

THE UWI: A LEADER IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

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Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies Sir Hilary Beckles, centre, is flanked by officials including Prime Minister Gaston Browne (second right) and Education Minister Daryll Matthew (left).

Local News



The UWI: A leader in education and research with this week's AI Conference

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has always been at the forefront of education, research, and innovation in the Caribbean; its mission is to advance knowledge, foster innovation, and contribute to the development of our region.

These were the views expressed by the Antigua and Barbuda Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew, at one of the events on Tuesday of this week's historic first-annual Conference on the 5IR and Generative Artificial Intelligence at the UWI FIC.

"Hosting this conference is a reflection of our commitment to these goals. The

Five Islands Campus, as the newest addition to the UWI family, is proud to be the venue for this historic event. We believe that by bringing together thought leaders, innovators, and practitioners, we can create a fertile ground for ideas to flourish and collaborations to thrive," Matthew told his audience.

The education minister noted that at The UWI, there is an understanding that the digital transformation of the Caribbean is not just about adopting new technologies, but also about fostering a culture of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

"It is about empowering



Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew

our people with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of the digital age. It is about ensuring that the benefits of AI and the 5th Industrial Revolution are accessible to all, and that no one is left behind. This conference is an important step in that direction, and we are committed to supporting and advancing these efforts," he observed.

According to the education minister, Generative AI is one of the most exciting and transformative technologies of our time and it holds much promise for the future development of the Caribbean. He sees AI's ability to generate new content, from text and images to music and designs, as opening up a world of possibilities for

creativity and innovation. He is recommending that Caribbean people should harness the power of generative AI to preserve and promote the cultural heritage, enhance its creative industries, and drive economic growth.

"Imagine a future where our artists and musicians collaborate with AI to create new forms of art and music that blend tradition with innovation. Imagine using AI to develop personalized learning experiences that cater to the diverse needs of our students, or to design sustainable solutions for our environmental challenges. The potential applications of generative AI are vast and varied, and it is up to us to explore and realize them," the minister explained.



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PM makes the case for embracing new technologies such as AI

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made the case for the adoption of the new technologies to achieve what he termed ‘transformative growth and development’ for the Caribbean region.

The prime minister was sharing his thoughts against the backdrop of this week’s important Artificial Intelligence Research conference being hosted by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

“In order to create next level, positive long term growth, socio-economic and environmental sustainabili-

ty; Caribbean leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as the broader civil society including academia, must pursue transformative growth and development, utilizing cutting edge AI/digitalization technologies, instead of simply maintaining the status quo,” he stated.

This, according to the prime minister would necessitate early adoption of technology and to conduct primary research to develop bespoke technological products and applications to meet the needs of the people.

“Transformative techno-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne logical leadership has revolutionized societies and our planet, resulting in the contemporary Fifth Industrial (AI) Revolution or Industry 5.0.

“Innovation and creativity are crucial aspects of technological leadership in digitalization and are driven by vision; that is, the ability to plan with wisdom and imagination for a sustainably better future,” he remarked.

PM Browne noted that it is the creativity, that is, the inventiveness and the new ideas, methods and products of innovation, that have resulted in the various industrial revolutions; transitioning the global economy from an agrarian one a couple hundred years ago, to a digitalised, (AI) service dominated global economy today.

The prime minister welcomed the gathering of academics, researchers, and

the leaders of technological industry to Antigua and Barbuda and the UWI FIC, the newest campus within the UWI system.

“Your participation in this research conference is to assist the public and private sectors in the region to establish a strategic vision and to leverage the benefits of artificial intelligence for their accelerated advancement.

“The fifth Industrial Revolution has seen the advancement of information communication technologies (ICT’s), resulting in increased interconnectivity, smart automation and overall digitalization of our societies using artificial intelligence,” he observed.

The prime minister said he was duty bound to remind participants that these advances were not driven by leaders who maintained the status quo, but by transformational leaders.



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2. Electricity and water customers can view and download a copy of their bills by registering at myutilities.apua.ag

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Local News



There are efforts afoot to rehabilitate the Antigua Black pineapple

Several agencies are coming together to launch a programme to rehabilitate the Antigua Black pineapple, arguably one of the sweetest pineapples in the world.

The Institute for International Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and the

Ministry of Agriculture are spearheading efforts to revive the plant over a multi-year programme.

Director of Agriculture, Gregory Bailey, said the programme will be launched during this month by increasing the production of the fruit on the gov-

ernment's farm located at Cades Bay and eventually to distribute seedlings of the plant to farmers who currently cultivate the crop.

"There is a high demand for the Antigua Black pineapple and this is much greater than the production of the plant.

"The production of the plant has had some issues such as diseases as well as cross-breeding with other varieties of pineapple," he explained.

