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LEGISLATION TO COMBAT YOUTH VIOLENCE GOES TO PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

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The week-long conflict resolution workshop that is jointly organized by the High Court in conjunction with the ministry of education is now focusing on young people who are being trained to be agents of change in the school system. The training is being conducted by certified conflict resolution/mediator, Ann Diaz of Trinidad and Tobago. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



Three pieces of legislation aimed at combatting youth violence go to parliament next week

The Cabinet on Wednesday examined three pieces of legislation dealing with gangs and youth that will come before the Parliament next week.

These are: the Anti-Gang Bill; The Child Justice (Amendment) Bill; and, the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill.

"The new and amended laws are intended to address the spate of criminal activity by youth recently recorded. Considerable attention is paid to the likely impact of increased minimum sentences, although the Cabinet conceded that depriving magistrates and judges hearing criminal matters of the discretion which they now possess, may not be constitutional" according to the Cabinet Notes. Nevertheless, the Notes added. though the minimal custodial sentence for gun crimes appears to be two years, the Cabinet agreed on a minimum of five years for gun crimes and left the discretion to magistrates and judges to determine the length of incarceration.

The Cabinet has agreed to engage in consultation with stakeholders who have a particular interest in deterring crime. Those stakeholders will include Judges and Magistrates dealing with criminal law, the Police, the Prime Minister and the Attorney General, the Bar Association, the Church, the Business Community, the DPP, a representative from the private sector organizations and the NGOs.

The Notes reported that one of their primary tasks will be to establish a Criminal Justice Board whose primary function will be to review draft legislation pertaining to crime that will go before the Parliament; bills will, thereafter, reflect broad-based input rather than the thinking of the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament only.

The Land Adjudication Board commences meetings in Barbuda

The Cabinet was informed by the Attorney General that the Land Adjudication Board got started in Barbuda on Wednesday.

In order to complete the crown land to establish an accurate cadastral survey, the Land Adjudication Board will invite those who have had historical use of

their claim over certain parcels. That work got off the ground Wednesday and will continue for as long as it

Sir Clare K Roberts

takes within a reasonable time to complete the map-

ping.

Sir Clare K Roberts has been appointed Chairman of the Adjudication process. All lands in Barbuda are owned by the crown; however, the law now allows for crown land to be sold in fee simple to those who have occupied and built homes on those lands.

Residents of Barbuda will be able to purchase their plot for \$1.00 in consideration.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A local distribution organization, with over 2 decades experience, is currently seeking a proficient and reliable Executive Assistant to join our dynamic team. The ideal candidate should be highly organized, proactive, and adept at handling administrative tasks with efficiency and precision. The responsibilities will include managing calendars, coordinating travel arrangements, preparing reports, conducting research, and ensuring smooth operations.

The ideal candidate should:

- Demonstrate excellent oral & written communication skills.
- Have excellent planning, execution, monitoring, and resource balancing skills
- Be proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Teams)
- · Hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or related field
- Possess a minimum three (3) years' experience in a similar role
- Exhibit a pleasant disposition with a flexible attitude

Applications should be addressed to: The Human Resource Manager St John's, Antigua email: humanresources.ntw@gmail.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those short-listed will be contacted.



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Press Release on the Adjudication of Lands in Barbuda

Consequent on Barbuda being brought under the Registered Land (Amendment) Act, 2023, the land adjudication process in Barbuda has commenced.

The Order declaring the Government's intention to effect the adjudication was published in Gazette No 43 dated 4th October, 2023 and the appointment of Sir Clare Roberts as Adjudication Officer has also been gazetted in Gazette No 47 dated 22nd August, 2024.

In accordance with the provisions of the Land Adjudication Act Cap 234, the following Notices have been issued: -

1. Section 5 Notice

The division of the Adjudication Area No 7, Barbuda, into Adjudication Sections or Registration Sections as follows:-

- 1. West Coast
- 2. Palmetto
- 3. South Coast
- 4. Salt Lake
- 5. East Coast
- 6. Midlands
- 7. Two Foot Bay
- 8. North Coast
- 9. Lagoon

2. Section 6 Notice :-

- Specifying the situation and limits of the first Adjudication Section to be adjudicated, namely <u>Salt Lake</u>; and
- b. Declaring that all interests in land will be ascertained and recorded in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.
- 3. The above-mentioned Notices have been published in the following places:-

BARBUDA

- The Police Station;
- The Fire Station
- Antigua Commercial Bank
- Antigua Public Utilities Authority
- Holy Trinity Primary School
- Barbuda General Post Office and Treasury
- Barbuda branch Electoral Office
- Buzz bar
- Chill Spot Bar
- Black Swan Bar and Restaurant
- Lornette House of Love Superette
- Buffalo Mini Mart
- Barbuda Local Council

ANTIGUA

- Land Registry, High Street, Antigua
- Ministry of Legal Affairs, Parliament Drive, Antigua

Claims are now being accepted in respect of the Salt Lake Adjudication Section Commencement Date: 28th August, 2024
End Date: 30th September 2024

Claim forms can be collected at all the locations listed above where Section 5 and 6 Notices have been posted.

Additionally, claim forms can be requested and submitted via email at <u>technical.barbuda@ab.gov.ag</u> or electronically by scanning the bar code below.

Local News







Conflict resolution training now focuses on young people

The weeklong conflict resolution workshop that is jointly organized by the High Court in conjunction with the ministry of education is now focusing on young people who are being trained to be agents of change in the school system.

The training is being conducted by certified conflict resolution/mediator, Ann Diaz of Trinidad and Tobago who noted that the training is being done in response to the ongoing problem of youth violence in the country.

