

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Focus on women in education



Women at the helm of Education. Top row from left: Denise Mills, Arlene Weste, Ornel Maurice-Walker, Dr. Ezra Jonah Greene; Middle row: Dr Najele Buffonge, Theoline Croft, Beverly Allen, Ineta Francis; Bottom row: Marion Byron, Denise Gardiner, Alvea Burton, Dr. Desiree Antonio. *Story on page 2.*

Empowering Leadership: Women at the helm of Education

By Alicia Knowles

As the world celebrates International Women's Day 2024, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is honoured to shine the spotlight on twelve remarkable women who are leading the way in education here in Antigua and Barbuda. From senior technicians within the Ministry of Education, to the heads of tertiary institutions, and the principal of the only all girls public school in Antigua and Barbuda, these visionary leaders have demonstrated their commitment to education, championing change, and shaping the future of education with their passion, resilience, and dedication.

In a world where gender parity remains elusive, these women in education leadership are leading by example, inspiring the next generation of female leaders and paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable society.

Today, we feature twelve (12) phenomenal women, who have served in various positions over their combined four centuries in education. At the helm of education, they continue to blaze the trail through their creative and innovative approach.

The Ministry of Education salutes:



Alicia Knowles

Ms. Denise Gardiner – Ms. Gardiner has been an educator for over three (3) decades. She presently serves as Chairman - Board of Education.

Dr. E. Jonah Greene – Deputy Director of Education. Dr. Greene has served as an educator in Antigua and Barbuda for over thirty-three (33) years.

Mrs. Beverly Allen – Assistant Director of Education – Curriculum. Mrs. Allen has been an educator since October 1980.

Ms. Ineta Francis – Assistant Director of Education – Measurement and Evaluation. Ms. Francis has devotedly served in education for over forty (40) years.

Mrs. Marion Byron – Assistant Director of Education – TVET. Mrs. Byron has been an inspiring educator for over forty (40) years.

Dr. Desiree Antonio – Education Officer - Administration – Zone III (Primary). Dr. Antonio has faithfully served as an educator for over forty (40) years.

Mrs. Alvacea Burton – Education Officer – Administration – Zone II (Primary). Mrs. Burton has worked in both public and private schools and has over forty (40) years' experience as an educator.

Mrs. Denise Mills – Education Officer – Administration – Secondary.

Mrs. Mills has over thirty-six (36) years' experience as an educator.

Mrs. Theoline Croft - At the helm of Antigua Girls' High School, Principal Croft has been an educator for over forty (40) years. She continues to be an inspiration for young women under her charge by being a model and mentor for future generations of female leaders.

Dr. Na-Ajele Buffonge – Principal, Antigua State College. She has worked in education for twenty-four (24) years.

Mrs. Arlene Weste - Director – Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education. She has over forty (40) years' experience in education.

Mrs. Ornel Walker-Maurice - Head of Campus, Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Technology. Mrs. Maurice has been an educator for over twenty (20) years.

On this International Women's Day, let us celebrate and honour these exemplary women who are leading the way in education leadership. Their vision, passion, and dedication are transforming lives, communities, and by extension the nation, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future for all.

APUA records sharp drop in water-related complaints

There has been a sharp decline in the number of water-related complaints received by APUA as the availability of potable water has improved considerably following better than expected rainfall.

Government spokesman, Ambassador Lionel Hurst told Thursday's post-Cabinet press briefing that the government has always maintained that the water 'crisis' had been exacerbated by the prolonged drought that the country has endured.

However, he revealed that higher than normal rainfall in the months of October and February has resulted in an increase in the amount of stored water in dams, aquifers and tanks.

Hurst explained that despite adding reverse osmosis water production plants in recent years, the amount of water available for distribution was never able to meet the demand. This was because APUA had built its water policies on the



premise of 60/40...that is sixty percent produced by RO plants and 40 percent from stored water sources. However, this formula was disrupted by the prolonged drought over the last ten or more years.

"As it turns out, we had lots of rain in October and again in February, which are usually dry months. Therefore, we had significant rainfall in both months and as a consequence the dams, the reservoirs and aquifers began to fill up.

"Potworks Dam, for example, which has a capacity of 2.2 billion gallons, now has approximately 800 million gallons

of water stored there. This will last a few months," he revealed.

According to Hurst, with more water being made available to homes, businesses, hotels, and institutions, there has been a marked decline in complaints made to APUA regarding water.

"We thank the Almighty for sending sufficient rain in October and February to the extent that the water crisis has somewhat disappeared," he stated.

Hurst noted that there remains an issue with the distribution of water as many of the pipes are the old cast-iron pipes laid some eighty years ago. APUA, he added, has embarked on a programme to replace the aging pipes and that assistance has been sought from the Chinese government in this regard.

He revealed that two engineers from China will soon be visiting the country to conduct a study to see what is needed and to make recommendations to APUA and to the Chinese government.



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Local News



ABTA/ABHTA team completes successful engagements at ITV in Berlin

A joint team from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association has just concluded what has been described as ‘a very successful’ round of engagements at ITB, in Berlin, Germany, the world’s largest travel trade show.



Colin C. James our destination and for our hotel partners as well. It now means that we can actively ramp-up our marketing efforts in Central Europe as this is what the flight would normally support.

Chief Executive Officer of the ABTA, Colin C. James said the weeklong event was especially productive for Antigua and Barbuda, the highlight of which was the announcement that the German airline, Condor, will restart direct flights to Antigua and Barbuda from November this year.

“This is great news for

“It brings visitors from Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland all of whom will connect out of

Frankfurt for the direct flight to VCBIA,” he revealed.

Additionally, James said the team met with multiple travel partners while at the trade show and that they were all ‘very excited’ with the announcement.

The German-based travel trade representatives have also given a commitment to work with the local team in its marketing efforts to make the flight successful.

