

Antigua Grammar School achieved victory by scoring 120 for five. There was a contribution of 62 extras, and Rolando Fields scored 28. Jermain Campbell had one wicket for five runs, and R. Campbell took one wicket for seven runs.

Clare Hall Secondary snatched a four-run win against Jennings Secondary

School at the Rising Sun playing field. Clare Hall Secondary made 128 for nine off 16 overs, with Jordan Castello smashing 78.

Dequan Cochrane had two for 14, Dmique Allen claimed two for 21, and Estan Hill captured two for 23.

In reply, Jennings Secondary School was restricted to 124 for five off their 16 overs. Giovanni Thomas struck 26, and Cochrane chipped in with 18. Castello claimed one for 21, and Jayden Charles took one for 25.



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Australia celebrate with the trophy after sweeping the West Indies 3-0 by winning the third and final One-Day International at the Manuka Oval in Canberra, Australia, February 6, 2024. (Getty Images)

Australia sweep West Indies in ODI series

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Fast bowler Xavier Bartlett ran through the West Indies lineup by grabbing four for 21, as Australia swept the One-Day International series with another resounding eight-wicket win at the Manuka Oval on Tuesday.

Australia won the first match by eight wickets in Melbourne and the second by 83 runs in Sydney.

Bartlett, who grabbed four wickets in his debut ODI at MCG in the series opener before the pace bowler was rested at Sydney, ripped through West Indies batting, as the visitors were bowled out for 86 — their fifth-lowest total in ODIs.

Jake Fraser-McGurk made a rapid 41 off just 18 balls, as Australia sped to victory at 87 for two in just 6.5 overs, with the opening batter smacking three sixes and five fours.

Josh Inglis was also in a hurry and made a brisk unbeaten 35 off 16 balls, as fast bowler Matthew Forde gave away 40 runs off his two overs, with Fraser-McGurk and Inglis both showing plenty of aggression.

Australia's 12th successive win came in their landmark 1,000th ODI and became only the second country after India to play so many ODIs.

Bartlett was on target from the onset once Steven Smith won the toss and elected to bowl first. He had opener Kjorn Ottley leg before wicket in his second over, but television replays suggested the batter had inside edged the ball.

Lance Morris, one of the two changes Australia made with Bartlett, had an injury scare when he walked off the ground with a side strain in his fifth over.

But Bartlett, who replaced rested

Josh Hazlewood, bowled at an impeccable line and length as he conceded just 11 runs in his first five-over spell.

Morris dented West Indies enough before walking off the field as he had Keacy Carty as his first international wicket when Marnus Labuschagne grabbed a stunning catch at backward point and then had Teddy Bishop clean bowled with a superb full delivery.

Alick Athanaze top-scored with 32, but when he fell to a rash sweep against Adam Zampa and was caught at deep backward square leg, West Indies lost the last six wickets for just 16 runs and the innings folded in just 24.1 overs.

Smith recalled Bartlett, who had the wicket of Romario Shepherd with his first ball of the second spell and then cleaned up West Indies innings by having the wicket of Alzarri Joseph.

Regional four-day championship starts today

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes are among eight teams that will be launching their campaigns in the expanded 2024 Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional four-day championship today.

The Hurricanes will face the West Indies Academy, one of two additional teams that will join the traditional six territorial cricket boards' teams in this year's premier four-day competition, in one of four opening round matches.

The West Indies Academy is all set to make their debut in the West Indies First-Class season, along with the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC), who are making a return, re-joining the tournament after a few years' absence.

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes and the West Indies Academy will clash at Warner Park in St. Kitts.

The Hurricanes will be captained by all-rounder Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall, who was the leading wicket-taker in last year's championship by capturing 35 wickets in five matches at an average of 14.34.

Cornwall, a right-arm off-spinner, is one of four Antiguans in the Leeward Islands 13-member squad.

Like Cornwall, the other three Antiguans in the Hurricanes squad are all members of the PIC Insurance Liberta BlackHawks teams.

They are all-rounder Kofi James, who has been named vice-captain;



From left to right: Leeward Islands Hurricanes Karima Gore, assistant coach Wilden 'Polo' Cornwall, and Javier Spencer. (File photo)

left-arm pacer Javier Spencer; and all-rounder Karima Gore.

In the other matches that are slated to commence today, defending champions Guyana Harpy Eagles will begin their title defense against Trinidad & Tobago Red Force at the Conaree Cricket Centre in St. Kitts.

The Jamaica Scorpions will take on the Windward Islands Volcanoes at Sabina Park in Jamaica, and the CCC will meet Barbados Pride at Chedwin Park in Jamaica.

The 2024 West Indies four-day

championship, which will run from February 7 to April 20, will have a significant increase in prize money, with the winning team receiving US\$250,000 and the second-placed team receiving US\$100,000.

Full Leeward Islands Hurricanes squad: Rahkeem Cornwall (captain), Kofi James (vice-captain), Mikyle Louis, Joshua Grant, Jahmar Hamilton, Terance Warde, Ross Powell, Colin Archibald, Jeremiah Louis, Daniel Doram, Sheno Berridge, and Javier Spencer.