She said the programme is being done in two parts; part one involved the training of teachers/counsellors who completed their training on Monday and Tuesday. They were trained as trainers so that they can expose



their colleagues to the different methodologies of conflict resolution.

Starting on Wednesday, the train-





"The concept is to have young people work along with their peers to resolve conflict before they mushroom into bigger problems. We know that the students cannot deal with matters of school or government policy, but areas such as bullying and teasing are issues for which they can intervene and help resolve before they escalate into something much bigger," Diaz explained.

The initiative forms part of a pilot project where students from one seccont'd on pg 5



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Police, education officials to discuss youth violence

The police and top officials of the ministry of education are meeting today (Thursday) to discuss the problem of youth violence that has gripped the nation's attention over the past several months.

The meeting is taking place at the request of Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney, who indicated

a desire to meet with the officials of the ministry ahead of the start of the 2024-25 Academic Year.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, confirmed that the meeting is in response to the ongoing issues concerning the recent upsurge in violence where, as he observed in remarks on Tuesday, youth were both the victims and the perpetrators of the violence.

The meeting is expected to discuss various strategies to arrest the problem of violence among the youth that has shaken the entire society.

Both the commissioner and the education officials will seek to implement the strategies they decide upon during the new academic year which starts on September 2.

Over the past several weeks, young people have been identified as having been involved in robberies in which fire arms were involved or suspected to have been involved in other crimes.

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ondary school – Ottos Comprehensive – and one primary – TN Kirnon – are being exposed to the training. The long-term goal is to have the programme rolled out in schools across Antigua and Barbuda.

According to Diaz the aim is to equip students with the tools to peaceably resolve conflicts among their peers and in the process reduce the problem of youth-on-youth violence in the country.

The training involves both theoretical principles as well as role play for the participants. At the end, they will engage in video recordings of their attempts to resolve conflicts which will be reviewed by the entire group.

Mediation Committee member and representative of the Bar Association, Cherissa Roberts-Thomas said the counsellors within the school are being trained in order to train others so that the programme may have 'longevity'. "This is a pilot project and we have student representatives from the pilot schools (Ottos Comprehensive and TN Kirnon) being trained as peer mediators in those schools as part of the project. The purpose is for them to learn to deal with conflict, to manage

conflict and to resolve conflict among themselves as peers," she stated.

She added that those who are trained will act as impartial parties to assist their peers in solving or resolving conflict. Twenty-five students from the pilot schools are attending the training ranging from ages 10 to 17 years.

The ACB Caribbean made a generous contribution to the staging of the training.



Local News



New Agriculture Minister Anthony Smith reflects on first weeks since appointment

The newly appointed Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and the Blue Economy, Anthony Smith is embracing his role with enthusiasm and determination. Having recently taken his seat in the Cabinet as an independent member of the House of Representatives, he represents the people of All Saints West and reflects on his first few of weeks in office as both remarkable and inspiring, demonstrating the capacity to function effectively.

Minister Smith describes his journey thus far as one of discovery and collaboration, particularly highlighting the warm reception he has received from both his colleagues and the dedicated staff within the various ministries and departments. "It has been a remarkable experience," Smith stated. "The level of technical expertise and professional-

ism of the staff across all departments has truly demonstrated commitment to nation-building. Each department head possesses a clear understanding of his or her role and objectives, and has a clear vision for the future." As the strategy executive, Minister Smith believes he just needs to synchronize all departmental visions with the government's policy and inspire production.

He attributes his optimism for the future to the collaborative spirit fostered within the Cabinet. He believes that his youthful energy, fresh perspectives, and managerial skill-set lay the groundwork for transformative initiatives that will significantly benefit both the ministries and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Smith emphasized several key areas he aims to focus on during his tenure, including food security, youth agricultural



Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and the Blue Economy, Anthony Smith development, modern technologies, and land empowerment.

"Our youth are the future of this nation, and it is vital that we involve them in these initiatives," he said passionately.

The Minister also expressed excitement about the opportunities within the blue economy, recognizing the potential to harness marine resources for economic development. A notable achievement he mentioned is the successful launch of an aquaponics farm at the National Vocational Center for Persons Living with Disabilities. This initiative not only aims to bolster food security but also seeks to create economic opportunities for some of the most vulnerable members of society. He envisions expanding similar programs in schools to offer practical and economic skills to young people.

Minister Smith says this system of coupling aquaculture with hydroponics fits into Antigua's low rainfall, ecology, and limited land space, making it a great agro-business opportunity that young people could embrace.

His vision for a collaborative, innovative approach to governance shines through as he looks forward to making significant strides in the months ahead. His main vision is to significantly increase agriculture's contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



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Dr. Jean Sebastien presenting findings from Lyon wreck since work begun in 2021



Special presentation from the AAPA team to Mrs. Martin, Parks Commissioner of NPA

Research on Tank Bay shipwreck in **English Harbour nears completion**

The National Parks Authority (NPA) and collaborators from the University of the Antilles in Martinique (UA) and the Association of Archaeology for the Petite Antilles (AAPA) have finished the third research campaign on the Tank Bay shipwreck in English Harbour, Antigua. This project milestone marks the end of the current funding, but not the end of the ongoing re-

search.

This year, researchers have uncovered more of the wreck site, previously identified as the French blockade runner Lyon captured and brought into English Harbour in 1778. The site, rediscovered in a benthic survey commissioned by the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS) and the NPA in 2013 and identified archaeologically as trade, with archival docuthe Lyon in 2022, is one of the largest wooden shipwrecks ever discovered in the Caribbean region.

Through ongoing research, the shipwreck has a long history, first as a French East India Company trading vessel, sailing around Africa and into the Indian Ocean. Archaeologically recovered fragments of Chinese trade porcelain point to an active ments confirming that porcelain, along with spices, silks, and other high value trade goods forming these cargos.