IICA will provide US\$20,000 towards the project to provide seedlings for propagation purposes, while the ministry is committed to provide security such as fencing of the farm and the provision of the infrastructure to make the farm accessible.

Bailey explained that typically, it takes fifteen months from planting of the seedling to the reaping of the fruit, although interventions such as inputs and controlled management may reduce this time to 12 months.

The director of agriculture acknowledged that there is some dispute on what is the 'true' Antigua Black pineapple and currently only a few, perhaps less than five, farmers are producing the crop on a commercial basis.

"This is an opportunity for us to preserve a fruit that adorns the country's Coat-of-Arms.

"So, while there is obviously a socio-economic benefit to stimulate production of the Antigua Black, for me, it is also a question of nationalism in wanting to see this fruit propagate in large quantities," he stated.



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Formal inquiry into teenager's death now underway

A coroner's inquest has started the search for answers surrounding the death of the 16-year-old girl whose body was found at the side of the road near John Hughes.

Reports reaching Pointe Xpress indicate that the inquest into the death of Yenifer Bridge convened on Tuesday at a local funeral home.

Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel of District B, is serving as the coroner in this matter. As the first order of

business, family members identified the young woman's body in the presence of jurors and the coroner.

The role of the coroner is not to present a 'verdict' but to make a 'findings of fact' about who the deceased was, when and where the deceased met her death and the medical cause of death.

As part of the inquest, a post mortem examination will be carried out on the body to determine the cause of death. It is largely sus-

pected that the young woman met a violent death by person or persons unknown as the police say the investigation is continuing.

Bridge's body was discovered on June 28, and according to the police they are treating the matter as a possible abduction, rape and murder.

She was the mother of a two-year-old toddler who was found wondering on Jonas Road the night prior to the discovery of her body.



Yenifer Bridge



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Local News



Ian S. Hughes

ABEC to commence training ahead of Voter ID Cards replacement

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission has announced that it will commence training of individuals who will be involved in the Voter

ID Card replacement programme starting this week.

In a statement, ABEC said that its offices will be closed on Friday 12 July, 2024 to facilitate an all-

day training session for team members.

“Staff at the Headquarters, Registration Officers and Registration Clerks will participate in a workshop designed as part of overall preparations for the Expired Voter’s ID Card Replacement Programme, which will begin on Monday August 12, 2024,” the statement noted.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian S. Hughes explained that “we will be employing a few new persons in a temporary capacity to assist with the expected influx of persons who will be coming forward to replace their cards. In this regard, we want to make sure that all of our team members are on the same page. We will be conducting training in critical areas such as customer service, effective communication, professionalism in the workplace and reporting protocol”, he said.

Hughes added that emphasis will also be placed on further understanding of the Representation of the People (Amendment Act) (ROPA) and the various sections which apply to the upcoming initiative.

The training session will take place at the conference room in the Villa Poly Clinic.

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ABYSO's annual Junior Recital: Excellence with Every Note

The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) staged its annual Junior Recital, "Excellence with Every Note," this past Sunday at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre. This highly anticipated event showcased the remarkable talents of the island's young musicians, under the impressive leadership of Trainee Conductors Nakiya Defreitas and Alphany Joseph.



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

The recital featured inspiring performances by Pianist Adrienne Donawa-Henry and was eloquently hosted by Claudine Benjamin. Adding to the



evening's splendor, special musicians who have made significant contributions to

the world of music worked closely with the young artists. Esteemed musicians Sheku and Brimah Kanneh-Mason, Violinist Natalie Clouder, Clarinetist Vicky Manderson, and Viola specialist Connie Pharoah, provided invaluable mentorship and inspiration.

Violinist Natalie Clouder, who previously played with ABYSO in the 2019 "Annual Playing to Inspire" concert, returned to collaborate with the orchestra, further enriching the experience for the young performers.

In attendance was Sir Rodney Williams, the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, who lauded the young musicians for their outstanding performance. His Excellency also commended the principals of ABYSO for their unwavering dedication to the development of the island's youth, noting the orchestra's continued growth and success.



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Local News



Simone Sanguinette-Hadeed

Antiguan featured in first ever Caribbean colour trend palette

The work of Antiguan architect, Simone Sanguinette-Hadeed is showcased in this first ever paint colour collection prepared by Caribbean designers for the Caribbean Colour Authority.

The newly formed Caribbean Colour Authority (CCA) is a collective of Caribbean interior designers and colour professionals who have come together to identify colour trends specific to the Caribbean

countries they call home.

Individually and together, they have brought together their research and observations, and their knowledge of people and culture to create thematic colour palettes reflective of the unique tastes and desires of the Caribbean.

The result is the first CCA Caribbean Design Collection, a truly stunning 35 colour collection, made up of seven tantalizing colour stories inspired by the rich culture and approach to colour in the Caribbean.

