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VOL 35 NO. 046

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

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Dutch MPs demand action on fake St. Maarten ship flags

"Issue gains momentum months after 2024 exposure"

By Jacqueline Hoofman

PHILIPSBURG/THE HAGUE--Members of the Dutch House of Representatives have raised urgent questions in Parliament about the fraudulent use of St. Maarten's name in international ship registration – an issue first reported by "The Daily Herald" more than seven months ago.

The renewed political attention follows a July 20, 2025, exposé by

Dutch investigative platform Follow the Money, which revealed that dozens of sanctioned Russian and Iranian oil tankers are operating under falsified maritime flags, including the non-existent ship registry of St. Maarten. The report describes how a Beverly Hills-based company, Maritime Safety and Technical Administration (MSTA), has been selling fake ship registrations and cer-

Continued on page 7

Passenger transport providers urged to submit 2025 confirmation letters

PHILIPSBURG--The Inspectorate of Economic and Transport Affairs (IETA) is calling on all passenger transport (PT) permit holders to complete the 2025 confirmation letter process or formally declare the existence of their permit by the deadline of August 8, 2025. Operators who fail to do so risk having their permits classified as dormant.

According to Article 16, paragraph G of the National Ordinance for Passenger Transport (Landsverordening Personenvervoer), a permit can be suspended or revoked at the discretion of the Minister, either temporar-

ily or permanently, if the permit holder is found to have not used it for more than six months.

The confirmation letter process was reintroduced on January 16, 2025, after being suspended in 2024. This relaunch is part of IETA's broader initiative to update and verify all PT operations across the country. The process allows the department to accurately assess the number of active permits, gather demographic data such as country of birth, nationality and age range of permit holders, and confirm the types of vehicles in use and their roadworthiness.

Additionally, the department aims to verify the validity of partnerships between permit holders and assistant drivers. By doing so, IETA strengthens its ability to monitor compliance in the industry and to apply enforcement

Continued on page 5



The billboard displayed on the site features an architectural rendering of the proposed development and claims that 6 of the 14 advertised apartments have already been sold.

Beacon Hill billboard raises questions over building permit

BEACON HILL--Residents of Beacon Hill are closely monitoring developments at the old airport beacon site, registered at the Kadaster as Beacon Hill Road 39. For several months, a billboard promoting a commercial project has been displayed at the location – despite the developer not having obtained a building permit.

"Beacon Hill has been used for speculative projects that vanish with deposits after being unable to obtain a permit," the Pride of Beacon Hill Homeowners Association (PBHA) stated on its website, noting that "this project boasts units already pre-sold but has no known building permit issued in the past five years."

PBHA tracks the public posting of building permits every two weeks when the latest National Gazette is published on the Gov-

ernment of St. Maarten's website. While no evidence of a building permit for the project has been found, Minister of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure VROMI Patrice Gumbs did sign a civil works permit on March 7, 2025, for the demolition of the lone concrete shack on the site. This demolition permit was published in the National Gazette on March 14, 2025.

On March 24, The Daily Her-

ald submitted several questions about developments in Beacon Hill, specifically regarding the billboard on Beacon Hill Road 39, to Minister Gumbs' spokesperson, at the minister's own instruction. However, no response has been received to date.

The billboard currently displayed on the site features an architectural rendering of the proposed development and claims that 6 of the 14 advertised apartments

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IN BRIEF

Philipsburg USM TO HOST WORKSHOPS

University of St. Martin (USM) is set to launch a series of free public workshops this August. Page 3.

Philipsburg TEMPORARY CLOSURE

St. Maarten Police Force has announced that Hulda B. Richardson Road will be closed to all vehicular traffic in the vicinity of Empire Gentlemen's Club tonight between 8:00pm and 9:00pm. Page 4.

Marigot 'OUTDOOR CINEMA'

The Collectivité is inviting residents to the "August Outdoor Cinema" experience in the districts on Saturday evenings from August 2 to August 30. Page 3.

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Quick-thinking employee foils early morning robbery attempt

PHILIPSBURG--A swift response by an employee at Money Gold Exchange prevented a robbery attempt around 9:40am Tuesday.

According to the St. Maarten Police Force KPSM, two men entered the establishment, with one man displaying a firearm. However, before they could execute the robbery, an alert employee triggered the alarm, prompting the suspects to flee the scene.

No injuries were reported and nothing was stolen. Detectives responded immediately and have launched a full investigation into the incident.

KPSM is calling on the public to report any suspicious activity or share relevant information by contacting the Philipsburg Police Station or calling the anonymous tip line 9300.

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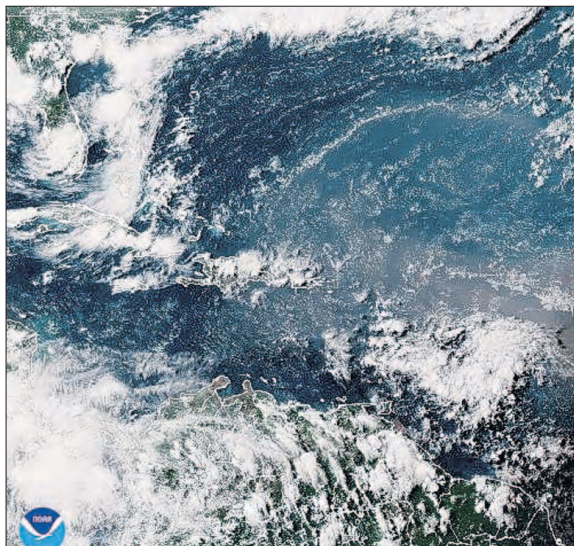
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Weather

Today: Variably cloudy, breezy and slightly hazy, with isolated showers possible.

Winds: East-Northeasterly, 8-16mph, with possible higher gusts.

Sea conditions: Light to moderate.

Seas: 3-6 feet.

Forecast high: 32°C 90°F

Forecast low: 27°C 81°F

SYNOPSIS: A high-pressure system continues to support stable weather conditions and a tight pressure-gradient will maintain breezy conditions. Moderate concentrations of Saharan dust will persist. Those with allergies and/or respiratory illnesses should take the necessary precautions. Light to moderate sea conditions will prevail.

SPECIAL FEATURE: Remaining names for this year's hurricane season (now to November 30): Dexter, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Imelda, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, Wendy.

The Meteorological Department St. Maarten (MDS) will monitor the development of all tropical systems closely and issue watches or warnings when it becomes necessary.

Outlook through Thursday evening: Variably cloudy, breezy and slightly hazy, with isolated showers.

Sunrise: 5:48am.

Sunset: 6:50pm.

CRUISE-SHIPS IN PORT TODAY

Date	Vessel	Place	Arrival	Departure
July 23:	Wonder of the Seas	Pier 7	7:30	18:00
July 23:	Rhapsody of the Seas	Pier 8	8:00	18:00

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COLE BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

meeting 1st. Thursday of month at Sun

Flower Kinder Garden School, Union Rd.

Cole Bay at 7:30pm

SERVICE CLUBS

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meets every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at

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Complex). Rotary Mid Isle meets every

Tuesday 7 p.m. at Pineapple Pete's,

Simpson Bay. Rotary Sunrise meets every

Tuesday at 7am at Gingerbread Cafe

located in Belair Beach Hotel Terrace

Restaurant. Rotary Club St. Martin Nord

meet at the Grand Case Beach Club Sun-

day at 7:30 p.m.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF ST.

MAARTEN SUNRISE meets every 2nd

and 4th Saturday of the month at 7pm at

The University of St. Martin.

Email: rotactractsunrise@outlook.com

LIONS meeting at the Upper Princess

Quarter Community Centre Lions Den in

Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday

of the month at 7 p.m.

ST. MAARTEN LEO CLUB

meeting at the Lions Den every 1st, 3rd Saturday every

month at 11:00 am.

JCI St. Maarten (JAYCEES)

meeting at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library every last

Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Busi-

ness attire required.

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Next time

GoLocal XL is set for July 24-27 on Boardwalk Boulevard and will be featured in this Thursday's Out 'n About supplement. Billed as "the biggest local shopping experience of the summer" it promises a fun-filled weekend with live entertainment. 40+ local vendors have been announced, offering a wide variety of goods including home-made ones. The event is said to be all about supporting small businesses and celebrating everything authentically local.

There is no doubt that merchants in Philipsburg can use the additional foot traffic it probably will bring, especially during the slower cruise period. Although ships are still coming, the total number of passengers obviously remains considerably smaller than in the traditional high season.

Besides, it's an opportunity to meet face-to-face and socialise with others, something which is unfortunately becoming increasingly rare in today's digital world. There is thus growing value in human interaction

Stores were heavily impacted by the advent of direct shipping from overseas by online providers like Amazon, often at lower prices they have trouble competing with. Proposals for a specific tax targeting such activities have so far not been implemented.

However, on-island businesses employ persons living here, pay taxes that make collective service and facilities possible, as well as premiums for health coverage, the old age pension, etc. Next time you want to order something abroad, keep that in mind.

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Silvania talks loans in the Netherlands

WILLEMSTAD—A Curaçao delegation led by Minister of Finance Javier Silvania (MFK) recently paid a working visit to the Netherlands to discuss fiscal reform, healthcare, agricultural development, institutional cooperation and international treaties. According to a release, the trip also marked a significant milestone in the renegotiation of Curaçao's loans.

The latter's focus was on improving debt sustainability and engaging in constructive consultations with the Dutch government, stated the minister's official travel report.

Various consultations were held with officials, parliamentarians and other stakeholders, aimed at strengthening cooperation within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The visit had several objectives. A key goal was to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Curaçao and the Netherlands in the areas of financial policy, tax reform, healthcare and agriculture.

The delegation also aimed to inform Dutch parliamentarians about Curaçao's policy direction and reform efforts, with a view to gaining support and buy-in within the legislature. The current state of international tax treaties was also discussed and political support was sought from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Furthermore, administrative consultations were held with Dutch ministers and state secretaries on topics such as the so-called country package of reforms, supervision of the gambling sector, mental healthcare, digitisation and tackling undermining crime.

Another priority was refinancing Curaçao's current government bonds as part of broader negotiations on a sustainable debt structure and future-proof financial policy.

The trip included public appearances, including participation in the "Keti Koti" slavery abolition commemorations in Amsterdam and Hoofddorp. Meetings were also held with members of the Curaçao diaspora, job applicants and concerned citizens.

According to Silvania, during the working visit, contacts were established and existing relationships were deepened with various par-

liamentarians and government officials. This resulted in concrete commitments for cooperation in the areas of tax reform, healthcare and agricultural development.

Administrative consultations were also held with Minister Caspar Veldkamp on international tax treaties. Curaçao receives political support in the preparation and ratification of treaties with Suriname, San Marino and Mauritius, among others.

Follow-up agreements have been made with the Ministries of Finance, of Foreign Affairs, and of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK. In addition, a return visit by State Secretary Eddie van Marum to Curaçao is planned for August 2025.

During Silvania's stay, the Second Chamber of Parliament, as part of the supple-

mentary budgetary process, formally approved Curaçao's proposal to refinance part of its bonds – in accordance with advice from the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT – through a linear loan with a term of 20 years. "This marks an important step towards a sustainable debt structure and confirms the mutual trust between both governments in Curaçao's financial policy," added the minister.

Refinancing options for the remaining bullet loans were also discussed during the meeting with BZK. Curaçao emphasised that sustainable refinancing is of strategic importance for macroeconomic stability and the creation of fiscal space.

Further agreements will be prepared during the coming period in a timely manner.

Collectivité organising 'August Outdoor Cinema'

MARIGOT—The Collectivité is inviting residents to the "August Outdoor Cinema" experience in the districts on Saturday evenings from August 2 to 30, at 7:30pm.

The month of August is usually a low period in terms of activities. Therefore, the Collectivité has decided to offer outdoor cinema sessions to keep children occupied during their summer break.

To compensate for the absence of a movie theatre, the Collectivité offers fun and recreational activities for young people in the neighbourhoods with their

families. This is an opportunity to create a friendly moment promoting exchanges and social cohesion within the neighbourhoods.

The event is overseen by the Culture Department of the Collectivité, chaired by Dominique Louisy, and co-financed by the Culture Department of Guadeloupe and the National Centre for Cinema and the Animated Image CNC.

Those attending the outdoor cinema should bring their own chairs and blankets. Snacks and refreshments will be on sale. The movie schedules for each week will be released soon.



Workshops will take place at Lecture Hall 202 on the USM campus.

USM to host workshop series to 'open minds, spark creativity'

PHILIPSBURG—University of St. Martin (USM) is set to launch an engaging series of free public workshops this August, inviting the community to explore themes of culture, communication and identity through fresh and critical perspectives.

Led by Professor Holger Briel, Ph.D., the sessions are designed to challenge conventional thinking and ignite thoughtful discussion. Students, educators, creatives and the general public are all encouraged to attend. Workshops will take place at Lecture Hall 202 on the USM campus.

The series kicks off with "Borderlands: Oral History Workshop" on Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, exploring the question of why a small island like St. Martin/St. Maarten is divided by a border. Through personal storytelling and community memory, participants will reflect on the island's layered identity and shared histories.

The session "From Text to Images: The Age of the Image" on Wednesday, August 6, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, investigates how visual media – memes, emojis, filters, and reels – have transformed the way we communicate. The workshop delves into the cultural and narrative impact of our increasingly image-driven world.

The final session, "Afro & Sino-futurism: Reimagining the Future", takes place on Thursday, August 7, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. This bold and imaginative workshop invites participants to re-envision the future through African and Asian perspectives, challenging dominant Western narratives through the lens of radical imagination and cultural critique.

"These workshops are designed to open minds and spark creativity," said Juliana Shipley-Hodge, Division Head of General Liberal Arts and USM Education Courses. "Whether you're a student, teacher, artist, or simply curious, there's something here for everyone."

To register or learn more, contact Juliana.Shipley-Hodge@usm.sx.

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Automatic transmission cars to be allowed during exams

WILLEMSTAD--As of January 1, 2026, Curaçao driving tests can be taken in cars with automatic transmission. This is according to Minister of Administration, Planning and Service BPD Kimberly Lew-Jen-Tai (MFK).

The decision was made in response to enquiries from the sector, the minister indicated. Currently, practical exams may only be taken in vehicles with manual (standard) transmission. The main difference is that

an automatic transmission shifts independently, while a standard one is manually operated by the motorist. It is thus easier to drive with the former.

In recent years, the number of automatic transmission cars has increased significantly, but driving tests could only be taken with a standard transmission vehicle. This meant that many people immediately switched to automatic transmission after taking their driving test with a

standard gearbox.

The need to allow vehicles with automatic transmission to take practical driving tests has long been discussed. Lew-Jen-Tai indicated that this process, which had already begun before she took office as minister, is now being completed so that driving tests with such cars will be possible starting January 1.

"We involved the entire sector in this. The demand for driving tests for cars with automatic transmission meets the needs of people with disabilities but also young people," said the minister.

Lew-Jen-Tai added that the new change has already been discussed with all stakeholders. A new meeting with driving instructors is to be held soon, where they will be able to ask all their questions about the change.

Incidentally, not all are happy with the possibility of taking tests in cars with automatic transmission. Some point to how this should be accommodated in current legislation, but also to the potential consequences, as there is no such training for them.

Expectations are that the inclusion of automatic cars in driving tests will lead to an increase in the number of candidates as well as instructors.

The minister also said a process to establish digital theory tests is currently underway. She could not specify when it would be implemented.

Modernising and digitising the driving test has been discussed for years. Government believes the required safety measures, in particular, demand further investigation.



Protective gear

Biomedical waste disposal Phase 2

KRALENDIJK--Three months ago, the first phase of biomedical waste disposal in Bonaire was completed. The second phase recently began, in which seven shipping containers will be shipped to Europe.

In the first phase, there were five. Renewi is transporting the potentially hazardous waste to Belgium via the Netherlands, where it will be safely incinerated.

Extensive preparations have been made in recent weeks. According to a release, the entire logistics chain is well-organised, and a significant amount of specialised packaging materials has been purchased. The work is primarily carried out by a local contractor with experience in this field.

Biomedical waste may contain harmful substances or pathogens that can affect humans and the environment. Handling biomedical waste is subject to special

laws and regulations to ensure that it is done safely and carefully.

Therefore, the key links in this waste chain, the Dutch RMD, "Servicio di Limpieza Boneriano" Selibon, and local hospital operator "Fundashon Mariadal", have recently completed special training for this purpose.

Last week the repacking of the waste into special barrels began after their arrival earlier from the Netherlands. According to Selibon, everything is going according to plan.

The shipment of the waste will take place in two stages. The first boat with four containers was loaded last weekend, while the remaining ones will be on the next vessel in two weeks.

By disposing of this waste, Bonaire continues to work safely to protect health and the environment, added the statement.

Temporary road closure for criminal case reconstruction

PHILIPSBURG--St. Maarten Police Force KPSM has announced that a technical reconstruction related to a criminal case will take place near Empire Gentlemen's Club tonight, Wednesday, July 23.

As a result, Hulda B. Richardson Road, in the vicinity of the club, will be closed to all vehicular traffic between 8:00pm and 9:00pm.

To minimise disruption, the following traffic di-

versions will be in effect. Motorists travelling from the Oyster Pond area or Bishop Hill and heading to Philipsburg are advised to take Middle Region Road. Those coming from Philipsburg and heading to Oyster Pond, Middle Region, or Bishop Hill should use Arch Road.

The public is kindly asked to follow all temporary traffic measures and cooperate with officers on site.



OPROEPING

Bij exploot dd. **23e juli 2025**, afschrift waarvan is gelaten aan de Off. van Justitie op St. Maarten, heb ik, Solange M. APON, deurwaarder op St. Maarten, Saba en St. Eustatius. Opgeroepen:

Oliver Lee Allen, wonende op Jamaica, zonder bekende woon of verblijfplaats aldaar.

dinsdag de 9e december 2025 te 09:15 uur voormiddag ter terechtzitting van het gerecht in eerste aanleg op het eiland St. Maarten, ten Raadhuize aan de Frontstreet te verschijnen, om te antwoorden op de vordering van

Johanna Lois Paula Arndell eiser, te antwoorden (EUX 46/2025)

De deurwaarder S.M. APON

Warning for violating maximum egg price

WILLEMSTAD--The Inspectorate at Curaçao's Ministry of Economic Development MEO recently found that several businesses are not complying with government-imposed maximum prices for chicken eggs (specifically battery-farmed ones).

Ronny Cornelis, head of the department, issued a stern warning on behalf of

Minister Roderick Middelfhof, to all businesses failing to comply with these price regulations. Violations may result in the temporary closure of the business.

He urged the public to report any establishments charging prices above the legal limit. The inspection team will take strict action against anyone who breaks these rules.

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- CUSTOMER SERVICE, WATERSPORTS
- SETTING UP BEACH IN AM & PACKING AWAY IN PM
- MUST BE PUNCTUAL, FRIENDLY, LEGAL, VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE. WE SEEK AN ENERGETIC TEAM PLAYER.
- MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM.
- MUST BE ABLE TO WORK SAT, SUN AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

PLEASE EMAIL RESUME TO
DIVI@STMAARTEN-ACTIVITIES.COM
NO CALLS PLEASE.

Company Name: Blues and Blues B.V.
Vacancy Number: 11002
Position Name:
Crew Member for
CARGO SHIP
(ON-DOCK AND OFF-DOCK)

Job Description:

- Seeking motivated individuals to join our cargo team. Role includes on-dock and off-dock cargo handling, loading, and unloading at port facilities.
- Education & Experience Requirements:
- Certification of Proficiency in Maritime Industry
- Experience in cargo handling or shipping preferred.
- Ability to work in fast-paced and varying weather conditions.
- Valid driver's license preferred.
- Strong teamwork, organizational, and safety commitment.

Salary Range & Benefits:

- Competitive salary and benefits package. Based on Experience.
- Opportunities for advancement.

Application Deadline: July 31st, 2025,

Apply with a resume and cover letter certificates valid identification to info@dvsconsultancy.com and apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org within two (2) weeks.



SZV and St. Maarten Library staff during pension and retirement planning workshop.

SZV expands community outreach, improves access to crucial services

PHILIPSBURG--Social and Health Insurances SZV has deepened its engagement with the community in the past six months through targeted outreach, aiming to bring essential services and information closer to the public.

Through workshops, public events and digital platforms, SZV has guided residents on topics such as pension and medical insurance benefits, retirement planning, business registration and the use of tools like the MySZV and Employer Portals. These initiatives support SZV's mission to make social and health services more accessible, efficient and client-focused.

Among the highlights were SZV's participation in the MSME Expo organised by the National Recovery Project Bureau (NRPB) for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the Open House of the Division of Labor Affairs and Social Services. At both

events, business owners and entrepreneurs received direct support with employer registration and portal access, while individuals received one-on-one assistance with insurance questions and pension benefits.

In partnership with the St. Maarten Library, SZV also hosted a workshop tailored to current and future pensioners, offering insight into tax compliance, well-being in retirement, and navigating the pension process. Most recently, during the "Meet and Greet" of the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, SZV assisted individuals transitioning into retirement and helped new users activate their MySZV accounts.

Additionally, SZV has held private information sessions with businesses to explain sick-leave procedures and ensure that employers understand their legal responsibilities.

As the island's public social and health insurer, SZV re-

affirmed its commitment to providing clear, reliable information and personalised guidance to help all clients manage their benefits and responsibilities with confidence.

SZV extends its appreciation to its staff, community partners and all residents who participated in these outreach efforts.

To stay updated, residents are encouraged to subscribe to SZV's new WhatsApp Channel, "SZV Social & Health Insurances", for real-time updates, helpful tips and news on upcoming events.

Quality certification for vacation rentals

WILLEMSTAD--Vacation rentals in Curaçao can now apply for an official quality certification under a new programme launched by the Curaçao Tourist Board (CTB). Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development MEO and the Curaçao Innovation & Technology Institute (CITI), the effort aims to enhance the level, safety and reliability of alternative visitor accommodations on the island.

The new quality label evaluates participating properties across more than 10 criteria, including hygiene, fire safety, permits, comfort, customer service and sustainability. Only properties with a maximum of 40 independent units are eligible.

According to CTB, the initiative is designed to provide guests with trustworthy options while encouraging property owners to upgrade their standards. Certified properties will receive a quality label, increased visibility on the official tourism website curacao.com and access to promotional campaigns.

The voluntary programme consists of five phases: application, preliminary audit, improve-

ment period, final assessment, and – if all standards are met – official certification.

CITI, which has previously implemented similar quality programmes for the island's dive and restaurant industries, will carry out the audits. Inspection criteria include fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, lockable doors and windows, cleanliness, online booking capability and availability of tourist information.

If deficiencies are identified, property owners

will have two months to make the necessary improvements. The certification is valid for two years, with CTB reserving the right to conduct interim re-evaluations. If standards are no longer met, the label can be revoked.

CTB emphasised that while participation is optional, the programme offers clear benefits for both visitors seeking quality accommodations and property owners aiming to boost their market appeal.

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Consult your Vet for more information on how YOU can save a life TODAY!



OPROEPING



Bij exploit dd. **23e juli 2025**, afschrift waarvan is gelaten aan de Off. van Justitie op St.Maarten, heb ik, Solange M. APON, deurwaarder op St. Maarten, Saba en St. Eustatius. Opgeroepen:

Fabiola Bredy, wonende op St.Maarten te Colebay, om op

maandag de 6e oktober 2025 te 10:15 uur voormiddag ter terechtzitting van het gerecht in eerste aanleg op het eiland St.Maarten, ten Raadhuis aan de Frontstraat te verschijnen, om te antwoorden op de vordering van

Dunet Laplante eiser, te antwoorden (E 3/ 2025-SXM 2025-8)

De deurwaarder S.M. APON

VACANCY

Vacancy No. 11113

Halley Aviation Services

has a vacancy for the following position:

CLEANER

- Excellent communication skills
- Highly responsible & reliable
- Minimum 2 years experience
- Responsible for all basic cleaning
- Performing and documenting routine inspection
- Stocking & supplying designated facility areas
- Notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repair
- Follow all health and safety regulations

Please submit applications before August 15th, 2025.

Applicants should be of Dutch nationality or in possession of valid working papers. Interested and qualified applicants can send their resume to: hr@halleyaviationservices.com.

Please forward a copy of your application to the Labour Office with all certificates and references.

For more info please call:
(+1 721) 546-7665 or (+1 721) 520-1234.

2025 CONFIRMATION LETTERS

Continued from page 1.

measures where necessary. These measures can range from verbal warnings to the full revocation of a permit for repeat violations.

Operators who have already submitted the required documents and are in the process of amending their operations, such as adding vehicles to their fleet, will not be negatively affected. Those with tem-

porarily inoperative vehicles must submit a formal letter to notify the department.

Permit holders or their authorised representatives seeking further information are encouraged to visit IETA's Section Transport Office, located on Juancho Yrausquin Boulevard across from Fairway Mark It.



Princess Juliana International Airport mission is to be the regional Leader in providing safe, secure, quality, and profitable airport services that contribute to the general economic and tourism development of St. Maarten / St. Martin and the region we serve.

The SBoD of PJIAH is looking for a

SUPERVISORY BOARD MEMBER AVIATION / ORGANIZATIONAL FIELDS



The Supervisory Board of Directors (SBoD) of the Princess Juliana International Airport Holding Company N.V. ("PJIAH" or "The Holding") is responsible for supervising the overall management of the Holding and the related enterprise. The SBoD monitors the Managing Board's performance and the general operations within PJIAH. Core responsibilities include ensuring adherence to laws, bylaws, and internal and external regulations, assessing PJIAH's risk profile and internal controls, and acting as both supervisor and strategic advisor to the Managing Board (MB), as well as an ambassador for the Holding.

COMPOSITION:

The SBoD should comprise a balanced mix of individuals, ensuring that the collective experience, expertise, and independence of its members fulfill the requisite criteria to effectively undertake their duties to PJIAH and its shareholder, in alignment with relevant legal standards. The board should consist of three to seven qualified individuals specializing in legal, financial, or aviation/organizational fields.

ROLE:

The primary function of the SBoD is to counsel and oversee the Management Board of PJIAH, regularly reviewing the Holding's business development, as well as the MB's planning and strategy.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must possess a Bachelor's or higher degree in transportation, aviation or business administration with at least 10 years of relevant managerial experience and prior Supervisory Board Experience of at least 5 years.
- Capable of providing a comprehensive overview and discerning primary from secondary issues.
- Skilled in timely and effectively guiding and advising the MB's policies.
- Good understanding of and or exposure to dealing with Government, essential for effective stakeholder management.
- Relevant knowledge and experience in managing assets in the broadest sense.
- Should act as a consultative body for various policy discussions.
- Experienced in decision-making, with a decisive and influential approach.
- Ability to evaluate PJIAH's management regarding the acceptance of business risks.
- Experienced in aviation and airport management.
- Advocates for leadership development and advises on HR management policies.
- Provides counsel on matters specific to aviation, transportation, or tourism sectors.
- Advises on initiatives related to innovation, automation, and digitalization.

- Understands basic corporate governance principles.
- Exhibits impeccable character and must clear an integrity screening.
- Committed to dedicating ample time to their board duties.
- Engages in ongoing professional development to stay current in the field.
- Effective interpersonal skills to maintain robust relationships with various stakeholders.
- No potential conflicts of interest with PJIAH or related entities.
- Embodies the core values and culture of PJIAH.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Candidates interested in joining the Supervisory Board should submit their resume and cover letter by August 15th, 2025, to:

Recruitment committee Supervisory Board of Princess Juliana International Airport Holding N.V. ('PJIAH') and e-mail it to and.applications@bdo.cw.

Please reference your application as "Application for Supervisory Board member of PJIAH"



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DUTCH MPS DEMAND ACTION

Continued from page 1

tificates falsely bearing the name and national symbols of St. Maarten.

