



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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TOURISM MINISTER: ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR TOURISM ARRIVALS

Story on Page 2



The youngest artiste in Sunday evening's Junior Calypso Competition, Faith Edwards (Princess Faith), wowed the audience with her performance on the Carnival main stage, with her song Young Soldier. She was adjudged winner in the 5-12 category. *Story on page 8.*

Tourism figures on upward trajectory

Figures released yesterday by the Minister of Tourism, Investment, Civil Aviation and Transportation for the first half of 2024 show the local tourism industry performing beyond the expectations of tourism officials.

During an Industry Performance Press Conference, Minister Charles Fernandez highlighted the growth that has been recorded in key areas for the period January to June, 2024.

Visitor stay-over arrivals, which total 176,655 increased by more than 20,000 when compared to 2023's figure of 154,333, representing a 15 per cent growth. This number also surpasses that of 2019 (161,434), viewed by experts as a record year for tourism arrivals.

According to the tourism minister, this is an indication that Antigua and Barbuda is well on its way to another record year for tourism arrivals.



“This +15% increase in arrivals is a testament to our industry’s resilience. Our growth continues despite threats from hurricanes, the political climate in our most important source mar-

ket, the United States, and the change of government in our second largest source market, the United Kingdom, Minister Fernandez said.

cont'd on pg 3



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- Stakeholder Relations:** Collaborate with internal departments, cruise lines, agents, and local authorities to develop effective security strategies and maintain strong relationships.
- Security Policy Development:** Create and enforce security policies and procedures, translating organizational strategy into actionable security goals.
- Security Coordination:** Monitor security systems, conduct regular inspections, and integrate security protocols across departments.
- PFSO Duties:** Conduct comprehensive security surveys, develop and implement the port facility security plan, ensure adequate training, and coordinate with ship security officers.

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in security management, law enforcement, or a closely related field.
- Minimum of Ten years of experience in law enforcement, security services in maritime security, or regulatory compliance, or an equivalent combination of experience and training.

Other Key Requirements

- In-depth knowledge of security principles, practices, and local security policies and regulations.
- Strong ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Excellent Customer Service skills

payables or a similar financial role.

- Proficiency in accounting software and Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Excel.

Other Key Requirements

- Strong attention to detail and accuracy.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong communication skills and a proactive approach to problem-solving.

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- At least two years of experience in accounts

Accounts Officer

Key Responsibilities

- Accounts Payables Management:** Oversee and manage the accounts payables process, including the verification, processing, and reconciliation of invoices and payments.
- Vendor Relations:** Build and maintain positive relationships with vendors and suppliers, addressing any payment-related inquiries and resolving discrepancies.

Financial Record Keeping: Maintain accurate records of all transactions, ensuring compliance with company policies and accounting standards.

Reconciliation: Perform regular reconciliations of accounts payable ledgers, ensuring accuracy and resolving any discrepancies in a timely manner.

Reporting: reports on accounts payables and other financial matters as required by the Financial Controller.

Process Improvement: Identify and implement

Marketing & Communications Manager

Key Responsibilities

- Media Relations:** Cultivate and maintain relationships with media outlets, develop press releases, and manage media inquiries.
- Social & Digital Media:** Implement social media strategies, create engaging content, maintain a content calendar, and manage online reputation.
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- Brand Management:** Ensure consistency of the GPH and ACP brand identity, and develop brand-building strategies.

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cont'd from pg 2

Among the highest contributors to the success of the period under review is the United States of America, Antigua and Barbuda's "most important" source market. The US recorded a 46 per cent growth in the month of June (16,084) compared to 11,032 in June, 2023.

Growth of 15 per cent was recorded from the United Kingdom and European markets for the month of June (4,092), when compared to the same month in 2023 (3,467).

The tourism minister also singled out the month of June, 2024 that experienced robust activity as a result of Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of eight games in the T-20 World Cup Cricket Tournament, registering satisfaction at the marked improvement recorded in sports tourism. Arrivals from India were 327, compared to 28. Australia totaled 333, up from 20, South Afri-

ca 149, up from 9 and arrivals from the UK/Europe were 4,092, up from 3,567. These figures, Minister Charles Fernandez maintains, are an indication that sports tourism is also recording growth, however small it may be.

"This is important because sports tourism, one of the fastest growing sectors in the travel industry, is an integral component of our tourism offerings, including yachting and sailing. In 2023, the Sports Tourism Market size was USD 564 billion, and it is expected to grow to USD 1.33 trillion between 2024 and 2032.

"Hence, our hosting of the T20 Cricket Tournament represents a small but significant investment in this platform," the tourism minister pointed out.

Cruise arrivals are at a 30 per cent high for January to June, 2024, (537,978) compared to the same period in 2023 (413,309).

The tourism minister has underscored the importance of strategy in order to be successful within the industry, in light of the many challenges that continue to threaten tourism.

Minister Fernandez has applauded those tasked with ensuring that Antigua and Barbuda's tourism product remains relevant and continue to grow.

"I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our team in the markets of the USA, UK and Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America, and the leadership provided by the Board of Directors.

"Their collective success, and that of our other in-market representatives, results from the support they receive from the Ministry of Tourism and the private sector. They have created a seamless operation in collaboration with my Ministry and the ABHTA. The positive results we are seeing are a testament to this effective teamwork."

