

PM BROWNE ENGAGES IN HIGH-LEVEL BILATERALS AT COP29

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Senior Minister of Health and Social Transformation, Sir Molwyn Joseph, right, has tasked the newly appointed Minister of State within the ministry, Senator Michael Joseph, with overseeing the completion of the Boys Training School located near Willikies. *Story on page 3.*

Local News



Prime Minister Gaston Browne engages in high-level bilaterals in Azerbaijan at COP29

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has had several high-level bilateral engagements as he keeps a packed schedule at the ongoing COP29 meeting

taking place in Azerbaijan.

Among those with whom Prime Minister Browne has met is the main host at the conference, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Ali Asadov.

Reports from the conference indicate that Prime Minister Asadov welcomed Prime Minister Browne and expressed his gratitude for Antigua and Barbuda's longstanding dedication to climate action.

He acknowledged the country's instrumental role in driving progress on climate issues and encouraged Prime Minister Browne to continue championing critical climate resolutions for the benefit of vulnerable nations worldwide.

In response, Prime Minister Browne wished Prime Minister Asadov a successful COP29 and reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to climate leadership, especially for small island developing states on the front lines of climate change.

As COP29 proceeds, Antigua and Barbuda remains steadfast in its mission to advance discus-

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Senator Michael Joseph to oversee the completion of the Boys Training School

Senior Minister of Health and Social Transformation, Sir Molwyn Joseph has tasked the newly appointed Minister of State within the ministry, Senator Michael Joseph, with overseeing the completion of the Boys Training School located near Willikies.

During an introductory meeting on Tuesday where Senator Joseph was introduced to the staff of the Social Transformation Department, Sir Molwyn expressed frustration at the slow pace of the completion of the facility.

“There are a few projects in Social Transformation that must now meet their maturity; one of them is the Boys Training School. I do not

know the status of the facility as we sit here, but we need to wrap up the work at that facility. What does it require; how soon can it be open; and we have to address all aspects of the Boys Training School,” he noted.

Sir Molwyn recalled that at a recent visit he was dissatisfied that the environment around the facility is in need of attention. “I am big on facilities having aesthetic and pleasant environment and not having dump around where people have to function,” he cautioned.

The senior minister advised the junior minister that the completion of the Boys Training School is the ‘first project’ that he must under-

take.

Sir Molwyn also drew attention to the different food programmes that are being implemented by the department. He questioned about the efficacy of these programmes and he asked that some assessment be done to determine whether or not they are meeting their goals.

He also commended the staff of the department for the work that they have been doing over the past years and urged them to continue to perform at a high standard as their work affects lives in Antigua and Barbuda.

“Your work is critical because it affects lives; it has to do with the elimination of poverty. This is critical as the



Senator Michael Joseph elimination of poverty goes beyond food to include housing etc. Our philosophy as a government is not to leave anyone behind. We cannot have a country where we say we are middle income and leave the lower income persons behind,” he exclaimed.

Minister of State, Senator Joseph said he is prepared to utilise his training and his experience to fulfill the mandate laid down by the Cabinet and articulated by the minister. He said his years working with organisations such as the Red Cross give him a clear understanding of the needs of the vulnerable in the society and he is committed to work diligently to ensure improved standards of living for all.



cont'd from pg 2

sions on essential climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience initiatives.

Additionally, Prime Minister Browne, met with the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Kassim Majaliwa and Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Patricia Scotland, at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

During their meeting, Prime Min-

ister Browne extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Tanzania to explore partnership opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda. Highlighting the country's commitment to sustainable development and economic growth, he expressed enthusiasm for strengthening ties with Tanzania.

Baroness Scotland echoed Prime Minister Browne's sentiments,

agreeing that the Caribbean would offer a valuable opportunity for collaboration and a worthwhile visit for the Tanzanian Prime Minister.

As COP29 continues, Antigua and Barbuda remains dedicated to building global partnerships that support climate resilience, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey sign new Memorandum of Understanding

Antigua and Barbuda has signed a new agreement with Jersey in the Channel Islands, but this time the focus is on education, sports and the creative arts.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, and Deputy Kirsten Morel, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development for Jersey's Department for the Economy.

This MoU builds on the successful 2022 agreement which initiated employment opportunities for Antigua and Barbudan nationals in Jersey in the hospitality sector. It expands the partnership into the creative industries, education, sports, arts, culture and heritage.

Reflecting on the signing, Minister Matthew commented, "This Memorandum of Understanding represents an ex-

citing next step in our relationship with Jersey. It creates mutually beneficial opportunities in education, the creative industries and cultural exchanges that will enrich both our Nations.

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Minister Morel for facilitating this meeting and for his commitment to this partnership between our countries. As small islands, and in the case of Antigua and Barbuda, a small island developing state, there is much we have in common and there is a significant opportunity to share, support and learn from each other".

Deputy Kirsten Morel, said "Our islands have formed a promising partnership in recent years and I was delighted to welcome Minister Matthew to Jersey for the second time to strengthen that bond. The signing of an innovative



Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew

MoU will give residents in both jurisdictions exciting opportunities to develop their skill sets, while broadening their horizons. I look forward to engaging further with Minister Matthew and his colleagues from Antigua and Barbuda in 2025."

Under the MoU, Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey will collaborate to share insights and advance policy development and knowledge exchange initiatives in the creative industries.

In the area of education, the MoU promotes co-operation between the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and the Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies including through scholarship opportunities.

