



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

POINTVILLE EXPRESS

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THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST 2024 | VOLUME 5 ISSUE 152 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

AIR PEACE TO BEGIN REGULAR FLIGHTS INTO VCBIA

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Local News



Air Peace to begin regular flights into VCBIA

The Nigerian airline Air Peace – which has entered into a partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda government for the creation of LIAT 2020, is itself now set to begin regular commercial flights into Antigua and Barbuda.

The disclosure comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who said these flights may begin before the end of the year, or no later than the first quarter of 2025.

“We’ve had difficulties getting a partner, so we’re

very grateful that this partnership between Air Peace and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has come to fruition. It is the homeland (Antigua and Barbuda) partnering with the motherland, Nigeria (Western Africa) and this partnership will go beyond LIAT 2020 as I believe that later this year, no later than first quarter of next year, you will see regular flights of Air Peace moving people from Nigeria to VCBIA,” Browne said.

According to the prime



minister the flights from Air Peace will provide business for LIAT 2020, as it will be the airline that will transport the passengers to other Caribbean destinations. VCBIA will therefore be

the hub for Air Peace with LIAT 2020 serving as its feeder airline throughout the rest of the Caribbean.

This partnership aims to facilitate the movement of tourists from Nigeria to Antigua and Barbuda, enhancing the country’s tourism sector.

PM Browne assured that measures are in place to prevent issues encountered during previous attempts to bring African tourists to the Caribbean.

“We’ve learned lessons from past experiences and have implemented better controls. We aim to move genuine, wealthy tourists from Nigeria to Antigua on a scheduled flight basis, contributing to our tourism product,” he added.

In addition to the Air Peace partnership, Browne highlighted the expansion plans for LIAT 2020, the regional airline.

The airline is expected to open new gateways within the next year, including routes to South America through Panama and potential future routes to North America.

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One man in custody, another on the run in shooting death

The police have launched an island-wide search for the suspect believed to have been involved in Tuesday night's shooting incident at the East Bus Station which left one man dead and two others nursing gunshot wounds at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

According to police reports...the deceased has been identified as 43-year-old Kergus Martin of Liberta. The incident reportedly happened approximately 11:00 pm and Martin was pronounced dead at the hospital at 11:50 pm.

By mid-afternoon on Wednesday, the police issued a bulletin indicating that they are searching for a male suspect believed to have been involved in the shooting incident at the East Bus Station that resulted in Martin's death.

The reports stated that around 11:00 pm on Tuesday, August 6, an unknown assailant, armed with a gun, fired several shots at a group of people under a tent at what is generally referred to as Shanty-Town, a well-known mecca for gambling during the Carnival festivities.

Martin received multiple wounds to his body and was taken to the hospital, along with a 28-year-old, man of Gambles and a 17-year-old and 18-year-old, both of Liberta.

The 17-year-old was treated and discharged,

while the other two victims are said to be in critical condition.

A man wearing dark clothing and a mask on his face was reportedly seen in the area.

Police sources indicate that one male suspect is in

police custody assisting with the investigation. The police believe that the incident may have occurred as a result of an argument. However, Police are in the process of interviewing other persons who may be able to provide further assistance

in the investigation

Anyone with information that can assist the police in their investigation is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crimestoppers Hotline number at 800-Tips (8477).

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Local News



PM Browne wants stiffer sentences for criminals

Following the news of the latest shooting death in the country, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has condemned the tragic event and even pointed to known criminals as the perpetrators.

In his social media post, the PM scrutinized the judicial system for being too lenient, especially with repeat gun offenders.

He said that the judiciary must be more lenient to the people than to those who willingly break the law.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

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.

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Police issue wanted bulletin

The police have issued a wanted bulletin for the arrest of George Akeba Chiddick of No. 3 George Street, Green Bay.

He is wanted in connection with a shooting incident at No. 3 George Street that resulted in a young woman receiving a wound to her left leg. The incident occurred around 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 6. The victim was treated at the hospital and later discharged.

Chiddick is believed to be armed and is therefore considered dangerous. Anyone knowing his whereabouts is asked to contact the Grays Farm Police Station at 462-0481 or the Crim-



George Akeba Chiddick
Criminal Investigations Department
at 462-3913. The police are also urging him to surrender immediately at any police station.

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Local News



Carnival review set for today

The Ministry of Creative Industries will give an update on its staging of the 2024 Carnival festivities which formally came to an end on Carnival Tuesday, August 6.

Festivals Minister, Daryll Matthew, will be joined by members of the National Festivals Commission, in addressing members of the media at a specially convened press conference slated for today, Thursday, August 8.

“Minister Matthew will be accompanied by Junior Minister in the Ministry, Senator Shenella Govia as well as Festivals Commission chair, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul and Deputy Chair of the Commission, Michael Freeland. The press conference is an opportunity for the team leaders to provide insights into the staging of the festival which



ran from July 25 to August 6, 2024,” a source close to the commission stated.