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PM Browne congratulates Venezuelan president on election victory

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has dispatched a letter of congratulations to Venezuelan President Nicola Maduro, following national elections in that country on Sunday.

In his correspondence of 29th July, 2024, Prime Minister Browne wrote, “The people of the Bolivarian Republic have given you, Excellency, yet another vote of confidence to continue the Chavez revolution begun in 1998; and, to forge ahead with your Economic Recovery Programme, designed to improve the lives of all Venezuelans and to further enhance the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean”.

The letter further outlined, “Your success at



yesterday’s [Sunday’s] elections signal a strong message for an engaging democracy, a respect for sovereignty, tolerance and good political relations, not only in Venezuela but within the Caribbean and Latin America.

“Your determination to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Venezuela and the countries of the Caribbean Community has

been remarkable”.

The Antiguan and Barbudan head of government has affirmed his solidarity for Nicolas Maduro, his administration and the people of Venezuela, vowing to resist efforts to interfere with Venezuela’s internal affairs.

In expressing his solidarity, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he is doing so “to ensure the continued growth of your economy,

culture and political systems”.

Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela have enjoyed more than four decades of diplomatic relations. Successive administrations in Saint John’s have not waned on the strong bond that was forged in 1982.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has praised Venezuela for its continued support of Antigua and Barbuda in various ways, notably, that country’s immediate assistance when Hurricane Irma decimated Barbuda in 2017.

The National Electoral Council declared President Nicolas Maduro the winner of Sunday’s election. However, opposition supporters have taken to the streets in protest of the polling results.



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Tourism officials engage Frontier Airlines to operate San Juan route

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez is in discussions with officials of Frontier Airlines to restore the Antigua/Puerto Rico route, after the government ended the relationship it forged with Silver Airways to operate between the two countries.

Already, Frontier has commenced services between Barbados/Puerto Rico, Saint Maarten/Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago/Puerto Rico. The airline is seeking to expand and the direct service to Antigua is likely by next year.

Acknowledging the importance of the route to many Antiguans and Barbudans, Minister Fernandez said discussions are continuing, adding once the agreement is finalised, it will prove beneficial for Antigua and Barbuda as a destination.

“They [Frontier] would operate a bigger aircraft and Frontier [Airlines] has direct routes from various locations in the US, which Silver [Airways] would not have had,” Minister

Fernandez said.

Silver Airways discontinued its service to V.C. Bird International Airport in early May, 2024, less than six months after its inaugural service to Antigua from Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, Puerto Rico.

The tourism minister revealed that the airline’s restructuring, coupled with their new vision for the carrier, made the agreement unsustainable.

“Yes, it was an important route and that’s why we engaged them to begin with but once the negotiations reached a point where we felt it was going in to diminishing returns, we made a decision and said that’s it, we are not going to go any further with it and we parted ways,” the tourism minister told reporters yesterday.

He noted that the discontinuation of the direct Antigua/Puerto Rico service did not cause major disruptions when the country’s air arrivals statistics were reviewed.

“We would have seen that we still

had a great year. We are not saying that we are happy that Silver [Airways] stopped, because we know a number of Antiguans and Barbudans and a number of other persons from the OECS would have loved to travel to San Juan to do their shopping and come back.

“But, at the end of the day, it’s a partnership and we reached a point where both of us agreed that we have disagreed and that is where we’ve reached today.”

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, said the new focus of Silver Airways is increasing flights to The Bahamas and expanding their services within the United States, with attention to the Caribbean changed.

He said the ABTA is always devising ways in which to increase airlift and once the agreement is finalised with Frontier Airlines, it will allow for smoother connectivity for passengers within the United States.

UWI FIC student enrollment on the rise

Student enrollment at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is at approximately 866 and that figure is expected to increase, when the new academic year commences in September.

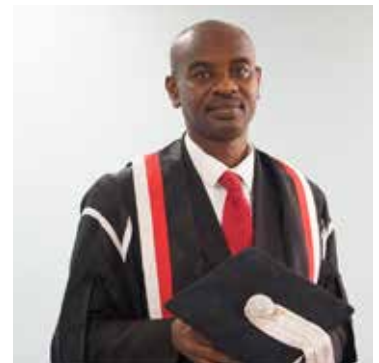
UWI FIC Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Profes-

sor C. Justin Robinson, said the newest campus of The UWI has made significant progress since opening its doors almost five years ago with just over 100 students.

Speaking on state television on Sunday evening, Professor Robinson said in addition to the approximate-

ly 866 students who are enrolled, another 610 prospective students have applied to join the university.

“Applicants are almost close to our enrollment, so, I actually want to take this moment in the middle of carnival to encourage those who have applied, but not



Professor C. Justin Robinson yet sent in their documents, please do, because we want you down there,” he said.

As they seek to expand the institution of higher learning, focus is also being placed on introducing new programmes.

“We just had Hurricane Beryl [and] all the persons assessing the damage from the storm were coming from overseas. We are now working on programmes that we can build some capacity locally to do assessments of storms,” The UWI FIC principal added.

Earlier this month, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus successfully hosted the Caribbean’s first Artificial Intelligence Conference. Professor C. Justin Robinson related that the inaugural event surpassed expectations.