Each story consists of a well-balanced 5-colour mini palette with options to create different looks and at the same time provide fresh and winning colour combinations designed to impress.

Sanguinette-Hadeed who has 25 years' experience designing, residential and commercial spaces in the Caribbean gives credit to the team of professionals she works with at Robertson Ward International Ltd, one of the most established architectural firms in the region.

Of her aesthetic, she says she is endlessly inspired by the 365 beaches for which Antigua is famed.

The Caribbean Colour Authority's colour schemes are available exclusively from Harris Paints.

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Statement by the Free and Fair Elections League Inc.

The Free & Fair Press Elections League Inc. notes with interest the Press Statement of the Electoral Commission (ABEC) dated 21st May 2024 in which they advised the public of the decision to implement an Identification Card Replacement Program to commence on 12th August 2024.

The League is very concerned that ABEC has reversed its earlier decision of 18th March 2024 to conduct a national registration of voters. In its Press Statement, ABEC stated, "The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission will commence a national re-registration exercise in October 2024.

ABEC is of the considered opinion that the process of re-registration is the best method of maintaining the integrity of the Voters' List.

It is important to emphasize that all eligible persons (18 years and over) will be required to register when the process officially begins."

The expiration of forty thousand (40,000) identification cards which represents approximately two-thirds of registered voters, has resulted in the need for replacement of the identification cards. It has also impacted the Electors Register due to the fact that electors on the register are unable to vote because their identification cards have expired. This has resulted in a tainted

corrupted electors register and voters' list which can only be remedied by a process of registration of voters.

We opine that the law is pellucid in the Representation of the People Amendment Act No. 17 of 2001 and the Second Schedule of the said Act and No 11 of 2002 which facilitated and allowed ABEC to conduct reregistration of Voters in 2003 and 2013.

The justification for a national re-registration are:-

- To facilitate replacement

of expired voter identification cards.

- The cleansing of a tainted corrupted electors register and voters list.

- Allegations of illegal transfers during the 2023 General Elections

- Deceased persons on the list.

- The granting of amnesties leading up to elections.

The Commission should have been well aware of the expiration date of the voters' card in April 2024 and it is incumbent upon them to always be in a state of

readiness for an election. Further, they should not be concerned about the price for the exercise. Free and Fair elections are tenets of our democracy and should not be measured in dollars and cents.

Consequently, the Free and Fair Elections Inc. is calling on ABEC to conduct a national re-registration of voters in order to ensure the integrity of the electoral process and the voters list in which citizens and in particular electors can have confidence.



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Photo Essay

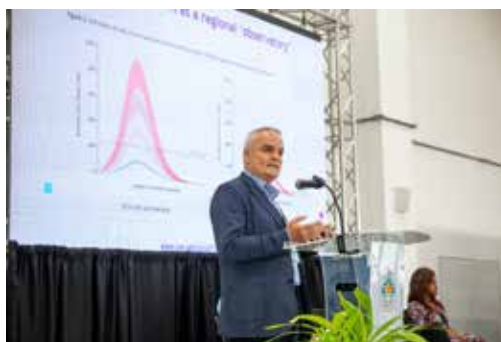


Photo Essay



Technology

Is AI the answer for better government services?

By Pedro Garcia

Long before ChatGPT came along, governments were keen to use chatbots to automate their services and advice.

Those early chatbots “tended to be simpler, with limited conversational abilities,” says Colin van Noordt, a researcher on the use of AI in government, and based in the Netherlands.

But the emergence of generative AI in the last two years, has revived a vision of more efficient public service, where human-like advisors can work all hours, replying to questions over benefits, taxes and other areas where the government interacts with the public.

Generative AI is sophisticated enough to give human-like responses, and if trained on enough quality data, in theory it could deal with all sorts of questions about government services.

But generative AI has become well known for making mistakes or even nonsensical answers - so-called hallucinations.

In the UK, the Government Digital Service (GDS) has carried out tests on a ChatGPT-based chatbot called GOV.UK Chat, which would answer citizens’ questions on a range of issues concerning government services.

In a blog post about their early findings, the agency noted that almost 70% of those involved in the trial found the responses useful.

However, there were problems with “a few” cases of the system generating incorrect information and presenting it as fact.

The blog also raised concern that there might be misplaced confidence in a system that could be wrong some of the time.

“Overall, answers did not reach



Governments are exploring whether AI can give reliable advice.

the highest level of accuracy demanded for a site like GOV.UK, where factual accuracy is crucial. We’re rapidly iterating this experiment to address the issues of accuracy and reliability.”

Other countries are also experimenting with systems based on generative AI.

