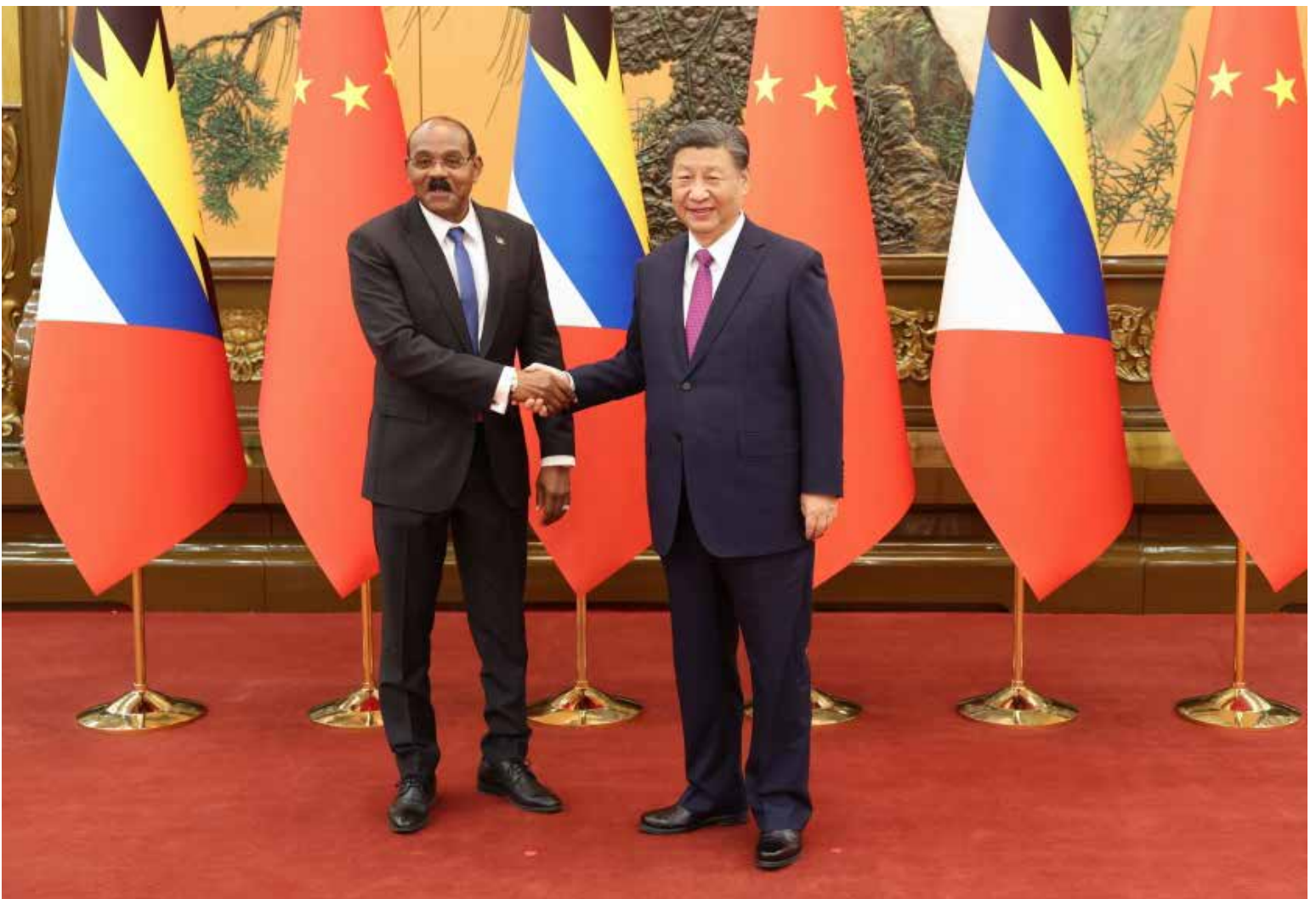


CABINET TO VISIT SIDS4 VENUE FOR 'STATE OF READINESS REPORT'

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne exchanges pleasantries with Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of their meeting on January 24, 2024, in Beijing. The agreement paving the way for visa-free entry that Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China signed earlier this year is now fully operational. Photo: Office of the Prime Minister. *Story on page 4.*

Cabinet to visit SIDS4 venue for 'state of readiness report'

With a little more than a week to go before the start of the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) here in Antigua and Barbuda, the Cabinet has announced that it wants a 'state of readiness report' by next Wednesday...and it wants it 'in person'.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst said the Cabinet received a report from the minister under whose portfolio the planning of the event falls, Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene.

That report was both in written and verbal format, despite this however, Hurst reported that the Cabinet intends to conduct a site visit next Wednesday during which it will hear reports directly from those involved in the planning of all key aspects of this major international conference.

"The Cabinet itself will take a trip to the venue, the newly constructed conference hall at the American University of Antigua near Jabberwock, one day next week in order to be satisfied that everything is in place. There



Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst will be a report issued following that visit," Hurst stated.