“All my colleagues across UWI are saying the Five Islands AI Conference was actually the biggest event in all of UWI this year. It really went way beyond our expectation and really showed that the baby campus is now ready.” Principal Robinson declared.

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Junior Calypso winners crowned

Despite a late start and several technical issues, the junior calypsonians gave show-stopping performances on Sunday evening.

In the 5-12 age category, newcomer Princess Faith claimed the top prize, electrifying the crowd with her performance of 'Young Soldier'.

Despite having to redo her performance, the smallest in the bunch did not let that stop her from returning to blow everyone away to become the new monarch. She also was named the Best New Artist and the Best Stage Performer.

Last year's winner, Ja'lilah was 1st runner-up and newcomer Queen B was 2nd runner-up.

In the 13-19 section, Ruez retained his crown with the song, 'Home Bound', 1st runner-up was newcomer De Boss



and 2nd runner-up was Princess Lay JP.

The Most Cultural Award went to Spanky Jr and the Most Cooperative to

Seven calypsonians competed in the 5-12 age category, while six did battle in the 13-19 category.



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McDonald's to 'rethink' prices after sales fall

By Natalie Sherman

McDonald's is reconsidering its pricing strategy, after customers cutting back their spending took a bite out of the fast food giant's sales.

Outlets open for at least a year saw sales fall 1% over the April-June period compared with a year earlier - the first such decline since the pandemic.

The drop came despite the hamburger chain offering money off deals to try to win back cost-conscious customers and those who have boycotted the chain over the Israel-Gaza war.

Boss Chris Kempczinski said the poor results had forced the company into a "comprehensive rethink" of pricing.

He told investors that the firm would lean on discounts to try to stop the sales decline

Executives pointed to recent promotions, such as a \$5 happy meal in the US and a campaign in the UK in which diners can select three items for

£3.

Those are expected to be extended in the coming months and the firm said it was working with franchisees on other "value" efforts.

Shares in the company rose more than 3% after the update, as Mr Kempczinski said McDonald's had the scale to make the strategy work.

"We know how to do this. We wrote the playbook on value and we are working with our franchisees to make the necessary adjustments," he said.

McDonald's has been facing a backlash from customers after raising prices significantly during the pandemic.

Last month, the head of its US operations formally responded to the complaints with an open letter to customers, saying social media was painting an inaccurate picture.

He said the average price of a Big Mac in the US, which is now \$5.29

(£4.11), was up 21% since 2019 - roughly in line with the pace of inflation - and many items had risen by less.

But on the call with investors, Mr Kempczinski conceded the company had work to do to reclaim its reputation for value.

Price increases, made in response to inflation, had "led consumers to reconsider their buying habits", Mr Kempczinski admitted.

Though some markets have been able to adjust, in others, "a more comprehensive rethink has been required", he said.

McDonald's has increased prices on key items faster than its peers, said Bank of America analyst Sara Senatore.

"Consumers are savvy, aware of that," she said. "The \$5 meal that they have launched may be starting to change perceptions, but we are not

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Three arrested for murder of Florida rapper Julio Foolio

By Max Matza

Three people have been arrested and two others are being sought for the ambush killing of Florida rapper Julio Foolio last month, officials said.

The 26-year-old victim, whose legal name was Charles Jones, died on 23 June after his vehicle came under a barrage of gunfire in a car park of a hotel in Tampa.

Hotel surveillance footage released by police shows the attackers dressed in black wearing masks as they take up their positions in the car park, opening fire with two semi-automatic rifles and one pistol.

The rapper was killed during a weekend of birthday events that he had previously announced on social media.

Isaiah Chance, 21, Alicia Andrews, 21, and Sean Gathright, 18 were all arrested over the weekend and face murder charges, police said.

Two more people - Da-



vion Murphy, 27, and Rashad Murphy, 30 - also face similar charges but have yet to be found and arrested.

Three other people were injured, but survived the attack, Tampa Police Chief Lee Bercaw said in a news conference on Monday.

In addition to the hotel's CCTV footage, detectives also used licence plate reader and phone logs to identify the suspects.

The attackers allegedly were members of two different gangs - ATK and Twelve Hundred - which had worked together to co-ordinate the attack.

Jones was a member of the Six Block Gang, Chief Bercaw said.

In the hours before his death, the rapper had been posting material to Instagram about his birthday celebrations, writing that

police had "shut us down".

Rapper Foolio has nearly a million monthly listeners on Spotify, where his top-played track is Voo Doo.

As recently as April, he wrote in an Instagram post that recent months had been "tragic", citing "multiple attempts on my life".

He is said to have been open about his gang affiliations, according to local media.

cont'd from pg 10

seeing a trend change yet in terms of transactions and that's what they're going to need to see."

McDonald's is the latest corporate giant to warn of slower consumer spending, including in major economies such as China.

The company said overall revenue, which includes sales at newly opened stores, was flat year-on-year. Profits

slipped 12%.

McDonald's said lower income customers were particularly hurting and the loss of those buyers was not being made up by wealthier households trading down.

Demand at its restaurants fell in the US, the company said, while weakness in France and price wars in China also weighed on sales.

France is among the countries

where the brand has been caught up in boycott calls sparked by the Israel's war in Gaza. Other US companies, including Starbucks, have also been affected.

"Consumers are being more discerning about where, when and what they eat, and I would say we don't expect significant changes in that environment for the next few quarters," a McDonald's executive said on the call.