The source noted that the team will speak of both the high and the low points of the just-concluded festival and the members will indicate the decisions they plan to make in order to improve on Carnival 2025.

cont'd on pg 7





cont'd from pg 6

“The Carnival festivities this year were [such that] we saw growth in terms of participation in the street mas, such as the T-shirt mas and the troupes and groups parade of Carnival Monday and Tuesday.

“Additionally, we are quite pleased and are excited with what we see happening with the emergence of new artists who are creating new and exciting rhythms for the festival. In particular, we would wish to highlight the achievements of the band New Gen for capturing both the Party Monarch competition and the Road March



title in its first outing. There definitely is much for us to celebrate with respect to the future of the music,” according to a source at the Festivals Office.

The source also highlighted the Caribbean Melt-

ing Pot show which featured divas of the Caribbean. “Here is a show where we stuck to the theme by featuring several top Caribbean female artists. We wish to note that the show featured two local calypso icons, Queen Althea

and Queen Ivena, both of whom were appearing on the same Carnival stage for the first time in over a decade,” the source explained.

Another of the highlights of Carnival 2024, was the signing this year of a three-year contract between the Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Steel Bands Association. Out of this, it is anticipated that the annual wrangling between the association and the Commission will be a thing of the past. Significantly too, was the change in the judging criteria for the Party Monarch competition as well as the Calypso competition.



Two-time Calypso Monarch, King Young Destroyer, to represent A&B at Leeward Island Calypso Monarch Competition in Anguilla

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission is pleased to announce that King Young Destroyer, the two-time Calypso Monarch, will proudly represent Antigua and Barbuda at the upcoming Leeward Island Calypso Monarch competition in Anguilla on Saturday, July 10, 2025.

Known for his outstanding performances and achievements, King Young Destroyer has a remarkable history on the stage, having secured the prestigious title of Caribbean Calypso King in 2006 in Trinidad and Tobago with his captivating songs “Back of De Bus” and “One Family One People.”

Expressing his determination and focus, King Young Destroyer shared, “I have never been as dedicated to my Calypso art-form as I am at this moment.

“My goal is to travel to Anguilla and proudly defend my flag by delivering a dynamic performance. After my dynamic performance last year, where I secured the second position, I am more motivated than ever to claim the crown this year with my renditions of ‘One Family



King Young Destroyer

One People’ and ‘It Takes a Village.’

“With my dedicated team, including my wife and father (Destroyer Senior), I am fully prepared to give my best on stage.”

King Young Destroyer and his team are set to depart for Anguilla Thurs-

day morning, gearing up for the highly anticipated competition.

In full support of King Young Destroyer’s journey and performance, Minister Hon. Daryll S. Matthew stated, “the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda stand behind

King Young Destroyer as he represents our nation at the prestigious Leeward Island Calypso Monarch competition.

“We have full confidence in his abilities and expect nothing short of greatness from his performance.”

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Alaska Air crew detail 'chaos' after mid-air blowout

By João da Silva

US transport safety officials investigating a mid-air emergency on a Boeing 737 Max 9 plane have released thousands of pages of documents, including testimony describing the "chaos" in the moments after the blowout of an unused door.

It came as a two-day National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) hearing about the 5 January incident on an Alaska Airlines flight got underway.

During the event, Boeing told investigators it will introduce design changes to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

The blowout triggered the US aviation giant's second major crisis in recent years.

In the more than 3,000 pages of documents released ahead of the hearing, the plane's crew described the violent decompression that resulted from the panel detaching mid-flight.

The plane's co-pilot told the investigation there was a "loud bang, ears popping, my head got pushed up into the [head-up display] and my headset got pushed, not off my head, but up almost off my head."

"It was chaos," they said.

"And then, just all of a sudden, there was just a



Boeing says it will introduce design changes to its planes at hearing on incident involving Alaska Airlines flight 1282.

really loud bang and lots of whooshing air, like the door burst open," a flight attendant said.

"Masks came down, I saw the galley curtain get sucked towards the cabin."

The names of the air crew have been redacted in the documents.

At the hearing, Boeing executives were grilled about the manufacture of the aircraft involved in the incident and the lack of paperwork explaining who carried out work on the door plug before the blowout.

A preliminary report by the NTSB detailed how, after a repair at a Boeing facility, the panel had four bolts missing, which should have helped keep it

in place.

"The safety culture needs a lot of work," said NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy, adding that the plane maker needs to take steps to address the issues.

"They are working on some design changes that will allow the door plug to not be closed if there's any issue until it's firmly secured," said Boeing's senior vice president for quality Elizabeth Lund.

The NTSB and Boeing have yet to find out who was responsible for removing and reinstalling the door plug.

But Ms Lund said two workers who are likely to have been involved are now on paid administrative leave.