In response, Members of Parliament (MPs) Jan Paternotte of Democrats '66 (D66) party and Derk Boswijk of Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) submitted formal questions to Minister of Foreign Affairs Caspar Veldkamp and State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Eddie van Marum, asking for clarification on the extent of the deception and what measures are being taken to prevent further abuse. They also raised concerns about the reputational damage to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, given that the fraudulent flags reference constituent countries in the Dutch Kingdom – St. Maarten, Aruba and Curaçao.

While the Follow the Money investigation brought the issue back into national headlines, "The Daily Herald" already reported on the scheme in its December 18, 2024, edition. That article exposed the operations of www.smtaregistry.com, which falsely claimed to represent an official St. Maarten maritime authority under the name "MSTA – International Maritime Registries & Regulatory Inc." It listed vessels under a fictitious St. Maarten maritime flag and displayed forged certificates featuring the country's coat of arms.

Despite having a national flag, St. Maarten does not operate a recognised maritime registry. Under King-

dom law, only the Netherlands holds that authority, meaning any claim to register sea-going vessels under a "St. Maarten flag" is automatically invalid.

"The Daily Herald's" report cited documentation uncovered by Lloyd's List, including a fraudulent certificate issued for a sanctioned tanker, "Ocean Koi" (IMO: 9255933), formerly known as "Cimarron". The certificate, dated December 14, 2024, bore the national emblem of St. Maarten, but included numerous typographical errors and was purportedly issued by a fictitious "St. Maarten Islands Maritime Administration".

Government officials at the time confirmed to "The Daily Herald" that the documents were falsified and that criminal networks in the Middle East, Russia and India were exploiting St. Maarten's identity to operate so-called "dark fleet" vessels. These ships frequently switch flags to obscure ownership and evade international enforcement.

Maritime law experts note that fraudulent registry schemes often target jurisdictions perceived to have limited enforcement capacity, underdeveloped regulatory frameworks or unclear legal authority. These conditions create an environment where fake operations can thrive with little risk of detection or prosecution.

As a small island nation



An aerial view shows a crude oil tanker at an oil terminal off Waidiao island in Zhoushan, Zhejiang province, China, on January 4, 2023. File photo credit: "China Daily" via Reuters.

still developing its regulatory institutions, St. Maarten is particularly vulnerable. Its limited maritime jurisdiction and the widespread international misunderstanding of its legal status make it an attractive target for criminal networks seeking to exploit gaps in oversight.

According to Follow the Money, at least 77 vessels have been issued fake documents by MSTA, including 30 under active international sanctions. Alarmingly, 19 ships adopted the fraudulent St. Maarten flag shortly after being sanctioned, highlighting its appeal as a convenient disguise for illicit operations.

The scandal also casts a shadow over earlier discussions in St. Maarten's own government. During the 2023 budget debate, then Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication Arthur Lambriex (United People's party) disclosed preliminary plans to develop an open maritime register. At the time, he expressed confidence that legislation could be introduced before the end of that year to formalise ship registration under the St. Maarten flag, a move he believed could generate millions in annual revenue.

In Parliament, Lambriex said that he had relied on

the advice and expertise of a policy advisor from Curaçao. However, maritime governance in Curaçao had come under international scrutiny in the past.

In 2013, the European Commission issued a formal warning known as a "Yellow Card" to Curaçao for its failure to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The warning cited several deficiencies, including poor oversight of fishing fleets and processing facilities, inadequate vessel monitoring and registration systems, weak legal enforcement and non-compliance with international fisheries agreements.

The warning followed an incident involving a Curaçao-flagged vessel caught fishing illegally in a protected area near the Canary Islands. Curaçao's Yellow Card was lifted in 2017 after the country took corrective measures to improve its monitoring and compliance systems.

The incident has also drawn attention to the wider practice of "flags of convenience", long associated with labour abuse, environmental violations and sanction evasion. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and maritime watchdogs have repeatedly warned that weak or fake registries enable the trafficking of workers, ship abandonment and the concealment of illegal oil trade.

The case underscores both the global vulnerability to maritime fraud and the urgent need for clearer governance and international safeguards. A local official in St. Maarten, speaking to "The Daily Herald", previously warned, "These groups are making millions, in part from unsuspecting companies registering vessels. The website is fraudulent. Payments disappear in the cloud."

To date, no legal framework for the registration of ocean-going vessels has been implemented in St. Maarten, and the only existing register today remains a local list of catamaran operators offering tours around the island.

Philipsburg Auto Accessories N.V.

MARKETING ASSISTANT VACANCY #11098

Duties:

- The monitoring of marketing programs and develop ways to improve the campaigns.
- Create clever ways to gain exposure for clients of products.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing Management.
- Two years and plus experience.

Dutch nationals or persons with valid work permit need only apply.

Salary range: based on experience and qualifications.

Deadline for submittance of applications: July 31st, 2025.
Applications can be emailed: philipsburgauto@yahoo.com

All interested candidates MUST submit their application to the National Employment Service Center (NESC) preferably via apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org within two (2) weeks to the attention of the National Employment Service Center.

The applications should include an application letter, copy of identification, copy of diplomas and/or certificates, where required.

All suitable applicants will be contacted for an interview to be held with a Representative of the business and a Business Service Officer representing NESC.

Jai Kalima N.V.

COOKS Vacancy #11093

Duties:

- Responsible for preparing the meals in the restaurant.
- Experience in the preparation of Indian & Tanderian meals.
- Able to work shifts.

Qualifications:

- High school degree.
- Diploma in cooking.
- At least two years of experience.

Only Dutch nationals or persons with valid work permit need only apply.

Deadline for submittance of applications: July 31st, 2025.
Salary: Cg. 2,069.60 - Cg. 2,328.25 based on experience.

Forward all applications to: shaktishiv05@yahoo.com.

All interested candidates MUST submit their application to the National Employment Service Center (NESC) preferably via apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org within two (2) weeks to the attention of the National Employment Service Center.

The applications should include an application letter, copy of identification, copy of diplomas and/or certificates, where required.

All suitable applicants will be contacted for an interview to be held with a Representative of the business and a Business Service Officer representing NESC.

Top Five Enterprises B.V.
has a position available for a:

FORKLIFT DRIVER Vacancy #11094

Responsibilities/Job description:

- Experience in driving a forklift in a warehouse. Loading, unloading moving stacking and staging goods off of trucks or containers and put them to the allotted places.
- Must be able to work independently and under pressure to meet time for the delivery trucks.

Requirements:

- No education required.
- Minimum of one year working experience.

Salary: Cg. 1,882.40 based on experience.

Applications accepted up to and including July 31st, 2025.

Only Dutch nationals or persons with valid working documents need apply.

Please forward applications to the Labour Office and email to: fadi812008@hotmail.com

All interested candidates **MUST** submit their application to the National Employment Service Center (NESC) preferably via apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org within two (2) weeks to the attention of the National Employment Service Center.

The applications should include an application letter, copy of identification, copy of diplomas and/or certificates, where required. All suitable applicants will be contacted for an interview to be held with a Representative of the business and a Business Service Officer representing NESC.

Ministry responds to outcry over old law

WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao's Ministry of Economic Development MEO issued a detailed statement addressing growing public and legal concerns about Article 53 of the Licensing Ordinance, which prohibits women and minors from working in hospitality service roles without special written permission. The ministry acknowledged that while the rule remains technically in force, it is no longer enforced – and pledged broader reforms to modernise Curaçao's outdated permitting system.

Article 53, originating from a 1963 ordinance and most recently consolidated in 2024, requires explicit ministerial approval for employing women or those under 18 in restaurants, bars and similar establishments. MEO recognised this requirement as outdated and discriminatory,

echoing legal experts and opinion leaders who have called for its immediate repeal.

Although the article remains on the books, MEO emphasised it is no longer applied or actively monitored. When applicants request approval, the reference is only included in official documentation for administrative completeness – not as a condition for operation.

In 2018, the parliamentary faction of MAN submitted a proposal to repeal the provision. Despite support, the legislation was never formally enacted, leaving the clause technically valid but irrelevant in practice.

MEO confirmed it is currently working on a comprehensive revision of the ordinance, including the removal of outdated laws.

Beyond Article 53, MEO highlighted severe struc-

tural issues in Curaçao's licensing process. The current backlog for hospitality permits has ballooned to over seven years, forcing government to tolerate the operation of numerous unlicensed establishments.

This delay has had serious consequences:

- * A prolonged tolerance policy for unlicensed hospitality businesses;

- * Limited enforcement and monitoring capacity; and

- * Estimated annual losses of 2 million Caribbean guilders in permit fees.

The backlog stems primarily from delayed advisory input – particularly from the Fire Department and Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature GMN – due to chronic understaffing. While the Police Unit of Special Laws is legally required to issue advice within three weeks, no such time limit applies to the

Fire Department or GMN, disrupting the balance and progress of permit applications.

To address these delays, a new uniform advisory time-frame of three weeks was introduced on April 1, 2025. Under the revised procedure, if advice is not received within this period, MEO will proceed with issuing permits based on the information available.

This policy does not override the independent legal authority of other agencies: the Fire Department remains empowered to grant separate fire safety permits, and GMN still oversees food and beverage sales under separate legislation.

Zoning authorities under the Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Spatial Planning VVRP will now provide clearer information

regarding the suitability of buildings for hospitality use.

This multi-agency coordination is part of a broader strategy to eliminate long waiting periods for business operators, end the current tolerance policy and restore consistent government revenue from fees.

MEO further stated that the entire Licensing Ordinance is undergoing a comprehensive modernisation to bring the system in line with contemporary societal and economic realities. The overhaul aims to make the process more transparent, streamlined and accessible.

Under the leadership of Minister Ruisandro Middelhof, MEO has set a 30-working-day deadline to resolve all pending hospitality licence requests. Middelhof has made clear

that improving service to citizens and businesses is his top priority.

The ministry is also developing a new digital licensing system to improve efficiency and accessibility. Digital transformation will be central to ensuring faster and more user-friendly processing for all economic permit applications.

With these combined efforts – repealing discriminatory clauses, tackling administrative delays and investing in digital infrastructure – MEO says it is laying the foundation for a more resilient and inclusive economy. "Government is committed to leaving behind outdated laws and building a regulatory environment that reflects equality, efficiency and progress."

BEACON HILL BILLBOARD RAISES QUESTIONS

Continued from page 1.

have already been sold. However, the presence of the billboard and the promotion of the project may be in violation of Article 7 of the Building Ordinance.

According to Article 7, it is prohibited to erect or renovate a building, partially or in full, without first obtaining a building permit or in violation of the conditions set forth in the Building Ordinance or Building Decree. These provisions are in place to ensure that all construction meets safety and planning standards.

Key conditions attached to a building permit include the following: the permit and its approved drawings must be present on the construction site; the permit must be visibly posted on-site; and the Inspection Department must be notified

in writing at least 48 hours prior to any critical phase of construction, such as the pouring of concrete.

Violations of Article 7 may result in a fine of Cg. 500. Before such a fine is issued, the Inspection Department is required to notify the responsible party through a formal warning letter, giving them the opportunity to rectify the violation.

Additionally, under Article 64 of the Building Ordinance, the VROMI Minister is empowered to stop illegal construction or remove unauthorised structures at the violator's expense.

As of publication, no active construction has been observed at the site. However, the promotional materials and claims of pre-sold units have raised alarm

among nearby residents and property stakeholders over potential non-compliance with building regulations.

PBHA has successfully contested three other commercial developments in Beacon Hill – Drake's Residence, Villa Sasha, and The Phoenician condo buildings – in court, citing the area's residential-only zoning. The neighbourhood is governed by the Beacon Hill covenant, to which every new homeowner or landowner is automatically subject. Under this covenant, commercial development is explicitly prohibited in the residential-only area.

The Court recently annulled a second building permit issued by former VROMI Minister Egbert Doran, in which he signed off on a residential permit and added, via fine print, that the permit holder was allowed to exceed the maximum building height of three levels or 12 metres. Current VROMI Minister Patrice Gumbs must now make a new decision in both cases, taking into account the Court's recommendations.

The commercial development advertised on the billboard at Beacon Hill Road 39, for which Gumbs granted only a demolition permit, also appears to far exceed the maximum building height permitted in Beacon Hill.



VACANCY

12 Metre Tender Captain

Delisle Walwyn St. Maarten B.V. is seeking a hardworking, highly motivated individual to fill the position of Tender Captain for their 12 Metre Challenge Department. The successful candidate must be a multi-tasker and adapt to changes within the department. This position reports directly to the Operations & Maintenance Supervisors of the 12 Metre Challenge department.

Job Summary:

We are seeking a motivated Tender Captain to lead the 12 Metre Regatta team in St. Maarten. The successful candidate will lead boat operations, ensuring a seamless process. Moreover, the candidate should be team-oriented and be prepared to provide high-quality service in a dynamic environment, especially within the maritime and tourism sectors. The following areas of responsibility include but are not limited to the following:

Key Responsibilities:

- Run Committee Boat (drive, set & adjust courses, time and flag regattas)
- Driver tender for 12 Metre tours and special events.
- Fulfill general maintenance duties on your assigned vessel.
- Fulfill general maintenance duties as assigned by your chain of command (Skippers, Shore Excursions Manager)
- Be prepared and willing to jump into various roles on-demand (briefing, tender and committee boats, crew, dispatching, etc.); in general, be a team player.
- Work with managers and colleagues on group projects.
- Assist with Crew aboard the 12 Metre vessels for tours and special events.
- Undertake other tasks, special requests or other related services as may be directed by management from time to time.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must possess a STCW Certification and a Boat Master 1.
- Minimum 2 years' experience as a Captain on sailing vessels, ideally racing yachts or charter operations.
- Strong knowledge of boat handling, vessel operations, and general maintenance of watercraft.
- Ability to set and adjust racecourses for regattas and flag signaling.
- Ability to multi-task and adapt quickly to changing tasks or responsibilities.
- Excellent communication skills for interacting with team members, managers, and guests.
- Ability to work under pressure and stay calm during events.
- Customer service-oriented with a professional and approachable demeanor.
- Comfortable working outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Ability to swim and respond calmly in emergency situations.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including weekends and holidays.
- Physically fit and able to manage the demands of a hands-on sailing environment.

Preferred Experience:

- Experience in handling large or luxury vessels.
- Familiarity with the specifics of 12 Metre vessels.
- Knowledge of racecourse design and sailing regulations.
- First Aid and CPR certified.

Applications must be submitted via our website, www.delislewalwyn.com / Join Our Team, no later than August 13, 2025.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.

but if you do, they pay the price.

REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY TO POLICE

Waste oil recycling plans at Buskabaai

WILLEMSTAD--A local company, Falcon International BV, has applied for an environmental permit to establish a recycling facility for waste oil, sludge and slops in the Buskabaai area of Curaçao's harbour. The initiative, announced by the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature GMN, marks a new step towards cleaner and more sustainable industrial practices on the island.

Falcon's request, filed under Curaçao's Nuisance Ordinance, outlines plans

to operate an installation specifically designed for the processing of industrial waste materials, including used oil, engine sludge and slops – a mixture of oil and water typically found in ship bilges.

The proposed location lies north-west of Schottegat Bay and is historically significant as the site of the infamous "asphalt lake" created during World War II when the former Shell refinery, under pressure to rapidly produce kerosene for Al-

lied forces, dumped large volumes of residue – such as pitch, tar and asphalt – into the area.

Today, Buskabaai remains one of Curaçao's most contaminated industrial zones. However, efforts are underway to transform the site into a hub for renewable and sustainable activities.

In 2024, Buskabaai NV director Ramses Martina told local media that the area is being cleaned and repurposed. Residual materials from the lake are

being extracted with heavy machinery and processed for commercial use.

GMN has placed Falcon's permit request, along with supporting documents and a draft licence, on public display for a one-month consultation period. During this time, members of the public may submit written objections or feedback.

The documents are available for review at the Environmental Management Office on Roodeweg in Colon, according to Gabriel Murray, Sector Director for Agriculture, Environment and Nature at GMN.

Falcon International was founded in May 2019, and is based on Heintje Koolweg. Though originally registered with the Chamber of Commerce as a wholesale trader in ores, the company now aims to pivot toward waste oil management.

According to Martina, Falcon plans to convert used oil into industrial-grade fuel, which could then be used to power machinery – an activity currently not offered by anybody on the island.

The company is led by two Curaçao-born directors: Haithem Babetti and Jason José Debrot. The latter has prior experience at state-owned fuel distributor Curoil and is currently operations manager at Asphalt Lake Recovery NV, a firm involved in extracting and processing asphalt from the lake and handling petroleum-related products, headed by Johannes Adrianus Jansen.

Falcon's proposal comes at a critical time, as Curaçao continues to face challenges with industrial waste management following the decline of local crude-pro-

cessing operations. For decades, the Isla refinery was the island's main processor of such waste streams.

The new facility, if approved, would represent a first-of-its-kind initiative to locally recycle waste oil and related materials for industrial reuse.

"This is about turning waste into product," said Martina. "The oil that's recovered will be refined into fuel suitable for heavy machinery. It's a significant step for local sustainability and industrial innovation."

The project, if given the green light, would not only support Curaçao's environmental goals but also create new economic opportunities in the circular economy – transforming one of the island's most polluted sites into a beacon of modern, eco-friendly industry.



Middelhof (left) with Tieman.

Curaçao to restructure its international ship registry

THE HAGUE--Curaçao Minister of Economic Development MEO Roderick Middelhof (MFK) and his team met with caretaker Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management I&W Robert Tieman (BBB) as well as Stefanie Spekrijse and Briggit Gijsbers of the Maritime Authority. A crucial point discussed was the presentation of Curaçao's comprehensive plan to restructure its international ship registry so that it can meet its obligations as a flag state and once again achieve economic growth.

This effort aims to modernise and simplify the registration process, improve efficiency and effectiveness, exercise the necessary oversight and guarantee the safety of vessels registered under the Dutch Caribbean country's flag, thus attracting more.

According to a release, "the growth of the international register and compliance with our obligations in this regard will result in more jobs and contribute

to gross domestic product. In this way, the minister managed to change the Dutch government's position, which was focused on a possible closure of the register."

Middelhof took action to prevent the latter, since it concerns the jurisdiction of the Maritime Authority Curaçao (MAC), an organisation that normally falls under the Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Spatial Planning VVRP. As agreed, MAC will now become the responsibility of MEO to guarantee its security and continuity. This reportedly is one of the crucial points for the Dutch government's acceptance.

It was agreed to form a team that will include representatives from MEO and I&W, a representative of the Maritime Inspectorate and relevant public and private companies.

"The meeting was very successful," Middelhof said. "We presented our vision for a renewed, more robust and competitive ship registry. At the same time, the

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management highlighted how they can support our efforts with their experience, knowledge and resources so we can achieve our goals. Just as importantly, we explored ways in which Curaçao can offer mutual benefits and contribute to shared maritime goals."

During the meeting, Spekrijse indicated that only now, since letters were sent in 2019, has a minister come to the table to provide clarity and present concrete plans. The Dutch official added that they now have renewed confidence this issue will be resolved.

The restructuring of the ship registry is a vital component of Curaçao's broader economic diversification strategy, aimed at strengthening its position as a leading maritime centre in the Caribbean. More details on the outcomes and next steps of these deliberations will be communicated as the implementation of the presented plans progresses.



Delisle Walwyn St. Maarten
"People You Can Trust"

VACANCY

12 Metre Crew

Delisle Walwyn St. Maarten B.V. is seeking a talented and driven individual to join our 12 Metre Challenge Department as a Crew member. As a key player on our team, you will bring exceptional customer service skills and a collaborative mindset to help us achieve our departmental goals. Reporting directly to the Captain, you will be an integral part of our crew, working together to deliver outstanding results. If you are passionate about sailing and teamwork, we invite you to apply for this opportunity.

Job Summary:

This position supports the safe and smooth operation of 12 Metre America's Cup racing yachts during guest excursions and regatta-style experiences. This role involves assisting with sailing maneuvers, delivering excellent guest service, and ensuring safety procedures are always followed. Crew members are ambassadors of the experience and play a key role in delivering an unforgettable, interactive sailing adventure.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist the Captain in operating the vessel during races and tours, including sail handling, line management and docking.
- Welcome and interact with guests in a friendly, engaging and professional manner.
- Provide a clear and enthusiastic pre-tour safety and participation briefing to guests.
- Instruct and assist guests during hands-on sailing activities (e.g., grinding, tacking, steering).
- Monitor guest safety on board and respond to emergencies or issues as needed.
- Help maintain the cleanliness, readiness and appearance of the vessel before and after each tour.
- Participate in rigging, de-rigging and routine maintenance tasks.
- Support with provisioning, restocking and general logistics as required.
- Communicate clearly and effectively with the Captain, fellow crew members and shore-side team.
- Promote a fun, memorable and safe experience aligned with the company's customer service standards.

Qualifications:

- Prior sailing or deckhand experience (experience on classic yachts or in a guest-facing environment is an asset).
- Basic knowledge of sailing terms and techniques.
- Strong interpersonal skills and a guest-first attitude.
- Physically fit and able to perform manual sailing duties (e.g., lifting lines, grinding winches).
- Comfortable working outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Ability to swim and respond calmly in emergency situations.
- Willingness to work flexible hours, including weekends and holidays.

Preferred Certifications (Not Required but Considered a Plus):

- STCW Basic Safety Training
- First Aid & CPR
- Boat Handling Certification

Applications must be submitted via our website, www.delislewalwyn.com / Join Our Team, no later than August 13, 2025.

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MAN-PIN faction submitting their law proposal.

Bill for adjusting social assistance to inflation

WILLEMSTAD--The MAN-PIN faction in Curaçao's Parliament submitted a draft law to adjust social assistance benefits ("onderstand") to the rising cost of living. According to a release, the so-called members' bill provides a solid foundation for adjusting the benefit amount annually based on inflation and no longer leaving it to the government's discretion.

"In the more than two months as part of this legislature, we have shown that it is time for action, not empty promises. After the full Parliament approved the adjustment of the minimum wage for 18-20-year-olds and to ensure that action is finally taken on the indexation of AOV old-age pensions, our faction is presenting another initiative," added the opposition party.

"It is well known that the economy has been growing since 2021, thanks to the strong foundation laid by MAN and PIN just before the pandemic. However, the pandemic has led to increased poverty, especially among the most vulnerable, as the prices of fuel, personal care products and other essential goods and services have risen sharply. This hike is even worse for benefit recipients," the release continued.

"Despite government subsidies for housing rent and school transportation, and water and electricity subsidies, people on social assistance cannot cover the cost of healthy food and basic hygiene products such as soap, detergent, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. with the amount they receive for themselves and their families."

According to MAN-PIN, this increasingly leads to schoolchildren who haven't eaten breakfast and suffer from chronic health problems, as well as emotional and mental health issues. Automatic and structural adjustment of benefits to rising costs of living should not be a problem, the party argues.

"The number of welfare recipients is equal to the number of people unable to work. Moreover, the benefit amount will not reach the minimum wage, as this is adjusted annually to reflect rising costs of living."

Government has also received various opinions on the need to adjust welfare benefits. Finally, MAN-PIN indicated that it is counting on the support of all other factions in this matter.

Dutch entities surprised by trial for planned attack on Eurovision 2020

AMSTERDAM--The Luxembourg public prosecution department has demanded a twelve-year sentence against a Swedish national for planning an attack on the 2020 Eurovision Song Festival, which was being held in Rotterdam, the Luxembourg justice department has confirmed to Dutch newspaper "Het Parool".

The trial of 23-year-old chemistry student Alexander H. took place earlier this month, "Het Parool" was told, but both the festival's organiser and the Dutch public prosecution department did not know anything about the case.

H., then not yet 18 years old, was arrested at his home in Strassen, a small town in Luxembourg, where police found a laptop with a document entitled "Fun time for Eurovision 2020: For a better and less over-accepting future", reported Luxembourg broadcaster

RTL, which covered the trial.

The document – which was said to be the work of H. and a Dutch accomplice about whom nothing more is known – contained detailed information about a chemical attack on festival visitors. The event was supposed to be held at the Ahoy events centre in Rotterdam but was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

H. wanted to spread cyanide or ricin via the venue's ventilation system and use homemade explosives. According to RTL, police found chemicals and bomb-making materials at his home.

He also planned to sabotage the Dutch electricity system. The Luxembourg intelligence service foiled the attack, RTL quoted a prosecutor as saying at the trial.

According to Luxembourg paper "Le Quotidien", H.

was a member of neo-Nazi paramilitary organisation The Base, which is classified as a terrorist organisation in the European Union (EU).

The paper quoted detectives involved in the case as saying that H. "hated women, people of colour, homosexuals and people of a different religion from his own" and described himself as a "good Aryan".

Festival producer Sietse Bakker told "Het Parool" that the case was "new to him", while the Dutch public prosecution department said it had no knowledge of it.

Dutch counter-terrorism agency NCTV told the paper that it does not comment on ongoing cases and does "not investigate persons or organisations".

H. has been found guilty of planning a terrorist act and faces 12 years in prison. He will be sentenced in November.

Sentro Pro Arte's demolition starts

WILLEMSTAD--The demolition of Curaçao's long-abandoned national theatre "Sentro Pro Arte" is now in full swing, following the discovery of asbestos on the site. Authorities have cordoned off the area due to associated health risks.

Sidney "Bicho" Justiana, chairman of the foundation overseeing the project, con-

firmed that a special plan is being developed to safely remove the hazardous material in close consultation with public health officials.

The once-iconic but flood-prone theatre has been out of use since 2001 and was severely damaged by two separate fires. Its deteriorated condition has made renovation no longer fea-

sible, prompting the decision to proceed with demolition and environmental clean-up.

The dismantling and clearing process is expected to take three to four months. Meanwhile, plans for a new, modern performing arts centre on the same site are already in the works, signalling a cultural revival for the area.

Recruitment campaign for new police officers

WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao's Ministry of Justice has begun preparations for a large-scale recruitment campaign aimed at attracting new police officers in 2026. The announcement was made by Justice Minister Shalten Hato (MFK).

This was decided during a recent meeting between the minister's cabinet, the management team of the Curaçao Police Force KPC and various strategic partners. The goal is to ensure that the force is strengthened with more well-trained personnel in the coming years.

According to Hato, individuals who had previously expressed interest in joining KPC will soon receive additional information about the next steps in the selection process. In addition, the ministry will open the application process to new candidates interested in a career in law enforcement.

While exact details of the campaign have not yet been disclosed, the ministry indicated that further information regarding timelines, requirements and training will be shared in the near future. The initiative reflects government's ongoing commitment to improving public safety and addressing staff shortages within the police force.



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Government Info Page

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HURRICANE SEASON 2025 "IT ONLY TAKES ONE! ARE YOU PREPARED?"

SINT MAARTEN

Ministerie van Financiën

De Overheid van Sint Maarten is op zoek naar professionals met een fiscale achtergrond die een actieve bijdrage willen leveren aan de ontwikkeling van het land.

De Belastingdienst is verantwoordelijk voor het op uitermate efficiënte, effectieve, klantgerichte en integere wijze uitvoering geven aan de wet- en regelgeving bij het heffen en innen van, en de controle voeren op belastingen met als doel stabiele en groeiende belastingopbrengsten. De dienst is onderverdeeld in de Afdelingen Inspectie, Controle & Opsporing, Ontvanger en de Sectie Ondersteuning.

