



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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# ABDF: 43 YEARS AND COUNTING!





## ABDF: 43 years and counting!

The newly promoted Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin, has recommitted the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force to work along with the other security forces to combat what he termed 'brazen attacks' on the nation's peace and stability.

Brigadier Benjamin was at the time speaking at a church service on Sunday at the Ebenezer Methodist Church to mark the 43rd anniversary of the ABDF. He noted that the year 2024 has been a very busy one for the ABDF with missions both locally and regionally.

"As of the end of August, we have participated in over 100 joint patrols with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, members of the Coast Guard, with limited resources, conducted over 66 missions, 41 of which have been search and rescue missions; the Air Wing has transported more than 239 persons, 18 of which have been medical evacuations, and nine were joint operations not only



with entities in Antigua and Barbuda, but with our regional colleagues as well," he reported.

The Chief of Defence Staff revealed that despite all it has been doing this year, it has also been paying attention to the situation with young people in the country.

"The last few months have found us placing greater attention to our young people. Like you, we have witnessed brazen attacks on our peace and stability; we have witnessed armed attacks on homes and businesses as well as the senseless loss of lives. We in the

ABDF have recommitted ourselves to addressing this threat, and we see it as a threat, in a most deliberate manner," he declared.

He said the ABDF will spare no effort or action to ensure that those responsible are firstly, identified and every situation is resolved in the interest of this country. "To date, we have deployed resources on land, sea and air and in cyberspace to fight this threat we are fighting and we will win," he added.

The service at the Ebenezer Methodist Church was led by Reverend Dr. Cuthbert A. Ed-



wards. Those in attendance included Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne; Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney; members of Parliament, along with members of the Diplomatic Corps.





## Sir Richie Richardson to serve as Commissioner of Sports

Sir Richie Richardson has agreed to take on the role of Commissioner of Sports following consultations with the Antigua and Barbuda government.

This appointment is a significant step in the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen the nation's sporting infrastructure and enhance the development of sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Due to Sir Richie's ongoing commitments with the International Cricket Council (ICC), he is unable to accept a ministerial position within the Ministry of Sports at this time. However, in recognition of his profound dedication to the development of sports and his unwavering commitment to the advancement of our nation, Sir Richie has agreed to contribute his expertise and leadership as the Commissioner of Sports," according to a statement issued by the Office of the Prime Minister.

In this capacity, Sir Richie will work closely with the Ministry of Sports to spearhead initiatives aimed at fostering talent, promoting physical education, and enhancing the development of sports within the communities. His experience and international standing will undoubtedly be invaluable in guiding the strategic direction of sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government of An-

tigua and Barbuda expresses its gratitude to Sir Richie Richardson for his continued dedication to the nation. His involvement in this critical role underscores the importance placed on the development of sports as a key element of nation-building.

"We look forward to the positive impact Sir Richie's leadership will bring to our sporting programs and the opportunities it will create for our young athletes and communities," the release concluded.



Sir Richie Richardson



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## STD's 'most prevalent' among youth population

The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases is most prevalent in the teenage and early adult populations in Antigua and Barbuda.

That's the assessment of Clinical Social Worker at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, Sequoyah Survia, who made the disclosure while speaking on a panel hosted Sunday night by ABS Television to discuss the crime situation in the country.

Survia revealed that during her interactions with young people at the hospital there are several social issues that she encounters and a high rate of STD's is among them.

"My recommendations are that there should be sex education taught in the school system at both the primary and secondary school levels because of the increasing incidence of STD's among young people and the fact that many, or most, are not even aware that they are infected with the STD's," she told the panel.

According to the social worker the diseases that she encounters include herpes, syphilis and pelvic inflammatory disease, which she explains, is a disease caused by untreated STD's.

She added that she believes the incidence of chlamydia is also prevalent, but noted that this requires a specialized blood test which is quite expensive so most persons do not take the test.

The infection is being detected in teenagers from as early as 13 years to 18 years as well as among young adults in their 20's.

Survia further explained that most of the young teenagers and young people are being infected by both older men as well as from their peers.

She added that the ratio is 60 percent by older men

and 40 percent by their peers.

The clinical social worker emphasized that young women are seen by health personnel at a rate higher than young men, mainly because they seek medical attention quicker.

However, young men are also being infected with STD's but many chose not to report it to anyone.

She is recommending that a nation-wide education campaign targeting young people is needed that will utilize both traditional and new media if the society wants to come to grips with this problem.



SLBMC Clinical Social Worker, Sequoyah Survia

### 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.

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- 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](mailto:humanresources.ntw@gmail.com)

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



## More than 4200 persons have applied for replacement Voter ID cards

The Voter ID Cards Replacement Programme is less than one month old and already more than four thousand persons have applied to have their expired ID cards replaced.

This is the data that is being provided by the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, the body responsible for implementing the programme.

In a media release, it said for the week ending

Friday 30 August 2024, there were 1263 persons who applied to replace their expired cards and 83 new registrations.

This brings our total number of applicants for the Expired Voter's ID Card Replacement Process, which began on Monday 12 August 2024, to 4209.