Curaçao becomes an Associate Member of CARICOM

By Melissa Wong

Curaçao received a warm welcome to the Caribbean community as the country was officially admitted as the sixth Associate Member of CARICOM.

CARICOM Secretary-General Carla Barnett says CARICOM looks forward to Curaçao's active engagement as the newest member of the CARICOM family.

Prime Minister of Curaçao, Gilmar Pisas, says just as is the case with the other Associate Members and their relationship with the UK, Curaçao's membership and commitment within the family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will not compromise its commitments toward further regional intergration and its objectives.

The prime minister says Curaçao's commitment comes from the fact that it is part of the Caribbean family as the country's cultural identity is linked to the rich, historical heritage of the Caribbean region. He says Curaçao intends to demonstrate a firm commitment towards CARICOM and the common aspirations of its members.

"By joining CARICOM, we affirm our commitment to work together in the interest of the collective values and aspiration that binds all of us as small island develop-



Welcome Curaçao: (L-R) Prime Minister of Grenada, CARICOM Chairman Dickon Mitchell; CARICOM Secretary-General Carla Barnett and Prime Minister of Curaçao, Gilmar Pisas at the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Grenada. (Photo credit: GIS Grenada)

ment States in the Caribbean region.

"We bring to CARICOM a unique blend of cultural traditions, economic strengths and social perspective that will hopefully enrich the community as a whole."

The Prime Minister of Curaçao went on to state: "Economic integration is at the heart of CARICOM's mission. Our strategic location, ports and well-developed physical and professional service can serve as a hub for regional trade. By investing in connectivity and logistics we can help streamline the movement of goods and services across the Caribbean, boosting activity among our nations and creating jobs for all of us. By working to-

gether we can create a more competitive resilient regional economy"

Prime minister Pisas says to demonstrate Curaçao's commitment to regional trade, the country has already started negotiations with the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago also about to do so with Suriname. These negotiations will result in a mutually beneficial trade agreement with these Member States. When finalised, trade agreements will come into effect after Curaçao's membership of the World Trade Organization is a fact.

Curaçao is also committed to support initiatives in CARICOM that provide the potential for collaboration in

areas such as renewable energy, new forms of agriculture, digital technology and telecommunications, human capital development, climate resilience and sustainable development.

The other five Associate Members of CARICOM are Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos.

Member States gathered in Grenada over the weekend for the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community where Prime Minister of Grenada Dickon Mitchell assumed the role of CARICOM Chairman from outgoing Chairman, President Dr Irfaan Ali.

Regional News



Venezuelans head for presidential palace to protest against election result

By **Ione Wells**

Thousands of Venezuelans are heading towards the presidential palace in Caracas to protest against President Nicolás Maduro's claim of victory in the country's disputed election.

Others posted pictures of the crowds on social media with captions including "knock down the dictator" and "everyone to Miraflores" - where the palace is located.

The BBC saw an armed military convoy travelling to the presidential palace,

with soldiers in balaclavas standing on the back of the cars carrying large rifles.

Protests have erupted in the Venezuelan capital the day after Mr Maduro claimed he had won.

The opposition has disputed Mr Maduro's declaration of victory as fraudulent, saying its candidate Edmundo González won convincingly with 70% of the vote.

Opinion polls ahead of the election suggested a clear victory for the challenger.



Many people have been banging pots and pans.

Opposition parties had united behind Mr González in an attempt to unseat President Maduro after 11 years

in power, amid widespread discontent over the country's economic crisis.

A number of Western and Latin American countries, as well as international bodies including the UN, have called on the Venezuelan authorities to release voting records from individual polling stations.

Earlier, many people banged pots and pans from their homes and on the streets - one group stood outside in the pouring rain chanting "Afuera" (Out) and "Libertad" (Freedom).

Footage showed tyres burning on highways and large numbers of people on the streets, with police on motorbikes firing tear gas.

The BBC spoke to a number of people who attended one protest in a densely-populated area known as La Lucha, meaning "the fight".

Paola Sarzalejo, 41, said the vote was "terrible, fraud. We won with 70%,"

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but they did the same thing to us again. They took the elections from us again.

“We want a better future for our youth, for our country.”

Her father Miguel, 64, agreed, saying: “He lost the elections, he has no right to be there right now.”

He added: “We want a better future for the youth because if not they will leave the country. One where they can work well and earn well. We have a rich country and he is destroying everything.

“If the youth all leave, only old people will be left in Venezuela, only senior citizens.”

Cristobal Martinez, draped in a Venezuelan flag, said he thought the election was a “fraud”.

He said most young people in La Lucha and surrounding areas had voted in an election that was particularly important for young people as “many of us are unemployed” and “the majority do not study”.

“It was the first time I have voted in my life. I was there from six in the morning until approximately nine in the morning and I saw a lot of people mobilising in the street.

“There was a lot of discontent towards the government. The majority of people were participating for change.”

He said that while President Maduro had been in office for a long time there had not been “any change”

and it had been “worse since President Chavez died”.

He accused some older people who sympathised with the government of living off bonuses or food handouts whereas “we want a change, we want decent jobs, a good future for our country”.

Mr Martinez said he wanted “people from other countries to help us... so

that a disaster doesn’t happen like in previous times”.