Portugal released the Justice Practical Guide in 2023, a chatbot devised to answer basic questions on simple subjects such as marriage and divorce. The chatbot has been developed with funds from the European Union’s Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

The €1.3m (\$1.4m; £1.1m) project is based on OpenAI’s GPT 4.0 language model. As well as covering marriage and divorce, it also provides information on setting-up a company.

According to data by the Portuguese Ministry of Justice, 28,608 questions were posed through the guide in the project’s first 14 months.

When I asked it the basic question: “How can I set up a company,” it performed well.

But when I asked something trick-

ier: “Can I set up a company if I am younger than 18, but married?”, it apologised for not having the information to answer that question.

A ministry source admits that they are still lacking in terms of trustworthiness, even though wrong replies are rare.

“We hope these limitations will be overcome with a decisive increase in the answers’ level of confidence”, the source tells me.

Such flaws mean that many experts are advising caution – including Colin van Noordt. “It goes wrong when the chatbot is deployed as a way to replace people and reduce costs.”

It would be a more sensible approach, he adds, if they’re seen as “an additional service, a quick way to find information”.

Sven Nyholm, professor of the ethics of artificial intelligence at Munich’s Ludwig Maximilians University, highlights the problem of accountability.

“A chatbot is not interchangeable

cont’d on pg 13

Technology

cont'd from pg 12

with a civil servant,” he says. “A human being can be accountable and morally responsible for their actions.

“AI chatbots cannot be accountable for what they do. Public administration requires accountability, and so therefore it requires human beings.”

Mr Nyholm also highlights the problem of reliability.

“Newer types of chatbots create the illusion of being intelligent and creative in a way that older types of chatbots didn’t used to do.

“Every now and then these new and more impressive forms of chatbots make silly and stupid mistakes - this can sometimes be humorous, but it can potentially also be dangerous, if people rely on their recommendations.”

If ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLMs) are not ready to give out important advice, then perhaps we could look at Estonia for an alternative.

When it comes to digitising public

services, Estonia has been one of the leaders. Since the early 1990s it has been building digital services, and in 2002 introduced a digital ID card that allows citizens to access state services.

So it’s not surprising that Estonia is at the forefront of introducing chatbots.

The nation is currently developing a suite of chatbots for state services under the name of Bürokratt.

However, Estonia’s chatbots are not based on Large Language Models (LLM) like ChatGPT or Google’s Gemini.

Instead they use Natural Language Processing (NLP), a technology which preceded the latest wave of AI.

Estonia’s NLP algorithms break down a request into small segments, identify key words, and from that infers what user wants.

At Bürokratt, departments use their data to train chatbots and check their answers.

“If Bürokratt does not know the

answer, the chat will be handed over to customer support agent, who will take over the chat and will answer manually,” says Kai Kallas, head of the Personal Services Department at Estonia’s Information System Authority.

It is a system of more limited potential than one based on ChatGPT, as NLP models are limited in their ability to imitate human speech and to detect hints of nuance in language.

However, they are unlikely to give wrong or misleading answers.

“Some early chatbots forced citizens into choosing options for questions. At the same time, it allowed for greater control and transparency of how the chatbot operates and answers”, explains Colin van Noordt.

“LLM-based chatbots often have much more conversational quality and can provide more nuanced answers.

“However, it comes at a cost of less control of the system, and it can also provide different answers to the same question,” he adds.



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BYD's plant in Thailand is part of its expansion outside China.

China Tesla rival BYD signs \$1bn Turkey plant deal

By Peter Hoskins

China's biggest electric-car maker, BYD, has agreed a \$1bn (£780m) deal to set up a manufacturing plant in Turkey, as it continues to expand outside its home country.

The new plant will be able to produce up to 150,000 vehicles a year, according to Turkish state news agency Anadolu.

The facility is expected to create around 5,000 jobs and start production by the end of 2026.

The deal was signed at an event in Istanbul attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and BYD's chief executive Wang Chuanfu.

BYD did not immediately respond to a BBC request for further details on the deal.

The announcement comes as Chinese EV makers face increasing pressure in the European Union and the US.

Last week, the EU took action to protect the bloc's motor industry by raising tariffs on Chinese EVs.

The decision saw BYD hit with an extra tariff of 17.4% on the vehicles it ships from China to the EU, which was on top of a 10% import duty.

Turkey is part of the EU's Customs Union, which means vehicles made in the country and exported to the bloc can avoid the additional tariff.

The Turkish government has also taken action to support the country's car makers by putting an extra 40% tariff on imports of Chinese vehicles.

In May, US President Joe Biden ramped up tariffs on Chinese-made electric cars, solar panels, steel and other goods.

The White House said the measures, which include a 100% border tax on electric cars from China, were a response to unfair policies and intended to protect US jobs.

BYD, which is backed by veteran US investor Warren Buffett, is the world's second-largest EV company after Elon Musk's Tesla.

The company has been rapidly expanding its production facilities outside China.