ABEC also provided a breakdown of the registration totals in all seventeen constituencies. That breakdown is attached.

### Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission



#	COUNSTITUENCY	August 2024		
		12th - 16th	19th - 23rd	26th - 30th
1	ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	95	84	54
2	ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	32	26	24
3	ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	40	24	34
4	ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	83	158	164
5	ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	89	82	87
6	ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST	145	111	94
7	ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	148	130	73
8	ST. MARY'S NORTH	81	137	85
9	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	85	76	64
10	ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	97	127	88
11	ALL SAINTS WEST	72	122	86
12	ST. GEORGE	131	162	129
13	ST. PETER	100	106	65
14	ST. PHILIP NORTH	75	61	44
15	ST. PHILIP SOUTH	7	57	29
16	ST. PAUL	85	93	72
17	BARBUDA	0	25	71
<b>Monthly Replacement Application Count</b>		<b>1365</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>1263</b>

MONTHLY TOTAL

**4209**

# NEW SPICY NUGGETS!

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6 Nuggets Fries  
Biscuit  
Medium Drink  
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## A&B national completes prestigious program in global governance in Germany

Antigua and Barbuda national, Franchesca Sterling, has successfully completed an intensive program in international politics in Hamburg, Germany on August 26, 2024.

Ms. Sterling was one of 55 participants from 32 countries selected from approximately 300 applicants by the prestigious Bucerius Summer School in Global Governance to participate in its competitive global governance program carefully curated for young professionals in politics, law, defense, corporate finance and other areas of international activity.

The theme of this year's program was "Threats of a Bipolar World", and it covered a range of topics from European Union affairs, China in Geopolitics, North to South cooperation, Democratic Backsliding, War in Ukraine, Peace in the Middle East and other challenges facing the global community. Interactions were led by high-level officials from the German Federal Government, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), practicing and former politicians from developed and developing countries, as well as university professors.

Ms. Sterling who is 32 years of age, said that the program was an invaluable opportunity to explore current international issues



with some of the finest global thinkers, as well as younger persons, such as herself, who are professionally engaged in international relations. She was the only participant selected from the Caribbean.

Ms. Sterling was recommended for participation in the program by Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro, whom she serves as his advisor in areas related to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) affairs, climate change, reparatory justice, democracy, access to rights and equity, and other Western Hemispheric matters.

She has participated in OAS Electoral Observations Missions in Colombia (2022 General Elections) and St. Kitts and Nevis (2022 General Elections) as an international observer; and in Dominica (2022 General Elections) as a political finance specialist. During the 2023 electoral crisis in Guatemala, she par-

ticipated in the OAS Special Transition Mission led by Secretary General Almagro, former Vice President of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the United States State Department, Liliana Ayalde.

She was the principal author of the OAS Climate Change Report (Climate Change: Life, Democracy, Freedom, Justice, Equality) released in October 2022 by the General Secretariat of the OAS.

Franchesca Sterling graduated with departmental honors from the College of New Rochelle in New York in 2013 where she double majored in Political Science and Spanish Literature. In 2011, she attended the University of Alicante in Alicante, Spain for a summer semester concentration in Spanish studies, and attended L'Institut de Touraine in Tours, France for a summer semester concentration in French studies in 2012. She obtained her MBA



Franchesca Sterling from American University – Kogod Business School based in Washington, DC, focusing her studies in International Business, International Negotiation and Anti-Corruption Law.

Prior to the OAS, she worked for approximately nine years at Whiteford, Taylor and Preston, LLP based in Washington, DC as a litigation specialist. She had an opportunity to work as a junior analyst on a venture capital project in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019 where she developed an investment portfolio with her peers, analyzing the viability of the coffee, tea, and tourism sectors in Kenya. She volunteers her time as a child advocate for unaccompanied immigrant children who journeyed to the US at the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights in Washington, DC since 2018.



## Ajahni Murray charged with Robbery and Larceny

Police arrested and charged 20-year-old Ajahni Murray of King Obstinate's Drive with the robbery of a supermarket and Larceny of a fire-arm, among other items.

He is accused of robbing the owners of Stop and Shop supermarket at Nut Grove of \$500 on April 25, 2024. He was reportedly armed with a fire-arm at the time of the alleged incident.

He is further charged with the Larceny of \$2,000 in cash, one 9mm pistol with sixteen rounds of ammunition, jewelry, clothing, shoes, and one mobile phone belonging to a businessman. That incident occurred on July 7, on Christian Street, Grays Farm. He was due in court on Monday.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne met with the Grays Farm Killers (GFK) gang today, who agreed to a truce. PM Browne was joined by ABLP caretaker for the St. John's Rural West constituency Michael Joseph, and Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries Daryll Matthew, among others.

## SLBMC announces the date for breast cancer symposium 2024

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has announced the date for the 4th edition of the Breast Cancer Symposium. Referred to as the most

valuable breast cancer meeting in the region for the practicing clinician, the SLBMC Breast Cancer Symposium will provide a full day of presentations and an interactive panel discussion at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa. It takes place on October 5, 2024.