Hurst also reported that based on bookings, there are close to four thousand delegates likely to attend the May 27-30 conference, including several senior governmental officials such as presidents and prime ministers as well as representatives from the organizing body, the United Nations.

This will be the largest conference that Antigua and Barbuda has ever hosted and the government is therefore particularly keen to ensure that every aspect of the conference preparation is completed in time for the event thereby ensuring its success.

Meanwhile, AUA is assuring the government and Antigua and Barbuda in general that everything will be ready in time for the conference as the work to have the interior of the conference centre completed within a matter of days.

AUA's Vice President for Administration, Vernon Solomon, disclosed that his team has been joined by several other groups to put the finishing touches to the completion. "I feel comfortable in saying that we are ready on the inside. There are still a few things that need to be done, but by and large everything is ready. The A/C is working, the television monitors have been installed, the lighting, the sound-booth, the WiFi, all are ready," he declared.

Solomon is also promising that the landscaping of the venue will also be ready as teams have intensified their efforts to get everything done on time.

He acknowledged the construction work has had some impact on the regular operations of the university but they have appealed to the student body to exercise some patience because of the significance of the event.



4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Small Island Developing States 27-30 MAY, 2024 ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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UWI Diplomatic Academy spotlights high-level SIDS Conference

The UWI Institute of International Relations' (IIR) Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) will host a timely hybrid symposium, themed "SIDS4 and the Caribbean's Diplomatic Agenda: Quo Vadis?"

The symposium calls attention to and previews the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), focusing on the Caribbean's associated interests.

Antigua and Barbuda will host SIDS4, which is informed by United Nations (UN)-anchored multilateralism, from May 27 to 30, 2024. SIDS4 will bring together a cross-section of the international community to consider progress in the sustainable development of SIDS which, among others, comprise Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states. Importantly, this high-level Conference will afford delegations an opportunity to chart the way forward for the SIDS-related multilateral programme of action for the next 10 years.

The symposium—one of a series of activities underway this month to commemorate the 10th anniversary of The DAOC, which was established on May 6, 2014—is presented by The DAOC in partnership with the Australian High Commission and Embassy

of the French Republic to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It will feature perspectives from a distinguished panel of international experts and officials, as follows (in order of presentations):

H.E. Dr. Walton A. Webson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.

H.E. Fatumana-va-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Ms. Amrikha Singh, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development, Caribbean Community Secretariat.

Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

Dr. Matthew L. Bishop, Senior Lecturer, Politics and International Relations

Department, University of Sheffield. (Discussant).

Acting IIR Director Dr. Annita Montoute will deliver welcome remarks at the event and Dr. Nand C. Bardouille, DAOC Manager, will serve as Chair of the proceedings and moderator of the panel discussion.

H.E. Didier Chabert, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to

the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, will deliver remarks at the top of the programme. Ambassador Chabert will set out the French perspective in respect of SIDS4. H.E. Sonya Koppe, High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, will follow with remarks of her own. High Commissioner Koppe will outline the Australian perspective on thematic issues germane to SIDS4.

The symposium will deliberate on the respective panelists' perspectives, as highlighted in the event's agenda.

RESEALING FORM P16 Rule 30(2)

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Dated the 16th day of May, 2024

Cosbert Cumberbatch
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorney-at-Law for Executrices

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda and China operationalize visa-free entry agreement

The agreement paving the way for visa-free entry that Antigua and Barbuda and the People’s Republic of China signed earlier this year is now fully operational.

The announcement is contained in a statement issued Thursday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It said effective 11 May 2024, citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and citizens of the People’s Republic of China can now enjoy visa-free travel between the two (2) nations for stays not exceeding thirty (30) days within a period not exceeding ninety (90) days in any 180-day period.

“This milestone comes after the signing of the Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption between The Government of Antigua and Barbuda

and The Government of the People’s Republic of China.

“This visa exemption agreement marks a significant step in deepening the friendly relations between Antigua and Barbuda and China, facilitating increased people-to-people exchanges, and fostering enhanced cooperation across various sectors,” the statement reads.

According to the release the coming into effect of the agreement is expected to bring about several benefits, advantages, and opportunities for citizens of both countries, particularly in terms of tourism, business, and cultural exchange pursuits.

“While citizens holding valid diplomatic, official, or ordinary passports from both countries are now exempted

from visa requirements for tourist visits, it is important to note that individuals intending to engage in activities such as study, residence, employment, media activities, and other non-tourist engagements are still required to apply for the appropriate visa before travelling,” it continued.

The People’s Republic of China is Antigua and Barbuda’s most significant development partner, with both countries enjoying mutually beneficial relations across various fronts. China’s support has been instrumental in areas such as multilateral cooperation, infrastructural development, scholarships and training, technical assistance, climate change mitigation, and strategic cooperation.



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda and The Government of the People’s Republic of China remain committed to fostering meaningful and deeper ties between their peoples, further enhancing mutual development, and advancing progress as longstanding and cherished partners.

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Murder victim identified as police offer reward for information

The police are continuing investigations into the alleged murder of 24-year-old Kevin Vaccannie of Yorks.