At the end of last year, BYD announced that it would build a manufacturing plant in EU member state Hungary.

It will be the firm's first passenger car factory in Europe and is expected to create thousands of jobs.

On Thursday, BYD opened an EV plant in Thailand - its first factory in South East Asia.

BYD said the plant will have an annual capacity of 150,000 vehicles and is projected to generate 10,000 jobs.

The company has also said it is planning to build a manufacturing plant in Mexico.



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Regional News



Two arrested as Dominican Republic authorities dismantle drug network

The National Directorate of Drug Control (DNCD) and other law enforcement agencies have successfully dismantled a drug trafficking network in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

The operation resulted in the seizure of more than 46,000 grams of various narcotics, along with vehicles, a firearm, ammunition, and cash.

“Five simultaneous searches were carried out in the Ciruelitos, Invi, and Ciénaga sectors,” the DNCD reported.

The raids led to the arrest of two men and the confiscation of significant quantities of illegal substances:

- 3,005 grams of cocaine
- 14,968 grams of marijuana
- 28,421 grams of crack
- 33 grams of methamphetamine
- 462 ecstasy pills

In addition to the drugs, authorities seized several items related to drug trafficking operations.

“During the operation, we also found ammunition, vehicles, three cell phones, RD\$174,200 pesos, a money-counting machine, six scales, sealing machines, 13 aluminum pots, hundreds of cases, among other evidence,” the release disclosed.

Two suspects were arrested during the operation:



46,000 grams of various narcotics seized in the Dominican Republic. Photo: The National Directorate of Drug Control

Nelson Daniel Ceballos, described as “one of the micro traffic ringleaders in Santiago Oeste,” and Esmeldy Pina, known as “El Rubio.”

Both individuals have been transferred to the Permanent Care Jurisdiction of Santiago, where they await coercive measures.

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Bahamas: Team appointed to probe allegations against suspended cop

CMC - Police Commissioner Clayton Fernander Monday said a selected team from Security and Intelligence Branch (SIB) will lead the investigations into the head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Chief Superintendent Michael Johnson, who has proceeded on "garden leave" last weekend.

Johnson has consented to proceed on garden leave in the first instance, as the authorities investigate several voice notes that purport to capture conversations involving him, a well-known lawyer and Michael Fox, Jr, a man police described as a prominent gang leader when he was killed in May.

Another person, identified as Dino Smith, who was killed in January is also featured on the voice notes, which spread rapidly last week.

The leaked voice notes feature conversations seemingly about an arrangement that would allow the police to drop their investigation into Fox and his associates.

Police had issued wanted posters for Fox and Dino Smith concerning the theft of \$1,475,000 from an unattended security vehicle transporting cash for the Bank of the Bahamas to a private airport on November 2.

However, the men were never charged with the incident.



The head of the Criminal Investigation Department Chief Superintendent Michael Johnson. Photo: CMC

Speaking at a news conference, Fernander told reporters that the Independent Inspectorate Board will supervise the investigation and that the local police will be supported by law enforcement officials from the United Kingdom and the United States.

The voice notes purported to reveal corrupt acts within CID.

"We have heard the recordings of phone calls on social media.

"The investigation is already on the way to determine the reliability, understand when, where and by whom they were made; identify all voices and explore clues in the surrounding sounds," Fernander told reporters.

He said the investigation

will be fair and that everyone involved is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

"Unfortunately, there may be instances where individuals fall short of our standard. This is painful, especially if found within senior ranks. Nobody is above the law," Fernander said, adding "we understand fully that this case affects public trust and confidence in the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

"We have made efforts to address this, but assertions like the present case set us back," he said, assuring the public that while the investigation will be comprehensive, he warned that the results will not come overnight.

"But the investigation is being pursued. It will

not disappear out the back door," he added.

The police said that to ensure continuity and uphold the commitment to public safety, Chief Superintendent Anton Rahming will assume the responsibilities of the officer-in-charge of the Criminal Investigation Department during this period.

"I want the Bahamian people to know that your Royal Bahama Police force will continue to live by its motto courage loyalty and integrity.

"We will continue to have our officers on the right track, if you go the other way then we do what we have to do, we cut you off".

Over the weekend, the
cont'd on pg 18

Weinstein faces new sex assault inquiry in New York

By Graeme Baker

Harvey Weinstein is being investigated for “additional violent sexual assaults” months after a previous conviction in New York was overturned, a court in Manhattan has heard.

Nicole Blumberg, an assistant district attorney, told Tuesday’s hearing that the alleged assaults fell within the statute of limitations, but did not say when prosecutors would be ready to press any fresh charges.

The disgraced film mogul, 72, is already facing a retrial after his 2020 conviction for sexual assault and rape was overturned in April on the basis that it was unfair.