The incident was the latest major blow to Boeing's reputation.

It resulted in the grounding of Max 9 planes around the world for two weeks, a ban on increasing production, a Federal Bureau of Investigation probe and a management shake-up.

The company recently said it would plead guilty to a fraud charge related to fatal crashes of two of its 737 Max planes more than five years ago.

Last week, Boeing said it had lost \$1.4bn (£1.1bn) between April and June.

It has also named aerospace industry veteran and engineer Robert K 'Kelly' Ortberg as its next chief executive.

Caribbean countries urged to close the gap in breastfeeding support

CMC - The Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is reiterating a call for regional countries to take a whole of society approach to support breastfeeding, implement and reinforce the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.

“By protecting and supporting breastfeeding, we are also protecting human rights and taking important steps towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leaving no one behind in the post pandemic world,” CARPHA said in a statement in observance of World Breastfeeding Week, which ends on Wednesday.

Breastfeeding has long been recognised as an important contributor to child nutrition, health and survival and as such needs to be protected, promoted and supported throughout the region and worldwide. CARPHA said breastfeeding reduces the risk of malnutrition – under and over nutrition – and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) for both the mother and the child.

Infants that are breastfed longer have a 13 per cent lower risk of overweight and obesity and 35 per cent lower risk of type 2 diabetes. Women who breastfeed have reduced risks of



postpartum overweight and obesity, 32 per cent lower risk of type 2 diabetes, 37 per cent lower risk of ovarian cancer and 26 per cent lower risk of breast cancer. Conversely, non-breastfed infants are at increased risk of malnutrition, diarrhoeal and acute respiratory tract infections and even death.

This year’s World Breastfeeding Week theme is “Closing the Gap, Breastfeeding Support for All.” CARPHA’s interim executive director, Dr Lisa Indar, said a challenge to breastfeeding remains the level of support that mothers receive, whether it be at home, within their communities and/or at work. “This year, World Breastfeeding Week will focus on the need to improve breastfeeding support at all levels, thereby reducing any inequalities that exist in our societies, with a

special focus on breastfeeding in times of emergencies and crises.”

CARPHA emphasized that breastfeeding is more important than ever during emergencies whether they are natural, man-made, or public health-related. Breastmilk supplies infants with a balanced and protective food to guard against infections which are even more common during emergencies and crises.

“Breastfeeding during emergencies can be especially challenging for mothers, having to cope with displacement from their homes, food insecurity, limited access to clean water and/or disruption to basic health and child-care services,” said Dr Heather Armstrong, the head of Chronic Disease and Injury at CARPHA. “To support mothers during these times,

we need to make the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding a standard response in emergency and non-emergency situations. This response will ensure that the rights, health and well-being of mothers and their children are not infringed upon.”

CARPHA stressed that breastfeeding mothers need support from the whole of society. “There is a need for government and policymakers to enact laws and policies for all public spaces, including workplaces, to become breastfeeding-friendly by providing maternity and paternity leave as well as designated places for breastfeeding and expressing and storing breastmilk.”

To further protect, promote and support breastfeeding, CARPHA will continue to work with its

cont'd on pg 12

PM Skerrit wants easing of restrictions on agri-products

CMC - The inaugural Organisation of Eastern Caribbean (OECs) Youth in Agriculture (YIA) symposium began in Dominica on Wednesday with Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit questioning the commitment of regional countries to the free movement of goods and services across the region.

Skerrit told the opening ceremony of the three-day event that while he is happy that young people are attending the symposium on agriculture “we cannot speak about OECs agriculture and food exports and imports, neither can we speak about the 25 by 2025 (CARICOM initiative) if today we still have barriers towards importation of food from our sister OECs and CARICOM countries,” he said.

“Why is it we can send our produce from Dominica to European countries and to North American and within CARICOM they will not accept certain crops from Dominica or OECs countries.

“It does not make sense to me...Are you telling me



that those people overseas or other parts of the world are less human being than us or we more susceptible to certain things that they are not,” he told the symposium.

Skerrit said there must be the political will within CARICOM and the OECs “if we are to truly achieve our sustainability efforts and food security.

“If we are serious about it is just a matter of going to the respective cabinets and passing SROs (Statutory Regulatory Orders) and removing those barriers.

“It’s as simple as this. We cannot go and tell the

World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) to change their structure and we are unwilling to change our structure within the OECs and CARICOM,” Skerrit said.

The St Lucia-based OECs Commission said that the symposium follows key decisions made at the seventh OECs Council of Ministers/Agriculture meeting, as member states continue to execute the Food and Agriculture Systems Transformation (FAST) Strategy.

The OECs YIA Symposium aims to connect the next generation of agricul-

tural leaders in the region through discussions on innovation, tools, opportunities, and the conditions necessary to shape the future of agriculture.