This partnership will enable educators and students to engage in knowledge-sharing and skill exchanges, with a specific focus on biodiversity and conservation in small islands. In the areas of art, culture and sports, both countries are committed to facilitating artist exchanges, residencies, and inter-island sports competitions to deepen cultural connections. This expanded MoU demonstrates a mutual dedication to broadening the scope of the relationship, between Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey. Minister Matthew was accompanied by High Commissioner Hill who organized the visit.

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Tourism Authority takes centre stage at World Travel Market in London

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority made a powerful impact at this year's World Travel Market (WTM) in London, with CEO Colin C. James and Cherrie Osborne, Director of Tourism for the UK and Europe, representing the twin-island nation on two high-profile panels. Their participation

underscored Antigua and Barbuda's forward-thinking tourism strategy and strengthened its presence on the global stage.

James joined the panel, "The Next Five Years in Travel and Tourism," at WTM's geo-economics stream, hosted by author Mark Frary. The discussion covered the economic

outlook and key challenges in travel, with James highlighting Antigua and Barbuda's dedication to sustainable tourism, wellness, and overtourism. His insights aligned with the panel's focus on resilience in global tourism, resonating with an audience of industry leaders, including Rosa Harris (Cayman Islands Department of Tourism), Mashhoor Baeshen (Cruise Saudi), and Nejc Jus (WTTC).

Cherrie Osborne participated in the panel, "The Intersection of Entertainment, Events, and Leisure Travel," moderated by Caroline Bremner of Euro-monitor, alongside Angeli-que Miller from Expedia Group and Erik Skjaerseth of Bolder.

The discussion explored the economic impact of entertainment-driven events on travel trends, with Osborne showcasing Antigua and Barbuda's approach to entertainment-led tourism through events like Antigua Sailing Week and the upcoming Antigua Art Week.

She emphasized how

these events create immersive cultural experiences, connect travellers with the local community, and enhance the destination's cultural and economic appeal, drawing significant interest from industry leaders.

"We are thrilled to see Antigua and Barbuda represented at such a high level on the global stage in these crucial industry discussions," commented James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "Our participation reaffirms our commitment to delivering sustainable, high-quality tourism that resonates globally, positioning Antigua and Barbuda as a destination of choice."

These panels at WTM marked a significant milestone for Antigua and Barbuda, enhancing the islands' visibility and competitiveness in the global travel market.

The event has opened doors to exciting new partnerships, promising continued growth and success for Antigua and Barbuda across key international markets.

FORM P7

(Rule 15)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANUHPB 2024/0221

In the Estate of "VALERIE JOSEPH" a.k.a. "AUGUSTINE JOSEPH" a.k.a. "VACISTELLA AUGUSTINE JOSEPH" late of 201 West 135th Street, #4E, New York, 10030, formerly of Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed GARRY JERRY JOSIAH of 45 Tollington Way, Upper Holloway, London N7 6RG, United Kingdom, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is one of the surviving children of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 5th day of May, November, 2007

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 12th day of November, 2024

TALIA N. DACOSTA
STAPLETON CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
FOR THE APPLICANT

Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is STAPLETON CHAMBERS, STAPLETON HOUSE, SUITE #2, STAPLETON LANE, P.O. BOX 2891, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA; craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com; Tel: (268) 562-7185 Fax: (268) 562-7967 Applicant in Person whose address for service is the same as above.

Local News

Over nine thousand passengers arrive aboard four cruise ships

The 2024-25 winter cruise season is getting busier with the arrival on Tuesday of four ships bringing over nine thousand visitors to the country.

The vessels are – Nautica of the Oceanic Cruises with 690 passengers, Rotterdam of Holland American Line with 2668, Britannia of P&O Cruises with 3648 passengers and MSC Magnifica of MSC Cruises with 2518 passengers.

It was the first time for the new season that four vessels call at the St John's Harbour in one day, a feat that will play out several times during the season.

Meanwhile, all attention is being focused on the first visit for the season of P&O Cruises, Arvia, which will not only be home-porting in the country, but it will be overnighting in port as



well.

The vessel will arrive Saturday morning and depart Sunday evening. Thousands of its passengers will disembark in St. John's and depart via charter flights to their destinations, while others will arrive to begin their cruises here in Antigua.

Both the Antigua Cruise Port and the agents, Delisle, Walwyn and Francis have spent the last week engaged in intense preparations for the vessel's arrival.







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Sandals and the Bahamas at odds over tax payments

Just as Antigua and Barbuda's Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has raised concerns over Sandals Resort and Spa's handling of the ABST, seems another Caribbean territory where the luxury resort chain operates, is encountering problems with the collection of taxes from the resort. The following article is a reprint from Tribune Business Editor, Neil Hartnell.

SANDALS is disputing assertions by the Bahamian tax authorities that its Emerald Bay resort only reported 40 percent of revenues earned as it defended its one-of-a-kind "business model".

Melissa John, the Exuma hotel's financial controller, in a September 8, 2023, letter to the Department of Inland Revenue (DIR) denied the property had failed to properly disclose "the true nature of transactions" which have sparked demands for \$30.844m in allegedly unpaid VAT and Business Licence fees combined.

The Department's audit findings, which covered six years between 2017 and 2022, claimed the tax arrears had arisen because Sandals Emerald Bay and its operator, Clearview Management Ltd, had under-reported gross revenue income for the period by more than \$284m.

The dispute, according to documents filed with the



Supreme Court, appears to result from the Sandals' corporate structure and business model. All guest bookings and payments are made to the resort chain's corporate parent, Sandals Resorts International 2000, and its third-party booking platform and sales agent, Unique Travel Corporation. Both these entities are domiciled in Panama.