Vaccannie was pronounced dead at the hospital at 5:25 am on Wednesday, May 15, following a shooting incident at the Asylum Night Club, formerly the G Spot Night Club on Independence Avenue.

The same incident left another man nursing a gunshot wound to his abdomen at the hospital. His condition is said to be stable.

It was reported that the incident stemmed from an altercation at the club, which resulted in both men getting shot. The police are in the process of interviewing several persons whom



Kevin Vaccannie

they believe can assist them with their investigations.

Meanwhile, the police are offering a reward of \$10,000 to any member of the public who can provide useful

information that will assist in solving the recent murders. Anyone with information can contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-Tips (8477).

The police are also asking the public not to withhold information that can help solve other crimes, and to report all suspicious activities without delay. The police are further assuring the public that all information provided will be handled confidentially.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-Tips (8477).

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Local News



Police investigating death of man found at West Bus Station

The police are continuing investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of 44-year-old Daniel Thomas originally of Dominica.

His body was discovered around 5:20 am on Thursday by a member of the public in the vicinity of the West Bus Station.

The police arrived at the scene and found him lying on the ground in what appeared to be a pool of blood. His body was pronounced dead by a doctor at 6:05 am.

The incident is being treated as a suspicious death until a full investigation is completed. The police are appealing to anyone with information to call the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.



US Forest Service conducts Wildland Fire Investigation Training in Antigua and Barbuda

The United States Forest Service (USFS), through its Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) program, will deliver training in Wildland Fire Investigation for stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda.

The training, which is a first of its kind in the country, will focus on Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders. The level one course will be delivered by USFS Fire Prevention Technician, Dawn Sanchez and

Wildland Fire Investigation Instructors from the Jamaica Fire Brigade.

The one-day training will engage approximately 50 participants from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda; Wallings Nature Reserve Inc; Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Environment; National Office of Disaster Services; Air Traffic Control Department, NGOs and other organizations.

During the visit, the team will also advance the preparation of a fire

management plan for Wallings Nature Reserve Inc. as part of the continued work with the grantee organization.

These activities will provide an opportunity for firefighters to be trained as well as increase multi-stakeholder engagement with other institutions in Antigua and Barbuda. Together, this will expand and strengthen regional collaborations for improved wildland fire management.

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Call for nominations for consideration for national honours in 2024

Members of the public are invited to submit nominations of suitably qualified persons to be considered by the Honours Committee in 2024 for conferral of one of three societies of honour, which are further divided into grades and described in the National Honours Act as:

- i. The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation
- ii. The Most Illustrious Order of Merit
- iii. The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage.

The criteria for selection are presented below:

1. The candidate being nominat-

ed, if an individual, should be 50 years of age or older.

2. The nominee having met the age requirement in No 1, should also satisfy one or more of the following characteristics:

- i. Should have demonstrated distinguished service, above and beyond the call of duty in his or her field of employment/career.
- ii. Should be a model or good citizen with proven character, lifestyle, work ethics and a habit of using his/her own resources to the benefit of others,
- iii. Should have given meritorious service in the field of heritage and

cultural endeavours for consideration to be a member of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage, or meritorious service in any other field to be considered for membership of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit or distinguished/outstanding service to the nation in any field to be considered for membership of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation.

iv. Should have demonstrated the ability, over a sustained period, to work in the interest of and to give selflessly to others without a demand for personal or monetary reward.

3. A nomination may also be sub-

cont'd on pg 9



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cont'd from pg 8

mitted for any company, institution, organization or social club which has rendered outstanding contribution to the promotion, development, protection or advancement of the arts, history or cultural heritage or humanitarian endeavours in Antigua and Barbuda. Institutional honours are granted in the Order of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit in the grades of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

4. Regarding the guidelines governing the process of nominations and their consideration, the following should be noted:

a. Previous entries which have been submitted without a positive response may be re-submitted for consideration. Once received, nominations are considered for a period of three (3) consecutive years before being retired. This does not prevent

the re-submission of the nomination of said individual after that period has passed.

b. Nominations must be submitted on the form entitled, 'Nomination for a National Honour of Antigua and Barbuda' providing as much detail as possible as to the work, projects or service rendered by the individual.

c. Tangible evidence such as photos, statistics, recommendation letters, videos or other relevant material may be provided with the nomination.

d. Self – nominations will not be considered.

e. All nominations should be addressed to the:

Secretary
Honours Committee
c/o Government House
Independence Drive
St. John's, Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda

The nominator(s) should provide the following personal information:

- Full Name
- Physical Address
- Email Address
- Telephone No

Please specify the contact information for the key person who should be reached should further information be required.

f. The final date for nominations for consideration for the annual Independence celebrations is the last working day of August by 11 am.

Submissions should be delivered to the Office of the Governor General on other days during working hours before 3:00 pm, or scanned signed copies may be emailed to hcabgov@gmail.com

Chairman, Honours Committee

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Chemistry test issues trigger call for exam body overhaul

A grouping of parents that has emerged as a leading critic of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) on Tuesday called for the exam body's overhaul following discrepancies in a Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) chemistry paper sat by thousands of students last week.

The Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) has also expressed concern that CXC appears embroiled in an exam fiasco every year.