James noted that the fact that the service runs from November 5 to May 6 is ‘a good thing’ as this means that it will conclude after the end of Sailing Week, 2025, making it possible for ‘yachties’ out of Germany to be able to participate in Sailing Week

as there will be a direct flight back home at the end of the regatta.

“This means that all the German yachties who had problems coming down to Antigua or if they did, had problems going back home, the Condor service comes to an end pass the end of Sailing Week and this gives us an opportunity to target the German market to support the yachting industry so its good news all around.

“We are excited about what will happen in the upcoming winter tourist with the return of the service and the potential brisk business for the ten hotels that participated with us on this campaign,” he stated.

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Government House restoration back in focus

The Heritage Trust of Antigua and Barbuda (HTAB) and the London Museum Docklands have joined efforts to progress the historical Government House Restoration Project. The aim of this collaboration is to explore the synergies between the West Indies and the United Kingdom, and their story of “sugar and the enslaved”, as the narrative progresses “from slavery to emancipation to independence”.

Douglas Gilmore, Managing Director of the London Museum Docklands and Jean-Francois Manicom, Senior Curator, visited Antigua last week as guests of the HTAB. The experts engaged in preliminary historical research and cultural fact-finding as a precursory step to the development of the chronicles.

While on island, Gilmore and Manicom held discussions with various industry and academic luminaries



including Professor Justin Robinson (Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, UWI Five Islands), Dr. Susan Lowes, Dr. Reginald Murphy and Dr. Christopher Waters. In addition, they met with representatives of the Horticultural Society of Anti-

gua and Barbuda, Historic Furniture Restorers, Historic Upholstery and island history savant Agnes Meeker, among others.

At a cocktail party held at Government House on March 1st, guests

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Local News

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were addressed by HTAB Project Manager, Janey Henderson-Howell; HTAB Director, Sir David Harrison; and Chairman of HTAB, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams.

Sir Rodney said, “The Government House Restoration Project holds immense significance, aiming to transform this historical two-acre landmark, the People’s House, into an impressive heritage venue with a museum and art gallery. Government House stands as an architectural symbol, with the West Wing preserving one of the last known remaining slave quarters in the Eastern Caribbean.”

Director Henderson-Howell issued a call to action, encouraging the attendees to either loan or donate any artefacts, which would be placed on display for the benefit of the entire nation.

Sir David Harrison said that he was pleased to be involved with the Government House project. He stressed that not only would the physical property be revamped, but the training of Antiguan and Barbudans in conservation and restoration, and the creation of meaningful jobs, were high on the agenda.

At both the cocktail party and an exclusive donor’s appreciation dinner held two days earlier, guests were given the opportunity to tour Gov-



ernment House, inclusive of the upstairs chambers, and to view old paintings of royalty. Also on exhibit was the Parham Prince painting collection donated by Nancy Underhills, interesting pieces of crockery from the 1700’s unearthed from the grounds of Government House, and other important relics — including antique pots, aged rum kegs and fragile water jars.

The London Museum Docklands will present a report to the HTAB which will, in turn, provide direction on the historical narrative.

The first phase of “Operation Restoration” was funded by the Calvin Ayre Foundation, the Mill Reef Club and Sir David Harrison, with the second phase scheduled to commence in April 2024.



Two government officials are attending climate change meeting in Guatemala

Officials of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda are among the 100 plus delegates currently attending the Euroclima Annual Meeting in La Antigua, Guatemala. The Country officially signed on to Euroclima in November 2023, following the European Union's expansion of the 15-year-old Latin American-focused Programme to include the Caribbean region, with a launch event in May of 2023.

Antigua and Barbuda is being represented by Juray Roberts, from the Office of the National Authorising Officer and Christa-Joy Burton of the Department of the Environment. Both departments are designated as the focal points which will coordinate involvement in the Programme from a national standpoint.

The Euroclima Programme supports the improvement of resilience to climate change of ecosystems and vulnerable communities, including women, youth, and indigenous populations through the implementation of demand-driven actions. It achieves this through the strengthening of institutions, enabling frameworks and plans and policies, and securing financial investments linked to the development

and advancement of national climate change targets.

The Annual Meeting is providing an opportunity for networking and dialogue on ways to successfully advance work in several areas including, Green Hydrogen, Water Management, Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Energy, Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Sargassum.

On the first day of engagement, participants had the opportunity to receive updates on current actions of the programme, to include useful information of success stories which could help to inform best practices for replicability, implementation of various initiatives and partnerships.

OECS country representatives, as well as delegates from the wider Caribbean Community, explored potential and planned joint actions to address approaches to the circular economy with respect to Sargassum, and non-revenue water. It is expected that the concept documents and terms of reference for the initial work to address issues related to non-revenue water – which is defined as water that has been produced and is “lost” before it reaches the customer – will be con-



Antigua and Barbuda representatives, Juray Roberts and Christa-Joy Burton

cluded in short order to allow for swift action in addressing this area of concern.

A main element of the discussions over the 3-day annual meeting will look at the EU Global Gateway Investment Agenda (GGIA), which aims to accelerate implementation of a just and green transition, through the identification and facilitation of investment opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the case of Euroclima.

The outlook for the Caribbean region's involvement in Euroclima, even in these early stages, shows much promise, and there are planned in-country consultations to better understand the gaps and challenges for consideration in the design of impactful actions.

Euroclima is presently funded to the tune of 140 million euro and is jointly funded by the EU and the German Federal Government via the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Representatives at climate change meeting in Guatemala

Sports Minister celebrates cricket legends

Minister of Sports, Daryll S. Matthew has extended warm birthday wishes to National Hero, Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, on the auspicious occasion of his 72nd birthday on Thursday.

Minister Matthew also took great pleasure in congratulating Sir Anderson Roberts on their golden jubilee in Cricket and his remarkable achievement in cricket.