Rather than funds flow up the corporate chain, from subsidiaries to parent company, in Sandals' case the money trail appears to move in the opposite direction - from Sandals Resorts International 2000 to the resort where the relevant guest has booked their vacation.

The crux of the Department of Inland Revenue's assessment, and eight-figure tax demand, is that Sandals Emerald Bay over that six-year period only declared the net income received from its

parent and not the gross sum collectively paid by tourists to stay at the Exuma property. As a result, the resort both under-reported and underpaid VAT and Business Licence fees for that period.

"The total taxable supplies that were reported by Clearview Management were based on the net amount paid.. by Sandals Resorts International 2000 and not on the amount paid by clients to stay at the Sandals Emerald Bay resort," the Department of Inland Revenue asserted in a July 20, 2023, letter to the hotel's operator.

"Our position is that the taxable supply made by Clearview Management is the amount charged to the client for the room without any deductions for fees and/or services charged by related parties." The Department of Inland Revenue is thus arguing that "taxable supplies",

upon which the amount of VAT due is calculated, should be based on Emerald Bay's gross - not net - income.

Arguing that Sandals Emerald Bay had breached the VAT Act by making "a false or misleading statement" in filing incorrect returns, the Department of Inland Revenue added: "In filing the returns for Clearview Management, you have reported taxable supplies of \$190.768m compared to the calculated revenue of \$474.919m.

"You have only reported 40 percent of the revenue actually earned during the audit period. You have done this by reporting the net amount of income you receive from your parent company, Sandals Resorts International 2000, instead of reporting the gross amount of income received and then deducting the amounts withheld as expenses.

"In addition, you have made a false or misleading statement by reporting the net amount of income and not disclosing the true nature of the transactions." These assertions, though, were rejected in their entirety by Sandals Emerald Bay's reply on September 8, 2023.

Ms John, in her letter to Shunda Strachan, the Department of Inland Revenue's acting controller, retorted:

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Local News



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“Clearview Management has reported 100 percent of the gross income it has received from Sandals Resorts International 2000. We dispute the calculated revenue and the fact you estimate we have only reported 40 percent of the revenue earned.

“At no time have we made an omission, a false or misleading statement. In the conversations and correspondence with the Department of Inland Revenue, we have been open in how the Sandals business model works, which is different to other hotels which operate in The Bahamas. The income reported in [by] Clearview Management is the income it has earned.”

Both the Government and Sandals were tight-lipped on the tax dispute. Michael Halkitis, minister of economic affairs, and Ryan Pinder KC, the attorney general, declined to comment on the matter the latter saying: “I don’t comment on active matters before the courts.”

Simon Wilson, the Ministry of Finance’s financial secretary, could not be contacted for comment and did not respond to messages, while Mrs Strachan, the Department of Inland Revenue’s acting controller, also could not be reached. Department of Inland Revenue sources hinted that they were aware of the Sandals matter but said no more.

Tribune Business also reached out to Jeremy Mutton, Sandals Emerald Bay’s general manager, and was told by the resort’s spokesperson that Sandals’ corporate office would issue a statement on the tax dispute. However, no statement was received before press time last night. The dispute is now before the Supreme Court after Sandals Emerald Bay’s operator filed a Judicial Review challenge in mid-January 2024 as part of a two-pronged counter to the Department of Inland Revenue’s demands.

One aspect involves challenging the sum demanded, which is for \$29.101m in VAT, \$1.688m in Business Licence fees, and the “maximum” possible pen-

alty under the VAT Act of \$570,000, before the Tax Appeals Commission.

The other angle, which is the subject of the Judicial Review, is the demand by the Ministry of Finance and Department of Inland Revenue that Sandals lodge a \$30.844m cash bond - equal to the disputed tax sum - so that the appeal to the Tax Commission can proceed.

The VAT Act’s section 81 (s) (c) stipulates that any challenge to a Department of Inland Revenue tax assessment must be “accompanied by payment of the total amount of tax assessed or security for such amount, in a form acceptable to the [VAT] comptroller at the time the assessment is lodged”.

Sandals Emerald Bay had offered to pay the \$30.844m via a “letter of guarantee” from its bankers, CIBC Caribbean (Bahamas), which would serve as security for the disputed tax debt. This, though, was allegedly rejected by the Ministry of Finance and Department of Inland Revenue which continued to demand a cash bond.

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Environment



Shell wins landmark climate case against green groups in Dutch appeal

By Anna Holligan

Oil giant Shell has won a landmark case in the Dutch courts, overturning an earlier ruling requiring it to cut its carbon emissions by 45%.

The Hague court of appeal said it could not establish that Shell had a “social standard of care” to reduce its emissions by 45% or any other amount, even though it agreed the company had an obligation to citizens to limit emissions.

Three years ago, a court in The Hague backed a case by Friends of the Earth and 17,000 Dutch citizens requiring Shell to reduce its CO2 emissions significantly, in line with the Paris climate accords.

The ruling came as climate talks involving some 200 countries got under way in Azerbaijan.

Shell said it was pleased with the court’s decision, but Friends of the Earth Netherlands said the ruling was a setback that affected them deeply.

The environmental group can now take its case against Shell to the Supreme Court - but a final verdict could be years away.

Donald Pols from the group said “it’s a marathon, not a sprint and the race isn’t yet over”.