In 1777, the vessel was converted into a blockade runner funded by a wealthy Frenchman supportive of the American Revolution. He filled the cargo hold with woolen uniforms and naval cordage for the use of the Continental Army and Navy respectively. As the Lyon left North America, she was captured by HMS Maidstone and brought into English Harbour, her cargo and useful pieces stripped, and left to sink into the silt of Tank Bay.

Parks Commissioner, Ann Marie Martin, remarked that "This discovery and subsequent collaboration with our partners from Martinique have allowed us to bring a new story to Nelson's Dockyard, build local capacity with train-



NPA and AAPA teams

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Local News



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ing, and form stronger regional links with our French neighbours, while also strengthening our own capacity to safeguard our past. It also forms a major underlying component of our tourism product, and we want to continue to develop and diversify our heritage product to better serve Antiguans and Barbudans as well as our foreign visitors. The Tank Bay Collaboration does exactly this and we are looking forward to the next phases of this project."

"This is the only known ship of this type to ever be found with intact hull remains, which makes this a unique and special site. It's not just a shipwreck; it's a time capsule that will help us to understand the strategic naval battles of the Caribbean. The data we gather here will significantly contribute to our understanding of the



region's maritime history" stated Dr. Jean-Sebastien Guibert, professor of history at UA and project leader of the French team.

As this part of the project ends, there is hope for more collaboration, training, and capacity building in the future. Domenico Ditaranto, First Counselor in the French Embassy in Saint Lucia for OECS countries visited the site to see how the French

government can support this project in the future, strengthening links between France and Antigua and Barbuda through culture.

Ideas include more formal training for Antigua's and Barbuda's diving community in underwater cultural heritage site identification, mapping and monitoring, developing dive sites for responsible and value-added tourism, and greater educational exchanges.



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Nineteen students complete internship at VCBIA

Nineteen students have completed an internship on-the-job training programme with the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) as they seek to explore career prospects in the aviation industry.

All of the interns were applicants to the programme which has been hailed as an excellent initiative in creating a new generation of aviation professionals from Antigua and Barbuda.

The Human Resource Division of the Airport Authority oversees the selection process and ensures the students are placed in the department that best fits their latent skills and future career interests so as to ensure they leave the initiative well rounded and ready for the world of work.

The nineteen interns were spread across the Airport Operations Centre, Customer Service Department, Security, as well as Human Resource and Operations. Also involved were the Accounts Department, IT, the Executive Lounge and the Commercial Department.





At the closing ceremony, the heads of the various departments congratulated the students for their interest in pursuing careers in the aviation industry and for the quality attributes they displayed while making use of the opportunity to expand their horizons as upcoming professionals.

"Our summer internship programme has once again proven to be a resounding success," stated Human Resources Manager of the Airport Authority Moya Thomas.

"Department heads and all of our valued employees deserve commendation

for facilitating the learning experience of these promising students. This year's crop represents the future of our industry, and our society will look to them to carry forward and elevate the high standards of professionalism and quality work we've established here at the VC Bird International Airport," she stated. The Airport Authority has made the internship initiative an annual commitment to ensure continued excellence and innovation of Antigua and Barbuda's vital aviation sector, a crucial component of the national economy.

Local News



Two ASC students receive JCI Antigua scholarships

JCI Antigua has announced the winners of its annual Youth Empowerment Through Education (YETE) Scholarship. Two outstanding students from the Antigua State College were awarded scholarships at the JCI Antigua Ordinary General Meeting held Wednesday.

The recipients of these scholarship are Kemar Robinson, who received a full scholarship from Grant Thornton, and Johnathan Johnson, who received a partial scholarship from CIBC Caribbean for their second year at the Antigua State College. These deserving students have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership potential, and a commitment to giving



JCI Antigua scholarship winner Kemar Robinson with JCI President Therese Mills and Chairman of the Youth Empowerment Programme, Frederick Walker

back to their community.

Empowerment Through The JCI Antigua Youth Education Scholarship is

designed to support and empower young people in Antigua and Barbuda by providing them with the necessary resources to pursue their educational goals. The scholarship winners have received financial support to pursue their academic goals. This scholarship program is made possible through the generous support of Grant Thornton and CIBC Caribbean, who share JCI Antigua's commitment to promoting youth development and education.

JCI Antigua is a leading non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people in Antigua. The organisation is proud to support the education and development of young people in Antigua.

ECAB donates to the West **Indies Sail Heritage Foundation**

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank contributed \$2,500.00 to the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

The donation will assist the non-profit organization in covering the operational costs of its Ocean Love, NO Plastic, NO Waste Program.

The Ocean Love, NO Plastic, NO Waste Program is a comprehensive initiative that educates children about the importance of our oceans, keeping them clean, and the importance of recycling.

The Foundation operates an up-

tle caps are repurposed.

ECAB's marketing team toured the upcycling facility in Falmouth and was impressed by the creative use of Oasis bottle caps to produce plant pots of various sizes and styles as well as a beach chair.

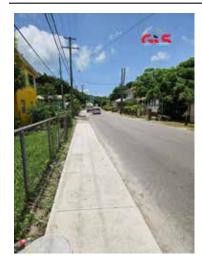
The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank's Marketing & Communications Officer, Jessica Russell said, "The West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation is doing great work. We want to ensure they continue to operate this workshop, demonstrating how repurposing items can not only

cycling workshop where plastic bot- reduce our environmental impact but also result in the creation of beautiful and functional products.

Co- founder of the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation, Billy Gernertt, and the Foundation's Chief Marketing Officer, Annabelle Reynolds- Mannix accepted the donation. Gernertt said, "We are thankful for this contribution and hope we can build a closer relationship with ECAB."