Onderstaande vacature is momenteel beschikbaar binnen de Belastingdienst, Afdeling Inspectie:

Inspecteur Aanslagregeling

Voornaamste taken:

- Beoordeelt fiscaal-juridische complexe aangiften voor diverse belastingmiddelen;
- Legt aanslagen op voor diverse belastingmiddelen;
- Geeft adviezen aan het Sectiehoofd over fiscaal-technische en fiscaal-juridische aangelegenheden en tekortkomingen in de fiscale wetgeving bij het beoordelen van de aangiften;
- Beoordeelt het geheel aan informatie en bepaalt, op basis van de bevindingen en toetsing aan de diverse wettelijke bepalingen, verordeningen, verdragen en jurisprudentie, of aanslagen moeten worden opgelegd;
- Behandelt zelfstandig beroepszaken aangaande aanslagen van de diverse fiscale middelen, stelt vertoogschriften op, neemt fiscaal juridische standpunten in en vertegenwoordigt de dienst op zittingen van het Gemeenschappelijk Hof van Justitie;
- Analyseert nieuwe ontwikkelingen op fiscaal-technisch gebied en adviseert over de wijze waarop de dienst en het ministerie kunnen inspelen op de ontwikkelingen.

Competenties:

- WO Fiscaal Recht met minimaal 3 jaar werkervaring in een soortgelijke functie;
- Relevante praktische en theoretische kennis van het vakgebied;
- Kennis van en inzicht in de fiscale wetgeving en in de samenhang tussen de diverse fiscale middelen;
- Vaardigheid in het behandelen en beoordelen van belastingaangiften en in het opleggen van belastingaanslagen;
- Vaardigheid in het adviseren en in het doorzien en oplossen van knelpunten en problemen;
- Beschikt over goede mondelinge en schriftelijke communicatieve vaardigheden;
- Vloeiende beheersing van de Nederlandse en Engelse taal in woord en geschrift;
- Dynamische en ondernemende persoonlijkheid, toont initiatief, heeft inlevingsvermogen;
- Is een gelijkwaardige en representatieve gesprekspartner en ambitieus;
- Heeft passie voor het vakgebied en is goed op de hoogte van de relevante ontwikkelingen in de fiscale wet- en regelgeving;
- Is bereid kennis te delen en andere collega's te helpen om zich te blijven ontwikkelen, vakinhoudelijk en persoonlijk;
- Computervaardig;
- Integere.

Salaris:

Deze functie is gewaardeerd op schaal 11. Het salaris bedraagt, afhankelijk van kennis en ervaring, minimaal Cg 5.298,00 en maximaal Cg 9.011,00.

Informatie:

Voor een uitgebreide functi omschrijving en nadere informatie kan contact opgenomen worden met het Secretaris-Generaal, mevrouw Roxanne Howell, via email: Roxanne.Howell@sintmaartengov.org.

Sollicitanten:

Als u geïnteresseerd bent in deze functie kunt u uw CV, brief en kopieën van uw diploma(s) vóór **15 augustus 2025**, met vermelding van de functie in het onderwerp, sturen naar het volgende emailadres: careers@sintmaartengov.org, roxanne.howell@sintmaartengov.org en annan.benjamin@sintmaartengov.org of verzend uw sollicitatie naar het Bestuurskantoor, post adres Soualiga Road #1, Pond Island, Great Bay.

AANKONDIGING

Op grond van artikel 5, zevende lid, van het Wetboek van Burgerlijke Rechtsvordering van Sint-Maarten. Bij exploit van **06 juni 2025**, waarvan een afschrift is gelaten aan de Ambtenaar van het Openbaar Ministerie op Sint Maarten, heb ik, Nadjesca Gumbs deurwaarder der belastingen te St. Maarten op verzoek van de **Ontvanger, aan MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY B.V.** voorheen gevestigd te zonder bekende vestigingsplaats op Sint Maarten of elders, een dwangsbijlage betekend, welke uitgevaardigd is op d.d. **05 juni 2025**, door de Ontvanger te St. Maarten, met bevel om binnen twee dagen aan de inhoud daarvan te voldoen.

De deurwaarder voornoemd,
Nadjesca Gumbs,
Deurwaarder der belastingen

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De deurwaarder voornoemd,
Nadjesca Gumbs,
Deurwaarder der belastingen



COMMUNITY COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION

Date:
Monday July 28

Time:
6.30 PM - 8.30 PM

Place:
University of St Martin

Registration closes on
Thursday, July 24.

Interested person are asked to register at
CDFHA@sintmaartengov.org
or by calling
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Tax Administration
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Filing of Monthly Tax Return Forms & Payments

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- Turnover Tax
- Room Tax
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August 2025	September 15, 2025
September 2025	October 15, 2025
October 2025	November 17, 2025
November 2025	December 15, 2025
December 2025	January 15, 2026

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AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS

Police Station 182333
Emergency 111
Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
Hospital 182211/182371
Landsradio 182210
Post Office 182207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288
Winair Office 182362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NA&A 113
St. Eustatius National parks: Gallows Bay: 318 2884

SABA

Police Station
The Bottom, tel. 4163237
Emergency 111/112
Hospital
The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289
Fire Department Airport
Flat Point tel. 4162210
SATEL
The Bottom, tel. 4163211
WINAIR, Airport
Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
Taxi Service Airport
Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
The Bottom, tel. 4163311/4163312/4163313
Tourist Office
Windwardside, tel. 4162231
Harbour Office
Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
Saba Marine Park
Fort Bay, tel. 4163295
Nature & Hike Guide
James Johnson
The Bottom, tel. 4163307
Service Club
Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
Coastguard NA&A 113
Red Cross
General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m. Eugenius A. Johnson Center.

ANGUILLA

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Ambulance 911
Police Station 497 2333
Hospital 497 2551
Disaster Department 497 2926
Radio Anguilla 497 2218
Tourism 497 2759

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Anguilla Air Services 498 5922
Trans Anguilla 497 8690

COURIER SERVICE
DHL 497 3400
Fedex 497 2719
UPS 497 2239

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Soroptimist International
Meets at Day Care Centre
2nd Tuesday in month 4.30 pm
Lions Club
1st and 3rd Tuesday
Arts and Craft Centre 5.30 pm
Toastmasters Club
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
Anguilla Community College
6.45pm

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DOE hosts Fun Day to foster team spirit, environmental awareness

ST. KITTS--The Department of Environment (DOE) in St. Kitts successfully hosted its first-ever DOE Fun Day at Frigate Bay, on Friday, July 18. This event, originally planned as part of the Department's Month of Activities, brought together staff members for a day filled with friendly competition, team-building and a focus on environmental advocacy.

Staff members competed as Team Green and Team Blue, participating in a series of challenges aimed at promoting team cohesion, personal development and camaraderie. The lively atmosphere was characterised by laughter, teamwork and a shared commitment to the department's mission of environmental conservation and enjoyment.

While the main goal was to strengthen workplace

relationships, the DOE Fun Day also served as an innovative platform to raise awareness about environmental sustainability. Through interactive games and activities, such as the 60- and 100-metre dashes for sustainability, the "Lime and Spoon for Biodiversity" race and the sack race, participants reinforced the importance of protecting the natural resources of St. Kitts and Nevis while embodying the principles of teamwork and collaboration.

Colencia Levine, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, briefly attended the event and commended the initiative, stating, "Events like the DOE Fun Day are essential for building a unified workforce while keeping environmental stewardship at the forefront. When our



Scene from the inaugural DOE Fun Day.

teams are strong, our efforts to preserve and sustain our environment become even more effective."

The success of the inaugural Fun Day has set a positive precedent for future team-building exercises within the department. Staff

members expressed enthusiasm for similar events in the future, highlighting how the day strengthened their bonds and rejuvenated their commitment to environmental causes.

As the department continues its work to safeguard

the Federation's ecosystems, initiatives like the DOE Fun Day will remain a key part of fostering a united, motivated and environmentally conscious team. ~

St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service (SKNIS) ~

AG Wilkin addresses The UWI Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Panama--Attorney General (AG) and Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs of St. Kitts and Nevis, Garth Wilkin, delivered a powerful and forward-thinking keynote address at The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop, where he addressed scores of legal professionals from across the region on the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in strengthening justice systems.

Wilkin was specially invited by The UWI's Faculty of Law to deliver the keynote in recognition of St. Kitts and Nevis' leadership in leveraging AI to enhance access to justice and promote public transparency. These advancements have positioned the twin-island Federation at the forefront of legal innovation and digital reform in the Caribbean.

He spotlighted VoiceIT, an AI-powered legal assistant developed by the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, which provides real-time responses to questions about national laws and continuously learns from legislative updates and ministerial procedures.

"VoiceIT is helping us reimagine justice as a service – accessible, transparent and efficient. Legal professionals and policymakers across the Caribbean have already expressed strong interest in replicating the platform in their own jurisdictions," said Wilkin.

He also outlined further opportunities to integrate

AI into court operations, including early neutral evaluations to assist litigants before trial, data-informed sentencing tools to support judicial consistency, and automated mechanisms to resolve minor disputes. He stressed that all AI tools must be governed by ethical standards and subject to ongoing human oversight.

The workshop continues this week with regional discussions on commercial law reform and the future of digital transformation in the legal profession. ~ St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service (SKNIS) ~



Statia Carnival's Youth Night on Monday saw a multitude of talented young artistes take the stage at Ernest "Mike" van Putten Youth Centre/Lion's Den, also known as Carnival Village. Performers included Inspired Dance Academy and Dancing and Modeling Pearls, alongside drum, comedy and modelling performances. The master of ceremonies was Ishn Courtar. Statia Carnival continues today, Wednesday, with the Flavour Invasion show featuring VAYB, Ce'Cile, Marino Castellanos and others.

VACANCY

VAC-11112

Sparkle Nails & Beauty N.V.
 Has a vacancy for the following position:

NAIL TECHNICIAN

- Must have High school or Trade school education.
- Must have documented training in Nail maintenance.
- Must have detailed knowledge of Nail maintenance, acrylic application, designing skills and nail care.
- Knowledge in therapeutic massages will be considered a plus.
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- Must have a friendly and engaging personality.
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- Must possess good customer relation skills.
- Must be honest and hard working.
- Must be punctual and dedicated to the position

Salary and compensation will be disclosed during interviews and shall be based on experience and qualifications.

All applications must be submitted before August 12th, 2025. Applicants should be of Dutch Nationality or in possession of valid working papers.

Interested and qualified applicants can send or bring their resume to the office located at:

The Plaza Building – Unit 1, W. G. Buncamper Road #4, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten or e-mail info@vairconsultants.com Please forward a copy of your application to the Labor Office via: apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org For more info please call: +1 (721) 542-0058 or +1 (721) 580-0054

VACANCIES

Tracy's Nails N.V.
 has vacancies for:

Nail Technicians

Vac-11141

Requirements:

- Experience and certification in the above-mentioned profession.
- Easy communication, and the ability to take instructions.
- Serious and available.
- Legal residency for Dutch St. Maarten.
- Oral and written communication in English, or other common languages is a plus.
- CV or detailed resume.

Salary range: Cg. 3.000,00.

Application deadline: August 15th, 2025.

For more information, please call +1-721-5537988
 Email: chiuroundtheclock@gmail.com

All interested candidates must submit their application letter, resume, ID and copies of diplomas and/or certificates to the National Employment Service Center (NESC) via email to apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org, attn. Employment Service Center within two (2) weeks.

Collaboration between premier and PM moves 'Fair Share' negotiations along

NEVIS—The long-standing issue of equitable revenue sharing between St. Kitts and Nevis is progressing toward resolution, as Premier of Nevis Mark Brantley acknowledged ongoing collaboration with Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew on the "Fair Share" matter.

At his monthly press conference held July 22, Premier Brantley shared that while the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) continues its in-depth review of the recently submitted World Bank Report, there is growing consensus within his Cabinet on a preferred path forward.

"The World Bank report that has been shared with us gave – I think it was – four scenarios for revenue-sharing going forward. We have looked at those scenarios. I believe there's been consensus in the NIA Cabinet as to which would be the preferred scenario," Premier Brantley said.

He disclosed that the NIA Cabinet has convened two sessions to assess the report and is currently awaiting a final submission from the Ministry of Finance, which is scrutinising the data closely.

However, Premier Brantley, Minister of Finance in the NIA, raised some concerns the Cabinet has with the report, particularly the origin and accuracy of certain figures. He pointed out inconsistencies between the World Bank's accounting of Citizenship by Investment (CBI) revenue allocated to Nevis and the NIA's records. He also cited vague terminology for deductions such as "national obligations" that require further clarification before firm conclusions can be drawn.

While the NIA was not consulted during the drafting process, Premier

Brantley conveyed his appreciation that the federal government remains open to engaging in meaningful dialogue to address Nevis' concerns.

"I know that the public has been anxious, the people of Nevis have been anxious, but we are, I think, now making good progress and we would hope to have that final report," he said. "We have come to some concluded views that we hope to share with the federal government to try now to move this process forward."

Premier Brantley also underscored the impor-

tance of mature, cooperative leadership in resolving what he described as an historical source of tension between the two islands.

"What I can say though, is that we do see that there is some appetite at the national level to resolve this issue, and I will definitely try to have a resolution to it for the best interest of the people of Nevis, but also to remove that old issue of rancour between the two islands – that whole question of how resources are being shared."

He concluded by urging continued public patience as negotiations continue,

assuring that the matter will be handled thoroughly and thoughtfully.

"I don't think that the appropriate approach to a negotiation is to do so via the public airwaves," he stated. "I think that we need to sit down as mature leaders, discuss what has been provided, discuss the numbers and what the accurate numbers ought to be, get better particularity and clarification as to some of the numbers ... and thereafter we can come to the public with a considered view and consensus, we hope, as to what we can do going forward."

VACANCIES

Beauty Crystal N.V. has vacancies for:

Cooks

Vac-11142

Requirements:

- Experience and certification in the above-mentioned profession.
- Easy communication, and the ability to take instructions.
- Serious and available.
- Legal residency for Dutch St. Maarten.
- Oral and written communication in English, or other common languages is a plus.
- CV or detailed resume.

Salary range: Cg. 2,800.00.

Application deadline: July 30th, 2025.

For more information, please call +1-721-5537988
Email: chiuroundtheclock@gmail.com or
labor-affair@sintmaartengov.org or visit us at W.A.J.
Nisbeth Road #33, Philipsburg, St. Maarten

All interested candidates must submit their application letter, resume, ID and copies of diplomas and/or certificates to the National Employment Service Center (NESC) via email to apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org, attn. Employment Service Center within two (2) weeks.

VACANCY

Labor Vacancy # VAC-11108

Company: **Josbin Trading St. Maarten B.V.** on Bush Road #26, Miss Lalie's Commercial Center, Unit 1-3, www.josbintrading.com, specialized in providing business equipment and solutions is looking for:

(Function) **KONICA MINOLTA SERVICE ENGINEER**

Qualification & requirements:

- International recognized Konica Minolta (KMIT) Certified, with minimum degrees of Master production printing, office solutions and color management.
- Have related working experience of 7+ years within the field of multifunctional printer installations, maintenance & repair, as well as related software deployment & maintenance;
- Very communicate in English, Dutch is a plus;
- Able to demonstrate exceptional customer service, organizational, and prioritization skills, can demonstrate strong mechanical aptitude;
- Be able to work independently without direct supervision

Experience: 5+ years of experience as a Konica Minolta technician

Salary range: XCG. 2,700.00 and other secondary benefits

Job description:

- Ensure servicing and maintenance of the Konica Minolta production printers and related equipment in a timely and cost-effective manner
- Perform technical assessments to Konica Minolta production printers to track results and make improvements
- Prepare explicit and detailed reports for management

Interested candidates MUST submit their application and resume along with a copy of identification and diplomas/certificates to the National Employment Service Center (NESC) via apply.nesc@sintmaartengov.org within two (2) weeks to the attention of Employment Service Center and Josbin Trading via: sxm@josbintrading.com.



From left: Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis Dr. Terrance Drew with Premier of Nevis Mark Brantley.

Tajik man sentenced for recruiting ISIS supporters in the Netherlands

ROTTERDAM--Judges in Rotterdam have sentenced a Tajik man living in the Netherlands to five and a half years in prison for recruiting members for the terrorist group Islamic State ISIS.

The court said the 31-year-old was a member of ISIS' Afghan branch, aimed to raise as much money as possible for the group and tried to recruit others. He also told undercover officers that he intended to join the jihad himself.

"The suspect said he would need a year or two before he would go to fight

and that he would be too old after that," the verdict said.

The man travelled from Tajikistan to Russia in 2012 for work. In 2017, he was arrested in Turkey and deported on suspicion of trying to travel to Syria to join ISIS.

He later surfaced in Ukraine, where he joined an ISIS cell. Shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, he arrived in the Netherlands and was granted a residence permit in May of that year.

The court said he maintained contact with other

ISIS members, and while no concrete attack plans were found, he was "positioning himself in such a way that he would at some point carry out an attack".

He was arrested following an investigation that was triggered by a report from the Dutch intelligence service AIVD.

He came into contact with undercover officers in 2023, who reported that he was trying to earn money for ISIS while living in the Netherlands.

The man's wife was arrested at the same time but was acquitted earlier this year.

Vion is first to face complaint via OECD animal welfare guidelines

BOXTEL--Dutch meat processing giant Vion is "consistently contravening" Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines on animal welfare, according to animal rights group Wakker Dier, which filed the first-ever formal complaint based on the 2023 agreement.

The guidelines, which were signed by the 52 members of the OECD, are not legally binding, but multinationals headquartered in a European country are expected to adhere to them.

Vion, headquartered in Boxtel, North Brabant, has slaughterhouses in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium.

Suppliers to Vion are not allowing enough space for pigs during transport, Wakker Dier said, causing stress and injuries. The pigs are also breathing in fine dust particles and ammonia,

which affect their lungs, the campaign group said.

According to OECD, multinationals should keep to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

This specifies that an animal should be "healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state".

The guidelines are in stark contrast to what is happening in the meat industry, Leonie Vestering of Wakker Dier told newspaper "De Volkskrant". "If companies such as Vion abide by them, it would make a huge difference to billions of animals worldwide," she said.

The guidelines offer a "fascinating opportunity" for animal welfare organ-

isations because they cover both suppliers and companies, Katherine Booth of the OECD Watch told the paper.

The formal complaint has been filed with the Dutch National Contact Point (NCP). If it decides to process the complaint, NCP will mediate between Wakker Dier and Vion, provided the latter agrees to participate. However, just one in 10 mediations leads to an agreement.

If NCP finds that Vion has broken the guidelines, the company could be excluded from trade missions and government subsidies.

"This first-ever complaint under OECD guidelines is meant as a wake-up call for multinationals," Vestering said. "They can no longer be allowed to hide behind suppliers and livestock farmers."

Vion has not commented on the complaint.



A Patriot launching system.

The Netherlands pledges 'substantial' contribution for Ukraine air defence

THE HAGUE--The Netherlands will make a "substantial" contribution to the delivery of Patriot air defence systems to Ukraine, caretaker Dutch Minister of Defence Ruben Brekelmans said on Monday.

Brekelmans made the announcement following talks with fellow ministers from the Ukraine Defence Contact Group (UDCG), a coalition of 56 countries including all 32 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members. The exact content of the Dutch contribution is still being worked out.

In addition to support for the Patriot systems, the Netherlands will supply

more military equipment, including ammunition for F-16 fighter jets, drones and radar systems, Brekelmans said.

"Much has already been done, but more is needed," he said. "Only by continuing to support Ukraine on a massive scale and increasing the pressure on Russia can we force it to the negotiating table."

The United States (US), the sole producer of Patriot missiles and launch systems, agreed last week to provide them to Ukraine via NATO partners, on the condition that allies cover the cost. Germany has already agreed to deliver five Patriot systems, and Nor-

way will also take part in financing.

The Netherlands currently has three Patriot systems, which the defence ministry has said it cannot spare. However, it has previously supplied missiles and key components to Ukraine. The Dutch systems have been deployed previously in Turkey and Israel, including during the 1991 Gulf War.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that new talks between Ukraine and Russia are scheduled to take place in Turkey today, Wednesday, with prisoner exchange expected to be on the agenda.

National Digital ID system on track for mid-2026 rollout

ST. KITTS--The National Digital ID system is progressing according to plan, according to Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew. Full rollout of the project is expected by mid-2026 and a pilot launch is scheduled for January next year.

Appearing on Freedom FM's "Issues" programme on Thursday, July 17, Prime Minister Drew emphasised the importance of the digital ID for transforming public services, stating, "It will allow people to apply for birth certificates, passports and other services entirely online, eliminating lines and paperwork."

This initiative represents a critical component of the Federation's continued digital transformation under the Sustainable Island State Agenda. Since mid-2023, the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, in partnership with Taiwan's International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF), has developed and tested a secure Electronic Identification (e-ID) platform. As part of this effort, over 40 stakeholders from public and private sectors participated in consultations in June 2024, working

to ensure that the system provides both digital and physical authentication for citizens and residents.

Progress toward implementation has been substantial. The project has moved through design and prototyping stages, and as of December 2024, entered the integration phase.

The government has also invested in broader enabling efforts, including the establishment of a Digital Transformation Unit and the rollout of online portals for driver's licence renewals, tax payments and the e-Passport system. Meanwhile, plans are underway to strengthen data protection laws and cybersecurity infrastructure to safeguard citizens' information.

Highlighting connectivity with other federal goals, Dr. Drew reaffirmed that this digital ID is a foundational platform for diaspora engagement. With the system in place, nationals abroad will be able to remotely access government services like passport renewals, property tax payments and more. He underlined that the system will help streamline operations, reduce bureaucratic delays and boost convenience for citizens and residents at home and abroad.

The prime minister stressed that St. Kitts and Nevis remains on track to become one of the first Caribbean nations to launch a fully integrated National Digital ID system. ~ *St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service (SKNIS)*

Concrete blocks damage cars on A1 in suspected sabotage

APELDOORN--Several cars have been damaged after hitting concrete blocks which had been dumped on the A1 highway near Apeldoorn, the Dutch government said on Monday.

The blocks were discovered near De Hucht service

station near the Veluwe heathland region and are thought to have fallen, or have been thrown, from a nearby viaduct. There is no surveillance camera footage of the incident.

"We do have cameras above the road, but the

footage is not stored because that is not allowed by law," a transport department spokesman said. "The cameras are used to monitor traffic flow."

It is the third such incident in the area in the past week. Similar incidents took place

on the A50 highway on July 16 and July 19.

"This time it happened on the A1, and we believe it was intentional," the spokesman said.

Police removed the blocks from the road, and the highway has since reopened.

Six arrests were made in the Netherlands and seven in Romania. Four of those detained in Romania have since been extradited to the Netherlands under a European arrest warrant.

The investigation centres on a suspected criminal network that approached vulnerable women through social media and began what appeared to be romantic relationships. The women, all between 21 and 37 years old, were

persuaded to enter prostitution under the illusion that they were being offered love, safety and financial stability.

Police said the suspects made the women emotionally and financially dependent and, in some cases, used psychological pressure or violence when the victims wanted to stop.

The group is thought to have been active for several years. At least 10 women have been identified as victims, but Amsterdam police have appealed for more to come forward.

During house searches in both countries, police seized vehicles, cash and digital devices. The proceeds from the criminal business were allegedly laundered and invested in luxury goods and property in Romania.

Eight suspects remain in custody in the Netherlands. The investigation is ongoing, and further arrests have not been ruled out, police said.

13 held in forced prostitution probe

AMSTERDAM--Dutch and Romanian police have arrested thirteen people in a joint investigation into human trafficking and the forced prostitution of Romanian women, who were taken mainly in and around Amsterdam, officials said on Monday.

The suspects, all Romanian nationals between 20 and 43 years old, were detained during a coordinated campaign on July 1.



Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy cutting the ribbon at Celebration Key, with next to her Chief Fun Officer and basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal (centre), and standing in front of O'Neal is Carnival Corporation CEO Josh Weinstein.

Carnival unveils 600-million-dollar Celebration Key in Grand Bahama

GRAND BAHAMA—Carnival Cruise Line officially launched its newest exclusive destination, Celebration Key, over the weekend, welcoming nearly 5,000 guests as the “Carnival Vista” made the inaugural call on Saturday.

The highly anticipated port marks a bold step in cruise tourism, combining world-class amenities with a significant economic investment in Grand Bahama.

Guests were the first to experience standout attractions including the world's tallest sandcastle, the world's largest swing, a swim-up bar and the Caribbean's largest freshwater lagoons – all designed to deliver what Carnival calls “the ultimate beach day”.

In a celebratory ceremony, Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy, Carnival Corporation Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Josh Weinstein,

Chief Fun Officer Shaquille O'Neal and “Carnival Vista” Captain Paolo Severini officially “unlocked” the 10-storey Suncastle, a striking icon at the heart of Celebration Key.

The group also cut the ribbon to Lokono Cove, a Bahamian-style shopping village, and raised a champagne toast at Pearl Cove Beach Club, an adults-only retreat. O'Neal, staying true to his brand, took the first shot on the property's new basketball court.

“Opening this new exclusive destination marks an extraordinary milestone for Carnival as we debut the first phase of our initial US \$600 million investment, with more to come,” said Duffy. “Celebration Key is more than just a beautiful place; it's a celebration of the Bahamian paradise our guests love, enriched by incredible new experiences and offerings.”

The development is expected to have a transformational impact on Grand Bahama's economy. Celebration Key will initially welcome more than two million cruise passengers per year, with that figure projected to double to four million by 2028.

Hundreds of long-term jobs are being created to support daily operations, and infrastructure expansion is already underway. The destination's adjacent cruise pier currently accommodates two of Carnival's largest vessels, and construction has begun on a pier extension to support two more.

Celebration Key represents Carnival's most ambitious destination development to date and sets a new standard for immersive, private-island cruise experiences. ~ *Carnival Newsroom* ~

Coral project could protect the Causeway against hurricanes

HAMILTON, Bermuda—The island's link to the airport and East End is to serve as the site of a project using coral reefs to protect man-made structures against storms.

The Causeway Project, led by the Living Reefs Foundation, aims to implant rescued and laboratory-grown corals to reinforce the bridge.

Dr. Samia Sarkis, the leader of the project, said the goal was to use the strength of reefs to protect against storm surges and hurricanes.

Dr. Sarkis added: “The Darwin Plus fund has given us the capacity to build our infrastructure using state-of-the-art technology.”

“This enables us to investigate the complexities of coral reproduction and reliably produce juveniles independent of environmental changes and disturbances, and quantify our coral restoration impact at scale.”

“Both awards, received since 2023, are instrumental in significantly advancing our vision – the development of a scalable and cost-effective model in restoring damaged reefs and protecting the coast from storm and hurricane impact.”

The Causeway Project will be supported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Works and Engineering.

The Darwin Plus Fund will further offer cash through the UK government's conservation programme, the Darwin Initiative.

Governor Andrew Murdoch joined Dr. Sarkis and her team to view the coral hatchery at Coney Island in Hamilton Parish.

He learnt about the research at the facility before



The Causeway will receive reinforcements from implanted coral. Photograph supplied.



Palmerston, the Government House cat. File photo.

travelling to the waters of Castle Harbour to attach laboratory-grown coral to an underwater structure.

The coral, which is given an identifier to monitor growth, was named “Palmy” in honour of the governor's famed rescue cat, Palmerston.

Murdoch said the work being done by the Living Reefs Foundation had “potentially global significance”.

He explained: “With the threat of sea level rise and increasingly extreme weather events, we need to look to nature-based solutions to help us protect our coastlines.”

“The work being done in Bermuda is critical to understanding how to promote coral growth in the labora-

ry for successful placement at sea.”

The project will be instrumental in forming a technical manual on restoration practices through photogrammetry, which uses overlapping photographs to create a 3D model.

This manual will be available through the Living Reefs Foundation's website.

The data collected by the Causeway Project could inform new ways to build resilient long-term breakwaters that could be reinforced in cost-effective ways.

It could further serve as a way to track impacts to the seabed by vessel groundings and offer a baseline for environmental impact assessments. ~ *The Royal Gazette* ~

Baní Bypass inauguration announced for August 12

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—President Luis Abinader took advantage of his weekly “LA Semanal” press conference on July 21 to announce the inauguration of the Baní Bypass road for August 12. The bypass is expected to shave at least half an hour off the driving time for those headed west. Those headed from Santo Domingo to Barahona will now be able to do so in less than two hours. The Baní Bypass was the only one not yet complete while the San Cristobal and Azua Bypasses were already in use.