Sir Viv and Sir Andy, as they are affectionately known, have placed an indelible mark on the world of cricket, elevating Antigua and Barbuda to the forefront of the sport.

Their unwavering dedication, exceptional skills, and passion for cricket have not only inspired countless cricketers but have also captured the hearts of fans around the globe. As an ardent sports enthusiast who grew up admir-



Sir Anderson Roberts
 ing these cricket legends, Minister Matthew feels deeply honored to be in the presence of these iconic figures today.

He joins the people of Antigua and Barbuda and cricket enthusiasts worldwide in celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, KNH, OBE, OOC, and Sir Anderson Montgomery Everton Roberts, KCN.



Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards

Their contributions have not only shaped the landscape of cricket but have also enriched the proud cricketing heritage of Antigua and Barbuda. Minister Matthew acknowledges Sir Viv and Sir Andy's enduring legacy, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the sport and their role in propelling Antigua and Barbuda onto the global cricketing stage.



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Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar extends wishes to his “idol” Viv Richards on his 72nd birthday

India's batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar extended birthday greetings to one of his idols and a cricketing icon Vivian Richards on Thursday.

Sachin took X (formerly Twitter), to wish Richards on his 72nd birthday and wrote, “The way he dominated bowling attacks across the world was an inspiration for me while I was growing up. Happy birthday to one of my idols! @ivianrichards.”

The former West Indies batting legend from 1974-1991 represented Windies in 121 Tests, scoring 8,540 runs at an average of 50.23. He scored 24 centuries and 45 fifties in 182 innings, with his best score being 291. He is the third-highest run-scorer in Tests for West Indies.

Richards is considered to be one of those batters who revolutionised ODI cricket, executing all kinds of high-risk shots and pushing for aggressive runs when the world was still getting used to the concept of short format.

In 187 ODIs, he scored 6,721 runs at an average of 47.00, with 11 centuries and 45 fifties in 167 innings. His best score was 189* and his strike rate was 90.20. He is the fifth-highest run-getter for the Windies.



Sir Vivian Richards, right, and Sachin Tendulkar.

During his remarkable playing days, Richards was a member of the West Indies teams that won the 1975 and 1979 Cricket World Cup titles.

Though he did not do well in the 1975 WC, he scored 217 runs in the 1979 WC in four matches, including 138 against England in the final.

He broke a number of records while entertaining the crowd with his bewitching strokes.

While, scoring a 58-ball 110* against England in 1986, with seven fours and seven sixes, Richards not only had the fastest Test century of that

time in 56 balls but also the first Test ton with a 150-plus strike rate, batting at an exceptional strike rate of 189.65.

During an ODI against New Zealand in 1987, Richards became the first-ever cricketer to score a century (119) and take a five-wicket haul (5/41) in an ODI.

The 2009 ICC Hall of Fame inductee was also the first-ever player to complete a double of 1,000 runs and 50 wickets in ODI history. With 32 Test wickets and 118 ODI wickets as well, Richards was a true all-rounder. (ANI)

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Opinion



The urgency of internal unity to reclaim Haiti

By Sir Ronald Sanders

In international diplomatic circles, Haiti is on everyone's lips but not in actions that could urgently remedy the suffering of the Haitian people.

Similarly, within Haiti and its diaspora, Haiti's tragic situation is constantly discussed but no viable solutions are proposed, nor are sustainable actions taken.

While this delay and inaction persists, the gangs, which have already taken effective control of the country, are fashioning an accord amongst themselves on the theme of "Living together".

It is an unholy pact in which the gangs are sharing the spoils of power and collaborating to do so, ignoring the laws of the country. They are also dictating political actions through threats and intimidation.

Hence, the present unelected Prime Minister, Dr. Ariel Henry, has been warned that if he returns to Haiti, he will be executed.

Henry is reportedly trapped in Puerto Rico, unable to find a way to re-enter Haiti after attending a meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Guyana, and then travelling to Kenya to sign a reciprocal security agreement on March 1.

While he was in New

York on his way back to Haiti, the gangs attacked the main penitentiary, releasing approximately 4,500 inmates, including prominent gang members.

This extraordinarily gruesome warning to Dr. Henry has been made by gang leader, Jimmy Chérizier, also known as "Barbecue". It has been backed up by Guy Phillippe who was recently released from a U.S. prison after conviction for human trafficking and is now heading a political group.

Significantly, apart from the members of the Cabinet that Henry appointed, not one person or group in Haiti has called for his return to the country. Of further significance, he is yet to be offered safe passage from U.S. territory to Haiti by the U.S. government.

In reality, Dr. Henry was never accepted, except by the U.S., as the best person to lead Haiti. He validated this belief within Haiti by reneging on the terms of agreements on governance that he made on September 11, 2021 and December 21, 2022 with private sector groups and non-governmental organizations.

Therefore, he had neither the interest nor the capacity to spearhead the national effort for a "Hai-



Sir Ronald Sanders

tian solution" to the crisis for which the international community repeatedly called.

Henry made his first request for an international force to help national police fight gangs, in October 2022. At that time, the gangs were a growing threat; they had not yet reached the forceful dimensions that exist now.

Within Haiti, Henry's call was seen as a move to get external military help that would maintain his grip on power. Therefore, they opposed, under many guises, any external intervention.

Externally, the govern-

ment of El Salvador had offered to help, based on its own success with curbing gangs by methods, judged by some, as abusing the human rights of persons it imprisoned. The El Salvador offer was not encouraged and, eventually it fell away.

No other government sought to get involved. Meanwhile, the U.S. government pursued a policy of maintaining support for Dr. Henry based on hope rather than confidence in his capacity to build a strong coalition to govern the country. That hope is now dashed.