President Maduro has accused the opposition of calling for a coup by disputing the results. “This is not the first time we are facing what we are facing today,” he said.

“They are trying to impose in Venezuela a coup d’etat again of fascist and counter-revolutionary char-

acter.”

The Venezuelan attorney general warned that the blocking of roads or breaking any laws related to disturbances as part of protests would be met with the full force of the law and that 32 people had been detained on accusations ranging from destroying electoral materials to sparking acts of violence.

Russian commander killed in sandstorm ambush in Mali

By Wedaeli Chibelushi

A commander in a Russian mercenary group has been killed in Mali following an attack by rebel fighters during a sandstorm, the group said.

The military regime in the West African state had turned to the notorious Wagner group in 2021, seeking support in fighting jihadist and separatist forces.

On Monday the Russian outfit - which has now morphed into a group named Africa Corps - said it had joined Mali's military in "fierce battles" against separatist rebels and jihadist militants last week.

However, the separatists launched a major attack, killing an estimated 20



Mali's north has been plagued by instability for years.

to 50 mercenaries, sources close to Africa Corps told the BBC.

Similarly, several Russian military bloggers reported that at least 20

were killed in the ambush near the north-eastern town of Tinzaouaten.

In an official statement posted to

cont'd on pg 17

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International

AROUND THE WORLD

cont'd from pg 16

Telegram, the Russian mercenary group did not specify how many of their troops had died, but they confirmed suffering “losses”. This included a commander, Sergei Shevchenko, who was killed in action.

The mercenaries initially “destroyed most of the Islamists and put the rest to flight”, the statement said.

“However, [an] ensuing sandstorm allowed the radicals to regroup and increase their numbers to 1,000 people,” it added.

The Permanent Strategic Framework for Peace, Security and Development (CSP-PSD), a separatist group dominated by the Tuareg ethnic group, claimed responsibility for the attack.

“On Saturday, our forces dealt a decisive blow to the enemy columns,” AFP quoted the CSP-PSD’s spokesperson as saying.

Prisoners were taken and “a large amount of equipment and weapons were damaged or captured”, the spokesman added.

The rebel group has shared video footage which shows numerous white men in military fatigues lying motionless on a sandy plain.

Another shows a group of mostly black men wearing blindfolds with their hands tied behind their backs.

The BBC has not been able to confirm the authenticity of the videos.

Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), an al-Qaeda affiliate, has also

claimed sole responsibility for the attack.

The Islamist militants said they killed 50 Russian mercenaries in a “complex ambush”.

More than a decade ago, Mali’s central government lost control of much of the north following a Tuareg rebellion, which was sparked by a demand for a separate

state.

The country’s security then was then further complicated by the involvement of Islamist militants in the conflict.

When seizing power in coups in 2020 and 2021, the military cited the government’s inability to tackle this unrest.

The new junta severed

Mali’s long-running alliance with former colonial power France in favour of Russia in a bid to quell the unrest.

But the Wagner mercenary group was in effect dismantled after a mutiny by its leader Yevgeny Prigozhin last year, leading to its replacement in West Africa by Africa Corps.



The state's Republican-controlled legislature approved the ban last year.

Six-week abortion ban takes effect in Iowa

By Sam Cabral

A law that bans almost all abortions after six weeks has taken effect in the US state of

Iowa.

The legislation allows the procedure until early signs of cardiac activity can be detect-

ed in a foetus or embryo, with exceptions in cases of rape, incest, foetal abnormalities and when the mother's life is in danger.

The Republican-enacted ban was blocked after its passage last year before being upheld by the state's highest court last month.

It is among the most restrictive policies to be enforced since Americans lost the national right to abortion access two years ago.

Before Monday, abortions were allowed through the 20th week of pregnancy in Iowa.

The US Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v Wade decision had guaranteed the right to an abortion prior to foetal viability, usually between 24 and 28 weeks, before its repeal nearly a half-century later by the court's new conservative majority.

Iowa now joins a grow-

ing list of Midwestern states, including its neighbouring Missouri and South Dakota, that have enacted restrictions since Roe's overturn.

The ban is expected to force state residents to seek care in adjacent Democrat-led states that have taken action to maintain or expand abortion access since 2022, building pressure on providers in Illinois and Minnesota.

"As our neighbors in Iowa are stripped of their fundamental rights, my message is clear: Your reproductive freedom will remain protected in Minnesota," Governor Tim Walz posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker called the six-week abortion ban "disturbing".

"Here in Illinois, we will welcome our Iowan neighbors for reproductive freedom and whatever care they

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AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCELS</u>
GOLDEN GROVE	612 1790C	26 AND 108

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, we shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Thursday the 08th day of August 2024 at 11:00am the above residential properties at Golden Grove.

The properties are under the ownership of **DION WAYNE PRYCE AND SANDRA ELIZABETH JAMES**. Parcel 26 is a 4,356 sq. ft. plot with a two storey residential building with 2-bedrooms. Parcel 108 is a 2,178 sq. ft. plot with a partially completed residential building.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Trevor Teddy Santos Inc., Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 562-7653 and 464-7653.

Dated this the 18th day of July 2024

Trevor Teddy Santos Inc.
Licensed Auctioneer

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need,” he wrote on X.

Iowa Republicans had passed their prohibition last summer after failing in an identical effort six years ago.