The OECs Commission said that the agricultural sector in the sub-region has faced many challenges over the last few decades, including a significant decline due to environmental degradation, changes in productivity, and vulnerability to climate events and natural hazards.

It said the declining agricultural sector has also resulted in an aging farming population and younger people are choosing to refrain from continuing generations of farming practices in their families.

The FAST Strategy prioritises reengaging youth and the OECs Council of

cont’d from pg 11

member states to implement comprehensive national policies on infant and young child feeding. These policies include guidelines on ensuring appropriate feeding of infants and young children in emergencies and crises, as well as implementing

the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding. These initiatives aim to create an environment where breastfeeding is the norm, supported at all levels of society, ensuring the best start in life for Caribbean children.

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Dom Rep: DNCD intercepts cocaine hidden in toy shipments bound for US

The National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) of the Dominican Republic uncovered an attempt to smuggle cocaine to the United States through the postal system.

The operation, conducted in collaboration with inspectors from the Dominican Postal Institute (IN-POSDOM) and coordinated by the Public Prosecutor's Office, resulted in the seizure of 23 sheets of cocaine cleverly concealed in packages destined for Florida.

DNCD agents, assisted by canine units, discovered the drugs during routine inspections at INPOSDOM warehouses. The cocaine, weighing approximately 400 grams, was found hidden in false compartments within cardboard boxes containing toys, plastic containers, and beauty salon equipment.



400 grams of cocaine found hidden in toy shipments bound for US. Photo: National Drug Control Directorate.

“When they were opened, a double bottom was discovered, containing a total of 23 sheets, wrapped in plastic covers and hidden on the sides of the boxes, weighing approximately

400 grams of cocaine.” the DNCD stated.

The packages were reportedly sent from Boca Chica, a municipality in Santo Domingo province, and were addressed to a re-

ipient in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Authorities are now investigating the authenticity of the sender and recipient information provided on the shipping manifests.

cont'd from pg 12

Ministers: Agriculture mandated the development of a youth in agriculture programme. The OECS YIA Symposium is the first component of this programme. The Dominica government through its Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy is hosting the symposium, providing a distinctive experience for participants as the well-known “nature island” of the region.

Other partnering agencies include the European Union through the Regional Integration Through Growth Harmonisation and Technology (RIGHT) programme, United Nations Food and Agriculture Orga-

nization (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management of Dominica, and World University Service of Canada (Caribbean).

According to the Commission, during the panel discussions, participants will hear from industry pioneers, successful young farmers, and agricultural experts who will share their insights on the latest trends and innovations in agriculture.

It said that there will be interactive workshops and mentorship sessions covering a wide range of topics, including agri-business development, research, innovation and technology,

and youth in decision-making and governance in agriculture.

“Participants will connect with like-minded peers, mentors, and potential opportunity holders in the agricultural sector,” the Commission said, adding that an OECS Youth in Agriculture will display and explore technologies and solutions that are revolutionizing the agriculture industry in the region, presented by leading companies and startups.

The OECS groups the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin islands.

Thousands of counter-protesters rally after riots

Thousands of counter-protesters have rallied in cities and towns across England after a week of rioting and disorder.

Gatherings in locations where anti-immigration protests had been expected - including north London, Bristol and Newcastle - were largely peaceful, with counter-protesters chanting "refugees are welcome here" forming the bulk of the crowds.

Police had been braced for further violence, with thousands of officers deployed and more than 100 events anticipated.

Rioting was sparked by misinformation online that the suspect in the fatal stabbing of three little girls in Southport on 29 July was a Muslim asylum seeker.

Mosques and hotels housing asylum seekers were among places targeted during the disorder, with some shops burnt out and looted.

On Wednesday, on high streets across England, shop owners had boarded up windows and closed early in anticipation of further violence.

Immigration lawyers had been told by police to work from home after lists of solicitors' firms and advice agencies were shared in chat groups as possible targets.

But only a handful of arrests were reported during the evening as demonstrations largely passed off peacefully.

More than 400 arrests have been made in relation to the riots, with more than 140 people charged, and some already convicted and sentenced.

Three men were given jail sentences for their parts in violent disorder in Southport and Liverpool.

Wednesday evening's largely peaceful scenes raise the question of whether those earlier arrests and custodial sentences, and the desire of others to take a stand against the violence, had



Thousands gathered in London with some chanting 'refugees are welcome here'.

an impact on anyone intending to begin new riots.

In Walthamstow, north London, thousands of people chanted "Whose streets? Our streets" and "refugees are welcome here", while one man beat his drum enthusiastically. Some people held signs that said "Smash the far right".

About 1,500 counter-protesters gathered in Bristol. The streets of the city were filled with trade unionists, anti-fascists and members of the black and Asian community.

In Brighton, eight protesters gathered outside a building they believed contained the office of a lawyer specialising in nationality and refugee law.