Following the release of prison inmates and attacks

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on other important public installations, Haiti is now under gang control. Airlines have stopped flights into the country and cargo ships have taken similar action as gangs loot containers at the port.

Amid all this, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), influenced by rivalries between veto powers, failed to prioritize Haiti's wellbeing, choosing not to deploy a U.N. force. Instead, they approved a voluntary Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission, not funded by the U.N., leaving the U.S. to spearhead recruitment and funding efforts, which have largely been unsuccessful.

Only Kenya, demanding \$200 million for its participation, has agreed to contribute troops to the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission. The U.S. has struggled to meet its \$200 million commitment due to Congress's deadlock over allocating \$100 million, half of its promised contribution. Consequently, the launch of the MSS Mission appears increasingly unlikely.

As Haiti's turmoil deepens, the U.S. appears to support Finance Minister, Michel Patrick Boisvert, as Henry's successor. This potential U.S. endorsement of another unelected leader will undoubtedly face opposition from various Haitian stakeholders.

The real answer to the current Haitian crisis continues to remain in the hands of Haitians. All of its aspiring leaders and all the rival organisations for political and economic supremacy must put aside their ambitions for personal power and stand behind the empowerment of Haiti.

They have to resolve to postpone rivalry until transparent, free and fair elections can be held in normalized conditions.

Meanwhile, they must act urgently to coalesce behind an agreed President based on the last functioning Constitution of the Republic, and to agree to

the appointment of a Prime Minister, on whom they can also agree, for the formation of a national transitional government drawn from the talents that exist in the private sector, the NGO's, the political parties and the diaspora.

They also need to agree on the term of such a transitional government and its mandate, which should include any requests for international assistance. The structure for such an agreement already exists in the recent Resolution of January 2024, which emerged from the National Congress of Transition, as well as in other previously agreed strategies such as the Montana Accord of 2021.

If the various Haitian parties cannot act as genuine patriots for their country by setting aside ambitions and rivalry for at least two years, and by establishing a genuine government of national unity on behalf of the Haitian people, they will condemn their

nation to external intervention of the kind that has contributed for more than 200 years to their present plight. They will have only themselves to blame.

By rallying together to form a united front and advocating for democratic renewal, Haitians have the power to proudly present to the world the 'Haitian solution' they have long sought. Such a momentous shift towards a consensus-built, authentic Haitian pathway could redefine the nation's future and command the respect and support of the global community.

It's time for Haiti to seize this critical opportunity; to forge a future grounded in legitimacy and unity that the international community cannot ignore.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. The view is entirely his own. For responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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Online gambling firm Bet365 probed in Australia

By Mariko Qi

Australia's financial crime watchdog has launched an investigation into UK online gambling firm Bet365 over its compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws.

The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (Austrac) had ordered an external audit of the firm in 2022.

Bet365 did not immediately respond to a BBC request for comment.

The industry has come under increased scrutiny after online betting surged in during the pandemic.

"Businesses without adequate processes in place to manage those risks leave themselves vulnerable to exploitation by criminals," said Brendan Thomas, the CEO of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (Austrac).

Austrac investigates banks, casinos and betting companies to make sure they have robust compliance systems to prevent them from profiting from the proceeds of crime.

Ladbrokes owner Entain has also been probed in Australia since 2022, while another rival Sportsbet is facing an external audit.

Under Australian law, firms are required to assess customers and monitor their financial transactions in order to identify, mitigate and manage the risk that they might be engaging in money laundering or financing terrorism.

Any companies found by Austrac to have weak compliance systems could be fined.

In recent years the watchdog has hit major lenders Westpac and Commonwealth Bank of Australia with large fines for breaches of the anti-money laundering and counter-ter-

rorism financing laws.

The online betting industry also faces other challenges in Australia such as new laws banning the use of credit cards for online gambling and stricter federal government rules on adverts.

Last year, Bet365 reported a significant loss but its chief executive Denise Coates was paid around £221m.

That was £7m higher than the previous year and Ms Coates also received at least £50m worth of dividends.

The pay bump means that her total salary over the past four years surpassed £1bn.

Ms Coates founded the Bet365 website in a portable building in a Stoke-on-Trent car park more than 20 years ago.

She is thought to be one of Britain's richest women and among the best-paid executives in the world.

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Haiti gangs torch police stations as PM's future hangs in balance

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Gangs pushing for the ouster of Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry have been setting fire to police stations in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The police station located in the busy Salomon market is the latest to be targeted, according to local media.

The three-day state of emergency has now been extended by a month.

The gangs in the violence-racked city stepped up their attacks when Mr Henry left for a regional summit last week.

The unrest has paralysed air traffic, which has prevented his return.

Mr Henry attempted to fly back to Port-au-Prince on Tuesday but ended up in the US territory of Puerto Rico instead.

He could not land in the Haitian capital because its international airport was closed as soldiers repelled attempts by gunmen to seize it.

Civil aviation authorities in the neighbouring Dominican Republic also turned the prime minister's plane away, saying that they had not been provided with the necessary flight plan.

Mr Henry has not given any public statements since he visited Kenya, where he met President William Ruto to salvage a deal for the African country to lead a multi-national force to help



More than 15,000 people have fled their homes in the last week due to the violence.

restore order in Haiti.

The two leaders signed a reciprocal agreement which paves the way for 2,000 Kenyan police officers to be sent to Haiti but a Kenyan opposition politician says he will challenge the deal in court.

Meanwhile, several Kenyan police officers who had volunteered for the deployment have opted out for their safety.

One officer told the BBC that there were no clear mechanisms on how they were required to work while on the mission. Another said some members of his squad had withdrawn following the recent rise in violence.

Gangs in Port-au-Prince have taken advantage of Prime Minister Ariel Henry's absence to unleash a series of co-ordinated attacks.

Among their targets was the airport - which they want to control to prevent

Mr Henry from flying back in - and two prisons, from which they freed thousands of inmates.