At the time, the 2021 ruling marked the first time a court had ordered a pri-



The ruling in favour of Shell was a blow for environmental campaigners including Friends of the Earth.

vate company to align its workings with the Paris climate agreement, meaning that it was not sufficient for a company simply to comply with the law - it had to comply with global climate policy too.

Under the terms of the Paris Agreement on climate change, nearly 200 nations agreed to keep global temperatures “well below” 2C above pre-industrial levels.

The appeals court judge said that companies such as Shell were obliged to contribute to combating climate change based on the human right to protection against dangerous climate change.

However, the court said Shell was already working to reduce its emissions and the court could not establish whether it should make a 45% cut or another per-

centage, as there was no current accepted agreement in climate science on the required amount.

Shell has argued that it is already taking “serious steps to reduce emissions”. It complained the original ruling was unfair as it singled out one company for a global issue, and said it was unrealistic to try to hold Shell accountable for its customers’ choices.

Shell said if people considered progress was too slow towards cutting emissions then they should lobby governments rather than Shell to change policies and bring about a green transition.

The oil firm says its aim is to reduce the carbon intensity of products it sells by 15-20% by 2030 from a 2016 baseline. Shell also aims to become a “net

zero” emissions company by 2050.

Part of the historic legal case hinged on the interpretation of an “unwritten duty of care” that exists under Dutch law, which requires companies to prevent hazardous negligence.

Friends of the Earth Netherlands argued that there was an international consensus that human rights offered protection against dangerous climate change and that companies had to respect human rights.

Shell’s successful appeal could have far-reaching implications for corporate climate responsibility.

A number of environmental groups around the world are now trying to force companies and governments to comply with the accords through the courts.



NatWest blocks staff from using WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger

NatWest Group has blocked messaging services WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Skype on company devices in the UK to stop staff using them to communicate with each other.

The bank had already told employees to stick to “approved channels” for conversations about business matters.

But now it has gone further and made the platforms inaccessible on work phones and computers.

So-called off-channel communications are a persistent problem in both business and politics, with concerns that services such as WhatsApp are used to reduce the scrutiny some conversations can be subject to.

Messages can be difficult to retrieve or even set to disappear - whereas those sent via approved channels are fully retrievable, meaning they can be looked into if there is any suspected

wrongdoing.

“Like many organisations, we only permit the use of approved channels for communicating about business matters, whether internally or externally,” NatWest said in a statement.

It said the change came into effect earlier this month.

Banks in the US have been handed fines worth more than \$2.8bn (£2.18bn) over the past few years over record-keeping rules - with workers unable to retrieve old messages from some messaging services.

JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Citigroup are among those to be issued with penalties.

It was reported in August that the UK banking regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), is considering a probe into how bank

workers use messaging services.

It follows a fine issued by energy regulator Ofgem to Morgan Stanley over calls made on private phones over WhatsApp - breaching rules on record-keeping.

Outside of banking, there have been issues with staff using apps in the public sector, with questions surrounding how ministers have used WhatsApp for government business in recent years.

The UK Covid inquiry revealed officials and ministers had deleted WhatsApp messages exchanged during the pandemic.

That included then-prime minister Boris Johnson, with then cabinet member Penny Mordaunt telling the inquiry that two years of messages with him had disappeared. Johnson told the inquiry he had lost around 5,000 messages.

Regional News



FAA prohibits US airlines from flying to Haiti

AP - The Federal Aviation Administration announced Tuesday that it will prohibit US airlines from flying to Haiti for 30 days after gangs shot a Spirit Airlines flight and the United Nations said it will suspend flights, “obviously limiting the flow of humanitarian aid and humanitarian personnel into the country.”

The bullets hit the plane when it was about to land Monday in the country’s capital Port-au-Prince, injuring a flight attendant. It was part of a wave of violence that erupted in Haiti as the country swore in its new prime minister after a politically tumultuous process.

Life in much of Haiti’s capital was frozen after the wave of violence, which came to a head when gangs shot a Spirit Airlines airplane Monday, forcing the airport to shut down. Photos and videos obtained by The Associated Press show bullet holes dotting the interior of a plane. A number of airlines suspended flights to Haiti through Thursday, but it was unclear how long closures could drag on.

Neither the former interim prime minister, Garry Conille, nor the newly inaugurated Alix Didier Fils-Aimé commented on the violence.

But Luis Abinader, who as president of the neighboring Dominican Republic has cracked down on Haitian migration, called firing on



Police officers patrol near the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, November 12, 2024. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph).

the airplane terrorism.

“This was a terrorist act; the countries that are following and helping Haiti should declare these armed gangs as terrorist groups,” Abinader said in a news conference.

On Tuesday, heavily armed police in armored cars outside the airport checked trucks used for public transportation passing by.

Schools were closed, as were banks and government offices. Streets, where just a day before gangs and police were locked in a fierce firefight, were eerily empty, with few driving by other than a motorcycle with a man who had been shot clinging to the back.

The sounds of heavy gunfire still echoed through the streets in the afternoon — a reminder that despite

political maneuvering by Haiti’s elites and a strong push by the international community to restore peace, the country’s toxic slate of gangs kept its firm hold on much of the Caribbean nation.

The United Nations estimates that gangs control 85 per cent of the capital, Port-au-Prince. A UN-backed mission led by Kenyan police to quell gang violence struggles with a lack of funding and personnel, prompting calls for a UN peacekeeping mission.

The violence comes after a transitional council, tasked with restoring democratic order to Haiti, which hasn’t held elections since 2016, decided to fire Conille, who often was at odds with the council during

his six months in office. The council rapidly swore in businessman Fils-Aimé as the new interim prime minister. Conille originally called the move illegal, but on Tuesday acknowledged Fils-Aimé’s appointment in a post on the social media platform X.