For the past 3 years, this multidisciplinary CME program has provided the latest information regarding cutting-edge technology and approaches in the management of breast cancer from leading national, regional and international medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists.

This year's symposium will include a superb line-up of recognized experts who will not only present the latest research findings on breast cancer but will also feature a special presentation on Prostate Cancer in Antigua.

SLBMC said it is confident that this meeting, along with any new initiatives that arise from it, will significantly contribute to the national effort to combat breast cancer.

Register now via the TickeTing App or online if making payment at SLBMC for an engaging, collaborative and educational experience.

# Statement



## Communiqué issued by the Venezuelan Embassy, St. John's

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela complaint to the international community that, once again, the authorities of the United States of America, in a recurrent criminal practice that can only be described as piracy, have illegally confiscated an aircraft that has been used by the President of the Republic, justifying their actions with the unilateral and illegal coercive measures they impose around the world.

This action reveals that no State and no constitutional government is safe from illegal actions that disregard international law.

The United States has already demonstrated that it uses its economic and military power to intimidate



and pressure States like the Dominican Republic to act as accomplices in its criminal acts. This is an example of the so-called "rules-based order," which, by disregarding international law, seeks to establish the law of the strongest, create rules that serve its interests, and enforce them with total impunity.

The Bolivarian Republic of Vene-

zuela reserves the right to take any legal action to repair this damage to the Nation, as well as all other damages caused by the criminal policy of unilateral coercive measures. Venezuela warns that this is not an isolated action.

On the contrary, it is part of an escalation of actions against the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, re-elected by the will of the majority of the Venezuelan people on July 28th, and which, faithful to its anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist tradition, will not yield to any aggression. Venezuela demands respect and continues to firmly defend its dignity and sovereignty.

Caracas, September 2, 2024

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# 2024 MATCH SCHEDULE

THU 29 AUG	ABF		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
FRI 30 AUG	ABF		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SAT 31 AUG	SKNP		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
SUN 1 SEP	ABF		v		BR	10:00 AM	ANTIGUA
SUN 1 SEP	SKNP		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
TUE 3 SEP	ABF		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
WED 4 SEP	SKNP		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
THU 5 SEP	ABF		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
FRI 6 SEP	SKNP		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
SAT 7 SEP	SLK		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SUN 8 SEP	SKNP		v		ABF	10:00 AM	ST KITTS
TUE 10 SEP	SLK		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
WED 11 SEP	BR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
THU 12 SEP	SLK		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
FRI 13 SEP	BR		v		TKR	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SAT 14 SEP	BR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 15 SEP	SLK		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
TUE 17 SEP	BR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
WED 18 SEP	TKR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 19 SEP	TKR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
FRI 20 SEP	GAW		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 21 SEP	SLK		v		BR	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SAT 21 SEP	GAW		v		ABF	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SUN 22 SEP	BR		v		SLK	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 22 SEP	TKR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
TUE 24 SEP	TKR		v		SLK	10:00 AM	TRINIDAD
WED 25 SEP	GAW		v		BR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
FRI 27 SEP	TKR		v		BR	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SAT 28 SEP	GAW		v		SLK	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 29 SEP	GAW		v		TKR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
TUE 1 OCT	ELIMINATOR - 3 <sup>RD</sup> v 4 <sup>TH</sup>					7:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 2 OCT	QUALIFIER - 1 <sup>ST</sup> v 2 <sup>ND</sup>					7:00 PM	GUYANA
FRI 4 OCT	QUALIFIER 2 - WINNER ELIMINATOR v LOSER QUALIFIER 1					7:00 PM	GUYANA
SUN 6 OCT	FINAL					7:00 PM	GUYANA





## USVI Legislature urged to consider minimum wage increase

Governor Albert Bryan Jr is calling on the US Virgin Islands Legislature to consider new legislation aimed at raising the minimum wage in the territory, as he expressed concern that inflation continues to place increasing financial strain on Virgin Islands families.

With the current minimum wage set at \$10.50 per hour, Governor Bryan believes that now, more than ever, it is essential to incrementally increase it to a level that more accurately reflects the rising cost of living in the Virgin Islands.

“Our people are struggling to keep up with the cost of living,” said Governor Bryan.

“They work hard every day to support their families, to put food on the table, and to provide for their children’s futures. But at \$10.50 an hour, too many of our residents are falling behind. In these challenging economic times, we must ensure that our minimum wage is fair and sustainable.”

Governor Bryan’s call for a minimum wage increase comes as inflation continues to impact the cost of essentials like food and housing.

In a recent interview with The Virgin Islands Consortium, the Governor discussed the growing fi-



financial pressures facing Virgin Islanders and the steps his administration has taken to mitigate these effects.

“Raising the minimum wage isn’t just about numbers on a paycheck,” Governor Bryan emphasized. “It’s about dignity, fairness, and giving our people the opportunity to thrive, not just survive. It’s about ensuring that no one who works full-time in the Virgin Islands is forced to live in poverty.”

In addition to advocating for a wage increase, Governor Bryan highlighted the administration’s significant efforts to alleviate the economic burden on residents.