The legislation hinges on what lawmakers deemed a “detectable foetal heartbeat” - a term medical groups say mischaracterises the electronic impulses that signify early cardiac development.

But a lower court temporarily blocked the ban from going into effect after providers argued in a lawsuit that it goes against Iowans’ constitutional rights.

The Iowa Supreme Court disagreed and rejected the suit last month in a 4-3 ruling.

The state’s Republican governor, Kim Reynolds, who signed the bill into law, hailed the top court’s decision at the time as “a victory for life”.

“There is nothing more sacred and no cause more worthy than protecting innocent unborn lives,” she wrote in a statement.

But polls show that nearly two-thirds of Iowans believe abortion should be legal in most or all cases.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, an advocacy group for abortion access, wrote on X that they will continue the fight to “expand, restore and protect your right to make your own decisions about your own bodies and lives”.

“We already know Iowans will be hurt because it’s currently a grim reality in vast swaths of the South and Mid-West,” the centre’s Pres-

ident and CEO Nancy Northup said in a statement. “Patients will be forced to travel hundreds of miles from home to find abortion care, if they have the means to do so.”

With the November general election barely three months away, Democrats are hoping to rally voters around support for abortion rights.

“This morning, more

than 1.5 million women in Iowa woke up with fewer rights than they had last night because of another Trump Abortion Ban,” Vice-President Kamala Harris, the party’s expected presidential candidate, wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Ms Harris has promised to restore reproductive rights.

Donald Trump, the Re-

publican candidate, has said he is “proudly the person responsible” for ending Roe, arguing the issue of abortion should be decided by individual states.

Since Roe’s repeal, 22 states have enacted restrictions - affecting more than one in three American women - despite their widespread unpopularity.

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Djokovic beats rival Nadal at the Paris Olympics

PARIS (AP) — Novak Djokovic, who won, and Rafael Nadal, who lost, met at the net and hugged after playing at the Paris Olympics in the 60th — and quite possibly last — installment of a record-breaking and often riveting rivalry between two tennis greats who share a mutual respect if not a close friendship.

This 6-1, 6-4 victory for Djokovic came in only the second round of the Summer Games — instead of a Grand Slam final, like nine previous head-to-head encounters — and it was not the most scintillating contest, either, other than for a 20-minute interlude in the second set, when Nadal's final push made things briefly competitive after he ceded 10 of the initial 11 games.

Afterward, neither Nadal, who is 38, nor Djokovic, 37, was willing to concede they won't play each other again, even if that seems likely. Nadal certainly seems as if he could be close to retirement; he's had two injury-filled seasons, needed hip surgery a little more than a year ago, and spoke in 2023 about 2024 being his farewell.

Men moving into the third round included Carlos Alcaraz, who is scheduled to team with Nadal in doubles for Spain on Tuesday and defeated Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands



Serbia's Novak Djokovic, right, hugs Spain's Rafael Nadal after their men's singles second round match at the Roland Garros stadium at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, Monday, July 29, 2024. (AP)

6-1, 7-6 (3) in singles on Monday night.

Alcaraz needed a medical timeout for treatment on a hip in the second set, then was a point from getting pushed to a third, but finished the job. Other winners were Casper Ruud of Norway and Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, who both have reached French Open finals.

Coco Gauff is making it look easy at the Paris Olympics so far, adding a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Maria Lourdes Carle of Argentina in the second round of singles Monday to her growing collection of lopsided results.

In other action around the same facility used for the French Open, where Nadal won 14 of his 22 major championships, three-time major champion Angelique Kerber was a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 winner against Jaqueline Adina Cristian of Romania, and Wimbledon champ Barbora Krejckikova of the Czech Republic and Wimbledon runner-up Jasmine Paolini of Italy advanced in straight sets.

Gauff's American teammates Danielle Collins and Emma Navarro both won. Collins eliminated 2018 Australian Open title win-

ner Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

The next opponent for Gauff will be Donna Vekic, a Croatian who was a semifinalist at Wimbledon a little more than two weeks ago and got past 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu of Canada 6-3, 6-4 on Monday.

Meanwhile, Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh claimed the first gold medal of her just-burgeoning career Monday night with a dominating victory in the 400-meter individual medley at the Paris Olympics.

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CWI announces championship XI squad to face South Africa

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the West Indies Championship XI to compete in a four-day warm-up fixture against South Africa at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, starting on Wednesday.

This is a crucial opportunity to engage several talented players who have either demonstrated consistent performance over multiple seasons or have shown impressive emerging talent during the four-day match from July 31 to August 3.

The team will be captained by Leeward Islands Hurricane all-rounder, Justin Greaves of Barbados. Fellow Leeward Islands Hurricane batsman and teammate Keacy Carty of Anguilla will be the vice-captain of the team.

The selection of these players is part of CWI's strategy to evaluate the readiness of potential squad members for the upcoming



Leeward Islands all-rounder Justin Greaves will captain the West Indies Championship XI against South Africa. (File photo)

West Indies versus South Africa Home Test Series. The focus is on assessing their battle readiness and potential contributions to the men's Test team.

Miles Bascombe, CWI Director of Cricket, re-

marked, "We are excited to see these players in action against a formidable South African side.

"This fixture is a valuable opportunity to assess their readiness and gauge their potential for the up-

coming Test series. Each player selected has shown significant promise, and we are eager to see how they perform on this stage."