Paula-Anne Moore, Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress spokeswoman who also coordinates the Group of Concerned Parents of Barbados, said CXC needed restructuring as it had again disadvantaged scores of students through a major misstep.

Moore was referring to an online petition by hundreds of students who sat the Chemistry Unit 2 Paper 2 exam demanding CXC readjust the marking criteria due to eight major technical issues. By 6 p.m. on Tuesday, over 1 600 people had signed the petition that sought 2 500 signatures.

"Questions in an entire exam section – approximately 25 to 30 per cent of the total paper marks for CAPE Chemistry Unit 2 – were based on Unit 1 syllabus topics," Moore said. "Some other questions teachers with decades of CAPE chemistry experience and educators with a PhD in chemistry found almost impossible to solve as the wording was problematic, unclear and/or could have more than one answer."

"Students who had not previously done Unit 1 would not have been exposed to the problematic topic, which made up an entire section of the Unit 2 exam paper. Those who had previously done Unit 1 would still have had major challenges in attempting



Paula-Anne Moore, spokesperson for the Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress and coordinator of the Group of Concerned Parents of Barbados. (FP)

the topic and section, as they would not have expected Unit 1 topics in a Unit 2 paper, and the questions were not clear and tangential at best to the Unit 1 topic. Imagine the torture of those students who took that exam and how the effects of that stress and worry could affect their entire subsequent exam period."

Moore described the issues as "cruel" and "unjust", putting the spotlight on CXC's competence in setting reliable, valid and fair exams following best practices.

"We cannot continue to accept major missteps annually. An overhaul of CXC's governance to enable independent review and greater stakeholder engagement and communication, which we have requested since 2020, is past due," she said.

Critics have raised concerns about the 52-year-old regional exam body annually since 2020 over grading, results, communication, e-testing and security breaches, with students and parents protesting numerous times. Moore warned CXC's credibility could be affected by repeated annual issues.

"We were proud to have CXC as a regional examining body but . . . we have to hold it to standards," she said. "CARICOM politicians need to hold CXC to account and demand better accountability and better governance . . . Trust and confidence in CARICOM and CXC governance, CXC's quality assurance, and their reputation and credibility have all taken a significant beating since 2020."

BUT President Rudy Lovell said he was unaware of complaints from local teachers about the chemistry paper but was aware of the regional commentary. He urged CXC to "investigate the matter and do what is necessary to ensure students are not disadvantaged", expressing concern about "a worrying trend" of annual fiascos involving the examination body.

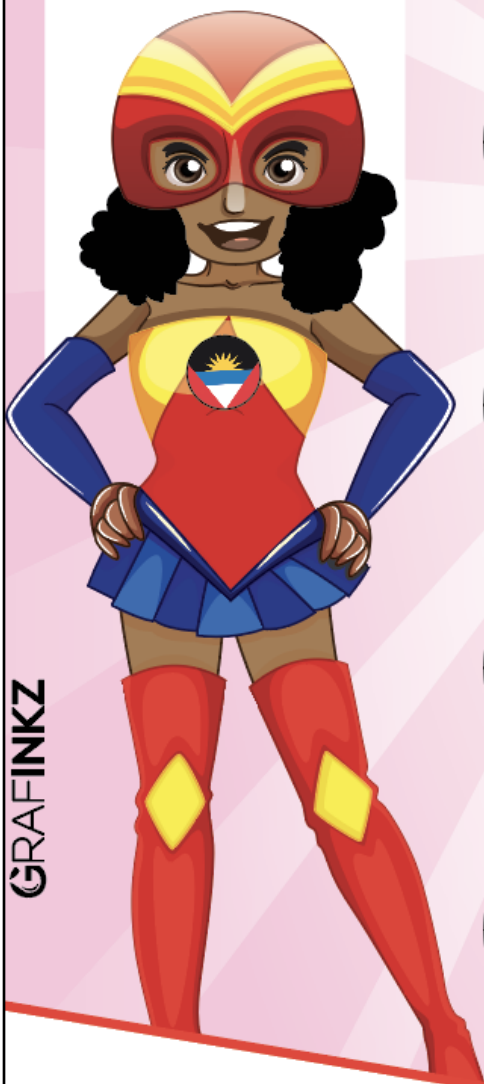
Moore also voiced concern about the CSEC Principles of Accounting paper 2 that CXC is currently investigating after an issue with its distribution at specific centres. In May 2023, CXC scrapped the CSEC Maths paper 2 after reports it had leaked.

Reprinted from *Barbados Today*

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Technology



Facebook and Instagram suspected to be ‘too addictive’

By Chris Vallance

The European Union is investigating Facebook and Instagram over whether they are so addictive that they are having “negative effects” on the “physical and mental health” of children.

It will also scrutinise if they have done enough to check whether users are old enough to use them, and how content is recommended to children.

A number of big tech firms are now under investigation for potential breaches of the EU’s tough new Digital Services Act (DSA), and could be fined up to 6% of annual global turnover.

Meta, which owns both platforms, says it has “spent a decade developing more than 50 tools and policies” to protect children.