The announcement follows a visit made by Minister of Public Works Eduardo Estrella to the bypass work areas on Monday, July 21, in the company of newspaper “Listín Diario” executive editor Miguel Franjul and reporters.

The Baní Bypass stretches over a distance of more than 20 kilometres, beginning in Ojo de Agua, in Paya, where it connects with the Sánchez Highway, and ending where it merges again with the same highway on the western side of the province in the Galión area.

“Listín Diario” explains that construction of this road began on November 20, 2020, when President Abinader, along with then-Minister of Public Works, Deligne Ascención, announced that the project would be completed by September 2021, but that deadline was not met and provincial representatives rejected offers to partially open the bypass.

“Listín Diario” reports that in November 2020 it was announced that the project

would cost RD \$2.2 billion (US \$36.4 million), but three years later, another bidding process was held for more than RD \$3 billion (US \$49.67 million), bringing the total estimated cost of the road close to RD \$6 billion (US \$99.33 million), three times the original estimated cost.

According to the contractors, the Baní Bypass is approximately 19.8 kilometres long and consists of two lanes – one in each direction. The most complex part of the highway, as explained by the current Public Works official, is the presence of 17 bridges along its route. Notably, at each of these bridges, the road expands to four lanes – two in each direction – accommodating the east-west traffic along the coastal area of the Baní municipality. ~ *DR1* ~

Man fined \$16,000 for cannabis possession

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua—A 56-year-old man was fined EC \$16,000 (US \$5,920) or he will spend thirty days at His Majesty's Prison (HMP) after he was convicted for possession of cannabis.

Around 10:00pm on Friday, an officer on duty approached Lindon Roberts, who currently resides at his business location at the East Bus Station. During a search, the officers discovered 708 grams of cannabis, valued at EC \$7,080 (US \$2,620) on the street.

When he appeared before Acting Chief Magistrate Dexter Wason, on Monday,

Roberts admitted guilt to two charges, namely possession of cannabis and possession with intent to distribute.

Wason enquired whether the bus station was government-owned as he sought further clarification on how Roberts resides there.

The investigating officer clarified that the defendant indeed resides there, describing it as a room connected to the business establishment. The magistrate requested the name of the business, but Roberts was unable to provide that information, stating he does not know; however, he confirmed that

he has lived there for seven years.

When asked about his sales, he mentioned that he sells juices, snacks and food. Roberts was fined EC \$6,000 (US \$2,220) for possession or face seven days in prison; and EC \$10,000 (US \$3,700) for possession with intent to supply, or 30 days of imprisonment, with a default of 90 days.

Magistrate Wason ordered the destruction of the cannabis and stated that the defendant should have no difficulty in paying the fine. Source: “Antigua Observer” ~ *Antigua News Room* ~

Thousands of rice farmers to benefit as Pres. Ali launches 1st-ever crop insurance



Rice harvesting in Guyana. Photo courtesy Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—In a major stride towards securing the livelihoods of rice farmers across Guyana, President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Tuesday officially launched Guyana's first-ever crop insurance programme for rice farmers, marking an historic milestone in the country's agriculture sector.

The launch, held at the Anna Regina Secondary School, Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), saw the announcement of free agricultural insurance coverage for 6,000 rice farmers across Guyana, particularly those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The coverage will span an initial three-year period, completely free of cost to the farmers.

"For years we have talked about crop insurance, but little traction was made until now. That is what makes today [Tuesday, July 22 – Ed.] so historic. This programme is not just relief, it is a lifeline," President Ali said.

He emphasised that the crop insurance programme is a result of a unique partnership between the government of Guyana, UPL Costa Rica and Philip Morris International (PMI).

"This agreement among the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB), UPL and PMI has resulted in a product that will support rice farmers who are most exposed to climate risks ... What you're getting today [Tuesday], farmers around the world are longing for.

But you can lose all of this in the blink of an eye if you do not do what is right for your families, your communities, your country," the head of state said.

President Ali acknowledged that the increasing threats of floods, droughts and other external shocks have pushed many farmers to the brink, with little to no protection against total crop loss.

"We all know the pain associated with crop failure. We've seen it with floods, with pest infestation, with erratic weather, and we've seen what it does to your finances and to your ability to recover. This insurance is here to break that cycle," he said.

He singled out communities like Hampton Court, Devonshire Castle and Walton Hall

in Region Two, whose farmers have frequently suffered from flooding and harvest loss.

"To those farmers, this programme is not a promise, it is a guarantee. It is the protection you deserve," the president declared.

The crop insurance initiative is part of the government's broader agricultural vision, which President Ali described as climate-smart, technology-driven and people-focused.

"We're not building this food sector halfway. We're going all in, investing in research, in drone technology, in high-yielding rice varieties, and now in comprehensive risk management tools like crop insurance," he asserted.

President Ali challenged the banking sector to take note of the reduced risk this insurance brings, and to lower lending costs for farmers accordingly.

"With this insurance, the risk is reduced. And the cost of lending to farmers must reduce. That is non-negotiable. No more 7-8% interest. Our farmers must be able to borrow at 3-5% and the government will subsidise the rest, to

0%," he stated.

President Ali used the launch to outline his government's consistent support for the rice industry over the past four years, which includes the removal of value-added tax (VAT) on fuel, agrochemicals, machinery and equipment; the GYD 1.5 billion (US \$7.17 million) settlement with Panama to recover payments to Guyanese farmers, GYD 3.6 billion (US \$17.2 million) in support for fertiliser, flood relief and seed quality, GYD 2 billion (US \$9.56 million) planned for 2025 in continued fertiliser assistance and the construction of nine drying floors in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

He also pointed to the new Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) varieties yielding up to nine tons per hectare and free ferry transportation of paddy for hundreds of farmers in Region Two.

"These are not just policies. They are real investments in your lives and communities. This is what a government that cares looks like," he told

the crowd.

Looking ahead, President Ali spoke about plans to implement a pilot of innovative rice farming systems, including modern drone technology and eco-friendly practices to protect the environment.

"By the first crop of 2026, we want complete drone application, from fertilisation to pesticide spraying. And we're going to support the farmers by grouping them into clusters, giving them the tools and logistics to reduce costs and increase returns," he explained.

He added that UPL and PMI would work closely with GRDB and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure farmers benefit from smart infrastructure, shared equipment and supply chain optimisation.

"It makes no sense for 100 farmers to all drive to Georgetown to buy the same inputs. We will bring the system to you ... You've seen the difference. You've felt the results. You know who is standing by you in good times and in hard times," he said. ~ *iNews Guyana* ~

QEH boosting security for its staff, patients

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) is stepping up security in response to recent violent incidents targeting healthcare workers – with plans to fill key vacancies, enhance officer training and explore the introduction of batons and body cameras.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Neil Clark confirmed the measures in an interview with "Barbados TODAY", saying the hospital is actively recruiting to fill 10 security posts and reviewing options to better equip its front-line security personnel.

The move comes amid concerns over staffing shortages, delayed training and a lack of resources for security personnel.

"There are some vacancies in the security team," Clark said. "I think there are 10 vacancies, and we're out to recruitment for those, so hopefully that will be addressed. So, I have the posts, the posts have been approved, and I can recruit to those posts, and that's active recruitment."

Discussions are also ongoing about equipping security personnel with batons and restraints to improve safety for staff, patients and officers themselves.

"We've had discussions with the security team about batons and how they can protect themselves, protect the patients, protect the staff; about restraints, how



Queen Elizabeth Hospital CEO, Neil Clark. File photo.

they can restrain patients; and we're working with our security team and with the police force to understand what the rules and regulations are pertaining to giving those services or those tools to our security team," Clark explained.

The hospital CEO also revealed plans to introduce body-worn cameras.

"I've also asked about giving the security team body cams, which gives them a little bit of protection and a little bit of overview of what's happening on the ground, and after any incident, there's a clear indication of what happened," he said.

The security team has been conducting security awareness sessions for nurses and staff.

"They engage with us very actively in providing some awareness sessions as to how to keep themselves safe," Clark said, adding that im-

provements often stem from front-line staff.

"Any issues that the security staff have ... they know my door's open. They come and see me and we discuss this, and they've come forward with a number of ideas, and a number of those ideas that they come forward with, we take forward. All the ideas for any of my departments come from the staff who work within them."

He encouraged officers to bring concerns directly to him.

Regarding the Barbados Nurses Association's call for panic buttons on wards, Clark confirmed a review is underway.

"There's something that we need to review about how we keep the staff safe on the wards. So that's a piece of action that we're in now, given the recent attack on some of the nurses on one of our wards." ~ *Barbados TODAY* ~

Exxon in talks with Trinidad for 7 deep-water blocks, sources say

HOUSTON, Texas-- Exxon Mobil has begun negotiations with the Trinidad and Tobago government to explore for oil and gas in up to seven deep-water blocks off the East Coast of the Caribbean country, which the top US oil producer left more than two decades ago, two sources close to the talks told Reuters.

The areas Exxon is interested in are located north of the company's prolific Stabroek block in Guyana, the fastest-growing oil production province in the world, the people said.

Exxon and partners Hess and CNOOC have discovered more than 11 billion barrels of recoverable oil and gas in Stabroek and plan to produce more than 900,000 barrels per day of light sweet crude later this year.

Trinidad and Tobago is speaking with several major oil and gas companies, Trinidad and Tobago's Energy Minister Roodlal Moonilal told Reuters on Tuesday.

"We are in discussions with major players to ramp

up exploration and production within and outside of bid rounds," Moonilal said, without disclosing names.

Exxon said it does not comment on rumours or speculation.

Exxon left Trinidad and Tobago in 2003 after a failed exploration programme.

Under the new government of Prime Minister Kamlia Persad-Bissessar, Trinidad aims to rejuvenate investment, especially offshore, where more gas output is needed to support the nation's liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petrochemical industries.

Since she took office in April, a flagship offshore gas project with neighbouring Venezuela that lost its US authorisation to move forward has been shelved, while the government has focused efforts on deepening ties with the region's other energy producers.

According to Trinidad's laws, the government can individually negotiate areas for exploration and production if they are not included

in a competitive bidding round.

Trinidad and Tobago is in the middle of a deep-water auction that has been extended to close on September 17, and which does not include the blocks Exxon is negotiating for.

If Exxon and Trinidad reach an agreement, the US producer could acquire almost all the ultra deep-water blocks that remain unlicensed.

The large discoveries of oil and gas made in recent years in the Guyana-Suriname basin are one of the reasons Trinidad is now seeing a renewed interest in its ongoing deep-water auction, the country's energy minister said at a conference early in July.

Moonilal said Trinidad was open to bids outside of auctions and hinted at the negotiations.

"We are currently considering one such proposal, and if the negotiations are successful, a major announcement will soon be made," he added. ~ *Reuters* ~

Trump accuses Obama of treason in attack over 2016 Russia investigation

WASHINGTON--U.S. President Donald Trump accused former President Barack Obama of "treason" on Tuesday, accusing him, without providing evidence, of leading an effort to falsely tie him to Russia and undermine his 2016 presidential campaign.

A spokesperson for Obama denounced Trump's claims, saying "these bizarre allegations are ridiculous and a weak attempt at distraction."

While Trump has frequently attacked Obama by name, the Republican president has not, since returning to office in January, gone this far in pointing the finger at his Democratic predecessor with allegations of criminal action.

During remarks in the Oval Office, Trump leaped on comments from his intelligence chief, Tulsi Gabbard, on Friday in which she threatened to refer Obama administration officials to the Justice Department for prosecution over an intelligence assessment of Russian interference in the 2016 election. She declassified documents and said the information she was releasing showed a "treasonous conspiracy" in 2016 by top Obama administration officials to undermine Trump, claims that Democrats called false and politically motivated.

"It's there, he's guilty. This was treason," Trump said on Tuesday, though he offered no proof of his claims.

"They tried to steal the election, they tried to obfuscate the election. They did things that nobody's ever imagined, even in other countries."

An assessment by the U.S. intelligence community published in January 2017 concluded that Russia, using social media disinformation, hacking and Russian bot farms, sought to damage Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign and bolster Trump. The assessment determined that the actual impact was likely limited and showed no evidence that Moscow's efforts actually changed voting outcomes.

A 2020 bipartisan report by the Senate intelligence committee had found that Russia used Republican political operative Paul Manafort, the WikiLeaks website and others to try to influence the 2016 election to help Trump's campaign. "Nothing in the document issued last week (by Gabbard) undercuts the widely accepted conclusion that Russia worked to influence the 2016 presidential election but did not successfully manipulate any votes," Obama spokesperson Patrick Rodenbush said in a statement.

Trump, who has a history of promoting false conspiracy theories, has frequently denounced the assessments as a "hoax." In recent days, Trump reposted on his Truth Social account a fake video showing Obama being ar-

rested in handcuffs in the Oval Office.

Trump has been seeking to divert attention to other issues after coming under pressure from his conservative base to release more information about Jeffrey Epstein, who died by suicide in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. Backers of conspiracy theories about Epstein have urged Trump, who socialized with the disgraced financier during the 1990s and early 2000s, to release investigative files related to the case.

Trump, asked in the Oval Office about Epstein, quickly pivoted into an attack on Obama and Clinton. "The



U.S. President Donald Trump looks on as the portrait of former U.S. President Barack Obama can be seen in the background, at the White House in Washington, DC., U.S., June 26, 2025.

with hunt that you should be talking about is they caught President Obama absolutely cold," Trump said.

Trump suggested action would be taken against

Obama and his former officials, calling the Russia investigation a treasonous act and the former president guilty of trying to lead a coup. "It's time to start, af-

ter what they did to me, and whether it's right or wrong, it's time to go after people. Obama has been caught directly," he said.

Trump pulls US out of UN cultural agency UNESCO for a second time

PARIS/WASHINGTON--President Donald Trump has decided to pull the United States out of the "woke" and "divisive" U.N. culture and education agency UNESCO, the White House said on Tuesday, repeating a move he took in his first term that was reversed by Joe Biden.

The withdrawal from the Paris-based agency, which was founded after World War Two to promote peace

through international co-operation in education, science, and culture, will take effect at the end of next year.

The move is in line with the Trump administration's broader "America-first" foreign policy, which includes a deep skepticism of multilateral groups, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the NATO alliance. White House

spokeswoman Anna Kelly said UNESCO "supports woke, divisive cultural and social causes that are totally out-of-step with the common sense policies that Americans voted for."

The State Department accused UNESCO of supporting "a globalist, ideological agenda for international development at odds with our America First foreign policy."

It said its decision to ad-

dress the Palestinians as a member state was "highly problematic, contrary to U.S. policy, and contributed to the proliferation of anti-Israel rhetoric."

UNESCO chief Audrey Azoulay said she deeply regretted Trump's decision, but it was "expected, and UNESCO has prepared for it."

Posting on X, French President Emmanuel Macron professed "unwavering support" for the "universal protector" of world heritage and said the U.S. move would not weaken France's commitment to UNESCO.

UNESCO officials said the U.S. withdrawal would have some limited impact on U.S.-financed programmes. Azoulay said UNESCO had diversified funding sources, receiving only about 8% of its budget from Washington.

UNESCO was one of several international bodies Trump withdrew from during his first term, along with the World Health Organization, the Paris Agreement climate change accord, and the U.N. Human Rights Council. During his second term, he has largely reinstated those steps.

Trump's pick to be his U.N. envoy, Mike Waltz, said this month the United Nations needs reform while expressing confidence that "we can make the U.N. great again."

Trump's Golden Dome looks for alternatives to Musk's SpaceX

WASHINGTON--The Trump administration is expanding its search for partners to build the Golden Dome missile defense system, courting Amazon.com's Project Kuiper and big defense contractors as tensions with Elon Musk threaten SpaceX's dominance in the programme, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

The shift marks a strategic pivot away from reliance on Musk's SpaceX, whose Starlink and Starshield satellite networks have become central to U.S. military communications.

It comes amid a deteriorating relationship between Trump and Musk, which culminated in a public falling-out on June 5. Even before the spat, officials at the Pentagon and White House had begun exploring alternatives to SpaceX, wary of over-

reliance on a single partner for huge portions of the ambitious, \$175 billion space-based defense shield, two of the sources said.

SpaceX did not respond to requests for comment. Responding to a post about the Reuters story on X, Musk wrote, "Federal acquisition regulations require using the best provider at the best price. Anything else would be breaking the law."

Due to its size, track record of launching more than 9,000 of its own Starlink satellites, and experience in government procurement, SpaceX still has the inside track to assist with major portions of the Golden Dome, especially launch contracts, sources say.

Project Kuiper, which has launched just 78 of a planned constellation of 3,000 low-earth orbit satellites, has been approached by the Pentagon to join the effort, sig-



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket lifts off carrying Amazon's Project Kuiper internet network satellites from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S., April 28, 2025.

naling the administration's openness to integrating commercial tech firms into national defense infrastructure and going beyond traditional defense players. Jeff Bezos, Amazon's executive chairman, told Reuters in January that Kuiper would be "primarily commercial," but acknowledged "there will be

defense uses for these [low-earth orbit] constellations, no doubt."

A spokesperson for Project Kuiper declined to comment for this story. The Pentagon declined to comment. The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

Golden Dome's ambitions

mirror those of Israel's Iron Dome - a homeland missile defense shield - but a larger, more complex layered defense system requires a vast network of orbiting satellites covering more territory. In the search for more vendors for the satellite layers of Golden Dome, "Kuiper is a big one," a U.S. official said.

Labourers barred from work and tourists kept from ruins as heatwave sears Greece, Balkans

ATHENS--Greece and the wider Balkans sweltered under the third heatwave of the summer on Tuesday, with labourers barred from work, tourists kept away from the ruins and firefighters battling blazes scattered across the arid countryside.

Couriers, food delivery riders and builders in and around Athens and other regions were ordered to pause work from midday until 5 p.m., as the temperature was expected to climb as high as 43 degrees Celsius (109.4 F), the labour ministry said.

In the Feneo area in Corinth in southern

Greece, 185 firefighters with 50 vehicles were combating a strong forest fire, helped by 15 planes and 11 helicopters. Two villages there were evacuated out of precaution as the fire raged. The governor of the surrounding Peloponnese region, Dimitris Ptochos, said the situation was difficult, local media reported.

Greece has long been known for the hot, sunny summers that attract tens of millions of tourists every year. But climate change has led to longer and more severe heatwaves, as well as destructive floods and wildfires. Authorities said they would shut the ancient

Acropolis ruins, Greece's most-visited tourist site atop a rocky hill above Athens, for five hours from midday on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Matthew Enos, an 18-year-old visitor from New Orleans, said he had not been prepared for such a heatwave when he arrived in the capital. "It's been a little tough so far. Not the greatest feeling ever," he said. "So I've just been adapting by drinking lots and lots of water."

Tourists sought out air-conditioned restaurants and stores in Athens, one of the most densely populated capitals in Europe,



A man jumps into the water as boys gather to cool off in a pool during a heatwave in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, on Tuesday.

which bakes on a plain flanked by mountains. The heatwave will continue until Sunday, the Greek meteorological service said.

Scorching heat also gripped neighbouring Bulgaria, with authorities urging businesses to give away water and cut physical labour during high-risk hours. On the border between Kosovo and Albania, weeks without rain and increased hydroelectric power production nearly emptied Lake Fierza. Cows ate grass in what used to be the lake bottom.

In Kosovo, flames and thick smoke could be seen

approaching houses in a village in the Dubrava area near a jail and a military base on Tuesday. The fire was out of control in an area of scrubland and grass, fanned by heavy winds.

Elsewhere in Kosovo, Milazim Duraku, a 62-year-old farmer from Prizren, chided younger workers for seeking shelter as he picked yellow peppers for sale at market the following morning. "Those youngsters they can't stand the heat. They work only a few minutes in the evening or in the morning," he said. In Albania, firefighters as-

sisted by four aircraft from Italy and Greece battled two wildfires at a national park in the north and near the southwestern village of Dukat. Last month, large parts of Western Europe sweltered in another severe heatwave that left many dead and triggered forest fires and health alerts across the region.

In Italy, where last month's heatwave was blamed for several blackouts including in Florence and Milan, the high temperatures drove electricity consumption in June up 7.4% year-on-year, national power grid operator Terna said on Tuesday.



Police officers detain the political strategist Dmitry Kisiyev during a picket held to protest against an expected new legislation, that is set to impose restrictions on internet searches, near the headquarters of the lower house of Russia's parliament, State Duma, in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday.

Russia passes law punishing searches for 'extremist' content

MOSCOW--Russians will face fines if they search online for "extremist" content under a new law that tightens censorship and could have sweeping ramifications for digital privacy and the fate of WhatsApp in the country.

The legislation, approved on Tuesday by parliament's lower house, the State Duma, has drawn criticism from some pro-government figures, as well as opposition activists. Opponents say the fines it prescribes, of up to 5,000 roubles (\$63.82), could open the door to tougher charges and penalties.

The Ministry of Justice's list of extremist materials stretches to more than 500

pages. Entities banned in Russia for carrying out "extremist activities" include late Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Fund, the "international LGBT movement" and U.S. tech giant Meta Platforms. On Friday, lawmakers who regulate the IT sector said Meta-owned WhatsApp should prepare to leave the Russian market as it was likely to be added to a list of restricted software.

The new legislation targets people who knowingly search for extremist materials online, including through virtual private networks (VPN) that millions of people across Russia use to bypass censorship and access banned content.

"This bill concerns a very narrow group of people, who look for extremist content because they themselves are already one step away from extremism," Sergei Boyarsky, head of the Duma's information technology committee, told Duma TV.

Digital Development Minister Maksut Shadaev said law enforcement would have to prove that users intended to view extremist materials and that merely accessing platforms would not be penalised. It was not immediately clear how the authorities would determine intent in an online search. The lack of clarity has left many feeling uneasy.

French culture minister to stand trial for graft

PARIS--French judges on Tuesday ordered that French Culture Minister Rachida Dati and former automobile executive Carlos Ghosn must stand trial for alleged corruption and abuse of power in a case focusing on consulting fees, a judicial source said.

The French prosecutor's office for financial crimes (PNF) had requested in November 2024 that Dati, widely expected to run for the post of Paris mayor in March 2026, and former Renault-Nissan boss Ghosn be tried as part of its investigation into corruption.

Investigators had been probing the consulting fees Dati once received from the Renault-Nissan auto alliance, which hired her as a consultant after she stepped down as justice minister in 2009 to stand for the European Parliament. Dati has denied irregularities in the fees she received during that time, and Ghosn, who fled from Japan in a box aboard a private jet to Lebanon, has



French Culture Minister Rachida Dati arrives to the annual Bastille Day military parade during the Bastille day celebrations in Paris, France, July 14, 2025.

denied allegations of misconduct against him.

Speaking to LCI television on Tuesday evening, Dati vowed to fight the judges' decision: "I am not going to resign myself. I will fight. I will fight everywhere."

Asked if she could stay in the government, she said: "Have I been condemned? Of course not. That's it"

Asked if Dati should resign from the French government, Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin told TF1 television: "I cannot comment on legal proceedings,

but it is clear that Rachida Dati — who is a great politician and someone I would very much like to see become mayor of Paris — is presumed innocent, and we should not be too quick to condemn people."

Ghosn's representatives could not immediately be reached for comment.

Ghosn, who holds French, Lebanese and Brazilian citizenships, has not left Lebanon since 2019 because of an Interpol Red Notice issued by Japan.

At 70, skyscraper Stalin 'gifted' to Warsaw still evokes feelings

WARSAW--Seventy years after Soviet dictator Josef Stalin "gifted" the Palace of Culture and Science to Warsaw, the towering skyscraper at the heart of Poland's capital still stirs strong feelings among Poles.

The Palace - which is marking the 70th anniversary of its official opening on July 22, 1955, when Poland was part of the Soviet-led communist Eastern Bloc - was conceived by Stalin as a symbol of Soviet domination and initially bore his name.

"If you put a big palace, a kind of skyscraper at the time, in the middle of the city that can be seen from 30 km (19 miles) away, it shows the power," said Dorota Zmarzłak, a member of the palace's board. Younger people no longer see it that way, she said.

After the end of commu-

nist rule in Poland in 1989, many Soviet-era monuments were removed and street names changed. The Palace remained, even though prominent politician Radosław Sikorski, who is now Poland's foreign minister, called for it to be demolished in 2007.

It has been used as a concert venue and hosted political events, exhibitions and fashion shows. Singers Andrea Bocelli and José Carreras have performed there. A riot broke out when the Rolling Stones played there in 1967, long before communist rule ended.

"It was an escape for me, I could go somewhere," said Zygmunt Kowalski, 89, a retired railway worker who moved to Warsaw a month after the Palace opened, and swam with his daughter in its pool as well as seeing films and concerts there.



A drone view shows Warsaw's skyline with modern skyscrapers and the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, Poland, July 18, 2025.

"Everything can be torn down, but let this stay for future generations, as proof of what once was ... the next generations will have evidence that communism was here," he said.

The Palace still has four theatres, a large cinema and museums, and hosts exhibitions. The concert hall is being renovated.

Some younger Warsaw

residents focus less on the Palace's political history than on its status as a Warsaw landmark. Karol Los, a 23-year-old student, said the Palace, now surrounded by modern skyscrapers, is inseparable from the city's identity.

"For me, it's a symbol of Warsaw. I think young people see it very differently than the older generation,"

he said.

Ukrainian architect Valerii Shcherbak, 32, admires the palace's architectural detail and its popularity with tourists. "This is history and we need to respect it," he said, noting that many Soviet-era buildings in Ukraine have been destroyed. "What happened in the past should be kept for history, not destroyed."

EU leaders brace for frosty China summit

BEIJING--Expectations are rock-bottom for an EU-China summit on Thursday that will test European resolve and unity as the bloc faces intense trade pressure from both Beijing and the United States, analysts say.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa plan to press Chinese leaders on rare earths and the war in Ukraine, both areas of tension, during the summit in Beijing. There is little hope for headway, at a time both sides face major challenges sustaining economic growth and Europe struggles to shore up support for Ukraine.

The summit was shortened from two days to one due to a "scheduling conflict" raised by Chinese officials, two sources familiar with the planning told Reuters. A business roundtable that was meant to happen on the second day in the city of Hefei will now take place in Beijing, one of the sources said.

Both sides may reach a modest joint statement on climate, one of the sources said, but no other tangible achievements are expected.

In multiple recent speeches, von der Leyen has revived hawkish China rhetoric, accusing China on July 8 of "enabling Russia's war economy" and flooding



EU and Chinese flags are seen in this illustration taken, March 20, 2025.

global markets with overcapacity. "We know that we don't see eye to eye with China on many issues, but we believe that it is essential to have this kind of very direct and open and constructive conversation," said one EU official.

The official and the sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to media. A spokesperson for the European Commission referred to a statement announcing the summit, which said leaders would discuss ways of ensuring "a more balanced, reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade relationship."

In response to Reuters' questions, the Chinese foreign ministry referred to a

spokesperson's statement on Monday. "Some people in Europe continue to ... exaggerate specific economic and trade issues and make groundless accusations against China on the Ukraine issue, causing unnecessary interference to China-EU relations," its spokesperson said.

The 27-member European Union has also been negotiating hard with Washington after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened 30% tariffs on most EU exports from Aug. 1, with prospects for a broader trade deal fading.

At the Beijing summit, China hopes to press the EU for a solution to its tariffs on China-built electric

vehicles, for which Beijing claims price commitment negotiations are in the "final stages". But European officials say there has been little progress for months.

Last week, China threatened to respond to EU sanctions on two Chinese banks and five firms over the Ukraine war. Its commerce ministry said on Monday the sanctions "seriously harmed trade, economic and financial ties."