He said one of the administration’s most impactful measures has been the allocation of millions in subsidies to the Vir-

gin Islands Water & Power Authority (WAPA) to maintain energy costs at 43 cents per kilowatt hour. This intervention, along with \$100 million from the American Rescue Plan Act to subsidise energy production, has resulted in a \$2,000 savings for each Virgin Islands household with an active WAPA meter.

It was also stated that the Bryan-Roach Administration has prioritised the long-term success and stability of Virgin Islands families through several key initiatives.

The administration has ensured that all Virgin Islands residents have access to free Pre-K through 12 education, free college tuition at the University of the Virgin Islands, and free technical training. These efforts are designed

to equip residents with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

Additionally, a media statement said Governor Bryan has made affordable homeownership a cornerstone of his administration’s efforts to build stronger Virgin Islands families. Through the VI Slice Moderate-Income Homeownership Program, qualified Virgin Islands families can receive up to \$200,000 in grant funding toward the purchase of their first home.

This program is a vital part of the administration’s broader mission to create pathways for Virgin Islanders to build generational wealth and secure a prosperous future for their families.

*cont’d on pg 11*



## Skinny Fabulous shines for SVG at 2024 Caribbean Music Awards

Vincientian Soca star Skinny Fabulous continues to put his country on the map as he walked away with several awards from the 2024 Caribbean Music Awards.

The entertainer, whose given name is Gamal Doyle, took home the award for Artist of the Year Male (Soca).

Skinny Fabulous on Instagram expressed shock at winning artiste of the year as he expressed his thanks.

He posted: "Where to start ? Man, I'm so grateful for these awards. Thank you thank you thank you. I was hopeful about video of the year but I DID NOT EXPECT ARTISTE OF THE YEAR.

"I have no words... other than thank you. I'm still at the awards so I'll post better tomorrow....but I needed to post just to say thank you."

Together with Trini Soca princess Nailah Blackman, the duo also won Video of the Year (Soca) for



Skinny Fabulous

'Come Home' and Collaboration of the Year (Soca) for the song 'Come Home'.

Nailah Blackman on her Instagram said she was thankful for the two amazing awards.

She wrote: "I came to CMA with no expectation so

these two awards definitely had me a bit lost for words but thank you so much to my family, my fans, my management, the writers and producers of this song and to the lovely gentleman that collaborated on this song with me @skinnyfab-

ulous ! Thank you! @carib-musicawards thank you for these two amazing awards, Best soca collaboration and best music video! Sokah to the world NAIARMY WE HAVE 2!! #winners #na-army #cma24"

The Consulate General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the USA has since extended congratulations to Soca superstar and Cultural Ambassador, Gamal Doyle, Skinny Fabulous for copping three prestigious awards at this year's Caribbean Music Award - Soca Collaboration of the Year, Soca Music Video of the Year and Male Artiste of the Year (Soca).

The Consulate posted on its social media page: "We are proud of your representation of the BLUE GOLD AND GREEN. "You Know What I'm Saying, Ah Whooooaa".

The 2024 Caribbean Music Awards took place at Kings Theatre in Brooklyn, New York on Thursday night.

### cont'd from pg 10

Governor Bryan pointed to his administration's unwavering commitment to resolving long-standing financial obligations, even in the face of limited resources.

"We've fought hard to restore \$41 million to Virgin Islands Government employees who endured an eight percent pay cut in 2011. We've returned over \$348 million in income tax refunds and more than \$43 mil-

lion in retroactive wages owed since 1990. These are real, tangible benefits that have helped ease the burden on our people," he said.

Governor Bryan is urging the Legislature to act quickly to ensure that the minimum wage in the territory reflects the true cost of living and provides residents with the economic stability they need.

"Every day that we delay, more families struggle to make ends meet,"

Governor Bryan stated. "It's time for our leaders to step up and ensure that every Virgin Islander has the opportunity to build a better future."

Governor Bryan said he remains committed to working with the Legislature to bring this much-needed relief to the hardworking people of the Virgin Islands. "Together, we can make this happen," he concluded. "Let's give our people the fair shot they deserve."

## US seizes Venezuelan President Maduro's plane

By Kathryn Armstrong

The US has seized a plane belonging to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, claiming it was bought illegally for \$13m (£9.8m) and smuggled out of the country.

According to the US justice department, the Falcon 900EX aircraft was seized in the Dominican Republic and transferred to the US state of Florida.

It is unclear how and when the plane ended up in the Dominican Republic. Tracking data showed it leaving La Isabela airport near the capital Santo Domingo on Monday, arriving at Fort Lauderdale airport in Florida soon after.

Venezuela has denounced the seizure, saying that it amounted to an act of "piracy".

Foreign Minister Yván Gil said the US had justified itself "with the coercive measures that they unilaterally and illegally impose around the world".

In a statement, the Venezuelan government said it "reserves the right to take any legal action to repair this damage to the nation".

US officials said the plane was seized for suspected violations of US export control and sanctions laws.

They added that an investigation found that



The US justice department says the plane is owned and used by Nicolás Maduro and those affiliated with him in Venezuela.

people affiliated with Mr Maduro had allegedly used a Caribbean-based shell company to hide their involvement in the plane's illegal purchase from a company based in Florida in late 2022 and early 2023.