“This is a challenge the whole industry is facing, and we look forward to sharing details of our work with the European Commission,” it said.

In September, Meta provided regulators with a report on the risks associated with its platforms, as required under the DSA.

The EU has responded by beginning proceedings.

“The Commission is concerned that the systems of both Facebook and Instagram, including their



algorithms, may stimulate behavioural addictions in children, as well as create so-called ‘rabbit-hole effects’,” the EU said announcing the investigation.

Rabbit-hole effects refer to the propensity of algorithms, when a user looks at one piece of harmful content, to suggest more of the same.

How Meta checks the ages of users - so called age assurance - is of concern to the EU.

“In addition, the Commission is also concerned about age-assurance and verification methods put in place by Meta”, the statement added.

Algorithms which promote harmful content have also been a key concern of the UK communications watchdog Ofcom as it sets out how it may enforce the Online Safety Act.

As with most social networks, users of Meta platforms must be 13 or over, but as Ofcom revealed in a recent report many much younger children use accounts, sometimes with the knowledge of their parents.

EU Commissioner Thierry Breton said in a post on X: “We are not convinced that Meta has done enough to comply with the DSA obligations — to mit-

igate the risks of negative effects to the physical and mental health of young Europeans on its platforms Facebook and Instagram”.

Mr Breton added the EU was “sparing no effort to protect youth”.

Fellow commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement: “We have concerns that Facebook and Instagram may stimulate behavioural addiction and that the methods of age verification that Meta has put in place on their services is not adequate.”

Meta is already under investigation by the EU over concerns around political disinformation.



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Regional News



Florida woman charged with ammunition possession in TCI

By Dillon De Shang

An American woman is in legal trouble in the Turks and Caicos Islands for allegedly bringing ammunition into the territory.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) reported Sharitta Shinise Grier, a resident of Orlando, Florida, was charged with one count of ammunition possession on May 14 after the contraband was allegedly found in her possession at the Howard Hamilton International Airport.

In a statement, RTCIPF said the contraband was allegedly found during a rou-



Sharitta Shinise Grier. tine search.

Grier appeared in court today where she was remanded to prison pending a sufficiency hearing on July 5.

The 45-year-old joins a

list of United States citizens in legal trouble in the Turks and Caicos Islands for bringing bullets into the country.

On April 12, Ryan Tyler Watson of Oklahoma was arrested at the Howard

Hamilton International Airport after bullets were found in his luggage.

Watson admitted to having the bullets in his luggage, but he said it was an "honest mistake".

The 40-year-old said the bullets were left in his suitcase following a hunting trip.

He was granted US\$15,000 bail when he appeared in court.

On April 23, Tyler Scott Wenrich was charged after ammunition was allegedly found in his possession.

According to reports, the 31-year-old Virginia resident travelled to Grand Turk

cont'd on pg 15

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Guyanese teachers strike continues as ministry denounces GTU's tactics

The Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU) says a blanket 20 per cent salary increase for teachers is one of the conditions that the Education Ministry must meet before members stop their nationwide strike.

The pay increase was one of five proposals presented by GTU to the Ministry of Education during conciliation talks on May 13 and 14.

GTU said teachers must also be assured that they would not be victimised for protesting.

The union proposed that salary negotiations take place over a six-week period once teachers resume work. If negotiations aren't settled, the GTU suggested the creation of an arbitration tribunal to solve the dispute.

GTU and the Ministry of Education are set to resume conciliation talks on May 20 but the union said it was concerned about "the lack of good faith" shown by the government.

"The GTU remains committed to advocating for the rights and welfare of all teachers, and we will continue to explore all



Guyanese teachers holding placards at a recent protest. Photo Guyana Teachers Union.

options to ensure our demands are met. Teachers, we understand the frustration and uncertainty this situation has caused, and we appreciate your patience and support," GTU stated.

Meanwhile, the ministry is accusing the GTU of acting in bad faith and attempting to bully the government into meeting their demands.

The ministry said the 20 per cent salary demand came as a shock as both parties were set to sign and agreement to end the protest, but GTU came at the

last minute with their proposal for a pay hike.

The ministry said it was also concerned that GTU breached a confidentiality agreement to keep what was discussed in the meeting secret as a show of good faith.

"It is now clear, if it weren't before, that there is no interest on the part of the GTU to engage in conciliation with a view to resolving these issues as is provided for in the grievance procedure in the 1990 Memorandum of Agreement. Nowhere in the world would it be

considered normal for negotiations to happen under duress," the ministry said.

"The GTU's insistence that an across the board 20 per cent be paid BEFORE any talks can happen is duress. Given the GTU's many years as a trade union body, they must know that this is unusual, unacceptable, unreasonable and would result in the breakdown in talks.

"It is clear then that teachers' welfare is not the paramount consideration for the Guyana Teachers' Union. Teachers are being used as pawns in a much larger, politically directed plot. This is destructive and sad."

The ministry added it is committed to resolving the matter to ensure teachers are properly compensated and trained.

cont'd from pg 14

on a cruise ship. While going through a security checkpoint, it was discovered Wenrich allegedly had ammunition in his possession.