Other trade disputes are simmering in the background. China retaliated against EU restrictions on medical device procurement with its own curbs on July 6, and slapped duties on French cognac producers.

China's exports to the EU

grew in May while its U.S. exports plunged 34.5% in value terms the same month, sparking fears Chinese trade overcapacity is being diverted to the bloc due to U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods. There is also a growing sense that EU firms are collateral damage for China's rare earth export controls that primarily targeted Washington but have disrupted European defence and automotive supply chains.

In return for concessions on rare earths, China's asks could include reviving a long-stalled investment agreement after Beijing lifted sanctions on European Parliament members in May, and pushing back on U.S. export curbs on Dutch firm ASML's chipmaking equipment. China has raised both in the weeks leading up to the summit, two sources familiar with the matter said.

"The mood is extremely pessimistic in Europe regarding the summit," said Mathieu Duchatel, a director at the Institut Montaigne think tank in Paris, adding that Washington rejected previous EU proposals for coordination on China policy. "There is a sense that the gloves are completely off on the Chinese side ... They sense the transatlantic relationship has weakened and are trying to seize the opportunity."

Spain proposes declassifying secret Franco era files

MADRID--The Spanish government on Tuesday introduced a bill to automatically declassify all secret government files older than 45 years, including documents from Francisco Franco's dictatorship and the transition to democracy.

If approved by parliament, the proposed law could shed light on some of Spain's darkest chapters, including Franco's ties to Adolf Hitler, the locations of mass graves where victims of his 1939-75 rule were buried, and details of the 1966 Palomares nuclear accident caused by the mid-air collision of two U.S. Air Force planes over a fishing village in southern Spain.

"With this law we will overcome an obstacle in our legislation to put us in line with European standards," Justice Minister Félix Bolanos told reporters.

"Citizens have the right to know. Administrations have the obligation to provide documentation that is important for history," he added.

The bill seeks to replace the existing law governing official secrets, enacted during Franco's rule, which lacks provisions for automatic declassification based on the amount of time that has passed. The law would automatically declassify all documents older than 45 years unless they constituted a justified threat to national security, Bolanos said.

For documents created after that period, the draft law outlines a tiered system: "highly classified" documents would remain secret for up to 60 years; "classified" files for up to 45 years; "confidential" material for up to nine years; and "restricted" documents for up to five years.

The government should not restrict access to documents related to the Catholic Church or former King Juan Carlos, said the Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory (ARHM), a volunteer group dedicated to identifying victims of political violence during Spain's Civil War and Franco's dictatorship. It also warned that some documents may have already been removed or redacted, and it called for the immediate digitisation of records to ensure public access.



Polisario Front soldiers parade during celebrations for the 35th anniversary of the group's independence movement for control of Western Sahara from Morocco in this file photo.

Portugal signals support for Morocco's autonomy proposal for Western Sahara

LISBON--Portugal joined other Western countries in expressing a positive view of Morocco's autonomy proposal for the disputed Western Sahara region, after Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel said on Tuesday the plan had a "serious and credible basis".

The dispute, dating back to 1975, pits Morocco - which claims sovereignty over Western Sahara - against the Algeria-backed Polisario Front, which seeks an independent state there.

Rangel showed support for the autonomy proposal, first presented by Moroccan King Mohammed VI to the United Nations in 2007, following a meeting in Lisbon with Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita. The plan would establish a local legislative, executive, and judicial authority for Western Sahara elected by its residents, while Rabat would retain control over defence, foreign affairs, and religion.

"Following movements made by France, Spain,

Britain and others, Portugal considers that this ... will be the most serious basis for a solution, but always under the auspices of the U.N.," Rangel later told reporters, falling short of recognising Morocco's sovereignty over the territory.

Jose Tomaz Castelo Branco, a professor of political science at Lisbon's Catholic University, said Portugal's position was "quite diplomatic, reasonable, and opens the door to a future formal recognition of Morocco's sovereignty".

"However, the Portuguese government is reserving room to maneuver to decide in the future, not committing completely yet," he said, adding that Lisbon's position should always be "carefully considered because Morocco is also Portugal's neighbour."

During a high-level meeting in 2023, Portugal's previous Socialist government had already formalised its view of Morocco's proposal as "realistic, serious and credible", but Rangel's comments cemented the current centre-right government's position.

In 1976, following Spain's withdrawal from what was until then its colony, the Polisario Front proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as a government-in-exile, based on the right to self-determination.

France and Spain have also backed the autonomy proposal, with Madrid in 2022 formally describing it as "the most serious, realistic and credible" framework for resolving the dispute.

Ukraine curbs autonomy of two anti-corruption agencies

KYIV--Ukraine has toughened restrictions on two anti-corruption agencies at the centre of the government's reform drive, rolling back their autonomy in favour of tighter executive control.

Stamping out endemic graft is a requirement for Kyiv to join the European Union as well as to secure billions in Western aid. Independent investigators have in recent months embarrassed senior officials with allegations of corruption.

Amendments passed on Tuesday grant the general prosecutor, appointed by the president, strict control over the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, sev-

eral lawmakers said. The vote drew sharp criticism from the heads of both agencies and a top EU official, and spurred the largest public protests since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The vote came a day after Kyiv's domestic security agency arrested two NABU officials on suspicion of ties to Russia and conducted sweeping searches into agency employees on other grounds. Critics and the two agencies said the crackdown went too far.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose party holds a majority in parliament, approved the amendments late on Tuesday. The changes would allow the general prosecutor to transfer cases

from the agencies and reassign prosecutors.

In his nightly video address, issued well after midnight, Zelenskyy said he had spoken to NABU chief Semen Kryvonos and other top prosecutors. Anti-corruption bodies, he said, would continue to function "but without any Russian influence. It all must be cleansed."

"There must be more justice. Of course, NABU and SAPO will continue their work," he said. "It's also important that the prosecutor general be committed to ensuring real accountability for those who break the law. This is what Ukraine truly needs."



Adham carries the body of his nephew, six-week-old infant Yousef al-Safadi, who died of starvation according to health officials, at Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Tuesday.

More than 100 aid, rights groups call for action as hunger spreads in Gaza

LONDON--More than 100 largely aid and rights groups on Wednesday called for governments to take action as hunger spreads in Gaza, including by demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire and the lifting of all restrictions on the flow of humanitarian aid.

In a statement signed by 111 organizations, including Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Refugees International, the groups warned that mass starvation was spreading across the enclave even as tons of food, clean water, medical supplies and other items sit untouched just outside Gaza as humanitarian organizations are blocked from accessing or delivering them.

"As the Israeli govern-

ment's siege starves the people of Gaza, aid workers are now joining the same food lines, risking being shot just to feed their families. With supplies now totally depleted, humanitarian organisations are witnessing their own colleagues and partners waste away before their eyes," the organizations said. "The Government of Israel's restrictions, delays, and fragmentation under its total siege have created chaos, starvation, and death."

The organizations called for governments to demand that all bureaucratic and administrative restrictions be lifted, all land crossings be opened, access to everyone across Gaza to be ensured and for the rejection of military-controlled dis-

tribution and a restoration of a "principled, UN-led humanitarian response."

"States must pursue concrete measures to end the siege, such as halting the transfer of weapons and ammunition."

Israel, which controls all supplies entering Gaza, denies it is responsible for shortages of food. More than 800 people have been killed in recent weeks trying to reach food, mostly in mass shootings by Israeli soldiers posted near Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution centers. The foundation, backed by the United States, has been fiercely criticized by humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations, for an alleged lack of neutrality.

UK doctors strike to go ahead after pay talks fail

LONDON--A planned five-day junior doctors' strike in England will go ahead this week, their trade union announced on Tuesday, saying health minister Wes Streeting had not gone far enough in negotiations over pay and conditions.

Junior doctors, also known as resident doctors, had voted to strike following the government's award of a 5.4% pay rise. The union argues this falls far short of the 29% needed to restore their earnings to 2008 levels. The strikes will begin at 0600 GMT on Friday.

Talks with Streeting and government officials over the last few days to reach a compromise have not seen a breakthrough, the British Medical Association (BMA) said in a statement.

"What we have seen so far is a series of 'no's - no

to movement on pay, no to student loan forgiveness, no to any credible move forwards," BMA co-chairs Melissa Ryan and Ross Nieuwoudt said in a statement. "What we need to see are some ways forward, some kind of positive approach to get us out of this dispute."

Streeting said the strikes would disrupt patient care and put additional pressure on the state-run National Health Service. "The BMA would have lost nothing by taking up the offer to postpone strike action to negotiate a package that would improve the working lives of resident doctors," Streeting said in an emailed statement.

The BMA co-chairs said their door remained open, but added "we don't accept we can't talk about pay."

WHO raises concern about spread of mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus

GENEVA--The World Health Organization issued an urgent call for action on Tuesday to prevent a repeat of an epidemic of the mosquito-borne chikungunya virus that swept the globe two decades ago, as new outbreaks linked to the Indian Ocean region spread to Europe and other continents.

An estimated 5.6 billion people live in areas across 119 countries at risk from the virus, which can cause high fever, joint pain and long-term disability, Diana Rojas Alvarez, a medical officer at the WHO, told reporters in Geneva.

"We are seeing history repeating itself," she said, drawing parallels to the 2004-2005 epidemic, which affected nearly half a million people, primarily in small island territories, before spreading around the world.

The current surge began in early 2025, with major outbreaks in the same Indian Ocean islands which were previously hit, including La Reunion, Mayotte and Mauritius. An estimated one-third of La Reunion's population has already been infected, Rojas Alvarez said. The virus is now spreading to countries such as Madagascar, Somalia and Kenya, and has shown epidemic transmission in Southeast Asia, including India.

Of particular concern is the increasing number of imported cases and recent local transmission within Europe. There have been approximately 800 imported chikungunya cases in continental France since May 1, Rojas Alvarez said.

Twelve local transmission episodes have been detected in several southern French regions, meaning individuals were infected by local mosquitoes without having travelled to endemic areas. A case was also detected last week in Italy.



People waded through water as they carry relief supplies amid severe flooding in Feni, Bangladesh, August 25, 2024.

Indian cities need \$2.4 trillion for climate infrastructure by 2050

NEW DELHI--India needs to invest more than \$2.4 trillion by 2050 to build climate-resilient urban infrastructure, as its fast-expanding cities face growing challenges from extreme weather events linked to climate change, the World Bank said on Tuesday.

The number of Indians living in cities is projected to nearly double to 951 million by 2050 from 480 million in 2020. But erratic rainfall, heatwaves, and rising sea levels are leaving urban areas in the world's most populous nation increasingly vulnerable, the bank said in a report.

Without large-scale investments in housing, transport, water, and waste management systems, India will face escalating costs from weather-related damage, said the report entitled "Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India".

"Cities need to become

more resilient if people living in those cities are going to be safe," Auguste Tano Kouame, the World Bank's country director for India, said at the launch of the report, which was prepared in collaboration with India's urban development ministry.

Urban flooding already causes an estimated \$4 billion in annual losses in India, the report found. That figure is projected to rise to \$5 billion by 2030 and as much as \$30 billion by 2070 without remedial action.

The report's estimates based on conservative urban population growth put India's investment needs at \$2.4 trillion by 2050 and \$10.9 trillion by 2070, with those projections increasing to \$2.8 trillion and \$13.4 trillion respectively if the population is moderately urbanised. "Timely actions can avert billions of annual damages and losses in

flooding and extreme heat while investing in resilient and efficient municipal infrastructure and services," the report said.

India currently spends about 0.7% of its gross domestic product on urban infrastructure, well below global benchmarks, and must significantly scale up public and private financing, the World Bank report said.

Federal, state and municipal governments must coordinate to improve project financing and provide climate-linked fiscal transfers. And India must increase partnerships with the private sector in areas including energy-efficient water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, and green buildings, it said.

Private finance currently accounts for just 5% of urban infrastructure investment, the report said.

Landmine dispute escalates Thailand, Cambodia tensions

BANGKOK--Thailand has accused Cambodia of placing landmines in a disputed border area after three soldiers were injured, but Phnom Penh denied the claim and said the soldiers had veered off agreed routes and triggered a mine left behind from decades of war.

Thai authorities said the three soldiers were injured, with one losing a foot, by a landmine while on a patrol on July 16 on the Thai side of the disputed border area between Ubol Ratchathani and Cambodia's Preah Vihear province.

Cambodia's foreign ministry denied that new mines had been planted, and said in a statement on Monday night that the Thai soldiers deviated from agreed patrol routes into Cambodian territory and into areas that contain unexploded landmines. The country is littered with landmines laid during decades of war.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia categorically denies these baseless and unfounded allegations," the ministry said. It added the country was fully committed to the Ottawa Convention, an international agreement banning antipersonnel landmines.

On Monday, the Thai army said that 10 freshly laid Russian-made PMN-2 type landmines, which are not used or stockpiled by Thailand, were found between July 18 and July 20 in areas near where the soldiers were injured.

"This is a clear violation of the sovereignty and territo-

rial integrity of the Kingdom of Thailand and an outright breach of principles that are fundamental to international law," Maratee Nalita Andamo, deputy spokesperson for the Thai Foreign Ministry, said on Monday in Bangkok.

Figures from the Cambodia Mine Action Centre, which estimates there are still 4 to 6 million landmines scattered across the country, show five people were killed and a dozen injured by mines and unexploded ordnance in Cambodia in the first four months of 2025. The area where the Thai soldiers were injured is near where a Cambodian soldier was killed in May after a brief exchange of gunfire between troops on both sides.

The shooting has since flared into a broader diplomatic dispute between the Southeast Asian neighbours that has destabilised the Thai government and seen the Prime Minister suspended from office. Thailand said it will issue a formal condemnation and call for accountability from Cambodia for breaching the landmine treaty, and the army will also increase vigilance during border patrols.

Cambodia said the landmine incident showed the need for both countries to settle the border dispute at the International Court of Justice. Bangkok has previously said it has never recognised the court's jurisdiction on the issue and prefers to settle the dispute through bilateral mechanisms.

South Korea declares several disaster zones

SEOUL--South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung declared six districts as special disaster zones on Tuesday after days of torrential rains left a trail of destruction in parts of the country.

The wet weather has now subsided, though media reports said heavy rainfall was drenching parts of North Korea.

Around 19 people have died and nine were still missing in South Korea as of Tuesday morning, while 2,549 people were still displaced, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said. Around 3,776 facilities, including homes, shops and

factories, needing to be cleared of water, debris and earth, the ministry added.

President Lee's declaration of special disaster zones - including in Gapyeong on the outskirts of Seoul - gave authorities access to emergency administrative and financial support to aid victims. He earlier told public officials to "spare no effort" in the search for missing people.

The president's approval rating slipped to 62.2% from 64.6% in a survey conducted last week during the rains, according to pollster Realmeter.



Ahn Gyeong-Bun, whose restaurant and house were destroyed in the aftermath of torrential rain, reacts next to the collapsed building, in Gapyeong, South Korea July 21, 2025.

Trump says Powell will be out in 8 months, calls him a 'numbskull'



U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell chats during a break at the Federal Reserve's Integrated Review of the Capital Framework for Large Banks Conference in Washington, D.C., U.S., on Tuesday.

WASHINGTON--U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell is a "numbskull" who has kept interest rates too high, but he will be out in eight months, President Donald Trump said at a news conference on Tuesday.

"I think he's done a bad job, but he's going to be out pretty soon anyway. In eight months, he'll be out," he said from a meeting at the White House with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Powell's term as Fed chair runs through May 15, and he has repeatedly said he will not leave the post early. Eight months would mean

Powell would remain in place until mid-March; it was not immediately clear why Trump picked that time frame.

Trump has been hammering at Powell for months for not cutting rates and has frequently raised the possibility of ousting him, while also saying that firing him would be "unlikely." Lately, the White House has intensified Trump's pressure campaign, launching a review of the Fed's renovation of two buildings in Washington which they say are inappropriately lavish and may not have followed planning pro-

ocols, charges that the Fed vigorously rejects. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday repeated his call for a "big internal investigation" of the Fed's non-monetary policy operations.

Economists warn that efforts to push the Fed to loosen monetary policy could actually have the opposite effect. They point to hyperinflation in countries from Argentina to Zimbabwe as examples of what can happen when politicians exert influence on central bank rate-setting. Some see evidence in financial markets that the Trump administration's constant at-

tacks on Powell are eroding confidence in the Fed's ability to achieve its dual goals of price stability and maximum employment.

"Market participants seem to agree that the risk to Fed independence is rising," Goldman Sachs economist Jan Hatzius wrote late on Monday, pointing to a rise in longer-term inflation expectations as captured in 5-year 5-year forward inflation swaps, which measure expected inflation over five years beginning five years out.

"A further increase could make Fed officials more reluctant to cut," Hatzius said.

If inflation expectations rise, the thinking goes, actual inflation is likely to follow. Powell and other Fed officials believe that longer-term inflation expectations remain stable, but they say they are watching nearer-term measures closely, particularly with tariffs likely to increase upward price pressures as companies pass on more of the costs to consumers.

"Efforts by the administration to push the (Fed) into an accommodative monetary policy stance that would not be justified by macroeconomic conditions would likely backfire with higher long-term rates, higher inflation expectations, and ultimately the need for a tighter monetary policy stance," Barclays economists wrote on Tues-

day.

On Tuesday Trump repeated his view that the policy rate should be 3 percentage points lower than it is now. The central bank's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee is nearly universally expected to leave the policy rate in its current range of 4.25%-4.50% when it meets next week, as policymakers wait to see how inflation and employment react to tariffs.

"Our economy is so strong now, blowing through everything. We're setting records," Trump said on Tuesday. "But you know what? People aren't able to buy a house because this guy is a numbskull. He keeps the rates too high,

and is probably doing it for political reasons."

Mortgage rates had increased last year even as the Fed cut its policy rates by a total of 1 percentage point, tracking U.S. Treasury yields, which surged amid economic resilience and worries about Trump's proposed policies.

Bessent, at the same meeting, raised a different complaint against the Fed. "The Fed has had big mission creep, and that's where a lot of the spending is going," Bessent said. "That's where, why they're building these new, or refurbishing these buildings, and I think they have got to stay in their lane."

US trade deal struck with Japan includes 15% tariff

WASHINGTON/TOKYO--President Donald Trump on Tuesday said the U.S. and Japan had struck a trade deal that includes a lower 15% tariff that will be levied on U.S. imports from the country, including autos.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the deal would include \$550 billion of Japanese investments in the United States. He also said that Japan would increase market access to American producers of cars, trucks, rice and certain agricultural products,

among other items.

Trump's post made no mention of easing tariffs on Japanese motor vehicles, which account for more than a quarter of all the country's exports to the United States and are subject to a 25% tariff. But NHK reported that the deal lowers the auto tariff to 15%, citing a Japanese government official.

"This is a very exciting time for the United States of America, and especially for the fact that we will continue to always have a great relationship with the Country of Japan," Trump said on the social media platform.

Japan is the most significant of the clutch of deals Trump has struck so far, with two-way trade in goods between the two superpowers totaling nearly \$230 billion in 2024, and Japan running a trade surplus of nearly \$70 billion. Japan is the fifth-largest U.S. trading partner in goods, U.S. Census Bureau data show.

The announcement sent stocks in Japan higher, led by big gains in automakers as Honda, Toyota and Nissan all gained 6% or more, and U.S. equity index futures gained ground. The yen strengthened against the dollar.

Reuters could not immediately confirm the elements of the deal announced by Trump, and details were scant. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for additional details.

Speaking early on Wednesday in Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he had received an initial report from his trade negotiator in Washington but declined to comment on the specifics of the negotiation.

US tariffs take \$1-billion bite out of GM earnings

DETROIT--General Motors' second-quarter earnings took a \$1.1-billion hit from tariffs, but the automaker still beat analyst expectations for the period on Tuesday, supported by strong sales of its core gasoline trucks and SUVs.

The largest U.S. automaker by sales said it expects the tariff impact to worsen in the third quarter and stuck to a previous estimate that trade headwinds threaten to hit the bottom line by \$4 billion to \$5 billion this year. GM said it could take steps to mitigate at least 30% of that impact. Shares fell 8%.

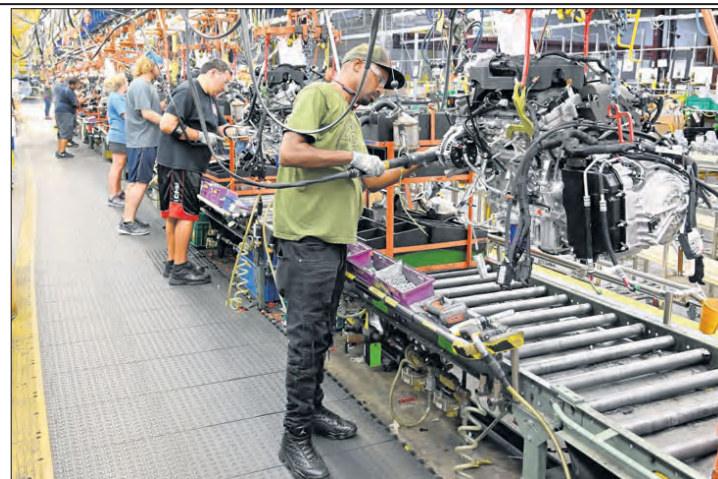
The automaker's revenue in the quarter ended June 30 fell nearly 2% to about \$47 billion from a year ago. Its quarterly adjusted earnings per share fell to \$2.53 compared with \$3.06 a year earlier. Analysts on average expected adjusted profit of \$2.44 per share, according

to data compiled by LSEG. Its adjusted earnings before interest and taxes fell 32% to \$3 billion.

GM was among corporations that revised annual guidance due to the impact from U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs, lowering it to an annual adjusted core profit of between \$10 billion and \$12.5 billion. The company on Tuesday stood by that forecast.

CFRA Research analyst Garrett Nelson wrote in a Tuesday morning note that one of the reasons shares dropped was because investors were disappointed the automaker did not raise guidance.

Beyond tariffs, GM's underlying business in the quarter was solid. Sales in the U.S. market -- its main source of profit -- rose 7%, while the company continued to command strong pricing on its pickup trucks and SUVs. GM swung back



Engines assembled as they make their way through the assembly line at the General Motors (GM) manufacturing plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee, U.S.

to a small profit in China, after losing money there a year earlier.

Analysts said GM may need to cut investment in future projects or find other ways to trim spending to offset the effect of tariffs. The automaker is so far keeping pricing consistent and absorbing added tariff costs rather than passing them on to customers.

Jeep-maker Stellantis on

Monday warned that tariffs would significantly affect results in the second half of 2025, and said tariffs cost it about 300 million euros in the first half of the year. Shares of Ford Motor fell about 1% on Tuesday, and U.S.-traded shares of Stellantis edged up less than 1%.

GM took several steps in recent months to bolster its combustion-engine op-

erations through increased investment in its U.S. factory base, calling into question its goal of ending the production of gas-powered cars and trucks by 2035. "Despite slower EV industry growth, we believe the long-term future is profitable electric vehicle production, and this continues to be our north star," GM CEO Mary Barra told analysts Tuesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Grand Cherokee V8, Over Land, year 2015, colour: black, fully loaded, 22 inch rims, 20 inch factory rims, sun roof, cream interior. Asking \$16,500. Good condition. Phone: +1(721)556-0233

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VACANCIES

Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) is seeking a Project Manager. Send CV and contact info for three references to jobs@epicislands.org. Further information on our blog at <https://epicislands.org/>.

Shyne Management N.V. is looking for the following positions. Cook: Specialize in meat temperature. Mechanic: Familiar with ATV and buggies. Experienced waiter. Email: jeniferbix@gmail.com Whatsapp: +1(721)550-4563.

Spic and Span Hospitality Services N.V. has vacancy for office administrators and cleaners (male & female). Call for more info. Email: Info@spic-and-span.net OR call: +1 (721) 543-0728 / 587-2727.

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Looking for a Caretaker for an elderly person, preferably a patient christian with experience. Possibility for room and board. Available as per August 1st or immediately. Tel: +1 (721)522-5251.

A classified in The Daily Herald means RESULTS

How the ghost of 'transitory' inflation is haunting the rate debate

NEW YORK—Joseph Lavorna, counselor to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, believes tariffs are not inflationary and says economists who have been predicting that prices would rise due to President Donald Trump's import duties are wrong.

Where many such economists saw effects of tariffs in consumer price inflation data last week, Lavorna was not persuaded. Economists had been predicting tariffs would show up in numbers month after month, but the data in aggregate has remained muted, he said.

"Almost every economist has gotten it wrong," Lavorna told Reuters, and added that he and his colleagues in the administration felt that mainstream economists' analyses had been clouded by political bias.

At any rate, he said, inflation is a perpetual rise in prices, rather than a one-time increase in price levels. "To the extent there is a negative effect -- which we have yet to see -- it would be a one-off price level adjustment," he said.

Lavorna's comments underscore how a debate over inflation is once again turning on the question of whether any price rise from Trump's tariffs would be fleeting or not. It's an echo of what happened after the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Fed thought inflation was transitory -- and it turned out not to be.

Now, while some administration officials and Fed governors expect any impact from tariffs to be temporary, other economists and market participants remain convinced that the president's conventional wisdom-defying policy could lead to bad outcomes, like slower



People shop for groceries at a store in New York City, U.S., July 15, 2025.

growth and inflation.

These people want to see more data as they argue that there are still many unknowns around inflation -- it could rise in the coming months as much uncertainty remains around what the final tariffs would be; price increases could spill to other areas; and tariffs could cause inflation expectations to rise. There are also many unknowns about the eventual impact of the import duties -- and other administration policies like those on immigration -- on the economy.

"Even if you think of this as a one-time increase in costs, what is more likely to happen is that firms are not going to pass it on all at once," said Alberto Cavallo, a Harvard University professor who has built a model to track the price impact of tariffs. "They're going to do it gradually. And that gradualness tends to push inflation up-

ward for a significant amount of time."

Reuters reporters have developed a tracker to see how companies are responding to tariffs.

What happens with inflation is of immense importance all around -- to global markets, investors and consumers, who endured hardship as easy monetary policies and supply chain disruptions following the COVID-19 pandemic led to inflation levels not seen in more than a generation. Unhappiness with high prices was as one of the reasons behind Trump winning the presidential elections.

Trump has directed his ire over the disagreement on rates most intensely against Jay Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, leading some investors to worry about the independence of the central bank. With Trump calling for the central bank to cut rates by as much as 3 percent-

called PCE. It showed tariffs on Chinese imports in February and March had already affected consumer prices.

The administration, too, has done its own analyses and published a counterintuitive to these findings earlier this month. Using techniques similar to the Fed paper, the Council of Economic Advisers, the White House's think-tank, found that prices of imported goods had fallen this year. None of the papers provide a comprehensive view of what's happening, however, and acknowledge various limitations of their findings.

The debate over the effect of tariffs is also starting to divide Fed officials. Fed Governor Chris Waller, who is seen as a potential candidate to succeed Powell, for example, favors a rate cut at the July meeting because he feels the tariffs are likely to have a limited impact on inflation, and he is concerned the economy and private sector hiring are starting to slow. Others, like New York Fed President John Williams, have professed caution, saying it was still early days.

"Comments coming from Fed officials suggest that the FOMC is cleaving," Thierry Wizman, Global FX & Rates strategist at Macquarie Group, wrote in a note on Friday, referring to the central bank panel that sets monetary policy. Should it persist, it could "evolve into a split along political lines, with one side swayed by political motives, and the need to accommodate fiscal policy, at the expense of adherence to the price stability mandate."

"This would contribute to U.S. yield-curve steepening," Wizman wrote.

Apple set to stave off daily EU fines

BRUSSELS--Apple's changes to its App Store rules and fees will likely secure the green light from EU antitrust regulators, people with direct knowledge of the matter said, a move that would stave off potentially hefty daily fines for the iPhone maker.

The company last month said developers will pay a 20% processing fee for purchases made via the App Store, though the fees could go as low as 13% for Apple's small-business programme.