They have also set the peace court in Croix-des-Bouquets on fire and looted or torched more than 20 other buildings, according to a tally compiled by The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH).

At least six police officers have been killed while the National Police Academy has also been destroyed.

The bodies of several prisoners were also left lying on the streets after the storming of the National Penitentiary.

The violence has caused Haiti's humanitarian crisis to deteriorate even further.

Aid groups estimate that more than 15,000 people have fled their homes in the past week.

The UN's Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Haiti, Ulrika

Richardson, told the BBC's Newshour programme the situation on the ground was "extremely dire and very alarming".

"We have big parts of the capital paralysed: schools are closed, many hospitals have had to close, either because of a lack of equipment or simply that staff cannot get to work," she said.

The gangs have not said what their aim is beyond the ouster of Mr Henry.

Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérisier, a former police officer who leads an alliance of gangs called G9, has threatened that if Mr Henry does not step down there will be a "civil war" which he said could end in "genocide".

Caribbean nations as well as the US have urged Mr Henry to take steps to "finalize a political accord".

Irfaan Ali, the president of Guyana who is currently chairing regional body Caricom, said there had to be "a political solution to anchor any stabilization of security and humanitarian efforts".

In a video message, Mr Ali said that Caricom had not been able "to reach any form of consensus between stakeholders in Haiti" despite round-the-clock efforts to get the government and key figures in the opposition, private sector, civil society and religious organisations to agree on the way forward.

Dominica to bestow second highest national awards on Canada and Britain

CMC - Dominica on Tuesday announced that it would bestow its second highest national award on the United Kingdom and Canada for their role in helping the island move towards becoming the first resilient nation in the world.

Addressing a ceremony for the closure of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD), Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said the achievements would not have been possible without the support of the international and regional partners.

“I thank most profoundly, the governments of the United Kingdom and Canada for their faith in Dominica and their willingness to invest in our ambitious goal to create a safer, more sustainable future for our citizens. We trust that you will continue to work with us along this important journey.

“The United Kingdom and Canada believed in us. They invested their money, time human resources...in assisting us to achieve our vision,” Skerrit said, adding in appreciation of their support and commitment, the government of Dominica shall bestow upon the United Kingdom and Canada, Dominica’s second highest national award, the Sisserou Award of Honour”.

Skerrit said that almost seven years ago, Dominica embarked upon the jour-

ney to become the world’s first climate resilient nation following the devastation brought upon the island by Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm, on September 18, 2017.

“This perilous situation conditioned us to adopt and pursue a build back better principle to minimise the loss and damage that too often confronts us as a people. Today we reflect on our accomplishments with a deep sense of pride, and hope for continued success in our mission to increase our resilience against the mounting challenges posed by climate change.”

Skerrit said that the staff of CREAD took a compelling vision to transform Dominica into a climate resilient country and turned it into a working model for the world to emulate.

“Indeed, the global community has taken notice. Through our collective efforts, Dominica stands as an example of what can be achieved when countries-when leaders- act decisively to address the persistent challenges of our times.

“CREAD is a proud achievement for all of you who lent your professional expertise, your passion and your commitment to actualising the vision for climate resilience.

“It is a proud achievement for me personally, as Prime Minister, because it



embodied the bold pledge, I made at the United Nations in September 2017, to work from that day forward to shield Dominica from the severity of climate change impacts.”

He acknowledged that while “we have not yet met all our benchmarks for climate resilience... we can all agree that we have developed an impressive template for further action in our continuing fight.”

He said over the years CREAD has become a symbol of resilience and innovation, bringing people, communities and governments together in a united front against climate change.

“When I announced to the world that Dominica would become the first resilient nation in the world, eyebrows were raised, especially here at home.

“After all, it sounded like an impossible task! But the mission was clear: to rebuild Dominica not just as it was, but stronger, better, and more capable of responding to disaster events and recovering from impact.

“In this regard CREAD has met its mandate. I won’t list the organisation’s many achievements in this forum, but I will note that CREAD has been particularly effective in its development of policy to guide the country’s recovery following disaster,” he said.

He said the assistance provided to build capacity within micro, small and medium sized enterprises; CREAD’s focus on strong communities to improve disaster mitigation; and initiatives to reduce vulnerabilities and exposure of people and property to future shocks, are all measures which will define Dominica’s response systems for years to come.

“Additionally, with CREAD’s assistance we have reviewed our building codes across sectors and can now boast of building back better and ensuring that our roads, bridges, and buildings can withstand the rigors of our changing climate,” Skerrit said, adding CREAD’s impact is undeniable.

“It has captured the at-

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Sri Lankan family dead in Canada 'mass killing'

Canadian police are describing the deaths of members of a Sri Lankan family, including four young children, in Ottawa as a "mass killing".

Police say the six victims were newcomers to Canada, and the youngest was less than three months old.

A 19-year-old student from Sri Lanka who lived with the family has been charged in the killings.

"This was a senseless act of violence perpetrated on purely innocent people," said Ottawa's police chief on Thursday.

Officers responded to emergency calls placed at approximately 22:52 local time (03:52 GMT) on Wednesday from the Ottawa suburb of Barrhaven.

When they arrived, police chief Eric Stubbs said officers quickly identified the suspect, who was arrested without incident.

Officers then entered the home and discovered the victims, which included a mother, her four children, and an acquaintance who was living with the family.

The victims were identified as 35-year-old Darshani Banbaranayake Gama Walwwe Darshani Dilanthika Ekanyake and her four children: seven-year-old Inuka Wickramasinghe, four-year-old Ashwini Wickramasinghe, two-year-old Rinyana Wickramasinghe and two-month-old Kelly Wickramasinghe.

The acquaintance and sixth deceased victim was identified as 40-year-



old Amarakoonmubiayansela Ge Gami-ni Amarakoon.