The aircraft was then illegally exported from the United States to Venezuela through the Caribbean in April 2023.

The argument by US officials that the plane's sale and export was in violation of US sanctions is unlikely to carry much weight with President Maduro, who has repeatedly accused the US of meddling in his coun-

try's internal affairs.

A spokesperson for the White House national security council said the action represented "an important step to ensure that Maduro continues to feel the consequences from his misgovernance of Venezuela".

Markenzy Lapointe, US attorney for the Southern District of Florida, said the Dominican Republic authorities had given the US government "invaluable assistance" in organising the seizure.

"It doesn't matter how fancy the private jet or how powerful the officials – we will work relentlessly with

our partners here and across the globe to identify and return any aircraft illegally smuggled outside of the United States," said Matthew S Axelrod from the department of commerce – one of the federal agencies involved in the operation to recover the plane.

The plane appeared to be flown to the Venezuelan capital Caracas after arriving in Kingstown in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in April 2023, according to data held by the Flightradar24 website.

US officials said it subsequently flew "almost  
*cont'd on pg 13*



## St Kitts: Former officer to stand trial for death of colleague

CMC - A former police officer has been committed to stand trial in the death of a Dominican born police officer, who died in 2016, a month after he had been shot while responding to a larceny report.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Andre Mitchell, has confirmed that Dijon Warner, who was deported from the United States in November last year after serving a five-year sentence in the North American country, has now been charged in connection with the matter involving police officer, Brian Pacquette.

“The person who is involved in that matter has been committed to stand trial. The matter has gone through the committal hearing stage and the matter is now before the High Court,” Mitchell said.

Pacquette, 34, was shot in the leg while responding to a larceny report on June 23, 2016.

He was subsequently flown to Trinidad and Tobago for treatment where the leg was amputated. He however died on July 18, 2016 and his mother, Yvonne Harris, had taken to social media demanding justice for



Brian Pacquette.

her son.

In 2018, police here issued a wanted bulletin for Warner on a manslaughter charge in connection with the death of Pacquette, but, he had in 2016, fled the twin island Federation for the United States.

On November 29, 2023, Warner was deported to St Kitts and Nevis, where he was immediately taken into

police custody.

“He arrived at the Robert L Bradshaw International Airport on November 29, 2023, after serving a five-year sentence in a US detention facility. Mr Warner was taken into Police custody and transported to the Basseterre Police Station where he was charged on November 29, 2023,” the police said in a statement then.

*cont'd from pg 12*

exclusively to and from a military base in Venezuela”. It is unclear how and when the plane arrived in the Dominican Republic.

But US officials said the jet had been used by Mr Maduro “on visits to other countries”.

The Venezuelan government announced in late July that it was temporarily suspending commercial flights to both the Dominican Republic and Panama

following the controversial re-election of Mr Maduro.

Venezuela’s opposition has released polling data which suggests its unity candidate, Edmundo González, won a convincing victory. However, his win has not been recognised by an electoral council loyal to Mr Maduro.

The European Union has refused to recognise Maduro as having won re-election in July without

seeing voting results.

Several Latin American countries have also withheld their support, with Mr Maduro’s former ally, President Lula of Brazil, among those calling for full transparency by the Venezuelan government.

The US has recognised Mr González as the winner, saying there is “overwhelming” evidence of Maduro’s defeat.

This is not the first time Mr Maduro or Venezue-

la’s government have been targeted by US federal authorities over alleged corruption.

In 2020, the justice department charged Mr Maduro and 14 Venezuelan officials with narco-terrorism, corruption, and drug trafficking, among other charges.

The state department has offered a reward of up to \$15m for information leading to Mr Maduro’s arrest or conviction.

## Netanyahu asks 'forgiveness' over hostage deaths as protests continue

By Jack Burgess

Benjamin Netanyahu has asked for "forgiveness" from Israelis for failing to return six hostages found dead in Gaza on Saturday, as Hamas warned more could be "returned to their families in shrouds" if a ceasefire isn't reached.

His comments came as intense street protests over his handling of negotiations entered a second night in Israel.

Pressure also mounted internationally as the UK suspended some arms sales to Israel, citing a risk of equipment being used to violate international law.

But Israel's prime minister struck a defiant tone, insisting its troops must control Gaza's Philadelphi corridor - a strategically important strip of land which is a sticking point in negotiations with Hamas.

Thousands of Israelis took to the streets on Monday in fresh protests called by hostages' families to express their anger at Mr Netanyahu's failure to bring home their loved ones after almost 11 months.

The Times of Israel reported that police were using considerable aggression at one protest outside the prime minister's home in Jerusalem, including violently pushing protesters, throwing some to the ground, and dragging many away.



One member of the police squeezed the throat of a Times of Israel reporter, according to the newspaper.

The latest demonstrations come after hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in protests across the country on Sunday, with some demonstrators blocking a major highway in Tel Aviv. Many wore Israeli flags and hung yellow ribbons - a symbol of solidarity with the hostages - from a bridge overlooking the Ayalon Highway.