This donation by ECAB is one of many initiatives the bank has sponsored as it aims to build stronger communities across the island.

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Valley Road Sidewalk Project continues

Work is progressing on the construction of 1.2miles (6,200ft/1,915m) of sidewalks from Ebenezer to Jolly Harbour (Valley Road). Approximately 25% of the sidewalks have already been completed.

The sidewalks are 1.2m/ 4ft wide though the full width may not be achieved in built up area because of property fences, roadside drains, utility poles etc.

The project aims to improve property access, vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Project Contractor C O Williams has pledged to take the necessary precautions to minimize the impact on pedestrians when the new school year commences in September. #gisantiguabarbuda



Technology



Telegram boss banned from leaving France in criminal probe

Telegram boss and founder Pavel Durov has been placed under formal investigation in France as part of a probe into organised crime on the messaging app, Paris prosecutors say.

Mr Durov, 39, has not been remanded in custody, but placed under judicial supervision, and has to pay a €5m (£4.2m; \$5.6m) deposit.

The Russian-born billionaire, who is also a French national, also has to show up at a French police station twice a week and is not allowed to leave French territory.

Mr Durov was first detained upon arrival at Le Bourget airport north of Paris last Saturday under a warrant for offences related to the app.

In Wednesday's statement, the Paris prosecutors said Mr Durov was put under formal investigation over alleged offences that included:

Complicity in the administration of an online platform to enable illicit transactions by an organised gang

Refusal to communicate with authorities

Complicity in organised criminal distribution of sexual images of children

In France, being put under formal investigation does not imply guilt or necessarily result in a trial - but it indicates that judges con-



Pavel Durov pictured speaking at a conference in 2016.

sider there is enough of a case to proceed with an investigation.

Mr Durov has so far made no public comments on the latest developments.

His lawyer, David-Olivier Kaminski, said Telegram complied in every respect with European digital regulations and was moderated to the same standards as other social networks.

It was "absurd" to suggest his client could be involved "in criminal acts that don't concern him either directly or indirectly", he added.

It is unprecedented for the owner of a social media platform to be arrested because of the way in which that platform is being used, and it has fuelled a fierce debate online about freedom of speech and accountability.

We have previously

seen tech bosses hauled in front of lawmakers for confrontational grillings about their practices and failings, but not met by law enforcement at airports.

Elon Musk, the owner of X, has defended Mr Durov, arguing that moderation is a "propaganda word" for censorship. He has called for Mr Durov's release.

Chris Pavlovski, the founder of a controversial video-sharing app called Rumble, said he had fled Europe following Mr Durov's detention.

While most of the world's largest social networks do engage with national and international bodies when it comes to serious criminal offences such as the sharing of child sexual abuse images, Telegram is accused of ignoring them.

The firm, which is now

headquartered in Dubai, insists that its moderation tools meet industry standards.

French President Emmanuel Macron said earlier this week that France was deeply committed to freedom of expression, and that the decision to hold Mr Durov was "in no way... political".

Huge groups of up to 200,000 people can share and comment on information and content on Telegram - WhatsApp on the other hand limits its maximum group size to just over 1,000.

While Telegram messages can be encrypted, meaning that only the sender and recipient can view them, this is not activated by default and has to be manually switched on to private chats.

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Business

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Travis and Jason Kelce sign \$100m podcast deal

By Alex Taylor

NFL stars Travis and Jason Kelce have signed a lucrative podcast deal with Amazon, reportedly worth \$100m (£75m).

The three-year deal, announced on Tuesday, gives the company's Wondery audio network exclusive multimedia rights to the brothers' popular New Heights podcast.

The pair said they "couldn't be more excited" at the deal ahead of the show's third series.

The siblings launched the podcast in 2022 - interviewing celebrity guests and discussing their own lives - all with brotherly humour.

Travis, 34, a three-time Super Bowl champion for the Kansas City Chiefs, has since found wider fame as the boyfriend of pop megastar Taylor Swift.

Elder brother Jason, 36, recently retired after 13 seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles and has taken up an analyst role with ESPN.



The deal marks a high watermark in the booming popularity of both sport podcasts and the medium in general, with New Heights winning podcast of the year at the 2024 iHeartPodcast Awards.

Wondery boss Jen Sargent said: "New Heights on the surface is a sports podcast, and sports is such a well-listened-to category. But it's become a cultural phenomenon, they're all in that zeitgeist."

According to Nielsen's recent podcast analysis, the

number of Americans listening to podcasts has increased by 45% in the last five years alone - more than doubling in the past decade to reach 183m people.

A similar shift has happened in the UK, with ad revenue spiking worldwide to be worth billions, according to PwC.

The rise reflects a change in consumption habits, with younger audiences increasingly choosing podcasts over linear TV. The Kelces' signing to Wondery follows the company's similar deal with comedian and podcaster Dax Shephard last month.

Other big-name, big-money podcast deals include Joe Rogan's \$100m partnership with Spotify and Alex Coopers move to Sirius XM.

Earlier this year, it was announced that Kelce would host US gameshow Are You Smarter Than a Celebrity?, also for Amazon.

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On Monday evening, the Paris prosecutors said Mr Durov was being held in custody as part of a cyber-criminality investigation. In response, Telegram said Mr Durov had "nothing to hide".

Russia said that without a "serious basis of evidence", the charges could be seen as an act of "intimidation" against a major technology company for political purposes.

Telegram is ranked as one of the major social media platforms.

It was founded in 2013 and is particularly popular in Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet Union states, as well as Iran.

The BBC revealed on Wednesday that Telegram - which has more than 950 million registered users - has repeatedly refused to join international programmes aimed at detecting and removing child abuse material online.

The BBC has contacted Telegram for comment about its refusal to join the child protection schemes.