“(I) wish him success in fulfilling this mission. At this crucial moment, unity and solidarity are essential for our country. Long live Haiti!” he wrote.

Fils-Aimé promised to work with international partners to restore peace and hold long awaited elections, a vow also made by his predecessor.

But many Haitians, like 43-year-old Martha Jean-Pierre, have little taste for

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Guyana: Fire claims five lives in Corentyne Village

A mother and four of her children perished in a fire at their home in #64 Village, Corentyne Berbice, Guyana.

The victims have been identified as 34-year-old Hemwatie Singh, 14-year-old Kelvin Ramjatan, 10-year-old Brandon Ramjatan, 2-year-old Tomesh Ramjatan, and 11-year-old Cindy Ramjatan.

According to the police report, the fire of unknown origin broke out in the early hours of Tuesday morning at the two-story wooden house owned by 36-year-old Rohan Ramjatan, the husband of Hemwatie Singh. At the time of the incident, Rohan Ramjatan was in police custody, assisting with cattle rustling investigation.

The sole survivor of the tragedy is the couple's 17-year-old son, Kevin Ramjatan, who managed to escape the blaze unharmed. Kevin stated that he was sleeping on the veranda when he was awakened by the flames of the fire, which had started on the lower floor of the house where his father's car was parked.

Kevin immediately ran downstairs, where he found his mother and four siblings awake and attempting to flee the fire. However, upon seeing the large flames in front of the house, they turned



House destroyed by fire in #64 Village, Corentyne Berbice, Guyana. Photo: Guyana Police Force.

back and went upstairs, where they became trapped and are suspected to have perished.

Investigations revealed that the local electricity provider, GPL, had experienced power line issues in the area, with the wires being on fire the week prior and again on the night of the incident.

The Guyana Fire Service responded to the scene around 3:35 am and extinguished the blaze. Among the debris, the five charred bodies were later found and transported to the Skeldon Public Hospital's Mortuary for post-mortem

examinations.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, the Chief Fire Officer, Gregory Wickham, and the firefighters of the Guyana Fire Service have expressed their profound sadness over the tragic loss of life.

They have extended their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends affected by this devastating event.

The Guyana Fire Service, in collaboration with the Guyana Police Force, is conducting a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the fire and the circumstances surrounding this tragedy.

cont'd from pg 12

the political fighting, which experts say only give gangs more freedom to continue expanding their control as Haiti teeters on the brink of famine.

Jean-Pierre was among those to brave the streets of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday to sell the plantains, carrots, cabbage and potatoes she carried in a basket on her

head. She had no choice, she said — selling was the only way she could feed her children.

“What good is a new prime minister if there's no security, if I can't move freely and sell my goods,” she said, nodding to her basket of vegetables.

“This is my bank account, this is what my family depend on.”

It was a frustration that appeared to be international players that have pushed for a peaceful resolution in Haiti like the UN and the US.

On Tuesday, the US State Department lamented that Conille and the council “were unable to move forward in a constructive manner” and called on Fils-Aimé and the council to provide a clear action plan outlining

a joint vision on how to decrease violence and pave the path for elections to be held to “prevent further gridlock.”

“The acute and immediate needs of the Haitian people mandate that the transitional government prioritise governance over the competing personal interests of political actors,” it wrote in a statement.

Dozens killed in car rampage through Chinese stadium

At least 35 people have been killed in a car attack in southern China, believed to be the deadliest known act of public violence in the country in decades.

Police say a man crashed his car into a stadium in Zhuhai on Monday where he ran down groups of people exercising on the sports track.

The “serious and vicious attack” also injured 45 people - among them elderly and children, local media report.

Police say the 62-year-old driver, identified as a Mr Fan, appeared to have acted out of unhappiness over a divorce settlement.

He was arrested as he tried to flee the Zhuhai Sports Center and is in a coma due to self-inflicted wounds, police said in a statement.

The incident has sparked a national outcry in China, where President Xi Jinping vowed “severe punishment” for the perpetrator, and called for “all-out efforts” to treat the injured.

Details of those who were killed have not been disclosed by authorities yet, but mourners and members of the public had begun laying flowers and other tributes outside the stadium on Tuesday.

The venue - featuring a running track loop - had



Members of the public burning incense in tribute and placing flowers outside the stadium on Tuesday.

been a popular exercise ground for locals. Witnesses told Chinese media it appeared Mr Fan had deliberately run people down.

One man named Mr Chen told Caixin news magazine he and his walking group had just completed a lap of the stadium when a car charged towards them at high speed, “knocking down many people”.

Another person at the scene told Caixin: “It drove in a loop and people were hurt in all areas of the running track.”

According to local police, who released a statement on Tuesday, they said their initial investigations suggested Mr Fan’s actions were triggered by a property dispute following his divorce. He is still in a coma and so has not been questioned, police said.

The attack may be the deadliest act of random public violence in China in recent decades. A number have been reported

this year including a mass stabbing and firearms attack in Shandong in February which killed at least 21 people. That incident was heavily censored by Chinese authorities.

Reports of Monday’s attack were already being restricted online on Tuesday - with several videos taken by witnesses at the scene removed from Chinese social media platforms.

But some footage still circulating online showed dozens of people lying on the ground and being attended to by paramedics and bystanders.

In China it is common for censors to quickly take down social media videos which are linked to high-profile incidences of crime.

BBC journalists reporting from the stadium at Zhuhai on Tuesday were also harassed and told to stop filming.