Wenrich appeared before a Grand Turk Magistrate on April 24 and was remanded

into custody at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation pending a June 7 Sufficiency Hearing.

The Americans risk being sent to jail for over a decade due to TCI's new laws against illegal firearms and ammunition possession.

Worshippers locked in Nigeria mosque and set on fire

At least 11 worshippers have been killed and dozens others injured after a man attacked a mosque in Nigeria's northern Kano state, police say.

A man allegedly sprayed the mosque with petrol and locked its doors before setting it on fire, trapping about 40 worshippers, they said.

The attack was triggered by a family dispute over the sharing of inheritance.

Police say they have arrested a 38-year-old suspect.

The incident happened when people were attending morning prayers on Wednesday in Gezawa area of Kano state.

Residents said flames engulfed the mosque after the attack with worshippers heard wailing as they struggled to open the locked doors.

After hearing the explosion, neighbours rushed to help those trapped inside, local media reported.

Rescue teams including bomb experts from the city of Kano were immediately deployed in response to the attack, a police statement said.

Police later confirmed that a bomb was not used in the attack.

The Fire Service in Kano said they were not called immediately after



At least 17 people have been taken to hospital with injuries.

the fire started, adding that they could have brought the situation under control much faster.

Kano Fire Service spokesman Saminu Yusuf told the BBC that they were only informed after locals had already put out the fire.

"In a situation like this, people are supposed to call us but we didn't get any call from the location until after normalcy had returned," Mr Yusuf added.

Police said the suspect confessed that his actions were part of a dispute over inheritance, claiming he

was targeting some family members who were inside the mosque.

"What happened is not associated with any act of terrorism, rather it was a skirmish that arose as a result of inheritance distribution," Umar Sanda, a local police chief, told journalists after visiting the horrific scene.

"The suspect is presently with us and is giving out useful information," Mr Sandahe added.

Initial reports said one worshipper had died from the attack but the death toll later rose after more

victims died while receiving treatment at the Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital in Kano.

More victims, including children, are still receiving treatment at the hospital, according to police.

Islamic cleric Sheik Dauda Sulaiman says killing people while they're praying is one of the biggest sins possible and that apart from repenting to God, the culprit should pay blood money to the families of those that died.

The whole village is now in mourning.



The levels of violence are such that candidates for political office travel with a security convoy.

Mexican villagers killed amid cartel battle

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

At least 11 people have been killed amid clashes between rival cartels in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas.

Reports by local media say that two nuns and a teenager are among those killed.

The area is fought over by the Sinaloa cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG).

But residents said the victims were locals who were “massacred” by cartel members.

Residents reported hearing intense gunfire on Monday night.

Police and soldiers confirmed on Tuesday that they had found 11 bodies in the village of Nuevo Morelia and its surrounding area.

The diocese of San Cristóbal,

of which Nueva Morelia forms part of, confirmed that two women “who served the Catholic Church” were among those killed.

A 15-year-old boy has also been confirmed as one of the victims.

However, it was not clear if the two were lay members of the Church or nuns, as some local media reported.

Locals said there had been fighting between the rival cartels since Friday.

The Sinaloa cartel and the CJNG have been fighting for control of the area for several years.

The criminal groups extort migrants who cross the southern state on their way north to Mexico’s border with the United States.

Communities in the region have been hard hit by the violence, some-

times having to hide in their homes for days as shots ring out outside.

In January, hundreds fled their homes in Chicomuselo, the area where Nuevo Morelia is located, to escape the violence.

Confrontations between the two cartels flared up again at the end of last week when members of the criminal organisations set abandoned homes alight in Nuevo Morelia and surrounding villages.

A resident told Spanish international news agency Efe that some of the villages had no power after gang members had damaged the electricity poles.

Police and forensic experts have been deployed to the area but locals claim they have been left largely unprotected.

Sports News



Bolt joined by multiple sports stars for first look at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador Usain Bolt got a first look at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium from the best seats in the house, along with cricket legends and New York sports icons.

The Jamaican sprint legend was joined in this special preview in New York by USA cricketers Corey Anderson and Monak Patel along with cricket legend Sir Curtly Ambrose (West Indies), Shoaib Malik (Pakistan), and Liam Plunkett (England).

Also present during this landmark event was a star-studded line-up of New York sports stars, including John Starks (NBA/New York Knicks), Elena Delle Donne (WNBA/USA), Bartolo Colon (MLB/New York Yankees-Mets), Victor Cruz (NFL/New York Giants), and Ibtihaj Muhammad (Fencing/USA).

To commemorate the occasion, the stars all signed a giant cricket bat, which will be present at the venue for all eight ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 matches hosted there between June 3-12.

The event marks the official final countdown to the first ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in New York, with Sri Lanka and



Usain Bolt, left, and several other people at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, USA, on May 15.

South Africa set to clash in the venue's first match on June 3. Bolt was confident the venue would provide an exciting and energetic cricket experience.

"Coming from the Caribbean where cricket is a part of life. I'm very excited to be part of the T20 World Cup coming to the USA for the first time, co-hosting with the West Indies.