They were surrounded by 2,000 counter-protesters and forced to shelter against a building surrounded by a ring of police officers.

In Newcastle, about 1,000 counter-protesters, mostly Muslims, took over the pavement in front of the Beacon Centre, where an immigration service business had been on a list of expected targets.

The crowd chanted "refugees welcome" and "Geordies united will never be defeated".

The local imam said they had been

scared to come after the violence this week, but they wanted to show the real side of Newcastle and were reassured by the presence of so many people.

Most of the crowd had dispersed by 21:30 after achieving their stated aim - to reclaim the streets.

In Liverpool, hundreds of people gathered outside an asylum services office, whose windows had been boarded up as a precaution, to support refugees and immigrants.

Outside Accrington town hall in Lancashire, about 100 people gathered, with one man holding a megaphone saying everyone was welcome. One verified video on social media showed pubgoers embracing Muslims on the town's streets.

"It was a pure expression of solidarity and support," said Haddi Malik, 25, who lives in nearby Manchester and took the video.

In Southampton, between 300 and 400 people assembled at Grosvenor Square, chanting "racists go home" and "racism off our streets".

About 10 anti-immigration protesters also arrived in the area, with the two groups kept apart by police. One arrest was made.

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A brief scuffle between protesters and counter-protesters was reported in Aldershot, prompting police officers to move in to separate the two sides.

In Portsmouth, about 200 anti-immigration protesters gathered outside a building used by the immigration service and repeatedly disrupted traffic by standing in the road. One person was arrested.

In Tamworth, about four miles from where a mob attacked a hotel housing asylum seekers on Sunday, 30 to 40 people gathered at a location listed as a place of possible protest.

One had a banner which read "Stop the Invasion". As of 20:30 the protest was peaceful, and there were no counter-protesters.

The anti-racism protest in North Finchley - an area with a sizeable Jewish population - did attract some criti-

cism.

The local MP, Sarah Sackman, wrote on X that constituents had shared posts related to a group behind the counter-demonstration which she described as "clearly antisemitic". She said she had reported the posts to the police.

Ms Sackman added: "Whether it's the far-right or the far-left there can be zero tolerance for antisemitism, Islamophobia or racism in any form."

Disorder was reported in Croydon, which the Metropolitan Police said was not linked to protest, but with the "intention to cause disruption and fuel disorder".

Around 50 people gathered, threw objects down the road and bottles at officers, police said. Eight arrests were made.

Police also came under attack in Belfast, where fires were lit and objects

thrown at officers.

Earlier on Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner visited the Holiday Inn Express in Rotherham, another hotel housing asylum seekers that was attacked by rioters on Sunday.

Rayner vowed those involved with riots "will be met with the law" and urged people to "stay away from it".

Asked if protesters had legitimate concerns about immigration, she said: "Coming on the streets, throwing missiles at the police, attacking hotels like this one is not a legitimate grievance. It's not the way we do politics in this country. And nobody should be condoning that. This is thuggery. This is violence."

Riot police are expected to stay on standby for the "foreseeable future" including through the weekend "and beyond", according to assistant Chief Constable Mark Williams.

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FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY:

State of emergency declared as Ukraine launches raid into Russia

A state of emergency has been declared in the Kursk region of Russia, as a rare cross-border attack by Ukrainian troops continued for a second day.

The acting regional governor, Alexei Smirnov, said the move was necessary “to eliminate the consequences of enemy forces coming into the region”.

Thousands of people have also been evacuated from border areas, Mr Smirnov said earlier, adding that doctors were being drafted in from other cities.

Earlier, President Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine of launching a “major provocation” after Moscow said hundreds of troops crossed the border near the town of Sudzha, 10km (six miles) from the border, on Tuesday morning.

They were supported by 11 tanks and more than 20 armoured combat vehicles, the Kremlin added.

Ukrainian incursions into Russian territory have been extremely rare since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

On Wednesday evening, Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Honcharenko said the Ukrainian army had established control over the Sudzha gas hub - a major gas facility involved in the transit of natural gas from Russia to the EU via Ukraine, which has continued despite the war. It is the only point of entry for Russian gas into the EU.

Although this has not been verified by the BBC, Mr Honcharenko’s comment was the first confirmation of an incursion into Russian territory by a Ukrainian official. Kyiv had previously not commented on reports of a cross-border attack.

A White House spokesperson



A damaged house following what Russian authorities called a Ukrainian military strike on the town of Sudzha.

said the US had no previous knowledge of the attack and that it planned to reach out to the Ukrainian military “to learn more about their objectives”.

Mr Honcharenko said on Facebook that while he did not know what the “plan” behind the incursion was, it would show “Europeans and Americans that... Russia can and needs to be attacked”.

“Our mission is to defeat Russia. We need to beat their territory and need to destroy the enemy everywhere,” he added.