Chief Stubbs said the family's father suffered injuries and was taken to hospital in serious but stable condition.

The suspect was identified by police as 19-year-old Febrio De-Zoysa. He has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder.

Chief Stubbs said the victims were killed and injured using an "edged weapon". The police investigation is ongoing.

He said the incident is the biggest murder case in Ottawa's recent history, calling it a "real tragedy" that would continue to have a "significant" impact on the nation's capital city.

"I'm sure the impact on the community is great," he added, while emphasising that residents and community

members should continue to stay away from the area.

In a separate interview with CBC News earlier on Thursday, he mistakenly referred to the incident as a "mass shooting", which was later corrected.

In Toronto on Thursday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed "shock and horror" at the incident, which he called a "terrible violence".

Ottawa's mayor called the multiple homicide event "one of the most shocking incidents of violence in our city's history".

"We are proud to live in a safe community but this news is distressing to all Ottawa residents," Mark Sutcliffe wrote in a post on X, previously known as Twitter. "Thank you to our emergency responders who are investigating and supporting those who are affected by this terrible event," he added.

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tention of the world, with many international bodies and agencies keenly observing and documenting our progress.

"And we should be proud of this. A small, vulnerable country in the Caribbean is leading the way in environmental awareness

and climate action.

"We have not only talked the talk, we have walked the walk. Our most recent move to establish a Sperm Whale Reserve in our waters, contributing to climate change mitigation, speaks loudly of our resolve and our willingness to make bold, groundbreaking moves in this glob-

al fight."

He said as CREAD's tenure concludes; it is crucial to recognise that the journey towards climate resilience does not end there.

"The spirit and objectives of CREAD will persist, as we transition its activities to various government agencies," Skerit said, adding

"our journey to full resilience by 2030 must continue.

"We have made much progress in all major sectors, but our gains must be consolidated and fortified. The challenges of climate change are forever present and hurricanes and dry spells are becoming more frequent and severe."

US to set up temporary port on Gaza coast for aid delivery

President Joe Biden is to announce that the US military will construct a port in Gaza to get more humanitarian aid into the territory by sea, senior US officials say.

The temporary port will increase the amount of humanitarian assistance to Palestinians by “hundreds of additional truckloads” per day, officials say.

However it will not include US troops on the ground in Gaza, they said.

The UN warns that a quarter of the population is on the brink of famine.

The port will take “a number of weeks” to set up, the officials said, and will be able to receive large ships carrying food, water medicine, and temporary shelters. Initial shipments will arrive via Cyprus, where Israeli security inspections will take place.

Mr Biden is due to make the announcement during his State of the Union address later.

Israel’s military launched an air and ground campaign in Gaza after Hamas’s attacks on Israel on 7 October, in which around 1,200 people were killed and 253 others were taken hostage.

More than 30,800 people have been killed in Gaza since then, the territory’s Hamas-run health ministry says.



In his speech to Congress, President Biden will say the US military is to establish a port in Gaza, involving a temporary pier to transport supplies from ships at sea to the shore.

It is not clear who will build the causeway or secure the aid on land, meaning crucial questions about whether the operation can succeed remain unanswered.

Gaza has no deep water port and so the US has for weeks been looking at ways to get shiploads of aid in urgently, while the administration has publicly ramped up its pressure and increasingly shown in public its impatience with Israel over the desperate situation on the ground.

US officials told the BBC’s US partner CBS that there are plans for the pier to be installed by an army

unit called the 7th Transportation Brigade, based at Fort Story, Virginia.

The brigade is designed for rapid deployment, but the military ships have not yet left the US, the officials said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned this week that children were dying of starvation in northern Gaza, where an estimated 300,000 Palestinians are living with little food or clean water.

Aid lorries have been entering the south of Gaza through the Egyptian-controlled Rafah crossing and the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom. But the north, which was the focus of the first phase of the Israeli ground offensive, has been largely cut off from assistance in recent months.

Last week, amid the growing desperation, more

than 100 people were killed trying to reach an aid convoy. Palestinians said most were shot by Israeli troops. The Israeli military, which was overseeing the private aid deliveries, said most were killed in a stampede.

On 20 February, the World Food Programme (WFP) said it was suspending food deliveries to northern Gaza because its first aid convoys in three weeks had endured “complete chaos and violence due to the collapse of civil order”, including violent looting.

The US and other nations have resorted to dropping aid in by air - but humanitarian organisations say that method is a last resort and can’t meet the soaring need.

An independent UN expert on Thursday accused

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Sports News



Mixed fortunes for AGS in schools' basketball

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) had mixed fortunes in the Junior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Championships on Wednesday.

The second team of the Antigua Grammar School romped to a 33-12 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School at the JSC Sports Complex.

Jovan Gordon converted 10 points for Antigua Grammar School, while Ajani Adams scored five points for Ottos Comprehensive School.

But the Princess Margaret School trounced the first team of the Antigua Grammar School, 40-17, in their junior Boys division encounter.

Craig Massiah shot a game-high 20 points, and Tyrese Whyte sank 17 points for Princess Margaret School.

St. Anthony's Secondary School clinched a 28-



Coach Bradbury Browne engages players of the Antigua Grammar School's second team during a timeout in one of their games at the JSC Sports Complex. (Photo courtesy of the Schools' Basketball Unit)

20 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary. Justyn Raeburn scored nine points for St. Anthony's Secondary School, while Adrian Francis converted eight points for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

Meanwhile, Antigua Girls High School suffered two losses in the Schools' Volleyball Development League at the indoor facility

at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Island Academy beat the first team of the Antigua Girls High School 15-13, 15-11, while Irene B. Williams Secondary defeated the second team of the Antigua Girls High School 15-12, 15-10.