China has seen a spate of violent attacks on mem-

bers of the public in recent months that have been reported in local media to varying degrees.

In October, a knife attack at a top school in Beijing injured five people, while in September, a man went on a stabbing spree at a supermarket in Shanghai, killing three people and injuring several others.

Also in September, a 10-year-old Japanese student died a day after he was stabbed near his school in southern China.

Following Monday’s car attack, Japan’s embassy warned its nationals living in the country to avoid speaking Japanese loudly in public.

The incident in Zhuhai has also taken place during heightened security in the city, which is hosting a major military airshow this week. The attack on Monday night took place 40km (24 miles) from where the high-profile Airshow China kicked off on Tuesday.

China is showcasing its newest warplanes and attack drones at the show, which top Russian defence official and former defence minister Sergei Shoigu is expected to attend.

Several entrances and exits to the sports centre were closed during the airshow to facilitate “control”, the centre’s management said on Tuesday.

Israeli strikes in Mount Lebanon villages kill 23, ministry says

By David Gritten

At least 23 people have been killed in Israeli air strikes on two houses in central Lebanon where displaced families were reportedly living, the Lebanese health ministry says.

Fifteen people, mostly women and children, were killed in Joun and eight others were killed near Baalchmay. Both villages are in the Mount Lebanon region and outside areas where the armed group Hezbollah has a strong presence.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the strikes, which came after it hit what it said were a number of Hezbollah targets in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Meanwhile, two people were killed by Hezbollah rocket fire in the northern Israeli town of Nahariya.

It came a day after Israel's defence minister ruled out a ceasefire with Hezbollah until its war goals were met.

The Israeli military went on the offensive against Hezbollah - which it proscribes as a terrorist organisation - after almost a year of cross-border fighting sparked by the war in Gaza.

Israel says it wants to ensure the safe return of tens of thousands of northern Israeli border area residents displaced by rocket attacks, which Hezbollah launched in support of Palestinians the day after its ally Hamas's deadly attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.

More than 3,200 people have been killed in Lebanon since then, including 2,600 in the seven weeks since Israel launched an intense air campaign followed by a ground invasion in the south, according to the Lebanese health ministry. Another 1.2 million people have been displaced.

On Tuesday morning, the Israeli military carried out at least 10 strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, known as



A residential building near Baalchmay was destroyed by one of the Israeli strikes.

Dahieh, after issuing evacuation orders for 11 locations.

Lebanese media reported that several buildings were levelled, including a medical centre in the Bir al-Abed area, but there were no reports of casualties.

The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah targets, including command centres and weapons production sites.

In the evening, the Israeli military declared that it had "dismantled a majority of Hezbollah's weapons storage and missile manufacturing facilities" that had been "systematically concealed beneath civilian buildings" in Dahieh.

Most residents of Dahieh - one of the areas where Hezbollah has a significant presence, along with southern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley - have fled because their neighbourhoods have been targeted repeatedly since September.

On Tuesday night, the Lebanese health ministry said 15 people were killed, including eight women and four children, in an Israeli strike on a house in Joun, in the Chouf mountains near the southern coastal city of Sidon.

The state-run National News Agency reported that displaced families had been staying there.

Residents and a security official said another house where displaced families had taken refuge was hit in Baalchmay, 30km (20 miles) to the north-east, killing eight people and injuring five.

Wael Murtada told the Associated Press that the home had belonged to his uncle and that those inside had fled from Dahieh about 40 days ago. He said at least three children were among the dead.

The targets of the two strikes were unclear.

Elsewhere in Lebanon, five people were killed in a strike in the southern village of Teffahta, according to the health ministry.

In the northern town of Ain Yaaqou, Lebanon's Civil Defence agency said its first responders had recovered the bodies of 16 people, including four Syrian refugees, from the rubble of a residential building that was destroyed by an air strike on Monday night.

The Israeli military said its forces had targeted a "military structure with a terrorist inside".

It also said Israeli soldiers were continuing ground operations in southern

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Sports News



Barbados Pride prevail against Windwards Volcanoes in Super50 Cup

The Barbados Pride rebounded from their defeat at the hands of the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) in their previous preliminary round match in the Super50 Cup with an eight-run win via the DLS method over the Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain on Monday.

In the rain-reduced 46 overs-per-side affair, the Pride, after winning the toss and choosing to bat, posted 239 for nine from their 46 overs.

In form batsmen Kevin Wickham and Leniko Boucher led the way for the Pride with 47 and 43, respectively, while Kemar Smith (34 not out) and captain Kyle



Kevin Wickham hit a top score of 47 for the Barbados Pride against the Windward Islands Volcanoes in their Super50 Cup match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Monday, November 11, 2024. (CWI Media)

Mayers (33) also made valuable contributions.

Kenneth Dember was excellent in his 10 overs of off-spin, finishing with fig-

ures of three for 33.

Set a revised target of 245 from 46 overs, the Volcanoes fell agonizingly short of a win, being bowled out

for 237 in the end. Jeremy Solozano tried his best with an 88-ball 85, while West Indies batsman Kavem Hodge made 37.

Mayers led from the front with the ball, capturing three for 50 in seven overs of medium pace, while Dominic Drakes and Javed Leacock each took a pair of wickets.

Full Scores: Barbados Pride 239-9 off 46 overs (Kevin Wickham 47, Leniko Boucher 43, Kemar Smith 34 not out, and Kyle Mayers 33; Kenneth Dember 3-33). Windward Islands Volcanoes 237 off 46 overs (Jeremy Solozano 85, and Kavem Hodge 37; Kyle Mayers 3-50, Javed Leacock 2-37, and Dominic Drakes 2-42).