In televised remarks broadcast on Wednesday afternoon, Russia’s Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov told President Putin that the “advance” into the Kursk region had been stopped with Russian forces “continuing to destroy the adversary in areas directly adjacent to the Russian-Ukrainian border”.

Mr Gerasimov also said that up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops had entered the region with the aim of taking over the area around the town of Sudzha, and that Russian forces had already killed 100 men and injured

another 215.

However, some popular and generally well-informed pro-war Telegram channels suggested the situation on the ground was not as stable as the Kremlin said.

Blogger Yuri Kotenok described the battles taking place in Sudzha and nearby Korenevo as “heavy”, while the channel Rybar said that the situation in the area around Sudzha was “continuing to deteriorate” and Ukrainian formations were advancing towards the town. The BBC is unable to verify these claims.

The Russian National Guard stated it had strengthened the security of the Kursk nuclear power plant, which lies some 70km (43 miles) north-east of Sudzha.

Speaking ahead of a meeting of the Security Council in Moscow, Mr Putin accused Ukrainian forces of “firing indiscriminately” at civilian buildings and residences.

Fighting reportedly took place in various villages on Russian territory throughout Tuesday. It was followed by Ukrainian air attacks which killed three civilians and continued into the

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night, Russian authorities said.

Twenty-four people, including six children, have been wounded in Ukrainian shelling of the border region, Moscow said.

A number of air alerts were issued in Kursk, where local authorities urged residents to limit their movements and all public events were cancelled.

Footage posted online - and verified by the BBC - showed fighter jets flying low overhead in the region on Tuesday, with smoke rising from areas on the ground.

In the neighbouring Belgorod region, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov also issued missile attack warnings throughout the day and said several people had been injured following Ukrainian air attacks.

On Wednesday, the head of the Ukrainian region of Sumy, Volodymyr Artyukh, ordered the evacuation of the areas that border the region of Kursk.

One colonel in Ukraine's military, Vladislav Seleznyov, told the prominent Nexta channel the attack was "preventative" with an estimated 75,000 Russian troops continuing to gather close to the border.

After a major cross-border incursion by Russia into the north-eastern Kharkiv region in May, there had been fears Moscow would

attempt the same into the Sumy region further north.

With Ukraine now apparently capturing several settlements and highways the other way, those ambitions may well have been frustrated for now.

But with Ukrainian

forces already overstretched and outmanned, some military analysts are questioning the wisdom of such cross-border raids.

This is not the first incursion into Russia by fighters based in Ukraine. Some groups of

anti-Kremlin Russians launched raids last year, which were repelled.

The forces crossed into the Belgorod and Kursk regions again in March, where they engaged in clashes with Russian security forces.



Job Advertisement

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Applications must be received by closed of business at **4pm on Friday, August 16, 2024.**

Sports News



Antiguans suffer more losses at Americas Group III in Billy Jean Cup

Antigua and Barbuda's female tennis players have suffered more losses during their campaign in Americas Group III of the Billy Jean Cup Competition, formerly the Federation Cup, in Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their third consecutive 3-0 loss on Wednesday when they were beaten by host Trinidad and Tobago in their latest encounter in Pool A round-robin play in the women's tournament, which is taking place at the National

Racquet Centre in Tacarigua from August 5 to 10.

Antigua and Barbuda's Jolie George-Alexander lost 6-0, 6-1 to Jordane Dookie in the opening singles, and her sister Janae George-Alexander was beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Yolande Leacock of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Antiguan duo of Janae George-Alexander and Sibley Charles lost 2-1 to the Trinidadian pair of Aalisha Alexis and Charlotte Ready in the doubles.

Trinidad and Tobago took

the opening set 6-4; Antigua and Barbuda won the second set 7-5 to draw level and forced the third and deciding set, which the Trinidadians clinched 11-9.

It was the second win in three matches in Pool A for the Trinidadians. The host nation also beat the Bahamas 2-1 after losing 3-0 against Jamaica.

After losing to the Bahamas in their opening encounter on Monday, Antigua and Barbuda were also beaten 3-0 by Barbados in their second

encounter on Tuesday.

Serena Bryan of Barbados trounced Jolie George-Alexander 6-0, 6-0, in the opening singles. Gabrielle Leslie of the Barbados dispatched Sibley Charles 6-0, 6-0 in the second singles.

The Bajan team of Hannah Chambers and Cherise Slocombe wrapped up the tie by beating the Antiguan pair of Janae George-Alexander and Sidney Kentish 6-1, 6-2 in the doubles.

Ten teams from Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago are contesting the event.

Panama and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) withdrew from the competition, and the 10 participating teams are divided into two groups to contest Pool A and Pool B. Antigua and Barbuda are contesting Pool A along with the Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago. Pool B comprised Costa Rica, El Salvador, Aruba, Bermuda, and St. Lucia.