This match will serve as a significant test for these players, providing a platform to showcase their skills and further their case for inclusion in the senior team.

The West Indies Championship XI squad: Justin Greaves (captain), Keacy Carty (vice-captain), Jedi-ah Blades, Joshua Bishop, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Bryan Charles, Amir Jangoo, Anderson Phillip, Nial Smith, Jeremy Solozano, Shamar Springer, Isai Thorne, Kevin Wickham, and Kemar Roach.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach: Floyd Reifer; Assistant Coach: Ramesh Subasinge; Physiotherapist: Jelani Baptise; Strength and Conditioning Coach: Shayne Cooper; and Team Analyst: Keshavar Ramphal.

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The 17-year-old McIntosh collected her first medal of any color on the opening night of swimming, taking a silver in the 400 freestyle behind Ariarne Titmus — and ahead of Katie Ledecky.

Now, McIntosh has the best color of all. She pushed the pace hard through the first half of the grueling race — the butterfly and backstroke legs — to leave everyone in her wake except American Katie Grimes.

McIntosh was under her own

world-record pace, but couldn't keep it going. She touched in 4 minutes, 27.71 seconds, more than three seconds off the mark of 4:24.38 she set at the Canadian trials in May. But it was more than good enough to vanquish the field in the Olympic final.

Grimes, who is also swimming the open water event in Paris, held on to claim the silver in 4:33.40. The Americans also grabbed the bronze when Emma Weyant touched in 4:34.93.

David Popovici made the teenagers 2-for-2 on the night when he pulled

off a thrilling victory in the men's 200 freestyle.

The 19-year-old Romanian was among three swimmers who swapped the lead back and forth on the final lap. First, it was American Luke Hobson edging in front. Then Britain's Matthew Richards, out in Lane 1, pushed to the lead.

Finally, it was Popovici mustering everything he had to get to the wall in 1:44.72 -- a mere two-hundredths ahead of Richards, with Hobson just 0.07 back to earn the bronze.

Sports News

Leewards beat Jamaica to claim first win at regional Under-19 tournament

The Leeward Islands won their first match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Under-19 Men's Rising Stars 50-Over Championship in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sunday.

After losing their previous three matches, the Leeward Islands recorded a 19-run victory against defending champions Jamaica in their fourth-round encounter at the Park Hill playing field in Colonarie.

Set 209 to win, the Jamaicans were dismissed for 189 in 37.2 overs, with Jordan Johnson hitting a century.

Johnson slammed 106 off just 83 balls, including 12 fours and six sixes, but no other Jamaican batsmen made any major contributions.

Isra-el Morton captured three for 35, left-arm seamer Nathan Edward claimed two for 28, and Curdel Crooke captured two for 37.

Opener Michael Palmer and captain Jewel Andrew hit half centuries as the Leeward Islands made 208 for nine off their allotted 50 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Palmer and Andrew shared a third-wicket partnership of 126 to provide the platform for the Leewards to reach the 200-run mark for the first time in this year's competition.

Palmer hit a top score of 74 off 67 balls, with eight



The Leeward Islands Under-19 team. (File photo)

fours and three sixes, and Andrew struck 54 off 65 balls, including six fours and two sixes.

Antiguan all-rounder Yanique Watley, playing his first match of the one-day tournament, chipped in with 24 as six Leeward Islands batsmen failed to reach double figures.

Adrian Weir grabbed three for 16, fellow right-arm medium pacer Deshawn James picked up three for 25, and Tamarie Redwood captured two for 39.

There were also wins for Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in the penultimate round of matches.

Trinidad and Tobago snatched a one-wicket win against the Windward Islands at the Sion Hill playing field.

The Windward Islands were dismissed for 96 in 35.5 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Kirt Murray topscored with 29. Joshua Davis grabbed three for 16, and fellow right-arm medium pacer Orlando James claimed three for 29.

Trinidad and Tobago secured victory at 97 for nine in 37.2 overs. Fareez Ali hit an unbeaten 40, and opener Kyle Ramdoo made 22.

Right-arm pacer Lee John took three for 18, and left-arm pacer Kirt Murray captured three for 31.

Barbados crushed Guyana by nine wickets at the Arnos Vale playing field in Kingstown. The Guyanese men were bundled out for 58 in 33.4 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Left-arm spinner Nathan Sealy snapped up three wickets for six runs, medium pacer Kyron King grabbed three wickets for seven runs, and leg-spinner Zishan Motara bagged three for 13.

Barbados then quickly wrapped up the match, racing to victory at 61 for one in just 7.5 overs. Opener Zion Brathwaite hit an unbeaten 28 off 23 balls, and Joshua Morris struck 23 not out off 18 balls.

The six regional teams will contest the fifth and final round of matches on Tuesday (today).

The Leeward Islands will meet Barbados at Cumberland; Jamaica will take on Trinidad and Tobago at Arnos Vale; and the Windward Islands will face Guyana at Park Hill.

Washington Freedom win Major League Cricket title

Steven Smith led Washington Freedom to their first Major League Cricket (MLC) 2024 title as they romped to an overwhelming 96-run victory against San Francisco Unicorns at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas on Sunday night.