A total of 97 hostages remain unaccounted for after being kidnapped by Hamas on 7 October last year.

Hamas said on Monday that hostages would be returned "inside coffins" if military pressure from Israel continues and added that "new instructions"

have been given to militants guarding captives if they are approached by Israeli troops.

"Netanyahu's insistence to free prisoners through military pressure, instead of sealing a deal means they will be returned to their families in shrouds. Their families must choose whether they want them dead or alive," a spokesperson for the group said, without elaborating on what new orders had been issued.

Earlier on Monday, Israel's biggest trade union said hundreds of thousands of people had joined a general strike called to put pressure on the government to agree a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal with Hamas.

Despite this, Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport reported limited disruption and many restaurants and hos-

pitality services operated as normal.

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich boasted that Israelis had gone to work "in droves" and proved that they were no longer slaves to "political needs".

Elsewhere, US President Joe Biden said Mr Netanyahu was not doing enough to secure a hostage deal and ceasefire with Hamas, amid reports suggesting a new proposal would be sent to the Israeli prime minister as «final».

Many accuse Mr Netanyahu of blocking a deal to prioritise his own political survival - a claim he rejects.

Mr Netanyahu's far-right allies have threatened to pull out of the coalition government, undermining his chances of staying in power, if he were to accept

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## Ex-childcare worker guilty of abusing dozens of girls

By Kelly Ng

A former childcare worker in Australia has pleaded guilty to raping and sexually abusing dozens of young girls under his care for over 20 years.

Ashley Paul Griffith, 46, confessed to committing 307 offences at childcare centres in Brisbane and Italy between 2003 and 2022, a Queensland court heard on Monday.

Most of Griffith's victims were under the age of 12, the court heard. The judge's associate took over two hours to read out all of the charges against him.

Police have previously described Griffith as one of Australia's worst-ever paedophiles.

The charges against him included 28 counts of



The case shocked Australia, with police calling him one of the country's worst-ever paedophiles.

rape, 190 counts of indecent treatment, 67 counts of making child exploitation material, four counts of producing such material, and one count of distributing it.

Several of his victims and their families were

in court on Monday, and some parents cried when the names of their children were read out, according to ABC News.

"We see people going [into the childcare centre now] and I think, this hap-

pened to my child in that room," said one child's mother. "It's a room of horrors."

The same child's father said he could not believe how Griffith could have

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a deal tied to a permanent ceasefire before Hamas was destroyed.

US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators are trying to broker a ceasefire deal that would see Hamas release the 97 hostages still being held, including 33 who are presumed dead, in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said on Monday that the UK had suspended 30 out of 350 arms export licences to Israel, citing a «clear risk» the equipment could be used to commit serious violations of international law.

The affected equipment includes parts for fighter jets, helicopters and

drones.

Mr Lammy said the UK continued to support Israel's right to defend itself, and this did not amount to an arms embargo.

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant posted on X, to say he was "deeply disheartened" by the move, while Foreign Minister Israel Katz said it sent a "very problematic message" to Hamas and Iran.

Meanwhile, funeral services for some of the hostages killed on Saturday have been held.

The mother of Hersh Goldberg-Polin - one of the hostages whose body was recovered by Israel on Saturday - spoke at his funeral and said she had been in "such torment

and worry" about him for months.

Rachel Goldberg-Polin said it had been a "stunning honour" to be her son's mother. Around the time of his kidnap, Hersh sent two texts to his family, writing: "I love you guys," and "I'm sorry".

Mourners lined the streets in Jerusalem and Israel's President Isaac Herzog spoke to relatives at the funeral.

The war in the strip began after Hamas breached the Gaza border, killed 1,200 Israelis and abducted 251 on 7 October.

Israel has since killed more than 40,000 Palestinians in retaliatory attacks, according to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry.

# Sports News



## Leewards lose to Barbados in regional Under-17 one-day contest

The Leeward Island lost by nine wickets against defending champions Barbados in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-17 Men's 50-Over Championship that was reduced to T20 matches in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

The Leeward Islands were bundled out for 90 in 18.2 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat in their fourth-round match at the National Cricket Center in Couva.

Lytche Browne scored 18, Carlton Pluck made 15, and Micah McKenzie got 10 as the only Leeward Islands batsmen to reach double figures.

Pacer Khomari Griffith snapped up three wickets for three runs, fellow pacer Shaquan Belle grabbed three for 21, and R'Jai Gittens claimed two for 21.

Barbados achieved victory by scoring 91 for one in 10.1 overs. Opener



Zachary Carter slammed an unbeaten 62 off 32 balls, including six fours and five sixes, and captain Joshua Dorne hit 22 not out off 17 balls.

Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago also recorded wins in their fourth-round matches that were also reduced to T20 affairs.

Guyana's Under-17s snatched a three-run win against the Windward Islands at Gilbert Park.

Chasing 100 to win, the Windward Islands were restricted to 96 for nine off their allotted 20 overs.

Captain Theo Edward hit 21, and Khan Elcock and Edmund Morancie each made 13. Captain Jonathan van Lange bagged three for 16, and Golcharran Chulai claimed two for 15.