The top two teams at the end of round-robin matches in Pool A and B will advance to the promotion play-offs. The two top teams at the end of the promotion play-off will be promoted to compete in Americas Group II in 2025. Nations finishing third, fourth, and fifth in the pools will compete in positional play-offs.

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Fernando, Wellalage guide Sri Lanka to rare ODI series win over India

COLOMBO (Reuters) - Avishka Fernando scored a superb 96 and Dunith Wellalage took five wickets as Sri Lanka thumped India by 110 runs in Colombo on Wednesday to seal a first bilateral one-day international series win over their south Asian neighbours in 27 years.

Faced with a tricky victory target of 249 to draw level at 1-1, India never built any momentum after losing their two most experienced batsmen in skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as they folded for a disappointing 138 in 26.1 overs.

Wellalage had Rohit caught behind for 35 after the Indian skipper went on the attack early on and the spinner then trapped Kohli lbw for 20, with India unable to arrest their slide from there at the R. Premadasa Stadium.

"I'm a happy captain right now and I think the team did all the things well throughout the series," said Sri Lankan skipper Charith Asalanka.

"We knew they have a very strong batting line-up and we just wanted to back our strength and our strength is spin bowling. We backed our spinners and they did (the job)."

Axar Patel and Shreyas Iyer also fell victim to Wellalage, who finished with figures of five for 27 after getting rid of last man Kuldeep Yadav. Washington



Sri Lanka's captain Charith Asalanka and teammates celebrate the wicket of India's Washington Sundar during the second ODI cricket match between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024. (AP)

Sundar mounted a late fight-back for India with a well-made 30, but his effort was in vain.

The opening ODI finished in a dramatic tie, before Sri Lanka secured a 32-run victory in the second game. India had swept the preceding Twenty20 series 3-0 in new head coach Gautam Gambhir's first assignment in the role.

Rohit said that his team's struggles against spin were not a concern yet but needed to be addressed.

"It's something that we were put under pressure with in this series. It's something we need to look into, talk about and come up with a

plan," Rohit said.

He bristled at a question about complacency within the team and said such a suggestion was a joke.

"When you're playing for India, there's no complacency. As long as I'm here captaining the team that's not going to be the case," Rohit added.

"We were outplayed throughout the series. You've got to give credit where it's due. Sri Lanka played better cricket than us."

Sri Lanka opted to bat first after winning the toss and made a solid start in their quest to claim a first ODI series triumph over India since 1997 as openers Pathum Nis-

sanka and Fernando strung together an 89-run partnership.

The hosts shrugged off Nissanka's dismissal by Axar for 45 in the 20th over as Fernando and Kusal Mendis continued to build before Riyan Parag snapped their 82-run stand on his ODI debut and triggered a mini collapse.

Parag trapped Fernando lbw just short of his century with one that skidded off the wicket and then removed skipper Charith Asalanka and Wellalage to reduce Sri Lanka to 199 for six, but Mendis scored 59 to ensure the team finished with a fighting 248 for seven.

Rain cut short opening day of first Test between West Indies and South Africa

Trinidad's temperamental weather claimed the bulk of the opening day of the First Test between South Africa and West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval where only 15 overs of play was possible.

Play was called off five minutes into the scheduled tea time with South Africa on 45 for one and will resume half an hour early on Thursday's second day after 75 overs were lost on Wednesday's opening day.

With an extra batter in their XI, South Africa opted to bat first after winning the toss and hoped to bed in on a surface their captain Temba Bavuma said he "did not see a blade of grass on."

A bare, lifeless surface demanded good discipline from West Indies and the experienced pacer Kemar Roach did not disappoint by bowling a tight spell against South Africa's openers Aiden Markram and Tony de Zorzi, who is not out on 32.

The Windies other opening fast bowler Jayden Seales' pace was in the mid-130kph range and he offered little threat in the first three overs, which saw West Indies captain Kraigg Braithwaite turn to left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie in the eighth over.

And de Zorzi could not



South Africa's openers Aiden Markram, left, and Tony de Zorzi celebrate hitting a boundary on the opening day of the first cricket Test against the West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. (Getty Images)

have asked for anything better. His eyes lit up when Motie flighted his fourth ball, and he went down on one knee to swipe it over midwicket.

He repeated the shot two balls later and Motie was only kept on for another over, and de Zorzi hit him for four in that one, before Braithwaite went to Jason Holder.

Markram, who had been camping back in the crease

against Roach, was bowled by Jason Holder's first delivery, which seamed in through the bat-pad gap and took out off stump to dismiss him for nine.

Markram's last three first-innings scores in Test cricket have been in single figures, which could be something he will want to address as the season moves on.

His dismissal brought South Africa's new No. 3

Tristan Stubbs to the middle. He was off the mark when he tucked Holder to square leg and faced four more balls before the rain began, at 11.10 am local time.