Developers who send customers outside the App Store for payment will pay a fee between 5% and 15%. They will also be able to use as many links as they wish

to send users to outside forms of payment.

Apple made the changes after the EU antitrust enforcer handed it a 500 million euro (\$586.7 million) fine in April, saying its technical and commercial restrictions prevented app developers from steering users to cheaper deals outside the App Store in breach of the Digital Markets Act. The company was given 60 days to scrap the restraints to comply with the DMA aimed at reining in Big Tech and giving rivals more room to compete.

The European Commission is expected to approve the changes in the coming weeks, although the timing could still change, the



A man talks on a phone in front of an Apple logo.

people said. "All options remain on the table. We are still assessing Apple's proposed changes," the EU watchdog said.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request

for comment. The company earlier this month said it had implemented the changes to avoid punitive daily fines, while criticising the Commission for mandating how it runs its store.

The company could have been hit with daily fines of 5% of its average daily worldwide revenue, or about 50 million euros per day.

Russia's top carmaker may shorten work week

MOSCOW--Russia's largest carmaker AvtoVAZ said on Tuesday it may cut its working week to four days from five in September, a rare move from a major state-owned employer, as high interest rates and competition from China squeeze its sales.

AvtoVAZ's plight mirrors the wider economic downturn facing Russia as growth slows after two years of overheating fuelled by soaring defence spending on the war in Ukraine. Economy Minister Maxim Reshetnikov warned last month that Russia's economy was on the brink of recession.

AvtoVAZ, struggling to find enough buyers for its vehicles, said last month that it expects Russians to buy 25% fewer cars this year. Its own sales fell by exactly that amount to 155,481 units in the first six months, according to data provider Autostat.

The company has blamed

Nokia cuts 2025 profit guidance citing tariffs and weaker US dollar

HELSINKI--Finland's Nokia lowered its guidance for 2025 comparable operating profit on Tuesday by up to 310 million euros (\$364.10 million), citing the impact of a weaker U.S. dollar and tariffs.

"Considering currency and tariff headwinds, which are outside its (Nokia's) control and have transpired since its Q1 results, the company feels it is prudent at this point to lower its operating profit outlook range," Nokia said in a statement.

The network equipment maker now expects 2025 comparable operating profit to range from 1.6 billion to 2.1 billion euros instead of previously estimated 1.9-2.4 billion.

It added currency fluctuations, particularly the weaker dollar, would lower the outlook by around 230 million euros while tariffs would have an impact of 50-80 million euros.

After years of weakness, Nokia's sales in North America have been growing steadily despite losing market share to Nordic rival Ericsson. Nokia said its April-June comparable operating profit was 0.3 billion euros, a 32% drop compared to last year.

In April, Nokia reported first-quarter profit below market expectations.

the central bank's high interest rate, which reduces appetite for car loans and raises production costs. The bank has also come under fire from firms in other sectors from oil to construction and metals, with steelmaker Severstal CHMF.MM the latest to blame plunging profits on high borrowing costs.

After keeping its key rate at a more than 20-year high for several months, the central bank has now started trimming borrowing costs and is widely expected to cut rates by 200 basis points to 18% on Friday. "We are talking about the high key rate and tougher demands from the regulator for borrowers on car loans," AvtoVAZ said in a statement.

The volume of car loans in Russia dropped by 46% in the first half of this year due to a rate hike in late 2024, state-owned bank VTB esti-

mated this month. "In addition, a significant number of cars have been imported into Russia, with imported brands pursuing a policy of price dumping," AvtoVAZ said.

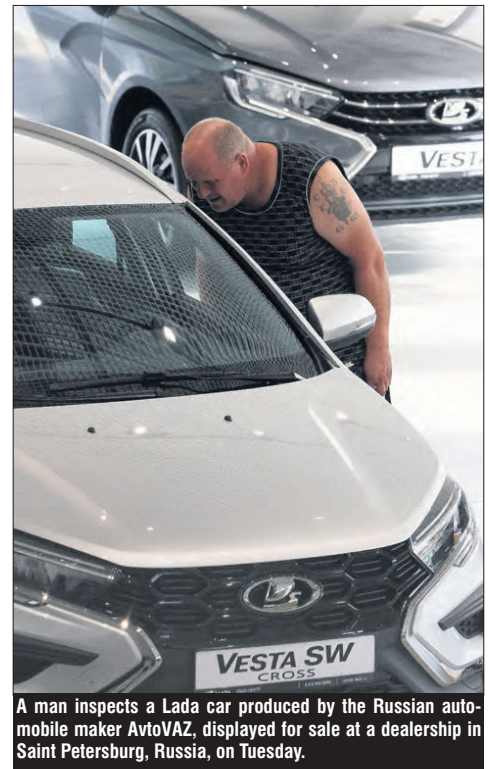
Importers are struggling to sell around 400,000 imported new cars, it said.

AvtoVAZ employs more than 30,000 people, mostly in Togliatti, a city on the Volga river 800 km (500 miles) southeast of Moscow, but does not disclose specific numbers. AvtoVAZ employs around 1 in 20 people in the city of around 650,000 people. Togliatti's economy depends heavily on the company and its satellite businesses, which include component suppliers and car dealers in the surrounding region.

The government has bailed out the company before, when weak demand after the 2008 global financial

crisis left the Soviet-era carmaker on the cusp of bankruptcy. At that time, it disbursed 75 billion roubles (\$955 million) of state funds to avoid significant job cuts that might have sparked social unrest in Togliatti.

The company switched to a four-day work week for three months in 2022 after Western sanctions were imposed over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and foreign automakers left the market. Sales of its flagship Lada car dropped by 48.2% to 174,688 units that year. Russia's domestic output had relied heavily on foreign producers, and the market slumped in 2022 before the rapid arrival of Chinese carmakers helped revive the sector. Chinese rivals now account for more than 50% of sales in Russia, up from less than 10% before the war started.



A man inspects a Lada car produced by the Russian automobile maker AvtoVAZ, displayed for sale at a dealership in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on Tuesday.

IMF warns tariffs aren't the answer to global imbalances

WASHINGTON--Global current account balances widened sharply in 2024, reversing a narrowing under way since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday, warning that tariffs were not the answer.

In its annual External Sector Report, which assesses imbalances in the 30 largest economies, the IMF noted that external surpluses or deficits were not necessarily a problem, but could cause risks if they became excessive. It said prolonged domestic imbalances, continued fiscal policy uncertainty, and escalating trade tensions could deteriorate global risk sentiment and elevate financial stress, hurting both debtor and creditor nations.

The report took aim at U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of higher import tariffs against nearly every trading partner, which his administration says is aimed at increasing revenues and righting longstanding trade deficits. "A further escalation of the trade war would have significant macroeconomic effects," it said, noting that higher tariffs would reduce global demand in the short term and add to inflationary pressures through rising import prices.

Rising geopolitical tensions could also trigger

shifts in the international monetary system (IMS), which in turn could undermine financial stability, it said.

This year's report, based on 2024 data, showed the widening of global current account balances was due largely to increased excess balances in the world's three largest economies - the United States, China and the euro area. The deficit in the United States widened by \$228 billion to \$1.13 trillion or 1% of global gross domestic product (GDP), while China's surplus increased by \$161 billion to \$424 billion and the euro surpluses expanded by \$198 billion to \$461 billion.

In an accompanying blog, IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said excessive surpluses or deficits stemmed from domestic distortions, such as overly loose fiscal policy in deficit countries and insufficient safety nets that caused excessive precautionary savings in surplus countries.

Changes aimed at these domestic drivers - not tariffs - were needed, he said. That meant China should focus on boosting consumption, Europe should spend more on infrastructure and the U.S. needed to reduce large public deficits and rein in fiscal spending, he said.



A drone view shows construction personnel working on a multi-home residential project by Shea Homes in Encinitas, California, U.S. July 21, 2025.

US considering removing tax on capital gains on home sales

WASHINGTON--U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday his administration is considering removing taxes on capital gains on home sales.

"If the Fed would lower the rates, we wouldn't even have to do that," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "But we are thinking about no tax on capital gains on houses."

Profits from the sale of homes, like other assets, are now subject to capital gains taxes, although there are large deductions for sales of primary residences.

Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene interpreted Trump's comments as a show of support for a bill she's proposed called the No Tax on Home Sales Act, which would eliminate the federal capital gains tax on the sale of primary residences.

"Thank you, President Trump, for supporting my No Tax on Home Sales Act!" Greene said in a post on X.

"You worked for it. You should keep it. Let's get this bill passed!" Greene said.

Congress recently passed legislation that made permanent broad tax cuts passed in 2017 during Trump's first presidency. The bill also fulfilled Trump's campaign promises to include new tax breaks for tips, overtime pay, seniors and auto loans.

Trump's political opponents say the measures will mainly help the rich and add trillions of dollars to U.S. national debt, only partially offset by deep cuts to healthcare and other benefits for the poor.

Urgent need for proper loading ramps for wheelchair access on all WINAIR aircraft

Dear Editor,

I am writing to bring urgent attention to a serious accessibility issue affecting disabled passengers traveling on WINAIR flights throughout our Dutch Kingdom territories.

Last week, while traveling from Saba to St. Maarten on a WINAIR flight, I witnessed a disturbing scene that highlights the inadequate provi-

sions for wheelchair-bound passengers. Two elderly ladies, who required wheelchairs, were among the passengers, both traveling for medical reasons. The boarding process was nothing short of distressing.

Both women struggled desperately to enter the aircraft, with one unable to board without a fellow passenger

physically lifting her into the plane. While I commend the Good Samaritan who assisted, this situation was potentially dangerous and certainly undignified. The passenger could have been injured, and the elderly woman was subjected to an unsafe and humiliating experience.

Upon arrival in St. Maarten, Accessible Ventures staff did their best to assist with deplaning, but the challenges persisted. On the return evening flight, the same passenger faced identical difficulties boarding, and even encountered problems accessing the bus at the airport – another indication that our transportation infrastructure fails our disabled community.

This is not a new problem. Twelve years ago, I experienced similar difficulties when an injury left me unable to walk. I had to be transported into a WINAIR aircraft using a blanket – a makeshift solution that was neither safe nor dignified. The fact that disabled pas-

sengers still face these same challenges over a decade later is unacceptable.

Our airports in Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten must urgently address this accessibility gap. Proper loading equipment – whether specialized ramps, lifts, or other assistive devices – should be standard at every airport serving disabled passengers. This responsibility likely falls jointly on WINAIR, the respective airport authorities, and perhaps the broader transportation oversight bodies in our Dutch Kingdom.

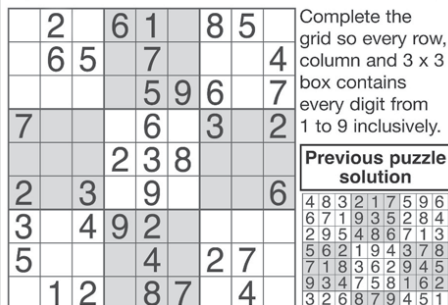
Air travel is a necessity, not a luxury, particularly for residents of our smaller islands who must travel for medical care. Every passenger, regardless of physical ability, deserves safe, dignified access to public transportation. The current situation violates basic principles of accessibility and potentially puts vulnerable passengers at risk.

I call upon WINAIR, our airport authorities, and relevant government officials to immediately investigate and implement proper accessibility solutions. Disabled passengers should not have to rely on the kindness of strangers or endure unsafe boarding procedures.

This issue affects our most vulnerable citizens and has persisted far too long. The time for action is now.

Concerned citizen
Name withheld at
author's request.

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle



7/23

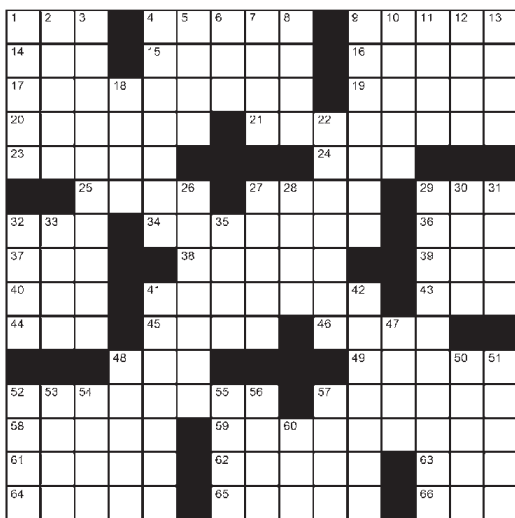
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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7/22

ACROSS

- 1 Wee bit
- 4 Variation of a color
- 9 Pumps and flats
- 14 Reddit Q&A: Abbr.
- 15 Lower leg bone
- 16 Punctuation mark in "1,000"
- 17 Admits fault
- 19 Make invalid
- 20 Commands
- 21 Canned tuna brand
- 23 Tend: 2 wds.
- 24 Married woman's title: Abbr.
- 25 Animal den
- 27 Part of a fork
- 29 Angry
- 32 Three-part race, for short
- 34 Made a first appearance
- 36 "___ you nuts?"
- 37 2016 Olympics city
- 38 Ships' poles
- 39 Where ships sail
- 40 Lodging place
- 41 Sequel with Apollo Creed: 2 wds.
- 43 Soup holder
- 44 Healthcare degrees: Abbr.
- 45 Torah holders
- 46 Actress Taylor-Joy
- 48 ___ and outs
- 49 Some Eastern Europeans
- 52 Off-speed pitch
- 57 Paper fastener
- 58 Bird of prey
- 59 Pub's promotion: 2 wds.
- 61 Guide
- 62 Customary
- 63 Reno's state: Abbr.
- 64 Exams
- 65 Stallion or mare
- 66 "Peepers"



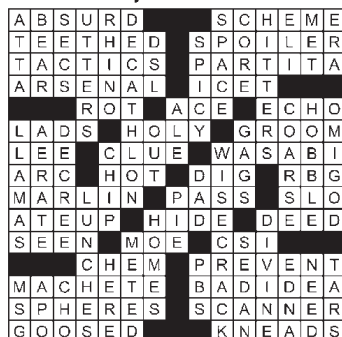
Created by Stella Zawistowski

7/23/25

DOWN

- 1 Mexican snacks
- 2 Love, in Italian
- 3 Weeds with yellow flowers
- 4 ___ Era (period in MLB history)
- 5 Angry cat's sound
- 6 Core muscle
- 7 Perishes
- 8 Sunrise direction
- 9 Emotionally hurt
- 10 Car horn sounds
- 11 Prefix meaning "all"
- 12 Flightless birds
- 13 ___ and pepper
- 18 Greek cheese
- 22 Memory loss
- 26 Contrite feeling
- 27 Walrus features
- 28 ___-bitty
- 29 Tiramisu cheese
- 30 Region
- 31 College official
- 32 Quick haircut

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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7/23/25

- 33 Orange's skin
- 35 "I've got your ___!"
- 41 Texas MLB team
- 42 Fashionable: 2 wds.
- 47 "___, right!"
- 48 Arm of the sea
- 50 The Heeler family's show
- 51 Wait tables
- 52 "___ la vie!"
- 53 Despise
- 54 Gets older
- 55 "Nope!"
- 56 El ___, Texas
- 57 Restful resorts
- 60 Water filter brand

How Trump dominates and corrupts the private sector

By George F. Will

After six months, with seven times that much time remaining, Trump 2.0 seems as transformative as the New Deal was, but different. Franklin D. Roosevelt's legacy was the institutional architecture of the welfare and regulatory state. Donald Trump's legacy will be a demonstration: How a purely transactional politician, untethered from any political philosophy and uninterested in norms of self-restraint (e.g., unforced respect for the separation of powers) can exploit this architecture for unconstrained executive power.

Trump's ever-shifting and contradictory rationales for tariffs (curing trade deficits, strengthening national security, punishing ingratitude, etc.) reveal that protectionism is not an economic policy but a political strategy for aggrandizing personal power. His tornado of tariffs-by-whim produces an endless auction as businesses bid for beneficial whims: intensifications of, or exemptions from, tariffs.

As the American Enterprise Institute's Dalibor Rohac says, when tariffs are multiple and malleable, private rent-seeking (bending government for preferential treatment or for injurious treatment of competitors) displaces entrepreneurial talent and shrewd management as the path to economic success. Rent-seeking has always been with us, but not on today's scale as innumerable factions become genuflecting supplicants, groveling for presidential favors.

The most statist administration in U.S. history has replaced capitalism with what economists call "economic repression": government supplanting the market by restraining or compelling economic activities for political objectives.

Campaigning in 2024, Trump called price controls "socialist," "communist," "Marxist"

and "fascist." This year, he promises price controls on prescription pharmaceuticals and vows to "investigate" noncompliant companies. Under the personalist rule by an unfettered executive, the process is the punishment: "Sentence first – verdict afterwards," said such an executive, the Queen of Hearts in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

After a 18-month administrative-state farce involving faux "national security" worries, the government has allowed the sale of U.S. Steel to a private corporation headquartered in a close ally (Japan). Trump has, however, in effect nationalized U.S. Steel, which must give to presidents, in perpetuity, a "golden share" in the corporation. The New York Times explains: "U.S. Steel's charter will list nearly a dozen activities the company cannot undertake without the approval of the American president or someone he designates."

The ban on TikTok is a misguided law passed by large congressional majorities and unanimously affirmed by an excessively deferential Supreme Court, its intelligence perhaps bewitched by presidential solemnities about "national security." The law, which went into effect January 19, stipulates that to facilitate the sale of the app to a non-Chinese entity, the president can grant one extension, up to 90 days, of nonenforcement.

Trump has now ordered two more extensions, while disregarding the law's stipulation that he justify an extension to Congress by certifying concrete progress toward TikTok's divestiture. This is not enforcement discretion, it is nullification of a law – a veto without an opportunity for Congress to override it. In 1838, the Supreme Court termed "entirely inadmissible" the idea that the president has (as English kings once had) a "dispensing

power" to "license illegal conduct" or the power "to forbid ... execution" of laws. Never mind constitutional morality. Trump is not mistaken in regarding laws as mere whispered suggestions from Congress until it rediscovers its pride and grows a spine.

Speaking of the invertebrate: The president filed a risible lawsuit against CBS for an editing decision he disliked and extorted a \$16 million settlement from a network that is as purely transactional as he is. CBS's parent company, Paramount, seemingly decided it was economically sensible to buy him off, lest he cause an administrative agency to block a merger Paramount desires. The company's civic irresponsibility is just another accommodation to personalist rule under a Putinesque presidency.

Today's administrative state, suffocating society with enveloping laws and regulations, can be wielded like a cudgel by a president enjoying seemingly limitless discretion as congressional majorities choose to be ciphers. A president without constitutional scruples is not limited by institutions that are theoretically, but not actually, rivalrous.

The subtlety of the Founders, James Madison, used nine laconic words (in Federalist 10) to express the most memorable understatement in U.S. history: "Enlightened statesmen will not always be at the helm." Those who in 1787 framed our system of checks and balances had this in mind. They could not have imagined the desuetude into which their system has decayed 238 years later.

Today's shambolic civic life, with the public sector dominating and corrupting the private sector, reveals this: The Founders' elegant architecture of institutions for liberty under limited government guarantees nothing when the institutions are inhabited by the unenlightened.

How St. Martin is tackling the Sargassum seaweed crisis with science and resilience

Dear Editor,

On the beaches of St. Martin, a new environmental challenge has emerged – one not shaped by storms or erosion, but by an overabundance of Sargassum seaweed. Once a natural and largely unnoticed component of the marine ecosystem, Sargassum has surged in both volume and visibility, blanketing the island's iconic beaches and unsettling the twin pillars of its economy: tourism and environmental health.

The arrival of Sargassum in such overwhelming quantities has become a defining issue for the Caribbean region. On popular coastlines like Orient Beach, thick mats of seaweed wash ashore with the tides, pile up in decaying mounds, and release a pungent odor as they rot – emitting hydrogen sulfide, a gas that poses health risks to residents and visitors alike. The sheer volume has left hoteliers and local governments scrambling for solutions.

Crews begin work as early as 5:00am, according to local contractors, using bulldozers, pickup trucks and manual labor to clear the beaches. Despite these efforts, new deposits arrive almost daily, brought in by shifting currents and overnight tides. One contractor candidly described the challenge as “a long-term problem without a quick solution.”

But what's driving this phenomenon?

According to scientists, changes in ocean temperature, wind patterns, and currents – largely attributed to climate change – are fueling unprecedented Sargassum growth. As surface waters warm, they create conditions ideal for Sargassum blooms, in much the same way that warm waters fuel hurricanes. Warmer temperatures accelerate growth, while shifts in currents

carry vast rafts of seaweed from the Sargasso Sea into the tropical Atlantic and, ultimately, onto Caribbean shores.

Dr. Ajit Subramaniam, a biological oceanographer at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, explains that this transformation in ocean dynamics has created “massive rafts of seaweed affecting the beaches of the Caribbean.” Once confined to the open ocean, Sargassum now inundates coastlines from Mexico to Martinique and St. Martin.

To understand and address the issue, Dr. Subramaniam is leading research into the feasibility of deep-sea sequestration. The idea involves trapping the Sargassum offshore and sinking it to depths of at least 2,000 meters, where it could potentially store carbon and reduce surface bloom impacts. This approach would not be a permanent solution, but it could offer critical breathing room while more comprehensive strategies are developed.

Meanwhile, St. Martin is not standing still.

A multi-pronged response is underway. In addition to onshore cleanup efforts, floating barriers are being deployed offshore to intercept the seaweed before it reaches the beaches. These measures protect delicate coastal ecosystems and reduce the risk to nesting sea turtles and other wildlife that could be harmed by cleanup machinery.

St. Martin is also participating in SargCOOP2, a regional initiative focused on information-sharing and cooperative management of the Sargassum problem. This program promotes scientific research, data exchange, and policy development among Caribbean nations grappling with similar conditions.

Innovation is also being explored on the island. Some scientists and entrepreneurs are examining whether Sargassum can be transformed into biofuels or organic fertilizers, turning a threat into an economic opportunity. If scalable, this could help offset removal costs and contribute to a circular, sustainable economy.

Tourism-dependent businesses are adapting as well. Hotels and tour operators are developing contingency plans, including promoting inland excursions, culinary tourism, and cultural events that are not reliant on pristine beaches. This diversification could help stabilize the local economy and reduce its vulnerability to environmental shocks.

Ultimately, St. Martin's response to the Sargassum crisis reveals a model of resilience. It is a story not just of environmental struggle, but of adaptation, cooperation, and scientific exploration. While

the challenge is ongoing, the island's commitment to addressing it head-on offers hope for the wider Caribbean region – and a blueprint for communities worldwide facing the complex consequences of climate change.

As science deepens understanding of oceanic shifts and climate impacts, and as communities like St. Martin invest in practical and innovative responses, there is reason to believe that this seaweed scourge can be managed. In time, what began as an environmental hazard may well inspire a new chapter of sustainable growth and ecological stewardship across the Caribbean.

Sebastian Price and Deirdre Frost

This letter was accidentally cut in half in its first printing on Monday, July 21. Here it is in its entirety. “The Daily Herald” apologises for the error.

Psalm 91:2 - I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

It is with deep sadness we announce the sudden passing of:



Dorna Telca Dorothy Hanley-Richardson

A.k.a. Donna.

Sunrise: July 24th, 1955
Sunset: July 15th, 2025.

Preceded in death by her:

Mother and Father: Nellie Evelyn Hanley Jones † and John Joseph Queeley better known as Neville Queeley †

Donna is survived by:

Her Husband: Franklyn, better known as Kingsley Richardson in Anguilla

Her Children: Shameda Roberts, Sharisa Supramaniam Roberts, Sharlese and Shanique Roberts in Holland

Grandchildren: Shaquan Roberts, Romélese and Romaiyah Hook, Caelen, Liam and Chloé Supramaniam.

Stepchildren: Shane Hughes, Sherma Hughes, Monique Carty, Victor Carty, Charlene Baptiste, Fahreec and Latoya Richardson in Anguilla

Sons-in-law: Canagan Supramaniam and Romell Hook in Holland

Sisters: Carin Hanley and Debra Fleming Jones in Nevis, Elvira Lawrence in St. Kitts, Ena in St. Maarten, Joycelyn Jones Richardson, Bernice and Nora in the USA, Shiela, Jacqueline Glennis, Lolian and Jasmine Queeley in England.

Brothers: Zenric Zed Hanley and Wilbert Queeley in Nevis, Eustace Isles and Victor Queeley in England, Howard Queeley in Canada, Noel Cutie Slack in the USA and Renard Herbert in St. Thomas.

Relatives: Many nieces and nephews too numerous to mention at home and abroad.

Ambassador Ian Queeley, the Queeley, Nisbett, Hunkins, Jeffers, Lawrence, Wilkin, Roberts, Hook, Supramaniam, Proctor, Evelyn and Hanley families. Many other Relatives and Friends at home and abroad too numerous to mention.

Special friends: include her Pastors and Members of the Victory Outreach church in Rotterdam Holland, the New Testament Baptist church in Phillipsburg St. Maarten, and the Central Baptist in Anguilla.

There will be a Celebration for the life of:

Dorna T. D. Hanley-Richardson

On: Thursday, July 24th, 2025

at: Emerald Funeral Home & Crematory, Cay Hill Viewing & tributes from: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Dorna T. D. Hanley-Richardson will be repatriated to Moran's Alternative Affordable Funeral & Cremation Services in Anguilla on Friday, July 25th, 2025

there will be a viewing from: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. further, Mrs. Dorna Richardson's funeral service will be held at

Central Baptist Church, Rey Hill, Anguilla.

Viewing from: 2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Service will commence at: 3:00 p.m.

Interment: Sandy Hill Cemetery

The Management & Staff of Emerald Funeral Home & Crematory and Moran's Alternative Affordable Funeral & Cremation Services would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family, friends & loved ones of the late:

Dorna Telca Dorothy Hanley-Richardson

May Her soul rest in Peace



“Wife, Mammi, Madre, Mommy, You mean the word to us, we are so grateful and honored for your love, and commitment to us all. We are so happy to have shared this beloved life and memories with you. We love you forever!”

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mom



Ana Judith Garcia Parra Peterson

(Affectionately known to all as Judy)

Sunrise: August 7th, 1942 - **Sunset:** July 16th, 2025.

Judy was a devoted Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Cherished sister, Aunt and loving friend to many.

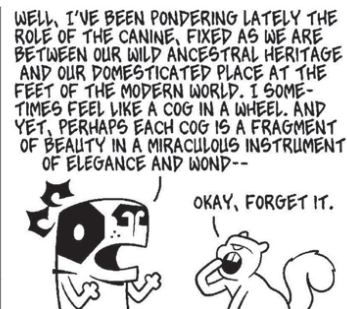
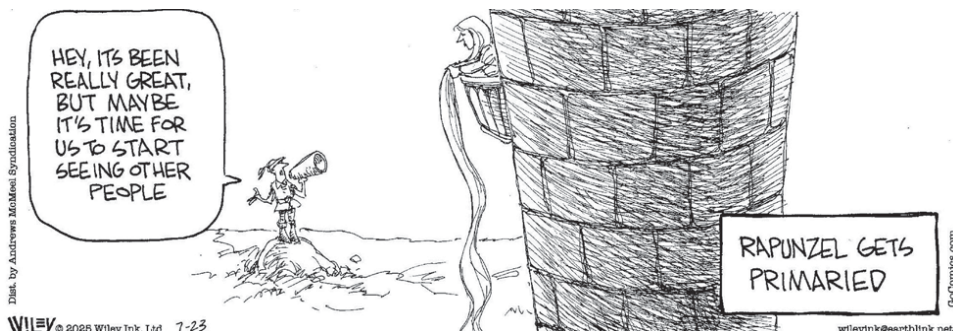
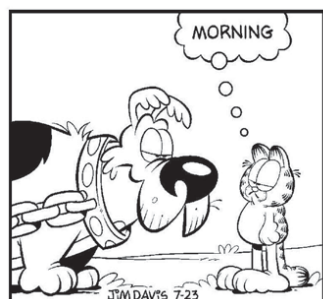
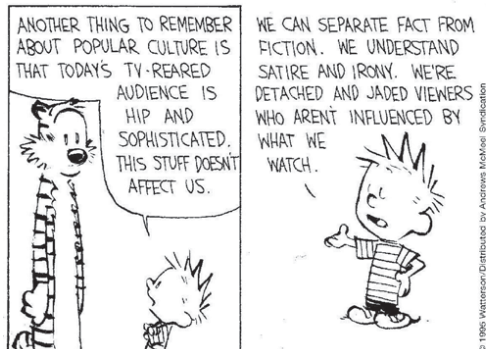
Family and Friends are warmly invited to attend and celebrate a life well lived for Ana Judith Garcia Parra Peterson. (Judy) On Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025, at the Royal Funeral Home and Crematorium. Public visitation will commence at 10:00 a.m., followed by the service at 10:30 a.m. Her Resting Place will be at the Simpson Bay Cemetery

As we grieve privately, there will be no wake or visitation after the funeral. The family deeply appreciates your thoughts and prayers during this time.