But the second team of Antigua Girls High School

recorded a 2-1 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in the Girls division of the Ministry of Sports Inter-Schools' Volleyball League.

Ottos Comprehensive School won the opening set 25-19, but Antigua Girls High School I rebounded to win the match by taking the next two sets, 25-21 and 16-14.

All Saints Secondary School and Clare Hall Secondary School also secured wins in the Boys division.

All Saints Secondary School beat the Sir Novelle Richards Academy 2-0 (25-12, 25-15), while Clare Hall Secondary School prevailed 2-1 against Princess Margaret School, 25-17, 21-25, and 15-11.

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Israel of mounting "a starvation campaign against the Palestinian people in Gaza".

"The images of starvation in Gaza are unbearable and you are doing nothing," Michael Fakhri, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, said in a speech to the UN Human Rights Council.

Yeela Cytrin, a legal adviser at the Israeli mission to the UN, said "Israel utterly rejects allegations that it is using starvation as a tool of war", before walking out in protest.

Meanwhile a Hamas delegation has left talks in Cairo without a deal for a ceasefire in Gaza, but the armed group says indirect negotiations with Israel are not over.

It had been hoped that a 40-day truce could be in place for the start of the Islamic month of Ramadan next week.

But Egyptian and Qatari mediators have struggled to seal a deal that would see Hamas free Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Curator's workshop series to be staged at West Indies venues hosting 2024 T20 World Cup

As preparations continue for the hosting of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, organizers will be hosting a series of workshops for the pitch and outfield curators as well as other members of the ground staff who will be responsible for the venues and facilities across the region.

Over 50 staff members in the six host nations in the West Indies will benefit from the knowledge and expertise of International Cricket Council (ICC) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) officials when the workshops and developmental courses are conducted from March 6 to 27.

Roland Holder, CWI Manager of Cricket Operations and Head of Cricket for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, outlined the reasons behind the series of workshops.

He said the upcoming series is crafted by CWI and designed to up-skill existing curators across the region by exposing them to international best practices for pitch preparation and applicable maintenance, while simultaneously expanding the cadre of curators by identifying new talent with the appropriate combination of theoretical knowledge and practical exposure, to lend further expertise to match venues as we seek to deliver a world-class event in June.

"We are enthusiastic about these workshops and educational seminars across the region. It is great to know that over 50 members of our ground staff will benefit from this series of seminars which has been strategically set-up in the six region host territories for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," Holder said.

"This is geared towards ensuring



Groundsmen rolling a cricket pitch in the West Indies.

that the persons with responsibility for the pitch, outfield, and other facilities on the ground will benefit from the knowledge available, in line with international best practices and in keeping with the highest standards.

"We are aware this is for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, but also post-World Cup, as good pitches lead to good cricket with an even contest between bat and ball. This is an essential area of preparation for what will be the biggest event ever hosted in the West Indies."

The workshops will include both indoor educational sessions and outdoor practical events. They start at Antigua and Barbuda from March 7-8, and will move to St. Lucia from March 11-12, then on to St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 14-15 March.

From there the series moves to Barbados from March 18-19, and

Guyana for the period March 21-22 before concluding in Trinidad and Tobago from March 25-26.

These six countries will host matches in the ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be played from June 1 to 29.

The West Indies, which hosted the event in 2010, will hold matches at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Kensington Oval, Guyana National Stadium, Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, Arnos Vale, and Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

The event will be the largest in the tournament's history with 20 international teams playing 55 matches across nine locations.

It is the first time USA will host matches at a T20 World Cup, with 16 first-round matches split between Nassau County International Cricket Stadium (New York), Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium (Dallas), and Broward County Stadium (Lauderhill).

Sports News



Stingerz back to winning form in ABBA's Division I League

Northside Stingerz returned to winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division I league on Wednesday night.

Following their first loss of the season, going under 62-65 to the Flyers in a top-of-the-table clash, the Northside Stingerz rebounded to claim their fourth win in five encounters by prevailing 93-82 against the Spanish Heat in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 28 points, grabbed 21 rebounds, and distributed seven assists, and Joshua Minner produced 21 points with nine rebounds and six assists for the Stingerz.

They were well supported by Jay-zee Saltibus with 14 points and 12 rebounds; Devante Carter with 12 points, six rebounds, and five assists;



Kareem Edwards with nine points and nine rebounds; and Shaheim Omarde with seven points and nine rebounds.

Andrew Venture had 25 points, eight steals, seven rebounds, and six assists; Kelvyn Pimental produced 15 points and eight rebounds; and Ber-

nard Andrew contributed 13 points and six rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

Kennedy's Club Limited Ottos Full Throttle recorded their second win in four games with a 79-58 victory against the All Saints Slam in the first game of Wednesday's double header.

Warren Bogle produced 24 points and seven rebounds; Akeem Davis had 12 points and eight rebounds; Kwame Payne contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds; and Shaquille Kelly chipped in with 10 points and five rebounds for the Ottos Full Throttle.

John Rolland Jr. produced 11 points and 17 rebounds; Judah Ferris had nine points, seven rebounds, and six steals; and Kim Casey chipped in with eight points, nine rebounds, and seven assists for the All Saints Slam, which crashed to their fourth loss in five games.

Three teams in contention for last semi-final spot in ABCA two-day contest

Three teams will be vying for the last spot in the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day competition this weekend.

The top four teams at the end of the preliminary stage of the 10-team round-robin competition will advance to the semifinals.

Empire Nation, which captured the runners-up position last year, the New Winthorpes Lions, and the WES Rising Sun Spartans are all in contention to clinch the last spot in the semi-finals during the ninth and final set of preliminary

round matches this weekend.

Empire Nation is currently in fourth place and occupying the last semi-final spot with 55 points; the New Winthorpes Lions are in fifth place with 52 points; and the WES Rising Sun Spartans are in sixth place with 50 points.