Guyana was dismissed for 99 in 19.5 overs after being sent in to bat. Jonathan van Lange struck 24

and Adrian Hetmyer scored 18. Edmund Morancie captured three for 18, Jelani Joseph picked up two wickets for five runs, and Earsinho Fontaine claimed two for 16.

Trinidad and Tobago Under-17s prevailed by 10 runs against Jamaica at Inshan Ali Park in Preysal.

Chasing 113 to win, Jamaica's Under-17s were restricted to 102 for nine off their 20 overs.

Pajay Nelson slammed 53 off 52 balls. Aidan Racha grabbed five for 13, and captain Brendan Booodoo captured two for 12.

Trinidad and Tobago made 112 for seven off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat. Darrius Baatoosingh struck 25, Christian Lall made 17, and Renaldo Fournillier scored 15. Perico Henry took three for 22, and Deshawn James claimed two for 30.

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gotten away with his crimes for 20 years.

The couple said that while they told their daughter about what happened, she was not able to fully understand because of her young age, ABC News reported.

"As she grows up, we'll deal with that as it comes but it's going to be something we deal with through our lives now," her father said.

Griffith was arrested in August 2022 by Australia's federal police, after they found thousands of photographs and videos related to his abuse that were upload-

ed onto the dark web.

Although faces were cropped out of the footage, investigators managed to trace them to Griffith because of a unique set of bedsheets seen in the background of the videos.

Police believe he recorded all his offences on his phones and cameras.

He was charged in November last year with more than 1,600 child sex offences, but most of these were eventually dropped.

Griffith remains in custody and will be sentenced at a later date.





Players of the Freeman's Village football team. (File photo)

## F. Village and Willikies advance to semis in PSL

Freeman's Village and Willikies are through to the semi-finals of the Parham Super League (PSL).

Freeman's Village produced an upset by ending the unbeaten run of Potters at the Parham playing field on Sunday to book their place in the semi-finals.

Freeman's Village prevailed 4-2 against Potters in a penalty shootout after both teams played to a 3-3 draw at the end of regulation in their quarter-final encounter.

Josue "Naymar" Arias produced a hat-trick, scoring all three goals in regulation for Freeman's Village. Arias had conversions in the 44th, 48th, and 75th minutes.

Keon Greene converted twice with goals in the first and seventh minutes, and Mark Portsmouth scored the other goal in the 56th minute for Potters. Greene did not finish the match after

he received a red card and was sent off, leaving Potters to finish the game with 10 men.

Phil Nicholas and Nadre Thomas each scored twice as Willikies trounced John Hughes 6-1 in their quarter-final encounter.

Nicholas scored in the 13th and 20th minutes, and Thomas had conversions in the 23rd and 46th minutes. The other goals for Willikies were scored by Kalique Samuel in the 27th minute and Novelle Francis Jr. in the 73rd minute.

Romon Didersighs scored the only goal for John Hughes in the 51st minute.

Greenbay Hoppers snatched a 1-0 victory against FC Master Ballerz to claim the last qualifying spot from Group B to advance to the quarter-finals.

Following a goalless first half,

Jahziem Barthley scored the winner and only goal of the match in the 60th minute.

Meanwhile, All Saints United, which had qualified for the semi-finals, was forced to withdraw from the PSL because several of their players are part of the national senior team training squad that is currently in preparation to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the CONCACAF Nations League.

In an effort to replace All Saints United in the quarter-finals, the two fifth-place finishers in Group A and B, Parham and FC Master Ballerz, will clash in a playoff at the Parham playing field on Wednesday at 6 pm.

The winner will advance to the quarter-finals to face Garden Stars. Greenbay Hoppers and defending champion Pigotts Bullets will clash in the third quarter-final encounter on Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

## St. Lucia Kings rally to beat SKN Patriots in CPL

A tournament record second wicket partnership of 199 runs between Kyle Mayers and Evin Lewis was not enough to see the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots to victory in the fifth match of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) in Basseterre on Sunday night.

The St. Lucia Kings completed an ice-veined run chase to pull off a five wicket win, achieving their victory target of 202 for five with 16 balls remaining.

An unbeaten century for Lewis off 54 balls and 92 from Mayers off 62 deliveries lit up the evening, with boundaries raining down on all corners of the ground, the Patriots pair hitting a combined 16 sixes and 13 fours to set a challenging total of 201 for three off their 20 overs.

The game looked all but gone for the Kings early in their response. The Kings were reduced to 24 for four inside four overs, with opener and captain Faf du Plessis dismissed by countryman Anrich Nortje for two and Mayers dismissing Johnson Charles and Ackeem Auguste.

But a remarkable passage of play followed. Tim Seifert was dropped twice on his way to scoring 64 off 27 balls. Then Bhanuka Rajapaksa hit 68 not out off 35 balls and David Wiese struck



St. Lucia Kings' Bhanuka Rajapaksa bats during the CPL games against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday, September 2, 2024. (CPL T20/Getty Images)

34 not out off 20 balls, beating the fielders and clearing the ropes with aplomb as the St. Lucia Kings knock off the runs with relative ease.