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Lebanon to dismantle Hezbollah infrastructure, including rocket launchers.

About 55 projectiles were fired by Hezbollah from Lebanon into Israel on Tuesday, according to the Israeli military.

One rocket hit a warehouse in Nahariya, killing two Israeli men in their 50s.

"There was a lot of destruction and an active fire," paramedic Dor Vakinin told AFP news agency.

"We performed medical examinations on two men who were lying unconscious...Unfortunately, their injuries were too severe and after the examinations we had to determine the death of both of them."

Hezbollah said its fighters had fired a barrage of rockets at an Israeli military base north of the town of Acre, and that it had also targeted troops stationed in several Israeli border communities.

A Hezbollah drone also hit the playground of a kindergarten in a suburb of the Israeli city of Haifa, but no-one was hurt.

On Monday, new Defence Minister Israel Katz wrote on X that he had told a forum of Israel generals that "there will be no ceasefire" until Hezbollah could no longer carry out such attacks.

"We will continue to hit Hezbollah with full force until the goals of the war are achieved. Israel will not agree to any arrangement that does not guarantee Israel's right to enforce and prevent terrorism on its own," he added.

Katz said the goals were "disarming Hezbollah and its withdrawal beyond the Litani river", which runs about 30km north of the border with Israel, as well as "returning the residents of the north safely to their homes".

Earlier, Foreign Minister Gideon Saar had said there was "a certain prog-

ress" after being asked by journalists in Jerusalem about a possible ceasefire.

Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif told a news conference in Beirut: "We hear a lot of talk, but so far, according to my information, nothing official has reached Lebanon or us in this regard."

Lebanon's government has called for a ceasefire based on the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1701, which ended the last war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006.

The resolution called for Lebanese territory south of the Litani to be free of any armed personnel or weapons other than those of the Lebanese state and a UN peacekeeping force.

Israel has long complained that the resolution failed to prevent Hezbollah from building a formidable military presence in south and firing rockets over the border.

George wins Antigua Open in last year of competitive golf

In his final year of competing, Marlon “Boozie” George produced a fine performance to capture the overall title in the State Insurance Antigua and Barbuda Open Championship at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on November 9 and 10.

George never looked back after taking the lead with a brilliant display in which he shot 3 under par on the opening day, and he was able to maintain his composure to secure the victory with another solid performance on the second day to clinch the title with a

gross score of 142.

“I have been putting in the work, so over the two days my work has paid off. My performance on the first day gave me the confidence that I can still play at this level, and it also gave me the confidence to come in on the second day and put a good round together to win this championship,” George said.

The New Winthropes resident secured his crown 26 years after winning his maiden title in 1998. But moments after delivering a commanding performance in swinging his way to the



Marlon “Boozie” George, right, accepts his trophy from Dornalyn Beazer, representative of State Insurance, sponsors of the Antigua and Barbuda Open Golf Championship, at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday, November 10, 2024. (Photos courtesy Jermaine Kentish)



Alexandria ‘Lexi’ Hunte, right, accepts her prize for winning the ladies gross title at the Antigua Open from President of the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association Johnathan Pigott.

coveted title, George said this is his final year in which he will be playing competitive golf.

“I am happy because this is my last year playing championship, so I really wanted to win. Like I said, I put the work in, and I am really happy. The performance let me know that I can still compete at this level, but I am done. This is my last year,” George stated.

Former champion Adrian Norford of St. Kitts and Nevis came in second over-

all. Norford had a gross score of 147, and Wilston Charles of Antigua and Barbuda came in third with a score of 150.

Antigua and Barbuda young sensation Alexandria “Lexi” Hunte won the ladies division with a 36-hole with a gross score of 168. Michelle Millington claimed second place. Mullington won the ladies net title with a score of 154.

Players from Antigua and Barbuda also domi-
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Sports News



Attacking Saints and John Hughes remain deadlocked in Premier League

Newcomers Attacking Saints FC and John Hughes FC remain inseparable after their latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

Both teams entered the final fourth-week fixture with identical records, and so it remained after they battled to a goalless draw in their Premier League encounter at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday.

The first draw in four matches for both teams means that the Attacking Saints and John Hughes continue to hold identical records as they each advanced to four points.

Meanwhile, the Young Warriors earned their first points in three matches in the ABFA's Second Division on Monday.

The Young Warriors won by default against West Ham FC, which failed to show up for their encounter at Buckley's Primary School's playing field. It was the third de-



Players of the Attacking Saints football team. (File photo)

feat in as many games for West Ham FC.

Earthquake FC claimed their second win in four matches with a 4-1 victory against Herberts FC at the Pigotts playing field.

Alren Lewis scored in the 30th minute, and Shumba Thomas had a 33rd-minute conversion to

give Earthquake FC a two-nil lead at halftime.

Earthquake FC wrapped up their victory with two second-half goals by Raheim Andre in the 70th minute and Tarice Wilson in the 73rd minute.

Jareed Browne scored a consolation goal in the 89th minute for Herberts

FC, which remain on one point after suffering their second defeat in three matches.

The second division will continue with one match on Wednesday (today). Sea View Farm FC and Belmont FC will clash at the ABFA Technical Center at 4:20 pm.

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nated the men's competition. Tedson Weatherill took the men's gross title with a total of 156, and Kemarly Thomas claimed second place with a score of 158.