Mr Durov, who also founded the popular Russian social media company VKontakte, left Russia in 2014 after refusing to comply with government demands to shut down opposition communities on the platform.

He also holds passports of St Kitts and Nevis and the United Arab Emirates.

Regional News



Shark attack claims life of 16-year-old in Jamaica

Sixteen-year-old William Knibb Memorial High School student Jahmari Reid was suspectedly killed during a shark attack at sea while he was spearfishing off the coast in Falmouth, Trelawny, Jamaica on Monday afternoon.

His mutilated body, with head and a hand missing, was fished from sea early Tuesday morning.

His parents, Michael Reid and Levern Robinson were unconsolable when they received the news that the their son's ravaged body was found in the sea, in the vicinity of the Falmouth All Age School.

The boy lived with his mother in the Race Course section of Falmouth, the police who are investigating disclosed.

The student's mother



Jahmari Reid would have been going into 11th grade when school reopens in September. (Contributed photo)

was overcome with grief and had to be taken to hospital to seek medical attention. His father also openly wept over the gruesome death.

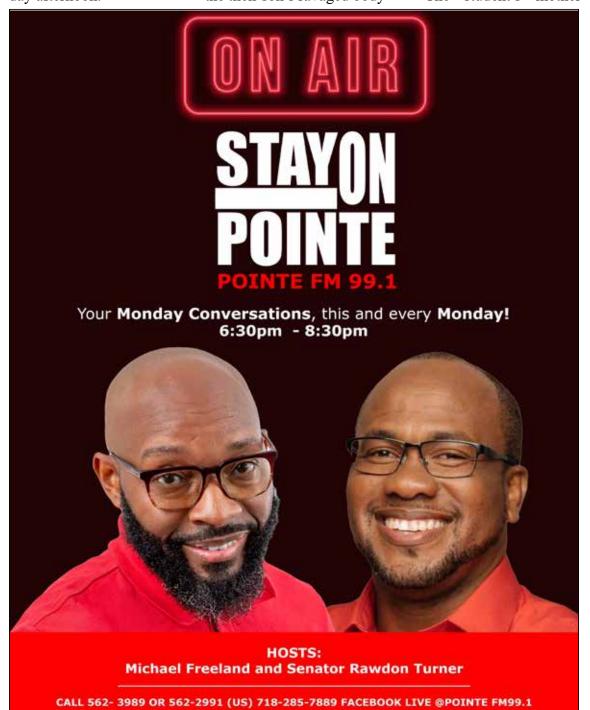
The fishermen, who recovered the body from the sea off the coast of the fishing village in northwest Jamaica disclosed that they encountered a large shark as they sought to remove the body from the water.

A massive crowd gathered at the fishing village where the covered body remained in a boat under the watchful eyes of police until the arrival of undertakers.

The fishermen also said it was the first time they heard of a deadly shark attack in the area.

"I have been fishing for years and this never happened in Falmouth. If you are spearfishing and you have a string of fish and a shark start circling let go of the string and give him," advised the seasoned fisher.

Jahmari would have been going into 11th grade when school reopens in September.



Regional News

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Venezuelan opposition leader's lawyer detained

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

The lawyer of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado has been detained.

Perkins Rocha also serves as legal adviser for the opposition Vente Venezuela party.

He is the latest person with links to the opposition to be seized in the aftermath of last month's presidential election.

The government of President Nicolás Maduro has detained more than 2,400 people over the past month, creating what the UN has called "a climate of fear".

Vente Venezuela said unidentified men had seized Mr Rocha by force and his whereabouts where unknown.

Rights group Provea has warned that political persecution in Venezuela has been intensifying since 29 July - the day that the government-controlled National Electoral Council (CNE) declared President Maduro the election winner.

While the CNE said that Mr Maduro had won a third consecutive term in office with 52% of the votes, it failed to provide detailed tallies from the polling stations to back up its announcement.

The opposition has dis-



Perkins Rocha was detained on Tuesday, the latest to be seized in a wave of arrests.

puted the CNE's result, saying that copies of voting tallies it gathered on election night show that its candidate, Edmundo González, won 67% of the vote, compared to Mr Maduro's 30%.

It has uploaded copies of the tallies to the internet, which have been reviewed by the Washington Post and the Associated Press news agency.

Both the Washington Post and AP reviewed scans of more than 23,000 tallies - a sample which represents nearly 80% of the total - and found that they showed that Mr González had an advantage of more than 3.7 million votes over Mr Maduro.

Mr Maduro responded by taking the matter to the Supreme Court.

The court, which is

stacked with Maduro loyalists, last week upheld the CNE's decision to hand Mr Maduro a third consecutive term in office.

The court's decision was read out by the head of the Supreme Court, who is an active member of the governing party.

The UN Human Rights Council has questioned the court's impartiality and independence, accusing both the court and the CNE of playing a role in the state's repressive machinery.

Venezuela's opposition coalition has called for renewed protests on Wednesday to demand once again the publication of the voting tallies.

But there are fears these protests could be met with increased repression by the security forces after the appointment on Tuesday of hardliner Diosdado Cabello as minister for the interior, justice and peace.

In his new role, Mr Cabello will be in charge of Venezuela's feared secret police, as well as the National Guard.

Mr Cabello has often vowed that opposition to the government be met with an iron fist. He has said in the past that he thinks Edmundo González and María Corina Machado should be "behind bars".

The two opposition leaders have been in hiding in the past weeks, with Ms Machado only emerging sporadically to address her supporters at protest rallies.

On Monday, Ms Machado said they would "not rest" and urged her supporters to keep up the pressure.

International



Nevada politician found guilty of reporter's murder

By Holly Honderich

A former Nevada politician has been found guilty of first degree murder for the death of a journalist who wrote critical stories about his time in office.