“As we said in 2020, there were women who were not ready to proceed with the legal process. Some of those women are now ready to proceed,” Ms Blumberg told Tuesday’s hearing.

Weinstein’s lawyer Ar-



Harvey Weinstein in court on Tuesday.

thur Aidala told the hearing that the new investigations were a delay tactic, adding: “Once again we have a hotline: 1-800 Get Harvey.”

Mr Aidala added that his client was suffering from a host of medical problems while being held

in solitary confinement at New York’s Rikers Island jail.

Weinstein was brought into court on Tuesday with his left hand cuffed to his wheelchair.

Weinstein’s 2020 conviction was crucial for the #MeToo movement,

in which women accused hundreds of men in the media of sexual misconduct.

The Miramax film studio founder was sentenced to 23 years in prison for sexually assaulting production assistant Miriam Haley and raping actress Jessica Mann.

However, the New York Court of Appeals in April found evidence presented about Weinstein’s “prior bad acts” from three witnesses unconnected to the charges against him violated the right to a fair trial.

Members of the #MeToo movement described

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chairman of the main opposition, Friday, Free National Movement (FNM), Dr Duane Sands, urged the government to request the participation of an international law enforcement agency in the investigation.

“While we believe the initial steps taken by the COP are appropriate, it is imperative that public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the RBPF be restored,”

he said in a statement.

“We call on the (Prime Minister) and minister of national security to request the participation of an international law enforcement partner such as Scotland Yard or the FBI to oversee the investigation. Failing that, a full commission of inquiry should be convened. The Free National Movement expects urgent public assurance from the prime minister in short order.”

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Brazil's Bolsonaro may be charged over jewel sale

By George Wright

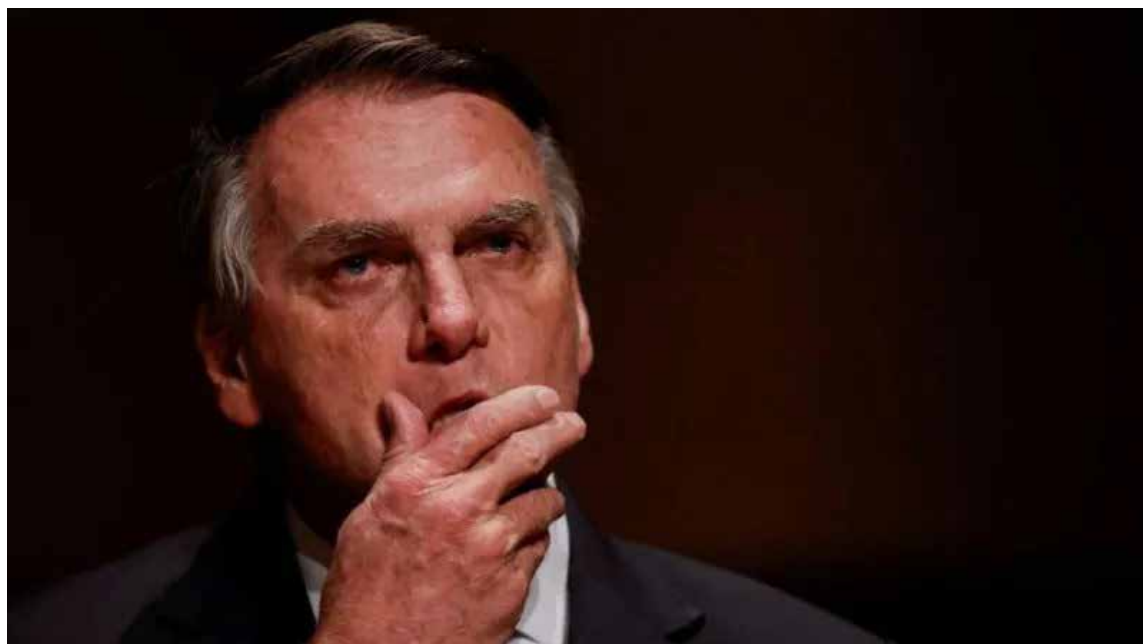
Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro benefited from an illegal scheme to sell \$1.2m (£937,000) in jewellery and other luxury gifts given to his government, police investigators say.

It comes after Brazil's Federal Police last week recommended charging him with crimes including money-laundering over undeclared jewellery gifted between 2019 and 2022.

The latest police report states that officials had "acted to divert" expensive gifts to Mr Bolsonaro from foreign governments. The officials then sought to sell the items for "the illicit enrichment of the then president".

The far-right politician has claimed that cases against him are politically motivated.

The report submitted to the Supreme Federal Court on Monday says that cash raised from such sales was paid to the former president



"without using the formal banking system".

Prosecutors have been given 15 days to decide whether to formally charge Mr Bolsonaro.