During our time of grief if we have forgotten any names, please know that it was not intentional.

All services entrusted to Royal Funeral Home & Crematorium.





By Magi Helena

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get creative when solving problems, innovation often leads to unexpected breakthroughs. Even if a business alliance comes to an end, your talents will continue to shine. Take initiative, actively support someone who could use your help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A gentle ear or a supportive shoulder could make a meaningful difference right now, offer your presence with kindness. Don't let household issues overwhelm you; instead, apply confidence and clear logic to steadily move forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your authenticity has the power to inspire courage in others, share yourself unapologetically. Offer help where you can, even if it feels complicated right now. Take the time to complete a home project that needs attention.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You might be the safe space someone needs today; offer comfort simply by being present. Be selective and thoughtful in work-related matters and take time to look inward to better understand recent shifts in power or influence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't hold back when it matters. Now is the time to get active in resolving financial concerns, learn what you can to improve your situation. Also take a closer look at a relationship to bring clarity and resolution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You arrive as a capable resource, someone who can truly get things done with focus and determination. Consider new paradigms in your career path. Find a way to give it back or pay it forward with genuine grace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Step into the role of the data-person, using insight and analysis to guide decisions. There may be more hope in a relationship than you realize today. Take time and invest in understanding the true needs of your community.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Curiosity is a driving force that can lead to meaningful discoveries, try to explore your world more fully. Strengthen your connection to your surroundings by powering up your involvement in local causes that truly matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be the wise angel someone may need today, offering quiet strength and thoughtful guidance. Joint financial matters could be favored now. Creative offerings may feel challenging to clarify or bring fully into focus.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be unforgettable for the wrong reasons; instead, stay in your own lane, focused on your own path. Relationships have the potential to blossom now, and simple acts of kindness may speak more loudly than you know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Step up without apology, don't sacrifice too much or lose yourself in a relationship. Don't allow financial worries to derail your future focus. Consider ways that a creative talent might be able to generate income.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change in your home space might feel uncertain at first but could eventually bring renewal and comfort. Trust your intuition as you navigate the world. Be mindful—a friend may not be what they seem.



Speak your mind
By Queenie

SEND LETTERS TO
P.O. BOX 828
FAX +721 542 5913
OR E-MAIL
queenie@thedailyherald.com

Dear Queenie,

I have seen several articles in the newspapers recently about women victimized and abused by men. Some of them say they have gone to the police, the prosecutor and other authorities for help and got no help, but none of them mentioned going to Safe Haven.

Queenie, why don't these stupid women go to Safe Haven for help, at least in getting the police to take the matter seriously? That's exactly what Safe Haven is there for!—
No sympathy for stupidity

Dear No sympathy,

I would guess that these women are not stupid, but desperate, and don't know how to get in touch with Safe Haven. And as I recall, one of these cases was on the French side of the island and the victim assumed that Safe Haven was only for the Dutch side, which I have been told is not the case.

Also, she may not have known how to contact Safe Haven from the French side of the island. I myself have never heard of a French-side number for Safe Haven. If there is one, or if it is the same number as for the Dutch side—(721) 523-6400, I would suggest that Safe Haven publicise the information. I would be happy to cooperate.

Only notices and events of non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column. Notices/Events should be sent to notices@thedailyherald.com in the wording format used on this page. Do not send fliers, photos, locked files or press releases to this address.

NOTICES**Prosecutor's Opening Time**

Prosecutor's Office is now open in the morning and afternoon Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 12:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm. During those hours, the public may visit the office to get information, pay fine (by debit/credit cards only), and access other services. The Prosecutor's Office is located on Emmaplein behind Orco Bank (formerly CIBC First Caribbean Bank) and is also reachable via telephone 542-2243 or email infosxm@OMCarib.org

Domain Affairs Walk-ins

The Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure VROMI Domain Affairs Department informs the public that walk-in hours for domain affairs services will be available every Thursday from 9:00am to 11:00am. No appointment is necessary. For more information, contact domainaffairs@sintmaartengov.org or call 542-4292 ext 2425.

Free Senior Yoga

Gentle stretch and breath Senior Yoga, in person, at the Lions Club Community Center in Sucker Garden, Mondays and Fridays from

10:00-11:00am. Mats provided. Also, streamed live on Facebook at Yoga with Lisa SXM. For more info contact Lisa at 554-0115 or email davisburnettlisa@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

St. Maarten AIDS Foundation is looking for motivated women and men to become facilitators for Girl Power and Real talk workshops. For more information call 523-2626 or 553-2626 or email: coordinatorsxmaidsfoundation@gmail.com

Church Service

Island Church invites you to its Sunday Morning services from 10 to 11 o'clock in the Simpson Bay Resort Conference Center in Pelican Key. Follow us on Facebook at Island Church SXM for the live stream. Visit our website at islandchurchsxm.com. Email: info@islandchurchsxm.com for more information.

Club Meeting

Calling all book lovers, no matter your age or gender! Join The Happy Bookers for laughs, literary love affairs (on the page!), and occasional existential crises disguised as book discussions. They meet once a month to discuss a wide array of books. WhatsApp +590690663716 for more information.

Toastmasters Meets

Creative Intellect Toastmasters meets the first and third Sundays of each month 5:00pm at the John Larmonie Center, Longwall Road 20, Philipsburg, or online via Zoom. For more information about the club, visit Creative Intellect Toastmasters Club on Facebook, email creative.intellect.tmc@gmail.com or calling: 586-5172.

Youth Wing

Persons 13-20 years old are invited to join SAF Youth wing. We organize monthly meetings at the St. Maarten AIDS Foundation office, located in the Sun Building Cole Bay. For more information call 523-2626 or 553-2626 or email: coordinatorsxmaidsfoundation@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

Animal Defenders SXM could use some volunteers to help feed cats and dogs at several different locations (own transportation is important). We are also looking for help with admin work and creative computer skills. Please call or contact ADS for more information at 553-3116.

Volunteer.sx Registration

St. Maarten Development Fund (SMDF) and Foresee Foundation invite persons and non-profit organisations to register on volunteer.sx to find volunteering opportunities and/or to post volunteer events. To register go to volunteer.sx, follow the sign up process.

Duplicate Bridge

The St. Maarten Duplicate Bridge Club is now meeting Wednesday nights at 7:15pm at La Vista Resort on Billy Folly Road in Pelican Key. Bring a partner for a fun night of bridge. US \$10 per person, coffee and water provided, cash bar. Proof of COVID vaccination is required, masks optional. For information call Jan Peter 520-0594.

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AA Meetings

Al-Anon is a non-profit 12-step programme of men and women who may have a common problem and solution to stop drinking. The support group meets at Red Cross on Airport Boulevard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00pm, and on Sundays at Guana Bay Beach (near old restaurant) at 8:30am.

Club Meeting

Elite Soualiga Toastmasters Club meets virtually on Zoom from 2:00 to 3:30pm on the first and fourth Sunday of every month. For more information, please email: elite.soualigatm@gmail.com.

Consular Services

The Office of the Honorary Consul of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana operates on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 5:30pm and on Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:30pm by appointment only. For more information call 527-3198, or 527-0704. email: guyanahonoraryconsulsxm@gmail.com, guyanaconsulatesxm@gmail.com

Homework Guidance

Oranje Community School is looking for dynamic youth leaders and homework guidance persons. Pass by the Oranje Community School at 11:00am or call 580-2882.

Positive Thinking

Brahma Kumaris St. Maarten invites persons to its ongoing free meditation and Positive Thinking courses at Raj Yoga Centre, 16 Front Street. Call 524-2554 or 542-0541 for more information.

Club Meeting

Soualiga Corporate Toastmasters Club meets at the new Government Administration Building on the second and fourth Wednesday every month from 5:30 to 7:00pm.

Club Meeting

SXM Achievers Toastmasters Club meets on Zoom every second and fourth Thursday (except on holidays) of the month from 7:30 to 9:00pm. All are welcome to join. Please email sxmachieverspresident@gmail.com for the Zoom meeting details.

Community Service

Is your organization seeking assistance with various tasks such as cleaning, washing, gardening, moving, carpeting, painting, maintenance, and more? Contact the SJIS-Probation Department at 526-4322, 542-3449, or lloyd.beaton@sjis-sxm.org to explore how you can become a community service workplace. This opportunity is available for non-profit community or governmental organizations. Community Service assistance is provided free of charge!

Foster Parents Needed

Foundation Judiciary Institutes Windward Islands (FJIWI)/ Stichting Justitie Inrichtingen Bovenwinden (SJIB), is looking for foster parents: Interested persons ages 24-67 can apply. Contact 526-4310.

Volunteers Needed

St. Maarten Animal Welfare Foundation is seeking volunteers for special activities. For more information call 520-8887.

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Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath's bat-biting frontman, dies aged 76

LONDON/LOS ANGELES--Ozzy Osbourne, frontman of 1970s heavy metal band Black Sabbath, earned his infamy biting the head off a bat on stage and pursuing a drug-fuelled lifestyle before reinventing himself as a loveable if often foul-mouthed reality TV star.

Known to fans as "The Prince of Darkness" and the "Godfather of Heavy Metal," Osbourne has died at the age of 76, his family said in a statement on Tuesday. "It is with more sadness than mere words can convey that we have to report that our beloved Ozzy Osbourne has passed away this morning. He was with his family and surrounded by love," they said.

Osbourne kicked off his career in the early 1970s as singer on Black Sabbath's hits, from "Paranoid" to "War Pigs" to "Sabbath Bloody Sabbath". Those plus a string of solo releases saw him sell more than 100 million records worldwide.

The hard riffs and dark subject matter - from depression to war to apocalypse - combined with an instinct for Halloween theatrics. As a per-

former, Osbourne sprinkled audiences with raw meat and, in 1982, had his encounter with a bat thrown on stage by a fan.

He always insisted he thought it was a toy until he bit into it, realised his mistake and rushed to hospital for a rabies shot. He later sold branded bat soft toys with a removable head.

Osbourne was a regular target for conservative and religious groups concerned about the negative impact of rock music on young people. He acknowledged the excesses of his lifestyle and lyrics - but poured scorn on the wilder reports that he was an actual devil-worshipper.

"I've done some bad things in my time. But I ain't the devil. I'm just John Osbourne: a working-class kid from Aston who quit his job in the factory and went looking for a good time," he said in a 2010 biography.

Reality Show Star

John Michael Osbourne was the fourth of six children. Growing up in Aston, Birmingham, in central England, he struggled with dyslexia, left school at age 15, did



Musician Ozzy Osbourne poses for photographers during the launch of his new book 'I Am Ozzy' at a music store in central London October 2, 2009.

a series of menial jobs, and at one point served a brief prison sentence for burglary. Then came Black Sabbath.

"When I was growing up, if you'd have put me up against a wall with the other kids from my street and asked me which one of us was gonna make it to the age of 60, with five kids and four grandkids and houses in Buckinghamshire and California, I wouldn't have put money on me, no fucking way," he once said.

Britain's Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood, a member of parliament representing a Birmingham constituency, wrote on X that she was devastated to hear the news of his death. "One of the greatest gifts my city

gave the world," Mahmood said.

In 2002, Osbourne won legions of new fans when he starred in U.S. reality TV show "The Osbournes". Cameras followed the aging rock god ambling round his huge house in Beverly Hills, pronouncing on events in his heavy Birmingham accent and looking on bemused at the antics of his family.

Osbourne's family included wife and manager Sharon, five children including Jack, Kelly and Aimee, and several grandchildren.

No cause of death was given, but Osbourne revealed in 2020 that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. The illness made him unable

including Aerosmith's Steven Tyler, Metallica's James Hetfield and Elton John.

"Thanks for your support over the years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you," said Osbourne.

Following the news of his death the tributes poured in on social media. "I am so very sad to hear of the death of Ozzy Osbourne," said Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones. "What a lovely goodbye concert he had at Back To The Beginning in Birmingham."

"So sad to hear the news of Ozzy Osbourne passing away," said Elton John. "He was a dear friend and a huge trail-blazer who secured his place in the pantheon of rock gods - a true legend. He was also one of the funniest people I've ever met. I will miss him dearly. To Sharon and the family, I send my condolences and love."

Added Rod Stewart: "Bye, bye Ozzy. Sleep well, my friend. I'll see you up there - later rather than sooner."



BVN (Dutch/Flemish) TV
TelTV Channel 014
WTN Channel 204

Wednesday, July 23

12:00pm	NOS Journaal
12:15pm	Nederland in Beweging
12:30pm	MAX Geheugentrainer
12:45pm	Kook mee met MAX
1:05pm	NOS Journaal
1:15pm	BinnensteBuiten
1:50pm	Tussen Kunst en Kitsch Extra
2:00pm	Hollandse Meesters in de 21e Eeuw
2:15pm	NOS Journaal
2:30pm	Stand van Ned: Wereld op Scherp
2:50pm	Sesamstraat
3:05pm	Kindertijd
3:15pm	Klaas kan alles kort
3:30pm	Het Klokhuis
3:45pm	NOS Jeugdjournaal
4:10pm	NOS Journaal in Makkelijke Taal
4:15pm	Gort over de Grens
5:00pm	NOS Journaal
5:15pm	Noord-Zuid-Oost-West
5:50pm	EenVandaag
6:15pm	Een huis vol emigreert
7:00pm	NOS Journaal
7:25pm	Weerbericht Europa/Afrika
7:30pm	Nederland op Film
8:10pm	Op de spoed
8:55pm	Nieuwsuur
9:25pm	Weerbericht Amerika/Caribiën
9:30pm	Goedenavond Nederland
10:20pm	Jos
10:45pm	NOS De Avondetappe
11:30pm	NOS Journaal
11:35pm	Adieu God?



TV15 (local)
TelTV Channel 001

Wednesday, July 23

6:00am	International Sports Highlights
6:30am	Caribbean News World
7:00am	Fashion News
8:00am	International News and Sports
9:00am	Documentary
10:00am	Dcomm Press Briefing
11:00am	Morning Series
12:00pm	International Sports Highlights
1:00pm	Romance Movies
3:00pm	Late Night with Andrew Dick
4:00pm	Special Events
5:30pm	Caribbean News World
6:00pm	International Sports
6:30pm	International News
7:00pm	Dcomm special PCM
8:00pm	Sit Sip & Chat
8:30pm	Documentary
9:00pm	Evening Series
10:00pm	Late Night with Andrew Dick
11:00pm	Spanish SXM
11:30pm	Theater Movies



TV-CARIB (local)
WTN Channel 010

Wednesday, July 23

8:00am	Good Morning Beautiful
9:00am	Morning Show (Pearl FM)
12:05pm	Viewpoint (PJD2/3)
5:00pm	Animated Kids Program
6:30pm	Viewpoint Encore
7:00pm	Grandiosas
7:30pm	TV Carib Informer
8:00pm	All Access
10:00pm	Noticias en Español
10:20pm	Late Night
Program Rotation	



TeleCuraçao
TelTV Channel 035
WTN Channel 202

Wednesday, July 23

6:30am	Môru Bon Dia
9:30am	Programa Santissima Trinidad
10:00am	Gostoso ku Ulrich
12:00pm	America News (r)
12:30pm	Extra Journaal
1:00pm	Tra'i Mèrdia 3.0
3:30pm	Punto Final (r)
5:00pm	TCFM Live
6:00pm	Bonochi Kòrsou
7:00pm	Interkambio ku Germain (r)
8:00pm	TeleNotisia
9:00pm	Wega di Number Kòrsou
9:10pm	Partisipashon di Morto
9:15pm	Pagina Sosial
9:30pm	Punto Final
10:30pm	Music Videos
11:00pm	TeleNotisia (r)

Comedians support CBS Late Show host

LOS ANGELES--Late-night rivals and other celebrities rallied to support CBS "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert after the network cancelled his show, and comedian Jon Stewart lashed out at Paramount Global for the decision to end the long-running TV programme.

On "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Monday, several comedians and talk-show hosts appeared in a sketch that also featured an animated Trump hugging the Paramount logo. The bit spoofed the viral moment in which a tech CEO was caught on camera embracing his company's chief people officer during a Coldplay concert.

"The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon and NBC colleague and "Late Night" host Seth Meyers were spotted sharing beers together in the audience. HBO's

"Last Week Tonight" host John Oliver was seated with Stewart, both former colleagues of Colbert's on "The Daily Show".

Colbert joked about his show's demise in his opening remarks, quipping that "cancel culture has gone too far." He suggested the show's venue, The Ed Sullivan Theater in Manhattan, might be converted to "self-storage" after the show ends.

CBS executives said last week they would end "The Late Show" in May 2026 in what they called "purely a financial decision."

U.S. lawmakers and others have called the timing suspicious, noting that Paramount is seeking government approval for an \$8 billion merger. Colbert is a frequent critic of President Trump and had called that payment a bribe.

Stewart addressed the can-



People protest after CBS/Paramount announced the cancellation of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert outside the Ed Sullivan Theater, in New York City, U.S., July 21, 2025.

cellation on Monday's episode of "The Daily Show," which runs on Paramount-owned Comedy Central. "If you're trying to figure out why Stephen's show is ending, I don't think the answer can be found in some smoking gun email or phone call from Trump to CBS executives or in CBS QuickBooks spreadsheets

on the financial health of late night," Stewart said. "I think the answer is in the fear and pre-compliance that is gripping all of America's institutions at this very moment, institutions that have chosen not to fight the vengeful and vindictive actions of our ... commander in chief."

Paramount representa-

tives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social last Friday, applauded the cancellation, writing, "I absolutely love that Colbert got fired."

Colbert responded Monday night with what he called a "satirical witticism" that included a vulgarity.

Masked ICE agents detain former Afghan who helped US military

WASHINGTON--An Afghan who moved to the United States after working for the U.S. military in his home country was seized by armed, masked immigration agents, put in a van and taken out of state, attorneys and members of Congress said on Tuesday.

Identified only as Zia by members of Congress and his attorney out of concern for his safety and that of his family, the man had worked as an interpreter for the U.S. military during the war in Afghanistan. He was in the United States legally and was arrested after an appointment in Connecticut related to his application for a green card under a programme to protect people who worked for U.S. forces, according to human-rights advocates, his attorney and members of Congress.

Since starting his second term in January, Republican President Donald Trump has pursued a broad crackdown on immigration. "What happened to him is the worst kind of abhorrent violation of basic decency," Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut told reporters on a call with advocates to draw attention to the case of Zia and at least two other Afghans who worked for the U.S. and have been seized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

"He actually worked and risked his life in Afghanistan to uphold the values and rights that are central to democracy," Blumenthal said.

Blumenthal and two other Democrats, representatives Jahana Hayes, who serves Zia's district in Connecticut, and Bill Keating, who represents the Massachusetts city where Zia is being held, all pledged to fight for his release. A judge has issued a temporary stay preventing Zia's removal from the United States, but he remains in detention.

Asked for comment, the Department of Homeland Security said the Afghan national entered the U.S. on October 8, 2024, and is under investigation for a "serious criminal allegation," adding, "All of his claims will be heard by a judge. Any Afghan who fears persecution is able to request relief." The emailed statement from DHS provided no further details.

Top stars and directors head to Venice for high-powered 2025 film festival

VENICE--Hollywood stars, Oscar-winning directors, Asian heavyweights and European auteurs will vie for top honours at this year's stellar Venice Film Festival, all looking to make a splash at the start of the awards season.

Running from August 27 to September 6, the 82nd edition of the world's oldest film festival will showcase a rich array of movies that spans psychological thrillers, art-house dramas, genre-bending experiments, documentaries, and buzzy studio-backed productions. Among the leading A-listers expected to walk the Venice Lido's red carpet are Julia Roberts, Emma Stone, George Clooney, Dwayne Johnson, Emily Blunt, Andrew Garfield, Oscar Isaac, Cate Blanchett and Amanda Seyfried.

A who's-who of global directors will also be premiering their latest pictures at the 11-day event, including U.S. filmmakers Kathryn Bigelow, Jim Jarmusch, Noah Baumbach and Benny Safdie, alongside top Europeans Yorgos Lanthimos, Paolo Sorrentino, and Laszlo Nemes, and Asia's Park Chan-wook and Shu Qi.

Netflix, which skipped Venice last year, returns in full force in 2025 with a trio of headline-grabbing titles, in-



Amal and George Clooney attend a reception for the winners of the King's Trust Awards 2025 at Buckingham Palace, London, Britain, June 25, 2025.

cluding Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein", a new take on the classic horror tale starring Isaac, Jacob Elordi and Mia Goth.

Baumbach's comedy-drama "Jay Kelly", starring Clooney, Adam Sandler and Laura Dern, is also in the main competition and on the Netflix slate, alongside the geopolitical thriller "A House of Dynamite", with Idris Elba and Rebecca Ferguson, and directed by Bigelow, who won an Oscar in 2010 for "The Hurt Locker".

Venice fires the starting

gun for the awards season, with films premiering on the Lido in the last four years collecting more than 90 Oscar nominations and winning almost 20, making it the place to be seen for actors, producers and directors alike. In the past nine editions of the Oscars, the award for Best Actress or Best Actor has gone eight times to the protagonists of films first seen in Venice, including Stone for her role in "Poor Things" in 2024. Stone returns to Venice this year, teaming up again with "Poor Things" director

Lanthimos in an offbeat satire, "Bugonia".

The indie icon of U.S. cinema, Jim Jarmusch, will be showing his "Father Mother Sister Brother", a three-part tale exploring fractured families with a cast that includes Blanchett, Vicky Krieps, Adam Driver and Tom Waits. Another U.S. film getting its first outing at Venice is the MMA fighter biopic "The Smashing Machine", starring Johnson and Blunt, and directed by Benny Safdie.

A very different biopic is "The Testament of Ann Lee"

- a musical take on the life of the radical 18th-century Shaker leader, which stars Seyfried and is directed by Norway's Mona Fastvold.

European auteurs are well-represented, with Paolo Sorrentino's "La Grazia", starring Toni Servillo, selected as the festival's opening film, while Hungary's Nemes presents the family drama "Orphan" and France's Francois Ozon showcases his retelling of Albert Camus' celebrated novel "The Stranger".

Another French director, Olivier Assayas, will premiere "The Wizard of the Kremlin" -- a political thriller about the rise of Vladimir Putin, starring Paul Dano and Alicia Vikander, with Jude Law playing the Russian leader.

One film that looks certain to raise emotions is Kaouthar Ben Hania's "The Voice of Hind Rajab", which uses original emergency service recordings to tell the story of a 5-year-old Palestinian girl who was killed in Gaza in 2024 after being trapped for hours in a vehicle targeted by Israeli forces.

"I think it is one of the films that will make the greatest impression, and hopefully (won't be) controversial," said the festival's artistic director, Alberto Barbera, his voice trembling as he recalled the movie.



Gennie Hanley, Secretary, St. Maarten Little League Association (SMLLA); pictured, seated, left to right: Claudel Reina, Manager Business Banking, RBC; Michel Hyman, President, SMLLA. Standing, left to right: Lisandra Havertong, Assistant Branch Manager, RBC; Ruby Wilks, Relationship Manager, Financial Solutions, RBC.

RBC boosts youth development with renewed sponsorship of St. Maarten Little League

PHILIPSBURG—RBC Royal Bank N.V. announced its renewed investment in community, through its continued sponsorship of the St. Maarten Little League.

"We are thrilled to mark our 23rd year supporting this event, which stands as a vibrant testament to youthful spirit and sporting excellence here in St. Maarten," explained, Lisandra Havertong, Assistant Branch Manager, RBC.

This year, approximately 550 boys and girls, aged 4 to

18, including many from the French side of the island, are anticipated to participate in the softball and baseball program.

Havertong stated that the growth in participation is a testament to Little League's success.

"Our support extends beyond just promoting sports. It's about embracing what sports represent - excellence, teamwork, diversity and commitment - values that hold true for RBC, its employees, clients and communities.

This alignment is a key reason behind our decade's long sponsorship of Little League in St. Maarten," Havertong added.

As anticipation builds, St. Maarten's Little League teams are eagerly preparing to showcase their skills in upcoming local and international tournaments. Their ultimate goal - vying for a spot in the Little League Baseball World Series, this August in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Willful Skillful Crowned Champions at the 2025 Justin Annicette Veterans Tournament in Saint-Martin

MARIGOT—The 2025 Veterans Football Tournament came to a thrilling end this past weekend as Willful Skillful Veterans FC emerged victorious in a hard-fought final against Junior Stars Veterans, clinching the title with a 3-1 win under the lights at Stade Louis Vanterpool.

Hosted by Junior Stars Football Club in celebration of their 60th anniversary, the event brought together 3 of the most active age over-40 teams as well as FC Tropicana who travelled from Guadeloupe for the event. As one of the oldest continuously operating football clubs on the island, Junior Stars marked the occasion with some fierce competition, and also camaraderie and community.

The idea behind the veterans tournament is simple but powerful: to give players aged 40 and above a chance to return to the spotlight, representing their clubs that normally focus on youth develop-

ment. But despite the age bracket—the level of football was fast, technical, and highly competitive, with all matches being closely decided.

The tournament featured four teams Tropicana FC, traveling from Guadeloupe with friends and family, reinforcing the deep ties between the sister islands, SMVC, representing Grand Case (Saint-Martin, French side); Willful Skillful Veterans, representing Dutch Sint Maarten and the hosts, Junior Stars Veterans.

In the final, Willful Skillful edged out Junior Stars in an exciting match that showcased both physical endurance and tactical flair. Benefiting from an early goal in the first half, Willful was able to add a second goal by halftime, and then hold on to that lead, despite a late-in-game rally by the Junior Stars, with a final score of 3-1.

Club president Don "Dango" Farrell

expressed heartfelt appreciation to Hervé Dorvil and the entire Junior Stars organization for their hospitality, highlighting the tournament's excellent organization and the celebration dinner held the following day as a touching close to the weekend. He also mentioned his upcoming invitational tournament Willful Skillful will hold August 15th-17th on the Dutch side, with 6 teams, and of course Junior Stars are invited.

The Junior Stars tournament was held in memory of Justin Annicette, one of the founding pillars of Junior Stars FC, whose dedication and passion helped shape the club's rich legacy, and who also dedicated in many charitable initiatives throughout his life. It was mentioned by President Hervé Dorvil that based on the interest and the big crowd of supporters in the stands each night, that he aims to make it an annual event.

Cycling Championship Top Road Race Results

SIMPSON BAY—The second part of the Sound 2000 St. Maarten National Cycling Championships took place on Sunday morning with the road race, starting once again on the airport road. All riders did one loop to the Maho roundabout and back before riding through Simpson Bay and up the Cole Bay Hill to the roundabout by the water reservoir.