Robert Telles, 47, has been jailed since 2022 for the stabbing of Las Vegas Review-Journal investigative journalist Jeff German.

During trial, prosecutors presented the jury with DNA evidence found under Mr German's fingernails that they said belonged to Telles - who had pleaded not guilty.

A jury of 12 returned a guilty verdict on Wednesday, after deliberating for two days.

Telles, who was elected Clark County public administrator in 2018, sat blank faced in court on Wednesday as the judge called in the jury.

He bowed his head as the guilty verdict was read.

Telles now awaits sentencing and could face up to life in prison.

The seven women and five men that composed the jury deliberated for roughly 12 hours, beginning on Monday, before the panel reached its conclusion.

The trial had stretched across two weeks.

Testimony in court came from dozens of witnesses, including detectives, foren-



sic experts, those who knew the ex-politician, and Telles himself.

He alleged that he had been framed.

"This thing has been kind of a nightmare," he said about a week into the trial. "I want to say unequivocally - I'm innocent. I didn't kill Mr German."

In September 2022, Mr German, 69, was found after he had been stabbed seven times in the neck and torso outside his Nevada home.

Prosecutors accused Telles of killing Mr German over unflattering articles the journalist had written about his behaviour as an elected official.

One alleged that Telles had an "inappropriate" relationship with a member of his staff, and several others alleged hostile behaviour in his Las Vegas office. Telles lost his primary for a second term as public administrator in 2022 after German's stories were published in the Las Vegas Review-Journal ahead of the election.

Security footage recovered by police and shown to the jury caught Mr German's assailant wearing a large, straw hat and sneakers outside the journalist's home.

Authorities later found the remnants of similar items at Telles's house, though they had been cut up.

The prosecution alleged that it was Telles who had appeared in the security video, claiming that he had hid in the bushes outside Mr German's house and then attempted to dispose of evidence.

Telles's defense attor-

neys argued that the shredded evidence had been planted at the ex-politician's home as part of an effort to frame their client. They disputed that Mr German's articles were "a motive for a murder".

But prosecutors shared the DNA evidence, a timeline and video of Telles's SUV driving on the streets near Mr German's home just before his murder. The driver of the car is wearing an outfit similar to the one worn by the person seen in the security footage.

Speaking to reporters outside the courtroom on Wednesday, Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson celebrated the jury's decision.

"The jury hit the ball out of the park this time," he said. "They hit a home run

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International

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Three dead as Typhoon Shanshan hits southern Japan

A powerful typhoon has killed at least three people in Japan's southern island of Kyushu, home to 12.5 million people.

Shanshan made landfall near Satsumasendai city in Kagoshima prefecture at around 08:00 local time (23:00 GMT), the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency added that storms and high winds of up to 252 km/h (157mph) had been reported on the island, warning of landslides, flooding and largescale damage.

A couple in their 70s and a man in his 30s have died - both of them part of a family of five whose home in Gamagori, a city in central Aichi prefecture, was swept away late on Tuesday.

Their other two family members - two women in their 40s - were rescued after all-night recovery efforts, local broadcaster NHK reported.

As much as 600mm of rain over 24 hours has been forecast in some areas of



Three people are still missing after a landslide in Aichi prefecture.

Kyushu.

Some 255,00 houses are now without power, the island's utility operator said.

Videos online show large trees swaying, tiles blown off houses, and debris being thrown into the air as heavy rains lashed the island.

Carmaking giant Toyota, meanwhile, has shut down all 14 of its plants until Thursday morning,

citing the safety of its employees as well as potential parts shortages caused by the storm.

Hundreds of flights to and from southern Japan have been cancelled. Some high-speed train services have also been impacted.

Earlier this week, logovernments issued evacuation advisories to 810,000 people in the central Shizuoka prefecture on Japan's main island of Honshu.

A further 56,000 were told to leave their home in Kagoshima on Kyushu, the fire and disaster management agency said.

Shanshan comes in the wake of Typhoon Ampil earlier this month, which caused only minor injuries and damage but still disrupted hundreds of flights and trains.

Before that, northern parts of Japan saw record rainfall **Tropical** when Storm Maria hit Honshu island.

Typhoons in the region have been forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a study released last month.

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by getting the right verdict."

A veteran reporter, Mr German had spent more than four decades covering the city and corruption.

He had one more article to publish about Telles at the time of his death.

Glenn Cook, the executive editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, issued a statement that said the "jury delivered a measure of justice" for Mr German with its verdict.

"Jeff (German) was killed for doing the kind of work in which he took great pride: His reporting held an elected official accountable for bad behavior and empowered voters to choose someone else for the iob."

Sports News





The West Indies players celebrate after winning their T20 International Series against South Africa at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. (Getty Images)

West Indies beat South Africa in third T20 to sweep series

TAROUBA, Trinidad (AP) — Nicholas Pooran blasted 35 runs from 13 balls to lead the West Indies to an eight-wicket win over South Africa in the rain-shortened third Twenty20 cricket international at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Tuesday, securing a 3-0 series sweep.

Rain delayed the start of play by an hour and returned in the fifth over of the South Africa innings, reducing the match to 13 overs per innings.

South Africa were 23 without loss when the rain started and Tristan Stubbs smashed 40 from 15 balls to help the visitors post 108 for four after a slow start.

The West Indies were 60 for two when Pooran was out to the fifth ball of the fourth over.

But Shai Hope struck an unbeaten 42 from 24 balls, and Shimron Hetmeyer scored 31 from 17 deliveries in an unbroken partnership of 56 for the

third wicket to propel the West Indies to victory at 116 for two with 22 balls to spare.

"Obviously, coming out on top is what we wanted. We wanted to win the series 3-0," West Indies stand-in captain Roston Chase said in a television interview.