The case centres on allegations that he tried to illegally import and keep millions of dollars' worth of jewellery given to him and his wife by Saudi Arabia in 2019.

The jewels were impounded by Brazilian customs officials when a member of Mr Bolsonaro's

entourage tried to bring them into the country in 2021.

The police report says the jewellery included Rolex watches and Patek Philippe watches, as well as diamond pieces from luxury brand Chopard.

Mr Bolsonaro's team later returned some of the jewellery once news of the case was reported, it added.

The former president's lawyer, Paulo Cunha, posted on social media that heads of state "have no di-

rect or indirect influence" on what happens to official gifts.

Mr Bolsonaro is also facing other legal challenges, including an investigation into whether he incited rioters who stormed key government buildings after he narrowly lost the 2022 presidential election to his left-wing rival, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

This led to unsubstantiated claims by his supporters of voting fraud - eventually escalating into the violent scenes in the capital.

He has voiced "regret" for the unrest, but denies he caused it.

However, Brazil's Supreme Court has agreed to include him in its investigation into the storming of government buildings on 8 January 2023.

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the decision as "profoundly unjust", while lawyers for his victims said the decision to retry was a "leap backwards" and "tragic".

A retrial has been scheduled to begin after the Labour Day holiday on 2 September, although no specific date has been set. Ms Blumberg said on Tuesday that prosecutors could realistically go to

trial in November.

Weinstein was also convicted to 16 years following a separate rape trial in California. That conviction was not affected by the New York appeal court's decision, and he has not begun serving the California sentence.

More than 80 women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct. He denies all charges against him.



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Action commence in second ABNDA's three and four-hand contests

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) domestic season continues when matches commence in its second team three-hand and four-hand competitions over the weekend.

The three-hand competition is being conducted using the accumulated point format, with each match winner awarded three points, two for second place, and one point for third place.

Ramplers prevailed against Dominatrixx (second place) and Rising Stars (third place) in the first of six opening-round matches in the three-hand contest at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

The A team of the Willikies Super Stars won their encounter against the B team of the Bolans Revellers (second place) and Double Six Ice (third place).

Bravo was successful



in the third opening round match, beating Triple Dynamite in second place and Highly Favoured in third place.

S.K. Eagles claimed victory against Parham Strikers in second place and Full Clip in third place.

The A team of Bolans Revellers snatched victory

against Double Six Diamond in second place, and the B team of the Willikies Super Stars in third place.

The last opening round three-hand match was won by Legacy, with De Unstoppables finishing second and Fire Police in third place.

The Willikies Super Stars and Dominatrixx got

off to winning starts in the opening round of matches in the team four-hand contest.

The Willikies Super Stars defeated Eagle Eye, and Dominatrixx prevailed 35-31 against the Bolans Revellers.

However, Ramplers and Double Six fought to a 35-35 draw in their encounter.

Old Stagers advance to the final of All Saints Community Football League

Police and Old Stagers will clash in the finals of the All Saints Community Football League on Wednesday evening (today).

Police booked their spot in the finals after prevailing 5-4 on penalties against 5 Star Kitchen in the second semi-finals at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints Village.

Old Stagers advanced to the finals after prevailing 3-2 on penalties against

El Hombre in the first semi-final at the same venue.

The match was decided by penalty kicks after both teams battled to a goalless draw at the end of regulation time.

Juwan "Pampy" Roberts, Javorn "Bozo" Stevens, and Lindon Goodwin converted their penalty kicks for the Old Stagers.

Vashami "3Boss" Allen and Raheem Deterville scored their penalties

for El Hombre.

The Old Stagers and Police will clash in the championship decider at the Mack Pond playing field at 7:45 pm.

The finals will be preceded by a playoff for third place between 5 Star Kitchen and El Hombre at 6:30 pm.

Twelve teams participated in this year's All Saints Community Football League.

Anderson keen to retire on a high as West Indies seek to spoil his party

LONDON (AP) — It doesn't matter if James Anderson takes a bunch of West Indies wickets for England in the first cricket Test at Lord's from Wednesday (today).

The series opener will be Anderson's 188th and last Test and he will transition into England's fast-bowling mentor.

He was pensioned off by England managing director Rob Key, coach Brendon McCullum, and captain Ben Stokes. They met him at a Manchester hotel in April to say he wasn't in their plans for the 2025-26 Ashes in Australia.

This was a month after Anderson returned from India, where he took 10 wickets at an average of 33.50. That series was lost 4-1 but on the last morning of the last Test in Dharamsala, Anderson became the first seamer in history to take 700 wickets.

He spoke then of being in the best shape, liking where his game was at, and being really excited for this summer, when he will turn 42 at the end of this month.

This week, he said he was surprised at how calmly he took the news from Key, McCullum, and Stokes. He understood their decision,



James Anderson

adding, "I've sort of made peace with that."