The rain fell at Warner Park but it wasn't heavy or sustained enough to come to Patriots rescue, all of their bowlers shipped heavy runs apart from Nortje, who finished with two for 29 from his four overs. Mayers claimed two for 38.

Team captain Andre Fletcher intimated that the Patriots need to improve in order to challenge in the competition.

"As a fielding unit, we are not helping the bowlers." Fletcher said after the match.

"We can't be dropping catches and expect to win matches against powerful batting line-ups. Catches win matches and we have to do that, and buck up on our fielding."

It was a bittersweet evening for Kyle Mayers, who picked up the Player of the Match award for his outstanding all-round performance.

"It was a good day for me but the team did not cross

the line, so it is still sad. The difference between us and them was that they executed in the back end and the rain also kept our spinners out of the game."

It was a winning start to their 2024 CPL campaign by the St. Lucia Kings, while it was the second defeat for the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in three matches.

The St. Lucia Kings will play their second match when they face the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Tuesday (today) at 8 pm.



## West Indians among first time selections in 2024-25 Big Bash League draft

West Indians Shai Hope and Sherfane Rutherford were among a number of players selected by various franchises in the player draft for the 2024-25 edition of Australia's premier T20 showcase, the Big Bash League, on Sunday.

Hope, picked in the BBL draft for the first time, will represent the Hobart Hurricanes.

He was their pick in the platinum category, with the influence of head coach Ricky Ponting, who was Hope's coach at the Delhi Capitals in the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL).

Rutherford, who will also be experiencing the Big Bash for the first time, was selected

by the Sydney Thunder in the silver category.

All-rounder Fabian Allen was snapped up in the silver category by the Adelaide Strikers, while Akeal Hosein, who took 15 wickets in 10 games for the Melbourne Renegades last season, will be representing the Sydney Sixers this time around as one of their pre-draft signings.

Barbados-born England all-rounder Jacob Bethell is also set for his first BBL stint after being selected by the Melbourne Renegades.

The 2024-25 Big Bash League will run from December 15 to January 26.



Shai Hope

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sha Richardson and Deandra Flemming of Anguilla.

Richardson and Flemming captured the women's title after beating

St. Lucia's Kurtrice Jules and Marie-Therese St. Clair 2-0 (21-17, 22-20) in the final.

The Antiguan women booked their place in the semi-finals after

securing victory in the quarter-finals, beating Grenada's Teasia Jones and Makyala Mason 2-0 (21-17, 21-12).

Carr and Joseph top Pool C, beating Asia Campbell and Jenieve Thomas of St. Kitts and Nevis 2-0 (21-5, 21-7), and prevailing 2-0 (21-19, 21-14) against St. Lucia's Kurtrice Jules and Marie-Therese St. Clair.

Teams from 11 countries participated in the event in which both men's and women's champions qualified for the FIVB Beach Volleyball Under-21 World Championships, which is scheduled to be held in Georgia in July 2025.

The participating teams came from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Dominica, Saba, St. Eustatius, host St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Antigua and Barbuda's team of Jaya Carr, right, and Jassania Joseph finished fourth in the female division.

## Antiguan men finish third at ECVA U-21 Championships

Antigua and Barbuda claimed third place in the men's segment of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Under-21 Championships at the Marriot Beach in St. Kitts on Sunday.

Antigua and Barbuda's Khaliq Joseph and Miguel Lugo captured bronze after prevailing 2-0 (21-17 and 21-16) against Kibose Hamilton and Zerick Walcott of Grenada in the play-off for third place.

Joseph and Lugo missed out on a place in the final after losing 2-0 (11-21 and 17-21) in the semi-finals to eventual men's champion Bill Frederick and Mervin Mingo of Dominica.

Prior to the semi-finals, the Antiguan duo had played unbeaten, ousting Bermuda's Riley Morbey and Marcus Rodrigues 2-0 (21-10, 21-13) in the quarterfinals.

Joseph and Lugo top Pool C, beating St. Lucia's Daniel Joseph and Rayquan



Antigua and Barbuda's Khaliq Joseph, left, and Miguel Lugo captured bronze in the men's division at the ECVA Under-21 Championships at the Marriot Beach in St. Kitts on Sunday. (ABAVA)

Francis 2-0 (21-11, 21-16), but had to dig deep to ward off the St. Kitts and Nevis' Team Three, composed of Joash Walters and Alex Lall, winning 2-1 (21-16, 16-21, 15-11).

The Dominican duo of Frederick and Mingo captured the men's title by prevailing 2-0 (21-19 and

21-16) in the final against St. Kitts and Nevis Team One of Julian Bristol and Vickash Sundar.

Antigua and Barbuda's team of Jaya Carr and Jassania Joseph finished fourth in the women's segment of the ECVA Under-21 Championships.

Carr and Joseph for-

feited their match in the playoff for third place to Bermuda's duo of Isabella Sousa and Hailey Trott.

The Antiguan female duo missed out on reaching the final after losing in the semi-finals, going under 2-0 (21-18, 21-17) against eventual champion Lave-

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