Rising Sun will host the New Winthorpes Lions at Rising Sun, and Empire Nation will face the All Saints Pythons at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints during the last set of matches in the preliminary rounds on Saturday.

In the other matches, Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles will tackle Bolans Blasters in a bottom-of-the-table clash in Bethesda; Leaders Pigotts Crushers will take on Jennings Tigers in a top-of-the-table clash in Pigotts; and defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will oppose Combined Schools in New Winthorpes.

The Pigotts Crushers, the Jennings Tigers in second place, and the Liberta Black Hawks in third place have already secured the first three places in the

semifinals.

The Crushers have 76 points, while the Tigers and the Blackhawks are jointly tied with 70 points going into this weekend's matches.

All Saints Pythons, currently in seventh place with 29 points, along with Combined Schools in eighth place with 22 points; (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles, who are second from the bottom with 19 points; and Bolans Blasters, who are languishing in the cellar with four points, have all been eliminated from

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The FC Master Ballerz football team. (File photo)

FC Master Ballerz beat Golden Grove in Second Division League

FC Master Ballerz recorded the only win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

Teejay Roberts scored twice as FC Master Ballerz cruised to a 3-0 victory against Golden Grove at the Golden Grove playing field.

Roberts had conversions in the 30th and 68th minutes, and Shareem Richards scored in the 58th

minute to give FC Master Ballerz their seventh win in 12 matches.

It allows Master Ballerz to move from sixth to fifth place on goal difference by joining Sea View Farm on 25 points, while Golden Grove remains in seventh place on 21 points after suffering their sixth loss in 13 matches.

Belmont FC and Bethesda played to a goalless draw at the ABFA Technical Cen-

ter in the only other Second Division match that was played on Wednesday.

Their second draw in 13 matches allows Bethesda to remain in third place on goal difference by joining English Harbour, who have played 12 games, on 27 points.

Their second draw in 13 matches allows Belmont FC to slip from fifth to sixth place by advancing to 23 points.

But the other two matches scheduled for Wednesday - Lingies CPTSA Wings vs JSC Progressors and Urlings vs Earthquakes - were postponed.

Action in the ABFA's First Division will resume with two matches today (Friday) at 4:15 pm. Potters Tigers will meet Fort Road at Fort Road, and Jennings United will clash with the Attacking Saints at Jennings.

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reaching the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League season will continue with the third and fourth rounds of matches in the Dave Joseph 30-over competition this weekend.

In Saturday's matches, Dream 2 Reality Sea View Farm will host Stingray City Seatons, and Mahico will entertain Masters at Clare Hall.

Llewellyn Simon and Dirk Schouten will umpire at Sea View Farm, while Garfield Jacobs and Nigel Browne will officiate at Clare Hall.

On Sunday, Seatons will face Mahico at Seatons, and Freetown will clash with Sea View Farm at Freetown.

Llewellyn Simon and Dirk Schouten will umpire at Seatons, while Otis Burton and Garfield Jacobs will officiate at Clare Hall.

Jamaica, Guyana, and Barbados win in women's Super50 Cup

Stafanie Taylor once again led Jamaica to a comfortable nine-wicket win over the Leeward Islands in the second round of matches in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) CG United Women's Super50 Cup at Conaree Cricket Centre in St. Kitts on Wednesday.

Batting first, the Leeward Islands fell short of a 100-run total, as they were bowled out for 98 in 35.1 overs. Vanessa Watts and Taylor with their off-spin, combined for six wickets between them. Watts had three for 15, while Taylor took three for 16.

Reniece Boyce was the stop scorer for the Leewards with 37, followed by Shebani Bhaskar and Shanwnisha Hector with 14 runs apiece.

Experienced batters Rashada Williams and Chedean Nation made quick work of the small target, as Jamaica secured victory by scoring 99 for one in 11.2 overs. Nation struck 61 not out, and Williams made 29.

Guyana earned their first win of the tournament with a handsome 44-run victory over the Windward Islands.

Batting first, a patient 61 off 102 deliveries from Shabika Gajnabi and 42 from skipper Shemiane Campbelle propelled Guyana to 207 for eight from their 50 overs.

Carena Noel once again starred for the Windwards with her spin, taking three for 47.

Nerissa Crafton continued her run of form with the bat with a quickfire 47 off 54 deliveries, but it was not enough as she ran out of partners to take their team to victory, as the Windwards were



The Guyana women's team. (CWI Media)

bowled out for 163 in 40.2 overs.

Plaffiana Millington had two for 23, Ashmini Munisar took two for 31, and Nyia Latchman claimed two for 31.

Trinidad and Tobago Divas suffered their second defeat in as many matches, when they lost by eight runs to archrivals Barbados.

Batting first, Barbados made 186 all out in 48.4 overs, thanks to a brilliant 93 from captain Kycia Knight. Knight's innings of 134 deliveries, which included seven fours and a six, looked set to take Barbados well past 200 but tactical bowling and a batting collapse prevented that.

Karishma Ramharack once again led the Divas bowling figures with four for 20 followed by Samara Ramnath with three for 38.

In their run-chase, the Divas had 33 from skipper Britney Cooper, 32 from

Ramnath, and 26 from LeeAnn Kirby, but the rest of the batters failed to fire, as they finished on 178 for eight from 50 overs. Aaliyah Alleyne and Keila Elliott each had had identical figures of two for 33.

The competition will continue with the third round of matches today in St. Kitts. Jamaica will meet Trinidad and Tobago Divas at Conaree, Guyana will face Barbados at St. Paul's, and the Windward Islands will clash with the Leeward Islands at Warner Park.

Fans can attend all the matches for free and all matches are being streamed live with commentary on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel, along with live scorecards and ball-by-ball scoring on the windiescricket.com match centre.

The game being played at Warner Park will be the featured match broadcasted on Flow RUSH.