This time all categories descended from the top of Cole Bay Hill down to the Kruijthoff roundabout, taking a right turn leading on to Union Road. From there it was a fast ride to the Cole Bay border towards Bellevue on the RN7.

Riders turned at the Home N Tools roundabout to return in the direction they came from, before turning right to go over the Causeway Bridge. From there it was laps back and

forth to the Maho roundabout to make the required distances according to category.

The Elite category (62K) was won by J.C.O.'s Fabien Husson with seventh placed Signiel Comenencia from Hot Wheels Club taking the national champion jersey. William Martinez from El Salvador was second and Delroy Carty from Anguilla third.

Mark Maidwell from Hot Wheels claimed his third national champion jersey to date by winning Masters B (55K). Romeo Lake was second and SXM Tri Academy's Luc Gorostiza third.

Dick Luttekens was the national champion for winning Masters C (43K), followed by Eric Helan from the ASCESM club in second place and Heinrich Susanna from Hot Wheels in third place.

Masters A (55K) was won by Otis Cotton from Tri Sport Tigers with Craig Emanuel from Anguilla second and Stephen Seymour (J.C.O.) third.

The women's race (43K) was won by Myrthe Sonneveld with Susy Piscione from Tri Sport Tigers earning her third national champion jersey. Fitness trainer Désirée Winkel was third.

The youth category (43K) was won by Lance Hunt Parotte (ASM) with Junisio Brooks Lake (ASM) second and Benitez Ashtan (ASM) third. Rolandia Lake Rogers from VCC club won Youth Women.

To clarify about eligibility to be a national champion, the rider must have a St. Maarten-issued Dutch passport, be resident and born or naturalised in St. Maarten. Now with a new



Myrthe Sonneveld leading the peloton followed by Rolandia Lake Rogers during Sunday's National Championship Road Race. (Milton Pieters photo)

board elected in January at the St. Maarten Cycling Federation, the national championship races will be held every year as per UCI requirements.

On August 30 at the St. Maarten Health and Sports Expo youth cyclists will be recruited, a top priority for the Federation.

"We had no Dutch St. Maarten riders in the youth category, but a lot of young riders from the French

side," noted Susy Piscione. "We want parents to come to that Expo and sign up their kids between ages 13 and 17. We have no youth riders on the Dutch side, they are all on the French side and from Anguilla and that's because we have nobody to coach them. The French side has a very good coaching programme."

"But that said, we now have adult volunteers from Tri Sport Tigers and Hot

Wheels Cycling Club who will each take three youths to train. We have all the bikes and equipment that has been donated by UCI. So next year we hope to have our own Dutch side youth taking part."

Sponsors of the event were Sound 2000, Napa Auto Parts, and Tri Sport. Sol sponsored the national championship jersey and shorts

Phillies' Christopher Sanchez fans 12, goes distance vs. Red Sox

PHILADELPHIA --Cristopher Sanchez matched his career high with 12 strikeouts in a dazzling complete game as the Philadelphia Phillies topped the visiting Boston Red Sox 4-1 on Tuesday evening.

Max Kepler and Kyle Schwarber homered for the Phillies, who have won the first two games of the three-game series. However, the story for the hosts was the continued emergence of Sanchez (9-2), who allowed four hits and did not walk a batter in a 106-pitch masterpiece.

Rob Refsnyder's homer accounted for the only run for the Red Sox. Boston's Roman Anthony struck out in all four of his at-bats, while Romy Gonzalez went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts.

Philadelphia made some immediate noise against Richard Fitts (1-4) in the bottom of the first inning.

Trea Turner singled to begin the frame and moved to third on Bryce Harper's one-

out hit before Nick Castellanos delivered an RBI single. With two outs and Brandon Marsh at the plate, Harper stole home on a play that was technically scored as catcher's interference because Carlos Narvaez came across the plate to catch the pitch.

It was the second catcher's interference in as many nights against Narvaez. The series opener on Monday ended when Edmundo Sosa's bat made contact with Narvaez's glove with the bases loaded in the 10th inning.

Philadelphia doubled its lead in the second inning thanks to solo homers from Kepler and Schwarber. Kepler led off the frame with a blast on a 1-0 slider, his 11th of the year. Schwarber tacked on a two-out shot on a 3-1 slider, his 33rd, to make it 4-0.

Refsnyder got Boston on the board in the fourth inning with a leadoff shot against Sanchez, who had retired the first nine batters he faced. The homer was Refsnyder's sixth.

Sanchez cruised for the bulk of the contest, including a crisp sixth inning in which he struck out all three batters he faced. He allowed a leadoff hit in the eighth but retired the next three batters, including an inning-ending strikeout of Refsnyder.

Sanchez put an exclamation point on his evening with two more strikeouts in the ninth, including Gonzalez's swing and miss to end the game.

Fitts was charged with four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings. He struck out four without walking a batter.

TOUR

Continued from page 36.

he was still in contention for a third title.

"How I felt good today gives me motivation, I will keep trying," he said.

Germany's Florian Lipowitz held firm in third, 9:03 adrift of Pogacar, pulling further ahead of fourth-placed Briton Oscar Onley, who lags another 2:01 behind.

But the day belonged to Paret-Peintre. "I honestly didn't believe it," he said. "I thought Pogacar would go for victory today. But when we built a real gap, I told myself, you can't let a win on Mont Ventoux slip through your fingers."

Seven riders surged ahead from an early breakaway, carving out a healthy 6:30 buffer as they reached the base of the climb.

The air grew thinner, the crowds louder and the landscape more lunar.

SURVIVAL

Spanish climber Enric Mas led the charge, attacking solo 14.2 km from the summit. Behind him, Paret-Peintre, Healy and Colombia's Santiago Buitrago gave chase.

As they passed Chalet Reynard, pine forest yielded to desolate, white-stone slopes.

Mas and Buitrago fought valiantly but were dropped by the Franco-Irish duo, only to courageously claw their way back.

Then came Belgian Ilan Van Wilder, who fought his way back to the group and dug deep for teammate

Paret-Peintre to keep the Pogacar-Vingegaard threat at bay.

Vingegaard had attacked a handful of times, the first attempt coming 9km from the top, but could not shake off Pogacar, whose acceleration was also not strong enough to drop the Visma-Lease a Bike leader.

With 400 metres to go and the gradient spiking to a lung-scorching 10%, Healy launched his sprint.

But Paret-Peintre, with ice in his veins and fire in his legs, clung to his wheel. In the final, agonising metres, he surged past, claiming not just a stage win, but also a place in French cycling folklore.

He was only the fifth Frenchman to conquer the Ventoux, the mountain that claimed the life of Tom Simpson, who died in hospital after collapsing in the finale of the ascent in 1967.

There was a big scare for Tobias Johannessen, who was taken to hospital after being given oxygen by a race doctor immediately after the finish.

"Tobias suffered some right-sided upper abdominal pain during the final climb today. He made it to the finish where he was seen immediately by the race doctors and given oxygen," the Norwegian's Uno-X team said.

"He is feeling much better but will go to the local hospital for further checks."



Utah Jazz forward Kyle Filipowski (22) dunks the ball against the San Antonio Spurs during the first half of a NBA basketball game at the Thomas & Mack Center. (Lucas Peltier-Imagn Images)

Jazz F Kyle Filipowski named NBA Summer League MVP

UTAH --Jazz forward Kyle Filipowski was named the Summer League Most Valuable Player for 2025 on Tuesday.

Filipowski was also honored on the All-Summer League First Team, as the NBA announced first- and second-team honorees.

Filipowski, who is set to enter his second season in the league, played 72 games as a rookie for the Jazz, averaging 9.6 points, 6.1 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game last season. He was selected by Utah with the second pick of the second round (No. 34) after

two seasons at Duke, being named as a consensus second-team All-American after his sophomore year.

He played in six Summer League contests between Salt Lake City and Las Vegas and averaged 23.2 points, 9.5 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.0 block in 27-plus minutes per game. In the three games in Las Vegas, he averaged 29.3 ppg and 7.7 rpg.

Joining him on the All-Summer League teams are: First team: Kyle Filipowski, Jazz; Nique Clifford, Kings; David Jones-Garcia, Spurs; Jordan Miller, Clippers;

and Terrence Shannon Jr., Timberwolves.

Second team: Ron Holland, Pistons; Isaac Jones, Kings; Kon Knueppel, Hornets; Ajay Mitchell, Thunder and KJ Simpson, Hornets.

After reaching the Summer League championship game on Sunday, the Kings (Clifford, Jones) and Hornets (Knueppel, Simpson) were well-represented on the two teams. Knueppel, a rookie, was named the championship game MVP after leading the Hornets to an 83-78 win over the Kings.

Rays bolt ahead with four runs in second, hold off White Sox

FLORIDA--Jose Caballero slapped a two-run single to highlight a four-run second inning, fueling the host Tampa Bay Rays to a 4-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

Caballero had two of his team's five hits and rookie Chandler Simpson stole three bases for the Rays, who snapped a modest two-game skid and evened their three-game series against Chicago at one victory apiece.

Edwin Uceta (7-2) relieved starter Drew Rasmussen and struck out the side in the fifth inning. Uceta allowed one hit and fanned four over two scoreless innings before two relievers bridged the gap to Pete Fairbanks, who retired the side in the ninth to secure his 17th save of the

season.

All was not rosy for Tampa Bay on Tuesday as the club placed All-Star second baseman Brandon Lowe on the 10-day injured list with tendinitis in his left ankle.

Colson Montgomery belted his first career homer to lead off the seventh inning for Chicago, which saw its season-high four-game winning streak come to a halt.

The Rays got the early jump on the White Sox after Davis Martin (2-8) walked the bases loaded in the second inning before Junior Caminero came home on a balk.

Caballero reached his bat out and punched a bloop single to center field to score both Jake Mangum and Matt Thaiss. Caballero advanced to third base on

a throwing error and came around to score on Taylor Walls' groundout to stake Tampa Bay to a quick 4-0 lead.

Chicago halved its deficit in the fourth inning after Chase Meidroth had an RBI single down the first-base line and scored on Edgar Quero's sacrifice fly.

Montgomery deposited a 1-1 fastball from Bryan Baker just inside the right-field foul pole to trim Tampa Bay's lead to 4-3.

Martin permitted four runs (three earned) on three hits with four walks in five innings.

The start time of the game was moved up a half hour due to anticipated severe weather later in the evening.

Giants' Rafael Devers to make start at first base

SAN FRANCISCO --Rafael Devers was penciled in the San Francisco Giants' lineup at first base on Tuesday for the first time since he was acquired from the Boston Red Sox.

A third baseman by trade, Devers has taken ground balls at first base since the trade out of Boston in June. Devers reported to spring training in a testy mood after the Red Sox signed free agent third baseman Alex Bregman. Devers told the Red Sox his position was third base, but in recent interviews said he would've played first base in Boston if the team agreed at the start of spring training.

Devers entered the game against the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night with a .257 batting average, 17 home runs and 68 RBIs in 102 total games between Boston and San Francisco. Fifteen of those home runs came in Devers' 73 games in the Red Sox lineup.

Devers is in the third year of a 10-year, \$313.5 million deal he signed with the Red Sox in 2023. A three-time All-Star, he said a disk issue is impacting his play with the Giants.

In his first 29 games with San Francisco, Devers was the designated hitter for the Giants and hit .219 with 10 RBIs.

Cowboys: Parsons to 'participate' in camp with contract unsettled

OXNARD --Wearing a helmet, shorts and a long sleeve compression shirt underneath a dark blue No. 11 jersey, Micah Parsons removed the mystery from his training camp plan on Tuesday by joining teammates on the field in Oxnard, Calif., for the first full team workout.

Parsons stretched with the team and participated, albeit selectively, in position drills and other portions of practice as head coach Brian Schottenheimer said earlier in the day was expected.

"He's going to participate," Schottenheimer said before Tuesday's workout. "It's a ramp-up portion. But all of the walkthrough, mock stuff and individual stuff."

"There will be different versions of participation. The biggest thing for me right now is he's here."

When team drills began, Parsons was mostly a passive observer one day after Cowboys owner Jerry Jones meandered through a press conference with thoughts on contract timing, risk and leadership as it relates to the 26-year-old.

Jones said he was thankful Parsons attended training camp and was planning to be on the field with peers. He at one point referred to Parsons as "Michael Parson" and rerouted a question about escalating rates for top-end pass rushers with a statement about Parsons being "hurt six games" last season.

"Just because we sign him doesn't mean we are going to have him," Jones said, jumping in as Schottenheimer discussed what it means to have Parsons around.

Point of fact, Parsons missed four games with an ankle injury in 2024 and posted 12 sacks to push his career total to 52.5.

Under contract for 2025 at a rate of \$24 million -- the fifth-year option on his rookie agreement -- Parsons himself might opt to reroute the conversation if progress toward an extension isn't made soon. Last August, CeeDee Lamb was placed on the reserve/did not report list by the Cowboys. He did not attend training camp and Dallas didn't agree to a contract with the record-setting

wide receiver until Aug. 26, a four-year, \$136 million deal with \$100 million guaranteed. At the time, it made Lamb the top-paid wideout in the NFL.

Parsons could also decide to pack his belongings and exit Oxnard to further his case for a contract.

Bengals pass rusher Trey Hendrickson, 30, is not reporting to training camp in Cincinnati because he has only one year left on a four-year deal. But Hendrickson's scheduled salary of \$15.6 million is nowhere near the highest-paid pass rushers in the NFL after division rivals with the Steelers and Browns joined the \$40-million-and-over club this offseason.

Pittsburgh made T.J. Watt the top-paid pass rusher and defensive player in the league at \$41 million per year average with a three-year, \$123 million deal last week.

Myles Garrett brings in \$40 million per year under the terms of his four-year deal with the Cleveland Browns signed March 7.

Parsons is at least three years younger than all three players.



England's Ben Stokes reacts during an International Test Match Series at Lord's Cricket Ground, London.

Stokes calls for change in over rate regulations

ENGLAND - The over rate regulations must be modified according to the playing conditions in different continents, England test captain Ben Stokes said on Tuesday, arguing that current rules unfairly penalise pace-heavy attacks.

England were docked two World Test Championship (WTC) points and fined 10% of their match fees last week for their slow over rate in the third test against India at Lord's.

Stokes accepted the sanction but, ahead of the fourth test in Manchester starting on Wednesday, he said the rules should be different for seam-friendly conditions.

"You can't have the same rules in Asia, where a spinner is bowling 70% of the overs, to have the same laws in New Zealand, Australia, England, where it's going to be 70-80% seam," Stokes told reporters.

"The spinner's over

takes less time than the seamer's over. So common sense would think that you should look at maybe changing how the over rates are timed in different continents."

This is not the first time Stokes has raised concerns around over rate rules. Last year, he called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to revisit the regulations after England and New Zealand were penalised following their first test in Christchurch.

England lost 22 points during the previous WTC cycle due to over rate violations.

"Over rate isn't something that I worry about, but that's not saying that I purposely slow things down. I do understand the frustration around it, but I honestly think there needs to be a real hard look at how it's structured," Stokes said.

The skipper said spinner Shoaib Bashir's injury during the Lord's test forced England to rely more on pace bowlers.

"We played five days, that was our 15th day of cricket. We obviously had an injury to Bash (Bashir), a spinner, so we couldn't turn to our spinner as much as we would have liked to on day five," the 34-year-old said.

"I wonder if scoring rates have got anything to do with that as well. The ball's getting hit to the boundary more often, so it's going to take a lot longer."

England lead the five-match test series 2-1.

US Olympic & Paralympic Committee bars transgenders from competing in women's sports

NEW YORK-- The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has updated its policy to align with an executive order signed earlier this year by U.S. President Donald Trump

barring transgender women from competing in women's sports.

"The USOPC will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders with oversight responsibilities, e.g., IOC, IPC, NGBs, to

ensure that women have a fair and safe competition environment consistent with Executive Order 14201 and the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act," the USOPC said in an update to its Athlete Safety Policy.

The USOPC did not respond to a request for comment on the change.

USOPC President Gene Sykes and CEO Sarah Hirshland referenced Trump's executive order in a memo to the Team USA community sent out this week, ABC News reported, which said, "As a federally chartered organization, we have an obligation to comply with federal expectations."

Trump signed the "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" order

in February in a bid to exclude transgender girls and women from female sports, a directive that supporters said will restore fairness but critics argue it infringes on the rights of a tiny minority of athletes.

The order directs the Department of Justice to make sure all government agencies enforce a ban on transgender girls and women from participating in female school sports under Trump's interpretation of Title IX, a law against sex discrimination in education.

Trump's order goes beyond high school and college sports, calling for the U.S. government to deny visas for transgender females seeking to compete in the United States.

Trump also said he

would not allow transgender athletes to compete in the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

The executive order instructed the State Department to pressure the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to change its policy, which allows trans athletes to compete under general guidance preventing any athlete from gaining an unfair advantage.

The order is expected to affect only a small number of athletes.

The president of the National Collegiate Athletics Association told a Senate panel in December he was aware of fewer than 10 transgender athletes among the 530,000 competing at 1,100 member schools.

ENGLAND

Continued from page 36.

the bar.

With their hopes of defeating their title slowly slipping away, 19-year-old substitute Agyemang snapped up a loose ball in the box and fired home to send the game to extra time.

Agyemang almost scored again with an effort deep into the second half of extra time, out-sprinting and out-muscling the Italian defence only to see her deft lob towards goal bounce back off the cross-bar.

Sensing that they could avoid a repeat of their quarter-final penalty shootout against Sweden, England poured forward and reaped their reward when Mead was fouled in the box, but there was one more twist in the tale.

Kelly took her usual prancing run-up, but Italy keeper Laura Giuliani kept her nerve and saved, only for the England winger to score from the follow-up and seal her side's spot in Sunday's final in Basel.



Spain's Alexia Putellas shoots from the penalty spot.

Spain out to finally end winless run against Germany in Euro semi

ZURICH-- World champions Spain will aim to secure a first-ever win against Germany in their Euro 2025 semi-final on Wednesday, though the Spaniards insist reaching their first European Championship final matters more than settling old scores.

Spain have never beaten eight-times European champions Germany, most recently losing to the Germans for bronze at last year's Paris Olympics.

"Personally I see it more as an opportunity, not so much a revenge or a thorn in my side," Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas said in Tuesday's pre-game press conference.

"The Olympics are a completely different competition and any player who has been able to play the Olympics and a European Championship or a World Cup, I think we all agree, it is a totally different context, other stadiums, another way of competing.

"So I think that the Olympic Games will have nothing to do with the European Championship, with tomorrow's game, but, well, in the end it was a rival against whom we lost and tomorrow we have the opportunity to win it for the first time."

Spain coach Montse Tome would love to end their winless run against Germany.

"We have not been able to beat them, but we have been closer and closer to beating them," Tome said. "In the Olympic match, we had a chance to do so, it was good and now we are at another point.

"I think they are also another team, they have an-

other coach, but Germany is Germany and they have eight European Championships. Their essence is the same, regardless of who is in charge, and we are very clear about the game we want to play tomorrow, how we want to condition it and where we want to take it."

Spain won their three group stage games by a combined score of 14-3 before defeating a spirited Swiss side 2-0 in the quarter-finals.

"My feelings are good, full confidence in what we are creating, in the mentality we have, in the game we have played throughout the European Championship," Putellas said. "It will be a very tough game, like any semi-final of a major tournament, but with maximum enthusiasm and maximum motivation to move forward and make history once again."

The winner meets either England or Italy in the final on Sunday in Basel.

Morocco to take on Nigeria in African women's final

RABAT-- Morocco and Nigeria will meet on Saturday to decide the Women's Africa Cup of Nations after both came through gritty semi-final encounters on Tuesday.

Hosts Morocco edged Ghana on penalties at Rabat's Stade Olympique while earlier Nigeria ended the reign of defending champions South Africa with a last-gasp 2-1 victory in their clash in Casablanca.

Michelle Alozie's floating free kick was missed by both the onrushing Nigerian attacker and the South African goalkeeper and floated into the net for the winner four minutes into stoppage time.

Rasheedat Ajibade had given nine-time winners Nigeria the lead from the penalty-spot on the stroke of halftime, before South Africa struck back with a spotkick of their own in the 60th minute, converted by Linda Motlhalo.

Just as it seemed ex-

tra time would be needed, Alozie floated a cross deep into the box that beat South Africa goalkeeper Andile Dlamini who was under pressure from two Nigerian forwards.

Ghana had not been given much chance against Morocco, who were supported by a capacity crowd, but took a 26th-minute lead through Stella Nyameke.

Morocco came back to equalise after halftime through Sakina Ouzraoui and then won 4-2 on penalties after extra time. Ghana and South Africa will decide third place in Casablanca on Friday with the final four minutes on Saturday.

The tournament was originally set for last year but postponed because it clashed with the women's soccer tournament at the Paris Olympics.

The next Women's Cup of Nations is scheduled to be played in Morocco again next year.

Lionel Messi a question mark as MLS All-Stars gear up to face Liga MX

TEXAS--The 2025 MLS All-Star Game in Austin, Texas, was supposed to be the first featuring Lionel Messi after injury kept him out of the 2024 event.

That appeared less likely following Monday's first training session, when Messi and his Inter Miami teammate Jordi Alba were absent as the MLS squad prepared for Wednesday night's game against a team of All-Stars from Mexico's Liga MX.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there had been no official communication that the duo wouldn't be participating. While Messi has dealt with health issues at times during his two-year MLS tenure, he has played every single minute of Miami's last 19 games across all competitions.

If he or Alba missed the game without a credible injury reason, they would be subject to a one-match suspension for Miami's weekend home clash with FC Cincinnati.

"Leo is more a question for the league, for his club," Austin FC and MLS All-Star manager Nico Estevez said Monday in Spanish. "I simply coach and direct the players that they give me. And I think that's more a question for them. And I hope so. Because having the best player in history is something very important for everyone. But I hope so. I'm always very optimistic with everything. And why not? I hope that he can be here."

The All-Star concept is foreign to most of the soccer world beyond North America, and 14 members of the 30-player MLS squad are from beyond the United States, Canada and Mexico.

But that hasn't stopped most of the squad from enjoying the recognition, including Nashville SC striker and Englishman Sam Surridge, who enters the exhibition tied with Lionel Messi for the league lead of 18 goals.

"Yeah, it is very unique," Surridge said. "You get to play with some really good players. Training (Monday) was brilliant, getting to know some of the lads, a few familiar faces but also getting to know people I don't know. And it's good because everyone comes together this week. And then yeah, it's back to business I'd say on the weekend."

Wednesday will mark the league's 29th All-Star Game as MLS celebrates its 30th season (there was no All-Star event in 2020), and the fourth time it has been played in this format.

The MLS has won two of the previous three meetings against its border rival league, though Liga MX's team earned a 4-1 victory in last year's edition.

Juan Brunetta of Tigres UANL will be back this year after scoring a goal and winning game MVP honors for the Liga MX All-Stars in 2024.

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W/ RADIOSHED PRODUCTIONS | FRIDAYS 6AM - 10AM

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Soudal Quick-Step's Valentin Paret-Peintre celebrates winning Tour de France stage 16, Mont-pellier to Mont Ventoux, France.

Paret-Peintre paints masterpiece on Ventoux as record setter Pogacar stays in control

MALAUCE, France-- Valentin Paret-Peintre kept his cool in a furnace of pressure and heat, delivering a thunderous victory atop the legendary Mont Ventoux to give France its first win in this year's Tour de France during a breathtaking Stage 16 on Tuesday.

The Soudal-Quick Step rider edged out Ireland's Ben Healy in a heart-pounding sprint finale on the Giant of Provence, while Tadej Pogacar remained unshakable in yellow, fending off Jonas Vingegaard on the brutal

21.5km ascent averaging 7.5%.

Defending champion Pogacar clawed two more seconds from his Danish rival in a final surge to extend his overall lead to 4:15 after setting the record for the climb, riding up in 54 minutes and 41 seconds -- one minute 10 seconds faster than the previous best mark set by Spain's Iban Mayo in 2004.

The Slovenian also beat the fastest time from the Saint-Estève bend, where the toughest section starts by clocking 44:48. The

previous record was held by the late Marco Pantani (46:00).

"I had a bad day in 2021 on the Ventoux, today was the opposite, I had good legs, I enjoyed myself," Pogacar, chasing a fourth Tour title, said.

"We will try to go for another stage win. He (Vingegaard) attacked a lot of times but I knew that I could follow the wheel."

Vingegaard suffered a brief crash after the line but said his performance gave him confidence that

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World Athletics releases annual sustainability report for events

MONACO- World Athletics on Tuesday released its first annual review assessing meets against its "Athletics for a Better World" standard, designed to minimise environmental impact while enhancing social and local economic benefits.

The sustainability report categorised events from 2024 into five achievement levels - platinum, gold, silver, bronze and recognised - based on compliance with the ABW standard.

"The World Athletics Indoor Championships Glasgow 24 and the Oslo Bislett Games achieved platinum, and the Hypo-Meeting combined events meeting in Gotzis, Austria, and the Weltklasse Zurich achieved gold," World Athletics said in a statement.

The review, which looked at reports from 102 events from 36 countries, found that 48 meets reached one of the achievement levels.

"It's a start our entire sport can be proud of," World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said in a statement.

"We knew from experience and discussions with organisers that sustainability planning and reporting does require an allocation of additional time, resource

and expertise. And we know that poses organisational challenges across our events, which will need time to change."

The ABW standard evaluated events in six areas, including leadership in sustainability, sustainable production and consumption, climate change and carbon, local environment and air

quality, global equality as well as diversity, accessibility and wellbeing.

"When fully adopted, the ABW standard will apply to about 500 in-stadium athletics and mass participation road running events, making it the largest sustainability evaluation system in the sport industry," World Athletics added.

WNBA All-Star Game viewership drops, but second-most watched ever

NEW YORK-- WNBA All-Star Game viewership dropped to an average of 2.2 million viewers this year from a record 3.4 million on ESPN in 2024, the network said on Tuesday, even as the annual showcase was the most-watched program of Saturday night across TV.

The 2024 affair had the benefit of the wildly popular Indiana Fever sharpshooter Caitlin Clark and a dramatic format that pitted the U.S. Olympic team against the All-Stars who were snubbed from the Team USA roster.

Clark was expected to be one of the biggest attractions for the game

in her home market Indianapolis but dropped out days before due to a groin injury. She was on the sidelines in support of the team she captained.

It was the second most-watched All-Star Game in league history.

Friday's skills and 3-point contests, meanwhile, netted 1.3 million viewers on average, up 89% over the previous year.

New York Liberty captain Sabrina Ionescu won her second title in the 3-Point Contest while her teammate Natasha Cloud took the skills event. Team Collier beat Team Clark 151-131.

England fight back to down Italy in extra time and reach Euro 2025 final

GENEVA- - Chloe Kelly fired home the rebound from her own penalty to net a 119th-minute winner as reigning champions England pulled off a stunning comeback to beat Italy 2-1 after extra time on Tuesday and reach the Women's European Championship final.

England fell behind in the first half but hit back to level through Michelle Agyemangsix minutes into second-half stoppage time and when Emma Severini

pulled down Beth Mead in the box in extra time, Kelly grabbed the chance to decide the game.

Her first effort was saved but she was quick off the mark torifle in the rebound and send England through to the final where they will face either Spain or Germany.

With the Italians riding a wave of confidence after a last-minute winner against Norway in their quarter-final, they defended brilliantly and attacked inci-

sively on the break.

Their persistence paid off in the 33rd minute of a gritty semi-final when a ball from the right found its way to Barbara Bonansea, who took a touch before lashing it into the roof of the net.

England then dominated possession and created a slew of chances as the Italians rode their luck, but too often the English attackers unleashed shots from distance that were easily dealt with or flew harmlessly over

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England's Chloe Kelly scores their second goal from a rebound after missing a penalty during the UEFA Women's Euro 2025 Semi Final against Italy at Stade de Geneve, Lancy, Switzerland.