Paulus Martin, another native of New Winthorpes Village, captured the men's net title with a score of 144, and fellow Antiguan Mark Woodhouse clinched second place with a score of 145.

Wesley Dyer captured the super seniors gross title with a score of 156, and Enoch Charles claimed second place with a score of 166.

Eldean "Soca" Baptiste made a successful defense of his title by winning the senior men's gross competition for the second successive year.

The former West Indies cricket all-rounder produced a score of 164, and Dwayne Hill took second place with a total of 171.

The senior men's net title was won by Ruel Jones with a score of 143, and President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) Leon "Kuma" Rodney captured second place with a score of 147.

Golfers from Antigua and Barbuda and other neighbouring Caribbean islands participated in the two-day event, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association (ABGA).

Benna Boys to play final CNL Group D matches in Dominican Republic

The senior national team of Antigua and Barbuda, the Benna Boys, are among several teams in League B aiming to improve their respective positions in the promotion and relegation races during the final two rounds of matches in the preliminary group stage of the CONCACAF Nations League (CNL).

At the conclusion of the group stage, the four group winners and the two best overall runners-up will qualify for the 2025 CONCACAF Gold Cup and Gold Cup Preliminaries, respectively.

Antigua and Barbuda will enter their final two matches in Group D of League B at the bottom of the four-team group without a point, having lost all four of their previous matches.

Coming off a pair of five-nil victories over Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic is set on not only advancing to the Gold Cup but on gaining promotion to League A next season.

The Dominican Republic are undefeated in first place in Group D with 12 points, but Bermuda trails them in second place with nine points.

Dominica, on three points, and just ahead of Antigua and Barbuda, will strive to avoid relegation



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda team show their respect during the playing of the national anthem during their CONCACAF Nations League Group D match against Bermuda at the ABFA Technical Center in Antigua on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. (ABFA Media)

in the final stretch.

Antigua and Barbuda will need to win their final two matches against Bermuda and Dominica to avoid being relegated to play in League C next season.

The winner of Group D will be promoted to League A, the second and third place finishers will remain in League B, and the team that finishes in the cellar will be relegated to League C for the next edition of the CONCACAF Nations League.

Antigua and Barbuda will play their final two matches in Group D of League B at the Estadio Cibao in Santiago, Dominican Republic, on Saturday, November 16, and

Tuesday, November 19.

Bermuda meets Antigua and Barbuda, followed by Dominica against the Dominican Republic in Group D on Saturday.

Antigua and Barbuda will face Dominica, and the Dominican Republic will take on Bermuda in the final set of Group D matches at the same venue next Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a 21-member Antigua and Barbuda squad departed for the Dominican Republic on Monday.

The squad includes six overseas-based players.

They are goalkeeper Taj Moore of Brock University; defenders Jahzinho O'Garro of Oakland County FC, Roneba Cor-

dice of Bridgton Academy, and Antonio Morgan of Bromley FC; and midfielders Dannen Francis of Fleetwood Town and Dion Periera of Dagenham and Redbridge FC.

The rest of the squad are all home-based players, including goalkeepers Zaieem Scott and Jayden Martin and defenders Zaire Scott, Zafique Drew, and Vashami Allen.

Also selected are midfielders Kendukar Challenger, Quinton Griffith, Tyrik Hughes, Darryl Massicot, and Zaheim Green.

Completing the squad are forwards Javorn Stevens, Eroy Gonsalves, D'Andre Bishop, Raheem Deterville, and Keon Green.

Joseph returns to Windies squad

Antiguan fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has returned to the West Indies squad for the current five-match T20 series against England in the Caribbean.

Alzarri Joseph, who recently served a two-match ban imposed by Cricket West Indies (CWI), is one of two changes announced by CWI to the West Indies Senior Men's T20I squad as the team prepares for the decisive final leg of the "Rivalry" series against England.

Alzarri Joseph, having completed his two-match suspension, will rejoin the squad in St. Lucia for the crucial final leg of the series, replacing Guyanese fast bowler Shamar Joseph.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) had imposed the two-match suspension on Alzarri Joseph following an on-field incident during the third CG United ODI against England at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Wednesday, November 6.

The incident, which took place during the fourth over of England's innings, sparked discussion among players and fans alike. Joseph appeared visibly frustrated with a field placement decision, leading to a

disagreement with captain Shai Hope.

After taking the wicket of Jordan Cox, caught behind on the fourth ball, Joseph chose not to celebrate with his teammates, instead walking back to his mark without any acknowledgment of the dismissal.

His frustration escalated as he left the field unannounced at the end of the over, leaving the West Indies to begin the fifth over with only 10 players.

As the series moves to St. Lucia, experienced all-rounder Andre Russell has been ruled out due to a left ankle sprain sustained during the opening T20I at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday.

In his place, all-rounder Shamar Springer, fresh off two T20I games against Sri Lanka, will join the squad.

Fans are encouraged to come out in their numbers and rally around the home team for the last three crucial games at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia.

The West Indies will go into Thursday's third T20 International trailing England, who took a 2-0 lead by winning the first two matches at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.



Antiguan fast bowler Alzarri Joseph

Winning the toss played a crucial role in England's success in the first two matches, which the British touring team won by eight and seven wickets, respectively.

The final two matches in the T20 International series will be played in St. Lucia on Saturday, November 16, and Sunday, November 17.

West Indies T20I

Squad: Rovman Powell (captain), Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Terrance Hinds, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd, and Shamar Springer. Team Management: Daren Sammy (head coach) and Rawl Lewis (team manager).