"Getting one of the sport's biggest events into the USA is a big milestone and can provide a launching pad leading towards cricket's inclusion in the LA Olympics in 2028," he said.

"The new stadium is

going to be a fantastic place to watch from. It's very enclosed and you feel very close to the action. I can imagine it will be full of energy when cricket fans get to Nassau County International Stadium next month," Bolt noted.

Brett Jones, CEO of T20 USA Inc., called the event a fitting welcome to cricket in the USA.

"Today was a fantastic celebration, showcasing a truly out of this world stadium. Having Usain and a host of New York sports stars and Olympic legends to experience it was fantastic and a fitting welcome to cricket in the USA," Jones said.

"Having Curtly Ambrose, Liam Plunkett, Shoaib Malik, Corey Anderson and Monak Patel here and seeing their response to the stadium and the playing surface was also pretty special. It gives us a real sense of what the fans can expect next month," he added.

The 34,000-seater temporary stadium is the first of its kind in international cricket, and is also believed to be the largest ever constructed in the United States.

Featured at the unveiling were extensive hospitality and media pavilions on the north and south ends of the venue, which join

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ICC Men's T20 World Cup warm up matches confirmed

The official warm-up match fixtures for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 have been announced.

Matches are scheduled to be played from Monday, May 27, to Saturday, June 1, across the USA and at two venues in Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies.

The venues to host the 16 warm up matches are the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Grand Prairie, Texas; Broward County Stadium, Broward County, Florida; and Queen's Park Oval and Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago.

The warm-up fixtures will be 20 overs per side and will not carry international T20 status, as teams will be allowed to field all members of their 15-player squad.

In a change from the previous rights cycle, teams will now have the option of playing up to two warm-up matches depending on arrival time at the event.

The West Indies against Australia fixture at Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad and Tobago, on Thursday, May 30, will be open to fans.

Warm-up match schedule:

Monday, May 27

Canada v Nepal, Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Grand Prairie, Texas, at 10:30 am.

Oman v Papua New Guinea, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago, at 3 pm.

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the east and west general admission stands. Among the new additions are the cabana seats in the north pavilion along with the corner club seats with a private party area.

The stadium is one of the three venues in the USA for the upcoming



Namibia v Uganda, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago, at 7 pm.

Tuesday, May 28

Sri Lanka v Netherlands, Broward County Stadium, Broward County, Florida, at 10:30 am.

Bangladesh v USA, Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Grand Prairie, Texas, at 10:30 am.

Australia v Namibia, Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad and Tobago, at 7 pm.

Wednesday, May 29

South Africa intra-squad, Broward County Stadium, Broward County, Florida, at 10:30 am.

Afghanistan v Oman, Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad and Tobago, at 1

ing mega-event. Florida and Texas will also host matches from the event.

The USA are co-hosts for the event alongside the West Indies, where 39 matches will be played across six venues. The final will be held in Barbados on June 29.

pm.

Thursday, May 30

Nepal v USA, Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Grand Prairie, Texas, at 10:30 am.

Scotland v Uganda, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago, at 10:30 am.

Netherlands v Canada, Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Grand Prairie, Texas, at 3 pm.

Namibia v Papua New Guinea, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago, at 3 pm.

West Indies v Australia, Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad and Tobago, at 7 pm.

Friday, May 31

Ireland v Sri Lanka, Broward County Stadium, Broward County, Florida, at 10:30 am.

Scotland v Afghanistan, Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad and Tobago, at 10:30 am.

Saturday, June 1

Bangladesh v India, venue TBC in USA.



Players of the Lingies CPTSA Wings football team

Wings trounce Glanvilles in Second Division football league

Lingies CPTSA Wings romped to an emphatic 9-0 victory against Glanvilles in their penultimate match in the second round group stage of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

Khael Williams scored four goals, and Randy Davis converted twice for the Wings in the encounter at the Glanvilles playing field. Williams scored in the 8th, 31st, 69th, and 85th minutes, and Davis had conversions in the 65th and 75th minutes.

The other goals were scored by Travis Austin in the 16th, Kimani Gyles in the 34th, and Akeem Wilburg in the 57th minute.

Their 12th win in 21 matches carries the CPTSA Wings to 39 points, with one match remaining against FC Master Ballerz.

Glanvilles ended their Second Division campaign with 14 points after

suffering their 16th loss in their quota of 22 matches.

Diondre Harrigan scored twice as Blackburn Palace snatched a 3-2 victory against TAMO FC at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

Harrigan had conversions in the 41st and 66th minutes, and Tishidi McCoy scored the winner in the 73rd minute. Adonijah Dyett scored in the 12th minute, and Kevin Paul had a 38th-minute conversion for TAMO FC.

Their 11th win in 21 matches carries Blackburn Palace to 37 points with one match remaining. TAMO FC will remain on 26 points after losing for the 11th time in 21 matches.

Belmont FC and Real Blizzard were awarded victories by 3-0 margins after claiming wins by default in the other two Second Division matches that were scheduled to take place on Wednesday.