Smith and Australia team-mate Glenn Maxwell dominated with the bat then Unicorns' chase disintegrated with Marco Jansen claiming both openers among his three wickets.

The result cemented Freedom's standing as the team of the season, having secured five wins in the group stage before progressing direct to the final with victory over Unicorns in the qualifier.

This contest turned their way through a stand of 83 off 39 balls between Smith and Maxwell as Freedom added 121 in the second half of their innings.

Smith, who was overlooked for Australia's T20 World Cup squad earlier this year, overcame a slug-

gish start in the powerplay to make 88 off 52 balls including six sixes.

Having been 10 off 12 balls in the sixth over, he sped to a 34-ball fifty and ended the season as the joint second-leading run-scorer, alongside Travis Head, with 336 at a strike-rate of 148.67.

Head, who has struck at over 170 during the tournament, fell early to Pat Cummins when he edged to slip, where Finn Allen held on at the second attempt, having been given a life in the opening over.

But Andries Gous gave Freedom's innings impetus as Smith found his feet although when Haris Rauf removed Rachin Ravindra after the midway mark, it was an even contest at 86 for three.

Then Smith and Maxwell, the latter having found form in the closing stages of the tournament, took charge, with 28 coming off the 13th over from Juanoy Drysdale.



Washington Freedom players pose after their maiden Major League Cricket title win at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Texas, July 29, 2024. (MLC)

Smith produced an outrageous scoop for six off Rauf and was in sight of a century when he got a top edge off Cummins.

It appears likely that Smith's T20I career is over following his World Cup omission and absence from the squad to face Scotland and England in September as the selectors look to the future, but it has been a profitable few weeks for him in the USA.

Though Maxwell also

fell in the next over, superbly caught by Josh Inglis, Freedom were still able to cross 200.

The Unicorns' chase never got off the ground. Jake Fraser-McGurk's low-key tournament ended when he edged into the stumps against Jansen to leave him with 81 runs at 11.57 then both Sanjay Krishnamurthi and Allen also fell inside the powerplay to leave a daunting task.

Sherfane Rutherford was superbly caught at deep backward square by Ian Holland the ball after being dropped and the rest of the batting fell away amid a huge asking rate.

Freedom's victory gave Ricky Ponting a title as coach a couple of weeks after leaving his role with Delhi Capitals.

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keeper Scott flying to his left to no avail as the ball nestled in the top left-hand corner of Grenades' goal, making it 2-1.

The Grenades were able to see out the encounter and secure their spot in the quarter-finals on July 30.

The second win for the Grenades set up a quarterfinal match against defending champions SV Robinhood of Suriname.

SV Robinhood opened their CFU Club Shield campaign on Sunday with a 4-1 victory over AS Étoile De Matoury of French Guiana to secure their place in the quarter-finals.

The Grenades are expected to face stern competition from SV Robinhood, who won the Shield in 2019 and again in 2023. Robinhood also won the 2023 CONCACAF Caribbean Cup.

Sports

TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2024



Grenades advance to Club Shield quarter-finals

Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades FC of Antigua and Barbuda advanced to the quarter-finals of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Shield Championship in Willemstad, Curaçao, on Sunday.

The Grenades booked their spot in the quarter-finals after snatching a 2-1 victory against SV Real Rincon of Bonaire in their Round of 16 encounter at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca.

The Grenades started the game by pressing the Bonaire Premier League six-time champions. They also enjoyed most of the possession in the early stages of the match but couldn't produce much on the attack.

SV Real Rincon looked menacing on the counter-attacks, forcing Grenades to be defensively disciplined.

Malcolm Stewart was the Grenades best player on the day in the center-forward position, operating mainly down the left-hand side.

He was menacing to the Rincon defense, squaring a cross to Luis Labrada, whose effort on goal went wide of Rishison Frans in goal for SV Real Rincon.

Stewart's pressing run eventually forced a defensive blunder, and he found himself one-on-one with Frans, but he sent his effort inches wide of the target in the 25th minute.

Rincon tried to mount some pressure on Grenades with some combination play on the left-hand side, resulting in a shot that only found the side-netting of Zaiem Scott's goal.



The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades FC starting XI against SV Real Rincon of Bonaire in the 2024 Caribbean Football Union Club Shield Championship at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca in Willemstad, Curaçao, on Sunday, July 28. (CFU Media)

Frans came up with a big save in the 36th minute when Grenades captain Quinton Griffith saw his long-range effort blocked but picked up by Sherman Augustine. Augustine cleverly passed to Keanu Barrett in the penalty area. Barrett fired a shot on goal, which was saved by the outstretched leg of Frans.

Grenades eventually took the lead a few minutes before the half-time whistle via a header by Augustine.

Griffith's corner kick found Augustine on the back post to head home from close range in the 43rd minute to give the Grenades a one-nil halftime lead. It was Augustine's second goal of the tournament.

The game restarted with the Grenades hunting for more goals to increase their lead. Barrington Blake tried to test the goalkeeper from a distance.

Stewart tried to link with Luis Labrada inside the box, but misguided his pass. But Labrada extended his team's lead in the 64th minute after a Keanu Barrett cross found him unmarked in the box. His first-time shot went flying into the net, and Frans had no chance in goal.

SV Real Rincon reduced the deficit by scoring in the 78th minute. Bonaire's leading all-time scorer captain Ayrton Cicilia sent

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