"Before the match, at the team meeting after everyone had spoken, I just asked the boys to give me the victory because you want to start well and I just want to thank the guys for the support and the way they played with their heart today."

No overs were lost when rain delayed the toss. The West Indies eventually won the toss and chose to bowl, with an eye on the threat of further rain.

South Africa began cautiously in humid conditions and the first boundary of their innings didn't come until the fourth over, hit by Ryan Rickelton from the bowling of Matthew Forde. The first six of the innings came from the next ball.

The rain returned and forced the players from the field for 70 minutes, leaving South Africa on the back foot when their innings resumed.

Reeza Hendricks was out three balls after the resumption, but that brought Stubbs to the crease and he did his best to blast South Africa to a competitive total.

Stubbs hit 6, 4, 6 from consecutive balls in the 11th over bowled by Obed McCoy and 4, 6, 4 in the final over bowled by Forde. He was out with two balls left in the innings.

Pooran then blasted the West Indies into a winning position with his brilliant 13-ball cameo. He finished with a strike rate of 269.

Hope hit four sixes in his innings and Hetmeyer hit four fours and a six cont'd on pg 19

Sports News

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Bolans Revellers lead ABNDA's three-hand contest

The A team of the Bolans Revellers has taken sole leadership of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) second team three-hand competition of the domestic season.

The A team of the Bolans Revellers consolidated their position at the top of the standings when the competition resumed at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos following a fourweek break.

The A team of the Bolans Revellers has a total of 11 points to lead the three-hand competition, which 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.

Closely following on 10 points apiece are Dominatrixx, the Ramplers, and Bravo.

The A team of the Bolans Revellers won their match during the fourth round of matches.

The A team of the Bo-



lans Revellers won their encounter against Triple Dynamite (second place) and Legacy Thunder Bolt (third place).

The Ramplers and Bravo were also successful in their fourth-round matches. The Ramplers prevailed against the Parham Strikers in second place and the A team of the Willikies Super Stars in third place.

Bravo won their encounter against Fire Police in second place and Double Six Diamond in third place.

Dominatrixx finished second in their fourth-round match, which was won by Full Clip, with Double Six Ice finishing in third place.

De Unstoppables and SK Eagles were successful in the other fourth-round matches.

De Unstoppables beat the B team of the Willikies Super Stars and Highly Favoured, and SK Eagles prevailed against the B team of the Bolans Revellers and the Rising Stars.

The Ramplers have also taken over as sole leaders of the team four-hand contest after the fourth round of matches.

The Ramplers lead the competition with seven points after recording victory in their fourth-round match. They romped to a 51-17 victory against the SK Eagles.

The Willikies Super Stars are in second place with six points after snatching a narrow 38-37 victory against Dominatrixx in their fourth-round encounter.

But Double Six remained in third place with five points after losing their fourth-round match 27-38 against the Bolans Revellers, who won for the first time in the competition.

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as the West Indies completed a comprehensive win.

The West Indies beat South Africa 3-0 in a Twenty20 series prior to this year's T20 World Cup, which it co-hosted with the United States, and now has swept South Africa again. But in between, South Africa eliminated the West Indies from the World Cup.

"It was a tough one today. Obviously, it was stop-start with the rain, which hurt us quite a bit," South Africa captain Aiden Markram said.

"Conditions changed quite a bit throughout the game as well. I think we got the tougher of the conditions. That being said, I think there are several areas we can improve on as a team to play better cricket in tough conditions."

Sports News



Rodriques the hero as Knight Riders claim spot in WCPL final

Jemimah Rodrigues lifted Trinbago Knight Riders into the 2024 Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) final after a nerve-jangling four-wicket victory over Barbados Royals at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Tuesday night.

Chasing 131 for victory and a place in Thursday's final, Knight Riders were in big trouble at 43 for three before Rodrigues stepped up with an unbeaten 59 off 50 balls.

The Knight Riders needed six runs off the final over, but a calm Rodrigues hit Hayley Matthews for a boundary on the third delivery before a single on the next ball secured victory at 131 for six in 19.4 overs and ensured their title dreams remained alive.

In what turned out to be a dress rehearsal for the final, the Knight Riders capitalized on sloppy fielding from Royals. Rodrigues received a life on 43 when Djenaba Joseph fumbled at short fine leg.

The Knight Riders' attack had struggled in the tournament, but bowled superbly in the PowerPlay to tear into the Royals' top-order. Opener Chamari Athapaththu spearheaded a recovery with 70 off 63 balls to lift the Royals to 130 for seven, but it ulti-



Jemimah Rodrigues anchored the chase for the Trinbago Knight Riders against the Barbados Royals in their Women's Caribbean Premier League match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. (CPL T20 Getty Images)

mately wasn't enough.

Royals had already clinched a place in the final after winning their opening three matches. But it was high stakes for Knight Riders, who entered the match sitting behind Guyana Amazon Warriors on net run rate.

Play was slightly delayed due to rain and the Knight Riders were desperate to make the most of the favourable bowling conditions after winning the toss.

Seamer Shikha Pandey enjoyed the perfect start after nicking off Matthews in the first over with a full delivery that moved late.

Qiana Joseph lived dangerously and rode her luck after being dropped by Jess Jonassen at mid-off. But Joseph's risky innings soon ended when she bottom edged a wild slash off Shamilia Connell.

Connell's spectacular debut for Knight Riders continued when she clean bowled Aaliyah Alleyne for a duck.

Athapaththu held the innings together, but could not get going as Royals fell into a lull. The frustrations led to Rashada Williams being dismissed by spinner Samara Ramnath in the 12th over as Royals turned to big-hitter Laura Harris for a spark.