ABAYA FC did not turn up for their match against Belmont FC at the Parham playing field, and the Young Warriors failed to show up for their encounter against Real Blizzard in New Winthorpes.

It means that ABAYA completed their Second Division campaign by finishing second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference with six points after losing for the 20th time during their quota of 22 matches.

Their 10th win in 21 matches carries Belmont FC 33 points with one game remaining.

Their 10th win in 21 matches carries Real Blizzard to 34 points with one match to play against Sea View Farm.

The Young Warriors finished their Second Division campaign in 17th place with nine points after losing for the 19th time during their quota of 22 matches.

Lower Ottos Warriors win ABBA's Second Division League

Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors have won the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League.

The Lower Ottos Warriors were crowned champions after the 13-team round-robin league concluded with the final two games at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

The Lower Ottos Warriors won the title by virtue of finishing at the top of the standings with a record of 10 wins and two losses. They have also earned promotion to compete in ABBA's First Division competition next season.

The Lower Ottos Warriors have also secured the number one seed among the top eight finishers in the league that have qualified and will advance to the Second Division playoff championship.

Da Project just narrowly missed out on the Second

Division league title and clinched the runner-up position by winning their final encounter to finish with an overall record of 10 wins and two losses in their quota of 12 games.

Da Project and the Wadadli Elite recorded wins in the final two games to wrap up ABBA's Second Division League on Wednesday night.

Da Project wrapped up their round-robin league campaign with a 76-64 victory against the EZ Fit Flyers II in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew shot a game-high 32 points and claimed seven rebounds; Nyique Watkins had 11 points and seven assists; and Eric Joseph scored 10 points and snatched seven rebounds for Da Project.

Sadiq Phillip converted 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Harry Rashaun sank 13 points and snatched eight



rebounds; and Tyrese White scored 12 points for the EZ Fit Flyers II, who finished their league campaign tied with the Spanish Heat II.

Both teams finished with identical records of nine wins and three losses from their quota of 12 league games.

The Wadadli Elite wrapped up their round-robin

league campaign by claiming their sixth win in 12 encounters with a 68-50 victory against Jim Nance Jan Serv Fearless Crew in Wednesday's first game.

Tamraj Stuart produced 21 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; Orion Seraphine had 16 points, eight rebounds, and six assists; Jayleyle Joseph converted 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; and Aiden Christian scored 10 points and snatched 12 rebounds for the Wadadli Elite.

Rafiki Harris produced 14 points, seven rebounds, six steals, and five assists; Ricky Willock sank 14 points and snatched six rebounds; and Delroy Foster scored 11 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Fearless Crew, who finished their league campaign with their fourth loss in 12 games.

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days."

However, Coach Samuel said there will not be a clash of leagues since the matches in the ABFA's competitions will be played on Saturday afternoons.

Samuel said both leagues will be serve a great purpose since they will be a source of positive engagement for the youngsters, which will help keep them from engaging in youth violence and other deviant activities.

Santos said he has officially written to the ABFA outlining his concerns and is awaiting their response.

Samuel said the ABFA could not delay the start of its youth leagues any longer. He said this is the best available time to stage the youth leagues to avoid clashing with the inter-schools' championships as well as the other ABFA's domestic competitions.

Fourteen teams from member clubs will contest both competitions, which will be conducted in a round-robin format.

Seven matches, starting at 12:45 pm, will be staged in the opening rounds of both competitions that will be played simultaneously on the two playing fields at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

Samuel: ABFA competitions will not disrupt GNFC's youth league

Technical Development Scheme (TDS) Coordinator, Coach Micah Samuel, is allaying fears that the resumption of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Under-17 and Under-19 Boys Championship will adversely affect the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League, which is hosted by the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC).

After an absence of several years, the ABFA will revive its national domestic youth programme with the staging of the Under-17 and Under-19 boys leagues at its Technical Center starting this weekend.

In the absence of the ABFA's competition for teenagers, the GNFC has been filling the void with the annual Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League, which involves several age-group competitions for under-7 to under-17 boys and is now in its 10th year.

President of GNFC Ricky Santos has expressed his concerns that the resumption of the ABFA's Under-17 and Under-19



New Evolution is the reigning Under-17 Boys Division champions of the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League. (File photo)

competitions will disrupt the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League, which is currently in progress with matches being played on Saturdays between 9 am and 2 pm.

"We are currently in our 10th year, and my concern is that the ABFA's competitions will either disrupt the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League or it is going to disrupt their own leagues that they are doing," Santos stated.

"There is no reason

for the ABFA to have their matches on the same day that we are having our matches; it's a clash. Compounded is the fact that the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League is sanctioned by the ABFA, so it's on their calendar, and Generation Next is a full member of the ABFA.

"Why they are doing this is beyond my imagination. I just don't understand why, particularly as they had a meeting with all the stakeholders, including

Generation Next FC.

"At that meeting, the ABFA indicated that they would not be having their matches while the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League was going on.

"The ABFA rep told us their league will be played on alternate days, and at the end of our league, they will play their leagues on Saturdays. Now they have changed their decision and will be playing on Satur-

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