An early lunch was taken 40 minutes later as showers came and went intermittently. Two hours later, images of covers decorated with puddles and ominously grey skies were beamed

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Fast-finishing Hall grinds out 400-meter gold for USA

PARIS(Reuters)-Quincy Hall produced an incredible late surge to overhaul Briton Matthew Hudson-Smith and take a first Olympic 400-meter gold for the United States since 2008 in another scintillating and dramatic race on Wednesday.

Long-striding Hudson-Smith seemed on course to win his country's first gold over the distance since "Chariots of Fire" Eric Liddell in the Paris Games 100 years ago, but Hall swept past to win in a personal best 43.40 seconds and give the USA their first triumph since LaShawn Merritt in Beijing.

Hudson-Smith bettered his own European record with 43.44 seconds for silver and Zambia's 21-year-old Muzala Samukonga set his second successive national record in Paris with 43.74 seconds to take bronze.

Hall, who took bronze behind Jamaica's Antonio Watson and Hudson-Smith at last year's world championship, looked out of contention coming into the final straight, a distant fourth as Hudson-Smith seemed on course for a first global gold



Quincy Hall, left, of the United States, beats Matthew Hudson-Smith, of Britain, to win the men's 400-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024. (AP)

of an injury-plagued career.

The American was still well adrift heading into the last 30 meters but somehow found the energy to drive past everyone and become the fourth-fastest man over the distance, behind world record holder Wayde van Niekerk (43.03), Michael Johnson (43.18) and Butch Reynolds (43.29). Hudson-Smith is now fifth.

Fourth-placed Jereem Richards set a Trinidad and

Tobago national record of 43.78 seconds and Grenada's former Olympic champion Kirani James in fifth was also under 44 seconds in 43.87.

"I told you guys I was going to get a gold medal this year and I guess I just showed you I did it," Hall, who switched from the 400 hurdles to focus on the flat, told reporters.

"I know I can win. I knew it today. That's what I've been doing my whole

career. I don't give up. I just grit, I grind. I've got determination. Anything I think will get me to that line, I think of it. A lot of hurt, a lot of pain."

Hudson-Smith, 29, has world silver and bronze and now Olympic silver to his name after a long and often troubled career.

"Sometimes the journey is better than the outcome. My time is going to come," he said.

"I can't describe the feelings; they are so mixed. I was so close to getting the gold. I got an area record and PB.

"I am so grateful to have everyone that came to watch me.

"It has been a crazy journey. I am just going to keep building."

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around the world but the clean-up began.

A 2pm inspection could not take place as the rain returned just as the umpires were about to begin their rounds and 45 minutes later the day was deemed unsalvageable.

The outcome will be particularly dis-

appointing for South Africa, who have not played Test cricket with a first-choice side since January, and have a lean red-ball schedule.

After this Test, they have only seven matches left in this World Test Championship cycle and all their series in the 2023-2025 period have been limited to two Tests.

Young Benna Girls lead group at Under-15 Championship

Antigua and Barbuda will be seeking to finish at the top of their group in League B of the 2024 CONCACAF Girls Under-15 Championship in Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday.

The Antigua Benna Girls are leading Trinidad and Tobago on goal difference at the top of Group A in League B, with both team on four points from two matches.

Curacao are third in the standings with three points, and Grenada are occupying the cellar without a point after losing their first two matches.

Antigua and Barbuda drew their opening encounter 1-1 with Trinidad and Tobago and crushed Grenada 5-0 in their second game on Tuesday. Trinidad and Tobago snatched a 1-0 win against Curacao in their second encounter on Tuesday.

The Antigua Benna Girls can finish at the top of the group by beating Curacao in their Group A match on Thursday following Wednesday's rest day in their tournament.



The Antigua and Barbuda national Under-15 squad at the 2024 CONCACAF Girls Under-15 Championship in Trinidad and Tobago. (ABFA Media)

In other League B results on Tuesday, Guatemala snatched a 1-0 win against the United States Virgin Islands, Trinidad High Performance prevailed 1-0 against St. Kitts and Nevis, the Dominican Republic overcame Suriname 2-1, Honduras trounced Barbados 5-1, Bermuda beat the Cayman Islands 2-0, and Cuba snatched a 1-0 win against

Belize.

Jamaica recorded their first win on Tuesday in League A, which is taking place in Costa Rica. The Jamaicans snatched a 2-1 victory against Haiti.

Mexico got their second win of the group stage with a 3-0 victory against Puerto Rico. In the other two matches, the United States beat Costa Rica 3-0, and Canada snatched a 1-0

win against El Salvador.

In League C in Aruba, St. Lucia bounced back after losing their opening encounter, winning 6-0 against Aruba All Stars.

The Turks and Caicos Islands prevailed 1-0 against Guadeloupe, Guyana and Anguilla played to a goalless draw, Bonaire hammered Dominica 4-0, and French Guiana and Aruba fought to a 2-2 draw.