Anderson warmed up for his last Test by showing his class last week in his first English County appearance for Lancashire. He took seven for 35, the best figures in the championship.

His 21-year Test career comes full circle at Lord's, where he made his Test debut in 2003 against Zimbabwe. Lord's witnessed Anderson's career-best figures of seven for 42 against the West Indies in 2017.

As one era ends, others could start. Surrey seamer Gus Atkinson and wicket-keeper Jamie Smith have

been handed Test debuts. Both played white-ball cricket for England last year; Atkinson went to the ODI World Cup. Smith replaces Jonny Bairstow, who's been dropped after 100 Tests.

Spinner Jack Leach has also made way for Shoaib Bashir to make his home Test debut after taking 17 wickets in India. Chris Woakes returns for his first Test since he was the player of the Ashes series last summer.

"There'll be some decisions I'm sure people might not understand or might be frustrated by and that's something that I'm abso-

lutely fine with and completely understand," Stokes said on Tuesday.

The West Indies will play their first Test since the extraordinary eight-run victory over Australia in Brisbane in January, after a 10-wicket thrashing in Adelaide.

All-rounder and former captain Jason Holder was recalled along with fellow fast bowler Jayden Seales. Opening batter Mikyle Louis will become the first man from St. Kitts and Nevis to play a Test.

In the absence of the injured Kemar Roach, An-

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The Antigua and Barbuda national Under-21 netball team participate in warm-up exercises ahead of their opening game in the Americas Region Qualifiers in Guadeloupe on Monday, July 8, 2024. (ABNA)

Winning start for Antigua at Americas Region Netball Qualifiers

Antigua and Barbuda's Under-21 national team, the Wadadli Pearls, made a winning start to their campaign in the Americas Region Qualifiers in Guadeloupe for the 2025 Netball World Youth Cup in Gibraltar.

Following the official opening ceremony, Antigua beat hosts Guadeloupe 50-5 in their opening match at the Paul Chonchon Hall in Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, on Monday night.

It was a great start for the Wadadli Pearls in Group

B of the nine-team tournament, in which the top three finishers will qualify for the Netball World Youth Cup in Gibraltar in September next year.

Goal shooter Zhanira Pereira led the Antiguan by scoring 39 of her 43 shots,

and teammate Stacia Henry sank 11 of her 13 attempts.

After facing Barbados on Tuesday, Antigua and Barbuda will play their final two matches in Group B on Wednesday (today).

The Wadadli Pearls will tackle St. Maarten at 11 am and will take on Trinidad and Tobago at 7 pm.

Trinidad and Tobago launched their campaign with a comfortable 62-22 victory against St. Maarten on Tuesday morning.

The tournament, which started on Sunday, July 7, will conclude on Sunday, July 14.

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tiguan Alzarri Joseph will lead the pace attack with Seales and Shamar Joseph, whose seven for 68 scuttled the Australians in Brisbane in the second innings. That earned Shamar Joseph in his second Test the player of the match and short series.

Shamar Joseph called England retiree Anderson "perfect" as a Test player to the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper but "I want to

rain on his parade."

Lineups: England: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith, Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, and James Anderson.

West Indies Kraigg Brathwaite (captain), Mikyle Louis, Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze, Kavem Hodge, Jason Holder, Joshua da Silva, Gudakesh Motie, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, and Jayden Seales.

Browne finishes second in road race in Trinidad

Antigua and Barbuda teenager cycling sensation Tahje Browne finished second overall in a 65-kilometer road race to conclude an Under-19 Road Cycling Training Camp in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

The 17-year-old Browne, who was a member of a three-member Antigua and Barbuda team that participated in the one-week camp at the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Cycling Center (WCC) Continental Development Satellite in Couva, claimed their runner-up spot behind Trinidadian Tariq Woods in the T&T Cycling Federation Road Challenge Series.

Browne won the junior men category against an 11-man field, which also included Antiguan teammate Jomari King, who failed to complete the race.

Wood won the elite men category to take the overall title in the race from Couva to Debe and back to Couva.

The other member of Antigua and Barbuda's three-member team, Aiden Tonge, finished 49th over-

all in a field of 69 cyclists.

Tonge finished in fifth place in a field of eight cyclists in the juvenile men category.

Most of the participants came from Trinidad and Tobago. But other participants came from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, the Bahamas, and Guyana.

Participants at the training camp benefited from the guidance and mentorship of five experts from the UCI, which is the world-governing body of cycling recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The experts not only oversee the training sessions but also conducted a level 2 coaching and mechanics course concurrently, enhancing the overall learning experience for all participants.

The three young Antiguan cyclists were accompanied by President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) St. Clair Williams and Omari King, who both participated in the coaching course conducted during the camp.



Antiguan cyclist Tahje Browne