But Harris holed out first ball, leaving the burden on Athapaththu, who accelerated late as Royals finished with momentum.

Knight Riders started their chase disastrously with the early wickets of Harshitha Samarawickrama and captain Deandra Dottin.

Jonassen attempted a rally, but she was run out on the last ball of the powerplay. Rodrigues and Kycia Knight cleverly worked into gaps, but struggled to hit boundaries. Knight unleashed only for Naijanni Cumberbatch to take a brilliant catch running in from the boundary.

But Rodrigues hit a boundary in the penultimate over and kept her composure as the Knight Riders celebrated their place in the final with gusto.

Sports News

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Rain continues to disrupt regional Under-17 one-day contest

Rain continues to disrupt the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-17 Men's 50-Over Championship in Trinidad and Tobago.

After affecting the opening round matches on Sunday, rain wreaked havoc as all three second round encounters ended in no results on Tuesday.

After having their opening match against Jamaica abandoned without a ball being bowled, the Leeward Islands second round match against Trinidad and Tobago at Inshan Ali Park in Preysal was also hampered by rain.

Trinidad and Tobago won the toss and opted to bat, reaching 92 for six off 23 overs when rain intervened and caused the match to be abandoned.

Ryan Yearwood made 18, captain Brendan Boodoo scored 17, and opener Darrius Batoosingh got 14. Antiguan leg-spinner Micah McKenzie snapped up two



wickets for four runs for the Leewards.

Chasing a victory target of 124, cup-holders Barbados were 29 for one off eight overs when the rain brought a premature end to their second round encounter against the Windward Islands at Gilbert Park. Captain Joshua Dorne was not out on 16.

The Windward Islands were dismissed for 123 in 34.3 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Kodi Grant struck 35, and captain Theo Edward, who opened the innings, made 30.

Jakeem Pollard grabbed

three wickets for 10 runs, left-arm seamer Zachary Carter claimed three for 30, and right-arm pacer Shaquan Belle captured three for 38.

Rain also brought a premature end to the second round match between Jamaica and Guyana at the National Cricket Center in Couva.

Jamaica were dismissed for 152 in 47.1 overs when rain came before the start of Guyana's reply and brought an early end to the proceedings.

Odane Binns made 33, Vitel Lawes struck 22, and Deshawn James scored 20. Right-arm pacer Riyad Latiff bagged three for 15, and fellow fast bowler Johnathan van Lange took three for 18.

The teams will be hoping for an improvement in the weather when the competition resumes with the third round of matches in Trinidad on Thursday (today).

The Leeward Islands will face defending champions Barbados at the National Cricket Center in Couva.

Trinidad and Tobago will take on Jamaica at Inshan Ali Park in Preysal, and Guyana will clash with the Windward Islands at Gilbert Park.

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on Sunday, September 15; versus the Trinbago Knight Riders at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Thursday, September 19; and against the Guyana Amazon Warriors at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence on Saturday, September 21.

For the first time since 2019, the event will visit six host countries, with matches set to take place in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

There will be 34 matches in total, with each of the six teams playing 10 group matches. The knockout stages will take place in Guyana, with the home team, the Guyana Amazon Warriors, looking to defend the title they won in 2023.

The tournament will have two legs running concurrently, with all six teams hosting home matches.

Antigua and Barbuda Falcons Squad: Brandon King, Imad Wasim, Fabian Allen, Sam Billings, Mohammad Amir, Chris Green, Fakhar Zaman, Roshon Primus, Justin Greaves, Hayden Walsh Jr., Jahmar Hamilton, Teddy Bishop, Kofi James, Shamar Springer, Kelvin Pitman, Jewel Andrew, and Joshua James.

St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots Squad: Kyle Mayers, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rilee Rossouw, Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford, Sikandar Raza, Anrich Nortje, Andre Fletcher, Tristan Stubbs, Dominic Drakes, Mikyle Louis, Odean Smith, Joshua Da Silva, Veerasammy Permaul, Ryan John, Ashmead Nedd, and Johann Layne.

S DOFTS THURSDAY 29TH AUGUST 2024



Antigua to host opening match in 2024 CPL

Action in the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will commence at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Thursday night (today).

The tournament's newest franchise, the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, will host the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the opening match of the six-team T20 tournament in the Caribbean at 7 pm.

It will also be the first match in Antigua and Barbuda's return to hosting matches in the CPL. Antigua and Barbuda will host matches in the CPL for the first time in 10 years because the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons have replaced the Jamaica Tallawahs in the 2024 edition.

It is a welcomed return of CPL cricket to the island of 365 beaches since the dismantling of the Antigua Hawksbill in 2015.

The Antigua Hawksbill franchise, which was based in Antigua and Barbuda, was one of six teams that were established for the inaugural CPL season in 2013. The Hawksbill played in the 2014 CPL before it was dissolved in 2015 and replaced by the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

The 2024 CPL will take place from Thursday, August 29, to Sunday, October 6. The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will play a total of five matches at their home base, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, during this year's premier regional T20 cricket competition.

It is quite fitting that the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will launch their campaign in the 2024 CPL against their neighbours, the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots, in the opening match of the tournament on Thursday.





The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will face the defending champions, the Guyana Amazon Warriors, in the second match of the tournament at the same venue on Friday, August 30, at 7 pm.

The Falcons remaining home matches will take place against the Barbados Royals on Sunday, September 1, at 10 am; versus the St. Lucia Kings on Tuesday, September 3, at 7 pm; and the Trinbago Knight Riders on Thursday,

September 5, at 7 pm.

The Falcons will play away matches against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday, September 8, and versus the Barbados Royals at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Wednesday, September 11.

The Falcons will also compete against the St. Lucia Kings at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia cont'd on pg 21

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